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**LAND AT WARWICK ROAD, LITTLE CANFIELD, ESSEX
ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION**

Authors: Steve Quinn (Fieldwork & Report) Peter Thompson (Archaeological Background)	
NGR: TL 57452 21509	Report No: 4605
District: Uttlesford	Site Code: TAWR14
Approved: Claire Halpin MifA	Project No: P5789
Signed:	Date: 17 June 2014

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Land at Warwick Road, Little Canfield, Essex</i>		
<i>In June 2014 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Warwick Road, Little Canfield, Essex (TL 57452 21509). The evaluation was commissioned by Mr Clive Hitchcock and conducted in compliance with a planning condition of Uttlesford District Council, as advised by Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor (ECC HEA), attached to planning approval for the proposed construction of a car park (Planning Ref. UTT/13/3105/FUL).</i>			
<i>Extensive prehistoric and medieval remains have been identified in the area. A Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age linear ditch and curvilinear ditch were excavated in Area 3 just to the east of the site (Fig. 3a and 3c). This area also contained medieval ditches and pits. The site is also located within, or close to, a medieval strip field system dated mainly to the 12th and 13th centuries, two medieval moated sites are located to the north-west.</i>			
<i>In the event the evaluation revealed a relatively high number of features. The highest number of features were recorded in Trench 4B at the back of the site. Slightly oddly no features were recorded in Trench 3 which was located in the core of the site. The features were principally linear (ditches and a gully) and also post holes. The latter in Trench 4B were similar (form and fill) and possibly contemporary. The features contained no finds and are undated. It is therefore difficult to relate them to the adjacent archaeology.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>June 2014</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>P5789</i>	Site code	<i>TAWR14</i>
Type of project	<i>An archaeological evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>None</i>		
Current land use			
Planned development	<i>7 dwellings with associated garages and access</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Ditches and post holes</i>		
Significant finds(+dates)	<i>none</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Essex</i>	<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>Little Canfield</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Essex HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>0.25ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 57452 21509</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>Approximately 97m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Essex County Council HEA</i>		
Project Supervisor	<i>Steve Quinn</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr Clive Hitchcock</i>		
Full title	<i>Land at Warwick Road, Little Canfield, Essex. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Quinn, S.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4605</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>June 2014</i>		

LAND AT WARWICK ROAD, LITTLE CANFIELD, ESSEX

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In June 2014 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Warwick Road, Little Canfield, Essex (TL 57452 21509). The evaluation was conducted in compliance with a planning condition of Uttlesford District Council, as advised by Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor (ECC HEA), attached to planning approval for the proposed construction of a car park (Planning Ref. UTT/13/3105/FUL).

Extensive prehistoric and medieval remains have been identified in the area. A Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age linear ditch and curvilinear ditch were excavated in Area 3 just to the east of the site (Fig. 3a and 3c). This area also contained medieval ditches and pits. The site is also located within, or close to, a medieval strip field system dated mainly to the 12th and 13th centuries, two medieval moated sites are located to the north-west.

In the event the evaluation revealed a relatively high number of features. The highest number of features were recorded in Trench 4B at the back of the site. Slightly oddly no features were recorded in Trench 3 which was located in the core of the site. The features were principally linear (ditches and a gully) and also post holes. The latter in Trench 4B were similar (form and fill) and possibly contemporary. The features contained no finds and are undated. It is therefore difficult to relate them to the adjacent archaeology.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In June 2014 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Warwick Road, Little Canfield, Essex (TL 57452 21509; Figs.1 - 2). The evaluation was commissioned by Mr Clive Hitchcock and conducted in compliance with a planning condition of Uttlesford District Council, as advised by Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor (ECC HEA), attached to planning approval for the proposed construction of a car park (Planning Ref. UTT/13/3105/FUL).

1.2 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by Essex County Council Historic Environment Advisor (ECC HEA) (Richard Havis dated 15/05/2014), and a written scheme of investigation prepared by Archaeological Solutions (dated 16/05/2014), approved by ECC HEA. The project adhered to appropriate sections of Gurney (2003) 'Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of

England', *East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14*, and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008).

1.3 The aims of the evaluation were to investigate the location, extent, date and character of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

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 and 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 Figs.1 & 2

2.1 The site is in the new development of Priors Green which is located in the village and parish of Little Canfield in the district of Uttlesford. The settlement of Takeley abuts the site to the west, whilst the town of Great Dunmow is located 5.2km to the east. Stansted Airport is situated 4km to the Warwick Road site's north-west, and the A120 trunk-road lies 1km to the north. The site comprises a sub-

rectangular plot of open land comprising grass and tree-lined boundaries. Honey Road forms its southern boundaries and access lanes or tracks demarcate its east and west sides. To the north are the rear gardens of two buildings.

3 TOPOGRAPHY

3.1 The site is located at approximately 97m AOD, in an area that can be characterised as gently undulating which contains a large number of watercourses, including the River Roding 670m to the east, and the Pincey Brook 1.4km to the west. The local soils are of the Hanslope Association, which are described as slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils at slight risk of water erosion (SSEW 1983). The underlying solid geology of the Little Canfield area comprises London Clay (BGS 1978), overlain by a drift geology of pale brown chalky boulder-clay of the Lowestoft Formation.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 A large amount of archaeological work has been carried out at Little Canfield particularly in relation to the Priors Green Development. A fairly extensive area known as Priors Green Phase III which reaches to approximately 50m north of the site was evaluated and excavated revealing multi-period remains (EHER 46765). The finds include Early Neolithic pits and stake holes, Middle Bronze Age to Early Iron Age pits, cremations and water holes, and Iron Age and Roman landscape ditches.

4.2 Subsequent field work identified a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age water hole and pit complex (Germany 2010). In particular, a Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age linear ditch, and curvilinear ditch were excavated in Area 3 just to the east of the site (Fig. 3a and 3c). A 40 trench archaeological evaluation carried out in Priors Green, to the south of Phase III, which includes the area bordering the west and south sides of the site, revealed Early Iron Age agricultural activity in its western part. There were also prehistoric features including a possible ring ditch and cremation burial at the eastern end of this site (NHER 46298). Trial trenching on land at 3 & 5 Hamilton Road approximately 150m south-east of the site identified residual Bronze Age pottery and flint flakes, and one undated linear feature (EHER 48347). Six worked flints were recovered from the topsoil 240m to the south-east (EHER 48218).

4.3 Great Dunmow Road which runs through Takeley follows the course of the Roman Road, Stane Street that linked the Roman cities of *Camulodunum* (Colchester) and *Verulamium* (St Albans) (EHER 1226). The Roman Road itself appears to follow the course of an earlier Iron Age track (EHER 4697, 4698). An archaeological

evaluation undertaken at Longcroft some 500m west of the site revealed evidence of Late Iron Age activity and Romano-British land-use. The evaluation indicated that past human activity in the area was concentrated in the west of the site, with little archaeological strata revealed in the eastern section (EHER 19572).

4.4 At Smith's Green a rectangular but incomplete homestead moat 6m wide and 1m deep is located approximately 270m west of the site (EHER 4655). A possible second moated site is located at Goodwyn's just to the north-west of the Smith's Green site (EHER 18163, 18164). At the Phase III Priors Green site reaching within 50m north of the Warwick Road site, evidence for medieval settlement was identified which would have been contemporary with the Smith's Green moated settlement (EHER 46766). Tree clearance seems to have occurred prior to the laying out of a multi-phase field system in the central part of the site, and a 12th to 13th century date for this would accord well with evidence from elsewhere in the Stansted area, which suggests this to be a period of assarting with the establishment of small field and paddocks (Germany 2010). The excavations show parallel ditches running roughly north to south towards the Warwick Road site, although some at least of the ditches appear to end in Area J just to the north of Jack's Lane (Figs. 3a & b). In addition there are more medieval ditches and pits indicative of occupation just to the west of the site (Fig. 3c).

4.5 At the 40 trench archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation area whose northern limit borders the south and west sides of the Warwick Road site, a small number of medieval pits and ditches were identified (NHER 46298). On the east part of the site, the presence of post medieval parallel ditches probably represents the remains of a strip field system. A large possible boundary ditch was undated and possibly may be of geological in origin (NHER 46298).

4.6 Geotechnical test pits excavated in an area centred on 230m west of the site, revealed few archaeological features below disturbed ground. It was suggested that some archaeological remains may have existed on the site but would have been partially disturbed or truncated. In the northern end of the site up to 0.5m of modern rubble associated with construction of a nursery was encountered in test pits (EHER 46300). Archaeological trenches covering a wide area of land adjacent to the north side of Dunmow Road, proved negative with no archaeological features or truncation present, and no pottery earlier than the post-medieval period present, with the exception on one residual Roman sherd (EHER 47255, 47396, 47912, 48220).

4.7 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was carried out on the other side of Warwick Road to the east of the site, but no archaeological feature or finds were identified (EHER 48389). Four archaeological evaluation trenches centred on 170m north-west of the

site found little of archaeological interest bar an undated post-hole (EHER 46655).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Six trial trenches up to 32m x 1.60m were excavated using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig.2).

5.2 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.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below.

Trench 1A (Figs. 2 & 4)

<i>Sample section 1A.A: West end, south facing 0.00m = 97.60m AOD</i>		
0.00m–0.34m	L1003	Modern layer. Dark brown, compact, clay with modern debris (plastic etc.)
0.34 – 0.47m	L1001	Subsoil. Firm, mid orange brown silty clay with moderate small and medium rounded and sub-angular flints.
0.47m +	L1002	Natural. Compact, pale light greyish yellow chalky clay with frequent small - large flint and chalk nodules

<i>Sample section 1A.B: East end, north facing 0.00m = 97.61m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, dark grey silty clay with frequent small stones and flint. It contained CBM.
0.20 - 0.51m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.51m	L1002	Natural. As above.

Description: Trench 1A contained an undated pit or linear feature, F1004.

F1004 was a pit or linear feature (1.80m x 0.88+ x 0.22m). It had gently sloping sides and an uneven base. Its fill, L1005, was a firm, mid orange brown clay with occasional small rounded stones. It contained no finds.

Trench 1B (Figs. 2 & 4)

<i>Sample section 1B.A:</i> <i>West end, south facing</i> <i>0.00m = 97.71m AOD</i>		
0.00m–0.09m	L1003	Topsoil. As above
0.09 – 0.54m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.54m +	L1002	Natural. As above

<i>Sample section 1B.B:</i> <i>East end, north facing</i> <i>0.00m = 97.76m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.19m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.19 - 0.68m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.68m	L1002	Natural. As above.

Description: Trench 1B contained undated Gully F1006 and undated Ditch F1008.

Gully F1006 was linear (1.00+ x 0.46+ x 0.13m), orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1007, was a firm, mid orange brown clay with sparse small angular stones and chalk fragments. It contained no finds. F1006 was cut by Ditch F1008.

Ditch F1008 was linear (1.60+ x 0.85 x 0.29m), orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and an uneven base. Its fill, L1009, was a firm, orange brown clay with occasional small angular stones and chalk fragments. It contained no finds. F1008 cut Gully F1006.

Trench 2 (Figs. 2 & 4)

<i>Sample section 2A:</i> <i>North end, east facing</i> <i>0.00m = 97.64 AOD</i>		
0.00m–0.16m	L1000	Topsoil. As Tr 1.
0.16 - 0.72m	L1001	Subsoil As Tr.1
0.72m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 2B:</i> <i>South end, east facing</i> <i>0.00m = 97.34 AOD</i>		
0.00m–0.07m	L1000	Topsoil. As Tr 1.
0.07 - 0.50m	L1001	Subsoil. As Tr.1.
0.50m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 2 contained undated Ditch F1012.

Ditch F1012 was linear (4.20+ x 0.72+ x 0.32m), orientated N/S. It had moderately steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1013, was a compact, mid orange brown silty clay with occasional small angular flint and stones. It contained no finds.

Trench 3 (Fig. 2)

<i>Sample section 3A:</i> <i>North end, east facing</i> <i>0.00m = 97.66m AOD</i>		
0.00–0.11m	L1000	Topsoil. As Tr 1.
0.11- 0.47m	L1001	Subsoil. As Tr.1
0.47m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 3B:</i> <i>South end, east facing</i> <i>0.00m = 97.45m AOD</i>		
0.00–0.12m	L1000	Topsoil. As Tr 1.
0.12 - 0.44m	L1001	Subsoil. As Tr.1.
0.44m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 3 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 4A (Figs. 2 & 5)

<i>Sample section 4A.A:</i> <i>North end, east facing</i> <i>0.00m = 97.21m AOD</i>		
0.00–0.07m	L1000	Topsoil. As Tr 1.
0.07- 0.72m	L1001	Subsoil. As Tr.1
0.72m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 4A.B:</i> <i>South end, east facing</i> <i>0.00m = 97.22m AOD</i>		
0.00–0.08m	L1000	Topsoil. As Tr 1.
0.08 - 0.51m	L1001	Subsoil. As Tr.1.
0.51m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 4A contained undated Ditch F1010.

Ditch F1010 was linear (20.00+ x 0.78 x 0.26m), orientated E/W. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1011, was a compact, mid yellowish brown clay with occasional small angular flint. It contained no finds. F1010 was also present in Trench 4B.

Trench 4B (Figs. 2 & 5)

<i>Sample section 4B.A: North end, east facing 0.00m = 97.37m AOD</i>		
0.00–0.08m	L1000	Topsoil. As Tr 1.
0.08- 0.61m	L1001	Subsoil. As Tr.1
0.61m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 4B.B: South end, east facing 0.00m = 97.36m AOD</i>		
0.00–0.13m	L1000	Topsoil. As Tr 1.
0.13 - 0.64m	L1001	Subsoil. As Tr.1.
0.64m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 4B contained undated Ditch F1010, and undated Post Holes F1014, F1016 and F1018.

Ditch F1010 was linear (20.00+ x 0.78 x 0.26m), orientated E/W. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1011, was a compact, mid yellowish brown clay with occasional small angular flint. It contained no finds. F1010 was also present in Trench 4A. It cut Post Hole F1014.

Post Hole F1014 was subcircular (0.51 x 0.40 x 0.22m). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1015, was a compact, mid yellowish brown clay. It contained no finds. F1014 was cut by Ditch F1010.

Post Hole F1016 was subcircular (0.55 x 0.51 x 0.12m). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1017, was a compact, mid yellowish brown clay. It contained no finds. F1016 was cut by Ditch F1010.

Post Hole F1018 was subcircular (0.41 x 0.38 x 0.09m). It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1019, was a compact, mid yellowish brown clay. It contained no finds.

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 Uppermost was Topsoil L1000, a firm, dark grey silty clay with frequent small stones and flint. It contained CBM (c.0.25m thick). L1000 overlay Subsoil L1001, a firm, mid orange brown silty clay with moderate small and medium rounded and sub-angular flints (0.30m thick). L1001 overlay the natural (L1002), a compact, pale light greyish yellow chalky clay with frequent small - large flint and chalk nodules at a depth below the current ground surface of between 0.44m and 0.72m.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Date
1A	F1004	Pit or Ditch	Undated
1B	F1006	Gully	Undated
	F1008	Ditch	Undated
2	F1012	Ditch	Undated
4A	F1010	Ditch	Undated
4B	F1010	Ditch	Undated
	F1014	Post Hole	Undated
	F1016	Post Hole	Undated
	F1018	Post Hole	Undated

9.2 Extensive prehistoric and medieval remains have been identified in the area. A Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age linear ditch and curvilinear ditch were excavated in Area 3 just to the east of the site (Figs. 3a and 3c). This area also contained medieval ditches and pits. The site is also located within, or close to, a medieval strip field system dated mainly to the 12th and 13th centuries, two medieval moated sites are located to the north-west.

9.3 In the event the evaluation revealed a relatively high number of features. The highest number of features were recorded in Trench 4B at the back of the site. Slightly oddly no features were recorded in Trench 3 which was located in the core of the site. The features were principally linear (ditches and a gully) and also post holes. The latter in Trench 4B were similar (form and fill) and possibly contemporary. The features contained no finds and are undated. It is therefore difficult to relate them to the adjacent archaeology.

10 DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at Saffron Walden Museum. 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.

11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Mr Clive Hitchcock for commissioning this evaluation and Mr Neil Adlington of Go Homes for his assistance.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Mr. Richard Havis of the Essex County Council Historic Environment Management Team, and staff of the Essex County Council Historic Environment Record. AS would also like to thank Mark Germany of ASE for providing the plans from their forthcoming report from Little Canfield.

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APPENDIX 1 SPECIALIST REPORT

The Pottery

by Peter Thompson

The evaluation recovered 12 lightly abraded sherds of early modern to modern stoneware weighing 466g, from the subsoil, L1001. There are a minimum of two vessels represented including the base to a jar, and the rim to a smaller jug or jar with a diameter of 16cm. The pottery would fit a mid 19th to mid 20th century date.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
Trench 1B looking north



2
F1008 in Trench 1B



3
F1012 in Trench 2 looking north



4
Trench 4B looking east



3
F1010A in Trench 4A looking west



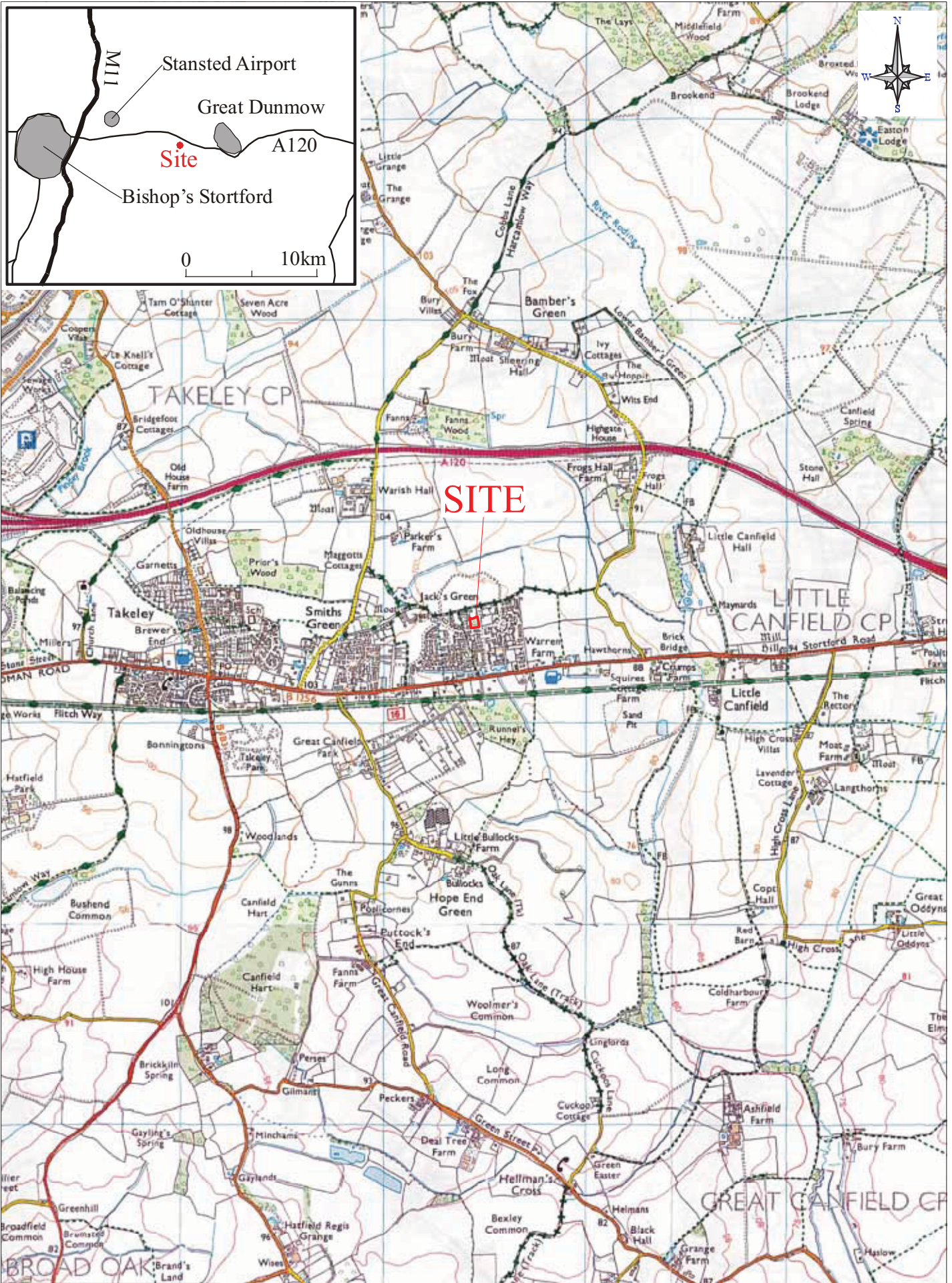
4
F1010C and F1014 in Trench 4A looking west



3
F1010D and F1016 Trench 4B looking west

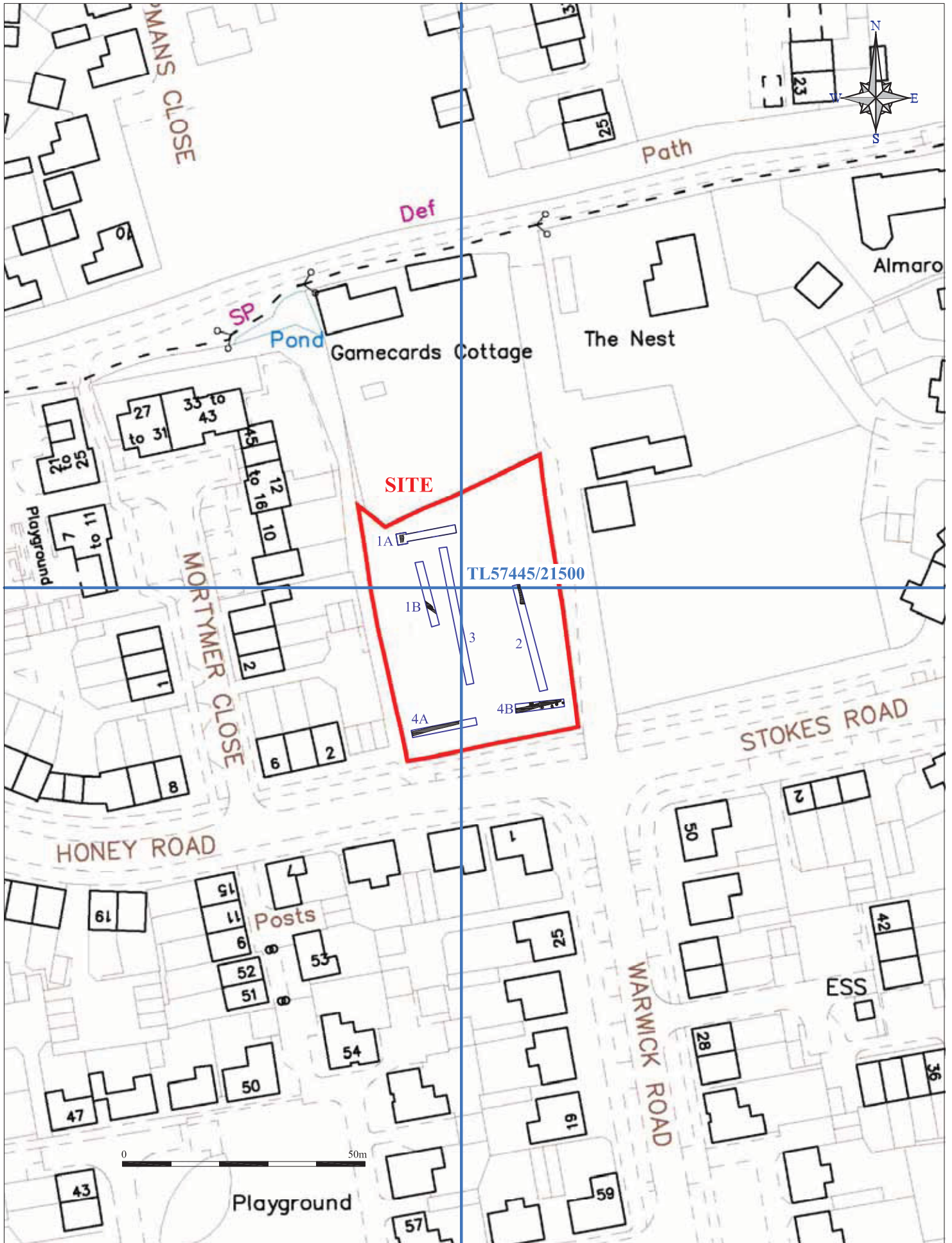


4
Gully 1006 in Trench 1B looking south-east

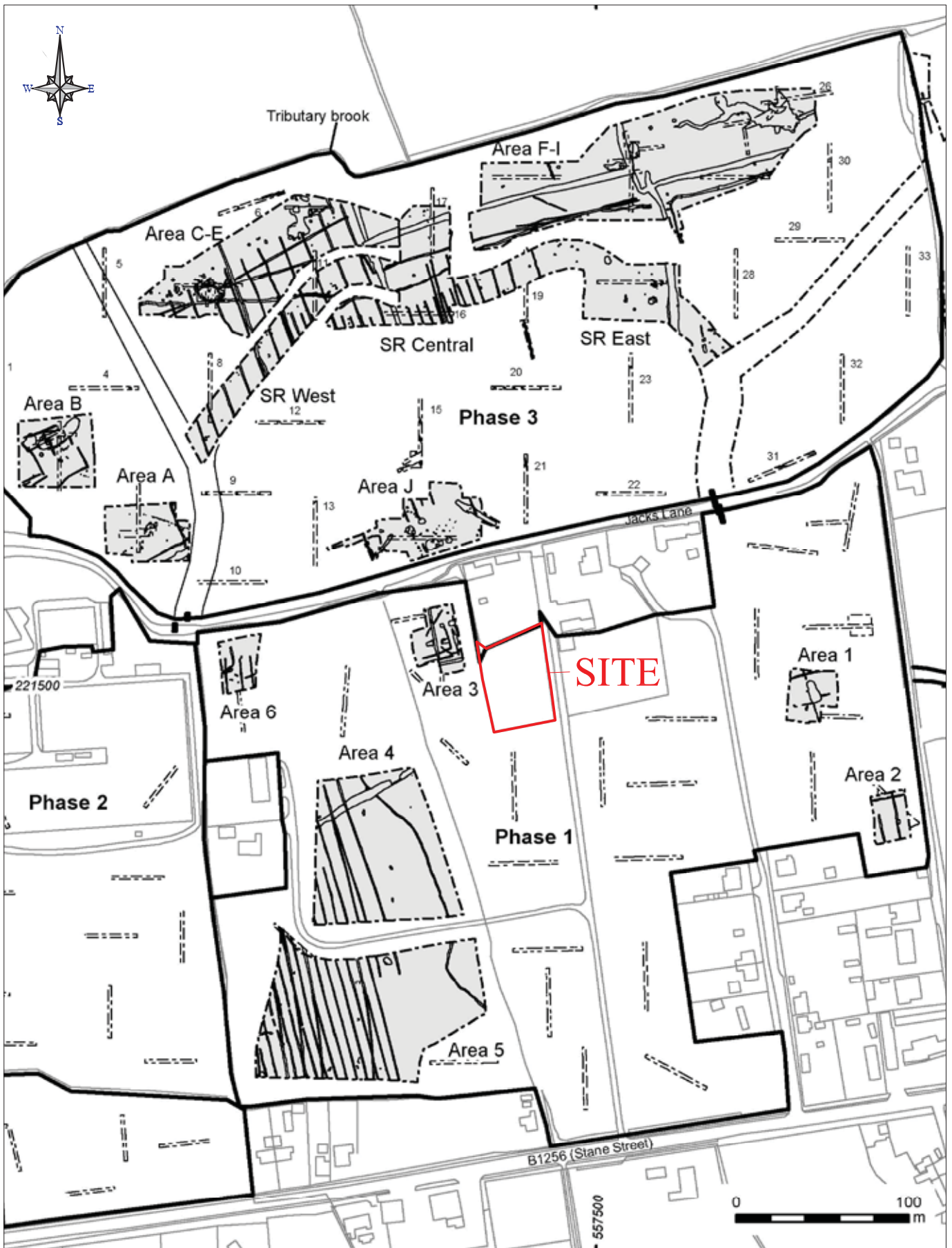


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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25000 at A4

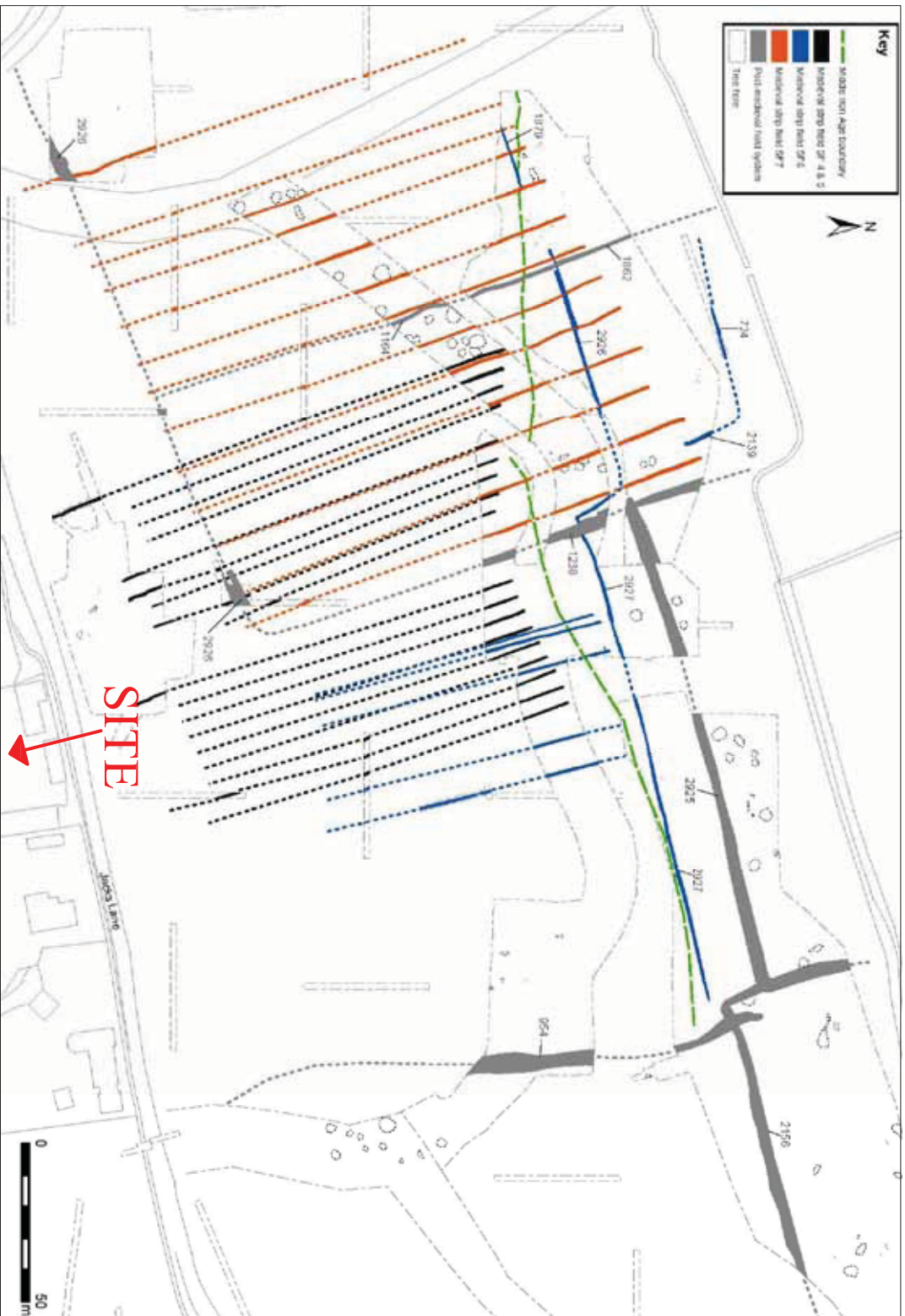


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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:1000 at A4



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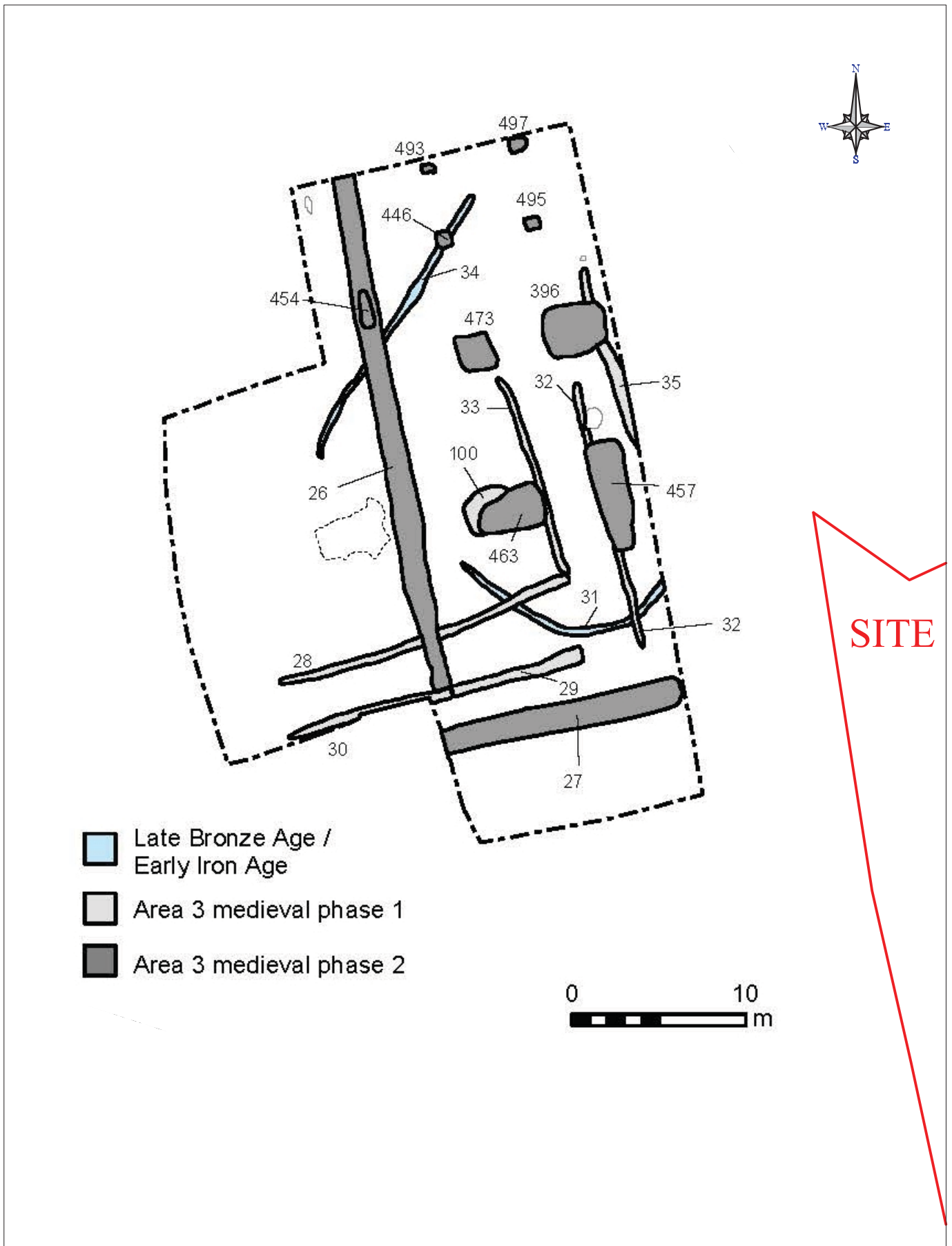
Fig. 3a Archaeology South-East excavations at Priors Green
 Scale 1:3000 at A4



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Fig. 3b Archaeology South-East excavations at Priors Green

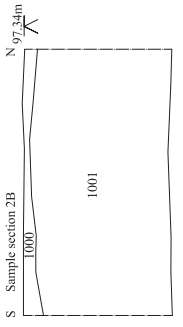
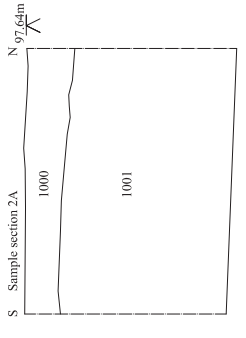
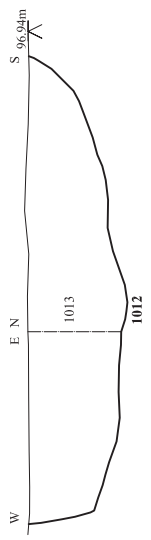
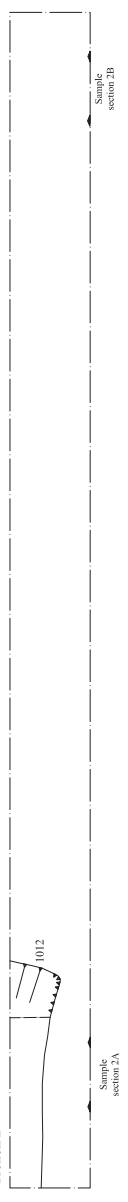
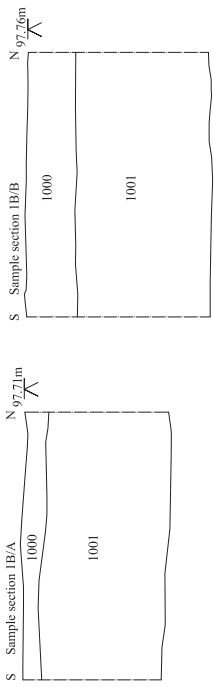
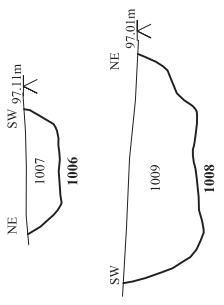
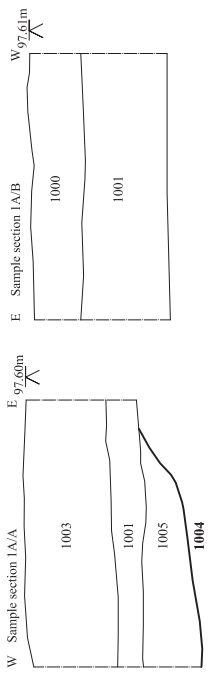
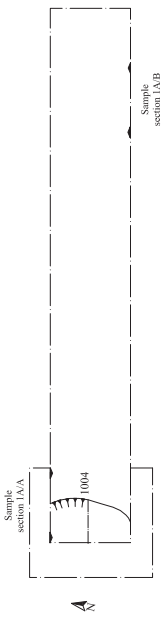
Scale 1:1500 at A4



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Fig. 3c Archaeology South-East excavations at Priors Green - Area 3

Scale 1:300 at A4

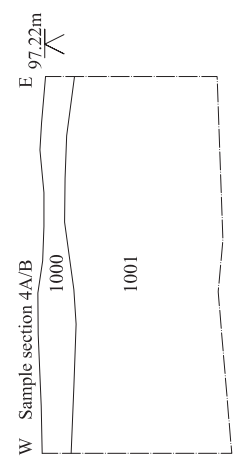
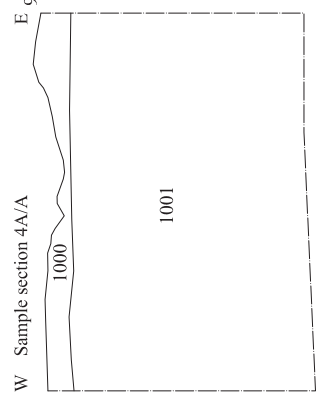
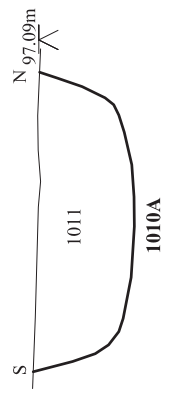
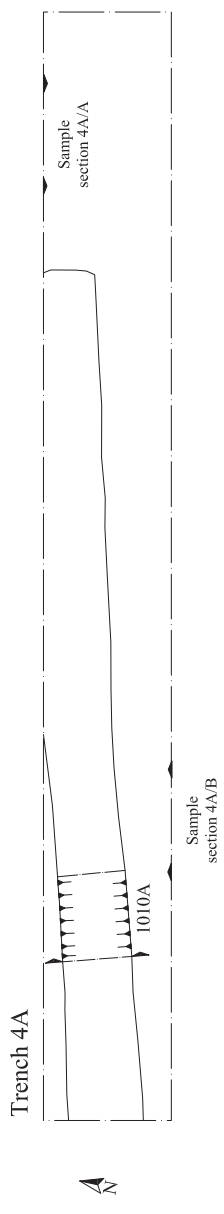


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Fig. 4 Trench plans and sections

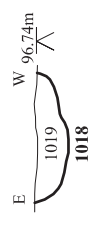
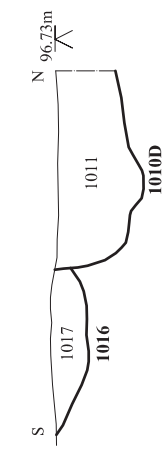
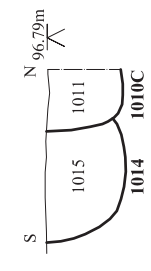
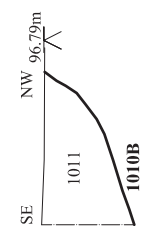
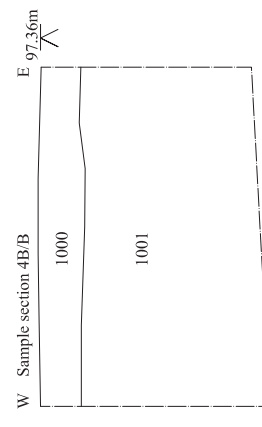
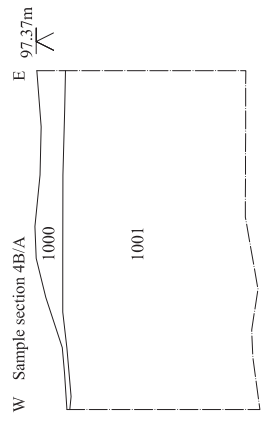
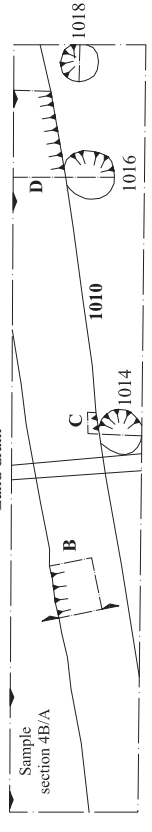
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3

0 Plan only 5m



0 1m

Trench 4B



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Fig. 5 Trench plans and sections

Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A4



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Fig. 6 Proposed development
 Scale 1:500 at A4