

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT:
TRIAL TRENCHING ON LAND SOUTH EAST OF BARWELL LANE AND HARWOOD DRIVE, HINKLEY,
LEICESTERSHIRE**

Planning Reference: 16/00247/FUL
NGR: SP 43730 9558
AAL Site Code: HIDG 17
Museum Accession Number: X.A74.2017
OASIS Reference Number: allenarc1-288333



Report prepared for Grayling Thomas Architects Ltd
On behalf of Dorothy Goodman School

By
Allen Archaeology Ltd
Report Number AAL 2017092

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Allenarchaeology



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Cover image: View across site, looking southeast

Executive Summary

- Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Grayling Thomas to undertake programme of archaeological evaluation trenching, in order to satisfy a planning condition for the relocation of Dorothy Goodman School on land southeast of Barwell Lane and Harwood Drive, Hinckley, Leicestershire.
- The site is archaeologically sensitive, lying in an area of archaeological interest and potential, with possible enclosure cropmarks and ring ditches recorded nearby, as well as evidence of prehistoric settlement, recorded during trial trenching to the south of the site. A Roman villa site has also been recorded to the southeast of the site.
- Nine trenches were excavated across the extent of the site, each measuring 30m long by 1.8m wide. The work identified a consistent stratigraphic sequence across the extent of the site comprising a modern topsoil layer over a layer of modern subsoil, which sealed the natural geology. All excavated trenches, with the exception of Trench 4 were archaeologically sterile, with Trench 4 revealing a single undated linear ditch.
- The results indicate that the site has a limited archaeological potential and that the proposed development will have a negligible impact upon the archaeological resource.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (AAL) was commissioned by Grayling Thomas to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching, in order to satisfy a planning condition for the relocation of Dorothy Goodman School on land south east of Barwell Lane and Harwood Drive, Hinckley, Leicestershire.
- 1.2 All fieldwork and reporting has been undertaken in line with the recommendations of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists '*Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluations*' (CIfA 2014) and the Historic England document '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*' (Historic England 2015), and a specification prepared by this company (AAL 2017). The fieldwork methodology was also informed by the regional research frameworks '*The Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*' (Cooper, 2006) and '*East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands*' (Knight *et al*, 2012). All relevant Historic England guidelines on archaeological practice were also followed (<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/>).
- 1.3 The documentation and records generated by the evaluation will be assembled in accordance with the national guidelines in '*Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*' (AAF 2011), and the local guidelines in '*The Transfer of Archaeological Archives to Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service*' (LCC 2014). The archive will be submitted to Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service within six months of the completion of the fieldwork, where it will be stored under a museum accession code X.A74.2017.

2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1 The proposed development site (hereafter referred to as 'the site') is located in Hinckley, in the administrative district of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough council. It is situated 22km southwest of Leicester and 25km northeast of Coventry as well as 2km northeast of the town centre. The site is approximately 2.3ha and comprises a single pasture field. The site is centred at NGR SP 43730 95558.
- 2.2 The bedrock geology comprises Mercia Mudstone sedimentary bedrock, formed approximately 200-251 million years ago, with Oadby Member diamicton superficial geology deposits laid down in the Quaternary period recorded (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

3.0 Planning Background

- 3.1 A planning application was submitted in March 2016 for the '*relocation of Dorothy Goodman School on land southeast of Barwell Lane and Harwood Drive, Hinckley, Leicestershire*' (Planning Reference 16/00247/FUL). Planning was granted subject to conditions, including for the undertaking of a programme of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching in order to provide the Principal Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council authority with sufficient information to make an informed decision as to the nature and extent of any further mitigation measures that may be required.

- 3.2 The approach adopted is consistent with the recommendations of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), with the particular chapter of relevance being 'Chapter 12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment' (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012).

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (HER) have stated that the site lies in an area of archaeological interest.
- 4.2 Possible enclosure cropmarks (MLE2800 and MLE2801) and a pair of ring ditches (MLE7946) have been recorded to the northeast of the site and are possibly prehistoric in date. A ditch containing burned stones and a posthole producing daub relating to prehistoric settlement was recorded during trial trenching to the south of the site (MLE18322), whilst a Roman villa site is recorded to the southeast (MLE2834).
- 4.3 The place name 'Hinckley' is of Old English origin, meaning '*Hynca's wood/clearing*' (<http://kepn.nottingham.ac.uk/map/place/Leicestershire/Hinckley>). At the time of the Domesday Book of 1086 Earl Aubrey was Lord and Tenant-in-chief and the village contained 69 households (<http://opendomesday.org/place/SP4293/hinkley/>).
- 4.4 The site at present is under pasture and mapping and aerial photographs indicate that it has remained unchanged since the post-medieval period.

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 A trench strategy for excavating a programme of 30m long by 1.8m wide trenches was agreed with the Principal Planning Archaeologist at Leicestershire County Council authority. Nine evaluation trenches were excavated across the extent of the site and were located using a Leica GS08 GPS unit receiving RTK corrections (Figure 2).
- 5.2 In each trench, topsoil, subsoil and underlying non-archaeological deposits were removed by JCB wheeled 3CX excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket in spits no greater than 0.1m in thickness, monitored at all times by an experienced field archaeologist. This process was then repeated until the first archaeologically significant or natural horizon is exposed. All further excavation was then done by hand. Fieldwork was undertaken over a period of four working days between the 15th and 18th of May 2017.
- 5.3 A full written record of the archaeological deposits was made on standard AAL context recording sheets. Archaeological deposits were drawn in plan and section at an appropriate scale (1:20 or 1:50), with OD heights being displayed on each class of drawing. Colour photography formed an integral part of the recording strategy, with all photographs incorporating scales, an identification board and directional arrow, as appropriate.
- 5.4 Each deposit or layer was allocated a unique three-digit identifier (context number), and accorded a written description, a summary of these are included in Appendix 1. Three-digit identifiers within square brackets denote cut features, e.g. gully [403].

6.0 Results (Figure 3)

- 6.1 The stratigraphic sequence proved to be ubiquitous across the site, comprising a 0.18–0.2m thick layer of loose mid grey sandy silt, which overlay in every trench 0.09–0.18m thick subsoil layer of firm mid greyish brown sandy clay with very frequent charcoal and flecks of ceramic building material (CBM). This in turn sealed the natural geology of the site, which comprised a compact mid orange brown sandy clay.
- 6.2 All trenches, with the exception of Trench 4 were devoid of archaeological features.



Plate 1: Northeast-facing representative section of Trench 1, scale 1m

Trench 4

- 6.3 A single archaeological feature was encountered in Trench 4, comprising a northwest to southeast oriented linear ditch, [403], that contained a single fill of firm mid grey brown silty clay with frequent charcoal and CBM flecks and patches of redeposited natural clay, 404. No dating evidence was recovered.



Plate 2: Northeast-facing section of ditch [403], scale 0.5m

7.0 Discussion and Conclusions

7.1 The archaeological evaluation identified a consistent stratigraphic sequence across the extent of the site comprising a modern topsoil layer over subsoil that in turn sealed the natural geology. A single undated linear ditch was identified in Trench 4. As such it is expected that there is a limited archaeological potential for the site and that the proposed development will have a negligible impact upon this resource.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

8.1 The evaluation trenching methodology was appropriate for the nature and scale of these works. It has indicated that the site has a low archaeological potential.

9.0 Acknowledgements

9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Grayling Thomas for this commission.

10.0 References

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Appendix 1: Context Summary

Trench 1

Context	Type	Description	Width (m)	Length (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
100	Layer	Loose mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-rounded stones	-	-	0.18	Topsoil
101	Layer	Firm mid greyish brown sandy clay with frequent CBM and charcoal flecks and occasional small sub-rounded stones	-	-	0.18	Subsoil
102	Layer	Compact mid orange brown sandy clay with occasional small to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones	-	-	-	Natural geology

Trench 2

Context	Type	Description	Width (m)	Length (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
200	Layer	Loose mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-rounded stones	-	-	0.20	Topsoil
201	Layer	Firm mid greyish brown sandy clay with frequent CBM and charcoal flecks and occasional small sub-rounded stones	-	-	0.12	Subsoil
202	Layer	Compact mid orange brown sandy clay with occasional small to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones	-	-	-	Natural geology

Trench 3

Context	Type	Description	Width (m)	Length (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
300	Layer	Loose mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-rounded stones	-	-	0.19	Topsoil
301	Layer	Firm mid greyish brown sandy clay with frequent CBM and charcoal flecks and occasional small sub-rounded stones	-	-	0.11	Subsoil
302	Layer	Compact mid orange brown sandy clay with occasional small to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones	-	-	-	Natural geology

Trench 4

Context	Type	Description	Width (m)	Length (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
400	Layer	Loose mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-rounded stones	-	-	0.21	Topsoil
401	Layer	Firm mid greyish brown sandy clay with frequent CBM and charcoal flecks and occasional small sub-rounded stones	-	-	0.09	Subsoil
402	Layer	Compact mid orange brown sandy clay with occasional small to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones	-	-	-	Natural geology
403	Cut	NE-SW oriented linear with steep slightly concave sides and a stepped break of slope to a concave base	1.12	-	0.32	Cut of ditch [403]
404	Fill	Firm mid grey brown silty clay with frequent charcoal and CBM flecks and patches of redeposited natural	-	-	0.32	Natural silting within ditch [403]

Trench 5

Context	Type	Description	Width (m)	Length (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
500	Layer	Loose mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-rounded stones	-	-	0.23	Topsoil
501	Layer	Firm mid greyish brown sandy clay with frequent CBM and charcoal flecks and occasional small sub-rounded stones	-	-	0.12	Subsoil
502	Layer	Compact mid orange brown sandy clay with occasional small to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones	-	-	-	Natural geology

Trench 6

Context	Type	Description	Width (m)	Length (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
600	Layer	Loose mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-rounded stones	-	-	0.20	Topsoil

Context	Type	Description	Width (m)	Length (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
601	Layer	Firm mid greyish brown sandy clay with frequent CBM and charcoal flecks and occasional small sub-rounded stones	-	-	0.12	Subsoil
602	Layer	Compact mid orange brown sandy clay with occasional small to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones	-	-	-	Natural geology

Trench 7

Context	Type	Description	Width (m)	Length (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
700	Layer	Loose mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-rounded stones	-	-	0.20	Topsoil
701	Layer	Firm mid greyish brown sandy clay with frequent CBM and charcoal flecks and occasional small sub-rounded stones	-	-	0.14	Subsoil
702	Layer	Compact mid orange brown sandy clay with occasional small to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones	-	-	-	Natural geology

Trench 8

Context	Type	Description	Width (m)	Length (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
800	Layer	Loose mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-rounded stones	-	-	0.21	Topsoil
801	Layer	Firm mid greyish brown sandy clay with frequent CBM and charcoal flecks and occasional small sub-rounded stones	-	-	0.12	Subsoil
802	Layer	Compact mid orange brown sandy clay with occasional small to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones	-	-	-	Natural geology

Trench 9

Context	Type	Description	Width (m)	Length (m)	Thickness/depth (m)	Interpretation
900	Layer	Loose mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-rounded stones	0.20m thick			Topsoil
901	Layer	Firm mid greyish brown sandy clay with frequent CBM and charcoal flecks and occasional small sub-rounded stones	0.13m thick			Subsoil
902	Layer	Compact mid orange brown sandy clay with occasional small to medium sub-rounded and sub-angular stones	-			Natural geology

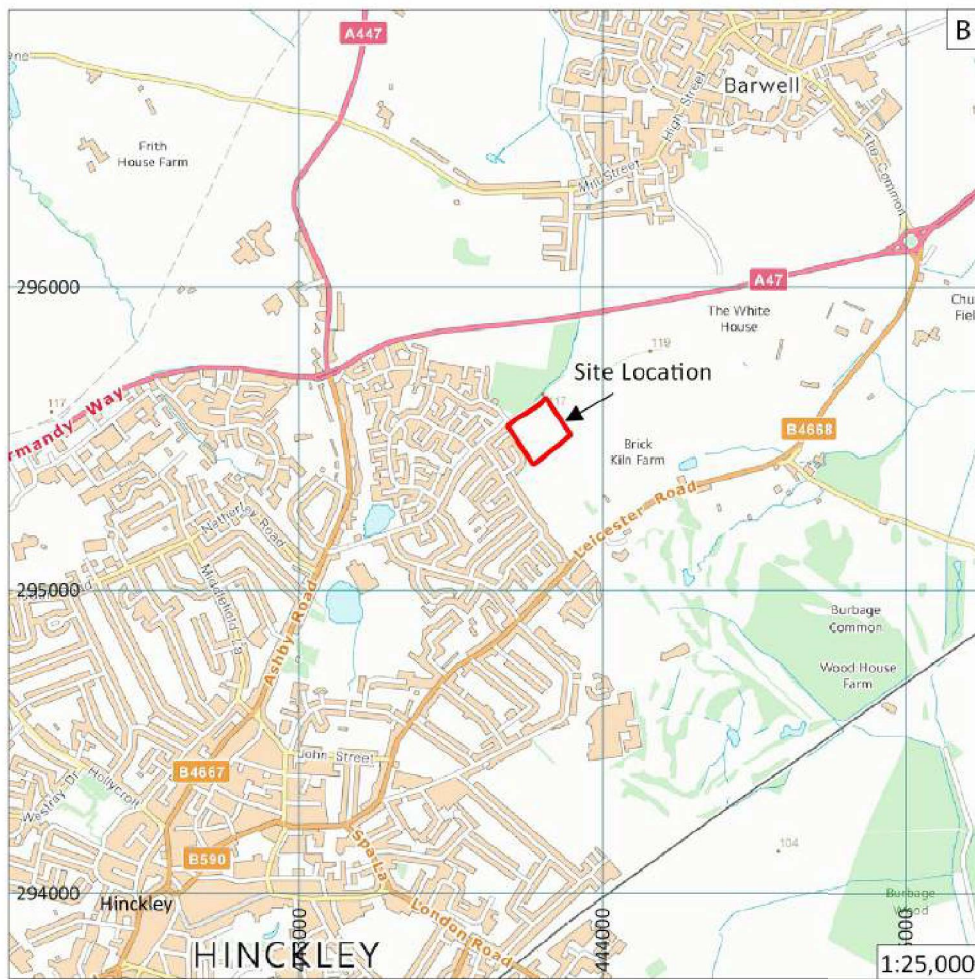
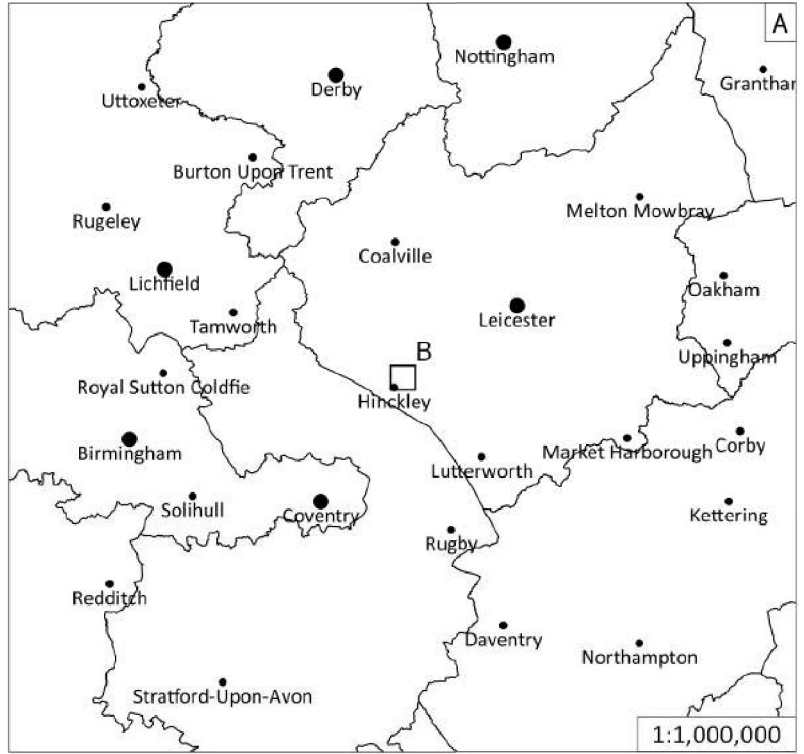
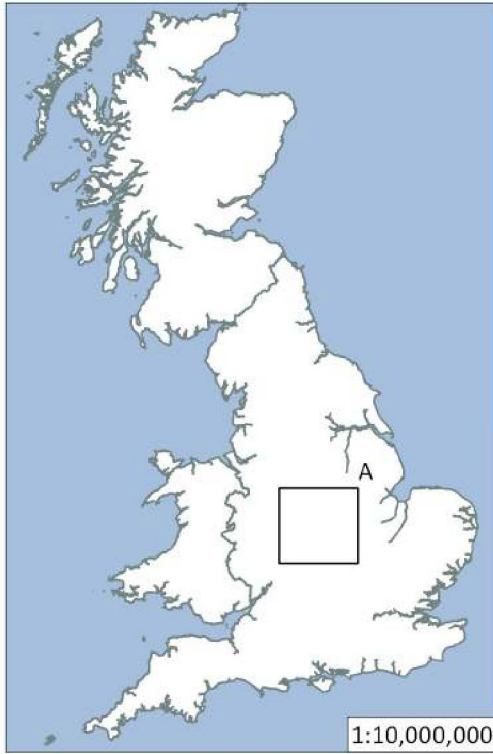


Figure 1: Site location outlined in red

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Site Code	HIDG 17 15
Scale	1:10,000,000 1:1,000,000 1:25,000 @ A4
Drawn by	F Johnson
Date	02/06/2017

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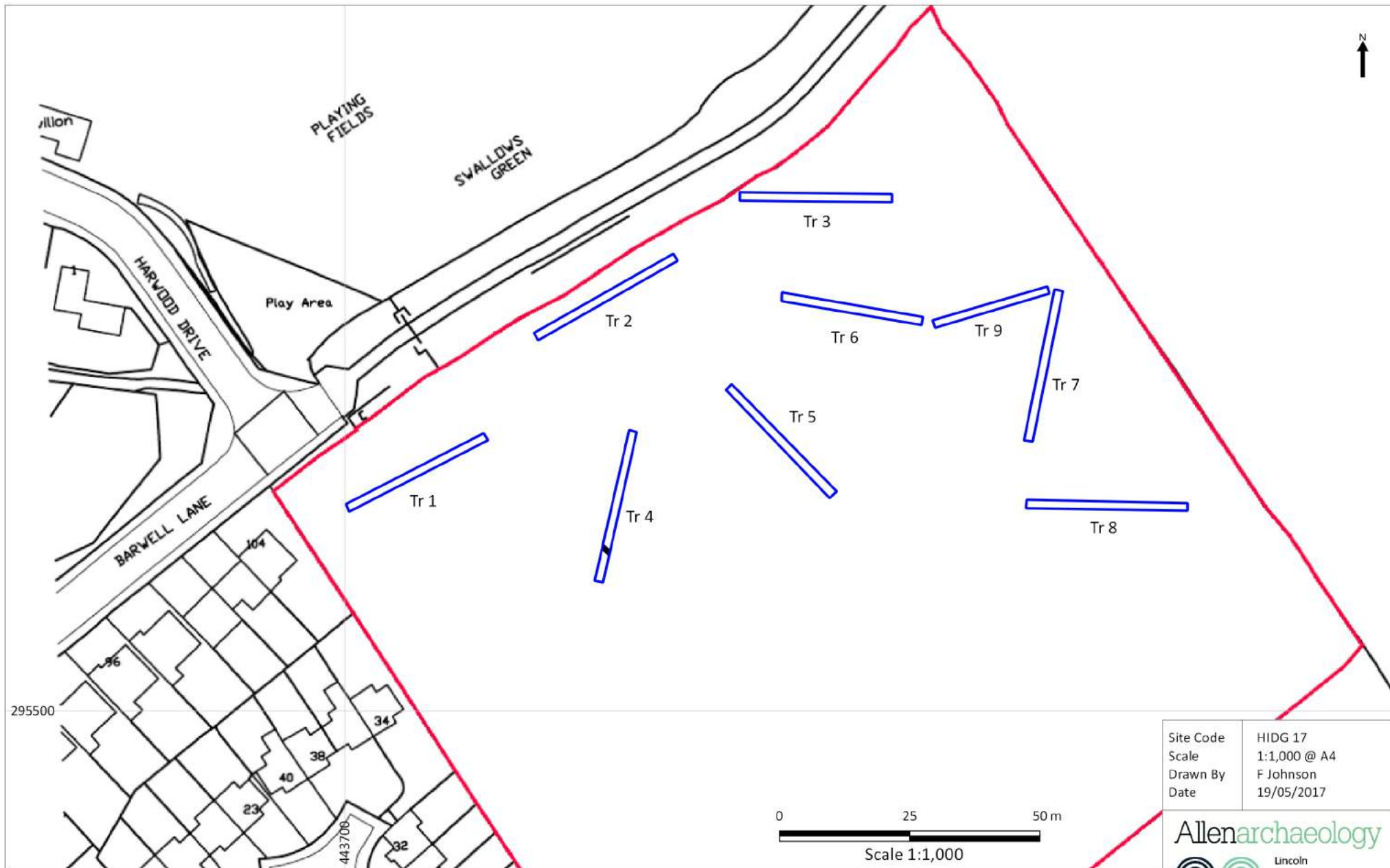
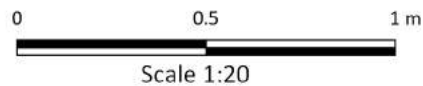
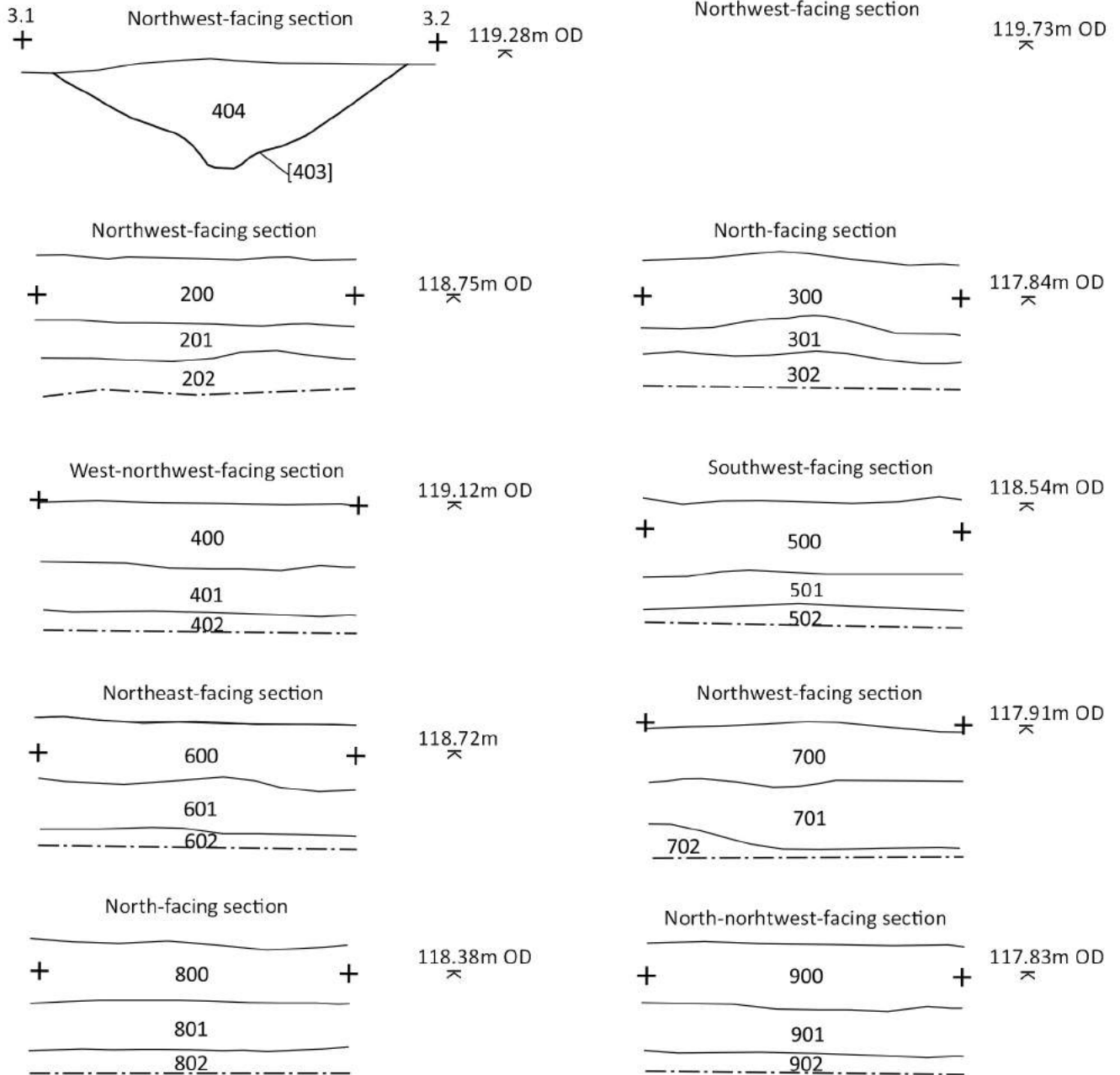
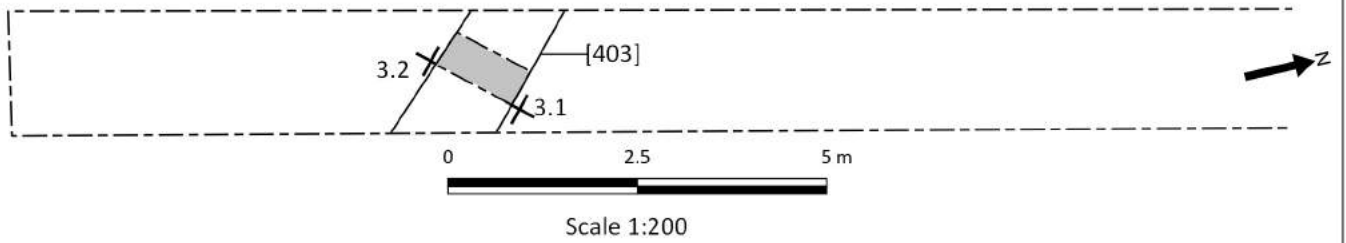


Figure 2: Trench Locations shown in blue, with archaeological features in black. Site location outlined in red

Site Code	HIDG 17
Scale	1:1,000 @ A4
Drawn By	F Johnson
Date	19/05/2017

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Site Code	HIDG 17
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Figure 3: Plan and section of Trench 4 and representative sections of other trenches



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