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**VAWSER LODGE, THORPE ROAD
PETERBOROUGH**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Laszlo Lichtenstein (Fieldwork and report)	
NGR: TF 18045 98712	Report No. 4357
District: Peterborough	Site Code: AS 1608
Approved: Claire Halpin MfA	Project No. 5406
Signed:	Date: 12 July 2013

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name		<i>Vawser Lodge, Thorpe Road, Peterborough.</i>	
<p><i>In July 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Vawser Lodge, Thorpe Road, Peterborough (NGR TL 18045 98712). The evaluation was commissioned by Lodge Park Ltd. It was required in compliance with a condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 14 dwellings with associated external works and roads (Planning Ref. 13/00310/FUL), and based on the advice of Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service.</i></p> <p><i>The site is located in an area of known archaeological importance. Prehistoric archaeology has been found in the general area including human remains, and burials possibly dating to the Roman or medieval period are known.</i></p> <p><i>Cartographic sources record that the site lay to the immediate west of the workhouse from 1886 onwards and comprised possibly an orchard or parkland. In 1886 the site was associated with Westwood House, which stood to the north-west. By 1901 the site formed part of the grounds of a new residence, known as The Gables. The site remained associated with The Gables until the later 20th century. The Ordnance Survey map of 1977-85 depicts Vawser Lodge, a care home associated with the adjacent hospital.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed modern services and an undated ditch. Demolition layers, levelling layers and a tarmac surface were also recorded. The majority of the recorded features were associated with the 20th century building activity on the site.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)		<i>July 2013</i>	
Previous work (Y/N/?)		<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)
P. number		<i>5406</i>	Site code
			<i>AS 1608</i>
Type of project		<i>Archaeological Evaluation</i>	
Site status		<i>-</i>	
Current land use		<i>Demolished former care home building</i>	
Planned development		<i>Residential development.</i>	
Main features (+dates)		<i>Modern services. Undated ditch</i>	
Significant finds (+dates)		<i>None</i>	
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish		<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>Peterborough</i>
HER/ SMR for area		<i>Peterborough Historic Environment Record (PHER)</i>	
Post code (if known)		<i>-</i>	
Area of site		<i>c.1.3ha</i>	
NGR		<i>TL 18045 98712</i>	
Height AOD (max/ min)		<i>12.57 AOD/12.96 AOD</i>	
Project creators			
Brief issued by		<i>Peterborough City Council Archaeology Service</i>	
Project supervisor/(PO)		<i>Laszlo Lichtenstein</i>	
Funded by		<i>Lodge Park Ltd</i>	
Full title		<i>Vawser Lodge, Thorpe Road, Peterborough. An Archaeological Evaluation.</i>	
Authors		<i>Laszlo Lichtenstein</i>	
Report no.		<i>4357</i>	
Date (of report)		<i>July 2013</i>	

VAWSER LODGE, THORPE ROAD PETERBOROUGH

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In July 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Vawser Lodge, Thorpe Road, Peterborough (NGR TL 18045 98712). The evaluation was commissioned by Lodge Park Ltd. It was required in compliance with a condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 14 dwellings with associated external works and roads (Planning Ref. 13/00310/FUL), and based on the advice of Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service.

The site is located in an area of known archaeological importance. Prehistoric archaeology has been found in the general area including human remains, and burials possibly dating to the Roman or medieval period are known.

Cartographic sources record that the site lay to the immediate west of the workhouse from 1886 onwards and comprised possibly an orchard or parkland. In 1886 the site was associated with Westwood House, which stood to the north-west. By 1901 the site formed part of the grounds of a new residence, known as The Gables. The site remained associated with The Gables until the later 20th century. The Ordnance Survey map of 1977-85 depicts Vawser Lodge, a care home associated with the adjacent hospital.

The evaluation revealed modern services and an undated ditch. Demolition layers, levelling layers and a tarmac surface were also recorded. The majority of the recorded features were associated with the 20th century building activity on the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In July 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Vawser Lodge, Thorpe Road, Peterborough (NGR TL 18045 98712). The evaluation was commissioned by Lodge Park Ltd. It was required in compliance with a condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 14 dwellings with associated external works and roads (Planning Ref. 13/00310/FUL), and based on the advice of Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service.

1.2 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken according to a brief issued by Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service (PCC AS) (dated 17 June 2013), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 19 June 2013) and approved by PCC AS. The archaeological evaluation adhered to *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) and the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (revised 2010) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008).

1.3 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine, as far as was possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

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 (Figs. 1-2)

2.1 The site is located within the city of Peterborough, c. 850m to the west of the city centre, and c. 300m north of the River Nene, which flows through the city. The site lies along the northern frontage of Thorpe Road.

3 THE EVIDENCE

3.1 Topography, Geology and Soils

3.1.1 Topographically the site is located on the north bank of the valley of the River Nene, with the surrounding relief sloping gently southwards towards the river. The site is at c. 13m AOD. It lies on the cusp on a solid geology comprising Cornbrash, Blisworth Clay and Blisworth Limestone (BGS 1984).

3.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

3.2.1 Previous archaeological investigations in the area surrounding the site include an archaeological evaluation undertaken at the Peterborough School only 100m to the west of the site (HER 52153). Although the evaluation did not reveal any deposits or features of archaeological significance, fragments of medieval pottery, roof tile and animal bone were recovered from the subsoil. The stratigraphy encountered at the Peterborough School comprised predominantly limestone brash c. 0.6m below the existing ground surface, overlain by a mid orange-brown clayey silt subsoil and 0.25m of loamy silt topsoil (Rowe 2011). Further previous archaeological work comprises a trial trenching evaluation conducted at No. 51a Thorpe Road 300m to the south-east (HER 51360) and a watching brief at Midland Road and 500m to the north-east (HER 51600).

3.2.2 Exploitation of the Peterborough area, particularly along the course of the River Nene, is known from the prehistoric period onwards and a prehistoric flint knife was found in Thorpe Lea Road and 450m to the south-east of the site during antiquity (HER 1398). The Neolithic period is represented by arrowheads found 250m to the north-west (HER 1754) and 250m to the south-east (HER 1400), whilst a further barbed and tanged flint arrowhead was to the south of Thorpe Road and 200m to the east of the site (HER 1358). During the Bronze Age, occupation was centred upon on islands of firm ground within the wetlands of the Nene valley, as attested by Flag Fen to the east of the city. Iron Age occupation of the area surrounding the site is attested by the discovery of two gold staters found during development 450m to the site's south-west (HERs 10478 & 10479).

3.2.3 During the Romano-British period settlement was concentrated within the Roman fort at Longthorpe, c. 2.5km to the south-west of the site. It comprised a campaign fort possibly established as early as AD 44 – 48. Within proximity of the site Roman inhumation burials were found in Midland Road and 480m to the east of the site (HER 1397). Further human bone, comprising the disarticulated remains (173 fragments) of at least three individuals, two adults and a juvenile, were found during the watching brief at Midland Road and 500m to the site's north-east (HER 51600). The burials may have been associated the Roman cemetery recorded in the area or otherwise a medieval cemetery. A sherd of Roman pottery was also found in Woodfield Park and 400m to the north of the site (HER 50708).

3.2.4 The earliest documented settlement at Peterborough comprised the Saxon village of *Medehamstede*, although no Anglo-Saxon remains have been found in close proximity to the site. An abbey was built at Peterborough in c. AD 655, but was plundered by Danish raiders and abandoned by the 9th century. A new abbey was built in AD 972 and the surrounding walled settlement became known as St. Peter's burgh. A disastrous fire in AD 1116 destroyed the abbey, which had to be rebuilt and a new town was established further to the west. Medieval remains from the area surrounding the site comprise a farthing of Edward I found 150m to the south-east (HER 1399), a 15th century bronze key (HER 8253) and Wood Hithe post mill, which was depicted on the 1821 enclosure map (HER 1357). A probable medieval limekiln and pipekiln were also excavated 400m to the site's south-east (HER 1630).

3.2.5 The post-medieval period is represented by the site of a former maltings on Alderman's Drive, which is depicted on cartographic sources 250m to the north-east of the site from 1886 onwards (HER 53524) (Fig.4). The site is known to lie to the immediate west of Peterborough Workhouse, which was opened in 1837. Cartographic sources confirm that the site lay to the immediate west of the workhouse from 1886 onwards and consisted of undeveloped land, possibly an orchard or parkland. In 1886 the site was associated with *Westwood House*, which stood to the north-west. By 1901 the site formed part of the grounds of a new residence, known as *The Gables* (Fig.5). The site remained as undeveloped land associated with *The Gables* until the later 20th century. The Ordnance Survey map of 1977 – 85 depicts the site as Vawser Lodge; a care home associated with the adjacent hospital (Fig.8).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Five linear trial trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). The trenches measured 30m x 2m.

4.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Thereafter, all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the trenches were scanned by metal detector.

5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs.2 & 9)

North end 0.00 = 12.71m AOD		
0.00 - 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark brown grey, friable, sandy silt with occasional small angular and sub rounded sandstones.
0.35 - 0.40m	L1001	Subsoil. Medium brown orange, firm, silty sand with occasional small angular sand stones.
0.40m+	L1002	Natural. Light yellow orange, firm, sandy clay with medium large angular, sub angular sandstones.

Description: A modern gully, two electrical cables and a BT landline were present in Trench 1. No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 2 (Fig.2 & 9)

North -West end 0.00= 12.96m AOD		
0.00 - 0.18m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.18 - 0.30m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.30m +	L1002	Natural I. As above Tr.1.

Description: A water pipe was present in Trench 2. No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 3 (Fig.2 & 9)

West end 0.00= 12.48m AOD		
0.00 – 0.40m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.40 – 0.52m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.52m+	L1002	Natural I. As above Tr.1.

Eastern end 0.00= 12.34m AOD		
0.00 – 0.36m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.36 – 0.50m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.50m+	L1002	Natural I. As above Tr.1.

Description: Numerous modern services and a modern ditch were present in Trench 3. No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 4 (Figs.2 & 10)

South end 0.00= 12.50m AOD		
0.00 - 0.12m	L1014	Tarmac surface.
0.12 - 0.16m	L1013	Levelling layer for car park. Light brown orange, loose, sandy gravel layer.
0.16 - 0.40m	L1012	Hardcore, compact, sandstone levelling layer for car park. Light brown yellow, firm, sandy gravel with frequent small to medium angular sandstones.
0.40 – 0.66m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.66 – 0.95m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.95m+	L1002	Natural I. As above Tr.1.

North end 0.00= 12.49m AOD		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1014	Tarmac surface. As above Tr.4.
0.12 – 0.17m	L1013	Levelling layer. As above Tr.4.
0.17 – 0.27m	L1012	Levelling layer. As above Tr.4.
0.27 – 0.45m	L1015	Demolition/levelling layer. Light orange yellow, loose sandy gravel layer with frequent large sandstones.
0.45 – 0.64m	L1009	Dark blue black, friable clay silt with occasional small CBM pieces.
0.64 - 0.88m	L1008	Demolition layer. Mid brown grey, friable, silty sand with frequent building debris (brick, mortar, plaster).
0.88m+	L1002	Natural I. As above Tr.1.

Description: A modern service trench with a plastic storm drain inside was present in Trench 4. No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 5 (Figs.2 & 10)

North end 0.00= 12.38m AOD		
0.00 - 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.32 - 0.53m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.53m+	L1002	Natural I. As above Tr.1.

South end 0.00= 12.17m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1006	Modern made ground. Topsoil/demolition rubble. Dark orange grey, firm silty clay.
0.30 - 0.40m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.40 - 0.64m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.64m+	L1002	Natural I. As above Tr.1.

Description: Two modern service trenches, modern pits associated with the demolition of the former care home and Ditch F1004 were present in Trench 3.

Ditch F1004 was linear in plan (2m+ x 0.85m x 0.35m), orientated E/W. It had steep sides. Its fill, L1005, was dark orange grey, firm, silty clay. It contained abraded a clay pipe fragment.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 Uppermost in Trenches 1, 3 and 5 was Topsoil L1000, a dark brown grey, friable, sandy silt with occasional small angular and sub rounded sandstones (0.30- 0.40m thick). L1000 overlay Subsoil L1001, a medium brown orange, firm, silty sand with occasional small angular sand stones (0.05 - 0.24m thick).

7.2 In Trench 1 a made ground layer, L1006, was present above the topsoil. In Trench 4 tarmac (L1014), and levelling layers (L1013, L1012, L1015) associated with the car park over lay Topsoil L1000.

7.3 Below Subsoil L1001, the natural, L1002, was a light yellow orange, firm, sandy clay with medium-large angular and sub angular sandstones (0.30 - 0.95m below the current ground level).

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The site is located in an area of known archaeological importance. Prehistoric archaeology has been found in the general area including human remains, and burials possibly dating to the Roman or medieval period are known.

8.2 In the event the evaluation recorded numerous modern features and services largely related to Vawser Lodge, a care home associated

with the adjacent hospital. An undated ditch (F1004) as recorded in Trench 5.

9 DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE

9.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with the finds from the site at Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency, and prepared in accordance with the guidelines contained in Wass (2003). In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would also like to thank the client Lodge Park Ltd for funding the project, in particular Mr James Browning for his assistance.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Rebecca Casa Hatton of Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service.

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Wass, G, 2003, *Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery. Standards for Archaeological Archive Preparation*.

APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Asxxxx, Vawser House, Peterborough

Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
1004	1005	5	Fill of Ditch			678		Clay Pipe Bowl (1) - 8g Clay Pipe Stem (2) - 1g O. Shell - 4g
1007	1008	4	Fill of Demolition					Glass (1) - 362g Sandstone Roof Tile - 245g
	1009		Fill of Demolition	Late 18th-19th	(4) 170g			
	1015		Fill of Demolition	Late 18th-19th	(2) 8g			
1010	1011	5	Fill of Demolition	Late 18th-19th	(4) 18g			Clay Pipe Stem (1) - 3g

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALISTS REPORT

The Pottery

by Peter Thompson

The evaluation recovered 10 abraded early modern to modern sherds weighing 195g from two demolition layers.

Key:

MOCH: Mocha ware late 18th+

TPW: Transfer Printed ware late 18th+

REWE: Refined white earthenware late 18th+

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1007	1009	Demolition	4x169 MOCHA	Late 18 th -19 th	
	1015		2x8g REWE	19 th +	wall tile
1010	1011	Demolition	4x18g TPW	Late 18 th - 19 th	'willow pattern

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1

Trench 1 looking north-west



2

Trench 2 looking north-east



3

Sample section 1A looking east



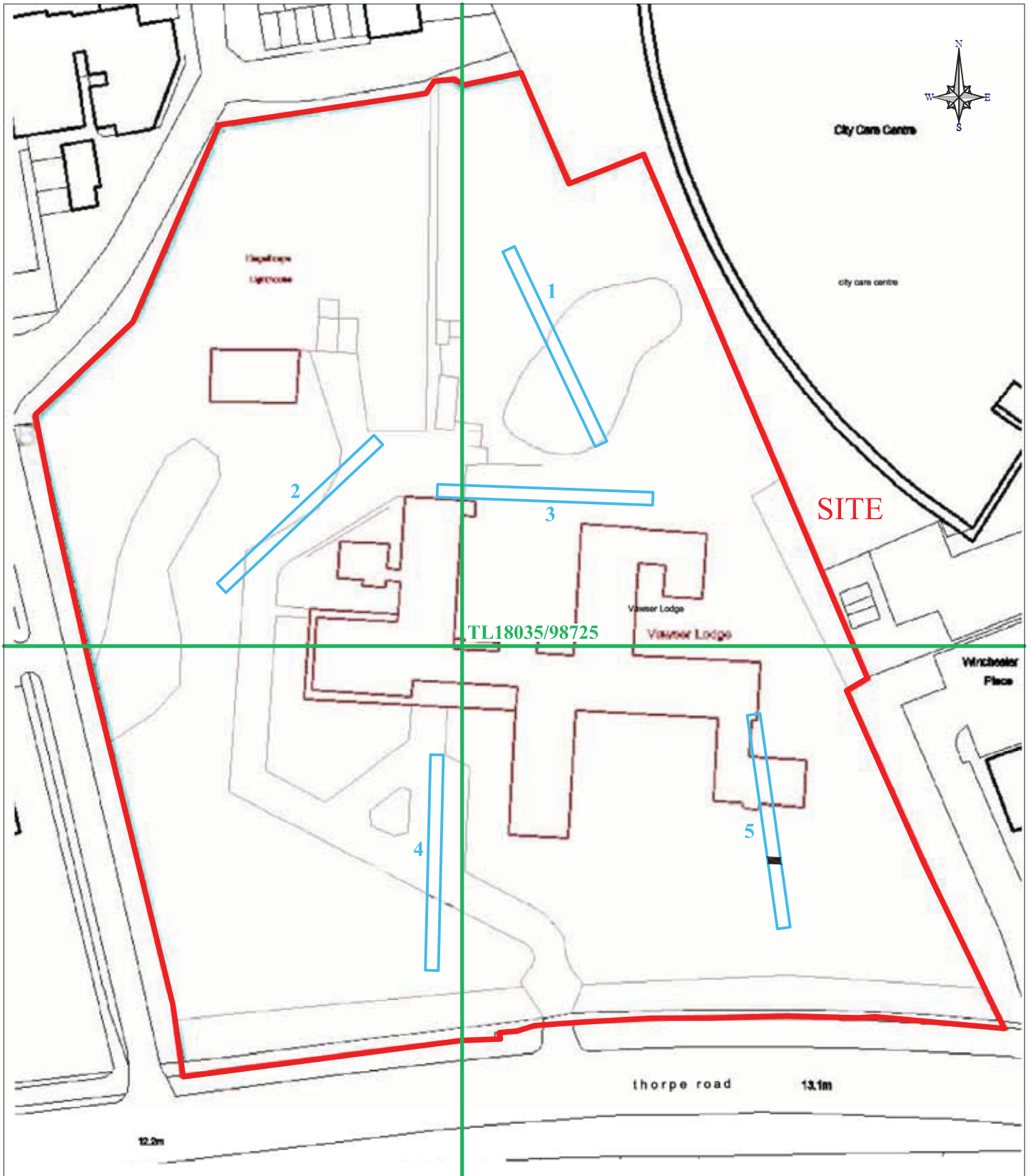
4

Sample section 2A looking north-west



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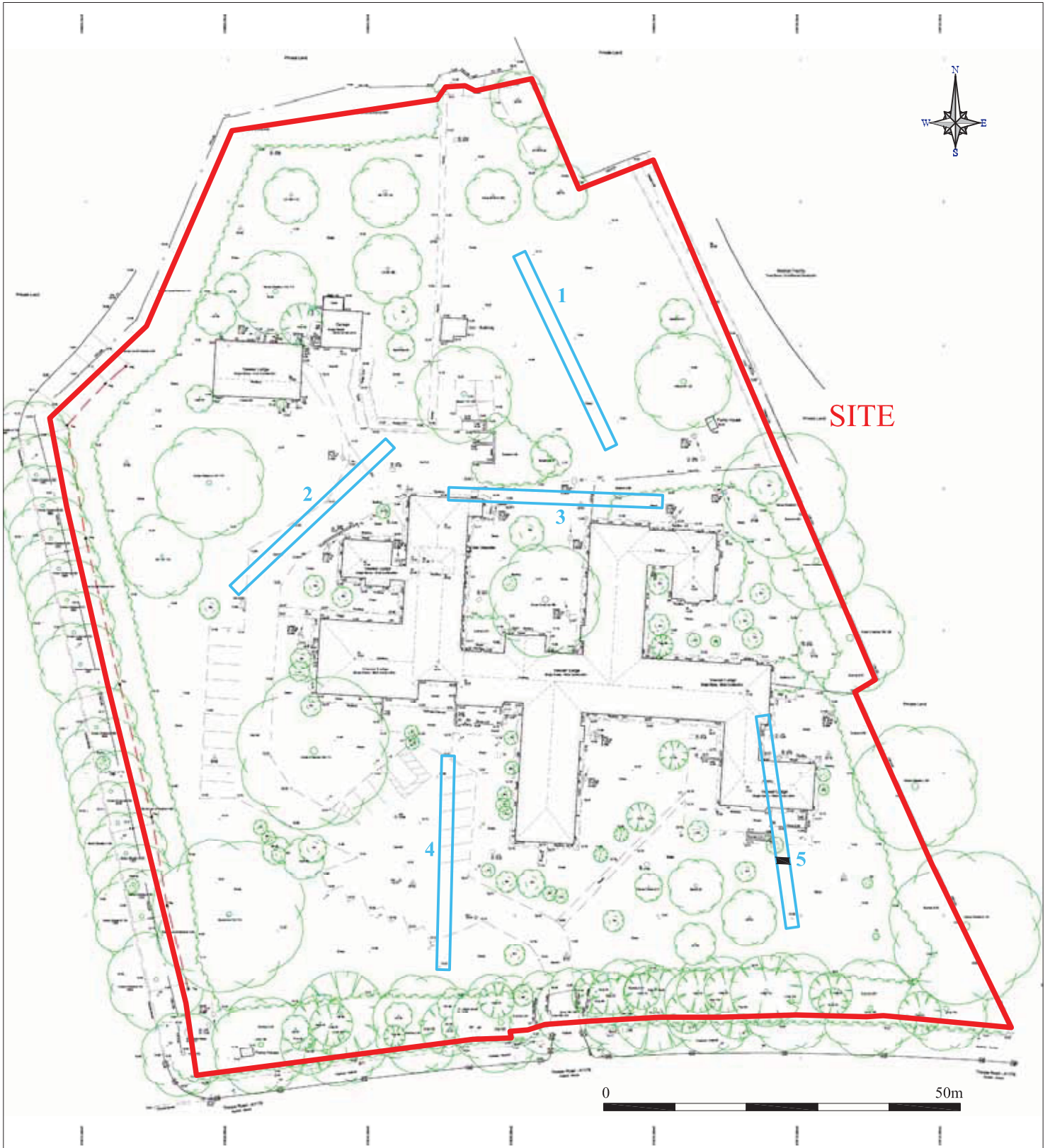
Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



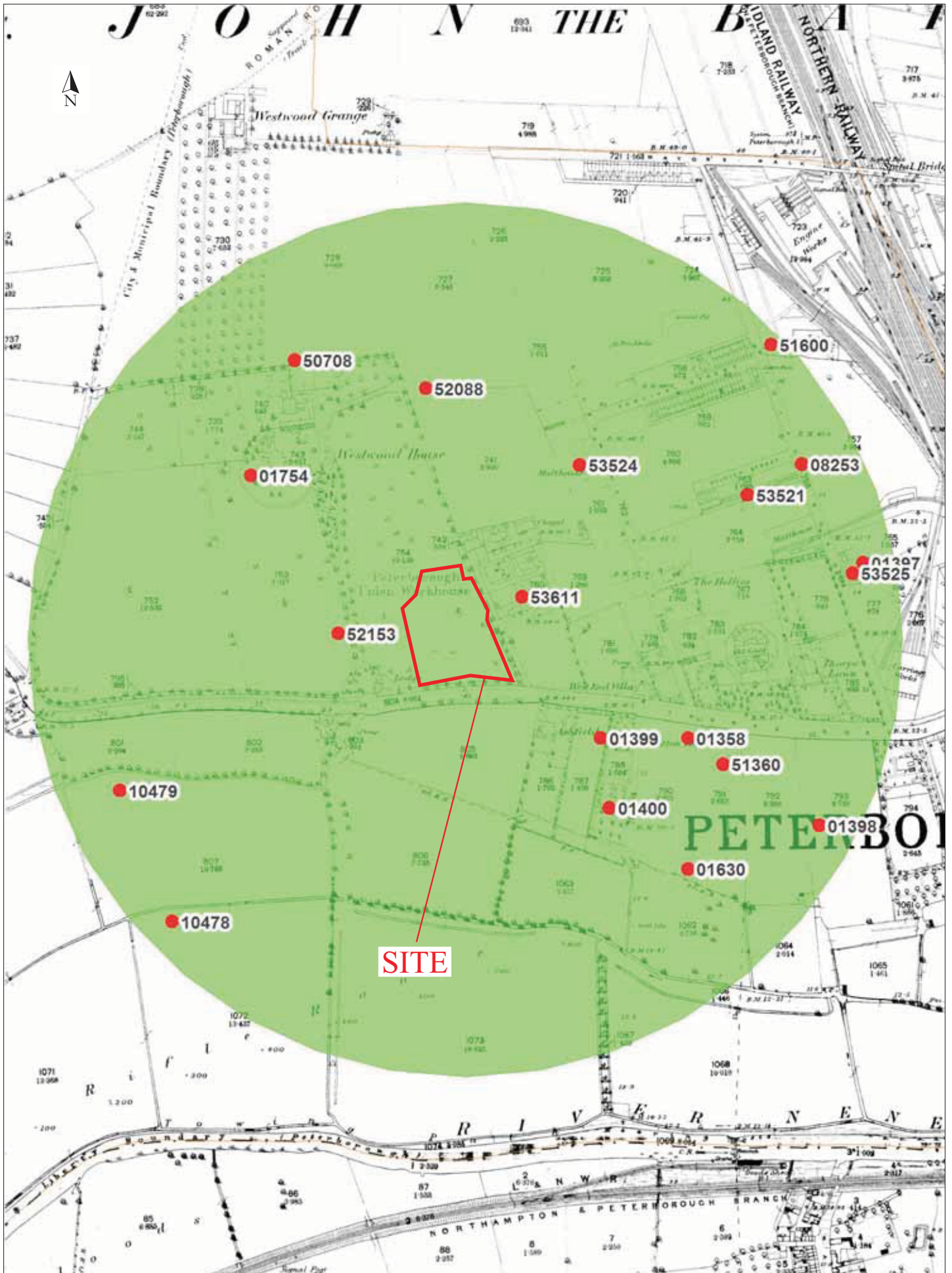
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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

Scale 1:750 at A4

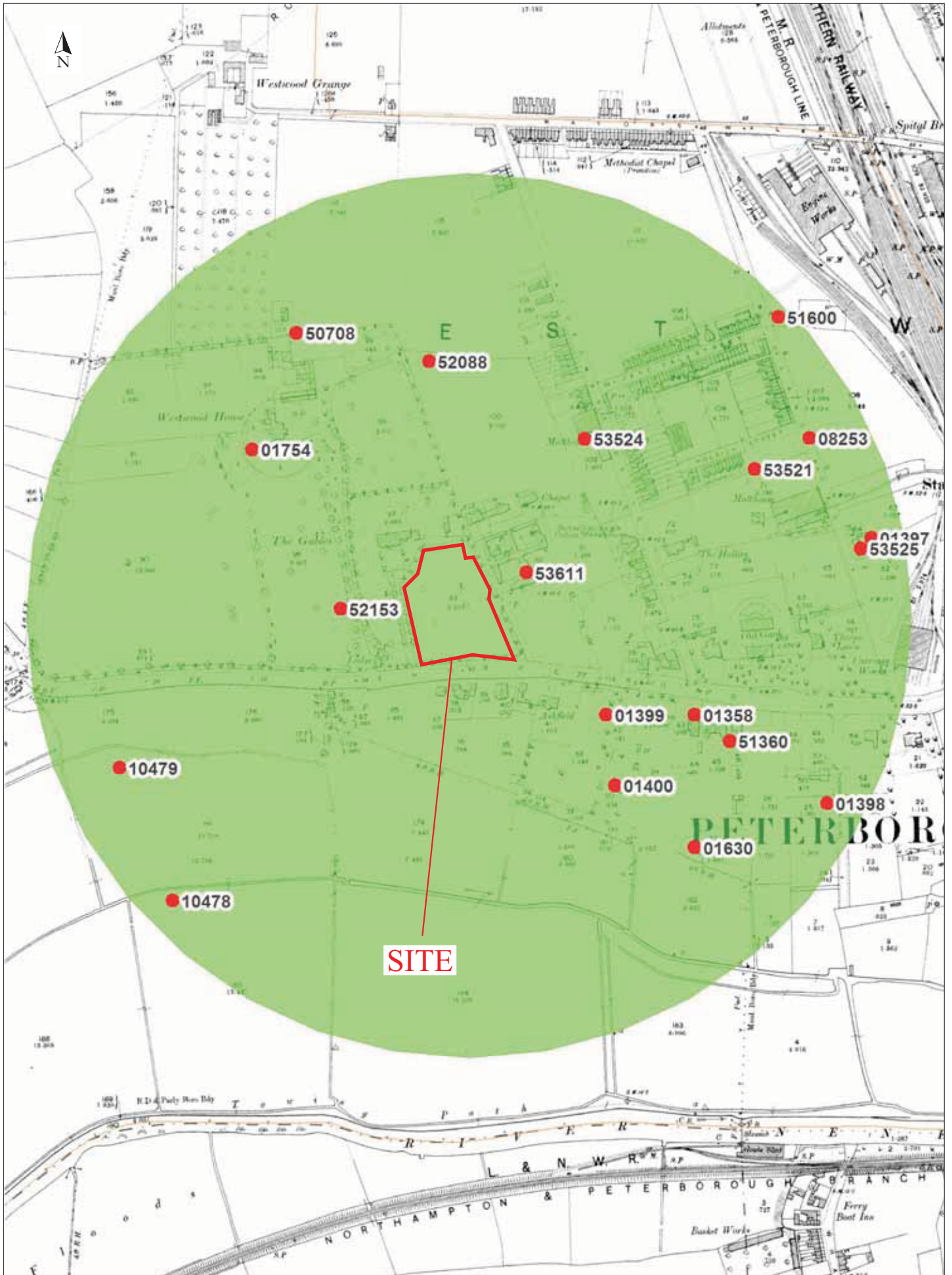


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Fig. 3 Topographical survey
Scale 1:750 at A4



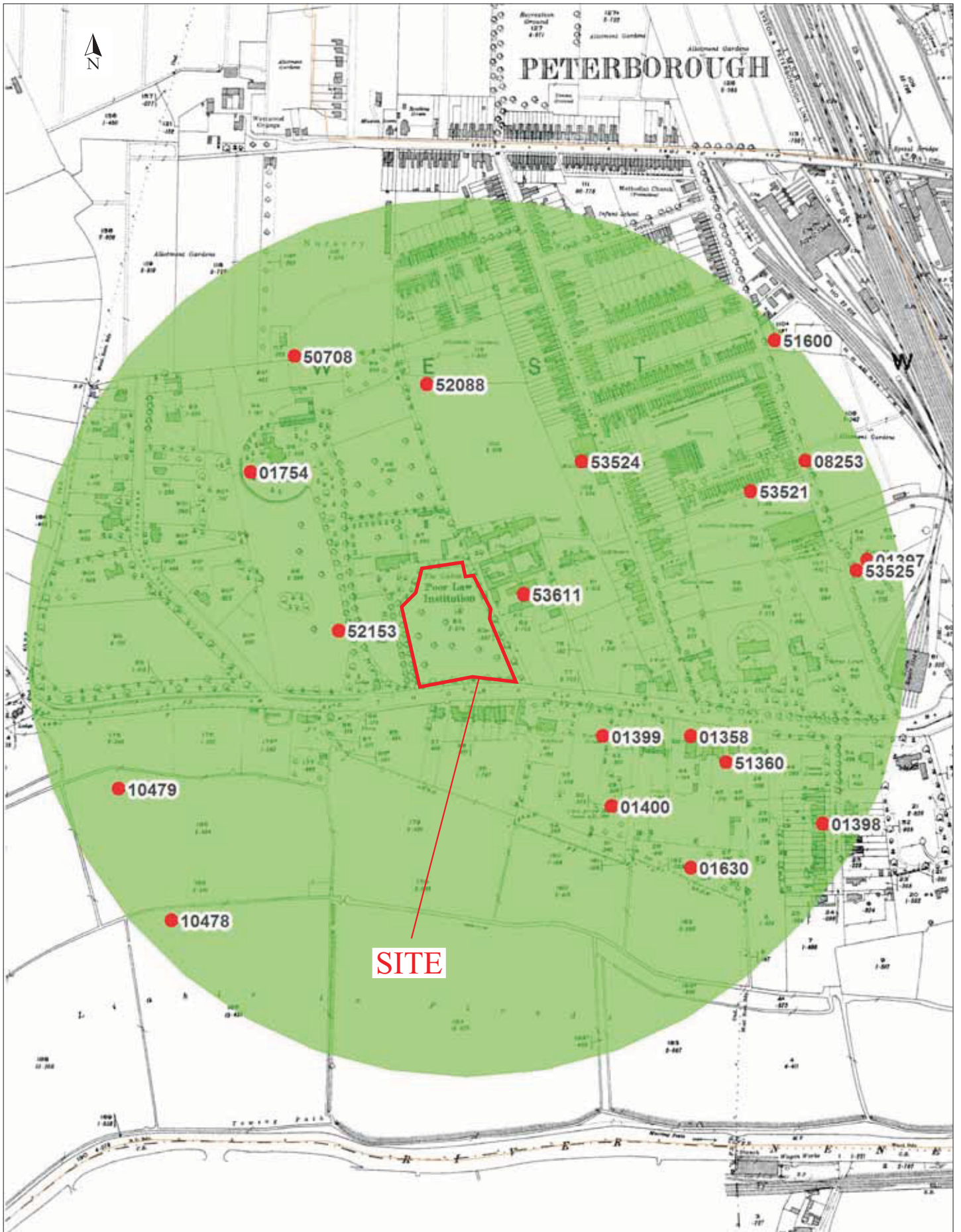
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 Fig. 4 OS map, 1886
 Not to scale



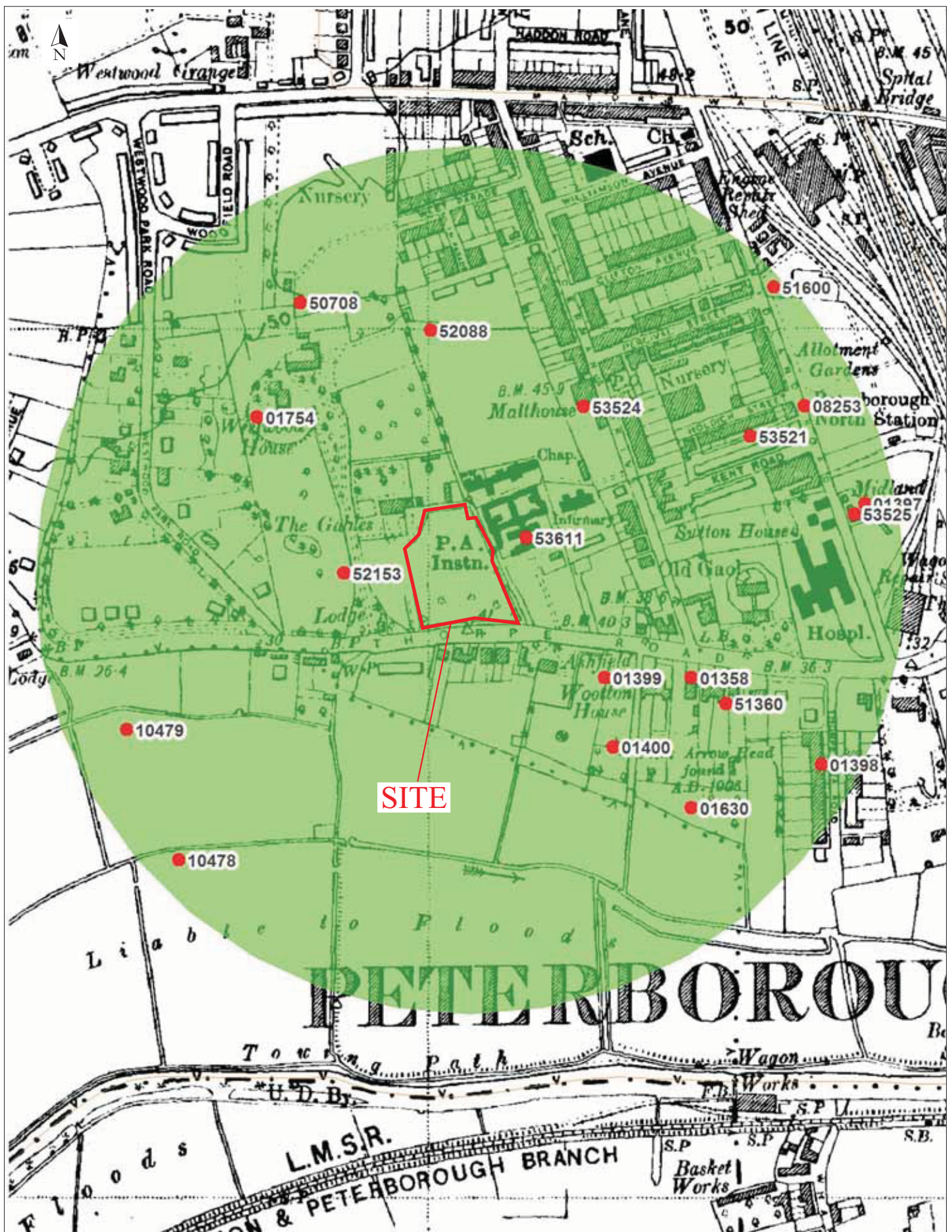
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Archaeological Solutions Ltd
 Fig. 5 OS map, 1901
 Not to scale



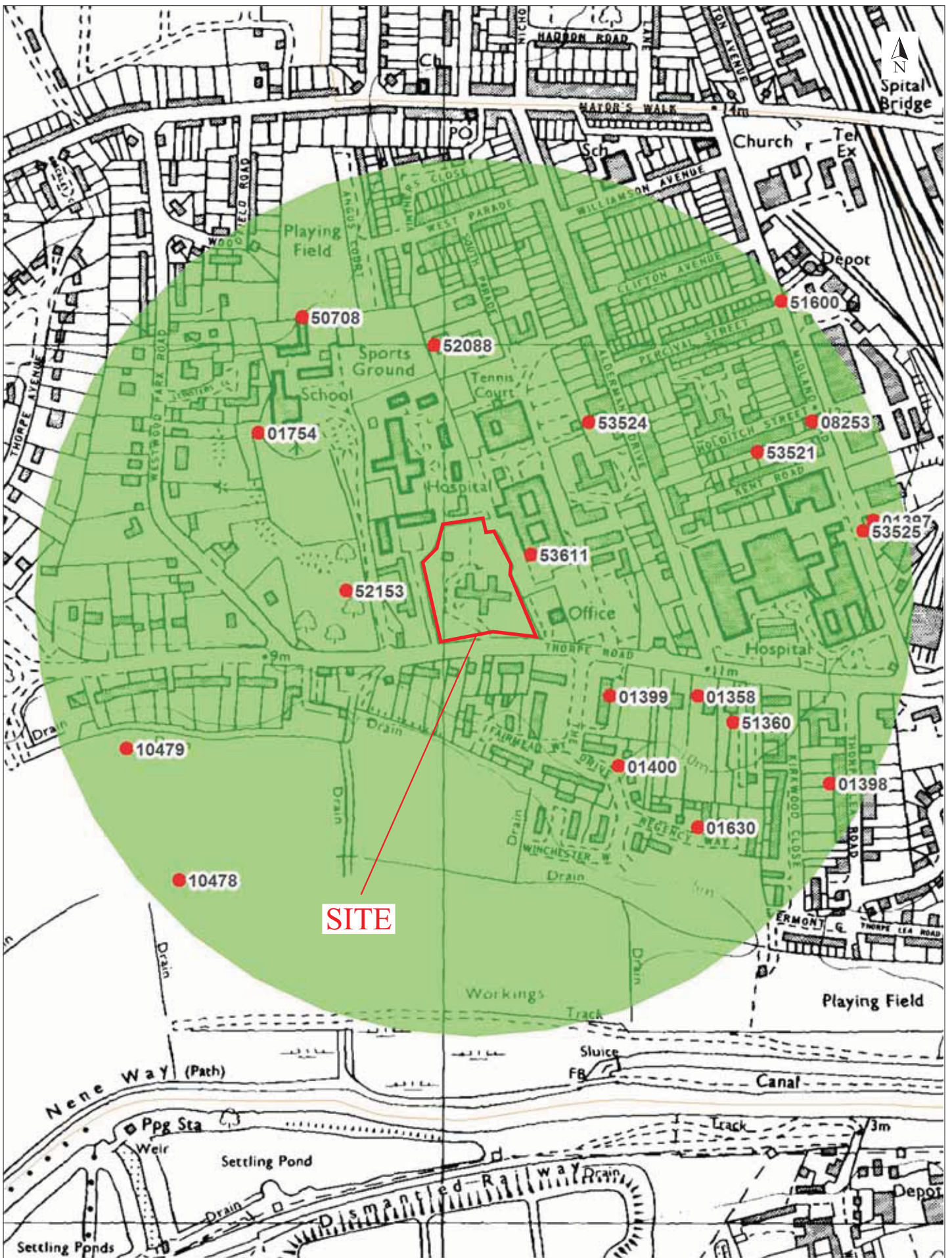
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Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 6 OS map, 1926
 Not to scale



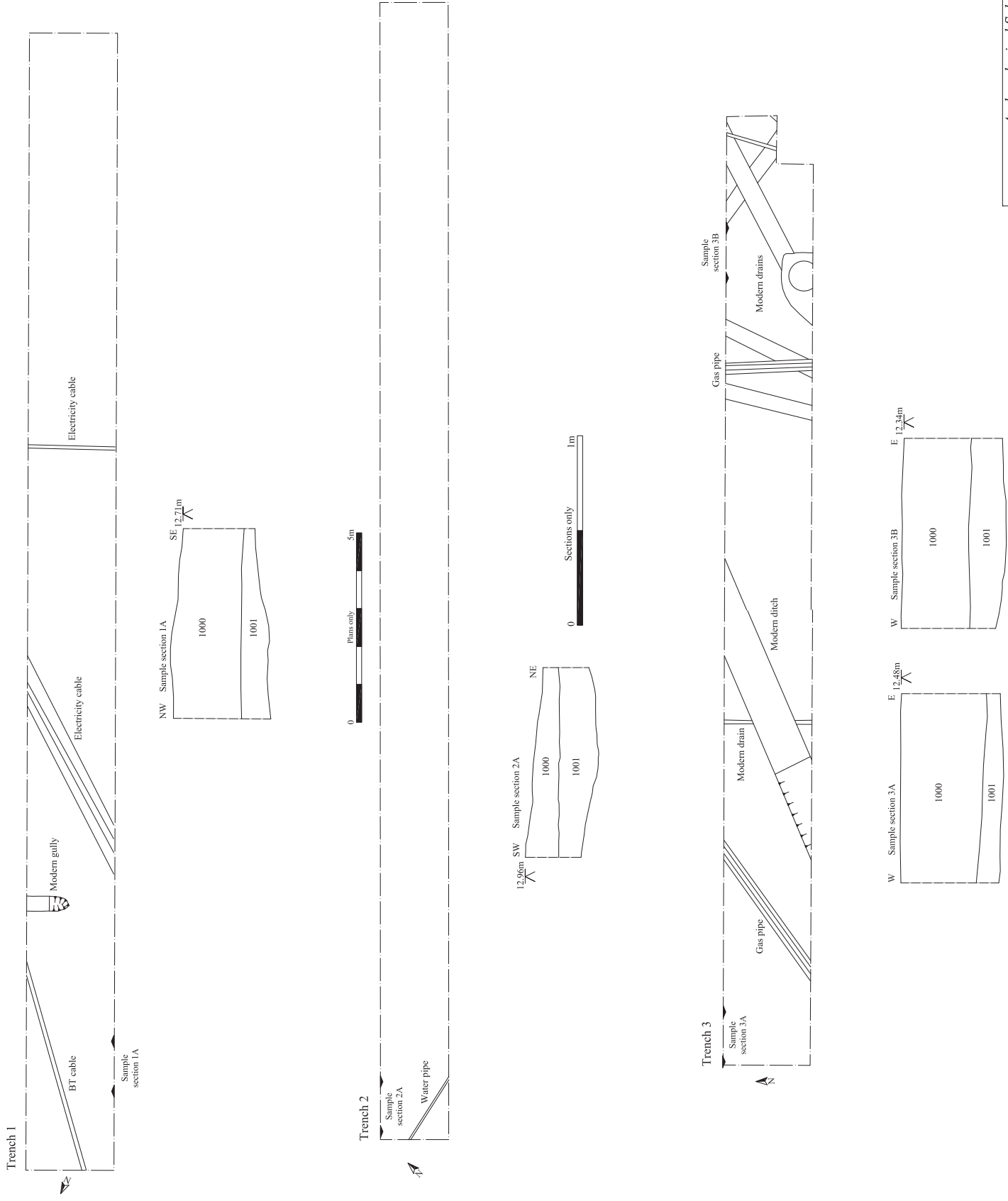
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 Fig. 7 OS map, 1938-53
 Not to scale

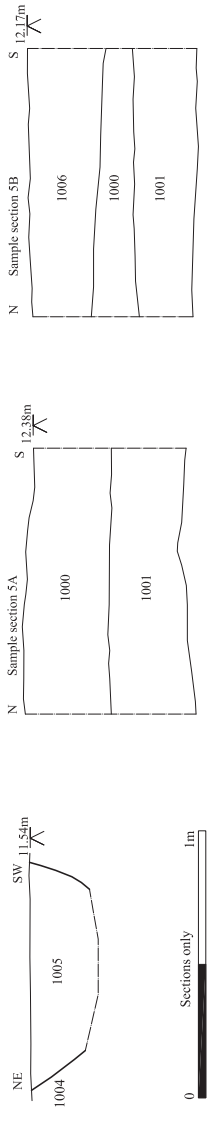
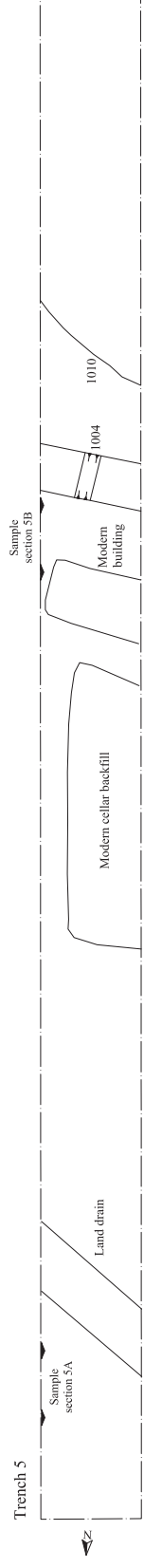
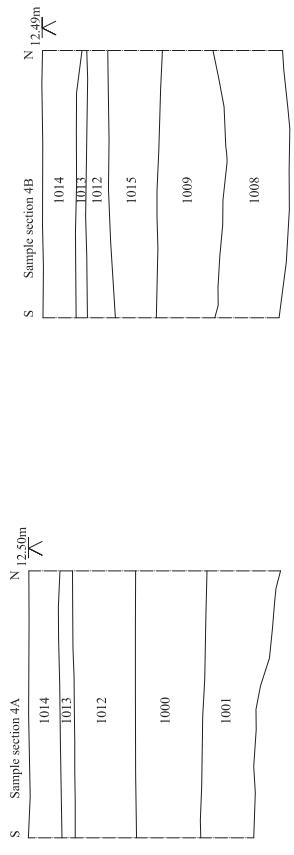
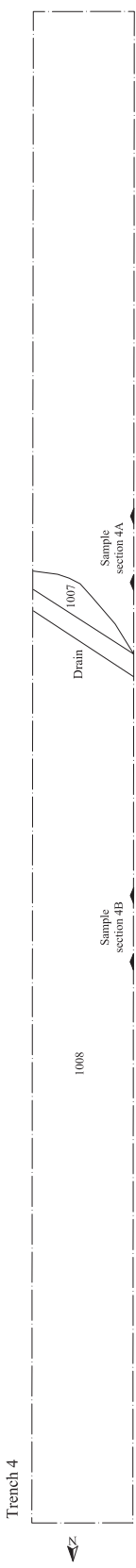


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Fig. 8 National grid, 1977-85
 Not to scale



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



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Fig. 10 Trench plans and sections
 Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3