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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**PRIORY FARM, HIGH STREET, WIDFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE  
SG12 8RA**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION REPORT**

HER Ref. 128/13

Authors:	Sam Egan (Fieldwork and report) Kate Higgs (Research) Antony RR Mustchin (Editor)
NGR: TL 4204 1583	Report No: 4475
District: East Herts	Site Code: AS1614
Approved: Claire Halpin MfA	Project No: 5358
Signed:	Date: 16 December 2013 Revised: 05/02/2014

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**OASIS SUMMARY**

<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>		<i>Priory Farm, High Street, Widford, Ware, Hertfordshire SG12 8RA</i>	
<p><i>In December 2013 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological excavation on land at Priory Farm, High Street, Widford, Ware, Hertfordshire SG12 8RA (NGR TL 4204 1583). The excavation was commissioned by Nickel Holdings and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 5No dwelling houses with garages, and change the use of a workshop to form a single dwelling, demolish a small store building and agricultural barns, alter landscaping and create new access (Planning Ref. 3/12/1325/FP). The excavation was required by East Herts District Council based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit.</i></p> <p><i>An earlier archaeological evaluation revealed medieval (late 12<sup>th</sup> – mid 14<sup>th</sup> century) features. The latter (Ditch F1006 and Pit F1011) were both recorded in Trench 2 which was located in the centre of the site. The excavation in the area of Plots 1-3 revealed Ditch F2010 (= Ditch F1006 (Trench 2) but it contained no finds. The medieval sherds recovered from Ditch F1006 and Pit F1011 during the evaluation are few (weighing 5-6g and 45g respectively) and therefore this dating evidence is tentative. Ditches F2010 and F2012, recorded during the excavation, were parallel and may have been broadly contemporary. F2012 contained no finds. Undated Ditch F1008 was not observed during the excavation (possibly as a result of over-machining in this part of the site). It was broadly parallel with Ditches F1006 (=F2010) and F2012 and again may have been broadly contemporary.</i></p> <p><i>The archaeological evaluation recorded a post-medieval (17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century) posthole (F1004) in the south-eastern sector of the site (Tr.3). The excavation recorded Postholes F2006 and F2008 in the northern sector of the plots, and an abraded post-medieval/modern (18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century) brick fragment was found in F2006. Postholes F2006 and F2008 were adjacent and may have been broadly contemporary.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)		29/11/2013 & 02/12/2013 – 03/12/2013	
Previous work (Y/N/?)		N	Future work (Y/N/?)
P. number		5078	Site code
			AS 1614
Type of project		Archaeological Excavation	
Site status		Within Area of Archaeological Significance No.153	
Current land use		Agricultural buildings and farmyard	
Planned development		Residential	
Main features (+dates)		Ditches, postholes	
Significant finds (+dates)		Medieval pottery, post-medieval/ modern (18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> century) brick fragment	
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish		Hertfordshire	East Herts
			Widford
HER/ SMR for area		Hertfordshire HER	
Post code (if known)		SG12 8RA	
Area of site		c. 910m <sup>2</sup>	
NGR		TL 4204 1583	
Height AOD (min/max)		c.79m AOD	
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by		HCC HEU	
Project supervisor/s (PO)		Sam Egan	
Funded by		Nickel Holdings	
Full title		Priory Farm, High Street, Widford, Ware, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Excavation Report	
Authors		Egan, S. and Higgs, K.	
Report no.		4475	
Date (of report)		December 2013 (Revised: 05/02/2014)	

## **PRIORY FARM, HIGH STREET, WIDFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE SG12 8RA**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION REPORT**

#### **SUMMARY**

*In December 2013 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological excavation on land at Priory Farm, High Street, Widford, Ware, Hertfordshire SG12 8RA (NGR TL 4204 1583). The excavation was commissioned by Nickel Holdings and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 5 No dwelling houses with garages, and change the use of a workshop to form a single dwelling, demolish a small store building and agricultural barns, alter landscaping and create new access (Planning Ref. 3/12/1325/FP). The excavation was required by East Herts District Council based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit.*

*The site lies within the historic medieval and post-medieval core of Widford village, on the eastern side of the south end of the High Street/ Hunsdon Road. It comprises the yard and agricultural buildings of Priory Farm. Widford has medieval origins, with a medieval parish church and manorial centre, Widfordbury, adjacent. The site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance 153, which designates the historic core of the village on the Local Plan.*

*The name of the farm suggests an association with the lands of Bermondsey Abbey, the holder of the Widford manor from the early 12<sup>th</sup> century until dissolution in 1544. There may likely have been a farmstead on or close to the site since medieval times. The present listed farmhouse is described as late 17<sup>th</sup>/ early 18<sup>th</sup> century in date, incorporating an earlier structure Historic Environment Record HER 17564).*

*An earlier archaeological evaluation revealed medieval (late 12<sup>th</sup> – mid 14<sup>th</sup> century) features. The latter (Ditch F1006 and Pit F1011) were both recorded in Trench 2 which was located in the centre of the site. The excavation in the area of Plots 1-3 revealed Ditch F2010 (= Ditch F1006 (Trench 2) but it contained no finds. The medieval sherds recovered from Ditch F1006 and Pit F1011 during the evaluation are few (weighing 5-6g and 45g respectively) and therefore this dating evidence is tentative. Ditches F2010 and F2012, recorded during the excavation, were parallel and may have been broadly contemporary. F2012 contained no finds. Undated Ditch F1008 was not observed during the excavation (possibly as a result of over-machining in this part of the site). It was broadly parallel with Ditches F1006 (=F2010) and F2012 and again may be been broadly contemporary.*

*The archaeological evaluation recorded a post-medieval (17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century) posthole (F1004) in the south-eastern sector of the site (Tr.3). The excavation recorded Postholes F2006 and F2008 in the northern sector of the plots, and an abraded post-medieval/ modern (18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century) brick fragment was found in F2006. Postholes F2006 and F2008 were adjacent and may have been broadly contemporary.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In December 2013 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological excavation on land at Priory Farm, High Street, Widford, Ware, Hertfordshire SG12 8RA (NGR TL 4204 1583; Figs. 1 & 2). The work was commissioned by Nickel Holdings and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of 5No dwelling houses with garages, and change the use of a workshop to form a single dwelling, demolish a small store building and agricultural barns, alter landscaping and create new access (Planning Ref. 3/12/1325/FP). The excavation was required by East Herts District Council based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit.

1.2 An earlier archaeological evaluation revealed medieval (late 12<sup>th</sup> – mid 14<sup>th</sup> century) and post-medieval (17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century) features (Smith & Higgs 2013). The medieval features (Ditch F1011 and Pit F1006) were both recorded in Trench 2 which was located in the centre of the site. Post-medieval Posthole F1004 was recorded in the south-eastern sector of the site (Trench 3).

1.3 The excavation was carried out according to a advice issued by Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU) (Alison Tinniswood, dated 14/10/2013), and a specification by AS (dated 16/10/2013), approved by HCC HEU. It followed the procedures outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Excavation* (revised 2008). It also adhered to the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.4 The advice and specification provided for:

- The archaeological open area excavation of the footprints of Plots 1 -3

1.5 The objectives of the project were

- The investigation and recording of any surviving archaeological remains within the areas subject to development in accordance with the requirements of HCC HEU;
- The analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site in appropriate conditions;
- The provision of an adequately detailed project report that will place the project's findings in their local and regional context, having made reference to the relevant regional research agendas and through cartographic, documentary and other research; and
- 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*

1.6 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.

1.7 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 within the village and parish of Widford, which is situated within the district of East Herts and the county of Hertfordshire (Fig. 1). Widford is located c. 6km north-east of Ware and 7km to the north-west of Sawbridgeworth, whilst the village of Hunsdon lies 2km to the south. The site lies within the historic medieval and post-medieval core of Widford village, on the eastern side of the south end of the High Street/ Hunsdon Road. It also lies within Area of Archaeological Significance No. 153, which encompasses the historic core of the village on the Local Plan.

2.2 The site comprises an irregular plot of land covering an area of approximately 2,000m<sup>2</sup> (Fig. 2). It comprises the yard and agricultural buildings of Priory Farm, which stands to the immediate north and is a Grade II listed farmhouse dating to c. 1692 (IoE No. 160012; see Appendix 2, below). Also to the north of the site stands the Grade II listed and early 18<sup>th</sup> century South Barn and adjoining stables for Priory Farm (IoE No. 160014) and Grade II listed and early West Barn (IoE No. 160013). None of the standing buildings within the site are listed. It is proposed to construct five dwelling houses with garages, and change the use of a workshop to form a single dwelling, demolish a small store building and agricultural barns, alter landscaping and create new access (Planning Ref. 3/12/1325/FP).

### 3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 Widford lies in a predominantly rural location towards the eastern extent of Hertfordshire. It lies within the small, narrow valley of the River Ash, which is a tributary of the River Lea and flows on a roughly north-east to south-western alignment 600m to the north-west of the site. The surrounding relief is gently undulating and slopes noticeably down to the north-west and the river. The site lies at c. 80m AOD on land gently sloping towards the north-west.

3.2 The solid geology of the area comprises clay of the Paleocene Lambeth Group (BGS 1978). Soils on the site are those of the Ashley Association, which are described as fine loamy over clayey soils (SSEW 1983).

### 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Prehistoric activity is present within the wider Widford area, as the Hertfordshire *Victoria County History* mentions two barrows, of unknown date, on a hill in the northwest of the parish (Page 1912, 403). No prehistoric, Romano-British or Anglo-Saxon remains have been found within the vicinity of the site. The manor and settlement of Widford dates to the early medieval period (HER 2677), with two entries for *Widford* recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086.

4.2 In 1118 the manor of Widford was given by to the Prior and Convent of St. Saviour, Bermondsey, by the Earl of Leicester (Traviss-Lockwood 1883). Bermondsey Abbey retained the rights to the manor until the dissolution in the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century. Despite its medieval origin, the only other medieval findspot comprises Abbotts Farm, which is a possibly late medieval timber-framed house located 480m to the south-west of the site (HER 12180). There is also limited evidence for a 12<sup>th</sup> century church at Widford, as the current building of St John the Baptist Church contains fabric from an earlier building: most notably a chevron pattern moulding can be seen above the south door (*ibid.*).

4.3 The village of Widford incorporates a large number of post-medieval and early modern standing structures, the majority of which stand along the High Street/Hunsdon Road (Appendix 1 below). Widford also lies sandwiched to the west and east of 'ancient irregular fields', with enclosure not taking place until a late date. Undated common land is recorded at the village pump on Nether Street (HER 12543), whilst undated cropmarks of ditches and enclosures are documented to the south of Nether Street (HER 16855).

4.4 The site lies to the immediate south and within the complex of Priory Farm, which is a Grade II listed farmhouse dating to c. 1692 (IoE No. 160012; see Appendix 2, below). Also to the north of the site also stands the Grade II listed and early 18<sup>th</sup> century South Barn and adjoining stables for Priory Farm (IoE No. 160014) and Grade II listed and early West Barn (IoE No. 160013). None of the standing buildings within the site are listed. Cartographic sources dating from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards consistently depicted the site as agricultural land associated with Priory Farm to the north. It is not until the 1977 Ordnance Survey map (not depicted) that the site is shown to contain the three standing buildings present within the site.



4.5 Relatively little is known about the history of Priory Farm, other than the deeds, which are said to suggest that it dates to c. 1692 incorporating an earlier structure, of which nothing is known (HER 17564). The name of the farm suggests an association with the lands of Bermondsey Abbey, the holder of the Widford manor from the early 12<sup>th</sup> century until dissolution in 1544. There may thus possibly have been an earlier farmstead on or close to the site since the medieval period.

## 5 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

5.1 An earlier archaeological evaluation revealed medieval (late 12<sup>th</sup> – mid 14<sup>th</sup> century) and post-medieval (17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century) features (Smith & Higgs 2013). The medieval features (Pit F1011 and Ditch F1006) were both recorded in Trench 2 which was located in the centre of the site. Post-medieval Posthole F1004 was recorded in the south-eastern sector of the site (Trench 3).

## 6 METHODOLOGY

6.1 A mechanical excavator fitted with toothless ditching bucket was used to excavate the area of Plots 1 – 3, following demolition of the existing barn (Fig. 2).

6.2 Topsoil and undifferentiated overburden were removed under close archaeological supervision. All exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* record sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate.

## 7 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

*The excavation in the area of Plots 1-3 revealed undated ditches and post-medieval/modern postholes within the northern sector of the plots. A post-medieval/modern (18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century) brick fragment was found in one of the postholes.*

Postholes F2006 and F2008 were adjacent and may have been broadly contemporary. Posthole F2006 was sub-circular in plan (0.29m x 0.09m). It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L2007, was a mid greyish black, compact, clay. It contained an abraded fragment (84g) of post-medieval/modern CBM probably produced in the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Posthole F2008 was sub-circular in plan (0.31m x 0.11m). It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L2009, was mid greyish black, compact, silty clay. It contained no finds.

Ditches F2010 and F2012 were parallel and may have been broadly contemporary. Ditch Pit F2010 was linear in plan (30m+ x 0.70m x 0.17m), orientated N/ S. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L2011, was a mid greyish brown, compact, silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded stones. It contained no finds. Ditch F2012 was linear in plan (20m+ x 0.61m x 0.10m), orientated N/ S. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L2013, was a mid greyish brown, compact, silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded flint. It contained no finds.

## 8 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

## 9 DEPOSIT MODEL

9.1 The site was commonly overlain by Topsoil L2000, a dark grey brown, firm, clay silt. Below L2000, Subsoil L2001 was a mid, grey brown, compact, clay silt with frequent medium to large sub rounded gravel.

9.2 Underlying L2000 and L2001 were made ground deposits and a possible former farmyard road surface. The made ground deposits, L2003, comprised dark yellow grey, firm, clayey silt with moderate small to medium stone; L2005, comprised mid grey brown, compact, silty sand with occasional small to medium stone. The Farmyard Road Surface L2004, was a mid orange brown, compact, silty clay.

9.3 The natural geology, L2002, comprised a mid brown orange, compact, silty clay with moderate small to medium sub-angular pebbles (0.22 – 0.66m below the present day ground surface).

## 10 DISCUSSION

### *Summary of the archaeology*

10.1 The archaeological evaluation (Smith & Higgs 2013) that preceded this phase of work revealed medieval (late 12<sup>th</sup> – mid 14<sup>th</sup> century) features. The latter (Ditch F1006 and Pit F1011) were both recorded in Trench 2 which was located in the centre of the site. The excavation in the area of Plots 1-3 revealed Ditch F2010, which was identified as the same feature as F1006, but it contained no finds. The medieval sherds from Ditch F1006 and Pit F1011 were small in quantity (5g and 45g respectively) and potentially residual; this dating is, therefore, tentative.

10.2 Ditches F2010 and F2012, recorded during the excavation, ran parallel to one another and may have been broadly contemporary. F2012 contained no finds. Undated Ditch F1008, recorded during the preceding evaluation, was not observed during excavation (possibly as a result of over-machining in this part of the site) but it was aligned broadly parallel to Ditches F1006 (=F2010) and F2012 and may also have been broadly contemporary, potentially forming part of a single system of enclosure with these other features.

10.3 The earlier evaluation recorded post-medieval (17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century) Posthole F1004 in the south-east of the site (Tr.3) (Smith & Higgs 2013). During the excavation Postholes F2006 and F2008 were recorded in the northern part of the site and an abraded post-medieval/ modern (18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century) brick fragment was recovered from F2006. Postholes F2006 and F2008 were located adjacent to one another and may have been contemporary. These postholes suggest the presence of small, probably ephemeral, structures in these parts of the site.

### *Interpretation of the site: known archaeological and historical context*

10.4 Widford has medieval origins, with a medieval parish church and manorial centre, Widfordbury, adjacent to the site. Medieval and post-medieval archaeology was anticipated due to the site's position within the historic medieval and post-medieval core of Widford village, at the southern end of the High Street/ Hunsdon Road, and due to the results of the preceding evaluation (Smith & Higgs 2013). The site itself comprises the yard and agricultural buildings of Priory Farm. The name of the farm suggests an association with the lands of Bermondsey Abbey, the holder of the Widford manor from the early 12<sup>th</sup> century until dissolution in 1544. It is possible that a farmstead has existed on or close to the site since the medieval period. The present listed farmhouse is described as late 17<sup>th</sup>/ early 18<sup>th</sup> century in date, incorporating an earlier structure Historic Environment Record HER 17564).

10.5 The tentatively dated system of medieval ditches, comprising F2010 (=F1006), F2012 and F1008, might be considered to represent supportive evidence for the notion that the farm's name indicates a long-standing agricultural holding at this location. Despite the known medieval origins of Widford, little physical evidence of this period has been recorded. Despite the tentative dating of these features, they make a notable contribution to the emerging picture of medieval Widford. Thomas (2006) has demonstrated the important role small-scale development-led archaeological interventions, such as this one, have in furthering our understanding of the medieval character, layout and extent of currently occupied villages and rural settlements; Lewis (2007) has demonstrated a similar effect using small-scale research led interventions. The results of this excavation project may, therefore, contribute to a growing mosaic of evidence for medieval occupation in Widford.

10.6 The post-medieval posthole (F1004) recorded at the southern end of the site would appear to be broadly contemporary with the date of construction of the extant farmhouse and possibly relates to a comparatively short-lived ancillary structure associated with the building. The postholes present at the northern end of the site may, on the basis of the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century brick recovered from F2006, be slightly later in date but are likely to be associated with agricultural structures associated with the farmhouse. The presence of post-medieval archaeology at this site is unsurprising given the number of extant post-medieval and early modern buildings, including the current Priory Farmhouse, located in the vicinity of the site.

## **11 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

11.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Hertford Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) would like to thank Mr David Robins of Nickel Holdings for funding the project and for his assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Alison Tinniswood of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit.

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## **Web resources**

[www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk](http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk)

[www.british-history.ac.uk](http://www.british-history.ac.uk)

[www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

## **APPENDIX 1      SPECIALIST REPORT**

### **The Ceramic Building Materials**

*by Andrew Peachey*

A single abraded fragment (84g) of post-medieval CBM was contained in Posthole F2006 (L2007), comprising a small piece of 'soft red' brick, probably produced in the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

## APPENDIX 2          CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

<b>Records</b>	<b>Number</b>
Brief	N (advice)
Specification	Y
Registers	4 (Context, Drawing Sheet, Drawing, Photo, Digital Photo)
Context Sheets	13
Site drawings A1	0
Site drawings A3	3
Site drawings A4	0
Site photographs b/w	12
Site photographs colour slides	12
Digital Photographs	18

## APPENDIX 3 HER SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name and address:</b>	Priory Farm, High Street, Widford, Ware, Hertfordshire SG12 8RA
<b>County:</b> Herts	<b>District:</b> East Herts
<b>Village/Town:</b>	<b>Parish:</b> Widford
<b>Planning application reference:</b>	Planning Ref. 3/12/1325/FP
<b>Client name/address/tel:</b>	Nickel Holdings
<b>Nature of application:</b>	Residential
<b>Present land use:</b>	Agricultural buildings and farmyard
<b>Size of application area:</b> c. 2600m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> c. 910m <sup>2</sup>
<b>NGR (8 figures):</b>	TL 4204 1583
<b>Site Code:</b>	AS 1614
<b>Site director/Organization:</b>	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
<b>Type of work:</b>	Archaeological Excavation
<b>Date of work:</b>	29/11/2013 & 02/12/2013 – 03/12/2013
<b>Location of finds/Curating museum:</b>	Hertford
<b>Related SMR Nos:</b>	<b>Periods represented:</b> medieval, post-medieval and modern
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports: -</b>	Smith, L. & Higgs, K., 2013. <i>Priory Farm, High Street, Widford, Hertfordshire. An Archaeological Evaluation</i> , AS Report 4402.
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>	<p><i>In December 2013 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried an archaeological excavation on land at Priory Farm, High Street, Widford, Ware, Hertfordshire SG12 8RA (NGR TL 4204 1583).</i></p> <p><i>An earlier archaeological evaluation revealed medieval (late 12<sup>th</sup> – mid 14<sup>th</sup> century) features. The latter (Ditch F1006 and Pit F1011) were both recorded in Trench 2 which was located in the centre of the site. The excavation in the area of Plots 1-3 revealed Ditch F2010 (= Ditch F1006 (Trench 2) but it contained no finds. The medieval sherds recovered from Ditch F1006 and Pit F1011 during the evaluation are few (weighing 5-6g and 45g respectively) and therefore this dating evidence is tentative. Ditches F2010 and F2012, recorded during the excavation, were parallel and may have been broadly contemporary. F2012 contained no finds. Undated Ditch F1008 was not observed during the excavation (possibly as a result of over-machining in this part of the site). It ran broadly parallel to Ditches F1006 (=F2010) and F2012 and, again, may be been broadly contemporary.</i></p> <p><i>The archaeological evaluation recorded a post-medieval (17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century) posthole (F1004) in the south-eastern sector of the site (Tr.3). The excavation recorded Postholes F2006 and F2008 in the northern sector of the plots, and an abraded post-medieval/ modern (18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century) brick fragment was found in F2006. Postholes F2006 and F2008 were adjacent and may have been broadly contemporary.</i></p>
<b>Author of summary:</b> Egan, S.	<b>Date of Summary:</b> December 2013 (Revised: 05/02/2014)

## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1  
*View facing north across the site*



2  
*View facing south-east across the site*



3  
*Sample section 2, facing north*



4  
*Posthole F2008, facing east*

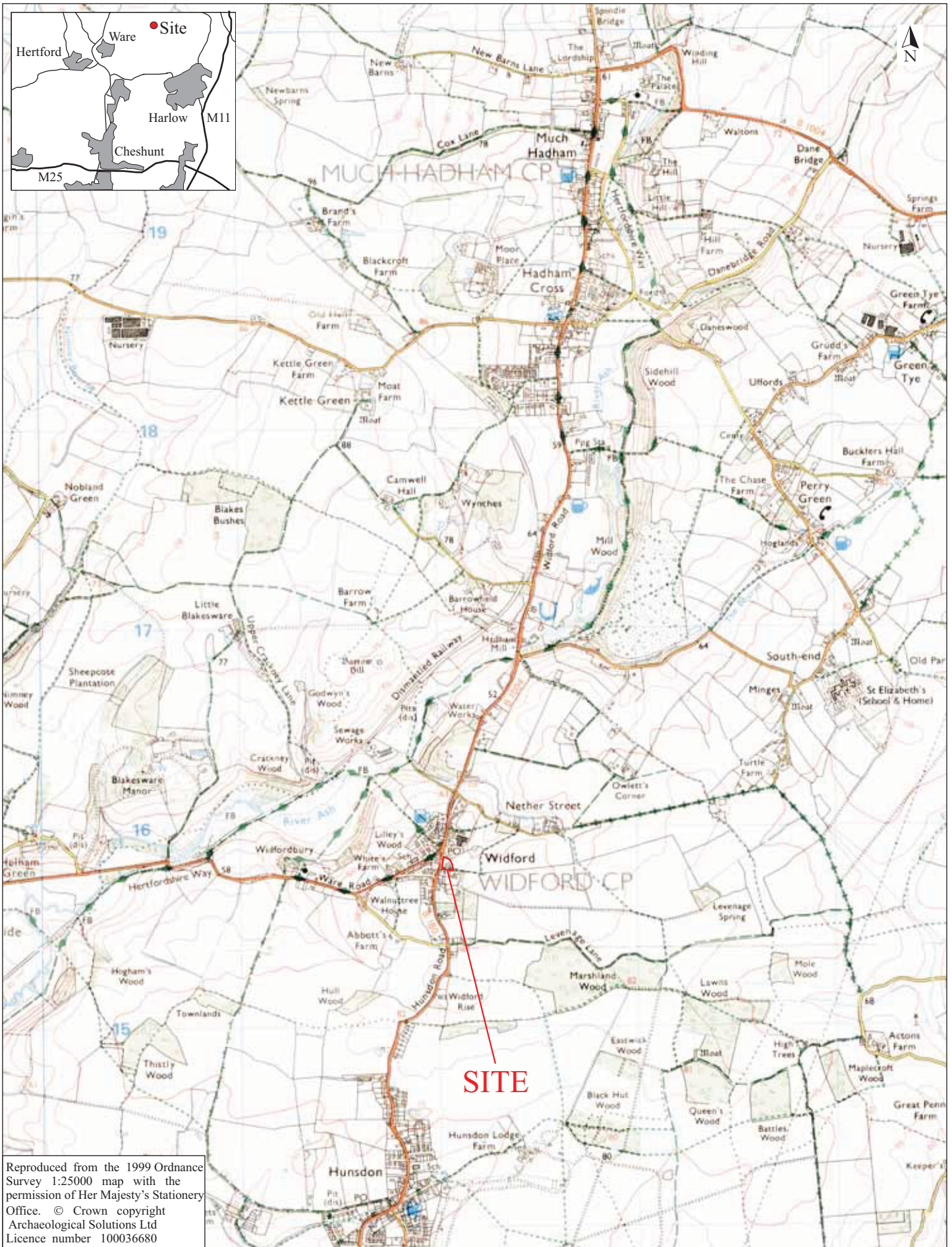


5  
*Gully F2010, facing south*



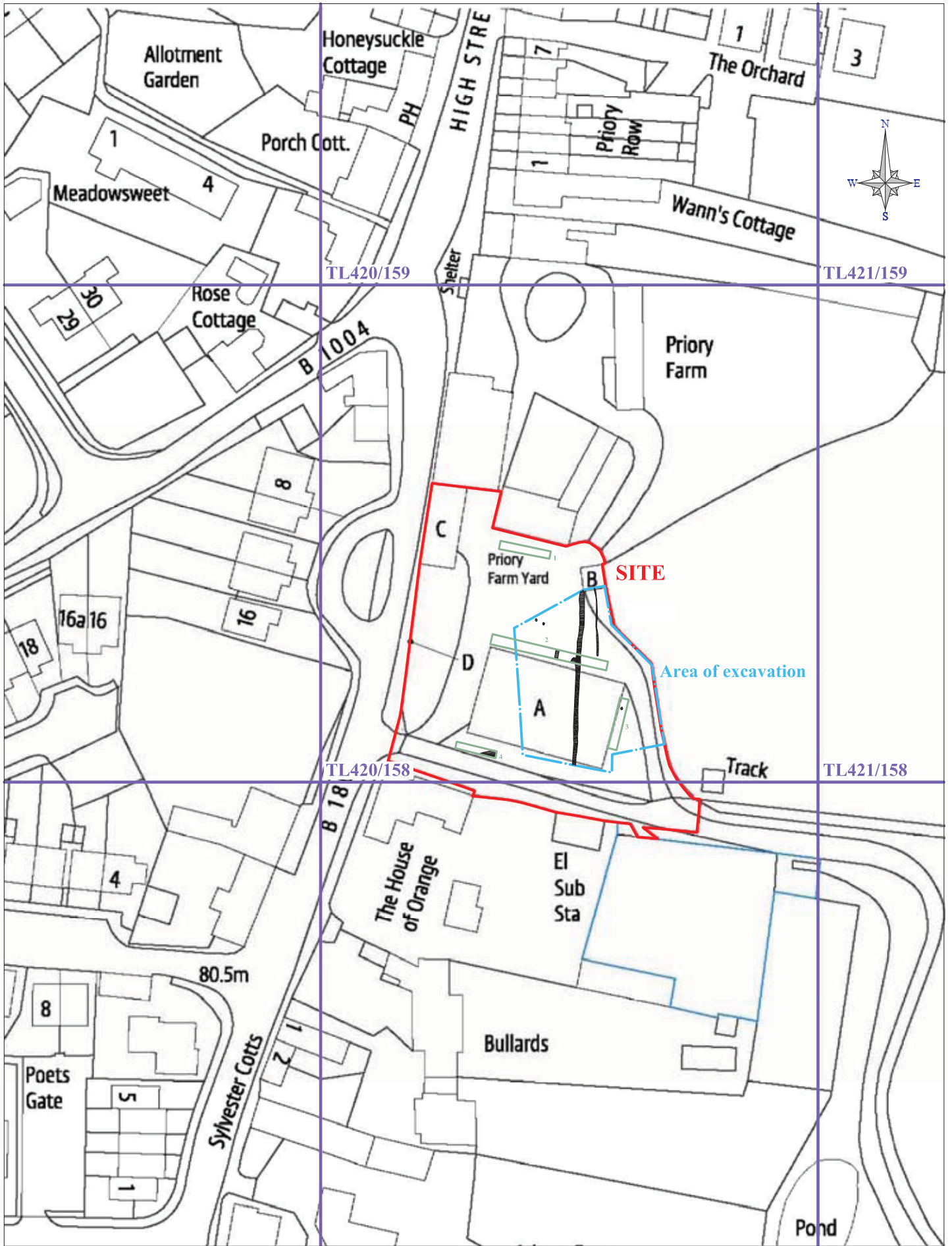
6  
*Gully F2012, facing south*





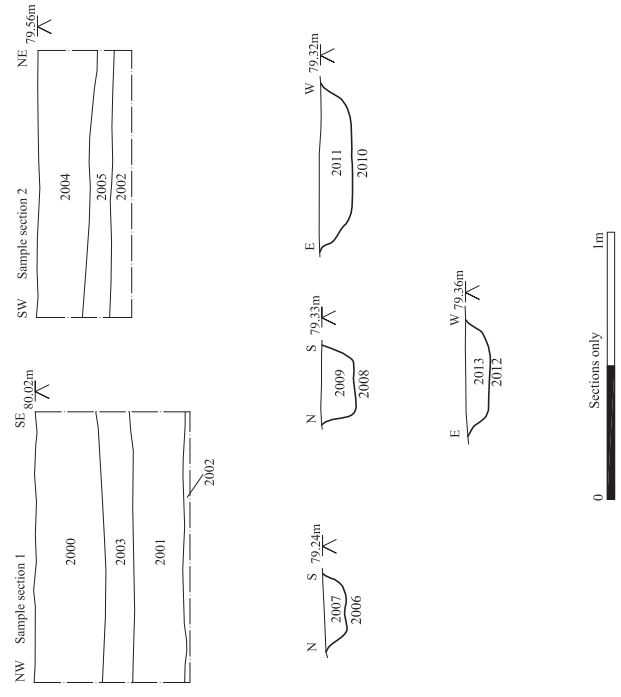
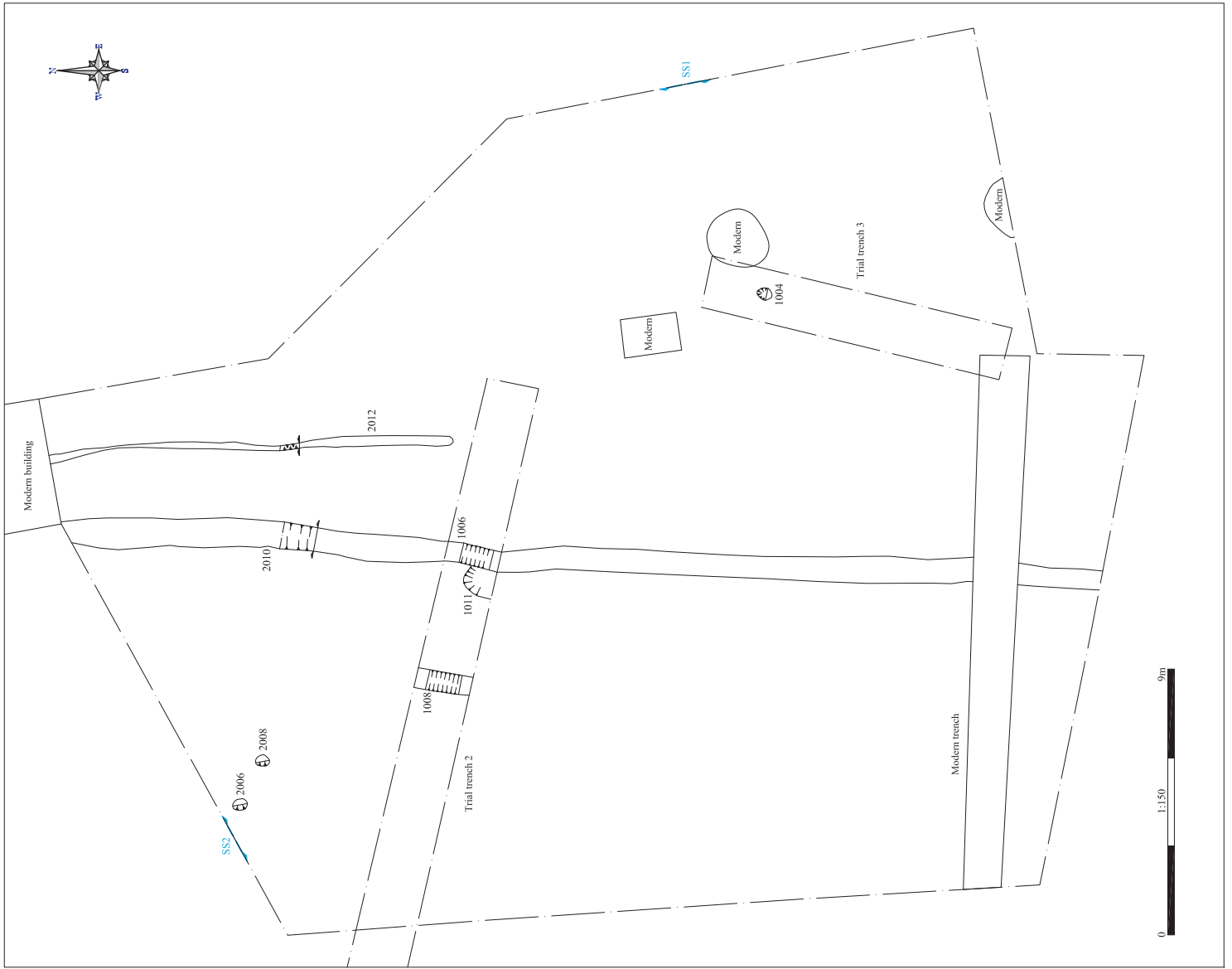
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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000



0 — Previous trial trench evaluation — 50m

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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
 Scale 1:1000 at A4



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**Fig. 3 Plans and sections**  
 Scale 1:20 and 1:50 at A3