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LAND OFF LONGMEAD, BUNTINGFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

HER Request Ref. 179/11

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NGR: TL 35680 29360	Report No. 3971		
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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name		<i>Land off Longmead, Buntingford, Hertfordshire.</i>	
<p><i>In November and December 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation at the land off Longmead, Buntingford, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 35680 29360). The evaluation was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the residential development of the site (Planning ref. 3/10/2040/OP).</i></p> <p><i>The site lies on the western side of the town of Buntingford. Occupation of possible late Iron Age date was recorded during the construction of the Buntingford bypass in 1988, and undated pits and ditches were recorded during an archaeological investigation at the site of the former Sunnyside Nursery to the west (HER 2261, 2259 and 11435).</i></p> <p><i>The majority of the features recorded during the evaluation were gullies and together they comprised a field system. As many as 17 (north to south aligned) gullies were recorded in Trenches 2 - 6. Gully F1028 appeared to terminate within Trench 4. In Trench 5, Gully F1026 was on a slightly different alignment (northeast to southwest), and in Trench 7, Ditch F1010 was perpendicular to the gullies. Dating of the field system is tentative. F1045 and F1047 (Trench 2), F1006, F1008 and F1039 (Trench 3), F1035 (Trench 4) and F1037 (Trench 6) all contained Roman pottery. The pottery is fragmentary but generally only slightly abraded. Gully F1024 (Trench 4) contained a single sherd (4g) of 10th-11th/ 12th century pottery, and CBM (129g). Ditch F1010 (Trench 7) which was perpendicular to the gullies, contained 12 sherds of 10th/ 11th to 12th century pottery (145g). On balance, the field system is likely Roman.</i></p> <p><i>Environmental evidence from Ditch F1010 (L1011; Summers, this report) and 10th/ 11th to 12th pottery, notably from the same feature (Thompson, this report), has the potential to add to our knowledge of medieval settlement patterns and agricultural regimes in this part of Hertfordshire.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)		26/11/11- 01/12/11	
Previous work (Y/N/?)		N	Future work (Y/N/?)
P. number		4576	Site code
			AS 1454
Type of project		Trial trench evaluation	
Site status		-	
Current land use		Grassland	
Planned development		Residential redevelopment	
Main features (+dates)		Roman field system	
Significant finds (+dates)		Roman and early medieval pottery	
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish		Hertfordshire	East Herts
			Buntingford
HER/ SMR for area		Hertfordshire HER	
Post code (if known)		SG9 9EW	
Area of site		1.14ha	
NGR		TL 35680 29360	
Height AOD (max/ min)		104 - 112m AOD	
Project creators			
Brief issued by		Historic Environment Unit, Hertfordshire County Council	
Project supervisor/(PO)		Tim Schofield, Christopher Leonard	
Funded by		Executors of Mrs Joan Bailey (deceased)	
Full title		Land off Longmead, Buntingford, Hertfordshire. An Archaeological Evaluation	
Authors		Leonard, C. M. and Stoakley, M. (Mustchin, A. R. R. - Editor)	
Report no.		3971	
Date (of report)		December 2011 (Revised November 2012)	

LAND OFF LONGMEAD, BUNTINGFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In November and December 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation at the land off Longmead, Buntingford, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 35680 29360). The evaluation was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the residential development of the site (Planning ref. 3/10/2040/OP).

The site lies on the western side of the town of Buntingford and comprises a c.1.14ha plot of mature grassland containing a wooden stable, between Longmead to the east and the A10 bypass to the west. It lies within an area that has revealed archaeological remains, though none are recorded from the site itself. Occupation of possible late Iron Age date was recorded during the construction of the Buntingford bypass in 1988, and undated pits and ditches were recorded during an archaeological investigation at the site of the former Sunnyside Nursery to the west (HER 2261, 2259 and 11435).

The majority of the features recorded during the evaluation were gullies and together they comprised a field system. As many as 17 (north to south aligned) gullies were recorded in Trenches 2 - 6. Gully F1028 appeared to terminate within Trench 4. In Trench 5, Gully F1026 was on a slightly different alignment (northeast to southwest), and in Trench 7, Ditch F1010 was perpendicular to the gullies. Dating of the field system is tentative. F1045 and F1047 (Trench 2), F1006, F1008 and F1039 (Trench 3), F1035 (Trench 4) and F1037 (Trench 6) all contained Roman pottery. The pottery is fragmentary but generally only slightly abraded. Gully F1024 (Trench 4) contained a single sherd (4g) of 10th/ 11th to 12th century pottery, and CBM (129g). Ditch F1010 (Trench 7) which was perpendicular to the gullies, contained 12 sherds of 10th to 11th/ 12th century pottery (145g). On balance, the field system is likely Roman.

A similar system of ditches (especially in comparison to those recorded in Trenches 2 and 3) has been identified at Takeley in Essex (Roberts 2003), a site which also lies on clayey soils. The Takeley system is thought to have provided drainage for raised beds, used for arable crops or horticulture.

Environmental evidence from Ditch F1010 (L1011; Summers, this report) and 10th/ 11th to 12th pottery, notably from the same feature (Thompson, this report), has the potential to add to our knowledge of medieval settlement patterns and agricultural regimes in this part of Hertfordshire.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In November and December 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation at the land off Longmead, Buntingford, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 3568 2936; Figs. 1 and 2). The

evaluation was commissioned by Taylor Vinters on behalf of the Executors of Mrs Joan Bailey (deceased) and carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for a residential development of 26 houses (EHDC Planning ref 3/10/2040/OP).

1.2 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken according to a brief issued by HCC HEU (dated 30/09/2011), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 03/10/2011), and approved by HCC HEU. It adhered to *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003). It also complied with the Institute for Archaeologists' (IFA) *Code of Conduct* (revised 2010), the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments* (1994, revised 2008) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008).

1.3 The principal objectives for the evaluation included:

- To determine the location, date, extent, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. In particular, it will be important to establish the presence or absence of any prehistoric or later remains. It will also be important to understand the level of truncation on the site and also to ascertain whether it will be possible to mitigate the development proposals to accommodate any surviving archaeological remains within the area of proposed redevelopment.
- To provide an adequately detailed project report to place the findings of the project in their local and regional context, with reference to the East Anglian Regional Research Frameworks and through relevant background research.

1.4 The project report provides for the identification of areas of archaeological potential within the site. It also considers the site within its wider archaeological context. The likely extent, nature, condition and importance of the archaeology are described and the context of the development proposal for the site is examined. The evaluation provides a predictive model of any archaeological remains likely to be present on the site as a whole, and includes an assessment of their significance.

Planning policy context

1.5 The report was undertaken in conjunction with the relevant planning policies, which apply to the effect of development with regard to cultural heritage. Of particular relevance was Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5, 2010), which is widely applied by local authorities. PPS5 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 Buntingford is a small market town in the northern part of Hertfordshire located between the larger towns of Stevenage to the west and Bishop's Stortford to the east. The high street follows the course of Roman Ermine Street. The river Rib flows through the centre of the village and southwards joins the Lea at Hertford. Buntingford is surrounded by open countryside characterised by large fields and sparse woodland.

2.2 The site is located on the western side of the town of Buntingford and lies between Longmead to the east and the A10 bypass c. 40m to the west. Baldock Road (B1308) runs on an east to west alignment to the north and the site is located west of a suburban residential area. A plot of grassland is situated to the north of the site, and a large open field to the south.

2.3 The site comprises an irregular plot of mature grassland with an area of c. 1.14ha. A disused wooden stable is located in the central western part of the site (Fig. 2).

3 METHODOLOGY (ASSESSMENT)

Information was sought from a variety of available sources in order to meet the objectives of the assessment.

3.1 Archaeological databases

3.1.1 The known archaeology of the surrounding area can indicate the types and dates of archaeological remains likely to be present on the site itself. The standard collation of all known archaeological sites and spot-finds within the Hertfordshire comes from the Hertfordshire County Council Environment Record (HCC HER). Significant entries within a 500m radius of the site are listed in Appendix 1 and plotted in Figure 3. Where relevant, these sites and finds have been discussed in Section 4.2.

3.2 Secondary sources

3.2.1 The principal sources of secondary material were the HCC HER, and AS' in-house reference library. Unpublished sources regarding the assessment area, such as previous field evaluation reports and desk-based assessments, have also been consulted. All sources are listed in the bibliography.

3.3 Geological/ geotechnical information

3.3.1 A description of the superficial and solid geology of the local and surrounding area was compiled in order to assess the likely presence and potential condition of any archaeological remains on the site. This information was drawn from appropriate maps published by the Geological Survey of Great Britain (BGS 1978) and the Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW 1983).

4 THE EVIDENCE

4.1 Topography, Geology and Soils

4.1.1 The site is situated on a gradual slope, rising gradually from c. 105m AOD at the eastern edge to c. 110m AOD at the western edge.

4.1.2 The solid geology of the site comprises (Cretaceous) Upper Chalk layers. The soil survey for the area records Hanslope type soils derived from Chalky Boulder Clay commonly found on plateau landscapes. A thin spread of soil of the Melford association, a deep-drained fine loam, also runs north to south through Buntingford (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

4.2 Archaeological and Historical Background (Fig. 3)

Prehistoric

4.2.1 Late Iron Age features were recorded during the construction of the Buntingford Bypass c. 500m north of the site. Three find-spots (c. 350m south of the site) include a late Iron Age coin (HER 6450), a Bronze Age arrowhead (HER 220) and a Neolithic basalt axe (HER 219). Aerial photography has identified some potential prehistoric archaeological sites further north.

Romano-British

4.2.2 In the Roman period, the Buntingford region was generally a wealthy and populous area, typified by the settlement at Braughing, c. 5km to the south. Ermine Street, a principal Roman road, ran northwards from Braughing through Buntingford c. 350m northeast of the site. However, Roman remains in the vicinity of the site are virtually absent and limited to a heavily abraded sherd of late Iron Age/ early Roman pottery found in the topsoil during an archaeological evaluation at the former Sunnyside Nursery (HER 11435).

Medieval

4.2.3 The place-name Buntingford is possibly derived from the Anglo-Saxon personal name 'Bunta' meaning 'Ford of the People of Bunta' (Gover *et al.* 1938, 182). Whether or not an Anglo-Saxon settlement by the same name ever existed remains uncertain (Tinniswood *pers. comm.*).

4.2.4 By the 12th century the settlement of Buntingford had developed at the junction of two busy trading routes. It formed the intersection for five medieval parishes, including Layston, Aldwick, Throcking, Wyddial and Aspenden (Seddon 1999, 2). The Knights Templar held land at Buntingford in AD 1185 and documentary sources describe Buntingford as a 'hamlet'. The settlement received a charter for a market in the 14th century, and Buntingford developed along the High Street with the market place facing the main highway to the south.

Post-medieval and modern

4.2.5 The town continued to prosper in the post-medieval period, reflected by the large number of post-medieval buildings in the town. Post-medieval remains include three buildings on Baldock Road, the 1819 Independent Chapel, the 19th century Bell Barns and cottage complex (HER 13673), and an 18th century timber-framed house (HER 17637).

4.2.6 A 17th century farmhouse (HER 17151) is located c. 75m north-west of the site. This farmstead at How Green is shown on the 1st edition (later 19th century) OS map, to the northwest, and the western boundary may shadow the line of a track (Milky Lane) depicted on the map. A possible boundary is visible on aerial photographs as a cropmark, crossing the site from east to west, and as it is not shown on the 19th century OS map it may be evidence of an earlier feature.

5 METHODOLOGY (TRIAL TRENCHING)

5.1 Seven linear trial trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). The trenches were 40m long, except Trench 1 which was 23m long. They were all 1.60m wide. Proposed Trench 8 (Fig. 2) could not be excavated due the presence of extensive tree/ scrub cover in this part of the site.

5.2 Overburden was removed stratigraphically under close archaeological supervision using a wheeled mechanical 180° excavator fitted with a 1.60m toothless ditching bucket. Thereafter, investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the trenches were scanned by metal detector.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

Sample sections:

<i>Sample Section 1A (DP 2)</i> <i>North end, west facing</i> <i>0.00 = 111.06m AOD</i>		
0.00- 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. Loose, dark brownish grey clayey silt.
0.20- 0.58m	L1001	Subsoil. Firm, mid brownish grey clayey silt.
0.58- 0.74m	L1030	Colluvium. Firm, mid brownish grey clayey silt.
0.74m+	L1003	Natural. Mid greyish yellow clay and chalk.

<i>Sample Section 1B (DP3)</i> <i>South end, west facing</i> <i>0.00 = 112.41m</i>		
0.00- 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.20- 0.42m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.42- 0.53m	L1030	Colluvium. As above.
0.53m+	L1003	Natural. As above.

Description: Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 2 (Figs. 2 and 8)

Sample sections:

<i>Sample Section 2A (DP5)</i> <i>Northeast end, northwest facing</i> <i>0.00= 109.12m</i>		
0.00- 0.22m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1
0.22- 0.50m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1
0.50m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Tr.1

<i>Sample Section 2B (DP4)</i> <i>Southwest end, northwest facing</i> <i>0.00= 110.35m</i>		
0.00- 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1
0.24- 0.60m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1
0.60m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Tr.1

Description: Trench 2 contained seven gullies all aligned north to south (F1004, F1006, F1008, F1043, F1045, F1047 and F1049). Four gullies (F1006, F1008, F1043 and F1047) were continuations of gullies excavated in Trench 3.

Gully F1004 was linear in plan (2.20m+ x 0.66m x 0.19m), orientated north to south. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1005, was a compact, mid yellowish brown silty clay with moderately frequent chalk, and small to medium flints. No finds were present.

Gully F1043 was linear in plan (1.70m+ x 0.48m x 0.18m), orientated north to south. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1044, was a firm, mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks. No finds were present.

Gully F1045 was linear in plan (1.60m+ x 0.68m x 0.25m), orientated north to south. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1046, was a firm, mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks. It contained Roman pottery (5g).

Gully F1047 was linear in plan (2.00m+ x 0.61m x 0.25m), orientated north to south. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1048, was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks, and medium flints. It contained 1st century AD pottery (28g).

Gully F1049 was linear in plan (2.00m+ x 0.65m x 0.32m), orientated north to south. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1050, was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks, and medium flints. No finds were present.

Trench 3 (Figs. 2 and 8)

Sample sections:

<i>Sample Section 3A (DP7)</i>		
<i>Northeast end, northwest facing</i>		
<i>0.00= 109.82m</i>		
0.00- 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1
0.20- 0.34m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1
0.34m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Tr.1

<i>Sample Section 3B (DP6)</i>		
<i>Southwest end, northwest facing</i>		
<i>0.00= 111.23m</i>		
0.00- 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1
0.24- 0.46m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1
0.46m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Tr.1

Description: Trench 3 contained seven gullies, aligned north to south (F1006, F1008, F1020, F1039, F1043, F1047 and F1051). Four of the gullies were also recorded in Trench 2 (F1006, F1008, F1043 and F1047). Gully F1039 was also recorded in Trench 4. Trench 3 also contained a smaller likely post-medieval gully (F1041), a medieval pit (F2022) and a post-medieval ditch (F1018). F1018 was also recorded in Trench 4.

Gully F1006 was linear in plan (2.14m+ x 0.6m x 0.23m), orientated north to south. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1007, was a compact, mid yellowish grey, silty clay with moderately frequent chalk and occasional small, subangular flints. It contained two sherds of Roman pottery (7g).

Gully F1008 was linear in plan (2m+ x 0.69m x 0.27m), orientated north to south. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1009, was a compact, mid yellowish grey, silty clay with moderately frequent chalk and occasional small, sub-angular flints. It contained mid to late 1st century AD pottery (15g).

Gully F1020 was linear in plan (2m+ x 0.76m x 0.21m), orientated north to south. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1021, was a compact, mid yellowish grey, silty clay with moderately frequent chalk and occasional small, sub-angular flints. No finds were present. F1020 was cut by Pit F1022.

Pit F1022 was oval in plan (0.8m+ x 2.04m x 0.18m). It had steep, almost vertical, sides and a sharp break of slope to a flat base. Its fill, L1023, was a compact, mid yellowish grey, silty clay with moderately frequent chalk and occasional small, sub-angular flints. L1023 yielded 16th to 17th century pottery (89g) and post-medieval CBM (52g). Pit F1022 cut Gully F1020.

Gully F1039 was linear in plan (2.00m+ x 0.75m x 0.20m), orientated north to south. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1040, was a firm, mid grey brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and flint gravel. It contained Roman pottery (5g).

Gully F1041 was linear in plan (2.00m+ x 0.23m x 0.05m), orientated north to south. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1042, was a friable, mid grey brown silty clay with moderately frequent chalk flecks and occasional flint. It contained post-medieval CBM (6g).

Gully F1051 was linear in plan (1.80m+ x 0.45m x 0.10m), orientated north to south. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1052, was a firm, mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and flint gravel. It contained no finds.

Trench 4 (Figs. 2 and 8)

Sample sections:

<i>Sample Section 4A (DP9)</i>		
<i>North west end, south west facing</i>		
<i>0.00= 107.85m</i>		
0.00- 0.16m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1
0.16- 0.43m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1
0.43m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Tr.1

<i>Sample Section 4B (DP8)</i>		
<i>South east end, south west facing</i>		
<i>0.00= 109.32m</i>		
0.00- 0.15m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1
0.15-0.31m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1
0.31m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Tr.1

Description: Trench 4 contained four gullies, aligned north to south (F1024, F1028, F1035 and F1039). Gullies F1024 and F1028 were continuations of features excavated in Trench 6. Gully F1039 was also recorded in Trench 3. Trench 4 also contained post-medieval Ditch F1018. The latter was also recorded in Trench 3.

Gully F1024 was linear in plan (4.8m+ x 0.82m x 0.33m), orientated north to south. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1025, was a compact, mid yellowish grey, silty clay with moderately frequent chalk and occasional small, sub-angular flints. ?10th to 12th century pottery (4g) and CBM (129g) were recovered from L1025.

Gully F1028 appeared to terminate within the trench.

Gully F1035 was linear in plan (1.8m+ x 0.48m x 0.21m), orientated north to south. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1036, was a firm, mid brownish grey, silty clay with occasional chalk. It contained mid-late 1st century AD pottery (3g).

Trench 5 (Figs. 2 and 9)

Sample sections:

<i>Sample Section 5A (DP26)</i>		
<i>North west end, south west facing</i>		
<i>0.00= 107.10m</i>		
0.00-0.17m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1
0.17-0.34m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1
0.34m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Tr.1

<i>Sample Section 5B (DP27)</i>		
<i>South east end, south west facing</i>		
<i>0.00= 108.40m</i>		
0.00- 0.18m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1
0.18- 0.36m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1
0.36m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Tr.1

Discussion: Trench 5 contained three gullies, aligned north to south (F1026, F1031 and F1033).

Gully F1026 was linear in plan (3m+ x 0.88m x 0.18m), orientated north to south. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1027, was a compact, mid yellowish brown, silty clay with moderately frequent chalk and occasional small, sub-angular flints. Trace CBM was recovered from L1027.

Gully F1031 was linear in plan (2.00m+ x 0.50m x 0.16m), orientated north to south. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1032, was a firm, mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks. It contained CBM (32g).

Gully F1033 was linear in plan (3.00m+ x 0.66m x 0.19m), orientated north to south. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1034, was a firm, mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional chalk. It contained mid to late 1st century AD pottery (3g).

Trench 6 (Figs. 2 and 9)

Sample sections:

<i>Sample Section 6A (DP28)</i>		
<i>North east end, south east facing</i>		
<i>0.00= 105.35m</i>		
0.00- 0.21m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1
0.12m+	L1017	Ditch fill.

<i>Sample Section 6B (DP29)</i>		
<i>South west end, south east facing</i>		
<i>0.00= 107.17m</i>		
0.00- 0.13m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1
0.13- 0.44m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1
0.44m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Tr.1

Description: Trench 6 contained three gullies aligned north to south (F1024, F1028 and F1037). Gullies F1024 and F1028 were continuations of gullies excavated in Trench 4. Trench 6 also contained a continuation of post-medieval Ditch F1012 excavated in Trench 7.

Gully F1004 was linear in plan (2.20m+ x 0.66m x 0.19m), orientated north to south. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1005, was a compact, mid yellowish brown silty clay with moderately frequent chalk, and small to medium flints. No finds were present.

Gully F1028 was linear in plan (2.8m+ x 0.79m x 0.14m), orientated north to south. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1029, was a compact, mid yellowish grey, silty clay with moderately frequent chalk and occasional small, sub-angular flints. No finds were present.

Gully F1037 was linear in plan (2.10m+ x 0.76m x 0.19m), orientated north to south. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1038, was a compact, mid grey brown silty clay with occasional chalk. It contained Roman pottery (1g).

Trench 7 (Figs. 2 and 9)*Sample sections:*

<i>Sample Section 7A (DP13)</i> <i>North end, west facing</i> <i>0.00= 104.67m</i>		
0.00- 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1
0.23- 0.40m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1
0.40- 0.55m	L1002	Colluvial. Firm mid brownish grey clay silt.
0.55m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Tr.1

<i>Sample Section 7B (DP14)</i> <i>South end, west facing</i> <i>0.00= 106.36m</i>		
0.00- 0.18m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1
0.18- 0.41m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1
0.41m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Tr.1

Description: Trench 7 contained two ditches, aligned east to west (early medieval Ditch F1010 and post-medieval Ditch F1012).

Ditch F1010 was linear in plan (1.5m+ x 1.24m x 0.39m), orientated east to west. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1011, was a compact, mid yellowish grey, silty clay with moderately frequent chalk and small and medium flints. 10th/ 11th to 12th century pottery (145g) was recovered from the fill.

Ditch F1012 was linear in plan (1.5m+ x 3.7m x 1.24m), orientated east to west. It had steep sides and a concave base. It contained five fills tabulated below:

Context	Depth	Description	Notes
L1017 upper	0.30m	Compact, mid yellowish brown silty clay	Mid-18 th to mid 19 th C pottery (194g), animal bone (636g), shell (2g), coin (3g), Fe fragment (17g).
L1016	0.54m	Ditto	Animal bone (10g), burnt bone (2g), CBM (17g).
L1015	0.20m	Compact dark greyish brown silt and peat.	CBM (1g)
L1014	0.32m	Compact dark brownish grey clay silt	Animal bone (18g)
L1013 Basal	0.10m	Ditto	

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Topsoil L1000 was a loose, dark brownish grey, clayey silt (0.13 to 0.24m thick), generally thinner in Trenches 4 and 5 which were on higher ground. L1000 directly overlay Subsoil L1001, a firm mid brownish grey clayey silt (0.14 - 0.38m thick).

8.2 In Trench 1, L1001 sealed Colluvium L1030, a firm mid brownish grey clay silt (0.11 to 0.16m thick). In Trench 7, L1001 overlay a similar colluvial layer (L1002), comprising firm mid brownish grey clayey silt. Natural L1003 was a compact, mid greyish yellow clay and chalk, present 0.21 to 0.74m below the modern ground level.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The excavated features are tabulated below:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot date
2	F1004	Gully	-
	F1006 (= F1006 Tr.3)	Gully	-
	F1008 (= F1008 Tr.3)	Gully	-
	F1043 (= F1043 Tr.3)	Gully	-
	F1045	Gully	Roman
	F1047 (= F1047 Tr.3)	Gully	1 st century AD
	F1049	Gully	-
3	F1006 (= F1006 Tr.2)	Gully	Roman
	F1008 (= F1008 Tr.2)	Gully	Mid to late 1 st century AD
	F1018 (= F1018 Tr.4)	Ditch	Post-medieval
	F1020	Gully	-
	F1022	Pit	16 th to 17 th century
	F1039 (= F1039 Tr.4)	Gully	Roman
	F1041	Gully	?Post-medieval
	F1043 (= F1043 Tr.2)	Gully	-
	F1047 (= F1047 Tr.2)	Gully	-
	F1051	Gully	-
	4	F1018 (= F1018 Tr.3)	Ditch
F1024 (= F1024 Tr.6)		Gully	?10 th to 12 th century
F1028 (= F1028 Tr.6)		Gully	-
F1035		Gully	Mid to late 1 st century AD
F1039 (= F1039 Tr.3)		Gully	-
5	F1026	Gully	-
	F1031	Gully	-
	F1033	Gully	-
6	F1012 (= F1012 Tr.7)	Ditch	Mid-18 th to mid-19 th century
	F1024 (= F1024 Tr.4)	Gully	?10 th – 12 th century
	F1028 (= F1028 Tr.4)	Gully	-
	F1037	Gully	Roman
7	F1010	Ditch	10 th / 11 th to 12 th century
	F1012 (= F1012 Tr.6)	Ditch	Mid-18 th to mid-19 th century

9.2 The most recent features encountered during the evaluation were post-medieval Ditches F1018 (Trenches 3 and 4) and F1012 (Trenches 6 and 7). F1012 is visible on an aerial photograph taken in 1971 (HER No.16683; Fig. 7), but is not represented on the OS map of 1877. It was thought that this ditch might pre-date the map evidence, but this would not seem to be the case as F1012 contained mid-18th to mid-19th century pottery (194g). Pit F1022 (Trench 3) was early post-medieval and contained 16th to 17th century pottery. Gully F1041 (Trench 3) was smaller and on a slightly different alignment to the majority of gullies, and may not have been contemporary. It contained sparse post-medieval CBM (6g). Medieval Ditch F1010 (L1011) yielded 10th/ 11th to 12th century pottery sherds, including one sherd of St Neots ware, and well-preserved carbonised cereal remains (Summers, this report; Thompson, this report); both assemblages have research potential (see Sections 9.8-9).

9.3 The majority of the features recorded during the evaluation were gullies and together they comprised a field system. As many as 17 north to south aligned gullies were recorded in Trenches 2 - 6. The gullies were not present in Trenches 1 and 7. Gully F1028 appeared to terminate within Trench 4. In Trench 5, Gully F1026 was on a slightly different alignment (northeast to southwest), and in Trench 7 Ditch F1010 was perpendicular to the gullies. The field system was not perpendicular to Milky Lane, a nearby trackway recorded on the OS Map of 1877.

9.4 Dating of the field system remains tentative. F1045 and F1047 (Trench 2), F1006, F1008 and F1039 (Trench 3), F1035 (Trench 4) and F1037 (Trench 6) all contained Roman pottery. The pottery is fragmentary but generally only slightly abraded (see Peachey, this report). Gully F1024 (Trench 4) contained a single sherd (4g) of 10th/ 11th to 12th century pottery and CBM (129g). Ditch F1010 (Trench 7), which was perpendicular to the gullies, contained 12 sherds of 10th/ 11th to 12th century pottery (145g). On balance the field system is likely Roman.

Research potential

9.5 Little Roman archaeology has previously been recorded in the vicinity of the site. The identification of a field system of possible Roman date is therefore significant, potentially altering what is known about the distribution of Roman settlement in this area. However, given the proximity of the site to Roman Ermine Street and nearby Roman settlements such as Braughing, to the south, the identification of Roman remains might not be wholly unexpected.

9.6 As an apparent field system, the site has the potential to add to the overall corpus of information regarding Roman agriculture in Hertfordshire. Rural settlements and landscapes have been identified as important research themes for the Roman period in the eastern counties (Going and Plouviez 2000, 21; Medlycott 2011, 47). The site has the potential to contribute to a greater understanding of these issues, and in particular to contribute to specific research questions such as the association between the shape and size of fields and agricultural regimes. A similar system of ditches (especially

in comparison to those recorded in Trenches 2 and 3, has been identified at Takeley in Essex (Roberts 2003), a site which also lies on clayey soils. The Takeley system is thought to have provided drainage for raised beds, used for arable crops or horticulture. Similar systems have been identified at Godmanchester in Cambridgeshire (Wait 1991, 81-5), Black Horse Farm, Sawtry, Cambridgeshire (Newton 2008) and Grendon, Northamptonshire (Jackson 1995). The current site therefore has the potential to contribute to research questions regarding the production of food and agricultural production in general (see Going and Plouviez 2000, 21).

9.7 Environmental sampling may be of particular importance at the site to ascertain the nature of the agricultural activity and types of crop grown, though such sampling was somewhat inconclusive at the Takeley site (Roberts 2003). Typical crop assemblages for the period and region and have been identified and comparison of the assemblage from the current site may be of particular interest, especially if patterns of production/ consumption differ from the norm. An important regional research theme is the identification of introduced or imported Mediterranean crop types, which may have implications in terms of the status or affluence of the owners/ occupiers of the site (Going and Plouviez 2000, 21). As such, understanding of the agricultural regime at this site has the potential to inform on other issues, such as the type and character of the settlement associated with the field system (see Medlycott 2011, 47). This, in turn, may contribute to a greater understanding of the Roman landscape in eastern Hertfordshire and north-west Essex.

9.8 The post-Roman evidence encountered includes well-preserved environmental remains from medieval (10th/ 11th to 12th century) Ditch F1010 (L1011; Summers, this report). A sample from this feature yielded cereal grains, including a single example of free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) and a single hulled barley grain (*Hordeum vulgare*; *ibid.*). No wild taxa were present in the sample. The presence of such material may attest to its cultivation and/ or processing in the vicinity, perhaps on the site or at nearby How Green (*Howegrene* is documented from AD 1369; Gover *et al.* 1938, 172). The un-abraded nature of this material suggests a single 'dumping' episode into Ditch F1010 from a nearby source, rather than a protracted accumulation of surface material (Summers, this report). As such, the site certainly has further potential to inform regarding medieval agricultural regimes in this part of Hertfordshire.

9.9 The 10th/ 11th to 12th century pottery assemblage, including notable examples from medieval Ditch F1010 (L1011; Plate 1) may again relate to nearby documented *Howegrene* (see Section 9.9 and Thompson, this report). Greens are a major component of medieval clay upland landscapes (Wade 1997) and the pottery assemblage from the current site, although modest, may contribute to our understanding of settlement/ activity patterns around them (after Thompson, this report).

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with the finds from the site, at Hertford Museum. 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.

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APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT 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 Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HHER).

SMR	NGR SP	Description
Prehistoric		
219	TL 36 29	Neolithic basalt axe
220	TL 36 29	Bronze Age barbed flint arrowhead
6450	TL 36 29	Bronze coin of Cunobelinus found at Buntingford, in R P Mack collection (late Iron Age)
Post-medieval		
HER 10097	TL 3615 2943	<p>CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL, BALDOCK ROAD, BUNTINGFORD</p> <p>1819 Independent chapel. Built in 1819 as a Congregational chapel, with an adjoining hall and burial ground. The building itself is a large structure of white gault brick with the south gable fronting onto the Baldock road and a single storey vestry to the north east. The hall stands to the north and is entered via a lane off Baldock Road. The chapel frontage has a triumphal arch design, comprising a wide central arch containing round headed windows above a triple doorway, the doors being separated by pilasters which support a full entablature. The side bays feature square headed, recessed sash windows</p>
HER 13673	TL 36052 29375	<p>BELL BARNS, BALDOCK ROAD, BUNTINGFORD</p> <p>Mid 19C barn complex with cottage. Bell Barns were built between the dates of the 1838 tithe map and the 1869 enclosure map, ranges of timber-framed and weatherboarded barns set around a central courtyard and then surrounded by fields. One of the barns included timbers reused from a much older building (possibly 16th century) in its roof. Between 1877 and 1898, the south range was demolished and the two main barn ranges remodelled at their northern ends. An annexe was added to the south end of one barn by 1923, and thereafter little change was made until recording before demolition in 2007-8. The brick cottage at the Baldock Road end was built in the mid-late 19C, with a new section added in the late 19C. Monitoring of groundworks found only a 20th century pit.</p>
HER 17151	TL 35552 29475	<p>HOW GREEN FARM, BALDOCK ROAD, BUNTINGFORD</p> <p>Post-medieval farmstead with 16th or 17th century barn and late 17th century house. The farmhouse is a timber-framed house on a stuccoed plinth; it is thought to date to 1696, as an oval plaque bearing this date is said to have been removed from the north exterior in the 20th century to make room for a new window. It is a two-storey, three-cell house with central-chimney plan, facing south, and is attached to its stables and outhouse. The exterior is now roughcast, with a steep red tile roof. The chimney stack is one bay from the east end, the parlour end, with a brick fireplace; west of the chimney are the hall, and a service room at the west end, both with good exposed timbers. On the south side of the stack are a staircase and passage. The house is 'specially interesting as a dated example of a late 17th century timber-framed house'. The attached 19th century L-plan stable is timber-framed and weatherboarded, as is the lower outhouse at the east end; this roof was once thatched. The complex encloses three sides of a yard north of the house, 'and form a picturesque roadside group with the barn'. This is a long three-bay timber-framed and</p>

		weatherboarded barn with double doors on the north side, and is older than the house; it dates to the late 16th or early 17th century. The farmstead, which appears to be converted into housing, stands isolated at How Green on the old line of the Baldock Road, surrounded by fields. No alteration to its layout took place in the 19th century. How Green was little more than a stretch of common land at this point, widening the road. In the late 20th century the alteration in the road line for the construction of the Buntingford bypass has left the farmstead on the NE corner of the roundabout, surrounded by housing.
HER 17637	TL 35924 29417	66 BALDOCK ROAD, BUNTINGFORD 18th century or earlier timber-framed house with pargetting and early 19th century decorative details. No.66, on the north side of the road to Baldock beyond Buntingford town centre, dates to the 18th century 'or earlier', although it was renovated in the early 19th century. With two storeys and attics, it is timber-framed on a stuccoed sill, with pargetting in panels. In the tiled roof are three gabled dormers with wavy bargeboards. The front is symmetrical with central door within a decorative porch; at the rear is a lean-to beneath a catslide roof. Its central rear extension, making a T plan; in 1878 it was almost the last house on the way out of Buntingford to the west, at a small green outside a house called The Folly. Later 19th century byelaw housing had just reached this far.
Modern		
HER 17512	TL 35907 29680	EDWINSTREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL, BOWLING GREEN LANE, BUNTINGFORD 1950s, unaltered. Edwinstree School is a good example of an unaltered 1950s Hertfordshire school building, complete with Crittall windows. Newer buildings have been added on its south side, but the layout shown on the 1975 OS map appears to survive.
Undated		
HER 2258	TL 3561 2903	Observation along the line of the Buntingford by-pass recorded a linear feature with a broad U-section at least 3.7m long and 12cms deep x 20cms wide, filled with a dark grey silty clay containing fragments of charcoal and bone. Undated ditch.
HER 2259	TL 3530 2939	Observation along the line of the Buntingford bypass recorded three roughly circular features filled with a very charcoal-rich clay and some bone. Undated pit.
HER 11435	TL 3544 2948	Evaluation revealed several undated ditches, postholes and two possible pits. One sherd of heavily abraded late Iron Age/early Roman pottery was recovered from the topsoil. Undated ditch and pit.
HER 12381	TL 3588 2941	Registered common land. Uncertain of period.
HER 16683	TL 3570 2940	Possible hollow way, or a boundary. A short linear depression which may be part of a former boundary or a hollow way, south of Baldock Road on the west side of Buntingford. No boundary or other feature is shown here on later 19th century OS maps; this was a field alongside a track, named Milky Lane, leading SW from the Baldock road. Trees still line its course, although the track is not now extant.

APPENDIX 2 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Description	Trench	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
	1000	Topsoil				623	110	Fe Fragment 98g Slate 65g Shell 7g
	1001	Subsoil		17 th to 18 th C		107		
1006	1007	Gully	3	Roman	(2) 7g			
1008	1009	Gully	3	Mid to late 1st C AD	(3) 15g			
1010	1011	Ditch	7	10 th / 11 th to 12 th C	(12) 145g			
1012	1014	Ditch	7			1	18	
	1015					17	10	B.Bone 2g Shell 2g
	1016						636	Coin (unrecognisable) 3g Fe Fragment 17g
	1017			Mid-18 th to mid-19 th	(12) 194g			
1018	1019	Ditch	4	Post-medieval		144		
1022	1023	Pit	3	16 th -17 th	(5) 89g	52		
1024	1025	Gully	4	10 th to 12 th C?	(1) 4g	129		
1031	1032	Gully	5			32		
1035	1036	Gully	4	Mid to late 1st C AD	(2) 3g			
1037	1038	Gully	6	Roman	(1) 1g			
1039	1040	Gully	3	Roman	(2) 5g			
1041	1042	Gully	3			6		
1045	1046	Gully	2	Roman	(1) 5g			
1047	1048	Gully	2	1 st C AD	(1) 28g			

Appendix 3 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Roman Pottery

Andrew Peachey

The trial trench evaluation recovered a total of 15 sherds (82g) of early Roman pottery, which occurred in a highly fragmented but only slightly abraded condition. This small group included fine wares imported from south Gaul and Gallo-Belgica that are indicative of a date in the mid-1st century AD, ranging before and after the Roman Conquest. The remainder of the assemblage is comprised of locally-produced grog-tempered ware and post-Conquest sandy grey wares, ubiquitous in early Roman assemblages from the region. The limited size of the assemblage does not suggest occupation in the immediate vicinity, but the presence and relative status of the early Roman imports is of intrinsic interest and may suggest a presence belied by the quantity of sherds recovered.

Gully F1008 (L1009) contained a single small body sherd of La Graufesenque samian ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 28) imported from south Gaul, in association with body sherds of sandy grey ware. A further very small fragment of a La Graufesenque samian ware vessel, possibly from a Dr.18 platter, was contained in Gully F1035 (L1036) in association with a body sherd of southern British grog-tempered ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 214). Further small body sherds of sandy grey ware were also contained in Gullies F1006 (L1007), F1037 (L1038), F1039 (L1040) and F1045 (L1046), as well as a body sherd of southern British grog-tempered ware contained in Gully F1047 (L1048).

Post-medieval Ditch F1012 (L1017) also contained three sherds (18g) of Gallia-Belgica Terra Rubra 1A (Tomber and Dore 1998, 17; Rigby 1989, 121) produced in the Marne-Vesle Valley, northern France. The sherds were from a single vessel and included the rim of a butt beaker comparable to examples at Skeleton Green, Braughing (Rigby 1981, 175: fig.78.40).

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The Post-Roman Pottery

Peter Thompson

The evaluation recovered 28 sherds weighing 381g from five features. The pottery is in mixed condition which is described by context. The sherds are quantified below (Table 1).

Subsoil L1001 yielded 3 abraded sherds of post-medieval red earthenware with internal glaze probably deriving from the same vessel.

Ditch F1010 (L1011) contained 12 sherds of Saxo-Norman pottery in fairly good condition having only slight abrasion suggesting a primary state of deposition. One sherd from an upright bowl with inturned rim (St Neots ware; Plate 1) was present, with the remaining sherds comprising early medieval sandy wares. All but one of the latter probably came from a single handmade vessel with external girth grooves and mottled firing, but with a wheel-finished rim. The fabric comprises abundant coarse, sub-angular to rounded grey and milky quartz within a quartz sand matrix, with occasional burnt organics and calcitic inclusions also present. The remaining sherd is in Early Medieval sandy ware 2 fabric. It is an everted jar rim and neck, probably wheel-made, containing abundant medium quartz sand with a grey core and orange brown surfaces. This group probably dates to the 11th to 12th centuries.

Ditch F1012 (L1017) contained eight moderately abraded sherds comprising a bowl rim in glazed red earthenware, and 7 sherds of creamware probably all from the same vessel, either a deep bowl or jug.

Pit F1022 (L1023) contained five moderately abraded conjoining sherds of a rim and strap handle from an early post-medieval red earthenware jug with a grey core.

Gully 1024 (L1025) contained a single abraded sherd in dark grey fine sandy fabric with occasional coarse rounded grey or milky quartz inclusions and burnt organics. This is probably an Early Medieval sandy ware (Fabric 3, below) c. 10th to 12th century, but could possibly be earlier.

Discussion

Ditch F1010 (L1011) contained 12 sherds of medieval pottery mainly comprising early medieval sandy wares in two fabrics, with the St Neots bowl rim (Plate 1). The girth grooves present on EMWS1 are reminiscent of similar decoration on medieval sandy wares from Ashwell dated to the 12th and 13th centuries (Hurst and Hurst 1967, 79), although the Buntingford fabric is grittier. The EMWS1 sandy ware rim also bears parallels to examples from Therfield dated to the 12th century (Biddle 1964, 76-7). Gully F1024 (L1025) contained a medieval sherd of broadly similar date. The ditch was located near to the 17th century house How Green Farm, described as an isolated farmhouse on the line of the old Baldock Road which formed a stretch of common land until the 19th century (HHER 17151). The name *Howgrene* is first documented in the 14th century in association with the parish of Apenden

to the west (Gover *et al.* 1938, 172), indicating medieval origins, supported by the small pottery assemblage. Greens are a major element of medieval settlement patterns on clay lands but there has been no assessment of their importance (Wade 1997, 52), and therefore there is research potential to contribute to a better understanding of medieval settlement patterns around them.

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KEY:

SNEOT: St Neots ware late 9th-12th

EMSW1: Early medieval sandy ware 10th-12th

EMSW2: Early Medieval sandy ware 10th-12th

EMSW3:

PMRE: Post-medieval red earthenware mid 16th to 19th century

CREAM: Creamware early 18th-late 19th century

Feature	Context	Type	Quantity	Date	Comment
	1001	Subsoil	3x27g PMRE	17 th to 18 th	PMRE: Abraded with internal green glaze
1010	1011	Ditch	10x88g EMSW1 1x31g EMSW2 1x28g SNEOT	11 th - 12 th	EMSW1: Probably all one vessel, girth grooves EMSW2: everted jar rim SNEOT: inturned bowl rim c.32cm diam
1012	1017	Ditch	7x138g CREAM 1x31g PMRE	Mid 18 th - mid 19 th	CREAM: x1 ring base PMRE: x1 glazed bowl rim
1022	1023	Pit	5x89g PMRE	16 th -17 th	Jug rim and strap handle
1024	1025	Gully	1x7g EMSW3	10 th -12 th ?	

The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

The trial trench evaluation recovered a total of 44 fragments (1668g) of CBM in a highly fragmented condition, but only slightly abraded condition. The CBM appears to represent a homogenous group that may have been deposited between the 15th and early 18th centuries. The relatively low quantities of CBM do not suggest the presence of a significant structure in the immediate vicinity, but the CBM may be re-deposited from demolition rubble in the area.

The CBM includes fragments of peg tile and brick in similar fabrics, probably manufactured locally at the same source, with a slightly coarser fabric favoured for the larger brick forms. The fabric typically has orange surfaces that fade to a darker oxidised or reduced core. Inclusions in the peg tile comprise common quartz (<0.2mm), sparse black iron ore (<0.2mm) and sparse red clay pellets (0.5-1.5mm). In contrast, the brick fabric has red clay pellets (0.5-3mm) with the addition of occasional flint (2-10mm).

The peg tile comprises 12mm thick flat tile with two circular peg holes at one end, a sanded base, slightly irregular edges and occasional pock marks on their upper surface. Fragments of peg tile were contained in Ditches F1012 (L1015, L1017, L1019), Pit F1022 (L1023), Gullies F1024 (L1025), F1031 (L1032) and F1041 (L1042), as well as the topsoil and subsoil but were not present in any high concentration. Peg tile emerged as a common construction material in the region in the 14th century, but it is unlikely these examples date before the 15th century, and would have continued to be produced into the post-medieval period.

The brick in the assemblage comprises a 50mm thick type with fairly regular faces and a flat base. It is contained in Ditch F1012 (L1016 and L1017) with further fragments recovered from the topsoil, but is never present in any high concentration. Bricks such as this could have been produced between the 15th and early 18th centuries.

Animal Bone

Dr Julia E. M. Cussans

Ten animal bones were recovered from four contexts. L1000 was the topsoil deposit and L1014, L1016 and L1017 were all fills of Ditch F1012. Four of the bones came from within L1000 and the remainder from the fills of F1012. Bones from the topsoil deposit were generally more abraded and in a poorer state of preservation than those from the ditch fills. Preservation of bones from the ditch deposits were rated as good or excellent. Canid gnawing was observed for all contexts except L1017; this was not severe in any case. The only taxon positively identified was sheep/ goat (*Ovis aries/ Capra hircus*). Other bones were identified as large (cattle/ horse sized) or medium (sheep/ pig sized) mammal and included rib, vertebrae and long bone shaft fragments. Identified sheep/ goat bones were two tibiae (L1000), a metatarsal with

possible skinning butchery marks (L1014) and a metacarpal (L1016). There was nothing else of note in this small assemblage.

Charred Plant Remains

Dr John Summers

Introduction

Four 40 litre bulk samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken during the trial trenching. The four samples are from Gully F1008, Ditch F1010, Gully F1024, and Pit F1022.

Fifty percent (20 litres) of each sample was processed for primary analysis; full processing was deemed unnecessary based on the initial results obtained. This report presents the results from the assessment of the bulk sample light fractions and discusses the potential of the deposits for further environmental sampling.

Methodology

Samples were processed at Archaeological Solutions Ltd offices in Bury St. Edmunds using a Siraf style flotation tank. The light fractions were washed onto a mesh of 250µm (microns), while the heavy fractions were sieved to 500µm.

Once dry, the light fractions were rapidly scanned under a low power stereo microscope (x20 magnification). Remains encountered were identified and recorded using a semi-quantitative scale (X = present; XX = common; XXX = abundant). Reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2007) and a reference collection of modern seeds were consulted where necessary. Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

Results

The material identified within the bulk sample light fractions is detailed in Table 1.

Cereals

Cereal grains were present in ditch fill L1011. Wheat, one grain of which could be identified as a free-threshing type (*Triticum aestivum* type) was present, as well as a single hulled barley grain (*Hordeum vulgare*). Preservation of the grains was very good, with some of the epidermis on the barley grain still preserved. Detailed identification was made difficult due to adherent root material obscuring surface features and grain morphology.

Wild taxa

No seeds of wild plant taxa were encountered.

Charcoal

Charcoal fragments were rare. Sample 2 of L1011 contained two fragments >2mm, only one of which would be considered identifiable.

Contaminants

Modern roots were present in all four samples. A small number of modern molluscs and insects were also noted. The effect of these organisms, in terms of disturbance of deposits by bioturbation, is likely to have been limited. There was no evidence of extensive earthworm or burrowing mollusc activity.

Discussion

The only sample to produce carbonised plant remains was Sample 2 from F1010 (L1011). This was a ditch fill relating to the medieval occupation of the site. It is apparent that both hulled barley and bread wheat were cultivated and used at this time. This is in common with other evidence of medieval economy elsewhere in southern Britain (e.g. Ballantyne 2005, 103-104; Straker *et al.* 2007, 872-880). The grains were well preserved and un-abraded, particularly the hulled barley grain, which still had epidermis preserved. This suggests rapid deposition and burial rather than remains from surrounding deposits being weathered into the ditch. This could indicate nearby occupation, with some refuse disposal within Ditch F1010.

References

Ballantyne, R. 2005, 'Plants and seeds', in Mortimer, R., Regan, R. and Lucy, S. *The Saxon and Medieval Settlement at West Fen Road, Ely: The Ashwell Site*, East Anglian Archaeology 110, Cambridge Archaeological Unit, Cambridge, 100-112

Cappers, R.T.J., Bekker R.M. and Jans J.E.A. 2006, *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands. Groningen Archaeological Studies Volume 4*, Barkhuis Publishing, Eelde

Straker, V, Campbell, G. and Smith, W. 2007, 'The charred plant macrofossils', in Gerrard, C. and Aston, M. *The Shapwick Project, Somerset. A Rural Landscape Explored*, The Society for Medieval Archaeology Monograph 25, Leeds, 869-889

Site code	Sample number	Context	Feature	Feature type	Spot date	Volume (litres)	Cereals	Non-cereal taxa	Charcoal	Contaminants	Comments
AS1454	1	1009	1008	Gully	Residual Mid-late 1st C AD	20					Indet. carb organic (X)
AS1454	2	1011	1010	Ditch	10th/11th - 12th C AD	20	HB (1), BW (1), Trit (2)				Adherent roots made ID of grains problematic
AS1454	3	1023	1022	Pit	16th-17th C AD	20					
AS1454	4	1025	1024	Gully	10th-12th C AD?	20					
							Cereal grains			Roots	
							Cereal chaff			Molluscs	
							Notes			Insects	
							Grain preservation			Modern seeds	
							Seeds			Earthworm capsules	
							Notes				
							Hazelnut shell				
							Charcoal > 2mm				
							Notes				

Table 1: Assessment data for environmental samples

APPENDIX 4**CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE**

Records	Present/ Number
Brief	Y
Specification	Y
Registers	Context, Drawing, Photographic
Context Sheets	(1000) – (1052)
Site drawings A1	-
Site drawings A3	2
Site drawings A4	-
Site photographs b/w	58
Site photographs colour slides	58
Digital Photographs	66

APPENDIX 5 HER SUMMARY SHEET

Site Name	Land off Longmead, Buntingford, Hertfordshire
County: Hertfordshire	District: E Herts
Village/Town:	Parish: Buntingford
Planning application reference:	Planning Ref. 3/10/2040/OP
Client name/address/tel:	<i>Executors of Mrs Bailey (deceased)</i>
Nature of application:	Residential
Present land use:	Grass
Size of application area: c. 500m ²	Size of area investigated 1.14ha
NGR (8 figures):	TL 3568 2936
Site Code:	AS 1443
Site director/Organisation:	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Type of work:	Archaeological evaluation
Date of work:	26/11/11 – 01/12/11
Location of finds/Curating museum:	Hertford
Related SMR Nos:	Periods represented: Roman, medieval, post-medieval
Relevant previous summaries/reports: -	-
Summary of fieldwork results:	<p>In November and December 2011, Archaeological Solutions (AS) undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation at the land off Longmead, Buntingford, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 35680 29360). The evaluation was carried out in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the residential development of the site (Planning ref. 3/10/2040/OP).</p> <p>The majority of the features recorded during the evaluation were gullies and together they comprised a field system. As many as 17 north to south aligned gullies were recorded in Trenches 2 to 6. Gully F1028 appeared to terminate within Trench 4. In Trench 5, Gully F1026 was on a slightly different alignment (northeast to southwest), and in Trench 7 Ditch F1010 was perpendicular to the gullies. Dating of the field system remains tentative. F1045 and F1047 (Trench 2), F1006, F1008 and F1039 (Trench 3), F1035 (Trench 4) and F1037 (Trench 6) all contained Roman pottery. The pottery is fragmentary but generally only slightly abraded (Peachey, this report). Gully F1024 (Trench 4) contained a single sherd (4g) of 10th/ 11th to 12th century, and also contained CBM (129g). Ditch F1010 (Trench 7) which was perpendicular to the gullies contained twelve sherds of 10th/ 11th to 12th century pottery (145g). On balance the field system is likely Roman.</p> <p>Environmental evidence from Ditch F1010 (L1011; Summers, this report) and 10th/11th to 12th pottery, notably from the same feature (Thompson, this report), has the potential to add to our knowledge of medieval settlement patterns and agricultural regimes in this part of Hertfordshire.</p>
Author of summary: Chris Leonard and Antony Mustchin	Date of Summary: Dec 2011 (Revised November 2012)



Plate 1: Upright bowl with inturned rim (St Neots ware) from Ditch F1010 (L1011)

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
Trial Trench 1. Looking north



2
Trial Trench 2. Looking northeast



3
Trial Trench 3. Looking northeast



4
Trial Trench 4. Looking northwest



5
Trial Trench 5. Looking northwest



6
Trial Trench 6. Looking northeast



7
Trial Trench 7. Looking north



8
Sample section 1A. Looking east



9
Sample Section 2A. Looking southeast



10
Sample Section 5A. Looking northeast



11
Sample Section 7A. Looking east



12
F1004. Looking south



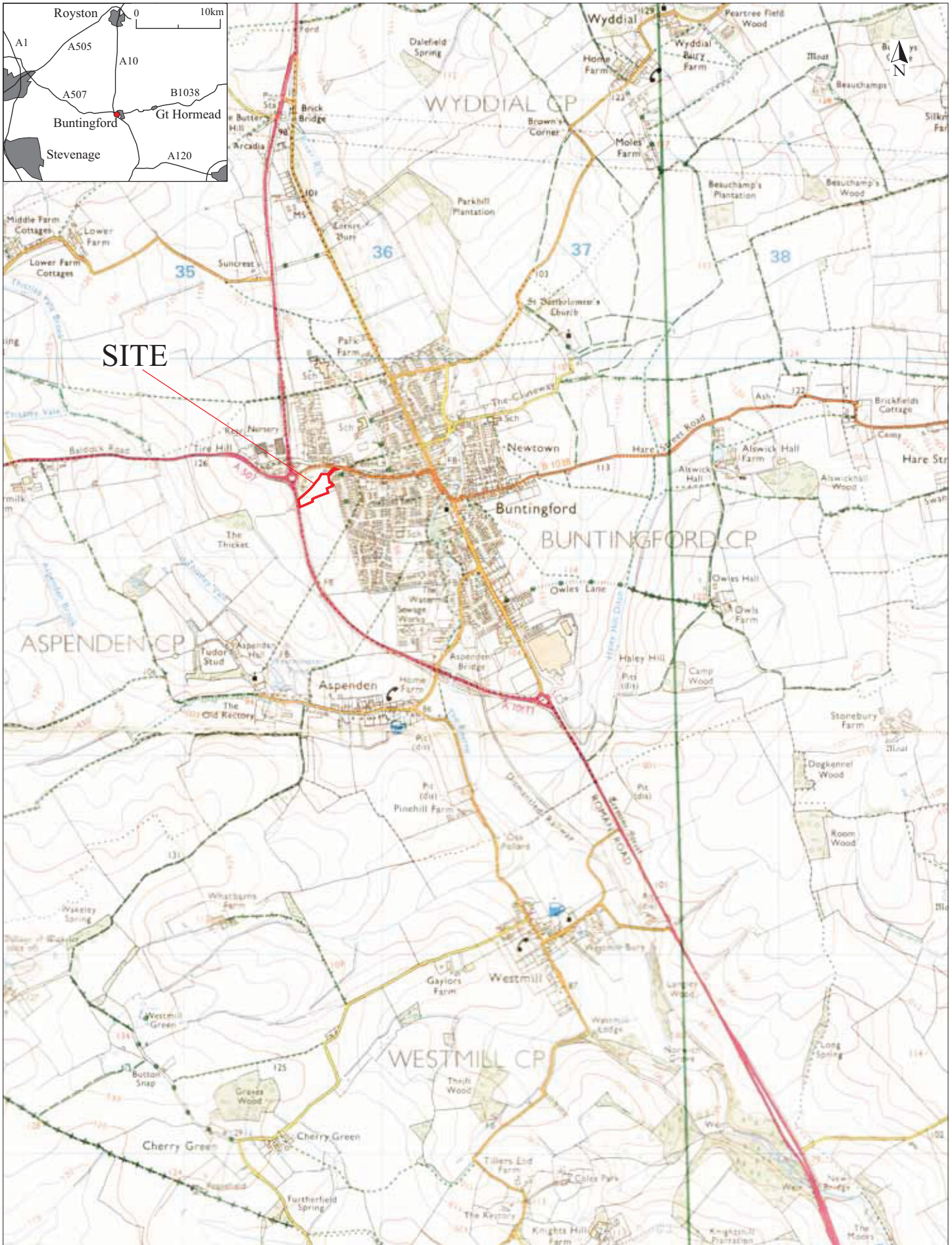
13
F1010. Looking east



14
F1020 and F1022. Looking northwest

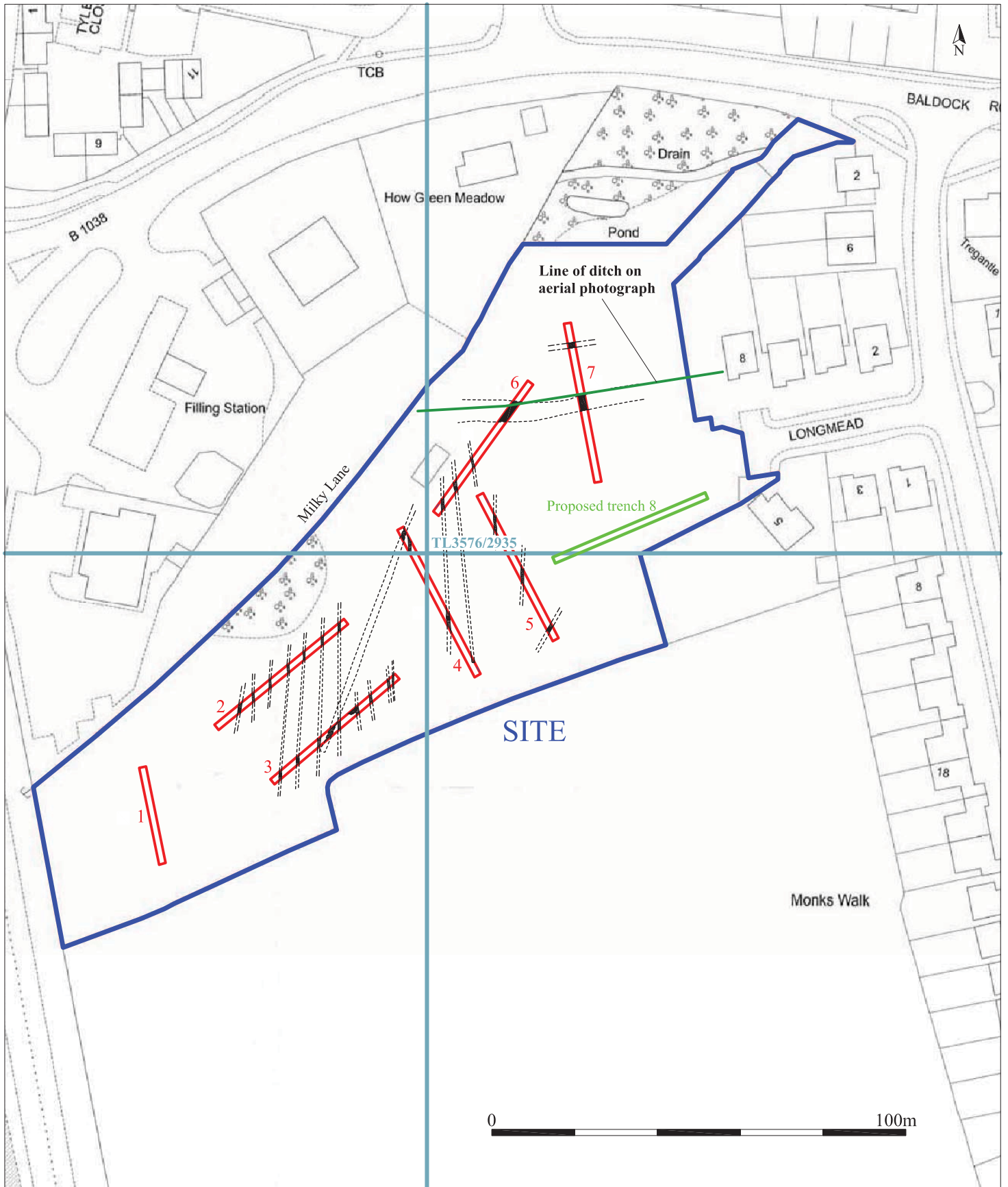


15
F1012. Looking west

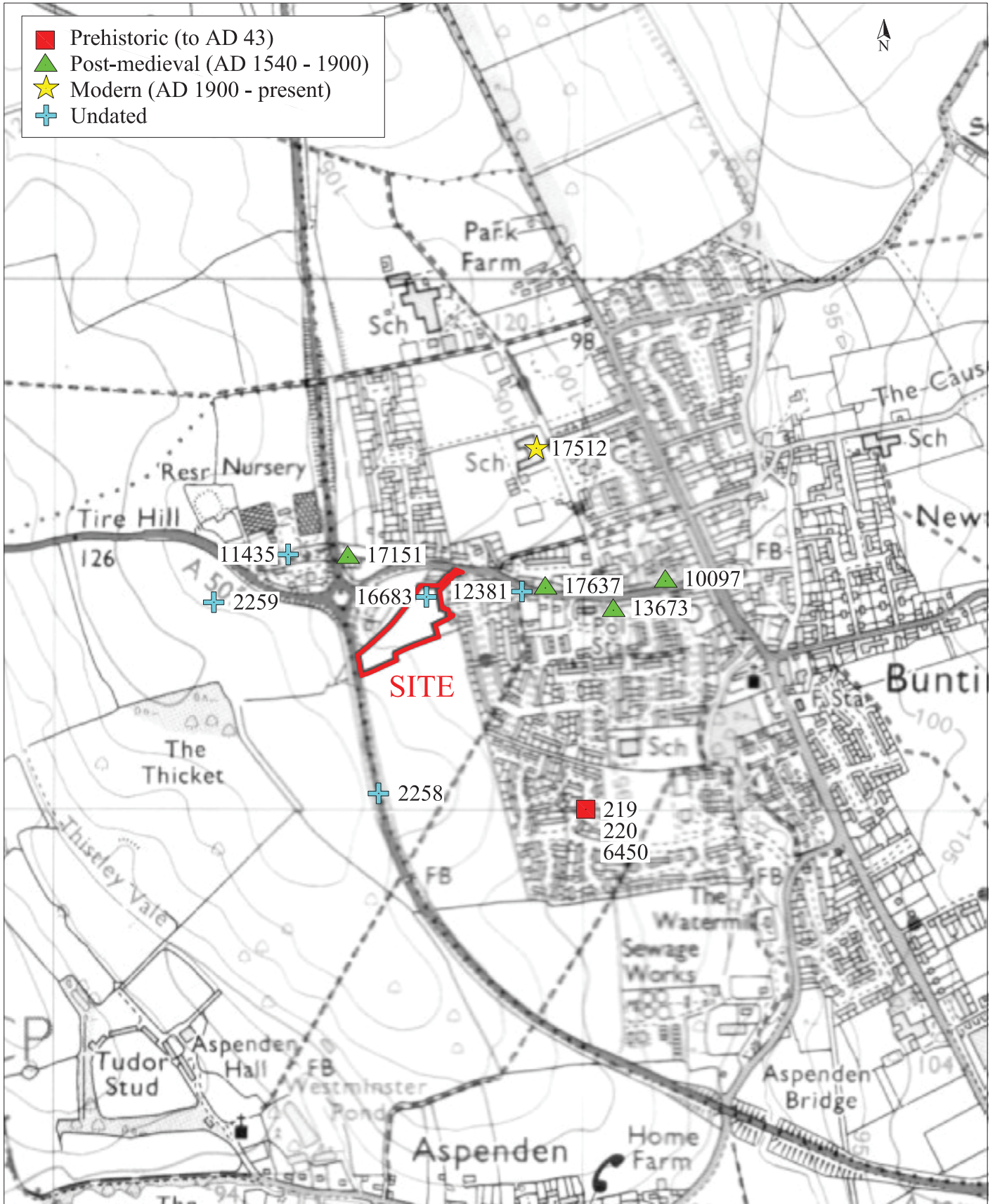


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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:1250 at A4



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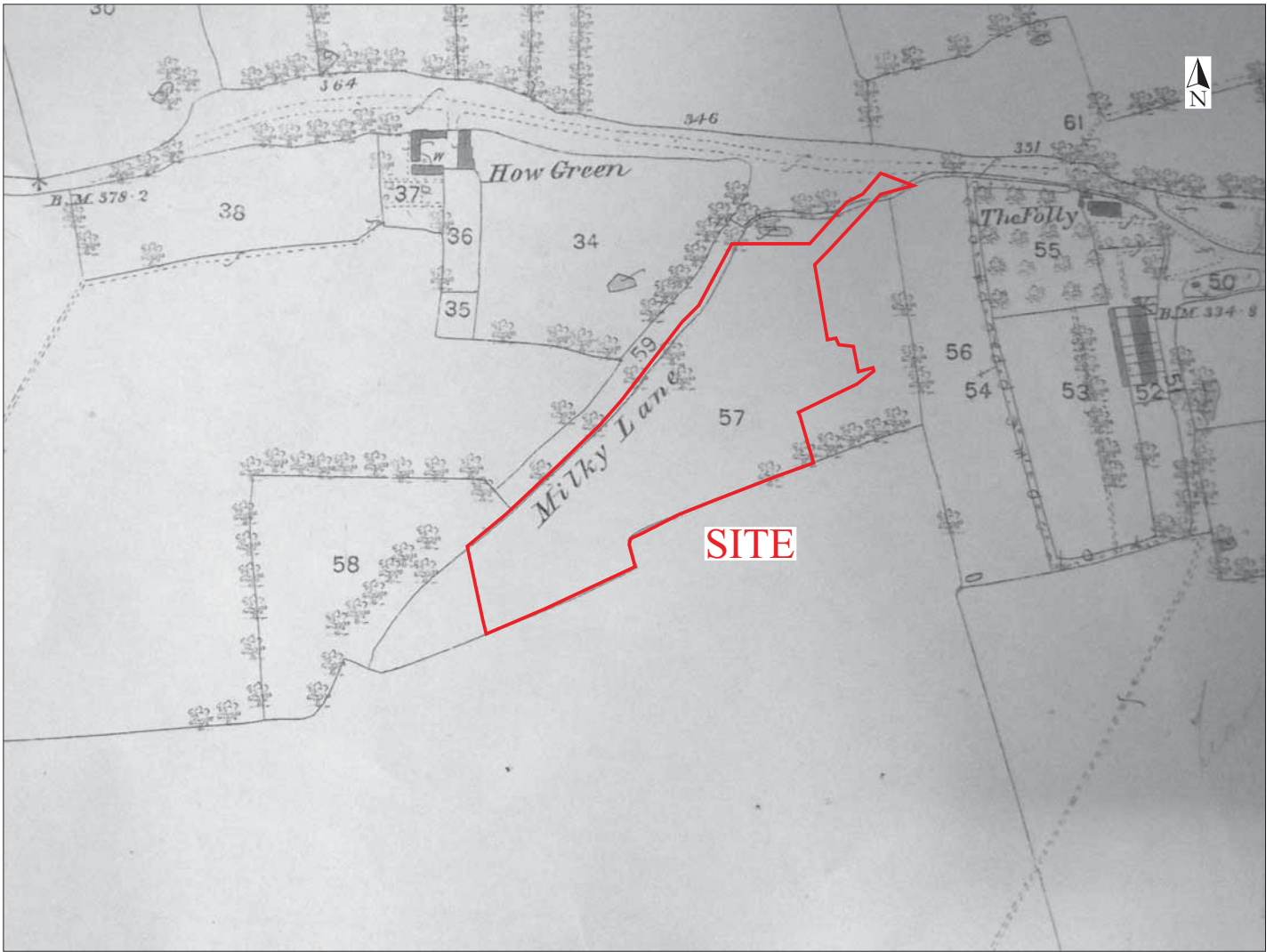
Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 3 HER Data
 Scale 1:10,000 at A4



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 Fig. 4 Dury & Andrews, 1766
 Scale unknown

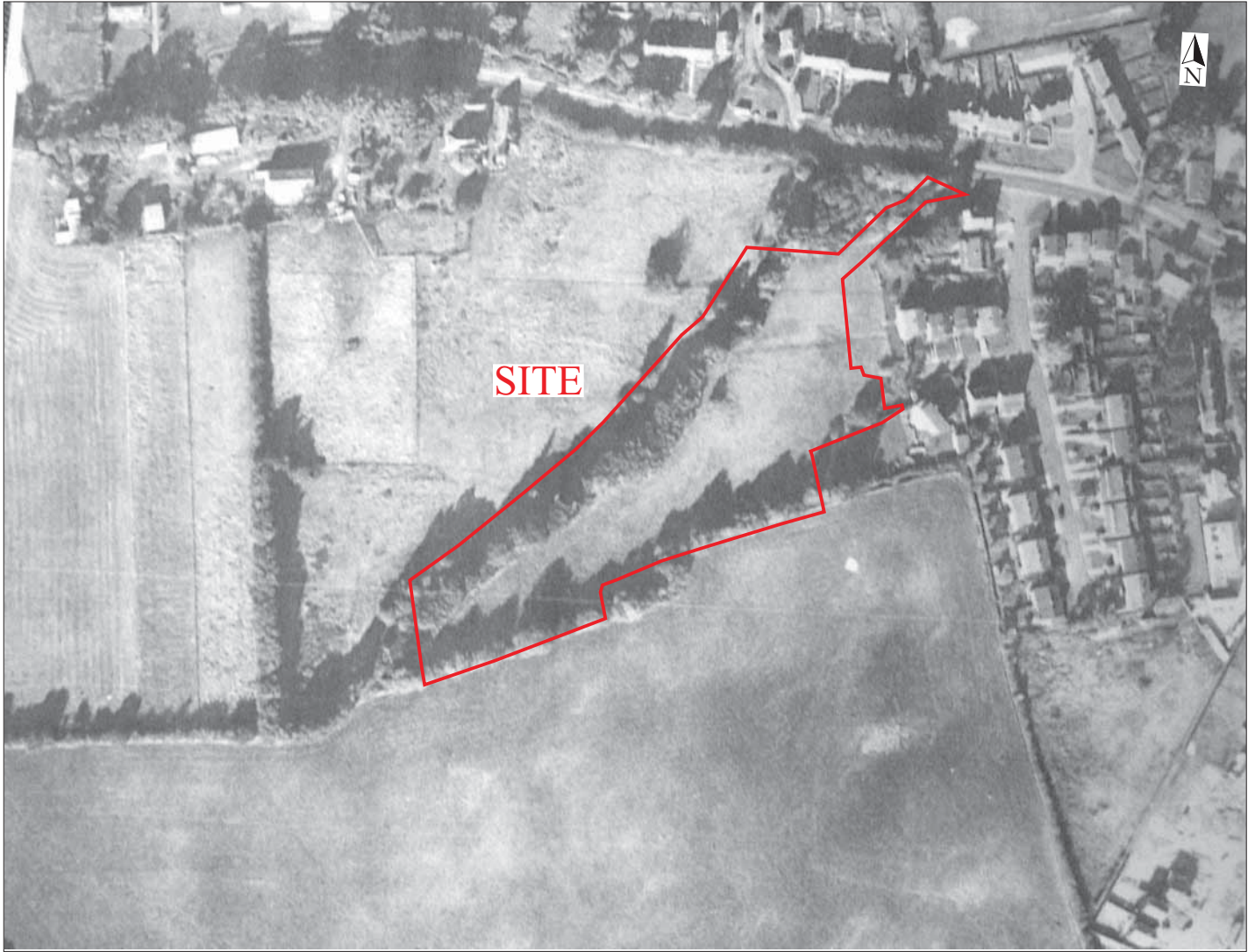


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Fig. 5 Andrew Bryant, 1822
Not to scale

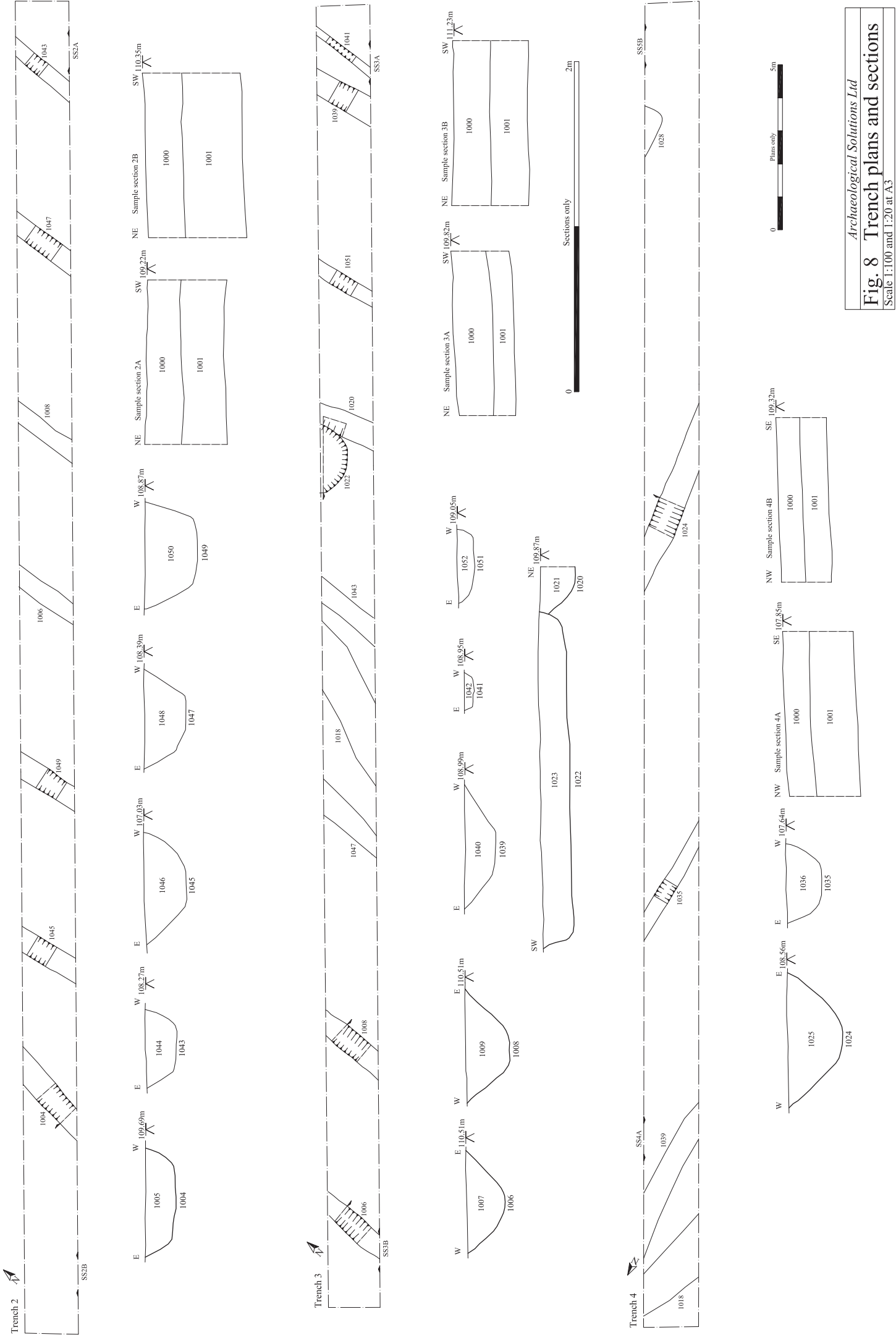


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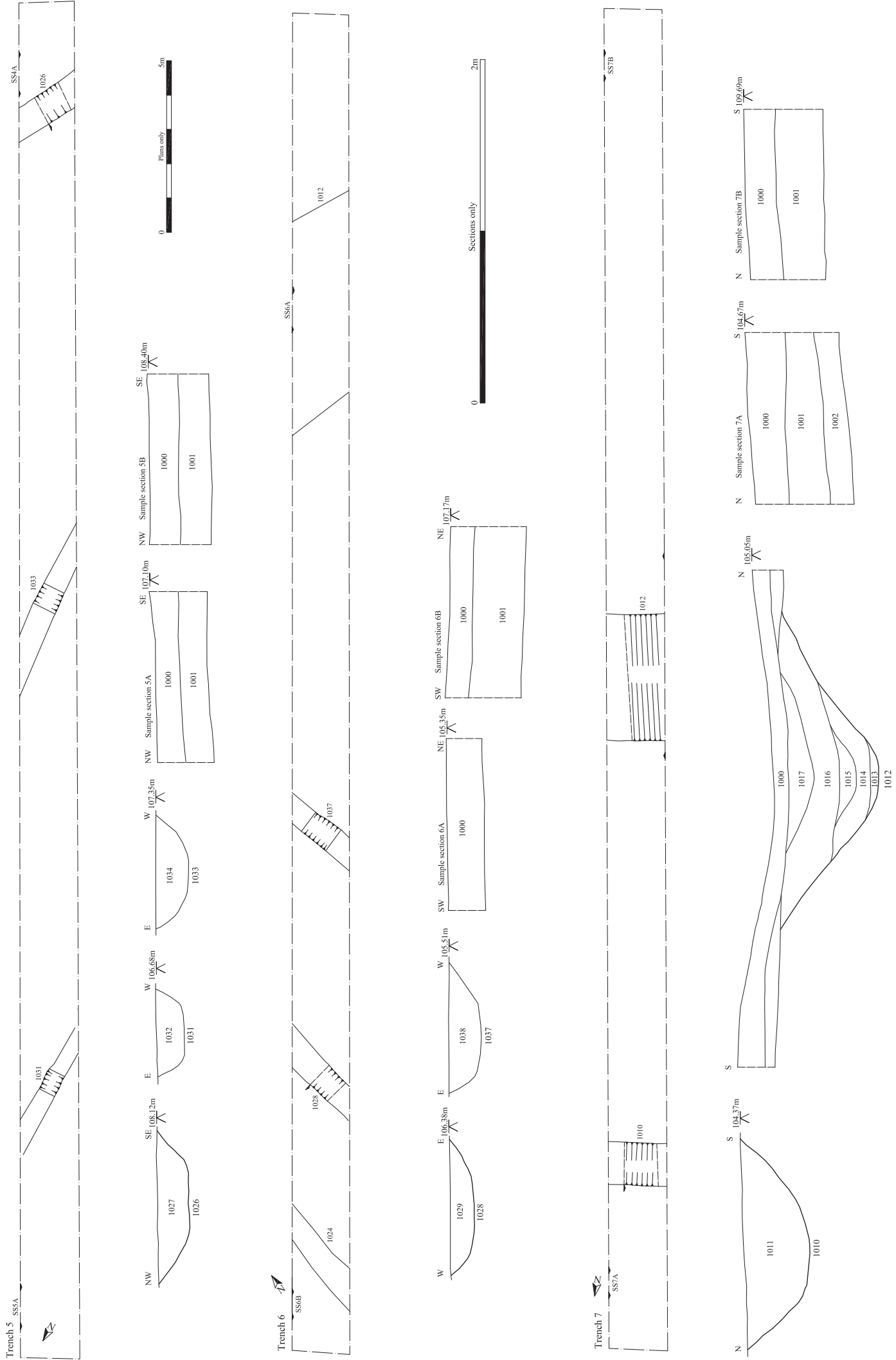
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Fig. 6 OS map, 1877
Not to scale



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Fig. 7 Aerial photograph, 1971
Not to scale



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Fig 8 Trench plans and sections
 Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3



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Fig. 9 Trench plans and sections
 Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3