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LAND ADJACENT TO ROYSTON ROAD, (R/O 5 & 6 ROYSTON ROAD), BARKWAY, HERTFORDSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

Authors: Kerrie Bull (Fieldwork and report)	
NGR: TL 3840 3620	Report No: 5191
District: North Hertfordshire	Site Code: AS1828
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA Signed:	Project No: 5817
	Date: 25 August 2016

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Project dates (fieldwork)	*August 2016*		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	*Y*	*Future work*	*TBC*
P. number	*5817*	*Site code*	*AS1828*
Type of project	*Trial Trench Evaluation*		
Site status	-		
Current land use	*Agricultural*		
Planned development	*Residential*		
Main features (+dates)	*Pits, post holes, ditches*		
Significant finds (+dates)	*Middle Bronze Age – Early Iron Age, and Roman assemblages*		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	*Hertfordshire*	*North Hertfordshire*	*Barkway*
HER/ SMR for area	*Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record*		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	*c.4.1ha*		
NGR	*TL 3840 3620*		
Height AOD (max/ min)	*c.140m AOD*		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	*n/a*		
Project supervisor/s	*Bull, K.*		
Funded by	*Rand Brothers*		
Full title	*Land at Royston Road, Barkway, Hertfordshire: Geophysical Survey*		
Authors	*Bull, K.*		
Report no.	*5191*		
Date (of report)	*August 2016*		

LAND ADJACENT TO ROYSTON ROAD, (R/O 5 & 6 ROYSTON ROAD), BARKWAY, HERTFORDSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In August 2016, Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Royston Road, Barkway, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 3840 3620; NHDC Planning Ref. 16/00714/1PRE). The evaluation was commissioned to inform and support a planning application for a proposed residential development, based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT).

A geophysical survey identified two possible enclosures, one in the north-western sector of the site (1) and another towards the centre of the survey area (4). Both had evidence of possible internal features. A further possible ring ditch or pennanular enclosure (5) was identified in the eastern part of the survey. A strongly positive linear anomaly (2) running 10m N-S across possible enclosure (1) may be associated. Two parallel weakly positive linear anomalies (3) may represent part of a trackway close to enclosure (1). Two other linear anomalies (6 and 7) were present in the data, as well as three large sub-circular anomalies, potentially indicative of quarrying activity (9). Three discrete, high amplitude anomalies are synonymous with possible burning events and may represent past industrial activity (8).

There was not a particularly good correlation between the geophysical survey and the recorded archaeological features. A few anomalies were archaeological features: Ditches F1040 and F1047 (Trench 1); Gully F1043 (Trench 2); and Ditch F1034 (Trench 6). Some anomalies turned out to be natural features (Trenches 1, 2 and 7), and some anomalies were just not apparent at all (Trenches 3, 9, 11 and 14) and were likely the result of minor variations in the natural.

Five features contained Middle Bronze Age – Early Iron Age pottery and they were all discrete features: Pits F1012 (Trench 4), F1016 (Trench 5), F1010 (Trench 10) and F1008 (Trench 12), and Post Hole F1022 (Trench 9). Ditch F1055 (Trench 7) contained prehistoric pottery. The features are widely dispersed with one occurring in the trenches and the trenches some distance apart (Trenches 4 - 5, 7, 9 10 and 12). The number of sherds per feature was low (2 – 6 sherds) except Pit F1010 (Trench 10) which contained 52 sherds. The latter includes part of a vessel that may have been deposited near or wholly complete between the late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age (Pottery Report below). Of interest, Pit F1010 and Post Hole F1022 contained daub. In Pit F1010 two large fragments exhibit the impressions of straight cylindrical wattle rods; while in Post Hole F1022 four large fragments exhibit impression of comparable wattle rods (CBM and Daub report below).

A ditch (F1040) and a re-cut ditch (F1047) in Trench 1 contained Roman pottery. The ditches appeared to correspond with a geophysical anomaly comprising an enclosure. They contained 5 - 24 sherds of pottery, and associated finds comprise CBM, animal bone and sparse shell, slag and iron fragments.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In August 2016, Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Royston Road, Barkway, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 3840 3620; NHDC Planning Ref. 16/00714/1PRE; Figs.1 - 2). The evaluation was commissioned to inform and support a planning application for a proposed residential development, based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT). An archaeological desk-based assessment (Thompson 2015) and geophysical survey (Blagg-Newsome 2016) had been completed.

1.2 The project was carried out in accordance with a specification compiled by AS (revised 31st May 2016) and approved by HCC HEAT. The project conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Evaluation* (2014), as well as the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

Objectives

1.3 The principal objectives for the trial trench evaluation were:

- To determine the location, date, extent, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. In particular, it will be important to establish the presence or absence of any evidence of the prehistoric or later activity. It will also be important to understand the level of any previous truncation on the site and also to ascertain whether it will be possible to mitigate the development proposals to accommodate any surviving archaeological remains within the area of proposed redevelopment.

- To provide an adequately detailed project report to place the findings of the project in their local and regional context, with reference to the East Anglian Regional Research Frameworks and through relevant background research.

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 village of Barkway is located 21 km south of Cambridge and 5km south-east of Royston. The site comprises a field at the north end of the village where Royston Road branches off from High Street. It is bordered on the west side by Royston Road with elements of Barkway village to the south-west and north-west. The remainder of the site borders arable fields, with public footpaths bordering its northern and eastern edges.

2.2 The site is located on fairly level ground at approximately 140m AOD on the eastern end of a spur, on the edge of the Chiltern scarp. The Chiltern scarp slopes down immediately to the north and to a lesser degree also slopes down to the south and towards the village of Barkway. The valley of the River Quin is located 400m to the south-east of the site, flowing in a north-east to south-west direction. It is joined by another stream located 330m south-west of the site running from Reed to Barkway.

2.3 The solid geology of the Chiltern Scarp comprises Upper Cretaceous white chalk, often containing flint nodules. This is overlain by superficial geology of chalky till. The Hertfordshire Historic Landscape Characterisation places the site in a small area of later enclosure where 18th and 19th century changes have been made to earlier field boundaries.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 A recent archaeological desk-based assessment of the site (Thompson 2015) summarised:

The top of the Chiltern scarp was an area of interest to prehistoric inhabitants with the Icknield Way crossing 4.7km to the west, and favourable for prehistoric funerary activity in the form of long and round barrows. The only possible prehistoric remains within proximity of the site comprise the cropmarks of a possible 15m diameter ring ditch and an associated trackway some 200m to the west (HHER 6154 & 7792). Romano-British remains in the vicinity of Highfields Farm, Barkway, some 800m south of the site, including ditches, a pit, pottery, quern stones, animal bones and a coin hoard, indicate the presence of a nearby farmstead. A small quantity of struck and burnt flint was recovered during field walking 180m north of the assessment site. Remains of a double bayed or aisled rectangular building of 11th to mid 12th century date was identified at Manyons Farm some 440m south-west of the site.

The Domesday Survey indicates that the local area was quite heavily populated with settlements centred on Barkway, Newsells and Cokenach. There is also a relatively high concentration of moated sites in the area, thought to be medieval, which are focused predominantly on the neighbouring parish of Reed, as well as a possible motte and bailey castle on Periwinkle Hill. A windmill is recorded in 1271, located approximately 70m west of the site, with one remaining continuously on the spot until the 20th century. Field walking centred 180m north of the present site recovered a small quantity of medieval and post-medieval pot, and evidence for 12th century occupation was recorded at the Manyon Farm site.

The closest listed building is a late medieval Grade II hall house located 160m to the south. A second post-medieval mill was built approximately 60m west of the assessment site. The area around the site was not developed as it is today until between 1921 and 1976, remaining predominantly open land before that. However, the potential for archaeological remains based on the evidence presented is low.*

3.2 A geophysical survey has been completed for the project (Blagg-Newsome 2016). In summary:

In June 2016, Archaeological Solutions Ltd carried out a magnetic gradiometer survey on 4.1 hectares of land at Royston Road, Barkway, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 3840 3620; NHDC Planning Ref. 16/00714/1PRE). The survey was commissioned to inform and support a planning application for a proposed residential development.

*The survey identified two possible enclosures, one in the north-western sector of the site (**1**) and another towards the centre of the survey area (**4**). Both had evidence of possible internal features. A further possible ring ditch or*

*pennanular enclosure (**5**) was identified in the eastern part of the survey. A strongly positive linear anomaly (**2**) running 10m N-S across possible enclosure (**1**) may be associated. Two parallel weakly positive linear anomalies (**3**) may represent part of a trackway close to enclosure (**1**). Two other linear anomalies (**6** and **7**) were present in the data, as well as three large sub-circular anomalies, potentially indicative of quarrying activity (**9**). Three discrete, high amplitude anomalies are synonymous with possible burning events and may represent past industrial activity (**8**).*

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 HCC required a c.3% sample of the site to be investigated by trial trenching. The trenches targeted the anomalies identified by the geophysical survey and also `blank' areas. Nineteen trenches, 40m in length, were excavated (Fig.3).

4.2 The topsoil and subsoil were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale, and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches were scanned by a metal detector.

5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

5.1 The individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 3 & 4)

Sample section 1A *0.00 = 145.29m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, mid grey brown clayey silt with moderate chalk and stones.
0.30m+	L1002	Natural. Firm, mid brown yellow clay with chalk and flint.
Sample section 1B *0.00 = 145.35m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.30m+	L1002	Natural. As above.

Description: Trench 1 contained Gully F1045 and Ditches F1040 and F1047, the latter was re-cut (F1050). Ditch F1047 corresponded to the positive anomalies identified during the geophysical survey. F1040, F1045 and F1050 contained Roman pottery.

A variation in the natural accounted for the geophysical survey anomaly recorded within the extension of Trench 1.

Ditch F1040 was ?curvilinear in plan (1.90+ x 1. 35 x 0.70m), orientated SW/NE. It had steep sides and a concave base. It contained two fills. The

basal fill, L1041, was a firm mid red brown silty clay with occasional sub-angular flints and sub-rounded chalk flecks. It contained no finds. The upper fill, L1042, was a firm, mid grey brown, silty clay with occasional sub-angular flints and occasional charcoal and chalk flecks. It contained Roman pottery (24; 245g),CBM (7g), animal bone (6g) and iron nail fragments (37g), and slag (4g).

Gully F1045 was linear (2.00+ x 0.50 x 0.23m), orientated SSW/NNE. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1046, was a firm, mid red / yellow brown, silty clay with occasional stones. It contained CBM (2g) and animal bone (317g).

Ditch F1047 was ?curvilinear (2.00+ x 1.47 x 0.58m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1048, was a firm, mid red brown, silty clay with occasional small to medium sub-angular flints and moderate sub-rounded chalk flecks. It contained Early Roman pottery (5; 25g), CBM (1g) and animal bone (33g). F1047 was re-cut by Ditch F1050.

Ditch F1050 was ?curvilinear and a re-cut of Ditch F1047 (2.0+ x 1.10 x 0.35m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1049, was a firm, mid grey brown, clayey silt with occasional sub-angular flints and moderate charcoal flecks. It contained Roman (mid 1st – mid 2nd century) pottery (16; 191g) and oyster shell fragments (2; 12g)

Trench 2 (Figs. 3 & 4)

Sample section 2A *0.00 = 145.10m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above, Trench 1
0.29 – 0.64m	L1054	Uppermost fill of F1051
0.64 – 0.76m	L1053	Intermediate fill of F1051
0.76m+	L1052	Basal fill of F1051

Sample section 2B *0.00 = 145.04m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.31m +	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1

Description: Trench 2 contained undated Gully F1043 and undated Hollow F1051. Ditch F1043 equated to a positive anomaly identified by the geophysical survey.

A variation in the natural accounted for the geophysical survey anomaly recorded within the western arm of Trench 2.

Gully F1043 was linear in plan (1.00+ x 0.47 x 14m), orientated E/W. It had shallow sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1044, was a firm, mid grey brown, silt clay. It contained no finds.

Hollow F1051 was circular in plan (1.44+ x 56m+). It had moderately sloping sides and its base was unseen. Its basal fill, L1052, was a firm, pale grey orange, clay. It contained no finds. Its secondary fill, L1053, was a firm, mid grey brown, silt clay. It contained animal bone (450g). Its upper fill, L1054, was a firm, dark grey brown, silt clay. It contained animal bone (181g).

Trench 3 (Figs. 3 & 5)

Sample section 3A *0.00 = 143.98m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.28m+	L1001	Natural deposits. Pale yellow brown, firm, chalky till.

Sample section 3B *0.00 = 144.73m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.26m+	L1001	Natural deposits. As above.

Description: Trench 3 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 4 (Figs. 3 & 5)

Sample section 4A *0.00 = 143.76m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1
0.32m+	L1003	Natural deposits. Mid reddish brown, compact, clay.

Sample section 4B *0.00 = 143.11m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.28m+	L1003	Natural. As above.

Description: Trench 4 contained Pits F1012 and F1014. Pit F1012 Middle Bronze Age – Early Iron Age pottery and F1014 contained CBM.

Pit F1012 was sub circular in plan (1.21 x 1.05+ x 0.42m). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1013, was firm, mid reddish brown silty clay. It contained Middle Bronze Age – Early Iron Age pottery (2; 19g).

Pit F1014 was sub circular in plan (0.55+ x 0.70 x 0.15m). It had gently sloping sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill, L1015, was firm, mid orange brown silty clay. It contained CBM (45g).

Trench 5 (Figs. 3 & 5)

Sample section 5A *0.00 = 142.71m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.32m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Trench 4.

Sample section 5B *0.00 = 142.90m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.32m+	L1001	Natural. As above, Trench 3.

Description: Trench 5 contained Pit F1016 and Post Hole F1020. Pit F1016 contained Middle Bronze Age – Early Iron Age pottery.

Pit F1016 was sub circular in plan (1.20 x 0.33+ x 0.37m). It had irregular sides and a concave base. Its basal fill, L1017, was firm, dark brown silty clay. It contained Middle Bronze Age – Early Iron Age pottery (3; 34g) and animal bone (3g). Its secondary fill, L1018, was firm, pale yellow/orange clay. It contained animal bone (4g). Its upper fill, L1019, was firm, mid brown silty clay. It contained no finds.

Post Hole F1020 was sub circular in plan (0.23 x 0.20 x 0.06m). It had very shallow sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1021, was firm, reddish brown silty clay. It contained no finds.

Trench 6 (Figs. 3 & 6)

Sample section 6A *0.00 = 141.84m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.26m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Trench 4.

Sample section 6B *0.00 = 142.03m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.29m+	L1001	Natural. As above, Trench 3.

Description: Trench 6 contained Ditches F1032 and F1034, and Post Holes F1036 and F1038. F1034 contained land drains at its base.

Ditch F1032 was linear in plan (2.50+ x 1.00 x 0.26m), orientated NW/SE. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1033, was firm, mid yellow brown silty clay. It contained animal bone (31g).

Ditch F1034 was linear in plan (2.50+ x 0.73 x 0.23m), orientated NW/SE. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1035, was firm,

grey brown silty clay. It contained no finds excepting land drains at the base of the feature.

Post Hole F1036 was sub circular in plan (0.23 x 0.20 x 0.16m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1037, was firm, dark grey brown silty clay. It contained no finds.

Post Hole F1038 was sub circular in plan (0.24 x 0.20 x 0.15m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1039, was firm, light grey brown silty clay. It contained no finds.

Trench 7 (Figs. 3 & 6)

Sample section 7A *0.00 = 141.23m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.26m+	L1001	Natural. As above, Trench 3.

Sample section 7B *0.00 = 141.27m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.30m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Trench 4.

Description: Trench 7 contained Ditch F1055 and it contained prehistoric pottery

A variation in the natural accounted for the curvilinear anomaly identified by the geophysical survey.

Ditch F1055 was linear in plan (1.00+ x 0.47 x 14m), orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1056, was a firm, reddish / mid grey brown, silt clay. It contained prehistoric pottery (3; 5g), CBM (21g) and an iron nail fragment (1; 2g).

Trench 8 (Figs. 3 & 6)

Sample section 8A *0.00 = 141.17m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.33m+	L1001	Natural. As above, Trench 3.

Sample section 8B *0.00 = 141.15m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.30m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 8 contained undated Ditch Terminal F1030.

Ditch Terminal F1030 was linear in plan (1.25+ x 0.80 x 0.23m), orientated E/W. It had moderately steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1031, was firm, mid yellow / grey brown silty clay. It contained no finds and it was cut by a plough scar.

Trench 9 (Figs. 3 & 7)

Sample section 9A *0.00 = 143.17m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.35m+	L1001	Natural. As above, Trench 3.

Sample section 9B *0.00 = 143.64m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.31m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 9 contained Post Holes F1022, F1024 and F1026, and possible natural feature F1028. Post Hole F1022 contained Middle Bronze Age – Early Iron Age pottery, and Post Holes F1024 and F1026 were modern.

Post Hole F1022 was sub circular in plan (0.47 x 0.45 x 0.27m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1023, was firm, mid yellow/grey brown silty clay. It contained Middle Bronze Age – Early Iron Age pottery (3; 16g) and fired clay (30; 1860g). It was cut by a plough scar.

Post Hole F1024 was sub circular in plan (0.38 x 0.26+ x 0.23m). It had steep sides and a narrow base. Its fill, L1025, was firm, mid grey brown silty clay. It contained CBM (1g) and degraded wood indicating that the feature was relatively modern. It was cut by a plough scar.

Post Hole F1026 was sub circular in plan (0.28 x 0.26+ x 0.19m). It had steep sides and a narrow base. Its fill, L1027, was firm, mid grey brown silty clay. It contained modern asphalt.

?Pit F1028 was sub circular in plan (1.18+ x 0.70 x 0.11m). It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1029, was a firm, mid reddish brown, silty clay. It contained no finds and this feature may have been natural.

Trench 10 (Figs. 3 & 7)

Sample section 10A *0.00 = 143.75m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.30m+	L1001	Natural. As above, Trench 3.

Sample section 10B *0.00 = 143.34m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.30m+	L1001	Natural. As above, Trench 3.

Description: Trench 10 contained Gully F1004 and Pits F1006 and F1010. The latter contained Middle Bronze Age – Early Iron Age pottery; Gully F1004 contained a residual Roman sherd and was modern; and Pit F1006 was undated.

Gully F1004 was L-shaped in plan (9.50+ x 0.30 x 0.35m). It had steep sides and a narrow base. Its fill, L1005, was compact, mottled mid yellow brown and mid blue grey silty clay. It contained a residual sherd of Roman pottery (1; 2g) and a clay pipe stem fragment (1; 2g). The gully was also observed to contain asphalt. F1004 cut Pit F1006.

Pit F1006 was sub circular in plan (0.70 x 0.45 x 0.15m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1007, was firm, mid yellow brown silty clay. It contained no finds. F1006 was cut by Gully F1004.

Pit F1010 was sub circular in plan (1.60 x 1.00+ x 0.51m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1011, was firm, dark grey brown silty clay. It contained Middle Bronze Age – Early Iron Age pottery (52; 387g), animal bone (423g) and fired clay (6; 392g).

Trench 11 (Figs. 3 & 7)

Sample section 11A *0.00 = 144.02m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.24m+	L1001	Natural. As above, Trench 3.

Sample section 11B *0.00 = 144.88m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.25m+	L1001	Natural. As above, Trench 3.

Description: Trench 11 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 12 (Figs. 3 & 8)

Sample section 12A *0.00 = 143.41m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.24m+	L1001	Natural. As above, Trench 3.

Sample section 12B *0.00 = 144.06m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.28m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Trench 4.

Description: Trench 12 contained Pit F1008 and it contained Middle Bronze Age – Early Iron Age pottery.

Pit F1008 was sub circular in plan (2.70 x 1.10+ x 0.42m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1009, was firm, dark grey brown silty clay. It contained Middle Bronze Age – Early Iron Age pottery (6; 54g).

Trench 13 (Figs. 3 & 8)

Sample section 13A *0.00 = 143.58m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.32m+	L1001	Natural. As above, Trench 3.

Sample section 13B *0.00 = 143.09m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.29m+	L1001	Natural. As above, Trench 3.

Description: Trench 13 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 14 (Fig. 3)

Sample section 14A *0.00 = 143.21m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.31m+	L1001	Natural. As above, Trench 3.

Sample section 14B *0.00 = 143.08m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.29m+	L1001	Natural. As above, Trench 3.

Description: Trench 14 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 15 (Fig. 3)

Sample section 15A *0.00 = 143.17m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.32m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Trench 4.

Sample section 15B *0.00 = 143.01m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.28m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Trench 4.

Description: Trench 15 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 16 (Fig. 3)

Sample section 16A *West end / South facing* *0.00 = 141.23m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.33m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Trench 4.

Sample section 16B *East end / North facing* *0.00 = 141.31m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.30m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Trench 4.

Description: Trench 16 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 17 (Fig. 3)

Sample section 17A *0.00 = 141.21m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.22m+	L1001	Natural. As above, Trench 3.

Sample section 17B *0.00 = 140.53m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.31m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Trench 4.

Description: Trench 17 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 18 (Fig. 3)

Sample section 18A *0.00 = 142.24m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.30m+	L1001	Natural. As above, Trench 3.

Sample section 18B *0.00 = 141.76m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.28m+	L1001	Natural. As above, Trench 3.

Description: Trench 18 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 19 (Fig. 3)

Sample section 19A *0.00 = 141.73m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.31m+	L1001	Natural. As above, Trench 3.

Sample section 19B *0.00 = 141.69m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.28m+	L1001	Natural. As above, Trench 3.

Description: Trench 19 contained no archaeological features or finds.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 Uppermost Topsoil L1000 was a firm, mid grey brown clayey silt with moderate chalk and stones. In the majority of trenches it overlay Subsoil L1001, a firm, mid orange brown clayey silt with frequent chalk and stones.

7.2 The natural geology, was a firm, dark orange clay with chalk and flint. It varied slightly, to a firm, mid yellow chalky clay and mid orange clay and was *c*.40m below the present day ground surface.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The features recorded in each trench are tabulated:

Trench	context	Description	Date
1	F1040	Ditch	
	F1045	Gully	
	F1047	Ditch	
	F1050	Re-cut of F1047	
2	F1043	Gully	
	F1051	Hollow	
4	F1012	Pit	
	F1014	Pit	
5	F1016	Pit	
	F1020	Post Hole	
6	F1032	Ditch	
	F1034	Ditch	
	F1036	Post Hole	
	F1038	Post Hole	
7	F1055	Ditch	
8	F1030	Ditch Terminal	
9	F1022	Post Hole	
	F1024	Post Hole	
	F1026	Post Hole	
	F1028	?Natural	
10	F1004	Gully	
	F1006	Pit	
	F1010	Pit	
12	F1008	Pit	

Correlation with the geophysical survey

8.2 There was not a particularly good correlation between the geophysical survey and the recorded archaeological features (Fig.3). A few anomalies were archaeological features: Ditches F1040 and F1047 (Trench 1); Gully F1043 (Trench 2); and Ditch F1034 (Trench 6). Some anomalies turned out to be natural features (Trenches 1, 2 and 7), and some anomalies were just not apparent at all (Trenches 3, 9, 11 and 14) and were likely the result of minor variations in the natural.

Prehistoric

8.3 Five features contained Middle Bronze Age – Early Iron Age pottery and they were all discrete features: Pits F1012 (Trench 4), F1016 (Trench 5), F1010 (Trench 10) and F1008 (Trench 12), and Post Hole F1022 (Trench 9). Ditch F1055 (Trench 7) contained prehistoric pottery. The features are widely dispersed with one occurring in the trenches and the trenches some distance apart (Trenches 4 - 5, 7, 9 10 and 12). The number of sherds per feature was low (2 – 6 sherds) except Pit F1010 (Trench 10) which contained 52 sherds. The latter includes part of a vessel that may have been deposited near or wholly complete between the late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age (Pottery Report below). Of interest, Pit F1010 and Post Hole F1022 contained daub. In Pit F1010 two large fragments exhibit the impressions of straight cylindrical wattle rods; while in Post Hole F1022 four large fragments exhibit impression of comparable wattle rods (CBM and Daub report below).

Roman

8.4 A ditch (F1040) and a re-cut ditch (F1047) in Trench 1 contained Roman pottery. The ditches appeared to correspond with a geophysical anomaly comprising an enclosure. The ditches contained 5- 24 sherds of pottery, and associated finds comprise CBM, animal bone and sparse shell, slag and iron fragments.

Research Design

Prehistoric (500,000 BC – AD 43)

8.5 The chalk landscape and river valleys of north Hertfordshire have been a prolific source of Palaeolithic to Neolithic flint artefacts, Bronze Age round barrows and field systems. Therfield Heath outside Royston is a Scheduled Ancient Monument site containing a Neolithic long barrow, Bronze Age round barrows and Iron Age boundary ditches. The prehistoric Icknield Way passes approximately 4.7km to the north and west of the site. It connected the late Iron Age settlement at Baldock some 12km to the west with the Peddars Way and Norfolk to the north-east. An area of middle to late Iron Age settlement has been excavated at Barley to the south of the Icknield Way, and 2.8km north of the site (Cra'ster 1961, 22-46).

8.6 The cropmark of a 15m diameter sub-circular ring ditch is located 240m to the west of the site (HHER 6154). Its form suggests that it could be a prehistoric feature; apparently associated with it is a 200m cropmark of a possible trackway which is also undated (HHER 7792). A Neolithic or Bronze Age flint blade, and other, unspecified, worked flints were found 490m south-east of the assessment site, on the east side of the River Quin (HHER 9070). Field walking to the north of the site centred on 180m away recovered small quantities of struck and burnt flint (HHER 11437). Field walking at Newsells Park Stud Farm, adjacent to the west, recorded sparse finds of prehistoric, Roman and medieval date which were not considered to be indicative of archaeological features while trial trenching conducted at the same time recorded only sparse undated features (Crank and Murray 2000). A subsequent single trial trench at the same site in advance of the construction of a barn recorded no archaeological features other than deposits associated with former buildings that occupied the location (Hounsell and Kier 2001). A watching brief at Manyons Farm, given a national grid reference 440m south-west of the site, identified a multi-period site commencing with a pre-Anglo-Saxon soil horizon containing a sherd of Iron Age pottery (HHER 6515). To the south-west of Manyons, 700m south-west of the site, are the cropmarks of an undated probable ditched enclosures and pits (HHER 30185).

8.7 The recorded prehistoric archaeology may, therefore, be considered to add to this known prehistoric landscape. The multiplicity of dates of prehistoric sites recorded in the area suggests that this landscape has the potential to provide information relating to the development of human occupation and society overtime and the transitional phases between cultural phases of prehistory (Medlycott 2011, 13, 29). Similarly, the date of the archaeology

recorded within the current site suggests that this site in itself has the potential to provide information on the Bronze Age/Iron Age transition (Medlycott 2011, 29). The recorded finds have the potential to contribute to artefact studies and, in particular, to the typological identification of Bronze Age pottery types (Medlycott 2011, 21). Further work at this site has the potential to further characterise the nature of occupation represented by the recorded archaeology.

8.8 Any further archaeological investigation, if deemed necessary, would be undertaken following the grant of outline planning permission.

Romano-British (AD 43-410)

8.9 The Roman landscape in the surrounding area developed dramatically to incorporate significant roads and settlements, including Baldock to the west and *Durolipone* (Cambridge) to the north. The Icknield Way became a major Roman road as did Ermine Street, located 2.6km to the west of the site, which connected Braughing and London to the south with *Durotrigum* (Godmanchester) and *Durobrivae* (Water Newton) to the north.

8.10 A hoard of bronze and silver objects including a figure of Mars were found approximately 900m south-west of the site in Rokey Wood and may represent a votive deposit (HHER 2233). A Roman coin hoard is recorded from Barkway 550m south of the site, but there are no other details provided on it (HHER 491). However, an archaeological evaluation carried out some 270m further to the south identified evidence for Romano-British occupation. Parts of four ditches and a pit were found with two of the ditches and the pit, yielding 45 sherds of abraded pottery largely dating to the 2nd century AD. A few pieces of cattle bone, a little ironworking debris, and fragments from two different quern stones were also found (HHER 31088). A puddingstone quern fragment and a Roman cosmetic implement are also recorded from along the High Street (HHER 9072, HHER 10262). The overall evidence suggests a rural farmstead located in the vicinity of the villages main road. Field walking to the north of the site centred on 180m away recovered three Roman pottery sherds (HHER 11437).

8.11 The Roman archaeology that was recorded appears to form part of an enclosure and may, therefore, be considered to be further evidence for rural occupation in this area during this period. Medlycott (2011, 47) identifies rural settlements as an important research subject for the eastern region in the Roman period. Particularly pertinent research questions relate to the form and character that farms and settlements took and the relationship between the size/shape of fields and agricultural regimes. The current site has the potential to offer information on both of these subjects.

8.12 Any further archaeological investigation, if deemed necessary, would be undertaken following the grant of outline planning permission.

9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

9.1 Archive records, with inventory, will be deposited at North Herts Museums in accordance with their requirements. 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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank the client, Rand Brothers, for funding the project and for their assistance (in particular Mr Robert Rand), and Strutt & Parker LLP for their assistance.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Mr Matt Adams of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT).

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APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
	1000		1 7 9 13 19	Topsoil	Roman Post Medieval	1 1	6 3	 294 111 36				
1004	1005		10	Fill of Gully	Roman	1	2			Clay Pipe	1	2
1008	1009		12	Fill of Pit	Middle Bronze Age to Early Iron Age	6	54					
1010	1011		10	Fill of Pit	Middle Bronze Age to Early Iron Age	52	387		423	Fired Clay	6	392
1012	1013		4	Fill of Pit	Middle Bronze Age to Early Iron Age	2	19					
1014	1015		4	Fill of Pit				45				
1016	1017		5	Fill of Pit	Middle Bronze Age to Early Iron Age	3	34		3			
	1018		5	Fill of Pit					4			
1022	1023		9	Fill of Posthole	Middle Bronze Age to Early Iron Age	3	16			Fired Clay	30	1860
1024	1025		9	Fill of Modern Posthole				1				
1032	1033		6	Fill of Ditch					31			
1040	1042		1	Fill of Ditch	Roman	24	245	7	6	Fe.Frags Slag	 1	37 4
1045	1046		1	Fill of Gully				2	317			
1047	1048		1	Fill of Ditch	Early Roman	5	25	1	33			
1050	1049		1	Fill of Ditch	Mid 1st-Mid 2nd C AD	16	191			Oyster Shell	2	12
1051	1053		2	Fill of Hollow					450			
	1054		2	Fill of Hollow					181			
	1056		7		Prehistoric	3	5	21		Fe.Nail	1	2

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery

Andrew Peachey MCIfA

The evaluation recovered a total of 117 sherds of pottery, including relatively well-preserved prehistoric sherds and slightly abraded Roman sherds; however diagnostic sherds in both periods are almost entirely absent. The prehistoric pottery includes part of a vessel that may have been deposited near or wholly complete between the late Bronze Age and early Iron Age; while the Roman pottery comprises local coarse wares, including a lid-seated jar indicative of an early Roman date. A single sherd of post-medieval glazed red earthen ware was also recovered as un-stratified material.

Pottery Date	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	R.EVE
Prehistoric	71	522	0.00
Roman	47	454	0.10
Post-Medieval	1	3	0.00
Total	*119*	*979*	*0.10*

Table 1: Quantification of pottery by sherd count, weight (g) and R.EVE

Methodology

The pottery was quantified by sherd count, weight (g) and R.EVE with fabrics examined at x20 magnification and fully described in the report. Rim type, profile and decoration were also recorded in free text comments in accordance with the guidelines developed by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1995) and Study Group for Roman Pottery. Where possible Roman fabrics were assigned a code from the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber & Dore 1998), or assigned an alpha-numeric code based on this system. All data will be entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will form part of the site archive.

Prehistoric Pottery

The prehistoric pottery occurs in a single hand-made, bonfire-fired fabric with medium calcined flint temper (0.5-5mm), with sparse angular quartz (<0.5mm) also present. The highest concentration of prehistoric pottery: 52 sherds (387g) was contained in Pit F1010, and derived from part of the lower body and flat base of a single vessel with un-treated surfaces (quite abrasive with protruding flint) and no evidence of wear. It appears highly likely that the vessel was deposited near or wholly complete, and the sherds recorded may represent the remnants of a plough-damaged deposit; however with no further diagnostic or decorated sherds present the chronology of the vessel remains unclear, potentially from the early/middle Bronze Age, but most likely from the late Bronze Age to early Iron Age. Small body sherds in a comparable fabric in Pit F1016 exhibit fairly thick soot on their internal surface, while a sparse distribution of sherds was also contained in Pits F1008, F1012, Posthole

F1022 and L1057, suggesting that the potential single deposit was not entirely detached from an area of prehistoric activity or occupation.

The Roman Pottery

The 45 sherds (462g) of Roman pottery are sparsely distributed in Ditches F1040, F1047, F1050 (all in Trench 1), Gully F1004 and as un-stratified material; with very few diagnostic form types evident, however the fabric and form types present are consistent with activity spanning the mid 1st to mid 2nd centuries AD. In total, three fabric types were identified in the Roman pottery, described below, entirely representing locally-produced coarse wares from the north Hertfordshire region (Table 2) and possible deposited by low-level rural activity in the close vicinity.

Roman fabric types

ROB SH — Romano-British shell-tempered ware 1 (Tomber & Dore 1998, 212), wheel-made with common, moderately-sorted plate-like shell (generally 0.5-5mm, occasionally to 10mm)

GRS1 — Sandy grey ware. Mid grey throughout; surfaces slightly contrasting with the core. Inclusions comprise common fine quartz (<0.1mm) and sparse black iron ore (0.25-1mm), with frequently bleeds into the fabric. Hard with a slightly abrasive texture.

GRS2 — Sandy grey ware. Mid grey-brown surfaces over a mid grey core. Inclusions comprise common quartz and sparse black/red iron rich pellets (both 0.25-0.5mm). Hard with an abrasive texture.

Fabric type	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	R.EVE
ROB SH	4	33	0.05
GRS1	34	330	0.05
GRS2	9	91	000
Total	*47*	*454*	*0.10*

Table 2: Quantification of Roman fabric types by sherd count, weight (g) and R.EVE

The Roman pottery includes a low quantity of ROB SH, including a ledge-rimmed, lid-seated jar in Ditch F1050, whose fabric and form are consistent with types that occur in mid 1st to mid 2nd century AD groups at Baldock (Rigby 1986: vessel 221, 237, 614). The remaining snady grey wares (GRS1-2) also appear to have formed part of jars or similar closed vessels, including a small fragment of GRS1 everted bead rim in Ditch F1040, although that feature is more notable for a separate GRS1 base; the underside of which has had a cross carved into it, probably as a sign of ownership or identification.

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The Ceramic Building Materials and Daub
Andrew Peachey MCIfA

The evaluation recovered a total of 18 fragments (545g) of CBM and 36 fragments (2252g) of daub. The CBM includes Roman and post-medieval tile, which is highly fragmented and abraded; in contrast to two small groups of daub that include large fragments of un-baked, friable clay that are nonetheless well-preserved with partial impressions of wattle panels.

CBM Type	Fragment Count	Weight (g)
Daub (Prehistoric?)	36	2252
Roman Tegula Roof Tile	2	220
Post-Medieval Peg Tile	16	325
Total	*54*	*2797*

Table 3: Quantification of CBM by fragment count and weight (g)

Methodology

The CBM was quantified by fragment count and weight (g), with fabrics examined at x20 magnification and fully described in the archive. Diagnostic traits and extant measurements were also recorded in free text comments. All data will be entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will form part of the site archive.

Daub

Two groups of daub were recorded in Pit F1010 and Posthole F1022, each associated with prehistoric pottery, with which they are likely contemporary, though similar construction methods continued through the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. The daub has been allowed to air dry to a yellow-brown colour, though the internal 'core' often remain a very dark grey. The raw clay had been roughly tempered with common rounded chalk (1-5mm), occasional flint gravel and organic material (<3cm). In Pit F1010 two large fragments exhibit the impressions of straight cylindrical wattle rods (15mm in diameter) spaced parallel to one another approximately 15mm apart within the centre pf the panel; while in Post Hole F1022 four large fragments exhibit impression of comparable wattle rods but they are clearly spaced further apart, and it is notable that they are set approximately 30mm behind a crudely smoothed wall surface.

Roman CBM

The Roman CBM is comprised of a large fragment of flat tile recovered as un-stratified material from Topsoil L1000, and a small fragment in a comparable fabric contained in Ditch F1040. The tile is 20mm thick and in an orange fabric with inclusions of common moderately-sorted quartz (0.1-0.5mm), with

occasional red iron rich pellets and flint (<10mm). Although no flanged edges are present, it is almost certain that these fragments formed part of tegula roof tile; though a range of secondary uses or re-depositional processes may explain the presence of a sparse distribution of fragments.

The Post-Medieval CBM

The post-medieval CBM is limited to very small fragments of peg tile contained in Pit F1014, Posthole F1024, Gully F1045, Ditch F1047 and Topsoil L1000. The fragments are 12mm thick, occasionally exhibiting pre-firing circular peg holes; and were manufactured in a highly-fired red-orange fabric with inclusions of common well-sorted quartz (0.1-0.25mm), occasional flint and voids (<3mm). The tiles have a very finely sanded or smooth base, and were probably manufactured in the 18th-19th centuries; though these fragments were likely scattered through agricultural processes to improve soil and drainage.

The Animal Bone
Dr Julia E.M. Cussans

A small quantity of animal bone was recovered from trial trench excavations at Royston Road, Barkway (Table 1). Bones were recovered from a variety of pit, ditch, gully and hollow fills deriving from prehistoric, Roman and undated features. Bone preservation was recorded as ok or poor on a five point scale from very poor through to excellent. Overall the bone was fairly abraded and fresh breaks were very common attesting to the friable nature of the bone. A small number of canid gnawed bones were present; no burnt bones were observed.

In total 144 bone fragments were present the majority of which could only be identified as large (cattle or horse sized) or medium (sheep or pig sized) mammal. A single small (cat or hare sized) mammal bone fragment was also present. In the main these unidentified fragments were long bone or skull fragments, plus a few pieces of rib. Identified taxa, in order of abundance, were cattle, horse and sheep/goat.

Sheep/goat was represented by a single lower third molar tooth, which was in wear, indicating the presence of an adult animal. Horse was represented by two teeth and two limb bone fragments. Cattle is probably somewhat over represented by the numbers in Table 1 as the 11 teeth and bone fragments from L1053 likely all come from a single pair of mandibles belonging to one animal. Two of the teeth present here were third molars with absent third cusps (hypoconulid) a congenital condition thought to be associated with a narrow gene pool (O'Connor 2000, 121). Cattle were also represented by further teeth and foot bones. None of the bones in the assemblage were noted as having been butchered and no pathologies or abnormalities other than those mentioned above were present.

The Shell

Dr Julia E.M. Cussans

Two pieces of oyster shell were recovered from trial trench excavations at Royston Road, Barkway. Both of these derived from early Roman ditch fill L1049 (F1050) and may belong to the same shell. These were an incomplete lower valve (umbone intact) and a lower valve fragment. No signs of human modification were present but a number of parasitic worm burrows were present on the outer surface of the larger piece.

The Environmental Samples

Dr John Summers

Introduction

During trial excavations on land at Royston Road, Barkway, eight bulk soil samples for environmental archaeological assessment were taken and processed. Sampled deposits are spot dated to the late Bronze Age to early Iron Age and the Roman period.

The aim of this investigation is to assess the presence and preservation of environmental remains within archaeological deposits on the site. In addition, any insights into the plant-based economy of the site will be drawn from the remains identified in the bulk sample light fractions.

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.

Results

The assessment data from the bulk sample light fractions are presented in Table 4.

Plant macrofossils

Carbonised plant material was present in only low densities. Prehistoric deposits produced small numbers of cereal grains, including hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and a few chaff elements, such as a spelt wheat glume base (*Triticum spelta*) and a glume wheat rachis fragment (*T. dicoccum/ spelta*). The presence of chaff elements indicates that the deposits are likely to have been receiving some crop processing by-products from surrounding activities. No non-cereal arable weed taxa were present to provide information regarding cultivation practices. Charcoal was present in four of the prehistoric samples, with both oak (*Quercus* sp.) and diffuse-porous wood types recorded.

The sampled Roman deposits contained no recognisable carbonised remains.

Conclusions and statement of potential

The carbonised plant remains from the bulk sample light fractions indicate only a limited input to the sampled prehistoric deposits of material related to the processing and use of cereals. The material present indicates some input of cereal processing by-products but the low densities indicate scattered carbonised debris, rather than the deposition of material generated in the very near vicinity.

Evidence from the Romano-British samples indicates very limited deposition of carbonised remains and suggests that the sampled features may have been located some distance from areas of domestic or agricultural processing activities.

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Site code	Sample number	Context	Feature	Description	Spot date	Volume taken (litres)	Volume processed (litres)	% processed	Cereals			Non-cereal taxa		Hazelnut shell	Charcoal		Molluscs		Contaminants					Other remains
									Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes		Charcoal>2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules	
AS1828	1	1011	1010	Fill of Pit	MBA/EIA	40	20	50%	X	-	HB (1), NFI (1)	-	-	-	X	-	X	*Vallonia* sp.	XX	X	X	-	-	-
AS1828	2	1018/ 1019	1016	Fill of Pit	MBA/EIA	20	10	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	*Quercus* sp.	X	*Vitrea* sp.	X	-	X	-	-	-
AS1828	3	1023	1022	Fill of Posthole	MBA/EIA	10	10	100%	X	-	NFI (1)	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-
AS1828	4	1042	1040	Fill of Ditch	Roman	20	10	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	*Helicella itala, Trichia hispida* group, *Vallonia* sp.	X	X	-	-	-	-
AS1828	5	1046	1045	Fill of Gully	-	20	10	50%	-	X	E/S GB (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-
AS1828	6	1049	1050	Fill of Ditch	Mid1st-mid 2nd C AD	40	20	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-
AS1828	7	1054	1051	Fill of Hollow	Prehistoric	20	10	50%	-	X	Spelt GB (1), E/S rachis (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-
AS1828	8	1017	1016	Fill of Pit	MBA/EIA	10	10	100%	-	-	-	-	-	-	XX	*Quercus* sp., Diffuse porous	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-

Table 4: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from land at Royston Road, Barkway. Abbreviations: HB = hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.); Spelt = spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*); E/S = emmer/ spelt wheat (*Triticum dicoccum/ spelta*); Trit = wheat (*Triticum* sp.); NFI = not formally identified (indeterminate cereal grain); GB = glume base.

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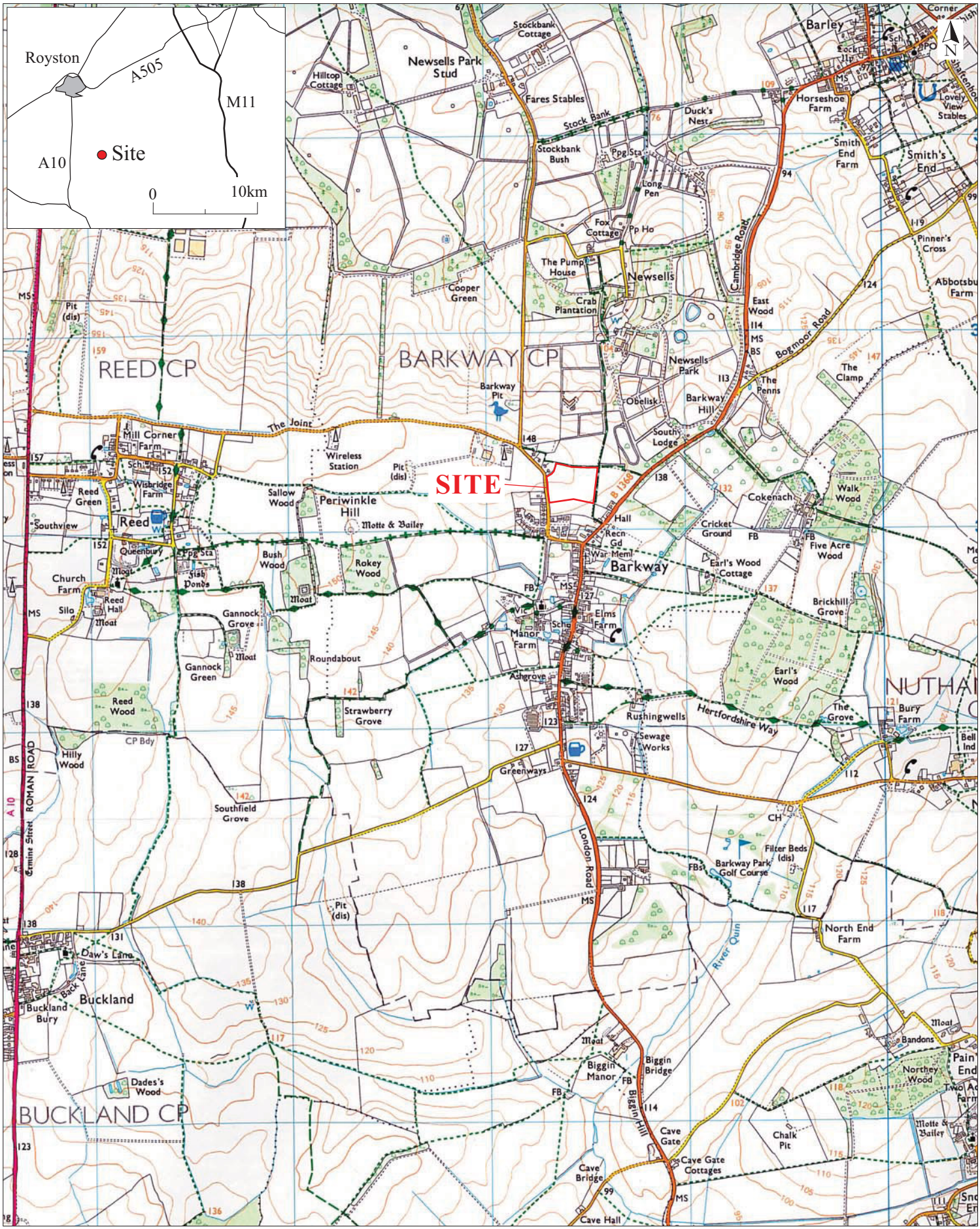

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Fig. 1 Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000 at A4

Land at Royston Rd, Barkway, Hertfordshire (P5817)

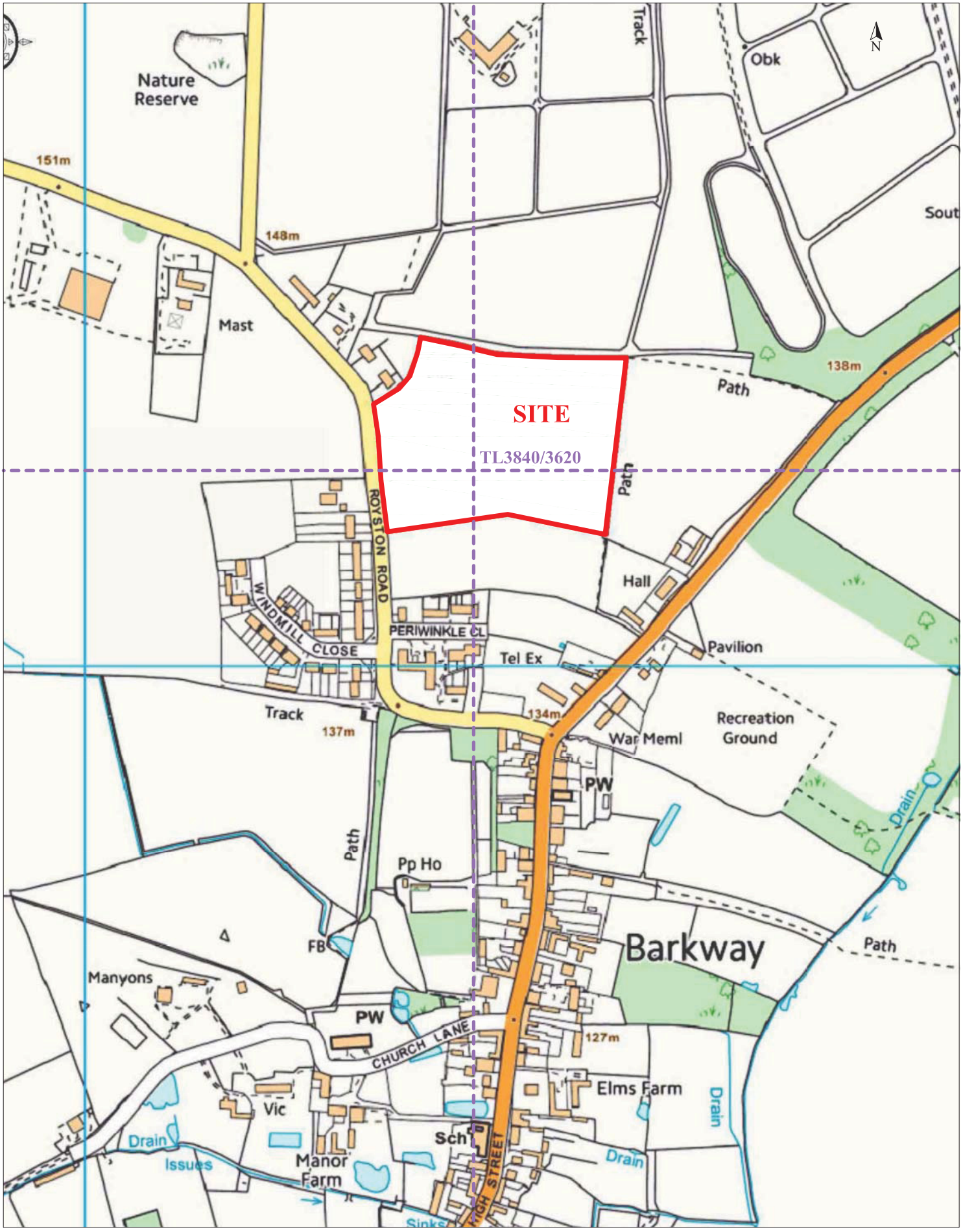

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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

Scale 1:5000 at A4

Land at Royston Rd, Barkway, Hertfordshire (P5817)

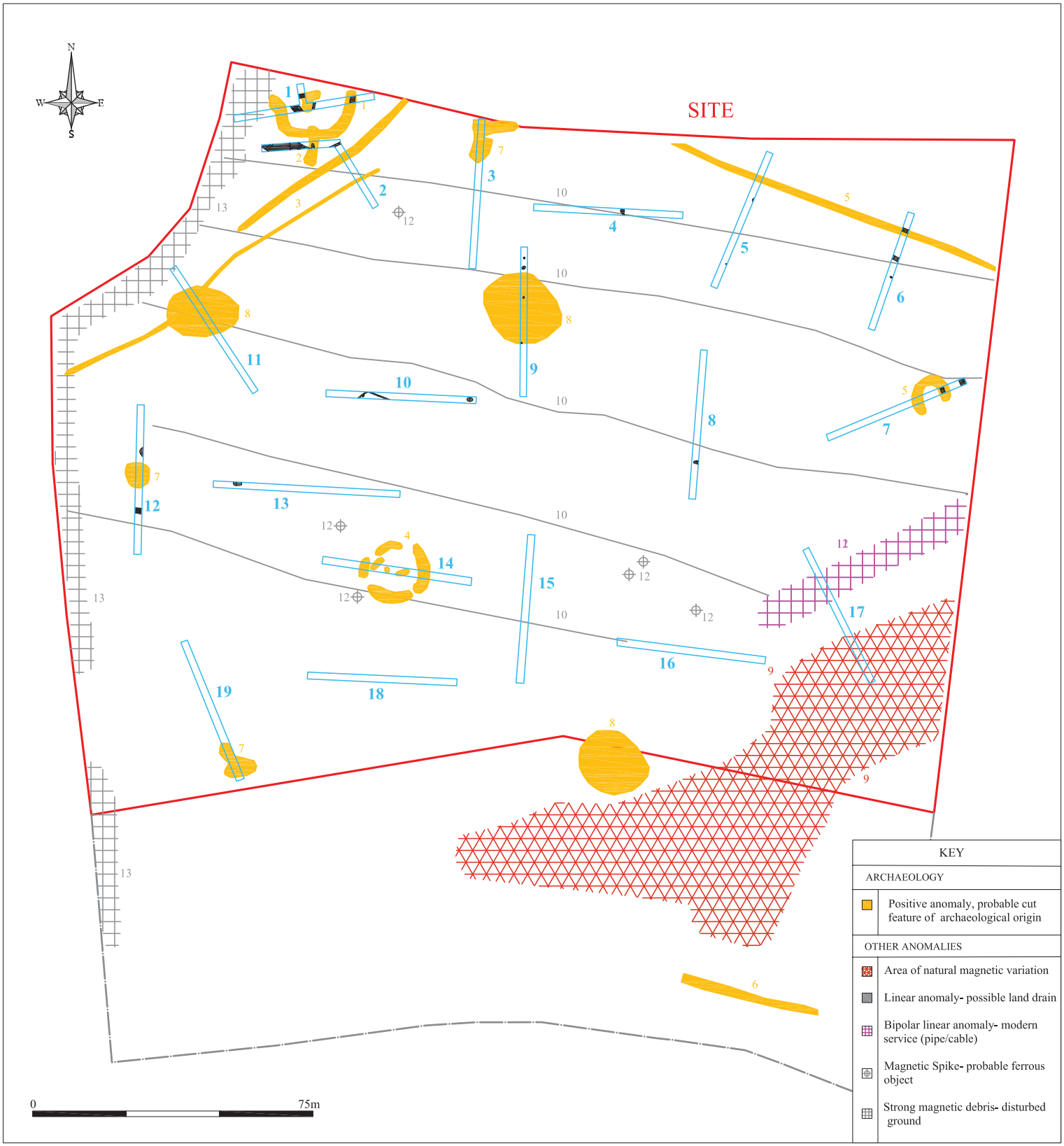

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Fig. 3a Trench location plan

Scale 1:1000 at A3

Land at Royston Rd, Barkway, Hertfordshire (P5817)

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Fig. 3b Phase plan

Scale 1:1000 at A3

Land at Royston Rd, Barkway, Hertfordshire (P5817)

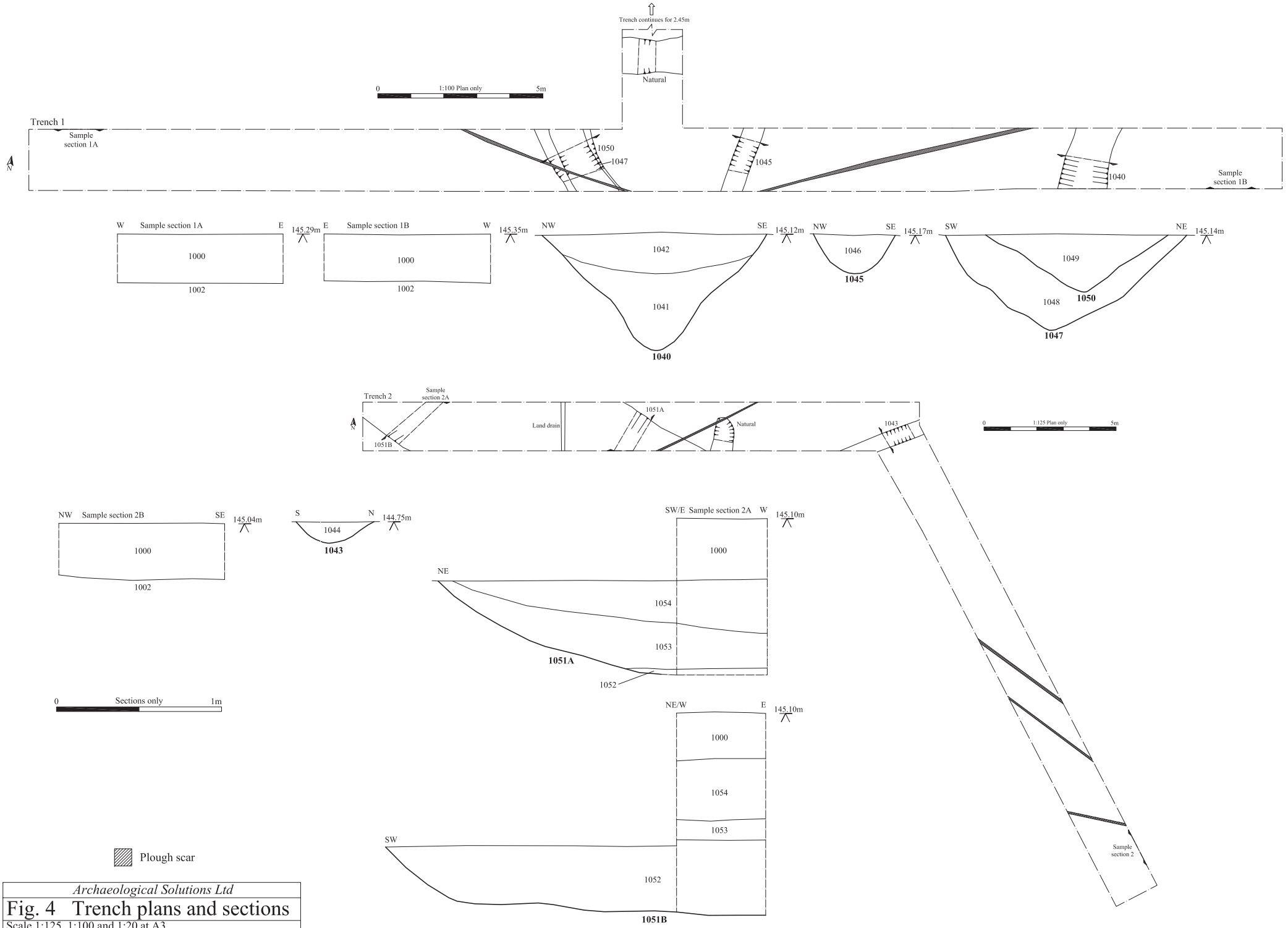

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Fig. 4 Trench plans and sections
Scale 1:125, 1:100 and 1:20 at A3
Land at Royston Rd, Barkway, Hertfordshire (P5817)

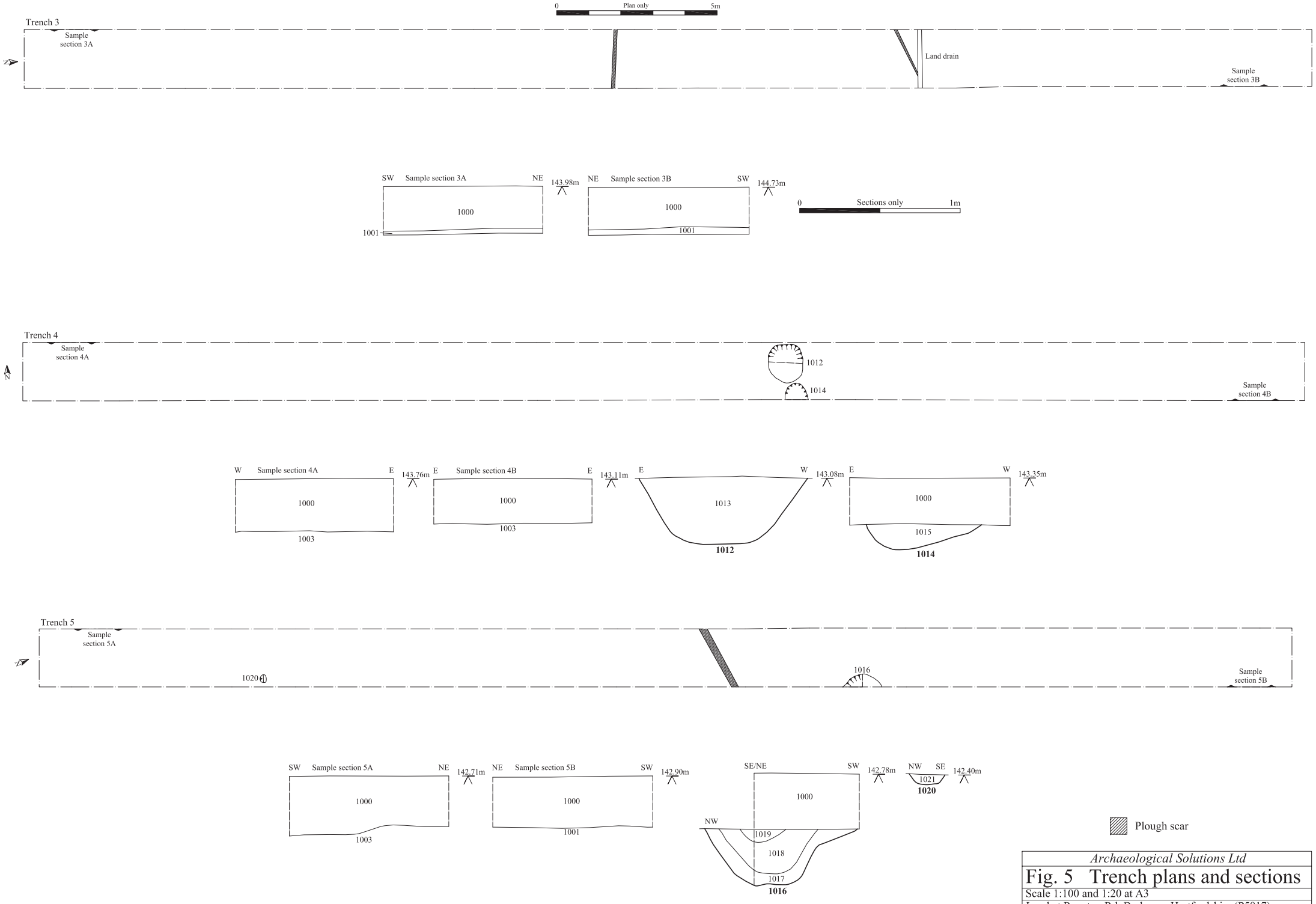

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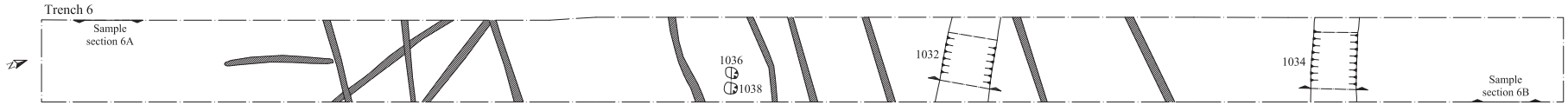
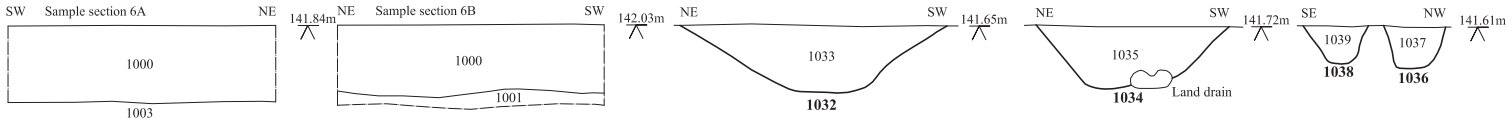
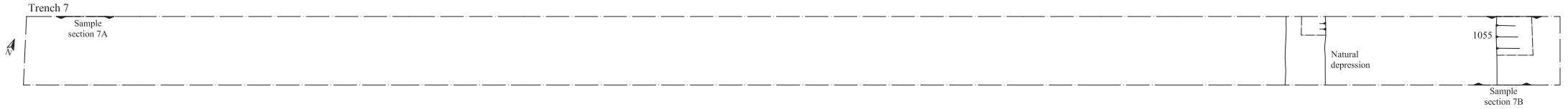
Fig. 5 Trench plans and sections

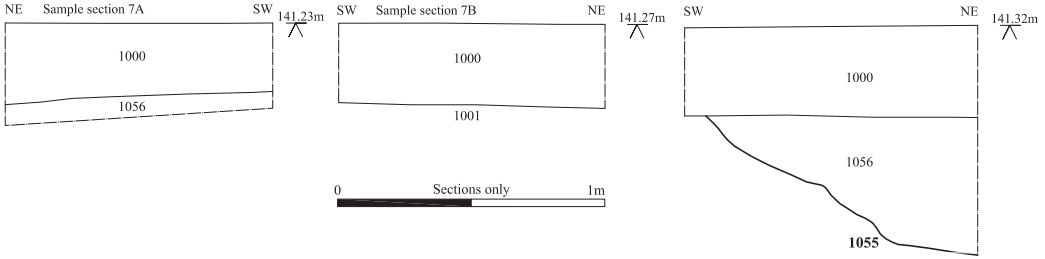
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3

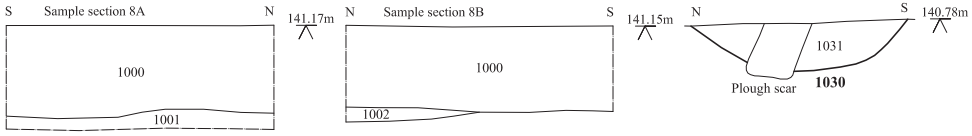
Land at Royston Rd, Barkway, Hertfordshire (P5817)











Plough scar

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Fig. 6 Trench plans and sections
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3
Land at Royston Rd, Barkway, Hertfordshire (P5817)

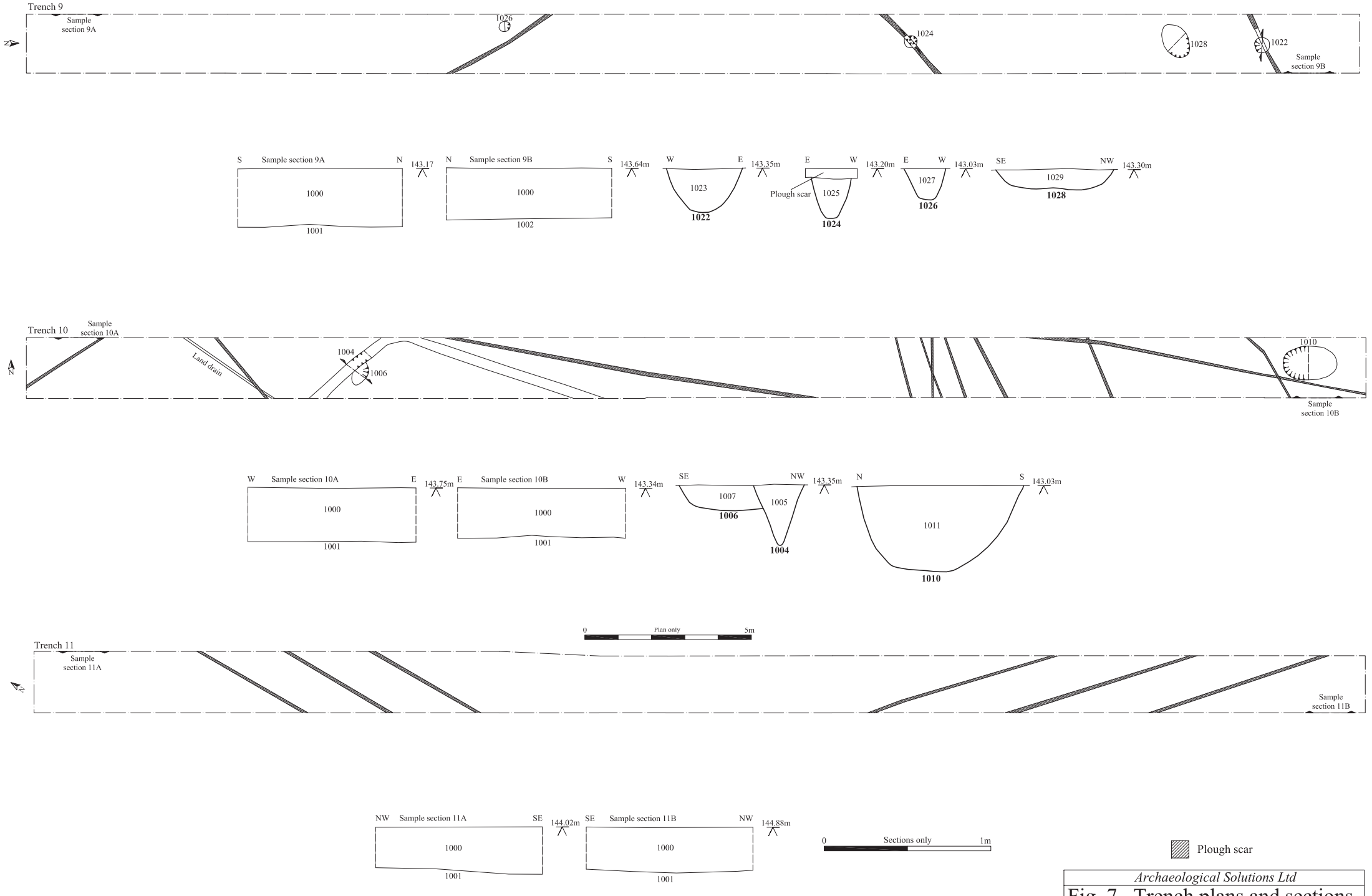

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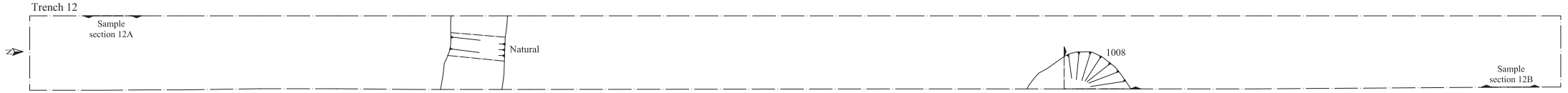
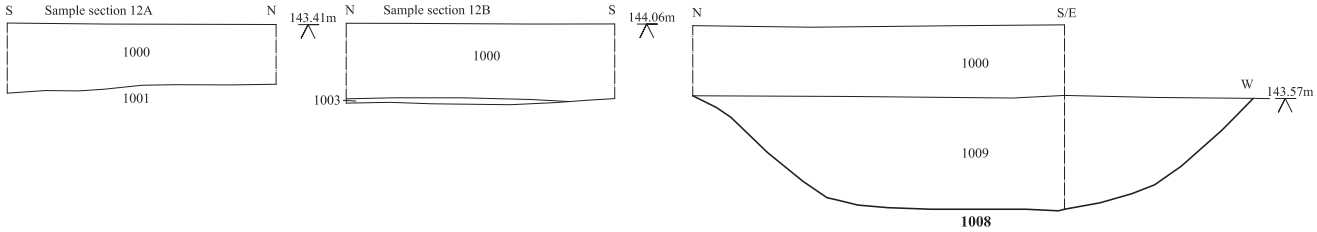
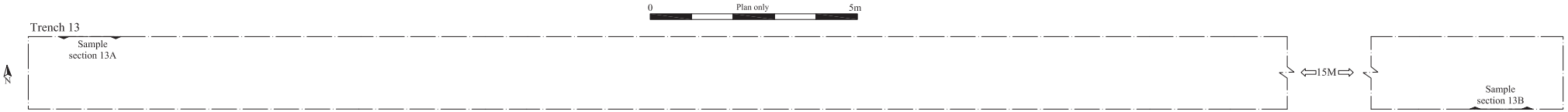
Fig. 7 Trench plans and sections

Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3

Land at Royston Rd, Barkway, Hertfordshire (P5817)







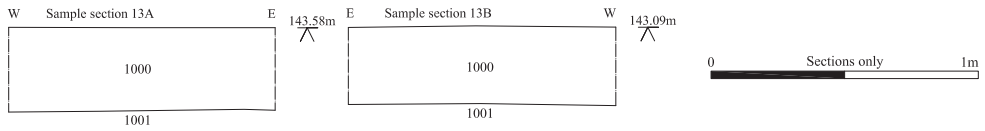


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Fig. 8 Trench plans and sections
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3
Land at Royston Rd, Barkway, Hertfordshire (P5817)