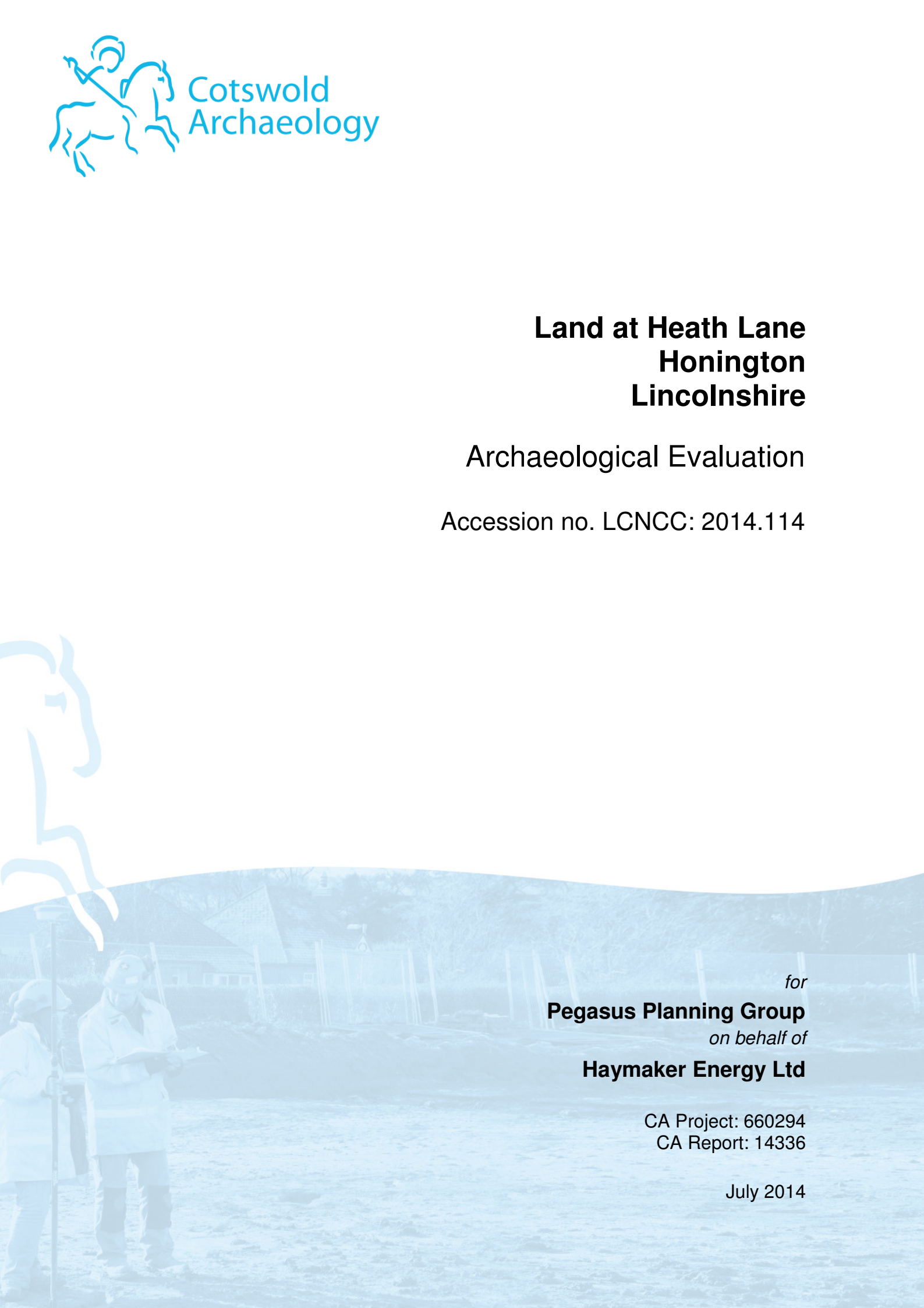


**Land at Heath Lane  
Honington  
Lincolnshire**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

Accession no. LCNCC: 2014.114



*for*  
**Pegasus Planning Group**  
*on behalf of*  
**Haymaker Energy Ltd**

CA Project: 660294  
CA Report: 14336


July 2014

# Land at Heath Lane Honington Lincolnshire

Accession no. LCNCC: 2014.114

## Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 660294  
CA Report: 14336

prepared by	James Coyne, Project Supervisor
date	16 July 2014
checked by	Nicola Powell, Post-Excavation Manager
date	24 July 2014
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signed	
date	31 July 2014
issue	01

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## CONTENTS

SUMMARY .....	3
1. INTRODUCTION.....	4
2. RESULTS .....	7
3. DISCUSSION.....	8
4. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	8
5. REFERENCES.....	8
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS .....	10
APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM.....	13

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan, 1:25,000
- Fig. 2 Trench location plan showing archaeological features and geophysical survey results, 1:2500
- Fig. 3 General view of the site, looking south
- Fig. 4 Trench 3, geological feature 301, looking south
- Fig. 5 Trench 6, geological feature 601, looking south



## SUMMARY

<b>Project Name:</b>	Heath Lane, Honington
<b>Location:</b>	Honington, Lincolnshire
<b>NGR:</b>	SK 9569 4296
<b>Type:</b>	Evaluation
<b>Date:</b>	30th June – 3rd July
<b>Planning Reference:</b>	South Kesteven District Council, S14/1084
<b>Location of Archive:</b>	Lincolnshire Museums
<b>Accession Number:</b>	LCNCC: 2014.114
<b>Site Code:</b>	HLH14

In July 2014, Cotswold Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation, comprising the excavation of fourteen trial trenches, at Heath Lane, Honington, Lincolnshire. The evaluation, which was commissioned by Pegasus Planning Group, acting on behalf of Haymaker Energy Ltd, was undertaken in support of a planning application for the construction of a solar park on the site.

A geophysical survey of the site had shown a pattern of linear anomalies of possible archaeological significance, aligned north-east to south-west or north-west to south-east. The trial trench evaluation demonstrated that these were geological features formed by weathering of joints in the limestone bedrock. No archaeological features were encountered in the trial trenches and there were no finds in the fills of excavated features.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In July 2014, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation, comprising the excavation of fourteen trial trenches, at Heath Lane, Honington, Lincolnshire (site centred on NGR: SK 9569 4296; Fig. 1). The evaluation, which was commissioned by Pegasus Planning Group, acting on behalf of Haymaker Energy Ltd, was undertaken in support of a planning application for the construction of a solar park on the site (South Kesteven District Council, planning ref. S14/1084).
- 1.2 The scope of the evaluation was determined following consultation with Jenny Young, The Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire (HTL), archaeological advisor to South Kesteven District Council. It was formalised in a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2014a). Previously, the site had been the subject of a geophysical survey undertaken by Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS 2014) and a *Heritage Desk-Based Assessment* prepared by CA (2014b).
- 1.3 The project was carried out in accordance with the WSI, the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (IfA 2008) and the English Heritage procedural documents *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (EH1991) and *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006). The fieldwork was monitored by Jenny Young, with a site visit being made on 2 July 2014.

### ***The site***

- 1.4 The site, which covers an area of c. 33ha, is located to the east of the village of Honington, in the parish of Honington, approximately 9km north-east of Grantham. It comprises three fields situated on a spur of high ground at the north-eastern edge of Barkston Heath and overlooks the valley of Honington Beck to the north-west and the Ancaster Gap to the north. The road from Barkston to Ancaster (A153) passes down the valley from east to west and a railway line curves across the far side of the valley floor. To the east of the site the ground slopes steeply into the valley of a small stream, the source of the River Slea, and to the south the ground climbs towards Honington Camp, a Scheduled prehistoric fortified settlement, and the hill top beyond. Ground level descends from approximately 108m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the south-west edge of the site to 83m aOD to the north-east.

- 1.5 The geology comprises Jurassic limestone and mudstone of the Lower Lincolnshire Limestone Member and on the slope at the northern boundary of the site this overlies a narrow outcrop of ferruginous sandstone and ironstone of the Northampton Sand Formation. There are no superficial deposits within the proposed development area, although Belton Sand and Gravel occurs on the lower ground around the base of the slope to the north-west, north and east (BGS 2014).

### **Archaeological background**

- 1.6 The archaeological and historical background of the site has been presented in detail in the Cultural Heritage chapter of the *Environmental Statement* (Chapter 4) prepared by CA (2014b). In brief, this demonstrated that there are no records of known archaeological sites within the proposed development area, other than those of a cropmark of an undated enclosure in the south-western corner and a post-medieval/modern quarry pit in the eastern field. The presence of the rectilinear enclosure was confirmed by the recent geophysical survey (ASWYAS 2014), which also recorded two smaller enclosures at the western edge of the site, c. 300m to the north-east of the known enclosure.
- 1.7 In the vicinity of the site there are records of prehistoric, Roman and medieval remains, with a concentration around the Iron Age fortified settlement of Honington Camp, on the high ground c. 300m to the south, and in the small valley of the River Slea to the east. These remains include the findspots of prehistoric worked flint, four possible Bronze Age barrows, the Iron Age fortified settlement and associated activity, and a Roman building, coin hoard and other evidence of Roman settlement.

### **Archaeological objectives**

- 1.8 The objectives of the evaluation, as detailed in the WSI (CA 2014a), were to:
- Investigate the geophysical anomalies targeted by the trenches to determine their nature, extent, date, integrity and state of preservation;
  - Determine the potential for the survival of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from archaeological deposits;
  - Place the investigated remains within the context of the surrounding archaeological landscape.

- 1.9 The results of the evaluation will assist HTL in making an informed judgement on the significance of the archaeological resource and the likely impact upon it of the proposed development, so that a suitable mitigation strategy can be devised if significant archaeological remains are encountered.

### **Methodology**

- 1.10 The evaluation comprised the excavation and investigation of thirteen 10m trial trenches and one 20m trial trench (150 linear metres; Fig. 2), targeted on possible archaeological features detected by a geophysical survey undertaken by Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS 2014). Trenches were set out on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using a Leica 1200 series SmartRover GPS and scanned for live services by trained CA staff using CAT and Genny equipment. The final 'as dug' trench plan was recorded with GPS. All works were carried out in accordance with the relevant sections of the revised version of Lincolnshire County Council's *Archaeology Handbook* (LCC 2012).
- 1.11 All trenches were excavated, under archaeological supervision, by a mechanical excavator equipped with a 2.0m wide toothless ditching bucket. The trenches were originally estimated to be c. 0.6m deep, though upon excavation they were on average c. 0.3m deep. The overburden was removed to the top of archaeologically significant deposits or to the top of the geological substrate, whichever was encountered first. Topsoil and subsoil were stored separately, adjacent to each trench.
- 1.12 Following machining, all potential archaeological deposits were planned and recorded in accordance with CA's *Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual* (CA 2007). Each context was recorded on a *pro forma* context sheet by written and measured description. Principal deposits were recorded on drawn plans (scale 1:20 or 1:50), or electronically using Leica 1200 series GPS (as appropriate). Sections were drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scale, as appropriate. Where detailed feature planning was undertaken using GPS, this was carried out in accordance with *Technical Manual 4: Survey Manual* (CA 2009). Photographs (35mm black & white negative and digital colour) were taken as appropriate. There were no finds and no deposits were encountered that were suitable for environmental sampling. The spoil heaps and features were scanned with a metal detector but no archaeologically significant metal objects were found.

- 1.13 Sample excavation of potential archaeological deposits was sufficient to characterise them and to achieve the objectives of the exercise. Discrete features were half-sectioned and excavated sections through linear features were at least 1m wide.
- 1.14 The site archive from the evaluation is currently held by CA at their offices in Newport Pagnell. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the archive will be deposited with Lincolnshire Museums under accession number LCNCC: 2014.114. A summary of information from this project, as set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

## 2. RESULTS

- 2.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of fourteen trenches in three fields (Fig. 2), two of which were under pasture and one under arable crop at the time of the evaluation (Fig. 3). Descriptions of the features and deposits encountered in the trenches are presented in detail in Appendix A.

### ***General stratigraphy***

- 2.2 The geological substrate, predominately brashy limestone, was overlain by greyish-brown sandy silt topsoil with an average thickness of 0.3m. Bands of naturally-occurring reddish-brown silty sand were observed across the site, probably caused by the accumulation of sandy soil within fissures in the bedrock. These geological features corresponded with the anomalies detected during the geophysical survey.

### ***Geological features***

- 2.3 The potential archaeological features shown on the geophysical survey results (ASWYAS 2014) were investigated in all if the trenches where corresponding features were encountered (Fig. 2). All of these features were confirmed as being of natural origin, although in Trenches 3 and 6 the features had more of a 'ditch-like' appearance. However, the character of their fills suggests that they were also naturally-formed.
- 2.4 In Trench 3, linear feature 301 was located roughly in the centre of the trench, 4m from its eastern end. It measured 1m wide by 0.63m deep and had steep sides and a V-shaped profile, giving the impression of a possible ditch (Fig. 4). However, its



sterile reddish-brown fine silty sand fill, 302, suggests that it is a natural striation within the geological substrate, caused by weathering of the brashy limestone surface. Feature 601 in Trench 6, which had an irregular profile measuring c. 1.6m wide by 0.64m deep, was filled with a similar sterile deposit that appeared to dip under the brashy limestone on its eastern side (Fig. 5).

### 3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The results of the geophysical survey undertaken by ASWYAS (2014) had shown a pattern of linear anomalies of possible archaeological significance within the site, aligned north-east to south-west or north-west to south-east (Fig. 2). Their regular appearance and proximity to enclosure cropmarks at the western edge of the site suggested that they may have been part of a prehistoric or Roman field system, but their alignment corresponds with weaker linear trends on the same alignments that were interpreted as being of geological origin so there was some uncertainty over their exact nature.
- 3.2 The trial trench evaluation confirmed that these features were formed by natural processes and that they were probably formed by weathering of joints in the bedding of the limestone, with the rock breaking down into a sterile reddish-brown silty sand or sand, with some material derived from surface weathering (Figs. 4 and 5). No archaeological features or deposits were identified within the trial trenches.

### 4. CA PROJECT TEAM

The fieldwork was supervised by Peter James, assisted by James Coyne and Daniel Riley. The report was written by James Coyne, with illustrations prepared by Dan Bashford. The archive has been compiled by Peter James and prepared for deposition by Emily Evans. The project was managed for CA by Simon Carlyle.

### 5. REFERENCES

ASWYAS (Archaeological Services WYAS) 2014 *Heath Lane, Honington, Lincolnshire: Geophysical Survey*, report **2594**

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2014 *Geology of Britain Viewer*  
[http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology\\_viewer\\_google/googleviewer.html](http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_viewer_google/googleviewer.html), accessed 27 May  
2014

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014a *Land at Heath Lane, Honington, Lincolnshire:  
Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014b *Cultural Heritage, Chapter 4, Environmental  
Statement*



**APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS****Trench 1**

Context No.	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D/T (m)
100	Topsoil	Dark grey sandy loam with moderate sub-angular limestone pebbles (0-0.06m)	-	-	0.28
101	Geology	Medium reddish-brown silty sand with frequent sub-angular limestone cobbles and pebbles.	-	-	-

**Trench 2**

Context No.	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D/T (m)
200	Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown sandy silt with frequent angular limestone pebbles (<0.1m)	-	-	0.30
201	Geology	Reddish-brown sand with limestone gravel.	-	-	-

**Trench 3**

Context No.	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D/T (m)
300	Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown sandy silt with frequent angular limestone pebbles (<0.1m)	-	-	0.25
301	Geological feature	Linear V-shaped profile with steep, straight sides and a narrow rounded base. Aligned NW-SE.	1.8+	1.0	0.63
302	Fill of 301	Sterile, mid reddish-brown friable fine sand, with rare limestone pebbles (<0.05m).	-	-	0.63
303	Geology	Reddish-brown sand with brashy limestone.	-	-	-

**Trench 4**

Context No.	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D/T (m)
400	Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown sandy silt with frequent angular limestone pebbles (<0.1m)	-	-	0.30
401	Geology	Reddish-brown sand with brashy limestone.	-	-	-

**Trench 5**

Context No.	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D/T (m)
500	Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown firm sandy silt with occasional limestone pebbles.	-	-	0.28
501	Geology	Mid orangey-brown silty sand with frequent limestone pebbles and cobbles.	-	-	-

**Trench 6**

Context No.	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D/T (m)
600	Topsoil	Dark greyish-brown firm sandy silt with occasional limestone pebbles.	-	-	0.32
601	Geology	Mid orangey-brown silty sand with frequent limestone pebbles and cobbles.	-	-	-

**Trench 7**

Context No.	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D/T (m)
700	Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown firm sandy silt with occasional limestone pebbles.	-	-	0.32
701	Geology	Mid orangey-brown silty sand with frequent limestone pebbles and cobbles.	-	-	-

**Trench 8**

Context No.	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D/T (m)
800	Topsoil	Medium greyish-brown sandy loam with occ. sub-rounded limestone pebbles (0-0.4m).	-	-	0.28
801	Geology	Light yellowish-brown sandy clay 'brash' with outcrops of solid limestone .	-	-	-

**Trench 9**

Context No.	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D/T (m)
900	Topsoil	Medium greyish-brown sandy loam with frequent sub-angular limestone pebbles (0-0.05m).	-	-	0.31
901	Geology	Medium reddish-brown sandy clay with occ. sub-angular and sub-rounded limestone pebbles (0-0.06m). South end of trench predominantly solid limestone outcrop.	-	-	-

**Trench 10**

Context No.	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D/T (m)
1000	Topsoil	Dark greyish-brown firm sandy silt with occasional limestone pebbles.	-	-	0.28
1001	Geology	Mid orangey-brown silty sand with frequent limestone pebbles and cobbles.	-	-	-

**Trench 11**

Context No.	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D/T (m)
1100	Topsoil	Medium greyish-brown sandy loam with frequent sub-angular limestone pebbles (0-0.05m).	-	-	0.28
1101	Geology	Medium reddish-brown sandy clay with outcrops of solid limestone.	-	-	-

**Trench 12**

Context No.	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D/T (m)
1200	Topsoil	Dark greyish-brown firm sandy silt with occasional limestone pebbles.	-	-	0.36
1201	Geology	Mid orangey-brown silty sand with frequent limestone pebbles and cobbles.	-	-	-

**Trench 13**

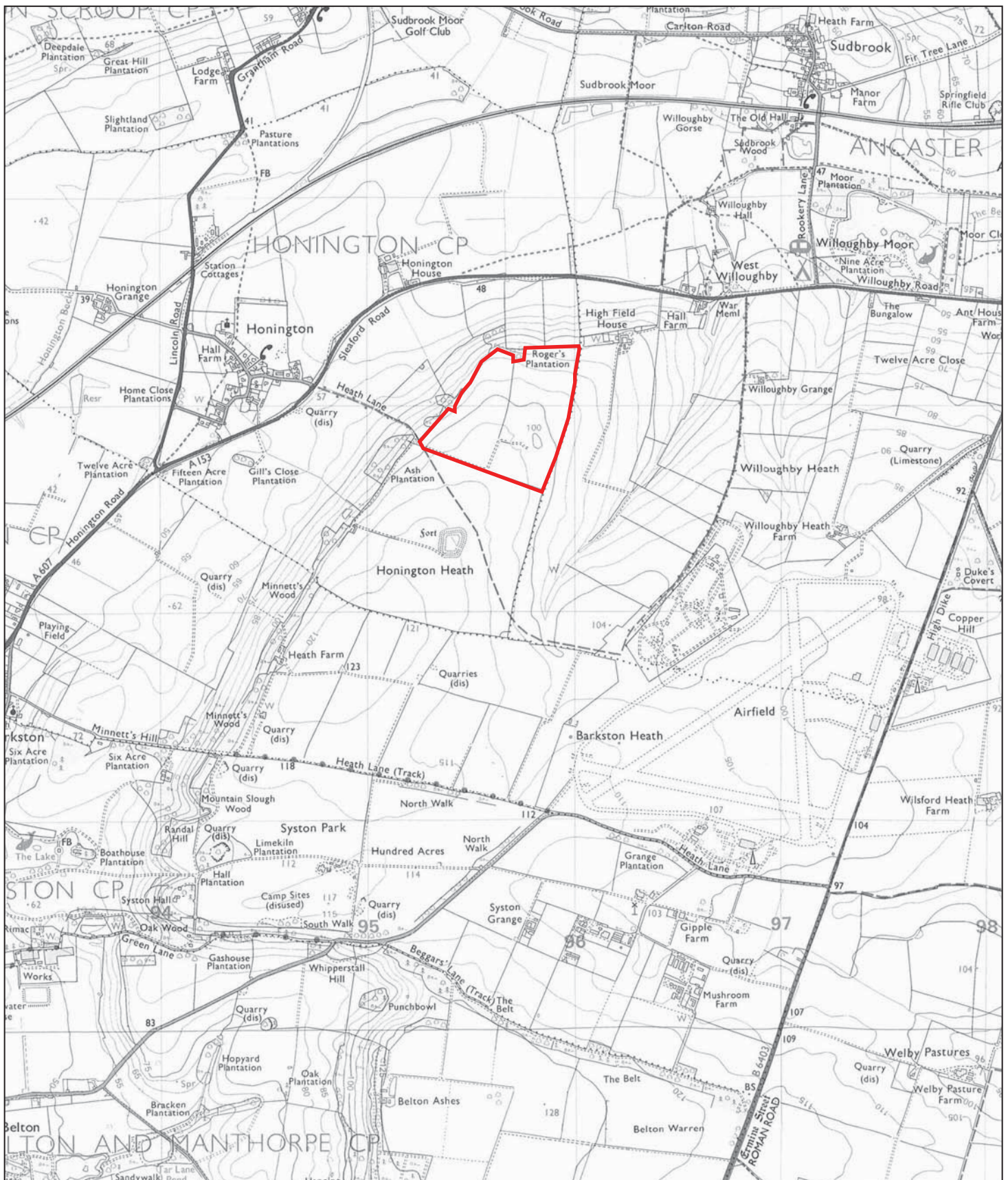
Context No.	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D/T (m)
1300	Topsoil	Mid greyish-brown sandy silt with frequent sub-angular limestone pebbles.	-	-	0.31
1301	Geology	Reddish-brown sand with brashy limestone.	-	-	-

**Trench 14**

Context No.	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	D/T (m)
1400	Topsoil	Medium greyish-brown sandy loam with frequent sub-rounded limestone pebbles (0-0.05m).	-	-	0.30
1401	Geology	Light reddish brown sandy clay with outcrops of limestone 'brash'.	-	-	-

## APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>		
Project name	Heath Lane, Honington Lincolnshire	
Short description	A geophysical survey of the site had shown a pattern of linear anomalies of possible archaeological significance, aligned north-east to south-west or north-west to south-east. The trial trench evaluation demonstrated that these were geological features formed by weathering of joints in the limestone bedrock. No archaeological features were encountered in the trial trenches and there were no finds in the fills of excavated features.	
Project dates	30 June - 3 July 2014	
Project type	Evaluation	
Previous work	Geophysical survey (ASWYAS 2014); Desk-based assessment (CA 2014b)	
Future work	None	
Monument type	None	
Significant finds	None	
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>		
Site location	Heath Lane, Honington, Lincolnshire	
Study area	33ha	
Site co-ordinates	SK 9569 4296	
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>		
Name of organisation	Cotswold Archaeology (CA)	
Project Brief originator	-	
Project Design (WSI) originator	CA	
Project Manager	Simon Carlyle (CA)	
Project Supervisor	Peter James (CA)	
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVE</b>		
	Accession no: LCNCC: 2014.114	Content
Physical	The Collection	-
Paper		Site records and photos
Digital	Lincolnshire HER	Report, digital photos
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		
CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 <i>Heath Lane, Honington, Lincolnshire: Archaeological Evaluation</i> . CA typescript report <b>14336</b>		



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**PROJECT TITLE**

**Land at Heath Lane, Honington  
 Lincolnshire**

**FIGURE TITLE**

**Site location plan**

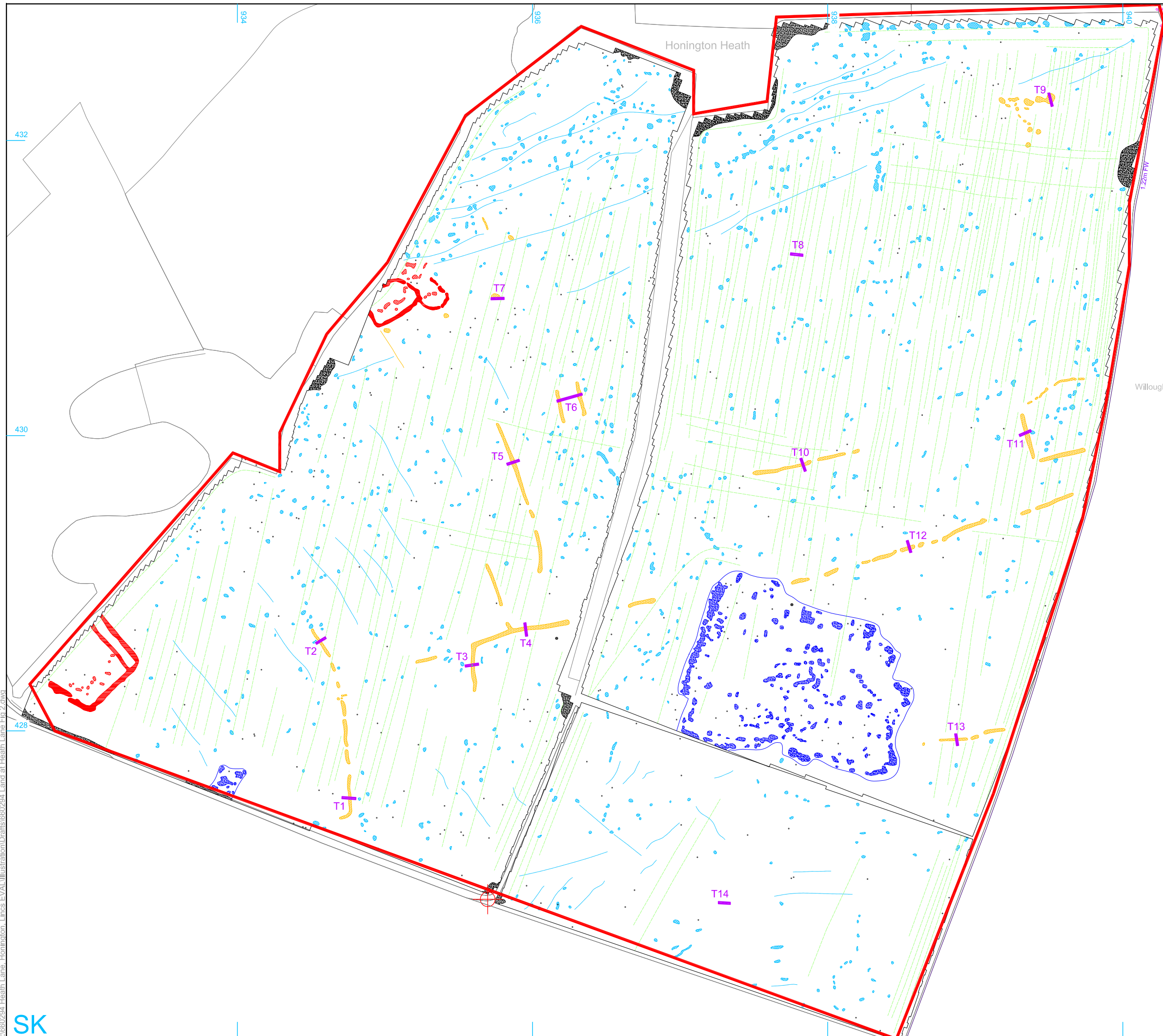


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PROJECT NO. 660294 DATE 22-07-2014  
 DRAWN BY DJB REVISION 00  
 APPROVED BY LM SCALE@A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

**1**



- site
- evaluation trench

**Geophysical survey results**  
(Archaeological Services WYAS)

TYPE OF ANOMALY	INTERPRETATION
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<span style="background-color: blue; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 10px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span> MAGNETIC DISTURBANCE	QUARRYING
<span style="border-bottom: 1px solid green; width: 20px; display: inline-block;"></span> LINEAR TREND	AGRICULTURAL
<span style="border-bottom: 1px dashed blue; width: 20px; display: inline-block;"></span> LINEAR TREND	GEOLOGY
<span style="background-color: lightblue; border: 1px solid blue; border-radius: 50%; width: 10px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span> MAGNETIC ENHANCEMENT	GEOLOGY
<span style="background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 10px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span> MAGNETIC ENHANCEMENT	ARCHAEOLOGY?
<span style="border-bottom: 1px dashed orange; width: 20px; display: inline-block;"></span> LINEAR TREND	ARCHAEOLOGY?
<span style="background-color: red; border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 50%; width: 10px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span> MAGNETIC ENHANCEMENT	ARCHAEOLOGY
<span style="background-color: red; border: 1px solid red; border-radius: 50%; width: 10px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span> MAGNETIC ENHANCEMENT	ARCHAEOLOGY - DITCH



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**PROJECT TITLE**  
 Land at Heath Lane, Honington  
 Lincolnshire

**FIGURE TITLE**  
 Trench location plan showing  
 archaeological features and  
 geophysical survey results

PROJECT NO. 660294 DATE 22-07-2014 FIGURE NO.  
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 APPROVED BY LM SCALE@A3 1:2500

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3



4

- 3 General view of the site, looking south
- 4 Trench 3, geological feature 301, looking south (scale 1m)



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Land at Heath Lane, Honington  
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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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APPROVED BY	LM	SCALE@A4	N/A	



5

**5 Trench 6, geological feature 601, looking south (scale 1m)**



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*PROJECT TITLE*

Land at Heath Lane, Honington  
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*FIGURE TITLE*

**Photograph**

PROJECT NO.	<b>660294</b>	DATE	<b>22-07-2014</b>	FIGURE NO.
DRAWN BY	<b>DJB</b>	REVISION	<b>00</b>	<b>5</b>
APPROVED BY	<b>LM</b>	SCALE@A4	<b>N/A</b>	