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**PROPOSED TENNIS COURT, NORTH END FARM,  
BARKWAY ROAD, ANSTEY, HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING  
VIA 'STRIP, MAP & RECORD'**

HER request No. 209/13

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski (fieldwork & report) Kate Higgs (research)	
NGR: TL 39620 33945	Report No: 4595
District: East Herts	Site Code: AS 1692
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 5547
Signed:	Date: 4 June 2014

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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>	<i>Proposed tennis court, North End Farm, Barkway Road, Anstey, Hertfordshire</i>		
<p><i>In May 2014 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring via 'strip, map &amp; record' at North End Farm, Barkway Road, Anstey, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 39620 33945). The monitoring was commissioned by Mrs Tish Clements in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a tennis court.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the modern features likely associated with the farm were recorded. Pit F1004 was likely of 19<sup>th</sup> century date and the sherd of medieval pottery was residual. The impact of the construction project (the tennis court) on the below ground remains proved to be limited.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	20 <sup>th</sup> May 2014		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	N
P. number	5547	Site code	AS 1692
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Monitoring &amp; Recording via 'Strip, Map &amp; Record'</i>		
Site status	<i>Within Area of Archaeological Significance 12</i>		
Current land use	<i>Agricultural land/garden</i>		
Planned development	<i>Tennis court</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Modern pits</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>A residual medieval (late 12<sup>th</sup> – mid 14<sup>th</sup> C) pottery sherd</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>East Herts</i>	<i>Anstey</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Hertfordshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>SG9 0BT</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 2ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 39620 33945</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c. 115 - 121m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>HCC HEU</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mrs Tish Clements</i>		
Full title	<i>Proposed tennis court, North End Farm, Barkway Road, Anstey, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Monitoring &amp; Recording via 'Strip, Map &amp; Record'</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z., &amp; Higgs, K.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4595</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>June 2014</i>		

## **PROPOSED TENNIS COURT, NORTH END FARM, BARKWAY ROAD, ANSTEY, HERTFORDSHIRE**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING VIA 'STRIP, MAP & RECORD'**

#### **SUMMARY**

*In May 2014 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring via 'strip, map & record' at North End Farm, Barkway Road, Anstey, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 39620 33945). The monitoring was commissioned by Mrs Tish Clements in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a tennis court.*

*The site is situated c. 1.4km north-west of Anstey, Hertfordshire. It is located within Area of Archaeological Significance 12, as identified on the Local Plan. The Area includes extensive evidence for prehistoric (late Neolithic – early Bronze Age and late Bronze Age) activity found at Barkway Golf Club to the immediate north-west of the site. The current investigation area is adjacent to North End Farm which dates to the 16<sup>th</sup> century but may have been of earlier origin. The site had a potential for prehistoric, late medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.*

*In the event the modern features likely associated with the farm were recorded. Pit F1004 was likely of 19<sup>th</sup> century date and the sherd of medieval pottery was residual. The impact of the construction project (the tennis court) on the below ground remains proved to be limited.*

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In May 2014 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring via 'strip, map & record' at North End Farm, Barkway Road, Anstey, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 39620 33945; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by Mrs Tish Clements in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a tennis court (East Herts District Council Planning Ref. 3/13/1434/FP).

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance with advice from Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 11/11/2013), and approved by HCC HEU. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for An Archaeological Watching Brief* (revised 2008), and the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the project of archaeological monitoring and recording were:

- The investigation and recording of any surviving archaeological remains within the area of the new 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 findings of the monitoring and recording of the development programme in their local and regional context, having made reference to the relevant regional research agendas and through cartographic, documentary and other research.;
- 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*

1.4 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 lies within the parish of Anstey, which lies within the district of East Hertfordshire and the county of Hertfordshire. The village of Anstey is situated 1.4km to the south-east, the settlement of Barkway 1.75km to the north-west and the hamlet of Nuthampstead 1km to the north-north-west. The site also lies to the immediate west of North End Farm, which is located along a meandering lane running north-westwards from Anstey to Barkway Park Golf Course.

2.2 The site comprises a large, irregular plot of land covering an area of approximately 2 hectares. To its immediate east lies North End Farm and to its north a meandering lane with Barkway Park Golf Course beyond. The southern and western boundaries of the site are demarcated by existing field boundaries, whilst two further field boundaries run west to eastwards across the centre of the site. The site is currently occupied by undeveloped agricultural land. It is proposed to change the use of an existing paddock to build a new tennis court, with associated landscaping.

## **3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

3.1 The site lies within a gently undulating topography of small valleys and small watercourses, which characterizes the district of East Hertfordshire (Fig. 1). The River Quin flows roughly southwards 350m to the west of the site. The site lies at approximately 115 – 121m AOD, with its relief sloping downwards from its south-eastern corner to the north-west. The Anstey area is located upon a solid geology of Upper Cretaceous Clay (British Geological Survey 1978), overlain by a drift geology of chalky till. Soils of the area comprise those of the Hanslope Association, which are described as slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

3.2 The area surrounding the site has been subject to only very limited previous intrusive archaeological work, which might reveal a comparable stratigraphy. An archaeological investigation at Two Acres and 1.2km to the south-east of the site revealed a mid yellow brown, compact silty clay topsoil to a maximum depth 0.36m overlying a clay silt made ground and mid yellowish grey, compact chalky clay natural (Schofield & Peachey 2012).

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

4.1 The site lies within Area of Archaeological Significance 12, as identified on the EHDC Local Plan. Extensive evidence for prehistoric activity has been found at Barkway Golf Club, which lies to the immediate north-west of the site. A founder's hoard discovered during the creation of one of the fairways 900m to the north-west of the site consisted of 84 items dated to the late Bronze Age (HER 9063). Subsequent archaeological surveying at the golf course has identified two cropmarks of ring ditches judged to be late Neolithic – early



Bronze Age (HERs 9065 & 9066). Associated fieldwalking revealed small but significant quantities of Bronze Age (?worked flints and debitage, Romano-British and medieval pottery, and late and post-medieval tile (HER 9067).

4.2 The site lies 3.8km to the east of the A10 (T) Great North Road, which follows the north/south aligned course of Roman Ermine Street. Extensive Romano-British settlement is known in the wider area, notably Buntingford to the south-west and Barkway to the north-west. However, the Romano-British period in the vicinity of the site is represented only by a copper-alloy mount of Roman date found to the north (HER 23842). The manor of Anstey is recorded in the Domesday survey (HER 2661) and is judged to have boasted a motte and bailey castle, later known as Anstey Castle, yet no Anglo-Saxon findspots are recorded in the vicinity of the site.

4.3 The settlement of Anstey comes to prominence in the medieval period. In addition to the expansion of Anstey Castle, Anstey village includes the church of St. George, which was erected in the late 12<sup>th</sup> century. A moated enclosure (HER 1944) is situated at Pain's End c. 1km to the south-east, whilst Bandons, also to the south-east, is a late medieval manor house with fine 15th century cross-wing (HER 11076). To the north-west of Bandons and 500m to the site's south-south-east are two strange rectangular enclosures surviving as earthworks or grassmarks (HERs 10169 & 10170). One explanation is that the features are the remains of temporary structures related to the nearby WWII aerodrome of Nuthampstead.

4.4 North End Farm is a post-medieval farmstead with a 16<sup>th</sup> century or earlier farmhouse and a range of farm buildings of 18th and 19<sup>th</sup> century date (HER 11082). The buildings are all listed, but the site does not fall within the historic building listing. The HER database reveals that the large field of rough pasture south-west of North End Farm, which includes the southern section of the site, contains earlier ditches (or possibly tracks) dividing it into smaller portions (HER 2392). The south-western section of the field also contains a number of hollows and irregular pits due probably to marl digging. In addition, a number of linear earthworks are recorded to the south of the farm (HER 10167). They are likely to pre-date the later 19<sup>th</sup> century as they are not shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map and are possibly an old system of ditches. No buildings are shown in the area of the proposed tennis court, but the site has the potential to reveal evidence of earlier phases of the farmstead or any precursor/s.

## 5 METHODOLOGY

5.1. The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all groundworks, the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the excavated area was scanned by metal detector.



5.2 The principal element monitored was the rectangular (35 x 17m) area of the proposed tennis court (Fig. 2). The area was subject to an initial stripping of topsoil within its limits and this was followed by a further reduction to provide a levelled 'plateau' for the new court. The groundworks were completed using mechanical 180° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

The stratigraphic sequence of the site was recorded and is presented below in sample section:

<i>Sample section 1 (DP 6)</i>		
<i>South-east corner of the site, facing west-south-west</i>		
<i>0.00 = 120.05m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.08m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown, friable, sandy silt.
0.08 – 0.29m	L1001	Modern made ground. Mid greyish brown, compact, clayey silt with frequent CBM fragments and debris.
0.29 – 0.41m	L1002	Made ground. Dark grey, compact, silty clay with occasional CBM fragments and chalk chunks.
0.41m+	L1003	Natural. Light yellow, compact, clay with frequent chalk.

*Description:* Only part of the area of investigation was subject to ground reduction below the level of the topsoil. This was the south-eastern sector of the site and c.25-30% of the total area (Fig. 2; DP 3, 4). Two modern pits were present: F1004 and F1006.

Pit F1004 was oval (2.60+ x 2.00 x 0.55m+; DP 5) extending beyond the southern limit of excavation. It had fairly steep sides and its base was not reached due to depth of the feature. Its fill, L1005, was a mid brown, compact, silty clay with occasional chalk chunks. Nineteenth-century roof tile fragments, two iron nails, and a residual medieval (late 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century) pottery sherd were recovered from the fill. F1004 may have been a clay pit used during the construction works on the farm.

F1006 was a large (4.40 x 2m) feature, likely a refuse pit, containing within its fill large amounts of modern (20<sup>th</sup> century) debris including glass jars and bottles. The pit was not excavated.

## 7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds during the programme of archaeological monitoring and recording.

## **8 DEPOSIT MODEL**

8.1 The site was commonly overlain by Topsoil L1000, a dark greyish brown, friable, sandy silt (0.08 – 0.15m thick). L1000 overlay two deposits of made ground (0.25 – 0.35m thick in total).

8.2 The natural clay, L1003, was present at 0.33 – 0.45m below the existing ground level and comprised a light yellow, compact, clay with frequent chalk.

## **9 DISCUSSION**

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for the prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval archaeology. Such remains have been found in the vicinity of the site, in particular, within the Barkway Golf Club to the immediate north-west of the site. North End Farm itself contains 16<sup>th</sup> century elements and may be of earlier origin.

9.2 In the event the modern features likely associated with the farm were recorded. Pit F1004 was likely of 19<sup>th</sup> century date and the sherd of medieval pottery was residual. The impact of the construction project (the tennis court) on the below ground remains proved to be limited.

## **10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

10.1 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 would like to thank Mrs Tish Clemets for funding the project and for her 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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Gurney, D., 2003, *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14/ALGAO

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Schofield, T. & Peachey, A., 2012, *Two Acres, Barkway Road, Anstey, Hertfordshire. Archaeological Investigation via 'Strip, Map & Record'*. AS unpublished report No. 4101

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

## APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA (HER)

The following sites are those that lie within a 1km radius of the site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER; request No. 209/13).

HER	NGR TL	Description
<b>Prehistoric</b>		
9063	38910 34680	Founder's hoard discovered by metal detector users during the creation of one of the fairways for Barkway Park Golf Club. It consists of 84 items, the majority of which are damaged, miscasts and scrap metal: 12 socketed axes, one flanged axe, 28 socketed axe fragments, a complete leaf-shaped spear head and four fragments, 17 fragments from blades of swords, a pommel and numerous scraps of bronze including rough cast ingots. Late Bronze Age (c.1000 – 600 BC) hoard, belonging to the Ewart Park phase
9065	38850 34670	One of two cropmarks of ring ditches discovered during aerial survey of Barkway Park Golf Club and judged to be late Neolithic – early Bronze Age
9066	38880 34630	One of two cropmarks of ring ditches discovered during aerial survey of Barkway Park Golf Club and judged to be late Neolithic – early Bronze Age
9067	3888 3460	Finds from fieldwalking at Barkway Park Golf Club comprised small but significant quantities of Bronze Age (?early-mid Bronze Age) worked flints and debitage. The survey also retrieved a small quantity of Romano-British and medieval pottery, and c.25 kg of late and post-medieval tile
<b>Romano-British</b>		
23842	39 34	A copper-alloy mount of Roman date found at Barkway
<b>Medieval</b>		
11076	4005 3338	Bandons is a late medieval manor house with fine 15th century cross-wing, and post-medieval farmstead
<b>Post-medieval</b>		
5056	38555 34137	Milestone south of Barkway
10169	3980 3350	North-west of Bandons is a strange rectangular enclosure surviving as an earthwork or grassmark. One explanation is that it is the remains of a temporary structure, related to the nearby WWII aerodrome of Nuthampstead
10170	3983 3355	North-west of Bandons is a strange rectangular enclosure surviving as an earthwork or grassmark. One explanation is that it is the remains of a temporary structure, related to the nearby WWII aerodrome of Nuthampstead
11082	3964 3394	North End Farm is a post-medieval farmstead with 16th century or earlier farmhouse
30224	38780 34263	The farm called Kings Buildings is a post-medieval farmstead and shown on the later 19th century OS maps
<b>Undated</b>		

2392	396 338	A large field of rough pasture SW of North End Farm [11082] contains earlier ditches (or possibly tracks) dividing it into smaller portions. The SW part of this field contains a number of hollows and irregular pits due probably to marl digging
4481	4005 3350	Possible rectangular earthworks are visible north of Bandons on a 20th century aerial photograph
7713	39613 33483	Cropmarks of a rectangular enclosure and a three-sided polygonal enclosure, together with attached trackway, linear ditches and a pit at Anstey
10167	3970 3379	Linear earthworks south of North End Farm. Possibly an old system of ditches
10168	4008 3334	Earthworks around Bandons comprising linear earthworks to the east and west of Bandons Farm. Probably old field boundary ditches related to the farm.
16955	40085 34268	The cropmark of a ditched enclosure, straddling the parish boundary to the south of Nuthampstead

## APPENDIX 2      CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

AS1692, Proposed Tennis Court, North End Farm, Anstey  
Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
1004	1005	Fill of Pit	19 <sup>th</sup> C CBM Residual Late 12th-mid 14th C pottery sherd	(1) 2g	199		Fe. Frags (2) - 64g

## **APPENDIX 3      SPECIALIST REPORTS**

### **The Pottery**

*by Peter Thompson*

The investigation recovered one lightly abraded late 12<sup>th</sup>-mid 14<sup>th</sup> century sherd of Hertfordshire grey ware weighing 4g, from Pit F1004 (L1005). The wheel-made sherd is from a jar rim, and is brown throughout containing a gritty fabric comprising sub-rounded quartz mainly 0.5 to 1mm in diameter.

### **The Ceramic Building Materials**

*Andrew Peachey*

Pit F1004 (L1005) contained two fragments (199g) of late post-medieval peg tile. The oxidised red peg tile is very hard fired, with tapering circular peg holes and a sanded base; characteristic of roof tile probably produced in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



**APPENDIX 4            CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE**

<b>Records</b>	<b>Number</b>
Brief	N
Specification	Y
Registers	4 (Context, Drawing Sheet, Drawing, Digital Photo)
Context Sheets	6
Site drawings A1	0
Site drawings A3	0
Site drawings A4	1
Site photographs b/w	0
Site photographs colour slides	0
Digital Photographs	15

## APPENDIX 5 HER SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name and address:</b>	North End Farm, Barkway Road, Anstey, Hertfordshire
<b>County:</b> Herts	<b>District:</b> East Herts
<b>Village/Town:</b>	<b>Parish:</b> Anstey
<b>Planning application reference:</b>	East Herts District Council Planning Ref. 3/13/1434/FP
<b>Client name/address/tel:</b>	Mrs Tish Clements
<b>Nature of application:</b>	Construction of a new tennis court
<b>Present land use:</b>	Paddock & garden
<b>Size of application area:</b> c.700m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Size of area investigated</b> 595m <sup>2</sup>
<b>NGR (8 figures):</b>	TL 39620 33945
<b>Site Code:</b>	AS 1692
<b>Site director/Organization:</b>	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
<b>Type of work:</b>	Archaeological Monitoring & Recording via 'Strip, Map & Record'
<b>Date of work:</b>	20/05/2014
<b>Location of finds/Curating museum:</b>	Hertford
<b>Related SMR Nos:</b>	<b>Periods represented:</b> modern
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports: -</b>	<p><i>In May 2014 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring via 'strip, map &amp; record' at North End Farm, Barkway Road, Anstey, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 39620 33945). The monitoring was commissioned by Mrs Tish Clements in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a tennis court.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the modern features likely associated with the farm were recorded. Pit F1004 was likely of 19<sup>th</sup> century date and the sherd of medieval pottery was residual. The impact of the construction project (the tennis court) on the below ground remains proved to be limited.</i></p>
<b>Author of summary:</b> Z Pozorski	<b>Date of Summary:</b> June 2014

## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. The site. Looking east-north-east.



DP 2. Initial removal of topsoil. Looking north.



DP 3. South-east part of the site with exposed natural geology. Looking south-south-west.



DP 4. The site. Looking north-north-west.

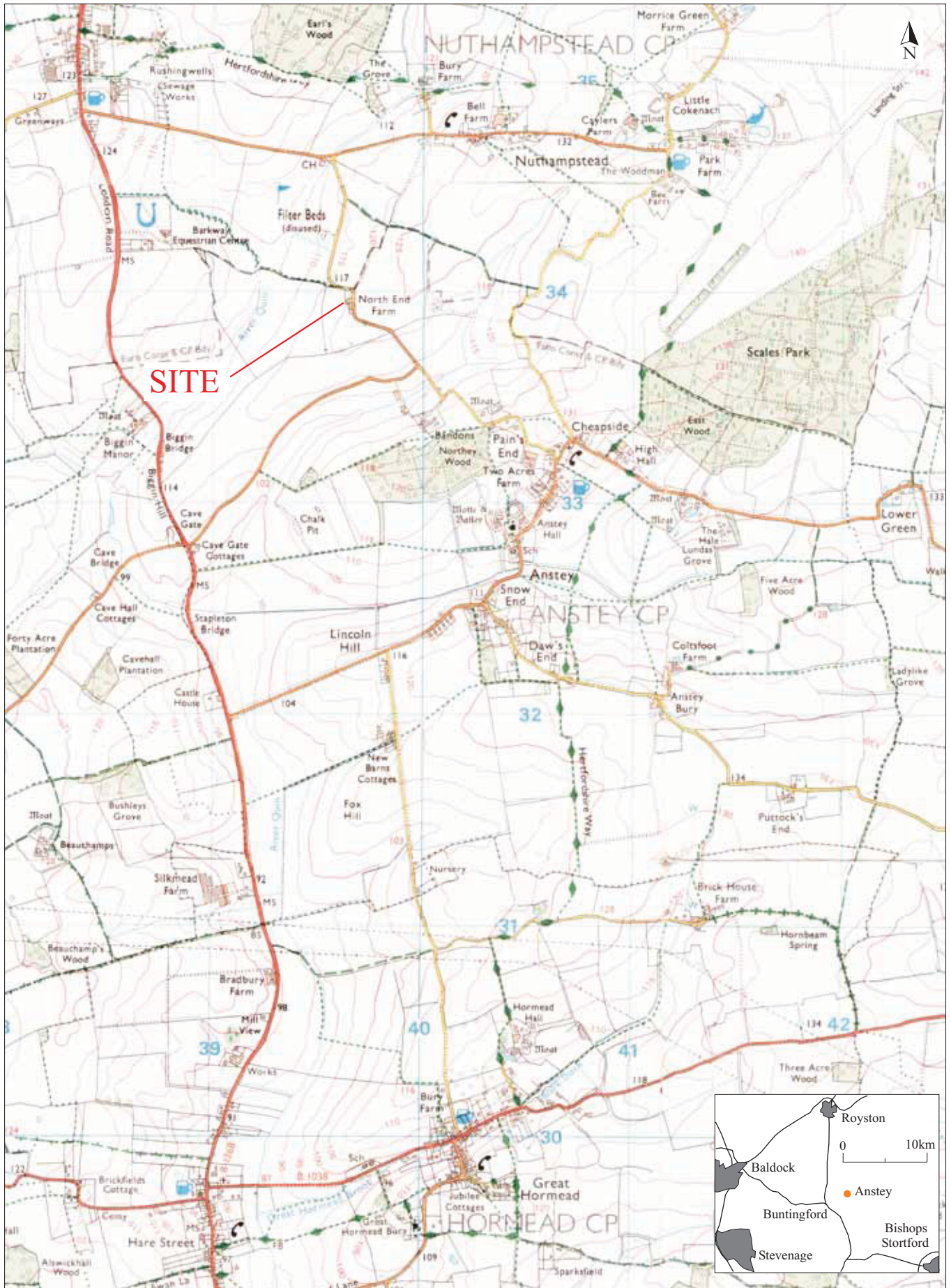


DP 5. Pit F1004. Looking west-south-west.



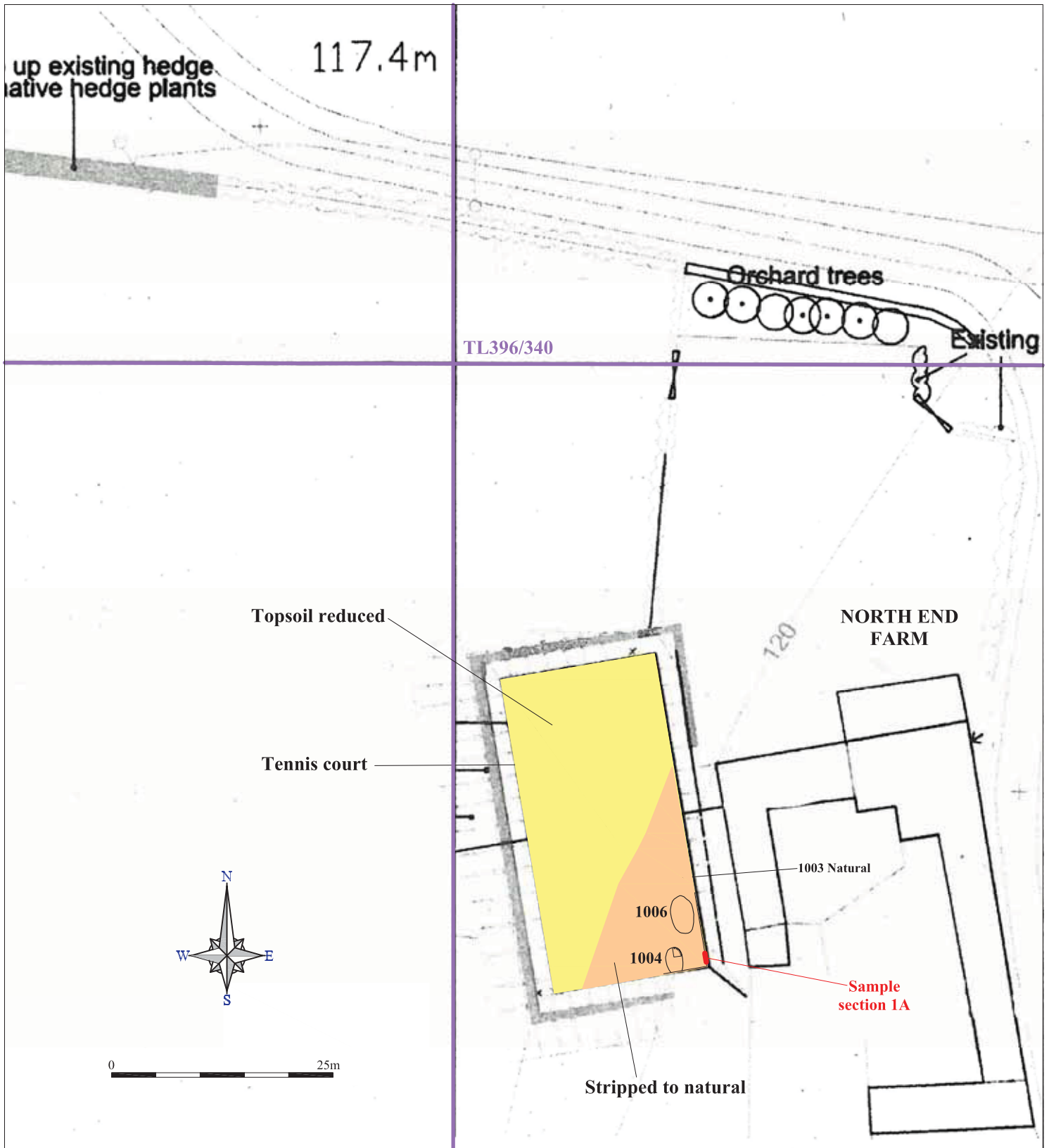
DP 6. South-east corner of the site. Sample section 1. Looking east-north-east.





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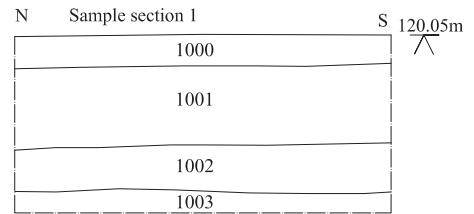
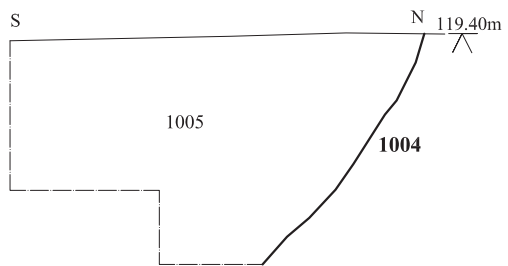
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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**

Scale 1:1500 at A4



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<b>Fig. 3 Sections</b>
Scale 1:20 at A4