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**PROPOSED HABITAT CREATION,
DEADMAN'S GRAVE, ICKLINGHAM, SUFFOLK
(A11 FIVEWAYS TO THETFORD IMPROVEMENT SCHEME)**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING**

Authors: Gareth Barlow (Fieldwork & report)	
NGR: TL 77865 73987	Report No: 4828
District: Suffolk	Site Code: IKL 196
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 6165
Signed:	Date: 5 th May 2015

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name		Deadmans Grave, Icklingham, Suffolk	
<p>In March 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation and continuous archaeological monitoring and recording of groundworks associated with the proposed new habitat creation on land at Deadman's Grave, Icklingham, Suffolk, as part of the A11 Fiveways to Thetford Improvement Scheme (NGR TL 77865 73987). The archaeological investigations were undertaken to comply with a requirement of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCC AS-CT).</p> <p>Despite the high potential for archaeological remains of prehistoric date the trial trench evaluation and subsequent monitoring revealed only a pit with prehistoric struck flint and an undated ditch. These features were both shallow and located in the area of deeper soil (Subsoil L1001) which traversed the site diagonally. The preservation of features beneath a deeper soil suggests that if any features were present elsewhere they may have been lost to ploughing. That said, the fieldwalking produced only two later Neolithic – Early Bronze Age pottery sherds and modern finds. Trenches 3 and 4 were located close to the possible barrows to investigate whether there were adjacent burials or cremations. Neither trench contained archaeological features or finds.</p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)		20 th – 24 th March 2015	
Previous work (Y/N/?)		N	Future work
P. number		6165	Site code
			IKL 196
Type of project		Archaeological Evaluation, fieldwalking, and metal detector survey	
Site status		Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	
Current land use		Felled conifer plantation	
Planned development		New Stone Curlew habitat	
Main features (+dates)		Pit, ditch	
Significant finds (+dates)		Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pottery	
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish		Suffolk	Forest Heath
			Icklingham
HER/ SMR for area		Suffolk County Council	
Post code (if known)			
Area of site		0.44ha	
Height AOD (max/ min)		c.35m AOD	
Project creators			
Brief issued by		Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCC AS-CT) (advice)	
Project supervisor/s (PO)		Gareth Barlow	
Funded by		Elveden Estate and Farms	
Full title		Deadmans Grave, Icklingham, Suffolk	
Authors		Barlow, G.	
Report no.		4828	
Date (of report)		May 2015	

**PROPOSED HABITAT CREATION,
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
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SUMMARY

In March 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation and continuous archaeological monitoring and recording of groundworks associated with the proposed new habitat creation on land at Deadman's Grave, Icklingham, Suffolk, as part of the A11 Fiveways to Thetford Improvement Scheme (NGR TL 77865 73987). The archaeological investigations were undertaken to comply with a requirement of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCC AS-CT).

The site lies in an area thought to have been largely treeless open heathland since the Neolithic period until conifer plantations were established in the 20th century. A scheduled barrow monument lies at top of the slope approximately 230m to the northeast. A second mound at the bottom of the valley just to the north known as Deadman's Grave is likely a pillow mound. A walkover survey of the site recorded a number of low earthworks on edges of the site. Two low roughly circular mounds located on the north-eastern and south-western corners were interpreted as possible ploughed down barrows. Low linear banks on the south-eastern and north-western edges were thought to be possible relict ancient field boundaries.

Despite the high potential for archaeological remains of prehistoric date the trial trench evaluation and subsequent monitoring revealed only a pit with prehistoric struck flint and an undated ditch. These features were both shallow and located in the area of deeper soil (Subsoil L1001) which traversed the site diagonally. The preservation of features beneath a deeper soil suggests that if any features were present elsewhere they may have been lost to ploughing. That said, the fieldwalking produced only two later Neolithic – Early Bronze Age pottery sherds and modern finds. Trenches 3 and 4 were located close to the possible barrows to investigate whether there were adjacent burials or cremations. Neither trench contained archaeological features or finds.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In March 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation and continuous archaeological monitoring and recording of groundworks associated with the proposed new habitat creation on land at Deadman's Grave, Icklingham, Suffolk, as part of the A11 Fiveways to Thetford Improvement Scheme (NGR TL 77865 73987; Figs. 1 and 2). The archaeological investigations were undertaken to comply with a requirement of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCC AS-CT).

1.2 It is proposed to create new grassland habitat from the previous plantation landscape. Trees have been removed and the site was to be ploughed and soils inverted in order to establish the new grassland habitat. The shallow earthworks identified on the periphery of the site were to be marked on the ground and avoided by the proposed soil inversion ploughing.

1.3 The archaeological investigations were carried out in accordance with advice issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service – Conservation Team (SCC AS-CT), and a specification compiled by AS (18/03/15), and approved by SCC AS-CT. The documents *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14 (Gurney 2003) and the Institute for Archaeologists' (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (1994, revised 2008) were used for guidance.

1.3 The project required the recovery of a record of archaeological deposits that may be damaged or removed by any development (including landscaping). The main objective surrounds the potential for the groundworks for the development to produce evidence for the development of the prehistoric and later landscape. Prior to the soil inversion ploughing commencing, six evaluation trenches were mechanically excavated to identify any areas for preservation and to record the soil profile. Continuous monitoring of all soil inversion ploughing groundworks was then be undertaken in order to provide a record of any archaeological deposits which are displaced. Exposed soil was examined for finds and colour changes and concurrent metal detecting was undertaken in tandem with the monitoring of the ploughing.

Planning policy context

1.4 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 SITE DESCRIPTION (Fig. 2)

2.1 The site lies to the north west of Icklingham within the Elveden Estate. It is proposed create a new grassland habitat of some 4.5ha on the site, on a site previously occupied by a coniferous plantation.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The area of the evaluation was until recently a small area of coniferous woodland surrounded by grassland heath. It is located on Cretaceous Chalk with a subsoil of sandy soil and thin sand.

3.2 The area lies on a south-west facing slope at a height of 40-44m AOD at its eastern extent, falling to 30-35m AOD at its western edge.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 A programme of archaeological survey by walkover/earthwork survey has previously been undertaken on the site at Deadman's Grave (Barrett 2013). This non-intrusive survey identified a variety of earthworks possibly representing archaeological remains. Of most significance amongst these were two degraded sub-circular features which have been interpreted as possible Bronze Age barrows. Several known barrow sites exist in the immediately surrounding area and these are designated as Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Suffolk contains a wealth of prehistoric burial sites; at least 825 barrows are known in the county,

most of which appear to have been of early Bronze Age date (Martin 1999, 38). Associated with the barrows were three linear features which have been interpreted as part of a prehistoric field system. At least two of these features appear to underlie, and therefore pre-date, the barrows. Also directly associated with one of the possible barrows is a well-defined sub-rectangular hollow which appears to mark the south-western edge of the barrow. Two further linear features were identified as more recent boundaries associated with a modern plantation.

4.2 In addition to identifying these possible prehistoric features, the survey also noted their setting, which has been characterised as a largely treeless (until 20th-century coniferous plantations) open heathland landscape, created by the clearance of lightly forested land in the Neolithic period.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Six trial trenches were excavated (Fig.3). Trench 1 was 183m, Trench 2 was 164m, Trench 3 was 20m, Trench 4 was 17m, and Trenches 5 and 6 were both 40m long. Each trench was 1.80m wide.

4.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a wide 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.

4.3 In addition a concurrent fieldwalking and metal detector survey was carried during the inversion ploughing process.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS Fig. 3

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

6.1 TRIAL TRENCHING

Trench 1 (Figs. 3 - 4)

<i>Sample section 1A:</i> <i>Northwest end, northeast facing.</i> <i>0.00 = 40.10m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.48m	L1000	Topsoil. Mixed patches of very friable, dark grey brown organic silty sand, mid orange brown silty sand, and mid brown orange silty sand, with occasional medium and large angular and sub-angular flint, occasional medium and large sub-rounded chalk.
0.48m+	L1002	Natural deposits. Compact, white chalk with patches of dark-mid brown orange silty sand with occasional-moderate medium and large angular and sub-angular flint.

<i>Sample section 1B:</i> <i>Southeast end, northeast facing.</i> <i>0.00 = 40.29m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.45m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.45m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above

<i>Sample section 1C:</i> <i>Centre, northeast facing.</i> <i>0.00 = 40.34m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.45m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.45 – 0.80m	L1001	Subsoil. Friable, mid brown orange silty sand with occasional medium and large angular and sub-angular flint.
0.80m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above

Description: Trench 1 contained a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pit (F1003) and an undated ditch (F1005).

Pit F1003 was oval in plan (0.60+ x 0.60 x 0.15m). It had irregular sides and an irregular base. Its fill (L1004) was a firm, dark grey brown silty sand with occasional medium and large angular and sub-angular flints. It contained fired clay (24g) and struck flint (6g).

Ditch F1005 was linear (13.50+ x 0.55 x 0.07m), orientated northwest/southeast. It had shallow sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill (L1006) was a friable, mid orange brown silty sand with occasional medium and large angular and sub-angular flints. It contained no finds.

Trench 2 (Figs. 3 - 4)

<i>Sample section 2A:</i> <i>Southwest end, northeast facing.</i> <i>0.00 = 32.69m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.42m	L1000	Topsoil. As Tr 1A
0.42m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As Tr 1A

<i>Sample section 2b:</i> <i>Northwest end, southwest facing.</i> <i>0.00 = 33.84m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As Tr 1A
0.34m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As Tr 1A

Description: Trench 2 contained no archaeological finds or features.

Trench 3 (Figs. 3 - 4)

<i>Sample section 3:</i> <i>Centre, northwest facing.</i> <i>0.00 = 43.22m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. As Tr 1A
0.38m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As Tr 1A

Description: Trench 3 contained no archaeological finds or features.

Trench 4 (Figs. 3 - 4)

<i>Sample section 4:</i> <i>Centre, northwest facing.</i> <i>0.00 = 32.37m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.44m	L1000	Topsoil. As Tr 1A
0.44m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As Tr 1A

Description: Trench 4 contained no archaeological finds or features.

Trench 5 (Figs. 3 - 4)

<i>Sample section 5:</i> <i>Centre, northwest facing.</i> <i>0.00 = 35.24m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As Tr 1A
0.32m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As Tr 1A

Description: Trench 5 contained no archaeological finds or features.

Trench 6 (Figs. 3 - 4)

<i>Sample section 6: Centre, northwest facing. 0.00 = 35.71m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.42m	L1000	Topsoil. As Tr 1A
0.42m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As Tr 1A

Description: Trench 6 contained no archaeological finds or features.

6.2 MONITORING

6.2.1 Following the completion of the trial trenching the inversion ploughing was undertaken using a two-furrow plough. The leading ploughshare was much larger than a standard ploughshare and designed to cut a much deeper furrow. The second ploughshare was of the usual dimensions and was located behind and to the side of, the first and positioned at approximately half the depth of the first. The first ploughshare cut a deep furrow and the second rolled the topsoil into this furrow. On the next run the large ploughshare ran in the shallow furrow cutting down into the natural (L1001) by 0.10m+, lifting this and the remaining top/subsoil and rolling it on top of the topsoil previously deposited in the adjacent deep furrow.

6.2.2 Behind the plough the site was fieldwalked and metal detected in transects orientated northwest/southeast, and 5m apart. The metal detector finds comprised the tail fin section of a WW2 mortar bomb, a fired blank .303 cartridge case, a spent .45 cal pistol bullet, Fe nails, wire, and tin cans. A sherd of late Neolithic / early Bronze Age pottery (7g) was found.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Topsoil L1000 was present across the whole site (0.32 – 0.48m thick), and was a mixture of topsoil and subsoil created after the grubbing out of the tree roots of the conifer plantation. It comprised mixed patches of very friable, dark grey brown silty sand, mid orange brown silty sand, and mid brown orange silty sand with occasional medium and large angular and sub-angular flint, and medium and large sub-rounded chalk.

8.2 Towards the centre of Trench 1 a line of deeper soil running diagonally, east/west, across the site was recorded; Subsoil L1001 was c.0.35m thick.

8.3 The natural deposits (L1001) comprised compact, white chalk with patches of dark-mid brown orange silty sand with occasional-moderate medium and large angular and sub-angular flint. These deposits were encountered at depths of 0.32 - 0.48m, except the centre of Trench 1 where they were at a depth of 0.80m.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site lies in an area thought to have been largely treeless open heathland since the Neolithic period until conifer plantations were established in the 20th century. A scheduled barrow monument lies at top of the slope approximately 230m to the northeast. A second mound at the bottom of the valley just to the north known as Deadman's Grave is likely a pillow mound. A walkover survey of the site recorded low earthworks on edges of the site. Two low roughly circular mounds located in the north-eastern and south-western corners were interpreted as possible ploughed down barrows. Low linear banks on the south-eastern and north-western edges were thought to be possible relict ancient field boundaries.

9.2 Despite the high potential for archaeological remains of prehistoric date the trial trench evaluation and subsequent monitoring revealed only a pit with prehistoric struck flint and an undated ditch. These features were both shallow and located in the area of deeper soil (Subsoil L1001) which traversed the site diagonally. The preservation of features beneath a deeper soil suggests that if any features were present elsewhere they may have been lost to ploughing. That said, the fieldwalking produced only two later Neolithic – Early Bronze Age pottery sherds and modern finds. Trenches 3 and 4 were located close to the possible barrows to investigate whether there were adjacent burials or cremations. Neither trench contained archaeological features or finds.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank the client, Elveden Estate and Farms, for funding the project (in particular Mr James Holliday for assistance).

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Dr Jude Plouviez and Dr Matt Brudenell of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCC AS-CT).

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APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

IKL196, P6165, Event No. ESF22991 Deadmans Grave, Icklingham

Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A. Bone (g)	Other
1003	1004	Fill of Pit					F. Clay - 24g Str. Flint - (2) - 6g
	1007	New Ploughsoil	Later Neolithic-Early Bronze Age	(2) - 21g			Metal - 788g Fe.Object - 2783g

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Struck Flint

Andrew Peachey CMIfA

The evaluation recovered a total of two pieces (4g) of struck flint in a slightly patinated condition, comprising debitage flakes contained in L1004. The raw flint is dark grey with a white chalky cortex, typical of that abundantly occurring in the local Breckland geology. Both flakes were removed from a blade core, with one exhibiting a predominantly corticated dorsal face suggesting it a trimming flake, and the other snapped at a perpendicular angle, truncating the parallel dorsal scars. These technological traits are consistent with the blade technology employed in the Mesolithic and earlier Neolithic periods, but are not sufficient to allow further diagnostic processes or implements to be identified.

The Prehistoric Pottery

Andrew Peachey

Trial-trench excavations recovered a total of 2 sherds (24g) of prehistoric pottery contained in L1007, in a highly fragmented, slightly abraded condition and associated with modern metalwork.

The prehistoric pottery was manufactured in a soft-powdery, friable fabric with pale orange external surfaces that fade to very dark grey internal surfaces; tempered with common crushed flint and grog (both 0.5-4mm). The body sherds are uniformly c.10mm thick with a single sherd in L1007 exhibiting two columns of inscribed chevron decoration that suggest the pottery may have formed part of a later Neolithic Grooved Ware vessel, although based on such limited diagnostic traits it cannot be discounted the sherds were derived from an early Bronze Age Food Vessel or Collared Urn.

The occurrence of both the later Neolithic and early Bronze Age ceramic styles in isolated or clusters of pit features has been identified as a depositional pattern typical of domestic occupation in the region, potentially beginning in c.2900BC (Garwood 1999, 154). At Lakenheath this depositional pattern was identified with the possible formation of surface middens once associated with domestic discard (Percival 2005, 22); while larger quantities of both styles of pottery recorded in similar pit contexts at Mildenhall (Peachey 2010, 54-7) and Ingham (Peachey 2012, 37-42).

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Project details

Project name	PROPOSED HABITAT CREATION, DEADMAN'S GRAVE, ICKLINGHAM, SUFFOLK (A11 FIVEWAYS TO THETFORD IMPROVEMENT SCHEME)
Short description of the project	In March 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation and continuous archaeological monitoring and recording of groundworks associated with the proposed new habitat creation on land at Deadman's Grave, Icklingham, Suffolk, as part of the A11 Fiveways to Thetford Improvement Scheme (NGR TL 77865 73987). The archaeological investigations were undertaken to comply with a requirement of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCC AS-CT). Despite the high potential for archaeological remains of prehistoric date the trial trench evaluation and subsequent monitoring revealed only a pit with prehistoric struck flint and an undated ditch. These features were both shallow and located in the area of deeper soil (Subsoil L1001) which traversed the site diagonally. The preservation of features beneath a deeper soil suggests that if any features were present elsewhere they may have been lost to ploughing. That said, the fieldwalking produced only two later Neolithic - Early Bronze Age pottery sherds and modern finds. Trenches 3 and 4 were located close to the possible barrows to investigate whether there were adjacent burials or cremations. Neither trench contained archaeological features or finds.
Project dates	Start: 20-03-2015 End: 24-03-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	P6165 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	PITS, DITCHES Late Neolithic
Significant Finds	POTTERY Late Neolithic
Methods & techniques	"Fieldwalking","Metal Detectors","Sample Trenches","Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Woodland planting (e.g. lowland broadleaf woodland)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK FOREST HEATH ICKLINGHAM PROPOSED HABITAT CREATION, DEADMAN'S GRAVE, ICKLINGHAM, SUFFOLK (A11 FIVEWAYS TO THETFORD IMPROVEMENT SCHEME)
Study area	0.44 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 77865 73987 52.334645949891 0.610868971394 52 20 04 N 000 36 39 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 35m Max: 35m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Project brief originator	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Project design originator	Jon Murray
Project director/manager	Jon Murray
Project supervisor	Barlow, G

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Suffolk County Archaeological Store
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Archaeological Store
Digital Contents	"Survey"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Archaeological Store
Paper Contents	"Survey"
Paper Media available	"Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Survey "

Project bibliography 1

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Other bibliographic details	Archaeological Solutions Report No. 4828
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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
Excavating Trench 2, Looking northwest.



2
Trench 1 post exc, looking southeast.



3
Pit F1003, Trench 1, looking southwest.



4
Ditch F1005, Trench 1, looking southeast.



5
Sample section 1A, Trench 1, looking southwest.



6
Trench 2 post exc, looking northwest.



7

Sample section 2B, Trench 2, looking northeast.



8

Trench 3 post exc, looking northeast.



9

Sample section 3, Trench 3, looking southeast.



10

Trench 4 post exc, looking northeast.



11

Sample section 4, Trench 4, looking southeast.



12

Trench 5 post exc, looking northeast.



13

Sample section 5, Trench 5, looking southeast.



14

Trench 6 post exc, looking northeast.



15

Sample section 6, Trench 6, looking southeast.



16

The inversion plough.



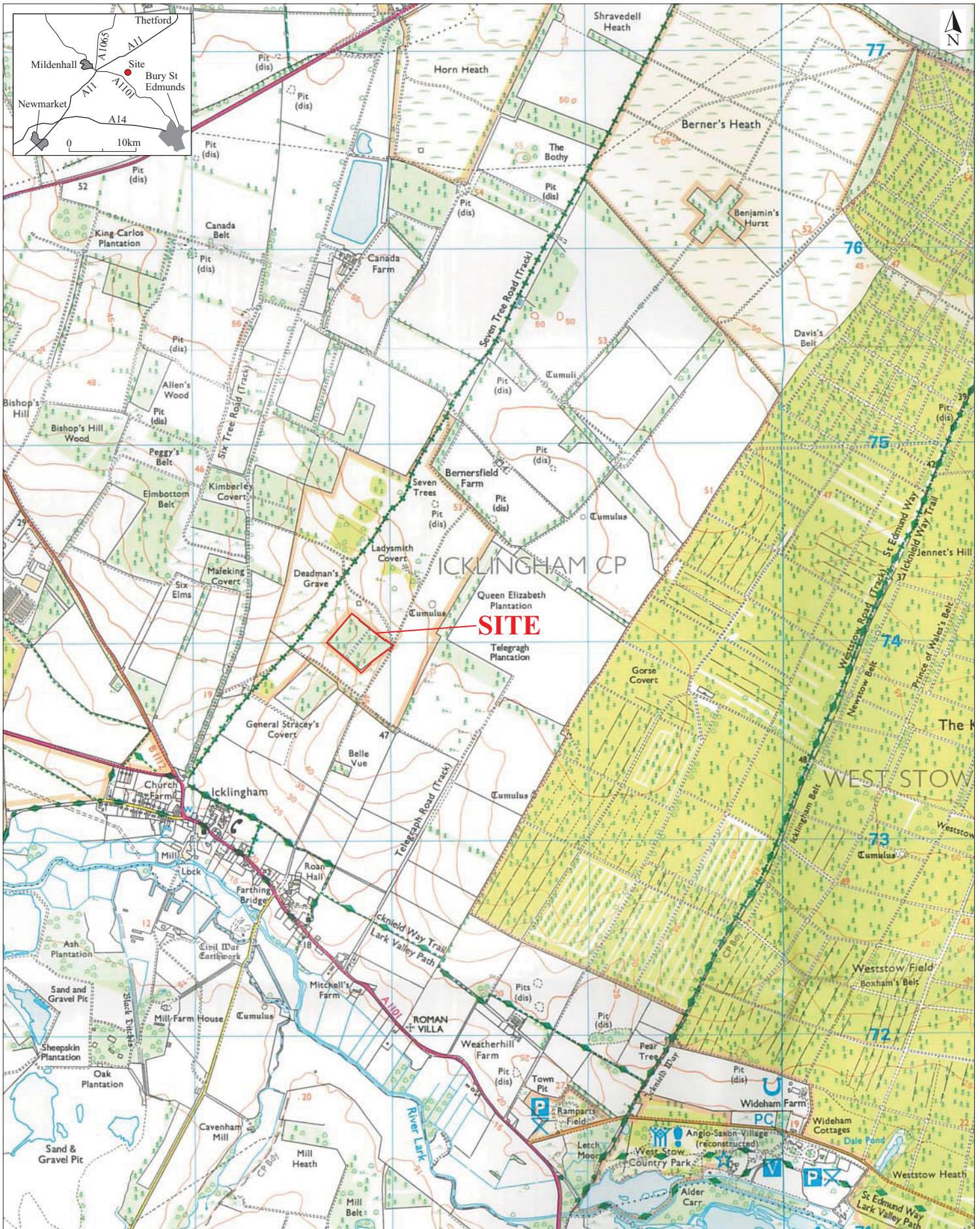
17

Inversion ploughing in progress.



18

General view of site after inversion ploughing, looking southeast.



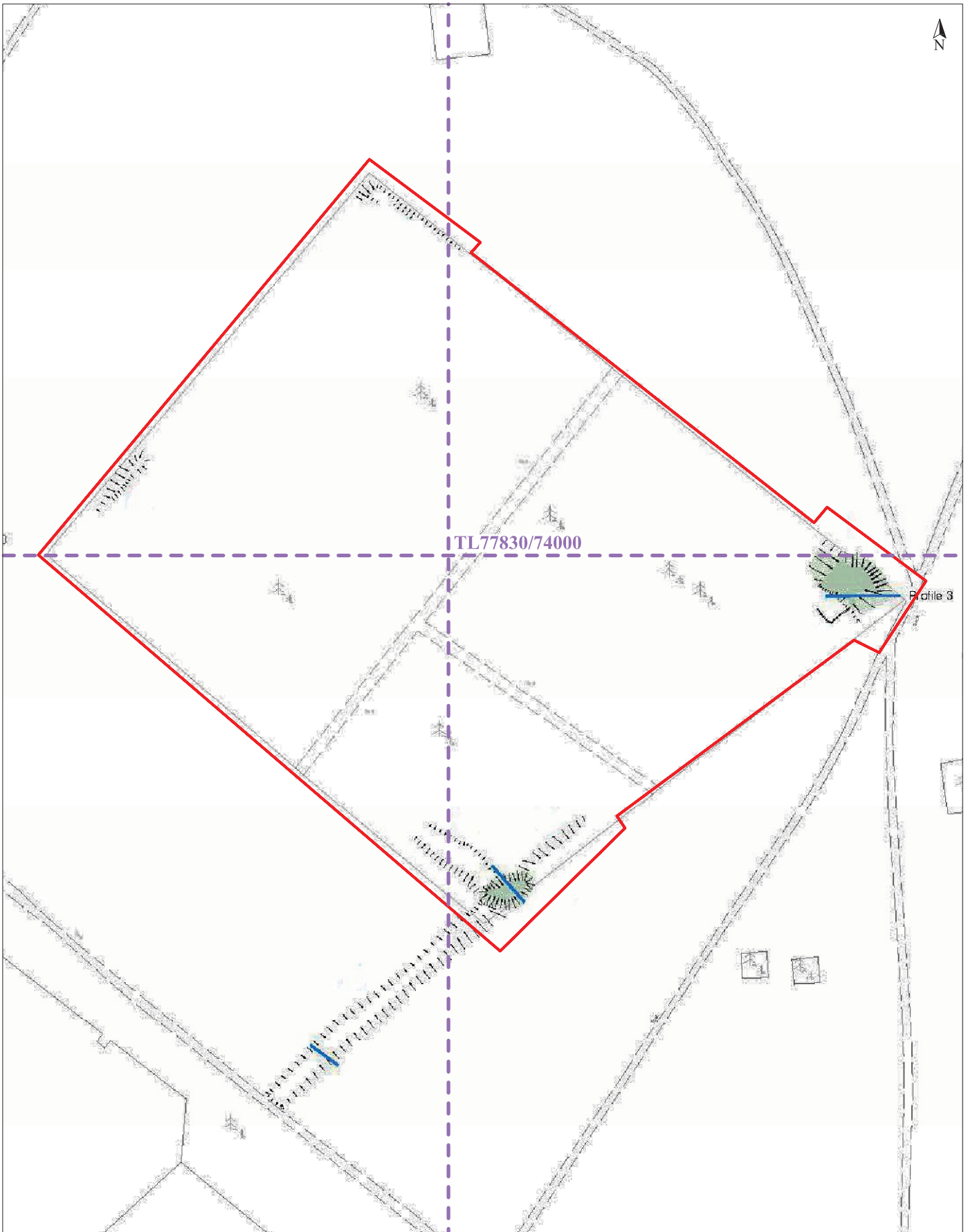
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Fig. 1 Site location plan

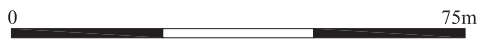
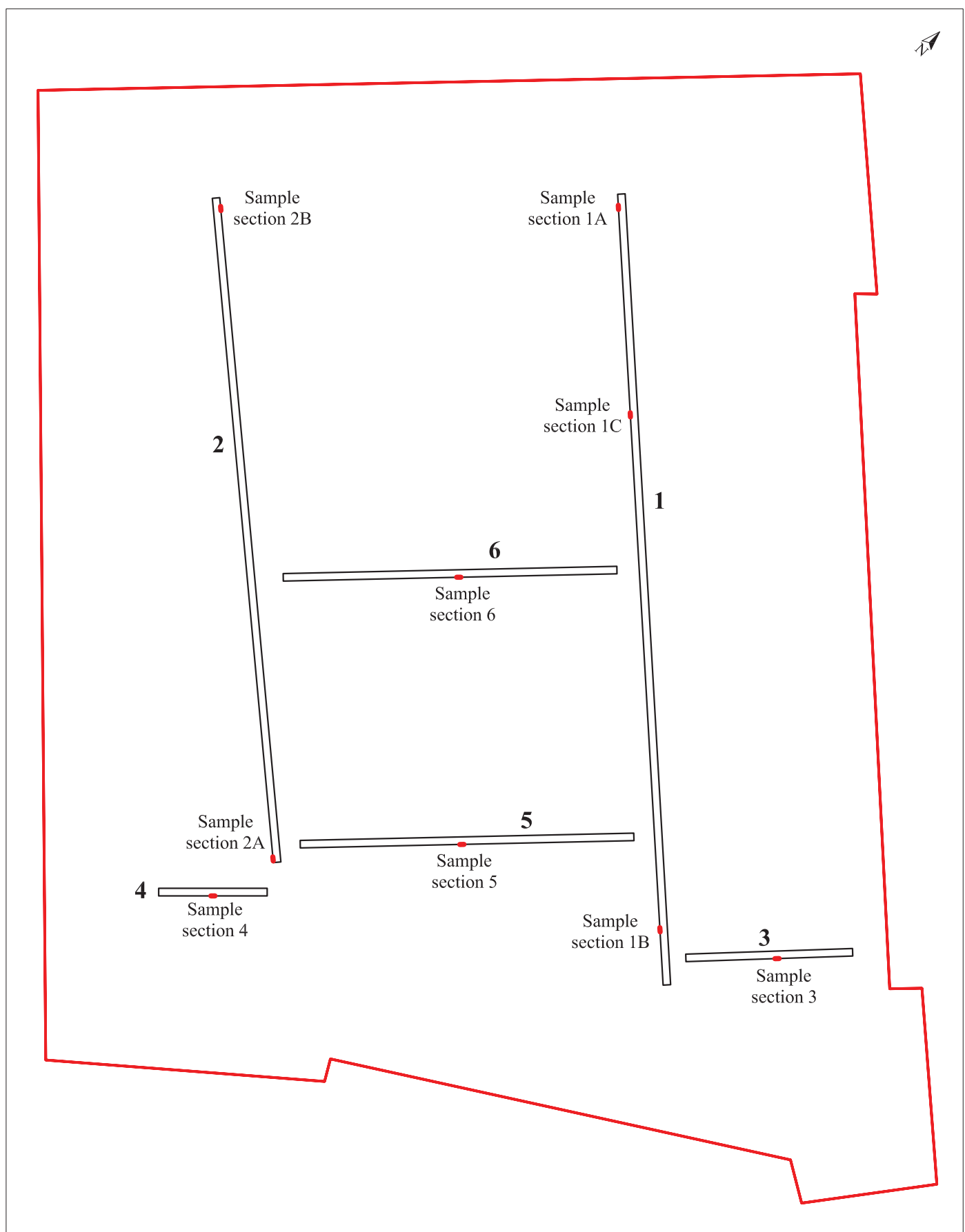
Scale 1:25,000 at A4

Deadman's Grave, Icklingham (P6165)

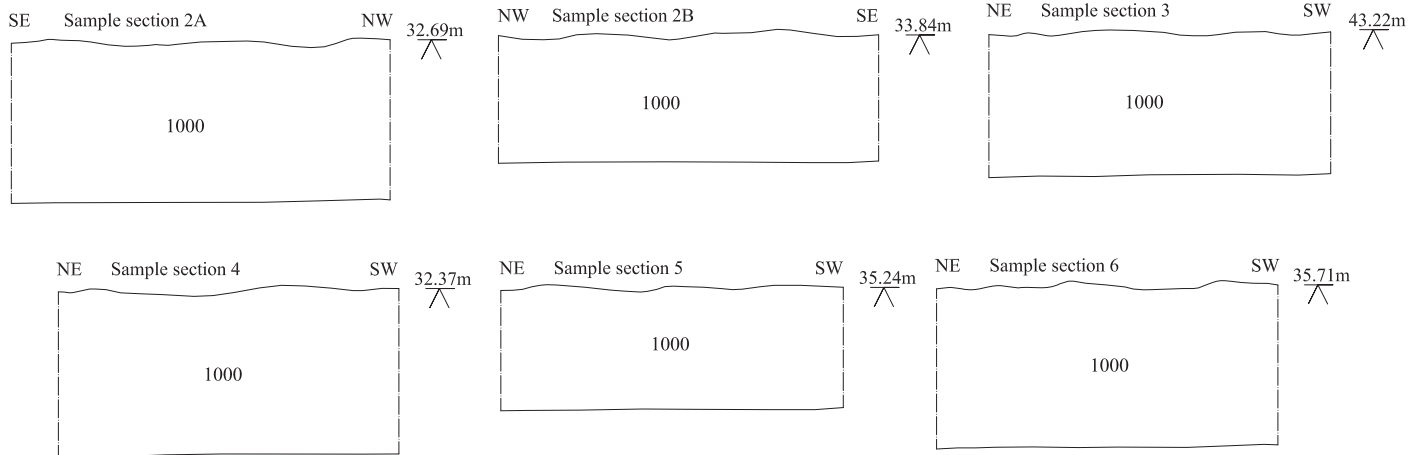
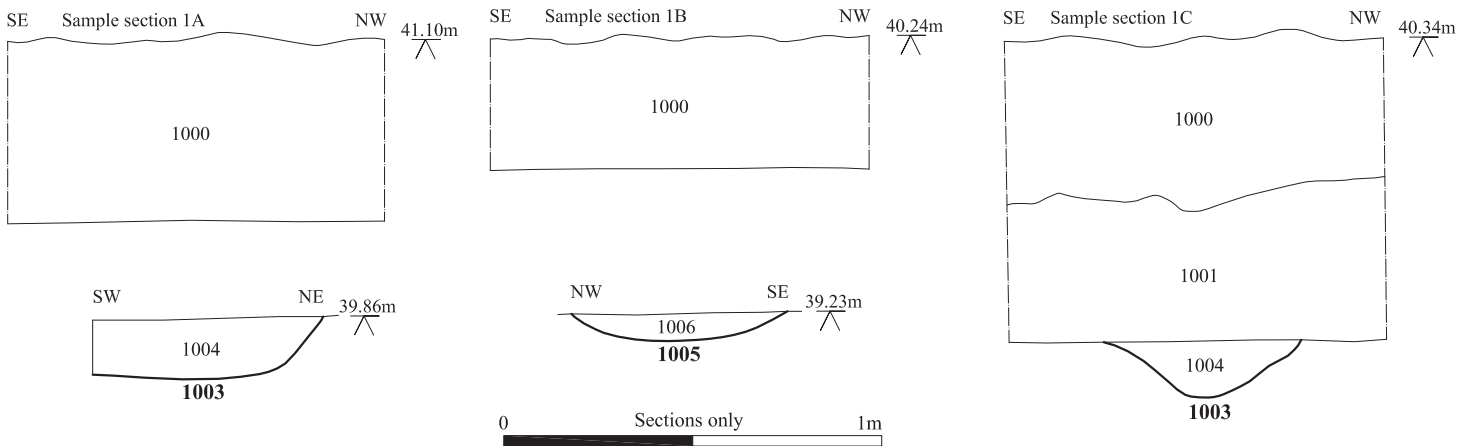
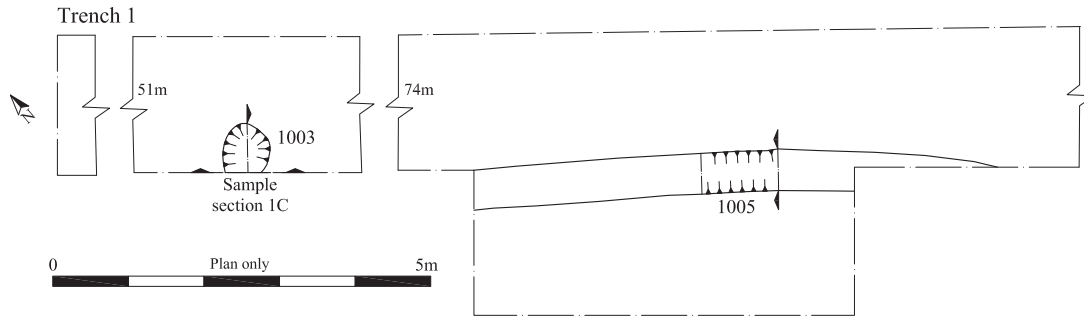


0 1:2500 150m

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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:2000 at A4
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Fig. 3 Trench location plan
Scale 1:1250 at A4
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Fig. 4 Trench plan and sections
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A4
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