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LAND ADJACENT TO 5 SPENS AVENUE, CAMBRIDGE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CHER NO. ECB3734

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NGR: TL 4358 5782	Report No: 4049
District: South Cambridgeshire	Site Code: AS1477
Approved: C Halpin MfA	Project No: P4736
Signed:	Date: March 2012

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET			
Project name	<i>Land Adjacent to 5 Spens Avenue, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation.</i>		
<p><i>In March 2012 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land adjacent to 5 Spens Avenue, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire. The site is located within a large residential estate to the south-west of the city centre in the South Cambridgeshire district. The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the redevelopment of the site comprising the construction of four houses.</i></p> <p><i>Desk-based research indicated no known archaeological material from the immediate area of the site. However Prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and Medieval material had all been recorded within a 500m of the site.</i></p> <p><i>The test trenches revealed the site to be covered in a series of large shallow pits, likely used as quarry pits for the extraction of the underlying sand and gravel deposits. A total of 18 pits were recorded and two of them contained sparse quantities of slightly abraded Romano-British pottery, tentatively suggesting a possible date for the quarrying activity.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	03/12		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	TBC
P. number	4736	Site code	AS1477
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	-		
Current land use	<i>Open field</i>		
Planned development	<i>The construction of 4 residential houses</i>		
Main features	<i>18 undated quarry pits</i>		
Significant finds	<i>Three sherds of Romano-British pottery</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>Cambridge City</i>	<i>Cambridge</i>
HER for area	<i>Cambridge Historic Environment Record (CHER)</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>CB3 9LS</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 0.14ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 4358 5782</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c. 10.5m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>		
Funded by	<i>Identified Investments Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Land Adjacent to 5 Spens Avenue, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Gareth Barlow, Joe Bampton & Megan Stoakley</i>		
Report no.	4049		
Date (of report)	March 2012		

LAND ADJACENT TO 5 SPENS AVENUE, CAMBRIDGE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In March 2012 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land adjacent to 5 Spens Avenue, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire. The site is located within a large residential estate to the south-west of the city centre. The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the redevelopment of the site comprising the construction of four houses.

Desk-based research indicated that there was no known archaeological material from the immediate area of the site. However Prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and Medieval material had all been recorded within a 500m of the site.

The test trenches revealed the site to be covered in a series of large shallow pits, likely used as quarry pits for the extraction of the underlying sand and gravel deposits. A total of 18 pits were encountered and two of them contained sparse quantities of slightly abraded Romano-British pottery, tentatively suggesting a possible date for the quarrying activity.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In March 2012 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land adjacent to 5 Spens Avenue, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4358 5782; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the redevelopment of the site comprising the construction of four houses (CCC Planning Ref. 11/1175/FUL).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief prepared by Andy Thomas of the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET; dated 1st February 2012), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 6th February 2012), approved by CCC HET. The project conformed to appropriate sections of Gurney (2003) 'Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England', *East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14*, and the Institute for Archaeologists' *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 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF 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. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.5 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings and scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 Cambridge is a university city and the administrative centre for the county of Cambridgeshire. Cottenham, Hardwick and Comberton are located c.12km to the north and west respectively, Fulbourn c.8.8km to the east and Great Shelford c.8.2km to the south. The M11 motorway runs north/south c.1.75km to the west of the city. The River Cam runs through Cambridge, entering the city from the north-east and exiting the city in the south-west section near Newnham Croft, located c.1.5km to the south-east of the site.

2.2 The site is located within a large residential estate to the south-west of the city centre. Bin Brook is located c.250m to the west of the site and Barton Road (A603) is situated c.200m to the south. Selwyn College is located c.450m to the east and Newnham is located c.500m to the south on the southern side of Barton Road. Wolfson College is situated c.300m to the south-east. A large square field (Corpus Christi College sports field) and a long rectangular plot comprising Wolfson College to the south are situated on the north and east borders of the site. The site is situated on the northern side of Spens Avenue and is immediately east of No. 5. It comprises a square plot of open grassland with an area of c.0.14ha.

3 THE EVIDENCE

3.1 Topography, Geology and Soils

3.1.1 The site is located at the base of a river valley with the River Cam located c.1.25km to the east and the Bin Brook located c.250m to the west of the site. The site is situated on relatively even ground at c.10.5m AOD. To the north-west, the ground slopes gently up to c.20-15m AOD and to the south-east, the level rises gradually to c.15m AOD. The solid geology comprises Devensian Hunstanton Till derived from Triassic marls overlain by River Terrace and Marine Gravels consisting of sand and gravel with subordinate silt and clay layers. The soils of the site belong to the Hanslope association (411d) formed from Chalky Boulder Clay commonly found on plateau landscapes.

3.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

Prehistoric

3.2.1 Human remains were discovered on Corpus Christi sports field c.200m to the north of the site (MCB 15811). It has been suggested that the remains, comprising a sub-adult female individual, are possibly Bronze Age or Iron Age in date, as several of the lower limb bones exhibited cut-marks, possibly indicative of ritual dismemberment (Duhig & Malim, 1999). Iron Age archaeological remains comprise a bronze crozier pin (HER 05105) discovered c.500m to the west of the site. An archaeological evaluation at Tyndale House (ECB 1315) c.375m to the east of the site revealed a late Iron Age/early Roman ditch (Wills 2003). A significant amount of contemporary pottery was discovered within close proximity to the ditch (*Ibid*).

Romano-British

3.2.2 Roman pottery has been discovered c.400-500m to the south-east of the site (HERs 03792, 04403, 04421, 04997a & 05113a). Two pottery vessels and a knife handle (HER 05105a) were discovered c.500m to the west of the site and three coins of late 3rd century date (HER 05019) were discovered c.300m to the south-west of the site. A length of a Roman road was recorded during an aerial photograph assessment (ECB 2959) on land at Laundry Farm c.400m to the north-west of the site (Palmer 2001).

Medieval

3.2.3 Archaeological remains of Saxon date comprise a large cemetery site located c.500m to the south-east of the site (HER 04997). Numerous inhumations and cinerary urns have been discovered on both the northern and southern sides of Barton Road with associated finds such as spearheads, pottery vessels and wrist/fibulae clasps (Salzman 1938).

3.2.4 Medieval pottery and bronze objects have been discovered c.400-500m to the south-east of the site (HERs 05072, 05113 & MCB16929) and a finger ring was

discovered in the garden of Leckhampton House on Grange Road (HER 04400) c.200m to the north-east. Excavations at Silver Street, situated c.600m to the east of the site, revealed a large section of the King's ditch (HER 04499) and a significant quantity of ox and sheep bones as well as 13th to 15th century pottery was discovered (Bennett 1893).

Post-medieval

3.2.5 Fifty 17th century clay pipes (HER 04398) discovered c.200m to the south-east of the site (Scott 1917).

Cartographic Sources (Figs. 3-6)

3.2.6 The 1804 Inclosure map (Fig. 3) depicts the site as a large rectangular plot held under the tenancy of John Kidman (No 34). To the west and north-west are two rectangular plots held by Benet College (No 36) and Jesus College (No 42). Thomas Whittred is the lessee for both land plots. The 1901 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 4) depicts the site open. Leckhampton House is depicted to the north, Grays Farm is depicted to the south and park/woodland is depicted to the south-east. The 1927 Ordnance Survey map records three buildings on the northern side of Barton Road (not labelled). The large field to the north of the site comprises allotment gardens (labelled).

3.2.8 The site remains open in the 1939 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 5). Further urban residential development is depicted along Barton Road (not labelled) to the south-west of the site. The 1954 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 6) records the site as open and the allotment gardens to the north are labelled the Corpus Christi College sports ground.

3.2.9 The 1967 – 1970 Ordnance Survey map depicts the site as open. Significant urban residential development is recorded in a linear formation to the west of the site. The residential estate comprises Spens Avenue and Gough Way to the west, Pearce Close to the south and Stukely Close to the south-west of the site.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Three trial trenches were excavated (Fig.2). Trenches 1 & 2 were 25m long and Trench 2 was 15m long. All trenches were 1.80m wide. In addition four Test Pits were excavated for geotechnical investigations. Each test pit was approximately one square metre and excavated down to the maximum depth of the diggers arm.

4.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a 180° back acting mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.60m wide toothless ditching bucket. Thereafter, all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed.

5 RESULTS Figs. 2, 7 & 8

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 & 7; DP1)

<i>Sample section: Centre, west facing.</i>		
<i>0.00 = 10.57m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000	Topsoil. Very dark grayish brown friable sandy silt, with very occasional small sub angular flints.
0.10 – 0.46m	L1001	Buried Topsoil. Dark brownish grey firmly compacted sandy silt, with occasional small and medium sub angular flints.
0.46 – 0.85m	L1002	Subsoil. Mid orangish brown firmly compacted sandy silt, with occasional small and medium sub angular flints.
0.85m+	L1003	Natural. Mid brownish orange friable coarse sand and gravel.

Description: Trench 1 contained an east west aligned gully (F1015) and a tight cluster of five pits, (F1017, F1055, F1020, F1022, F1024) four of which were intercutting. All of the features were undated.

Gully F1015 (1.8m+ x 0.9m x 0.13m) was located 6.2m south of the northern end of Trench 1, and was aligned east to west. It was a very regular linear feature with gently sloping sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1016, was a mid orange brown friable sandy silt with occasional gravel. It lines up with Gully F1053 in Trench 3 and they may be two segments of the same feature.

Pit F1017 (1.86m+ x 0.65m+ x 0.54m) protruded from the eastern side of the trench, leaving its eastern portion concealed. It appeared to be an oval-shaped pit, with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It contained the fill L1018, a mid orangish brown friable sandy silt with moderate amounts of gravel inclusions. This pit had cut through Pit F1055 to its immediate south.

Pit F1055 (1.3m+ x 1.18m+ x 0.56m) had been cut through on its northern side by Pit F1017. The pit protruded from the eastern side of the trench, leaving its eastern portion concealed. It appeared to be an oval shaped pit, with steep sides and a flat base. The lower fill of the pit, L1019, was a mid yellowish brown friable sandy silt with occasional gravel. The upper fill, L1056, was a mid orange brown friable sandy silt. This pit had cut through Pit F1020 to its immediate south.

Pit F1020 (2m+ x 1.6m+ x 0.58m) had been cut through on its northern side by Pit F1055. Once again the pit protruded from the eastern side of the trench, leaving its eastern portion concealed. It appeared to be an oval shaped pit, with near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained the fill L1021, a mid orange brown friable sandy silt with a moderate amount of gravel inclusions. This pit had cut through Pit F1022 to its immediate south.

Pit F1022 (1.9m+ x 1.6m+ x 0.34m) had been cut through on its northern side by Pit F1020. The pit protruded from the eastern side of the trench, leaving its eastern portion concealed. It appeared to be an oval shaped pit, with very steep sides and a flat base. It contained the fill L1023, a mid orange brown friable sandy silt with a moderate amount of gravel.

Pit F1024 (1.32m+ x 1.15m+ x 0.48m) was located 0.18m south of Pit F1022. The pit protruded from the eastern side of the trench, leaving its eastern portion concealed. It appeared to be an elongated oval shaped pit, with its long axis aligned east to west. It had very steep sides and a flat base. It contained the fill L1025, a mid orange brown friable sandy silt with occasional gravel and patches of clay.

Trench 2 (Figs. 2 & 7)

<i>Sample section: Western end, north facing.</i>		
<i>0.00 = 10.96m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1000	Topsoil. Very dark grayish brown friable sandy silt, with very occasional small sub angular flints.
0.12 – 0.47m	L1001	Buried Topsoil. Dark brownish grey firmly compacted sandy silt, with occasional small and medium sub angular flints.
0.47 – 0.82m	L1002	Subsoil. Mid orangish brown firmly compacted sandy silt, with occasional small and medium sub angular flints.
0.82m+	L1003	Natural. Mid brownish orange friable coarse sand and gravel.

<i>Sample section: Eastern end, north facing.</i>		
<i>0.00 = 10.81m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. Very dark grayish brown friable sandy silt, with very occasional small sub angular flints.
0.23 – 0.59m	L1001	Buried Topsoil. Dark brownish grey firmly compacted sandy silt, with occasional small and medium sub angular flints.
0.59 – 0.83m	L1002	Subsoil. Mid orangish brown firmly compacted sandy silt, with occasional small and medium sub angular flints.
0.83m+	L1003	Natural. Mid brownish orange friable coarse sand and gravel.

Description: Trench 2 contained a tight cluster of seven intercutting pits, (F1026, F1028, F1030, F1032, F1034, F1036 and F1039) located between the eastern end of the trench and its mid point. The only find from any of the pits was an iron nail recovered from the upper fill of F1036. A modern linear feature ran north south across the trench in this area, but it had clearly been cut into the top of Subsoil L1002 unlike the pits which were cut into the top of the natural, L1003.

Pit F1036 (1.8m+ x 1.9m x 0.82m) was located approximately half way along the trench. It was an oval shape with its long axis aligned north to south. It extended beyond the trench edges to the north and south so its full size could not be measured. It had irregular sides and a concave base. The lower fill of the pit, L1037, was a dark orangish brown loosely compacted silty gravel. The upper fill, L1038, was a mid orangish brown friable sandy silt. The pit cut through Pit F1032 to the west and Pits F1034 and F1039 to the east.

Pit F1032 (1.8m+ x 0.8m x 0.64m) had been cut through on its eastern side by Pit F1036. It was an oval shape in plan but its northern and southern ends extended beyond the trench edges. It had a stepped profile at the west and a concave base. It contained a single fill, L1033, a mid orangish brown friable sandy silt.

Pit F1034 (1.05m+ x 1.1m+ x 0.59m) had been cut through on its western side by the Pit F1036. It was an oval shape in plan but its northern half lay beyond the trench and only a small portion of the pit was excavated. It had steep sides at the south and a concave base. Its fill, L1035, was a mid orangish brown friable sandy silt. It cut through the northern end of the Pit F1039, which was also cut by Pit F1036.

Pit F1039 (2.5m+ x 1m+ x 0.69m) had been cut through on its northern side by Pit F1034, on its western side by pit F1036 and its eastern end by Pit F1030. It was a large oval shape in plan but its southern half lay beyond the trench and only a small portion of the pit was excavated. The shape of its sides were not determined but the pit appeared to have a concave base. Its lower fill, L1040, was a dark orangish brown loosely compacted silty gravel. Its upper fill, L1041, was a mid orangish brown friable sandy silt.

Pit F1030 (3.37m+ x 1m+ x 0.83m) was located close to the eastern end of Trench 2. It was a large oval shaped pit but a large portion of it lay to the south of the trench. It had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. Its lower fill, L1031, was a dark orangish brown loosely compacted silty gravel. Its upper fill, L1042, was a mid orangish brown friable sandy silt. Its western end cut through the eastern end of Pit F1041 and its eastern end cut through Pit F1028.

Pit F1028 had been cut through by the eastern end of Pit F1030 and only a very small fraction of the feature was visible within the trench meaning it was impossible to determine its length or width. It was 0.78m deep. The pit had steep sides with noticeably sharp breaks of slope at top and bottom and a flat base. It contained a single fill, L1029, a mid orangish brown friable sandy silt. Its eastern end had cut through Pit F1026.

Pit F1026 (1.9m+ x 0.9m+ x 0.23m) was located at the very east of Trench 2. It was cut through by Pit F1028 to the west and a large portion of the feature lay beyond the trench to the south. Only a small part of the pit was excavated. It was oval or circular in plan with gently sloping sides but the nature of its base was not determined. It contained a single fill, F1027, a mid orangish brown friable sandy silt.

Trench 3 (Figs. 2 & 8)

<i>Sample section: Northern end, west facing.</i> <i>0.00 = 10.88m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.13m	L1000	Topsoil. Very dark grayish brown friable sandy silt, with very occasional small sub angular flints.
0.13 – 0.52m	L1001	Buried Topsoil. Dark brownish grey firmly compacted sandy silt, with occasional small and medium sub angular flints.
0.52 – 0.84m	L1002	Subsoil. Mid orangish brown firmly compacted sandy silt, with occasional small and medium sub angular flints.
0.84m+	L1003	Natural. Mid brownish orange friable coarse sand and gravel.

<i>Sample section: Centre, east facing.</i> <i>0.00 = 10.97m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. Very dark grayish brown friable sandy silt, with very occasional small sub angular flints.
0.23 – 0.56m	L1001	Buried Topsoil. Dark brownish grey firmly compacted sandy silt, with occasional small and medium sub angular flints.
0.56 – 0.91m	L1002	Subsoil. Mid orangish brown firmly compacted sandy silt, with occasional small and medium sub angular flints.
0.91m+	L1003	Natural. Mid brownish orange friable coarse sand and gravel.

Description: Trench 3 contained two linear features (F1053 and F1045), two large pits (F1052, F1007), two medium sized pits (F1047 and F1010) and two smaller pits (F1005 and 1013) forming two groups of three intercutting pits.

Gully F1053 (1.8m+ x 1.1m x 0.34m) was located 2.9m from the northern end of Trench 3. It was a very regular linear feature running east to west. It had moderately sloping sides and a small concave base. It contained a single fill, L1054, which was a mid orangish brown friable sandy silt. This feature lines up with the linear feature F1015 in Trench 1 and they may be two segments of the same feature.

The northern edge of the large pit F1050 (2.2m+ x 4.3m x 0.7m+) was located 0.5m south of Gully F1053. It was a very substantial oval pit, with its long axis aligned north west to south east and which extended beyond the trench to both the east and west. It had steeply sloping sides but was not excavated to its full depth so the nature of its base is unknown. Its basal fill, L1051, was a dark orangish brown friable gravely silt. Its upper fill, L1052, was a mid orangish brown friable sandy silt and two sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from it. The southern edge of this pit cut through the northern edge of Pit F1047.

The northern end of Pit F1047 (3.5m+ x 1.1m+ x 0.65m) had been cut through by the southern end of the large pit F1050. The pit protruded from the eastern side of

the trench leaving its eastern portion concealed. It appeared to be an oval shape in plan with its long axis aligned approximately north to south. It had steeply sloping sides and a flat base. Its lower fill, L1048, was a dark orangish brown friable gravely silt. Its upper fill, L1049 was a mid orangish brown friable sandy silt. The southern side of this pit cut through the northern side of Pit F1010.

The northern end of Pit F1010 (3.25m+ x 1.1m+ x 1.05m) had been cut through by the southern end of Pit F1050. The pit protruded from the eastern side of the trench leaving its eastern portion concealed. It appeared to be an oval shape in plan with its long axis aligned approximately north to south. It had steeply sloping sides and a flat base. Its lower fill, L1011, was a dark orangish brown friable gravely silt. Its upper fill, L1012, was a mid orangish brown friable sandy silt.

The northern edge of the large pit F1007 (2.2m+ x 4.3m x 0.7m+) was located 0.85m south of Pit F1010. It was a very substantial oval pit, with its long axis aligned north west to south east and which extended beyond the trench to both the east and west. It had steeply sloping sides along its south and a steeped profile along its north, with a long gentle slope suddenly becoming near vertical. The base of the feature was flat, but sloped down noticeably to the north. The lower fill of the pit, F1008, was a dark orangish brown friable silty gravel, that extended up over the step in the northern side. A single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from this fill. The upper fill, F1009, was a mid orangish brown friable sandy silt. Removal of the fill of this pit revealed that it had cut through two earlier features, Pits F1005 and F1013.

Pit F1005 (0.95m+ x 0.45m+ x 0.55m+) was located on the northern side of the large pit F1007. Its southern side had been entirely removed but the base of the pit and its northern side survived. Based on what survived it is estimated that the pit had been oval in plan with near vertical sides and a flat base. The steep northern side coincided with the curious in the northern side of Pit F1007, and it is likely this step was formed when the softer fill of Pit F1005 was encountered by the excavators of F1007. The pit contained a single fill, L1006, a mid orangish brown friable sandy silt which extended to the top of the surviving cut suggesting it had originally filled the entire pit.

Pit F1013 (0.78m+ x 0.3m+ x 0.73m) was located on the southern side of the large pit F1007. Its northern side had been partially removed but its lower parts, the southern side and base all survived. The pit was oval in plan with a near vertical side to the side and a moderately sloping side to the north, although the slope may have been much steeper around the removed upper portion. The base was small and flat. It contained the fill F1014, a mid orangish brown friable sandy silt.

A north west to south east gully, F1045 (1.35m+ x 0.26m x 0.12m), was located at the very south of Trench 3, running from the south eastern corner to a point 1.8m north of the south western corner. It had moderately sloping sides and a narrow flat base. It contained a single fill, F1046, a mid orangish brown friable sandy silt.

Test Pit 1 (Figs. 2 & 8)

<i>Sample section: South facing.</i> <i>0.00 = 10.75m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1000	Topsoil. Very dark grayish brown friable sandy silt, with very occasional small sub angular flints.
0.12 – 0.37m	L1001	Buried Topsoil. Dark brownish grey firmly compacted sandy silt, with occasional small and medium sub angular flints.
0.37 – 1.01m	L1002	Subsoil. Mid orangish brown firmly compacted sandy silt, with occasional small and medium sub angular flints.
1.01 – 2.10m	L1003	Natural. Mid brownish orange friable coarse sand and gravel.
2.01m+	L1004	Natural. Pale bluish grey firmly compacted clay.

Test Pit 2 (Figs. 2 & 8)

<i>Sample section: South facing.</i> <i>0.00 = 10.94m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000	Topsoil. Very dark grayish brown friable sandy silt, with very occasional small sub angular flints.
0.10 – 0.54m	L1001	Buried Topsoil. Dark brownish grey firmly compacted sandy silt, with occasional small and medium sub angular flints.
0.54 – 0.95m	L1002	Subsoil. Mid orangish brown firmly compacted sandy silt, with occasional small and medium sub angular flints.
0.95 – 2.00m	L1003	Natural. Mid brownish orange friable coarse sand and gravel.
2.00m+	L1004	Natural. Pale bluish grey firmly compacted clay.

Test Pit 3 (Figs. 2 & 8)

<i>Sample section: South facing.</i> <i>0.00 = 10.90m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000	Topsoil. Very dark grayish brown friable sandy silt, with very occasional small sub angular flints.
0.10 – 0.55m	L1001	Buried Topsoil. Dark brownish grey firmly compacted sandy silt, with occasional small and medium sub angular flints.
0.55 – 0.85m	L1002	Subsoil. Mid orangish brown firmly compacted sandy silt, with occasional small and medium sub angular flints.
0.85 – 2.27m	L1003	Natural. Mid brownish orange friable coarse sand and gravel.
2.27m+	L1004	Natural. Pale bluish grey firmly compacted clay.

Test Pit 4 (Figs. 2 & 8)

<i>Sample section: South facing.</i> <i>0.00 = 10.95m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.18m	L1000	Topsoil. Very dark grayish brown friable sandy silt, with very occasional small sub angular flints.
0.18 – 0.55m	L1001	Buried Topsoil. Dark brownish grey firmly compacted sandy silt, with occasional small and medium sub angular flints.
0.55 – 0.90m	L1002	Subsoil. Mid orangish brown firmly compacted sandy silt, with occasional small and medium sub angular flints.
0.90 – 2.20m	L1003	Natural. Mid brownish orange friable coarse sand and gravel.
2.20m+	L1004	Natural. Pale bluish grey firmly compacted clay.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 The stratigraphy was uniform across the site with Topsoil L1000 overlying buried topsoil L1001 which in turn overlay Subsoil L1002. Beneath this there was the natural deposit L1003 and, in the test pits, this was found to overlie a lower natural deposit L1004.

7.2 Topsoil L1000 was a very dark grayish brown friable sandy silt, with very occasional small sub angular flints. It was between 0.1 and 0.23m thick. Buried Topsoil L1001 was a dark brownish grey firmly compacted sandy silt, with occasional small and medium sub angular flints. It was between 0.25 and 0.44m thick. Subsoil L1002 was a mid orangish brown firmly compacted sandy silt, with occasional small and medium sub angular flints. It was between 0.24 and 0.64m thick. The upper natural deposit L1003 was a mid brownish orange friable coarse sand and gravel. It was between 1.05 and 1.42m thick. The lower natural deposit L1004 was a pale bluish grey firmly compacted clay. The maximum depth of this layer was not identified.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The evaluation revealed that the site was covered in large oval pits, often forming intercutting complexes. In total 18 pits were encountered, and their recorded distribution (Figs 2, 7 & 8) suggests that similar features probably extend across most of the field. The form of the pits, the general absence of artefacts and charcoal, and the nature of the underlying natural deposits the pits are cut into,

suggest that the pits were excavated in order to extract sand and gravel for building materials. That they were probably back filled rapidly after they were excavated is suggested by the steep and un-weathered appearance of the majority of the pits sides, and the uniformity of their fills. It is clear that the majority of the pits are part of distinct intercutting groups, suggesting the quarrying activity took place over a lengthy period and that the location of previous pits were not precisely known when a new pit was dug.

8.2 Dating the activity on the site is very difficult. The three sherds of Roman pottery recovered from the pit fills are not diagnostic and can only be dated from somewhere between the late 1st to the 4th century AD. The quarrying may therefore have taken place during the Romano British period, although they may be residual finds that have accidentally been included in the backfill of pits excavated at a much later date. The slightly abraded nature of the pottery and its small quantity could be taken to suggest that they are residual finds and that a post Roman date is more appropriate.

9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AS is grateful to Identified Investments Ltd for funding the works and for their assistance (in particular Messrs Mark Dean and Tim Dean), and their architects, Once Architecture for assistance (in particular Mr Chris Senior).

AS also would like to thank staff at the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Record, for their assistance.

AS gratefully acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Andy Thomas of the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team

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www.british-history.ac.uk

APPENDIX 1 SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD DATA

The following sites are those that lie within a 500m radius of the site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER).

SMR	NGR SP	Description
Iron Age		
05105	TL 431 580	Bronze pin in shape of crozier, Grange Road, Cambridge. Its dimensions are length 11.7cm, width across crook 9mm, diameter of shaft 2.5mm. It is of late Celtic workmanship of a very rare design.
CB15629 ECB1315	TL 4389 5775	Late Iron Age/Roman ditch, Tyndale House, Cambridge. A single evaluation trench was excavated to the rear of Tyndale House, revealing a late Iron Age/Early Roman ditch NW-SE alignment, though to be a field boundary associated with an unknown settlement in the vicinity. Roman pottery was also discovered at the Sidgwick and Selwyn College indicative of settlement in the vicinity and it is suggested the ditch forms part of a larger late Iron Age/early Roman agricultural landscape.
Prehistoric (undated)		
04398A	TL 437 577	Prehistoric stone object found during building work at Bredon House, 1914 - 1916.
MCB15811	TL 4357 5801	Human remains, Corpus Christi Sports Field. While constructing a soakaway on the 14th of May 1999, human remains were discovered and unfortunately removed without recording. The Home Office Pathologist decided that the bones were over 100 years old and therefore of no further interest. Thereafter they were handed over to the AFU for analysis. On the 16th May, Tim Malim visited the site and excavated the area, recovering further bones which refitted with the ones initially found. All the bones appeared to be from 1 skeleton, probably a 16-17 year old female. Some animal bones were also discovered, including several portions of jaw. They have patches of charring and their flaking surface suggests their having been cooked. The burial was suggesting a contracted inhumation lying on its left side with knees flexed. The femur and another bone seemed to have been cut through perhaps as a part of a ritual dismemberment, which possibly indicates Bronze Age or Iron Age date.
Roman		
03792	TL 4394 5749	Roman pottery, The Grove, Newnham. Roman pottery found at The Grove, Newnham c.1901.
04403	TL 439 576	Roman pottery, 12 Grange Road, Cambridge. Roman sherds - Canonesses of St Aug, 12 Grange Rd 1954.
04405	TL 434 583	Roman potsherds.
04421	TL 440 577	Roman pottery from Numbers 10 / 12 Grange Road, 1954.
04997a	TL 4392 5749	Roman pottery, Barton Road. The burials were made in soil thickly strewn with Roman pottery.

05019	TL 432 576	3 late C3 coins, Gallienus, Tetricus I, and Carausius. Roman pot sherds including Samian ware found at University Farm.
05105A	TL 431 580	Lying with a bronze pin (HER 05105) were 2 Roman vessels and a metal cylinder, probably a knife handle. Roman pottery and bronze objects found on the surface from St John's Farm to Barton Farm.
05113A	TL 437 575	Roman pottery, Barton Road, Cambridge.
ECB2959	TL 42807 57794	AP assessment commissioned as part of desk based assessment to examine area of 3-4 ha at Laundry Farm. The Roman road and some slight traces of medieval fields were identified.
Medieval		
04997	TL 4392 5749	Saxon burials, Croft Lodge, Newnham Croft. Since 1893 AS burials have been found at the S end of Grange Road and both sides of Barton Road. Cinerary urns from Newnham are in the British Museum, and recently several inhumations, have been found associated with spearheads, pots and wrist clasps. The burials were made in soil thickly strewn with Roman pottery. In the garden of Croft Lodge, Newnham Croft, two interments were found with fibulae and wrist clasps dated c.C6.
04400	TL 437 579	Medieval finger ring in garden of Leckhampton House, Grange Road, c.1952.
04999	TL 44 58	The King's Ditch. This note follows up the line of inquiry as to the position of certain rubbish-holes, whether ditches or pits, which occur within the ancient town of Cambridge as defined by the King's ditch. The ditch as far as can be ascertained by excavation did not approach very close to the houses, but on its banks there was always a waste space where rubbish was shot. The excavations recently carried on Messers Fosters' property on the S side of Silver Street opposite Queens' College, have exposed a section though such ancient made-ground down to the gravel of the lower river-terrace. The remains found: The bones are those of domestic ox and horned sheep. The pottery could be most conveniently exhibited in two divisions. The first and earlier is that of which the type is the old jug with the fluted handle which provisionally we will assign to the C13-C14, and C15 and bright green glazed ware, and the rimmed cooking pots, and with the later the older pipes, of which a large number of fairly perfect specimens were procured.
05072	TL 438 576	Medieval pottery found by Mr. Richens in 1955, somewhere in Barton Close.
05113	TL 437 575	Medieval bronze metalwork, Barton Road, Cambridge. From somewhere in Barton Road. Found in 1896 during sewer excavation.
MCB16929	TL 4384 5751	Medieval pottery finds, 32 Barton Road, Newnham. Some Medieval pottery was found whilst digging a new soak-away at the front of 32 Barton Road. The pottery which recovered at a depth of 30-36", was taken to the AFU for identification. The assemblage was spot dates to the mid 12th-mid 13th C, and comprises fragments of a micaceous sandy wares vessel (1150-1300), two Ely – typology ware rims and fragments of two grey Ely - ware bowls. Two glazed sherds were also

		recorded, a green glazed jug fragment from Ely (1150-1300), and a fragment of a Babylon-type drinking vessel, dating to c. 1500.
Post-medieval		
04398	TL 437 577	Clay pipes found 1914 - 1916. Majority of these pipes of C17 date found during the building of Bredon House and its garden. About 50 of them found.
05108	TL 440 579	Selwyn College (founded AD 1882 in memory of George Selwyn, Bishop of Lichfield). Most of the buildings were designed by Sir Arthur Bloomfield and were erected in Tudor style in 1882 - 1889. The exception is the Hall, built in C17 by Grayson and Ould, and dated 1909. LBs: 1125494, 1332182, 1325987
Modern		
CB15069	TL 435 581	Hexagonal pillbox, now destroyed

APPENDIX 2 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

AS1477, Spens Ave.

Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	TT	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	A. Bone (g)	Other
1007	1008	3	Pit/Ditch	Late 1st - 4th C	(1) 33g		
1036	1038	2	Pit			71	Fe. Frag (1) - 13g
1050	1052	3	Pit	Late 1st - 4th C	(2) 35g	110	

APPENDIX 3 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery

Andrew Peachey MfA

The evaluation recovered three sherds (68g) of Roman pottery in a slightly abraded condition. Pit/Ditch F1007 (L1008) contained a single body sherd (33g) of Horningsea reduced ware from a storage jar with an exterior decorated with narrow comb strokes. Pit F1050 (L1052) contained two body sherds (35g) of locally-produced oxidised sandy ware from a single shouldered jar or bowl. These sherds present only limited diagnostic traits and could potentially date between the late 1st to 4th centuries AD.

The Animal Bone

Dr Julia E. M. Cussans

Two animal bones were recovered from trial trenching at Spen's Avenue; one from Pit F1036 L1038 and one from Pit F1050 L1052. Both of these were the ascending ramus portion (posterior part) of horse (*Equus* sp.) mandibles, one left (L1038) and one right (L1052). Both bones were fairly well preserved and showed no signs of butchery, pathology or gnawing. The main point of interest in this tiny assemblage is that the same bone was found in both pits; the breakage patterns for the two bones were however not similar.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
Trench 1. Looking south.



2
Section through Ditch F1015. Looking west.



3
Intercutting Pits F1017, F1055, F1020, F1022 & F1024 in Trench 1. Looking south east.



4
Trench 2. Looking west.



5
Sample Section 2A, Trench 2, looking south.



6
Sample Section 2B, Trench 2. Looking south, with Pit F1030 in the foreground.



7

Section through Pits F1032, F1036, F1034 and F1039. Looking north.



8

Test Trench 3. Looking north.



9

Sample Section 3A, Trench 3. Looking east.



10

Sample Section 3B, Trench 3. Looking west.



11

Intercutting pits F1050 & F1047 in Trench 3. Looking east.



12

Intercutting Pits F1047 & F1010 in Trench 3. Looking east.



13

*Intercutting Pits F1007, F1005 & F1013 in Trench 3.
Looking east.*



14

Test Pit 2. Looking west.



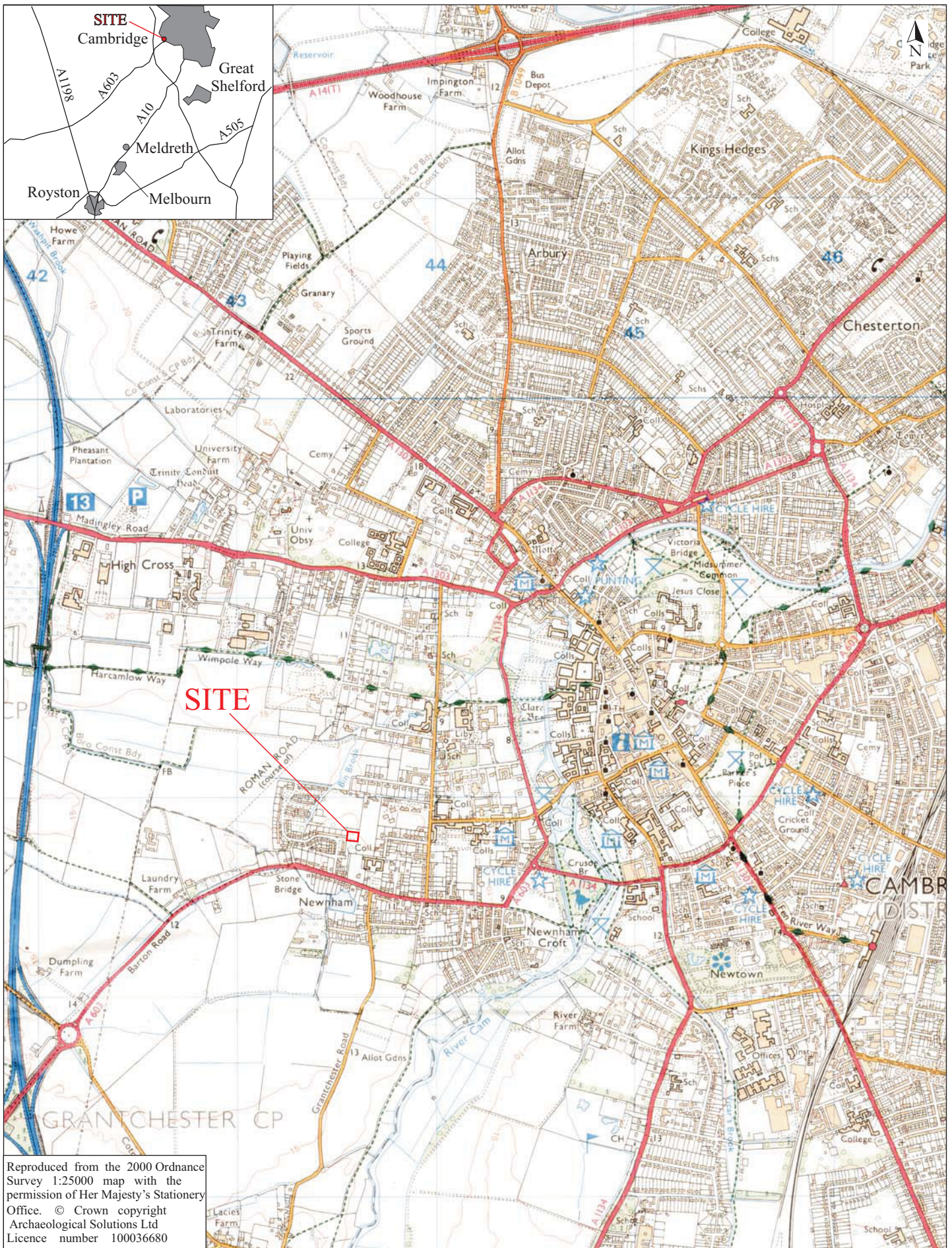
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Test Pit 3. Looking east.

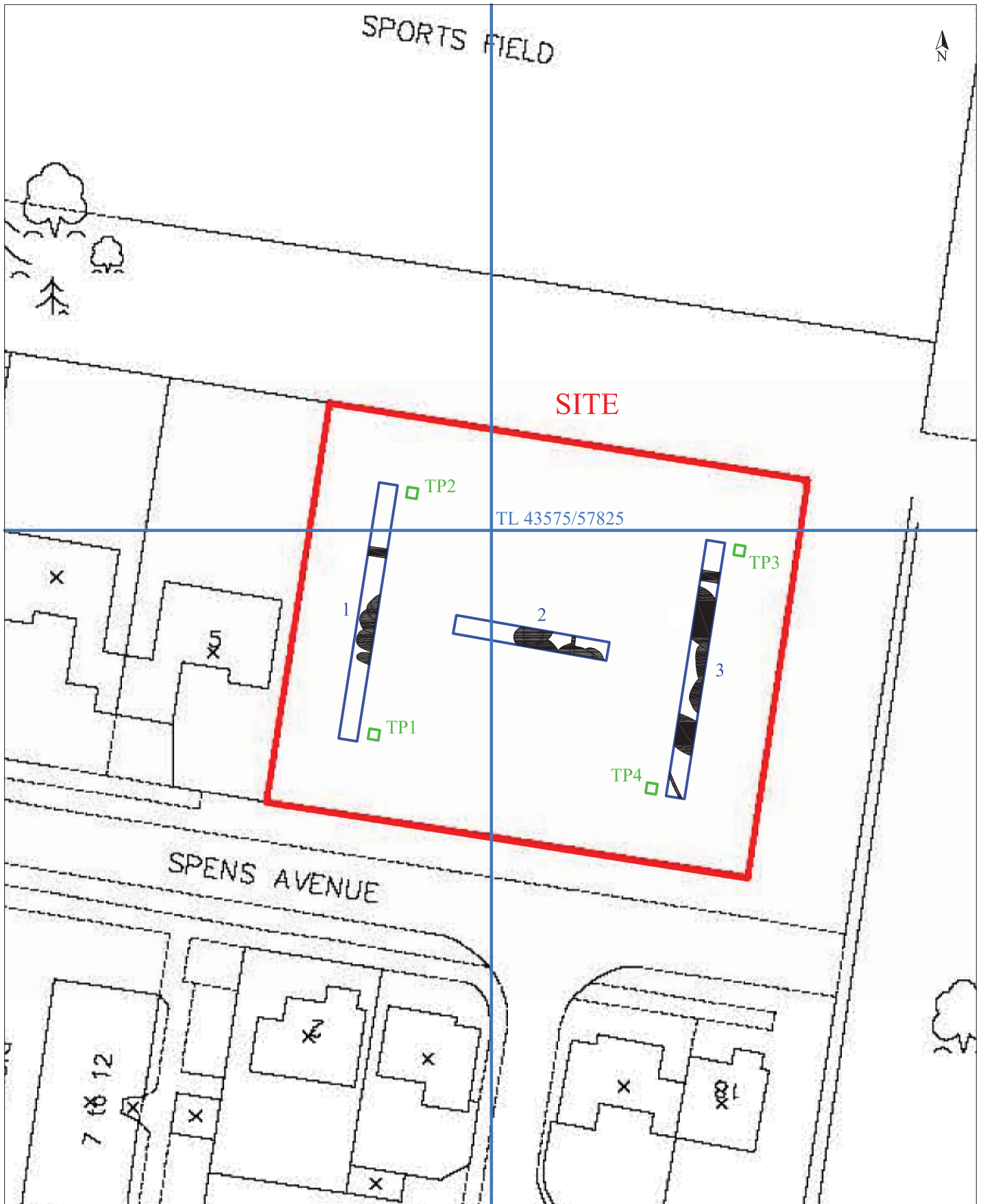


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Test Pit 4. Looking east.



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



0 25m

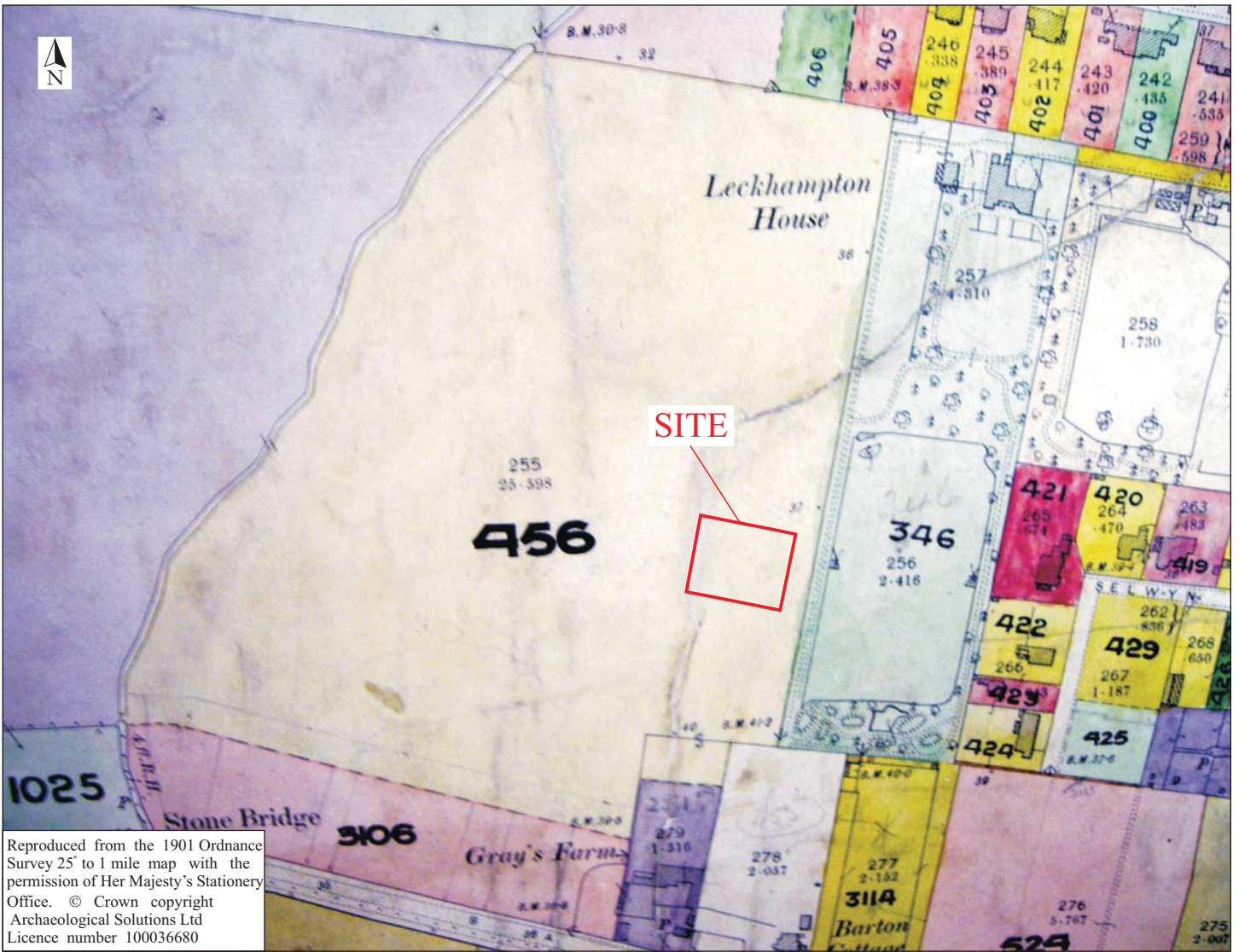
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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:500 at A4



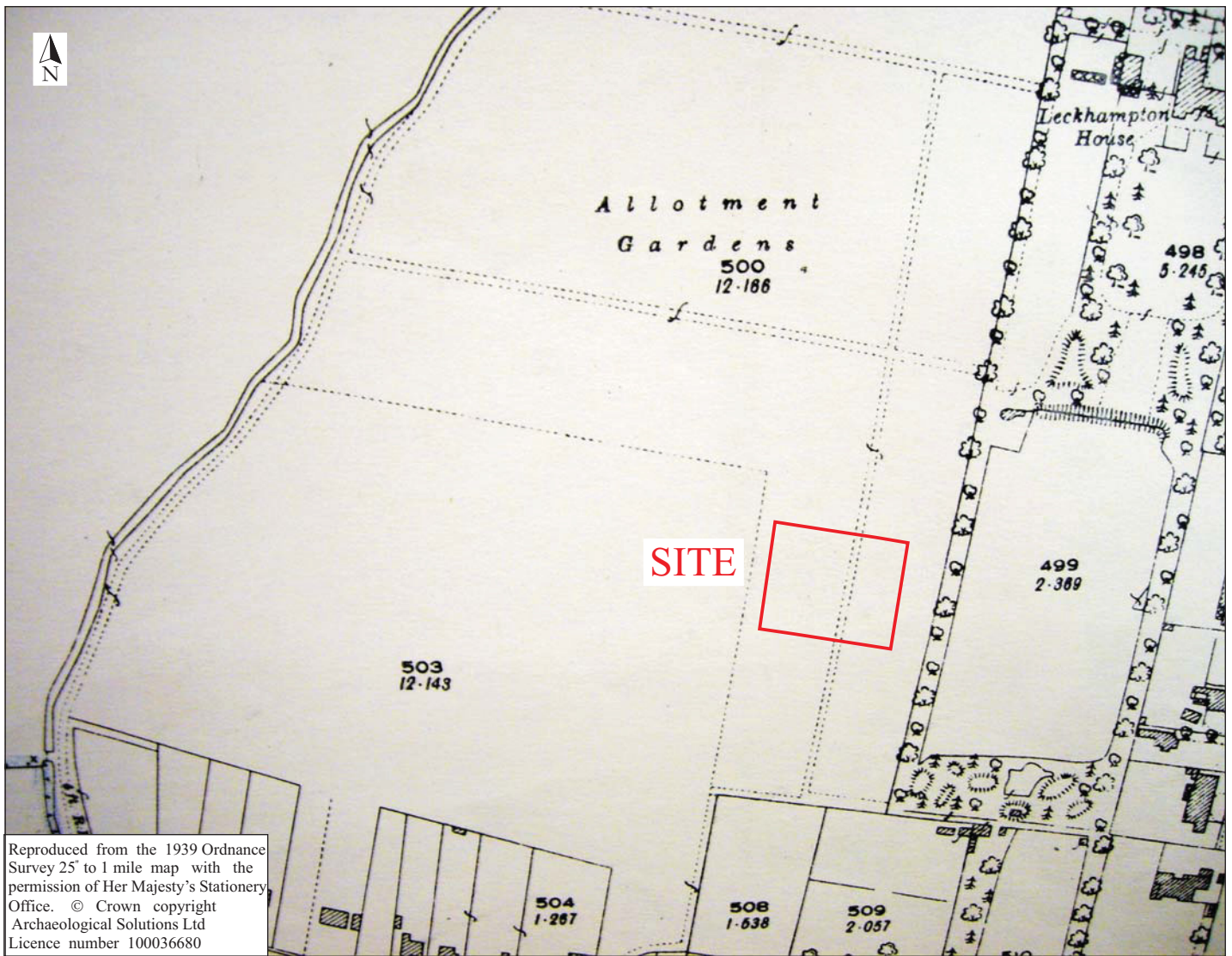
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Fig. 3 Inclosure map: Plan of the Parish of St Giles

Not to scale

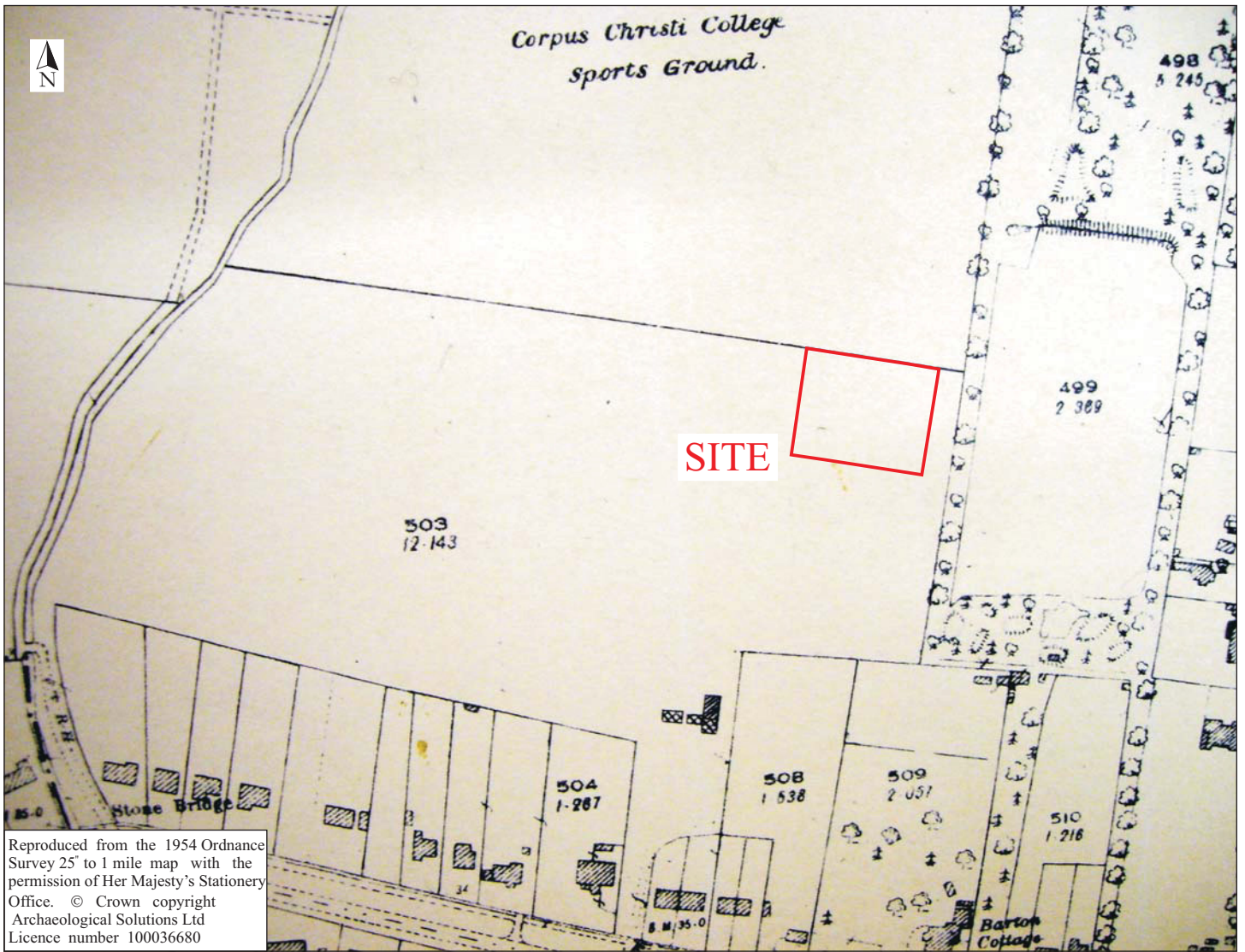


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Fig. 4 OS map, 1901
 Not to scale

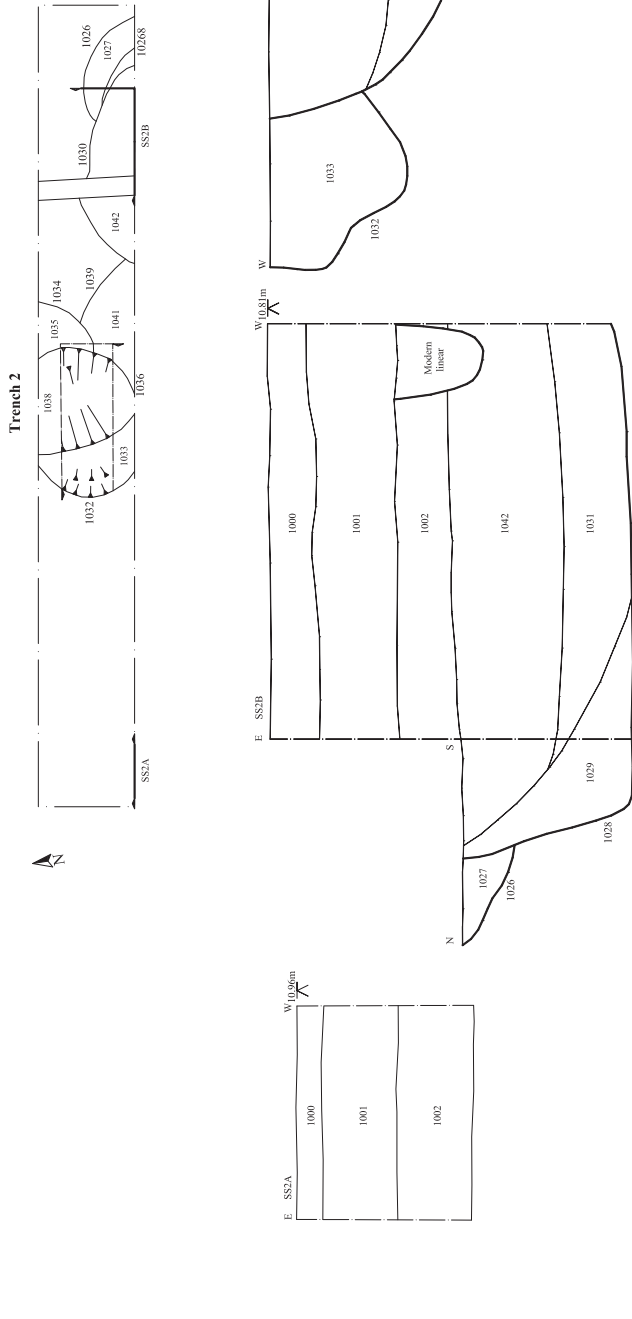
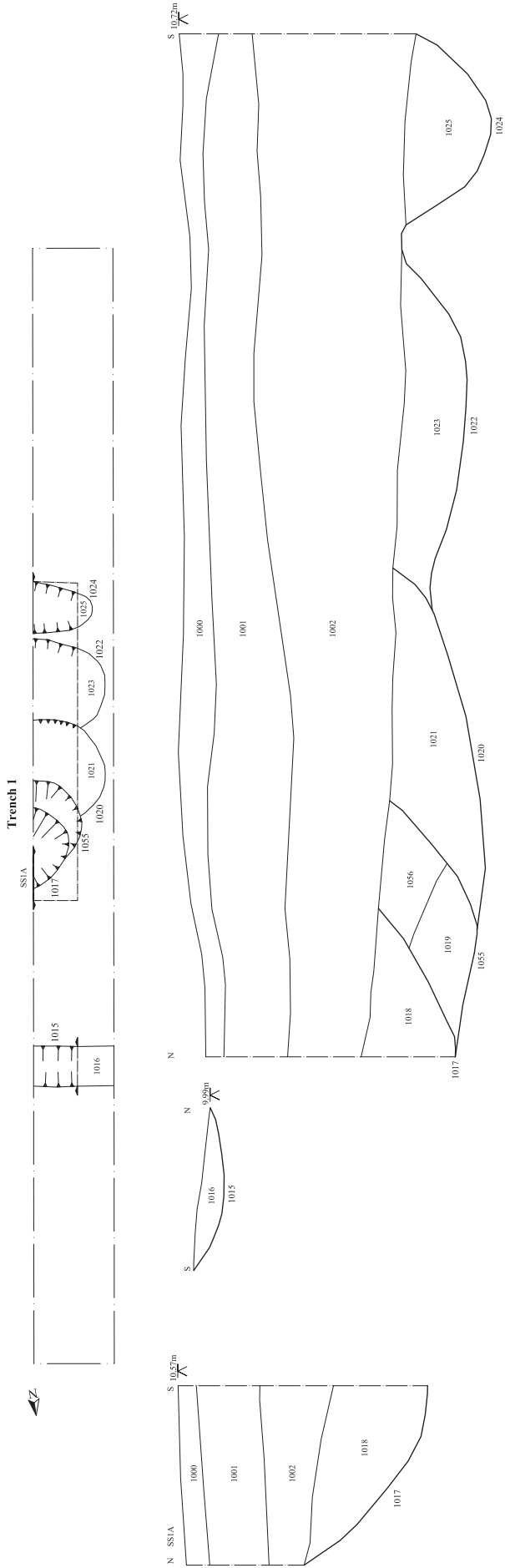


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Fig. 5 OS map, 1939
Not to scale



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Fig. 6 OS map, 1954
Not to scale



0 5m 2m

Plans only

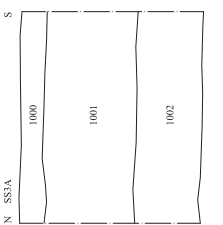
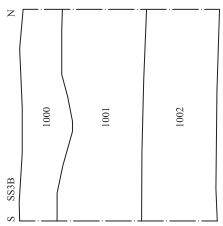
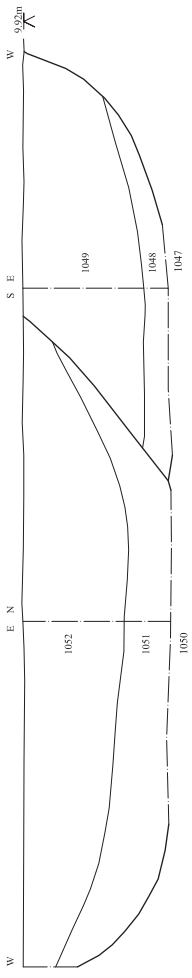
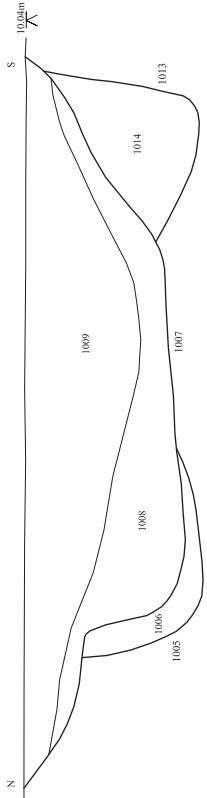
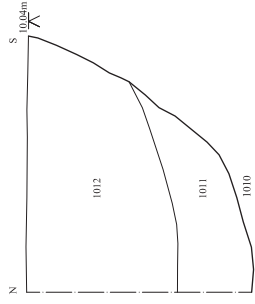
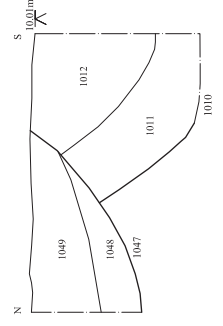
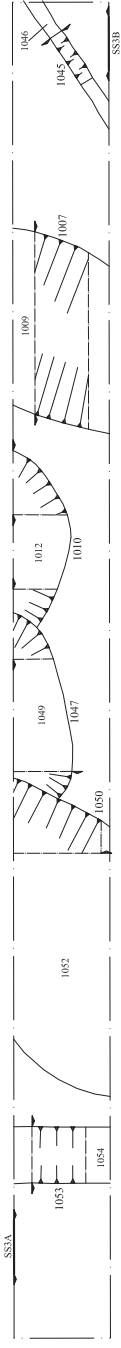
Sections only

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Fig. 7 Trench plans and sections

Scale 1:100 and 1:25 at A3

Trench 3



Test pits

