
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**25 CHURCH STREET, LITTLE SHELFORD,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION**

CHER: ECB 4651

Author: Mark Blagg-Newsome (Fieldwork and report) Kate Higgs MA (Oxon.) (Background research)	
NGR: TL 4525 5161	Report No: 5067
District: South Cambridgeshire	Site Code: ECB 4651
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 6579
Signed:	Date: 9 TH March 2016

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET			
Project details			
Project name	25 Church Street. Little Shelford, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation		
<p>In March 2016 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at 25 Church Street, Little Shelford, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4525 5161). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the proposed construction of two dwellings following the demolition of the existing house (Planning Ref. S/2003/15/FL). The evaluation was undertaken based on advice from Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) requiring a programme of archaeological work.</p> <p>The site lies within the historic medieval and post-medieval village core. The medieval parish church of All Saints lies c.90m to the north east (HER 04732a). Extensive earlier activity is also known from the area of the later village, with numerous cropmarks of enclosures, linear and other features which point to occupation in the later prehistoric and Romano-British periods. An extensive multi-period complex lies to the north, partially Scheduled as an Ancient Monument (1006902; HER 04496). These landscape features extend into the fields to the north of the current site and to the west of the current site (HER 08346 & 09635-6).</p> <p>The site therefore had a potential for further remains of late prehistoric and Romano-British occupation, and for elements of the medieval and post-medieval settlement. In the event the evaluation revealed an undated ditch (F1004; Trench 1) and two modern pits (F1006 and F1016; both in Trench 2). Pit F1006 may represent a quarry pit with a sequence of tipped fills.</p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	March 2016		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	TBC
P. number	6508	Site code	ECB 4651
Type of project	Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation		
Site status	Residential		
Current land use	Vacant residential		
Planned development	Residential		
Main features (+dates)	Undated Ditch and two modern pits.		
Significant finds (+dates)	None		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	Cambridgeshire	South Cambridgeshire	Little Shelford
HER/ SMR for area	Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CCC HER)		
Post code (if known)	CB22 5HG		
Area of site	16m ²		
NGR	TL 4525 5161		
Height AOD (max/ min)	c. 15m AOD		
Project creators	Archaeological Solutions Ltd		
Brief issued by	Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Archaeological Solutions Ltd		
Funded by	Crickmore Developments		
Full title	25 Church Street, Little Shelford, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation		
Authors	Mark Blagg-Newsome		
Report no.	5067		
Date (of report)	March 2016		

25 CHURCH STREET, LITTLE SHELFORD, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In March 2016 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at 25 Church Street, Little Shelford, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4525 5161). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the proposed construction of two dwellings following the demolition of the existing house (Planning Ref. S/2003/15/FL). The evaluation was undertaken based on advice from Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) requiring a programme of archaeological work.

The site lies within the historic medieval and post-medieval village core. The medieval parish church of All Saints lies c.90m to the north east (HER 04732a). Extensive earlier activity is also known from the area of the later village, with numerous cropmarks of enclosures, linear and other features which point to occupation in the later prehistoric and Romano-British periods. An extensive multi-period complex lies to the north, partially Scheduled as an Ancient Monument (1006902; HER 04496). These landscape features extend into the fields to the north of the current site and to the west of the current site (HER 08346 & 09635-6).

The site therefore had a potential for further remains of late prehistoric and Romano-British occupation, and for elements of the medieval and post-medieval settlement. In the event the evaluation revealed an undated ditch (F1004; Trench 1) and two modern pits (F1006 and F1016; both in Trench 2). Pit F1006 may represent a quarry pit with a sequence of tipped fills.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In March 2016 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at 25 Church Street, Little Shelford, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4525 5161; Figs. 1-2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the proposed construction of two dwellings following the demolition of the existing house (Planning Ref. S/2003/15/FL). The evaluation was undertaken based on advice from Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) requiring a programme of archaeological work.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by CCC HET (Andy Thomas, dated 28th January 2016) and a specification compiled by AS (3rd February 2016) and approved by CCC HET. It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014). It also adhered to relevant sections of Gurney's (2003) *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*.

1.3 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

Planning policy context

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.5 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 The site lies on the northern side of Church Street within the historic village core of Little Shelford. It comprises the existing residential dwelling of No. 25 Church Street in a mature residential plot.

3 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

3.1 The site lies on river terrace gravels of the River Cam, which lies to the east, at c.16m AOD. It is also located within the historic core of the village, 90m to the south-west of the parish All Saints Church, which dates from the 11th century (HER 04732a).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The site lies at c.16m AOD on the river terrace gravels of the River Cam, which lies to the east, and has proved conducive to human activity from post-glacial hunter gatherers to the earliest prehistoric settlements. A significant Mesolithic flint scatter c. 1km to the north-west attests to hunter-gatherer activity on the gravel terrace (HER MCB19163), and was also the location of Neolithic and early Iron Age (and Roman) settlement sites (HER 04503). A Neolithic causewayed enclosure is also indicated by cropmarks c.1km to the north (HER MCB 20456), while Neolithic chipped and ground axes have also been recovered in the village (HER 04813).

4.2 A very large complex of cropmarks c.400m to the north of the site (HER 04496) appears to incorporate a D-shaped enclosure and circular enclosures amongst a complex settlement site, probable of Bronze Age to Iron Age date, and possibly associated with the early Iron Age settlement excavated further to the north (HER 04503a). Further comparable cropmarks c. 300m to the north and south-east (HER 08345-6) indicate a potentially extensive extant prehistoric landscape surrounding the village that may extend towards the area of the site; and artefacts such as a Bronze Age palstave have been recovered from within the modern settlement (HER 04864).

4.3 Evidence for Roman activity is not as common and is focussed towards the Obelisk Kilns, Harston c.1km to the west (HER 05074). Quarry pits at Rectory Farm (HER MCB19998) and sparse pottery sherds recovered during test-pitting in the village suggest peripheral activity (HER MCB18278-9, MCB18289, MCB18291 & MCB19284).

4.4 The nucleation of the cores of the settlement at Little Shelford and Great Shelford may have its origins in the Saxon period, and

although few details are known of 'pagan' Saxon burials excavated in the 1920s c. 800m to the east (HER 04803), the church of All Saints, close to the east of the site incorporates Anglo-Saxon style stone work, probably pre-Norman conquest, in its fabric (HERs 04732 & 04732a). The existing church was probably built c. 1050 - 1100, but may have stood within the precinct of a middle Saxon minster; with metal-detecting at Rectory Farm recovering six brooches, interpreted as further evidence for burials in the vicinity (HER MCB16717).

4.5 In the medieval period the 'village' had dual focal points of All Saints parish church (Little Shelford; HER04732a) close to the site, and St. Mary's Church to the west (Great Shelford; HER 04924); located at either end of Bridge Street, with a 'Church Street' on either side of the river. A hermitage was also located on the bridge over the river Cam (HER 05144), between the two churches; while Rectory Farmhouse c.600m to the north-east represents a rare Grade II* listed example of an early to mid 14th century building. Hall Farmhouse on the High Street is of early 15th century construction (HER DCB6734); while a moated site c.300m to the east of the site is also of likely medieval origin (HER 01000).

4.6 The extent of medieval settlement of the eastern side of the river (Great Shelford) has been explored by an extensive programme of test-pitting that recovered a wide range of medieval pottery in the area of St. Mary's Church, High Street and Kings Mill Lane (i.e. HER MCB18279, MCB18291 & MCB18403); but these investigations did not extend to the western side of the river; where a 14th century coin recorded close to the west of the site (HER MCB17730) suggests medieval activity may have been similarly prevalent. A socket stone and octagonal shaft of a medieval cross shaft was also discovered to the immediate east of the site in 1952 (HER 04823).

4.7 The medieval village cores expanded in the post-medieval period. A 16th century manor house was located c.300m to the east of the site, but no trace remains (HER 01000a); however extant structures with 16th century components remaining in the vicinity include the Old House, Whittlesford Road (HER DCB6532) and King's Farmhouse, High Street (HER DCB5272), with further examples on the east side of the river in Great Shelford. Numerous 17th century buildings survive on the High Street of Little Shelford, and Great Shelford further to the east, but the closest to the site comprise a cottage and former house and shop on Church Street c. 50m to the west of the site (HER DCB4685 & DCB6203).

4.8 Early modern development in the village is primarily focused on the construction of Shelford Hall and the Manor House, c. 500m to the east and north-east respectively, sited close to the river (HERs 12148 & 12294). A rectory was also added to Church Street in the mid 19th century, on the opposite side of All Saints Church to the site (HER DCB5873).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of two trenches, each 20m x 1.6m (Figs. 2 - 3).

5.2 The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision and control using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All subsequent excavation was undertaken by hand

5.3 Exposed sections were cleaned and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Open trenches and excavated spoil were manually/ visually searched and scanned by metal detector to enhance the recovery of archaeological finds.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

The individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 - 4)

<i>Sample section 1A:</i> <i>0.00m = 15.32m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. Friable, dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate, small and medium sized stone and flint.
0.32 – 0.64m	L1001	Subsoil. Friable, mid orange brown sand silt with frequent small, angular stone and flint.
0.64m+	L1002	Natural. Firm, mid red orange silt clay with gravel and frequent medium and large sized flint.

<i>Sample section 1B:</i> <i>0.00m = 15.49m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.32 - 0.58m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.58m +	L1002	Natural. As above.

Description: Trench 1 contained Ditch F1004.

Ditch F1004 was linear in plan (1.60+ x 1.03 x 0.24m), orientated NE / SW. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1005, was a friable, light grey brown sand silt with occasional small, sub-rounded flint. It contained no finds.

Trench 2 (Figs. 2 - 4)

<i>Sample section 2A:</i> <i>0.00m = 15.72m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.30 - 0.67m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.67m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 2B:</i> <i>0.00m = 15.65m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.16m	L1003	Concrete Layer
0.16 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.31 - 0.65m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.65m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 2 contained modern Pits F1006 and F1016. A modern service traversed the trench.

The pits are tabulated below. Pit F1006 contained modern (19th – 20th century) pottery and was cut by Pit F1016. Both pits cut Subsoil L1001. Pit F1006 was partially recorded in plan and Pit F1016 was a small pit recorded in section. Pit F1006 may represent a quarry pit with a sequence of tipped fills.

Feature	Plan/ (dimensions)	Profile	Fill	Relationships	Finds
F1006	Square in plan (1.00+ x 4.74 x 1.00m+) with vertical sides.		L1007: Firm, dark grey brown clay silt with occasional small, sub-rounded stones.	Cut by Pit F1016	CBM (100g)
			L1008: Friable, light yellow brown silt sand with occasional small, sub-angular flints.		None
			L1009: Firm, light grey brown sand silt with occasional small, sub-angular flints.		Fe Nail
			L1010: Firm, dark grey brown clay silt.		None
			L1011: Friable, mid yellow grey sand silt with occasional small, sub-angular flint and stones.		CBM (45g) Glass (31g)
			L1012: Friable. Mid yellow grey sand silt with moderate medium sized, sub-rounded stones.		None
			L1013: Firm, mid yellow brown sand silt with moderate small, sub-angular stones.		Modern (19 th – 20 th C) pottery (1; 2g)
			L1014: Friable, mid yellow		Modern

		brown sand silt with frequent medium sized, sub-rounded stones.		(19 th – 20 th C) pottery (!; 1g)
		1015: Firm, mid brown grey sand silt with occasional small sized, sub-angular stones.		None
F1016	Circular in plan (0.80+ x 1.08+ x 0.39m) with moderately sloped sides and a concave base.	L1017: Friable, dark grey brown clay silt with occasional small and medium sized, sub-angular stones.	Cut F1006	CBM (246g)
		L1018: Friable, mid grey brown sand silt with moderate medium sized, sub-angular stones.		None

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors restricted the identification of archaeological features or finds.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost was Topsoil L1000, a friable, dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate small and medium sized, sub-angular flints. L1000 overlay Subsoil L1001, a friable, mid orange brown sandy silt with frequent small sized, angular flint and stones. L1001 overlay the natural, L1002. The latter was a firm, mid red orange clay and gravel with frequent medium - large flint nodules and was recorded at depth below the current ground surface of between 0.58m and 0.67m.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The recorded features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot date
1	F1004	Ditch	Undated
2	F1006	Pit	Modern (19 th – 20 th C)
	F1016	Pit	Modern (19 th – 20 th C)

9.2 An undated ditch was recorded in Trench 1 (F1004) and two modern (19th – 20th century) pits (F1006 and F1016) were present in Trench 2.

10 CONCLUSION

10.1 The site had a potential for further remains of late prehistoric and Romano-British occupation, and for elements of the medieval and

post-medieval settlement. In the event the evaluation revealed an undated ditch (F1004; Trench 1) and two modern pits (F1006 and F1016; both in Trench 2). Pit F1006 may represent a quarry pit with a sequence of tipped fills.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at the Cambridgeshire County Store. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Crickmore Developments for funding the evaluation and for assistance, and their architects, DPA Architects Ltd for assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

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

APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Concordance of Finds

ECB4651, P6579, 25 Church Street, Little Shelford

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
	1000	all	Topsoil	Mid 19th-20th C	3	382					
1006	1007	2	Fill of Pit				100				
	1011	2	Fill of Pit				45		Glass	1	31
	1013	2	Fill of Pit	Mid 19th-20th C	1	2					
	1014	2	Fill of Pit	Mid 19th-20th C	1	1					
1016	1017	2	Fill of Pit				246				

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORT

The Pottery

Peter Thompson

Introduction

The archaeological evaluation recovered five lightly to moderately abraded mid 19th to 20th century sherds weighing 384g from Pit F1006 (Trench 2) and the Topsoil.

Methodology

The sherds were recorded in keeping with the Medieval Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Slowikowski et al 2001 & MPRG 1998), and quantified in Table 1.

Key:

ENGs: English stoneware 18th+

RWE: Refined factory made white earthenware late 18th+

TPW: Transfer Printed ware late 18th+

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Topsoil	1000 (Tr1)	1x7g TPW 1x8g ENGs	Mid 19 th - 20 th	TPW: dish rim ENGs: jar with rim dipped in brown iron slip
	1000 (Tr2)	1x365g RWE	Mid 19 th - 20 th	RWE: Bowl base/body
Pit 1006	1013	1x2g RWE	Mid 19 th - 20 th	
	1014	1x2g TPW	Mid 19 th - 20 th	

Table 1: Quantification of pottery by feature

Bibliography

MPRG 1998 A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms
Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper No. 1

Slowikowski, A., Nenck, B. and Pearce, J. 2001 Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics, *Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2*.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
Post-excavation view of Trench 1 looking south-east



2
F1004 in Trench 1 looking north-west



3
Sample section 1A in Trench 1 looking north-east



4
Post-excavation view of Trench 2 looking north-east



5
Post-excavation view of Trench 2 looking south-east



6
F1006 in Trench 2 looking south-east



7
Sample section 2B in Trench 2 looking north-west



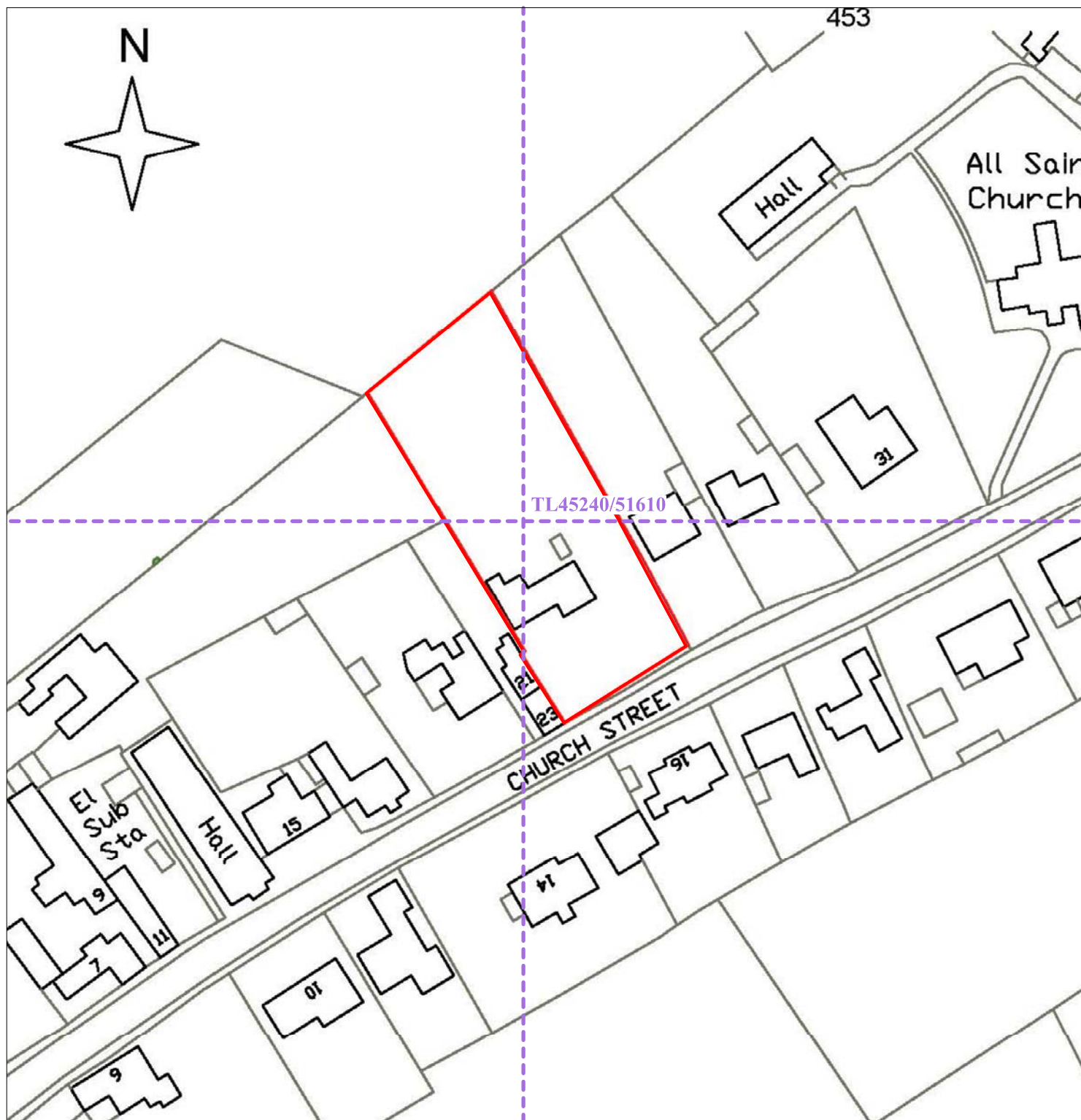
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Fig. 1 Site location plan

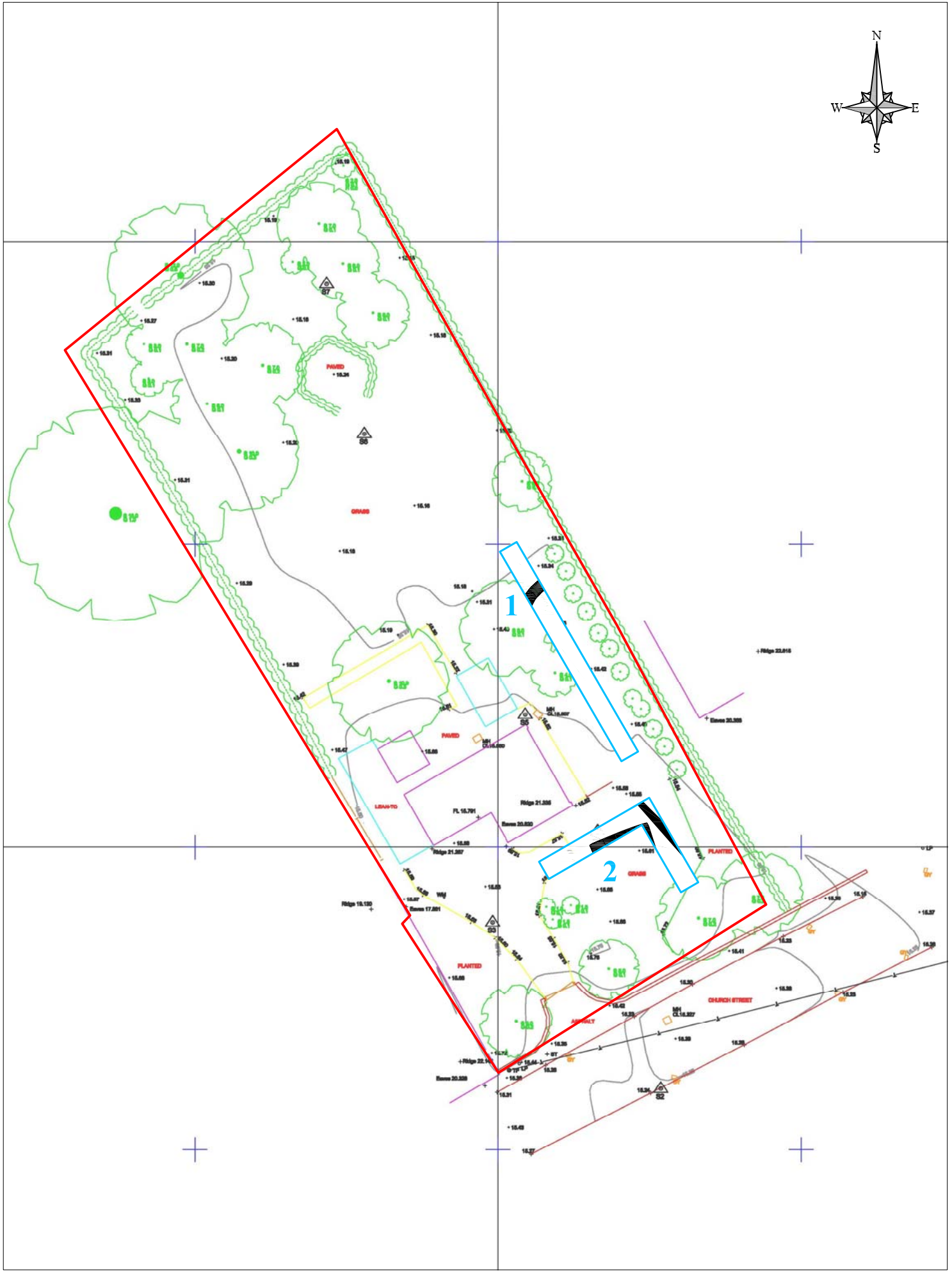
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25 Church Street, Little Shelford, Cambridgeshire (P6579)



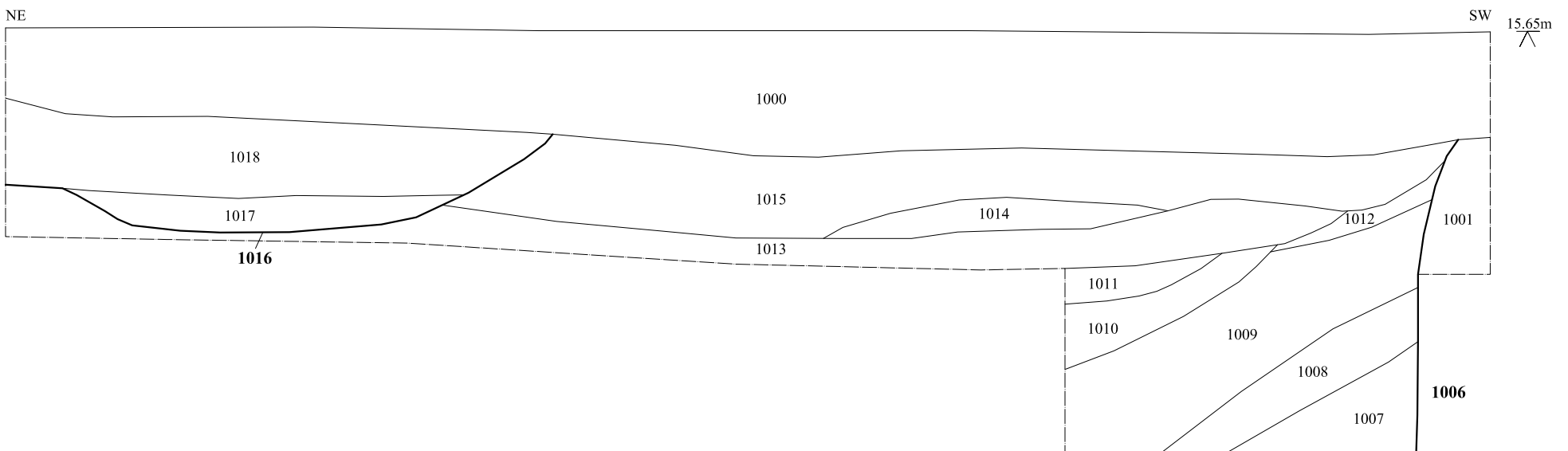
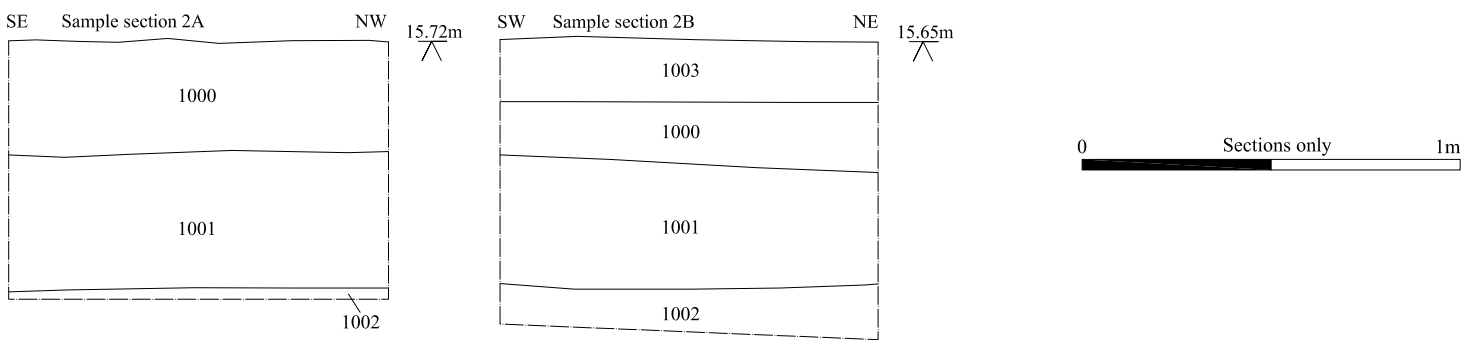
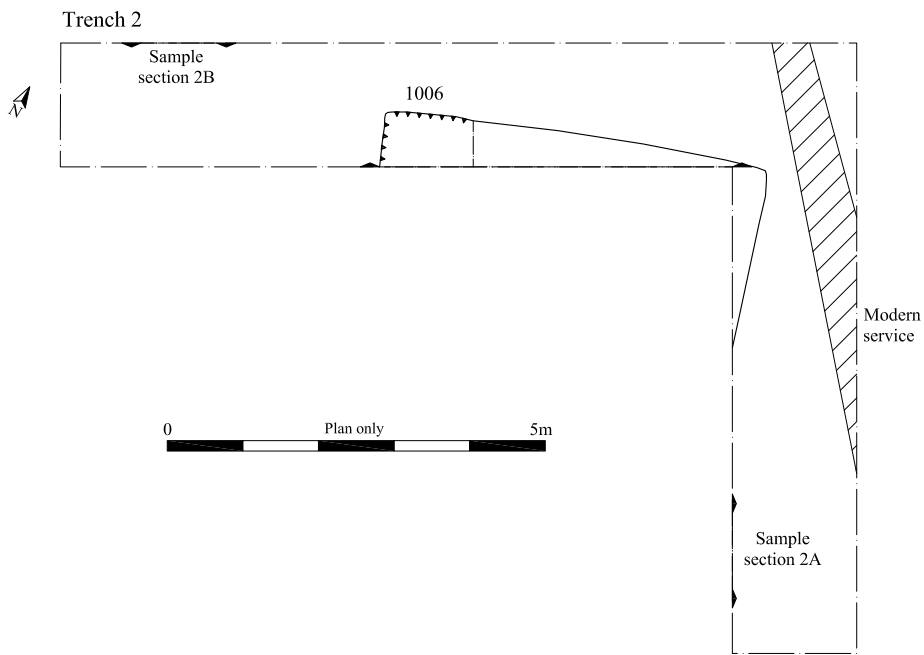
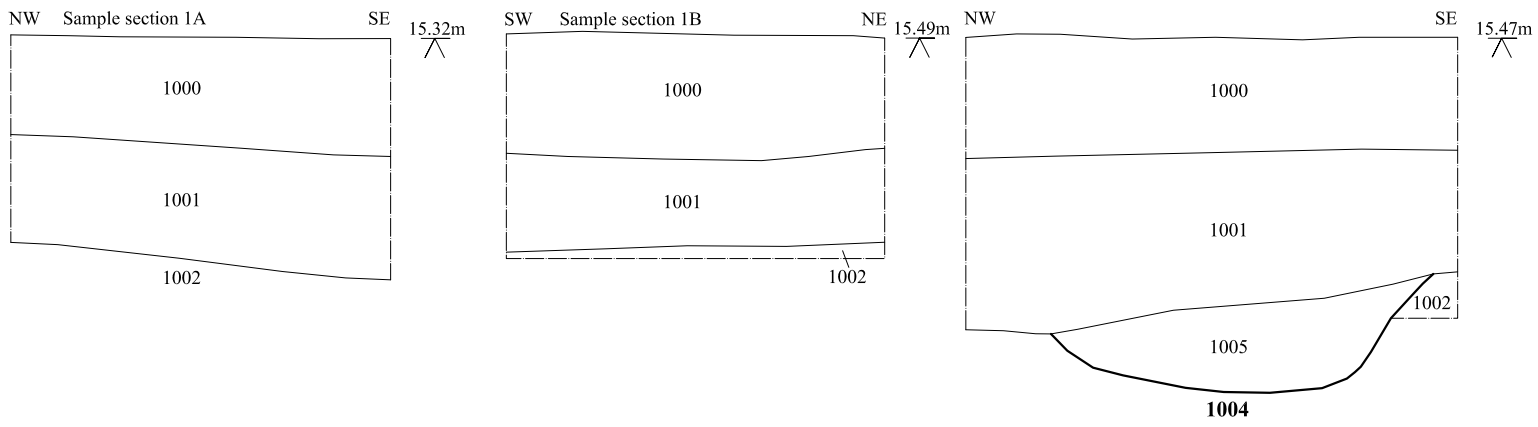
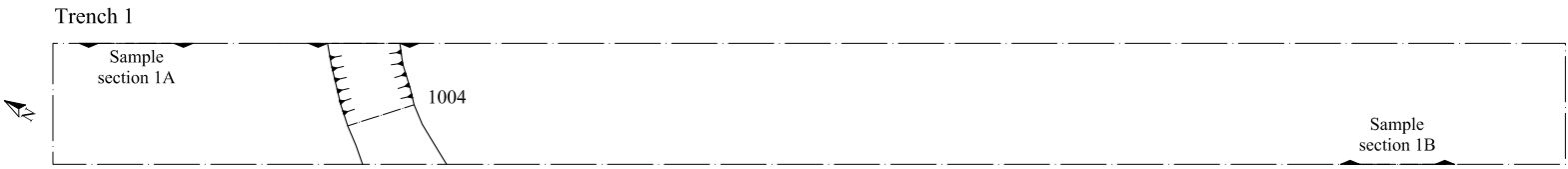
0 75m

<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:1000 at A4
25 Church Street, Little Shelford, Cambridgeshire (P6579)



0 25m

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Fig. 3 Trench location plan
 Scale 1:400 at A4
 25 Church Street, Little Shelford, Cambridgeshire (P6579)



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Fig. 4 Trench plans and sections

Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3

25 Church Street, Little Shelford, Cambridgeshire (P6579)