

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

LAND OFF NORTHAMPTON LANE NORTH MOULTON, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION VIA STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE

Author: Laszlo Lichtenstein (Fieldwork & report)	
NGR: SP 784 655	Report No. 4407
District: Kettering	Site Code: AS 1620
Approved: Claire Halpin MlfA	Project No. P5426
Signed:	Date: 19 September 2013

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Project details			
Project name	<i>Land off Northampton Lane North, Moulton, Northamptonshire. An Archaeological Excavation via Strip, Map and Sample</i>		
<p>Project description (250 words)</p> <p><i>In September 2013 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS), conducted an archaeological excavation via Strip, Map and Sample on land off Northampton Lane North, Moulton, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 784 655). The investigation was carried out to comply with an archaeological condition attached to planning appeal approval for the construction of a new residential development (Appeal Ref. APP/Y2810/A/12/2178421).</i></p> <p><i>The investigation targeted the shallow, undated ditches identified during the evaluation. Area A was centred on Trench 3 of the evaluation which recorded a former field boundary and two shallow NW/SE aligned ditches. Area B was centred on Trench 11 of the evaluation which revealed a NE/SW aligned ditch.</i></p> <p><i>Post-medieval / modern field boundary features were recorded in Area A (F1003, F1005 and F1006) and Area B (F1020), and undated discrete features were recorded in Area B (F1011, F1013, F1015, F1017 and F1022). The archaeological investigation reflected the results of the trial trench evaluation. Like the evaluation the discrete features did not contain finds and are not suggestive of an archaeological site. The investigation concurs with the evaluation, it seems that little activity, aside from post-medieval farming, has ever been carried out across the site.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>September 2013</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>	Futurework (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>5426</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1620</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Excavation via Strip, Map and Sample</i>		
Site status			
Current land use	<i>Agricultural</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Field boundary features, and undated pits and post holes</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Post-medieval / modern</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Northants</i>	<i>Kettering</i>	<i>Moulton</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>NCC HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>c.8.2ha.</i>		
NGR	<i>SP 784 655</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>c.110m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Requirement of Northamptonshire County Council</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Laszlo Lichtenstein</i>		
Funded by	<i>Redrow Homes (South Midlands) Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Land off Northampton Lane North, Moulton, Northamptonshire. An Archaeological Excavation via Strip, Map and Sample.</i>		
Authors	<i>Laszlo Lichtenstein</i>		
Report no.	<i>4407</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>September 2013</i>		

LAND OFF NORTHAMPTON LANE NORTH, MOULTON, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION VIA STRIP, MAP AND SAMPLE

SUMMARY

In September 2013 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS), conducted an archaeological excavation via Strip, Map and Sample on land off Northampton Lane North, Moulton, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 784 655). The investigation was carried out to comply with an archaeological condition attached to planning appeal approval for the construction of a new residential development (Appeal Ref. APP/Y2810/A/12/2178421).

The investigation targeted the shallow, undated ditches identified during the evaluation. Area A was centred on Trench 3 of the evaluation which recorded a former field boundary and two shallow NW/SE aligned ditches. Area B was centred on Trench 11 of the evaluation which revealed a NE/SW aligned ditch.

Post-medieval / modern field boundary features were recorded in Area A (F1003, F1005 and F1006) and Area B (F1020), and undated discrete features were recorded in Area B (F1011, F1013, F1015, F1017 and F1022). The archaeological investigation reflected the results of the trial trench evaluation. Like the evaluation the discrete features did not contain finds and are not suggestive of an archaeological site. The investigation concurs with the evaluation, it seems that little activity, aside from post-medieval farming, has ever been carried out across the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September 2013 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS), conducted an archaeological excavation via Strip, Map and Sample on land off Northampton Lane North, Moulton, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 784 655; Figs. 1-2). The investigation was carried out to comply with an archaeological condition attached to planning appeal approval for the construction of a new residential development (Appeal Ref. APP/Y2810/A/12/2178421).

1.2 The investigation was undertaken in accordance with the requirement of the Archaeological Advisor of Northamptonshire County Council, and was undertaken according to the *Specification for Archaeological Works, Land off Northampton Lane North, Moulton, Northamptonshire* (dated 25th July 2013) prepared by Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Limited, and a specification prepared by AS (14th August 2013). The investigation was also conducted according to the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Excavation* (revised 2008).

1.3 The site has been subject to an archaeological desk-based assessment (Richmond 2011), a geophysical survey (Bartlett & Coates 2012) and a trial trench evaluation (Coates & Richmond 2012).

1.4 The primary objectives of the project were:

- To determine the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present
- To provide information on the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present
- The recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of a type series within the region
- The recovery of palaeoenvironmental remains to determine local environmental conditions
- The provision of a resultant archive to be organised and deposited in a registered museum to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit.
- The full analysis and interpretation of the site archive in order to promote local and regional research, and the appropriate dissemination and publication of the project results

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 the impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

2.1 The site has been subject to an archaeological desk-based assessment (Richmond 2011), a geophysical survey (Bartlett & Coates 2012) and a trial trench evaluation (Coates & Richmond 2012).

2.2 A detailed magnetometry survey was carried out across the site in February 2012 (Bartlett & Coates 2012). The survey findings included disturbances along two former hedge lines, and cultivation effects which may indicate traces of ridge and furrow. A few magnetic anomalies which could represent silted pits or hollows were identified, but they were too isolated or widely dispersed to suggest the presence of any concentrations of archaeological features.

2.3 The trial trench evaluation (Coates & Richmond 2012) was designed to investigate the geophysical anomalies and to investigate the apparently archaeological 'blank' areas. Sixteen trenches were excavated, and archaeological features were identified in only three trenches (Nos. 3, 8 and 11). The features comprised three small undated ditches and two field boundaries which are visible on most Ordnance Survey mapping up to the mid 20th century.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Following the previous surveys (desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and evaluation), two areas for strip, map and sample excavation were identified (Areas A and B).

3.2 The excavation targeted the shallow, undated ditches identified during the evaluation. Area A was centred on Trench 3 of the evaluation which recorded a former field boundary and two shallow NW/SE aligned ditches. Area B was centred on Trench 11 of the evaluation which revealed a NE/SW aligned ditch.

3.3 The mechanical stripping was undertaken under close archaeological supervision using a tracked mechanical 360° 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.

4 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

AREA A

Sample Sections:

<i>Sample section A</i> <i>0.00 = 109.81m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Topsoil. Light grey brown, firm, clayey silt with occasional small – medium ironstone.
0.22 – 0.43m	L1001	Subsoil. Mid yellow brown, compact, silty clay with occasional medium ironstone.
0.43m+	L1002	Natural. Light brown, compact, clay/cornbrash.

<i>Sample section B</i> <i>0.00 = 109.93m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.32 – 0.50m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.50m+	L1002	Natural. As above.

Two linear foundation cuts of boundary walls (F1003 and F1005) were recorded in Area A, and also a boundary field ditch (F1008). The features were post-medieval / modern. Land drains also traversed the area.

F1003 was a linear foundation cut (25m x 0.60m x 0.50m) of a post-medieval boundary wall which was parallel with Ditch F1008. Its fill, L1004, was a light yellow brown, friable, clay with frequent small – mid rounded pebbles.

F1005 was also a linear foundation cut (25m x 0.60m x 0.50m) of a post-medieval boundary wall which was perpendicular to Ditch F1008. The wall, M1006, was constructed of angular ironstone (0.15 x 0.25m), randomly coursed, within a light brown clay/silty clay matrix. It contained a clay pipe stem fragment (2g). F1005 cut F1003 and was cut by Ditch F1008.

Ditch F1008 was linear (25m x 0.60-0.80m x ?), orientated N/S. Its fill, L1009, was a mid grey black, hard, clayey silt. It contained modern (mid – late 19th century) pottery (17g), a clay pipe stem fragment (8g) and glass (4g).

AREA B

Sample Sections:

<i>Sample section A</i> <i>0.00 = 110.50m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Area A.
0.26 – 0.53m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Area A.

0.53m	L1002	Natural. As above Area A.
<i>Sample section B</i> <i>0.00 = 111.34m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Area A.
0.25 – 0.63m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Area A.
0.63m	L1002	Natural. As above Area A.

Three pits (F1011, F1015 and F1017), two post holes (F1013 and F1022), a ditch (F1020) and two tree hollows were recorded in Area B. None contained finds.

Pits F1011, F1015 and F1017

Pit F1011 was elongated (1.10m x 0.55m x 0.25m). Its sides were steep and the base narrow. Its fill, L1012, was a light reddish brown, compact, silty clay with small angular flint. It contained no finds.

Pit F1015 was oval (1.20m x 1.10m x 0.15m). It had moderately steep and a flattish base. Its fill, L1016, was a light yellowish brown, compact, silty clay with occasional small pebbles. It contained no finds.

Pit F1017 was elongated (1.80m x 1.10m x 0.30m). It had steep sides and a flattish base. It contained two fills. Its basal fill, L1018, was a mid yellow brown, compact, sandy clay with occasional small pebbles. It contained stone (2300g). Its upper fill, L1019, was a dark reddish brown, compact, sandy clay.

Post Holes F1013 and F1022

Post Hole F1013 was circular (0.40m x 0.18m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1014, was a mid greyish brown, compact, silty clay with small angular flint. It contained no finds.

Post Hole F1022 was circular (0.48m x 0.35m). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1023, was a dark greyish black, compact, clayey silt. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1020

Ditch Pit F1020 was linear (8m x 1.10m x 0.29m), orientated N/S. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1021, was a light yellow brown, compact, sandy clay with occasional small rounded pebbles. It contained no finds.

5 CONFIDENCE RATING

5.1 It is not felt that any factors restricted the identification of archaeological features or the recovery of finds during the excavation.

6 DEPOSIT MODEL

Uppermost Topsoil L1000 was a light grey brown, firm, clayey silt with occasional small – medium ironstone (0.22 – 0.32m thick). It overlay Subsoil L1001, a mid yellow brown, compact, silty clay with occasional medium ironstone (0.18 – 0.38). Below L1001 was the natural, L1002, a light brown, compact, clay/cornbrash. It was 0.43 – 0.63m below the present day ground surface.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Area	Context	Description	Spot date
A	F1003	Boundary wall	Post-medieval / modern
	F1005	Boundary wall	Post-medieval / modern
	F1006	Boundary ditch	Post-medieval / modern
B	F1011	Pit	Undated
	F1013	Post Hole	Undated
	F1015	Pit	Undated
	F1017	Pit	Undated
	F1020	Ditch	Post-medieval / modern
	F1022	Post Hole	Undated

7.2 Field boundary features were recorded in Area A (F1003, F1005 and F1006) and Area B (F1020), and undated discrete features were recorded in Area B (F1011, F1013, F1015, F1017 and F1022).

7.3 The archaeological investigation reflected the results of the trial trench evaluation. The boundary features are visible on most Ordnance Survey mapping up to the mid 20th century, and the earliest depiction of the field boundaries is an estate map of c.1840. Like the evaluation the discrete features did not contain finds and are not suggestive of an archaeological site. The investigation concurs with the evaluation, it seems that little activity, aside from post-medieval farming, has ever been carried out across the site.

DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at Northamptonshire Museum. The latter is not currently not receiving archives and so the archive will be stored at AS' Bury St Edmunds office. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Redrow Homes (South Midlands) Ltd., for funding the archaeological investigation, and their consultants, Phoenix Consulting Archaeology Ltd.

AS is also pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Ms Liz Mordue, Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

AS1620, Moulton, Northants

Concordance of finds by
feature

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
1006	1007			Boundary Wall Material					Clay Pipe Stem (1) - 2g
1008	1009			Fill of Ditch	Mid-Late 19th C	(2) 17g			Clay Pipe Stem (1) - 8g Glass (1) - 4g
1017	1018			Fill of Firing Pit					Building Stone - 2300g>

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORT

The Pottery

by Peter Thompson

The excavation recovered two slightly abraded early modern sherds from Ditch F1008 (L1009). One is a rim sherd (13g) from a straight sided English stoneware jar the rim is 10cm diameter with an external groove beneath the lip. Possibly it was a condiment jar. The other is a body sherd of yellow ware (3g), the sherds would match a date of mid to late 19th century.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
Area A looking north showing ditch 1008



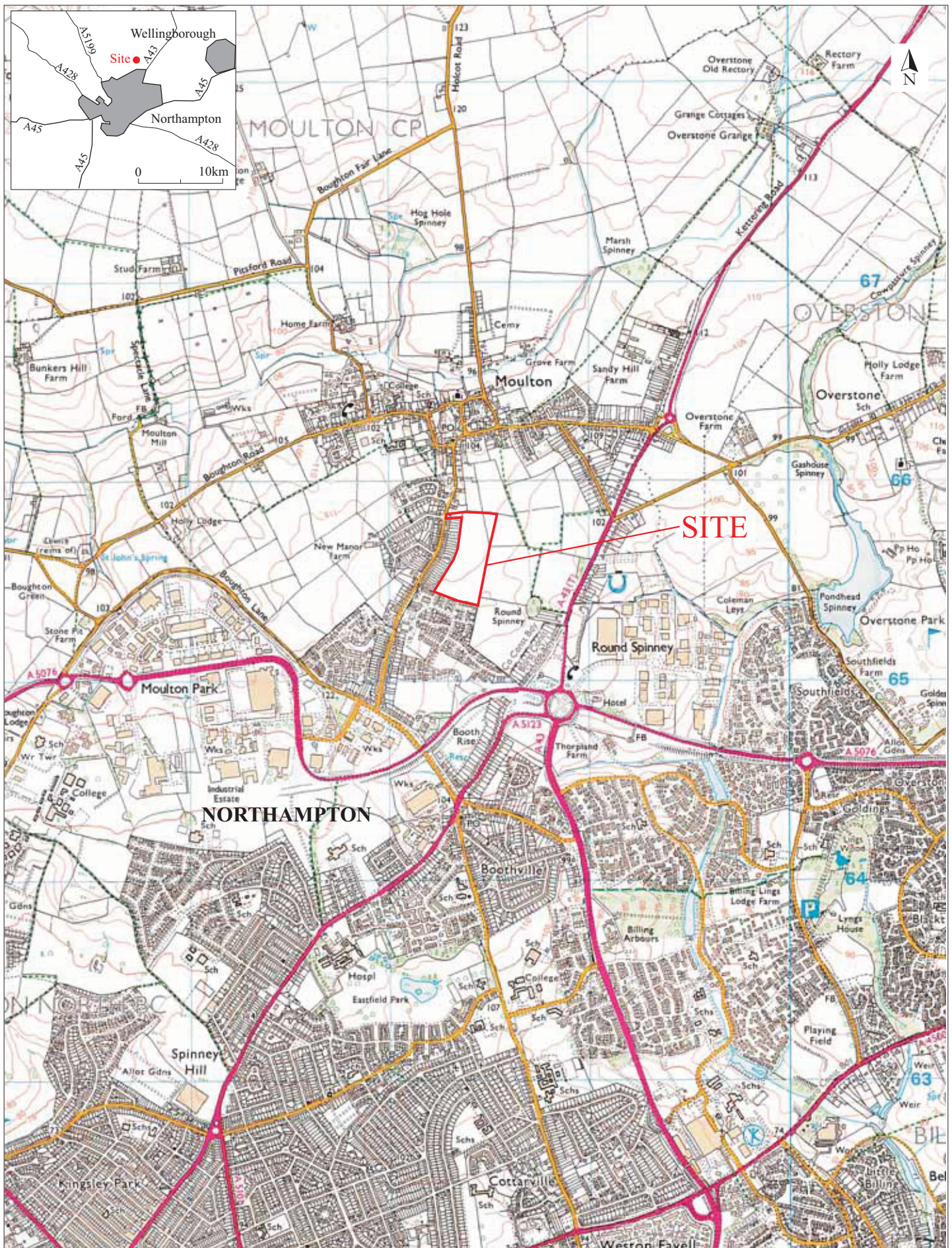
2
Sample section A in Area A looking east



3
F1011 in Area B looking north



4
F1022 in Area B looking north



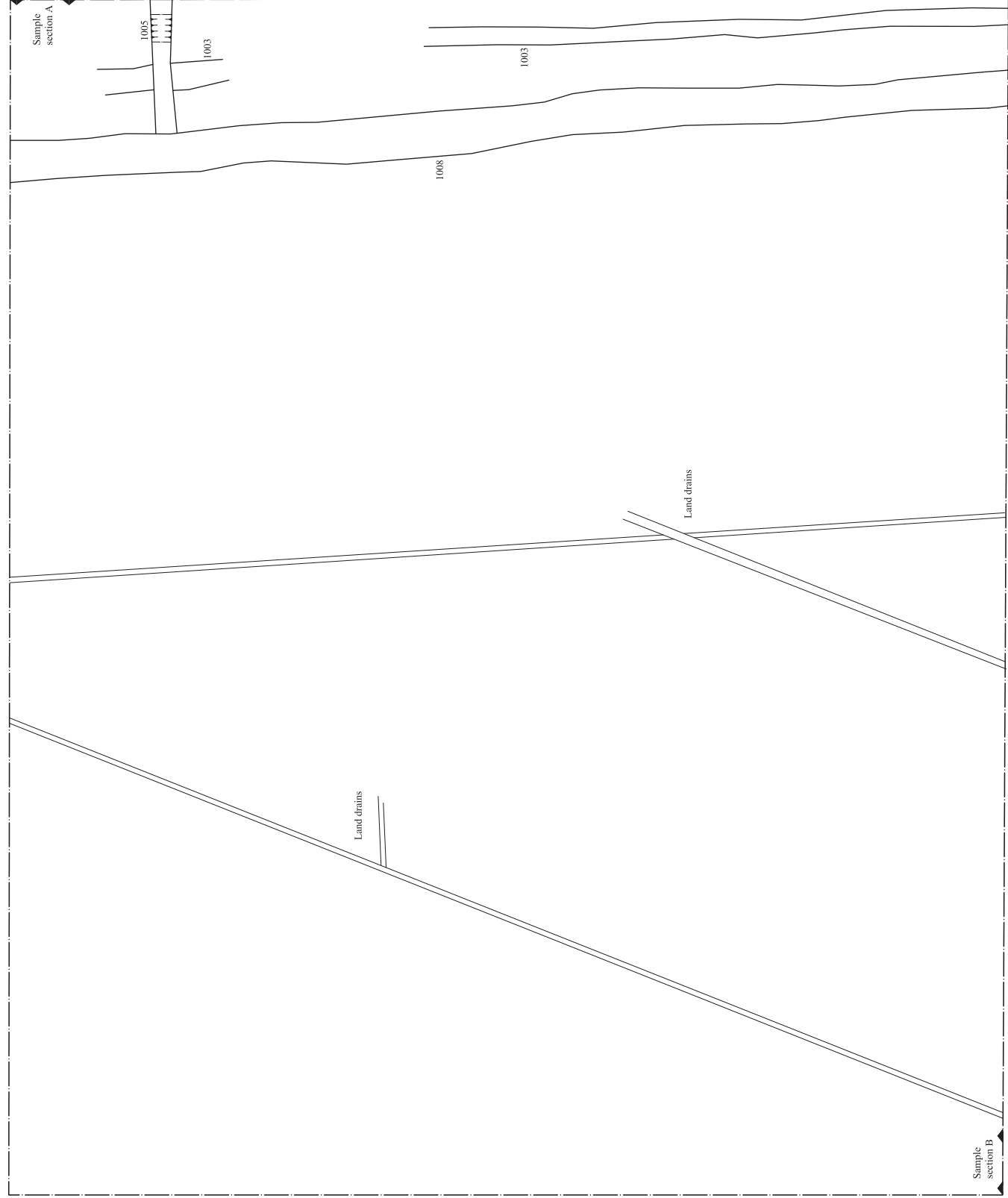
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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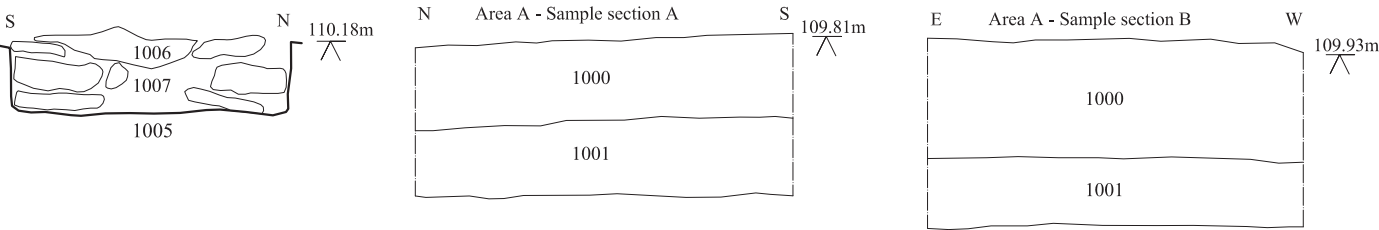
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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:2500 at A4



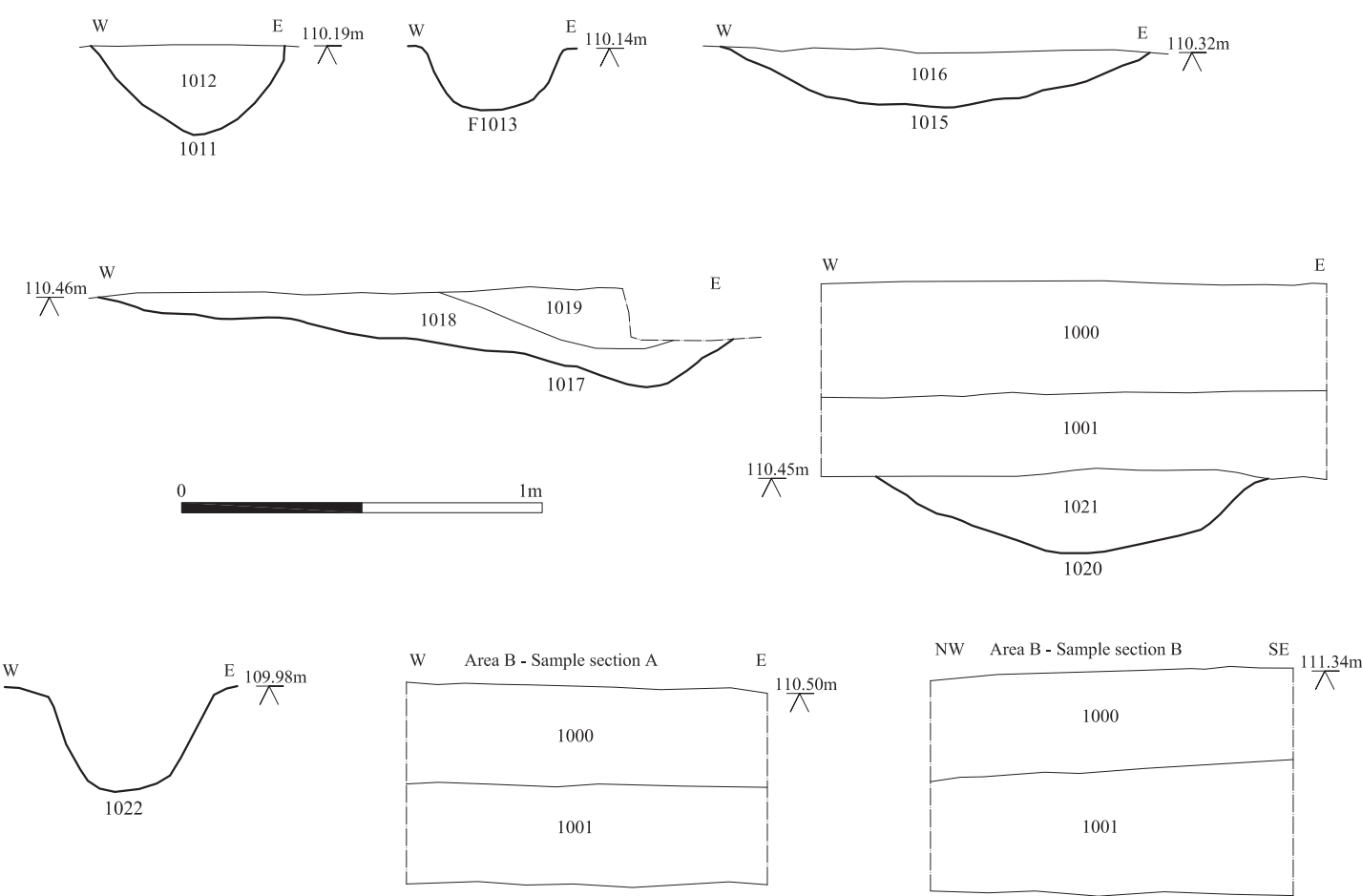
AREA A

[illegible]

Sections in Area A



Sections in Area B



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Fig. 5 Sections in Areas A & B
 Scale 1:20 at A4