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**SITE E2, SUFFOLK BUSINESS PARK,
KEMPSON WAY, BURY ST. EDMUNDS,
SUFFOLK**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Kamil Orzechowski (Fieldwork & report) Pete Thompson MA (research)	
NGR: TL 879 635	Report No. 4159
District: St Edmundsbury	Site Code: BSE 411
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. P4964
Signed:	Date: October 2012

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Site E2, Suffolk Business Park, Kempson Way, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
<p><i>In October 2012 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Site 2, Suffolk Business Park, Kempson Way, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (NGR TL 879 635). The evaluation was undertaken in advance of the proposed construction of a new service centre, bulk storage building, access and parking. It was required to comply with a condition attached to planning approval (St Edmundsbury Borough Council Planning Ref. SE/12/0487)</i></p> <p><i>The site lies within an area of archaeological potential highlighted on the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER). Investigations prior to the construction of a new postal sorting/delivery office to the north revealed evidence of Neolithic occupation (HER RGH 044). Excavations to the north west revealed Iron Age and medieval occupation evidence, the latter including successive large dwellings from the late 13th/early 14th century onwards (HER BSE 131). A Bronze Age flint scatter is also recorded to the south (HER RGH 043).</i></p> <p><i>In the event Trench 10 contained two, shallow, parallel undated gullies (F1003 and F1005). A struck flint was found within the topsoil of Trench 8.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	October 2012		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>4964</i>	Site code	<i>BSE 411</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Waste ground</i>		
Planned development	<i>Extension of business park</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Two shallow parallel undated gullies</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>An unstratified struck flint</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Suffolk</i>	<i>St Edmundsbury</i>	<i>Bury St Edmunds</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Suffolk Historic Environment Record</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>2.67 ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 879 635</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>Approximately 62m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (Jess Tipper)</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Kamil Orzechowski</i>		
Funded by	<i>Wincer Kievenaar</i>		
Full title	<i>Site E2, Suffolk Business Park, Kempson Way, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Orzechowski, K., & Thompson, P.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4159</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>October 2012</i>		

SITE E2, SUFFOLK BUSINESS PARK, KEMPSON WAY, BURY ST. EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In October 2012 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Site 2, Suffolk Business Park, Kempson Way, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (NGR TL 879 635). The evaluation was undertaken in advance of the proposed construction of a new service centre, bulk storage building, access and parking. It was required to comply with a condition attached to planning approval (St Edmundsbury Borough Council Planning Ref. SE/12/0487)

The site lies within an area of archaeological potential highlighted on the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER). Investigations prior to the construction of a new postal sorting/delivery office to the north revealed evidence of Neolithic occupation (HER RGH 044). Excavations to the north west revealed Iron Age and medieval occupation evidence, the latter including successive large dwellings from the late 13th/early 14th century onwards (HER BSE 131). A Bronze Age flint scatter is also recorded to the south (HER RGH 043).

In the event Trench 10 contained two, shallow, parallel undated gullies (F1003 and F1005). A struck flint was found within the topsoil of Trench 8.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In October 2012 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at Site 2, Suffolk Business Park, Kempson Way, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk (NGR TL 879 635; Figs.1-2). The evaluation was commissioned by Wincer Kievenaar and was undertaken in advance of the proposed construction of a new service centre, bulk storage building, access and parking. It was required to comply with a condition attached to planning approval (St Edmundsbury Borough Council Planning Ref. SE/12/0487) requiring a programme of archaeological work and based on advice from SCC AS-CT.

1.2 The project was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCC AS-CT) (Jess Tipper, dated 03/08/2012), and a specification compiled by AS (dated 15/08/2012) and approved by SCC AS-CT. It followed the procedures outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008). It also adhered to the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The principal objectives of the evaluation were:

- To establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*
- To identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- To evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits, along with the potential for the survival of environmental evidence
- To provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

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, 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 Topography, Geology and Soils

2.1.1 The solid geology of the assessment site comprises Upper Cretaceous Chalk, overlain by drift geology of Quaternary Cover Sands with Head deposits that comprise orange sands and clay in varying proportions. Soils typically comprise sandy loams or sandy clay loams, with the sands generally calcareous in origin with a flint/stone content of 1-10%.

2.2 Archaeological and historical background (Fig. 2)

2.2.2 Palaeolithic artifacts have been found within Bury St Edmunds and a Mesolithic flint axe head was recorded 700m to the east of the site (HER RGH 056). Neolithic settlement is indicated approximately 500m north of the site where excavations at Suffolk Business Park identified buried prehistoric soils and a fragment of Neolithic pottery (RGH 044; Gill 2005, 2).

2.2.3 Evidence for the exploitation of the land in the Bronze Age is more evident, but limited to sparse recorded archaeological features and extensive flint scatters identified through fieldwalking. The closest site lies at the northern edge of Site E2 comprising at least 39 flint flakes and a barbed and tanged arrowhead (BSE Misc). Bronze Age artifacts were found around Cattishall level crossing over 1km to the north (BRG 009, BRG 043). Evidence for early Bronze Age and Iron Age occupation including ditches and pits was found during excavation 600m to the north (BSE 275). Iron Age archaeological features in the vicinity are of similar character and include sites 450m and 650m north of the site (BSE 131 and BSE 199).

2.2.4 A Roman villa has been identified by aerial photography c.2km to the south-east at Rougham (RGH 009), while the Roman road that it is situated on passes just over 1km to the east of the assessment site. Excavations some 750m to the north of the site recorded two shallow pits containing a sparse amount of Roman pottery that may be associated with peripheral agricultural activity (RGH 031). A cast copper alloy eagle figurine was found further to the north (BRG 028).

2.2.5 Saxon remains have been recorded at numerous locations in and around Bury St Edmunds, including a middle Saxon inhumation located 1.25km north of the site (BRG 027). The historic monastic complex of Bury St Edmunds abbey and its surrounding lands located 2km east-south-east was in use between the 10th century and the Dissolution (BSE 010). It is suggested that a monastic grange may have been located at Eldohouse Farm some 250m north-west of the site (HER BSE131). During the medieval period the environs of the site appears to have been agricultural land, situated to the east of the town and to the south of the small village of Catshill Green (BRG 025, BRG 026, BRG 027 and BSE Misc, BRG 027).

2.2.6 The site of "Four Hills" supposed barrows is located just to the south-east of the site by the A14(T) which are probably post-medieval sand dumps

(RGH 014). The airfield at Rougham was constructed in late 1941/early 1942 on farmland to the east of Bury St Edmunds (RGH046)

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Nineteen trial trenches providing a 5% sample of the site were excavated using a 360⁰ mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The trench locations were approved by Suffolk County Council, Archaeological Service Conservation Team. The individual trenches were linear in plan and were 40m in length. They were all 2m in width and arranged in a grid pattern (Fig. 2).

3.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 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. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the trenches were scanned by metal detector.

4 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below.

Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

<i>0.00m = 64.88m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark brown, friable, sandy silt with moderate flint
0.32 – 0.44m	L1001	Subsoil. Light - mid orange brown, friable, sandy silt with moderate flint .
0.44m+	L1002	Natural. Orange brown/light yellowish, compact silty clay and gravel.

Description: Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or finds

Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

<i>0.00m = 62.84m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.28 – 0.36m	L1001	Subsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.36m+	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 2 contained no archaeological features or finds

Trench 3 (Fig. 2)

<i>0.00m = 62.78m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.29 – 0.32m	L1001	Subsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.32m+	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 3 contained no archaeological features or finds

Trench 4 (Fig. 2)

<i>0.00m = 62.67m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.32 – 0.42m	L1001	Subsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.42m+	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 4 contained no archaeological features or finds

Trench 5 (Fig. 2)

<i>0.00m = 62.85m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.28 – 0.31m	L1001	Subsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.31m+	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 5 contained no archaeological features or finds

Trench 6 (Fig. 2)

<i>0.00m = 63.04m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.30 – 0.41m	L1001	Subsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.41m+	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 6 contained no archaeological features or finds

Trench 7 (Fig. 2)

<i>0.00m = 64.34m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.28 – 0.50m	L1001	Subsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.50m+	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 7 contained no archaeological features or finds

Trench 8 (Fig. 2)

<i>0.00m = 64.27m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.29 – 0.56m	L1001	Subsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.56m+	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 8 contained no archaeological features. A struck flint was found within the topsoil.

Trench 9 (Fig. 2)

<i>0.00m = 64.09m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.24 – 0.28m	L1001	Subsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.28m+	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 9 contained no archaeological features or finds

Trench 10 (Figs. 2 - 3)

<i>0.00m = 61.86m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.28 – 0.41m	L1001	Subsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.41m+	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 10 contained two parallel undated gullies (F1003 and F1005)

Gully F1003 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.40 x 0.06m), orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1004, was a mid brown, friable, sandy silt. No finds were present.

Gully F1005 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.60 x 0.07m), orientated NE/SW. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1006, was a mid brown, friable, sandy silt. No finds were present.

Trench 11 (Fig. 2)

<i>0.00m = 60.22m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.25 – 0.45m	L1001	Subsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.45m+	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 11 contained no archaeological features or finds

Trench 12 (Fig. 2)

<i>0.00m = 60.51m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.26 – 0.42m	L1001	Subsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.42m+	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 12 contained no archaeological features or finds

Trench 13 (Fig. 2)

<i>0.00m = 61.19m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.27 – 0.48m	L1001	Subsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.48m+	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 13 contained no archaeological features or finds

Trench 14 (Fig. 2)

<i>0.00m = 64.14m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.28 – 0.46m	L1001	Subsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.46m+	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 14 contained no archaeological features or finds

Trench 15 (Fig. 2)

<i>0.00m = 63.82m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.26 – 0.51m	L1001	Subsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.51m+	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 15 contained no archaeological features or finds

Trench 16 (Fig. 2)

<i>0.00m = 63.46m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.30 – 0.49m	L1001	Subsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.49m+	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 16 contained no archaeological features or finds

Trench 17 (Fig. 2)

<i>0.00m = 63.28m AOD</i>		
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0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.26 – 0.52m	L1001	Subsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.52m+	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 17 contained no archaeological features or finds

Trench 18 (Fig. 2)

<i>0.00m = 62.69m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.32 – 0.50m	L1001	Subsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.50m+	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 18 contained no archaeological features or finds

Trench 19 (Fig. 2)

<i>0.00m = 60.40m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.23 – 0.41m	L1001	Subsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.41m+	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 19 contained no archaeological features or finds

5 CONFIDENCE RATING

5.1 It is not felt that any factors restricted the identification of archaeological features or finds.

6 DEPOSIT MODEL

6.1 Topsoil L1000 was the uppermost layer across the site. It was a dark brown, friable, sandy silt with moderate flint (0.23 - 0.32m). It overlay Subsoil L1001 a light - mid brown, friable, sandy silt with moderate flint. The Natural Drift Geology was present below Subsoil L1001 and was an orange brown/light yellowish, compact silty clay and gravel (0.28 - 0.56m below the present ground surface).

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential highlighted on the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER). Investigations prior to the construction of a new postal sorting/delivery office to the north revealed evidence of Neolithic occupation (HER RGH 044). Excavations to the north west revealed Iron Age and medieval occupation evidence, the latter including

successive large dwellings from the late 13th/early 14th century onwards (HER BSE 131). A Bronze Age flint scatter is also recorded to the south (HER RGH 043).

7.2 In the event Trench 10 contained two, shallow, parallel undated gullies (F1003 and F1005), and a struck flint was found within the topsoil of Trench 8. Little modern disturbance was apparent; just some re-deposited natural adjacent to the hammerhead.

8 DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE

8.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at the County Historic Environment Record. 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.

8.2 The archive will be deposited within six months of the conclusion of the fieldwork. It will be prepared in accordance with the UK Institute for Conservation's *Conservation Guideline No.2* and according to the document *Deposition of Archaeological Archives in Suffolk* (SCC AS Conservation Team, 2008).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AS would like to thank Wincer Kievenaar for their co-operation and funding of the project.

AS also gratefully acknowledges the input and advice of Dr Jess Tipper of the Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service Conservation Team (SCC ASCT).

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Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2008) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



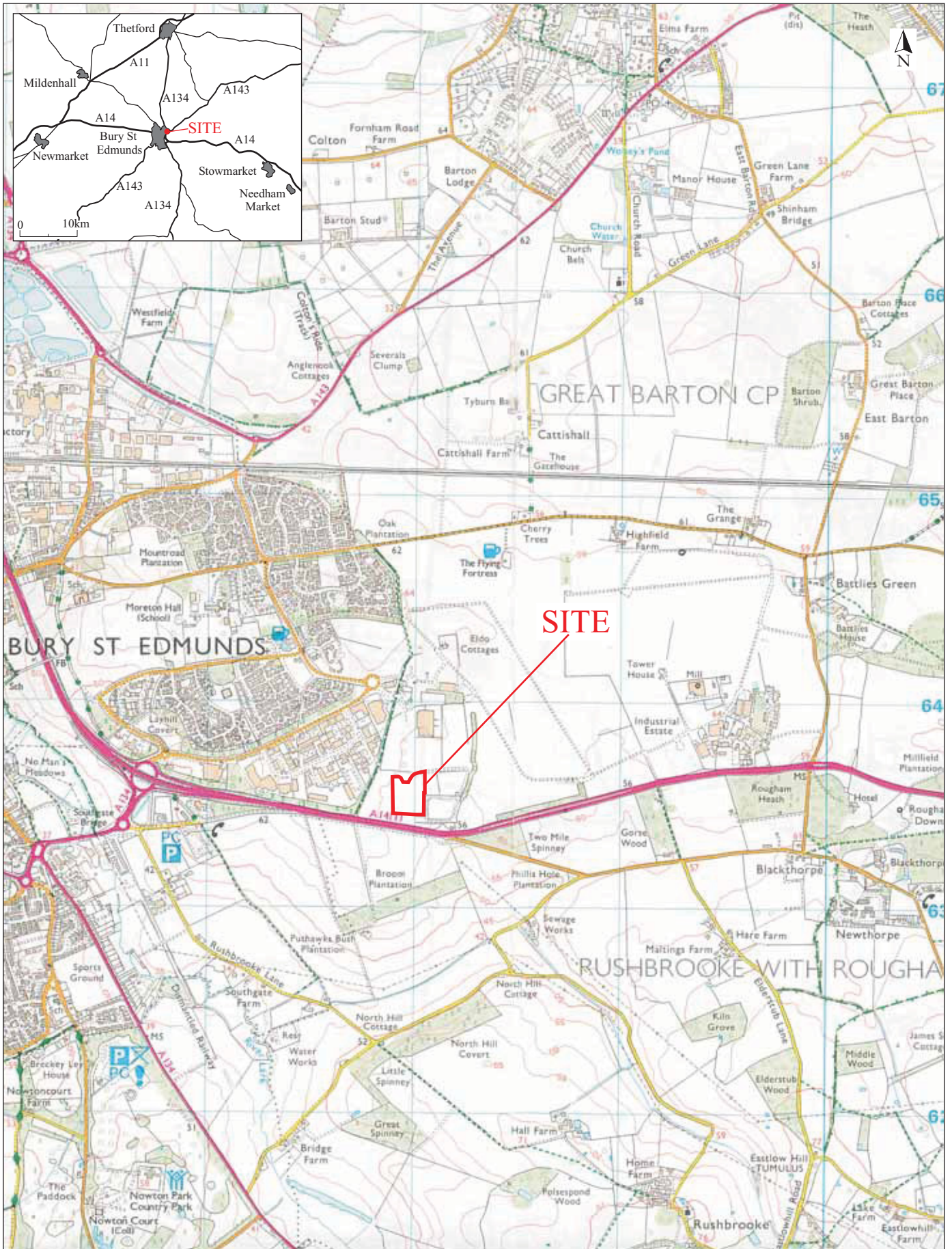
1
General shot of Trench 10 taken from the north



2
Section of F1003 taken from the southwest

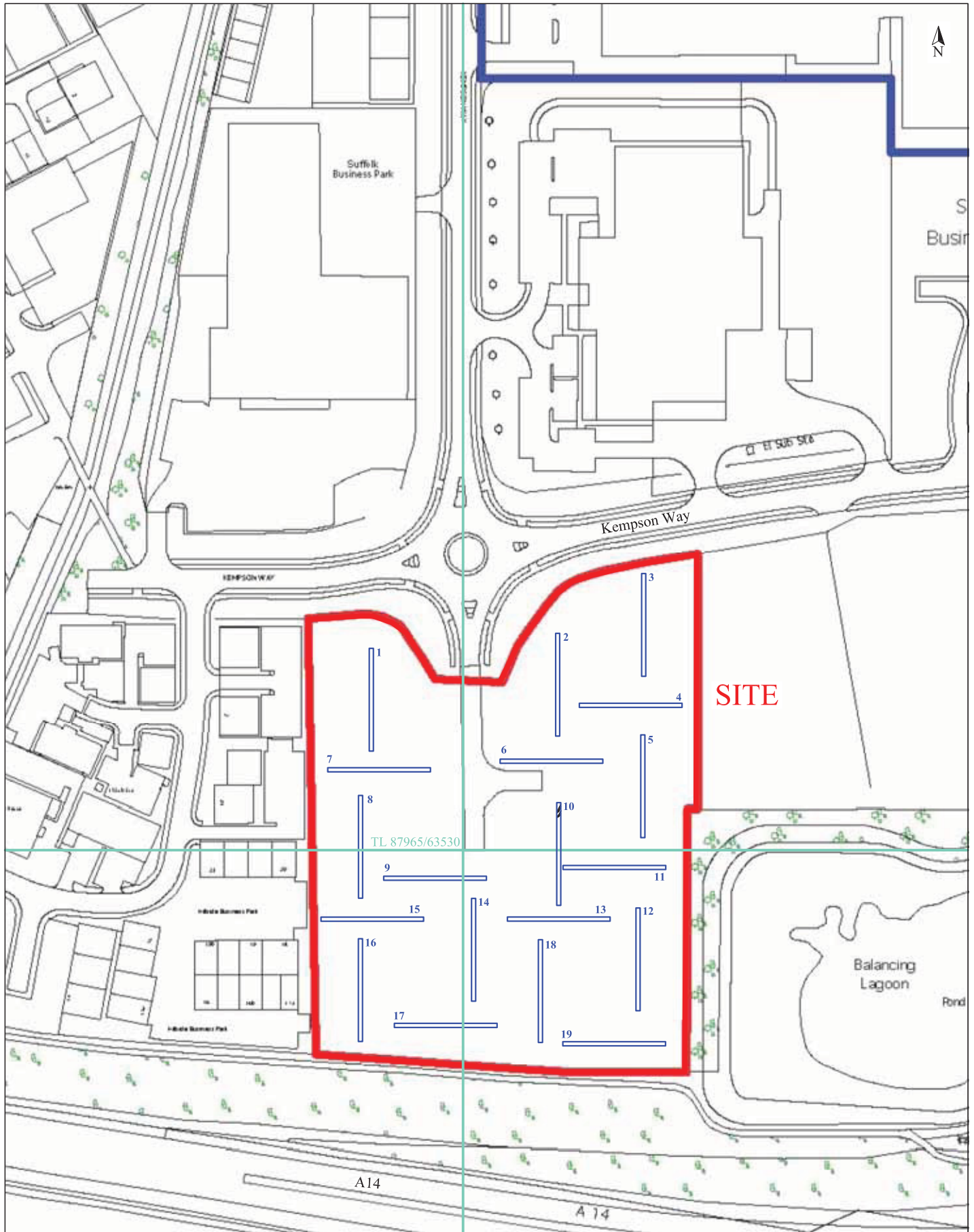


3
Section of F1005 taken from the southwest



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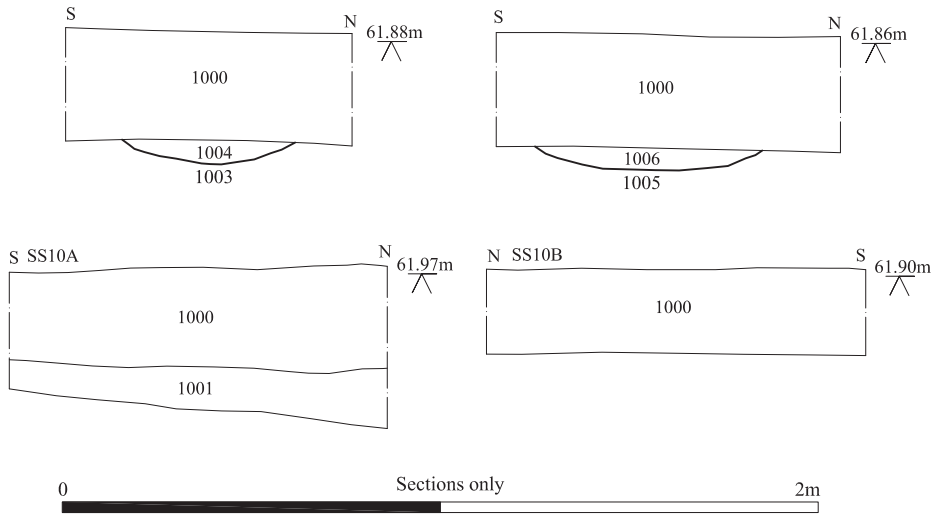
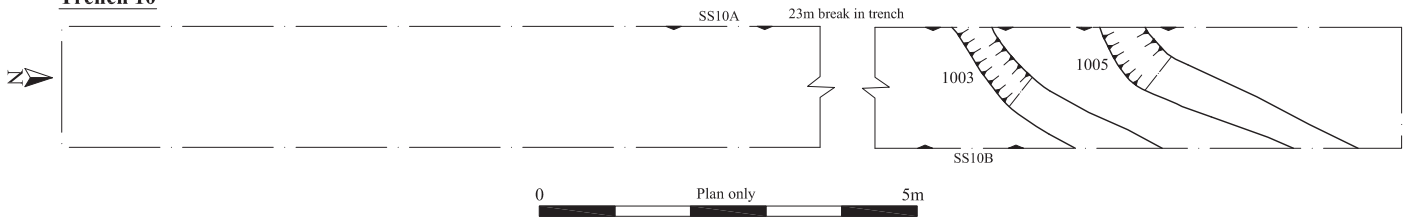
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



0 75m

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Fig. 2 Trench location plan
 Scale 1:2000 at A4

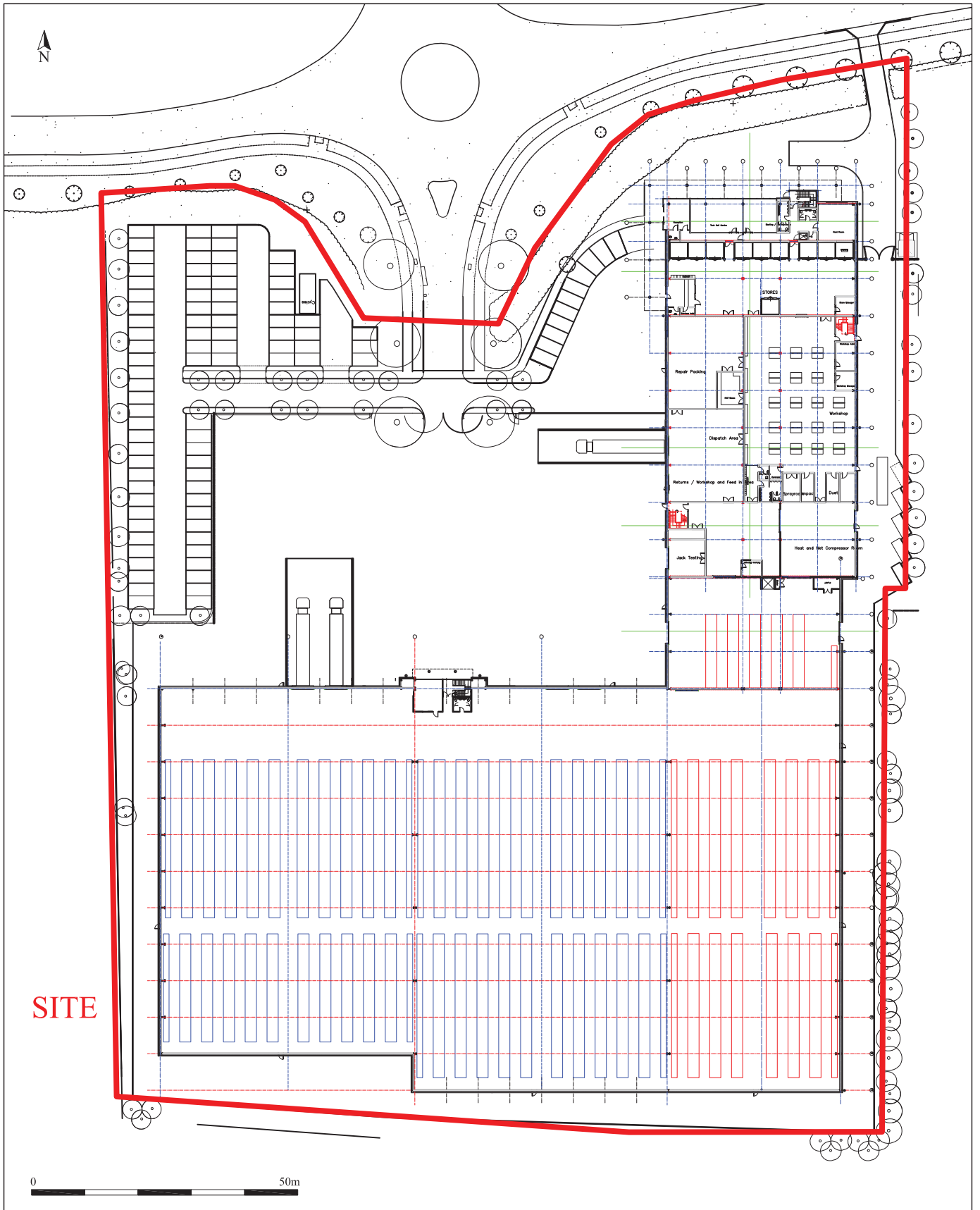
Trench 10



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Fig. 3 Trench plans and sections

Scale plan at 1:100 & sections at 1:20 at A4



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Fig. 4 Proposed development plan
 Scale 1:1000 at A4