
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS

**PROPOSED FISHING LAKE,
HANROX MEADOW, BLUNTS LANE,
POTTERS CROUCH, ST ALBANS,
HERTFORDSHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Walter McCall (Fieldwork & report)	
NGR: TL 1187 0374	Report No: 3586
District: St Albans	Site Code: AS1327
Approved:	Project No: P3916
Claire Halpin MIFA	Date: July 2010
Signed:	

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Hanrox Meadow, Blunts Lane, Potters Crouch, St Albans, Hertfordshire. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
<p><i>In July 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological evaluation on land at Hanrox Meadow, Blunts Lane, Potters Crouch, St Albans, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 1187 0374). The evaluation was commissioned by Mr Graham Hall of Hanrox Meadow, in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval to construct three fishing lakes with associated car parking and other facilities (Planning Ref. 5/09/2521).</i></p> <p><i>The principal potential of the site was for prehistoric, Roman and medieval archaeology, and the region is known to have been well-utilised at these times.</i></p> <p><i>In the event, despite the archaeological potential of the site, no archaeological features or finds were present.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>19th - 20th July 2010</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Futurework (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>3916</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1327</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Meadow</i>		
Planned development	<i>3 Fishing Lakes</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Significant finds(+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>St Albans</i>	<i>St Stephen</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>St Albans District Council / Hertfordshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>AL2 3NJ</i>		
Area of site	<i>c.3.5 ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 1187 0374</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>c.93m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Advice from St Albans District Council District Archaeological Officer</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Walter McCall</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr Graham Hall of Hanrox Meadow</i>		
Full title	<i>Hanrox Meadow, Blunts Lane, Potters Crouch, St Albans, Hertfordshire. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Walter McCall</i>		
Report no.	<i>3586</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>July 2010</i>		

PROPOSED FISHING LAKE, HANROX MEADOW, BLUNTS LANE POTTERS CROUCH, ST ALBANS, HERTFORDSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In July 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological evaluation on land at Hanrox Meadow, Blunts Lane, Potters Crouch, St Albans, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 1187 0374). The evaluation was commissioned by Mr Graham Hall of Hanrox Meadow, in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval to construct three fishing lakes with associated car parking and other facilities (Planning Ref. 5/09/2521).

The principal potential of the site was for prehistoric, Roman and medieval archaeology, and the region is known to have been well-utilised at these times.

In the event, despite the archaeological potential of the site, no archaeological features or finds were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological evaluation on land at Hanrox Meadow, Blunts Lane, Potters Crouch, St Albans, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 1187 0374; Fig. 1). The evaluation was commissioned by Mr Graham Hall of Hanrox Meadow, in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval to construct three fishing lakes with associated car parking and other facilities (Planning Ref. 5/09/2521; Fig. 4).

1.2 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with advice from St Albans City & District Council District Archaeological Officer (Simon West) and a specification (written scheme of investigation) prepared by AS (dated 12/05/10) and approved by SADC. It followed the procedures outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008), and also *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The principal objectives for the evaluation comprised:

- To determine the location, date, extent, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. It will also be important to understand the level of 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.

Planning policy context

1.4 PPG16 (1990), the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to archaeology and PPG15 (1994) the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to conservation of the historic environment (by protecting the character and appearance of Conservation Areas and protecting listed buildings (of architectural or historical interest) from demolition and unsympathetic change and safeguarding their settings as far as is possible) have been replaced by Planning Policy Statement 5 (2010), the national Planning Policy Statement that applies to the historic environment

1.5 PPS5 (2010) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The Planning Policy Statement 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. It aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. It states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment and to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past, and to make this publicly available, should be taken, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The site lies off Blunt's Lane, Potters Crouch, close to the M1 motorway, and currently comprises an area of meadow. It is proposed to create three new fishing lakes. The advice from SADC attached to the planning condition for archaeology sets out that they require an evaluation of the site in order to inform on any further required mitigation prior to the construction of the lakes.

2.2 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, within a potential large-scale prehistoric or later landscape. Advice from SADC indicates that three known archaeological sites lie in close proximity, with the proposal site central to these. Plaistowes Wood to the north exhibits cropmarks of an enclosure (AS.R. 31), a medieval and Roman site is known at Holt Farm to the south-east (AS.R.33), and further cropmarks are known from Searches Farm to the south-west (AS.R. 34).

2.3 Neolithic worked flints are recorded 30m to the north of the site (HER 600). A medieval moated site lies at Holt Farm (HER 2033), with a number of standing listed buildings, including a 15th century and later farmhouse and 17th century ancillary buildings. The site also had the potential to have been part of a

medieval manor with associated fields and enclosures, some of which may survive along the line of modern boundaries such as hedgerows.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Eight trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2), within the principal areas of proposed development (the new lakes). Seven trenches were in the order of 30m x 1.8m, and one trench was 20m x 1.8m.

3.2 Topsoil and undifferentiated overburden 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. The trench locations were recorded by Total Station.

4 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 Figs. 2 & 3

Sample Section 1: E end, S facing 0.00 = 94.19m AOD		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark grey brown silt with frequent small stones and roots
0.23 – 0.35m	L1001	Subsoil. Light grey brown clayey silt with frequent small stones
0.35m+	L1003	Natural. Mid orange brown clayey silt with pockets of flint gravel.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 2 Figs. 2 & 3

Sample Section 2: E end, S facing 0.00 = 92.76m AOD		
0.00 – 0.17m	L1000	Topsoil. As Tr.1.
0.17 – 0.32m	L1001	Subsoil. As Tr.1.
0.32m+	L1003	Natural. As Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 3 Figs. 2 & 3

Sample Section 3: N end, E facing 0.00 = 94.22m AOD		
0.00 – 0.19m	L1000	Topsoil. As Tr.1.
0.19 – 0.27m	L1001	Subsoil. As Tr.1.
0.27m+	L1003	Natural. As Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 4 Figs. 2 & 3

Sample Section 4: E end, S facing 0.00 = 94.58m AOD		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Topsoil. As Tr.1.
0.22 – 0.30m	L1001	Subsoil. As Tr.1.
0.30m+	L1003	Natural. As Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 5 Figs. 2 & 3

Sample Section 5: N end, E facing 0.00 = 91.91m AOD		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1000	Topsoil. As Tr.1.
0.15 – 0.28m	L1001	Subsoil. As Tr.1.
0.28m+	L1003	Natural. As Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 6 Figs. 2 & 3

Sample Section 6: E end, S facing 0.00 = 94.13m AOD		
0.00 – 0.17m	L1000	Topsoil. As Tr.1.
0.17 – 0.39m	L1001	Subsoil. As Tr.1.
0.39m+	L1003	Natural. As Tr.1.

Sample Section 7: Centre, S facing 0.00 = 94.14m AOD		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As Tr.1.
0.27 – 0.44m	L1001	Subsoil. As Tr.1.
0.44 – 0.60m	L1002	Colluvium. Mid grey brown clayey silt with moderate small stones near base
0.60m+	L1003	Natural. As Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 7 Figs. 2 & 3

Sample Section 8: E end, S facing 0.00 = 93.13m AOD		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As Tr.1.
0.20 – 0.33m	L1001	Subsoil. As Tr.1.
0.33m+	L1003	Natural. As Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 8 Figs. 2 & 3

Sample Section 9: N end, E facing 0.00 = 92.70m AOD		
0.00 – 0.16m	L1000	Topsoil. As Tr.1.
0.16 - 0.30m	L1001	Subsoil. As Tr.1.
0.30m+	L1003	Natural. As Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present

5 CONFIDENCE RATING

5.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features and finds.

6 DEPOSIT MODEL

6.1 Topsoil L1000 overlay Subsoil L1001. The topsoil comprised a dark grey brown silt with frequent small stones and roots (0.15-0.23m thick). Subsoil L1001 was a light grey brown clayey silt with frequent small stones (0.08-0.22m thick). L1001 overlay the natural, L1003. The latter comprised a mid orange brown clayey silt with pockets of flint gravel (c.0.35m below the present day ground surface). In the middle of Trench 6 shallow colluvium, L1002, was present between the subsoil and the natural. It comprised a mid grey brown clayey silt with moderate small stones near base (0.16m thick)

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular prehistoric, Roman and medieval remains, in the event no archaeological features or finds were present.

8 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions is grateful to Mr Graham Hall for funding the evaluation and for his kind assistance. AS would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr Michael Fearn of Shire Consulting.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the advice, assistance and input of Mr Simon West, St Albans City & District Council District Archaeological Officer.

10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Gurney, D. 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper no. 14

Institute for Field Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2008) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



*DP 1
Trench 1*



*DP 2
Trench 2*



*DP 3
Trench 3*



*DP 4
Trench 4*



*DP 5
Trench 5*



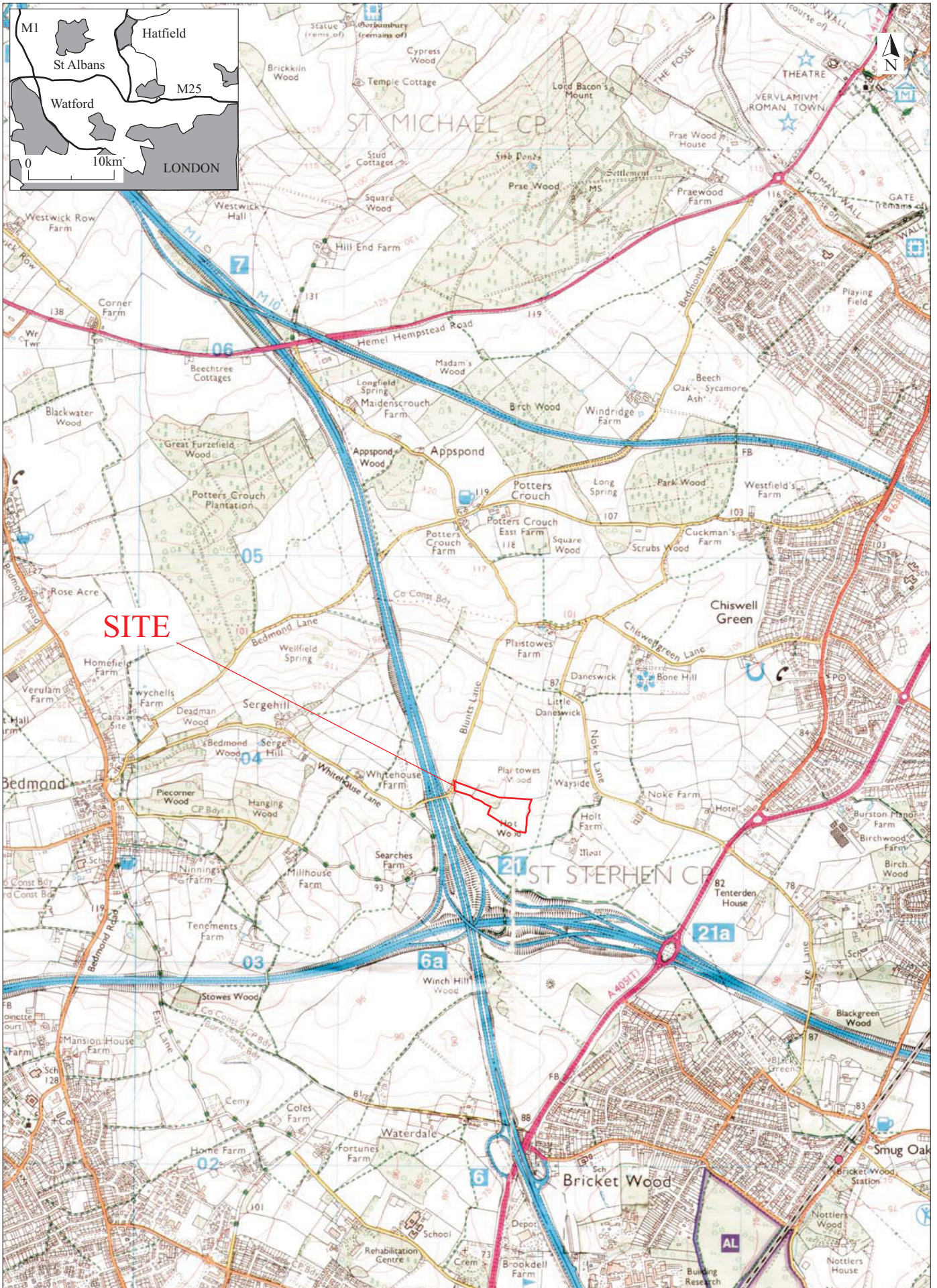
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Trench 6*



*DP 7
Trench 7*

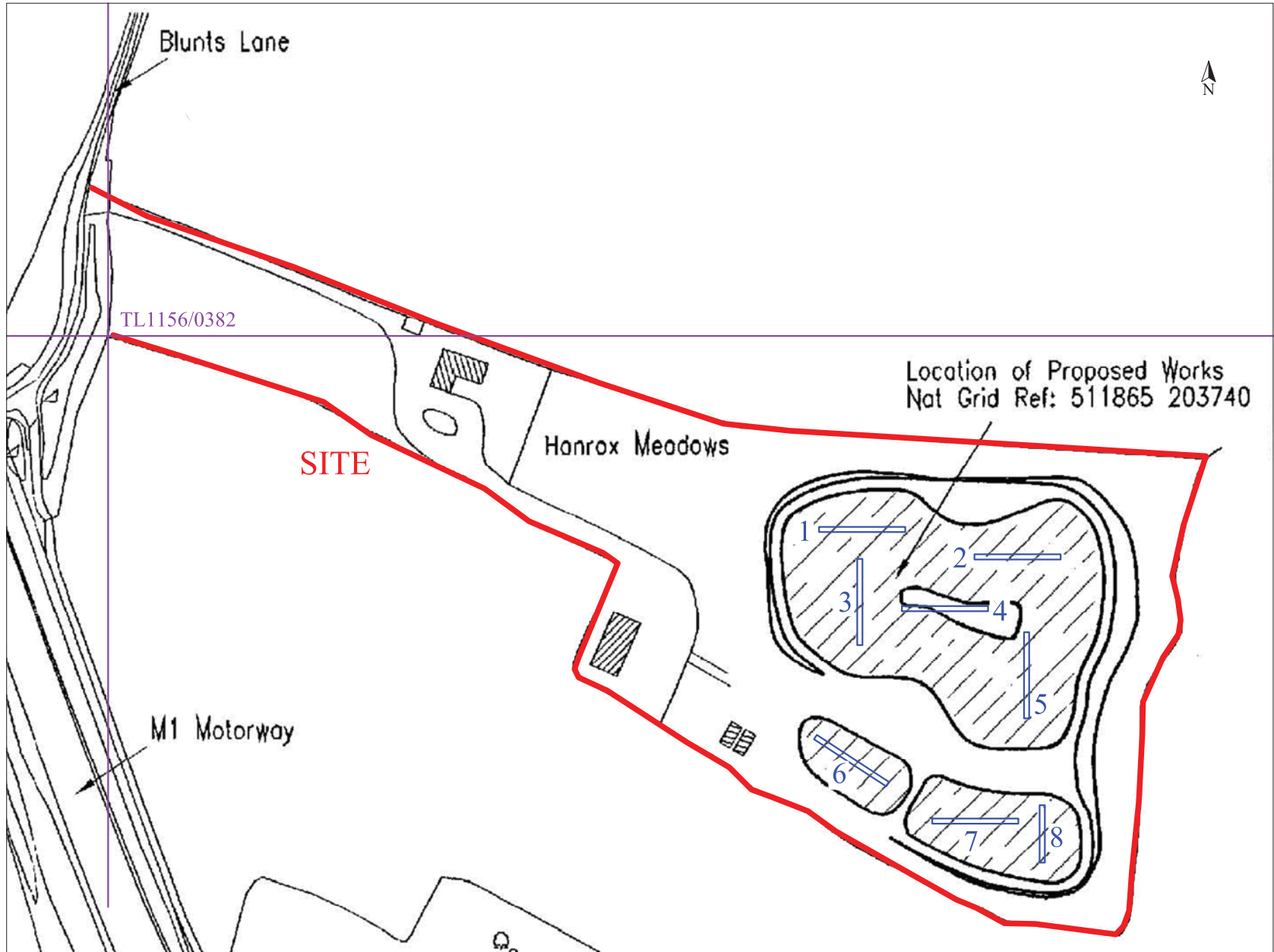


*DP 8
Trench 8*

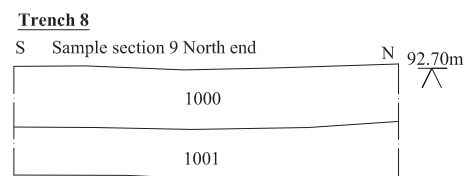
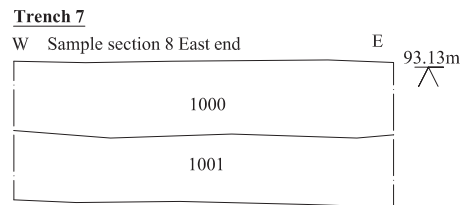
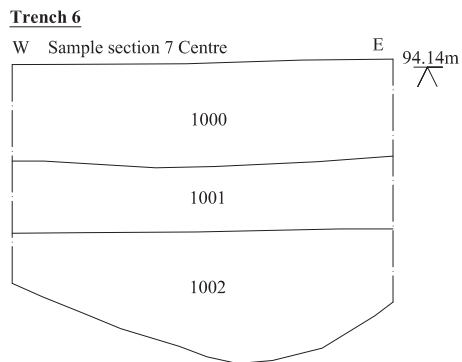
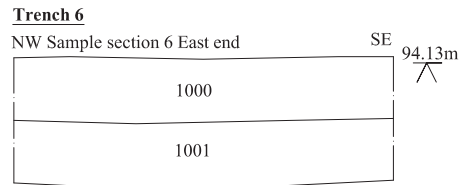
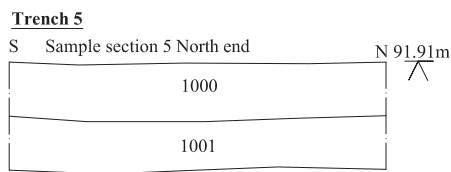
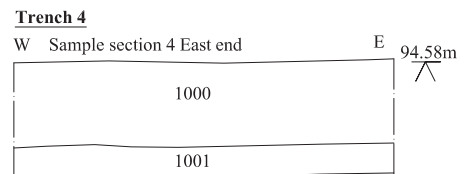
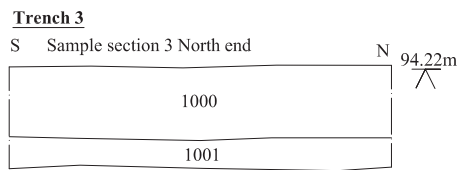
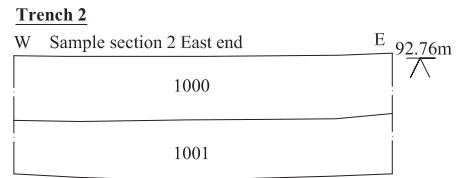
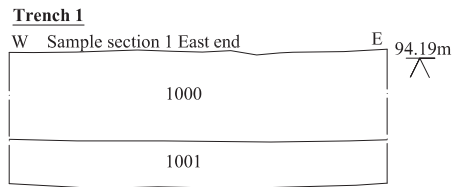


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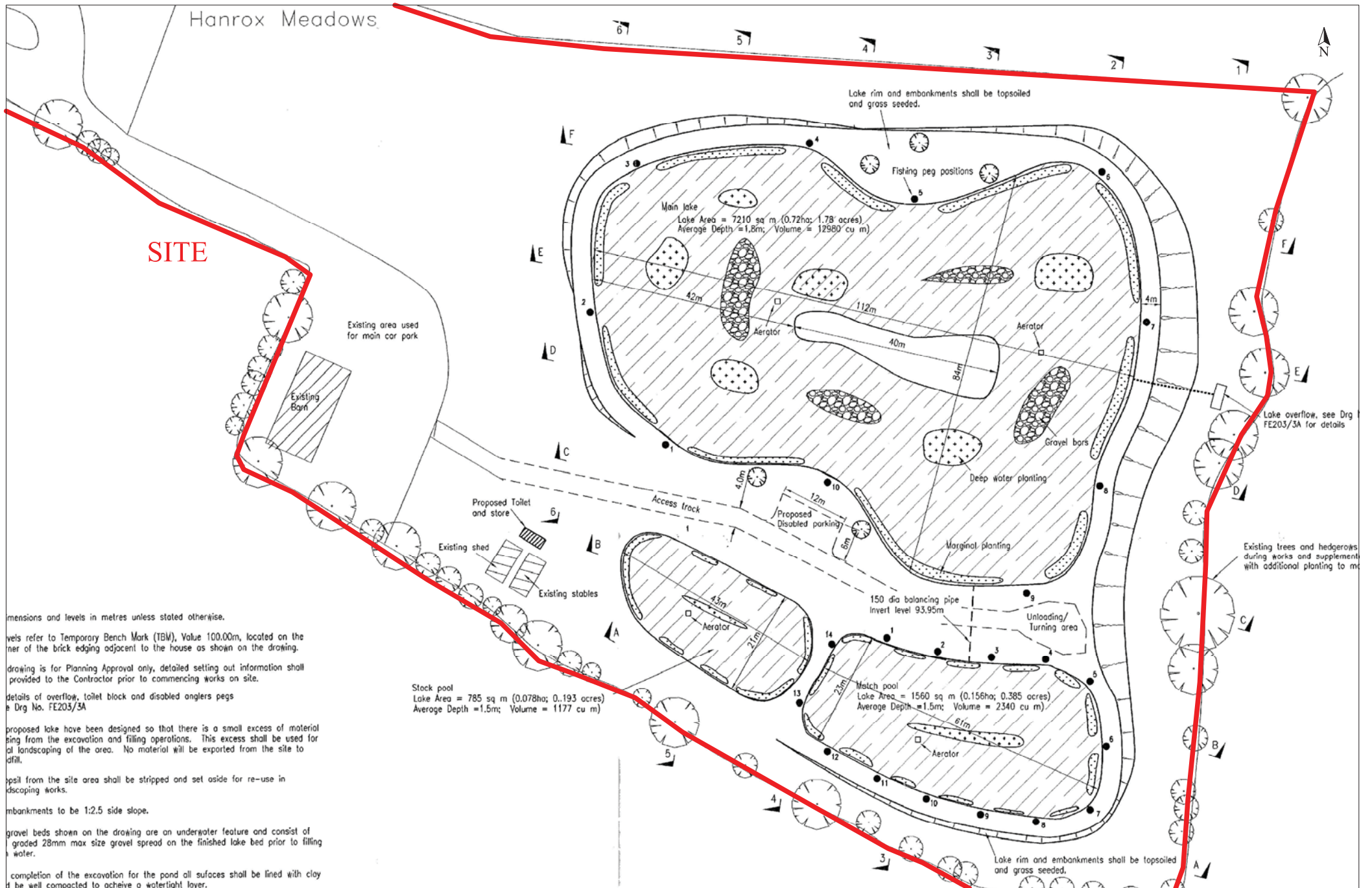
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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Fig. 2 Trench location plan
 Scale 1:2000 at A4



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Fig. 3 Sample sections
 Scale 1:20 at A4



Dimensions and levels in metres unless stated otherwise.

Levels refer to Temporary Bench Mark (TBM), Value 100.00m, located on the corner of the brick edging adjacent to the house as shown on the drawing.

This drawing is for Planning Approval only, detailed setting out information shall be provided to the Contractor prior to commencing works on site.

Details of overflow, toilet block and disabled anglers pegs are on Drawing No. FE203/3A

The proposed lake have been designed so that there is a small excess of material coming from the excavation and filling operations. This excess shall be used for landscaping of the area. No material will be exported from the site to off-site.

Waste spoil from the site area shall be stripped and set aside for re-use in landscaping works.

Embankments to be 1:2.5 side slope.

Gravel beds shown on the drawing are an underwater feature and consist of graded 28mm max size gravel spread on the finished lake bed prior to filling with water.

On completion of the excavation for the pond all surfaces shall be lined with clay to be well compacted to achieve a watertight layer.

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Fig. 4 Proposed development plan

Scale 1:1000 at A4