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**THE BLACK HORSE, 7 POTTERS CROSS,
WOOTTON, BEDFORDSHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski	
NGR: TL 01101 45514	Report No: 4491
District: Bedford	Site Code: AS 1663
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 5583
Signed:	Date: 23 January 2014

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>The Black Horse, 7 Potters Cross, Wootton, Bedfordshire</i>		
<p><i>In January 2014 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at The Black Horse, 7 Potters Cross, Wootton, Bedfordshire (NGR TL 01101 45514). The evaluation was commissioned by Mr Lee Barnett of County Land & Development Ltd and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission to demolish the existing Black Horse Public House and replace it with three dwellings with associated parking and external works.</i></p> <p><i>The site lies within an area of medieval settlement (Bott End) at Wootton. Bott End is recorded at the Bedford Historic Environment Record. Potters Cross links to The Portway, a route first recorded in the 15th century, once running between the settlements at Wootton and Kempston. The site had a potential for Saxon, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the evaluation revealed a modern pit and a timber post possibly of post-medieval origin. Residual late medieval (14th – 16th century) and post medieval CBM within Pit F1004 and Layer L1003 was also found.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>15/01/2014</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>P5538</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1663</i>
Type of project	<i>An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Vacant public house</i>		
Planned development	<i>Demolition of existing public house and construction of three dwellings</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Modern pit, post-medieval post hole</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Residual late medieval (14th – 16th C) CBM</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Bedfordshire</i>	<i>Bedford Borough</i>	<i>Wootton</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Bedfordshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>MK43 9JG</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 1200m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 01101 45514</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>35.20/35.50m</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>HCC HEU</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>County Land & Development Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>The Black Horse, 7 Potters Cross, Wootton, Bedfordshire: An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4491</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>January 2014</i>		

THE BLACK HORSE, 7 POTTERS CROSS, WOOTTON, BEDFORDSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In January 2014 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at The Black Horse, 7 Potters Cross, Wootton, Bedfordshire (NGR TL 01101 45514). The evaluation was commissioned by Mr Lee Barnett of County Land & Development Ltd and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission to demolish the existing Black Horse Public House and replace it with three dwellings with associated parking and external works.

The site lies within an area of medieval settlement (Bott End) at Wootton. Bott End is recorded at the Bedford Historic Environment Record. Potters Cross links to The Portway, a route first recorded in the 15th century, once running between the settlements at Wootton and Kempston. The site had a potential for Saxon, medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.

In the event the evaluation revealed a modern pit and a timber post possibly of post-medieval origin. Residual late medieval (14th – 16th century) and post medieval CBM within Pit F1004 and Layer L1003 was also found.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In January 2014 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at The Black Horse, 7 Potters Cross, Wootton, Bedfordshire (NGR TL 01101 45514; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was commissioned by Mr Lee Barnett of County Land & Development Ltd and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission to demolish the existing Black Horse Public House and replace it with three dwellings with associated parking and external works (Bedford Borough Council Planning Ref. 13/01214/FUL).

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by Bedford Borough Council (BBC; dated 12/2013) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 20/12/2013) and approved by BBC. 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.

1.4 The Black Horse existing building was also the subject of historic building recording/monitoring. This recording was also carried out by AS and its results will be presented in separate report.

Planning policy context

1.5 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.

1.6 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 lies on the northern side of the southern end of Potters Cross in Wootton. The latter is a village located c. 5km south-west of Bedford centre. The site comprises the existing vacant Black Horse PH with car park, beer garden and outbuildings, and extends to some 0.12ha.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is situated on relatively flat land at c. 35m AOD. The land to the immediate west of the village rises gradually to c. 50m AOD. The solid geology of the area is Jurassic Mudstone (Peterborough Member) (British Geological Survey 1978). Soils on the site are those of Evesham 3 association, described as slowly permeable calcareous clayey, and fine loamy over clayey soils (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The HER consultation records the following:

In the Roman period the site was situated c. 500m to the east of the purported line of a Roman road (HER 485) that linked Dorchester-on-Thames to Alconbury House (Viatores route 173). Other evidence for Roman activity is limited to a stray find of a Roman coin at 80 Mepham Road to the west (HER 17729).

Medieval occupation at Wootton comprised a cluster of discrete settlements. The site was located in the south-eastern corner of the Bott End medieval settlement (HER 17026), with the Causeway End settlement (HER 17023) close to the south, and the Taggs End and Keeley Green settlements (HER 17022 & 17022) slightly further to the west and north-west respectively. The site is situated on Potter's Cross, which may have formed part of the network of medieval routeways, two of which crossed at the 'Portway Crosse', later corrupted to Potter's Cross (HER 11535), c.500m to the north-east of the site. One lane, possibly originally a sunken holloway ran north-west/south-east roughly along the Wootton/Kempston parish boundary (HER 11532), while the second, 'Portway' followed the course of the Potter's Cross road (HER 11533) once running between the settlements at Wootton and Kempston. The course of the road passed adjacent to the site. In the medieval period a moated enclosure was located to the north of the village (HER 3435), although its precise date is uncertain and it may have been post-medieval.

Wootton developed substantially in the post-medieval period, notably along Bedford Road in the 18th century. A 17th century farmhouse is present in Cause End Road (HER 8524) to the west. The 18th century development of the village included the existing buildings of two public houses: the Fox and Duck PH on Bedford Road (HER 6562) and the Black Horse PH that occupies the site (HER 8546). The latter is not listed and is scheduled for demolition. Numerous other domestic houses dating to the 18th and 19th centuries also remain along Bedford Road (e.g. HER 6563, 8508 & 8517), and a Baptist Chapel (HER 8511).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Two trenches were excavated using a mechanical 180° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). The trenches were located within area of footings of proposed dwellings and measured 15 x 1.60m.

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 (Figs. 3-5, DP 2-3)

<i>Sample section 1A (DP 4): north end, south-south-east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 35.50m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark grey, soft, sandy silt with frequent roots.
0.29 – 0.38m	L1001	Subsoil. Mid yellow brown, friable, silty clay with moderate CBM fragments.
0.38m +	L1002	Natural. Light to mid brownish yellow, compact, clay with pockets of gravel.

<i>Sample section 1B (DP 5): south end, north-north-east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 35.34m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.28 – 0.48m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.48m +	L1002	Natural clay with gravel. As above.

Description: A modern pit (F1004) was present.

Pit F1004 was rectangular (1.07 x 0.63 x 0.13m). It had vertical sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1005, was a dark grey, loose, silty sand. It contained pottery dating from the 19th onwards (90g), CBM (89g) and fe fragments (59g).

Trench 2 (Figs. 3-5, DP 6-7)

<i>Sample section 2A (DP 8): north end, east-north-east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 35.34m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.09m	L1006	Tarmac. Car park surface.
0.09 – 0.21m	L1007	Levelling layer. Mid yellow, compact, gravel with medium-sized stones and sand.
0.21 – 0.38m	L1008	Mid brownish grey, compact, clayey silt with frequent CBM fragments.
0.38 – 0.60m	L1009	Mid greyish yellow, compact, clay with occasional CBM fragments.
0.60m +	L1002	Natural clay with gravel. As above, Tr. 1.

<i>Sample section 2B (DP 9): south end, west-south-west facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 35.23m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.08m	L1006	Tarmac. As above.
0.08 – 0.15m	L1007	As above.
0.15 – 0.30m	L1008	As above.
0.30 – 0.59m	L1009	As above.
0.59m +	L1002	Natural clay with gravel. As above, Tr. 1.

Description: Post hole F1010 which contained a fragment of a waterlogged timber post was recorded with Trench 2.

Post Hole F1010 was small and circular (0.12 x 0.10 x 0.30m; DP 10). It contained a fragment of a waterlogged timber post (0.39 in length and 0.08m in diameter) (Waterlogged Timber Report below). The feature may have been part of a fence of post-medieval date.

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 rear of the vacant public house was a garden and was commonly overlain by Topsoil L1000, a dark grey, soft, sandy silt with frequent roots (0.25 – 0.30m thick). It overlay Subsoil L1001 a mid yellow brown, friable, silty clay with moderate CBM fragments. (0.10 – 0.20m thick). The area of car park at the front of the building was commonly overlain by Tarmac L1000 and modern deposits to the depth of 0.55 – 0.60m below ground level.

8.2 The natural clay, L1002, was present at 0.37 – 0.55m below existing ground level and comprised a light to mid brownish yellow, compact, clay with pockets of gravel.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for the Saxon, medieval and post-medieval archaeology. It lies within the area of the medieval settlement of Bott End at Wootton. Potters Cross links to The Portway, a route first recorded in the 15th century, between the settlements at Wootton and Kempston.

9.2 In the event the evaluation recorded two post-medieval and modern features, Pit F1004 and Post Hole F1010, and residual late medieval (14th – 16th century) and post-medieval CBM within Pit F1004 and Layer L1003 (CBM

Report below). The CBM may have been associated with structures predating the 18th century public house.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Bedford Museum, under Accession No. BEDFM 2013.62. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr Lee Barnett of County Land & Development Ltd for funding the project and for his assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Geoff Saunders of Bedford Borough Council.

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Institute of Field Archaeologists (now Institute for Archaeologists), 1994, (revised 2008), *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*. IfA, Reading

Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW), 1983, *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales*. SSEW, Harpenden

APPENDIX 1

FINDS CONCORDANCE

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A. Bone (g)	Other
	1001		Subsoil/Made Ground			365		
	1003		Layer	19th+	(2) 5g	260		
1004	1005		Fill of Pit	19th+	(4) 90g	89		Fe. Frags (3) - 59g

APPENDIX 2

The Pottery

Peter Thompson

The evaluation recovered six lightly abraded early modern to modern sherds weighing 93g from two contexts.

KEY:

ENGS: English Porcelain mid18th+

PMRE: late Post-medieval red ware late 18th+

MOCH: Mocha type ware late 18th+

TPW: Transfer Printed ware late 18th+

<i>Feature</i>	<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1003		Layer	2x5g MOCH	19 th +	
1004	1005	Pit	1x61g TPW 1x14g PMRE 2x13g ENGS	19 th +	TPW: 'willow pattern' plate PMRE: semi-vitrified ENGS: two separate small bowls or jugs

APPENDIX 3

The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey MIfA

The evaluation recovered 11 fragments (714g) of late medieval to early post-medieval CBM in a fragmentary condition. The CBM, including peg tile and brick, was manufactured in a very hard-fired calcareous fabric tempered with sparse-common medium sand.

Peg tile, in total 8 fragments (334g), was contained in Subsoil L1001, Layer L1003 and Pit F1004 (L1005). The tile was typically slightly creased, with a single fragment in Pit F1004 (L1005) exhibiting traces of a splashed lead glaze, suggesting it may have been manufactured between the 14th and 16th centuries, though it may have adorned a building for a significant period after. The brick, comprising 3 fragments (380g) contained in Subsoil L1001 and Layer L1003, is 40mm thick with knife trimmed edges and limited scorch marks on the sides, suggesting these may have been used in the construction of a chimney breast, fire-place or hearth, also probable in the late medieval or early post-medieval periods.

APPENDIX 4

The Waterlogged Timber

Dr John Summers

A single piece of waterlogged timber was recovered from context L1012 during the evaluation at the Black Horse, Wootton.

The timber measured 39cm in length and 8.5cm in diameter. One end was flattened, presumably where it had been cut to length, while at the other end it had been broken. The original length of the timber is unknown. The post was roughly circular in cross-section and does not appear to have been split. It may have been shaped to create a more regular profile, although there were no obvious tool marks present.

A piece of wood was cut from the timber to reveal a transverse section, which was examined under x10 magnification. A diffuse-porous vessel pattern was recognised but no precise identification was made.

The timber likely represents part of a post used for fencing or another form of construction. It was not associated with any other timbers or structural remains, which leaves this interpretation open.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. The Black Horse PH. Looking north-west.



DP 2. Trench 1. Looking north-west.



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



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



DP 5. Trench 1, south end. Sample section 1B. Looking south-south-west.



DP 6. Trench 2. Looking south-east.



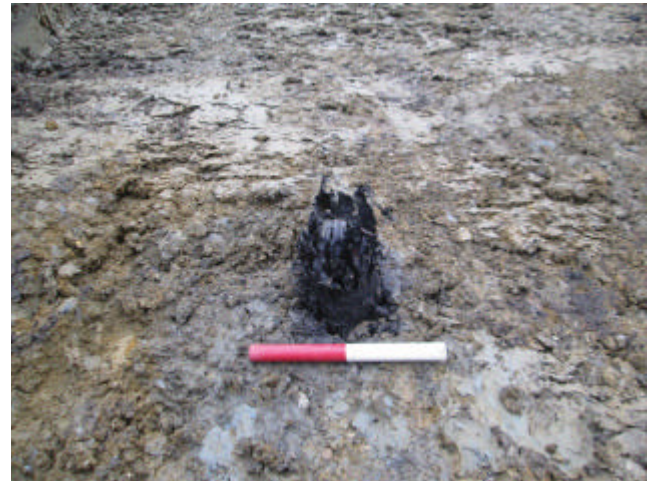
DP 7. Trench 2. Looking north-north-west.



DP 8. Trench 2, north end. Sample section 2A. Looking west-south-west.



DP 9. Trench 2, south end. Sample section 2B. Looking east-north-east.



DP 10. Trench 2, Post Hole F1010. Looking south-south-east.



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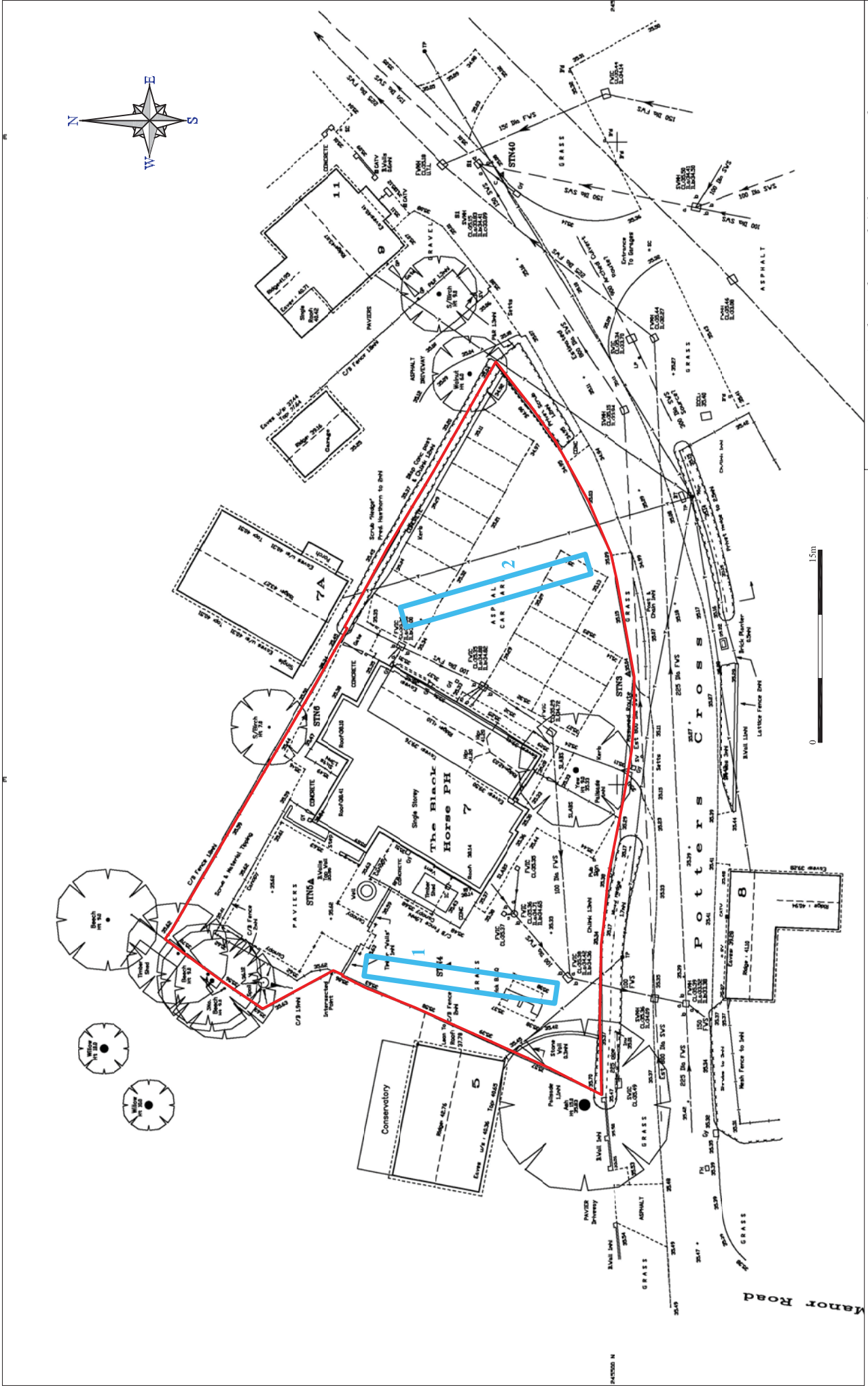
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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0 50m

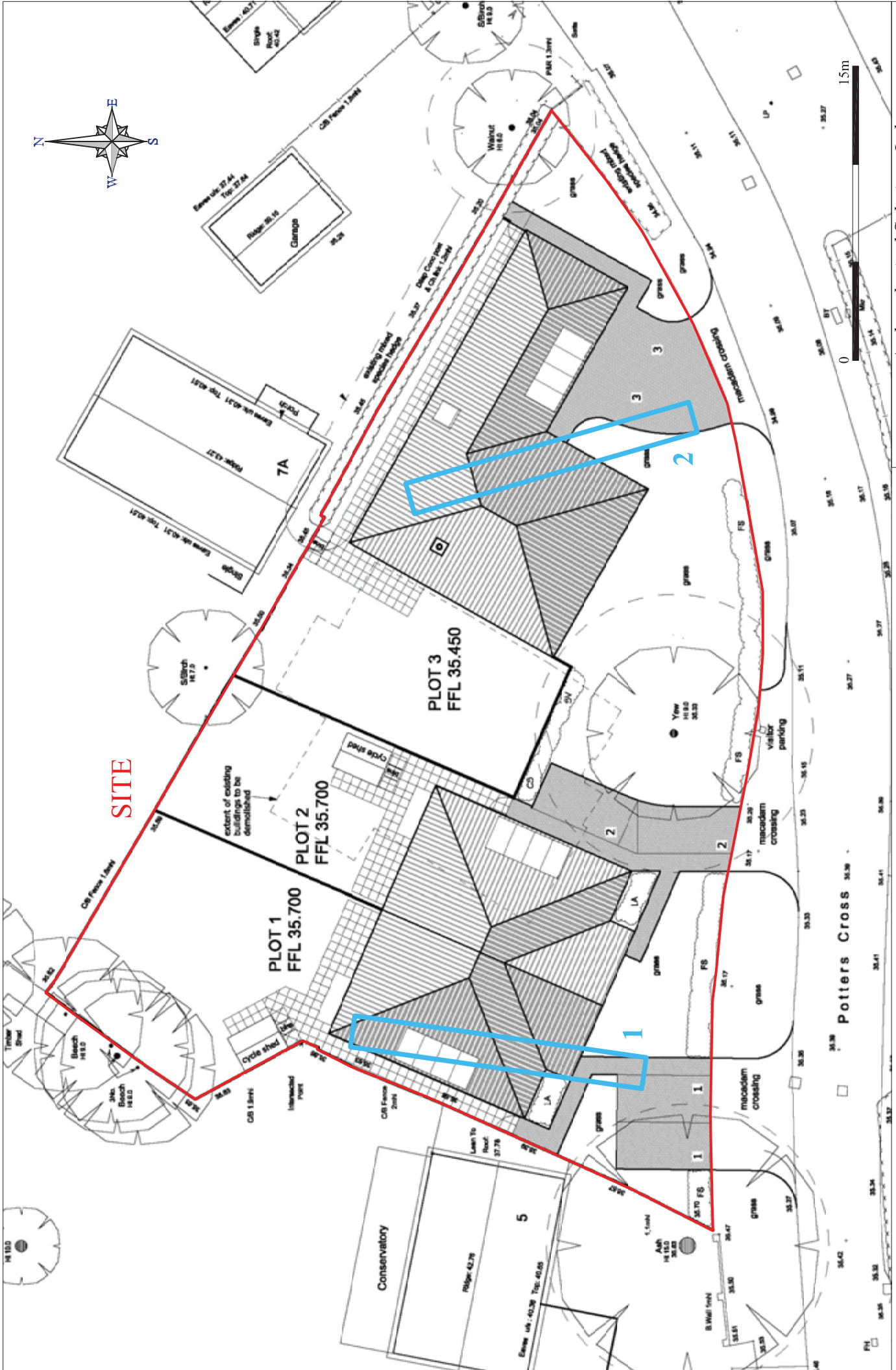
Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:1000 at A4



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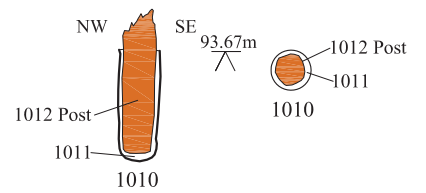
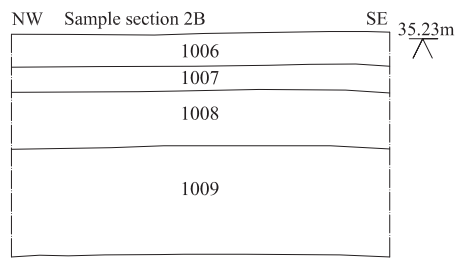
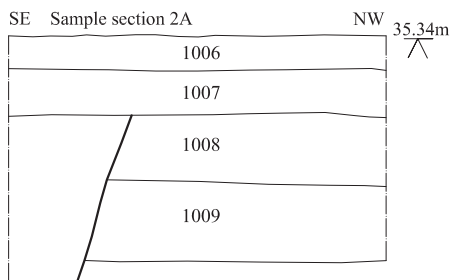
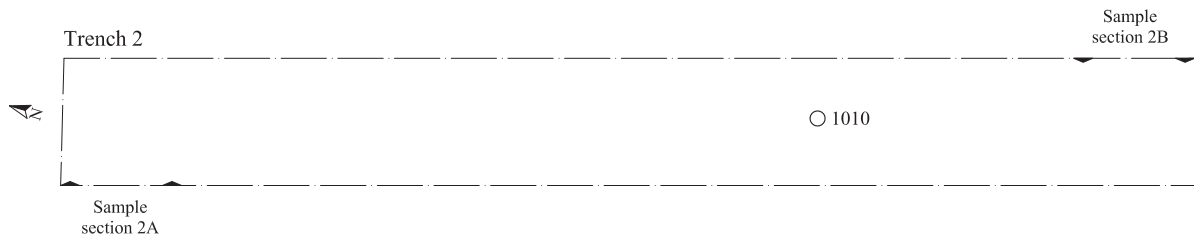
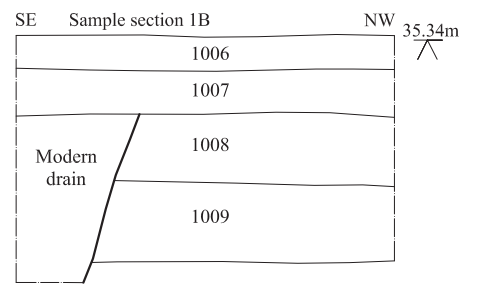
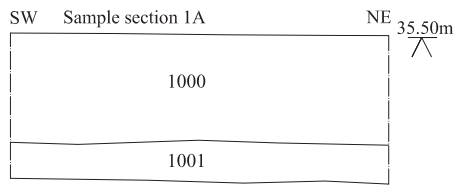
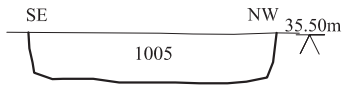
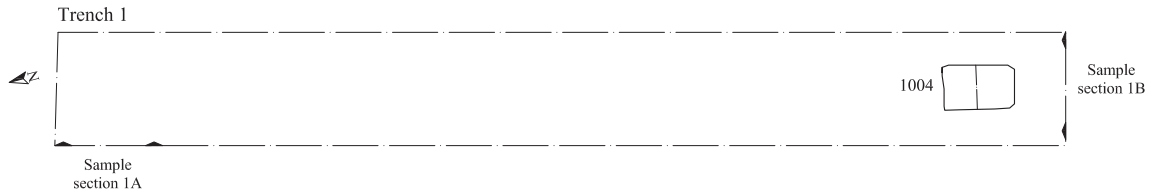
Fig. 3 Trench location plan

Scale 1:400 at A4



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Fig. 4 Proposed development plan
Scale 1:250 at A4



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Fig. 5 Plans & sections
 Scale Plan 1:100, sections 1:20 at A4