
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**PROPOSED SOLAR FARM,
BURY FARM, SPRING LANE, BASSINGBOURN, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CHER No. ECB 4274

Version 2

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NGR: TL 3443 4233	Report No: 4680	
District: South Cambs.	Site Code: ECB 4274	
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Signed:	Date: September 2014	
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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project name	<i>Proposed Solar Farm, Bury Farm, Spring Lane, Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire</i>		
<p><i>In September 2014, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation in advance of the proposed erection of a new solar farm and associated works on land at Bury Farm, Spring Lane, Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire. The evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Push Energy Ltd and was required by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team, as advisors to the Local Planning Authority.</i></p> <p><i>Three ditches and two pits were encountered. Ditch F1019 was modern and the other features were undated. An unstratified medieval 9th – 12th century pottery sherd (10g) was found.</i></p> <p><i>Several hollows were investigated but proved to be naturally occurring. One (F1035) contained miscellaneous pottery sherds (dating to the late 16th – 18th century (4g); 13th – 15th century (21g); and mid 3rd – mid 4th century (14g)), and CBM (10g), while another (F1017) contained prehistoric pottery (13g). These natural (periglacial) hollows may have been used as routeways, hence the occurrence of finds, although the material may have derived from erosion or ploughing of the overlying strata.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>September 2014</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>5370</i>	Site code	<i>ECB 4274</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>None</i>		
Current land use	<i>Agricultural land</i>		
Planned development	<i>Solar farm</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Pits</i>	<i>Undated</i>	
	<i>Ditches</i>	<i>Undated</i>	
	<i>Ditch</i>	<i>Modern</i>	
	<i>Periglacial hollows</i>	<i>-</i>	
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Pottery</i>	<i>Prehistoric (13g) Mid 3rd – mid 4th C (14g) 9th – 12th C (10g) 13th – 15th C (21g) Late 16th – 18th C (4g)</i>	
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>South Cambs.</i>	<i>Bassingbourn</i>
HER for area	<i>Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER)</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>28.85ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 3443 4233</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c. 40 – 47m</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>Push Energy Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Proposed Solar Farm, Bury Farm, Spring Lane, Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Zbigniew, P. and Bull, K.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4680</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>September 2014 (Revised: 19/07/2016)</i>		

PROPOSED SOLAR FARM, BURY FARM, SPRING LANE, BASSINGBOURN, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In September 2014, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation in advance of the proposed erection of a new solar farm and associated works on land at Bury Farm, Spring Lane, Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 3443 4233). The evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Push Energy Ltd and was required by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team, as advisors to the Local Planning Authority, to provide for a planning condition for the development (South Cambs Planning Approval Ref. S/0098/14/FL).

Based on known sites and findspots in the local landscape, the project had potential to encounter prehistoric, medieval, post-medieval and early modern material. Ploughed out Bronze Age and other earthworks are recorded in the area, including barrows and linear earthworks that may be representative of territorial boundaries within a wider, organised landscape. The cropmark of a later trackway runs approximately north to south through the site, while the site of Hoy's Farm, which post-dated the 1806 enclosure of the local landscape, sits within the centre of the site.

Three ditches and two pits were encountered. Ditch F1019 was modern and the other features were undated. An unstratified medieval (9th – 12th century) pottery sherd (10g) was found.

Several hollows were investigated but proved to be naturally occurring. One (F1035) contained miscellaneous pottery sherds (dating to the late 16th – 18th century (4g); 13th – 15th century (21g); and mid 3rd – mid 4th century (14g)), and CBM (10g), while another (F1017) contained prehistoric pottery (13g). These natural (periglacial) hollows may have been used as routeways, hence the occurrence of finds, although the material may have derived from erosion or ploughing of the overlying strata.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September 2014, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation in advance of the proposed erection of a new solar farm and associated works on land at Bury Farm, Spring Lane, Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 3443 4233; Figs. 1-2). The evaluation was undertaken on behalf of Push Energy Ltd and was required by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team, as advisors to the Local Planning Authority, to provide for a planning condition for the development (South Cambs Planning Approval Ref. S/0098/14/FL).

1.2 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET; dated

03/09/2014) [and subsequent advice], and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by Archaeological Solutions Ltd (dated 10/09/2014) and approved by CCC HET. The project adhered to the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2014), and relevant sections of Gurney's (2003) *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*.

1.3 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were 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 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site is situated within the parish of Bassingbourn, adjacent to the modern A505 trunk-road and the county boundary of Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire (Figs. 1-2). The large town of Royston is situated immediately to the south, while Bassingbourn village is located c. 1.4km to the north-west. The site also lies some 650m to the west of the A1198 Old North Road, which follows the course of Roman Ermine Street. The modern farm complexes of Bury Farm and Highfield Farm are situated approximately 400m and 300m to the north and east of the site respectively.

2.2 The site comprises a large, rectangular agricultural field (28.85ha) to the south-east of Bassingbourn village (Figs. 1-2). It is bounded to the east and west by existing field boundaries of established trees and hedgerows, with further farmland beyond. A public footpath also runs along the site's western boundary, while the modern A505 trunk-road bounds the site to the south. The site's northern boundary comprises a field boundary of trees of hedgerows. Vehicular access to the site is via Spring Lane, which runs southwards from the centre of Bassingbourn, and Ashwell Street, which is a byway and former Roman road running west to east some 500m to the north of the site.

3 THE EVIDENCE

Topography, Geology and Soils

3.1 The site lies within a rural area, immediately to the north of the town of Royston (Figs. 1-2). Bassingbourn and its neighbouring parishes have retained their overwhelmingly arable character and are dominated by large arable fields (including the current site). To the south-west of Royston lies Therfield Heath, which encompasses the eastern extent of the Chiltern Hills. The site lies within a varied topography, rising westwards to some 53m AOD (c. 500m west of the site). The central western site boundary sits at c. 47m AOD, while northern and southern boundaries lie at 40m and 45m AOD respectively.

3.2 The solid geology of the site comprises Upper Cretaceous chalk (British Geological Survey 1978), which characterises Therfield Heath and the Chiltern Hills to the south-west. The site also lies upon the cusp of two different soil associations: the southern section of the site comprises soils of the Upton 1 Association, which are described as shallow, well drained calcareous silty soils over chalk mainly on moderately steep, sometimes very steep land (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983). The site's northern section lies upon soils of the Swaffham Prior Association, described as well drained calcareous coarse and fine loamy soils over chalk rubble (*ibid.*). A previous archaeological evaluation undertaken at Bassingbourn Village College, c. 1.6km to the north-west of the site revealed topsoil to a depth of 0.14 – 0.38m overlying a yellow orange sandy silt subsoil (Muldowney 2006). The natural geology was not encountered.

Archaeological and Historical Background

3.3 An archaeological desk-based assessment has been prepared (Higgs 2013). In summary:

The wider area has extensive evidence of prehistoric funerary monuments and henges/ ceremonial monuments, located on the chalkland along the line of the Icknield Way, the prehistoric routeway from Norfolk to Wessex. The line of the route shadows the later A505 to the south of the site, with later parallel trackways such as Avenell Way passing through the northern part of the site.

Scheduled Ancient Monuments of Bronze Age burial mounds (barrows) lie a little way away in the fields to the west of the site (Cambridgeshire Historic Environment

Record [C]HERs MCB 4240, 4012, 4249 etc.), identified as earthworks or aerial photographic imagery when ploughed away. The associated contemporary settlement areas for the populations building these monuments are less well-identified.

A number of long linear banks of a planned landscape have also been identified in the area, possibly representative of territorial boundaries in a wider organised landscape.

3.4 The site also had good potential for early modern/ modern remains associated with the site of Hoy's Farm. The farm, comprising a sizable complex of four yards a cottage and no less than 20 outbuildings, post-dated the 1806 enclosure of the local landscape (possibly constructed 1842) and is depicted on early cartographic sources up to the latter part of the 20th century (e.g. Figs. 11-13; Higgs 2013).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The evaluation provided for a sample of the area to be subject to development to be trial trenched. In accordance with advice from CCC HET, the trenching targeted:

- [a] grid connection route (off-site) and substation;
- the 11no transformer/ inverter housings in the main array field;
- the 1no grid connection cabinet in the main array field;
- [the] main cable trench in the array field;
- a dark linear anomaly shown on figure 9 of the desk-based assessment [aerial photograph of 1956]; and
- the boundary of John Beldam's land shown on the 1806 Enclosure map (figure 5 of the desk-based assessment) (Fig. 10); and also allowed for
- a 'light touch' sample of the main array field

4.2 The trial trenches were 1.80m wide and up to 30-40m long.

4.3 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a flat bladed ditching bucket. Thereafter, all investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. The open trenches and spoil heaps were scanned by metal detector in order to enhance the recovery of finds.

Artefact Characterisation

4.4 In accordance with section 4.4.2 of the approved specification, a one-meter square of any remaining topsoil and subsoil was excavated by hand at one end of each trial trench in order to characterise their artefact content. Spoil from this exercise was kept separate from the main spoil heaps and was scanned by metal detector in order to enhance the recovery of finds. No material was recovered.

5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

5.1 Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 3 and 5)

<i>Sample section 1A</i> 0.00 = 57.44m AOD		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, dark grey brown sandy silt.
0.32m+	L1002	Natural. Compact white chalk.

<i>Sample section 1B</i> 0.00 = 57.48m AOD		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.15m+	L1002	Natural. As above

Description: Undated Pit F1021 was recorded in Trench 1.

Pit F1021 was sub-circular in plan with moderately sloping sides and a concave base (0.54m x 0.36m x 0.20m). Its fill (L1022) was a friable, mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded gravel and flint, and sparse chalk. It contained no finds.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3)

<i>Sample section 2A</i> 0.00 = 56.56m AOD		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.29m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 2B</i> 0.00 = 58.25m AOD		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.22m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

<i>Sample section 3A</i> <i>0.00 = 57.88m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.30 – 0.41m	L1001	Subsoil. Firm, mid orange-brown silt.
0.41m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 3B</i> <i>0.00 = 58.08m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.16m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.16m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 4 (Fig. 3)

<i>Sample section 4A</i> <i>0.00 = 57.63m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.35 – 0.45m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.45m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 4B</i> <i>0.00 = 57.91m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.24 – 0.30m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.30m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 5 (Fig. 3)

<i>Sample section 5A</i> <i>0.00 = 58.23m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.19m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.19 – 0.27m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.27m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 5B</i> <i>0.00 = 58.32m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.50m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.50 – 0.56m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.56m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 6 (Fig. 3)

<i>Sample section 6A</i> <i>0.00 = 58.11m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.42m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.42 – 0.48m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.48m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 6B</i> <i>0.00 = 58.25m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.30 – 0.45m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.45m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 7 (Fig. 3)

<i>Sample section 7A</i> <i>0.00 = 56.80m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.40m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.40 – 0.46m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.46m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 7B</i> <i>0.00 = 57.33m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.29 – 0.33m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.33m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 8 (Fig. 3)

<i>Sample section 8A</i> <i>0.00 = 50.95m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.32 – 0.36m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.36m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 8B</i> <i>0.00 = 52.40m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.17m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.17 – 0.38m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.38m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 9 (Fig. 3)

<i>Sample section 9A</i> <i>0.00 = 47.25m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.45m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.45m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 9B</i> <i>0.00 = 48.70m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.23m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 10 (Fig. 4)

<i>Sample section 10A</i> <i>0.00 = 45.35m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.32m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 10B</i> <i>0.00 = 45.72m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.23m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 11 (Fig. 4)

<i>Sample section 11A</i> <i>0.00 = 50.84m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.19m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.19 – 0.26m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.26m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 11B</i> <i>0.00 = 50.64m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.27m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 12 (Fig. 4)

<i>Sample section 12A</i> <i>0.00 = 45.68m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.25 – 0.68m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.68m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 12B</i> <i>0.00 = 46.03m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.30m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 13 (Fig. 4)

<i>Sample section 13A</i> <i>0.00 = 41.95m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.16m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.16 – 0.31m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.31m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 13B</i> <i>0.00 = 41.81m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.19m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.19 – 0.33m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.33m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 13C</i> <i>0.00 = 41.85m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.27 – 0.33m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.33m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 14 (Figs. 2-3)

<i>Sample section 14A</i> <i>0.00 = 43.96m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.20 – 0.37m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.37m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 14B</i> <i>0.00 = 43.83m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.20m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 15 (Fig. 4)

<i>Sample section 15A</i> <i>0.00 = 46.57m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.25m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 15B</i> <i>0.00 = 45.85m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.27m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 16 (Fig. 4)

<i>Sample section 16A</i> <i>0.00 = 41.19m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.20 – 0.28m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.28m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 16B</i> <i>0.00 = 41.25m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.20 – 0.25m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.25m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 17 (Fig. 4)

<i>Sample section 17A</i> <i>0.00 = 44.17m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.31 – 0.50m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.50m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 17B</i> <i>0.00 = 43.53m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.25m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 18 (Fig. 4)

<i>Sample section 18A</i> <i>0.00 = 43.08m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.25 – 0.48m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.48m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 18B</i> <i>0.00 = 42.73m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.21 – 0.33m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.33m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 19 (Fig. 4)

<i>Sample section 19A</i> <i>0.00 = 44.80m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.25 – 0.36m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.36m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 19B</i> <i>0.00 = 45.01m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.27 – 0.60m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.60m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 20 (Fig. 4)

<i>Sample section 20A</i> <i>0.00 = 44.29m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.25 – 0.31m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.31m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 20B</i> <i>0.00 = 43.83m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.20 – 0.37m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.37m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 21 (Figs. 4-5)

<i>Sample section 21A</i> <i>0.00 = 57.44m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.10 – 0.36m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.36m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 21B</i> <i>0.00 = 57.48m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.21 – 0.62m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.62m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

Description: Periglacial Hollow F1023 was present within Trench 21.

Periglacial Hollow F1023 was ?linear/ irregular in plan with irregular sides and an irregular base (1.80+ x 10.70 x 0.42m). Its fill comprised friable, mid to dark orange brown silty sand with occasional small to large sub-angular and sub-rounded gravel, flint and chalk nodules. It contained no finds.

Trench 22 (Figs. 4-5)

<i>Sample section 22A</i>		
<i>0.00 = 43.43m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.24 – 0.30m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.30m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 22B</i>		
<i>0.00 = 43.22m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.27 – 0.36m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.36m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

Description: Modern Ditch F1019 was present within Trench 22.

Ditch F1019 was linear in plan with gently sloping/ irregular sides and a flattish base (2m+ x 1.10m x 0.13m); orientated E/W. Its fill (L1020) comprised friable, dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded gravel and flint. It contained modern finds (ceramic building material (CBM), glass, plastic etc.).

Trench 23 (Figs. 4 and 6)

<i>Sample section 23A</i>		
<i>0.00 = 40.89m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.31 – 0.40m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.40m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 23B</i>		
<i>0.00 = 41.87m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.28m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

Description: Periglacial Hollow F1017 was present within Trench 23.

Periglacial Hollow F1017 was ?linear/ irregular in plan with gentle to moderately sloping sides and a concave/ flattish base (2.00+ x 1.50+ x 0.26m). Its fill (L1018) comprised friable, mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small to large sub-angular and sub-rounded gravel, flint and chalk nodules. L1018 contained four small, highly abraded sherds (13g) of prehistoric pottery, the fabric of which may be of early/ middle Iron Age date, although may date as far back as the early Bronze Age (see Appendix 2). The poor condition of the pottery suggests that it was not found within its original depositional context.

Trench 24 (Fig. 4)

<i>Sample section 24A</i>		
<i>0.00 = 44.58m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.23 – 0.30m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.30m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 24B</i>		
<i>0.00 = 45.11m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.26 – 0.33m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.33m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 25 (Figs. 4 and 6)

<i>Sample section 25A</i>		
<i>0.00 = 43.47m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.10 – 0.28m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.28m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 25B</i>		
<i>0.00 = 43.72m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.11m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.11 – 0.27m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.27m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

Description: Undated Pit F1025 and periglacial Hollows F1027 and F1029 were present within Trench 25.

Pit F1025 was oval in plan with moderately sloping to steep sides and a concave base (2.70+ x 1.15m x 0.32m). Its fill (L1026) was a friable, mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded gravel and flint, and sparse chalk. It contained no finds. F1025 cut Fill L1028 of periglacial Hollow F1027.

Periglacial Hollow F1027 was linear in plan with gently sloping/ irregular sides and an irregular base (1.80+ x 3.60 x 0.25m). Its fill (L1018) comprised friable, mid orange brown silty sand with occasional small to large sub-angular and sub-rounded gravel and flint, and very occasional chalk nodules. It contained no finds.

Periglacial Hollow F1029 was linear in plan with gently sloping/ irregular sides and an irregular base (1.80+ x 1.96 x 0.17m). Its fill (L1030) comprised friable, mid orange brown silty sand with occasional small to large sub-angular and sub-rounded gravel and flint. It contained no finds.

Trench 26 (Figs. 4 and 6)

<i>Sample section 26A</i> <i>0.00 = 43.81m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.25 – 0.36m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.36m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 26B</i> <i>0.00 = 43.61m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.22 – 0.42m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.42m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

Description: Periglacial Hollow F1031 was present within Trench 26.

Periglacial Hollow F1031 was linear in plan with moderately sloping to steep sides and an irregular/ flattish base (1.80+ x 1.40 x 0.10m). Its fill (L1032) comprised friable, mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small to large sub-angular and sub-rounded gravel, flint and chalk nodules. It contained no finds.

Trench 27 (Figs. 4 and 7)

<i>Sample section 27A</i> <i>0.00 = 38.06m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.32 – 0.51m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.51m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 27B</i> <i>0.00 = 38.42m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.25 – 0.37m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.37m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

Description: Periglacial Hollows F1013 and F1015 were present within Trench 27.

Periglacial Hollow F1013 was linear/ irregular in plan with gentle to moderately sloping sides and a concave base (1.80+ x 1.20 x 0.19m). Its fill (L1014) comprised friable, mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional small to large sub-angular and sub-rounded gravel, flint and chalk nodules. It contained no finds.

Periglacial Hollow F1015 was linear/ irregular in plan with moderately sloping sides and an irregular base (2.40+ x 0.60 x 0.14m). Its fill (L1016) comprised friable, mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional small to large sub-angular and sub-rounded gravel, flint and chalk nodules. It contained no finds.

Trench 28 (Fig. 4)

<i>Sample section 28A</i> 0.00 = 42.41m AOD		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.26m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 28B</i> 0.00 = 43.22m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.30 – 0.48m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.48m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 29 (Figs. 4 and 7)

<i>Sample section 29A</i> 0.00 = 41.91m AOD		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.10 – 0.25m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.25m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 29B</i> 0.00 = 42.27m AOD		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.20 – 0.33m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.33m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

Description: Periglacial Hollow F1037 was present within Trench 29.

Periglacial Hollow F1037 was linear/ irregular in plan with moderately sloping sides and a concave base (2.90+ x 1.00 x 0.20m). Its fill (L1038) comprised friable, mid greyish brown silty sand with very occasional small to large sub-angular and sub-rounded gravel and flint. It contained no finds.

Trench 30 (Figs. 4 and 7)

<i>Sample section 30A</i> 0.00 = 41.83m AOD		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.25 – 0.37m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.37m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 30B</i> 0.00 = 42.25m AOD		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.23 – 0.40m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.40m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

Description: Periglacial Hollow F1039 was present within Trench 30.

Periglacial Hollow F1039 was linear/ irregular in plan with gentle to moderately sloping sides and a concave/ irregular base (2.70+ x 1.60 x 0.22m). Its fill (L1040) comprised friable, mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional small to large sub-angular and sub-rounded gravel, flint and chalk nodules. It contained no finds.

Trench 31 (Figs. 4 and 8)

<i>Sample section 31A</i>		
<i>0.00 = 39.39m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.26 – 0.35m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.35m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 31B</i>		
<i>0.00 = 39.86m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.25 – 0.36m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.36m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 31 contained undated Ditch F1007 and periglacial Hollows F1009 and F1011.

Ditch F1007 was linear in plan with moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. (2m+ x 1.61m x 0.26m); orientated NE/SW. Its fill (L1008) was a friable, mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded gravel, flint and chalk. It contained animal bone (460g) and snail shell (9g).

Periglacial Hollow F1009 was linear/ irregular in plan with gentle to moderately sloping sides and a concave base (2.00+ x 1.11 x 0.22m). Its fill (L1010) comprised friable, mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional small to large sub-angular and sub-rounded gravel, flint and chalk nodules. It contained no finds.

Periglacial Hollow F1011 was linear/ irregular in plan with moderately sloping to steep sides and an irregular base (2.10+ x 0.80 x 0.15m). Its fill (L1012) comprised friable, mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional small to large sub-angular and sub-rounded gravel, flint and chalk nodules. It contained no finds.

Trench 32 (Figs. 4 and 8)

<i>Sample section 32A</i>		
<i>0.00 = 40.62m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.08m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.08m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 32B</i>		
<i>0.00 = 41.07m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.12 – 0.14m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.14m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

Description: Periglacial Hollow F1033 was present within Trench 32.

Periglacial Hollow F1033 was linear/ irregular in plan with gently sloping to steep sides and an irregular base (1.80+ x 1.80 x 0.38m). Its fill (L1034) comprised friable, mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional small to large sub-angular gravel, flint and chalk nodules. It contained no finds.

Trench 33 (Figs. 4 and 9)

<i>Sample section 33A</i>		
<i>0.00 = 38.30m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.20 – 0.55m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.55m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 33B</i>		
<i>0.00 = 38.18m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.38 – 0.58m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.58m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 33C</i>		
<i>0.00 = 39.14m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.20 – 0.37m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.37m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

Description: Periglacial Hollow F1035 was present within Trench 33.

Periglacial Hollow F1035 was ?linear in plan with gently sloping to steep/ irregular sides and an irregular base (13.00+ x 12.50 x 0.35+m). Its fill (L1036) comprised friable, mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional small to large sub-angular gravel, flint and chalk nodules. It contained a very small, poorly preserved fragment of post-medieval peg tile (10g) and miscellaneous pottery of mid 3rd – mid 4th century date (1; 14g); 13th – 15th century date (2; 20g); and late 16th – 18th century date (1; 4g). The pottery was all in an abraded condition (see Appendix 2). Although the medieval and later material might suggest that F1053 was a hollow way – a ‘road or track running in a natural or man-made hollow...’ (Darvill 2003, 181) – the abraded nature of the finds does not suggest that they were recovered from their original depositional context. It is possible that the finds derived from erosion or ploughing of the overlying strata.

The footprint of Hollow F1035 straddled the boundary of John Beldam’s land as depicted on the 1806 Enclosure map, although appeared much wider in plan (Figs. 4 and 9-10). No further indications of this historical boundary were identifiable within the excavated trenches.

Trench 34 (Figs. 4 and 8)

<i>Sample section 34A</i>		
<i>0.00 = 39.09m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.25 – 0.30m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.30m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 34B</i>		
<i>0.00 = 37.36m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.27 – 0.32m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.3.
0.32m+	L1002	Natural deposits. As above Tr.1.

Description: Undated Ditch F1003 and periglacial Hollow F1005 were present in Trench 34.

Ditch F1003 was linear in plan with gently sloping sides and a concave/ irregular base (2.20+ x 1.36 x 0.14m); orientated N/S. Its fill (L1004) was a friable, mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded gravel, flint and chalk. It contained no finds.

Periglacial Hollow F1005 was linear/ irregular in plan with gently sloping to steep sides and a concave/ irregular base (1.80+ x 0.61 x 0.13m). Its fill (L1006) comprised friable, mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional small to large sub-angular and sub-rounded gravel, flint and chalk nodules. It contained no finds.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 Uppermost was Topsoil L1000, comprising firm, dark grey brown sandy silt. Across the majority of the site L1000 overlay a natural geology of compact white chalk (L1002). Subsoil L1001 (only observed in some trenches) comprised firm, mid orange-brown silt.

7.2 The depth of soil cover (L1000 and L1001) varied considerably across the site, ranging between 0.68m in the southern area of the site (Sample Section 12A) and just 0.08m towards the far north (Sample Section 32A). The mean depth of topsoil/ subsoil cover recorded within the 70 sample sections was 0.35m, while depths of below 0.30m were observed in 17 sample sections. Soil cover of 0.50m or more was recorded in six sample sections. This variance in soil depth may have resulted in the differential preservation of past land surfaces/ features at the site, especially as the local agricultural landscape has been subject to ploughing.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 Based on known sites and findspots in the local landscape, the project had potential to encounter prehistoric, medieval, post-medieval and early modern material. Ploughed out Bronze Age and other earthworks are recorded in the area, including barrows and linear earthworks that may be representative of territorial boundaries within a wider, organised landscape. The cropmark of a later trackway runs approximately north to south through the site, while the site of Hoy's Farm, which post-dated the 1806 enclosure of the local landscape, sits within the centre of the site (Figs. 11-13). The farm – depicted as 'The Hoy' on the 1886 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 11) – comprised a sizable complex of four yards a cottage and no less than 20 outbuildings (Higgs 2013). Additional features at the site included a well and pump (*ibid.*).

8.2 In the event, the trial trench evaluation encountered a small number of archaeological features (two pits (F1021 and F1025) and three ditches (F1003, F1007 and F1019)), all but one of which were undated (Table 1). Modern Ditch F1019 in Trench 22 (close to the central western edge of the site (Figs. 4-5)) yielded material including plastic and modern CBM, although also ran at right angles to the boundary of John Beldam's land as depicted on the 1806 Enclosure map (Fig.10). The same map shows plot boundaries on an identical alignment in this part of the site and might suggest an earlier origin for F1019. Other trial trenches in the near vicinity (Nos. 19 and 20), close to the site of Hoy's Farm, were devoid of features. However, the low level of post-medieval and later finds from the site, including abraded pottery sherds and a single fragment of peg tile (see Appendix 2) may derive from this 19th century and later phase of occupation/ activity. An unstratified sherd of St Neots ware (probably post-conquest in origin; see Appendix 2) hints at activity of this date either on or close to the site.

Trench	Context	Description	Date
1	F1021	Pit	Undated
22	F1019	Ditch	Modern
25	F1025	Pit	Undated
31	F1007	Ditch	Undated
34	F1003	Ditch	Undated

Table 1: Summary of encountered archaeological features

8.3 Environmental bulk samples from the fills of undated Pit F1025 (L1026) and periglacial Hollow F1035 (L1036B) yielded carbonised plant macrofossils including cereal grains (see Appendix 2). Wheat grains were present from both features, while free-threshing grains were identified within the sample from L1036B; free-threshing wheat was commonly cultivated in the medieval period (*ibid.*). The same context yielded a single barley grain. Although sparse, the environmental evidence suggests historical cultivation of the site and surrounding land, in keeping with the overwhelmingly agricultural character of Bassingbourn and its neighbouring parishes (see Section 3.1).

8.4 A number of periglacial hollows were encountered across the site. While the fills of most were devoid of finds, F1017 (L1018) contained four small sherds (13g) of

prehistoric pottery, the fabric of which may be of early/ middle Iron Age date, although may date as far back as the early Bronze Age (see Appendix 2). The fill of Hollow F1035 (L1036) contained miscellaneous pottery sherds dating between the mid 3rd – mid 4th centuries AD and 18th century AD, in addition to a single fragment of post-medieval peg tile. All of the pottery and CBM is in an abraded condition. While the medieval and later material might suggest that F1053 was used as a hollow way – a ‘road or track running in a natural or man-made hollow...’ (Darvill 2003, 181) – the abraded nature of the finds does not suggest that they were recovered from their original depositional context. Also, the irregular base of F1035 does not suggest its formal use as a trackway or similar. It is possible that the finds derive from erosion or ploughing of the overlying strata. Although F1035 traversed the boundary of John Beldam’s land as depicted on the 1806 Enclosure map, it appeared much wider in plan. No further indications of this historical boundary were identified.

8.5 The recorded dark linear anomaly shown on an aerial photograph of 1956 (Fig. 14) was not readily apparent within the trial trenches.

9 CONCLUSION

9.1 The sparse archaeological features encountered by the trial trench evaluation suggest only a limited level of past activity; although differential survival of features and past land surfaces is suggested by the variable depths of soil cover across the site (see Section 7.2). While the recovered post-medieval and later material may derive from 19th century and later settlement activity associated with Hoy’s Farm, a small quantity of medieval pottery, possibly spanning the 9th to 15th centuries AD (although probably all post-Conquest in date) hints at medieval activity either on or close to the site. Possible medieval cultivation is also suggested by free-threshing wheat grains from the fill of periglacial Hollow F1036 (L1037). A possible historical boundary may have been represented by Ditch F1019 (Trench 22), which mirrored the orientation of historical plot boundaries marked on the 1806 Enclosure map. However, no additional, firm evidence of historical boundaries was encountered within the excavated trenches.

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.

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APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	Animal Bone (g)	Other
1007	1008		31	Ditch fill				460	Snail Shell - 9g
1017	1018		23	Fill of hollow	Prehistoric	(4) 13g			Snail Shell - 9g
1019	1020		22	Ditch fill			89		Fe. Frag (1) - 19g Glass (1) - 29g Plastic (not retained)
1035	1036	A B C	33	Fill of hollow	Late 16th-18th C 13th-15th C Mid 3rd C-Mid 4th C	(1) 4g (2) 20g (1) 14g	10		
U/S	U/S			Unstratified	9th-12th C	(1) 10g			Fe. Frag (1) - 6g

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Prehistoric and Roman Pottery

Andrew Peachey MIfA

The evaluation recovered low quantities of poorly-preserved prehistoric and Roman pottery from the fills or remnants of layers overlying two natural depressions.

Periglacial Hollow F1017 (L1018) contained four small, highly abraded sherds (13g) of prehistoric pottery. The bonfire-fired, hand-made, plain body sherds were manufactured in a fabric tempered with common sand and sparse calcined flint that may be tentatively compared to early and middle Iron Age fabrics in the region, but based on such limited evidence may have origins extending back to the early Bronze Age.

Periglacial Hollow F1035 (L1036C) contained in single sherd (14g) of Roman pottery, comprising Oxfordshire red-slipped ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 177), with only thin patches of slip remaining on the surfaces. The sherd forms the rim and collar of a wall-sided mortaria, imitating samian ware form Dr.45 (Young 2000, 173: type C97/98). This type of vessel was manufactured from the mid 3rd century AD, but was probably not imported to East Anglia until the mid 4th century AD; although no further diagnostic traits such as painted decoration or trituration grits are extant on the sherd.

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The Post-Roman Pottery

Peter Thompson

Methodology

The post-Roman pottery sherds were examined under x35 binocular microscope and recorded according to the Medieval Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Medieval Pottery Research Group 1998; Slowikowski *et al.* 2001). The pottery is tabulated by context below (Table 2).

The Pottery

The evaluation recovered four abraded sherds weighing 34g from one periglacial hollow and an unstratified location. The earliest sherd is an unstratified St Neots inturned bowl rim whose rim diameter cannot be measured. The mottled, but mainly orange firing, suggests that it is probably post-conquest in date. Periglacial Hollow F1035 (L1036B) contained two conjoining rim sherds of medieval sandy orange

coarseware, containing sand and opaque rhomboid shaped inclusions which may be quartzite. The triangular rim suggests it is from a bowl. Fill F1036A contained a body sherd of post-medieval red earthenware.

Key (codes are site specific)

SNEOT: St Neots ware: late 9th to 12th C

MCW: Medieval coarse ware – Fine sandy matrix with moderate sub-angular medium to coarse quartz and sparse angular opaque mineral probably quartzite. Surfaces and margins are orange with a pale brown core 12th-15th C

PMRE: Post-medieval red earthenware – late 16th-18th C

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Unstratified	-	1x10g SNEOT	9 th to 12 th C	Abraded inturned bowl rim REVE 0.04
Periglacial Hollow F1035	1036A	1x4g PMRE	Late 16 th -18 th C	Heavily abraded, brown glaze
	1036B	2x20g MCW	13 th -15 th C	Abraded wheel-made conjoining sherds to triangular rim REVE 0.1 Rim diam. 20cm

Table 2: Summary of post-Roman pottery

References

Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG), 1998

A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms, MPRG 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, MPRG Occasional Paper No. 2

The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey MifA

The evaluation recovered very low quantities of poorly-preserved post-medieval and modern CBM, including a single very small fragment of post-medieval peg tile (10g) contained in periglacial Hollow F1035 (L1036C). Ditch F1019 (L1020) also contained 11 small fragments (89g) of brick rubble in a calcareous fabric typical of Fletton-type and similar 20th century extruded/ machine-cut bricks.

The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

Two bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken and processed during trial trench excavations at Bassingbourn. The sampled features were the fill of periglacial Hollow F1035 (L1036B) and the fill of undated Pit F1025 (L1026). This report presents the results from the assessment of the bulk sample light fractions and discusses the significance and potential of any material recovered.

Methods

Samples were processed at the Archaeological Solutions Ltd facilities in Bury St Edmunds using standard flotation methods. The light fractions were washed onto a mesh of 500µm (microns), while the heavy fractions were sieved to 1mm. The dried light fractions were scanned under a low power stereomicroscope (x10-x30 magnification). Botanical and molluscan remains were identified and recorded using a semi-quantitative scale (X = present; XX = common; XXX = abundant). Reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006; Kerney and Cameron 1979; Kerney 1999) and a reference collection of modern seeds was consulted where necessary. Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

In the first instance, 50% of each sample >20 litres was processed for the assessment. Further processing is conditional on the recovery of material of archaeobotanical significance.

Results

The assessment data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 3.

Plant macrofossils

Charred plant macrofossils were present in both samples in the form of charred cereal grains. Wheat grains were present in both samples, with those from L1036B identified as free-threshing type (*T. aestivum/ turgidum*). This is a typical crop plant of the medieval period in England (e.g. Moffett 2006; Carruthers 2008). Also present in L1036B was a single hulled barley grain. The grain was large and straight and may represent a two-row variety, although the number of grains is insufficient to confirm this precisely.

Charcoal

No charcoal remains greater than 2mm were recovered in the samples.

Terrestrial molluscs

Terrestrial molluscs were mostly characteristic of dry grassland conditions, including *Helicella itala*, *Pupilla muscorum* and *Discus rotundatus*. The species *Pomatias*

elegans is characteristic of disturbed habitats, although this may simply represent the unstable sides of a cut feature.

Contaminants

Modern rootlets, seeds, molluscs (*Cecilioides acicula*) and earthworm egg capsules were all present in the samples. These may indicate some biological disturbance of the deposits, although the concentration was not high enough to reflect a serious problem.

Conclusions and Statement of Potential

The material from the bulk samples indicates that there was some use of cereals in the vicinity of the excavated features. It is most likely that it entered deposits with other waste material as part of refuse disposal. The present samples represent no potential for further analysis due to the low concentration of remains. However, it is possible that further investigations would produce evidence of the site's past arable economy. The mollusc shells indicate short grassland habitats in close proximity to the excavated features. Whether this is indicative of pasture or other short grassland habitats is not clear based on the present data.

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Sample number	Context	Feature	Description	Spot date	Volume taken (litres)	Volume processed (litres)	% processed	Cereals			Non-cereal taxa		Hazelnut shell	Charcoal		Molluscs		Contaminants				
								Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes		Charcoal > 2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules
1	1026	1025	Fill of Pit	-	40	20	50%	X	-	Trit (1)	-	-	-	-	XX	<i>Carychium</i> sp., <i>Discus rotundatus</i> , <i>Helicella itala</i> , <i>Pomatias elegans</i> , <i>Pupilla muscorum</i>	XX	XX	X	-	X	
3	1036B	1035	Fill of Hollow	13th-15th C	40	20	50%	X	-	HB (1), FTW (3)	-	-	-	-	X	<i>Helicella itala</i> , <i>Pupilla muscorum</i>	X	X	-	-	X	

Table 3: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from Bassingbourn. Abbreviations: HB = hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.); wheat (*Triticum dicoccum/ spelta*); FTW = free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ turgidum*); Trit = wheat (*Triticum* sp.)

APPENDIX 3 OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
F1023A in Trench 21 looking west.



2
F1023B in Trench 21 looking west.



3
F1017 in Trench 23 looking south-west.



4
F1007 in Trench 31 looking south-west.



5
Sample section 33A in Trench 33 looking north.



6
Sample section 33B in Trench 33 looking East.



7
F1035A in Trench 33 looking west.



8
Sample section 34B in Trench 34 looking north-east.



9
F1003 in Trench 34 looking south-west.



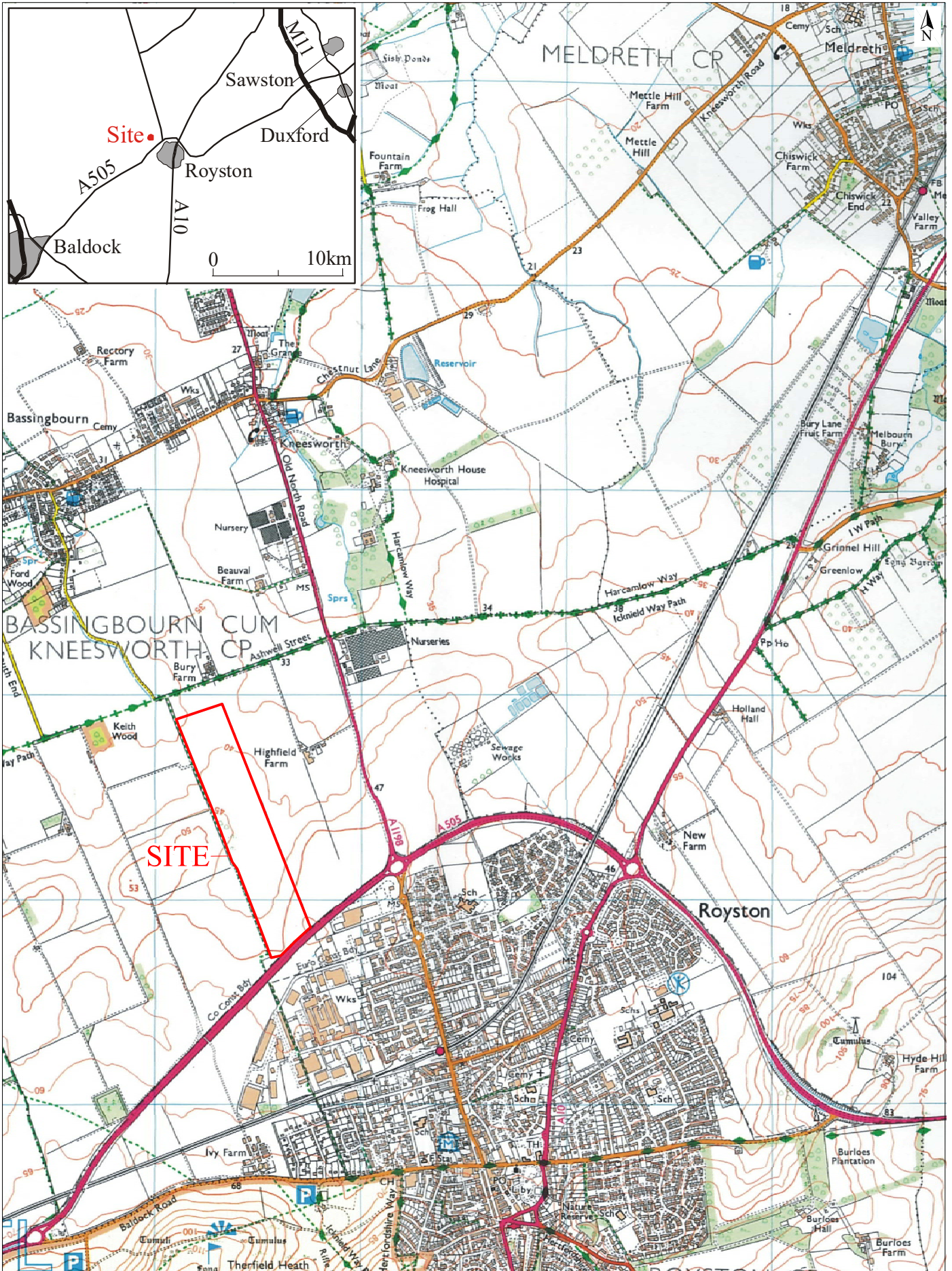
10
F1005 in Trench 34 looking west.



11
Sample section 9B in Trench 9 looking south-west.

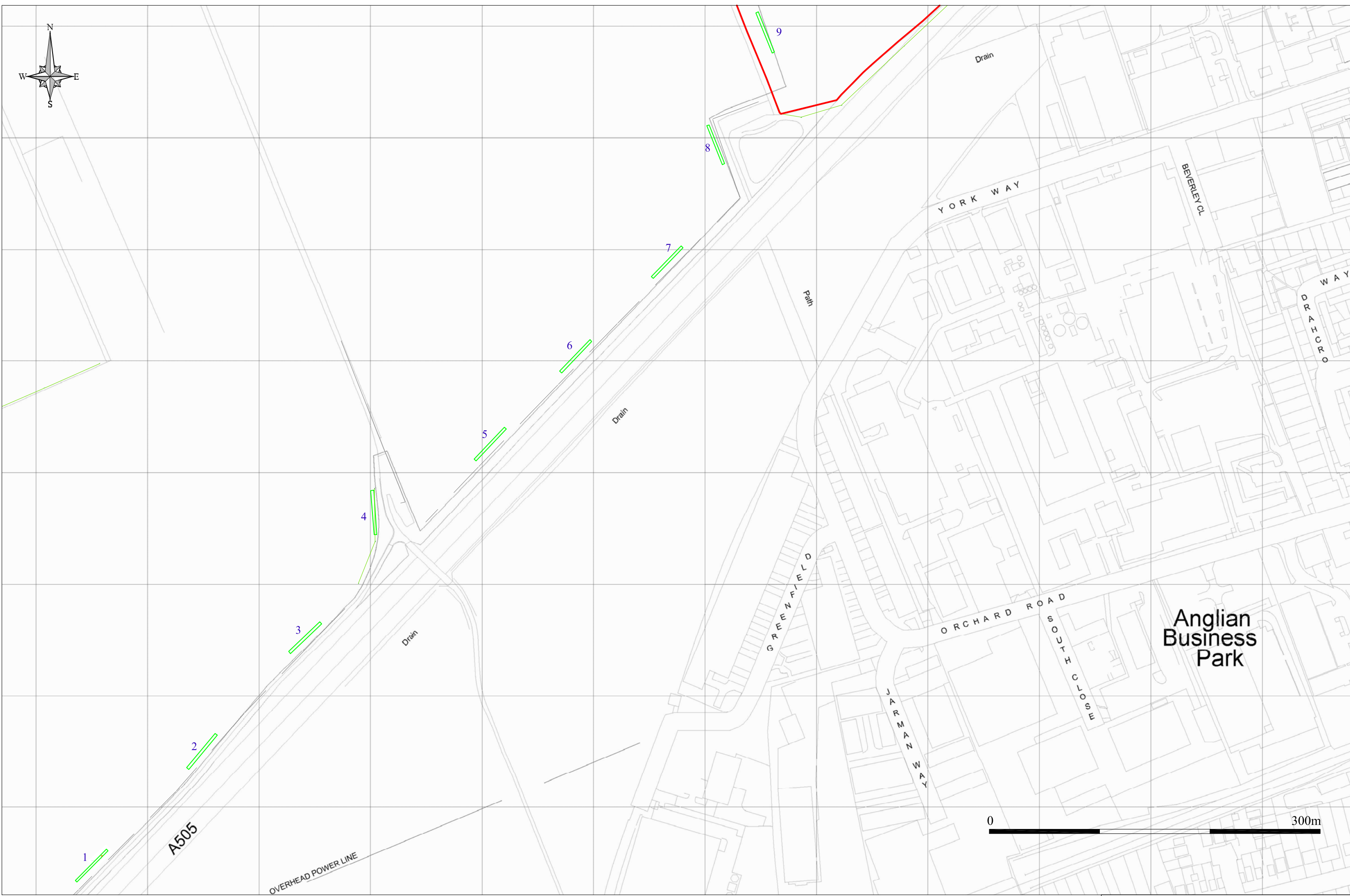
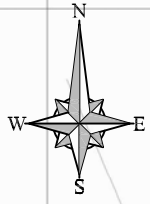


12
Sample section 29B in Trench 29 looking West

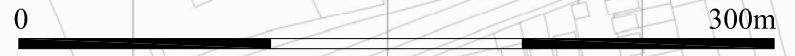


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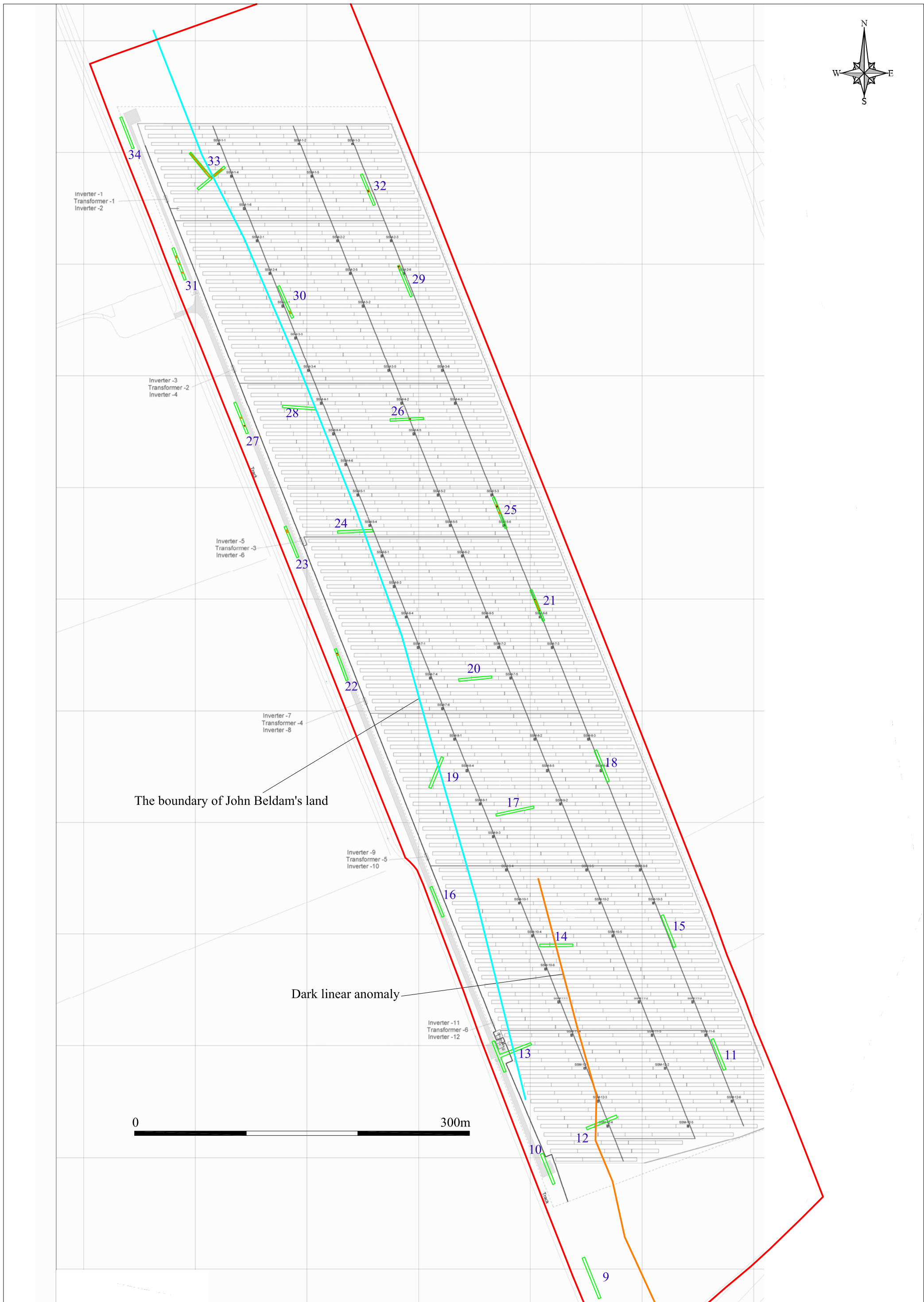
Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25000 at A4



Anlian
Business
Park



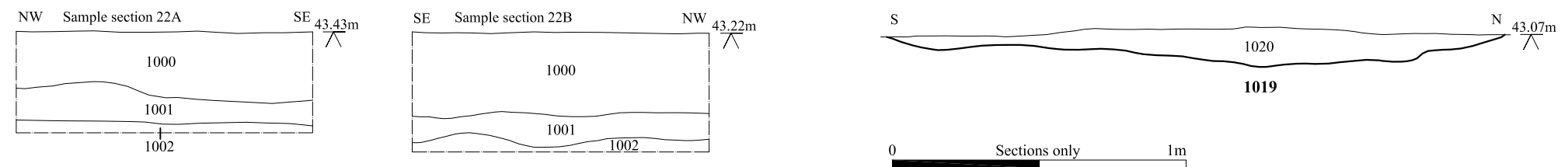
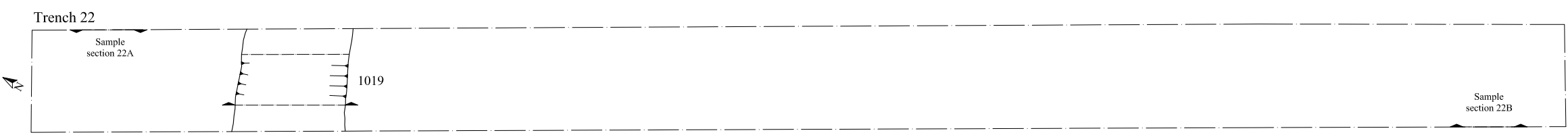
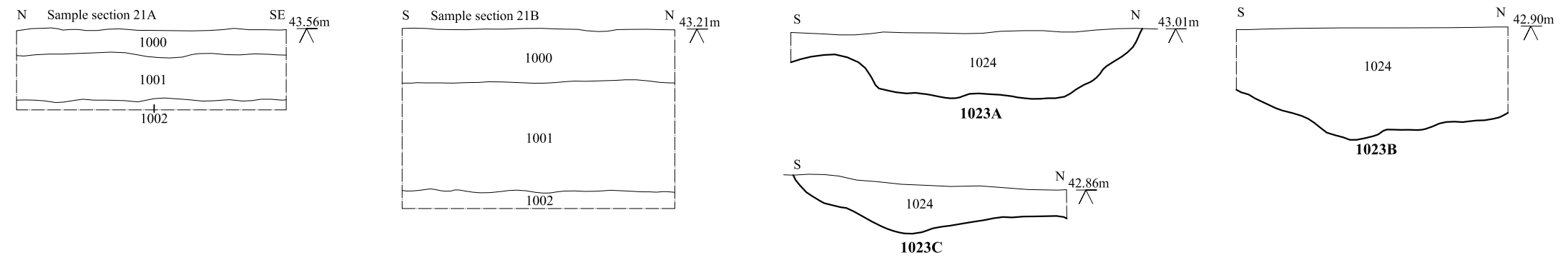
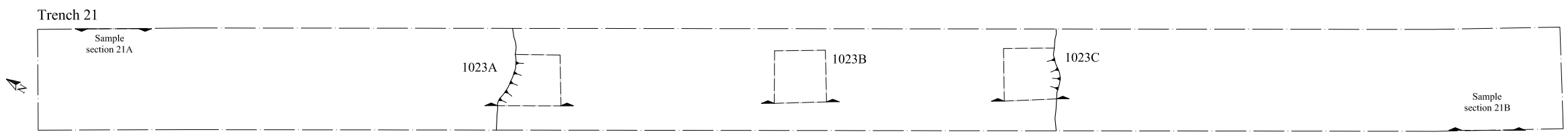
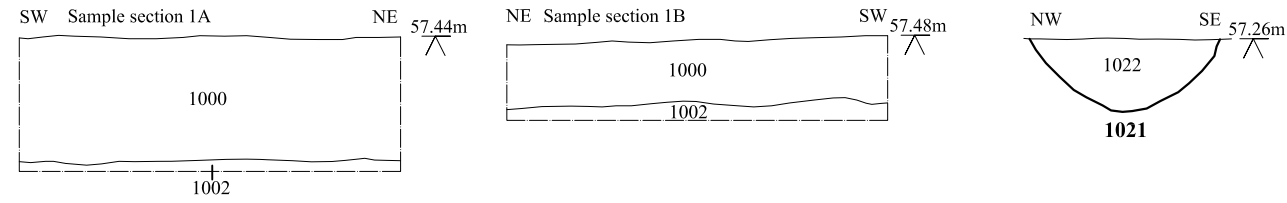
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Fig. 3 Trench location plan
Scale 1:3000 at A3



0 300m

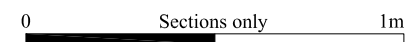
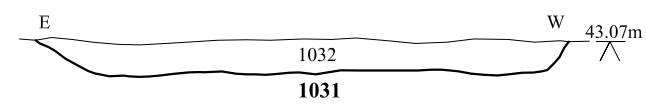
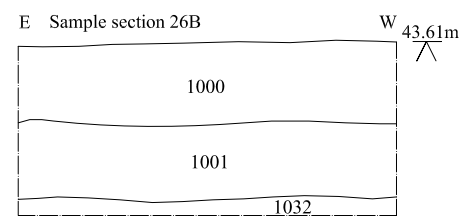
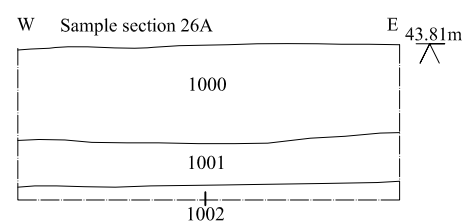
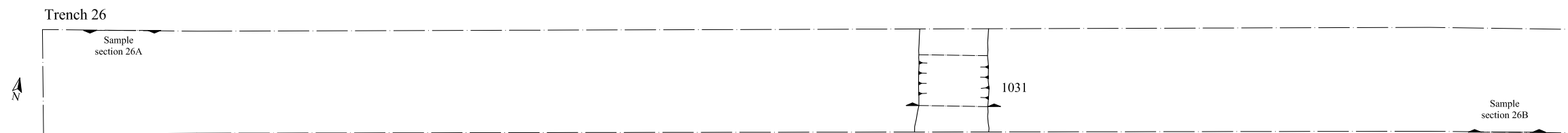
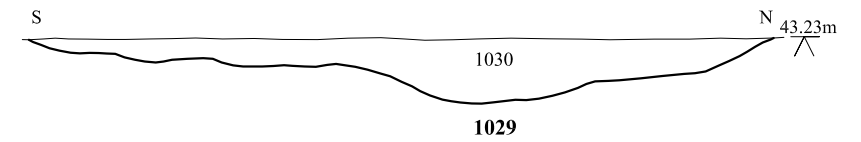
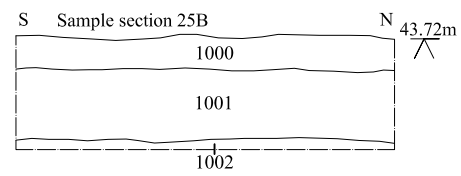
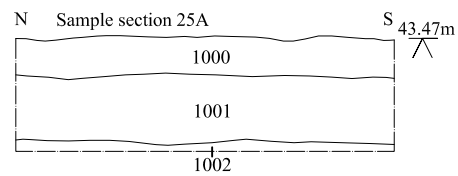
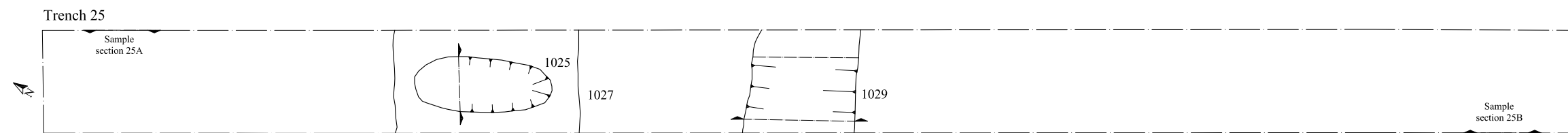
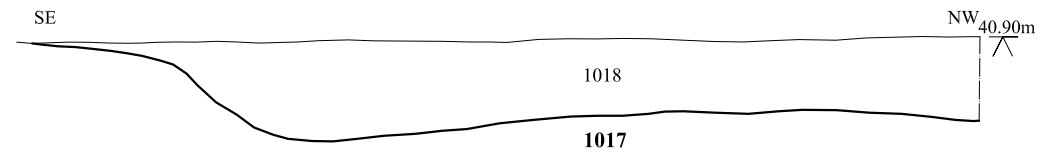
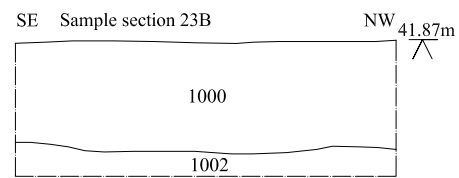
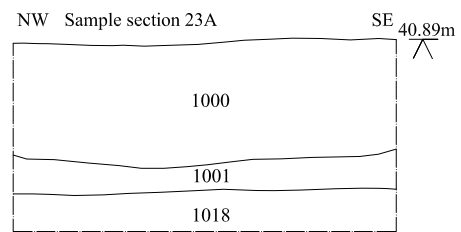
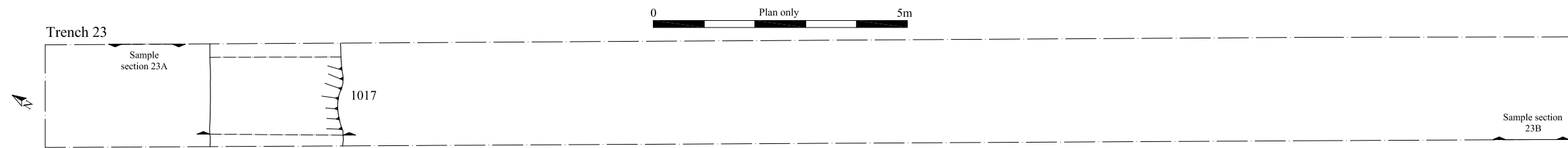
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Fig. 4 Trench location plan
Scale 1:3000 at A3

0 Plan only 5m

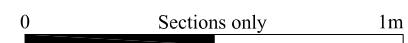
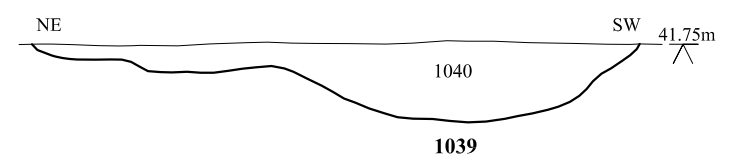
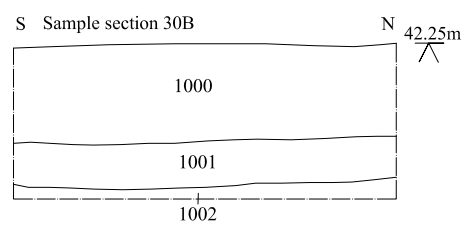
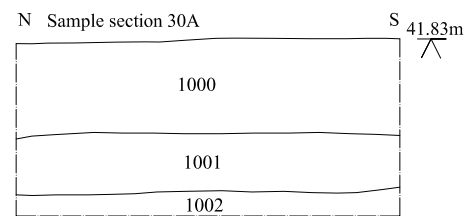
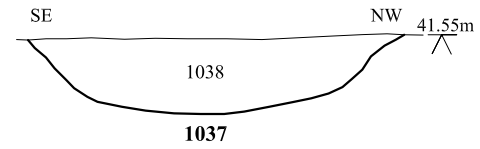
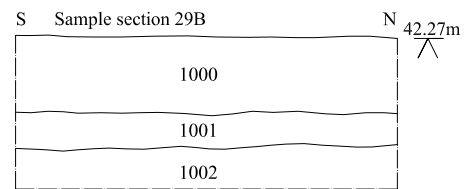
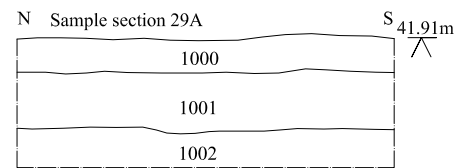
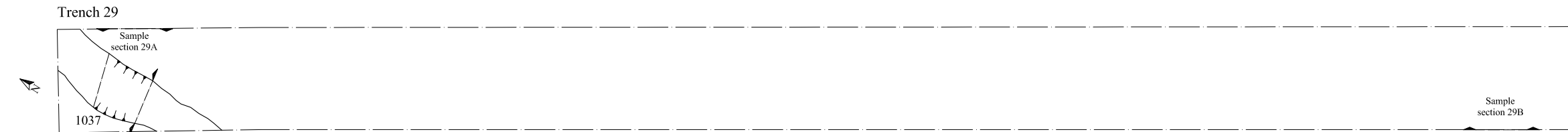
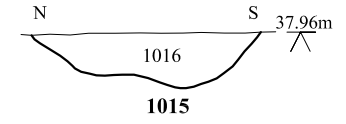
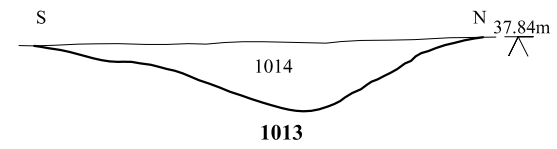
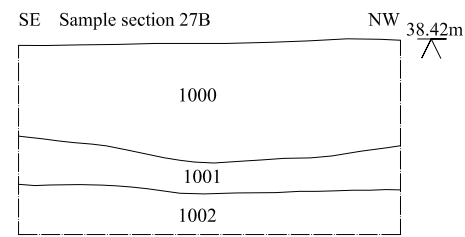
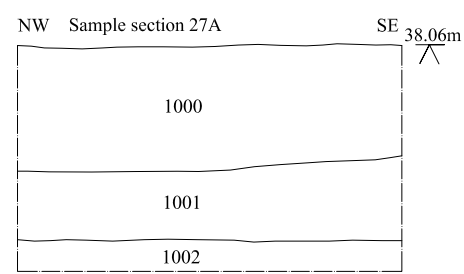
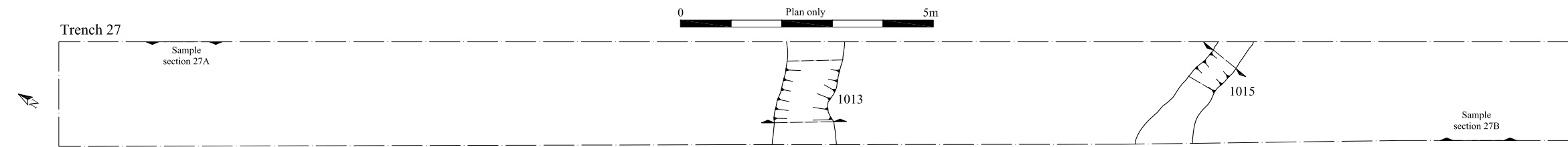


0 Sections only 1m

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Fig. 5 Trench plans and sections
 Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3



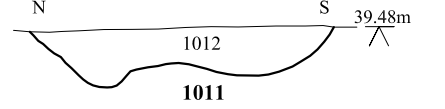
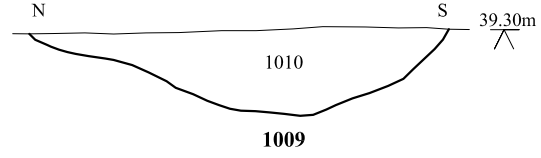
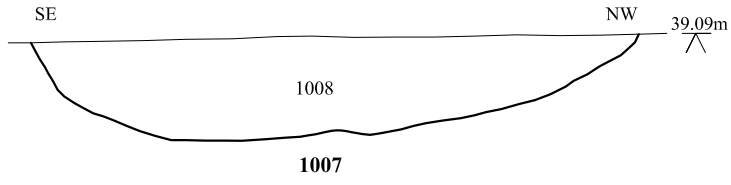
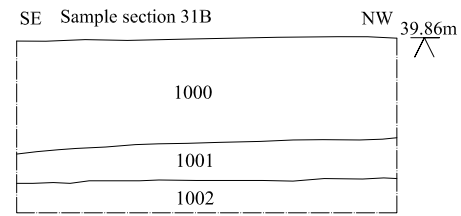
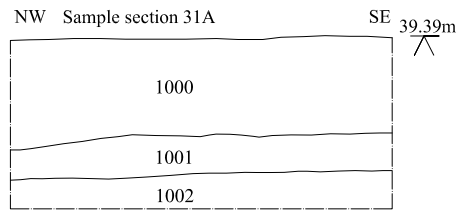
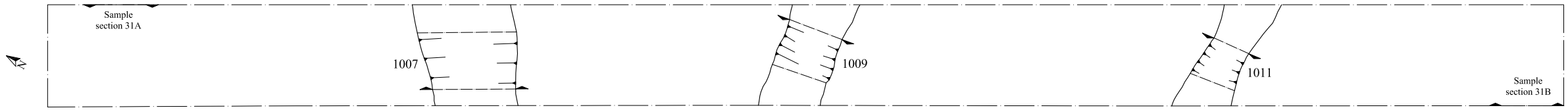
Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 6 Trench plans and sections
 Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3



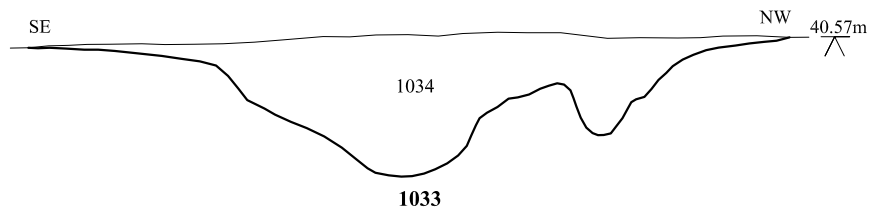
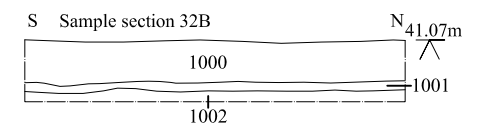
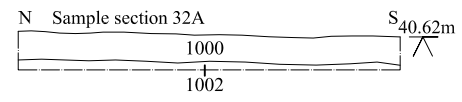
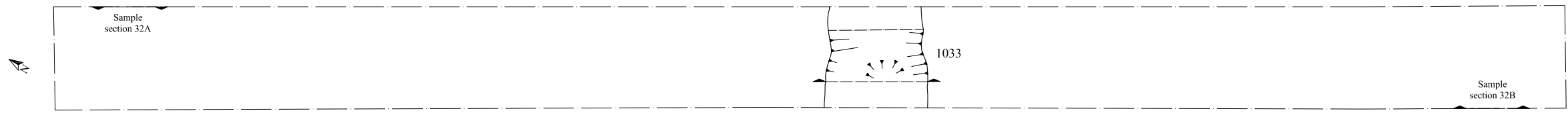
Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 7 Trench plans and sections
 Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3

0 Plan only 5m

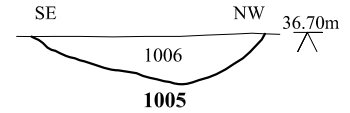
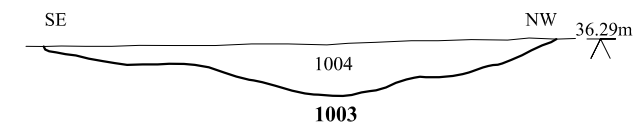
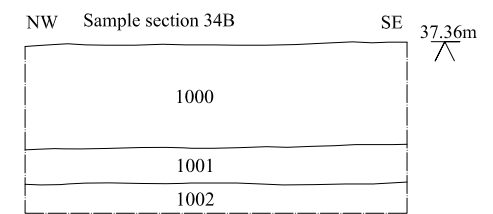
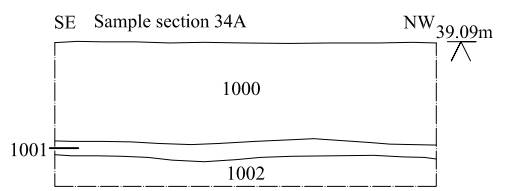
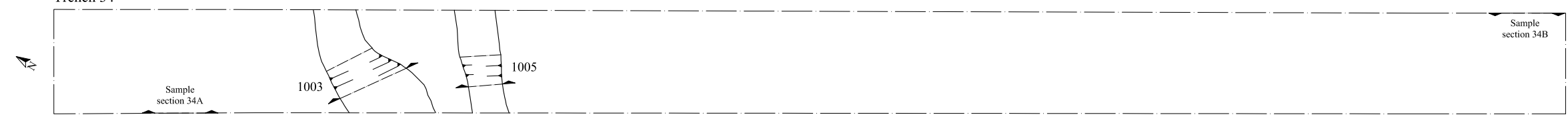
Trench 31



Trench 32

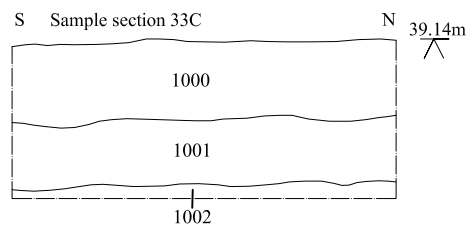
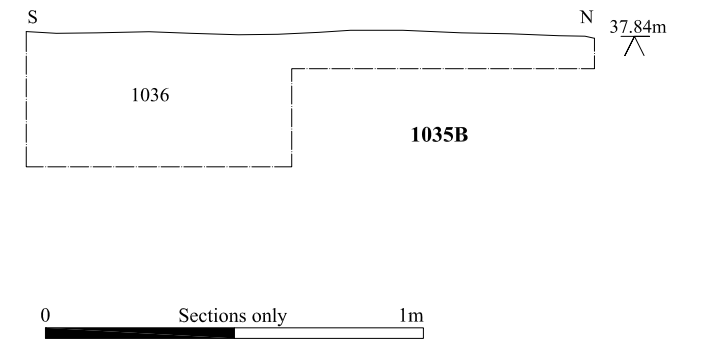
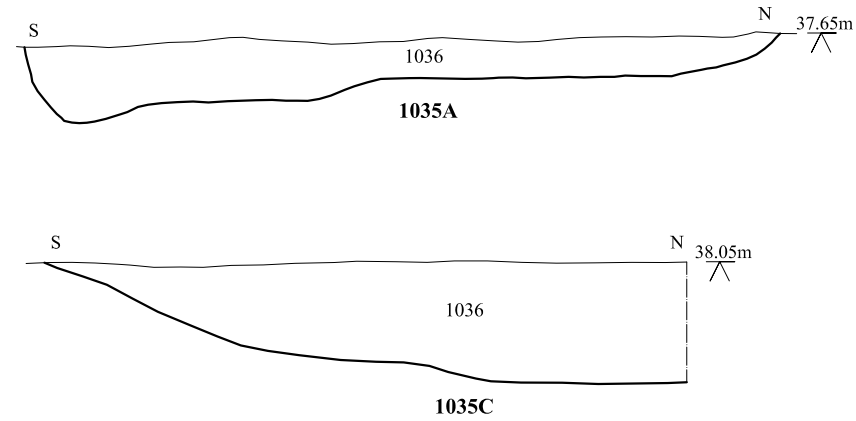
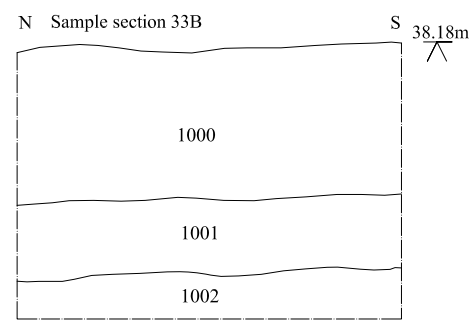
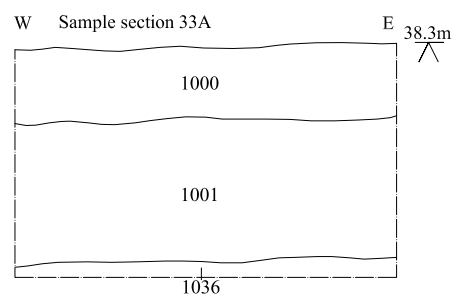
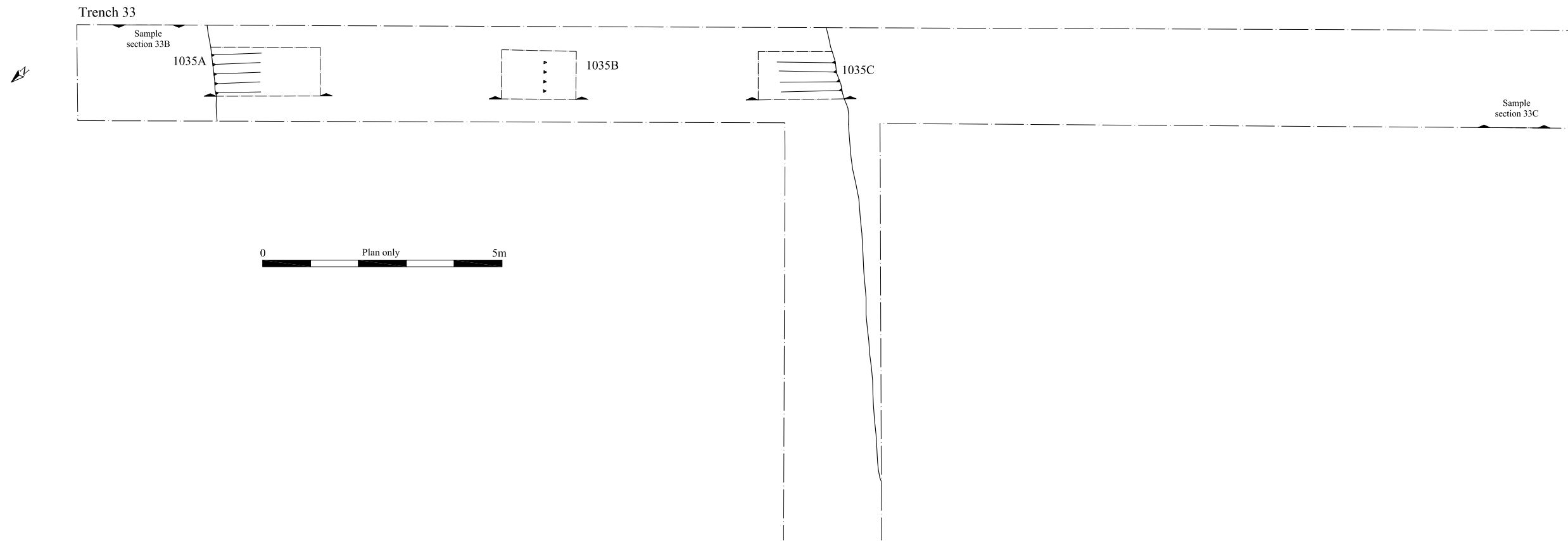


Trench 34

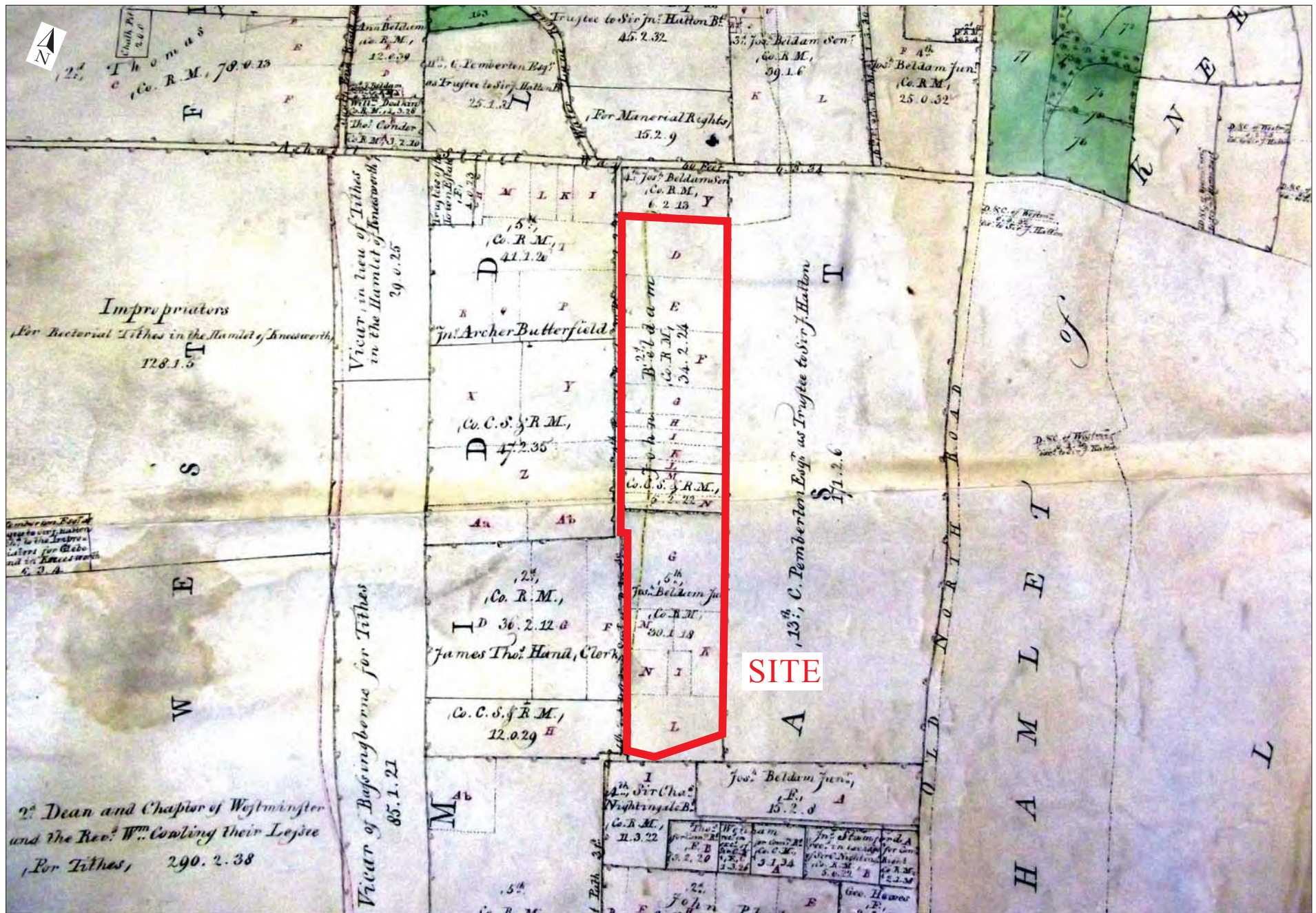


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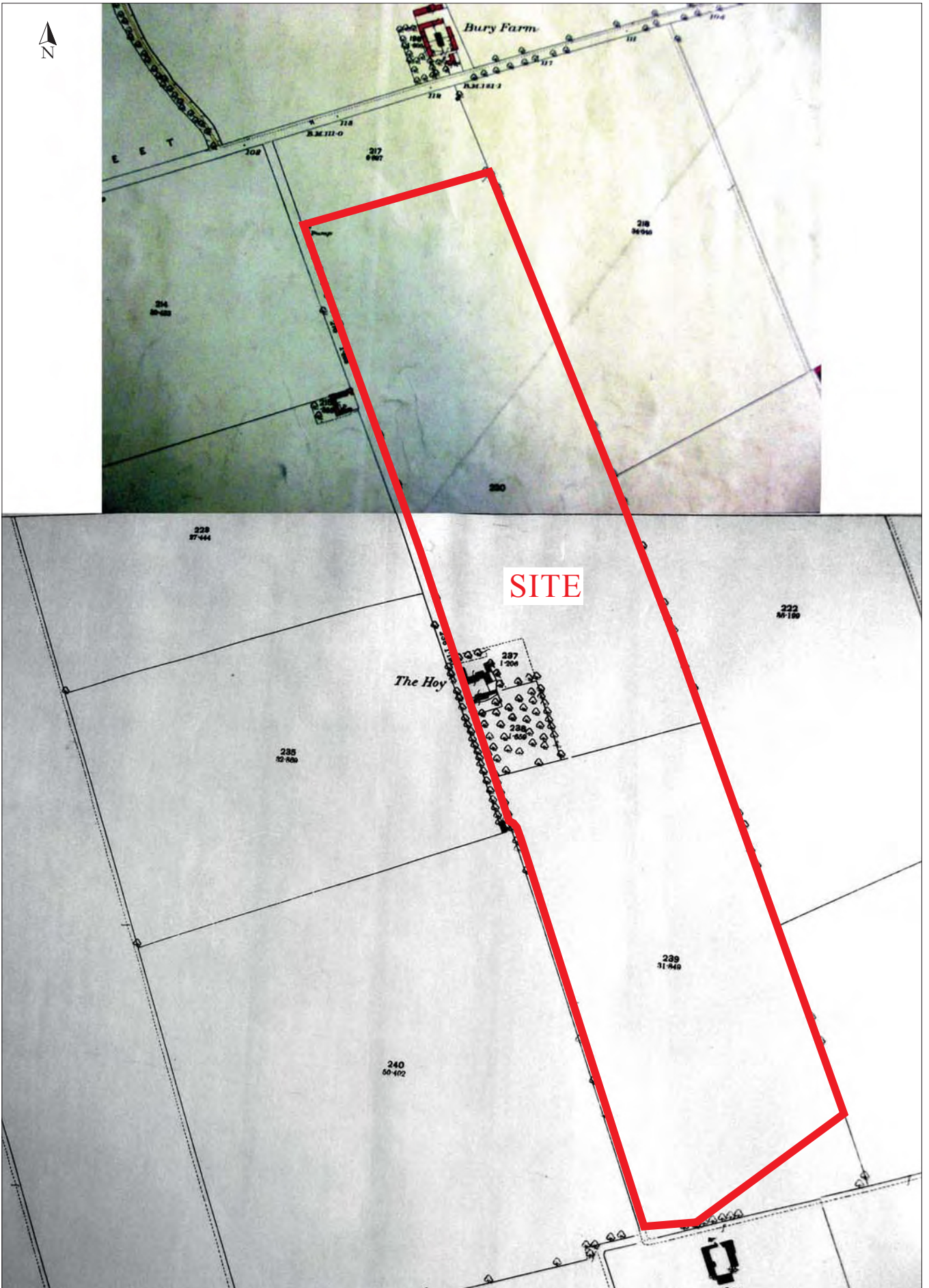
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Fig. 8 Trench plans and sections
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3



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Fig. 9 Trench plans and sections
 Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3



Archaeological Solutions Ltd
 Fig. 10 Enclosure map, 1806
 Not to scale



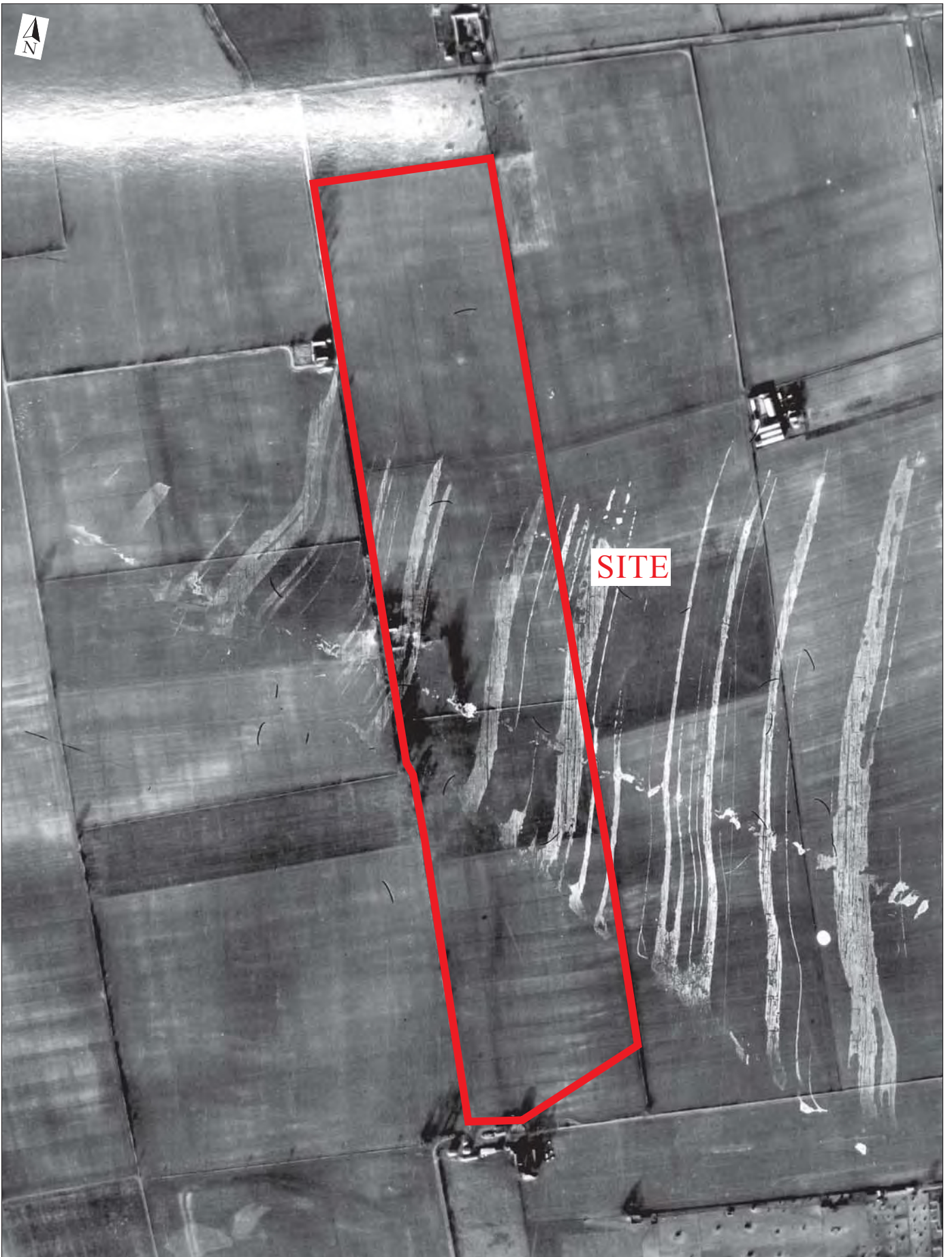
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Fig. 11 OS map, 1886
Not to scale



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 Fig. 12 OS map, 1903
 Not to scale



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Fig. 14 Aerial photograph, 1956
Not to scale