



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND
RECORDING AT
EDENHAM ROAD,
HANTHORPE, MORTON,
LINCOLNSHIRE
(ERHA 11)**

**Work Undertaken For
Seagate Homes Limited**

August 2011

Report Compiled by
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Planning Application No: S10/0426/OUT
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OASIS Record No: archaeo11-105975

APS Report No: **87/11**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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1. SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken during groundworks at Edenham Road, Hanthorpe, Morton, Lincolnshire. The watching brief monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for a new residential development.

The site lies close to the Romano-British (AD 42-410) small town of Stainfield, developed along the route of the Roman Road, King Street, which passes close to Hanthorpe. Romano-British pottery, indicating a small settlement, has been collected from fields to the east of the site. Hanthorpe, a medieval (AD 1066-1540) or earlier hamlet, has earthwork traces of the field system and a windmill mound.

The watching brief revealed a sequence of natural, undated and modern deposits. Undated layers include a subsoil, which was cut by a pit suggestive of industrial activity, perhaps lime burning. No finds were recovered during the investigation.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

Archaeological Project Services was commissioned by Seagate Homes Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with new residential development at Edenham Road, Hanthorpe, Morton, Lincolnshire. Approval for the development was sought through the submission of planning application S10/0426/OUT. The watching brief was carried out on the 25th and 28th February 2011 in accordance with a specification prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Hanthorpe, a hamlet within the parish of Morton, is located 5km north of Bourne

and 19km southeast of Grantham in the administrative district of South Kesteven, Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).

The site is located to the southwest of the hamlet centre at National Grid Reference TF 0852 2390 (Fig. 2). Situated on the north side of Edenham Road, the site lies at a height of c. 22m OD on land that slopes gently down to the east, towards the fenland of south Lincolnshire.

Local soils are of the Aswarby Association, typically loamy gleyic brown calcareous earths (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 99). These soils overlie the junction between Jurassic Cornbrash with Kellaways clays (GSGB 1972).

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Hanthorpe is located in an area of known archaeological remains dating from the Romano-British period to the present day. The site lies within 300m of the Roman thoroughfare, King Street, which once connected settlement at Bourne to that at Ancaster. Additionally, a small Romano-British town developed at Stainfield to the northwest.

Pottery of this period has also been found to the east of the site and may indicate the presence of a small settlement.

Hanthorpe is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of c. 1086. Referred to as *Hermdestorp* the name is derived from the Old Danish 'thorp' meaning a secondary settlement belonging to *Hermóthr* an Old Norse personal name (Cameron 1998, 58). At the time of the Domesday Survey the land was held by Gilbert de Gand and Oger the Breton (both in moiety with part of a manor in Morton) as well as Heppo the Arblaster and contained 54 acres of meadow and 60 acres of woodland for pannage (Foster and Longley 1976).

There are no extant structures of the

medieval period in Hanthorpe. Earthworks of a windmill mound and ridge and furrow of the medieval field system survive to the north and east of the hamlet. To the east of the development is the site of a medieval building identified from fieldwalking.

Watching briefs undertaken to the southwest of the site have revealed a possible medieval or post-medieval drainage feature and a post-medieval floor (Snee 2001, 1) and a medieval gully (Trimble 2005, 3)

3. AIMS

The aim of the archaeological investigation was to ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the groundworks should be recorded and, if present, to determine their date, function and origin.

4. METHODS

Prior to the excavation of foundation trenches, the site was levelled and excess overburden removed from the area. Foundation trenches were excavated by machine to depths of up to 0.8m below the levelled area. Following excavation, the sides of the trenches were then cleaned and rendered vertical. Selected deposits were excavated further to retrieve artefactual material and to determine their function. Each deposit was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their descriptions appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was compiled and sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Recording was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services' practice.

Following excavation the records were checked and a stratigraphic matrix produced. Phasing was assigned based on

the nature of the deposits and recognisable relationships between them.

5. RESULTS

Archaeological contexts are listed below and described. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

The earliest deposit encountered in the base of the foundation trenches was a layer of orange brown sandy clay with frequent limestone fragments (003). This measured in excess of 0.42m thick. A further deposit of orange brown limestone with sandy clay (005) may be a variation in this layer.

Overlying the natural sandy clay in the southern foundation trenches were discrete deposits of flat limestone (007 and 015) measuring up to 0.14m thick. This is also likely to be natural.

Located in the northern development area was a small area of reddish brown burnt clay (004), which may indicate the presence of a burnt tree root (Fig. 4, Section 2).

Developed over the natural deposits across the site was a subsoil comprising brown silty clay (002) that measured up to 0.4m thick.

Cutting the subsoil towards the south of the site was a circular feature (016). This had a diameter of 2.7m and was 0.69m deep (Fig. 4, Section 6) and was clearly defined by an area of heat affected natural (008). Fills within the pit include brown sandy silt (009) and near white silty mortar (011). At the eastern end of this feature was an area of disturbance (010) including brown (013) and orange brown burnt clay (014) encircling a small area of black silt (012).

Situated towards the north of the site was an area of brown clayey silt (006) which may indicate a tree throw.

Sealing all deposits was the topsoil of brown clayey silt (001) that measured up to 0.35m thick.

6. DISCUSSION

Natural deposits of sandy clay and limestone represent the upper weathered surface of the underlying solid geology. Two distinct types were noted which may relate to the Cornbrash and Kellaways clays.

Developed upon the natural geology was an extensive subsoil deposit which may indicate that the site had been under a largely agricultural regime in the past.

Located towards the south of the site was a large pit which, due to areas of heat affected natural, suggests an industrial function. The nature of this industrial process is uncertain, although the pit is similar in appearance to bell casting pits. Although a parochial chapel is recorded at Hanthorpe (Owen 1975, 19), it is unknown if it required a bell and furthermore, no mould fragments were identified. The presence of a discrete fill of silty mortar may indicate that the pit was for burning lime.

No finds were retrieved or observed during the investigation which suggests that settlement was not located in the immediate vicinity.

7. CONCLUSION

A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken at Edenham Road, Hanthorpe, as the site lay within the core of the medieval village and in an area of known Romano-British remains.

However, no medieval or Romano-British remains were encountered. Instead, an undated subsoil was recorded into which a pit had been cut that, due to heat affected deposits around it, suggest an industrial function, perhaps burning limestone to make mortar. No finds were retrieved during the investigation.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Mr AP Brotherton of Seagate Homes Limited for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Gary Taylor who edited this report along with Tom Lane. Jenny Young, the South Kesteven Planning Archaeologist, kindly allowed examination of the parish files and library maintained by Heritage Lincolnshire.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Gary Taylor
 Site Supervisor: Bryn Leadbetter
 Finds processing:
 Photographic reproduction: Sue Unsworth
 Illustration: Paul Cope-Faulkner
 Post-excavation analysis: Paul Cope-Faulkner

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain

WA Witham Archaeology



Figure 1 - General location plan

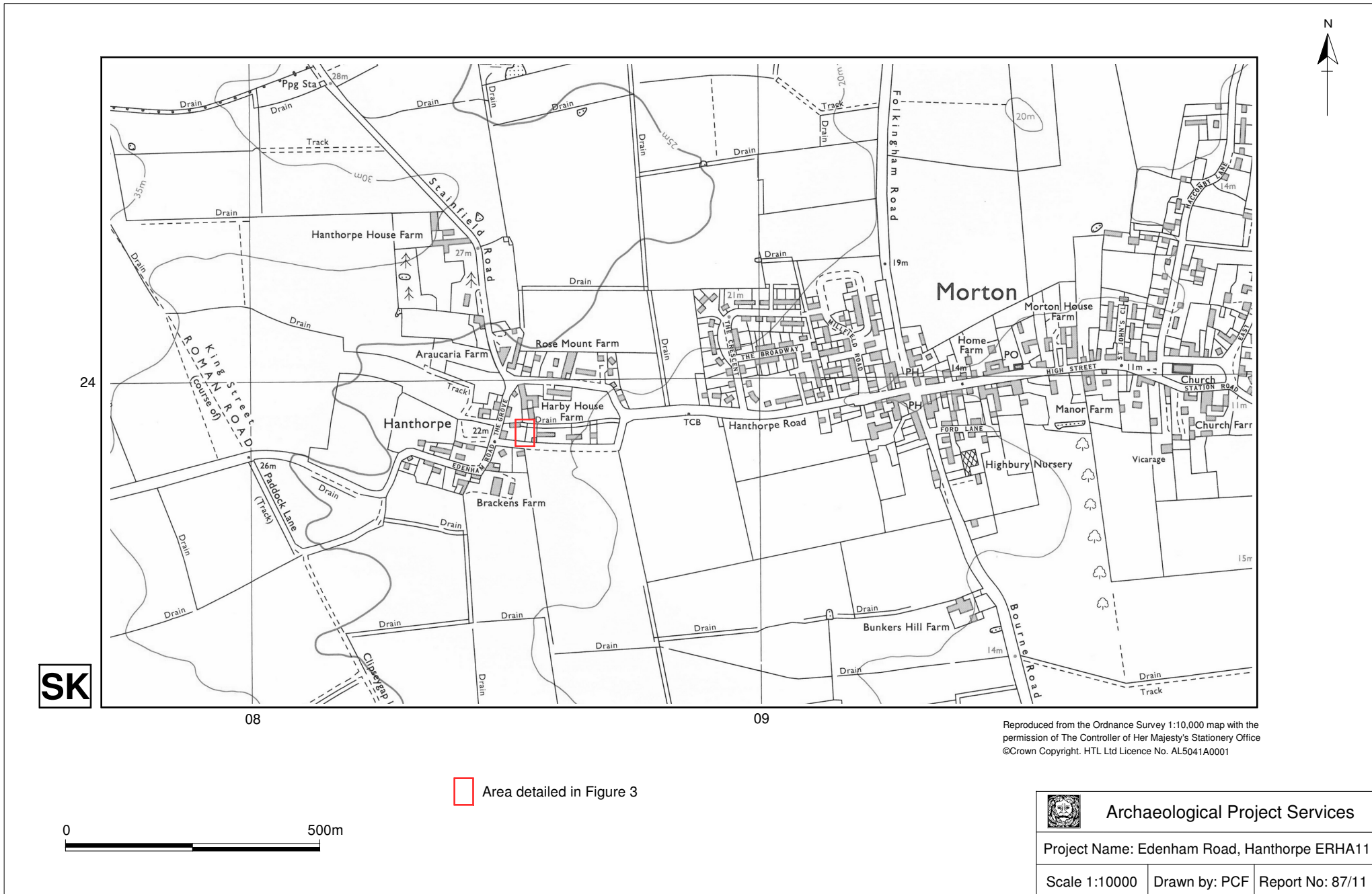


Figure 2 - Site location plan

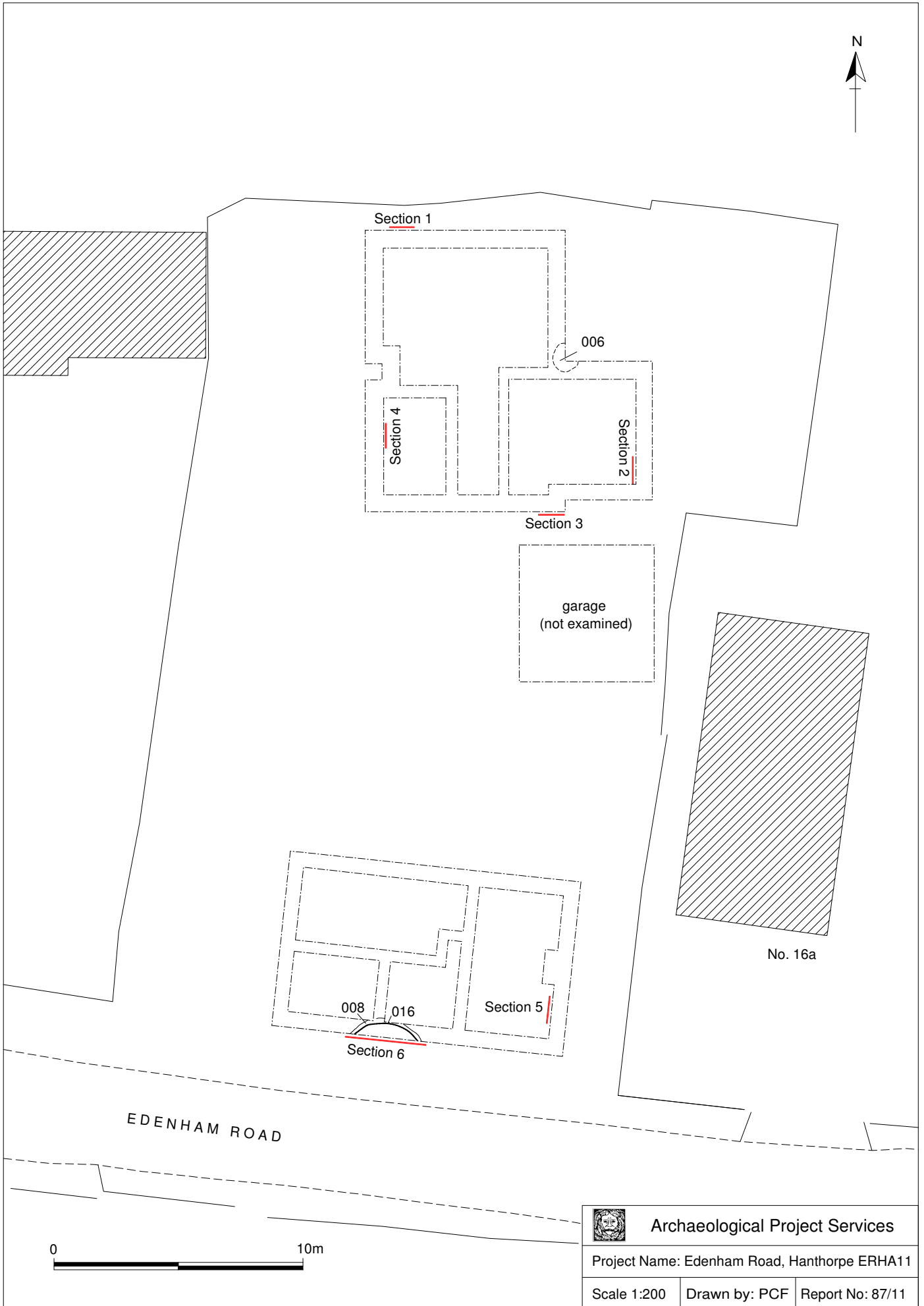



Figure 3 - Plan of the development showing principal features and section locations

 Archaeological Project Services		
Project Name: Edenham Road, Hanthorpe ERHA11		
Scale 1:200	Drawn by: PCF	Report No: 87/11

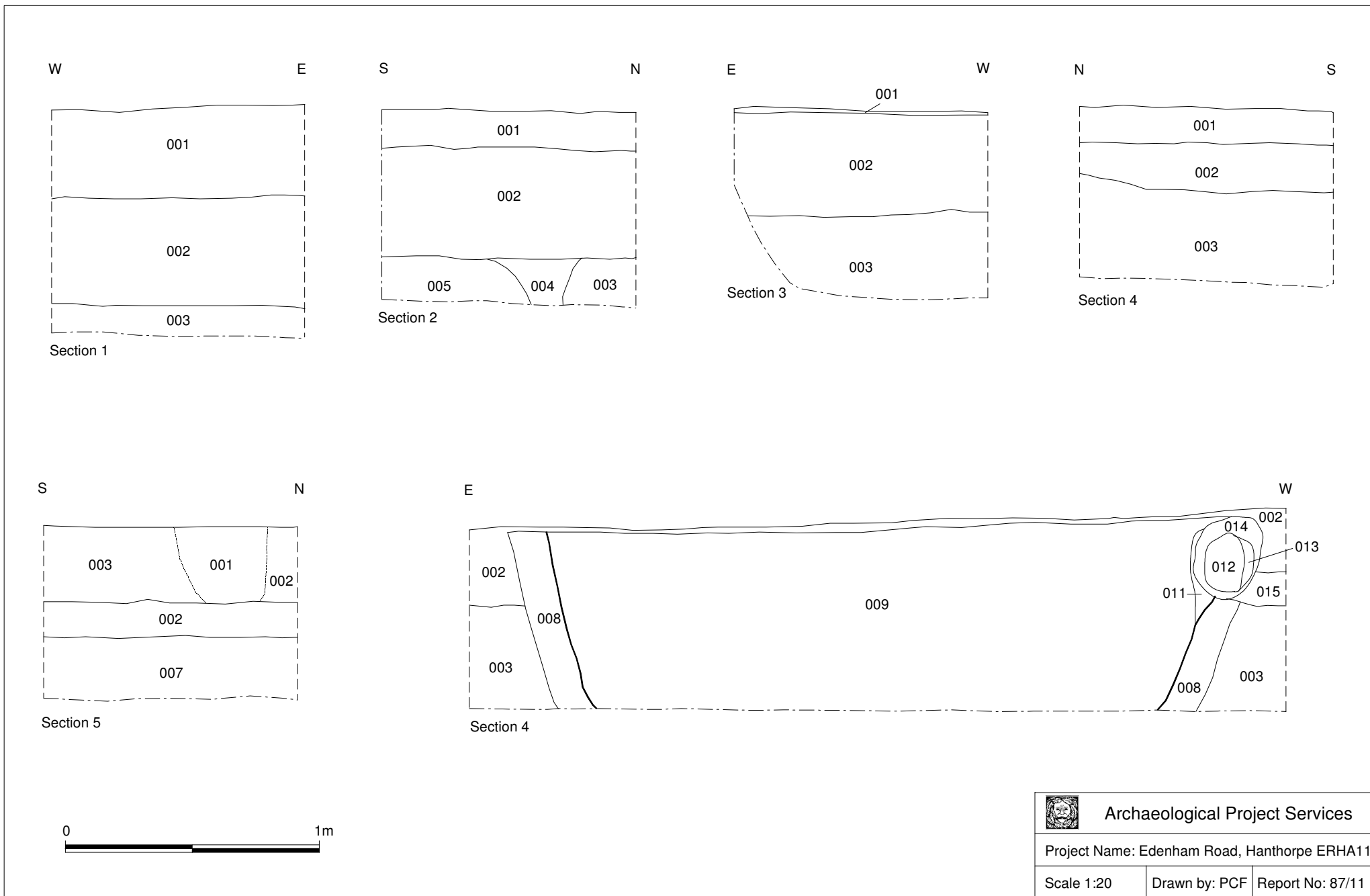


Figure 4 - Sections 1 to 6



Plate 1 – General view of the development area, looking northwest



Plate 2 – Section 1, looking north



Plate 3 – Section 2, looking west



Plate 4 – Section 4, looking east



Plate 5 – Section 5, looking west



Plate 6 – Section 6 showing the undated pit (016) and the area of heat affected natural (008), looking northeast (north arrow wrong)

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Friable mid to dark brown clayey silt, 0.35m thick	Topsoil
002	Friable light to mid brown silty clay, 0.4m thick	Subsoil
003	Firm mid orange brown sandy clay with frequent limestone fragments	Natural deposit
004	Friable mid reddish brown burnt clay	Heat affected natural
005	Loose mid orange brown limestone and sandy clay	Natural deposit
006	Friable mid brown clayey silt	Tree throw
007	Loose light grey flat limestone 'slabs', 100mm thick	Natural deposit
008	Friable mid reddish brown burnt clay	Heat affected natural
009	Friable mid brown sandy silt	Fill of (016)
010	Discrete area of disturbance, perhaps associated with (016)	Area of disturbance
011	Friable near white silty mortar,	Fill of (016)
012	Loose and friable black silt	Deposit associated with (010)
013	Friable mid to light brown burnt clay	Deposit associated with (010)
014	Friable mid orange brown burnt clay	Deposit associated with (010)
015	Loose light grey flat limestone 'slabs', 140mm thick	Natural deposit
016	Circular feature, 2.7m diameter by 0.69m deep, steep sides, not fully excavated	Pit

Appendix 2

GLOSSARY

Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretations of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, <i>e.g.</i> (004).
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, <i>etc.</i> Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded.
Dumped deposits	These are deposits, often laid down intentionally, that raise a land surface. They may be the result of casual waste disposal or may be deliberate attempts to raise the ground surface.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) which become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Layer	A layer is a term to describe an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut.
Medieval	The Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1066-1500.
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity.
Pannage	Right given to the owners of pigs to go into a wood and to allow the pigs to eat the acorns or beech mast which <i>fall to the ground</i> .
Post-medieval	The period following the Middle Ages, dating from approximately AD 1500-1800.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

16	Context records
1	Photographic record sheet
6	Sheets of scale drawings
1	Stratigraphic matrix
2	Daily Record Sheets

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

The Collection
Art and Archaeology in Lincolnshire
Danes Terrace
Lincoln
LN2 1LP

Accession Number: LCNCC: 2011.28

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: ERHA 11

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.

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