



DAVENTRY UTC NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Archaeological Evaluation Report





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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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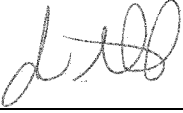
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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of Shepherd Construction, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of a proposed new University Technical College (UTC) on land off Ashby Road, Daventry, Northamptonshire ('the Site' **Figure 1**). The Site has been subject to very low level test pitting (Upson-Smith 2010) as part of a wider scheme. No archaeological finds or features were encountered in the test pit excavated within the Site although the presence of ridge and furrow earthworks was noted.

As a result of the archaeological potential of the Site, Northamptonshire County Council produced a brief (NCC 2012) outlining the requirement for four 30m evaluation trenches, and a topographic survey of extant earthworks.

This evaluation revealed the remains of several furrows and a post-medieval/modern ditch. All the features were thought to be of agricultural origin, and no dating evidence was retrieved from any of the features during the course of the evaluation.

This report has been prepared in accordance with current industry best practice (IfA 2008a) and in accordance with IfA Codes of Conduct (2010), and will be submitted to CgMs Consulting Ltd and NCC for approval.

The archive is currently held at Wessex Archaeology's Sheffield offices and will be deposited with an appropriate museum in due course, under a relevant accession number.

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of Shepherd Construction, and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Paul Gajos of CgMs in this respect. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful to Liz Mordue of Northampton County Council (NCC) who monitored the work.

The report was compiled by Alex Sotheran and illustrations were prepared by Chris Breeden. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Andrew Norton. Fieldwork was directed by Alex Sotheran with the assistance of Dane Wright.

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of Shepherd Construction, to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of a proposed new University Technical College off Ashby Road, Daventry, Northamptonshire (UTC; 'the Site' **Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The Site has been subject to very low level test pitting (Upson-Smith 2010) as part of a wider scheme. No archaeological finds or features were encountered in the test pit excavated within the Site, although the presence of ridge and furrow earthworks was noted.
- 1.1.3 As a result of the archaeological potential of the Site, Northamptonshire County Council produced a brief (NCC 2012) outlining the requirement for four 30m evaluation trenches, and a topographic survey of extant earthworks. This report details the archaeological results of that evaluation.
- 1.1.4 This report has been prepared in accordance with current industry best practice (IfA 2008a) and in accordance with IfA Codes of Conduct (2010), and will be submitted to CgMs Consulting Ltd and NCC for approval.

1.2 The Site, Location and Geology

- 1.2.1 The Site (**Figure 1**) is c. 0.84ha in area and located within a recreation ground in the centre of Daventry, Northamptonshire (NGR 457180 263060). The Site is bounded by Ashby Road to the west, Eastern Way to the south, and a community centre and schools to the north and east.
- 1.2.2 The Site lies on Dyrham Formation (Siltstone and Mudstone) and Marlstone Rock Formation (Ferruginous Limestone), and is located at c. 146m AOD (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geology_ofbritain/home.html).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 General

- 2.1.1 The following is summarised from the previous archaeological evaluation report (Upson-Smith 2010). The Site had previously been subject to a desk based assessment (DBA) as part of a Cultural Heritage chapter for an Environmental Impact Assessment (Chapter 15, Cultural Heritage). The documents identified that the area had potential to contain significant archaeological activity. The Extensive Urban Survey for Daventry also provides information on the archaeological potential of the area. The Site is located on the northern side of Daventry in an area that historically has been

seen as part of the open field system, as evidenced by the surviving ridge and furrow earthworks within the Site.

3 AIMS AND SCOPE OF WORK

3.1 General

3.1.1 The general aims of the project are:

- to record the extant earthworks in order to create detailed records of the surface features to better understand the nature of the surviving medieval ridge and furrow;
- to identify the presence or absence of any archaeological deposits within the Site;
- to determine the extent, condition, character, significance and date of any archaeological deposits encountered;
- to accurately record any revealed archaeological deposits;
- to recover artefacts disturbed by the Site works;
- to prepare a comprehensive archive, record and report of any archaeological deposits disturbed by the Site works;
- to aid the production of a mitigation strategy for the Site.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Topographic Survey

4.1.1 The Site has been subject to a topographic survey and the data forwarded to Wessex Archaeology. The survey was conducted using survey grade DGPS equipment, and comprised readings every 3m at 10m transects, with more frequent readings where necessary.

4.1.2 The survey has been referenced to the national grid and a plan produced from the results, detailing the profile of the ridge and furrow and any other earthworks (**Figure 2**).

4.1.3 Two long sections have been produced, detailing the profile of the ridge and furrow and other key earthworks (**Figures 3 and 4**).

4.2 Evaluation Trenching

4.2.1 The trenches were located by means of a RTK GPS system and tied into the OS grid (within 0.1m) (**Figure 1**). All trenches were scanned using a CAT to check for uncharted services prior to machining. Topsoil or overburden was removed using a mechanical excavator (JCB) fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, working under the continuous direct supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist. Topsoil was removed in a series of level spits down to the level of the upper archaeological horizon, or the level of the natural geology, whichever was reached first.

- 4.2.2 All trenches were hand-cleaned (if necessary) to clarify the extent of any revealed archaeological remains. Where archaeological features and deposits were encountered, excavation was carried out by hand.
- 4.2.3 All recording took place in accordance with standard Wessex Archaeology methodologies and the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2012). All works were undertaken in accordance with the relevant Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) Standard and Guidance, the IfA Code of Conduct, and other current and relevant best practice and standards and guidance (IfA 2008a and b).
- 4.2.4 The trenches were backfilled with arisings following the evaluation, once NCC and CgMs were satisfied that the excavation had been carried out to an appropriate standard.

5 EVALUATION RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The following section is a summary of the information held in the Site archive. Trench locations are shown in **Figure 1**. Observed deposits for each trench are summarised in **Appendix 1** and referred to in the text in bold. The dimension of each trench was 30m long by 1.80m wide.

5.2 Trench 1

- 5.2.1 Trench 1 (**Figure 1, Plate 1**) contained no archaeological remains except two modern field drains, both of which had a north-east to south-west orientation. The natural (**1003**) was light brownish yellow sandy clay, above which lay a buried ploughsoil (**1002**), which was light greyish brown sandy clay with a depth of 0.20m. The topsoil (**1001**) comprised a humic greyish brown clayey silt which was 0.16m in depth.

5.3 Trench 2

- 5.3.1 The natural geology (**2004**) of Trench 2 (**Figure 1**) was a light brownish yellow sandy clay, into which were cut three furrows of which only one was investigated (**2003**). The furrow **2003 (Plate 2)** was a shallow sided cut, which had a maximum depth of 0.15m and ran in an approximate north to south orientation. The single fill (**2002**) was a mid brown silty clay and contained no dating evidence.
- 5.3.2 The modern topsoil (**2001**) had a maximum depth of 0.35m and overlay the entire trench.

5.4 Trench 3

- 5.4.1 Cut into the natural geology (**3003**) of Trench 3 (**Figure 1, Plate 3**) were two furrows that had an approximate north to south orientation. Although these were not assigned context numbers, the eastern furrow was excavated and was 1.45m wide with a depth of 0.15m.
- 5.4.2 An assumed east-west aligned field drain was also identified at the north-eastern extent of Trench 3. The drain found to be 0.48m wide and 0.15m deep and appeared to continue into Trench 1.

- 5.4.3 A buried ploughsoil (**3002**) had a maximum depth of 0.20m across the trench and was covered by the topsoil (**3001**), which was 0.10m deep.

5.5 Trench 4

- 5.5.1 The natural geology (**4003**) of Trench 4 (**Figure 1, Figure 5**) was truncated by three furrows, two of which had a north-west to south-east orientation, the third having a north-east to south-west orientation.

- 5.5.2 The natural geology was overlain by a buried ploughsoil (subsoil **4002**), which had a maximum depth of 0.23m. Cut through subsoil **4002** was a steep sided ditch **4004**. This ditch had a depth of 1m with a width of 1.40m. Although the fill (**4005**) was made up of various lenses and tipping layers it was given a single number. These layers indicated that the ditch was probably deliberately backfilled rather than filling through natural erosion.

- 5.5.3 The ditch **4004** was cut from above the subsoil (**4002**), indicating that the ditch was relatively recent in age, although no dating material was retrieved from the deposits. The topsoil (**4001**) had a maximum depth of 0.20m.

6 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

6.1 General

- 6.1.1 No artefacts were recovered from any of the features in the four trenches, and no deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered during the archaeological evaluation.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 General

- 7.1.1 The majority of the revealed cut features comprised furrows still visible within the topography of the Site (**Figure 2**), and likely to be of post-medieval origin. An undated ditch was revealed within Trench 4, which was cut through the subsoil (a buried plough soil) and is likely to represent a post-medieval/modern feature.

- 7.1.2 The topographic survey demonstrated that the extant ridge and furrows were most prominent in the west of the Site, but were generally very truncated. Two cut features were observed in the centre of Site, which were likely to represent modern pits; an extant earthwork was noticed to the north of one pit and is likely to represent the resulting upcast. A linear bank was observed in the south of the Site, which was of uncertain origin.

- 7.1.3 There was no further evidence to suggest that the site was occupied in antiquity.

8 ARCHIVE AND COPYRIGHT

8.1 Archive

8.1.1 The archive will be deposited with an appropriate museum in due course, under the relevant accession number.

8.1.2 The Site archive will be prepared in line with United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (2001), Museums and Galleries Commission (1992), English Heritage (2006) guidelines and the requirements of the local Museums Service.

8.2 Copyright

8.2.1 This report, and the archive generally, may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

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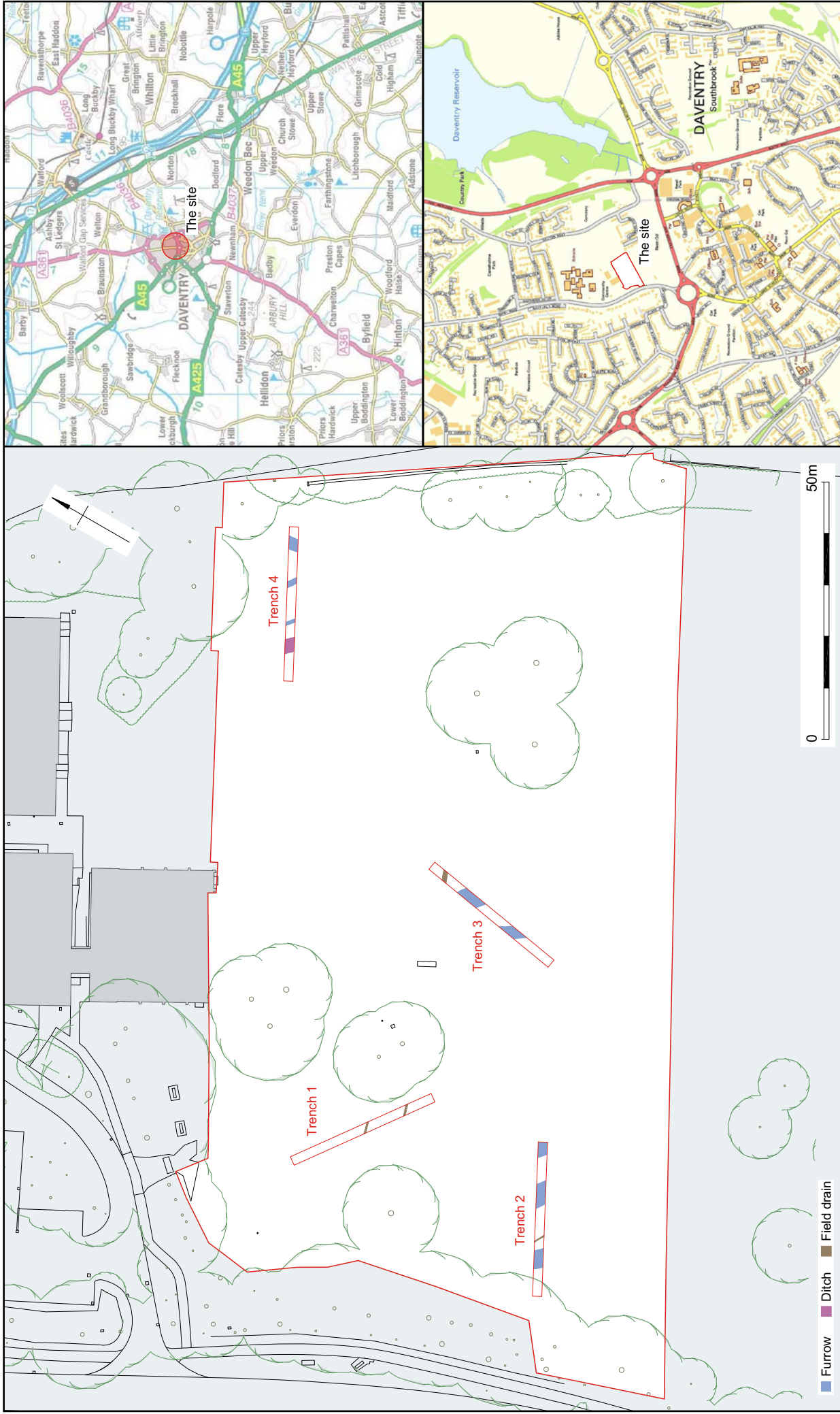
APPENDIX 1: TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No. 1		Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m Max depth: 0.38m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
1001	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown humic clayey silty loam.	0 - 0.16m
1002	Subsoil: Light yellowish brown sandy clay loam with occasional charcoal flecks and small rounded stones	0.16 – 0.36m
1003	Natural: Light brownish yellow sandy clay with occasional small rounded stones.	0.36m +

Trench No. 2		Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m Max depth: 0.35m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
2001	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown humic clayey silty loam.	0 – 0.35m
2002	Fill of Furrow: Mid orangey brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks. Single fill of furrow 2003 .	0.35 – 0.50m
2003	Cut of Furrow: Shallow sided cut of furrow filled by 2002 .	0.35 – 0.50m
2004	Natural: Light brownish yellow sandy clay with occasional small stones.	0.35m+

Trench No. 3		Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m Max depth: 0.33m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
3001	Topsoil: Dark greyish brown humic clayey silty loam.	0 – 0.10m
3002	Subsoil: Light yellowish brown sandy clay loam with occasional rounded stones.	0.10 – 0.30m
3003	Natural: Light yellow sandy clay with occasional small stones.	0.30m +

Trench No. 4		Dimensions: 30m x 1.8m Max depth: 0.45m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
4001	Topsoil: Dark brownish grey silty clay loam.	0 – 0.20m
4002	Subsoil: Light yellowish brown sandy clay loam.	0.20 – 0.43m
4003	Natural: Light yellowish orange clay.	0.45m+
4004	Cut of Ditch: Steep sided cut for NW-SE ditch with a width of 1.40m and depth of 1.00m. Filled by 4005 .	0.20 – 1.20m
4005	Fill of Ditch: Mixed fill of 4004 including layers of tipping.	0.20 – 1.20m



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Site plan

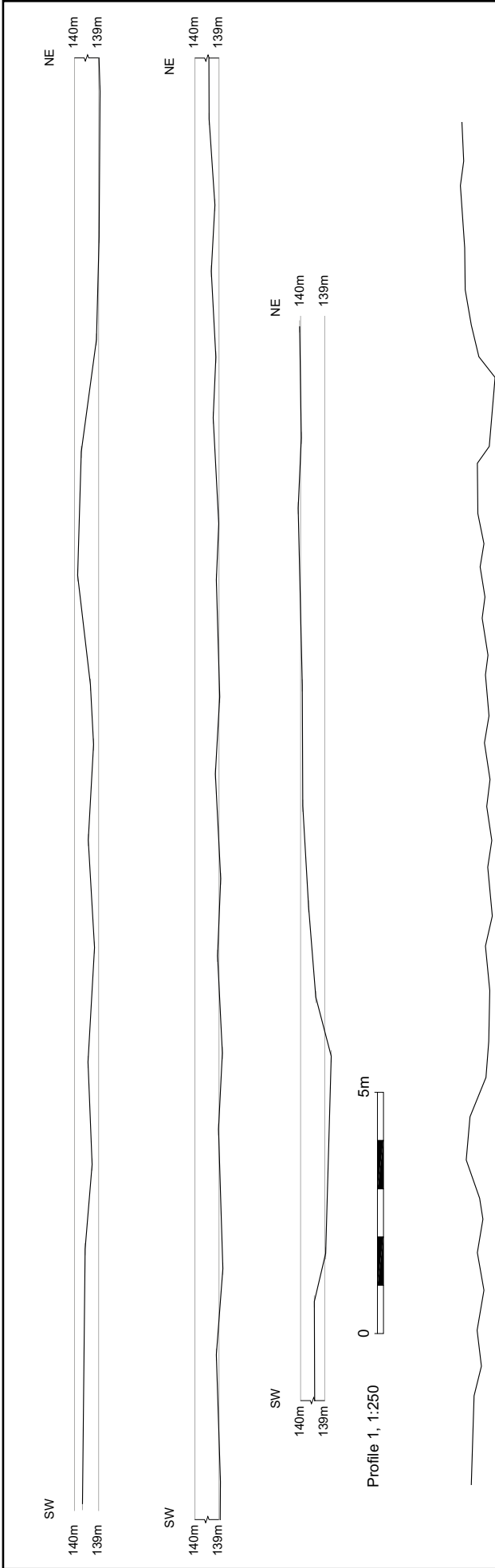
Figure 1



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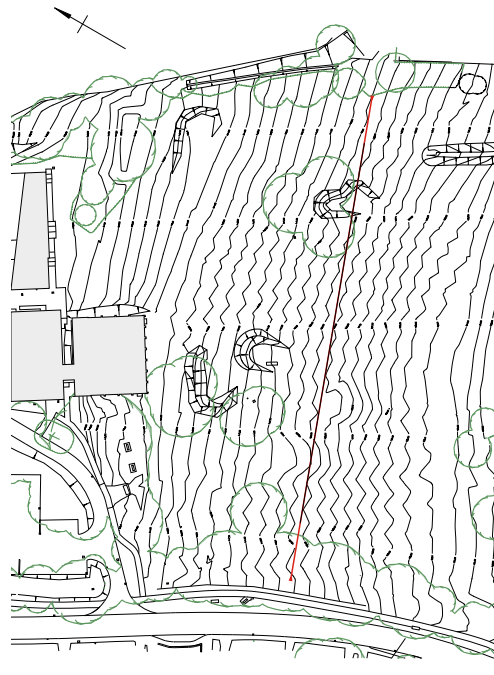
Topographic survey of site

Figure 2



Profile 1, 1:250

Profile 1 with 3x vertical exaggeration, no fixed scale



Profile location, 1:2,500

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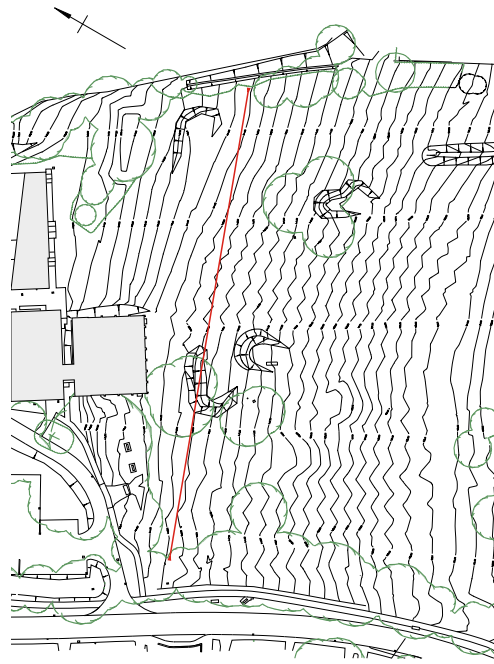
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Profile 1

Figure 3



Profile 2 with 3x vertical exaggeration, no fixed scale

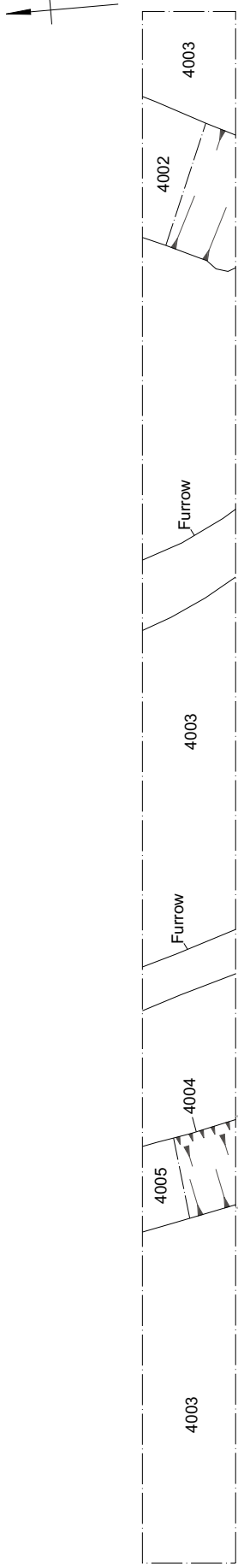


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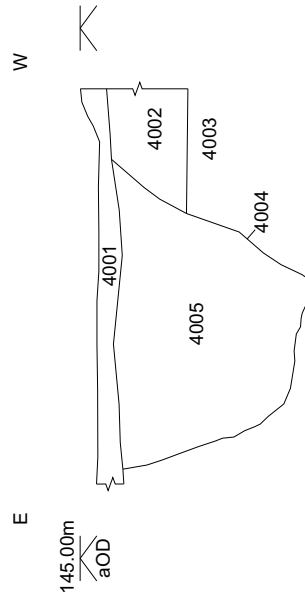
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Profile 2

Figure 4



Trench 4 plan 1:125



North facing section through 4004 1:40

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Plate 1: General shot of Trench 1, looking north



Plate 2: Section through furrow **2003**, looking north

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Plate 3: General shot of Trench 3, looking south-west

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