

**THE CROFT, WALSINGHAM WAY, EYE
PETERBOROUGH PE6 7XB
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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**THE CROFT, WALSINGHAM WAY, EYE
PETERBOROUGH PE6 7XB**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: (Fieldwork and report)	
NGR: TF 22304 02533	Report No. 4481
District: Peterborough	Site Code: AS 1657
Approved: Claire Halpin MIfA	Project No. 5571
Signed:	Date: 2 January 2014

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name		<i>The Croft, Walsingham Way, Eye, Peterborough PE6 7XB</i>	
<p><i>In December 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at The Croft, Walsingham Way, Eye, Peterborough (NGR TF 22304 02533). The evaluation was commissioned by Lodge Park Ltd. It was required in compliance with a condition attached to planning approval for the construction of x14 dwellings (Planning Ref.13/01165/FUL), and based on the advice of Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service.</i></p> <p><i>No archaeological remains are known on the site, but evidence for prehistoric activity has been recorded in the general area, and the site is a large plot that has grassed areas that have likely been subject to little previous ground disturbance.</i></p> <p><i>In the event Roman (early – mid 2nd century) features were recorded in the southern and eastern sectors of the site. The features are principally linear ditches (six in number: F1007 (Tr.1), F1003 (Tr.2), F1011, F1013, F1015 and F1017 (Tr.3)). Two pits (F1005 (Tr.2) and F1020 (Tr.3)) and a gully (F1009 (Tr.2)) were also recorded. The features consistently contained Roman material, either early – mid 2nd century pottery or CBM. Ditch F1017 (Trench 3) contained an unusual handle. The latter may have formed part of a 'lamp chimney' or possibly a brasier or burner, while domestic functions such as oven or fire guard cannot be discounted.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)		<i>December 2013</i>	
Previous work (Y/N/?)		<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?) <i>TBC</i>
P. number		<i>5571</i>	Site code <i>AS 1657</i>
Type of project		<i>Archaeological Evaluation</i>	
Site status		<i>-</i>	
Current land use		<i>Redundant care home</i>	
Planned development		<i>Residential development.</i>	
Main features (+dates)		<i>Ditches, pits, gully</i>	
Significant finds (+dates)		<i>Roman (early – mid 2nd century) pottery and CBM including an unusual handle</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>0.60ha</i>	
NGR		<i>TF 22304 02533</i>	
Height AOD (max/ min)		<i>c.10 m 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>The Croft, Walsingham Way, Eye, Peterborough. An Archaeological Evaluation.</i>	
Authors		<i>Laszlo Lichtenstein</i>	
Report no.		<i>4481</i>	
Date (of report)		<i>December 2013</i>	

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In December 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at The Croft, Walsingham Way, Eye, Peterborough (NGR TF 22304 02533). The evaluation was commissioned by Lodge Park Ltd. It was required in compliance with a condition attached to planning approval for the construction of x14 dwellings (Planning Ref.13/01165/FUL), and based on the advice of Peterborough City Council Archaeological Service.

No archaeological remains are known on the site, but evidence for prehistoric activity has been recorded in the general area, and the site is a large plot that has grassed areas that have likely been subject to little previous ground disturbance.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In December 2013 Archaeological Solutions (AS) undertook an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at The Croft, Walsingham Way, Eye, Peterborough (NGR TF 22304 02533; Figs.1-2). The evaluation was commissioned by Lodge Park Ltd. It was required in compliance with a condition attached to planning approval for the construction of x14 dwellings (Planning Ref.13/01165/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 4 December 2013), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 6 December 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 aims of the archaeological evaluation were to:

- gain information about the heritage assets within the proposed development areas;
- Provide information regarding the date, character, extent, integrity and degree of preservation of the identified heritage assets;
- Inform a strategy for the recording, preservation and/or management of the identified assets;
- Mitigate potential threats;
- Inform proposals for further investigations (namely, targeted area excavations) with the ongoing programme of research;
- Define the sequence and character of activity at the site, as reflected by the excavated remains; and
- Interpret the archaeology of the site within its local, regional and national archaeological context.

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 It is proposed construct a new residential development of 14 dwellings on the site, following demolition of existing structures associated with the redundant care home (Fig. 9). The Croft lies on the south western side of Walsingham Way in the village of Eye (Fig.1). It extends to some 0.6ha. It contains the care home and outbuildings, with grassed areas to the front and rear (Fig.2). The site lies on Oxford Clay deposits.

3 THE EVIDENCE

3.1 Topography, Geology and Soils

3.1.1 Eye is first recorded in the 10th century As *Ege* and its name indicates its topography 'island or dry ground in the marsh' (Mills 1991). The local soils are of the Shabington association described as deep fine loamy soils, sometimes over sandy soils, variably affected by ground water. Lister Geotechnical Consultants described the site as Topsoil and localised Made Ground down to a depth of 0.25m to 1.1m. Below this were Localised Head deposits above Superficial Deposits with lenses of water bearing sand and gravel (River terrace drift) to a depth of 1.5-2m. The underlying geology is Oxford Clay.

3.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

3.2.1 There is evidence that people have been in the area surrounding Eye since the Mesolithic. A casual find of a Mesolithic flint scraper was made approximately 500m to the north-east of the proposed development site (PHER 51181), and a Neolithic axe head and other artifacts have been found to the south of the village. The nationally important Bronze Age site of Flag Fen is less than 4km to the south. Possible bronze spearheads and axes were found in Eye, in the 18th century, which may have come from a location 330m south of the site (PHER 50253). Three Bronze Age barrows are located at Tanholt Farm, just to the south of Eye. An archaeological assessment 380m to the north-east on land north of High Street identified three prehistoric pits, a ditch and several modern features in the southern half of the site. The lower, northern end, proved to be waterlogged (PHER 10702).

3.2.2 A middle Iron Age round house and a probable associated paddock was excavated on Crowland Road to the north of Eye showing that small scale farming was taking place (www.eyepeterborough.co.uk/history). Approximately 190m to the west

of the site is the Car Dyke, which is a canal running for 85 miles between Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire, built by the Romans in the second century AD. It may have begun as a large drainage ditch but was probably also used for transport of goods and as a means of communication (www.eyepeterborough.co.uk/history). An excavation 160m to the south of the site found only modern field drains and a few ditches, one of which contained two small residual sherds of late Iron Age or Romano-British pottery. A single posthole and gully remained undated (PHER 50660).

3.2.3 An archaeological evaluation 220m to the north-north-west found no features of archaeological significance, and the paucity of archaeological deposits suggested a peripheral location away from settlements or intensive land use during the prehistoric and Romano-British periods. However, there was a high degree of truncation associated with landscaping and previous buildings on the site (PHER 52191). An archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to 82 High Street, Eye 190m to the north-east of the site, identified a possible back-filled pond pre-dating 1899. A small quantity of pottery was recovered, mainly from the back filled pond, dating from c.900 through to the late 19th century. The earliest fragment was a single sherd of Stamford Ware c. AD 900 – 1200 (PHER 51180). An archaeological evaluation carried out 500m to the north-east of the site revealed two undated shallow ditches; no other archaeological features were located, although a late 19th to early 20th century rubbish dump was also revealed. The infilling of the two ditches may represent a change in ownership of the land and the subsequent realignment of the boundaries (PHER 51181).

3.2.4 A Primitive Methodist Chapel built before 1857 stood 250m to the north-east which has since been demolished (CHER 53731). Close by was a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel built in 1851, which is now a residential dwelling (CHER 53730). There are no cropmarks within 500m of the site. The historic OS maps show that between 1886 and 1959 the site lay in open fields to the south of Eye with no significant changes in that period (Figs. 3 - 6). The site was not developed until the 1960s with the construction of the Croft Care Home.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The brief required a c.5% sample of the site to be subject to trial trenching, focussing on the areas of proposed new build in the parts of the site believed to have been least truncated by the previous care home development. Three trenches each 30m x 2m were excavated (Fig.2).

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 & 7)

Sample Section 1A 0.00 = 4.30m AOD		
0.00 – 0.51m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark brown, firm, silty clay with occasional rootlets
0.51m+	L1002	Natural. Mid orange brown, firm, silty clay with occasional flint.

Sample Section 1B 0.00 = 4.58m AOD		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.35 - 0.56m	L1001	Subsoil. Dark orange brown, firm, silty clay with occasional small flint and gravel.
0.56m+	L1002	Natural. As above.

Sample Section 1C 0.00 = 4.46m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.30 - 0.42m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.42m+	L1002	Natural. As above.

Description: Trench 1 contained undated ?Ditch Terminus F1007.

?Ditch Terminus F1007 was recorded (1m+ x 0.85m x 0.12m). It had shallow sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1008, was a light yellowish grey, firm, clay. It contained no finds.

Trench 2 (Figs.2 & 7)

Sample Section 2A 0.00 = 3.84m AOD		
0.00 – 0.53m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.53m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Sample Section 2B 0.00 = 3.81m AOD		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.38 - 0.54m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.54m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 2 contained Gully F1009, Ditch F1003 and Pit F1005. The latter contained no finds. F1003 and F1009 contained Roman (early – mid 2nd century) pottery.

Gully F1009 was linear in plan (2m x 0.41m x 0.13m), orientated NW/SE. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1010, was a dark greyish brown, firm, silty clay. It contained Roman (early-mid 2nd century) pottery (98g).

Ditch F1003 was linear in plan (2m+ x 1.15m x 0.43m), orientated N/S. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1004, was a mid brown, firm, silty clay with occasional small flint. It contained Roman (early-mid 2nd century) pottery (9g) and animal bone (312g).

Pit F1005 was subcircular in plan (0.80m x 0.70m x 0.20m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1006, was a mid brown, firm, silty clay. It contained no finds.

Trench 3 (Figs.2 & 8)

Sample Section 3A 0.00 = 5.36m AOD		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.35 - 0.57m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.57m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Sample Section 3B 0.00 = 5.37m AOD		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.27 - 0.48m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.48m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Sample Section 3C 0.00 = 5.79m AOD		
0.00 – 0.48m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.48 – 0.73m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.73m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Sample Section 3D 0.00 = 5.12m AOD		
0.00 – 0.39m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.39 - 0.71m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.71 – 0.92m	L1022	Dark reddish grey, firm, silty clay with CBM
0.92m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 3 contained Ditches F1011, F1013, F1015 and F1017, and Pit F1020. Ditches F1011, F1015 and F1017 contained Roman CBM. The other features were undated

Ditch F1011 was linear in plan (1.92m+ x 0.80m x 0.24m), orientated E/W. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1012, was a dark bluish grey, firm, silty clay with occasional flint. It contained Roman CBM (161g)

Ditch F1013 was linear in plan (20m+ x 1.70m x 0.20m), orientated N/S. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1014, was a dark grey, firm, silty clay with occasional flint. It contained animal bone (103g). Ditch F1013 cut Ditch F1015.

Ditch F1015 was linear in plan (1.80m+ x 0.70m x 0.18m), orientated N/S. It had irregular sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1016, was a dark brown, firm, silty clay with occasional flint. It contained Roman CBM (494g) and animal bone (886g). Ditch F1015 was cut by Ditch F1013. Unlike the latter Ditch was not traced in further sections of Trench 3.

Ditch F1017 was linear in plan (1.80m+ x 5.10m x 0.30m+), orientated N/S. It had moderately sloping sides and its base was unexcavated. Its fill, L1018, was a dark grey brown, firm, silty clay with occasional flint. It contained Roman CBM (2363g) and animal bone (1070g).

Pit F1020 was subcircular in plan (0.48m+ x 0.80m x 0.31m). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1021, was a dark brown, firm, silty clay. It contained no finds.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

6.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds during the evaluation excepting a high water table which inhibited the excavation of Ditch F1017 in Trench 3.

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 Uppermost was Topsoil L1000, a dark brown, firm, silty clay with occasional rootlets (c.0.40m thick). Topsoil L1000 overlay Subsoil

L1001, a dark orange brown, firm, silty clay with occasional small flint and gravel. The subsoil overlay the natural, L1002, a mid orange brown, firm, silty clay with occasional flint (0.42 – 0.73m below the present day ground surface).

7.2 The trenches were located to avoid areas of previous ground disturbance and this aim was achieved as the stratigraphy was present in the majority of sample sections and little modern disturbance was recorded. The subsoil was absent from only Sample Sections 1A and 2A. Sample Section 3D in the south-eastern corner of the site recorded an additional layer below the subsoil and above the natural, L1022, a dark reddish grey, firm, silty clay with CBM

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot Date
1	F1007	?Ditch Terminus	Undated
2	F1003	Ditch	Roman (early – mid 2 nd century
	F1005	Pit	Undated
	F1009	Gully	Roman (early – mid 2 nd century)
3	F1011	Ditch	Roman
	F1013	Ditch	Undated
	F1015	Ditch	Roman
	F1017	Ditch	Roman
	F1020	Pit	Undated

8.2 Archaeological features were found in each trench. A simple count of the features would suggest a greater density in Trench 3 but the trench was larger and it may be suggested that features occur throughout the site perhaps with a greater density towards the eastern half. That said, the feature in Trench 1 (F1007) was undated, and the dated (Roman) features were only recorded in Trenches 2 and 3.

8.3 The features are principally linear ditches (six in number: F1007 (Tr.1), F1003 (Tr.2), F1011, F1013, F1015 and F1017 (Tr.3)). Two pits (F1005 (Tr.2) and F1020 (Tr.3)) and a gully (F1009 (Tr.2)) were also recorded.

8.4 The features consistently contained Roman material, either early – mid 2nd century pottery (F1003 and F1009 (both in Tr.2)) or CBM (F1011, F1015 and F1017 (all in Tr.3)). In addition to the pottery and CBM, animal bone was recovered (Animal Bone report below). Ditch F1017 (Trench 3) contained an unusual decorated handle (CBM report below). It may have formed part of a 'lamp chimney' or possibly a brasier or burner, while domestic functions such as oven or fire guard cannot be discounted.

8.5 The site is located in an area with the potential for archaeological activity, and parts of the site are undisturbed. No archaeological remains were known on the site, but evidence for prehistoric activity has been recorded in the general area. In the event Roman (early – mid 2nd century) features were recorded in the southern and eastern sectors of the site.

8.6 The most substantial Roman archaeology, locally, and approximately 190m to the west of the site is the Car Dyke, which is a canal running for 85 miles between Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire, built by the Romans in the second century AD. It may have begun as a large drainage ditch but was probably also used for transport of goods and as a means of communication.

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

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

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WEB SITE

www.eyepeterborough.co.uk/history

APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

AS1657, The Croft, Eye, Peterborough

Concordance of finds by
feature

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
1003	1004		2	Fill of Ditch	Early-Mid 2nd C AD	(2) 9g		312	
1009	1010		2	Fill of Gully	Early-Mid 2nd C AD	(2) 98g			
1011	1012		3	Fill of Ditch	Roman		161		
1013	1014	A	3	Fill of Ditch				103	
1015	1016		3	Fill of Ditch	Roman		494	886	
1017	1018		3	Fill of Ditch	Roman		2363	1070	

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery

Andrew Peachey MIfA

The trial trench evaluation recovered four sherds (107g) of Roman pottery from Ditch F1003 and Gully F1009 that are consistent with a date in the early to mid 2nd century AD.

Ditch F1003 (L1004) contained two sherds (9g) of Verulamium region white ware (Seeley & Drummond-Murray 2005, 85), although closely comparable fabrics were also produced at Godmanchester (Evans 2003, 209: fabric P04.2), probably by migrant potters from Verulamium. The two sherds in this fabric would have formed part of a ring-necked flagon (Seeley & Drummond-Murray, 88: P14/P16), probably produced between c.AD100-140. Gully F1009 (L1010) also contained body two sherds (98g) of a Romanising, black-surfaced grey ware with inclusions of coarse sand, grog and shell that are consistent with locally-produced coarse ware from the same period.

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Evans, C.J. 2003 'Romano-British Pottery' in Jones, A. (ed) in *Settlement, Burial and Industry in Roman Godmanchester Excavations in the extra-mural area: The Parks 1998, London Road 1997–8, and other investigations*, British Archaeological Reports British Series 346.

Seeley, F. & Drummond-Murray, J. 2005 *Roman Pottery Production in the Walbrook Valley: Excavations at 20-28 Moorgate, City of London, 1998-2000*. MoLAS Monograph 25.

The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey MIfA

The trial trench evaluation recovered a total of 14 fragments (5808g) of Roman CBM in a relatively well-preserved condition. The bulk of the CBM: 11 fragments (5158g), including a 'handle' of intrinsic interest was contained in Ditch F1017 (L1018), with very sparse fragments also contained in Ditches F1011 (L1012) and F1015 (L1016).

The CBM occurred in a single fabric type, probably produced in the local area. The fabric has orange surfaces fading to red -orange margins and core, sometime contrasting with a thin mid grey core. Inclusions comprise common sub-rounded quartz (0.15-0.25mm), occasional rounded red/white clay pellets (0.5-1.25mm), sub-rounded chalk and shell (0.25-0.5mm). The fabric is very hard-fired with a slightly abrasive feel.

The CBM in Ditch F1017 (L1018) includes cross-joining fragments of imbrex roof tile and bessalis brick. The imbrex (seven fragments, 2393g) roof tile has

a length of 330mm and thickness of 15mm, while the bessalis (three fragments, 2268g) is 40mm thick. However it is a single 'handle' (497g), manufactured in the same fabric as the other tile and brick that is of intrinsic interest. The handle is 200mm long and 45mm wide, with a relatively shallow profile and elliptical section except for the exterior which has been smoothed flat, presumably to allow for the effective impression of the stamps that decorate it (Plate 1). A single stamp remains extant on the handle, with traces of three more along its length, each identical and aligned in the same direction. The stamp is a leaf design, with close similarities to acanthus leaves that are familiar motifs on mould-decorated pottery (i.e. samian ware) as well as on carved stone. It is unclear what type of tile or vessel this handle belonged too, but it may have formed part of a 'lamp chimney' (Darling 1999, 122) or possibly a brasier or burner, while domestic functions such as oven or fire guard cannot be discounted. The remaining CBM includes small fragments of bessalis brick in Ditch F1015 (L1016), and the flanges of tegula in Ditch F1011 (L1012).

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The Animal Bone

Dr Julia E.M. Cussans

A total of 35 animal bones were recovered from trial trench evaluation. All of the bones came from ditch deposits and are listed in Table 1, below. Bone preservation was mostly rated as excellent with very few signs of abrasion, a small number of fresh breakages and only two incidences of gnawing. In the majority of cases bone surfaces had a fresh appearance. All of the bones belonged to large mammalian species. Two species were positively identified, cattle, represented by six bones/bone fragments, and horse, represented by 10 bones/bone fragments. The remaining fragments could only be identified as large (cattle or horse sized) mammal, all of which are likely to belong to either horse or cattle. Bone numbers may be slightly inflated in some cases due to fragmentation of more fragile bones. This is particularly the case for L1004 where horse is represented by a number of skull fragments, all likely from the same skull, in addition all of the large mammal bones from this context are also skull fragments, also likely deriving from the same skull.

A small number of the cattle bones had butchery marks and two large mammal vertebrae (L1014A and L1016) had been chopped through with a large bladed implement. A small number of ageable (unfused) epiphyses were present for cattle as were a small number of measurable bones. Two articulating cattle tarsal bones were present in L1016. No pathologies or other points of interest were noted in this small but well preserved assemblage.

Feature	Description	Context	Segment	Preservation	Cattle	Horse	Large Mammal	Total
1003	Ditch	1004		Good	1	6	16	23
1013	Ditch	1014	A	Excellent			1	1
1015	Ditch	1016		Excellent	5	1	1	7
1017	Ditch	1018		Excellent		3	1	4
Total					6	10	19	35

Table 1. Bone quantities by context.

The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

Two bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken during trial excavations at The Croft, Eye, Peterborough. The samples date to the early-mid 2nd century AD and this report presents the results from the assessment of the bulk sample light fractions and discusses the significance and potential of any material recovered.

Methods

Samples were processed at the Archaeological Solutions Ltd facilities in Bury St. Edmunds using a Siraf style flotation tank. The light fractions were washed onto a mesh of 500µm (microns), while the heavy fractions were sieved to 500µm. The dried light fractions were scanned under a low power stereomicroscope (x10-x30 magnification). Botanical and molluscan remains were identified and recorded using a semi-quantitative scale (X = present; XX = common; XXX = abundant). Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

Results

The assessment data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 2.

Plant macrofossils

No carbonised plant macrofossils were present in the bulk sample light fractions.

Terrestrial molluscs

A small number of mollusc shells were present in sample 2 of L1004. The taxa present (*Anisus* sp., *Carychium* sp. and *Vallonia* sp.) indicate relatively wet conditions on the site. However, the assemblage is too small for detailed analysis.

Contaminants

A small number of modern rootlets were present in the samples, which are unlikely to have caused significant disturbance of the deposits.

Conclusions and statement of potential

The absence of plant macrofossils in the two samples from The Croft indicate that the sampled features were receiving little debris from day-to-day human activity and the present samples have no potential for further analysis. Although further excavation and sampling could produce a more extensive assemblage of carbonised plant remains, the present data suggest that the potential of the site is limited.

Site code	Sample number	Context	Feature	Feature type	Spot date	Volume (litres)	Flot (ml)	% processed	Cereals		Non-cereal taxa		Charcoal		Molluscs		Contaminants		
									Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Charcoal>2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds
P5517	1	1010	1009	Gully	Early-mid 2nd C	40	10	50%									X		
P5517	2	1004	1003	Ditch	Early-mid 2nd C	40	20	50%								XX	X		

Table 2: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from The Croft, Eye, Peterborough.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
Post excavation shot of Trench 1



2
Post excavation shot of Trench 2



3
F1003 looking north



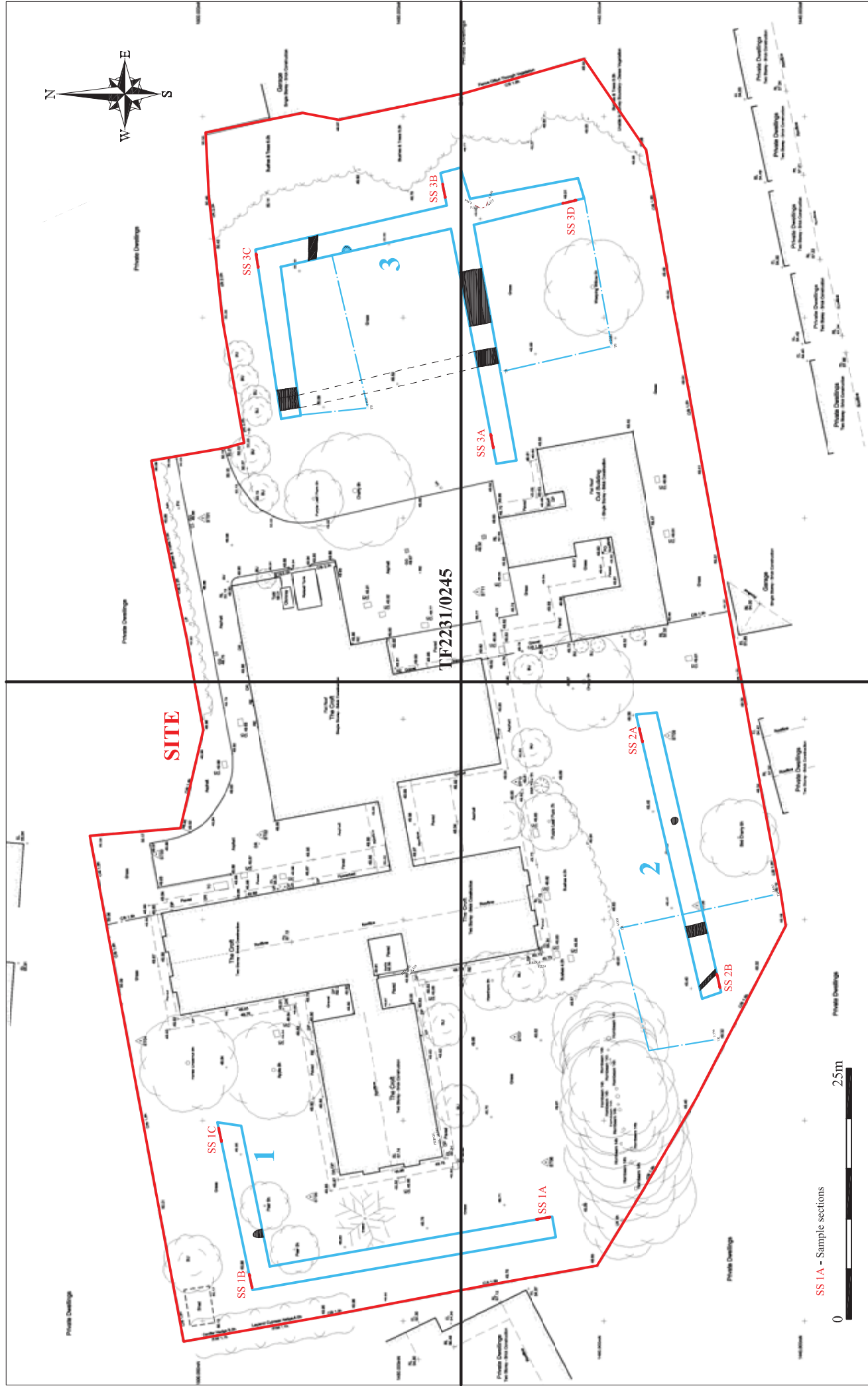
4
F1005 looking south



5
Sample section 3A



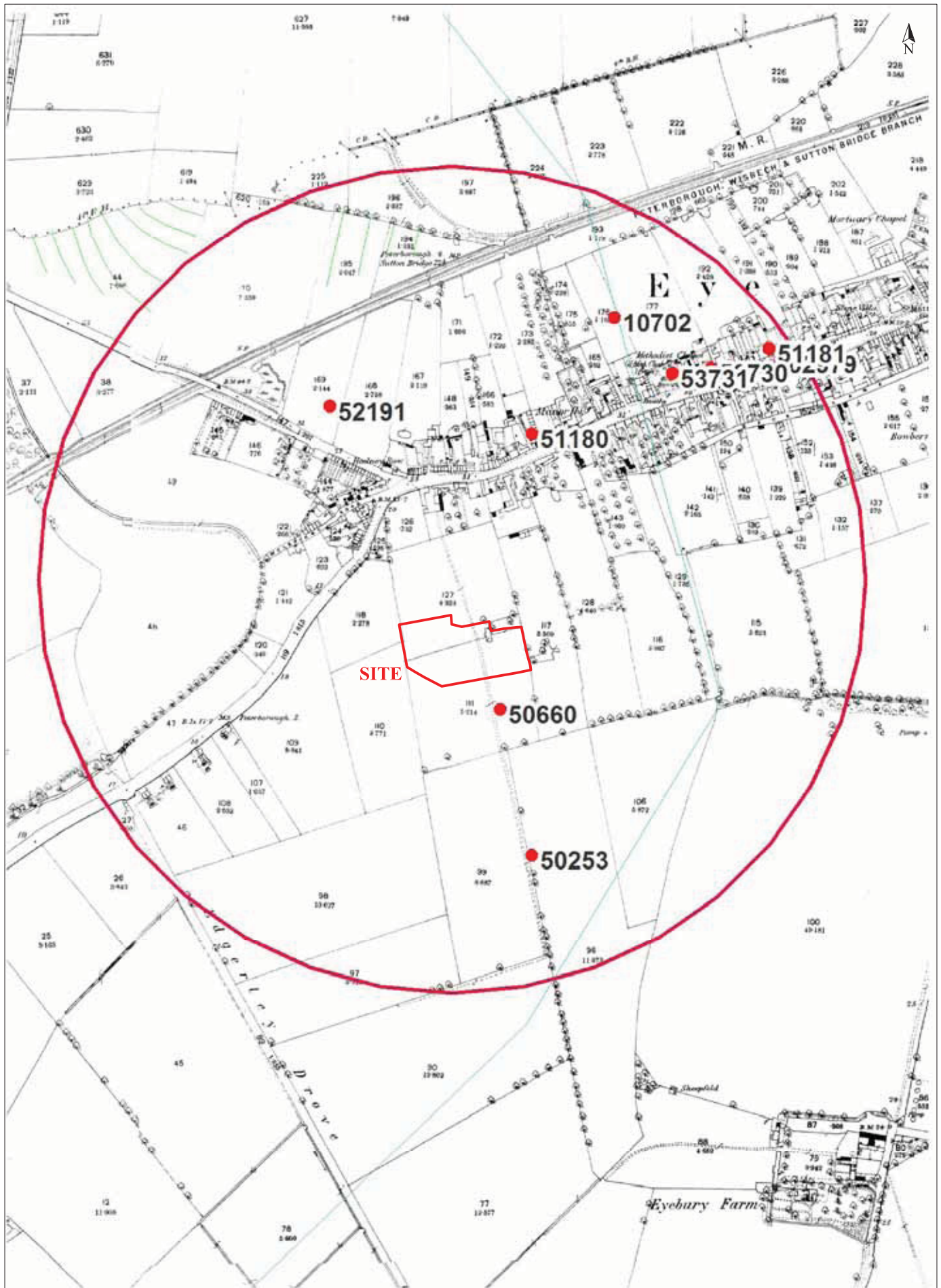
6
Sample section 3B



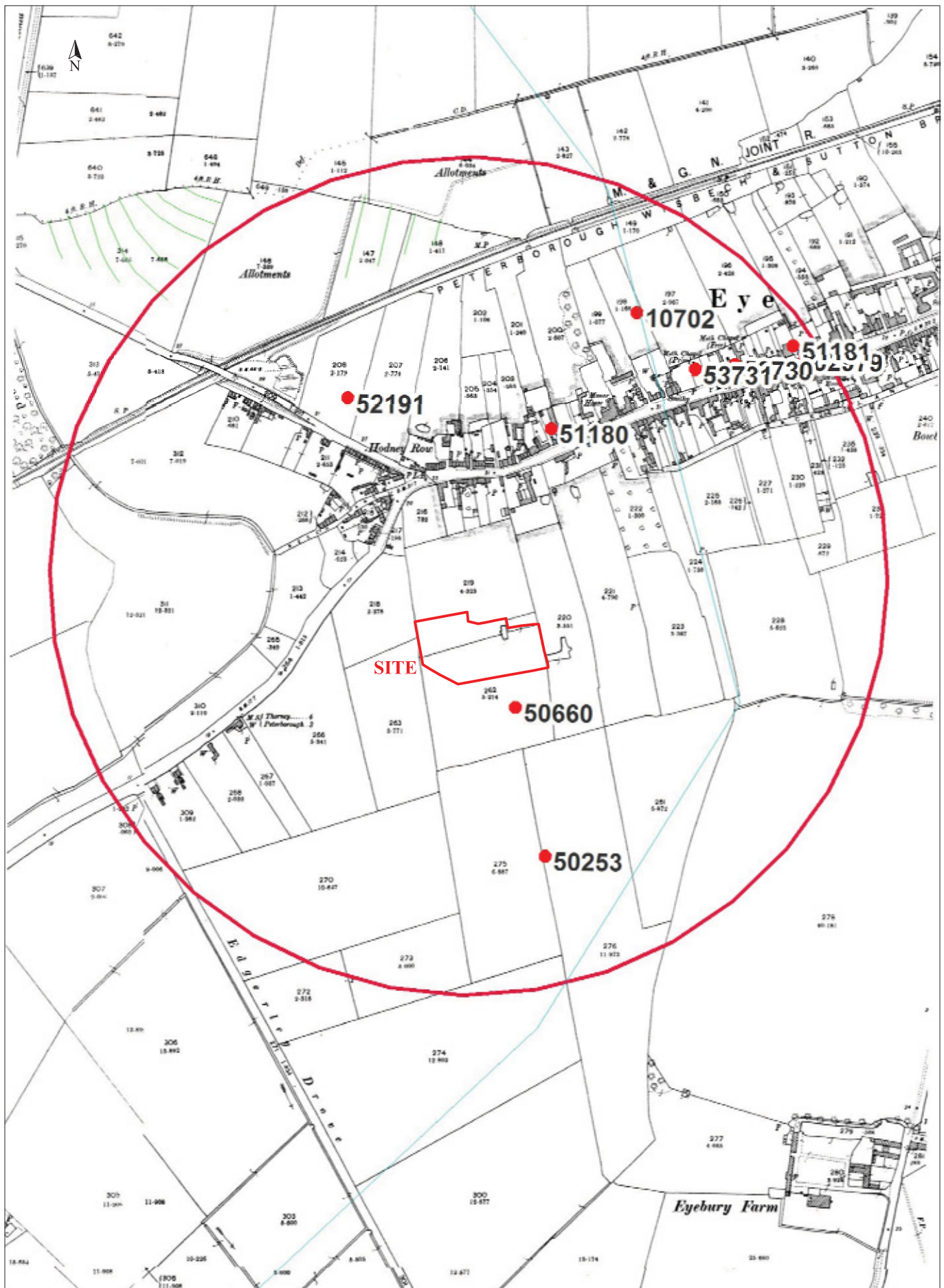
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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

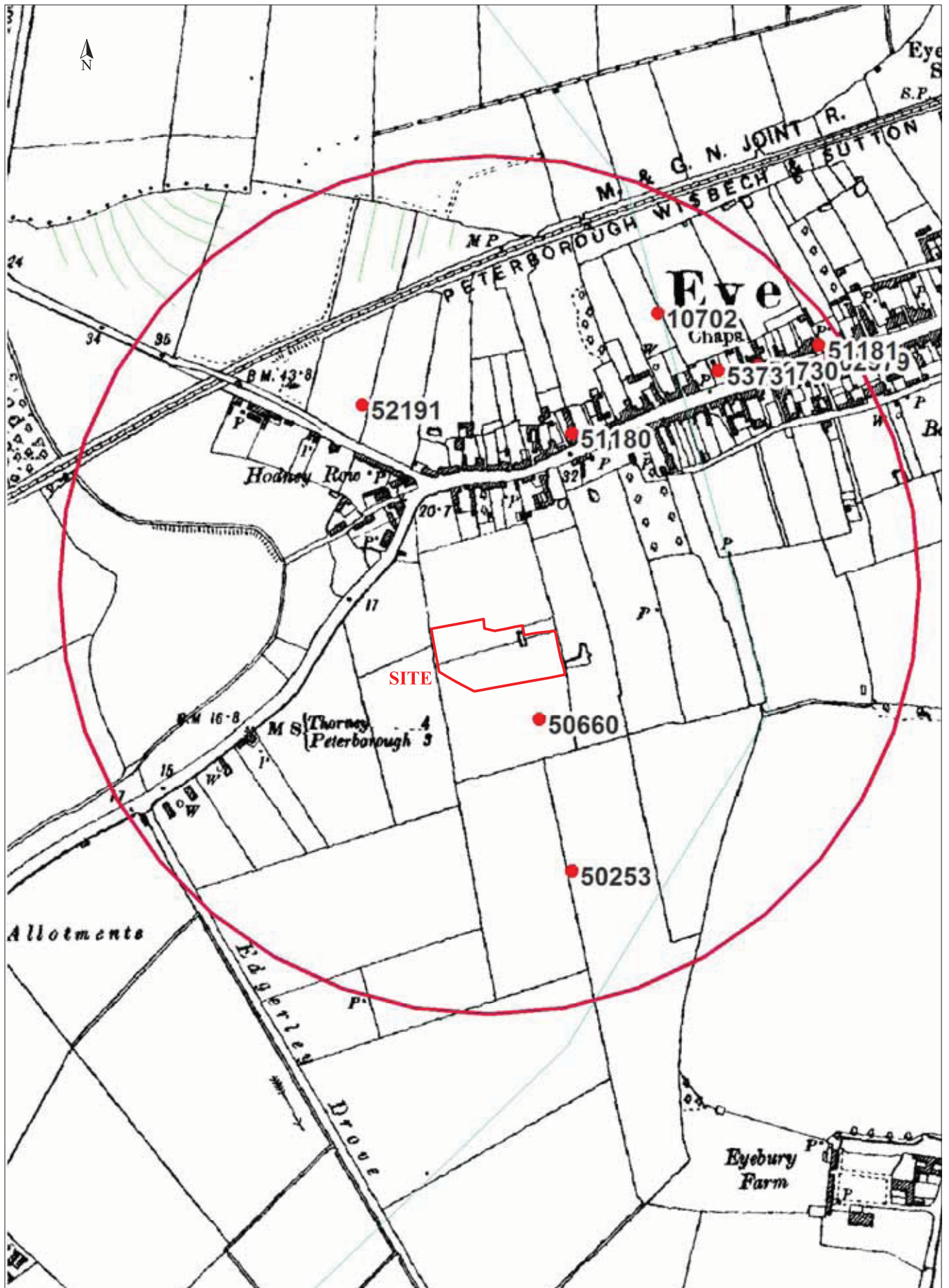
Scale 1:500 at A4



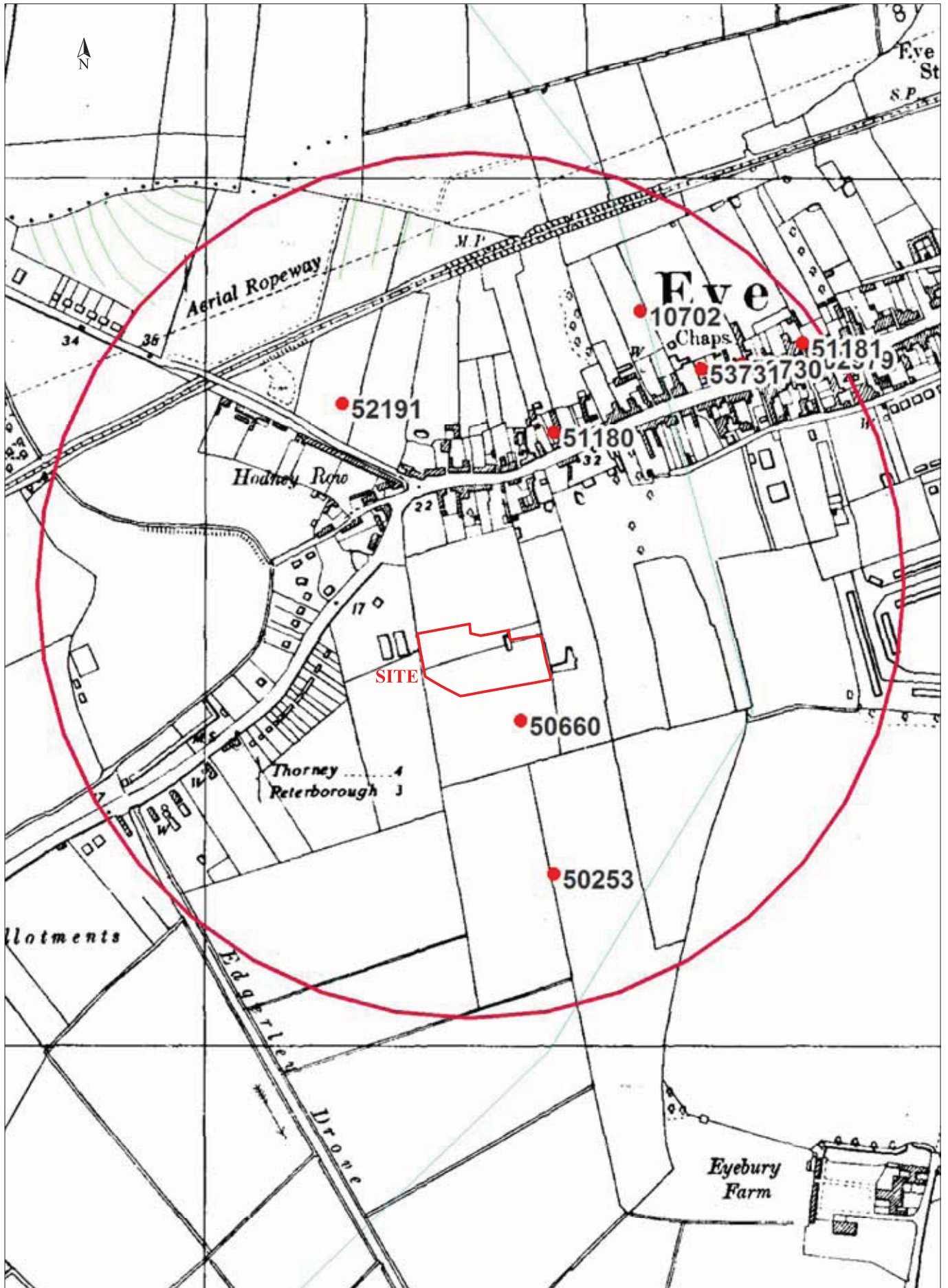
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 Fig. 3 OS map, 1886-9
 Scale 1:5000 at A4



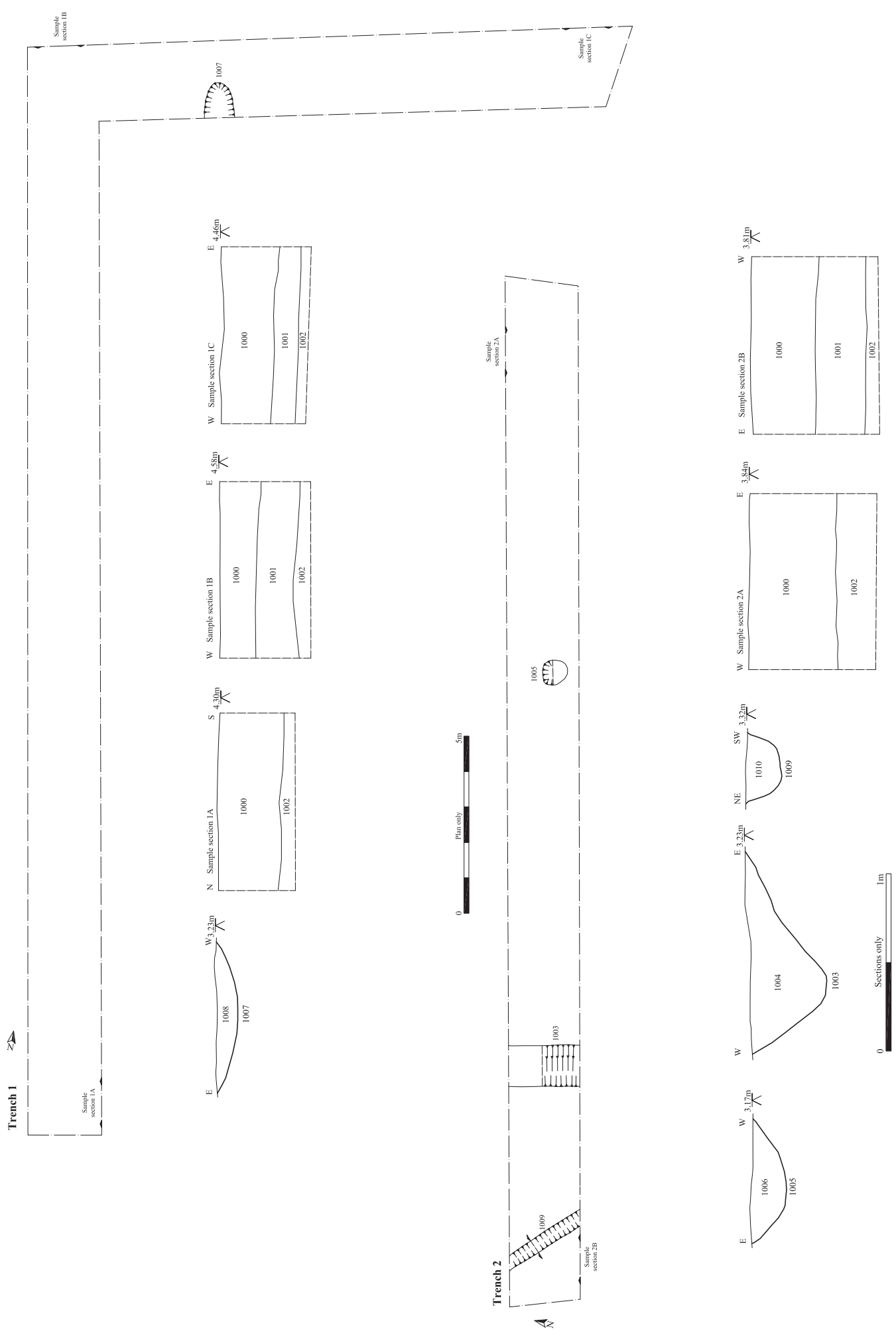
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 Fig. 4 OS map, 1900-1
 Scale 1:5000 at A4



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 Fig. 5 OS map, 1926
 Scale 1:5000 at A4



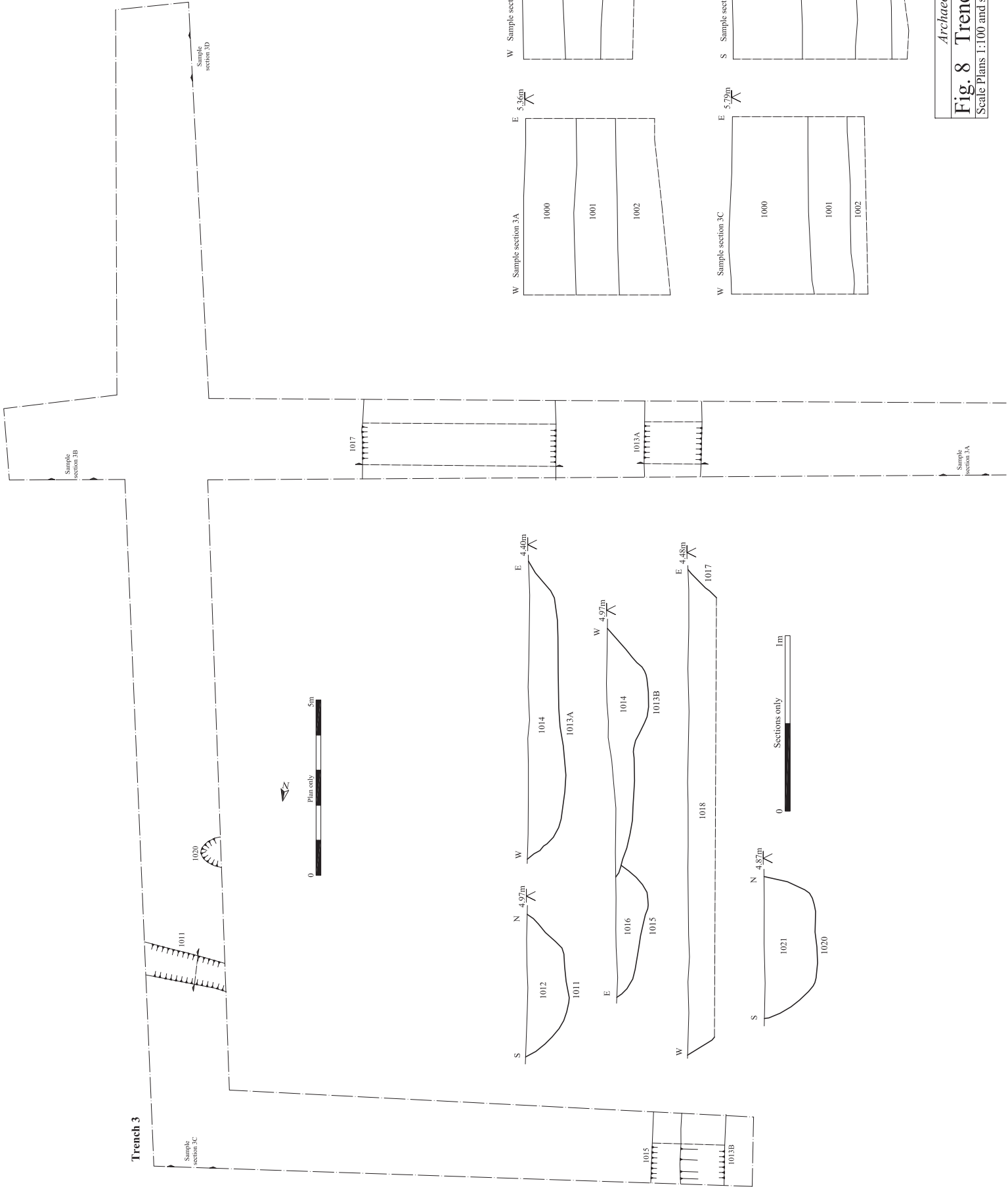
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 Fig. 6 OS map, 1958-9
 Scale 1:5000 at A4



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Fig. 7 Trench plans and sections

Scale Plans 1:100 and sections 1:20 at A3



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Fig. 8 Trench plans and sections

Scale Plans 1:100 and sections 1:20 at A3

