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**LAND AT 13 SANDERS LANE, POTTERSPURY,
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski	
NGR: SP 75705 43273	Report No: 5304
District: South Northants	Site Code: AS1866
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 7010
	Date: 2 February 2017

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name		<i>Land at 13 Sanders Lane, Potterspur, Northamptonshire</i>	
<p><i>In January 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at 13 Sanders Lane, Potterspur, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 75705 43273). The evaluation was commissioned by Lodge Park Limited and was undertaken in advance of the determination of a planning application to construct a detached dwelling on existing garden land adjacent to No 13.</i></p> <p><i>The site lies in an area where archaeological remains of medieval and post-medieval settlement and pottery production are present. The village takes its name from the pottery industry, which was established at two focal points in the village. One lay to the east in the area of Woods Lane and Church Lane, and the other was in the western part of the village (the location of the current site), to the south of Sanders Lane. This western area has revealed evidence of kilns and associated features including clay pits, possible buildings and yard surfaces. Two medieval kilns found to the west of the site possibly extend into the area of the adjacent garden of 13 Sanders Lane. Therefore the site had a potential for medieval and post-medieval remains associated with the kilns and pottery production.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the evaluation revealed a late post-medieval (18th – 19th century) pit, possibly a clay pit and associated with the known kilns. Residual medieval (12th – 14th), late medieval (15th – 16th) and post-medieval (17th – 18th century) pottery sherds were also recovered from the topsoil (L1000) and made ground (L1001).</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)		<i>26-27/01/2017</i>	
Previous work (Y/N/?)		<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?) <i>Y</i>
P. number		<i>7010</i>	Site code <i>AS1866</i>
Type of project		<i>An Archaeological Evaluation</i>	
Site status		<i>-</i>	
Current land use		<i>Garden</i>	
Planned development		<i>Dwelling</i>	
Main features (+dates)		<i>Possible clay pit (18th – 19th C.)</i>	
Significant finds (+dates)		<i>Residual medieval (12th – 14th), late medieval (15th – 16th) and post-medieval (17th – 18th century) sherds</i>	
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish		<i>Northamptonshire</i>	<i>South Northants</i> <i>Potterspur</i>
HER/ SMR for area		<i>Northamptonshire HER</i>	
Post code (if known)		<i>NN12 7QF</i>	
Area of site		<i>c. 250m²</i>	
NGR		<i>SP 75705 43273</i>	
Height AOD (min/max)		<i>c.88m</i>	
Project creators			
Brief issued by		<i>NCC</i>	
Project supervisor/s (PO)		<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>	
Funded by		<i>Lodge Park Limited</i>	
Full title		<i>Land at 13 Sanders Lane, Potterspur, Northamptonshire: An Archaeological Evaluation</i>	
Authors		<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>	
Report no.		<i>5304</i>	
Date (of report)		<i>February 2017</i>	

LAND AT 13 SANDERS LANE, POTTERSPURY, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In January 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at 13 Sanders Lane, Potterspury, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 75705 43273). The evaluation was commissioned by Lodge Park Limited and was undertaken in advance of the determination of a planning application to construct a detached dwelling on existing garden land adjacent to No 13.

The site lies in an area where archaeological remains of medieval and post-medieval settlement and pottery production are present. The village takes its name from the pottery industry, which was established at two focal points in the village. One lay to the east in the area of Woods Lane and Church Lane, and the other was in the western part of the village (the location of the current site), to the south of Sanders Lane. This western area has revealed evidence of kilns and associated features including clay pits, possible buildings and yard surfaces. Two medieval kilns found to the west of the site possibly extend into the area of the adjacent garden of 13 Sanders Lane. Therefore the site had a potential for medieval and post-medieval remains associated with the kilns and pottery production.

In the event the evaluation revealed a late post-medieval (18th – 19th century) pit, possibly a clay pit and associated with the known kilns. Medieval (12th – 14th), late medieval (15th – 16th) and post-medieval (17th – 18th century) pottery sherds were also recovered from the topsoil (L1000) and made ground (L1001).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In January 2017 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at 13 Sanders Lane, Potterspury, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 75705 43273; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was commissioned by Lodge Park Limited and was undertaken in advance of the determination of a planning application to construct a detached dwelling on existing garden land adjacent to No 13.

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a two-part brief issued by the Assistant Archaeological Advisor of Northamptonshire County Council (NCC; dated 10/10/2016) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 08/12/2016) and approved by NCC. The project conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014).

1.3 The evaluation was required to inform the planning application and any further archaeological mitigation which may be subsequently required, should the project be granted planning approval. The evaluation aimed to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. In particular, it aimed to establish the presence or absence of any remains relating to the medieval kilns and associated features recorded to the immediate west and south of the site.

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 Potterspury is located on A5 Watling Street between Milton Keynes and Towcester, Northamptonshire (Fig. 1). The centre of Milton Keynes, which is in Buckinghamshire, lies c.8km to the south-east. The site comprises a current garden area with raised beds, lawn and driveway to the immediate south of the existing residential dwelling of 13 Sanders Lane, in the north-western sector of Potterspury (Fig. 2).

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is situated at c.88m AOD¹, on a land rising gradually to the south, on the upper slopes of the valley of the River Great Ouse. The solid geology of the area is Rutland Formation Mudstone (British Geological Survey 1978). Soils on the site are those of the Hanslope association, described as slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The only prehistoric archaeology in close proximity is an Iron Age pit c.400m to the east (HER 1223/0/44). In the Roman period the major Roman road of Watling Street was constructed, with the section between Towcester and St. Albans passing c.150m to the south-west of the site on a NW-SE route (HER 447/1). The proximity of the road gave rise to numerous settlements and farmsteads along its route, notably in the Milton Keynes area and also a likely villa in the area of Wakefield Lodge to the west of the village. Small quantities of Roman pottery have been found as unstratified material in the core of the village (HER 1223/2/0 & 0/0/56). An unstratified quernstone recorded c.400m to the north, adjacent to a stream may hint at further rural domestic activity (HER 8343/0/0).

4.2 The nucleus of a medieval village probably developed around the church of St. Nicholas c.400m to the east (HER 1223/1/1). The present church dates from the 12th century. A second focal point may have been a Hundred meeting place at Cheley Well, just 20m south of the site (HER 1223/0/24), which dates from at least 1076. The latter may have led to the development of two distinctive 'ends' to the village, with the site at the western 'Blackwell End) as opposed to the eastern 'Lower or Church End'. During the medieval period and certainly by the 14th century a significant pottery industry had developed in the village, giving rise to the place name of 'Potterspury'. The highest concentration of known kilns is c.300m to the east within 'Church End', around the modern Woods Lane and Church Lane (HER 1223/2/5, 6, 7, 9, 10 & 11). At least 14 kilns have been recorded in the eastern area of the village, with evidence that several were fired multiple times. The pottery industry has proved more extensive with a kiln and waster dump recorded on the High Street c.150m to the east (HER 1223/2/2 & 8). A second smaller concentration of kilns has been identified in the immediate vicinity of the site. Two medieval kilns were identified within the plot adjacent to the west of the site, and appeared to be extending eastwards into the present site of 13 Sanders Lane (HER 1223/7/8). Two additional medieval kilns were located c.20m to the south (HER 1223/7/1). An outlying kiln was recorded slightly further west (HER 1223/2/12). Plots close to the south of the site have revealed large waster dumps of medieval pottery (HER 1223/7/0 & 2),

¹ Above Ordnance Datum

including vessels from the 14th century, possibly from close to the beginning of the industry. Clay pits containing medieval pottery have been excavated c.30m to the west (HER 1223/7/6). Several boundary ditches and rubbish pits have been identified in the eastern 'End' of the village (i.e. HER 1223/0/18), and although less evidence for settlement has been recorded close to the site.

4.3 Pottery manufacture continued to be a major industry in Pottersbury in the post-medieval period, until at least the late 17th century. Two mid 17th century kilns and possibly potter's workshops and drying sheds have been recorded on Church Lane, in the eastern 'End', and they may have belonged to Leonard Benton (HER 1223/2/1, 3 & 4). Archaeological investigations in plots immediately to the west of the site recorded a late 17th century kiln and waster dump (HER 1223/7/3 & 4), associated with a building and road or yard (HER 1223/5 & 7). The evidence confirms that the pottery industry also continued in the western 'end' in the immediate environs of the site.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Two test pits (each 2m x 2m) were excavated using a mechanical 360° mini-excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2; DP 1-2). The test pits were located within the currently accessible lawned garden area to the south-east of the existing dwelling of No 13. The test pits avoided the existing drive which is in current use. They were located within and immediately adjacent to the footprint of the proposed new house.

5.2 Topsoil and undifferentiated overburden 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.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Test Pit 1 (Figs. 2 - 4, DP 3-4)

<i>South-west section 1 (DP 5): north-east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 88.16m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark grey, soft, sandy silt with occasional CBM fragments.
0.10 – 0.30m	L1001	Made ground. Mid greyish brown, friable, silty clay with frequent stones and moderate CBM fragments.
0.30m +	L1002	Natural mid brownish yellow, compact, clay.

Description: A late post-medieval pit, F1003, was present in Test Pit 1. Residual medieval (12th – 14th), late medieval (15th – 16th) and post-medieval (17th – 18th century) pottery was found within the topsoil and made ground.

F1003 (0.85+ x 0.75+ x 0.70m+; DP 5-6) was a probable circular pit located in the corner of Test Pit 1. It had steep, nearly vertical sides and its base was unseen as the pit was of considerable depth. Its fill, L1004, was a mid brownish grey, compact, silty clay. It contained late post-medieval (18th – 19th century pottery) and the feature may have been a clay extraction pit.

Test Pit 2 (Fig. 2, DP 7-8)

<i>North-east section 2 (DP 9): south-west facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 88.26m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.23 – 0.31m	L1005	Made ground. Mid brownish yellow, friable, silty clay with frequent stones.
0.31 – 0.41m	L1001	Made ground. As above.
0.41m +	L1002	Natural clay. As above.

Description: No archaeological features were present. Residual medieval (12th – 14th), late medieval (15th – 16th) and post-medieval (17th – 18th century) pottery was found within the topsoil and made ground.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The site was commonly overlain by Topsoil L1000, a dark grey, soft, sandy silt with occasional CBM fragments (0.10 – 0.25m thick). It overlay Made Ground L1001, a mid greyish brown, friable, silty clay with frequent stones and moderate CBM fragments (0.10 – 0.25m thick). Relatively thin (0.10m) Made Ground L1005 was present between the topsoil and L1001 in the north-eastern part of Test Pit 2.

8.2 The natural clay, L1002, was present at 0.30 – 0.41m below the existing ground level and comprised a mid brownish yellow, compact, clay.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for medieval and post-medieval archaeology. It lies in an area where archaeological remains of medieval/post-medieval settlement and pottery production are present. The area where the site is located has revealed evidence of kilns and associated features including clay pits, possible buildings and yard surfaces. Two medieval kilns found to the west of the site possibly extend into the area of the adjacent garden of 13 Sanders Lane.

9.2 In the event the evaluation revealed a late post-medieval (18th – 19th century) pit. Residual medieval (12th – 14th), late medieval (15th – 16th) and post-medieval (17th – 18th century) pottery was found within the topsoil and made ground layers. The pit may have been a clay extraction pit associated with the kilns known from neighbouring plots.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at appropriate local depository, once such a facility is available in the county. It will be held by AS pending this. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Lodge Park Limited for funding the project (in particular Mr James Browning) and Mr Peter Barrett of 13 Sanders Lane for his assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Liz Mordue, the Assistant Archaeological Advisor of Northamptonshire County Council.

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Gurney, D., 2003, *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14/ALGAO

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APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORT

The Pottery

Peter Thompson

The archaeological evaluation recovered 79 sherds weighing 2.240kg from a pit, a layer of made ground, and the topsoil. There are 55 High to Late medieval sherds present, which are all residual. The commonest fabric (25 sherds) is a sandy shelly ware, comprising abundant fine to medium quartz and sparse to common fine shelly limestone. The other medieval sherds include Potterspury (14), Brill (8), late Lyveden (3), and late medieval reduced wares (3). The later pottery is all brown or black glazed red earthenware of 17th-19th centuries date.

Methodology

The sherds were examined and recorded in keeping with the Post-Roman Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Slowikowski 2001, Table 1). The Northamptonshire County Council pottery fabric codes are included in brackets in the key.

KEY:

CGW (310): Medieval calcareous gritty ware 12th-14th

FSC (305): Medieval fine sandy coarseware 12th-14th

MSHW (330): Medieval shelly coarseware 12th-14th

POT (329): Potterspury ware mid 13th-16th

BRIM (324): Medieval Brill 13th-15th

LYVE D (322): Lyveden D 15th

LMR (365): Late medieval reduced ware 15th

LMO (401): Late medieval oxidised ware 15th-16th

GRE (366): Glazed red earthenware late 16th-19th

PMBL (366): Post medieval black glazed earthenware late 16th-19th

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Topsoil	1000 2	1x27g GRE 1x32g PMBL; 4x47g MSHW 1x61g POT 2x24g BRIM	17 th -18 th	GRE: cavetto bowl rim, with trails of white slip under glaze MSHW:x1 squared cooking pot rim 22cm diam; x1 squared cooking pot rim 218cm diam BRIM: x1 squared cooking pot rim 24cm; x 1 x1 squared cooking pot rim 24cm
Made Ground	1001 1	13x568g GRE 1x58g LMR 1x4g LYV D	17 th -18 th	GRE: x1 pancheon rim with yellow slip, x1 lines of white and green slip under green glaze LMR: simple bowl rim 18cm diam, streak of dripped glaze down the

			1x6g POT 2x16g POT (G) 1x14g FSC		side POT (G): x1 with white slip, beehrah glossy green glaze, looks early post-medieval FSC: beaded jar rim 22cm diam
		2	1x34g PMBL 2x28g GRE 21x187g MSHW 4x33g BRIM 2x53g POT 1x4g CGW 2x42g LMR	17 th -18 th	PMBL: rounded rim, probably from a bowl MSHW: x1 rounded base POT: x1 rounded jar base 16cm diam, with rare small splashes of glaze
Pit 1003	1004	1	24x1039g GRE 1x4g PMBL 6x51g POT 2x8g POT (G) 2x28g BRIM 2x41g LYV D	18 th -19 th	GRE: x1 deep bowl with collared rim, 1 x clubbed bowl rim, x1 clubbed pancheon rim LYV D: jug neck

Table 1: Quantification of sherds by context

Bibliography

MPRG 1998 'A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms'
Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 1.

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

APPENDIX 3 CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

Records	Number
Brief	Y
Specification	Y
Registers	4 (Context, Drawing, Photo, Digital Photo)
Context Sheets	6
Site drawings A1	0
Site drawings A3	1
Site drawings A4	0
Site photographs b/w	5
Site photographs colour slides	5
Digital Photographs	15

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. Area of evaluation. Looking west-north-west.



DP 2. Test Pits 1 and 2. Looking north-west.



DP 3. Test Pit 1. Looking south.



DP 4. Test Pit 1. Looking north-west.



DP 5. Test Pit 1. South-west section (1) with Pit F1003.



DP 6. Test Pit 1, Pit F1003. Looking north-west.



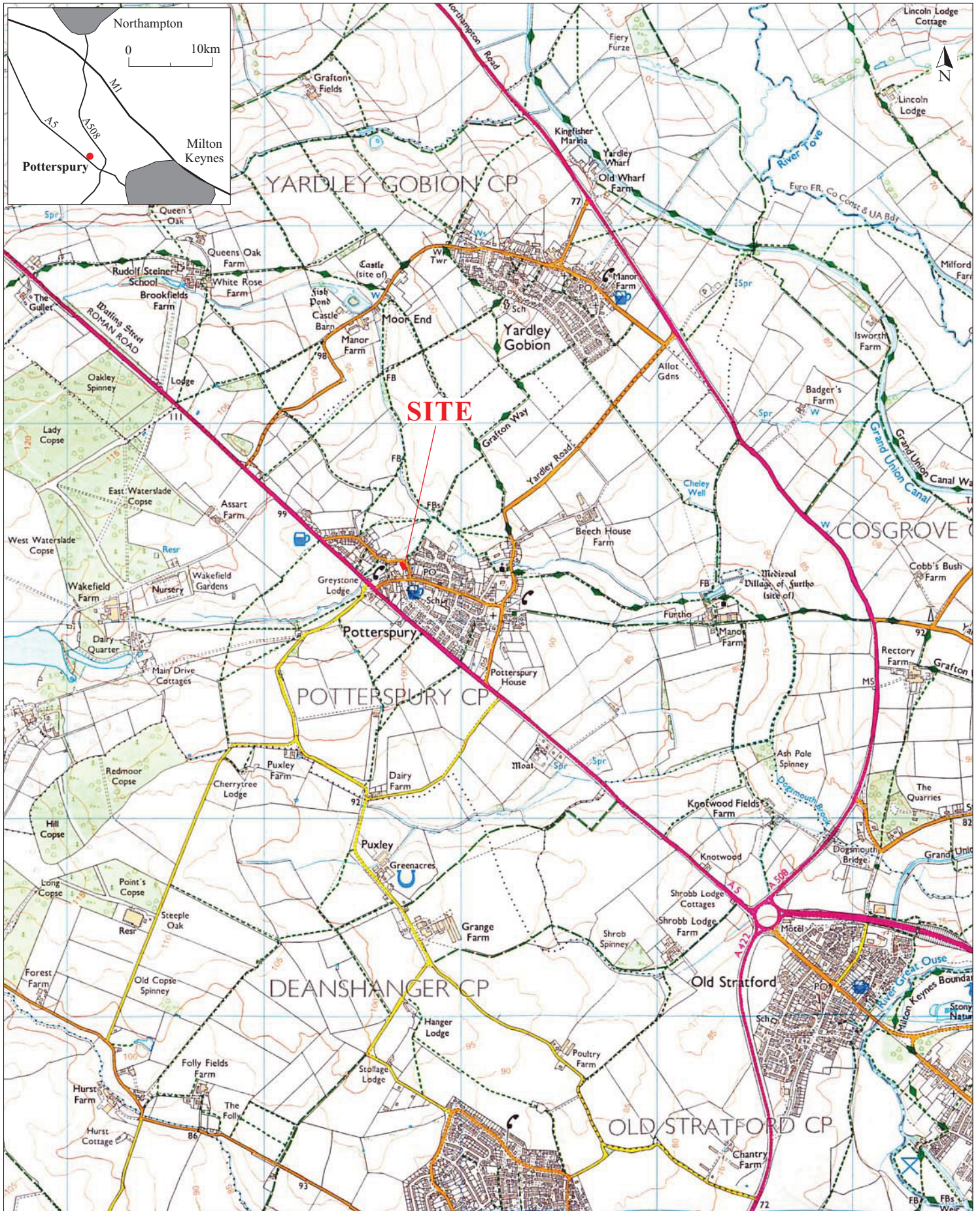
DP 7. Test Pit 2. Looking south.



DP 8. Test Pit 2. Looking north-west.

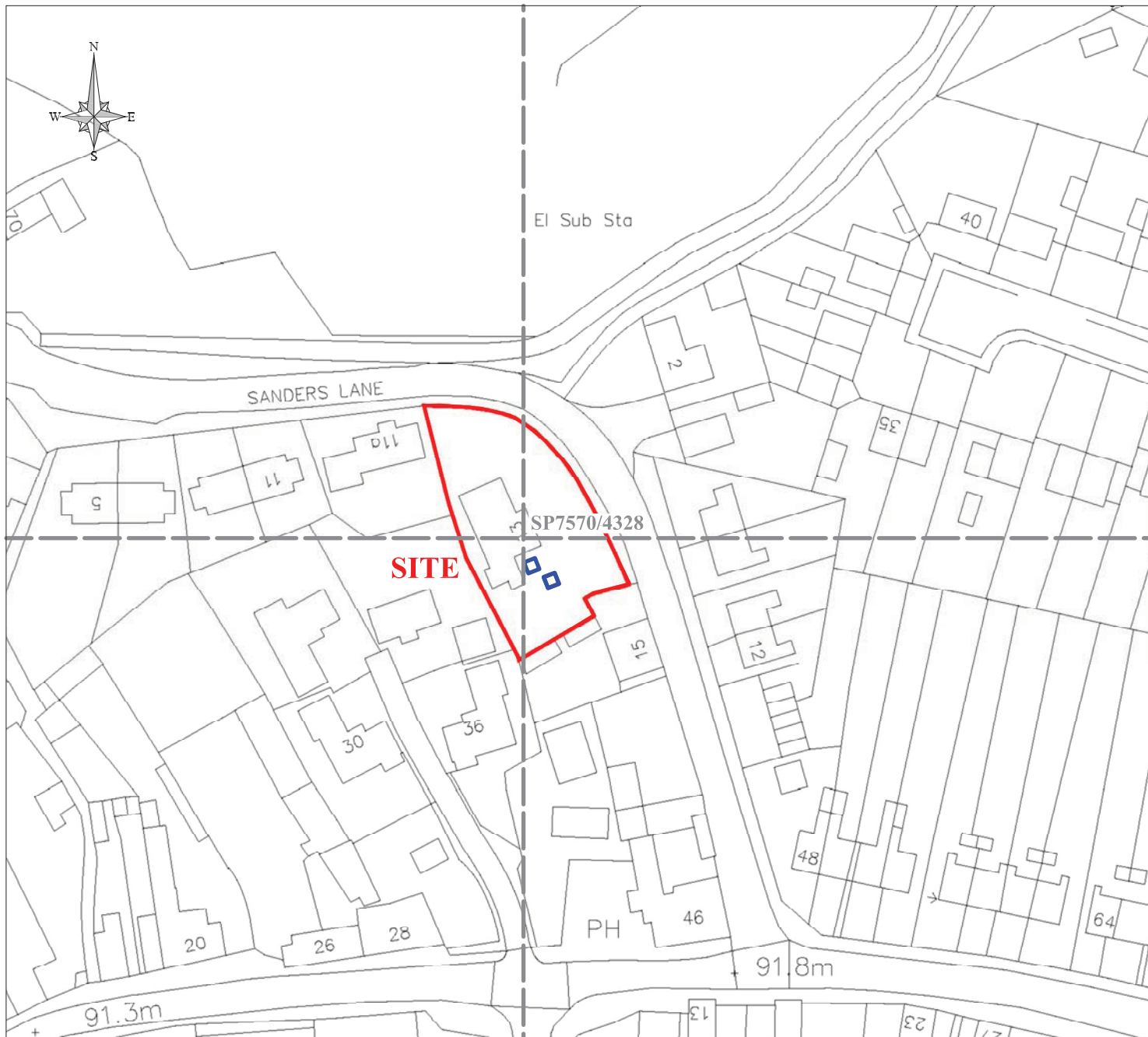


DP 9. Test Pit 2. North-east section (2).
Looking north-east.

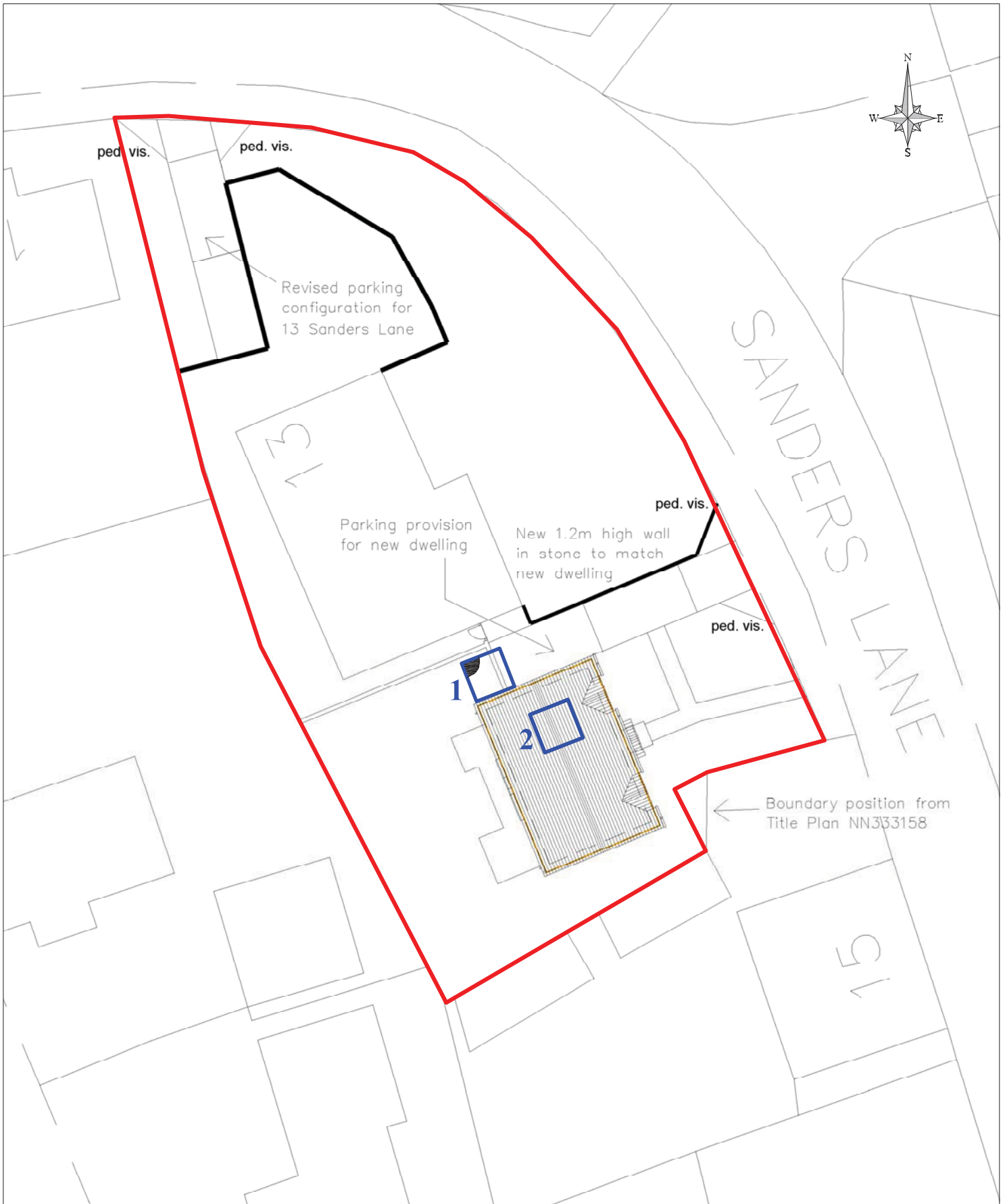


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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 13 Sanders Road, Potterspurty, Northants (P7010)

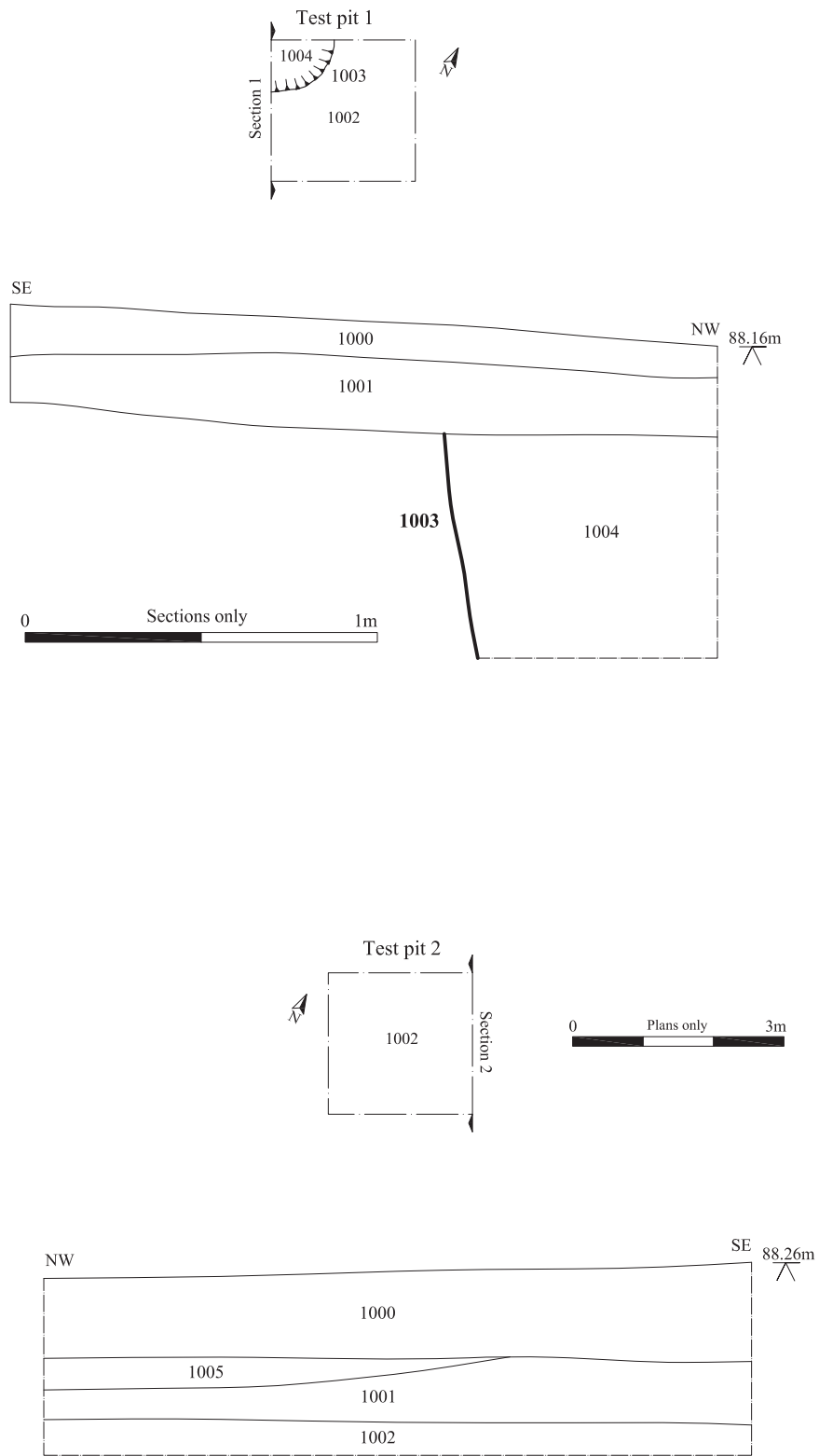


<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:1000 at A4
13 Sanders Road, Potterspurty, Northants (P7010)



0 15m

<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 3 Proposed development plan
Scale 1:250 at A4
13 Sanders Road, Potterspurty, Northants (P7010)



<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 4 Plans and sections
Scale Plans 1:100, sections 1:20 at A4
13 Sanders Road, Potterspury, Northants (P7010)