



**Land at
Haxey Star Carr Farm**

Summary of archaeological investigations
December 2007



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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROJECT
SERVICES**



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Haxey Star Carr Farm

Summary of archaeological investigations to date

Desk-based assessment

Records of sites and findspots within a 1km radius of the site were gathered (Bradley-Lovekin 2006). No records of sites or finds fall within the site boundary, nor are many seen to the east and north, however this may reflect intensity of previous fieldwork. Finds of Roman or later date are confined to the south of the assessment area near to the base of the ridge of higher ground on which Haxey sits. Surface finds otherwise are entirely of prehistoric (for the most part Neolithic to Early Bronze Age) date. Most have been recovered as ploughsoil/topsoil finds; the likelihood of associated features being identified, even if surviving, is not high. Of greater potential are the findspots of Mesolithic flint assemblages sealed beneath blown sand. One such lies just to the west of the application area.

Geophysical survey

Detailed geophysical survey was undertaken of a large sample (40%) of the application area in order to test the efficacy of the technique and identify possible targets for further intrusive investigation. Magnetic variation across the area was largely interpreted as due to geological/pedological variation or modern drainage. A small number of magnetic anomalies were identified as potential cut features, including possible ditch and bank features in the northeast of the site. However, it can be noted that these share the rather irregular sinuous form of the weaker, more widespread, anomalies and that even these latter show a similar 'halo' effect, interpreted for the stronger magnetic signals as indicating a possible bank.

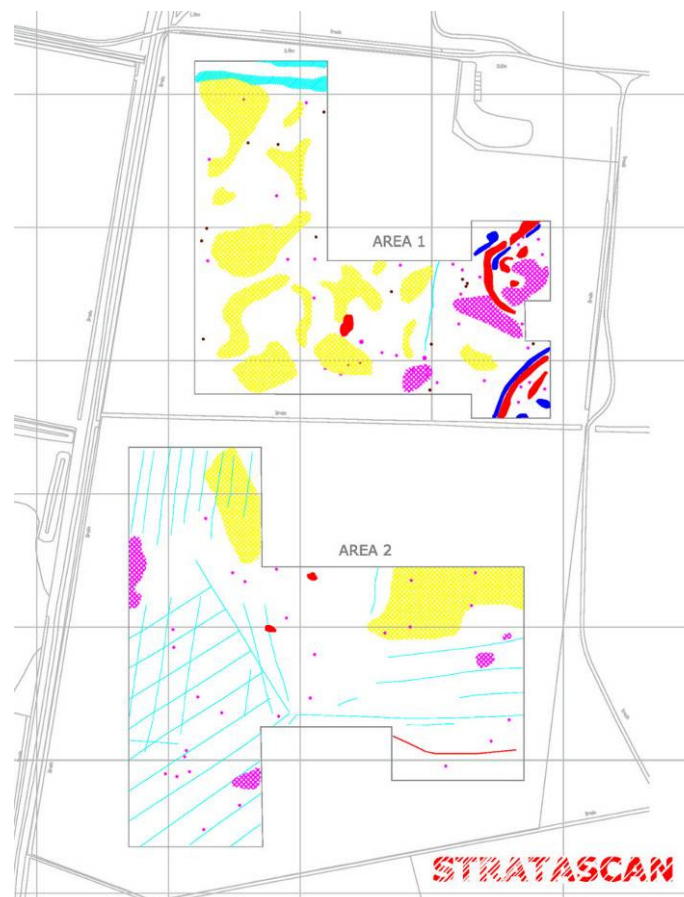


Figure i: Geophysical survey interpretation

Trial trenches

Two trenches were opened over the clearest magnetic anomalies in the eastern half of the northern field (Appendix 1; Fig 1; Plates 1, 2). Although there were identifiable variations in the natural which might account for the magnetic anomalies, no archaeological features were identified, nor any artefacts of any date recovered. The source of the stronger magnetic signal is not readily apparent, but it should be noted that this part of the field has previously been disturbed, being occupied by sand pits in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

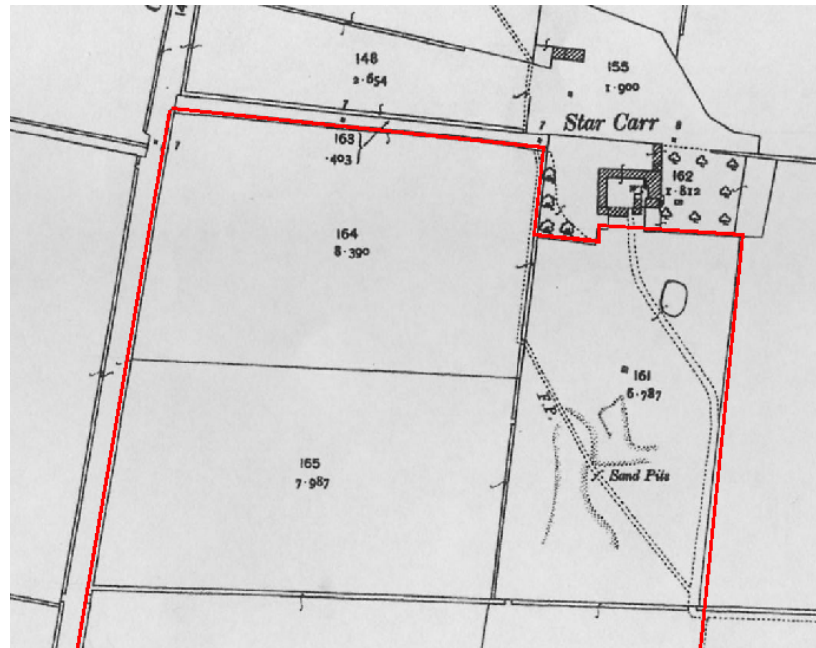


Figure ii: Extract from OS 6" survey 1907

Summary and Proposals for Further Work

Geophysical survey identified only a small number of potential archaeological features. The most promising of these were tested through trial trenching but proved to be non-archaeological (or not to be evident at the sand surface). Further trial trenching is proposed to confirm this in other areas of the site. Trenches will target the possible linear feature in the southern field and possible pit features in both the northern and southern fields (Fig. 2)

The most significant archaeological potential of the site would seem to lie in the potential for remains of prehistoric date, and particularly Mesolithic remains, with possible contemporary land surface, sealed beneath blown sands. Remains of such early date are not easily identifiable through trial trenching, but it should be possible to identify the earlier land surface if it does extend east into this area. A series of trial holes are proposed along the western margin of the site (Fig. 2). If the earlier land surface is identified here then further trial holes (or augering, if this is found to be effective) will be undertaken in order to try and define its eastwards extent.

S J Malone
13 December 2007

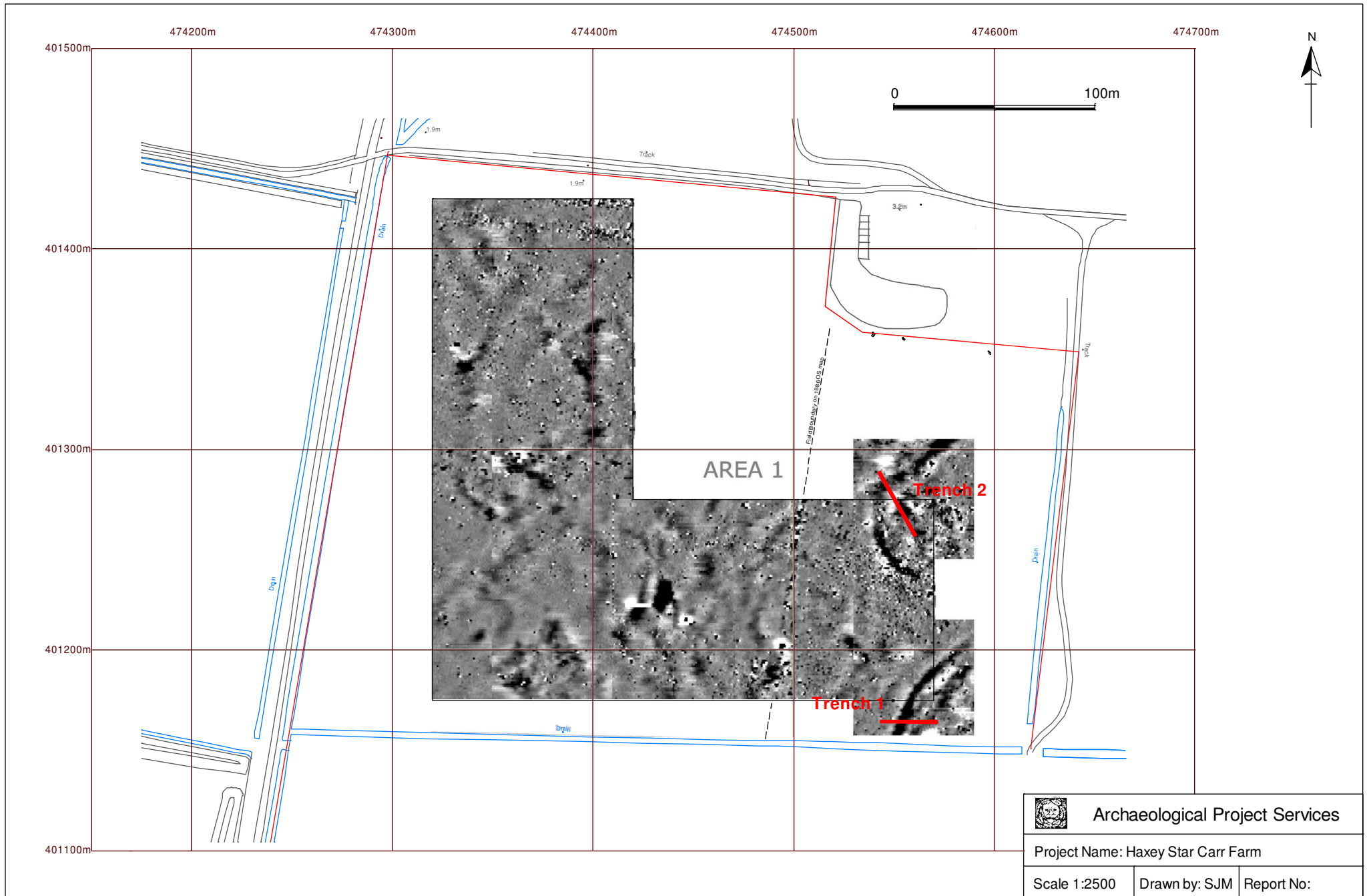


Figure 1 Location of trial trenches in relation to geophysical survey



Figure 2 Proposed additional trenches and trial pi



Plate 1 Trench 1, looking east



Plate 2 Trench 2, looking southeast

Appendix 1 Trench Summaries

Trench 1

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
1002	Loose dark grayish brown silty sand	0.4m	Topsoil
1001	Loose light yellowish white sand with brownish mottled patches	0.4m - 1.3m+	Natural sand

Trench 2

Context	Description	Depth	Interpretation
2002	Loose dark grayish brown silty sand	0.4m	Topsoil
2001	Loose light yellowish white sand	0.4m - 0.95m	Natural sand
2003	Soft pink fine sand	0.95m – 1.15m+	Natural sand

Appendix 2

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

- 1 Daily record sheets
- 2 Trench record sheets
- 1 Photographic record sheet

All primary records and finds 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:

North Lincolnshire Museum
Oswald Road
Scunthorpe
DN15 7BD

The archive will be deposited in format acceptable to North Lincolnshire Museums Service.

North Lincolnshire Museum Accession Code: HXAT

Archaeological Project Services Site Code: HSCF 07

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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