

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**THE WILLOWS, STOW ROAD,
IXWORTH, SUFFOLK**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

Authors: Adam Dyson BA (Fieldwork & report)	
NGR: TL 932 701	Report No: 3856
District: St Edmundsbury	Site Code: IXW 072
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 4118
Signed:	Date: June 2011



**INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE** | Bronze

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CONTENTS

OASIS SUMMARY

SUMMARY

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
- 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE / BACKGROUND**
- 3 METHODOLOGY (Monitoring and Recording)**
- 4 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS**
- 5 CONFIDENCE RATING**
- 6 DEPOSIT MODEL**
- 7 DISCUSSION**
- 8 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**
- 9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**
- 10 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>The Willows, Stow Road, Ixworth, Suffolk</i>		
<p><i>In June 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at The Willows, Stow Road, Ixworth, Suffolk (NGR: TL 932 701). The proposed development was the erection of a new single-storey extension as part of the conversion of an outbuilding.</i></p> <p><i>The site lies within an area of archaeological potential at Ixworth, as defined in the County Historic Environment Record. It lies on the edge of a known Anglo-Saxon cemetery, the limits of which are not fully defined and which may extend into the current area (IXW 005).</i></p> <p><i>The excavation of the foundation trenches was monitored with the primary aim of identifying any evidence of Saxon activity, but also to identify any remains of other periods. In the event no archaeological features or finds were present.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>1st June 2011</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>4118</i>	Site code	<i>IXW 072</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Monitoring & Recording</i>		
Site status	<i>Area of archaeological potential</i>		
Current land use	<i>Yard/driveway</i>		
Planned development	<i>Single story extension</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Suffolk</i>	<i>St Edmundsbury</i>	<i>Ixworth</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Suffolk Historic Environment Record</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>IP31 2HZ</i>		
Area of site	<i>Approximately 20m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 932 701</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>32 m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Adam Dyson</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr Cole</i>		
Full title	<i>The Willows, Stow Road, Ixworth, Suffolk. Archaeological Monitoring & Recording</i>		
Authors	<i>Dyson A</i>		
Report no.	<i>3856</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>June 2011</i>		

THE WILLOWS, STOW ROAD, IXWORTH, SUFFOLK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING

SUMMARY

In June 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at The Willows, Stow Road, Ixworth Suffolk (NGR: TL 932 701). The monitoring was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the erection of a new single-storey extension as part of conversion of an outbuilding (Planning ref. St Edmundsbury Council Ref. SE/10/0747).

The site lies within an area of archaeological potential at Ixworth, as defined in the County Historic Environment Record. It lies on the edge of a known Anglo-Saxon cemetery, the limits of which are not fully defined and which may extend into the current area (IXW 005). The excavation of the foundation trench was monitored with the primary aim of identifying any evidence of Saxon activity (in particular any evidence of the known adjacent early Saxon cemetery which may extend into this area), but also to identify any remains of other periods.

In the event the monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In June 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at The Willows, Stow Road, Ixworth Suffolk IP31 2HZ (NGR: TL 932 701). The project provided for the continuous archaeological monitoring of groundworks during the construction of a new single-storey extension as part of the conversion of an outbuilding to a dwelling. The monitoring was required to comply with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the development (St Edmundsbury Council Ref. SE/10/0747).

1.2 The monitoring was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCC AS-CT) (01/10/2010), and a specification compiled by AS (6/10/2010), and approved by SCC AS-CT. It adhered to the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (revised 2008), and the procedures described in the *IfA Standard and Guidance for Watching Briefs* (revised 2008) and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The monitoring aimed to record and identify any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. The project had

the specific aim of identifying any evidence of Saxon activity (in particular any evidence of the known adjacent early Saxon cemetery which may extend into this area), but also to identify any remains of other periods.

Planning policy context

1.4 PPS5 (2010) states those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The Planning Policy Statement aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. It aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. It states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment and to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past, and to make this publicly available, should be taken, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE (Figs. 1 - 2)

2.1 Ixworth is located approximately 9.5km north-east of Bury St Edmunds on the A143 linking Bury with Diss. The site is at the south end of the village to the south of Stow Road. It comprises an existing outbuilding, proposed for residential conversion, within a mature garden plot. There are adjoining houses and gardens to the west, north and east with open fields to the south-east and the River Black Bourne to the south. The site lies within an area of archaeological potential at Ixworth, as defined in the County Historic Environment Record, on the southern side of Stow Road. It lies on the edge of a known Anglo-Saxon cemetery, the limits of which have not been fully defined and which were thought to potentially extend into the current area (IXW 005).

2.2 The site lies at approximately 30m AOD on the north bank of the River Black Bourne. It is close to the meeting of two soil types. The first, humic-sandy gley soils are predominantly sandy soils developed in aeolian or glaciofluvial deposits with a humose or peaty topsoil; they occupy low-lying sites or depressions and are intermediate between sandy gley soils and peats. The second are brown rendzinas which are calcareous soils over chalk limestone, or extremely calcareous unconsolidated material. The underlying solid geology is Cretaceous Chalk.

2.3 Ixworth is an area of high archaeological importance. A Roman fort and large settlement was centred on Priory Farm, Poultry Farm and Appleyard and Duck Farm (IXW 002). There are also a number of areas containing scatters of Roman finds including the churchyard (IXW 010), Byways and Riverside Paddocks (IXW

005), and the field opposite Cross House, Stow Road (IXW 018). A Roman ditch was identified at 4 Stow Road (IXW 027). An early Saxon Cemetery has been identified to the west of the site and its full extent has not been ascertained (IXW 005). Prior to 1849 Anglo-Saxon burial urns were discovered to the south-west of the church and in 1868 burials were found in Cross House Meadow. The 7th century Ixworth Cross housed in the Ashmolean Museum was recovered from these excavations. Three further Anglo-Saxon burials were found during an archaeological evaluation in 2001. An early to middle Saxon sword dredged from the Black Bourne probably also relates to the cemetery. The earliest surviving record for Ixworth is from 1025 as *Gyxeweorde* meaning 'Enclosure of a man called Gisca' (Mills 1991). Late Saxon decorated stonework has been identified at the church (IXW 012), and two 11th century coffin lids were found beneath St Mary's Church, whilst a Late Saxon bronze finger ring was found in the churchyard (IXW 010).

2.4 Ixworth Priory, located some 300m north-west of the site, was founded in 1170 with canons introduced two years later (IXW 012). The monastic house had over a dozen monks/canons and so was one of the larger establishments in Suffolk (Northeast 1988, 70). The priory was dissolved in 1537 and became a private residence known as Abbey House which incorporates some of the medieval building. Earthworks of a large moated enclosure were located west of St Mary's Church which has now been built upon and is the probable site of Le Blunds manor dating from the 13th century (IXW 059). Thin scatters of medieval pottery have been found to the west of the assessment site (IXW 005), and three early medieval pits were identified at 12 Stow Road (IXW 063). The same location contained building rubble dated between the 16th and 18th centuries.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The archaeological monitoring observed the excavation of the foundations for the proposed rear extension to the outbuilding as part of the residential conversion. The trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.30m, and were approximately 12 m long in total (DP 1).

3.2 The mechanical excavation was undertaken using a 3-tonne tracked 360° excavator fitted with a smooth bladed bucket. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate.

4 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS Figs. 3 - 4

Sample Sections

Sample sections of the stratigraphy were recorded at intervals around the edge of the excavation area. The results are tabulated below:

Sample Section 1 DP 2

<i>West side, east facing (0.00=32.37m AOD)</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Current ground surface. Tarmac and concrete driveway.
0.20m – 0.37m	L1001	Levelling layer. Mid orange-brown compact sandy silt with frequent gravel & occasional chalk flecks.
0.37m – 0.52m	L1002	Buried topsoil. Mid-dark grey-brown, loose, sandy silt with occasional small angular stones.
0.52m +	L1003	Natural geology. Light mottled orange, yellow and white, compact, chalky sand.

Sample Section 2 DP 3

<i>North side, north facing (0.00= 32.25m AOD)</i>		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Current ground surface. Tarmac and concrete driveway.
0.24m – 0.43m	L1001	Levelling layer. Mid orange-brown compact sandy silt with frequent gravel, occasional chalk flecks.
0.43m +	L1003	Natural geology. Light mottled orange, yellow and white, compact, chalky sand.

Sample Section 3 DP 4

<i>North-west side, south-east facing (0.00= 32.46m AOD)</i>		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Current ground surface. Tarmac and concrete driveway.
0.21m – 0.42m	L1001	Levelling layer. Mid orange-brown compact sandy silt with frequent gravel & occasional chalk flecks.
0.42m +	L1003	Natural geology. Light mottled orange, yellow and white, compact, chalky sand.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

5 CONFIDENCE RATING

5.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

6 DEPOSIT MODEL

6.1 The current ground surface comprised a tarmac and concrete driveway, L1000, which overlay a sandy levelling layer, L1001. The construction of these two layers had entirely removed topsoil, L1002, across most of the site. Topsoil was only evident on the western edge of the footings, and was a mid-dark grey-brown sandy silt. The sandy chalk natural drift geology, L1003, underlay the site.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 No evidence of Saxon activity (in particular any evidence of the known adjacent early Saxon cemetery) was identified. Also, no evidence of remains relating to other periods was identified.

8 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with the finds from the site, at the Suffolk County Archaeological Store. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Mr Cole for funding the monitoring and Mr Paul Scarlett of Brown & Scarlett for commissioning the works. AS would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Baker Construction.

AS is also pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Ms Abby Antrobus of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1 Footing trenches, after excavation. Looking south-east



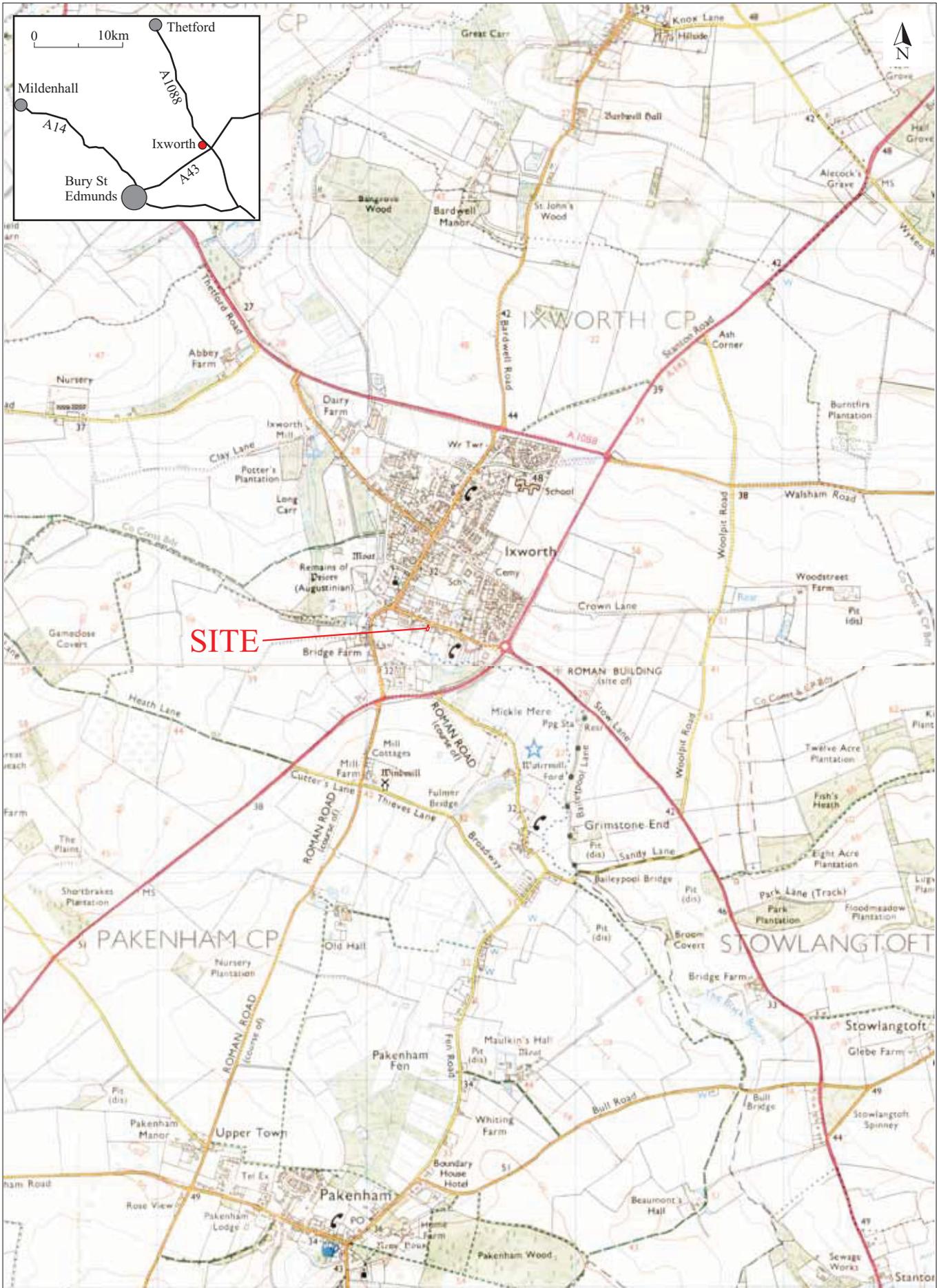
2 Sample section 1. Looking north-west



3 Sample section 2. Looking south-west

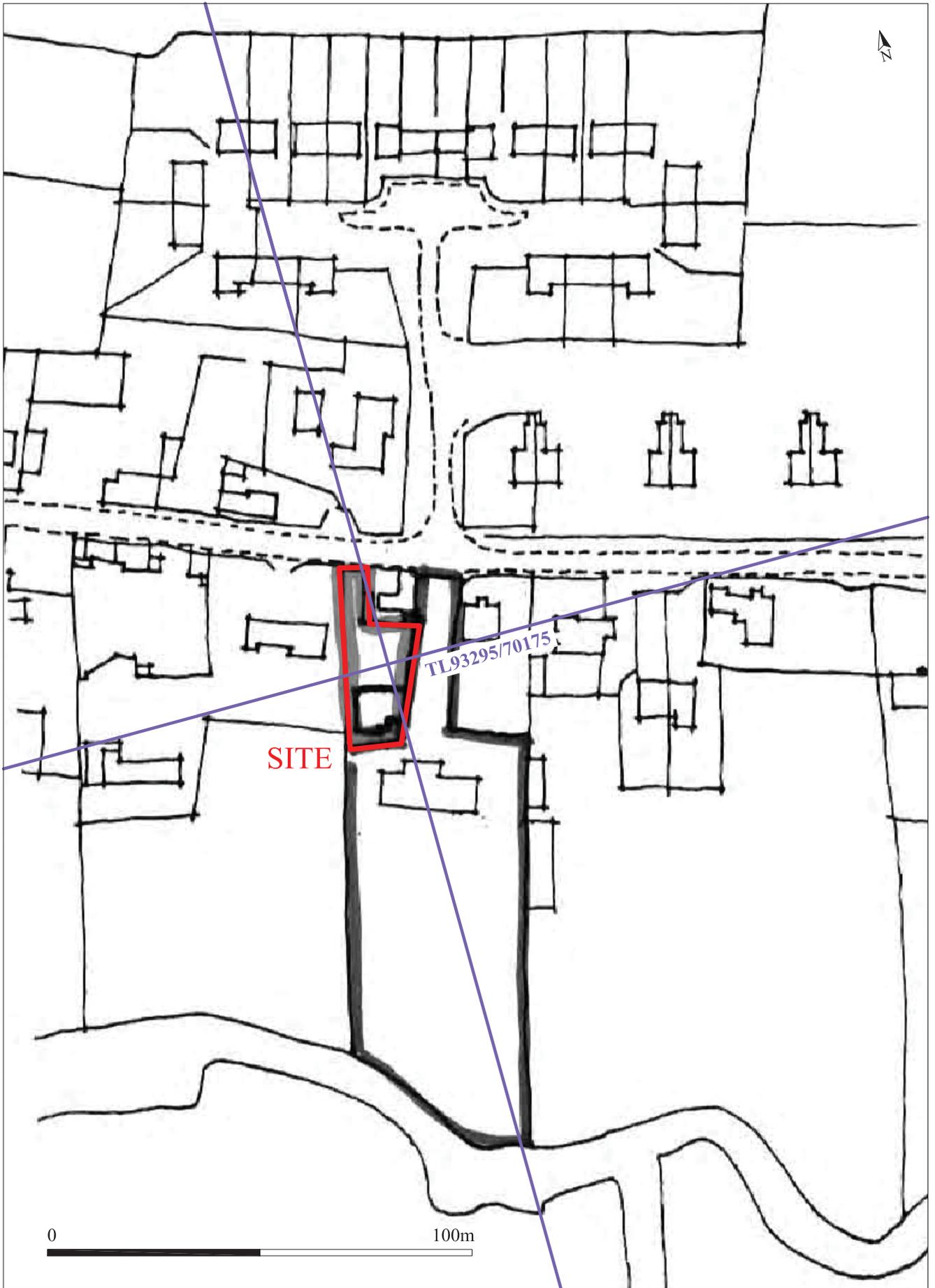


4 Sample section 3. Looking south-east

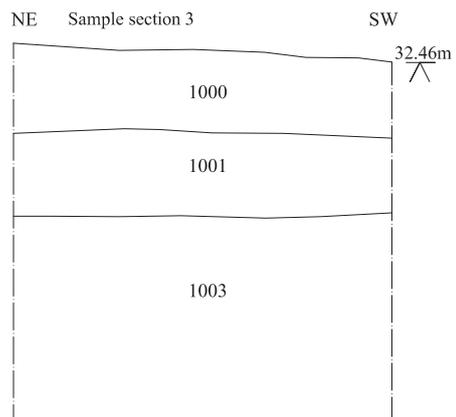
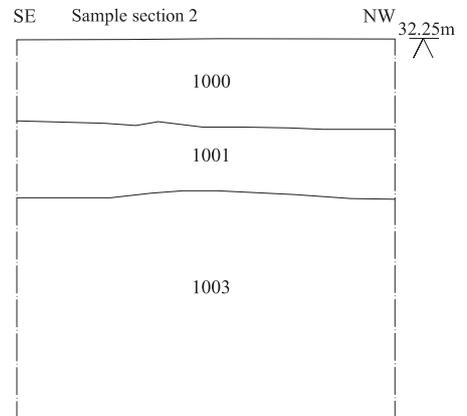
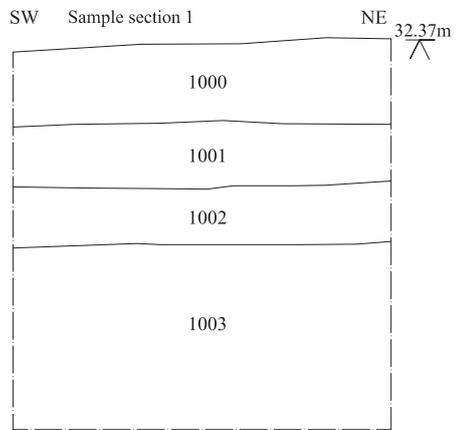


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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:1250 at A4



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Fig. 4 Sample sections
 Scale 1:20 at A4