

# HERITAGE NETWORK



## **LAND OPPOSITE FARRIERS Church End, Barley, Herts.**

HN726

*Archaeological Evaluation Report*



*THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD*

*Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation*

*Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA*

LAND OPPOSITE FARRIERS  
Church End, Barley, Herts.

HN726

*Archaeological Evaluation*

*Prepared on behalf of Tim Drake and Stephanie Morse*

by

Geoff Saunders, BA AIFA

Report no.470

*May 2008*

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*The cover photograph shows the site looking east*

## Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Geoff Saunders and Alison Hudson. The finds assessment was undertaken by Andy Fawcett, and the report was edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Tim Drake and Stephanie Morse; Greg Hodge, C. Webb Groundwork & Excavations; and Andy Instone, County Historic Environment Unit, HCC, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

## Summary

<b>Site name and address:</b>	Land opposite Farriers, Barley, Hertfordshire		
<b>County:</b>	Hertfordshire	<b>District:</b>	North Hertfordshire
<b>Village/town:</b>	Barley	<b>Parish:</b>	Barley
<b>Planning reference:</b>	1/08/0016	<b>NGR:</b>	TL 3999 3834
<b>Client name and address:</b>	Tim Drake and Stephanie Morse, Farriers, Church End, Barley, Hertfordshire		
<b>Nature of work:</b>	New House	<b>Former land use:</b>	Garage and garden
<b>Site status:</b>	AAS67	<b>Reason for investigation:</b>	Direction of local planning authority (PPG 16)
<b>Position in planning process:</b>	After full determination (as a condition)	<b>Project brief originator:</b>	Local authority
<b>Size of affected area:</b>	c. 313m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Size of area investigated:</b>	c.23.50m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Site Code:</b>	HN726	<b>Other reference:</b>	n/a
<b>Organisation:</b>	Heritage Network	<b>Site Director:</b>	David Hillelson
<b>Project type, methods etc.:</b>	Evaluation	<b>Archive recipient:</b>	North Hertfordshire Museums Service
<b>Start of work</b>	28/04/2008	<b>Finish of work</b>	28/04/2008
<b>Related SMR Nos:</b>	n/a	<b>Periods represented:</b>	Roman – Modern
<b>Oasis UID</b>	heritage1-41553	<b>Significant finds:</b>	No significant finds
<b>Monument types:</b>	None		
<b>Physical archive:</b>	Pottery, tile, daub, animal bone, oyster shell		
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b>	n/a		

**Synopsis:**

In order to determine the archaeological risk posed by a proposal to construct a new dwelling on land opposite Farriers, Church End, Barley, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developer to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation in advance of development.

Three trenches were machined to the first significant archaeological horizon. Although a considerable depth of subsoil (up to 0.90m) was observed in all three trenches no archaeological features or deposits were encountered. The natural clay geology was observed in the base of all three trenches.

Several sherds of abraded pottery of Romano-British date were recovered from within the subsoil of Trench 3 located across the footprint of the proposed new garage.

## 1.Introduction

**1.1** This report has been prepared on behalf of *Tim Drake and Stephanie Morse*, as part of the archaeological evaluation of a proposed development site located at land opposite Farriers, Church End, Barley, Hertfordshire. The investigation is a requirement of the planning consent granted by North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC) (ref.1/08/0016), under the provisions set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note No.16 (PPG16) on Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1990). The extent of the work was defined in the planning condition and followed the standard model Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation used by the County Historic Environment Unit (CHEU) of Hertfordshire County Council acting as archaeological advisers to the NHDC. A full specification for the work was contained in the Heritage Network's approved *Project Design*, dated April 2008.

**1.2** The study area, centred on NGR TL 3999 3834, is situated in the historic core of Barley. The site is currently a garden, the southeast corner of the plot is occupied by a garage. The development proposes the construction of a new dwelling and garage, with car parking, associated landscaping, and services.

**1.3** On the basis of the known archaeology in the vicinity of the present site, the CHEU has advised that archaeological evaluation of the development site should be undertaken before the development proceeds.

**1.4** The aim of the evaluation has been to consider the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any remains that are liable to be threatened by the development, and to provide a local and regional, archaeological and historical context for them, in accordance with the current published regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997, Brown and Glazebrook 2000), should they be discovered.

**1.5** The present report is intended to provide the planning authority with sufficient data to allow it to consider the archaeological implications of the proposed development, and to determine what further mitigation measures, if any, may be required to allow the development to proceed.

## 2. Fieldwork

### *SITE TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY*

**2.1** The site is located within the centre of the village of Barley and comprises a small plot of land immediately to the east of Farriers. The majority of the site is currently grassed with a driveway and garage located on the southern site boundary. The ground is relatively level at approximately 98.00mOD.

**2.2** The drift geology of the area belongs to the Hanslope association (411d), which is described as slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils. Some slowly permeable non-calcareous clayey soils. Slight risk of water erosion.

### *METHODOLOGY*

**2.3** All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the approved Project Design, current health and safety legislation, and the appropriate IFA and ALGAO guidance documents.

**2.4** The trenches were located by survey using a total station theodolite, and have been related to the Ordnance Survey national grid.

**2.5** Three trenches were opened using a tracked 360<sup>0</sup> excavator fitted with a 1.50m wide toothless ditching bucket (see Figure 2). Spoil from the machining was inspected for archaeological artefacts. Trenches were machined to the first significant archaeological horizon.

**2.6** The trenches were cleaned by hand, and all potential archaeological features and deposits were sampled to ascertain their nature, depth, date, and quality of preservation.

**2.7** All identified contexts were photographed and recorded using the appropriate pro-forma. Scaled sections were drawn on drafting film at scales of 1:10.

### *SITE STRATIGRAPHY*

**2.8** The stratigraphy was consistent across the site and comprised a layer of firm, very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2), silty clay topsoil over a firm, dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4), silty clay subsoil. Beneath this lay the natural geology of firm, dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6), clay with fragments of decayed chalk and moderate large sub-angular flints.

### *RESULTS*

#### *Trench 1*

**2.9** Trench 1 was located in the northeast corner of the site across the location proposed for soakaways associated with the new development. The trench measured 1.55 x 5.10m and was aligned approximately east – west.

**2.10** No archaeological features, deposits, or artefacts predating the modern period, were observed in this trench.

**Trench data:**

<b>Length (m):</b>	5.10	<b>Width (m):</b>	1.55	<b>Maximum Depth (m):</b>	1.35	<b>Orientation</b>	E – W
<b>Level at E End of Trench (mOD)</b>		<b>Top</b>	97.82	<b>Level at W End of Trench (mOD)</b>		<b>Top</b>	97.62
		<b>Base</b>	96.49			<b>Base</b>	96.68
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>			<b>Dimensions (m)</b>		
					<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Depth</b>
101	Layer	Firm, very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2), silty clay. Topsoil.			-	-	0.45
102	Layer	Firm, dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4), silty clay. Subsoil.			-	-	0.75
103	Layer	Firm, dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6), clay with fragments of decayed chalk and moderate large sub-angular flints. Natural geology.			-	-	0.15+

**Trench 2**

**2.11** Trench 2 was located in the western half of the site across the footprint of the proposed dwelling. The trench measured 1.55 x 5.00m and was aligned northwest – southeast.

**2.12** No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench.

**Trench data:**

<b>Length (m):</b>	5.00	<b>Width (m):</b>	1.55	<b>Maximum Depth (m):</b>	1.50	<b>Orientation</b>	NW – SE
<b>Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)</b>		<b>Top</b>	97.89	<b>Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)</b>		<b>Top</b>	98.07
		<b>Base</b>	96.66			<b>Base</b>	96.70
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>			<b>Dimensions (m)</b>		
					<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Depth</b>
201	Layer	Firm, very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2), silty clay. Topsoil.			-	-	0.45
202	Layer	Firm, dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4), silty clay. Subsoil.			-	-	0.90
203	Layer	Firm, dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6), clay with fragments of decayed chalk and moderate large sub-angular flints. Natural geology.			-	-	0.10+

**Trench 3**

**2.13** Trench 3 was located in the southeast corner of the site across the footprint of the proposed garage. The trench measured 1.55 x 5.00m and was aligned approximately northwest – southeast.

**2.14** A total of 14 sherds of abraded Romano-British pottery were recovered unstratified from within the subsoil of the trench.



2.15 No archaeological features, deposits, were observed in this trench.

#### Trench data:

<b>Length (m):</b>	5.00	<b>Width (m):</b>	1.55	<b>Maximum Depth (m):</b>	1.10	<b>Orientation</b>	NW – SE		
<b>Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)</b>			<b>Top</b>	98.04	<b>Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)</b>			<b>Top</b>	98.07
			<b>Base</b>	97.01				<b>Base</b>	97.01
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)						
			Length	Width	Depth				
301	Layer	Firm, very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2), silty clay. Topsoil.	-	-	0.30				
302	Layer	Firm, dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4), silty clay. Subsoil.	-	-	0.78				
303	Layer	Firm, dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6), clay with fragments of decayed chalk and moderate large sub-angular flints. Natural geology.	-	-	0.08+				

## FINDS ASSESSMENT

### Concordance

Context	Pottery		CBM		Daub		An bone		Shell	
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
U/S Tr1	1	122	1	41						
U/S Tr3	14	71	2	89	13	45	2	4	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

### Pottery

(A. R. Fawcett)

2.16 Fifteen sherds of pottery, weighing a total of 193g, were recovered unstratified during the evaluation. The assemblage ranged in date from the Roman period to the Modern period.

2.17 The only pottery identified in trench 1 was a single large fragment of 20th century red earthenware with a weight of 122g (unstratified).

2.18 However, trench 3 contained 14 unstratified sherds with a weight of 71g, all are dated to the Roman period.

2.19 The pottery is mainly composed of unsourced coarsewares such as GRS (sandy grey wares) and BSW (black surfaced/Romanising grey wares). Nonetheless, three small sherds, with a weight of 6g are classed as HAD OX (Hadham oxidised ware).

2.20 Finally one very small fragment of samian is also present (<1g), probably originating from an eastern Gaulish production area, such as Rheinzabern (c late 2nd to mid 3rd century AD).

The only truly diagnostic sherd occurs in UNS OX (unsourced oxidised ware) and belongs to a jar. This has a tapering style neck and slightly undercut rim, although the form is not closely datable.

**2.21** The condition of the pottery may be described as being between abraded and slightly abraded.

*Recommendations*

**2.22** No further work is required on this assemblage.

**Ceramic Building Material (CBM)**

**2.23** A total of 3 fragments with a weight of 130g were recorded on the site. Of these only one piece can be designated as tile (U/S Tr 3).

*Recommendations*

**2.24** No further work is required on this assemblage.

**Daub**

**2.25** Trench 3 also yielded 13 pieces of lime based daub with a weight of 45g. Although the pieces are mostly small, abrasion is variable.

*Recommendations*

**2.26** No further work is required on this assemblage.

**Animal Bone**

**2.27** Just 2 pieces of animal bone weighing 4g are noted in trench 1; neither can be identified further.

*Recommendations*

**2.28** No further work is required on this assemblage.

**Oyster Shell**

**2.29** The only instance of shell (2g) occurs in trench 3 and relates to oyster.

*Recommendations*

**2.30** No further work is required on the shell.

## 3. Discussion & Conclusion

**3.1** Three trenches were excavated in order to investigate the archaeological potential of the present site. Although the evaluation revealed a significant depth of subsoil (up to 0.90m) on the site no archaeological features or deposits were observed. The subsoil appears to have accumulated naturally, no evidence was observed to indicate it was the result modern activity. Several sherds of unstratified pottery dating to the Romano-British period were recovered from Trench 3.

**3.2** Activity from this period has previously been identified in Barley. Evidence of Roman settlement, inhumations and cremations from excavations in 1955 (NMR 638604) lie approximately 700m from the site on the eastern edge of the village. Further evidence of Iron Age and Roman occupation lie on the northern limits of the village (NMR 368126). Roman pottery was also recovered from topsoil at 7 Crossways (NMR 1301967), less than 100m to the east.

**3.3** The Romano-British pottery recovered from Trench 3 was largely abraded and undiagnostic in nature. Although no features or deposits were observed in the trenches the pottery is indicative of the known Romano-British activity in the vicinity of the site. The condition and unstratified location of the pottery suggests that the current study area is located on the periphery of this activity.

### *Conclusion*

**3.4** The present evaluation has demonstrated a significant depth of subsoil on the site.

**3.5** Unstratified and abraded Romano-British pottery recovered from Trench 3 gives an indication that the site may lie on the edge of the known Roman activity in the vicinity.

**3.6** On the basis of these findings, there is considered to be a moderate risk that the proposed development will encounter further unstratified material dating to the Roman period. The risk that significant occupation features predating the late post-Medieval period will be disturbed may be considered to be Low.

### *Confidence Rating*

**3.7** During the course of the fieldwork, the conditions were generally acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation.

**3.8** There are no circumstances which would lead to a confidence rating for the work which was less than High.

## 4. Bibliography

Archaeology Data Service : <http://www.ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue>

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 1999, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*.

Turner, C, 2008 *Land opposite Farriers, Church End, Barley, Herts. Project Design: Archaeological Evaluation*. Heritage Network.

Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983 *Soil Map Sheet 4, Eastern England, Scale 1:250,000*

## 5. Illustrations

Figure 1 ..... Site location

Figure 2 ..... Trench location

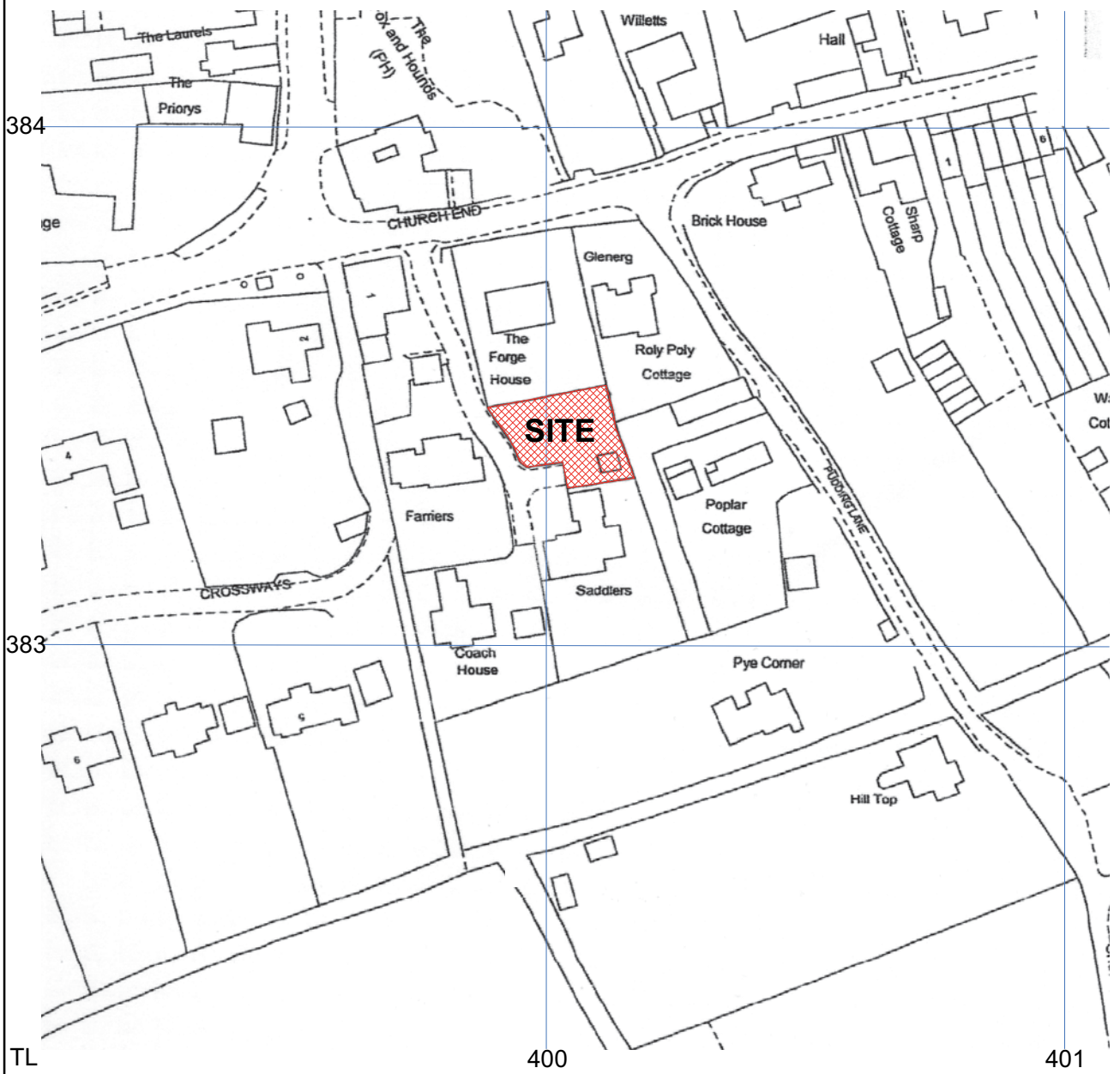
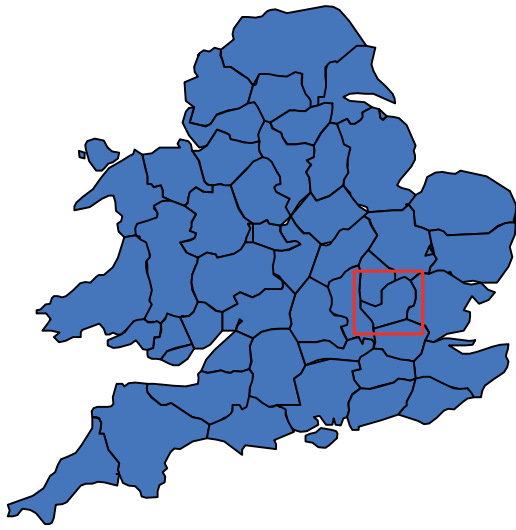
Figure 3 ..... Sample 1m Trench sections

Plate 1 ..... Site looking south-east

Plate 2 ..... Trench 1 looking east

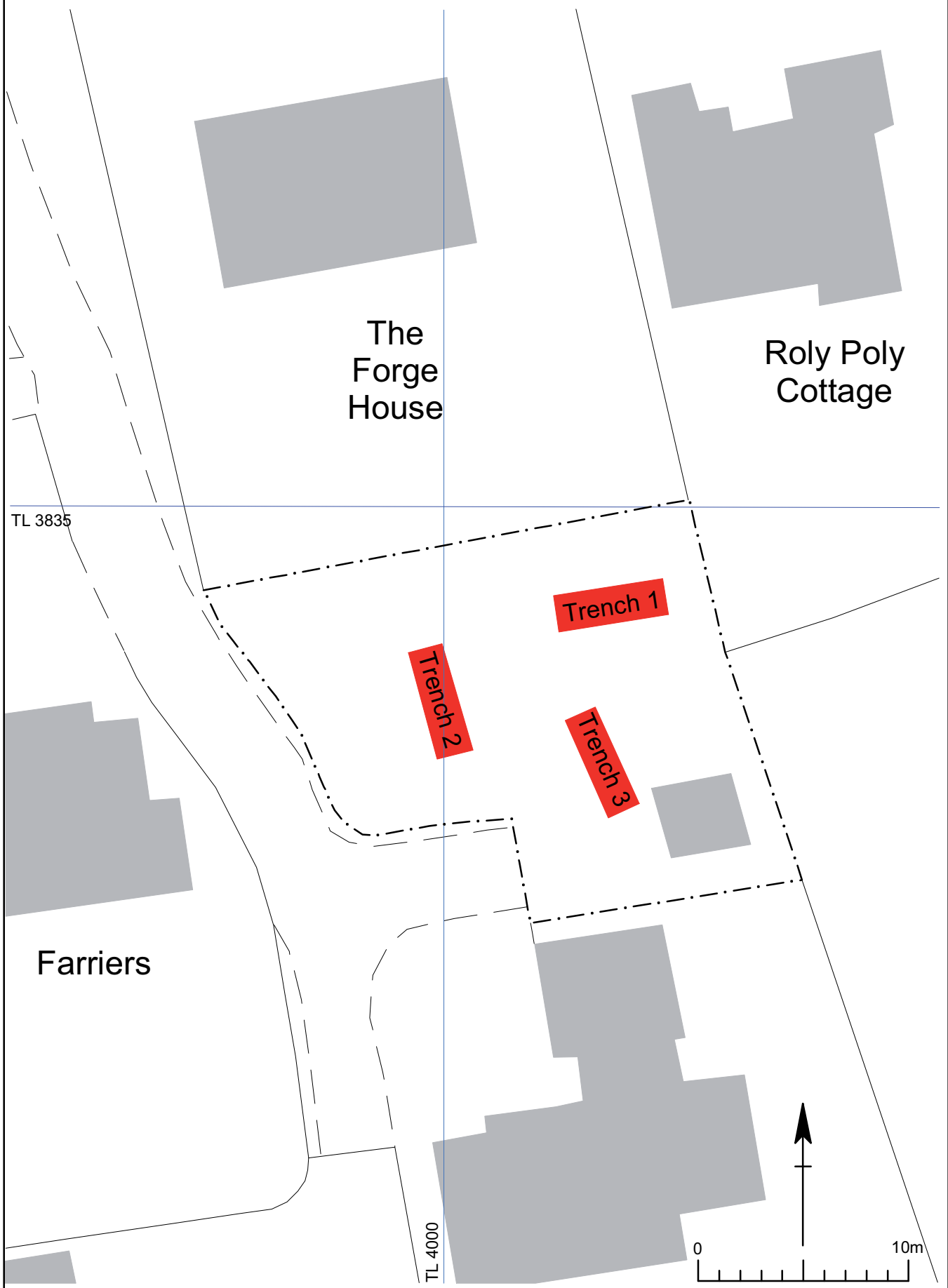
Plate 3 ..... Trench 2 looking north-west

Plate 4 ..... Trench 3 looking north-west



Site Location

Scale 1:1250

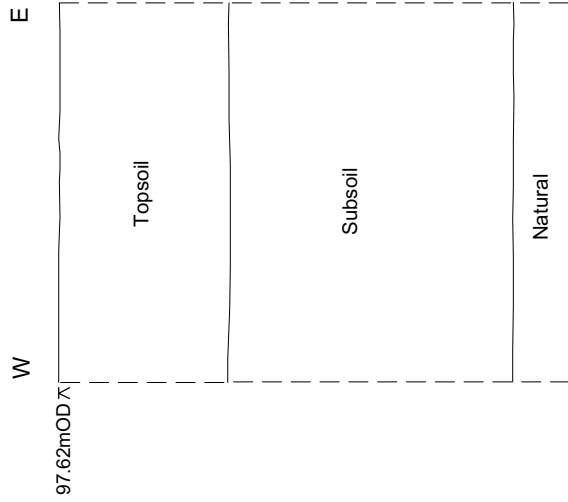


Trench location

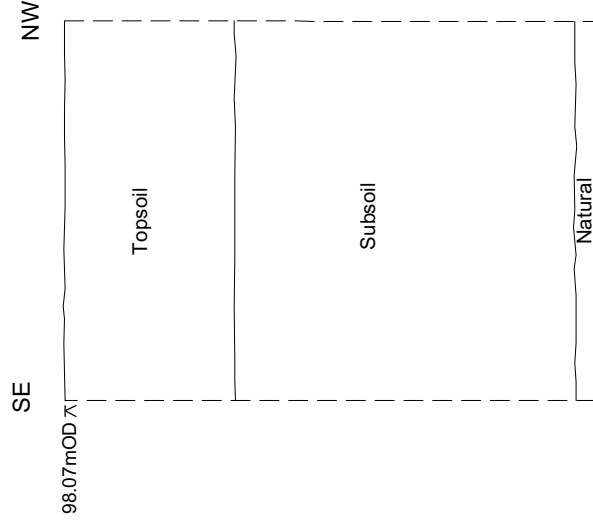
Scale 1:250

Figure 2

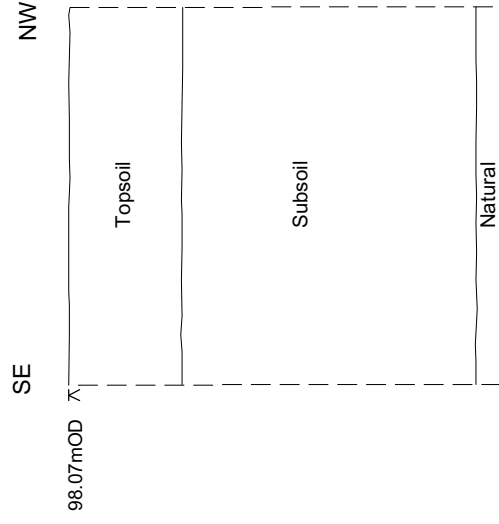
South facing section of Trench 1



Northeast facing section of Trench 2



Northeast facing section of Trench 3



Sample 1m Trench sections



Plate 1: Site, looking south-east



Plate 2: Trench 1, looking east





Plate 3: Trench 2, looking northwest



Plate 4: Trench 3, looking northwest