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**PROPOSED GARDEN ROOM, DALTON HOUSE,
CATHERINE STREET, ST ALBANS,
HERTFORDSHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski (Fieldwork and report) Antony Mustchin (Editor)	
NGR: TL 14710 07713	Report No: 4318
District: St Albans	Site Code: DHC 12
Approved: Claire Halpin MIfA	Project No: 4820
Signed:	Date: 31 May 2013 Revised: 13/06/2013

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Proposed Garden Room, Dalton House, Catherine Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
<p><i>In May 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Dalton House, Catherine Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 14710 07713). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning appeal condition attached to planning approval to construct a garden room on an existing car parking area (Planning Ref. 5/2011/0453). The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with advice issued by The District Archaeological Officer of St Albans District Council (SADC DAO).</i></p> <p><i>The adjacent Dalton House dates to the 18th century and is Grade II listed (4/16), as are the surrounding wall, railings and gate piers (4/16A). The house is shown on the 1880 OS map as The Daltons. The site lies within the area designated as AS.R.25 on the local plan, which designates St Albans, Saxon Kingsbury, the Saxon and Medieval town and Sopwell Nunnery), where archaeological recording can be required by planning condition.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the evaluation revealed an early modern (18th-19th century) pit (F1007) and three undated, possibly post-medieval/early modern, quarry pits (F1003, F1009 and F1011). Quarry pits, possibly of 18th – 19th century date are known within the area (West pers comm.).</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	May 2012		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	N
P. number	P4820	Site code	DHC 12
Type of project	An Archaeological Evaluation		
Site status	AS.R.25 on local plan		
Current land use	Office car park		
Planned development	Garden room		
Main features (+dates)	Quarry pits		
Significant finds (+dates)	none		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	Hertfordshire	St Albans	St. Peter's
HER/ SMR for area	Hertfordshire HER		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	c. 200 m ²		
NGR	TL 14710 07713		
Height AOD (min/max)	c. 119m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	Advice from SADC		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Zbigniew Pozorski		
Funded by	Oliver Burns		
Full title	Proposed Garden Room, Dalton House, Catherine Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire. An Archaeological Evaluation		
Authors	Pozorski, Z.		
Report no.	4318		
Date (of report)	May 2013 (Revised 13/06/2013)		

PROPOSED GARDEN ROOM, DALTON HOUSE, CATHERINE STREET, ST ALBANS, HERTFORDSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In May 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Dalton House, Catherine Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 14710 07713). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning appeal condition attached to planning approval to construct a garden room on an existing car parking area (Planning Ref. 5/2011/0453). The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with advice issued by The District Archaeological Officer of St Albans District Council (SADC DAO).

The adjacent Dalton House dates to the 18th century and is Grade II listed (4/16), as are the surrounding wall, railings and gate piers (4/16A). The house is shown on the 1880 OS map as The Daltons. The site lies within the area designated as AS.R.25 on the local plan, which designates St Albans, Saxon Kingsbury, the Saxon and Medieval town and Sopwell Nunnery), where archaeological recording can be required by planning condition.

In the event the evaluation revealed an early modern (18th-19th century) pit (F1007) and three undated, possibly post-medieval/early modern, quarry pits (F1003, F1009 and F1011). Quarry pits, possibly of 18th – 19th century date are known within the area (West pers comm.).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In May 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Dalton House, Catherine Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 14710 07713). The evaluation was commissioned by Oliver Burns, and was undertaken in compliance with a planning appeal condition attached to planning approval to construct a new garden room on the existing car park area of the site (Planning Ref. 5/2011/0453).

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with advice issued by The District Archaeological Officer of St Albans District Council (SADC DAO), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 19/04/2013) and approved by SADC DAO. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008), and the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The evaluation aimed to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. In particular, it aimed to establish the

presence or absence of any remains relating to the area of late Iron Age and Roman occupation. It was also important to understand the level of truncation on the site.

Planning policy context

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

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

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site comprises the existing car park area to the immediate south west of Dalton House. It is proposed to erect a new garden room of some 18m x 8m in size. The adjacent Dalton House dates to the 18th century and is Grade II listed (4/16), as are the surrounding wall, railings and gate piers (4/16A). The house is shown on the 1880 OS map as *The Daltons*. The site lies within the area designated as AS.R.25 on the local plan, which designates St Albans, Saxon Kingsbury, the Saxon and Medieval town and Sopwell Nunnery), where archaeological recording can be required by planning condition.

2.2 The site lies c. 150m to the west of the medieval monastic St Peters Grange, and also on the edge of the mapped area of the medieval town, which was likely surrounded by a bank and ditch which may extend into this area. Roman and medieval activity has been recorded to the south west at Kingsbury.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is situated at c. 119m AOD on the upper slopes of the north-eastern slope of the valley of the River Ver. The course of the river passes c. 1km to the south-west, with the undulating Chiltern plateau extending to the north and east. The site lies on a solid geology of (Upper Cretaceous) Upper Chalk that is typically overlain by the 'plateau drift' or glacial gravel, characterised as yellow/red stony clay with pockets of sand and gravel.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The late Iron Age *oppidum* of *Verlamion* and the major Roman urban centre of *Verulamium* developed on the south-western side of the River Ver. The north-eastern route of the Colchester Road extended from Verulamium, passing c. 400m to the north-west of the site, close to where the ceremonial funerary enclosure at Folly Lane was located. The site was on the periphery of this landscape, but is situated close to a minor Roman cemetery on Worley Road (HER 14541), while Roman pottery has also been recovered in the general vicinity (HER 1495).

4.2 In the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods St. Alban's Abbey developed to the south of the site close to the river, with the associated medieval town developing along Holywell Hill and St. Peter's Street. Medieval burgage plots are known on the south side of Catherine Street, and medieval ditches and rubbish pits have been recorded at 71-77 and 107 St. Peter's Street (HER 18311 & 18305) to the east of the site. The site appears to have been beyond the northern extent of the actual town, however, located within this peripheral area was St. Peter's Church, with the moated abbey grange and associated barn (HER 14609 & 14536) of at least 14th century origin situated close to the east of the site. In the 16th century the site was situated just outside the Borough boundary, with the known post-medieval structures in the vicinity of the site within the boundary on St. Peter's and Catherine Street, including the Cock PH (HER 17720) and a shop on the corner with Adelaide Street (HER 17816). In the early 18th century Bleak House or 'Dalton's Folly' (HER 15917) was built on Catherine Street by Francis Dalton, reputedly a county justice in 1716, after which Folly Lane and Dalton Street take their names.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 One trench was excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). The trench was located within the footprint of the proposed new garden room and it measured 15 x 1.90m. An eastern extension (3.75 x 1.50m) to the trench was also excavated as suggested by Mr Simon West of St Albans District Council.

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

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

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

<i>Sample section 1A (DP 4): north end, east-south-east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 119.42m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.16m	L1000	Made ground. Mid yellow, loose, sand with gravel.
0.16 – 0.31m	L1001	Dark grey, friable, sandy silt with gravel.
0.31 – 0.50m	L1002	Dark brownish grey, compact, clayey silt with moderate small stones.
0.50 – 0.96m	L1004	Uppermost fill of Pit F1003. Light to mid yellow, loose to friable, sand with occasional small stones.
0.96 – 1.06m	L1005	Fill of Pit F1003. Mid to dark grey, friable, sandy silt with frequent small stones.
1.06 – 1.15m	L1006	Basal fill of Pit F1003. Light brown, compact, sand with frequent small stones.
1.15m +	L1015	Natural mid to dark yellow, loose, sand with gravel.

<i>Sample section 1B (DP 7): south end, east-south-east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 119.30m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1013	Topsoil. Dark grey, soft, silty sand with frequent roots.
0.26 – 0.48m	L1014	Subsoil. Dark brownish grey, friable, silty sand with occasional small stones.
0.48m +	L1015	Natural sand with gravel. As above.

Description: An early modern (18th – 19th century) pit (F1007) and three undated, possibly post-medieval/early modern, quarry pits were present within the trench (F1003, F1009 and F1011).

F1003 was irregular, possibly circular feature (2.60+ x 1.90 x 0.65m; DP 4) located in the northern end of the trench. It had vertical - moderate sides and a flattish base. It contained three fills. The upper and main fill, L1004, was a light to mid yellow, loose to friable, sand with occasional small stones. The pit was deeper in its western part. Below L1004 was L1005, a mid to dark grey, friable, sandy silt with frequent small stones. The basal fill was L1006, a light brown, compact, sand with frequent small stones. No finds were present in any of the fills and F1003 was possibly a quarry pit.

Pit F1007 (0.57 x 0.57m; DP 5) was recorded within the eastern section of the trench. It had nearly vertical sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1008, was a light greyish brown, compact, silty sand. Three sherds of 18th – 19th century pottery and CBM were recovered from the pit.

F1009 was a large oval feature (5.50 x 1.30+ x 0.24m; DP 6) located in the central part of the trench. It had gently sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1010, was a light brown, friable, silty sand. No finds were present and F1009 was possibly a quarry pit.

F1011 was another probable quarry pit. This irregular feature measured 3.20 x 2.15m and was located mostly within the trench extension (Figs. 2 & 3). Its fill,

L1012, was a mixed yellow and red, compact clay and loose sand. Part of the feature was mechanically-excavated, as suggested by Simon West, in order to establish its character. No finds were present.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The site was commonly overlain by Topsoil L1013, a dark grey, soft, silty sand with frequent roots (c. 0.30m thick). It overlay Subsoil L1014, a dark brownish grey, friable, silty sand with occasional small stone (c. 0.205m thick).

8.2 The natural sand with gravel, L1015, was present at c. 0.50m below existing ground level and comprised a mid to dark yellow, loose, sand with gravel.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for the Iron Age and Romano-British archaeology.

9.2 An early modern (18th-19th century) pit (F1007) and three undated, possibly post-medieval/early modern, quarry pits were present within the trench (F1003, F1009 and F1011).

9.3 Quarry pits, possibly of 18th – 19th century date are known within the area (*West pers. comm.*).

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Oliver Burns for funding the project and for their assistance (in particular Ms Sophie Stefanou and Mr Joe Burns).

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Simon West of St Albans District Council.

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APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)
1007	1008	1	Fill of Pit	18th-19th C	(1) 38g	54

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery

Peter Thompson

The evaluation produced a single moderately abraded sherd of post-medieval red earthenware weighing 37g from Pit F1007 (L1008). It has external olive green glaze and a fine sandy fabric suggesting a later date of the 18th-19th centuries.

The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

Pit F1007 (L1008) contained two abraded fragments (54g) of post-medieval CBM, one derived from a peg tile and the other from a brick. Both are of insufficient size to comment on their forms but it is highly probable they were produced in the 18th or 19th centuries.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



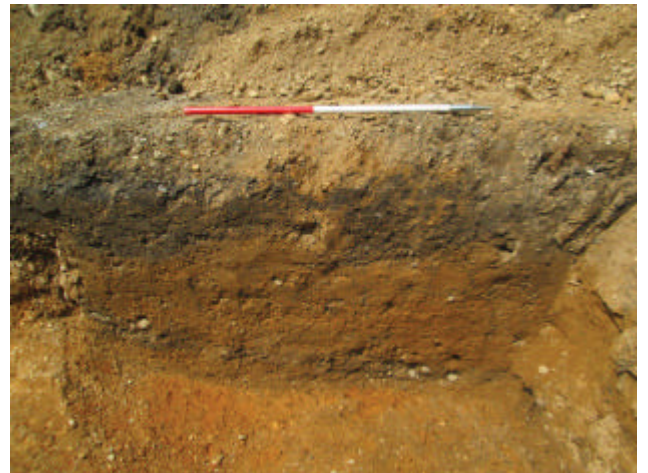
DP 1. The site. Looking east-north-east.



DP 2. Trench 1. Looking north-east.



DP 3. Trench 1. Looking south-south-west.



DP 4. Trench 1, north end. Sample section 1A and Pit F1003. Looking west-north-west.



DP 5. Trench 1, Pit F1007. Looking east-north-east.



DP 6. Trench 1, Pit F1009. Looking south-south-west.

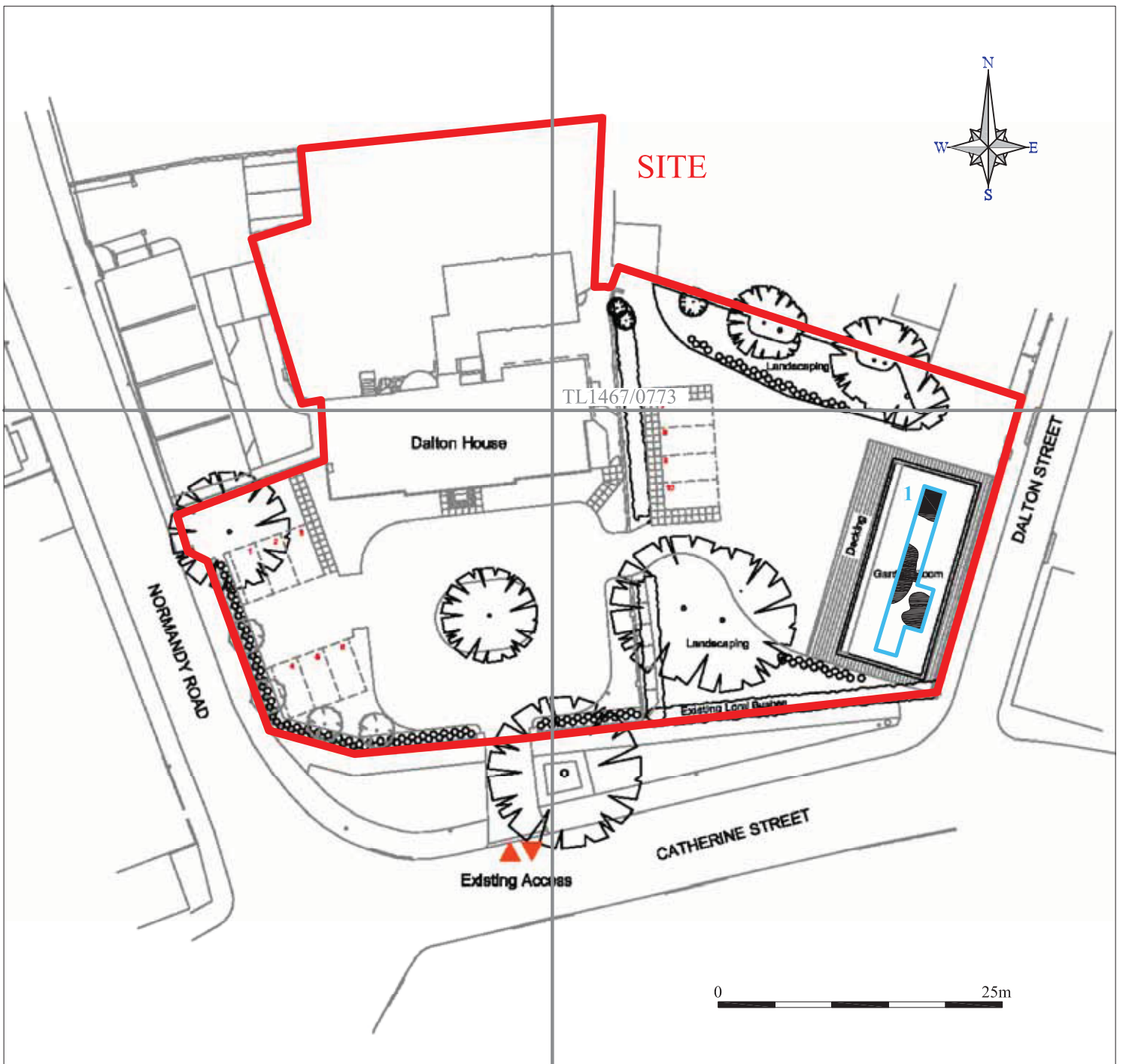


DP 7. Trench 1, south end. Sample section 1B. Looking west-north-west.

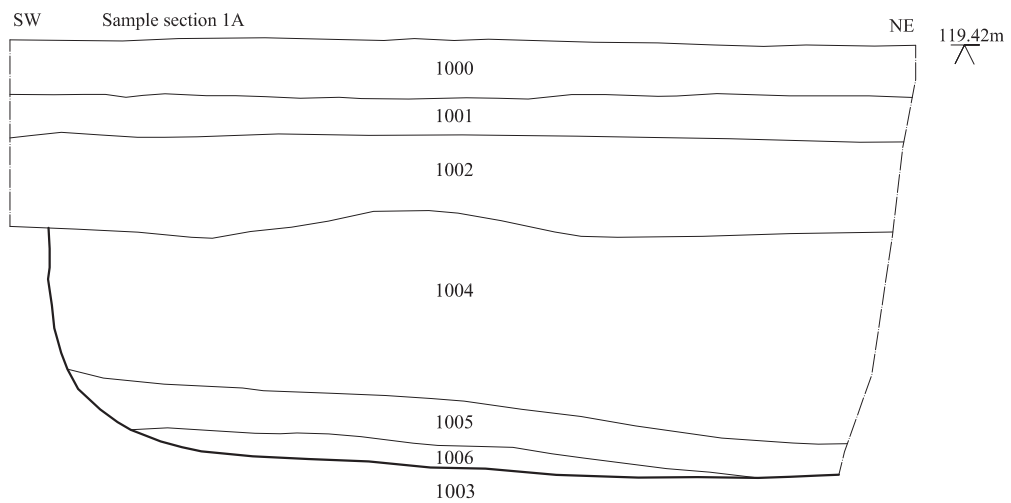
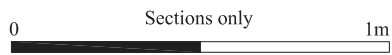
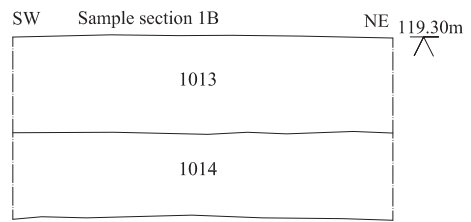
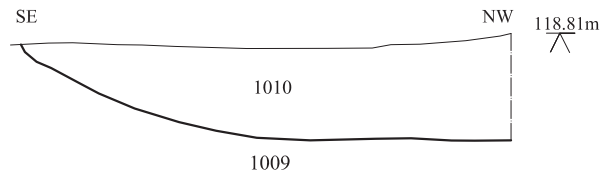
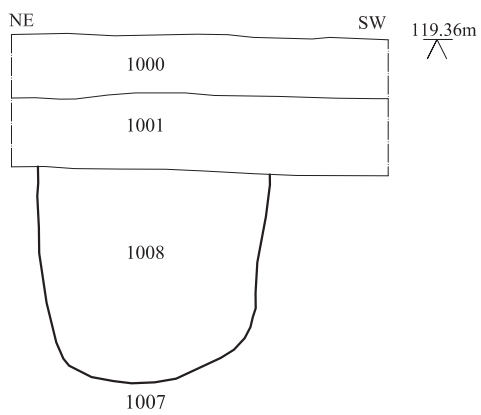
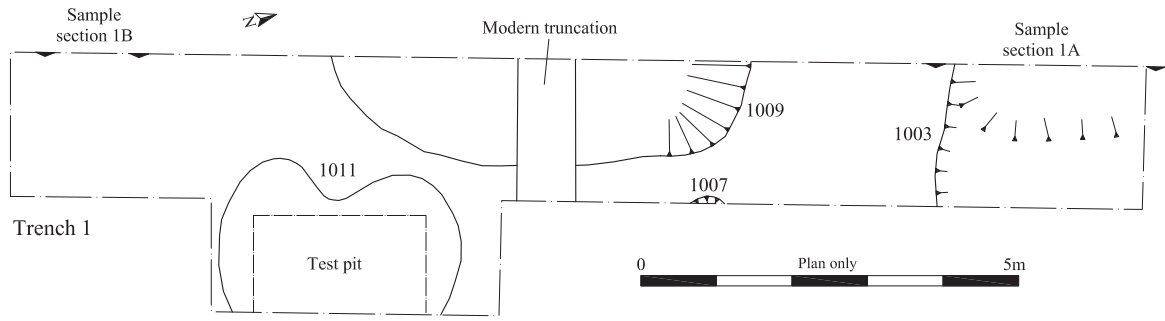


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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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



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Fig. 3 Trench plan and sections

Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A4