
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**PROPOSED NEW DETACHED DWELLING,
LAND ADJACENT TO VILLA PARK, NARBOROUGH ROAD,
PENTNEY, KINGS LYNN, NORFOLK**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

Author: Thomas Muir (Field work and report) Thomas Light (Graphics)	
NGR: TF 7224 1381	Report No: 5465
District: King's Lynn and West Norfolk	Site Code: ENF 142617
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 7341
	Date: 18 October 2017

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project name	<i>Land adjacent to Villa Park, Narborough Road, Pentney, Kings Lynn, Norfolk</i>
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In October 2017 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological excavation on land at Villa Park, Narborough Road, Pentney, King's Lynn, Norfolk (NGR TF 7224 1381; Figs. 1 - 2). The excavation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for a new 4-bedroom bungalow (King's Lynn Planning Ref. 14/01313/F). The condition required a programme of archaeological work, and was based on the advice of the Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES).

The site lies within an area of archaeological potential in the historic core of the village, close by to the east of the medieval parish church of St Mary Magdalene (NHER 3941). The Norfolk Historic Environment Record notes that pottery sherds of middle Saxon date have also been found within the proposed development site (NHER 3922), and a hoard of middle Saxon brooches have been recovered from the nearby churchyard.

The excavation revealed a modern ditch.

Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>October 2017</i>
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Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/)	<i>TBC</i>
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P. number	<i>7293</i>	Site code	<i>ENF142617</i>
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Type of project	<i>Archaeological Excavation</i>
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Site status	<i>-</i>
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Current land use	<i>Garden</i>
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Planned development	<i>Residential</i>
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Main features (+dates)	<i>Modern ditch</i>
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Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>
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Project location

County/ District/ Parish	<i>Norfolk</i>	<i>King's Lynn and West Norfolk</i>	<i>Pentney</i>
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HER for area	<i>Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Record (NCC HER)</i>
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Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>
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Area of site	<i>920m2</i>
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NGR	<i>TF 7224 1381</i>
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Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c.13m AOD</i>
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Project creators

Brief issued by	<i>Norfolk County Council (NCC) Historic Environment Service</i>
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Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
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Funded by	<i>West Norfolk Construction</i>
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Full title	<i>Land adjacent to Villa Park, Narborough Road, Pentney, Kings Lynn, Norfolk. An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation</i>
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Authors	<i>Thomas Muir</i>
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Report no.	<i>5465</i>
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Date (of report)	<i>October 2017</i>
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**PROPOSED NEW DETACHED DWELLING, LAND ADJACENT TO
VILLA PARK, NARBOROUGH ROAD, PENTNEY, KINGS LYNN,
NORFOLK**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

SUMMARY

In October 2017 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological excavation on land at Villa Park, Narborough Road, Pentney, King's Lynn, Norfolk (NGR TF 7224 1381; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for a new 4-bedroom bungalow (King's Lynn Planning Ref. 14/01313/F). The condition required a programme of archaeological work, and was based on the advice of the Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES).

The site lies within an area of archaeological potential in the historic core of the village, close by to the east of the medieval parish church of St Mary Magdalene (NHER 3941). The Norfolk Historic Environment Record notes that pottery sherds of middle Saxon date have also been found within the proposed development site (NHER 3922), and a hoard of middle Saxon brooches have been recovered from the nearby churchyard.

The principal research aims was therefore to identify any evidence of Saxon or medieval activity within the core of the village.

In the event the excavation revealed a modern ditch.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In October 2017 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at Villa Park, Narborough Road, Pentney, King's Lynn, Norfolk (NGR TF 7224 1381; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for a new 4-bedroom bungalow (King's Lynn Planning Ref. 14/01313/F). The condition required a programme of archaeological work, and was based on the advice of the Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES).

1.2 NCC HES required a programme of archaeological mitigatory work, to commence with the excavation of an initial trial trench within the proposed building footprint with the initial trench to be extended to cover the whole footprint if remains are present.

1.3 The excavation was undertaken in accordance with an archaeological brief titled, *Brief for Archaeological Excavation at Villa Park,*

Narborough Road, Pentney, Norfolk (Steve Hickling, dated 20th September 2017), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 4th October 2017) and approved by NCC HES. The evaluation conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation and Excavation* (2014), and the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.4 The principal objectives for the excavation were:

- To determine the location, date, extent, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. It was also 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; and
- 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

1.5 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.

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

available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE (Figs.1 - 2)

2.1 The site lies on the northern side of Narborough Road in the historic core of the village of Pentney. It is a former garden adjacent to the dwelling of Villa Park to the immediate west, and it extends to some 920m².

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is situated at c.13m AOD on the broad floor of the valley of the river Nar, whose course passes c.1.5km to the south. A minor tributary of the river passes c.500m to the south. The solid geology underlying the site is Gault Formation Mudstone, overlain by drift deposits of river terrace sands and gravels, and by loamy and sandy soils with a peaty surface.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The Nar Valley provided an environment highly conducive to prehistoric activity. Sparse Mesolithic/early Neolithic blades are recorded to the east of the village (HER 55370). Numerous Neolithic flint axes and chisels are recorded in nearby, notably including an example c.200m to the north (HER17637), with further examples around the village (HER 3916, 14167, 11249, 14168, 14842 and 17642). A Bronze Age copper alloy chisel was also recorded to the south of the site (HER 17988). Copper alloy flanged axe heads are recorded further to the south and south-east (HER 16583 & 3918). A series of burnt mounds have also been identified c.500m to the north and may be indicative of Bronze Age activity (HER 28680-1, 29917-8). An early 1st century AD coin of the Iceni was found in the area (HER 18042).

4.2 In the Roman period the Nar Valley contained a significant regional pottery industry, with two kilns of that industry located c.900m to the south of the site, and they are associated with significant scatters of Iron Age and Roman finds (HER 13400 & 15170). Metal detecting and field walking to the south and south-east of Pentney has recovered extensive scatters of Roman artefacts, notably coins and brooches that suggest the presence of settlement, probably associated with the pottery industry (HER 3920, 20442, 21728, 33302, 3343, 33612, 33876, 40979, 34262, 34437, 35314 and 50319).

4.3 The landscape of the site would have been conducive to Saxon settlement, possibly closer to the river. A significant distribution of Saxon artefacts are known nearby, and notably, this includes the early/middle

Saxon Pentney brooch hoard discovered in the churchyard of St. Mary Magdalene's Church c.100m to the west (HER 3941). Three sherds of middle Saxon pottery were collected as stray finds from within the site (HER 3922). A late Saxon bone pin beater was also recorded in the churchyard (HER 41335). Metal detecting around the village has recovered numerous Saxon brooches, pins, coins and horse harness components (HER 16583, 17761, 18160, 33433, 35314, 35698, 50319 and 59738).

4.4 By the 12th century the nucleus of medieval Pentney had been established around St. Mary Magdalene's Church to the west (HER 3941), and the site is within the historic core of the settlement. A barn c.350m to the east (HER 16421) was partly built with re-used medieval masonry from a priory 2km to the south-west of the village. A wayside cross is located between the secular and monastic settlements (HER 3925). Metal-detecting and field walking has recovered an extensive scatter of medieval finds from around the village including coins, brooches, seal matrices, vessel and weapon fittings (HER 55370, 165383, 33302, 33433, 35314, 50319, 17987, 18424, 32803, 32986, 33301, 33946 and 41309).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 NCC HES required a programme of archaeological excavation to be implemented. A single trench of 15m x 1.8m was initially required, to sample the proposed house footprint.

5.2 The trench was opened using a mechanical excavator. A modern feature was apparent and it was excavated and recorded. At the site monitoring meeting, Steve Hickling, NCC Historic Environment Officer, required the trench to be re-machined and this was done. The reduction did not reveal any additional archaeological features or finds.

5.3 The topsoil was 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

The trench description is presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 - 3)

Sample section 1A 0.00 = 13.01m AOD		
0.00 – 0.41m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small angular flints.

0.41 – 0.69m	L1001	Subsoil. Friable, mid yellow brown silty sand with moderate small angular flints.
0.69m+	L1006	Natural Chalk. Friable, mid yellow orange gravelly sand with moderate small angular flints.

Sample section 1B 0.00 = 13.00m AOD		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.33 – 0.67m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.67m+	L1006	Natural. As above

Description: Trench 1 contained modern Ditch F1002.

Ditch F1002 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 1.65 x 0.50+m), orientated N/S. It had steep sides and its base was unseen. Its upper fill, L1005, was a friable, mid grey brown silty sand. It contained modern finds including fragments of a plastic bag/s. Below L1005, L1004 was a friable, light yellow brown silty sand. It contained no finds. Below L1004, L1003, was a friable, dark grey brown silty sand. It contained no finds.

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 Topsoil L1000 was a firm, dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional small angular flints, and was present across the whole site (0.33 – 0.41m thick). Below L1000, Subsoil L1002 was a friable, mid yellow brown, silty sand with moderate angular flint (0.28 – 0.34m thick).

8.2 At the base of the sequence the natural, L2006, was friable, mid yellow orange gravelly sand with moderate small angular flints (0.67 – 0.69m below the present day ground surface).

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential in the historic core of the village, close by to the east of the medieval parish church of St Mary Magdalene (NHER 3941). The Norfolk Historic Environment Record notes that pottery sherds of middle Saxon date have also been found within the proposed development site (NHER 3922), and a hoard of middle Saxon brooches have been recovered from the nearby churchyard.

9.2 The principal research aims was therefore to identify any evidence of Saxon or medieval activity within the core of the village.

9.3 In the event the excavation revealed a modern ditch.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at Norwich Castle Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank West Norfolk Construction for funding the project and for assistance, and for the assistance of Mr Darren French of Richard CF Waite.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Steve Hickling of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geological Survey (BGS), 1978, *Legend for the 1:625,000 Geological map of the United Kingdom (solid geology)*; London. Mansfield

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

Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW), 1983, *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales*. SSEW, Harpenden

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Printable version

OASIS ID: archaeol7-303102

Project details

Project name	Land adjacent to Villa Park, Narborough Road, Pentney, Kings Lynn, Norfolk
Short description of the project	In October 2017 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological excavation on land at Villa Park, Narborough Road, Pentney, King's Lynn, Norfolk (NGR TF 7224 1381; Figs. 1 - 2). The excavation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for a new 4-bedroom bungalow (King's Lynn Planning Ref. 14/01313/F). The condition required a programme of archaeological work, and was based on the advice of the Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES). The site lies within an area of archaeological potential in the historic core of the village, close by to the east of the medieval parish church of St Mary Magdalene (NHER 3941). The Norfolk Historic Environment Record notes that pottery sherds of middle Saxon date have also been found within the proposed development site (NHER 3922), and a hoard of middle Saxon brooches have been recovered from the nearby churchyard. The excavation revealed a modern ditch.
Project dates	Start: 01-10-2017 End: 30-10-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P7341 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ENF142617 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	DITCH Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Full excavation"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK KINGS LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK PENTNEY Land adjacent to Villa Park, Narborough Road, Pentney, Kings Lynn, Norfolk
Study area	920 Square metres

Site coordinates TF 7224 1381 52.694140767887 0.549017155164 52 41 38 N 000 32 56 E Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 13m Max: 13m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeological Solutions Ltd
 Project brief originator Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service
 Project design originator Jon Murray
 Project director/manager Jon Murray
 Project supervisor Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient Norwich Castle Museum
 Digital Contents "Survey"
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Norwich Castle Museum
 Paper Contents "Survey"
 Paper Media available "Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Land adjacent to Villa Park, Narborough Road, Pentney, Kings Lynn, Norfolk
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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
View of Trench 1 looking west



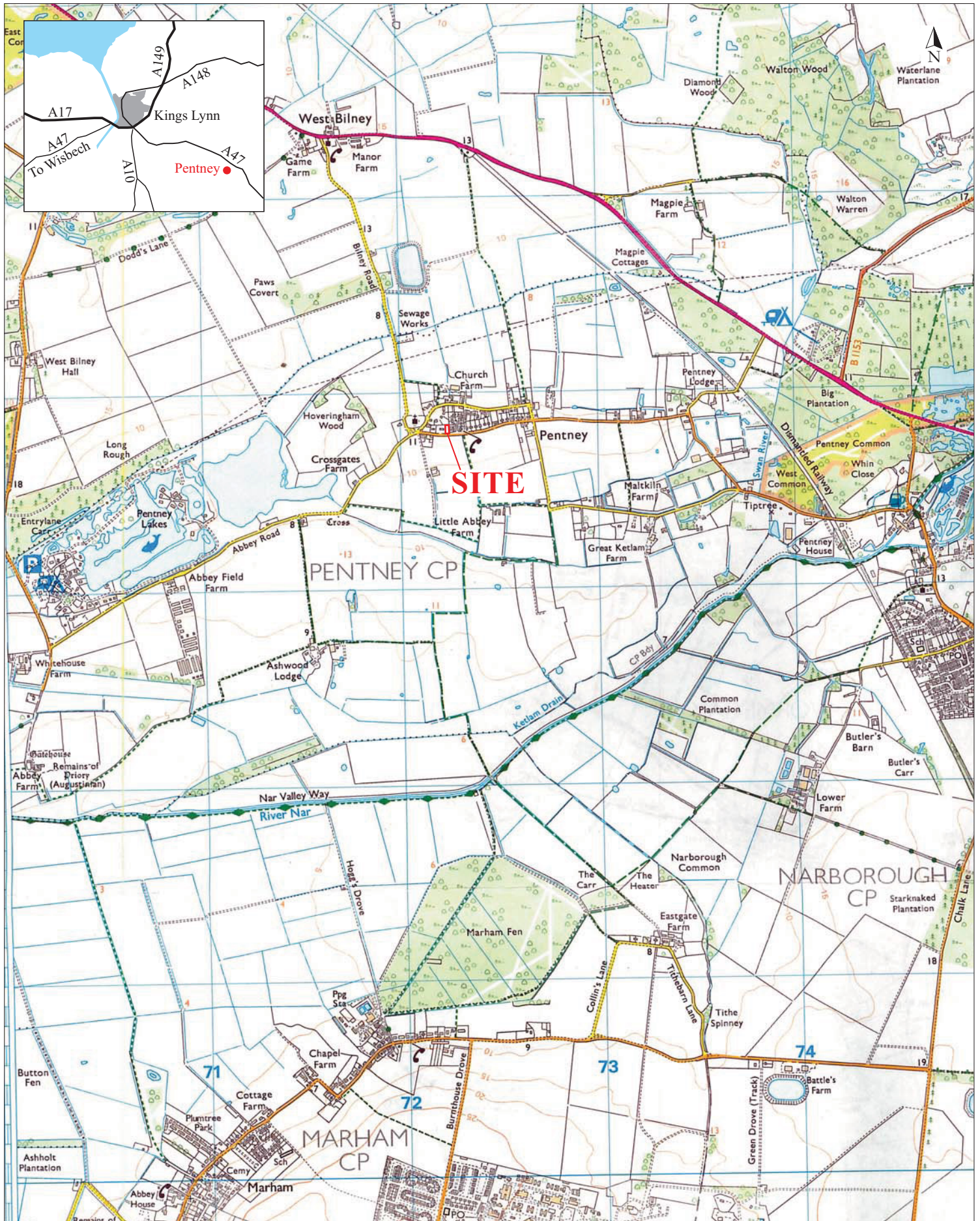
2
F1002 looking south



3
Sample Section 1A looking south

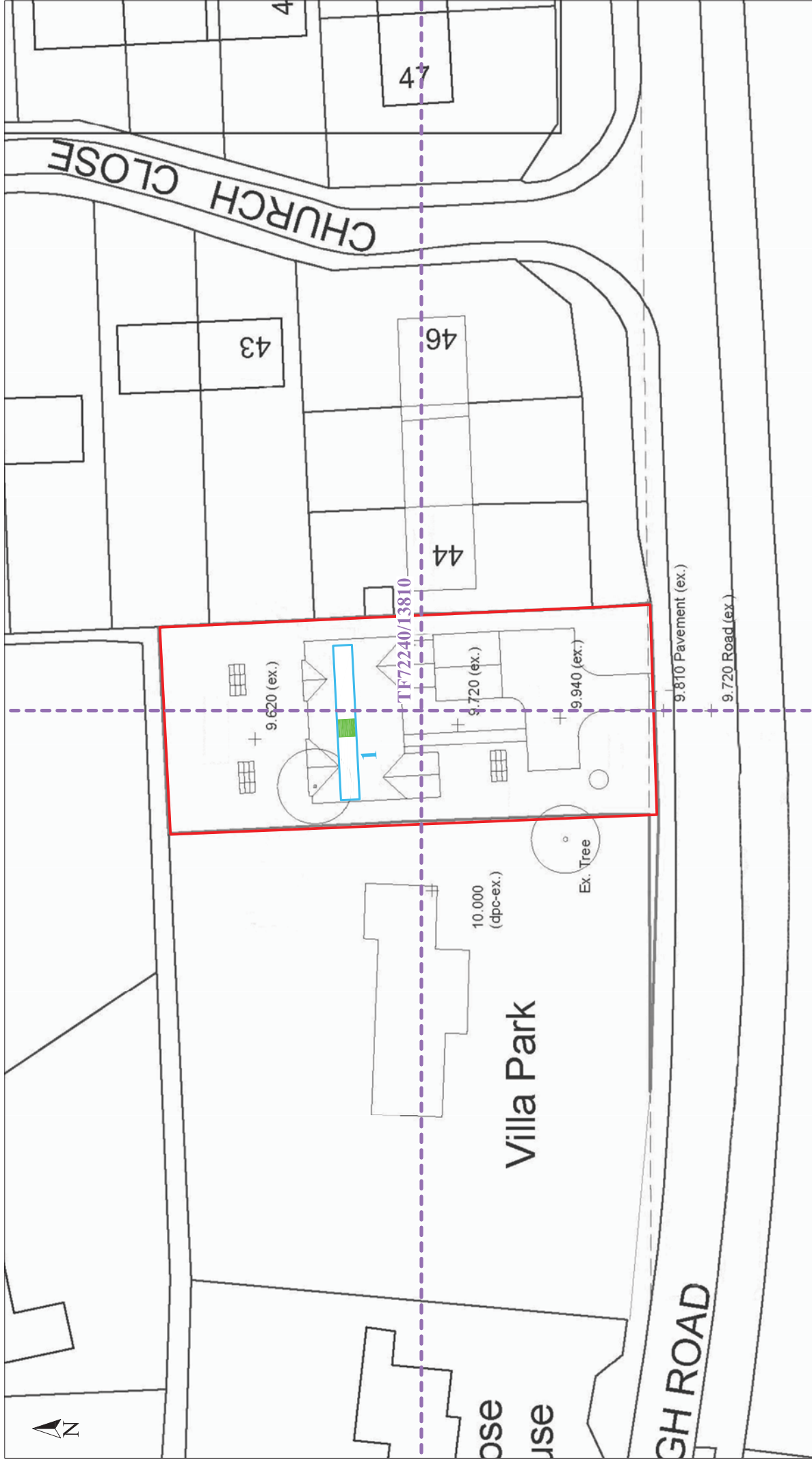


4
Sample Section 1B looking north

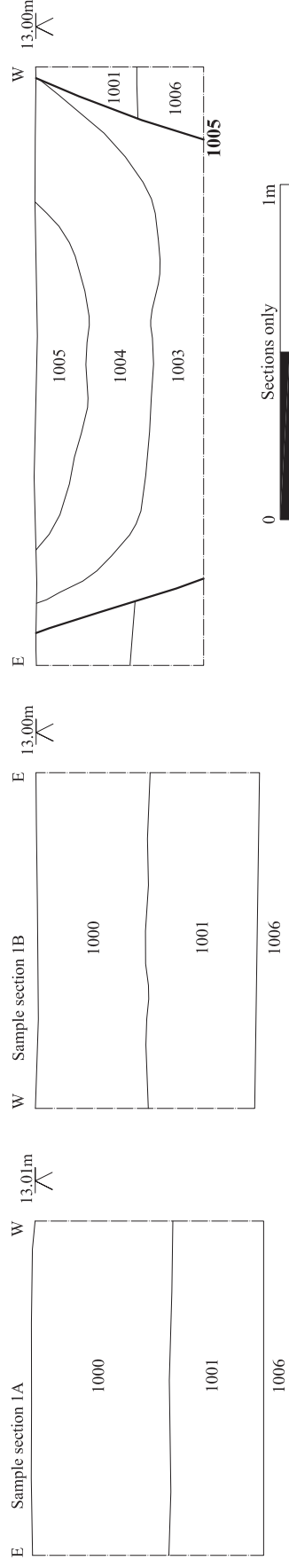
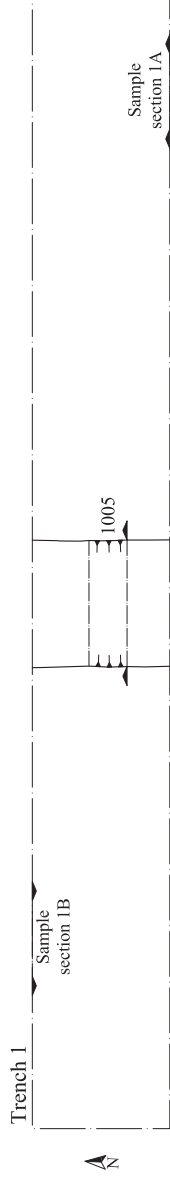


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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 Villa Park, Pentney, Kings Lynn, Norfolk (P7341)



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:500 at A4
 Villa Park, Pentney, Kings Lynn, Norfolk (P7341)



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Fig. 3 Trench plan and sections

Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A4

Villa Park, Pentney, Kings Lynn, Norfolk (P7341)