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CHURCH HALL FARM ENDURANCE TRACK, WOODDITTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CHER NO.ECB3950

Authors: Gareth Barlow (fieldwork & report) Peter Thompson (research)	
NGR: TL 6607 6021	Report No: 4310
District: East Cambridgeshire	Site Code: AS1581
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 5268
Signed:	Date: 30 April 2013

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Project name	*Church Hall Farm Endurance Track, Woodditton, Cambridgeshire*		
In April 2013 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological evaluation at Church Hall Farm, Woodditton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 6607 6021). The evaluation was commissioned by Darley Stud Management Co Ltd and undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval to construct an endurance track and ancillary works. *A length of the Icknield Way borders the northern edge of the site. A ring ditch and Bronze Age and Iron Age ditches and pits are located 300m to the south and beyond. Prehistoric features were excavated 400-650m to the north. A Romano-British field system was located 300m to the south. Saxo-Norman pottery was found in a pit 660m to the east and the arm of a medieval moat survives 630m north of the site. The 1884-5 OS map records a chalk pit in the south-west corner.* *Sparse struck flint was found in the topsoil (Trs.1 and 2), colluvium (Tr.3) and subsoil (Tr.3). Two features of early date were recorded during the trial trench evaluation. Ditch F1010 in Trench 4 at the far eastern end of the site contained early Neolithic flint, and Ditch F1031 in Trench 7 in the centre of the southern edge of the site contained mid – late Iron Age pottery. Two other features, a large pit (F1018) in Trench 9 in the south western corner and a small gully (F1016) in Trench 5 on the eastern side were both of modern date.*		
Project dates (fieldwork)	*April 2013*		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	*N*	*Future work*	*TBC*
P. number	*5268*	*Site code*	*AS1581*
Type of project	*Archaeological Evaluation*		
Site status	*-*		
Current land use	*Hedge-lined paddocks and access tracks*		
Planned development	*Construction of an endurance track and ancillary works*		
Main features (+dates)	*Two ditches*		
Significant finds (+dates)	*Early Neolithic struck flint, mid – late Iron Age pottery*		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	*Cambridgeshire*	*East Cambridgeshire*	*Woodditton*
HER/ SMR for area	*Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CCC HER)*		
Post code (if known)	*-*		
Area of site	*c.2440m length of track corridor*		
Height AOD (max/ min)	*72-100m AOD*		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	*Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (Dan McConnell)*		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	*Barlow, G.*		
Funded by	*Darley Stud Management Co Ltd.*		
Full title	*Church Hall Farm Endurance Track, Woodditton, Cambridgeshire Archaeological Evaluation*		
Authors	*Barlow, G. & Thompson, P.*		
Report no.	*4310*		
Date (of report)	*April 2013*		

CHURCH HALL FARM ENDURANCE TRACK, WOODDITTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In April 2013 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological evaluation at Church Hall Farm, Woodditton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 6607 6021). The evaluation was commissioned by Darley Stud Management Co Ltd and undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval to construct an endurance track and ancillary works.

A length of the Icknield Way borders the northern edge of the site. A ring ditch and Bronze Age and Iron Age ditches and pits are located 300m to the south and beyond. Prehistoric features were excavated 400-650m to the north. A Romano-British field system was located 300m to the south. Saxo-Norman pottery was found in a pit 660m to the east and the arm of a medieval moat survives 630m north of the site. The 1884-5 OS map records a chalk pit in the south-west corner.

Sparse struck flint was found in the topsoil (Trs.1 and 2), colluvium (Tr.3) and subsoil (Tr.3). Two features of early date were recorded during the trial trench evaluation. Ditch F1010 in Trench 4 at the far eastern end of the site contained early Neolithic flint, and Ditch F1031 in Trench 7 in the centre of the southern edge of the site contained mid – late Iron Age pottery. Two other features, a large pit (F1018) in Trench 9 in the south western corner and a small gully (F1016) in Trench 5 on the eastern side were both of modern date.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In April 2013 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological evaluation at Church Hall Farm, Woodditton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 6607 6021; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was commissioned by Darley Stud Management Co Ltd and undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval to construct an endurance track and ancillary works.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) (Dan McConnell 28/03/2013), and a specification compiled by AS (03/04/2013), and

approved by CCC HET. The documents *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14 (Gurney 2003) and the Institute for Archaeologists' (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (1994, revised 2008) were used for guidance.

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, 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 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 The site is located 750m north of the hamlet of Woodditton and is 3.5 km south of Newmarket. It is a sub-rectangular block of land made up of six

paddocks divided by hedges and tracks. There are also two buildings on the site associated with the stables. The site is bounded on the west side by the Woodditton Road and on the north by another road following the course of the Icknield Way. The south side is bordered by a track with more paddocks beyond. The eastern side is bordered by a hedge and a small wood.

3 THE EVIDENCE

3.1 Topography, Geology & Soils

3.1.1 The local topography is an undulating landscape with the land on the site sloping down quite steeply from approximately 100m AOD to the north to 73m AOD to the south. The local soils are chalky tills of the Hanslope association described as slowly permeable calcareous clay. They overlie the solid geology of Cretaceous chalk.

3.2 Archaeological & Historical Background

Prehistoric

3.2.1 Four sections of the Icknield Way run through the parish of Woodditton with one bordering the northern edge of the site. Despite some dispute over the validity of the Icknield Way as a series of prehistoric routeways (Harrison 2005), it is generally accepted that the tracks were in use from the Neolithic and Bronze Age, and formed a network of paths between East Anglia and the South-west. A large amount of archaeological work has been carried out in the locality showing, particularly in areas of outcropping chalk not covered by the glacial till, that the local chalk mass has abundant evidence of Neolithic and Bronze Age activity seen in the presence of barrows and flint scatters. In particular the area bordering the east and south-east of the site has undergone systematic archaeological investigation.

3.2.2 Cropmarks approximately 300m to the south of the site of a ring-ditch have been identified through aerial photography, which may represent the remains of a ploughed out Bronze Age barrow (CHER 09134). Evidence for low level prehistoric activity including an early Bronze Age pit was identified 300m to the south during an archaeological evaluation at Moorley Farm (CHER MCB17370). A scatter of late Bronze Age to early Iron Age pits containing pottery, worked flint and animal bone, and a possible dew pond were also identified 420m to the south (CHER MCB18468). An archaeological evaluation identified prehistoric ditches, gullies and pits including a late Bronze Age to middle Iron Age pit located 420m north of the site at Derisley Wood (CHER17520). An Iron Age gully, prehistoric ditch and an undated post-hole were identified during another archaeological evaluation approximately 620m north of the site (CHER MCB19194).

Romano-British

3.2.3 The nearest known Roman settlements are some distance from Woodditton although sections of the Icknield Way continued to be used by the Romans. Archaeological investigations at Moorley Farm identified Romano-British ditches and pits containing pottery, animal bone and a fragment of iron some 300m south of the site (CHER MCB18470). The finds suggested the presence of a field system with a possible settlement located to the east.

Anglo-Saxon

3.2.4 'Ditton' means 'settlement by a dyke or ditch' (Ekwall 1936:140), the prefix 'wood' denotes that the area was formerly woodland. The dyke/ditch part of the name refers to the Devil's Dyke, which forms the western boundary of Woodditton Parish and part of which reaches to within 1.25km to the west of the site. The dyke was seemingly constructed in one phase and extends over 11km. In places it has survived to a height of 10.5m from the base of the ditch to the top of the embankment. The dykes were strategically positioned across the Icknield Way, controlling access to areas of East Anglia, although it has yet to be established with certainty whether they represent territorial boundaries or defensive installations (Muir 2002). The dating of the dykes is uncertain, though excavations in the 1990's produced evidence to suggest that some at least were built in the immediate aftermath of the Roman withdrawal. They had previously been connected with conflicts between the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of the 7th century (Kirby & Oosthuizen 2000, 27).

3.2.5 The land units of Ditton and Saxton pre-date 1086 and the Domesday survey records dispersed communities in the general area. As yet no archaeological evidence of a Saxon settlement has been discovered within Woodditton. A minster was established in neighbouring Kirtling during the 10th century and it is likely the settlement there was a relatively important local centre at this time (Kirby & Oosthuizen 2000:28). Several mid 10th-century coins have also been recovered in the parish of Kirtling (Kirby & Oosthuizen 2000:29). An Anglo-Saxon knife was recovered 720m to the north of the site (CHER 11842). An archaeological evaluation at School Lane identified a pit containing Saxo-Norman pottery and animal bone in good condition given a centre point 660m east of the site (CHER MCB17372).

Medieval

3.2.6 Woodditton Parish comprises two ancient land units; Ditton and Saxton, although Ditton had been subdivided some time prior to 1086 (Lewis 2002:80). Consequently, medieval Woodditton was divided between three principal manors: Ditton Camoys in the west, Ditton Valence in the centre, and Saxton in the east. To the north-east of Woodditton, Cheveley Park (CHER 12335) appears

to have first been enclosed as early as the 14th century, although the earliest documentary reference to the park is in 1517.

3.2.7 Much of the area of modern Woodditton parish comprised small patches of forest, and records indicate a significant amount of coppicing and clearing during the 13th and 14th centuries of woodland in Saxton Heath, Ditton Park, Ditton Valence and Derisley (Lewis 2002:80). Non-wooded land north of the village and in Saxton Heath was traditionally used for grazing. The parish economy was at this time based on mixed cereal production and sheep husbandry. Open-field arable land occupied the centre of the parish, which probably incorporated the site (Lewis 2002:79). A larger settlementwas established at Newmarket *c.* 1200, and since the 13th century, the most important roads in Woodditton parish have been those leading to and from the town. Part of a medieval moat survives at Dalham Hall Stud and is located approximately 630m north of the site (CHER 01189). The Parish Church of St Mary's in Wooodditton has its earliest structures dating from the early 13th century and is Grade I listed (CHER 07374).

Post-medieval

3.2.8 In the 1730-40s, Charles Seymour, Duke of Somerset, bought out most of the land in Woodditton and incorporated it into the Cheveley Park Estate. Cheveley Park, approximately 800m east of the site (CHER 12335), may have originated as a medieval deer park. It was enlarged and landscaped during the 17th and 18th centuries, and by 1775, it also had wide avenues and rides. The parish was enclosed *c*. 1816, although the formal award was not made until 1823. The Cheveley Park Estate was divided up around 1920 and stud farms increasingly sprung up throughout the parish. The first, later to be called Woodditton Stud, was established in the mid-1890s by a Newmarket trainer, Martin Gurry. Others were founded after 1920 on land formerly part of the Cheveley Estate, which included the area around the site.

3.2.9 Woodditton never grew to be more than a small hamlet, similar in size and setting to those at Little Ditton and Ditton Green. In 1694, there were approximately 93 houses in the parish and by 1801, this number only rose to around 100 (Lewis 2002:82). New farmhouses were constructed after the inclosure of 1823, including one at Derisley Wood. A post-medieval boundary ditch and possible plough scars were identified some 300m south of the site (CHER MCB 18470).

3.3 Cartographic information

3.3.1 There was no Tithe map available at Shire Hall Record Office. The 1884-1885 First Edition OS map shows the site as one large field divided in two by the footpath existing today (Fig. 3). There is a chalk pit in the south-west corner, and

other chalk pits are in the area indicated by Chalk Pit Plantation to the north. The 1901, 1927 and 1950 OS maps show no change to the site (Figs. 4-6).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Nine trial trenches were excavated (Fig.7). All trenches were 40m long and 1.80m wide.

4.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 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 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Fig. 7)

Sample section: North end, east facing. *0.00 = 79.86m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flint.
0.30m+	L1001	Natural deposits. Mixed patches of firm, very pale grey brown and white chalkey silt with moderate small and rounded chalk, and firm mid brownish orange silty sand with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flints.

Sample section: South end, east facing. *0.00 = 80.88m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.25 – 0.71m	L1001	Subsoil. Firm, mid brownish orange sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flints.
0.71m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above

Description: With the exception of a struck flint (15g) recovered from the topsoil, Trench 1 contained no archaeological finds or features.

Trench 2 (Fig. 7)

Sample section: West end, north facing. *0.00 = 77.64m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.32 – 0.58m	L1003	Subsoil. Firm, mid orange brown silty sand with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flints.
0.58m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section: East end, north facing *0.00 = 77.43m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.32 – 0.55m	L1003	Subsoil. As above.
0.55m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Description: With the exception of a struck flint (14g) recovered from the topsoil, Trench 2 contained no archaeological finds or features.

Trench 3 (Fig. 7)

Sample section: West end, north facing. *0.00 = 76.24m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.28 – 0.52m	L1004	?Colluvium. Firm, pale yellow brown clay silt with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flints and chalk flecks.
0.52 – 0.83m	L1005	?Subsoil. Firm, mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flints.
0.83 – 0.88m	L1006	?Colluvium. Firm, mid orange brown silty sand with moderate small and medium angular and sub-angular flints.
0.88	L1001	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section: East end, north facing *0.00 = 76.88m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.30 – 0.39m	L1004	?Colluvium. As above.
0.39 – 0.68m	L1005	?Subsoil. As above.
0.68 – 1.05m	L1007	?Colluvium. Firm, pale yellow brown silty sand with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flints.
1.05m+	L1001	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Two struck flints from L1004 (84g) and a struck flint from L1005 (7g) were recovered in Trench 3. There were no other archaeological finds or features present.

Trench 4 (Figs. 7-8)

Sample section: East end, north facing *0.00 = 81.72m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.28 – 0.36m	L1012	?Colluvium. Firm, mid yellow brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flint and chalk flecks.
0.36 – 0.68m	L1013	Subsoil. Firm, mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flints.
0.68 – 0.83m	L1014	?Subsoil. Firm, mid orange grey brown silty sand, with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flints.
0.83m+	L1001	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Sample section: South end, East facing. *0.00 = 83.62m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.26 – 0.35m	L1013	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
.35m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 4 contained Ditch F1010. It cut and adhered to the same course as a palaeochannel (F1008). F1010 contained early Neolithic struck flint.

F1008 was a palaeochannel (2.00+ x 1.50 x 0.56m), orientated northeast/ southwest. Its profile was irregular. Its fill (L1009) was a very firm, dark red brown silty clay with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flints. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1010 was linear (2.00+ x 1.00 x 0.36m), orientated northeast/southwest. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1011) was a firm, dark red brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flints. It contained 12 struck flints (153g) of early Neolithic date.

Trench 5 (Figs. 7-8)

Sample section: North end, east facing. *0.00 = 94.10m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.31m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section: South end, east facing *0.00 = 95.81m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.28 – 0.36m	L1015	Subsoil. Firm, mid yellow brown clay silt with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flint and chalk flecks.
0.36m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 5 contained Gully F1016 which likely represents a modern disused land drain.

Gully F1016 was linear (15.00+ x 0.18 x 0.10m), orientated north/south. It had vertical sides and a flat base. Its fill (L1017) was a firm pale yellow brown clay silt with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flints and occasional small and medium sub-rounded chalk. It contained no finds. The profile of this gully suggests it was machine cut and likely represents the remains of a disused modern land drain.

Trench 6 (Fig. 7)

Sample section: East end, north facing. *0.00 = 96.93m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.26m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section: West end, north facing *0.00 = 95.33m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.28m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 6 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 7 (Figs. 7 & 9)

Sample section: East end, north facing. *0.00 = 82.61m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.30 – 0.78m	L1036	Subsoil. Firm, mid red brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flints.
0.78m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section: West end, north facing *0.00 = 81.57m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.30 – 0.80m	L1036	Subsoil. As above.
0.80m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 7 contained Ditch F1031 of mid – late Iron Age date.

Ditch F1031 was linear (4.00+ x 4.00 x 1.20m) orientated northeast/southwest. It had moderately steep sides and a narrow flat base. It basal fill (L1034) was a firm, pale yellowish brown sandy silt with frequent small and medium sub-angular

chalk and occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flints. It contained no finds. Above L1034, L1033 was a firm, mid orange brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flints and sub-rounded chalk. It contained animal bone (116g), fired clay (12g) and struck flint (19g). Overlying L1033 and present on the south eastern side only was L1035, a firm pale orange brown clay silt with frequent chalk flecks and moderate small sub-angular flints. It contained mid-late Iron Age pottery (17g) and animal bone (98g). The uppermost fill (L1032) was a firm dark grey brown clay silt with occasional small angular and sub-angular flints, and very occasional chalk flecks. It contained mid-late Iron Age pottery (3g) and animal bone (69g).

Trench 8 (Fig. 7)

Sample section: West end, north facing. *0.00 = 90394m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.25m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section: East end, north facing *0.00 = 88.24m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.29m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 8 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 9 (Figs. 7 & 9)

Sample section: North end, west facing. *0.00 = 85.83m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.35m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1.

Sample section: South end, west facing *0.00 = 85.51m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.32 – 0.58m	L1029	Subsoil. Firm, mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flints.
0.58 – 0.74m	L1030	Subsoil. Firm, mid brownish orange sandy silt with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flints.
0.74m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 9 contained a large modern feature (F1018), recorded as a "chalk pit" on the 1885 OS map. There were no other archaeological finds or features.

F1018 was a very large sub-circular pit (40.00+ x 30.00+ x 1.00+m) visible as earthworks in the south-eastern corner of the paddock. It cut the natural at a very steep angle. As the feature was modern it was not investigated further so the profile and depth remains unknown. The visible fills are tabulated:

Context	Fill	Finds
L1019	Friable, mid brownish grey sandy silt.	Modern wire.
L1020	Friable pale orange/yellow silty sand with occasional small and sub-angular flints	None
L1022	Compact, pale brown/grey silty clay	Modern CBM
L1021	Compact, mid grey brown clay silt with moderate small and medium sub-angular flints	Slag
L1027	Firm, pale brown/grey silty clay	None
L1028	Compact, pale yellow brown silty clay with occasional large sub- angular chalk.	None
L1023	Friable, dark brown/grey sandy silt with frequent small sub-angular and rounded flints	Modern CBM
L1025	Friable, mid brown/grey silty sand with occasional medium and large angular flints.	None
L1024	Compact, pale brown/yellow silty clay with occasional large angular chalk.	None
L1026	Friable, very dark grey sandy silt	Modern CBM.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 Uppermost Topsoil L1000 was a firm, mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flint (0.25 – 0.30m thick). Below L1000, were Subsoils L1001 (Tr.1), L1013 (Tr.4), L1015 (Tr.5), L1036 (Tr.7) and L1029, L1030 (Tr.9)(0.08 – 0.50m thick). And below Topsoil L1000 in Trenches 3 and 4 were colluvial deposits (L1004, L1005, L1006 and L1007) (0.60 – 0.75m thick).

7.2 Below the topsoil, subsoils and colluvial deposits were the natural deposits, L1001, mixed patches of firm, very pale grey brown and white chalkey silt with moderate small and rounded chalk, and firm mid brownish orange silty sand with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flints. In Trenches 1, 5 - 6, and 8 – 9 the topsoil directly overlay the natural deposits. The latter was 0.26 – 1.05m below the present day ground surface.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 Sparse struck flint was found in the topsoil (Trs.1 and 2), colluvium (Tr.3) and subsoil (Tr.3). Two features of early date were recorded during the trial trench evaluation. Ditch F1010 in Trench 4 at the far eastern end of the site contained early Neolithic flint, and Ditch F1031 in Trench 7 in the centre of the southern edge of the site contained mid – late Iron Age pottery. Two other features, a large pit (F1018) in Trench 9 in the south western corner and a small gully (F1016) in Trench 5 on the eastern side were both of modern date.

8.2 A section of the Icknield Way, a prehistoric trackway, runs along the northern edge of the site. Neolithic activity in the area is known through a number of flint scatters and ditches of Iron Age date have been found 420m to the north of the site. Bronze Age ring ditches are also known locally.

8.3 The scale of the Iron Age ditch (F1031) is particularly large suggesting it is not simply a field boundary but had some other function, perhaps forming part of an enclosure. The relative paucity of finds might suggest this was not domestic however.

8.4 Preservation of any remains lower down the slopes is likely to be good due to the protection afforded by the build up of colluvial and subsoil layers. Preservation on the top of the slope less so as the soil here is thin with the topsoil lying directly over the natural.

Research potential

8.5 Concentrations of prehistoric activity are often recorded in proximity to the Icknield Way and so the presence of archaeology of the dates recorded is not unexpected. Indeed, such areas may provide useful comparisons for further understanding the archaeology recorded here.

8.6 The Neolithic and Iron Age activity recorded here adds to the fairly extensive corpus of known prehistoric activity in the surrounding area. This suggests that further work here is likely to reveal more information relating to the local prehistoric landscape, adding to work previously done in the surrounding area (e.g Stone *et al* 2009; Schofield & Higgs 2010; Grassam 2007).

8.7 The identification of Neolithic worked flint suggests a potential for information relating to the study of Neolithic flint technologies from this site; a particularly important associated research question for the eastern region focuses on the selection of particular sources and types of flint for the production of particular tool types (Medlycott 2011, 14). The possibility that Neolithic flint dates F1010 suggests that a Neolithic enclosure or similar activity may be present at this site. Medlycott (2011, 14) indicates that such sites are

underrepresented in NMR/HER records in the region in comparison to funerary/ceremonial monuments of this date.

8.8 Enclosure was an important aspect of the Iron Age landscape. They may have functioned in a variety of ways, which were not necessarily exclusive of one another. Boundaries may have functioned as defensive features, to delimit activity areas, as boundaries between communities, for purposes of display, to reflect the status of the inhabitants, or in symbolic ways (Collis 1996, 88-90). Therefore, the identification of a particularly large Iron Age ditch may indicate that there is a potential for further work at this location to provide information relating to settlement types, and particularly the zonation and organisation of space within and around settlements, settlement form and function, or social organisation (Medlycott 2011, 29, 31). Alternatively, this feature may have had an agricultural function and may, therefore, have the potential to provide information relating to the agrarian economy and other aspects of the organisation of the local Iron Age landscape (Medlycott 2011, 30-31).

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at the Cambridgeshire County Store. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank the Darley Stud Management Co Ltd for funding the project, and their planning consultants Taylor Vintners. AS would also like to acknowledge the on-site assistance of OJ Neill Contracting Ltd

AS thanks Sarah Bultz for providing the HER information and staff at the Cambridge Record Office, Shire Hall.

AS is also pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

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APPENDIX 1 CARTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Figure	Date	Details	Scale
1	modern	Site location	
2	modern	Detailed site location	1:2500
3	1884-5	OS map first edition	1:10,560
4	1901	OS map second edition	1:10,560
5	1927	OS map	1:10,560
6	1950	OS map	1:10,560

APPENDIX 2 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

AS1581, Endurance Track, Church Hall Farm, Newmarket
Concordance of finds by
feature

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
1000			1 2	Topsoil					Str. Flint (1) - 15g Str. Flint (1) - 14g
1004			3	Colluvium					Str. Flint (2) - 84g
1005			3	Subsoil					Str. Flint (1) - 7g
1010	1011		4	Fill of Ditch					Str. Flint (12) - 153g
1031	1032 1033 1035	A C A B	7	Upper Fill of Ditch Middle Fill of Ditch Fill of Ditch	Mid – Late IA Mid – Late IA Mid – Late IA	(1) 3g (4) 16g (4) 17g		69 60 116 98	 F. Clay - 12g Str. Flint (1) -19g

APPENDIX 3 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Prehistoric Pottery
Andrew Peachey MIfA

Ditch F1031 contained nine, moderately abraded sherds (36g) of prehistoric pottery, distributed between its upper and lower fills (L1032 & L1035). The pottery consists entirely of non-diagnostic body sherds manufactured in a hand-made, bonfire-fired fabric with inclusions of common, moderately sorted quartz sand (0.1-0.5mm) and sparse to occasional calcined flint (<2.5mm). This type of fabric is typical in middle Iron Age assemblages in the region and may have continued to have currency through the late Iron Age but has very limited diagnostic value in this assemblage.

The Struck Flint
Andrew Peachey MIfA

The evaluation recovered 17 pieces (207g) of struck flint, entirely manufactured from high quality, very dark grey to black raw flint with a chalky, off-white cortex. The struck flint occurs in an un-patinated condition, and was produced using the blade-based technology characteristic of earlier Neolithic core reduction.

Re-touched implements included include three side scrapers recovered from Topsoil L1000 (Trenches 1 & 2) and Colluvium L1004, with each scraper formed by the application of abrupt retouch to a blade, and an awl also recovered from Colluvium L1004. The awl appears to have been formed on a core rejuvenation flake, struck from a single platform blade core, and has a working 'edge' that projects *c.*10mm formed by working two notches into the lateral edge. The only concentration of flint in the assemblage comprises 11 flakes contained in Ditch F1010 (L1011), which include six blades ranging in length between 20-50mm, and blade-like tertiary flakes of debitage. Further isolated and indeterminate debitage flakes were also contained in L1005 and Ditch F1031.

Animal Bone Report
Dr Julia E. M. Cussans

A total of 16 animal bones were recovered from the evaluation. All of which came from the various fills of Ditch F1031. Bones were recovered from L1032 Segments A and C, L1033 A and L1035 B. All of the bones were in a good state of preservation with little sign of abrasion or canid gnawing; there were however a number of fresh breakages. Animals present were cattle, sheep/goat and horse. Each of these was represented by two bones, horse

were however present in three of the contexts as radius fragments from L1033 A and L1035 B were found to belong to the same bone, joining along fresh breaks, this may indicate some difficulty in identifying context boundaries in excavation. The remainder of the bones could only be identified as large (cattle or horse sized) or medium (sheep or pig sized) mammal. One large mammal rib was noted as having a chop mark under the articulation, indicating metal blade butchery (L1033 A). No other butchery marks or modifications to the bones were noted.

The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

Three deposits from two features were sampled for environmental archaeological assessment during the evaluation. Spot dates indicate that the material is of prehistoric date, with a middle-late Iron Age date assigned to Ditch F1031 (L1032 and L1033). This report presents the results from the assessment of the bulk sample light fractions and discusses the significance and potential of any identified remains.

Methods

Samples were processed at the Archaeological Solutions Ltd facilities 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. The dried light fractions were scanned under a low power stereomicroscope (x10-x30 magnification). Botanical and molluscan remains were identified and recorded using a semi-quantitative scale (X = present; XX = common; XXX = abundant). Reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006; Kerney and Cameron 1979; Kerney 1999) and a reference collection of modern seeds was 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 assessment data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 1.

Plant macrofossils

No charred plant macrofossils were present in any of the samples and only a small number of possible hazel (cf. *Corylus* sp.) charcoal fragments were recognised in L1011 (prehistoric ditch F1010).

Terrestrial molluscs

A small range of molluscs from grassland habitats (*Trichia hispida* group and *Pupilla muscorum*) were present in the fills of Iron Age ditch F1031. The small size and limited diversity of the assemblage makes it un-suitable for further comment.

Contaminants

Modern rootlets, molluscs (*Cecilioides acicula*) and seeds were present in the deposits but only in low concentrations. It is unlikely that significant disturbance through bioturbation has occurred.

Conclusions and statement of potential

The bulk sample light fractions produced very limited material of environmental archaeological significance. This suggests that the excavated features were set away from any primary focus of domestic activity and refuse disposal. It is unlikely that further sampling of such deposits would produce an analytically viable assemblage of either plant macrofossils or terrestrial molluscs.

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Site code	Sample number	Context	Feature	Feature type	Spot date	Volume (litres)	Flot (ml)	% processed	Cereals				Non-cereal taxa		Charcoal		Molluscs		Contaminants				
									Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Grain preservation	Seeds	Notes	Charcoal>2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules
AS1581	1	1011	1010	Fill of Prehistoric Ditch	-	20	25	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	cf. *Corylus* sp.	-	-	XX	X	X	-	-
AS1581	2	1032	1031	Upper Fill of Ditch	M-LIA	20	20	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	*P. muscorum*, *T. hispida* group	X	X	-	-	-
AS1581	3	1033	1031	Middle Fill of Ditch	M-LIA	20	20	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	*T. hispida* group	-	X	-	-	-

Table 1: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from Church Hall Farm, Newmarket.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX

1
General view of site from Trench 6. Looking west.

2
Excavation of Trench 5 in progress. Looking north.

3
Trench 2 post exc. Looking east.

4
Sample Section 2B. Trench 2, looking south.

5
Trench 3 post exc. Looking east.

6
Sample Section 3A. Trench 3, looking south.

7
Trench 4 post exc. Looking south.

8
Palaeochannel F1008 with ditch F1010. Trench 4, looking southwest.

9
Sample Section 4A. Trench 4, looking west.

10
Trench 5 post exc. Looking south.

11
Sample Section 5A. Trench 5, looking west.

12
Trench 7 post exc. Looking west.

13
Ditch F1031A. Trench 7, looking northeast.

14
Ditch F1031B. Trench 7, looking northeast.

15
Ditch F1031C. Trench 7, looking southwest.

16
Sample Section 7A. Trench 7, looking south.

17
Trench 9 post exc. Looking north.

18
Sample section 9A. Trench 9, looking northeast.

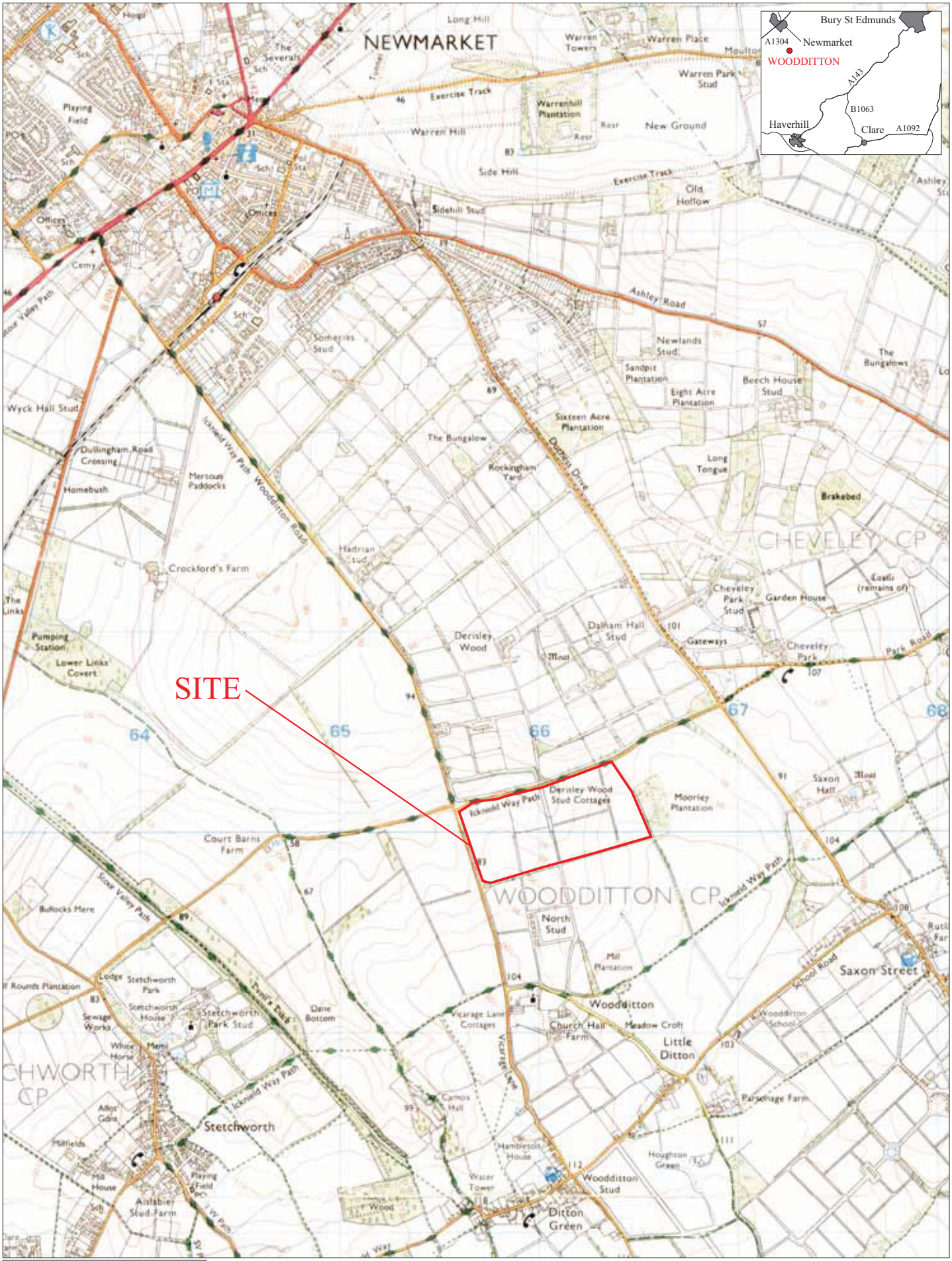

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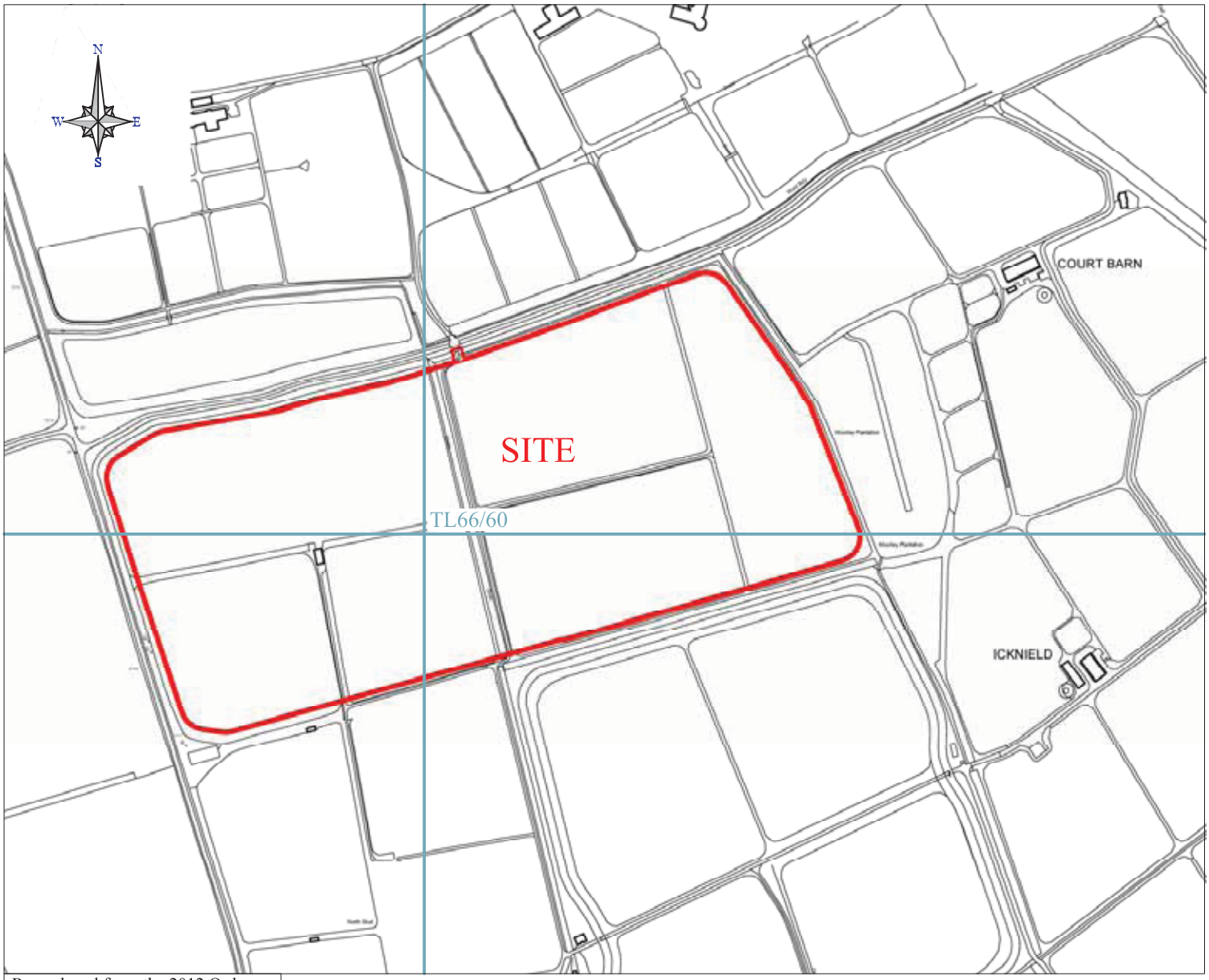
Fig. 1 Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000 at A4



0 500m

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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

Scale 1:7500 at A4

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Fig. 3 OS map, 1885

Not to scale

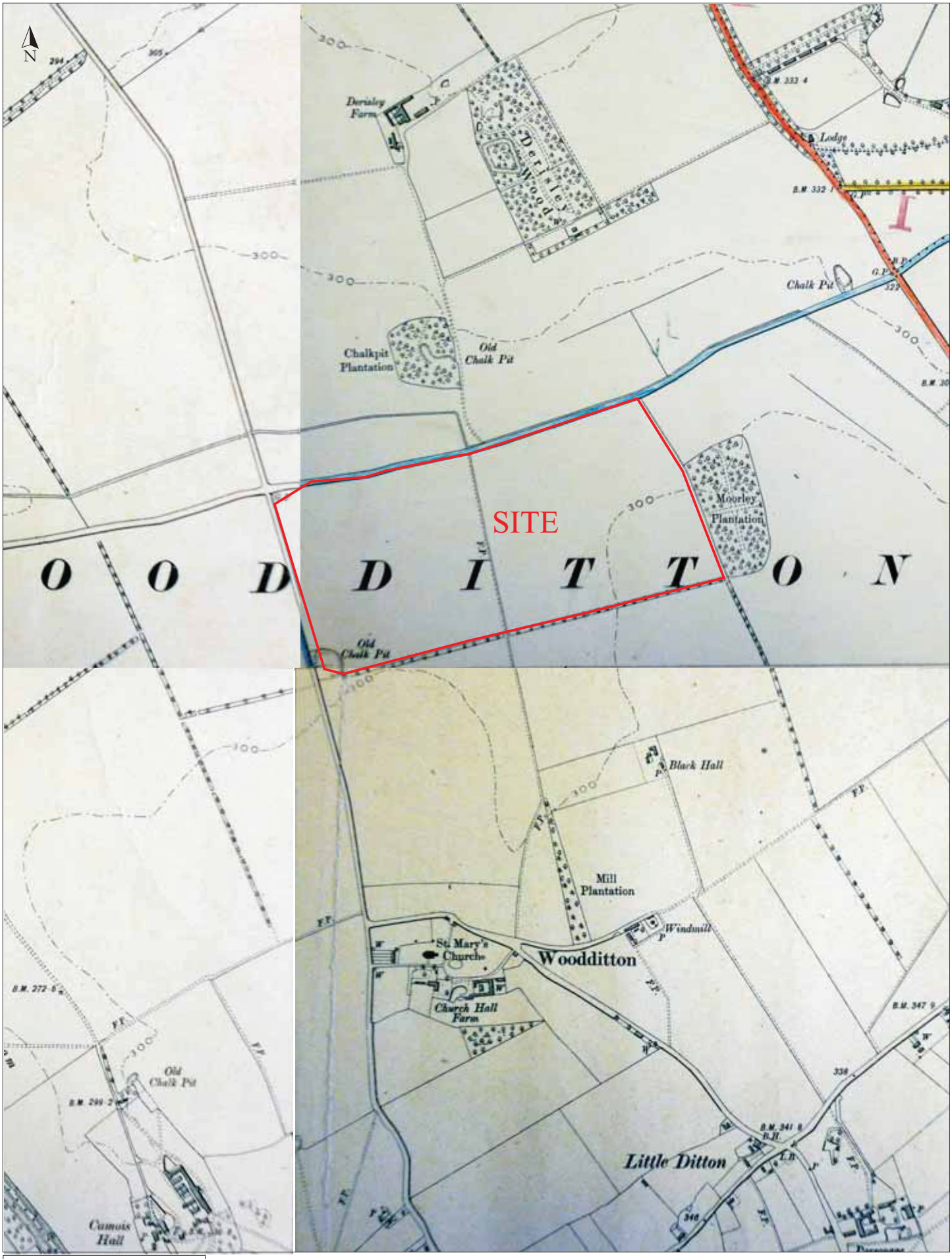

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Fig. 4 OS map, 1896

Not to scale

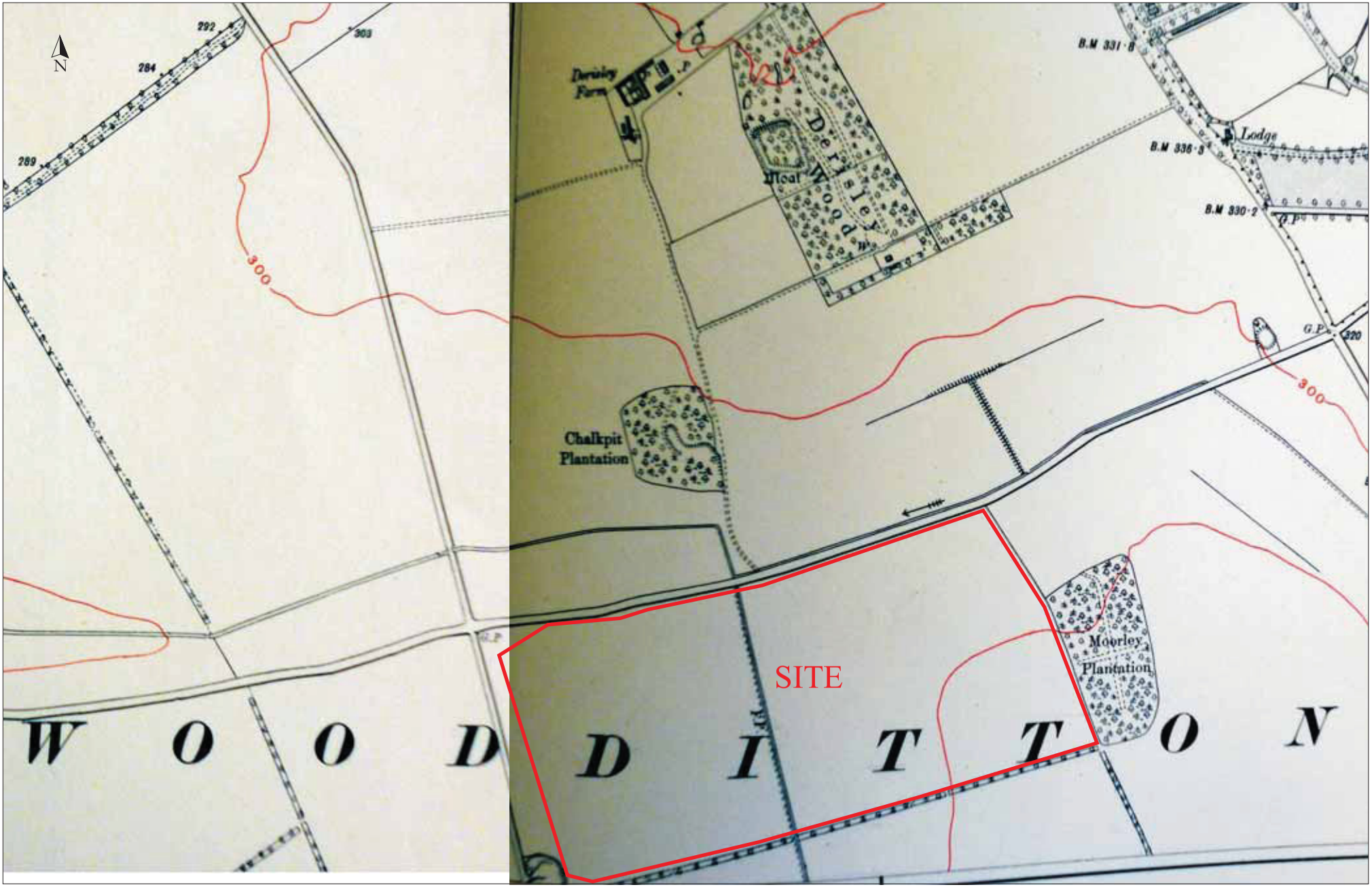

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Fig. 5 OS map, 1927

Not to scale

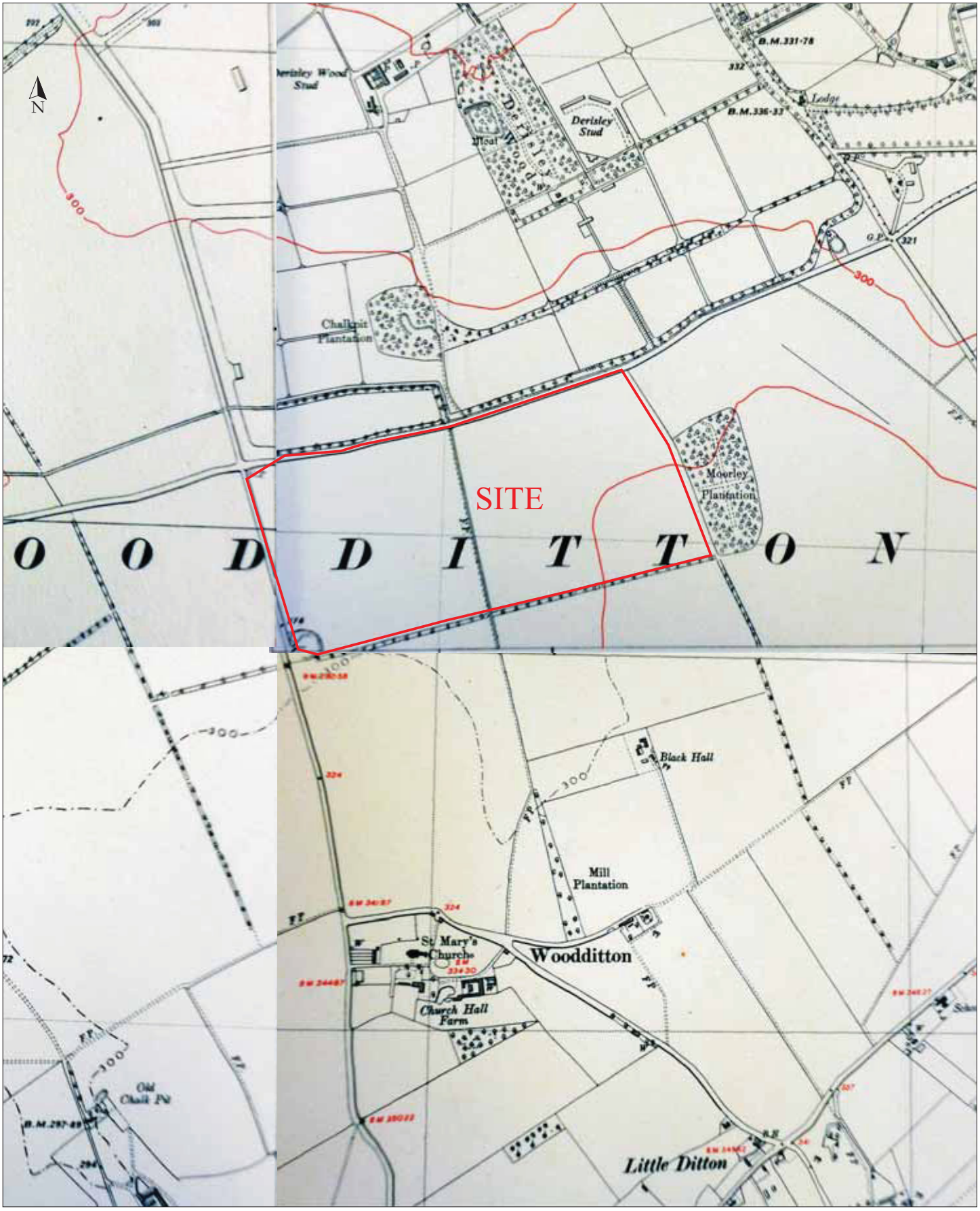

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Fig. 6 OS map, 1950

Not to scale

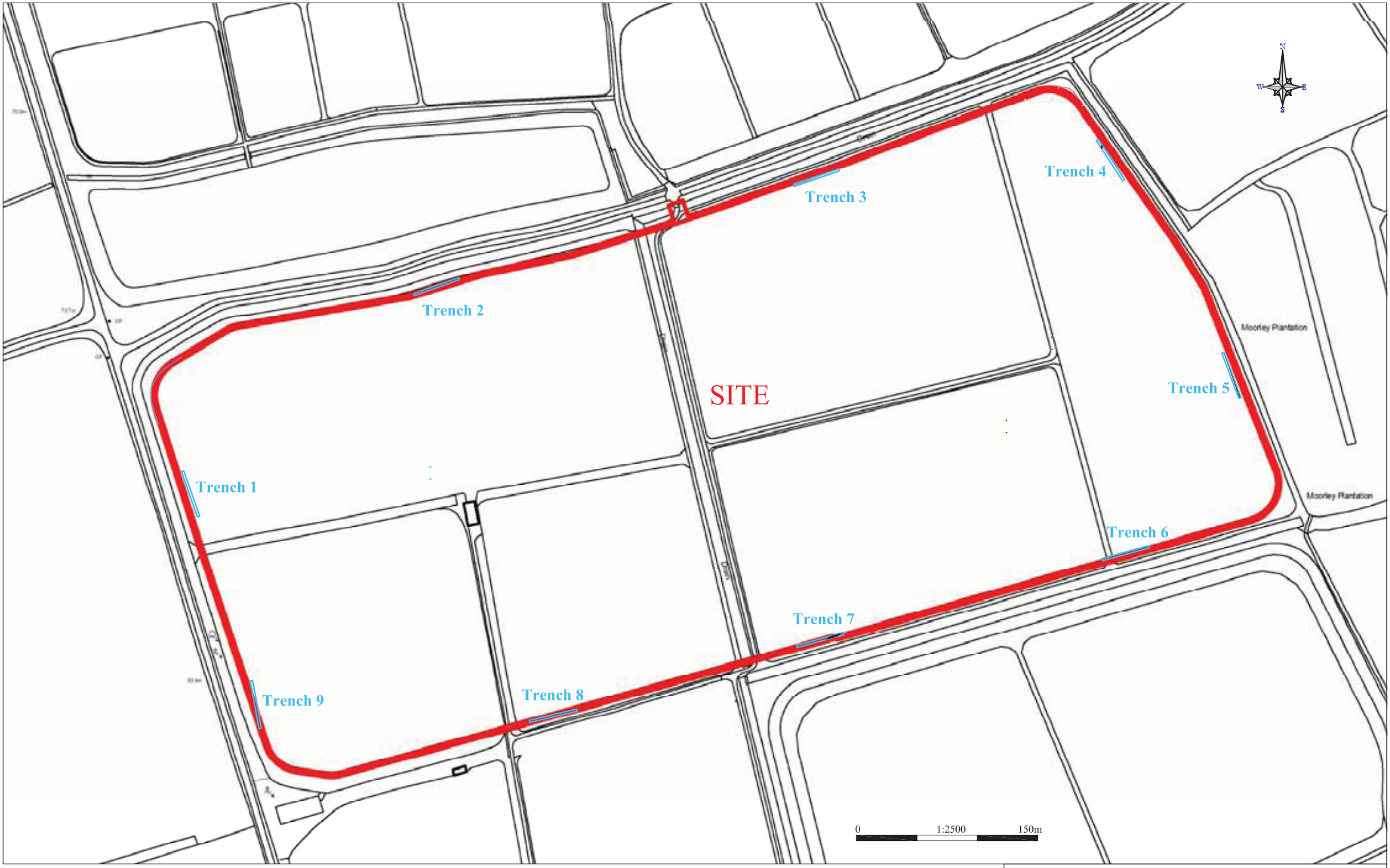

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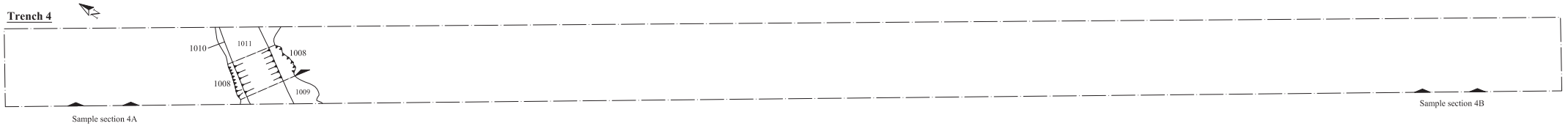
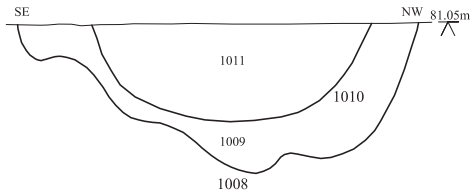
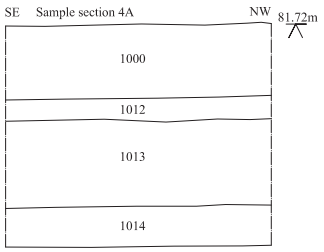
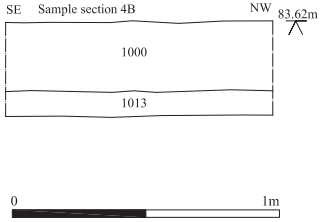
Fig. 7 Trench location plan

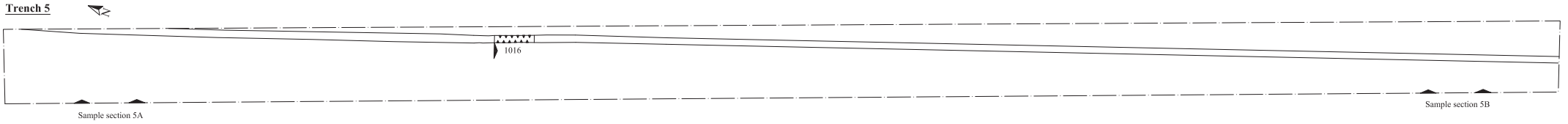
Scale 1:4000 at A4

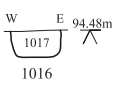


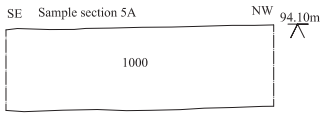












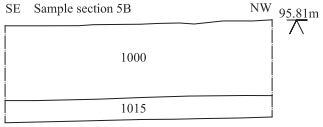


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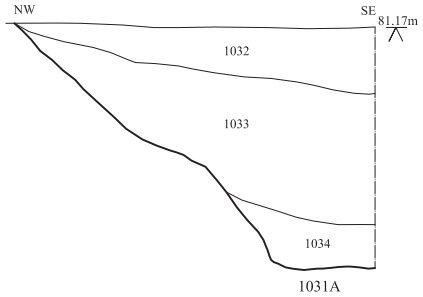
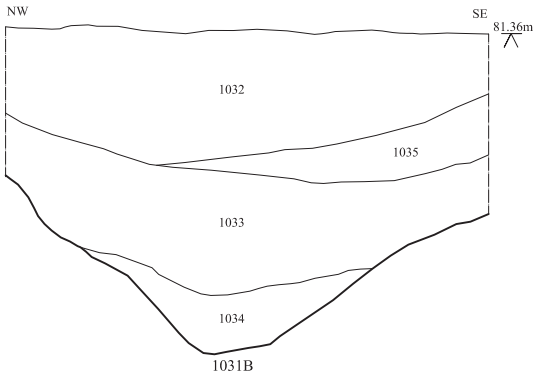
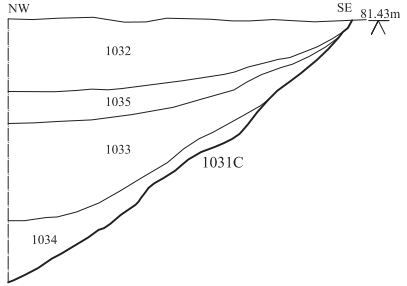
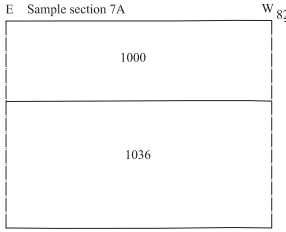
Fig. 8 Trench plans & sections

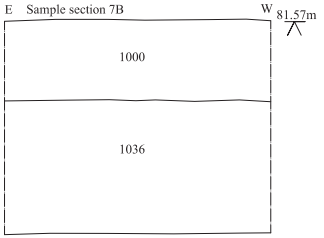
Scale Plans 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3

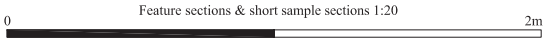


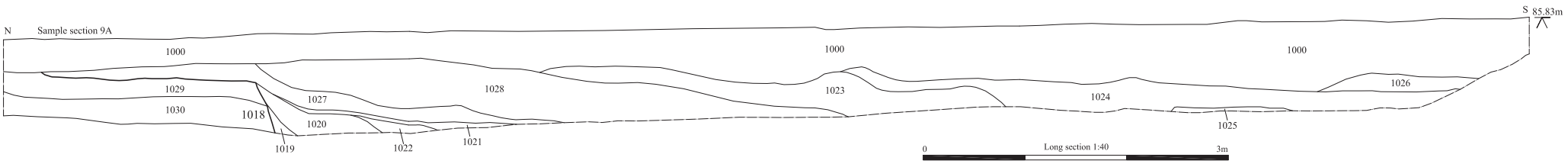












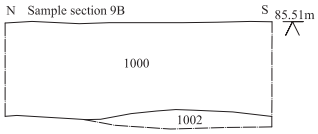


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Fig. 9 Trench plans & sections

Scale Plans 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3