

Plot 2, 49 East Street  
Stanwick, Northamptonshire  
(SP 98436 71157)

Archaeological Observation,  
Investigation & Recording

Planning Application Ref.  
EN/13/00133/FUL



July 2013

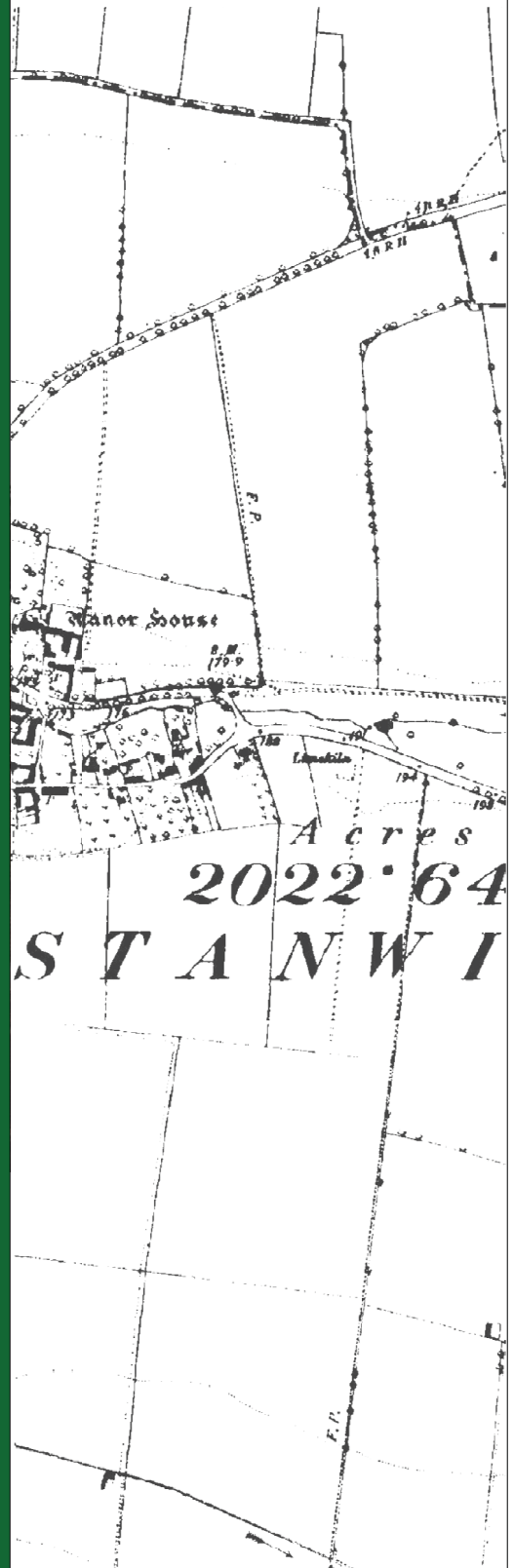
Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd

*for*

Mr Colin Watkins Esq.

Souterrain

Archaeological Services Ltd



**Report on Archaeological Observation,  
Investigation & Recording at  
Plot 2 - 49 East Street Stanwick,  
Northamptonshire**

(NGR 498436 271157)

(Application Reference 13/00133/FUL)

July 2013

Souterrain Project: SOU13-277

Produced for:

Mr. Colin Watkins  
(The Planning Applicant)  
No 49 East Street  
Stanwick, Northants, NN9 6PX

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**Preface**

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**Fieldwork & Report:**

Martin Wilson BA Hons, MIfA, MEnvSc, MEAGE, FSASc

**SUMMARY**

*Archaeological observation and investigation was carried out during the preparation of foundations for a new building at a plot of land immediately to the south of No. 49 East Street, Stanwick, Northamptonshire.*

*Trenching for strip foundations revealed an undated ditch, presumably a field drainage ditch or property boundary.*

## **1. SCOPE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 This report documents the results of archaeological observation and investigation carried out during ground preparation for a new building at No.49 East Street, Stanwick, Northamptonshire (NGR 498436 271157) (Fig. 1) on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2013, in compliance with a condition attached to the planning consent. The work was commissioned by Mr and Mrs C P Watkins of the above address.
- 1.2 The archaeological investigation was undertaken by Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd (Souterrain) in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation<sup>1</sup>.

## **2. PLANNING BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Planning permission (13/00133/FUL) was granted subject to Conditions on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2013 to Mr. Colin Watkins of No.49 East Street, Stanwick, Northamptonshire, for the erection of a single dwelling and garage, including improvements to the existing access.
- 2.2 In view of the archaeological potential of the site, the planning consent has been granted with a Condition (No.10) attached for the implementation of a programme of archaeological mitigation works; the programme to be agreed with the Northamptonshire County Assistant Archaeological Advisor (NCCAAA) prior to the commencement of development work. The reason for the Condition is to ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

### ***Scope of the development***

- 2.3 The development entails the construction of a new dwelling in the existing rear garden of No.49 East Street and a new garage with driveway. The area of the proposed development is defined on drawings associated with the planning application: Blueprint Architectural Design. 'Proposed dwelling and Garage land to rear of 49 & 51 East St. Stanwick, Northants, NN9 6PX'. 'Proposed Site Plan' Drawing No. 12-055-07A (Feb 2013) and 'Proposed dwelling plans & elevations Drawing No. 12-055-05 (Jan 2013).

## **3. SITE LOCATION AND ASPECT**

- 3.1 The proposed development area is located on the southeast periphery of Stanwick village. It is bordered to the north, west and east by residential dwellings and gardens, and to the south by a cultivated field. The topography of the site falls south to north between c.62.65m and 61.42m OD over a distance of 30m. The underlying geology is understood to be Great Oolitic Limestone with deposits of Cornbrash.
- 3.2 The area of development is referred to as Plot 2. Figure 2 shows overviews of the site. Figure 3 shows the location of the proposed new dwelling (NGR 498436 271157, centre) and garage (498436 271157, centre). Also shown on Figure 3 is the location of an adjacent development at Plot 1 which is to run concurrently, and which is the subject of a separate report<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd. 2013. *Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Works at: Plots 1 and 2, 49 East Street Stanwick, Northamptonshire NGR SP 9841 7113 (centre). Application References: EN/12/01345/REM; EN/09/01374/OUT; 13/00133/FUL V.2 14<sup>th</sup> March 2013.*

<sup>2</sup> Planning Application reference EN/12/01345/REM; *Report on Archaeological Observation, Investigation & Recording at Plot 1 - 49 East Street Stanwick, Northamptonshire (NGR 498410 27113).*

#### 4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

##### ***The Prehistoric period***

- 4.1 The landscape around the village of Stanwick is renowned for being rich in archaeology of the prehistoric periods. In the 1980s and 1990s the area southwest of Raunds was subject to extensive archaeological investigations as part of the Raunds Area Project<sup>3</sup>, which included the environs of Stanwick. Along the Nene flood plain to the west of the village an extensive major Neolithic and Bronze Age funerary monument complex existed along the eastern bank of the river for a distance of over 1.5km. In Stanwick Quarry, a 10m diameter ring ditch was found in proximity to a large unexcavated round barrow<sup>4</sup>. During the Middle Bronze Age, a pattern of droeways and rectilinear field boundaries developed on the valley bottom in the Raunds-Stanwick area, the area later becoming a focus for Iron Age and Roman settlement<sup>5</sup>.
- 4.2 Cropmarks discovered by aerial photography on the north-western periphery of the village include a complex of possible Prehistoric or Roman enclosures and ditches (SP975 715)<sup>6</sup>. One site, initially identified as a cropmark east of the A45<sup>7</sup> (SP972 716), was excavated in 1992 proving to be a ring ditch of probable Early Bronze Age date. Similarly, a ring ditch is known to the southwest of the application site at SP980 709<sup>8</sup> and possible Prehistoric or Roman enclosure are known to exist in fields to the south east at SP985 709<sup>9</sup>. Other prehistoric finds comprise a hoard of flint axes (6 or more) found in 1938<sup>10</sup> during construction of a house on the west side of Newbridge Lane in Stanwick village itself (SP9804 7126), and two barbed and tanged arrowheads and a possible leaf shaped arrowhead were found south of the village at SP9805 7085<sup>11</sup>.

##### ***The Roman period***

- 4.3 The most notable body of Roman evidence found in the vicinity of Stanwick was recovered from a villa complex which occupied a gravel terrace on the west side of the River Nene (SP972716). The site, which lay about 1km northwest of the present application site, underwent an extensive programme of archaeological investigation prior to mineral extraction in 1984-88<sup>12</sup>. In Stanwick village itself, however, only very slight evidence of occupation during the Roman period has been found to date; this consisting of very occasional pieces of residual pottery in pits and ditches of medieval date.

##### ***The Medieval Settlement***

- 4.4 The village of Stanwick originated in the late Saxon period. It is understood to have had two distinct foci centred on the two main streets, each on an east-west axis. Much of the layout of the medieval settlement is believed to be fossilised in the surviving pattern of streets and lanes, with the course of the southernmost street running along Grange Road, the High Street and then as a green lane through Hall Farm (c.850m west-northwest of the application site).

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<sup>3</sup> Harding, J and Healy, F. 2011. *Raunds Area Project: The Neolithic and Bronze Age landscapes of West Cotton, Stanwick and Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire*, Oxbow books (English Heritage)

<sup>4</sup> Chapman, A. 2004. Prehistoric palaeochannels and a ring ditch at Stanwick Quarry, Northamptonshire, *Northamptonshire Archaeology*, 32, 1-22

<sup>5</sup> Chapman, A. 2007. 'The Neolithic to Middle Bronze Age' in Meadows, I., Boismier, W.A., & Chapman, A *Synthetic Survey of the Environmental Archaeological and Hydrological record for the River Nene from its source to Peterborough*, p.39

<sup>6</sup> NMR NATINV-965147, 1979 and 1982

<sup>7</sup> NMR ATINV-1252904

<sup>8</sup> NMR NATINV-347410

<sup>9</sup> NMR NATINV-347411

<sup>10</sup> NMR NATINV-347339

<sup>11</sup> NMR NATINV-347363

<sup>12</sup> Neal, D.S. 1989. The Stanwick Roman Villa, Northants: An interim report of the Excavations of 1984-88. *Britannia* v.20, 149-168

- 4.5 In 1089, the manor of Stanwick formed part of the fee of Peterborough Abbey<sup>13</sup>, the manor farm<sup>14</sup> of which is understood to be the site of the present Manor Farm (SP 9820 7130), located about 290m northwest of the application site. Documentary evidence reveals that the manor farm was a comprehensive complex probably ranged around a courtyard with gatehouse, components including a manor house with walled garden, chapel, a variety of livestock and agricultural buildings and a smithy<sup>15</sup>.
- 4.6 Over the last two decades there have been several development-initiated archaeological investigations in the village of Stanwick, most of these clustered in the old village core in the vicinity of Manor Farm and Grange Farm. The first investigation was an archaeological recording action in 1992, south of Manor Farm on the north side of East Street and the east side of Newbridge Street. A number of archaeological features dated to the late Saxon period were identified which comprised a possible structure of undetermined form or function represented by a series of post holes<sup>16</sup>, two possible boundary ditches<sup>17</sup>, and the remains of a dwelling with multiple hearths<sup>18</sup>. Other features found were believed to date to the medieval period – the foundations of three walls<sup>19</sup> and a large pit<sup>20</sup>, the latter which contained residual Roman and late Saxon pottery.
- 4.7 In October 1996 an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken at The Hollow, just north of The Grange on the west side of Newbridge Lane, about 280m west-northwest of the present application site. A large pit or ditch was found, at least 1.3m deep that contained pottery dating to the 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries<sup>21</sup>. Four trial trenches followed in 1997 at Grange Farm<sup>22</sup> on the south side of Grange Road, within the former farmyard<sup>23</sup>, but finds were scant due to modern truncation. On the east side of the same site were a couple of possible medieval post holes and two gullies, one of the latter interpreted as a possible 12<sup>th</sup> century property boundary to the rear of dwellings that fronted the south side of Grange Road. A single residual sherd of Roman pottery was found.
- 4.8 In 2000, an archaeological evaluation of three trial trenches was undertaken in the paddock of Hall Farm<sup>24</sup> (c.850m west of the present application site) prior to proposed housing development. There was a complete absence of archaeological remains and artefacts, which suggested to the excavator that the site had never been occupied and had always lain outside of the village of Stanwick<sup>25</sup>. Two further trial trenches were dug on the west side of the village in 2000, at a small development plot adjacent to No. 51 West Street<sup>26</sup> (c.970m west of the present application site), but again revealed no archaeological features, whilst an archaeological watching brief at a development plot off Villa Lane in 2003 revealed a possible

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<sup>13</sup> 'Parishes: Stanwick', *A History of the County of Northampton*: Volume 4 (1937), pp. 51-54. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=66313> Date accessed: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2013.

<sup>14</sup> SMR No. 1347/4/1

<sup>15</sup> SMR Nos. 1347/4/1 to 1347/4/13; SP 9820 7130

<sup>16</sup> SMR No.1347/0/21; ENN11828, East Street, 1992; SP 9818 7121

<sup>17</sup> SMR Nos.1347/0/20; SP 9821 7118 and 1347/0/42, SP 9821 7118

<sup>18</sup> SMR No.1347/0/11, SP 982 711

<sup>19</sup> SMR No.1347/0/41; SP 9821 7121

<sup>20</sup> SMR No.1347/0/46, SP 9821 7118

<sup>21</sup> SMR No.1347/0/30, SP 9816 7121

<sup>22</sup> SMR No.1347/0/47, SP 9820 7112; Saunders, M.J. 1999 An Archaeological Excavation at Grange Farm, Stanwick, Northants, *Northamptonshire Archaeology*, 28, 1998-99

<sup>23</sup> SP9816 7113

<sup>24</sup> SP97607110

<sup>25</sup> Ivens, R.J., 2000. *Archaeological Evaluation of The Paddock, Hall Farm, Stanwick, Northamptonshire*

<sup>26</sup> SP97487142; Parry, S & Jones, C. 2000. Land Adjacent to 51 West Street, Stanwick, Northamptonshire. Archaeological Evaluation, Northampton: *Northamptonshire Archaeology*, 2000

19<sup>th</sup> century quarry pit<sup>27</sup>. The most recent archaeological investigation took place in the former front garden of No.49 East Street (c.60m north of the application site) in 2012<sup>28</sup>. There was nothing found of archaeological interest, the site having been heavily disturbed by the construction of large greenhouses in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

#### **Undated Features and Post- medieval finds**

- 4.9 In 1998, three trial trenches were excavated on land between 155m and 195m to the northeast of the present application site<sup>29</sup>. Besides 19<sup>th</sup> century and modern features, such as land drains and pits<sup>30</sup> and post-holes<sup>31</sup>, there were a number of undated features: a possible limestone surface<sup>32</sup>; a broad hollow road-like feature<sup>33</sup>, a large shallow hollow (1.2m deep x 4.7m wide) with a gully<sup>34</sup> and a shallow ditch<sup>35</sup>. Other discoveries comprise a series of late medieval to post-medieval quarry pits which were discovered in 1992 on land off East Street and Newbridge Lane during an archaeological recording action<sup>36</sup>.

### **5. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

- 5.1 In view of the deemed archaeological potential of the site given the range of discoveries in and around Stanwick village, the Written Scheme of investigation advocated a series of research objectives with particular emphasis on regional research themes<sup>37</sup>. In brief, the key objectives of the investigation were as follows:

- to attempt to recover evidence that may contribute to understanding of the origin and extent of late Saxon nucleated settlement of Stanwick;
- to ascertain whether there is evidence of late Saxon occupation that would indicate the eastern extent of the nucleated settlement;
- to attempt to determine the function of this part of the landscape in the medieval periods;
- to identify the form and development of medieval peasant buildings;
- to identify and sample archaeological deposits which have the potential to yield environmental data that may contribute towards the origin of the Midland open field system and the effect that open field farming had in terms of environmental impact, changes in land-use;
- to identify deposits which have the potential for the recovery of environmental data that may contribute to medieval settlement and the agrarian economy;

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<sup>27</sup> SP9773 7127; Ivens, R. 2003. Archaeological Watching Brief on Land Off Villa Lane, Stanwick, Northamptonshire

<sup>28</sup> Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd 2012. Report on Archaeological Observation, Investigation & Recording at Plot 3 - 49 East Street Stanwick, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 984711), (App. Ref. EN/12/00488/FUL), Sept 2012, Souterrain Project No.: SOU12-250

<sup>29</sup> SP9842 7128; Parry S & Webster M. 1998. An Archaeological Evaluation: Land at The Avenue, Stanwick, Northamptonshire. *Northamptonshire Archaeology*

<sup>30</sup> SMR No.1347/0/32; Event No.ENN19185

<sup>31</sup> SMR No.1347/0/36

<sup>32</sup> SMR No.1347/0/33

<sup>33</sup> SMR No.1347/0/34

<sup>34</sup> SMR No.1347/0/37

<sup>35</sup> SMR No.1347/0/35

<sup>36</sup> SMR 1347/0/22, SP 9820 7120; Sharman, T. 1992. Stanwick, Land off East Street/ Newbridge Lane: Archaeological Recording Action Report.

<sup>37</sup> c.f: Cooper, N (ed.), The Archaeology of the East Midlands, Leicester Archaeology Monograph 13, 191 and Knight, D, Vyner, B. & Allen, C. 2012. Research Agenda And Strategy For The Historic Environment Of The East Midlands, East Midlands Heritage: An Updated Research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment of the East Midlands (Nottingham/York).

- to recover artefacts which may contribute to understanding of interaction between towns/market areas and countryside;
- to attempt to recover evidence that may shed light on the function and nature of the part of the landscape in other periods.

## **6. FIELD PROCEDURE & OBSERVATIONS**

- 6.1 The investigation was conducted with due consideration to Health and Safety and in accordance with the requirements of the Written Scheme of Investigation and the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct and Standard Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2001).
- 6.2 Trenching was monitored by an archaeologist throughout, with the facility to make investigations and records as appropriate.
- 6.3 A shallow ditch [006]/[008], aligned north-south at least 4m in length, was revealed in two of the strip footings on the west side of the building footprint (Figs. 2 and 3). The top of the ditch was exposed between 61.82m AOD (Fig. 4, section 1) and 61.56m AOD (Fig.4, section 1). The southern end of the ditch evidently terminated on the upward part of the slope at some juncture beneath the proposed floor foundation level of the new building. Its northern extent continued down-slope beyond the baulk. It was V-shaped in profile and measured c.1.2m in width and c.0.5m in depth, widening to 1.9m at its southern extent (section 2). Its fill (005)/(007) consisted of a single homogeneous deposit of mid-greyish brown silty clay with occasional small calcareous stones and pebbles. There were no finds. The ditch was cut into the geological stratum (004) which at this point comprised a mix of creamy brown calcareous clay with limestone fragments. It was sealed by a layer of mid-brown clayey soil (003), c. 0.32m in thickness, interpreted as subsoil. There was no clear distinction between (003) and the ditch fill (005) other than a sporadic accumulation of small chalky pebbles. Overlaying layer (003) was a deposit of made-up ground, c.0.2 - 0.26m in thickness and comprised of mid-brown clayey soil (002). This was overlain by topsoil and turf (001), c.0.12m - 0.18m in thickness.
- 6.4 The stratigraphic sequence (i.e. (004)-(003)-(002)-(001)) was uniform across the development footprint. It indicated that at some time the ground had been made up and levelled in this part of the garden. The process had evidently involved the removal of topsoil prior to the deposition of layer (003). This was corroborated by local information who understood this piece of ground to have been some sort of village playing field (pers. comm. C Watkins). General views of the trenches are shown at Figures 6 and 7, with viewpoints shown at Figure 4.
- 6.5 In the area of the garage (Fig. 3) there was considerable tree root disturbance. Topsoil and subsoil had a combined thickness of c.0.3m-0.4m and directly overlay limestone bedrock at c.61.09m AOD. There were no archaeological features or artefacts present. General views of foundations trenches for the garage are shown at Figure 7 with viewpoints shown at Figure 3.
- 6.6 All excavated sections were checked for residual artefacts. Similarly, topsoil was inspected. No artefacts were present. The site was surveyed to Ordnance Survey National Grid co-ordinates and height datum.



## **7. REVIEW OF RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

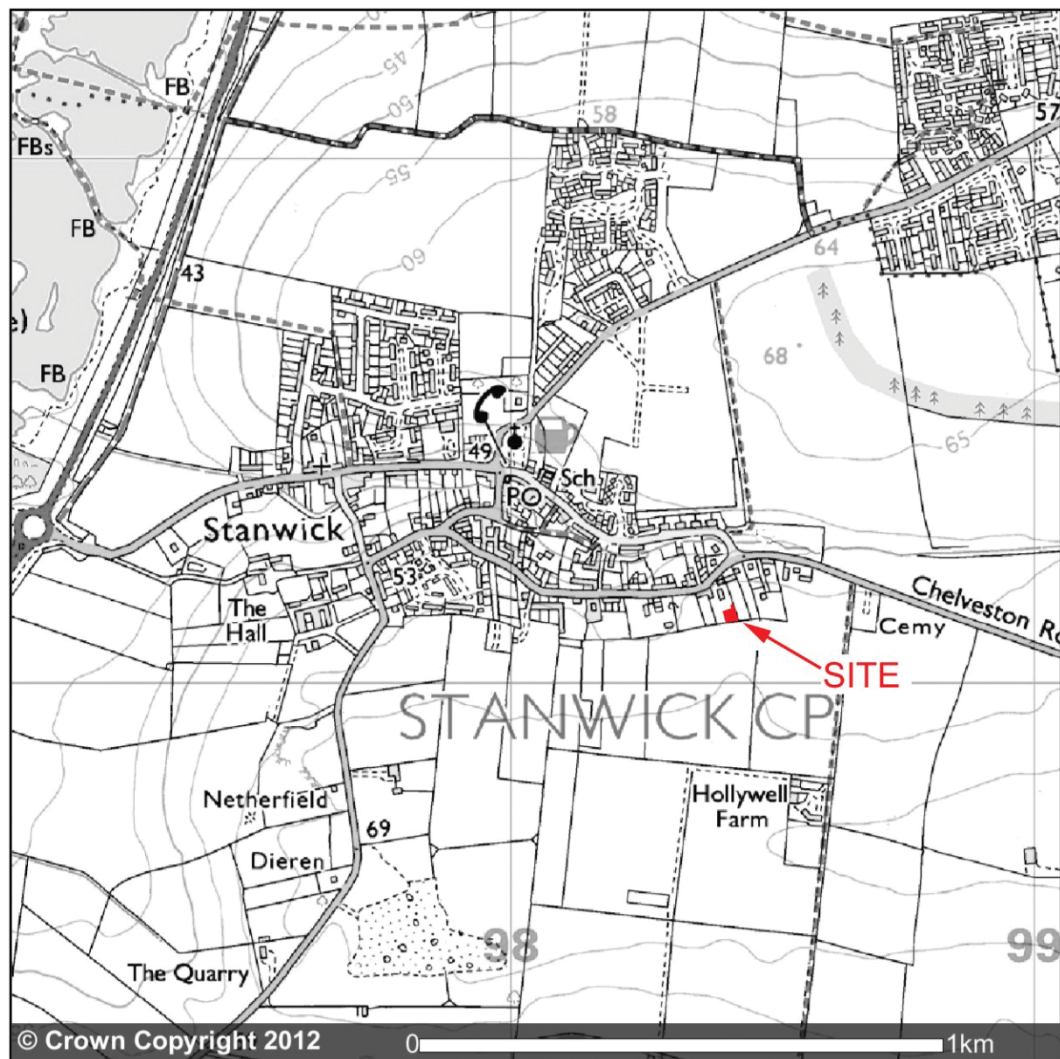
- 7.1 The investigation was unable to contribute to any of the defined archaeological research objectives (*ante* 5). It is not possible to infer the cultural status or function of this part of the landscape in antiquity. Ditch [006]/[008] was probably either a field drainage ditch or a property division. It was undated. There were no indications of past cultivation or other land-use or disturbance.

## **8. ARCHIVE**

- 8.1 The archaeological site archive is to be prepared and deposited in accordance with the policy set out in "Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition with Registered Museums".
- 8.2 The OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations: [www.oasis.ac.uk](http://www.oasis.ac.uk)) identification number for this project is souterra1-155210.

## **9. COPYRIGHT AND CONFIDENTIALITY**

- 9.1 Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it will provide an exclusive licence to the Owner in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the WSI. Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd retains the right to be identified as the author of all project documentation and reports as defined in the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. A licence is to be also granted to Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record for the use of all reports arising from projects for planning purposes and *bona fide* research requests.
- 9.2 Souterrain undertakes to respect all requirements for confidentiality about the Applicant's proposals provided that these are clearly stated. It is expected that owners respect Souterrain's and the Institute for Archaeologists' general ethical obligations not to suppress significant archaeological data for an unreasonable period.

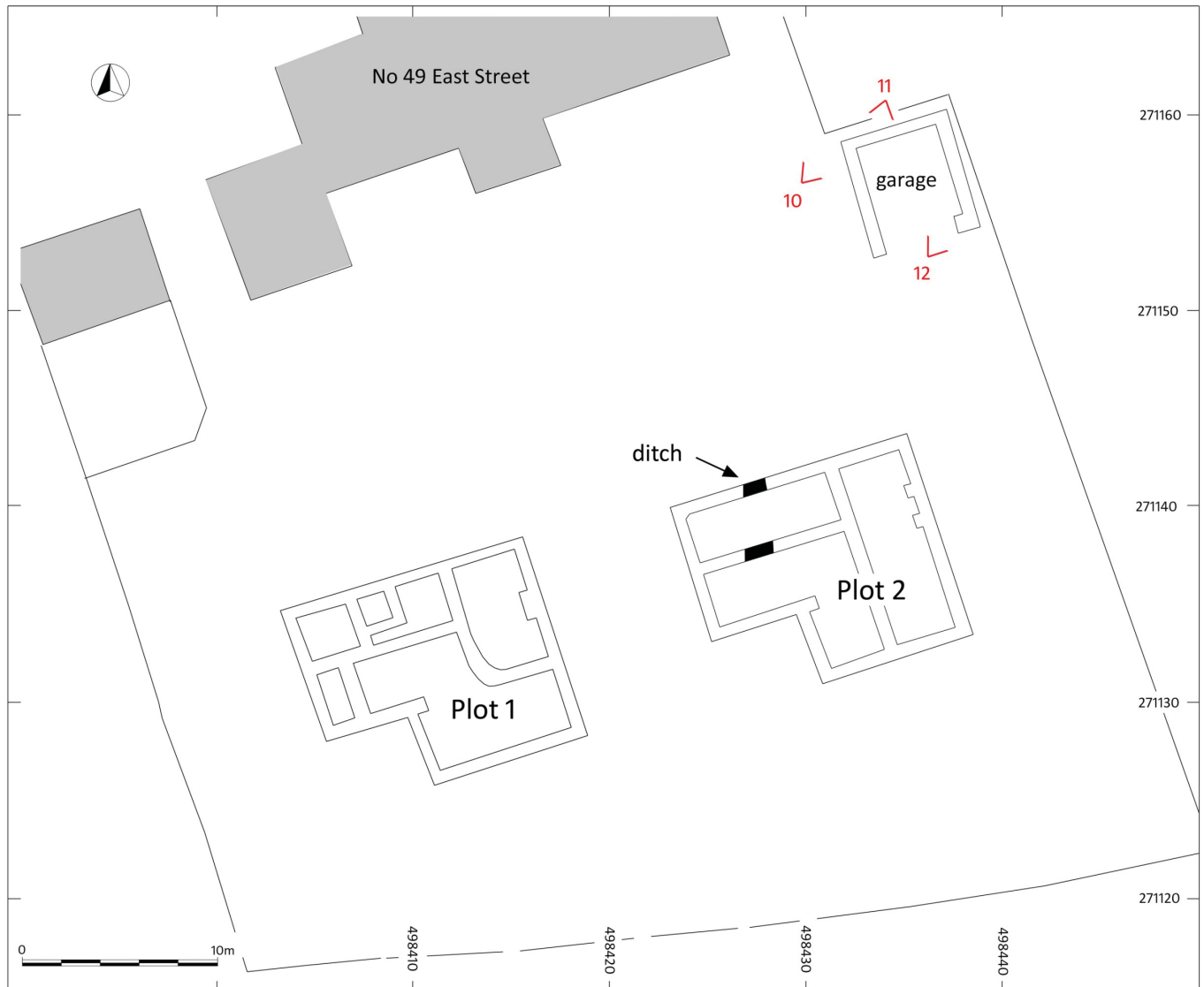


**Figure 1. Location of Site** (© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number AL 100015565)





**Figure 2. Overviews of the development area.**  
**Top: pre-excavation facing SW. Bottom: post-trenching, facing NW**



**Figure 3.**

**Location of Plot 2 foundation trenches  
showing location of ditch [006]/[008] and  
direction of photographs 10 to 12 (see Fig.7)**

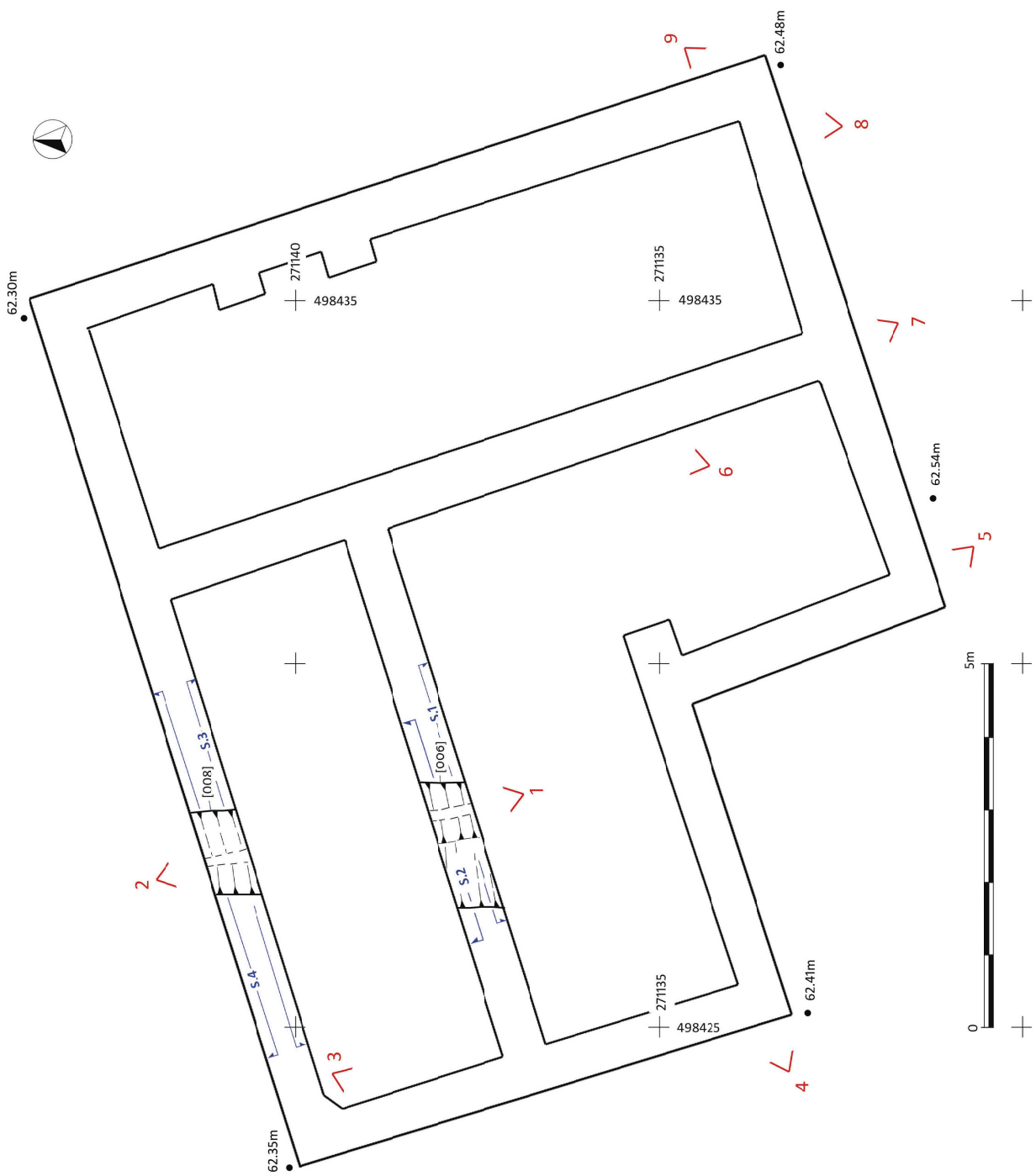


Figure 4.

Plan of Plot 2 showing location of ditch [006]/[008], location of Sections 1 to 4 and direction of photographs 1 to 9 (see Figs 6 and 7)



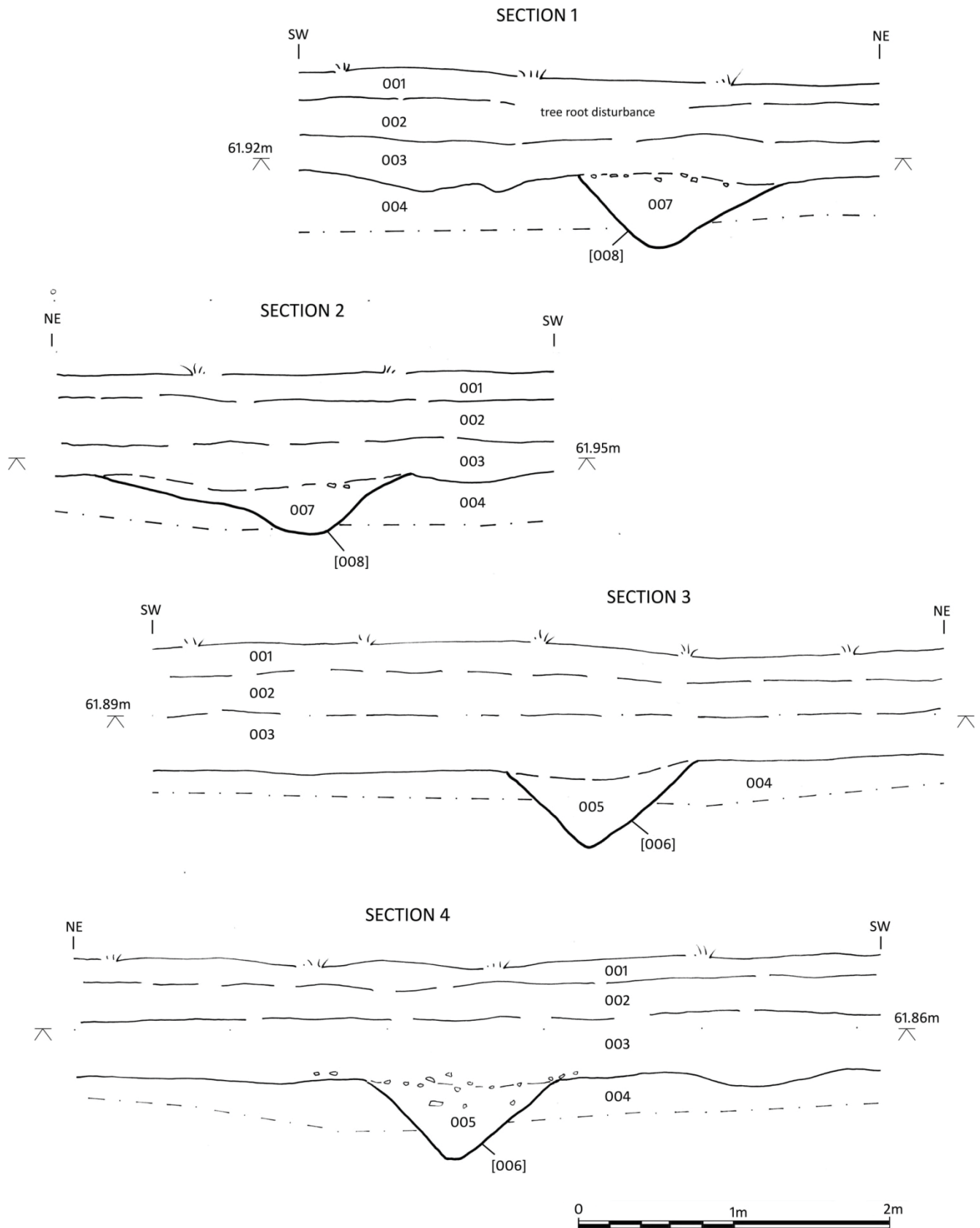


Figure 5. Sections through ditch [006]/[008]





1



2



3



4



5



6



7

Figure 6. Views of trenches (see Fig. 3)



Figure 7.  
Views of trenches (Nos 8 & 9, see Fig.  
3; Nos.10 to 12 see Fig.2)



8



9



11



12



10