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Land off A140/A1270 Northern Junction, Horsham St Faith, Norfolk

Report type: Archaeological Trial Trenching
Report No. MK211/20

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Gold Member

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**Land off A140/A1270 Northern Junction, Horsham St Faith,
Norfolk**

Archaeological Trial Trenching

Report No. MK211/20

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SUMMARY

CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out archaeological trial trenching from 18 to 20 August 2020 on the site of a proposed waste recycling centre development on land off the A140/A1270 northern junction, Norwich, Norfolk (Fig. 1). The work was carried out for Lanpro Services on behalf of Norfolk County Council. Eight trenches positioned to give a general coverage of the site, were excavated; it was not possible to carry out a geophysical survey of the site prior to the trial trenching because of Covid pandemic restrictions. The trial trenching exposed a number of features in Trenches 1, 2, 6 and 8, identified as a possible three-throw pit, ditches and other linear features. Very little artefactual material was recovered from these features, mostly of post-medieval date and no archaeological features nor deposits were identified in Trenches 3, 4, 5 and 7.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of archaeological trial trenching undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) between 18 and 20 August 2020 on land off the A140/A1270 northern junction, Norwich, Norfolk to inform a planning application for development of a waste recycling centre on the site. The work was commissioned by Lanpro Services on behalf of Norfolk County Council.

1.1. Planning Background

Planning Permission has been granted by Norfolk County Council for a new recycling centre with access from the A140 with associated attenuation and drainage basin (Ref: FUL/2020/0005). Conditions attached to planning consent required that archaeological trial trenching be carried out prior to development, in order to determine the scope and extent of any further mitigatory work that may be required

The trial trenching was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated July 2020, produced by Lanpro Services Ltd. (Gajos 2020) and approved by Norfolk Historic Environment Service (NHES).

1.2. Site Background

The study site consists of approximately 4.2ha of land situated to the north of the A1270 and east of the A140 (centred at TG 2072 1430; Figure 1). The western part of the site falls within arable farmland whilst that to the east is scrubland, formerly part of Norwich Airport runway.

The recorded bedrock geology in the study site comprises Quaternary Crag Group sedimentary sand and gravel overlain by superficial deposits of Happisburgh Glacigenic Formation diamicton (BGS 2020). The ground surface within the site is relatively level, lying at an elevation of approximately 30m above ordnance datum (AOD).

1.3. Archaeological Background

A detailed description of the archaeological and historical background to the site was provided in an archaeological desk-based assessment prepared by Lanpro Services Ltd. (Chipping 2020); the following is a brief summary of the findings contained within that report, much of the evidence having been recorded within the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (HER):

Metal detecting and fieldwalking within the south-western corner of the site between 1999 and 2013 recovered prehistoric worked flints and Bronze Age metalwork including a bronze knife/sword (HER No. 35284). Fieldwalking in advance of the Northern Distributor Road a short distance south of the site in 2006 revealed clusters of flintwork (HER No. 49746)

Evidence from the immediate vicinity of the study site and the site itself demonstrate activity in the area throughout prehistory but with an emphasis on the Neolithic and Bronze Age. The potential for further artefactual evidence of prehistoric activity to be present within the study site is considered to be high, however, the potential for undisturbed deposits or features of prehistoric date is considerably more limited.

There are no recorded finds of Iron Age material or confirmed Iron Age sites/features from within the search area. However, a large number of cropmarks are recorded in the vicinity which have been ascribed Iron Age and/or Roman dates based on morphological grounds.

Firm evidence for Roman period activity within the search area is scarce. From the HER information it is difficult to assess the Roman potential as the only evidence of activity from this period comes from metal detecting and so has limited contextual meaning. A number of Roman coins and a brooch are recorded as possibly being recovered from within the study site, although the HER polygon for those finds (HER No. 35284) covers a large area which extends beyond the study site.

There is evidence of reasonably widespread exploitation of the landscape through the Iron Age and Roman periods (albeit with much of that evidence based on untested cropmarks), although the density of settlement within the landscape is currently unclear. The potential for the presence of Iron Age and Roman field systems is considered to be moderate with a lesser potential for settlement evidence which, if present, is likely to comprise small scale farmsteads.

Little is known about the Early Saxon occupation of the area. In 1086 Horsham was called 'Horsha' meaning 'the homestead where horses are kept' (Norfolk Heritage Explorer, 2020). The HER records a few metal detecting finds within the study site itself and the wider search area, including early Saxon metalwork recorded as part of HER 35284. As with the Roman finds discussed above the polygon for HER 35284 covers a large area and the focus of much of the work was the route of the Northern Distributor Road (NDR) to the immediate south of the study site, therefore, it is not entirely clear whether any of these finds were from the study site or not. During trial trenching in 2010 for the route of the NDR eight trenches were excavated, only two of which revealed archaeologically

significant remains (Ames and Sillwood, 2012). Just within the south-west corner of the site, two possible early Saxon pits were recorded and interpreted as having been used for waste disposal, based on recovered charred material. A possible association with a nearby settlement was inferred and two undated ditches were also found (49744). It is, therefore, considered that there is a moderate potential for the presence of early Saxon period activity, potentially settlement, within the south-western portion of the study site.

Fieldname evidence from the tithe apportionments suggest the possible presence of brick kilns in the western part of the site.

Horsham St Faith Airfield (HER No. 8137) was established in the eastern part of the site and extended further south just before the start of World War Two. It became operational at the outbreak of war and hangars, technical and domestic buildings and grass runways were constructed. The base was used by the RAF and the United States Army Air Force between 1939 and 1945 and the RAF between 1945 and 1963. The site is now used as Norwich Airport and an industrial estate, and the former runway which extended into the eastern part of the site was removed when the Northern Distributor Road (A1270) was constructed in 2016.

1.4. Objectives

The overall aim of the archaeological trial trenching was to obtain sufficient information to establish the presence/absence, character, extent, state of preservation and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of the proposed development. This would allow reasoned and informed recommendations to be made on the application for development of the site, and any requirements for further archaeological mitigation.

This could be achieved through the following objectives:

- To determine the location, extent, date, character, function, condition and significance of any archaeological remains within the development site
- To excavate and record identified archaeological features and deposits to a level appropriate to their extent and significance
- To assess the potential for survival of environmental evidence
- To inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains
- To undertake sufficient post-excavation assessment to confidently interpret identified archaeological features
- To report the results of the trial trenching and place them in their local and regional context
- To compile and deposit a site archive with the Norfolk Museums Service

The programme of archaeological investigation had the potential to contribute to research priorities identified in Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England (Medlycott 2011). The investigation also took account of the national research programmes outlined in the English Heritage (now Historic England) Strategic

Framework for Historic Environment Activities and Programmes in Historic England (SNHESE), first published in 2008.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1. General

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance (CIfA 2014a, 2014b, 2014c). The work conformed to the requirements of Norfolk County Council (Robertson *et al.* 2018).

2.2. Trenching

Trial trenching comprising the excavation of eight trenches, each measuring 50m x 1.8m, was carried out on the site. The trenches were positioned to give general coverage of the site; proposed geophysical survey to inform the trial trenching strategy not having been possible because of Covid pandemic restrictions. All eight trenches were excavated to their full extent.

2.3 Excavation and Recording Strategy

Topsoil and subsoil were removed by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision, to reveal archaeological deposits or, where these were absent, the natural substrate.

Trenches containing archaeological features were excavated and sections of the features themselves were drawn at 1:10; surveying of features and trenches was carried out with a Trimble Geo7X RTK GPS unit accurate to 8mm horizontally and 12mm vertically. Archaeological features were sample-excavated by hand. The character, composition and general depositional sequence were recorded on pro forma context sheets conforming to CIfA standards (2014b) and CFA's quality manuals A full photographic record comprising digital images was made. General views were taken to place the site in context, as well as specific features.

2.3. Archiving

The archive will contain all the data collected during the archaeological works, including all digital and paper records, finds and environmental samples. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent and will comply fully with relevant guidance (MGC 1994, Brown 2007, HE 2015).

The archive will be divided into paperwork files, digital archives stored on a transferable disk, and the finds record which consists of pottery, CBM, and struck lithics.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, finds, plans and reports, will be deposited with the Norfolk Museums Service and will conform to current guidelines (Brown 2011, MGC 1994, SMA 1995, UKIC 1990 and EH 2006) ensuring the proper transfer of ownership. The project report shall include an index to the site archive. The archive will be marked with the HER event number ENF149428.

An appropriate OASIS form was completed for the site, the summary is included as Appendix 2.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

The locations of the excavated trenches are shown in Fig. 1 and a summary of the exposed contexts is contained in Appendix 1 at the end of this report. Illustrations and photos referred to in the text can be found at the back of the report.

The natural geology on site was a mid to light red and grey sand of loose compaction. Patches of glacial deposits were also identified and treated as a variation of the natural geology. Several glacial deposits filling natural hollows were located, and in a few instances investigated. No finds nor datable material were recovered from these deposits.

Subsoil overlying the natural geology comprised a mid orange brown, moderately compacted sandy silt containing very occasional stone inclusions and was between 0.15m and 0.3m thick. The general stratigraphic sequence was capped with a dark brown sandy silt topsoil containing occasional stone inclusions, which was between 0.15m and 0.4m thick.

The site had been heavily ploughed, with the top of the archaeological horizon significantly truncated. The depth of the ploughing also appeared to have displaced finds within cut archaeological features.

3.1. Results

No archaeological features nor deposits were evident in Trenches 3, 4, 5 and 7, though significant anthropogenic disturbance in Trench 7 had most likely removed any remains had they been present. Limited archaeological deposits were recorded in Trenches 1, 2, 6 and 8.

Trench 1

A single oval pit [105], which was 1.5m in length, 0.65m wide and up to 0.63m deep, was recorded towards the south-east of Trench 1 (Figs 2 and 3). The feature exhibited an asymmetric profile and was interpreted as a three throw pit. It was filled with a loose, dark grey sandy fill (106) that contained tiny fragments of bone, though no dateable finds were recovered. A single north/south aligned ditch [104], possibly associated with a former field boundary was also present within the trench but was not excavated.

Trench 2

A north-west/south-east aligned ditch [205] was recorded crossing the centre of Trench 2 (Figs 4 - 6). The ditch was 0.9m wide and 0.15m deep, with moderately sloping, slightly concave sides, breaking to a gently concave base. The single fill (206) comprised a soft, dark grey sand, but yielded no dateable artefactual material. A single north/south aligned ditch [204], possibly a former field boundary was also present within the trench but was not excavated.

Trench 6

A single, north/south aligned linear feature [604] was exposed towards the south-east end of Trench 6 (Figs 7 and 8). The feature, which probably defined a former hedge line or other boundary, was 0.9m wide and 0.4m deep, with gently sloping, slightly concave sides, breaking to a flattish base. The single fill (605) comprised a soft, grey sand, from which a complete, stoneware ink bottle of 19th-century date was recovered (see Section 4, below).

Trench 8

A north-west/south-east aligned ditch [805] was recorded towards the north-east end of Trench 8 (Figs 9 – 11). The ditch was 0.8m wide and 0.22m deep, with moderately sloping, slightly concave sides, breaking to a gently concave base. The single fill (806) comprised a soft, dark grey sand with frequent flint nodules and produced a small assemblage of post-medieval tile fragments (see Section 4, below). An unexcavated, north/south aligned linear feature [804] possibly represented a former field boundary, was also present.

4. THE CERAMIC MATERIAL

by Dr Phil Mills MCI fA

4.1. Introduction

An assemblage of eight fragments of post-medieval roof tile and one post-medieval ceramic bottle were recovered during the trial trenching.

The full catalogue is shown in Table 1. Metrics were: Number of fabrics, No; weight in grams, Wt; with measurements taken in mm.

Table 1: Catalogue of ceramic material

Context	Fabric Code	Function	No	Wt	Length	Width	Thickness	Comments
806	TZ12	Tile	8	168	0	0	12.8	
605	Z30	Bottle	1	119	50	48.6	4	A complete small bottle with a bead rim and flat base RD = 21mm BD = 48

RD = rim diameter in mm; BD = base diameter in mm

4.2. Discussion

TZ12 is a reddish yellow fabric which is hard with a harsh feel and irregular fracture. It has inclusions of very common quartz at 0.4mm and common black and red ironstone at c, 0.5mm and sparse lime at 0.5mm.



Figure C1: 6mm wide cross-section of fabric TZ12

The fragments in this fabric were of plain roof tile. The quality of the fabric suggests a post-medieval or later date.

The ceramic object was a small bottle (Figure C2). The fabric was not examined as the vessel was complete. The body of the vessel was a brownish grey and there was a thin brown glaze on the rim and a patch on the body. It has a cylindrical body with a straight rising shoulder and straight beck with a bead rim. This is probably a stoneware ink bottle, of 19th-century date.



Figure C2: Ink bottle from (605)

4.3. Recommendation

No further work is required. The roof tile fragments can be discarded, and the bottle stored in a safe and stable environment.

4.4. Acknowledgement

Dr Phil Mills wishes to thank Dr Chris Cumberpatch for discussion of the ceramic vessel.

5. DISCUSSION

Although the trial trenching covered a significant area of the site, the archaeological evidence was somewhat sparse, with only a small number of linear features being present, whilst the single tree root hollow is likely to have been of natural origin.

The linear features recorded on the site are mostly traceable on historic maps produced between the late 18th and mid-20th centuries. The most significant of these was ditch [805], which was dated by tile within its fill to the post-medieval period. This along with parallel linear feature [804] correlated closely with ditches either side of an apparent

trackway visible on 18th- and 19th-century maps (Chipping 2020, Figs 3 – 5) and only removed with the construction of Horsham St Faith Airfield in the 1930s.

Broadly north/south aligned linear feature [604] roughly corresponded with an approximately parallel boundary visible on maps from 1791 up to 1987 (Chipping 2020, Figs 3 – 8), continuing as a visible landscape feature well beyond the development of the airfield, the recovered ink bottle indicating it was not backfilled until at least the late 19th century.

Ditch [205], although undated, was also likely to have been post-medieval in origin, excavation of the feature probably being later than [805] and [804] as a boundary on the same alignment and in the same location is not visible until 1841 and persisting up until 1971 (Chipping 2020, Figs 4 – 7), having replaced an earlier feature. The perpendicular feature [204] was probably contemporary but not visible on historic mapping.

Overall the trial trenching has exposed minimal evidence for earlier exploitation of the landscape, much of this associated with post-medieval agricultural activity. No evidence for earlier activity was detected and there was negligible evidence for occupation in the vicinity.

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APPENDIX 1: TRENCH AND CONTEXT SUMMARY

Trench 1			Trench size: 50m x 1.8m	
Trench depth: 0.70m – 0.75m			Orientation: NW - SE	
Context	Fill of	Type	Dimensions	Description
101	-	Deposit	0.2m – 0.3m	Topsoil; dark brown silty sandy clay
102	-	Deposit	0.4m – 0.5m	Subsoil; medium orange brown silty sandy clay
103	-	Deposit	-	Natural; mid red and light grey patches of silty sandy clay
104	-	Cut	1.8m+ x 1m x unexcav.	Linear, N/S aligned feature
105	-	Cut	1.5m x 0.65m x 0.63m deep	Sub-circular tree root hollow with asymmetric profile
106	105	Deposit	1.5m x 0.65m x 0.63m thick	Soft, dark grey sand
107	104	Deposit	1.8m+ x 1m x unexcav.	Moderately soft, mid grey sand

Trench 2			Trench size: 50m x 1.8m	
Trench depth: 0.65m – 0.8m			Orientation: NE - SW	
Context	Fill of	Type	Dimensions	Description
201	-	Deposit	0.4m – 0.5m	Topsoil; dark brown silty clay
202	-	Deposit	0.25m - 0.3m	Subsoil; mid orange brown sandy silty clay
203	-	Deposit	-	Natural; Mid red and grey sandy clay
204	-	Cut	1.8m+ x 1m x unexcav.	Linear, N/S aligned feature
205	-	Cut	1m x 0.9m x 0.15m deep	NW/SE aligned ditch with moderately sloping sides breaking to a concave base
206	205	Deposit	1m x 0.9m x 0.15m thick	Soft, dark grey sand
207	204	Deposit	1.8m+ x 1m x unexcav.	Moderately soft, mid grey sand

Trench 3			Trench size: 50m x 1.8m	
Trench depth: 0.65m – 0.7m			Orientation: NW - SE	
Context	Fill of	Type	Dimensions	Description
301	-	Deposit	0.2m – 0.25m	Topsoil; dark brown sandy silty clay
302	-	Deposit	0.4m – 0.5m	Subsoil; mid orange brown silty sandy clay
303	-	Deposit	-	Natural; Mid red and light grey sandy silty clay

Trench 4			Trench size: 50m x 1.8m	
Trench depth: 0.7m – 0.9m			Orientation: WNW - ESE	
Context	Fill of	Type	Dimensions	Description
401	-	Deposit	0.2m - 0.25m	Topsoil; dark brown sandy silty clay
402	-	Deposit	0.45m – 0.75m	Subsoil; mid orange brown silty sandy clay
403	-	Deposit	-	Natural; Mid red and light grey silty sandy clay, centre of trench changes to light grey and orange patches.

Trench 5			Trench size: 50m x 1.8m	
Trench depth: 0.7m – 1m			Orientation: WNW - ESE	
Context	Fill of	Type	Dimensions	Description
501	-	Deposit	0.2m – 0.4m	Topsoil; dark brown sandy silty clay
502	-	Deposit	0.5m – 0.65m	Subsoil; mid orange brown silty sandy clay
503	-	Deposit	-	Natural; Mainly light grey silty sandy clay, high amount of manganese

Trench 6			Trench size: 50m x 1.8m	
Trench depth: 0.6m – 0.7m			Orientation: NW - SE	
Context	Fill of	Type	Dimensions	Description
601	-	Deposit	0.15m – 0.2m	Medium Yellow Brown sand silt with occasional small – medium stone inclusions
602	-	Deposit	0.4m -0.5m	Light – Medium Yellow Brown sand with gravel and
603	-	Deposit	-	Light Orange Yellow sand with gravel and flint inclusions
604	-	Cut	1.8m+ x 0.9m x 0.4m deep	Linear, N/S aligned feature
605	604	Deposit	1.8m+ x 0.9m x 0.4m thick	Moderately soft, mid grey sand

Trench 7			Trench size: 50m x 1.8m	
Trench depth: 0.55m – 0.7m			Orientation: N - S	
Context	Fill of	Type	Dimensions	Description
701	-	Deposit	0.15m – 0.2m	Topsoil; dark brown sandy silty clay
702	-	Deposit	0.35m – 0.5m	Subsoil; Dark grey brown sandy silty clay
703	-	Deposit	-	Natural – obscured

Trench 8			Trench size: 50m x 1.8m	
Trench depth: 0.6m – 0.7m			Orientation: NE - SW	
Context	Fill of	Type	Dimensions	Description
801	-	Deposit	0.15m – 0.2m	Topsoil; dark brown sandy silty clay
802	-	Deposit	0.45m – 0.5m	Subsoil; mid orange brown silty sandy clay
803	-	Deposit	-	Natural; light orange brown silty sandy clay with flint inclusions
804	-	Cut	1.8m+ x 1m x unexcav.	Linear, N/S aligned feature
805	-	Cut	1.8m+ x 0.8m x 0.22m deep	NW/SE aligned ditch with moderately sloping sides breaking to a concave base
806	805	Deposit	1.8m+ x 0.8m x 0.22m thick	Soft, dark grey sand
807	804	Deposit	1.8m+ x 1m x unexcav.	Moderately soft, mid grey sand

APPENDIX 2: OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

OASIS ID: cfaarcha1-402110

Project details

Project name	Land off A140/A1270 Northern Junction, Horsham St Faith, Norfolk
Short description of the project	CFA Archaeology Ltd carried out archaeological trial trenching from 18 to 20 August 2020 on the site of a proposed waste recycling centre development on land off the A140/A1270 northern junction, Norwich, Norfolk . The work was carried out for Lanpro Services on behalf of Norfolk County Council. Eight trenches positioned to give a general coverage of the site, were excavated; it was not possible to carry out a geophysical survey of the site prior to the trial trenching because of Covid pandemic restrictions. The trial trenching exposed a number of features in Trenches 1,2, 6 and 8, identified as a possible three-throw pit, ditches and other linear features. Very little artefactual material was recovered from these features, mostly of post-medieval date and no archaeological features nor deposits were identified in Trenches 3, 4, 5 and 7.
Project dates	Start: 18-08-2020 End: 20-08-2020
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	RCNN - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	TREE ROOT HOLLOW Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Service infrastructure (e.g. sewage works, reservoir, pumping station, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK BROADLAND HORSHAM ST FAITH AND NEWTON ST FAITH Land off A140/A1270 Northern Junction
Postcode	NR10 3AH
Study area	4.2 Hectares

Site coordinates TG 2072 1430 52.680869626725 1.265683171125 52 40 51 N 001
15 56 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation CFA Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator Norfolk County Council
Project design originator Lanpro
Project director/manager Mark Roberts
Project supervisor Lee Baylis

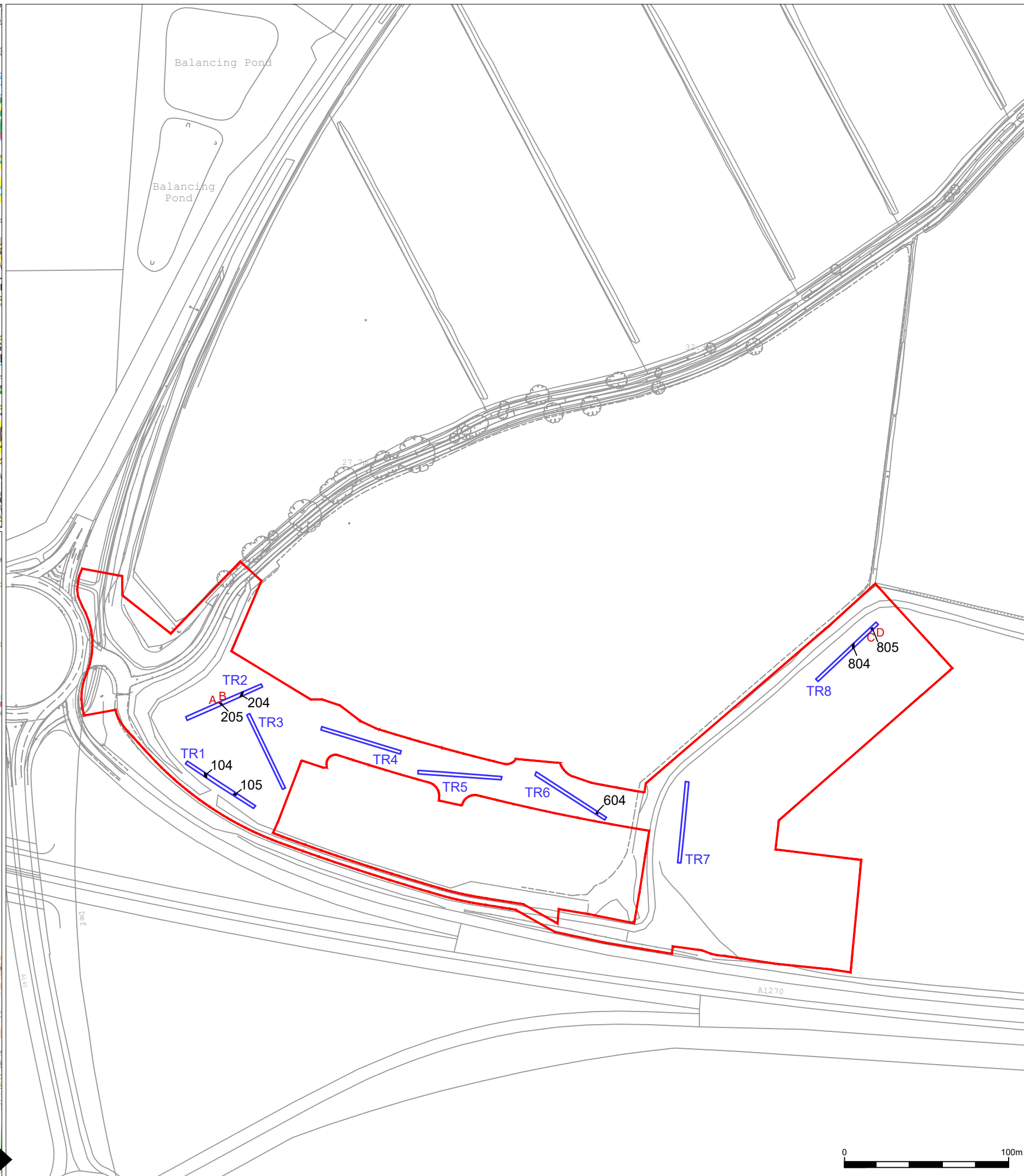
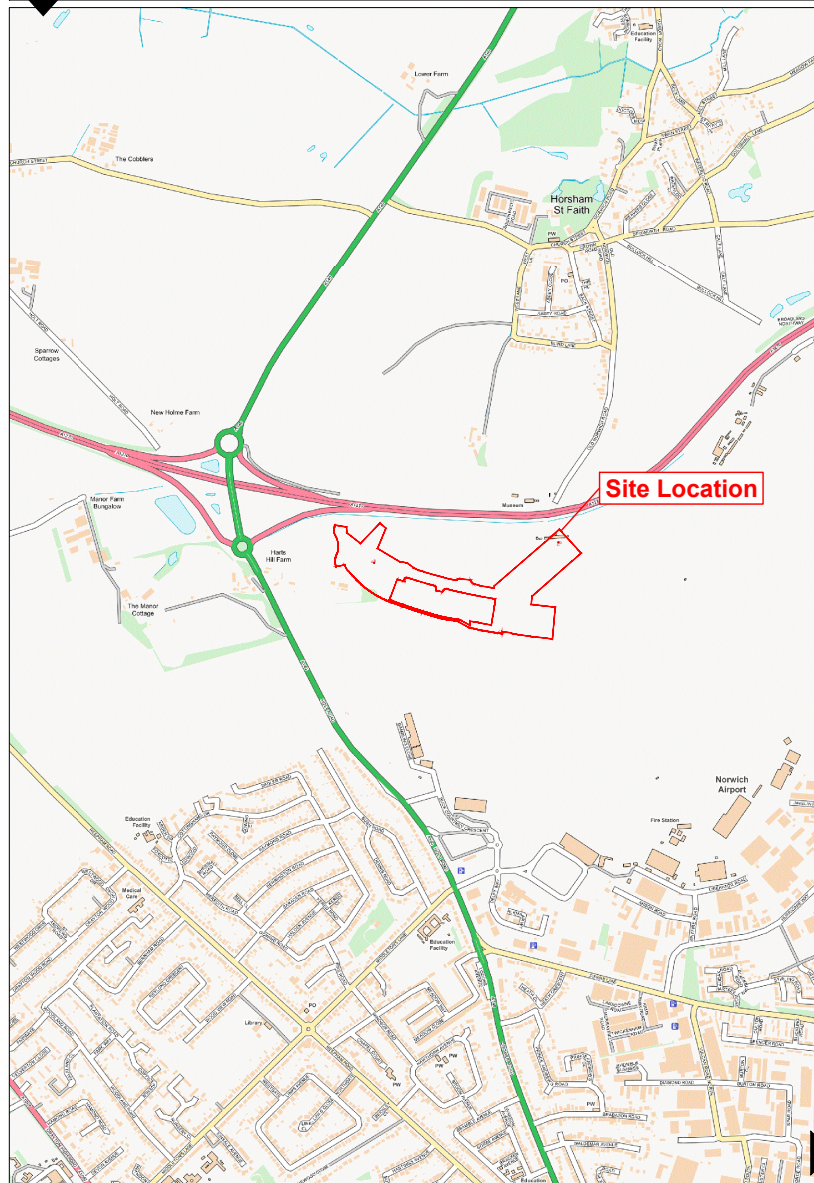
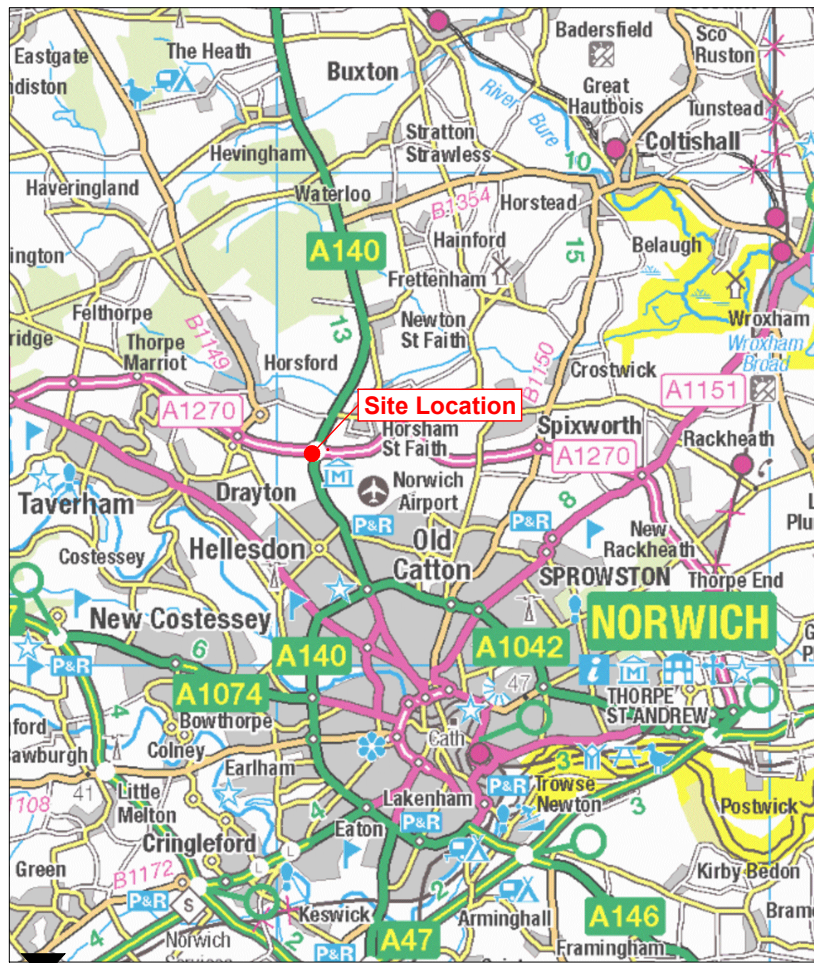
Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Norfolk Museum and Archaeology Service
Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Metal"
Digital Archive recipient Norfolk Museum and Archaeology Service
Digital Contents "Ceramics"
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Survey"
Paper Archive recipient Norfolk Museum and Archaeology Service
Paper Media available "Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Section"

Project bibliography 1

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Key:

- Site Boundary
- Trench
- Archaeological Feature



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Title:
 Site Plan and Trench Locations

Project:
 Land off A140/A1270 Northern Junction, Norwich, Norfolk

Client:
 Lanpro Services On Behalf of Norfolk County Council

Scale at A3:
 1:2500

Drawn by: RK	Checked: SW	Date: 27/08/2020
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Report No.: MK211/20	Fig. No.: 1
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Fig. 2 - Trench 1, looking north-west



Fig. 3 - Tree root hollow [105], looking south-west

Project:
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Fig. 4 - Trench 2, looking north-east

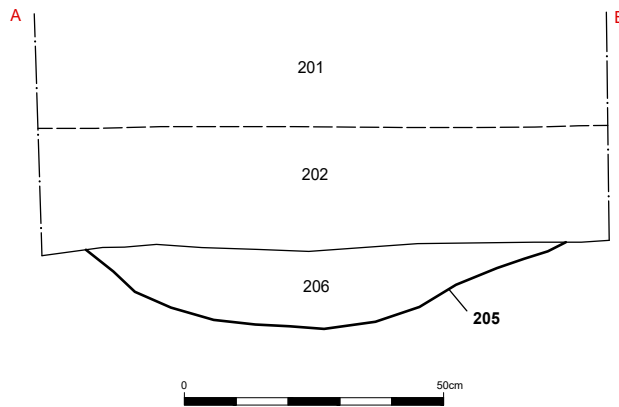


Fig. 5 - Ditch [205], south-east-facing section

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Fig. 6 - Ditch [205], looking north-west



Fig. 7 - Trench 6, looking south-east

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Fig. 8 - Linear feature [604], looking north



Fig. 9 - Trench 8, looking north-east

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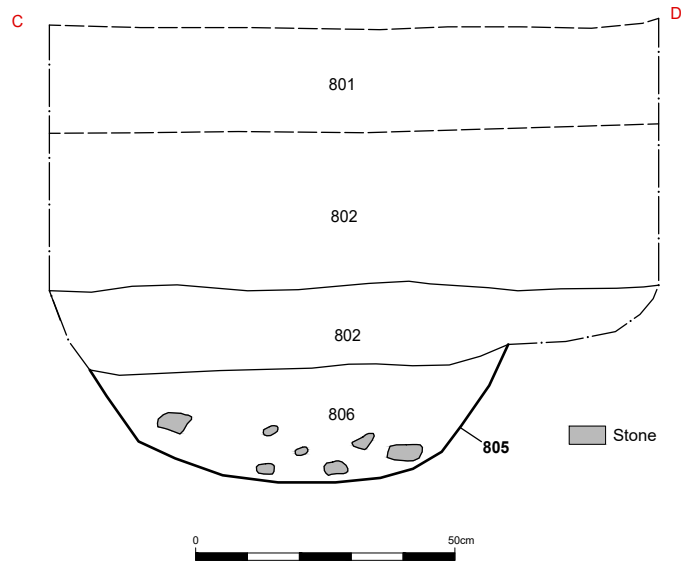


Fig. 10 - Ditch 805, north-west-facing section



Fig. 11 - Ditch [805], looking north-west

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