

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**FORMER E.W. DOWNS WORKS,
2-4 BROOK STREET, GLEMSFORD,
SUFFOLK C010 7PH**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Vinny Monahan (Fieldwork & report) William Waring (Background information)	
NGR: TL 830 484	Report No.4789
District: Babergh	Site Code: GFD 051
Approved: Claire Halpin MfA	Project No. 5741
Signed:	Date: 9 th February 2015

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Former E.W. Downs Works, 2-4 Brook Street, Glemsford, Suffolk</i>		
<i>In February 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at former E.W. Downs Works, 2-4 Brook Street, Glemsford (NGR TL 830 484). The evaluation was commissioned by Hopkins Homes Ltd. and was undertaken in advance of the proposed construction of 27 residential dwellings. It was required in fulfillment of a planning condition attached to planning approval (Babergh District Council Ref. B/13/01238/FUL), based on advice from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team.</i>			
<i>The evaluation revealed no archaeological features or finds. The site was hugely disturbed by modern remains and archaeological remains, if present, would have been removed.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	February 2015		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	N
P. number	5741	Site code	GFD 051
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>Brown field</i>		
Current land use	<i>Former buildings and yards</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential dwellings</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Suffolk</i>	<i>Babergh</i>	<i>Glemsford</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Sites and Monuments Record</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>CO10 7PH</i>		
Area of site	<i>0.8ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 830 484</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c.65m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Vinny Monahan</i>		
Funded by	<i>Hopkins Homes Ltd.</i>		
Full title	<i>Former E.W. Downs Works, 2-4 Brook Street, Glemsford, Suffolk CO10 7PH. Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Monahan, V., & Waring, W.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4789</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>February 2015</i>		

FORMER E.W. DOWNS WORKS, 2-4 BROOK STREET, GLEMSFORD, SUFFOLK

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In February 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at former E.W. Downs Works, 2-4 Brook Street, Glemsford, Suffolk (NGR TL 830 484). The evaluation was commissioned by Hopkins Homes Ltd. and was undertaken in advance of the proposed construction of 27 residential dwellings. It was required in fulfillment of a planning condition attached to planning approval (Babergh District Council Ref. B/13/01238/FUL), based on advice from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team.

The site within an area of archaeological potential, close to the edge of medieval Fair Green, within the historic settlement core of Glemsford (recorded on the Suffolk Historic Environment Record as HER GFD 038). The site thus had a potential for medieval and possibly earlier occupation evidence.

The evaluation revealed no archaeological features or finds. The site was hugely disturbed by modern activity and archaeological remains, if present, would have been removed.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In February 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at former E.W. Downs Works, 2-4 Brook Street, Glemsford, Suffolk (NGR TL 830 484). The evaluation was commissioned by Hopkins Homes Ltd. and was undertaken in advance of the proposed construction of 27 residential dwellings. It was required in fulfillment of a planning condition attached to planning approval (Babergh District Council Ref. B/13/01238/FUL), based on advice from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team.

1.2 The archaeological evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (dated 4th April 2014), and a specification compiled by AS (dated 4th April 2014), approved by SCC AS-CT. The evaluation adhered to the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (revised 2008), and the procedures described in the Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2008) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The principal objectives of the evaluation were:

- To establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*
- To identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- To evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits, along with the potential for the survival of environmental evidence
- To provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- Establish the potential for waterlogged organic deposits in the proposal area, their location and level and vulnerability to damage by 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, 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 comprises 0.8ha of land occupying 2-4 Brook Street, to the east of the road. It is situated in the north of Glemsford, a large village located c.8km to the north-west of the historic town of Sudbury, and c.5km to the north-west of Long Melford. The A134 runs north/south from Bury St. Edmunds to Sudbury c.4km to the east of the site and Glemsford is served primarily by the A1092 which runs east/west c.1.8km to the south of the site. The site was until recently occupied by the buildings and structures of the former EW Downs Works, which have now been demolished.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is located in the gently undulating landscape of south-west Suffolk, punctuated by frequent small river valleys and brooks. The River Glem runs southwards c.900m to the east of the site towards its confluence with the River Stour. The middle course of the Stour Valley lies c.2km to the south where it flows towards the Dedham Vale. The bedrock geology of the site comprises the Cretaceous Upper-Chalk formation, overlain by the Quaternary geology of the Corton Sands, composed of fine to medium grained sands. The soils of the site are of the calcareous Hanslope formation.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The earliest human presence within the vicinity of the site is represented by a Mesolithic flint axe, recovered c.200m south west of the site (HER MSF4732); Mesolithic finds are known throughout the area, including a similar axe recorded near Acton c.5km south-east of the site. In addition to this, a number of undated prehistoric lithic artefacts are known within the area of the site (HERs MSF21852, MSF21346, MSF17758).

4.2 The first evidence for a permanent human presence within the area of the site stems from the Romano-British period, taking the form of find spots and limited settlement evidence. Corroded artefacts and coins were recovered from agricultural land immediately east of the site (HER MSF21344) and metal detecting nearby to the west of the site has revealed a bronze lantern relating to this period (HER MSF25467); subsequent investigations and geophysical surveying through the Portable Antiquities Scheme has suggested several rectilinear features at this location. Modern Ordnance Survey mapping gives reference to a Roman road following the line of the modern A1092, south of Glemsford, and more substantial settlement evidence is known nearby at Long Melford, indicating a substantial Roman presence in the area.

4.3 The settlement at Glemsford appears to have been substantial during the medieval period; the Domesday Book gives reference to a large village of 40 households and findspots relating to the early medieval period are known.

These include a silver groat of King Edward III and a lead ampulla recovered from the grounds of St. Mary's Church c.500m north east of the site; these finds both predate the construction of the church in the 14th – 15th century. Glemsford exhibits a notable ecclesiastical presence, with a priests college founded between 1042-1066 (HER MSF5921), and Monks Hall constructed in the 15th century to the north of Glemsford, near the 14th-15th century Church of St. Mary (HER DSF457), with evidence suggesting a tunnel once connected the hall to the nearby church. Given its close proximity to Long Melford and Sudbury, it is likely that Glemsford remained prosperous throughout the medieval period, since these towns were major produces for the production of broadcloth, and important centres in the prolific Suffolk wool trade. Substantial evidence for the medieval and post-medieval period remains in Glemsford in the form of listed buildings, including a 17th-18th century timber-framed house immediately west of the site, and a former horsehair factory to the north west.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 SCC AS-CT required a programme of archaeological trial trenching, to allow for a 5% sample of the proposed development site (c.0.8ha). c.222m of trenching at 1.8m width was required. Seven trenches, each 30m x 1.8m were therefore proposed, along with an eighth trench of 15m x 1.8m.

5.2 Exposed sections were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using pro forma recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for archaeological finds.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

It was extremely difficult to cut the trenches; some areas immediately flooded, some areas exhibited extensive modern disturbance and the trench sides immediately collapsed.

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 & 3)

<i>Sample section 1A</i>		
<i>0.00 = 65.24m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Demolition Layer. Mixed building rubble, loose and saturated
0.30 – 0.38m	L1001	Mid reddish brown, friable, silty clay with moderate CBM
0.38m +	L1002	Natural. Pale yellow, firm, clay.

Description: Areas of water, modern disturbance and a modern drain were evident in Trench 1.

Trench 2 (Figs. 2 & 3)

Description: Areas of modern disturbance and diesel contamination were evident in Trench 2. The trench could not be fully excavated

Trench 3 (Figs. 2 - 3)

<i>Sample section 3A</i> <i>0.00 = 66.16m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.59m	L1000	Demolition Layer. As above Tr.1
0.59 – 0.90m	L1001	Silty clay. As above Tr. 1.
0.90m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1

<i>Sample section 3B</i> <i>0.00 = 66.23m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.65m	L1000	Demolition Layer. As above Tr.1
0.65 – 0.85m	L1001	Silty clay. As above Tr. 1.
0.36m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1

Description: Areas of modern disturbance were evident in Trench 3.

Trench 4 (Figs. 2 - 3)

Description: Areas of diesel contamination were evident in Trench 4 and the trench collapsed as soon as it was excavated.

Trench 5 (Figs. 2 & 4)

Description: Trench 5 was not excavated because the ground was wet and unstable.

Trench 6 (Figs. 2 & 4)

Description: Trench 6 was not excavated because the ground was wet and unstable.

Trench 7 (Figs. 2 & 4)

Description: Water, modern footings, a modern drain and modern ground disturbance was evident in Trench 7.

Trench 8 (Figs. 2 & 4)

<i>Sample section 3A</i> <i>0.00 = 64.36m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Demolition Layer. As above Tr.1
0.35 – 0.46m	L1001	Silty clay. As above Tr. 1.

0.46m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1
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<i>Sample section 3B</i>		
<i>0.00 = 64.27m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.40m	L1000	Demolition Layer. As above Tr.1
0.40 – 0.61m	L1001	Silty clay. As above Tr. 1.
0.61m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1

Description: A modern drain, diesel contamination and modern ground disturbance was evident in Trench 8.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 The natural chalky clay was truncated across the site by modern construction features and archaeological features, if present, will have been removed.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The site was commonly overlain by Demolition Layer L1000, a mixed building rubble, loose and saturated. L1000 overlay L1001, a mid reddish brown, friable, silty clay with moderate CBM.

8.2 The natural geology, L1002, was below L1001 and comprised a pale yellow, firm, clay (0.36 – 0.90m below the present day ground surface).

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site within an area of archaeological potential, close to the edge of medieval Fair Green, within the historic settlement core of Glemsford (recorded on the Suffolk Historic Environment Record as HER GFD 038). The site thus had a potential for medieval and possibly earlier occupation evidence.

9.2 The natural chalky clay was truncated across the site by modern construction features and archaeological features, if present, will have been removed.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the Suffolk HER, and the archive deposited there within three months of the conclusion of fieldwork.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Hopkins Homes Ltd for funding the evaluation.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team, in particular Dr Matthew Brudenell.

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SSEW 1983 *Soil Survey of England and Wales: Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales* Harpenden, Rothamsted Experimental Station/Lawes Agricultural Trust

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
General shot showing slope looking north



2
General shot looking west



3
General shot looking east



4
General shot looking south



5
Trench 1 looking north



7
Trench 3 looking west

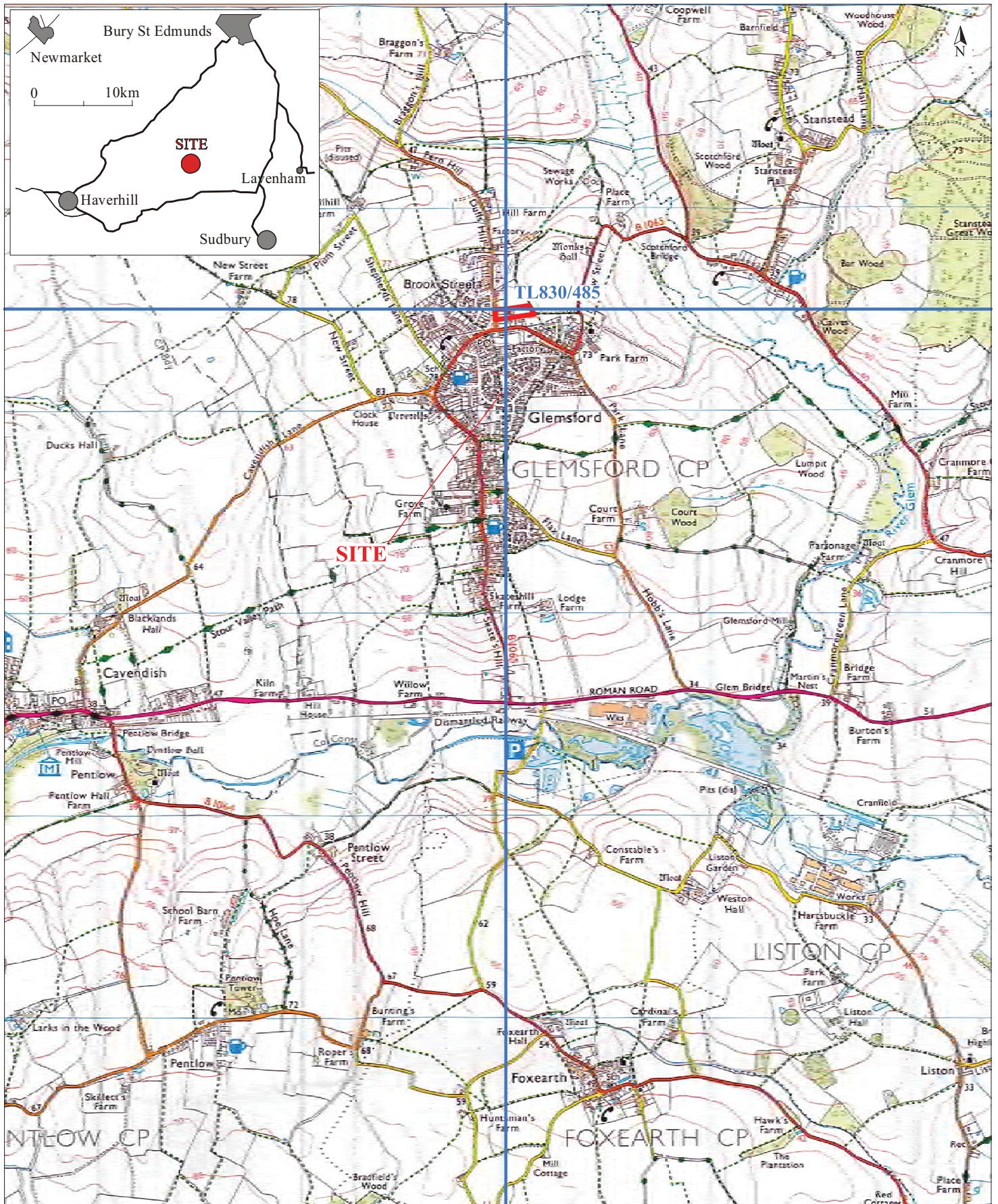


9
Trench 7 looking west

6
Trench 2 looking west

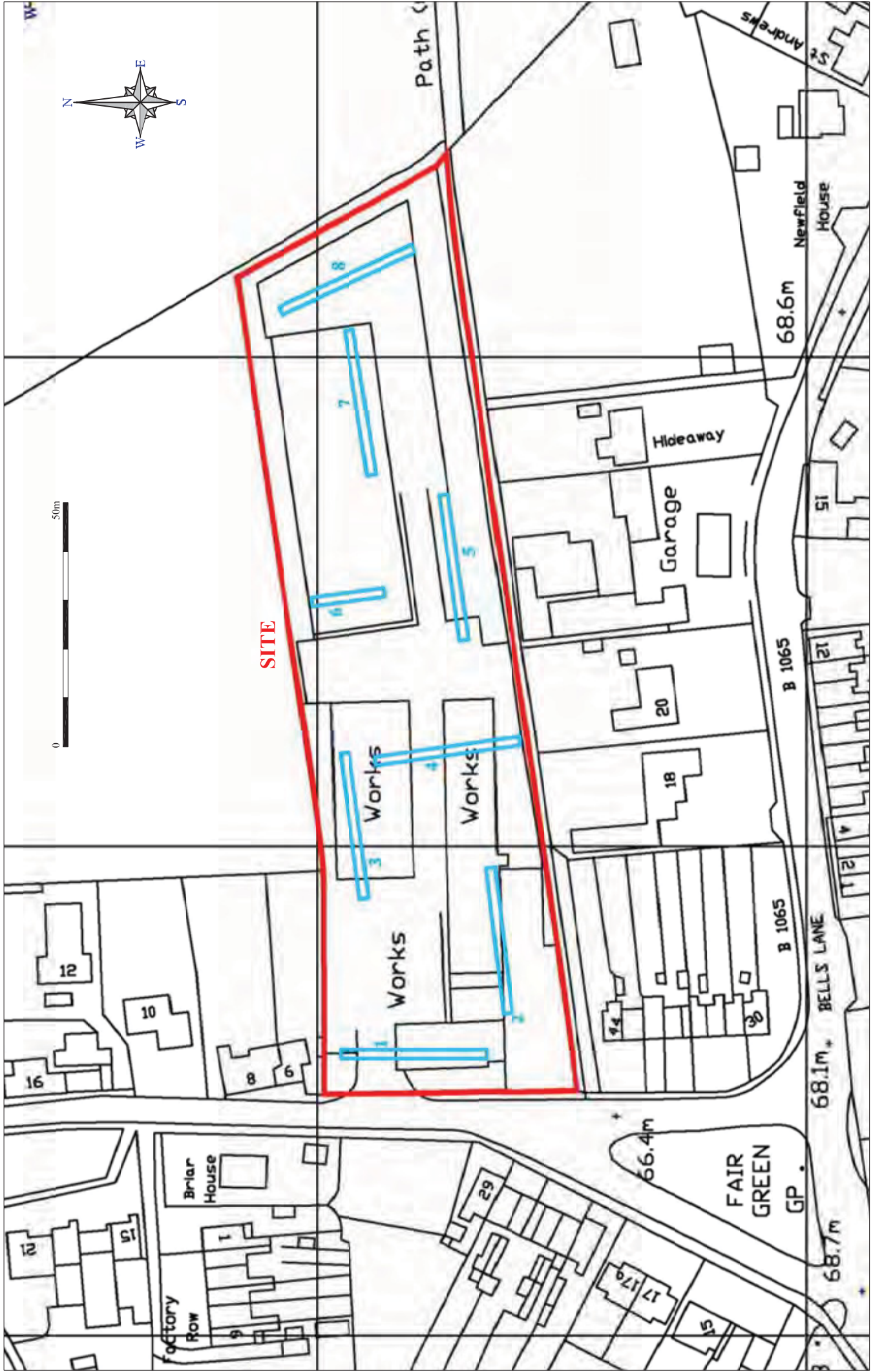


8
Trench 4 looking north



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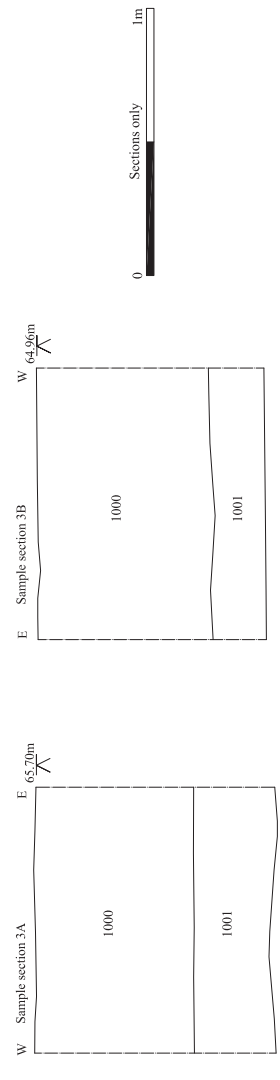
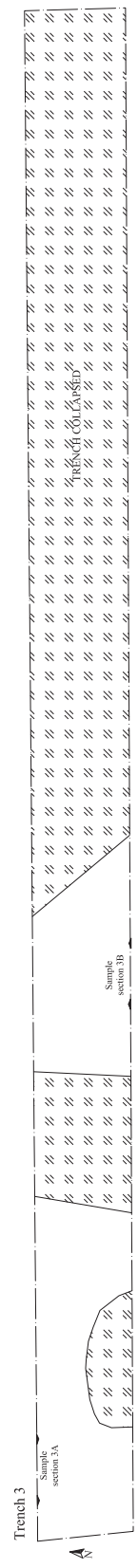
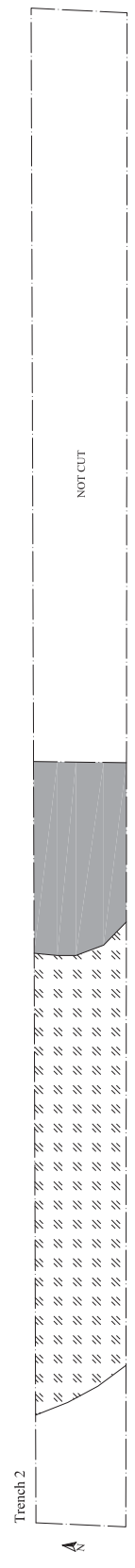
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

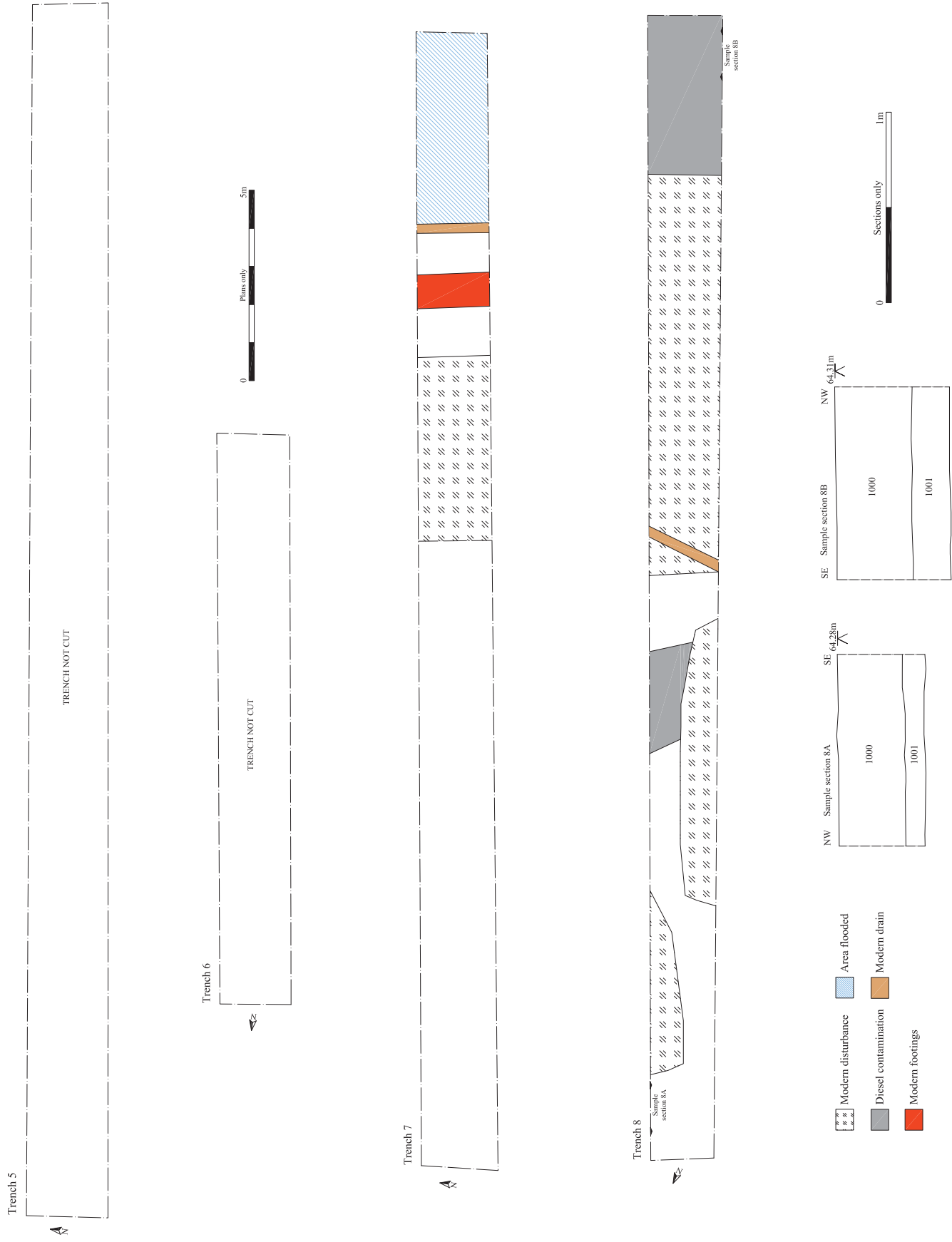
Scale 1:1000 at A4



- Modern disturbance
- Area flooded
- Diesel contamination
- Modern drain



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Fig. 3 Trench plans and sections
 Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3



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Fig. 4 Trench plans and sections
 Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3