

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**SUNNYCROFT FARM, WARBOYS ROAD, PIDLEY,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE PE28 3DA**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

CHER No. ECB 4248

Authors: Laszlo Lichtenstein (Fieldwork and report)	
NGR: TL 3312 7794	Report No: 4698
District: Huntingdon	Site Code: ECB 4248
Approved: C Halpin MIfA	Project No: P5891
Signed:	Date: 21 October 2014

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET			
Project name		Sunnycroft Farm, Warboys Road, Pidley, Cambridgeshire PE28 3DA	
<p><i>In October 2014 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Sunnycroft Farm, Warboys Road, Pidley, Cambridgeshire PE28 3DA (NGR TL 3312 7794). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of two detached dwellings, with associated garages and ancillary works (Hunts DC Ref. 1200279FUL), based on advice from Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).</i></p> <p><i>The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, in particular for remains of medieval settlement activity. The site lies between the two distinct settlement cores of the village of Pidley, and has the potential to shed light on the development of the settlement (and whether it originally formed two separate settlements which merged or if an original settlement core became dispersed as it developed). An area of surviving medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation lies to the immediate east (Historic Environment Record No HER MCB13678). Various standing medieval structures are present in the two settlement cores of Pidley (e.g. HER MCB4373, MCB14634 and MCB1362).</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation recorded an undated ditch, F1003 (Trench 1), and two post-medieval (17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century) pits, F1008 and F1010 (Trench 2). No residual finds were found. Modern disturbance was minimal (a modern drain) and did not inhibit the evaluation.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)		August 2014	
Previous work (Y/N/?)		N	Future work (Y/N/?)
P. number	5891	Site code	ECB 4248
Type of project		Archaeological Evaluation	
Site status		None	
Current land use		Grass	
Planned development		Residential	
Main features (+dates)		Ditch, two pits	
Significant finds (+dates)		Post-medieval (17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> C).	
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish		Cambridgeshire	Huntingdon Pidley
HER for area		Cambridge Historic Environment Record (CHER)	
Post code (if known)		PE28 3DA	
Area of site		c.1200m2	
NGR		TL 3312 7794	
Height AOD (min/max)		c.33m AOD	
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by		Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team	
Project supervisor/s (PO)		Archaeological Solutions Ltd	
Funded by		Vernon Property Ltd	
Full title		Sunnycroft Farm, Warboys Road, Pidley, Cambridgeshire PE28 3DA. An Archaeological Evaluation.	
Authors		Laszlo Lichtenstein	
Report no.		4698	
Date (of report)		October 2014	

# **SUNNYCROFT FARM, WARBOYS ROAD, PIDLEY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE PE28 3DA**

## **AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

### **SUMMARY**

*In October 2014 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Sunnycroft Farm, Warboys Road, Pidley, Cambridgeshire PE28 3DA (NGR TL 3312 7794). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of two detached dwellings, with associated garages and ancillary works (Hunts DC Ref. 1200279FUL), based on advice from Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).*

*The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, in particular for remains of medieval settlement activity. The site lies between the two distinct settlement cores of the village of Pidley, and has the potential to shed light on the development of the settlement (and whether it originally formed two separate settlements which merged or if an original settlement core became dispersed as it developed). An area of surviving medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation lies to the immediate east (Historic Environment Record No HER MCB13678). Various standing medieval structures are present in the two settlement cores of Pidley (e.g. HER MCB4373, MCB14634 and MCB1362).*

*The evaluation recorded an undated ditch, F1003 (Trench 1), and two post-medieval (17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century) pits, F1008 and F1010 (Trench 2). No residual finds were found. Modern disturbance was minimal (a modern drain) and did not inhibit the evaluation.*

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In October 2014 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Sunnycroft Farm, Warboys Road, Pidley, Cambridgeshire PE28 3DA (NGR TL 3312 7794; Figs. 1 – 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of two detached dwellings, with associated garages and ancillary works (Hunts DC Ref. 1200279FUL), based on advice from Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by CCC HET (Dan McConnell dated 31/07/14) and a specification prepared by AS (dated 01/08/14), approved by CCC HET. 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 aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine, as far as was possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. In addition it was hoped to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of survival of buried deposits and surviving structures of archaeological significance.

#### *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 is located on the northern side of the B1040 Warboys Road at Pidley. It comprises a rough asphalt roadway with rough ground to either side, adjacent to the farmyard to the north. The site is situated on till deposits, at a height of c.33m AOD.

## **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

3.1 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, in particular for remains of medieval settlement activity. The site lies between the two distinct settlement cores of the village of Pidley, and has the potential to shed light on the

development of the settlement (and whether it originally formed two separate settlements which merged or if an original settlement core became dispersed as it developed). An area of surviving medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation lies to the immediate east (Historic Environment Record No HER MCB13678). Various standing medieval structures are present in the two settlement cores of Pidley (e.g. HER MCB4373, MCB14634 and MCB1362).

## 4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The brief required trial trenching of the site. Two trenches, each 15m long and 1.80m wide, within the footprint of the new dwellings (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

5.1 Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

### Trench 1 (Figs. 2 & 3)

Sample Section 1A 0.00 = 33.08m AOD		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. Friable, mid dark grey brown silt
0.28 - 0.44m	L1001	Subsoil. Friable, mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional chalk
0.44m+	L1002	Natural deposits. Firm, clay with chalk and flint
Sample section 1B 0.00 = 33.19m AOD		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.24 – 0.40m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.40m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above.

*Description: Undated Ditch F1003 was present in Trench 1 and it was cut by a modern drainage trench.*

Ditch F1003 was linear (1.60+ x 0.55 x 0.20m), orientated N/S. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1004) was a firm, mid yellowish grey silty clay. It contained no finds.

Modern drainage trench F1005 was orientated NE/SW.

## **Trench 2** (Figs. 2 & 3)

Sample Section 2A 0.00 = 33.43m AOD		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1012	Redeposited Topsoil. Dark grey clayey silt.
0.31 – 0.50m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.50 - 0.61m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.61m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

Sample section 2B 0.00 = 33.55m AOD		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1012	Redeposited Topsoil. As above
0.33 – 0.54m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.54 – 0.63m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.63m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1

*Description: Two post-medieval (17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century) pits, F1008 and F1010, were present in Trench 2.*

Pit F1008 was subcircular (0.80+ x 0.30 x 0.20m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill (L1009) was a firm, mid grey silty clay with occasional chalk and flint. It contained post-medieval (17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century) pottery (83g) and animal bone (69g).

Pit F1010 was subcircular (0.80+ x 0.30 x 0.20m). It had gently sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill (L1011) was a firm, dark grey brown silty clay with occasional chalk and flint. It contained post-medieval (17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century) pottery (205g), CBM (94g), animal bone (362g) and glass (1g).

5.2 Four test pits were excavated for the purposes of the development and these were observed. No archaeological features or finds were present.

## **Test Pit 1** (Figs. 2 & 3)

0.00 = 33.24m AOD		
0.00 – 0.18m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.18 - 0.27m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.27m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1

## **Test Pit 2** (Figs. 2 & 3)

0.00 = 33.51m AOD		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.20 - 0.45m	L1013	Gravel surface
0.45m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1



### **Test Pit 3** (Figs. 2 & 3)

0.00 = 33.29m AOD		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.25 - 0.39m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.39m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1

### **Test Pit 4** (Figs. 2 & 3)

0.00 = 33.18m AOD		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.31 - 0.47m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.47m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1

## **6 CONFIDENCE RATING**

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

## **7 DEPOSIT MODEL**

7.1 Uppermost Topsoil L1000 was a 0.24 – 0.31m thick layer of friable, mid dark grey brown silt. This overlay Subsoil L1001, a friable, mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional chalk.

7.2 At the base of the sequence, at a depth of 0.61m below the current ground surface were the natural deposits (L1002) of firm, clay with chalk and flint.

## **8 DISCUSSION**

8.1 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential, in particular for remains of medieval settlement activity. The site lies between the two distinct settlement cores of the village of Pidley, and has the potential to shed light on the development of the settlement (and whether it originally formed two separate settlements which merged or if an original settlement core became dispersed as it developed). An area of surviving medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation lies to the immediate east (Historic Environment Record No HER MCB13678). Various standing medieval structures are present in the two settlement cores of Pidley (eg HER MCB4373, MCB14634 and MCB1362).

8.2 The evaluation recorded an undated ditch, F1003 (Trench 1), and two post-medieval (17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century) pits, F1008 and F1010 (Trench 2). No residual finds were found. Modern disturbance was minimal (a modern drain) and did not inhibit the evaluation.

## **9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at the Cambridgeshire County Store. 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.

## **10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Mr Sean Calver of Vernon Property Ltd for funding the works and for his assistance, and Mr Adrian Bussetil of Partners in Planning and Architecture Ltd for his assistance.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Mr Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team, and the staff of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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Institute for Archaeologists' (2008). *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*. IfA, Reading.

Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983 *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales*. Harpenden

# **APPENDIX 1      CONCORDANCE OF FINDS**

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
1000			2	Topsoil	17th-18th C	(2) 45g			
1001			2	Subsoil					Clay Pipe Bowl (1) - 14g Clay Pipe Stem (1) - 4g
1008	1009		2	Fill of Pit	17th-18th C	(2) 83g		69	
1010	1011		2	Fill of Pit	17th-18th C	(8) 205g	94	362	Glass (1) - 1g
1012			2	Redeposited Soil Layer			58		Plastic - 1g Slate - 4g

## APPENDIX 2      SPECIALIST REPORTS

### The Pottery

Peter Thompson

The evaluation recovered 13 sherds of glazed post-medieval pottery weighing 330g from two contexts and the topsoil. The sherds were all abraded and represented a minimum number of 9 vessels, and would match a 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries date.

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Topsoil	1000	2x46g PMRE	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	MNV 2: x1 bifid bowl/dish rim with internal wavy line deco. Glazed both sides, c.30cm diam 0.7 REVE
	1009	3x82g PMRE	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	MNV 3: x1 simple bowl rim glazed both side 28cm diam, REVE 0.09
	1011	8x202 PMRE	17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	MNV 4 vessels including a flat base and scar from broken handle, probably from a jar

## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1  
Trench 1 looking west



2  
Trench 2 looking west



3  
F1003 in Trench 1 looking south



4  
Sample section 1A



5  
F1008 in Trench 2 looking north



6  
F1010 in Trench 2 looking west



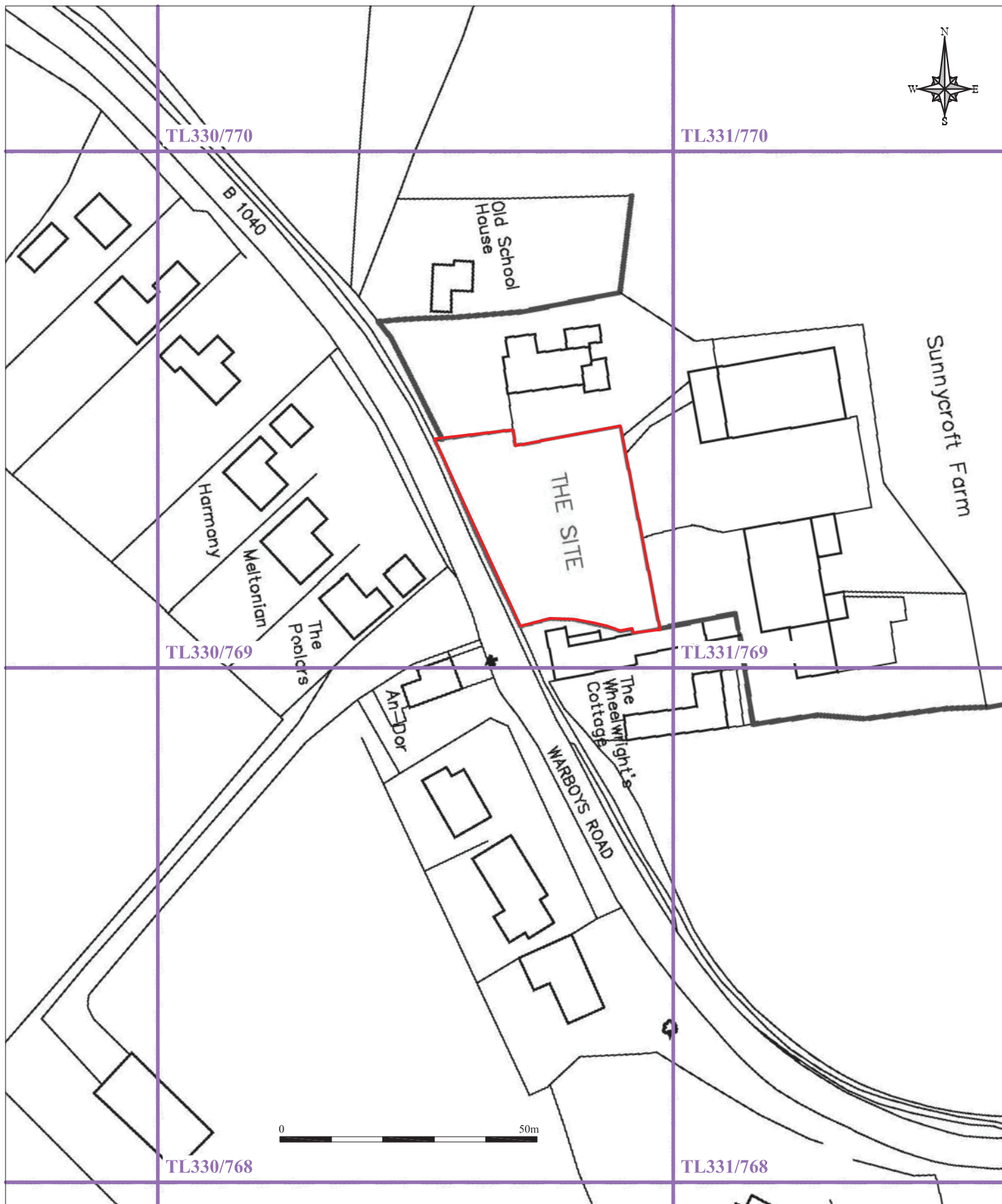




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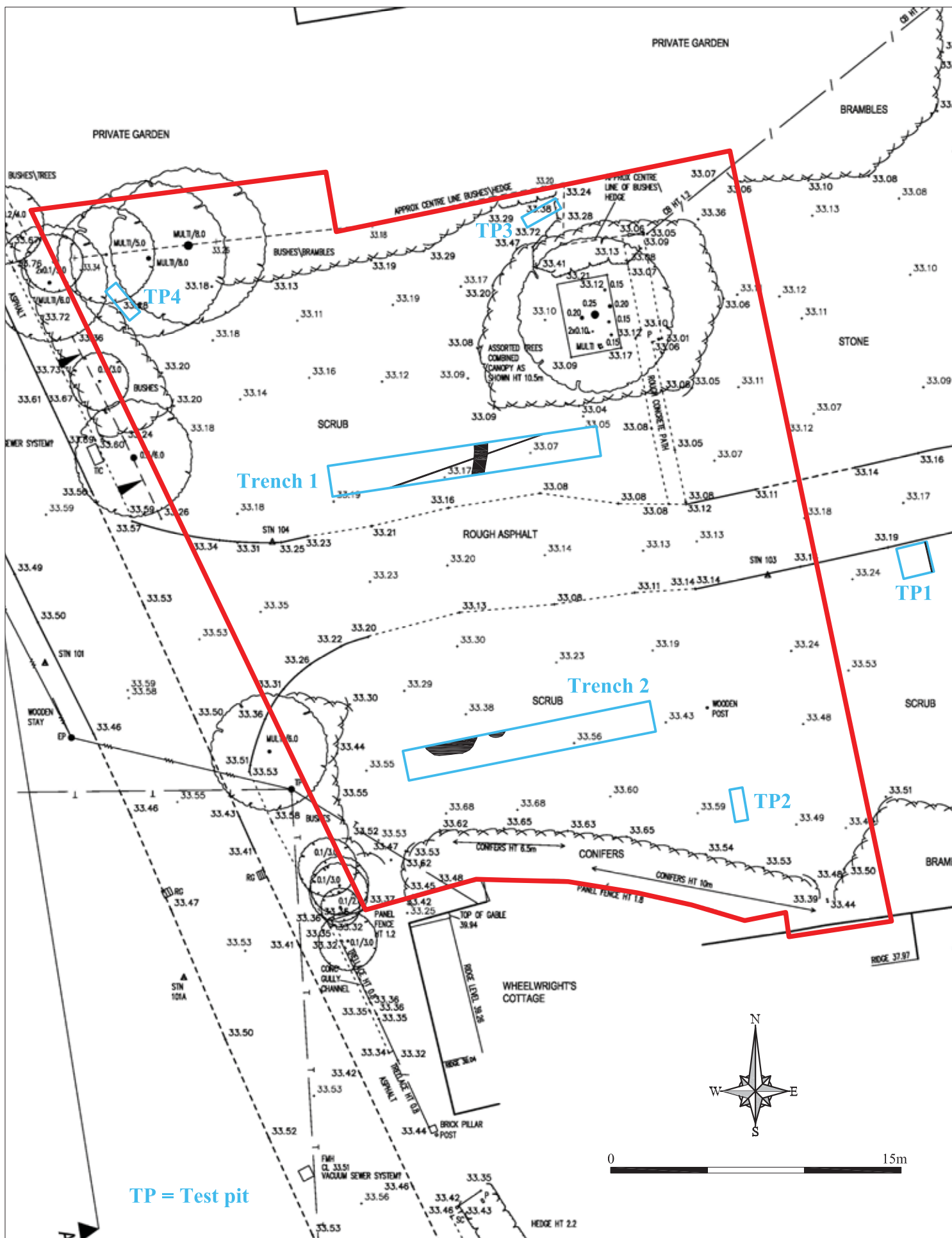
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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4





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<b>Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan</b>
Scale 1:1000 at A4

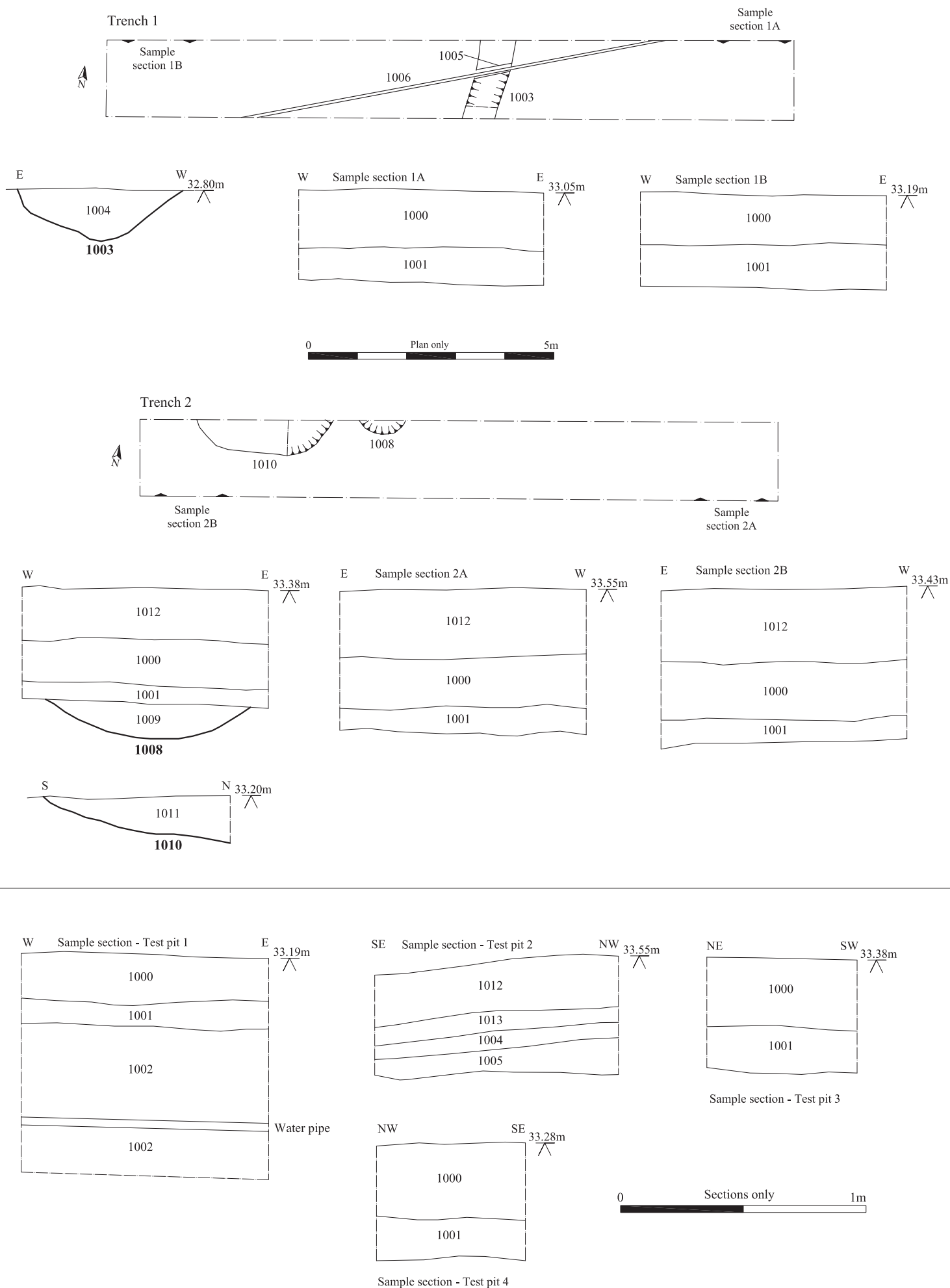




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**Fig. 3 Trench location plan**  
 Scale 1:250 at A4







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**Fig. 5 Trench plans and sections**

Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3