



Castle Hill, Mexborough, South Yorkshire  
Archaeological test-pitting

ArcHeritage 2019

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Archaeological Test-pitting

**ArcHeritage Campo House, 54 Campo Lane, Sheffield, S1 2EG**

Phone: +44 (0)114 2728884 Fax: +44 (0)114 3279793  
archeritage@yorkat.co.uk [www.archeritage.co.uk](http://www.archeritage.co.uk)



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## NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This report presents the results of a community excavation at Castle Hill, Mexborough, South Yorkshire. The work was carried out as part of the Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership (DVLP), a HLF-funded, five-year programme of projects focusing on the historic buildings and landscapes of the Dearne Valley. By working with local communities, the Partnership aims to protect, preserve and enhance the area. Established as part of the DVLP, the Archaeology and Geology Project will enable more of the Dearne Valley's historic environment to be surveyed through the archaeological investigation of ten sites, of which Castle Hills is one. The project aims to enhance the understanding of the heritage of the area and develop skills, knowledge and capacity within local communities.

Castle Hill is the site of a late 11<sup>th</sup>-century motte and bailey castle and is a Scheduled Monument (1013650). All work undertaken as part of this project was carried out under Scheduled Monument consent, issued by Historic England (Ref. S00174120). The monument consists of a circular bailey approximately 25m in diameter, with a peripheral motte approximately 8m high and 5m across at the top. The bailey is surrounded by substantial banks rising approximately 2m above the present inner ground level and approximately 5m above the outer ditch. Entrance to the bailey is via a defensive approach on the north-west side, which survives as an earthwork between the bailey rampart and the motte. A similar, but smaller, feature can be seen on the south side (Historic England 2016).

Eleven test pits were excavated: six within the Scheduled Monument; three within an undesignated recreation ground immediately adjacent and to the north of Castle Hill; and two within the grounds of the New Pastures Primary School. The two test pits (7 and 8) within the school grounds were excavated with the assistance of Y3 and Y4 pupils from the school, while the remainder of the test pits were excavated by volunteers from the wider community.

No archaeological finds or features contemporary with the creation or occupation of Castle Hill were recovered from the test pits. Most of the test pits contained 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-century artefacts, with a stone wall in Test Pit 4 likely to be associated with 19<sup>th</sup>-century landscaping in the park.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a community excavation at Castle Hill, Mexborough, South Yorkshire. The work was carried out as part of the Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership (DVLP), a HLF-funded, five-year programme of projects focussing on the historic buildings and landscapes of the Dearne Valley. By working with local communities, the Partnership aims to protect, preserve and enhance the area. Established as part of the DVLP, the Archaeology and Geology Project will enable more of the Dearne Valley's historic environment to be surveyed through the archaeological investigation of ten sites, of which Castle Hills is one. The project aims to enhance the understanding of the heritage of the area and develop skills, knowledge and capacity within local communities.

The work was undertaken following a Project Design (Appendix 6), approved by Historic England, the DVLP and the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS). All work was undertaken with adherence to relevant Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) guidelines.

## 2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

Castle Hill is located off the A6023 Doncaster Road (centred on NGR SK484 999), on the eastern edge of Mexborough, approximately 9km to the south-west of Doncaster town centre (Figure 1). Situated on the north bank of the River Don, the site commands the ancient ford at Strafforth Sands (Historic England 2016). The A6023 bounds the site to the north, with houses on Church Street to the south and east. The River Don lies a little further to the south, on the opposite side of Church Street. New Pastures Primary School is located immediately to the west of the site.

Castle Hill is the site of a late 11<sup>th</sup>-century motte and bailey castle and is a Scheduled Monument (1013650). The monument consists of a circular bailey approximately 25m in diameter, with a peripheral motte approximately 8m high and 5m across at the top. The bailey is surrounded by substantial banks rising approximately 2m above the present inner ground level and approximately 5m above the outer ditch. Entrance to the bailey is via a defensive approach on the north-west side, which survives as an earthwork between the bailey rampart and the motte. A similar, but smaller, feature can be seen on the south side (Historic England 2016).

The Castle Hill motte and outwork are clearly visible within a landscaped parkland environment. Access is via a single entranceway from the A6023/Doncaster Road. The park is open to the public and contains the castle earthworks, a dilapidated bandstand and two war memorials.

## 3 SITE HISTORY

The following history of the site is taken from the DVLP Heritage Audit (ArcHeritage 2013).

Motte and bailey castles were introduced into Yorkshire only after the Norman Conquest of 1066. Castle Hill is likely to have been built by one of the sub-tenants of Roger de Busli, the Norman lord of Tickhill, who controlled Mexborough in the late 11<sup>th</sup> century. Due to its size, the motte at Mexborough is likely to have been topped by only a small wooden tower. While David Hey has stated that the tower was not rebuilt in stone (Hey 2002), the Historic England

Scheduled Monument notification states that ‘the stone visible in the top of the motte’ may be ‘part of the foundations of a stone tower’ (Historic England 2016).

It is not clear when Castle Hill became disused. However, if Hey is correct and the site’s defences were not rebuilt in stone, this suggests that the castle was abandoned prior to the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century when stonework began to replace timber defences in English castles (Thompson 1991). Castle Hill’s history during the later medieval period is unknown.

During the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, the Yorkshire antiquarian and historian, Roger Dodsworth, stated that there ‘hath once been a castle’ at Mexborough. However, Dodsworth did not sketch the remains as he had with those of a motte and bailey castle at Hickleton. This may suggest that few, if any, standing features survived at the site by this period. Castle Hill was not marked on Thomas Jefferys’ 1771 map of Yorkshire or Christopher Greenwood’s 1817 map of the county. The Sheffield historian, Joseph Hunter, provided an account of the site in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, describing the remains as an elliptical area surrounded by a high mound of earth, with a conical tumulus and an outwork beyond the ditch (Hunter 1828).

Castle Hill is shown clearly on the 1839 Mexborough tithe map. Despite its detail, this depiction showed the motte and the smaller outwork to the south-west as approximately the same size. A semi-circular or ‘half-moon’ earthwork (Armitage 1897, 56) at the north-west was shown inaccurately as a U-shaped feature. The latter feature, a ‘curious little lunette-shaped banked enclosure’, was subsequently interpreted by I. Chalkley Gould as ‘the remains of a protected entrance-way: a sort of barbican, moated, banked and palisaded, which projected to guard the entrance to the fortress’ (Chalkley Gould 1904, 38-39). This suggests that access into the castle would have been from the north-west during the medieval period. The secondary, sub-circular ditched outwork that stood to the south-west of the motte is likely to have been located ‘where additional defence was necessary’ (Hamilton Thomson 1912, 51). No tracks were shown leading directly to the earthworks on the tithe map and the site’s condition was described in the accompanying tithe apportionment as ‘grass’.

Little detail was shown at Castle Hill on the 1841 Ordnance Survey first series map and, while the respective sizes of the motte and the outwork were shown correctly on the 1855 OS map, no attempt was made to distinguish between the site’s banks, mounds and ditches at that date. G.T. Clark’s 1884 plan of Castle Hill showed the site in greater detail than previous depictions and indicated that the ditches of the motte and the outwork intersected. The ‘half-moon enclosure’ to the north-west of the motte was shown abutting the main ditch on the 1892 Ordnance Survey map. The northern extremity of the ditch had been truncated by that date, probably in association with the construction of a rectangular building and a series of sheds on the south side of Doncaster Road.

Ella Armitage stated that the Castle Hill motte was ‘much worn down from its original height’ by 1897, although the outwork retained its bank at that date and the bank ‘on the counterscarp’ also remained visible’ (Armitage 1897, 56). When visiting Castle Hill in 1898, Sidney Addy was prevented by heavy fog from taking what would have been the earliest known photographs of the earthworks (Addy 1898). Little change was shown at the site on the 1903 Ordnance Survey map and paths that led onto the motte and the outwork were the principal additions shown on I. Chalkley Gould’s 1904 plan of the site (Chalkley Gould 1904). A 1908 plan by A. Hadrian



Allcroft showed a continuous bank and ditch around the motte and the outwork, with the exception of a track that led onto the motte from the west (Hadrian Allcroft 1908).

Castle Hill was donated to the people of Mexborough as a recreation ground in 1908 and was shown as 'Castle Hills Park' on the 1930 Ordnance Survey map. Paths and areas of shrubbery had been established on the southern part of the earthworks by that date, along with a war memorial to the north-west. Landscaping works associated with the creation of the park appear to have truncated the half-moon enclosure by 1930 and a bandstand had been built on the motte by 1958. The half-moon enclosure had been removed by the time of the 1967 Ordnance Survey map. While this is likely to have impacted on the site's medieval entrance, no archaeological finds are known to have been reported in association with these works.

While mature trees are present throughout the site, the condition of the earthworks is generally good, with little erosion from footfall.

## 4 AIMS

The aims of the archaeological excavation were:

- to engage and upskill members of the local community;
- to work with New Pastures Primary School to promote the site and involve the pupils in the excavation of the test pits, and to facilitate classroom-based workshop and activities;
- To work with the Mexborough and District Heritage Society, to involve members and upskill them in techniques of archaeology investigation, and to promote the site amongst a wider audience;
- to determine if the building on the motte was wood or stone
- to determine the extent, condition, character, importance and date of any below-ground archaeological remains present;
- to provide information that will enable the remains to be placed within their local, regional, and national context and for an assessment to be made of the significance of the archaeology of the site;
- to provide information which will guide further work and restoration at the site.

## 5 METHODOLOGY

Full details of the excavation methodology are set out in the Project Design (Appendix 5).

All work was undertaken under Scheduled Monument consent, issued by Historic England (Ref. S00174120). All test pits measured 1x1m, with the exception of Test Pits 7 and 8 which measured 2x1m. None of the test pits exceeded 0.50m in depth. The location of Test Pit 8 was altered from that of the proposed location in the Project Design, due to the wishes of New Pastures Primary School. Due to high volunteer numbers, an additional test pit was added outside of the Scheduled area, to the north of Castle Hill. The table below describes the reasoning behind the locations of the test pits, while their locations are shown in Figure 2.

Test Pit no.	Location	Dimensions (m)	Rationale
1	SM	1x1	Investigate the survival/nature of the building upon the motte
2	SM	1x1	Investigate the survival/nature of the building upon the motte
3	SM	1x1	Investigate the earthworks within the bailey
4	SM	1x1	Investigate the earthworks within the bailey
5	SM	1x1	Investigate the 'crescent-shaped' earthwork, which has previously been described as the entrance to the motte
6	SM	1x1	At the base of the motte – investigate the possibility of a moat?
7	School field (Doncaster Road)	2x1	To determine whether activity around the motte and bailey extended into what is now the school playing field
8	School field (Doncaster Road)	2x1	To determine whether activity around the motte and bailey extended into what is now the school playing field
9	Public playing field	1x1	Investigate faint earthworks – possible extension of bailey/settlement?
10	Public playing field	1x1	Investigate faint earthworks – possible extension of bailey/settlement?
11	Public playing field	1x1	Investigate faint earthworks – possible extension of bailey/settlement?

## 6 RESULTS

Assessment of the pottery and miscellaneous finds mentioned below is given in Appendices 3 and 4.

### 6.1 Test Pit 1

Test Pit 1 (Plates 1 and 2; Figure 3) was located on top of the motte. A thin line of turf in a silty matrix (101) directly overlay light brown-grey, fine, compact silt (102), which became very powdery upon excavation. Frequent roots and occasional sub-angular sandstone pebbles and cobbles were present throughout the deposit, which also contained pot and glass. This deposit (102) had a maximum thickness of 0.15m and directly overlay a lens of dark grey silt (103), which had a maximum thickness of 0.03m. The latter was present intermittently throughout the test pit. Directly beneath (103) was light brown-grey, fine, compact silt (104). While this was very similar to deposit (102), it contained a much higher concentration of sub-angular sandstone pebbles and cobbles, which made up approximately 50% of the deposit. Pottery was also recovered from this deposit. The depth of deposit (104) remains unknown, as it continued beyond the base of the test pit.

## 6.2 Test Pit 2

Test Pit 2 (Plates 3 and 4; Figure 4) was located on top of the motte, approximately 5m to the south-west of Test Pit 1. The test pit reached a maximum depth of 0.40m and contained only a single deposit (201). This comprised pale brown, silty-sandy clay with 40-50% angular and sub-angular sandstone inclusions, ranging in size from pebbles to boulders. Frequent roots were also present throughout the deposit. No archaeological features were observed within Test Pit 2 and no artefacts or other cultural material were recovered.

## 6.3 Test Pit 3

Test Pit 3 (Plates 5 and 6; Figure 5) was located within the bailey, to the south of the current bandstand. The test pit reached a maximum depth of 0.30m and contained a single deposit (301). This comprised mottled, pale to mid-brown silty-sandy clay that was very compact at the upper surface, but became friable with depth. Frequent tree roots and occasional sub-angular sandstone pebbles were present throughout the deposit. Occasional artefacts were scattered throughout (301), including pot, slag, glass sherds and two glass marbles.

## 6.4 Test Pit 4

Test Pit 4 (Plates 7 and 8; Figure 6) was located within the bailey, to the north-east of the current bandstand. The topsoil (401) comprised dark brown, sandy silt with frequent roots and had a maximum depth of 0.10m. This directly overlay compacted pale brownish-yellow sandy clay subsoil (402), with occasional sub-angular sandstone inclusions. Directly beneath this was a similar deposit, but with a slightly higher clay content (403). This deposit contained a north-east to south-west aligned sandstone wall (406) that was present throughout the entirety of the test pit along its northern edge. No bonding material was observed between the stones, which were laid in stretcher formation. Each stone was between 0.15-0.20m in width, with the northern extent of the stone lengths extending beyond the northern confines of the test pit. The wall comprised a single course and was 0.30m in visible width and approximately 0.20m in thickness.

Immediately beneath deposit (403) was an intermittent layer of humic rich black clay silt (404), that contained frequent roots. This is likely to be material derived from root activity, being redeposited topsoil material transported by root action. At the base of the test pit was a dark brown, hard, compacted clay (405), which extended beyond the base of the test pit.

## 6.5 Test Pit 5

Test Pit 5 (Plates 9 and 10; Figure 7) was located within the 'crescent-shaped' earthwork, that has previously been described as the entrance to the motte. This feature had recent stone edging. A pathway appeared to have been cut through the earthwork.

The topsoil (501) comprised dark brown clay silt with frequent root activity, with a maximum thickness of 0.17m. This directly overlay very dry, mottled orange-brown sandy-silty clay (502), with occasional sub-angular sandstone inclusions and frequent root activity. Fragments of pottery were recovered from this deposit, including two fragments of saggar. Deposit (502) extended beyond the base of the test pit, which reached a maximum depth of 0.32m.

## 6.6 Test Pit 6

Test Pit 6 (Plates 11 and 12; Figure 8) was located at the base of the motte. The topsoil (601) comprised dark brown clay silt with frequent rootlets and a uniform thickness of 0.10m. Immediately underlying this was mottled pale and mid-orange brown dry sandy clay (602), with occasional inclusions of sub-angular sandstone pebbles. This deposit was excavated to a depth of 0.35-0.40m and continued beyond the base of the test pit. Occasional fragments of pottery were recovered from deposit (602), including some kiln furniture.

## 6.7 Test Pit 7

Test Pit 7 (Plates 13 and 14; Figure 9) was located within the grounds of New Pastures Primary School, immediately adjacent to the Scheduled site. This test pit measured 2x1m and was excavated by the pupils of the school. The topsoil (701) comprised mid-brown sandy silt with occasional inclusions of sub-angular sandstone pebbles. Various artefacts were recovered from the topsoil, including pottery, clay pipe stem, a plastic button and glass. The topsoil was excavated to a depth of 0.15m and continued beyond the base of the test pit.

## 6.8 Test Pit 8

Test Pit 8 (Plates 15 and 16; Figure 10) was located within the grounds of New Pastures Primary School, immediately adjacent to the Scheduled site. This test pit measured 2x1m and was excavated by the pupils of the school. The topsoil (801) comprised mid-brown sandy silt, with occasional inclusions of sub-angular sandstone pebbles. Various artefacts were recovered from the topsoil, including pottery, kiln furniture, glass, a two-pence coin and metal. The topsoil was excavated to a depth of 0.18m and continued beyond the base of the test pit.

## 6.9 Test Pit 9

Test Pit 9 (Plates 17 and 18; Figure 11) was located in the recreation ground, to the immediate north of the Scheduled area. The topsoil (901) comprised dark brown silty clay, approximately 0.10m thick, with occasional roots. Immediately underlying this was light brown, compact silty clay (902), with occasional inclusions of crushed brick and slag. Pot, glass and charcoal were also present throughout this deposit, which extended beyond the base of the test pit.

## 6.10 Test Pit 10

Test Pit 10 (Plates 19 and 20; Figure 12) was located in the recreation ground, to the immediate north of the Scheduled area. The topsoil (1001) comprised dark brown silty clay with occasional roots and an overall thickness of 0.10m. Immediately underlying this was dark brown silty clay (1002) with common sandstone sub-angular pebble inclusions. Pottery and glass were also recovered from this deposit, which had a maximum thickness of 0.18m. This directly overlay a compact, pale yellow silty sand (1003) with very frequent sandstone inclusions and occasional roots. One fragment of glass was recovered from this deposit. Deposit (1003) extended beyond the base of the test pit.

## 6.11 Test Pit 11

Test Pit 11 (Plates 21 and 22; Figure 13) was located in the recreation ground, to the immediate north of the Scheduled area. The topsoil (1101) comprised dark brown silt clay with occasional small pebbles and roots. The topsoil (1101) had a maximum thickness of 0.15m and contained

occasional pot fragments and one glass marble. Directly underlying the topsoil was light brown, compact silty clay (1102), containing frequent stone pebbles, brick fragments and pot. This deposit undulated gently, but had an average thickness of 0.10m. Directly underlying (1102) was pale orange compact silty clay with occasional sandstone inclusions (1103). Pottery fragments were recovered from this deposit. Deposit (1103) extended beyond the base of the test pit and its depth is unknown.

## 7 DISCUSSION

At least 13 motte and bailey sites are known throughout South Yorkshire (Hey 179, 43). It is that there were more, many of which have since been destroyed completely. David Hey notes that, as was the case at Mexborough, most of these were strategically placed to control major roads and important river crossings. Motte and bailey castles were generally hastily constructed by forced labour, with a timber stockade and, often, a wooden tower (Hey 1979, 42). No evidence for the remains of features were observed within Test pits 1 and 2, which were located on the top of the motte.

Nonetheless, these two test pits showed interesting differences, despite being located only 5m apart. Test Pit 2 contained only a single fill (201), which contained frequent sandstone boulders. In contrast, Test Pit 1 had a more defined stratigraphic sequence and, while it did contain sandstone inclusions, these were fewer and much smaller than those in Test Pit 2. It is possible that the sandstone boulders in Test Pit 2 may represent rubble/demolition from a structure which once stood on top of the motte. None of the stones were worked or faced, which suggests that they may be the remains of rough foundation courses.

The amount of 19<sup>th</sup> century artefacts recovered from Test Pit 1, some from the lower deposit (104), approximately 0.30m below the current ground surface, indicates that fairly recent activity has occurred upon the motte. This may have impacted any remains of an earlier structure. It should also be considered that the height of the motte has been reduced since any structure upon it was removed and that this may have removed all traces of any structure. The motte was found to currently stand at a maximum height of 7m.

The wall in Test Pit 4 was very close to the modern ground surface. While no dating evidence was recovered in association with this wall, the small amount of the feature that was exposed within the test pit seemed likely to be related to the 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-century landscaping of the park.

The fragmented and disorganised nature of the inclusions within deposit (502) in Test Pit 5 suggests that human agency was involved in the formation of the deposit. It is not clear if the pottery inclusions are dating evidence for the deposit itself or if these were later additions. Certainly, the edging and pathways throughout the earthwork indicate fairly substantial, modern disturbance.

The succession of historic maps covering the area (Figure 14) suggest that the earthworks have been much altered since 1839. It seems highly likely that earlier alterations had occurred in the period between the castle becoming disused and the 19<sup>th</sup> century. There is no known cartographic evidence to demonstrate these modifications.

The road network built up around the site, principally the main Doncaster Road, is very close to the Castle Hill earthworks and may have impacted upon the remains of the castle site. The footpaths and boarder edging present throughout the park are evidence of 20<sup>th</sup>-century landscaping works. Historic maps suggest that the paths were created between 1930 and 1958. These features appear to have truncated some of the earthworks, with the 'half-moon' earthwork having been levelled by 1967. The bandstand within the bailey also demonstrates potentially-damaging modern works at the site. Patches of concrete were revealed while excavating Test Pits 1 and 2 upon the motte. These were interspersed with patches of stone, similar to those observed within Test Pit 2. Whilst the stone could relate to the remains of a structure that once occupied the top of the motte, the concrete is obviously much later and, again, indicates modern disturbance.

## 8 CONCLUSIONS

David Hey (1979, 42) notes that as motte and bailey castles were constructed in England during a period in which Norman rule was actively disputed, their purpose was to act not only as a refuge but also as a means to dominate their surrounding area. As early castles were constructed quickly, typically with forced labour drawn from local communities (Hey 1979, 42), they were often relatively basic structures. While some motte and bailey castles were modified and remained in use into the later medieval period, others – including Castle Hill - appear to have been in use for a relatively short period.

No finds or features were recorded within the test pits that could be said, with certainty, to relate to the motte and bailey. However, this does not mean that such evidence does not survive across the site, as the small size and widespread distribution of the test pits targeted only a very small percentage of the Castle Hill site. Any future works at the site may be better served with larger trenches, so that a greater part of the castle can be investigated.

While the lack of archaeological evidence relating to any Norman-period structures or material culture may reflect the relatively short period in which the castle appears to have been in use, the test-pitting revealed that extensive modern disturbance has taken place across Castle Hill. Ground disturbance associated with 20<sup>th</sup>-century landscaping works may also have impacted on any medieval remains that may have been present within the site. The earthworks generally appear to be in sound condition.

## 9 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## PLATES



Plate 1: Test Pit 1. Looking north-east, scale 1m



Plate 2: Test Pit 1. South-west-facing section. Looking north-east, scale 1m





Plate 3: Test Pit 2. Looking south-west, scale 1m



Plate 4: Test Pit 2. South-east-facing section. Looking south-west, scale 1m



Plate 5: Test Pit 3. Looking south-east, scale 1m



Plate 6: Test Pit 3. North-west-facing section. Looking south-east, scale 1m



Plate 7: Test Pit 4. Looking north-west, scale 1m



Plate 8: Test Pit 4. Looking north-east, scale 1m



Plate 9: Test Pit 5. Looking south-east, scale 1m



Plate 10: Test Pit 5. North-west-facing section. Looking south-east, scale 1m



Plate 11: Test Pit 6. Looking north-west, scale 1m



Plate 12: Test Pit 6. South-east-facing section. Looking north-west, scale 1m



Plate 13: Test Pit 7. Facing north. Scale 1m



Plate 14: Test Pit 8. Facing east, scale 1m



Plate 15: Test Pit 9. Facing south-east, scale 1m



Plate 16: Test Pit 9. North-west-facing section. Facing south-east, scale 1m



Plate 17: Test Pit 10. Facing south, scale 1m



Plate 18: Test Pit 10. North-facing section. Facing south, scale 1m



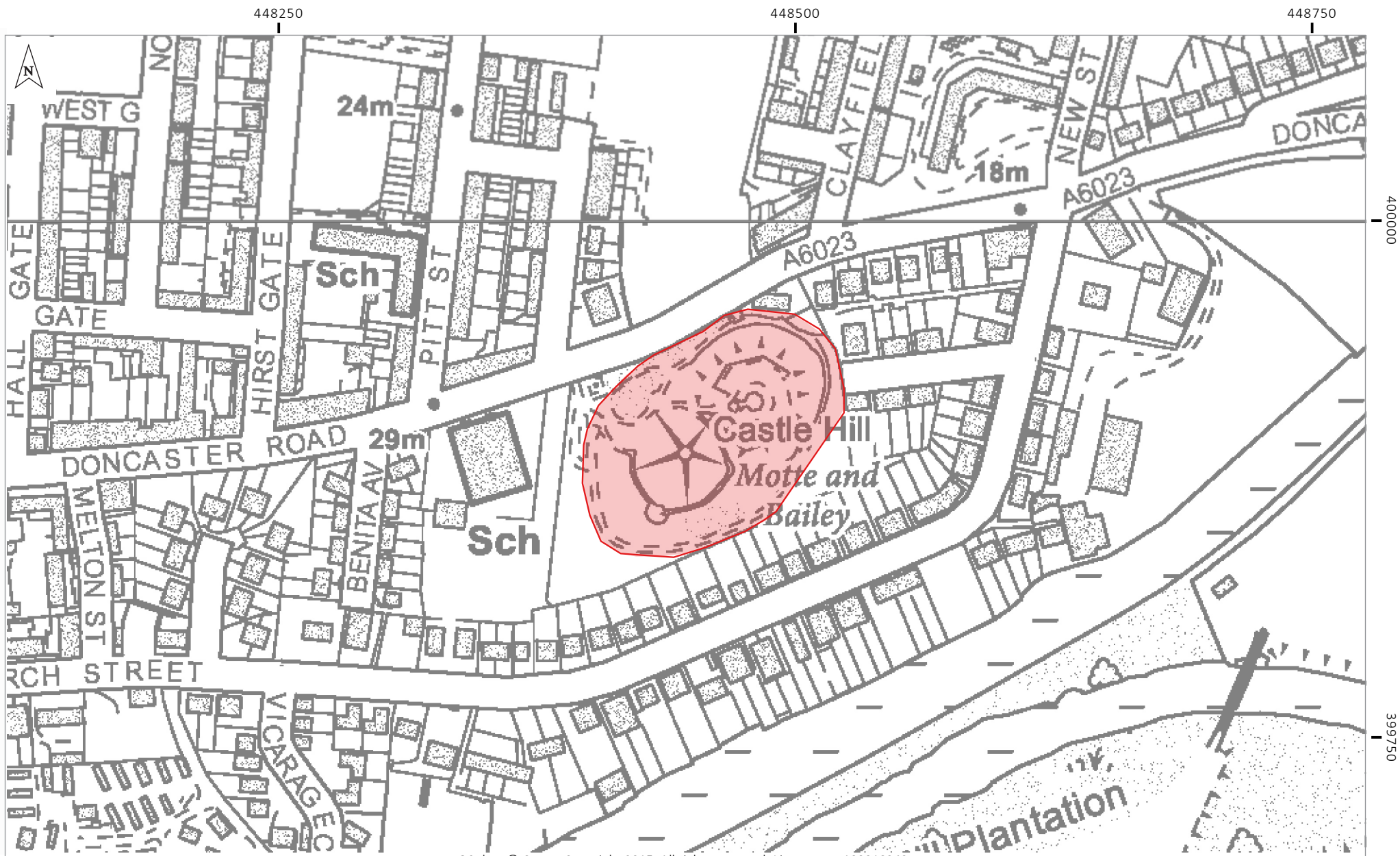


Plate 19: Test Pit 11. Facing north, scale 1m



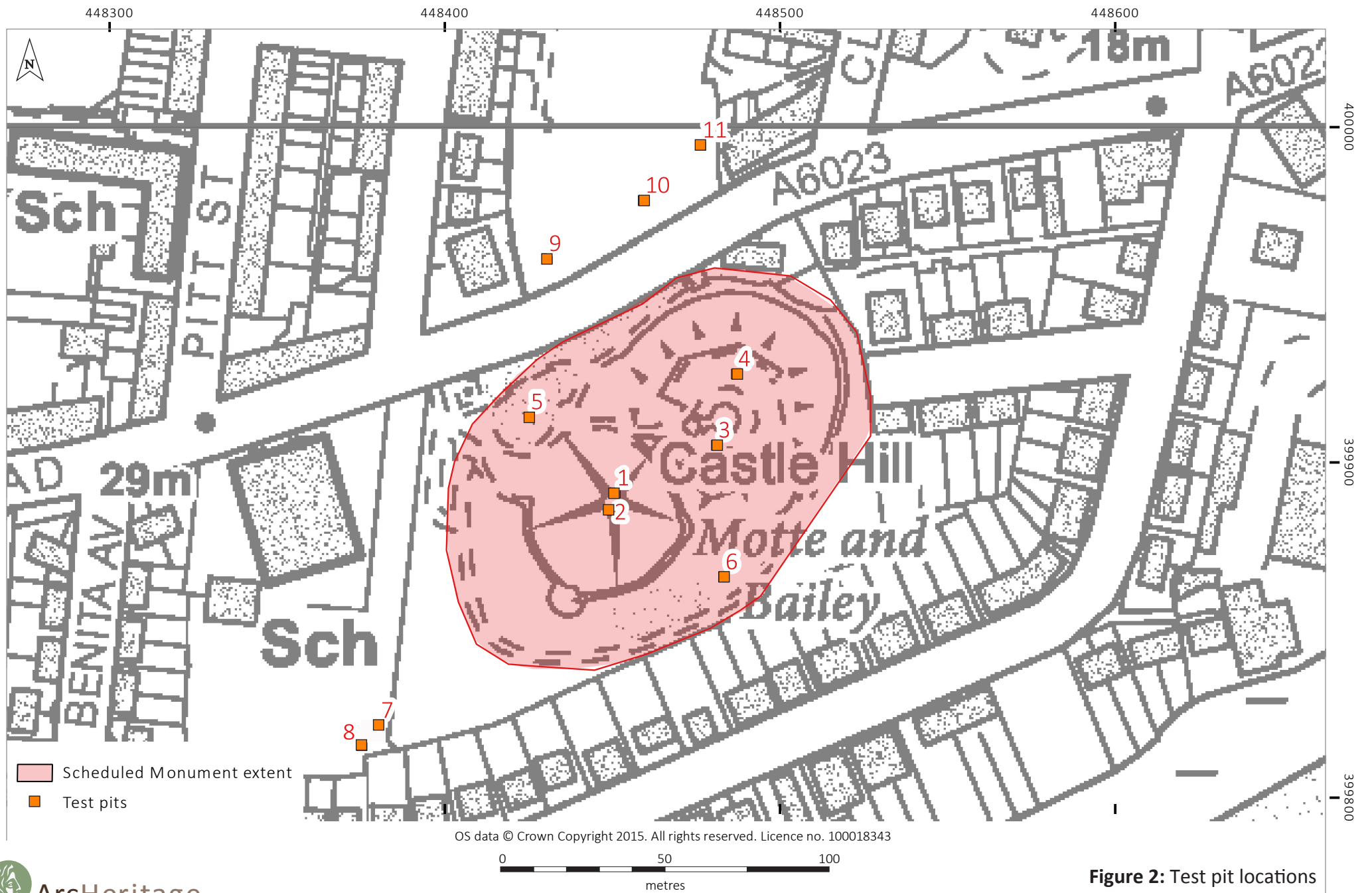
Plate 20: Test Pit 11. South facing section. Looking north, scale 1m

## FIGURES

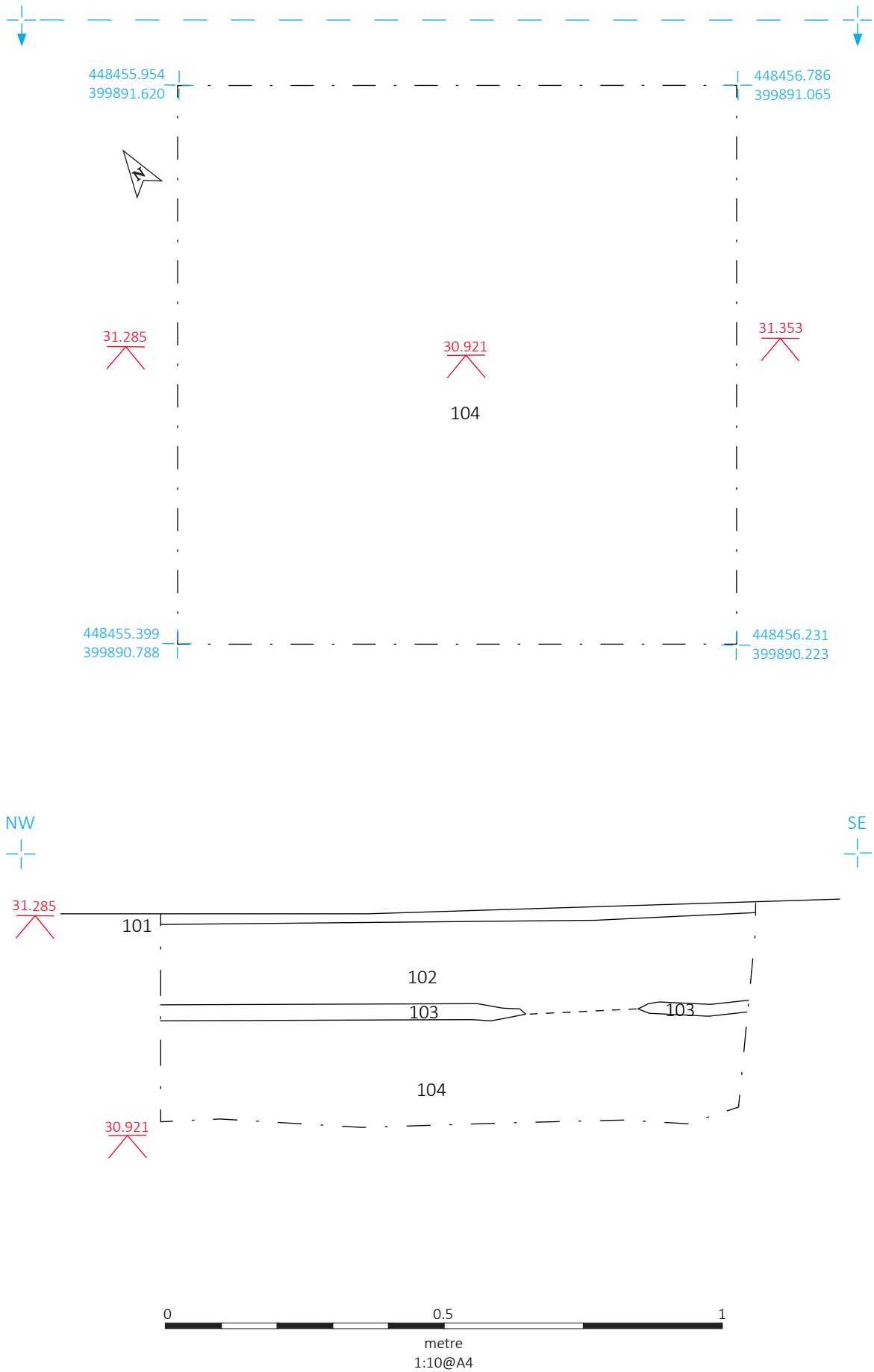


Scheduled Monument extent

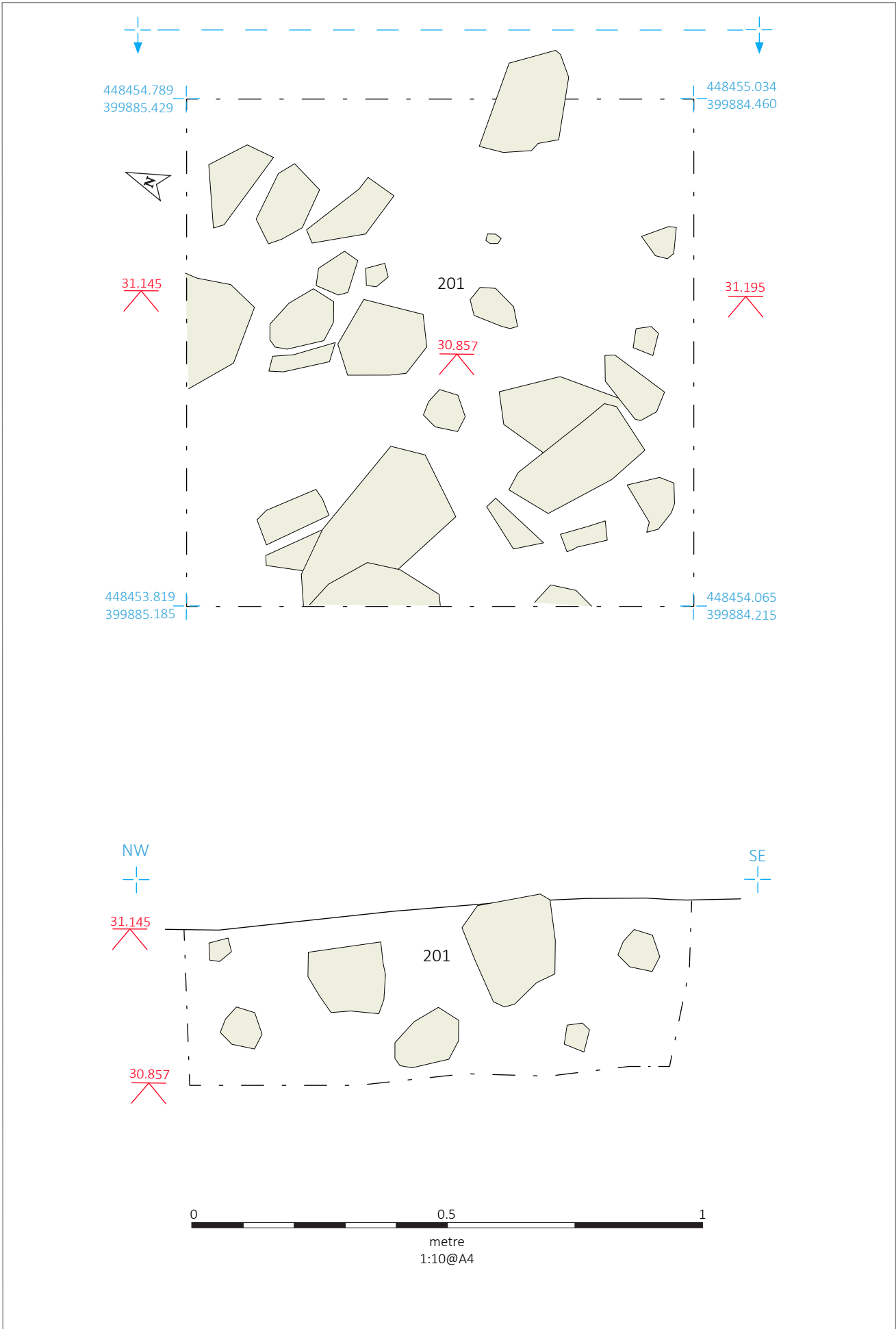
**Figure 1: Site location**



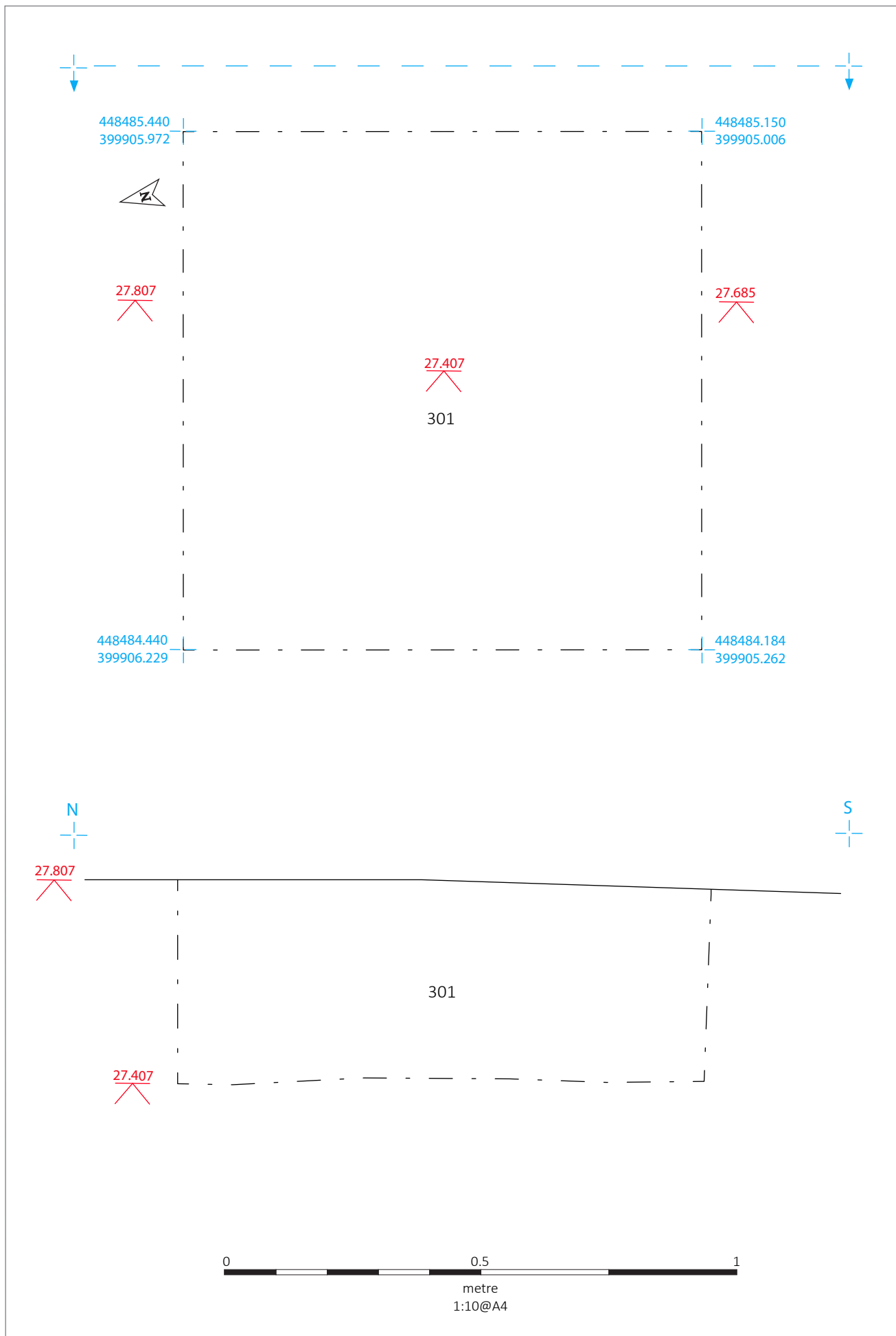
**Figure 2: Test pit locations**



**Figure 3:** Plan and section of Test Pit 1



**Figure 4: Plan and section of Test Pit 2**



**Figure 5: Plan and section of Test Pit 3**



448488.549  
399927.957

448489.519  
399928.202



29.117

406

28.920

29.083

28.709

405

448488.794  
399926.988

448489.763  
399927.232

SW

NE

29.117

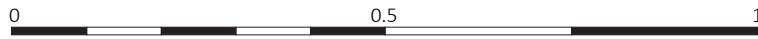
401

406

28.709

403

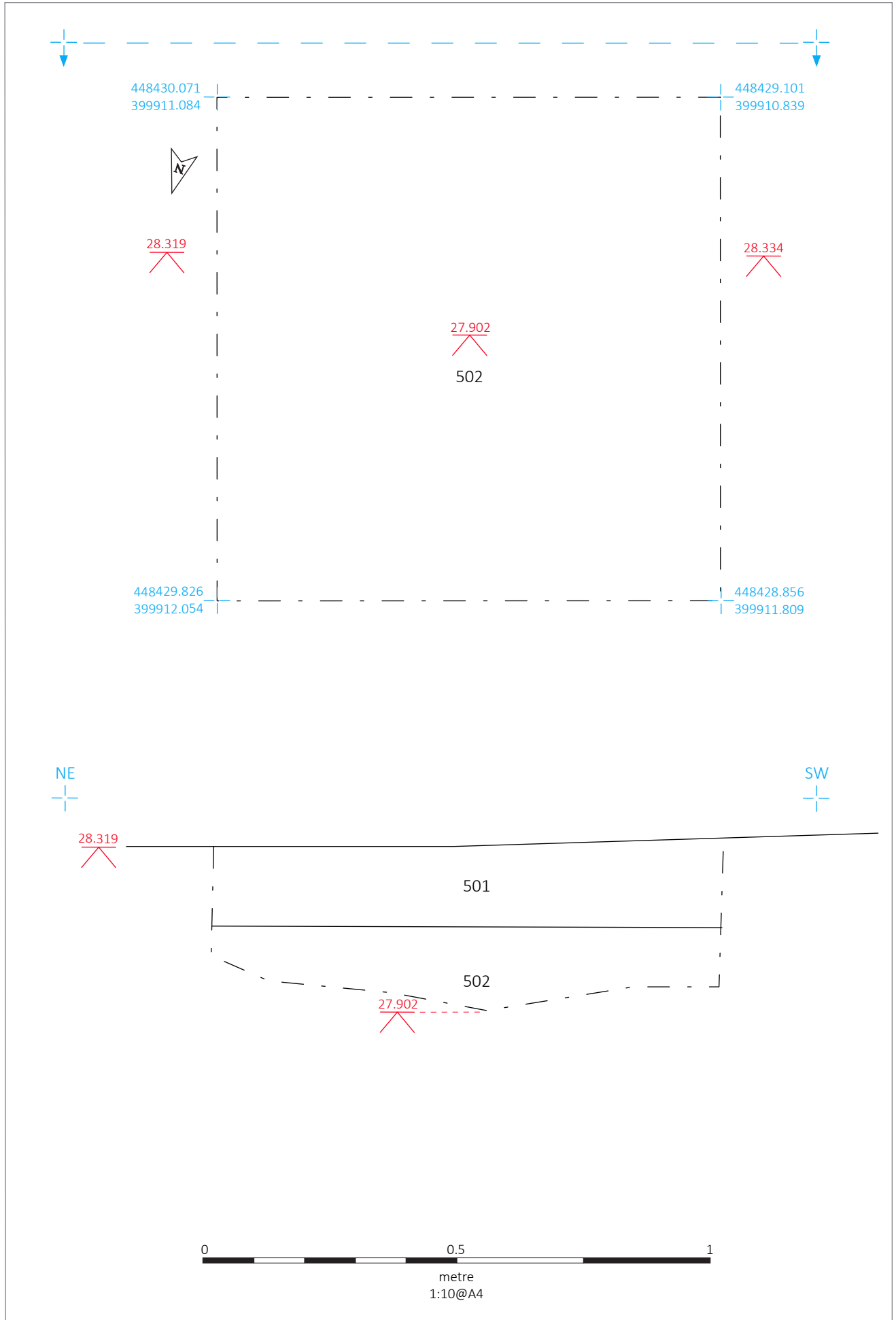
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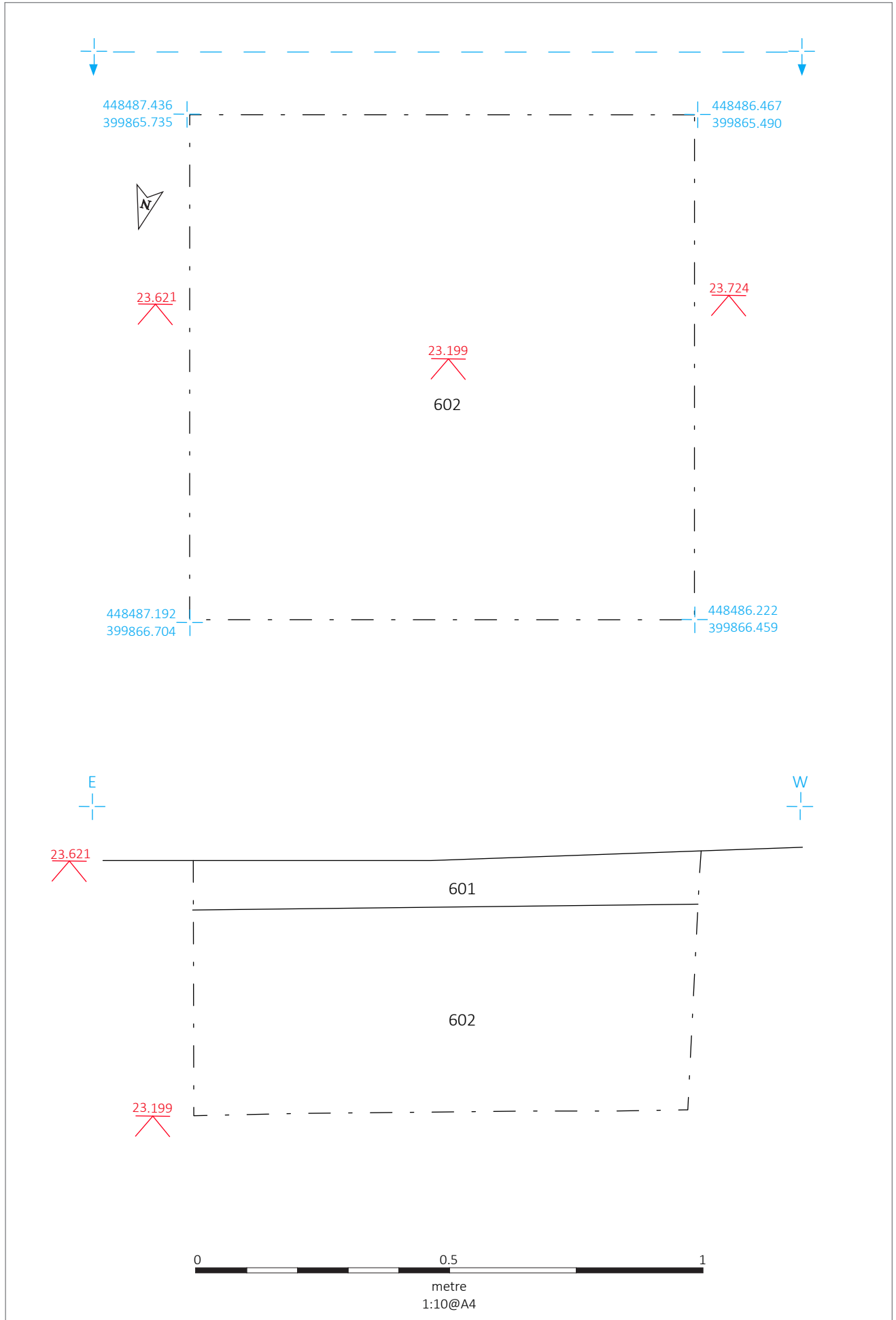
metre  
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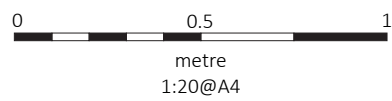
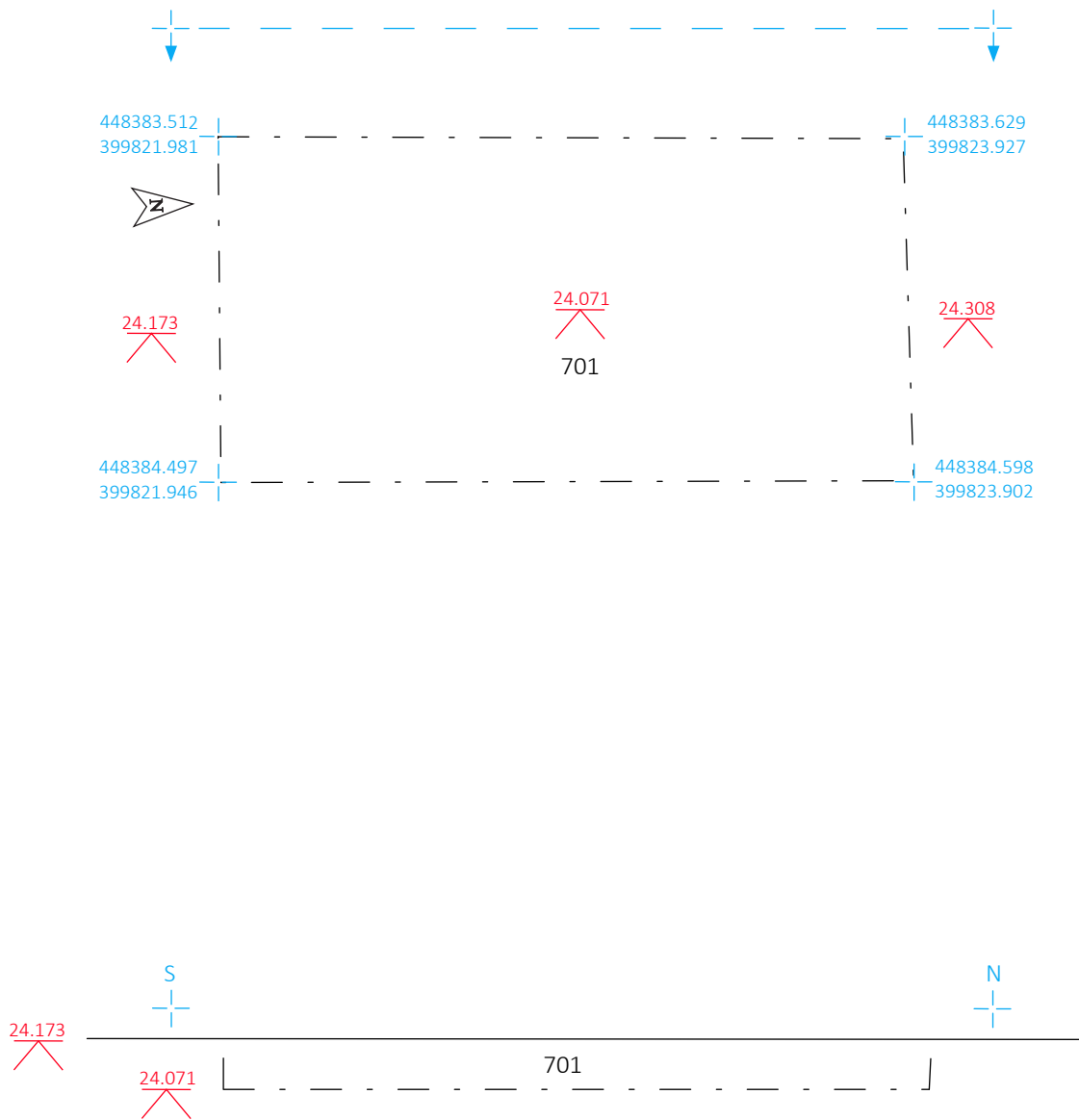


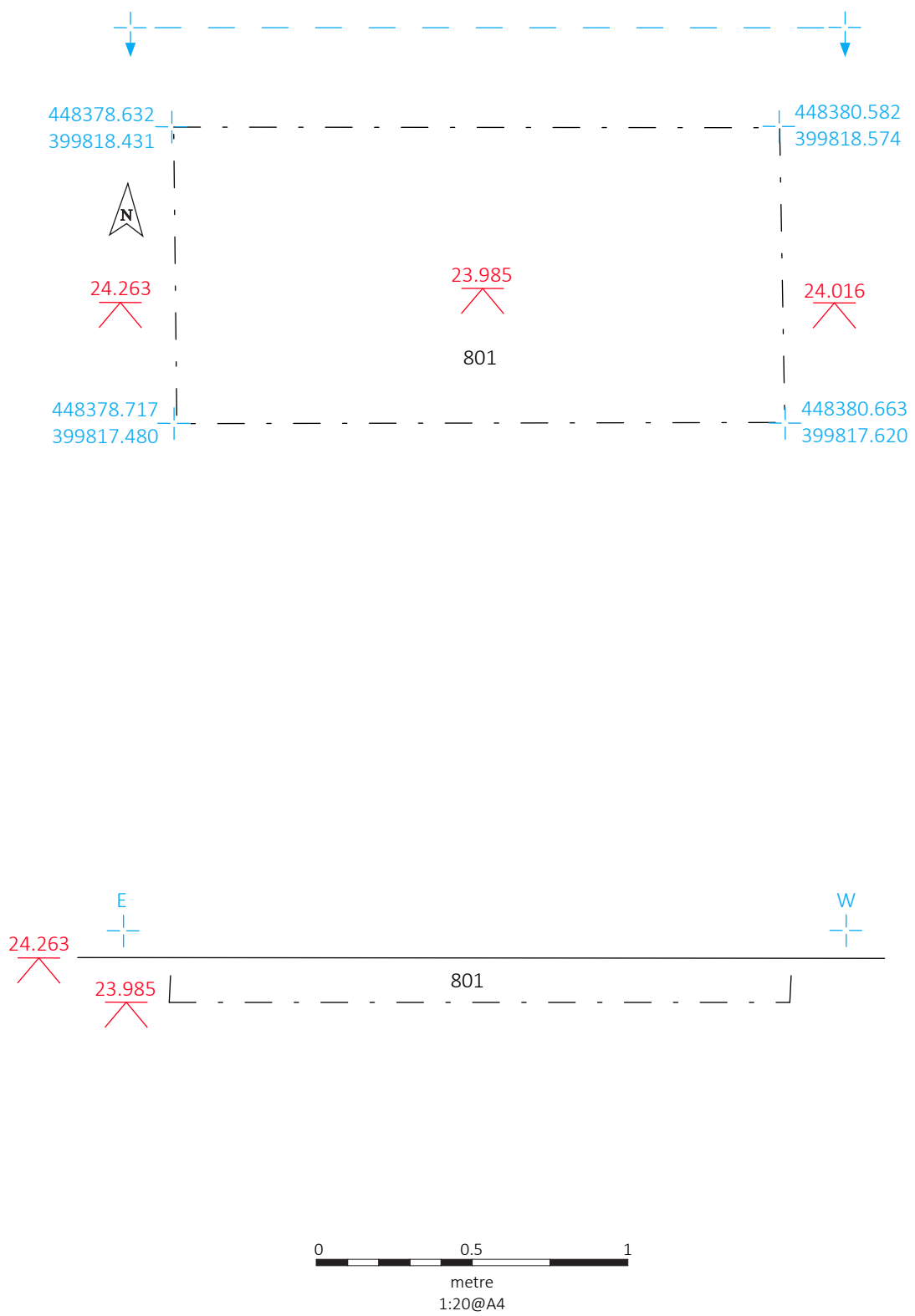


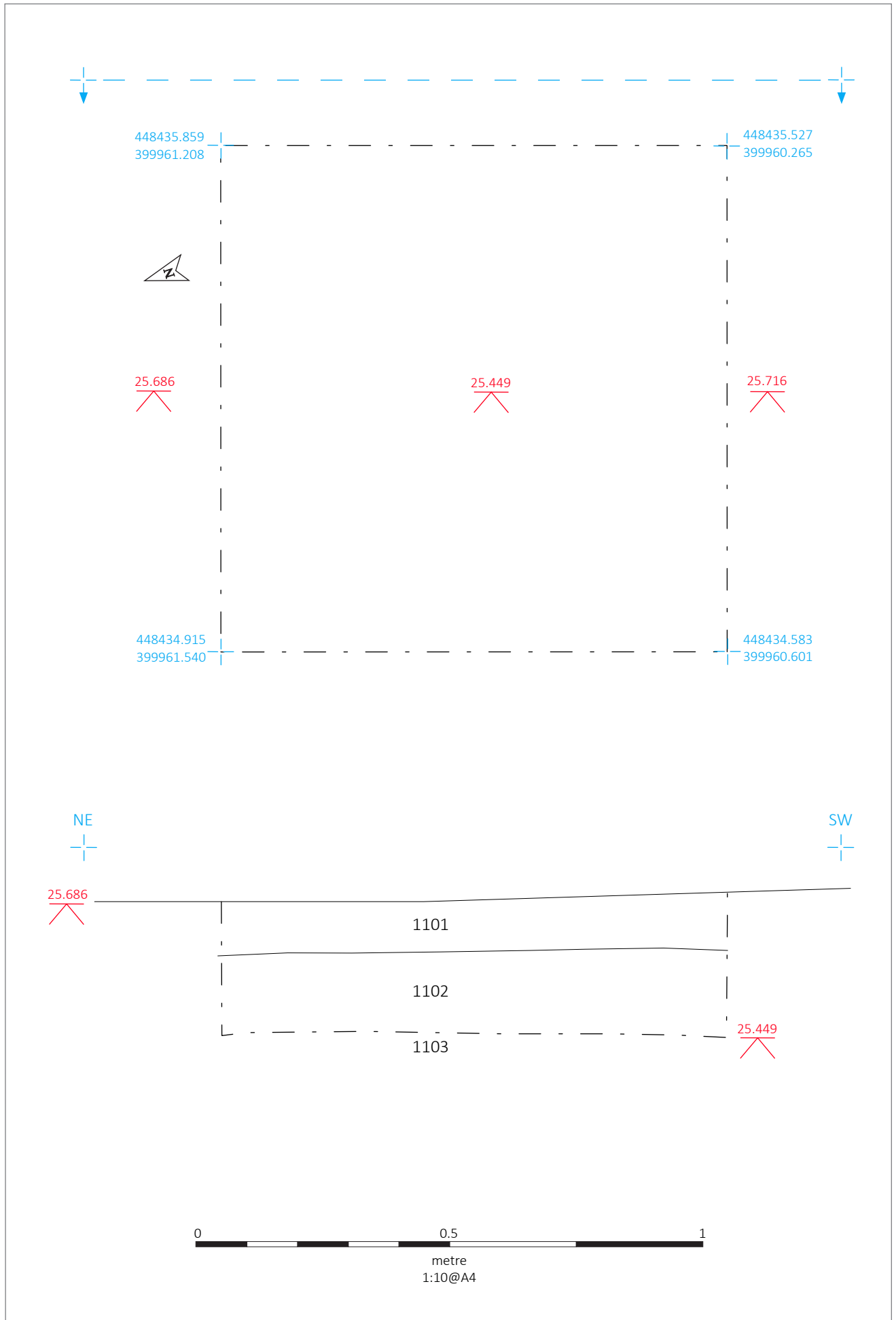
**Figure 7:** Plan and section of Test Pit 5

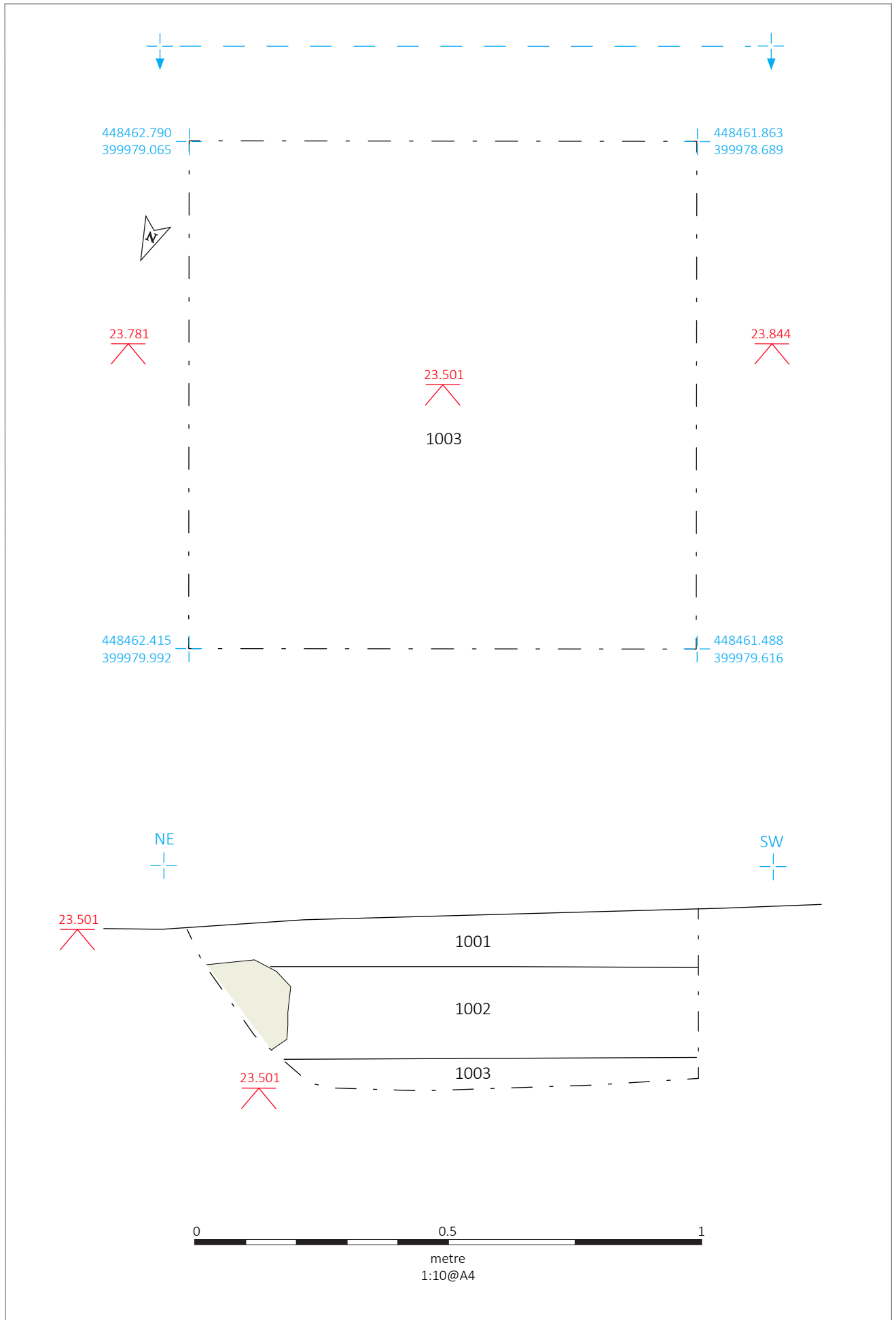


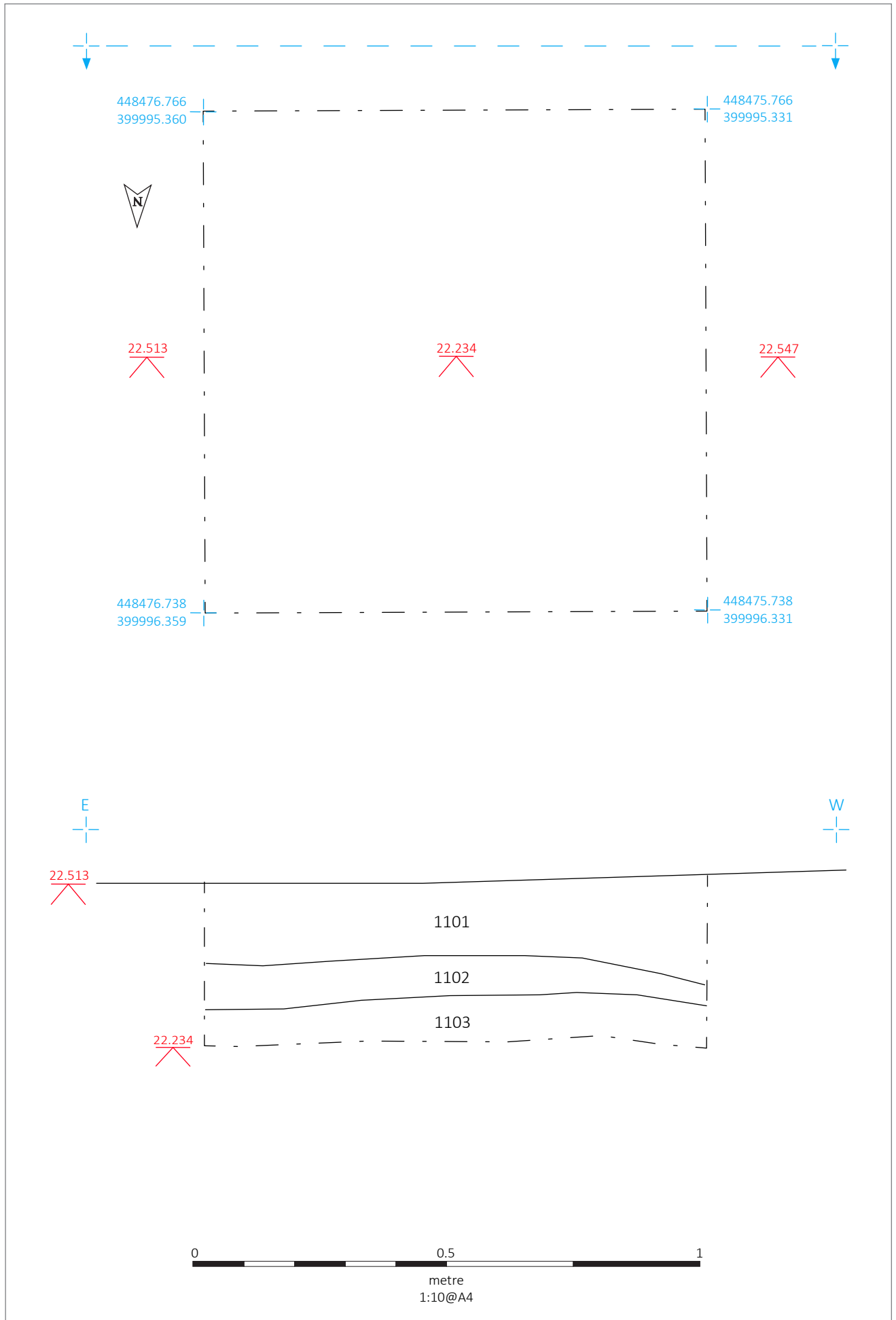
**Figure 8:** Plan and section of Test Pit 6











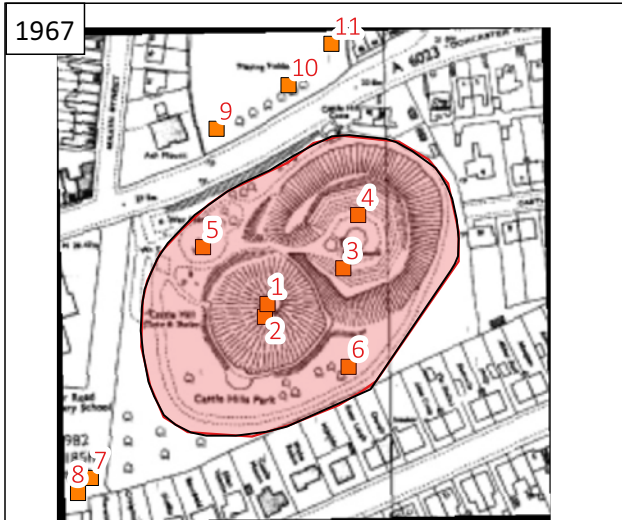
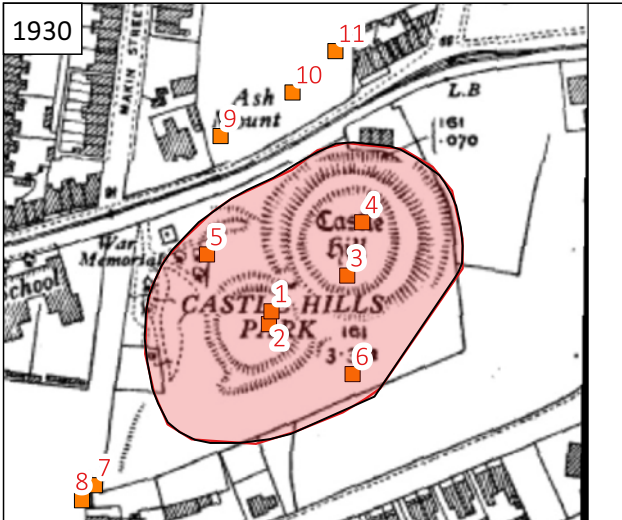
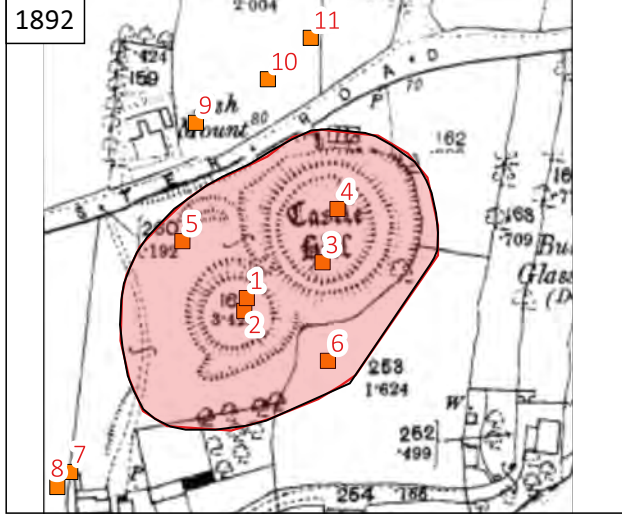
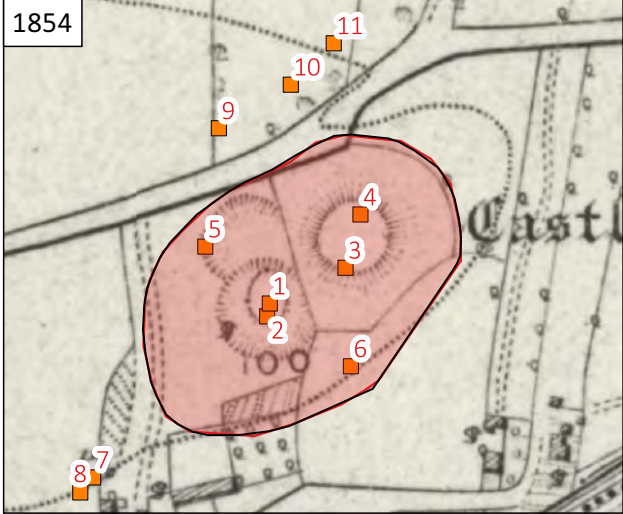
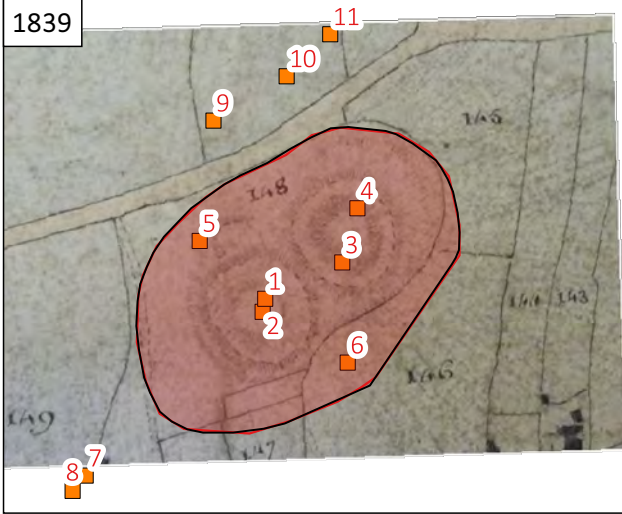


Figure 14: Historic maps of the site 1839-1967



## APPENDIX 1: INDEX TO ARCHIVE

Below is a list of the paper archive contents which are held by Doncaster Museum. Accession Number **DONMG: 2019.62**.

None of the finds were recommended for retention, and as such, have been handed back to the DVLP.

Item	Quantity
Context register	2
Context sheets	26
Digital photo register	1
Digital photos	1 disc
Black and white film photo register	1
Black and white film negatives	1 film
Black and white film digital copies	1 disc
Original site drawings	2 sheets
Report	2

## APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT LIST

Test Pit	Context Number	Description
1	101	Turf in silty matrix
1	102	Deposit - compact, light brown-grey fine silt
1	103	Intermittent lens of dark grey silt, in-between (102) and (104)
1	104	Light brown grey compact fine silt. Higher stone concentration than (102)
2	201	Pale brown silty sandy clay
3	301	Mid-brown silty sandy clay
4	401	Dark brown sandy silt topsoil
4	402	Compact sandy clay subsoil
4	403	Dark brown compacted clay
4	404	Humic rich black soil - generated as function of root activity
4	405	Hard, compact clay
4	406	Linear sandstone structure
5	501	Dark brown clayey silt topsoil
5	502	Mottled orange brown sandy clay subsoil
6	601	Dark brown clayey silt topsoil
6	602	Light brown sandy clay subsoil
7	701	Dark brown clayey silt topsoil
8	801	Mid-brown sandy silt topsoil
9	901	Dark brown silty topsoil
9	902	Light brown compact clay - made ground?
10	1001	Dark brown silty clay topsoil
10	1002	Dark brown silty clay, compacted. Made ground?
10	1003	Compact pale yellow silty sand
11	1101	Dark brown clayey silt topsoil
11	1102	Mid-brown compact silty clay
11	1103	Compact light brown clay

## APPENDIX 3: POTTERY ASSESSMENT

*Richard Jackson*

The pottery assemblage from Castle Hill, Mexborough mainly consists of late 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-century wares, with a wide variety of finewares and some utilitarian wares. The presence of saggars in contexts (502) and (602), alongside 'biscuit' (fired but unglazed ceramic) suggests that some of the material tipped at the site in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was probably derived from a nearby pottery-production centre.

Context	Fabric	Form	Comments	Date
102	Late Blackware	1 rim; small jug or similar. 1 u/d fragment.	Fine grey fabric, smooth black glaze.	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>
102	Pearlware	3 rim sherds; plate or shallow bowl.	Wide everted rim with a lip. Same vessel.	19 <sup>th</sup>
102	Porcelain	1 body sherd; flatware.	Undecorated.	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>
102	Whiteware	1 rim sherd; flatware. 1 u/d base sherd.	Everted rim. Base sherd is overfired, black accretions.	19 <sup>th</sup>
102	Whiteware (decorated)	1 rim; cup or similar. 2 body sherds; 1 transfer print in brown, 1 single band dec in pink.	Pink decorated shed is coated with black accretions.	19 <sup>th</sup>
102	Stoneware	1 u/d body sherd.	Overfired, grey wash.	19 <sup>th</sup>
104	Coarse Earthenware	4 base sherds; Dish o shallow bowl.	Fine red fabric, black glaze internal. All 4 sherds conjoin.	19 <sup>th</sup>
104	Pearlware	2 base sherds; ringfoot, flatware. 11 body sherds, flatware.	Undecorated. 1-2 vessels represented.	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>
104	Whiteware (dec)	1 lobed rim sherd; bowl or similar. 1 u/d body sherd.	Rim decorated 'flow blue'. Body sherd TP in blue, willow pattern or similar.	19 <sup>th</sup>
301	Slip banded ware	1 u/d body sherd.	Banded dec in cream, blue and pale yellow.	19 <sup>th</sup>
301	Whiteware (unglazed)	2 handle, 1 base, 14 u/d body sherds.	'Biscuit'- fired but unglazed. Some very small fragments.	19 <sup>th</sup>
301	Whiteware (dec)	3 rim sherds; flatware, TP dec in blue. 1 rim sherd; bowl, rim dec with brown band. 5 body sherds; TP dec in blue.	TP dec is 'willow pattern' or similar.	19 <sup>th</sup>
301	Whiteware	1 base sherd; dish or similar. 1 rim sherd; u/d. 8 body sherds; u/d.	Very small fragments.	19 <sup>th</sup>
502	Coarse Earthenware	3 body sherds; u/d.	Partial black glaze on one side.	19 <sup>th</sup>
502	Late Blackware	2 body sherds; u/d.	Fine red fabric, dark brown glaze in and ext.	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>
502	Porcelain	1 body sherd; cup or small	Undecorated. Black accretions	19 <sup>th</sup>

		bowl	may be post-dep.	
502	Whiteware	1 base sherd; ringfoot, flatware. 1 body shed, u/d.		19 <sup>th</sup>
502	Whiteware (dec)	2 base, 1 rim, 3 body sherds; flatware, TP in blue. 2 'shell edge' rim sherds dec in blue.	2 sherds finer TP print.	19 <sup>th</sup>
502	Whiteware (unglazed)	1 lid sherd; teapot or similar. 5 body sherds, holloware.	Lathe turned with formers. Blue banded slip dec on lid.	19 <sup>th</sup>
502	Kiln Furniture	2 fragments of saggar; 1 body, 1 base.	1 ( body) unglazed coarse red fabric, 5% large angular inclusions, 10% small inclusions including quartzite. 1 (base) clear speckled glaze internal. Pale buff fabric, poorly sorted, frequent large (3mm) angular inclusions.	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>
502	u/id	1 body sherd, possible tile.	Overfired, pitted glaze in & ext. Traces of hand-painted dec in blue. Possibly tin-glazed earthenware.	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>
502	u/id	1 earthenware fragment, possibly tyg or similar.	Rolled cylinder squashed flat. Coarse earthenware fabric, frequent white lenticular inclusions.	
602	Whiteware	1 rim sherd, bowl. 1 body sherd, u/d.	Lobed rim.	19 <sup>th</sup>
602	Whiteware (unglazed)	1 base sherd; bowl or similar. 1 body sherd; u/d.		19 <sup>th</sup>
602	Kiln Furniture	2 fragments of saggar; base.	Coarse fabric, glazed int. & ext. 20% poorly sorted sub-angular inclusions. Fabric is reduced from base to core, oxidised on 'upper' surface. Fragments conjoin. 'Upper' surface is pitted and degraded from repeated firings.	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>
701	Coarse Earthenware	2 base sherds; pancheon or similar. 1	1 black glaze, 1 clear glaze over white slipcoat.	19 <sup>th</sup>
701	Late Blackware	4 small body sherds; cup or similar.	Fine red fabric, very occasional very small inclusions. Black glaze int & ext.	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>
701	Pearlware	1 sherd, u/d	Pale fabric. Rilled.	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>
701	Tin Glazed Earthenware	1 rim; teapot lid or similar.	Handpainted underglaze dec in blue and ochre.	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>
701	Whiteware (dec)	1 rim; cup or similar. 1 u/d body sherd.	Rim dec. TP in 'flow blue'. Bods sherd dedc 'spongeware'	19 <sup>th</sup>

701	Whiteware	2 rim; u/d.	Rounded rim.	19 <sup>th</sup>
701	Whiteware (unglazed)	1 body; u/d		19 <sup>th</sup>
801	Coarse Earthenware	7 body sherds; 4 severely abraded.	Black glaze remains on 3 sherds.	19 <sup>th</sup>
801	Late Blackware	4 body sherds; cup or similar.	Thinly potted fine red fabric.	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>
801	Slipware	1 small rim sherd; cup or similar.	Clear glaze on very thin red fabric; minute trace of white slip dec underglaze.	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>
801	Slip-banded ware	2 body sherds; u/d.	Alternating brown and white banded slip dec external. White internal.	19 <sup>th</sup>
801	Stoneware	1 body sherd; 'marmalade jar' type.	Grey wash.	19 <sup>th</sup>
801	Tin Glazed Earthenware	Body sherd, u/d.	Glaze pitted and irregular, no decoration.	18 <sup>th</sup>
801	Whiteware	2 rims; flatware. 5 body sherds, u/d.	1 possible Pearlware	19 <sup>th</sup>
801	Whiteware (unglazed)	1 base; flatware. 3 u/d body.		19 <sup>th</sup>
801	Whiteware (dec)	1 rim; u/d. 2 body; flatware	1 TP blue, 1 TP brown, 1 overglaze dec with gold lustre.	19 <sup>th</sup>
801	Kiln furniture	Rim; saggar.	Partial fragment, possibly failed on firing. Coarse red fabric. Fingerprint on internal face.	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>
9002	Coarse Earthenware	Body sherd, u/d.	White slip coat underglaze.	19 <sup>th</sup>
9002	Porcelain	Body sherd, u/d.		19 <sup>th</sup>
9002	Whiteware	Body sherd, u/d.		19 <sup>th</sup>
1002	Coarse Earthenware	1 rim u/d.	Heavily abraded and pitted.	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>
1002	Porcelain	1 body sherd, hollowware.		19 <sup>th</sup>
1002	Stoneware	1 body, 'marmalade jar' type.	Grey wash.	19 <sup>th</sup>
1002	Whiteware (dec)	2 tile fragments. 1 base; flatware.	Flatware dec in 'flow blue'.	19 <sup>th</sup>
1002	Whiteware	3 tile fragments. 1 u/d body sherd.		19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>
1002	Whiteware (unglazed)	1 body sherd, hollowware.		19 <sup>th</sup>
1002	Misc	1 body sherd.	Appears to be decorated but unglazed. Badly fired, encrusted with black residue.	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>

			Traces of dot and line pattern in blue.	
1102	Coarse Earthenware	2 body sherds; u/d.	Black glaze internal.	19 <sup>th</sup>
1102	Late Blackware	1 body sherd, u/d.	Dark brown glaze int & ext. Could possibly be MMW.	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>
1102	Whiteware	1 rim; TP. 2 body; 1 unglazed.	Rim TP in blue.	19 <sup>th</sup>
1102	Kiln furniture	Earthenware cylinder.	Possible spacer.	?19 <sup>th</sup>
1102	misc	Over-fired whiteware/TGE.	Encrusted with black residue.	?19 <sup>th</sup>

It is not recommended that any of the assemblage requires further analysis, and the material could be discarded subject to agreement from all relevant parties.

## APPENDIX 4: MISCELLANEOUS FINDS ASSESSMENT

*Richard Jackson*

The miscellaneous finds from the site comprises a collection of various object types from the 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. These all represent fairly everyday items. No further work is recommended on this assemblage, and subject to agreement from all relevant parties, it could be discarded.

### Glass Assessment

Context	Description	Date
102	7 u/d sherds. 1 dark green, 1 green, 5 clear	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>
301	2 marbles	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>
701	5 clear window glass. 1 green bottle frag, 1 brown bottle frag	20 <sup>th</sup>
801	2 conjoining base sherds; clear bottle. 1 thick clear window frag. 1 brown bottle frag.	20 <sup>th</sup>
1002	1 bottle frag; shoulder to rim. Patina'd clear glass, stopper-type.	19 <sup>th</sup>
1003	1 clear bottle sherd; body.	20 <sup>th</sup>
1102	Marble	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>

### Clay Pipe Assessment

Context	Description	Date
701	Stem with partial spur	19 <sup>th</sup>
1002	Stem	19 <sup>th</sup>

### Ferrous Material Assessment

Context	Description	Date
102	Metaliferrous residue	19 <sup>th</sup>
301	Metaliferrous residue	19 <sup>th</sup>
701	Metaliferrous residue	19 <sup>th</sup>
801	Fe object, most likely nail. Heavily oxidised.	19 <sup>th</sup>

### CBM

Context	Description	Date
701	2 u/d brick fragments	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>
1002	4 SGSW sewer pipe frags. 1 Tile frag	19 <sup>th</sup>

### Bone

1 u/d fragment from 701

**Miscellaneous**

Context	Object	Date
501	Vitreous slag	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>
701	Plastic button	20 <sup>th</sup>
801	Two pence coin	1971



## APPENDIX 5: PROJECT DESIGN

**Project Design for Archaeological Test-pitting at  
Castle Hills, Mexborough, South Yorkshire**

**Site Location:** Castle Hills, Doncaster Road, Mexborough, S64 0HL  
**NGR:** SK484999  
**Prepared for:** DVLP; Doncaster Council; South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS)

## **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This project design has been prepared for a community archaeological excavation (test-pitting) at Castle Hills, Mexborough, South Yorkshire. The work will be carried out in accordance with this Project Design, and according to the principles of the Chartered Institute for Archaeology (CIfA) Code of Conduct and all relevant standards and guidance.
- 1.2 This work is being carried out as part of the Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership (DVLP), a HLF-funded 5-year programme of projects focussing on the historic buildings and landscapes of the Dearne Valley. By working with local communities, the Partnership aims to protect, preserve and enhance the area. As part of the DVLP, the Archaeology and Geology Project has been established which will enable more of the historic environment of the Dearne Valley to be surveyed through the archaeological investigation of ten sites, of which Castle Hills is one. The project will enhance understanding of the heritage of the area as well as developing skills, knowledge and capacity within local communities.
- 1.3 Local volunteers will play an integral part in this project and will have input at each stage.

## **2 SITE LOCATION & DESCRIPTION**

- 2.1 The site is located off the A6023 Doncaster Road (centred NGR SK484999), on the eastern edge of Mexborough, approximately 9km to the south-west of Doncaster town centre (Figure 1).
- 2.2 Castle Hills is the site of a late 11<sup>th</sup>-century motte and bailey castle, and is a Scheduled Monument (1013650). The monument consists of a circular bailey, c.25m in diameter, with a peripheral motte, c.8m high and c.5m across at the top. The bailey is surrounded by substantial banks rising c.2m above the present inner ground level and c.5m above the outer ditch. Entrance to the bailey is via a defensive approach on the north-west side that survives as an earthwork between the bailey rampart and the motte. A similar but smaller feature can be seen on the south side (Historic England 2016).
- 2.3 Situated on the north bank of the River Don, the site commands the ancient ford at Strafforth Sands (Historic England 2016). The A6023 bounds the site to the north, with houses belonging to Church Street to the south and east. The River Don lies a little further

further to the south, on the opposite side of Church Street. To the immediate west is New Pasture Primary School.

- 2.4 The Castle Hill motte and outwork are clearly visible within a landscaped parkland environment. Access is through a single entranceway from the A6023/Doncaster Road. The park is open to the public and contains the castle earthworks, a dilapidated bandstand and two war memorials.

### **3 SITE HISTORY**

- 3.1 The following history of the site is taken from the DVLP Heritage Audit (ArcHeritage 2013).
- 3.2 Motte and bailey castles were introduced into Yorkshire only after the Norman Conquest of 1066 and Castle Hill is likely to have been built by one of the sub-tenants of Roger de Busli, the Norman lord of Tickhill, who controlled Mexborough in the late 11<sup>th</sup> century. Due to its size, the motte at Mexborough is likely to have been topped by only a small wooden tower. David Hey has stated that the tower was not rebuilt in stone (Hey 2002) but this is contradicted by the English Heritage Scheduled Ancient Monument notification which states that 'the stone visible in the top of the motte' may be 'part of the foundations of a stone tower' (Historic England 2016).
- 3.3 It is not clear when Castle Hill became disused, although if Hey is correct and the site's defences were not rebuilt in stone, this suggests that the site was abandoned prior to the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century when stonework began to replace timber defences at English castles (Thompson 1991). Castle Hill's history during the later medieval period is unknown.
- 3.4 During the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, the Yorkshire antiquarian and historian, Roger Dodsworth, stated that there 'hath once been a castle' at Mexborough but did not sketch the remains as he had with those of a motte and bailey castle at Hickleton. This may suggest that few, if any, standing features survived at the site by this period.
- 3.5 Castle Hill was not marked on Thomas Jefferys' 1771 map of Yorkshire or Christopher Greenwood's 1817 map of the county. The Sheffield historian, Joseph Hunter, provided an early account of the site, describing the remains as an elliptical area surrounded by a high mound of earth, with a conical tumulus and an outwork beyond the ditch (Hunter 1828).
- 3.6 Castle Hill is shown clearly on the 1839 Mexborough tithe map. Despite its detail, this depiction showed the motte and the smaller outwork to the south-west as approximately the same size, while a semi-circular or 'half-moon' earthwork (Armitage 1897, 56) at the north-west was shown inaccurately as a U-shaped feature.
- 3.7 The latter feature, a 'curious little lunette-shaped banked enclosure', was subsequently interpreted by I. Chalkley Gould as 'the remains of a protected entrance-way: a sort of barbican, moated, banked and palisaded, which projected to guard the entrance to the fortress' (Chalkley Gould 1904, 38-39). This suggests that access into the castle would have been from the north-west during the medieval period.
- 3.8 The secondary, sub-circular ditched outwork that stood to the south-west of the motte is likely to have been located 'where additional defence was necessary' (Hamilton Thomson

1912, 51). No tracks were shown leading directly to the earthworks on the tithe map and the site's condition was described in the accompanying tithe apportionment as 'grass'.

- 3.9 Little detail was shown at Castle Hill on the 1841 Ordnance Survey first series map and, while the respective sizes of the motte and the outwork were shown correctly on the 1855 Ordnance Survey map, no attempt was made to distinguish between the site's banks, mounds and ditches at that date. G.T. Clark's 1884 plan of Castle Hill showed the site in greater detail than previous depictions and indicated that the ditches of the motte and the outwork intersected.
- 3.10 The 'half-moon enclosure' to the north-west of the motte was shown abutting the main ditch on the 1892 Ordnance Survey map. The northern extremity of the ditch had been truncated by this date, probably in association with the construction of a rectangular building and a series of sheds on the south side of Doncaster Road.
- 3.11 Ella Armitage stated that the Castle Hill motte was 'much worn down from its original height' by 1897, although the outwork retained its bank at that date and the bank 'on the counterscarp' also remained visible' (Armitage 1897, 56). When visiting Castle Hill in 1898, Sidney Addy was prevented by heavy fog from taking what would have been the earliest known photographs of the earthworks (Addy 1898).
- 3.12 Little change was shown at the site on the 1903 Ordnance Survey map and paths that led onto the motte and the outwork were the principal additions shown on I. Chalkley Gould's 1904 plan of the site (Chalkley Gould 1904). A 1908 plan by A. Hadrian Allcroft showed a continuous bank and ditch around the motte and the outwork, with the exception of a track that led onto the motte from the west (Hadrian Allcroft 1908).
- 3.13 Castle Hills was donated to the people of Mexborough as a recreation ground in 1908 and was shown as 'Castle Hills Park' on the 1930 Ordnance Survey map. Paths and areas of shrubbery had been established on the southern part of the earthworks by that date, along with a war memorial to the north-west.
- 3.14 Landscaping works associated with the creation of the park appear to have truncated the half-moon enclosure by 1930 and a bandstand had been built on the motte by 1958. The half-moon enclosure had been removed by the time of the 1967 Ordnance Survey map. While this is likely to have impacted on the site's medieval entrance, no archaeological finds are known to have been reported in association with these works.
- 3.15 While mature trees are present throughout the site, the condition of the earthworks is generally good, with little erosion from footfall.

#### **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST**

- 4.1 The earthworks survive in good condition, and there is no known record of any previous archaeological work on the site. The question over whether the building upon the motte was constructed of wood or stone, or perhaps both in separate phases of building, could be addressed during this project.
- 4.2 Test pitting outside of the Scheduled area may serve to indicate how far the bailey extended.

4.3 This monument is an excellent example of its type, although remains relatively unknown and under-appreciated, even amongst the residents of Mexborough. It is hoped that through this project, local residents will engage with the monument and raise its profile, so that it can be widely enjoyed and understood by the local community.

## 5 AIMS

5.1 The aims of the archaeological excavation are:

- to engage and upskill members of the local community
- to work with New Pastures Primary School to promote the site and involve the pupils in the excavation of the test pits, and to facilitate classroom based workshop and activities.
- To work with the Mexborough and District Heritage Society, to involve members and upskill them in techniques of archaeology investigation, and to promote the site amongst a wider audience.
- to determine if the building on the motte was wood or stone
- to determine the extent, condition, character, importance and date of any below-ground archaeological remains present
- to provide information that will enable the remains to be placed within their local, regional, and national context and for an assessment of the significance of the archaeology of the proposal area to be made
- to provide information which will guide further work and restoration at the site.

## 6 TEST PIT RATIONALE

6.1 The site is a Scheduled Monument and no work will take place within the Scheduled area until Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) has been granted. This project design will be finalised once the SMC has been granted; as such, all proposed test pit locations are provisional until approved by Historic England. Proposed test pit locations are shown in Figure 3.

6.2 All test pits will measure 1x1m and excavated to a maximum depth of 1m. The table below and Figure 3 demonstrates the location of the envisaged maximum number of test pits that will be excavated. It is possible that not all of these will be excavated, depending on volunteer participation. It is not expected that more than six test pits will be excavated within the area of the Scheduled Monument. No change to the number or location of excavated test pits within the Scheduled Monument will take place without the consent of Historic England.

Test Pit No.	Location	Dimensions (m)	Rationale
1	SM	1x1	Investigate the survival/nature of the building upon the motte
2	SM	1x1	Investigate the survival/nature of the building upon the motte

3	SM	1x1	Investigate the earthworks within the bailey
4	SM	1x1	Investigate the earthworks within the bailey
5	SM	1x1	Investigate the 'crescent-shaped' earthwork, what has previously been described as the entrance to the motte
6	SM	1x1	Within the ditch of the motte – investigate the possibility of a moat?
7	School field (Doncaster Road)	1x1	To determine whether activity around the motte and bailey extended into what is now the school playing field
8	School field (Pitt Street)	1x1	To determine whether activity around the motte and bailey extended into what is now the school playing field
9	Public playing field	1x1	Investigate faint earthworks – possible extension of bailey/settlement?
10	Public playing field	1x1	Investigate faint earthworks – possible extension of bailey/settlement?

## 7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

- 7.1 Test pits will be excavated in predetermined locations, provisionally identified in Figure 3 and detailed in the above table.
- 7.2 The pits within the Scheduled area will not exceed those dimensions agreed by Historic England, nor will their locations be altered, without further consent from Historic England.
- 7.3 The test pits will be entirely dug by hand. The turf will be removed and set to one side. Deposits will be stored separately. The test pits will be excavated until archaeological features are identified, or until the underlying geology is encountered.
- 7.4 The test pit locations will be accurately plotted using a survey grade GPS. This will provide sub 0.5m accuracy or sub 20mm accuracy if mobile phone signals are available. All test pits will be locatable on a 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map. This is to ensure that the trenches can be independently relocated in the event of future work.
- 7.5 Each pit will be photographed. If a pit is archaeologically sterile, the relative depths below ground level of each soil layer will be recorded. Any archaeological features will be drawn, following standard conventions (see section 8). Context numbers will be assigned to each identifiable soil layer.
- 7.6 Any artefacts will be recorded to individual test pits and will be bagged and recorded by context.
- 7.7 Any *in situ* archaeological features will be cleaned, recorded and left undisturbed. The planning archaeologist will be notified.

7.8 The most representative section of each pit will be hand-cleaned, photographed and drawn.

## 8 RECORDING METHODOLOGY FOR EXCAVATION

8.1 All archaeological contexts and soil horizons will be recorded using standardised pro forma record sheets. Plans, sections and elevations will be drawn as appropriate and a comprehensive photographic record will be made

8.2 Each context will be described in full on a pro forma context record sheet in accordance with the accepted context record conventions. Each context will be given a unique number. These field records will be checked and indexes compiled.

8.3 Photographs of work in progress and post-excavation of the test pits. This will include general views and detailed views. The photographic record will comprise 35mm format black and white film. Digital photography may be used in addition, but will not form any part of the formal site archive. All site photography will adhere to accepted photographic record guidelines.

8.4 All artefacts and ecofacts will be appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions, as detailed in the RESCUE/UKIC publication *First Aid for Finds*, and recording systems must be compatible with the recipient museum. All finds that fall within the purview of the Treasure Act (1996) will be reported to HM Coroner according to the procedures outlined in the Act, after discussion with the client and the local authority.

8.5 An environmental sampling programme will be undertaken for the recovery and identification of charred and waterlogged remains where suitable deposits are identified. The collection and processing of environmental samples will be undertaken in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 2011). Environmental and soil specialists will be consulted during the course of the excavation with regard to the implementation of this sampling programme. The sampling regime will include samples of the two types of deposit sample as appropriate. These are described below:

- **Bulk-sieved Sample (BS).** Sample size will depend upon the context/feature size, but should be up to 40-60 litres in size (if the context size allows). They are taken for the recovery of charcoal, burnt seeds, bone and artefacts. The samples will be processed (flotation) on site where possible with 1mm and 500micron sieves on a rack to collect the carbonised washover. The retents and flots will then be dried, sorted and assessed to advise the potential for further analysis.
- **General Biological Sample (GBA):** These are only taken if a deposit is waterlogged. A 10 litre sample size will be used (if the context size allows). These samples will be processed in the laboratory, to recover macrofossils and microscopic remains such as pollen and insects.

8.6 Other samples will be taken, as appropriate, in consultation with ArcHeritage specialists and the English Heritage Regional Science Advisor, as appropriate (e.g. dendrochronology, soil micromorphology, monolith samples, C14, etc.). Samples will be taken for scientific dating where necessary for the development of subsequent mitigation strategies. Material removed

from site will be stored in appropriate controlled environments.

- 8.7 In the event of human remains being discovered during the excavation these will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected, in the first instance. The removal of human remains will only take place in compliance with environmental health regulations and following discussions with, and with the approval of, the Secretary of State.

## **9 SPECIALIST ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS**

- 9.1 The stratigraphic information, artefacts, soil samples, and residues will be assessed as to their potential and significance for further analysis and study. The material will be quantified (counted and weighted). All finds will be cleaned, marked and labelled as appropriate, prior to assessment.
- 9.2 All materials will initially be assessed by specialists who will identify assemblages/material requiring further analysis. Such analysis will be undertaken and appropriately detailed specialist reports will be included in the report. For ceramic assemblages, any recognised local pottery reference collections and relevant fabric Codes will be used.
- 9.3 Materials considered vulnerable will be selected for stabilisation after specialist recording. Where intervention is necessary, consideration must be given to possible investigative procedures. Allowance will be made for preliminary conservation and stabilization of all objects and a written assessment of long-term conservation and storage needs will be produced. Once assessed, all material will be packed and stored in optimum conditions, in accordance with Watkinson and Neal (1998), ClFA (2007) and Museums and Galleries (1992).
- 9.4 Allowance will be made for the recovery of material suitable for scientific dating and contingency sums will be made available to undertake such dating, if necessary. This will be decided in consultation with the local curatorial archaeologist.

## **10 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

- 10.1 After a preliminary meeting with the headmistress and a governor of New Pastures Primary School, the test-pitting will involve pupils from the school. Prior to the fieldwork starting, short classroom based activities will be undertaken to introduce the pupils to the aims and methods of the works to be undertaken.
- 10.2 Members of the Mexborough and District Heritage Society will also be involved in the project, being offered the chance to help to excavate the test pits.
- 10.3 The involvement of members of the local community, such as the staff and pupils of New Pastures School and the Mexborough and District Heritage Society, will allow numerous engagement and upskilling opportunities within the community. The methods below were identified within the Dearne Valley Landscape Partnership Community Engagement Plan and Delivery Statement (ArcHeritage 2016) as the main means by which communities could be engaged and benefit from this project, and which are relevant to this project. Educational research has shown that people learn best through hands-on activities, and wherever possible skills training will be delivered on site in this way. A Skills Passport will be offered to all adult



individual involved in the project, should they wish to maintain a formal log of the training they receive.

10.4 **Research skills:** Knowing how to target certain types of information is an important skill which is also extremely transferable. Training workshops in research skills have already successfully been delivered at Barnsley Archives, training community groups in the use of archive and library resources as well as the use of relevant online resources. A similar workshop could be delivered at Doncaster Archives, in conjunction with the heritage and archive teams, to include resources that are relevant to this project.

10.5 **Theoretical skills:** Understanding who holds information on the historic environment, and how to get it, is an essential tool for community groups. A project design workshop has already been held in which volunteers were introduced to the use of HERs, SMRs, Historic England, English Heritage and other organisations that have some kind of custodianship over historic environment data. Equally important is understanding the different designations that may apply to sites (Listing, Scheduling, etc.) and the legal and logistical obligations that would be involved in gaining the appropriate consents. As such, a talk by Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments Neil Redfern was successfully delivered to community volunteers regarding the role of Historic England and the meaning of heritage designations to sites.

10.6 **Fieldwork and survey skills:** It is hoped that the project will engage a wide demographic, including school children. Skills participants are expected to be taught during the test-pitting excavation include:

- the principles of stratigraphy
- excavation techniques
- context recording
- drawing (plans and sections)
- soil sampling and processing
- photography
- artefact retrieval and handling

10.7 **Post-excavation skills and Archiving :** The post-excavation process is a crucial part of any project. During site works, the post-excavation processes will be embedded into the excavation, aiming to wash, catalogue and package artefacts on site, and if possible process samples on site too. The advantage of this is that participants who do not wish to excavate still feel included in the excavation process, and the excavators can see the artefacts they have recovered. An understanding of the processes and level of documentation required during the post-excavation process also greatly improves excavation skills.

The importance of the 'primary archive' cannot be understated. We will include basic archive preparation as part of our excavation programmes, so the participants are aware of the importance of recording the excavation in detail, and why. The final site archive will be prepared by ArcHeritage Staff as outlined in section 11.3, below.

## 11 REPORT & ARCHIVE PREPARATION

- 11.1 Upon completion of the site work, a report will be prepared by ArcHeritage to include the following:
- a) A non-technical summary of the results of the work.
  - b) An introduction which will include the planning reference number, grid reference and dates when the fieldwork took place.
  - c) An account of the methodology and detailed results of the operation.
  - d) A brief description of each test pit (or groups of similar pits) and structural data, archaeological features, associated finds and environmental data, and a conclusion and discussion.
  - e) illustrations showing the location of each test pit
  - f) distribution maps showing the quantity, date and type of artefacts
  - g) A selection of photographs and drawings, including a detailed plan of the site accurately identifying the areas monitored, trench locations, selected feature drawings, and selected artefacts, and phased feature plans where appropriate.
  - h) Specialist artefact and environmental reports where undertaken, and a context list/index.
  - i) Details of archive location and destination (with accession number, where known), together with a context list and catalogue of what is contained in that archive.
  - j) A copy of the key OASIS form details
  - k) Copies of the Brief and WSI
  - l) Additional photographic images may be supplied on a CDROM appended to the report
- 11.2 Two copies of the report will be submitted to the DVLP, with additional copies offered to New Pastures Primary School and the Mexborough and District Heritage Society. A bound and digital copy of the report will be submitted to SYAS for inclusion into the HER.
- 11.3 The information contained in the report will enable decisions to be taken regarding the future treatment of the archaeology of the site and any material recovered during the test pitting.
- 11.3 An archive will be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections and photographs. Catalogues of contexts, finds, soil samples, plans, sections and photographs will be produced. ArcHeritage will liaise with the depository museum (in this case Doncaster Museum) prior to the commencement of fieldwork to establish the detailed curatorial requirements of the museum and discuss archive transfer and to complete the relevant museum forms.
- 11.4 Depending on the contents of the finds assemblage from the site, the assemblage may be retained and used as a teaching collection, rather than deposited with Doncaster Museum. This decision will be made following consultation with Historic England, SYAS, and Doncaster Museum, following the completion of fieldwork and the finds analysis.
- 11.5 The owner of the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in the information and documentation arising from the work, would grant a licence to the Local Authority and the museum accepting the archive to use such documentation for their statutory functions and provide copies to third parties as an incidental to such functions. Under the Environmental

Information Regulations (EIR), such documentation is required to be made available to enquirers if it meets the test of public interest. Any information disclosure issues would be resolved between the client and the archaeological contractor before completion of the work. EIR requirements do not affect IPR.

- 11.6 Upon completion of the project an OASIS form will be completed at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>.

## **12 PUBLICATION**

- 12.1 If significant results are recovered from the works the results of the work will be publicised through publication in an appropriate journal.

## **13 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- 13.1 Health and safety issues will take priority over archaeological matters and all archaeologists will comply with relevant Health and Safety Legislation.
- 13.2 A Risk Assessment has been prepared and will be provided to the client prior to the start of site works.

## **14 PRE-START REQUIREMENTS**

- 14.1 ArcHeritage will be responsible for securing SMC from Historic England. Doncaster Council will be responsible for ensuring site access has been secured prior to the commencement of site works. ArcHeritage will ensure that the test pits remain suitably fenced off at all times.

## **15 REINSTATEMENT**

- 15.1 The test pits will be backfilled with the spoil excavated from the from the test pits. The spoil will be backfilled in reverse order to re-establish the soil profile. Tuft will be re-laid.

## **16 TIMETABLE & STAFFING**

- 16.1 The exact dates of work will be determined at a later date following discussions with the participating school, however, it is envisaged that the work will be completed before the end of October 2017, and will not exceed five days in total. Historic England will be notified as soon as the dates of fieldwork are confirmed.

- 16.2 Specialist staff available for this work are as follows:

- Human Remains - Malin Holst (York Osteoarchaeology Ltd)
- Palaeoenvironmental remains – Ellen Simmons (University of Sheffield)
- Head of Curatorial Services - Christine McDonnell
- Finds Researcher – Nienke van Doorn
- Medieval and Post-medieval Pottery – Ann Jenner

- Conservation - Ian Panter

## 17 MONITORING OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWORK

- 17.1 As a minimum requirement, SYAS will be given a minimum of one week's notice of work commencing on site, and will be afforded the opportunity to visit the site during and prior to completion of the on-site works so that the general stratigraphy of the site can be assessed and to discuss the requirement any further phases of archaeological work. ArcHeritage will notify Historic England and SYAS of any discoveries of archaeological significance so that site visits can be made, as necessary.

## 18 COPYRIGHT

- 18.1 ArcHeritage retain the copyright on this document. It has been prepared expressly for the named client, and may not be passed to third parties for use or for the purpose of gathering quotations.

## 19 KEY REFERENCES

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See also the website of the ClfA for all Guidance and Standards documentation.  
<http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa>

See also the Historic England website for a full list of guidance documents.  
<http://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/recording-heritage/>

## FIGURES

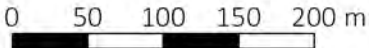
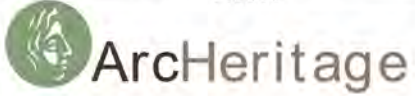
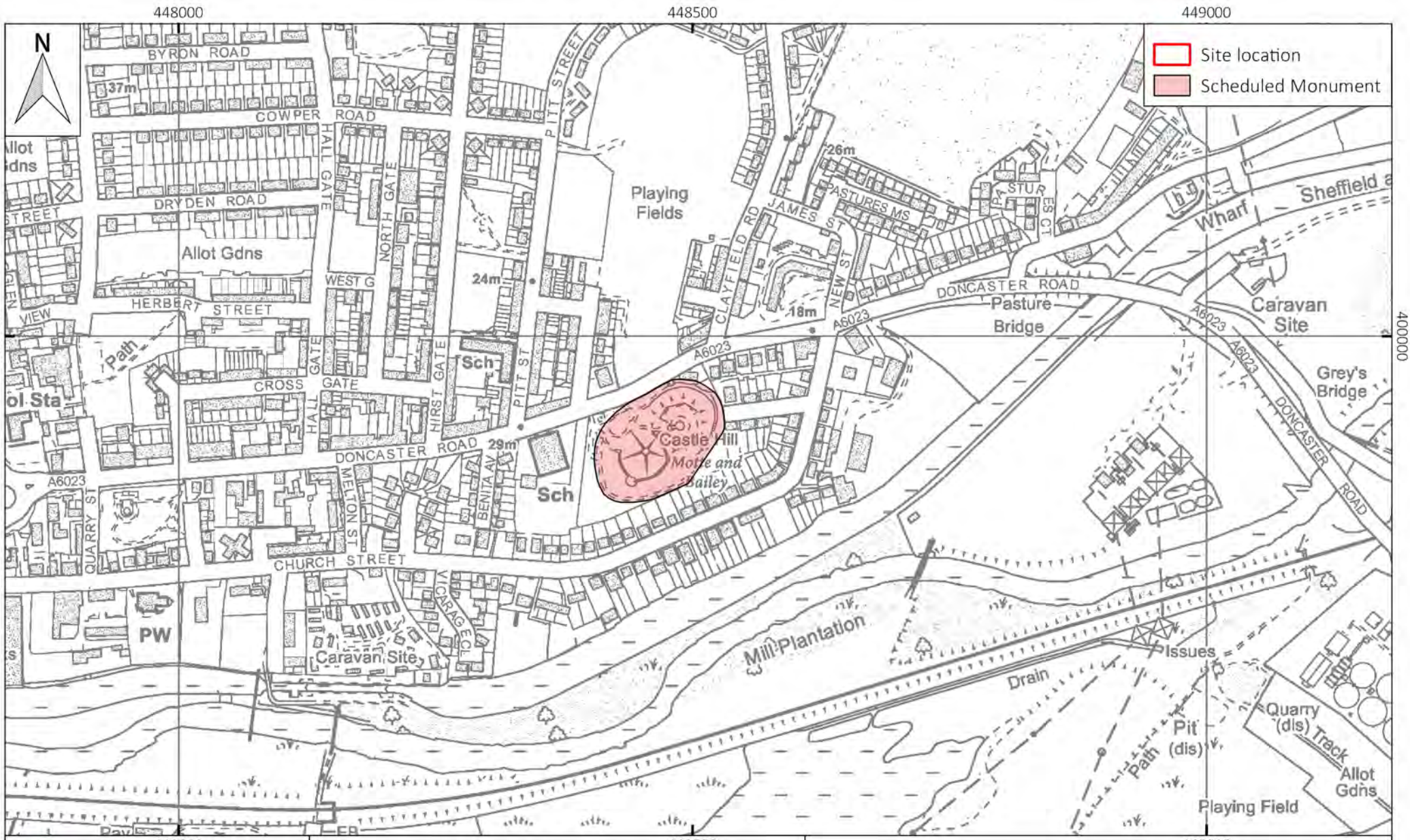
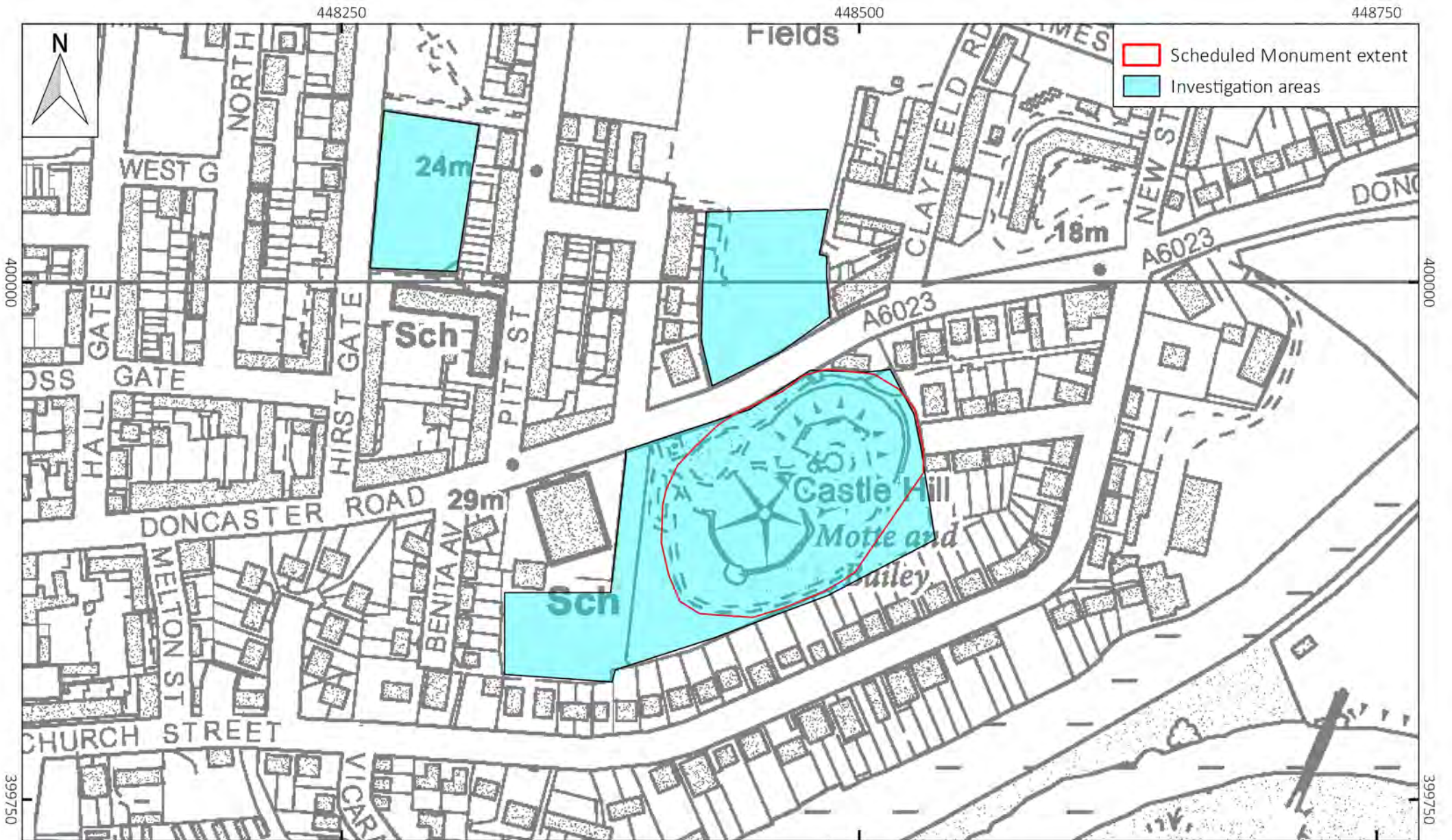
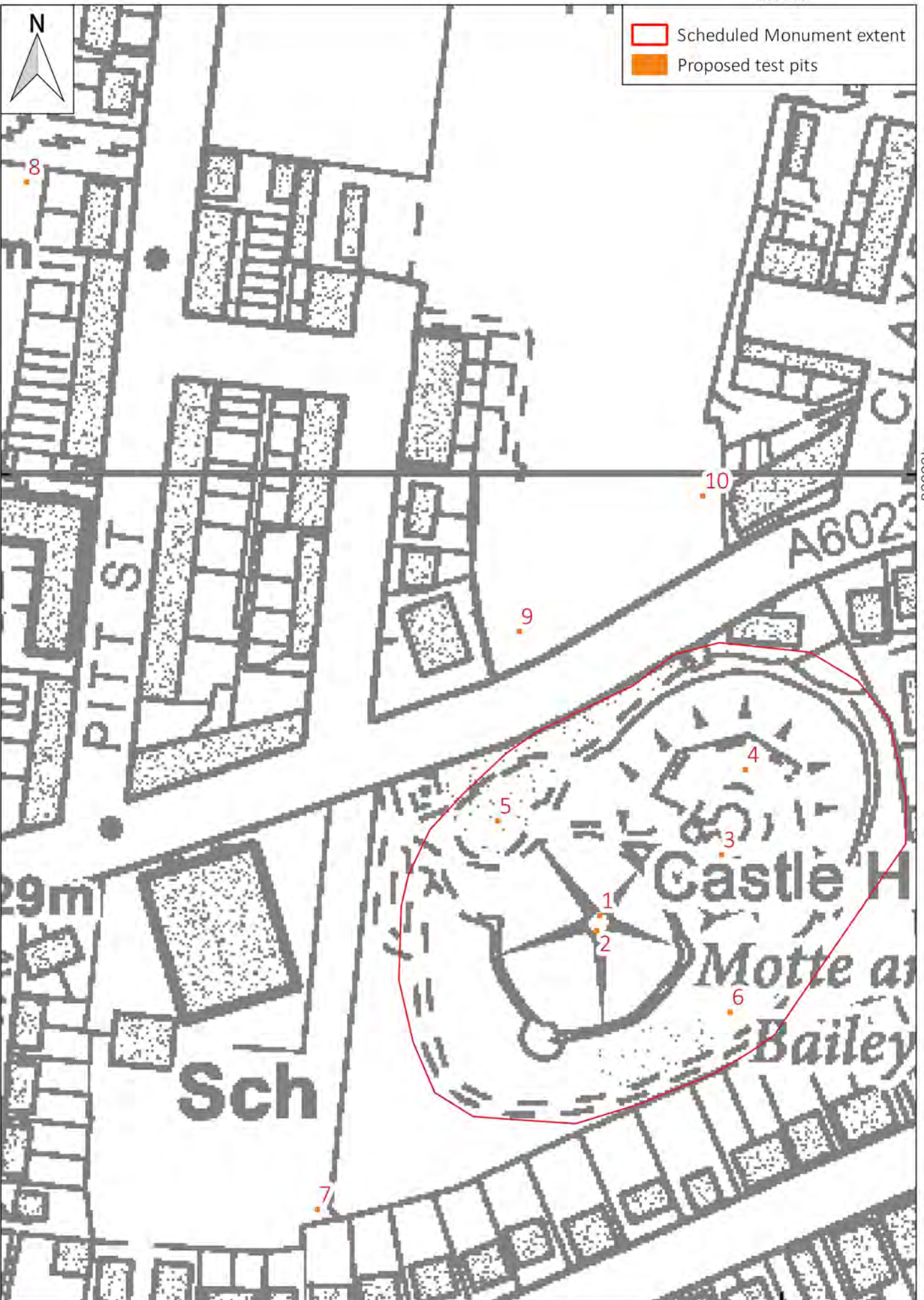


Figure 1: Site location







# ArcHeritage

54 Campo Lane, Sheffield, S1 2EG

tel: +44 (0)114 2728884

email: [archeritage@yorkat.co.uk](mailto:archeritage@yorkat.co.uk)

[www.archeritage.co.uk](http://www.archeritage.co.uk)

