
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**LAND SOUTH OF RICHARDSON'S FARM AND NORTH OF
TWIN OAKS, CROWHURST LANE, WEST KINGSDOWN,
SEVENOAKS, KENT**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski (Fieldwork & report) Megan Stoakley (Research)	
NGR: TQ 55826 16263	Report No: 3914
District: Sevenoaks	Site Code: AS 1429
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 4384
Signed:	Date: September 2011



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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Land South of Richardson's Farm and North of Twin Oaks, Crowhurst Lane, West Kingsdown, Sevenoaks, Kent</i>		
<i>In September 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at land south of Richardson's Farm and north of Twin Oaks, Crowhurst Lane, West Kingsdown, Sevenoaks, Kent (NGR TQ 55826 16263). The evaluation was commissioned by Hill Partnerships Ltd and was undertaken in advance of proposals to redevelop the site.</i>			
<i>The site is situated on the eastern edge of West Kingsdown, Kent, between two dry valleys leading northwards off the North Downs. The site had a potential for prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.</i>			
<i>In the event the evaluation revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	13-15/09/2011		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	N
P. number	4384	Site code	AS 1429
Type of project	<i>An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	-		
Current land use	<i>Rough grass/paddock</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential</i>		
Main features (+dates)	-		
Significant finds (+dates)	-		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Kent</i>	<i>Sevenoaks</i>	<i>West Kingsdown</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Kent HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	<i>c. 0.725ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TQ 55826 16263</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>166.50/167.40</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>KCC</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>Hill Partnerships Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Land South of Richardson's Farm and North of Twin Oaks, Crowhurst Lane, West Kingsdown, Sevenoaks, Kent: An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
Report no.	<i>3914</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>September 2011</i>		

LAND SOUTH OF RICHARDSON'S FARM AND NORTH OF TWIN OAKS, CROWHURST LANE, WEST KINGSDOWN, SEVENOAKS, KENT

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In September 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at land south of Richardson's Farm and north of Twin Oaks, Crowhurst Lane, West Kingsdown, Sevenoaks, Kent (NGR TQ 55826 16263). The evaluation was commissioned by Hill Partnerships Ltd and was undertaken in advance of proposals to redevelop the site.

The site is situated on the eastern edge of West Kingsdown, Kent, between two dry valleys leading northwards off the North Downs. The site had a potential for prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.

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

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at land south of Richardson's Farm and north of Twin Oaks, Crowhurst Lane, West Kingsdown, Sevenoaks, Kent (NGR TQ 55826 16263; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was commissioned by Hill Partnerships Ltd and was undertaken as part of a planning condition on approval for residential redevelopment of the site (Sevenoaks District Planning Ref. SE/11/00087).

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a specification issued by Kent County Council Heritage Conservation Group (KCC) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 18/04/2011) and approved by KCC. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008).

1.3 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine, as far as was possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. In addition it was hoped to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of survival of buried deposits and surviving structures of archaeological significance.

Planning policy context

1.4 Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5; 2010) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The Planning Policy Statement aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. It aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. It states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment and to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past, and to make this publicly available, should be taken, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site is situated on land south of Richardson's Farm and to the north of Twin Oaks on Crowhurst Lane, West Kingsdown in Sevenoaks. It lies on the south-eastern edge of West Kingsdown and is comprised of rough grass/paddock bordered by hedges/tree. The site lies immediately east of the West Kingsdown primary and junior schools and directly south of Crowhurst Farmhouse. The site comprises a large regular rectangular plot of land of c.0.725ha.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is located between two dry valleys leading northwards off the North Downs; the scarp slope is located c.2.5km to the south. The site is situated on relatively flat land at c. 167m AOD.

3.2 The solid geology of the environs is Upper Cretaceous Chalk of White Chalk subgroup overlain by clay with flints (British Geological Survey 1978). Soils on the site are those of the Batcombe association, described as fine silty over clayey and fine loamy over clayey soils with slowly permeable subsoils (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric

4.1 Prehistoric archaeological remains in the close vicinity are limited to a Mesolithic macehead (HER TQ 56 SE 7) retrieved from Kingsdown, Ash. However, a large area containing multi-period prehistoric implement finds is

located c. 1km to the east of the site. The finds comprise Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic flint tools recorded in the nineteenth century.

Romano-British

4.2 No Romano-British archaeological remains have been retrieved from the vicinity of the assessment area.

Medieval

4.3 Medieval archaeological remains are limited in this area. The church of St Edmund (HER TQ 56 SE 50), c. 650m north-west of the site is Saxo-Norman. The church is surrounded by earthworks (HER TQ 56 SE 43) that may form part of a medieval manor, possibly North Court, although this is not confirmed by any archaeological or historical evidence.

4.4 Crowhurst Farm Cottages, principally constructed between 1430 and 1470 AD, are situated c. 500m to the north of the site. They comprise three Grade II listed derelict buildings, including Wealden House, Farm Labourer's Cottage and Farmhouse (HER TQ 56 SE 60). Constructed from brick and timber, they were altered in the 19th century. Excavations at Crowhurst Farm recovered the base rim sherds of pottery dated to the mid 13th century.

Post-Medieval

4.5 Post-medieval archaeological remains are limited in the study area and consist of three human burials and a small number of listed buildings.

4.6 Three poorly preserved inhumations were discovered c. 800m north-west of the assessment site on a watching brief undertaken in 2001 (HER 56 SE 44, 45 & 46), within close proximity of the Church of St Edmunds. The inhumations may form a small part of a local post-medieval cemetery, although there are no indications of any post-medieval funerary activity within close proximity of the assessment area.

4.7 There are several post-medieval listed properties within the study area including Kingsdown Mill (HER 56 SE 67) c. 300m to the south of the assessment site, which comprises an octagonal weatherboarded smock mill built in 1800 AD. Stacklands Cottage (HER TQ 56 SE 62), a 17th century timber-framed building is also located c. 650m to the south-west, and Tidy's Cottage (HER TQ 56 SE 48), an 18th century red brick building c. 450m to the south-west.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Ten trenches were excavated using a mechanical 180° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). The trench locations were approved by KCC. The alignment of Trench 10 had to be modified due to the presence

of a lizard protection fence, part of a reptile mitigation scheme implemented on the site.

5.2 Topsoil and undifferentiated overburden were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale, and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches were scanned by a metal detector.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 - 3, DP 3)

<i>Sample section 1A (DP 4): South end, facing east</i> <i>0.00 = 167.10m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. Greyish mid brown, soft, sandy silt.
0.23 – 0.38m	L1001	Subsoil. Light brown, friable, silty sand.
0.38m+	L1002	Natural mid yellow, compact, clay with frequent subangular flints.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 2 (Figs. 2 - 3; DP 5)

<i>Sample section 2A (DP 6): West end, facing south</i> <i>0.00 = 166.76m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.16m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.16 – 0.48m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.48m +	L1002	Natural clay. As above, Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 3 (Figs. 2 - 3; DP 7)

<i>Sample section 3A (DP 8): West end, facing south</i> <i>0.00 = 166.80 AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.12 – 0.37m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.37m +	L1002	Natural clay. As above, Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present. A modern concrete-reinforced soakway was located within Trench 3.

Trench 4 (Figs. 2 - 3; DP 9)

<i>Sample section 4A (DP 10): North end, facing east</i> <i>0.00 = 166.59 AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.20 – 0.45m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.45m +	L1002	Natural clay. As above, Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 5 (Figs. 2 - 3; DP 11)

<i>Sample section 5A (DP 12): West end, facing south</i> <i>0.00 = 167.22 AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.12 – 0.30m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.30m +	L1002	Natural clay. As above, Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 6 (Figs. 2 - 3; DP 13)

<i>Sample section 6A (DP 14): North end, facing west</i> <i>0.00 = 167.09 AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.21 – 0.60m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.60m +	L1002	Natural clay. As above, Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 7 (Figs. 2 - 3; DP 15)

<i>Sample section 7A (DP 16): North end, facing west</i> <i>0.00 = 167.10 AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.16m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.16 – 0.53m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.53m +	L1002	Natural clay. As above, Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 8 (Figs. 2 - 3; DP 17)

<i>Sample section 8A (DP 18): North end, facing east</i> <i>0.00 = 167.41 AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.27 – 0.44m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.44m +	L1002	Natural clay. As above, Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 9 (Figs. 2 - 3; DP 19)

<i>Sample section 9A (DP 20): West end, facing south</i> <i>0.00 = 167.20 AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.37 – 0.59m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.59m +	L1002	Natural clay. As above, Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 10 (Figs. 2 - 3; DP 21)

<i>Sample section 10A (DP 22): North-east end, facing north-west</i> <i>0.00 = 166.92 AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.40m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.40m +	L1002	Natural clay. As above, Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The site had a uniform stratigraphy comprising three deposits. Uppermost Topsoil L1000, was a greyish mid brown, soft, sandy silt (0.10 – 0.40m thick). It overlay Subsoil L1001, a light brown, friable, silty sand (0.10 – 0.35m thick). The natural clay, L1002, was present at 0.30 – 0.60m below existing ground level and comprised a mid yellow, compact, clay with frequent subangular flints.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for the prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval archaeology. Such remains have been found in the vicinity of the site, in particular, Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic finds recorded in Kingsdown, Ash.

9.2 In the event no archaeological features or finds were revealed. Little evidence of previous truncation appeared to have taken place. No residual finds were recovered.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Sevenoaks Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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AS also would like to thank Mr Neil Bashford of Hill Partnerships Ltd for commissioning the project and Mr Michael Hardcastle of Hill Partnerships Ltd for his assistance.

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Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW), 1983, *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales*. SSEW, Harpenden

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. The site, looking west.



DP 2. The site, looking north-east.



DP 3. Trench 1, looking north.



DP 4. Trench 1, southern end. Sample section 1A, looking west.



DP 5. Trench 2, looking west.



DP 6. Trench 2, western end. Sample section 2A, looking north.



DP 7. Trench 3, looking east.



DP 8. Trench 3, western end. Sample section 3A, looking north.



DP 9. Trench 4, looking north.



DP 10. Trench 4, northern end. Sample section 4A, looking west.



DP 11. Trench 5, looking west.



DP 12. Trench 5, western end. Sample section 5A, looking north.



DP 13. Trench 6, looking south.



DP 14. Trench 6, northern end. Sample section 6A, looking east.



DP 15. Trench 7, looking south.



DP 16. Trench 7, northern end. Sample section 7A, looking east.



DP 17. Trench 8, looking south.



DP 18. Trench 8, northern end. Sample section 8A, looking west.



DP 19. Trench 9, looking east.



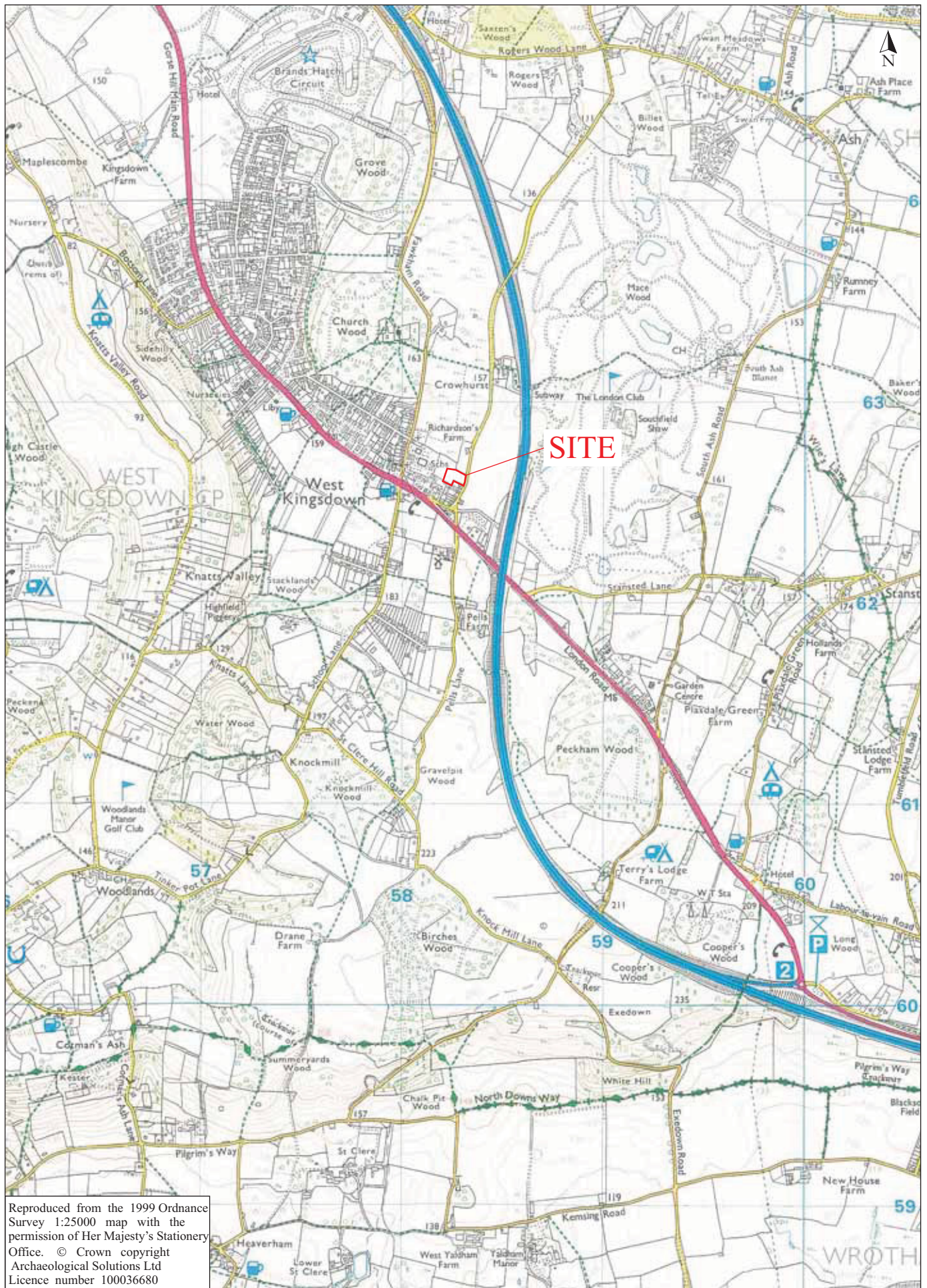
DP 20. Trench 9, western end. Sample section 9A, looking south.



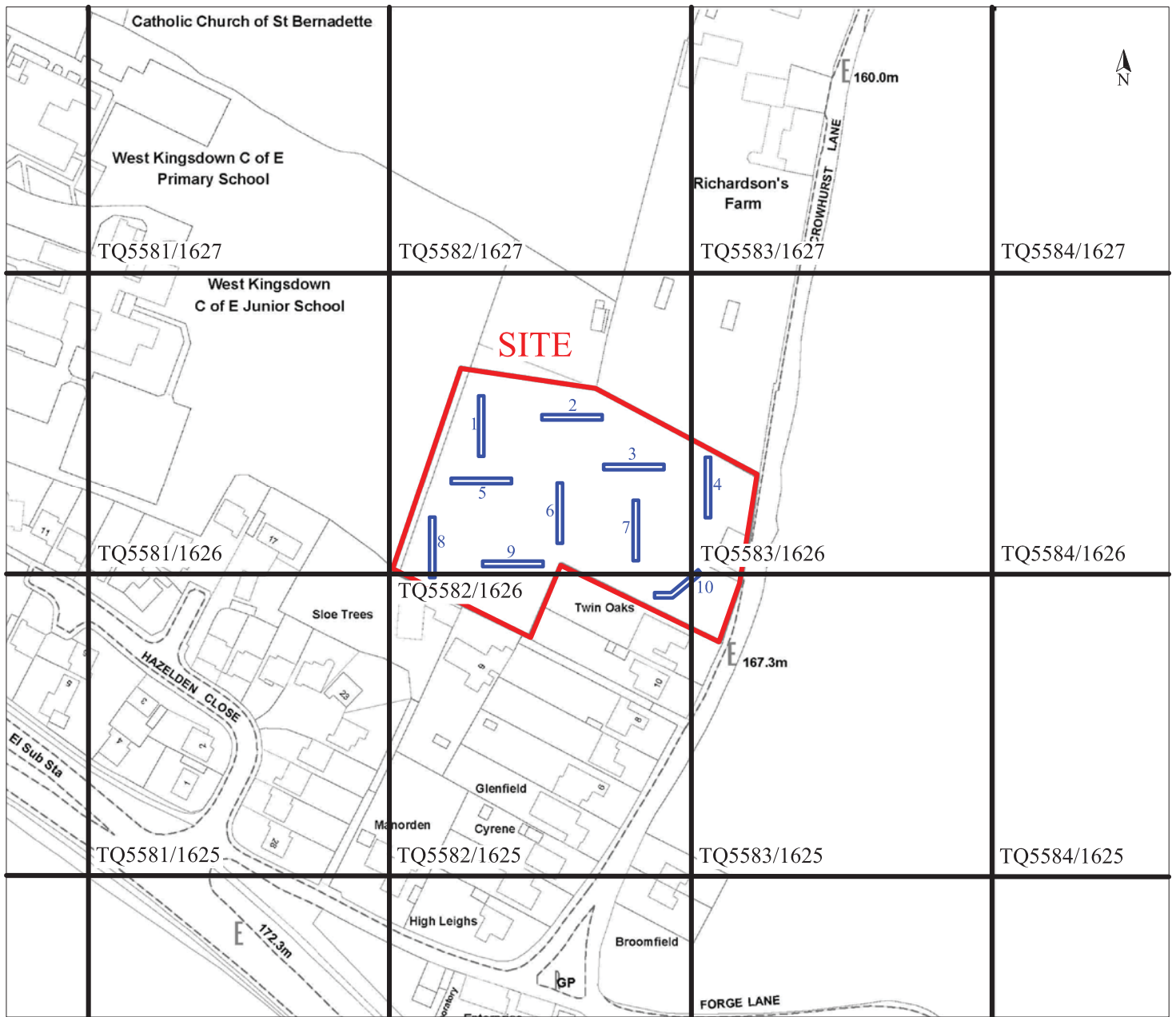
DP 21. Trench 10, looking south-west.



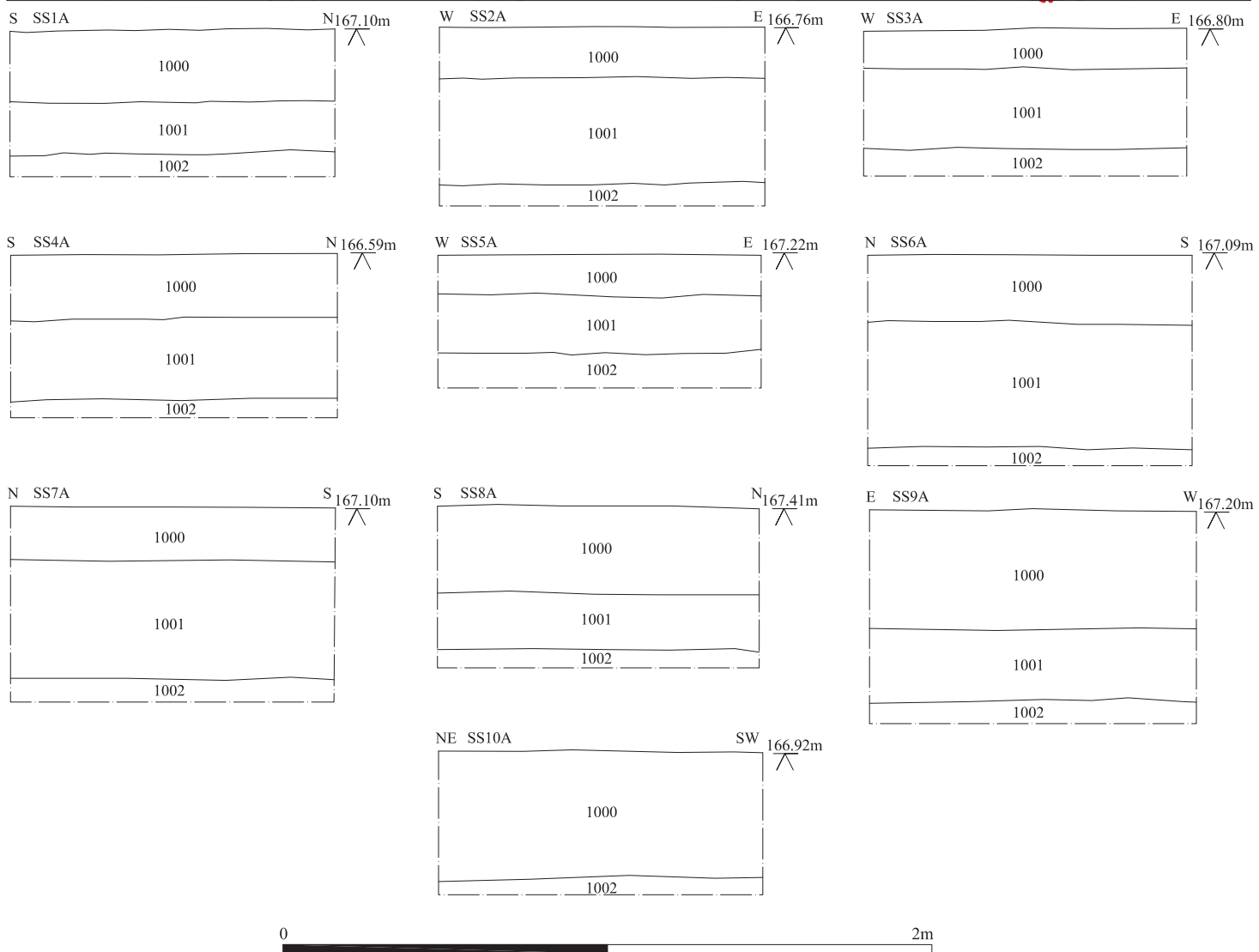
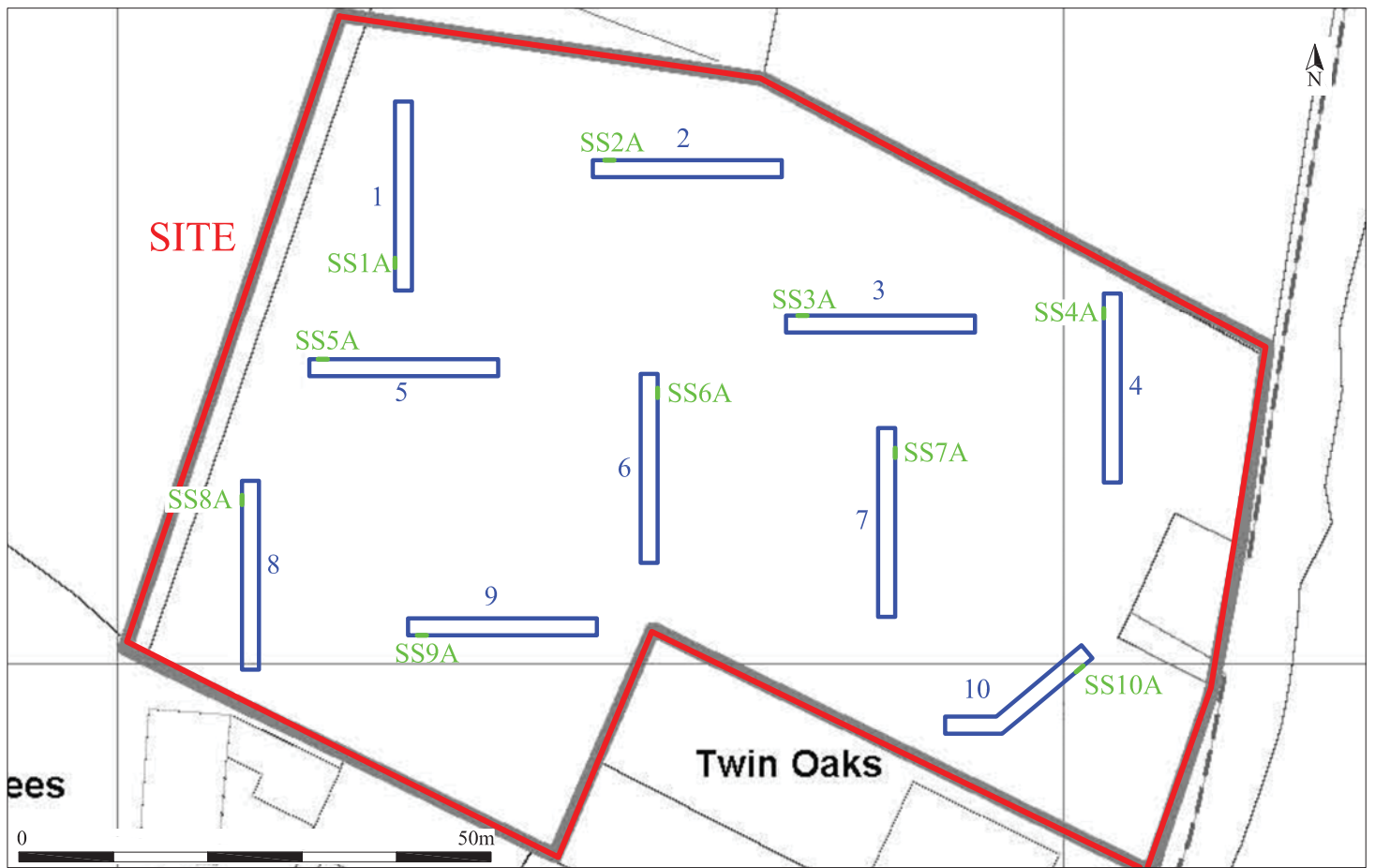
DP 22. Trench 10, north-eastern corner. Sample section 10A, looking south-east.



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



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:200 at A4



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Fig. 3 Sections & section location plan
Scale 1:750 and 1:20 at A4