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**ALL SAINTS CHURCH, NEWMARKET ROAD,
KIRTLING, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

CHER ECB3702

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| NGR: TL 6868 5764 | Report No. 3973 |
| District: East Cambridgeshire | Site Code: AS1453 |
| Approved: Claire Halpin MiFA | Project No. 4627 |
| Signed: | Date: December 2011 |

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| Project details | | | |
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| Project name | <i>All Saints Church, Newmarket Rd, Kirtling Cambridgeshire</i> | | |
| <p><i>In November and December 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording during the groundworks for new drainage at All Saints Church, Newmarket Road, Kirtling, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 6868 5764). The monitoring was undertaken to ensure compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the works (East Cambs planning ref. 11/00004/FUL).</i></p> <p><i>Kirtling is located close to the line of the pre-Roman trackway, the Icknield Way, however there is no known evidence for settlement of this date in the village. It is recorded as a parish in the late Saxon period. Kirtling is listed in the Domesday book and is known to have been owned by King Harold prior to the Norman Conquest, suggesting that it may have been the estate minster for royal estates along the East Cambridgeshire border. The fabric of All Saints Church (HER No. DCB528) is of 12th century and later in date. The church is directly adjacent to Kirtling Tower, an extant tower associated with a now demolished early medieval moated manor site (HER no. DCB74).</i></p> <p><i>The monitoring identified six inhumations of unknown date, all buried in an extended, supine position in east/west aligned graves. One of the graves contained evidence for a coffin.</i></p> | | | |
| Project dates (fieldwork) | 25.11.2011- 05.12.2011 | | |
| Previous work (Y/N/?) | N | | |
| P. number | 4627 | Site Code | AS1453 |
| Type of project | <i>Archaeological monitoring and recording</i> | | |
| Site status | | | |
| Current land use | <i>Church</i> | | |
| Planned development | <i>Excavation of drainage works</i> | | |
| Main features (+dates) | <i>Six inhumations (undated)</i> | | |
| Significant finds (+dates) | - | | |
| Project location | | | |
| County/ District/ Parish | <i>Cambridgeshire</i> | <i>East Cambridgeshire</i> | <i>Kirtling</i> |
| HER/ SMR for area | <i>Cambridgeshire HER</i> | | |
| Post code (if known) | <i>CB8 9PA</i> | | |
| Area of site | - | | |
| NGR | <i>TL 6868 5764</i> | | |
| Height AOD (max/ min) | <i>c. 100m</i> | | |
| Project creators | | | |
| Brief issued by | <i>Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team</i> | | |
| Project supervisor/s (PO) | <i>Christopher Leonard</i> | | |
| Funded by | <i>All Saints Church PCC</i> | | |
| Full title | <i>All Saints Church, Newmarket Rd, Kirtling, Cambridgeshire. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording.</i> | | |
| Report No. | 3973 | | |
| Date | <i>December 2011</i> | | |

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, NEWMARKET ROAD, KIRTLING, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

SUMMARY

In November and December 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording during the groundworks for new drainage at All Saints Church, Newmarket Road, Kirtling, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 6868 5764). The monitoring was undertaken to ensure compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the works (East Cambs planning ref. 11/00004/FUL).

Kirtling is located close to the line of the pre-Roman trackway, the Ickniel Way, however there is no known evidence for settlement of this date in the village. It is recorded as a parish in the late Saxon period. Kirtling is listed in the Domesday book and is known to have been owned by King Harold prior to the Norman Conquest, suggesting that it may have been the estate minster for royal estates along the East Cambridgeshire border. The parish of Kirtling, including the nearby village of Upend was gifted to Ely Abbey around AD1000.

The fabric of All Saints Church (HER No. DCB528) is of 12th century and later in date. The 12th century elements include the nave wall, south arcade and the south doorway. The lancet windows were added in the 13th century and the tower, north arcade, transept chapel and south aisle are of 15th century date. The church is directly adjacent to Kirtling Tower, an extant tower associated with a now demolished early medieval moated manor site (HER no. DCB74).

The monitoring identified six inhumations of unknown date, all buried in an extended, supine position in east/west aligned graves. One of the graves contained evidence for a coffin.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In November and December 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring and recording during the groundworks for new drainage at All Saints Church, Newmarket Road, Kirtling, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 6868 5764; Figs. 1-2). The monitoring and recording was undertaken to ensure compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the works (East Cambs planning ref. 11/00004/FUL).

1.2 The monitoring and recording was undertaken in response to a brief

issued by CCC HET (dated 18/10/2011) and in accordance with a written scheme of investigation prepared by AS (dated 20/10/2011). The archaeological monitoring 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 Watching Briefs* (revised 2008). The guidance contained in the Association of Diocesan and Cathedral Archaeologists' *Archaeological Requirements for Works on Churches and Churchyards* (2004) was also followed.

1.3 Treatment of skeletal remains was conducted in accordance with the principles outlined in English Heritage's (EH) *Guidance for Best Practice for Treatment of Human Remains Excavated From Christian Burial Grounds in England* (2005), *Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains* (Brickley and McKinley 2004) and *Taking Care of Human Remains* (Chancellor of the Diocese of St Albans (2000)). The excavation fully complied with the provisions of section 25 of the Burial Act (1857) concerning the removal of individual buried human remains.

1.4 The aims of the project were:

- The archaeological monitoring and recording of all groundworks, including the investigation and recording of any archaeological remains within the area of development;
- The provision of an adequately detailed project report, placing the findings of the monitoring and recording of the development programme in their local and regional context;
- The analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual or ecofactual material recovered from the site in appropriate conditions; and
- The dissemination and publication of the project results, as appropriate.

Planning Policy Context

1.5 PPS5 (2010) 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 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 The village of Kirtling is located in East Cambridgeshire, approximately five miles south of the town of Newmarket. Kirtling comprises two small settlements, Kirtling and Kirtling Green that are linked by a road, The Street.

2.2 All Saints Church is located to the north of Kirtling Village. The character of the surrounding area is countryside. The site is bordered to the south by the landscaped grounds of Kirtling Tower Park. Kirtling Church is located on Lowestoft chalky till deposits and lies at approximately 100m AOD.

2.3 The programme of monitoring and recording took place on land within the church grounds directly adjacent to, and surrounding, the north tower of the church. This area incorporates part of the church burial ground.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.

3.1 Kirtling is located close to the line of the pre-Roman trackway, the Icknield Way, however there is no known evidence for settlement of this date in the village.

3.2 Kirtling is recorded as a parish in the late Saxon period. Kirtling is listed in the Domesday book and is known to have been owned by King Harold prior to the Norman Conquest, suggesting that it may have been the estate minster for royal estates along the East Cambridgeshire border. The parish of Kirtling, including the nearby village of Upend was gifted to Ely Abbey around AD1000.

3.3 The fabric of All Saints Church (HER No. DCB528) is of 12th century and later in date. The 12th century elements include the nave wall, south arcade and the south doorway. The lancet windows were added in the 13th century and the tower, north arcade, transept chapel and south aisle are of 15th century date. The church is directly adjacent to Kirtling Tower, an extant tower associated with a now demolished early medieval moated manor site (HER no. DCB74).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The monitoring and recording encompassed all the groundworks (Figs. 2 - 3). The latter was carried out using a small 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. Mechanical excavation ceased when inhumations were encountered and the remaining overburden was excavated by hand.

4.2 All human bone encountered within the confines of the drainage trench was lifted and retained by the church. Articulated remains were recorded and lifted as individuals.

4.3 The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all groundworks (excavation of drainage trenches and a soakaway pit), inspection of subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Deposits were excavated by hand and recorded by means of *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for archaeological finds.

5 RESULTS Figs. 3-4, DPs 1-6

Sample Sections

Three sample sections were drawn, and the results are tabulated below:

| | | |
|--|--------------|--|
| <i>Sample Section 1 (DP 3)</i> <i>North facing.</i> <i>0.00m = 100.43m AOD</i> | | |
| L1000 | 0.00- 0.44m | Topsoil. Friable mid greyish brown sandy silt. |
| L1001 | 0.44- 0.97m+ | Subsoil. Friable mid yellowish brown sandy silt. |

| | | |
|--|--------------|--|
| <i>Sample Section 2 (DP 4)</i> <i>East facing.</i> <i>0.00 = 100.53m AOD</i> | | |
| L1000 | 0.00-0.36m | Topsoil. As above. |
| L1002 | 0.36- 1.06m+ | Graveyard soil. Firm mid yellowish brown silty clay. |

| | | |
|--|-------------|---|
| <i>Sample Section 3</i> <i>Northeast facing.</i> <i>0.00 = 100.48m AOD</i> | | |
| L1000 | 0.00- 0.35m | Topsoil. As above. |
| L1002 | 0.35- 1.46m | Graveyard soil. As above. |
| L1003 | 1.46m+ | Natural. Compact light greyish yellow clay and chalk. |

Description of the Archaeology

Six inhumations were recorded during the monitoring of the soakaway pit. The remainder of the excavated areas contained no archaeological remains. None of the inhumations lay wholly within the excavation area and could therefore not be completely recorded. Skeleton 1 existed only as a fragmented skull located

against the north-east section of the soakaway pit and there was no visible grave cut for it. The remainder of the inhumations are described below.

Grave F1004 (Fig. 3, DP 5) was rectangular in plan, orientated east/west. Only a small portion of the grave was located within the excavated area, making it impossible to record the feature's dimensions. It contained an articulated skeleton, Skeleton 2, and backfill layer L1005. The latter was a firm, dark yellowish brown, silty clay with frequent chalk and small rounded flint pebble inclusions. Skeleton 2 was not fully exposed within the excavation area and the majority of the skeleton remained *in situ*, undisturbed by the groundworks. The right half of the pelvis, the lumbar and some thoracic vertebrae, part of the right side of the rib cage and the right arm and hand were recorded and lifted. It was fully articulated and aligned east/west with its head to the west. The individual was buried in an extended supine position. Arms and hands were extended beside the body. Bone preservation was generally good, although the ribs were very fragile. The grave contained no grave goods and there was no indication of a coffin or grave furniture. The backfill contained no datable finds.

Grave F1006 (Fig. 3, DP 5) was rectangular in plan, 0.47m in width and orientated east/west. The western part (1.09m) lay within the excavation area. It had vertical sides and a flat base. F1006 contained an articulated skeleton, Skeleton 3, and backfill layer L1007. The latter was a firm, dark yellowish brown, clay silt with frequent chalk and small rounded flint pebbles. Skeleton 2 was not fully exposed within the excavation area and the lower legs and feet remained *in situ*, undisturbed by the groundworks. The upper body, pelvis and femurs were recorded and lifted. It was fully articulated and aligned east/west, with its head to the west. The individual was buried in an extended supine position. The arms and hands were extended beside the body and the legs were also extended. Bone preservation was generally good, although the ribs were very fragile. The grave contained no grave goods and there was no indication of a coffin or grave furniture. The backfill contained no dateable finds.

Grave F1008 (Fig. 3, DP 6) was rectangular in plan, 0.43m in width, and orientated east/west. The western part (0.73m) lay within the excavation area. It had vertical sides and a flat base. F1008 contained an articulated skeleton, Skeleton 4, and backfill layer L1009. The latter was a firm dark yellowish brown clay silt with lenses of re-deposited clay natural throughout and frequent chalk and small flint pebbles. Skeleton 4 was not fully exposed within the excavation area; the skull, upper torso and both humeri were recorded and lifted, the remainder of the skeleton remained *in situ*, undisturbed by the groundworks. Skeleton 4 was fully articulated and aligned east/west with the head at the west. The individual was buried in an extended supine position. The arms were extended beside the body. Bone preservation was poor. The cranium remained mostly intact, although the mandible was damaged and there were no teeth present. The grave contained no grave goods and there was no indication of a coffin or of grave furniture. The backfill contained no dateable finds. Grave F1008

cut and truncated Grave 1010.

Grave F1010 (Fig. 3, DP 6) was rectangular in plan with a projection at the western end surrounding the head of the skeleton. It was orientated east/west. Grave F1010 was truncated on its north side by Grave F1008 and only the western segment (0.85m) lay within the excavation area. It had vertical sides and a flat base, except at the western end, where an area of the grave had been left slightly high, providing a "pillow" for the deceased. F1010 contained an articulated skeleton, Skeleton 5, and backfill layer L1011. The latter was a firm dark yellowish brown clay silt with lenses of re-deposited natural clay throughout and frequent chalk and small flint pebbles. Skeleton 5 was not fully exposed within the excavation area and was heavily truncated by Grave F1008. Only the skull and the right half of the upper torso could be recorded and lifted. What remained of Skeleton 5 was fully articulated and aligned east/west with the head at the west. The individual was buried in an extended supine position. The arms were extended beside the body. Bone preservation was very poor, especially the ribs and vertebrae which were spongy and friable. The cranium was largely well preserved. The cranial sutures had not fused indicating that the individual was a young adult. The grave contained no grave goods and there was no indication of a coffin or of grave furniture. The backfill contained no dateable finds.

Grave F1012 (Fig. 3, DP 6) was rectangular in plan, 0.33m in width and orientated east-west. The eastern segment (0.68m) of the cut lay within the excavation area. It had vertical sides and a flat base. F1012 contained an articulated skeleton, Skeleton 6, a dark soil stain, L1013, and a backfill layer L1014. The latter was a loose, dark yellowish brown, clay silt with lenses of re-deposited natural clay throughout and frequent chalk and small flint pebbles. Skeleton 6 was not fully exposed within the excavation area and the majority of the skeleton remained *in situ*, unaffected by the groundworks. The left tibia and fibula and both feet were recorded and lifted. Both legs were extended and in positions consistent with an extended supine burial. Soil stain L1013 was a friable dark reddish brown silty organic deposit formed by the decomposition of the coffin for Skeleton 6. The coffin was lined on the interior sides and base by a thin layer of bitumen, which remained in place after the coffin had degraded. The backfill contained no dateable finds.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

6.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds during the programme of monitoring and recording.

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 Topsoil L1000 was a friable, mid greyish brown, sandy silt with occasional

mortar flecks and small, rounded flint pebbles. It was present across the site, varying in depth between 0.35 - 0.44m, and sealed all other layers.

7.2 To the west of the church tower L1000 overlay Subsoil L1001. The latter was a friable, mid yellowish brown, sandy silt with frequent mortar fragments and occasional small, rounded flint pebbles (0.53m+ thick). To the north and east of the tower Subsoil L1001 was absent and the topsoil overlay L1002, a firm mid yellowish brown silty clay with frequent chalk and small, rounded flint pebbles. L1002 was a graveyard soil, and all of the recorded graves cut this layer.

7.3 The natural geological deposit, L1003, was a compact, light greyish yellow, clay and chalk. This layer was encountered only in the soakaway pit at a depth of 1.46m below present ground level. In all other excavated areas the natural geology lay below the depths affected by the groundworks and so was not exposed.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The monitoring identified six inhumations. None lay wholly within the excavation area but all of the exposed articulated remains were fully recorded and lifted in order to be reburied by the church.

8.2 All of the graves were orientated east/west, with the head of the inhumation to the west, and with no grave goods, conforming to the anticipated practice Christian churchyard burials. Grave F1012 had indications of the remains of a coffin. The latter was lined internally with a thin layer of a bitumen-like substance.

8.3 Both the subsoil (L1001) and the graveyard soil (L1002) contained disarticulated human remains. These bones were also returned to the church for reburial.

9 DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE

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

9.2 All human remains recovered from the site will be returned to All Saints Church, Kirtling for reburial.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AS is grateful to the Vicar and PCC of All Saints Church for their co-operation and funding of the monitoring, and their architects, Marshall Sisson Architect, for their assistance (in particular Mr Julian Limentani). AS would also like to thank Veronica Aspland of All Saints Church, Kirtling, for her assistance in the return of the human remains, and the assistance of the main building contractor on site.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Mr Daniel McConnell of CCC HET.

11 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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1
All Saints Church, Kirtling. Looking south.



2
All Saints Church, Kirtling. Looking west.



3
Sample section 1. Looking south.



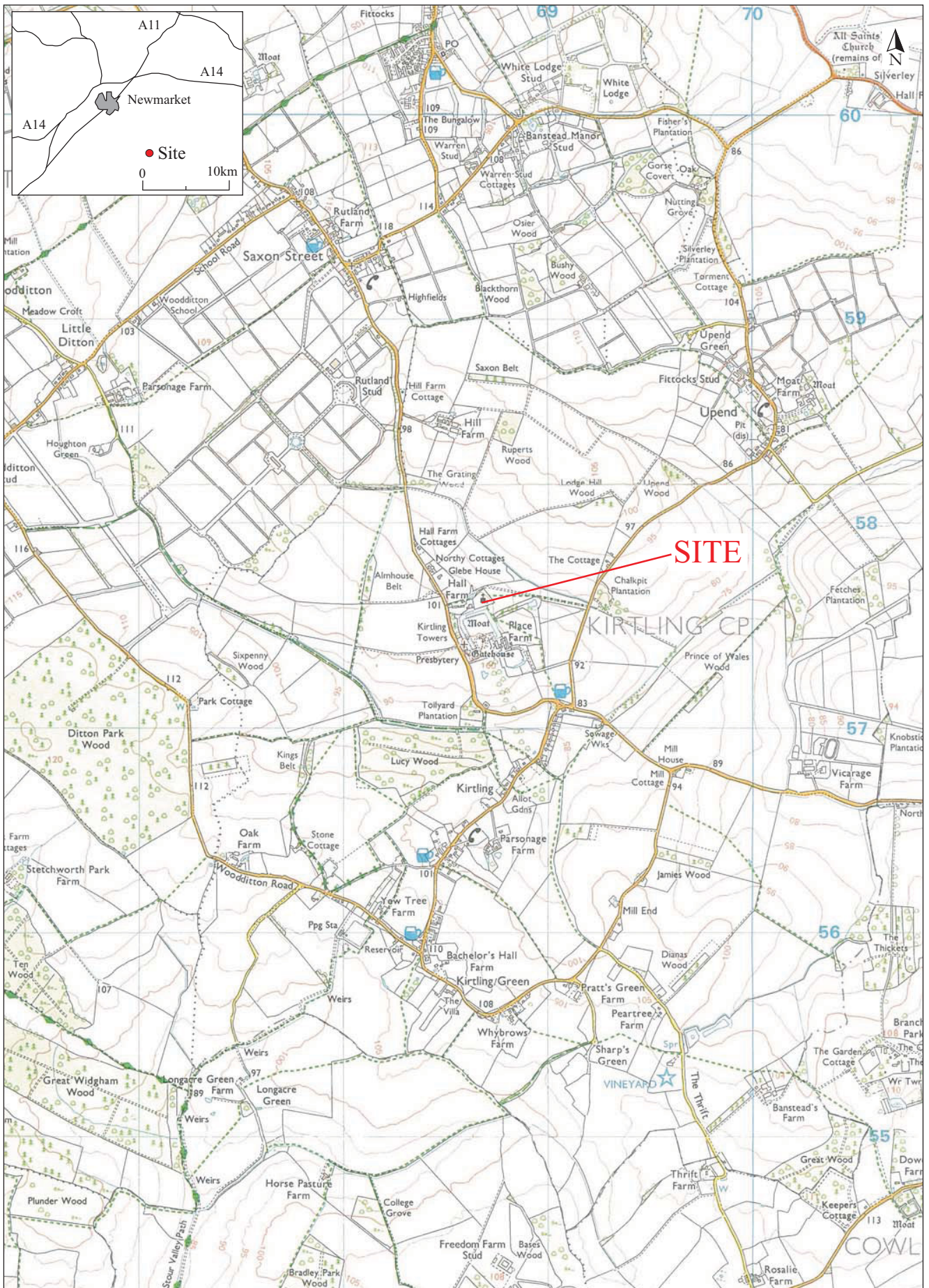
4
Sample section 2. Looking west.



5
SK2 (F1004) and SK3 (F1006). Looking west.

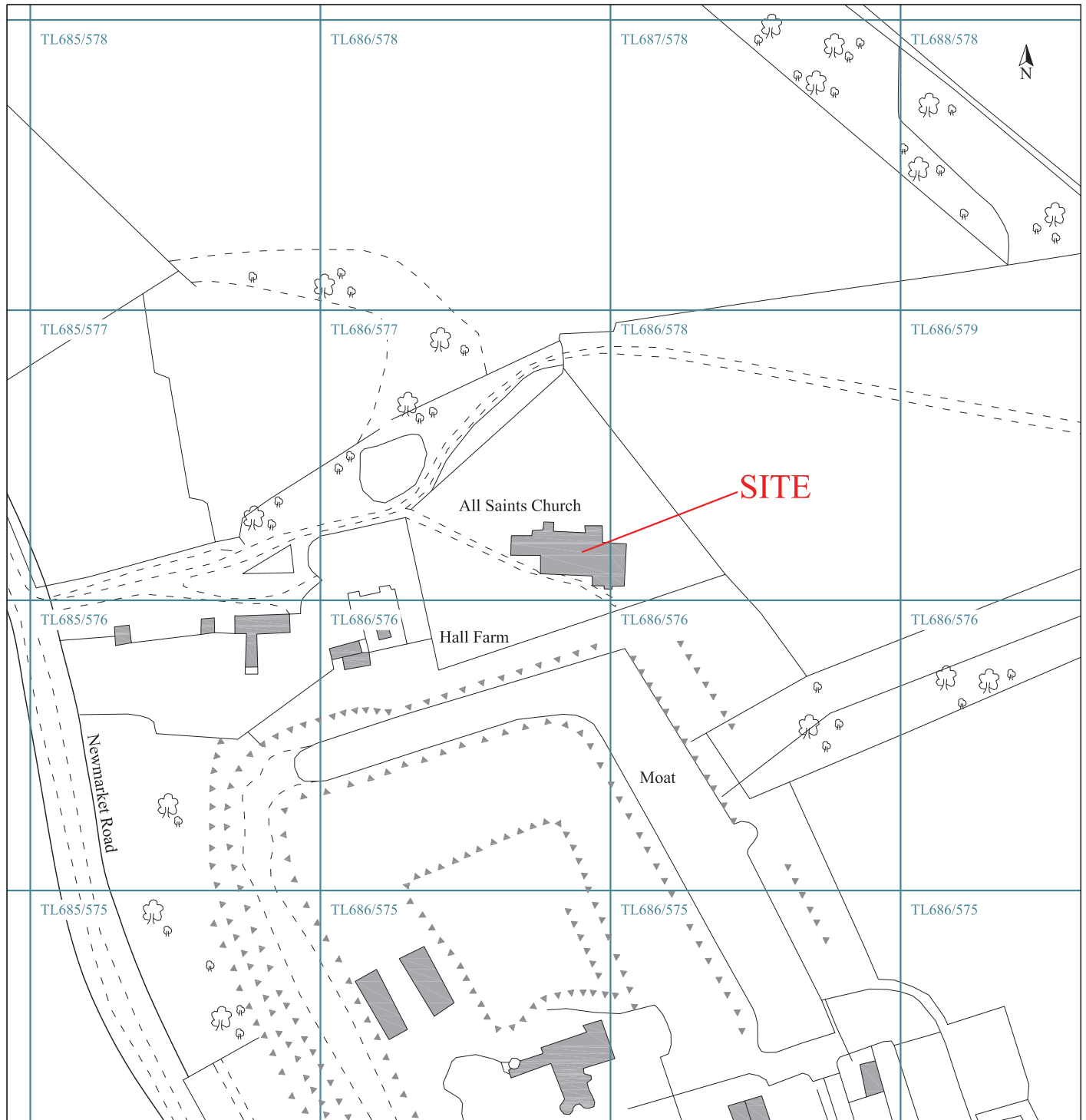


6
SK4 (F1008), SK5 (F1010) & SK6 (F1012). Looking west.



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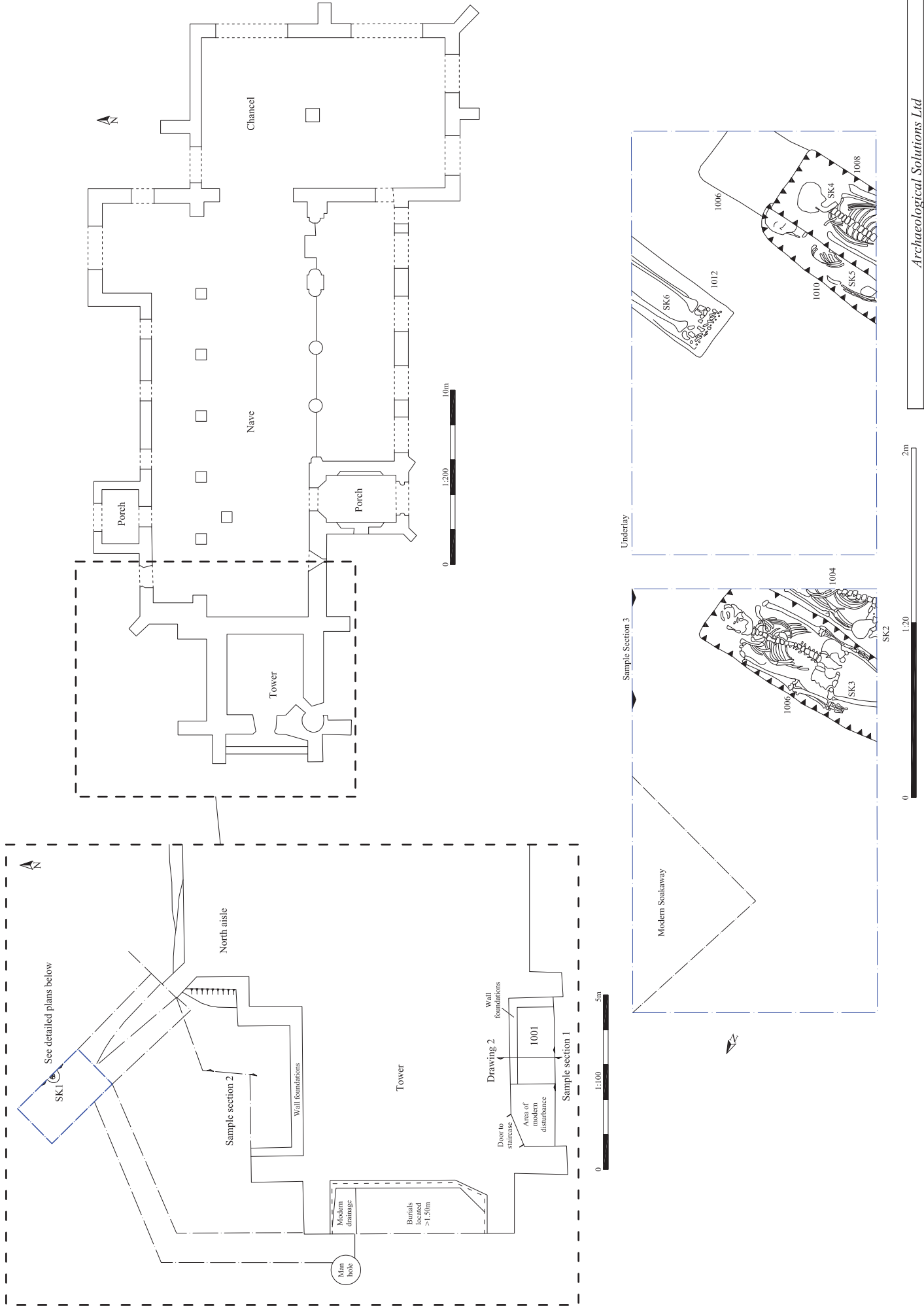
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



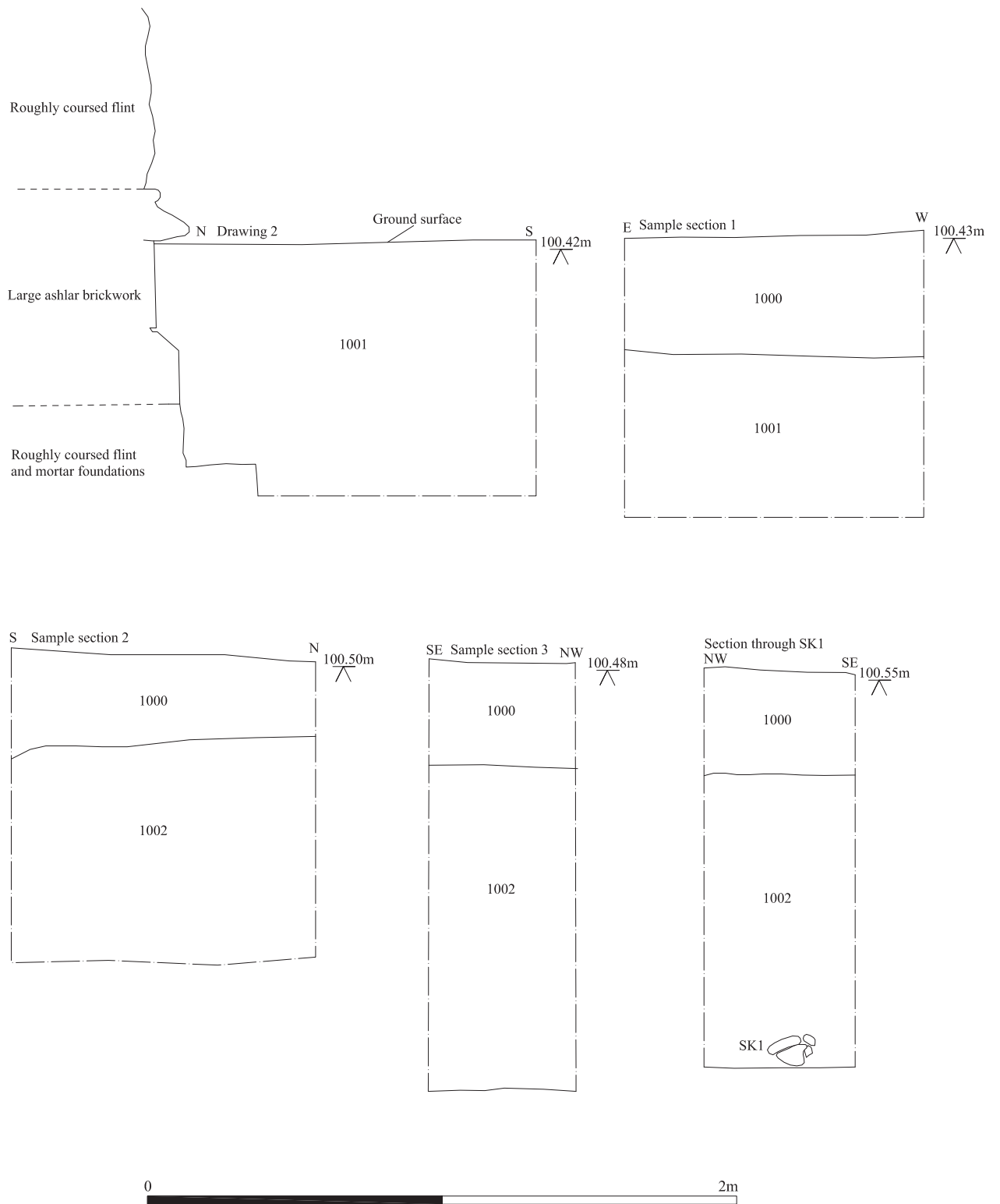
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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:2500 at A4



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Fig. 3 Area of watching brief & detailed plans
 Scale 1:200, 1:100, & 1:20 at A3



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Fig. 4 Sample sections

Scale 1:20 at A4