
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

LAND AT ALIBONE CLOSE, MOULTON, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION, RECORDING, ANALYSIS
AND PUBLICATION**

Authors: Sam Egan (Fieldwork and report) Peter Thompson (Background)	
NGR: SP 78645 66400	Report No: 4729
District: Daventry	Site Code: AS1677
Approved: C Halpin MlfA	Project No: P5687
Signed:	Date: 17 November 2014

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project name	<i>Land at Alibone Close, Moulton, Northamptonshire</i>
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In April, July and August 2014 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication on land off Alibone Close, Moulton, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 7864 6640). The investigation was required by Northamptonshire County Council in compliance with a planning condition on approval to build 16 new bungalow dwellings on the site (Daventry DC Approval Ref: DA/2013/0952).

An archaeological evaluation was completed (Fairclough 2014). Two dated archaeological features were revealed: Pits F1010 and F1012 (Trench 3). The dating evidence is tentative being based on abraded Anglo-Saxon sherds; one from Pit F1012 and two from Pit F1010. Animal bone was also found within these pits. The pits were located adjacent to the eastern boundary of the site. Undated features largely comprise pits with Trenches 1 (F1003), 4 (F1024, F1026, F1028, F1030, and F1032) and 6 (F1017). An undated ditch was recorded in Trench 3 (F1014).

The Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication investigation revealed no archaeological features or finds.

Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>April, July & August 2014</i>		
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Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
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P. number	<i>5687</i>	Site code	<i>AS1677</i>
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Type of project	<i>Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication</i>		
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Site status	<i>-</i>
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Current land use	<i>Field/agricultural land</i>
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Planned development	<i>16 new bungalows</i>
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Main features (+dates)	<i>none</i>
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Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>
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Project location

County/ District/ Parish	<i>Northamptonshire</i>	<i>Daventry</i>	<i>Moulton</i>
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HER for area	<i>Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (NHER)</i>
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Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>
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Area of site	<i>c.8000m2</i>
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NGR	<i>SP7864 6640</i>
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Height AOD (min/max)	<i>103m AOD</i>
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Project creators

Brief issued by	<i>Northamptonshire County Council Historic Environment Team</i>
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Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
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Funded by	<i>Lodge Park Ltd</i>
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Full title	<i>Land at Alibone Close, Moulton, Northamptonshire Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication</i>
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Authors	<i>Egan, S.</i>
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Report no.	<i>4729</i>
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Date (of report)	<i>November 2014</i>
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LAND AT ALIBONE CLOSE, MOULTON, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION, RECORDING, ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION

SUMMARY

In April, July and August 2014 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication investigation on land off Alibone Close, Moulton, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 7864 6640). The investigation was required by Northamptonshire County Council in compliance with a planning condition on approval to build 16 new bungalow dwellings on the site (Daventry DC Approval Ref: DA/2013/0952).

An archaeological desk-based assessment was carried out in association with a previous application on the site (ULAS 2010). This concluded that Roman and Saxon material has been found locally, and that post-medieval and modern development of the site has been minimal, suggesting that any potential remains may not have suffered later truncation. Roman pottery has been found in fields to the west of the site, and development to the east in 1968 yielded Saxon pottery. Further information within the brief from the Portable Antiquities Scheme notes that numerous findspots of Roman coins are known from the village, in addition to medieval coins and other finds.

The site lies in close proximity to the historic core of Moulton which was recorded at Domesday and, therefore, can be seen to have Saxon origins. Demonstrating as much are stone slabs and a fragment of a cross present in the churchyard of the nearby Church of St Peter and St Paul (ENN8166;4538/1/0) and the recovery of Saxon pottery, along with some medieval pottery, during construction works 250m to the west during the 1960s. The medieval church (DNN2712; 4538/1) and its attendant churchyard (ENN101117; 4538/1/2) are located 350m to the north-west of the site.

An archaeological evaluation was completed (Fairclough 2014). Two dated archaeological features were revealed: Pits F1010 and F1012 (Trench 3). The dating evidence is tentative being based on abraded Anglo-Saxon sherds; one from Pit F1012 and two from Pit F1010. Animal bone was also found within these pits. The pits were located adjacent to the eastern boundary of the site. Undated features largely comprise pits with Trenches 1 (F1003), 4 (F1024, F1026, F1028, F1030, and F1032) and 6 (F1017). An undated ditch was recorded in Trench 3 (F1014).

The Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication investigation revealed no archaeological features or finds.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In April, July and August 2014 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication investigation on land off Alibone Close, Moulton, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 7864 6640; Figs. 1 - 2). The investigation was required by Northamptonshire County Council in compliance with a planning condition on approval to build 16 new bungalow dwellings on the site (Daventry DC Approval Ref: DA/2013/0952).

1.2 The investigation was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by the Assistant Archaeological Advisor of Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) *Brief for A Programme of Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication on Land at Alibone Close, Northamptonshire* (dated 28th April 2014), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 28th April 2014). The project adhered to the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Excavation*.

1.3 The general aims and objectives of the project were:

- to determine the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present;
- to provide information on the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present;
- the recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of a type series within the region;
- the recovery of palaeoenvironmental remains to determine local environmental conditions;
- the provision of a resultant archive to be organised and deposited in a registered museum to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit; and
- 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 (Figs. 1-2)

2.1 Moulton is a large village located on the northern edge of Northampton. The site is on the east side of Moulton and comprises a grass field that is accessed on its west side from Albione Close. The area abutting the west and south of the site comprises residential properties. The area to the north and east consists of open fields.

3 TOPOGRAPHY

3.1 The site is located at approximately 103m AOD on the slope of a small valley with an east to west running stream approximately 150m to the north. The local soil is of the Banbury association mainly comprising well drained brashy fine and coarse loamy ferruginous deposits over ironstone. The underlying solid geology is Jurassic clay.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Prehistoric sites are known within 1km of the site, for example, a group of Bronze Age pits (4540/1/5) and a prehistoric enclosure (4540/1/6), but there is no evidence for prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site. Roman pottery has been recovered from fields to the north-east of the site although their precise locations are not given (ENN101916, 9107, 9107/0/0).

4.2 Moulton is recorded in the Domesday Survey and therefore must have been in existence in Anglo-Saxon times. In support of this date are stone slabs and a fragment of stone cross of that period present in the churchyard of St Peter and St Paul (ENN8166, 4538/1/0), and Saxon pottery, as well as medieval pottery and dry stone walling of possible medieval date, have been recovered 250m to the west of the site during building works in the 1960s (4538/0/1). The Domesday Survey shows that in 1066 the manor belonged to King Edward and in 1086 was owned by William the Conqueror. Moulton parish

had a large population of 43 households, land for 25 ploughlands, 8 acres of meadow and 3 mills (www.domesdaymap.co.uk). The historic core of the Anglo-Saxon and medieval village is given a central grid reference point 200m north-west of the site (ENN4538).

4.2 The Church of St Peter and St Paul located 250m west-north-west of the site dates from the 12th and 13th centuries, with later additions and repairs, and is Grade I listed (4538/1). North of the church, and approximately 260m north-west of the site is a large earthen bank 15m wide and 2m high, which appears to be a former dam which once ponded water behind it to the east. If this is so it may be one of the 'large ponds ... still remaining' near the old Manor House to which Bridges refers in about 1720 (4539/0/1). This earthwork/pond is probably associated with the historical water supply, although another suggestion is that it might also have served to defend the hill upon which the church and possibly the old manor stood (ENN8162). An area of medieval ridge and furrow had been identified 300m to the south of the site (2328/0/4).

4.3 The Church of St Peter and St Paul contains several Grade II listed 18th century chest tombs within its churchyard (DNN2712, ENN14363, ENN101117, 4/1/3). Two Grade II listed 18th century houses, possibly with slightly earlier cores, are located at Rooty Hill on the corner of Chater Street to the west of the site (DNN2700, 4538/0/4). Nineteenth century cartographic evidence indicates that the site has largely comprised undeveloped/agricultural land for most of its recent history, although these sources do depict buildings present, and slightly encroaching on the site, at its western boundary,

5 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

Archaeological desk-based assessment

5.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment was carried out in association with a previous application on the site (ULAS 2010). This concluded that Roman and Saxon material has been found locally, and that post-medieval and modern development of the site has been minimal, suggesting that any potential remains may not have suffered later truncation. Roman pottery has been found in fields to the west of the site, and development to the east in 1968 yielded Saxon pottery. Further information within the brief from the Portable Antiquities Scheme notes that numerous findspots of Roman coins are known from the village, in addition to medieval coins and other finds.

5.2 The site lies in close proximity to the historic core of Moulton which was recorded at Domesday and, therefore, can be seen to have Saxon origins. Demonstrating as much are stone slabs and a fragment of a cross present in the churchyard of the nearby Church of St Peter and St Paul (ENN8166;4538/1/0) and the recovery of Saxon pottery, along with some medieval pottery, during construction works 250m to the west during the 1960s. The medieval church (DNN2712; 4538/1) and its attendant churchyard (ENN101117; 4538/1/2) are located 350m to the north-west of the site.

Trial trench evaluation

5.3 An evaluation of the site (Fairclough & Thompson 2014) revealed several undated pits and ditches, along with Saxon pottery sherds. In summary:

Two dated archaeological features were revealed: Pits F1010 and F1012 (Trench 3). The dating evidence is tentative being based on abraded Anglo-Saxon sherds; one from Pit F1012 and two from Pit F1010. Animal bone was also found within these pits. The pits also contained charred cereal grains suggesting that cereals were in common usage at the site during the Anglo-Saxon period. The remains recovered may result from local cultivation and processing. The pits were located adjacent to the eastern boundary of the site.

Undated features largely comprise pits with Trenches 1 (F1003), 4 (F1024, F1026, F1028, F1030, and F1032) and 6 (F1017). An undated ditch was recorded in Trench 3 (F1014).

Modern layers were recorded in Trenches 2 (L1008 and L1009), 3 (L1016) and 5 (L1021). These were stripped back using a mechanical excavator and no archaeological features were revealed beneath.

6 METHODOLOGY

6.1 The principal elements monitored were the excavation of the foundations for the house plots (Fig. 3).

6.2 The groundworks were observed, 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.

7 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Sample sections are presented below.

Sample Section 1 Figs. 3 & 4

<i>0.00m = 104.45m AOD</i>		
0.00m-0.09m	L2000	Topsoil. Dark blackish brown, sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks
0.09m-0.45m	L2001	Subsoil. Dark greyish brown, silty sand
0.45m+	L2002	Natural. Light orange yellow sand with areas of ironstone.

Sample Section 2 Figs. 3 & 4

0.00m = 104.68m AOD

0.00m-0.06m	L2000	Topsoil. As above.
0.06m-0.47m	L2001	Subsoil. As above.
0.47m+	L2002	Natural. As above.

Sample Section 3 Figs. 3 & 4

<i>0.00m = 104.10m AOD</i>		
0.00m-0.08m	L2000	Topsoil. As above.
0.08m-0.44m	L2001	Subsoil. As above.
0.44m+	L2002	Natural. As above.

Sample Section 4 Figs. 3 & 4

<i>0.00m = 104.28m AOD</i>		
0.00m-0.48m	L2001	Subsoil. As above.
0.48m+	L2002	Natural. As above.

Sample Section 5 Figs. 3 & 4

<i>0.00m = 104.71m AOD</i>		
0.00m-0.11m	L2001	Subsoil. As above.
0.11m+	L2002	Natural. As above.

Sample Section 6 Figs. 3 & 4

<i>0.00m = 105.17m AOD</i>		
0.00m-0.09m	L2001	Subsoil. As above.
0.09m+	L2002	Natural. As above.

Sample Section 7 Figs. 3 & 4

<i>0.00m = 105.12m AOD</i>		
0.00m-0.28m	L2003	Re-deposited soil. Mid orange brown, firm, silty sand and gravel.
0.28 – 0.59m	L2004	Re-deposited soil. Dark grey, firm, clayey silt
0.59m-1.0m	L2001	Subsoil. As above.
1.0m+	L2002	Natural. As above.

Sample Section 8 Figs. 3 & 4

<i>0.00m = 104.77m AOD</i>		
0.00m-0.27m	L2004	Redeposited soil. As above.
0.27m+	L2002	Natural. As above.

Sample Section 9 Figs. 3 & 4

0.00m = 104.18m AOD		
0.00m-0.56m	L2001	Subsoil. As above.
0.56m+	L2002	Natural. As above.

Sample Section 10 Figs. 3 & 4

0.00m = 103.99m AOD		
0.00m-0.66m	L2001	Subsoil. As above.
0.66m+	L2002	Natural. As above.

8 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

9 DEPOSIT MODEL

9.1 The uppermost layer across the site was Topsoil L2000, a dark blackish brown sandy silt (0.20 - 0.51m thick). L1000 sealed Subsoil L2001, a dark greyish brown, silty sand (0.19 - 0.68m thick). The natural (L2002) was a light orange yellow, sand with areas of iron stone.

10 DISCUSSION

10.1 An archaeological evaluation was completed (Fairclough 2014). Two dated archaeological features were revealed: Pits F1010 and F1012 (Trench 3). The dating evidence is tentative being based on abraded Anglo-Saxon sherds; one from Pit F1012 and two from Pit F1010. Animal bone was also found within these pits. The pits were located adjacent to the eastern boundary of the site. Undated features largely comprise pits with Trenches 1 (F1003), 4 (F1024, F1026, F1028, F1030, and F1032) and 6 (F1017). An undated ditch was recorded in Trench 3 (F1014).

10.2 The Observation, Investigation, Recording, Analysis and *Publication* investigation revealed no archaeological features or finds.

11 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at the Northamptonshire 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 would like to thank the client Lodge Park Ltd for funding the project, in particular Mr James Browning for his assistance.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Ms Liz Mordue of Northamptonshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

ULAS, 2010, *An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment for land at Alibone Close, Moulton, Northamptonshire*, ULAS Report

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
General view of site before commencement of works



2
General view of site before commencement of works



3
General shot of footings



4
General shot of footings



5
General shot of footings



6
General shot of footings



7
Sample section 1



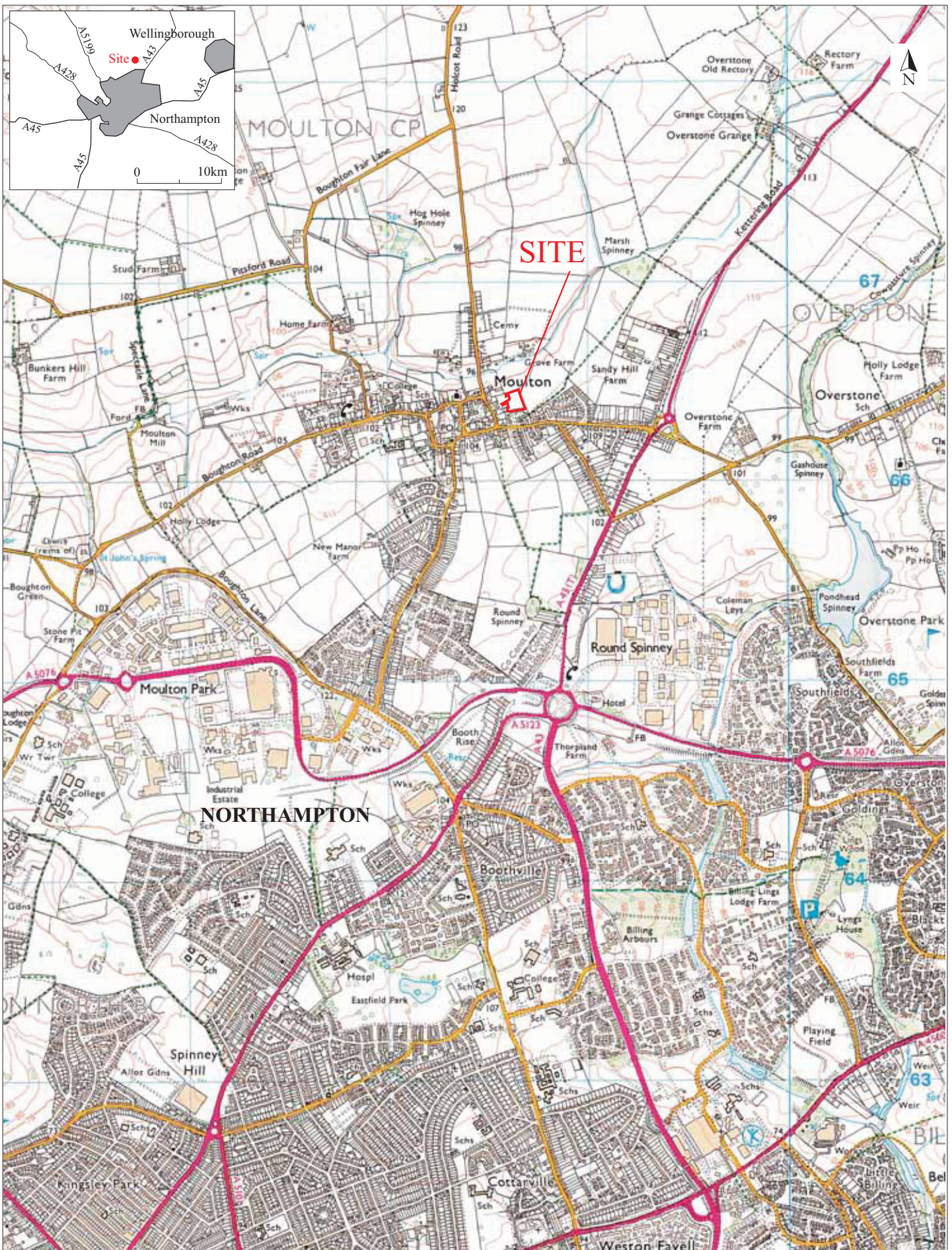
8
Sample section 6



9
Sample section 8

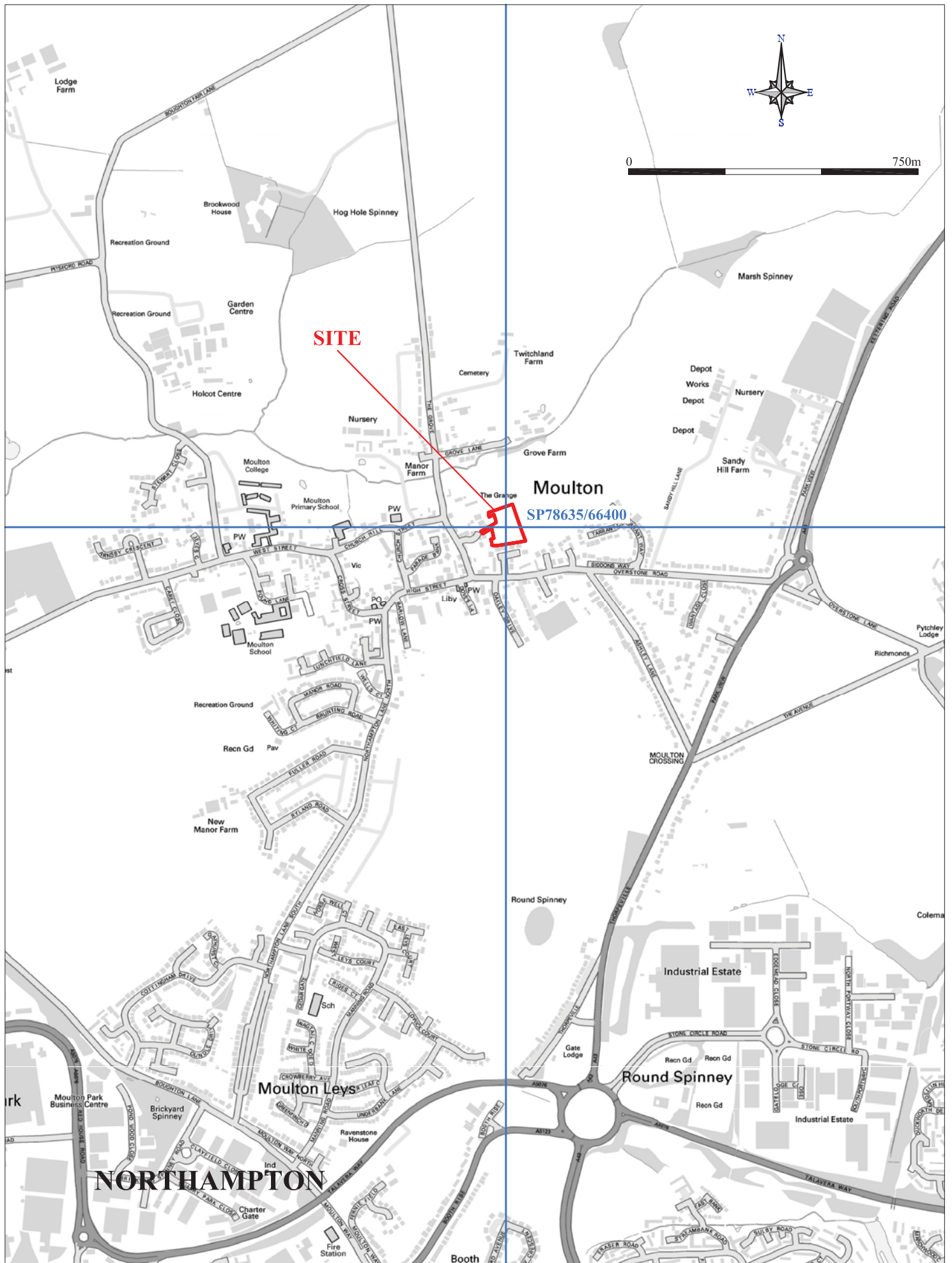


10
Sample section 10



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



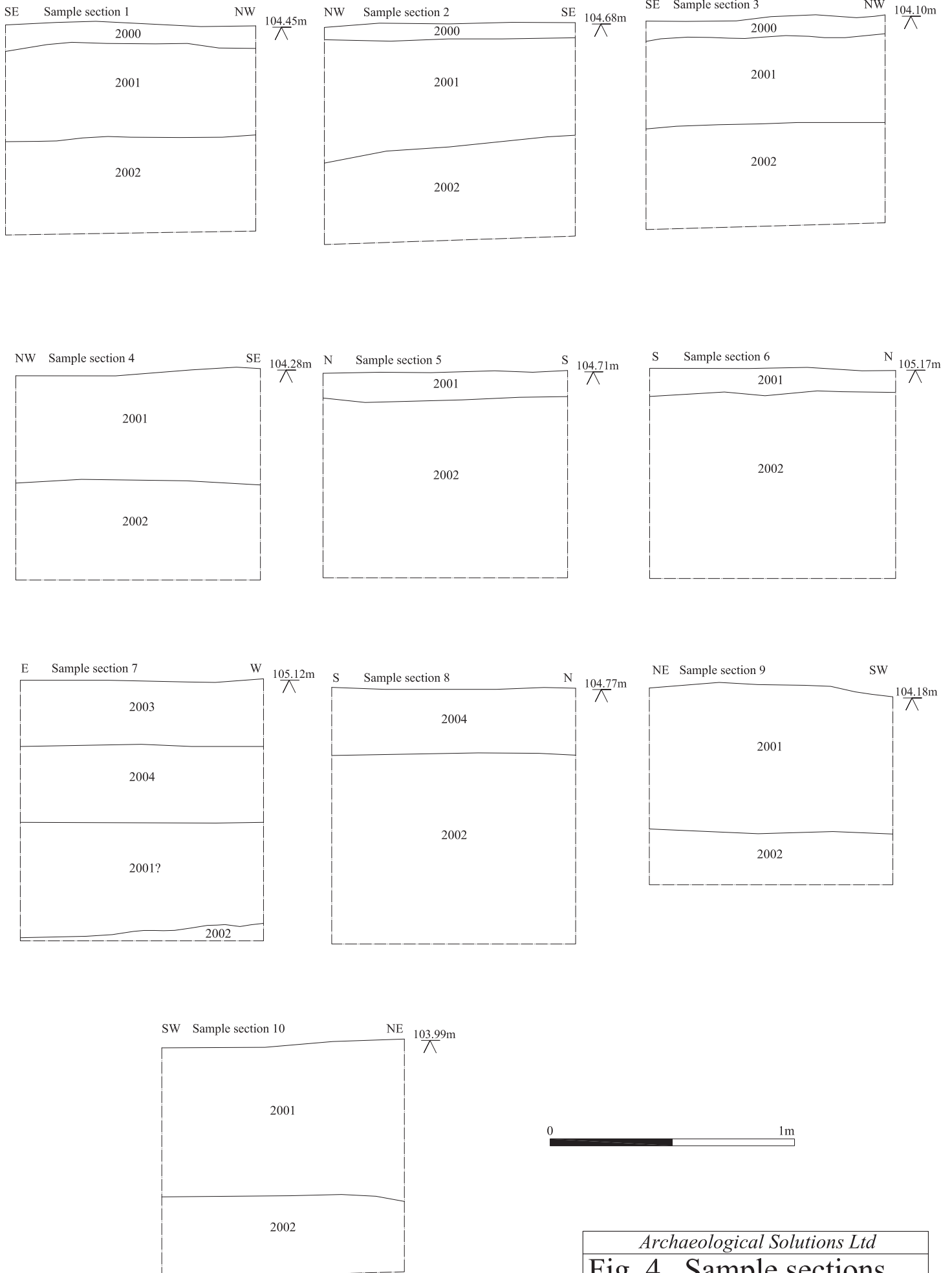
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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:12,500 at A4



0 50m

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Fig. 3 Location of sample sections
 Scale 1:750 at A4



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Fig. 4 Sample sections
 Scale 1:20 at A4