
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**LAND ADJOINING YEW TREE HOUSE, DUNMOW ROAD,
FYFIELD, ESSEX CM5 0RH**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

Authors: Thomas Muir (Fieldwork and report)	
NGR: TL 56998 06955	Report No: 5487
District: Epping Forest	Site Code: FYYTH17
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 7334
	Date: 20 November 2017

This report is confidential to the client. Archaeological Solutions Ltd accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

Archaeological Solutions is an independent archaeological contractor providing the services which satisfy all archaeological requirements of planning applications, including:

Desk-based assessments and environmental impact assessments

Historic building recording and appraisals

Trial trench evaluations

Geophysical surveys

Archaeological monitoring and recording

Archaeological excavations

Post excavation analysis

Promotion and outreach

Specialist analysis

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**Unit 6, Brunel Business Court, Eastern Way,
Bury St Edmunds IP32 7AJ
Tel 01284 765210**

**P I House, Rear of 23 Clifton Road, Shefford,
Bedfordshire, SG17 5AF
Tel: 01462 850483**

**e-mail: info@ascontracts.co.uk
www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk**



twitter.com/ArchaeologicalS



www.facebook.com/ArchaeologicalSolutions



CONTENTS

OASIS SUMMARY

SUMMARY

1	INTRODUCTION
2	DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE
3	TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS
4	ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND
5	METHODOLOGY
6	DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS
7	CONFIDENCE RATING
8	DEPOSIT MODEL
9	DISCUSSION
10	DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
	BIBLIOGRAPHY

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Land adjoining Yew Tree House, Dunmow Road, Fyfield, Essex CM5 0RH</i>		
<p><i>In November 2017 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land adjoining Yew Tree House, Dunmow Road, Fyfield, Essex CM5 0RH (NGR TL 56998 06955; Figs.1 - 2). The evaluation was carried out to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the development of two new detached dwellings on the site with associated garages, access and ancillary works (Epping Forest Council Planning Ref. EPF/0201/15). The evaluation was required based on the advice of an Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council who required a programme of archaeological work.</i></p> <p><i>The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) notes that the site lies within an area of archaeological potential within the historic core of Fyfield. Yew Tree House adjacent is a Grade II listed timber-framed house of 16th/17th century date (EHER 32953). The site thus had a potential for the presence of buried remains of medieval and post-medieval date.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed late post-medieval / modern features comprising Ditch F1007 (Trench 2) and Pits F1009 and F1011 (Trench 3).</i></p> <p><i>Pit F1011 contained a ?struck flint of ?Neolithic date. Modern Ditch F1007 contained 4 small abraded residual sherds of late medieval pottery.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	November 2017		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	Y	Future work	TBC
P. number	7334	Site code	FYYTH17
Type of project	Archaeological trial trench evaluation		
Site status	-		
Current land use	Vacant		
Planned development	Residential		
Main features (+dates)	Late post-medieval / modern ditch and two pits		
Significant finds (+dates)	?Neolithic ?struck flint; 4 sherds of residual late medieval pottery		
County/ District/ Parish	Essex	Epping Forest	Fyfield
HER/ SMR for area	Essex HER		
Post code (if known)	CM5 0RH		
Area of site	c.m ²		
NGR	TL 56998 06955		
Height AOD (min/max)	52m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Archaeological Solutions Ltd		
Funded by	Mr & Mrs Hall		
Full title	Land adjoining Yew Tree House, Dunmow Road, Fyfield, Essex CM5 0RH. Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation		
Authors	Thomas Muir		
Report no.	5487		
Date (of report)	November 2017		

**LAND ADJOINING YEW TREE HOUSE, DUNMOW ROAD,
FYFIELD, ESSEX CM5 0RH**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In November 2017 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land adjoining Yew Tree House, Dunmow Road, Fyfield, Essex CM5 0RH (NGR TL 56998 06955; Figs.1 - 2). The evaluation was carried out to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the development of two new detached dwellings on the site with associated garages, access and ancillary works (Epping Forest Council Planning Ref. EPF/0201/15). The evaluation was required based on the advice of an Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council who required a programme of archaeological work.

The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) notes that the site lies within an area of archaeological potential within the historic core of Fyfield. Yew Tree House adjacent is a Grade II listed timber-framed house of 16th/17th century date (EHER 32953). The site thus had a potential for the presence of buried remains of medieval and post-medieval date.

The evaluation revealed late post-medieval / modern features comprising Ditch F1007 (Trench 2) and Pits F1009 and F1011 (Trench 3).

Pit F1011 contained a ?struck flint of ?Neolithic date. Modern Ditch F1007 contained 4 small abraded residual sherds of late medieval pottery.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In November 2017 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land adjoining Yew Tree House, Dunmow Road, Fyfield, Essex CM5 0RH (NGR TL 56998 06955; Figs.1 - 2). The evaluation was carried out to provide for the initial requirements of a planning condition attached to planning approval for the development of two new detached dwellings on the site with associated garages, access and ancillary works (Epping Forest Council Planning Ref. EPF/0201/15). The evaluation was required based on the advice of the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council who required a programme of archaeological work.

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by the Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council (ECC HEA, Maria Medlycott, *Brief for Land Adjoining Yew Tree House, Dunmow Road, Fyfield*, dated 27th June 2017), and a specification compiled by AS (dated 14th September 2017), and approved by ECC HEA. It adhered to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2014), and the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The principal objectives of the 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 was important to establish the presence or absence of any further evidence of medieval and post-medieval activity associated with the medieval route of High Road. 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 Context

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

1.5 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset.

The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 The site lies on the northern side of Dunmow Road in the historic core of Fyfield, to the north of the junction of Ongar Road and Queen Street. The site is a grassed plot to the west of Yew Tree House.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY & SOILS

3.1 The site is situated at c.48m AOD on the lower part of the western slope of the valley of the river Roding, whose course passes c.50m to the east. A small tributary passes c.100m to the north.

3.2 The solid geology of the local area is of the London Clay formation, with the overlying drift geology present as narrow bands that occupy different levels in the river valley. The site is situated with a band of Head deposits (silt, sand and clay), with Lowestoft Diamicton upslope close to the west and Alluvium on the floor of the valley close to the east. The soils on the site freely-draining, slight acid loamy.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The site lies within the historic core of Fyfield, which has origins dating from at least the medieval period. The Essex Historic Environment Record (HER) includes numerous entries relating to the medieval and post-medieval development of the village. The principal records relate to buildings and there have been few archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the site. An Iron Age bronze bull-head bucket mount was recorded c.300m to the south-west (HER 7275). Roman tile has been incorporated in the Church of St. Nicholas c.300m to the south-east of the site (HER 4160), suggesting hitherto unknown earlier occupation in, and around, Fyfield.

4.2 The Church of St. Nicholas dates back to at least the 12th century (HER 4161) and continued to be developed through the

medieval period (HER 32986, 4159 & 4162). The church was likely built to serve Fyfield Hall, in addition to the villagers. Fyfield Hall, located c.200m to the east, is the oldest timber-framed aisled hall, built in 1165-85 and re-modelled in the late 14th century. It includes a dovecote and fishpond (HER 32982, 32983 & 4158). Several late medieval buildings also remain extant within c.150 of the site, including the Bridge House, Black Bull PH and Ponders Lodge Farmhouse to the north-east (HER 32955, 32950-1) dating to the late 14th to early 15th centuries, and Brewetts and Lesser Brewetts to the south-east (HER 32978 & 32980) dating to at least the 16th century.

4.3 This pattern of extant building continues in the early post-medieval period, and most pertinently includes the Grade II Listed Yew Tree House, built in the late 16th/early 17th centuries (HER 32953) adjacent to the east of the modern development area. Contemporary building in close proximity in Fyfield include Glebe Cottage, Walkers cottage, Rodmans, Wethers, Ashwells Cottages, Old Forge and a barn at Ponders End (HER 32942-3, 32952, 32954, 32957, 32973& 32985). Sparse mid 17th century buildings also remain extant in the form of Mill Hatch, Little Forge, 1-2 Queen Street and the Queens Head PH (HER 32956, 32974, 32976-7). In the late 18th century Fyfield Mill was established on the river c.400m to the south (HER 32981), and in the early 19th century a model farm at Hall Farm c.250m to the south-east (HER 15443). The site thus has a potential for the presence of buried remains of medieval and post-medieval date.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The ECC HEA advice required trial trenching of a sample of the proposed development site, to take the form of three trenches across the two proposed new house plots and new access drive. Three trenches each 10m x 1.8m were excavated (Fig. 2). Trench 3 was staggered to avoid an obstacle.

5.2 The topsoil and overburden 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

Individual trench descriptions are presented below.

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 - 3)

<i>Sample section 1A:</i> <i>0.00m = 52.22m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, dark brown grey sandy silt.
0.21 – 0.37m	L1001	Made Ground. Firm, dark grey brown clay silt with occasional small sub-angular flints.
0.37m – 0.56m	L1002	Subsoil. Firm, light grey brown silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded flint.
0.56m+	L1003	Natural deposits. Firm, light grey yellow silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded flints.

<i>Sample section 1B:</i> <i>0.00m = 52.19m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.21 – 0.37m	L1001	Made Ground. As above.
0.37 – 0.58m	L1002	Subsoil. As above.
0.58m+	L1003	Natural deposits. As above.

Description: Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or finds

Trench 2 (Figs. 2 - 4)

<i>Sample section 2A:</i> <i>0.00m = 52.60m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.26 – 0.42m	L1001	Made Ground. As above, Trench 1
0.42 – 0.58m	L1002	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.58m +	L1003	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 2B:</i> <i>0.00m = 52.33m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.14m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.14 – 0.30m	L1004	Made Ground. Friable, mid yellow brown clay silt with moderate small sub-rounded flints
0.30 – 0.44m	L1005	Made Ground. Firm, dark brown grey silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flints
0.44 – 0.58m	L1002	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.58m+	L1003	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 2 contained modern (19th – 20th century) Ditch F1007

Ditch F1007 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 1.20 x 0.35m), orientated E/W. It has moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1008, was a firm, dark greyish brown, silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded flints. It contained modern (19th -20th century) finds.

Trench 3 (Figs. 2 - 4)

<i>Sample section 3A:</i> <i>0.00m = 52.00m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.25 – 0.50m	L1001	Made Ground. As above, Trench 1
0.50 – 0.60m	L1002	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.60m +	L1003	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1.

<i>Sample section 3B:</i> <i>0.00m = 52.14m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.21 – 0.27m	L1006	Made Ground. Firm, light grey brown silty clay with moderate small sub-angular flints
0.27 – 0.48m	L1001	Made Ground. As above, Trench 1
0.48 – 0.61m	L1002	Subsoil. As above, Trench 1.
0.61m+	L1003	Natural deposits. As above, Trench 1.

Description: Trench 3 contained Pits F1009 and F1011

Pit F1009 was subcircular in plan (0.90 x 0.60 x 0.12m). It had shallow moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1010, was a firm, dark grey brown, clayey silt. It contained late post-medieval / modern (late 18th century +) pottery (2; 5g), animal bone (199g), coke (3g) and a clay pipe stem fragment (2g).

Pit F1011 was subcircular in plan (0.90 x 0.41 x 0.07m). It had shallow moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1012, was a firm, dark grey brown, clayey silt. It contained late post-medieval / modern (late 18th century – early 19th century) pottery (8; 17g), animal bone (351g), struck flint (1; 9g), Fe. fragment (18g) and coal (9g).

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost was Topsoil L1000, a firm, dark grey brown sandy silt (0.14 – 0.26m thick). L1000 overlay made ground deposits in Trenches 1 (L1001), 2 (L1004 and L1005) and 3 (L1006) (0.06 – 0.30m thick)

8.2 Below the made ground, Subsoil L1002 was present all the trenches, and was a firm, light grey brown silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded flint (0.10 – 0.21m thick)

8.3 At the base of the sequence the natural, L1003, was a firm, light grey yellow silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded flints (0.56 – 0.60m deep)

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) notes that the site lies within an area of archaeological potential within the historic core of Fyfield. Yew Tree House adjacent is a Grade II listed timber-framed house of 16th/17th century date (EHER 32953). The site thus had a potential for the presence of buried remains of medieval and post-medieval date.

9.2 The evaluation revealed late post-medieval / modern features comprising Ditch F1007 (Trench 2) and Pits F1009 and F1011 (Trench 3).

9.3 Pit F1011 contained a ?struck flint of ?Neolithic date. Modern Ditch F1007 contained four small abraded residual sherds of late medieval pottery. The latter find may be associated with the adjacent Yew Tree House.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr & Mrs Hall for funding the works and for all their assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Maria Medlycott, Historic Environment Advisor of Essex County Council.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA), 2014, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*. CifA, Reading

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

SSEW 1983 *Soil Survey of England and Wales: Soils of South East England (sheet 4)*. Harpenden, Rothamsted Experimental Station/Lawes Agricultural Trust

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

APPENDIX 1 Concordance of Finds

FYYTH17 - P7334, Yew Tree, Fyfield, Essex TT

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date (Pot Only)	Pot Qty	Pottery (g)	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other Material	Other Qty	Other (g)
1007	1008		2	Fill of Ditch	19th-20th C	16	84	170	24	Fe Frags Glass O.Shell Shale Coke Slag Clay Pipe	7 2	69 1 1 18 1 67 5
1009	1010		3	Fill of Pit	Late 18th+ C	2	5		199	Coke Clay Pipe		3 2
1011	1012		3	Fill of Pit	Late 18th-Early 19th C	8	17		351	S.Flint Fe Frag Coal	1 1	9 18 9

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Struck Flint

Andrew Peachey

Pit F1010 contained a single piece (9g) of probably struck flint in a slightly dull, patinated condition, and as residual material. It comprises an elongate blade-like flake of grey-brown flint with a thin rough off-white cortex covering all the dorsal face. There is a shallow bulb of percussion, slightly off-centre below a narrow platform, suggesting the flake may represent cortex trimming or core preparation in the Neolithic period; however these traits may have been produced by incidental impact, and it remains inconclusive if this flake was the result of human agency.

The Pottery

Peter Thompson

The archaeological evaluation recovered 26 sherds weighing 106g from three contexts. The pottery is overall quite heavily abraded. L1008 contained 4 small abraded residual body sherds of late medieval pottery (Fabric 20) that were probably produced at Harlow. The remaining pottery comprised glazed and unglazed late post-medieval red earthenware, factory made white earthenwares and Yellow ware, all of which is of 19th to 20th centuries date.

Methodology

The sherds were examined under x35 binocular microscope and recorded according to the Medieval Pottery Research Group Guidelines (Slowikowski et al 2001). The fabric codes appropriate for Essex are provided in brackets in the Fabric Key.

Fabric Key

HARL: Harlow type ware (F21D) mid13th to 15th

PMBL: Post-medieval black earthenware (F40) 16th-18th

GRE: Glazed red earthenware (F40) 16th-18th

LPMRE: Late post-medieval red earthenware (F51B) mid 18th+

LGRE: Late glazed red earthenware (F40) mid 18th+

KW: Kitchen ware (F51A) late 18th to mid 20th

TPW: Transfer Printed ware (F48) late 18th+

REFWE: Refined factory made white earthenware (48) late 18th+

YELL: Yellow ware (F48E) late 18th+

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
---------	---------	----------	------	---------

	1008	4x12g HARL 1x24g PMBL 1x11g GRE 2x16g LPMRE 1x1g TPW 3x4g RWE 4x16g YELL	19 th -20 th	Mostly quite heavily abraded PMBL: base/body angle with internal glaze GRE: jar rim LPMRE: beaded jar rim
	1010	1x2g LGRE 1x3g LPMRE	Late 18 th +	Abraded body sherds
	1012	7x11g LPMRE 1x6g KW	Late 18 th - arly 19 th	Heavily abraded

Table 1: Quantification of sherds by context

Bibliography

Cotter, J. P., 2000 Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester, 1971-85 *English Heritage*

Davey, W., and Walker, H. 2009 The Harlow Pottery Industries *Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 3*

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.

The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

Ditch F1007 contained 11 fragments (170g) of late post-medieval peg tile in a highly fragmented condition. The peg tile was manufactured in a fine sandy orange fabric typical of those produced in central Essex, likely in the 18th-19th century. Given the very poor preservation of these fragments, they are not directly associated with a structure on the site and were probably re-deposited through agricultural processes such as manuring and soil improvement.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
Trench 1 looking west



2
Trench 2 looking north



3
Ditch 1007 in Trench 2



4
Trench 3 looking east



5
Pits 1009 and 1011 in Trench 2



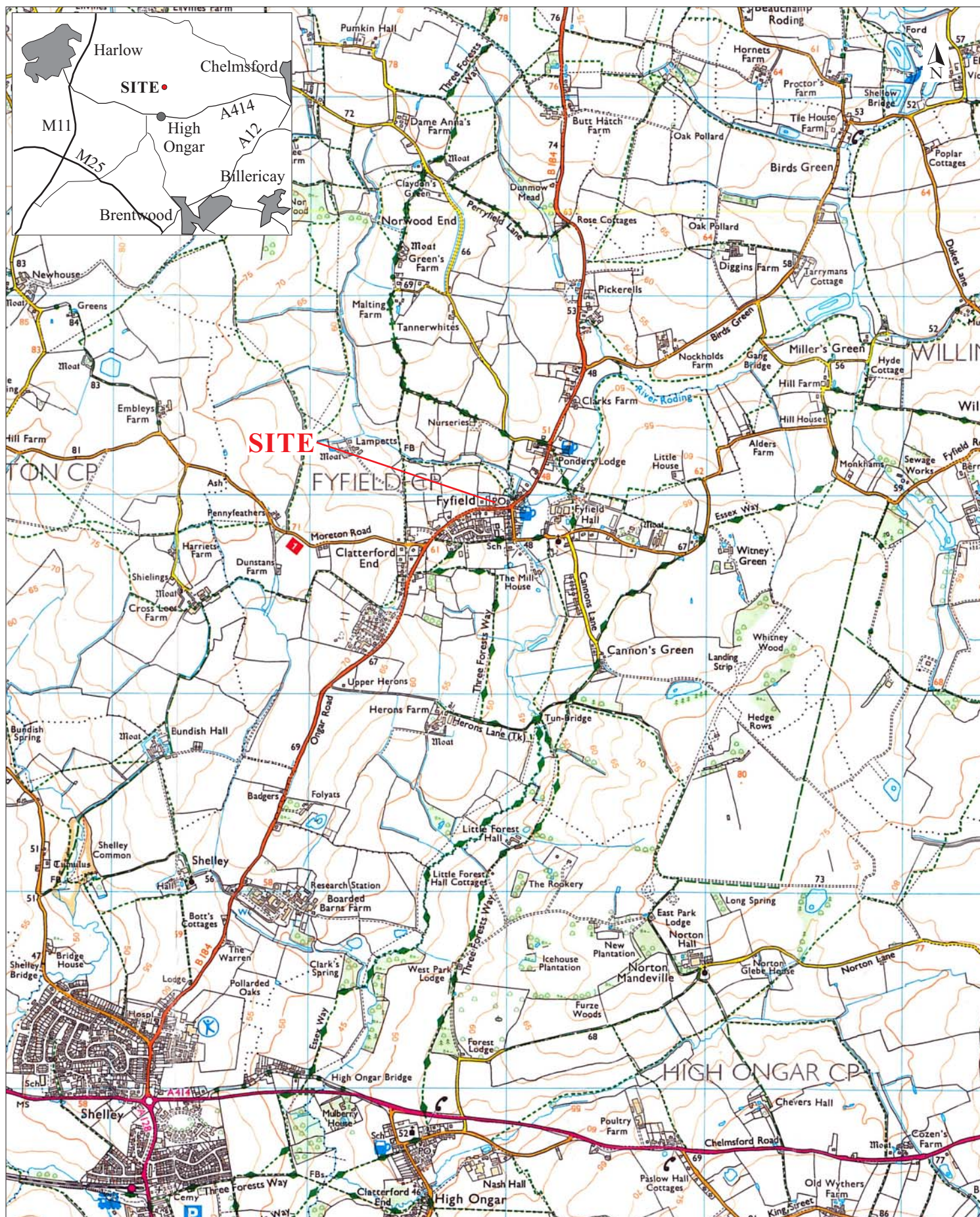
6
Sample section 1A



7
Sample section 2A

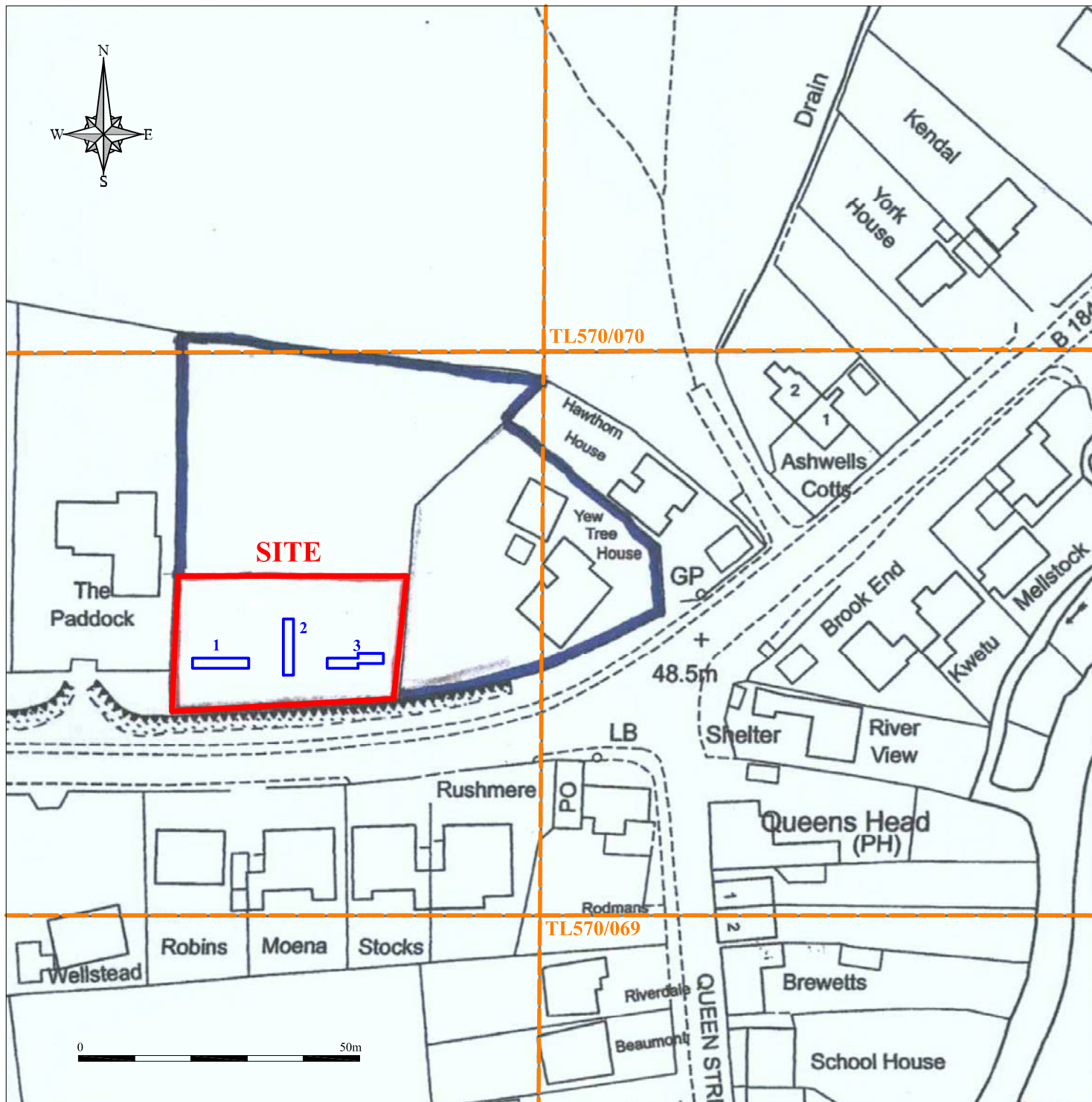


Sample section 3B

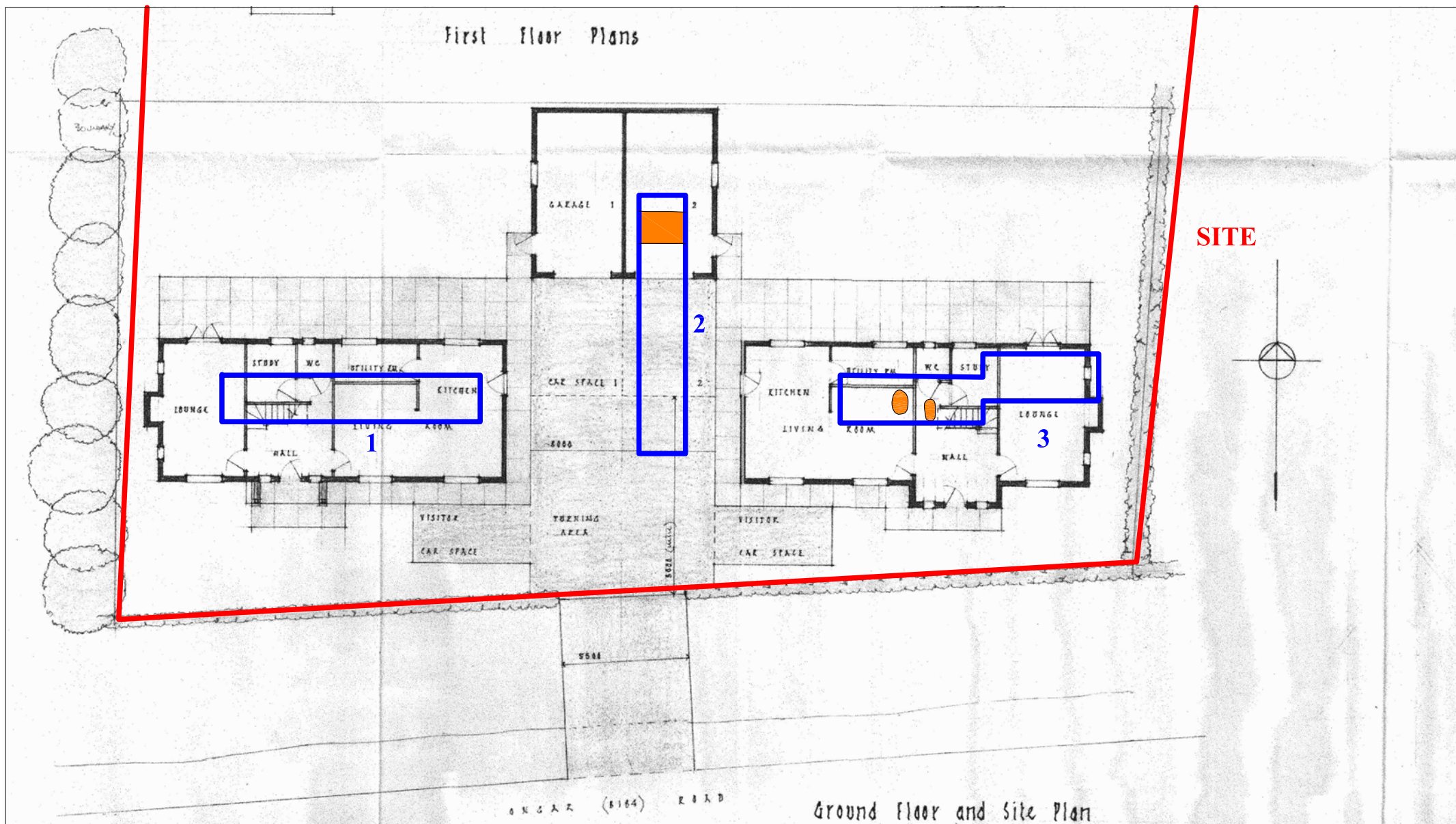


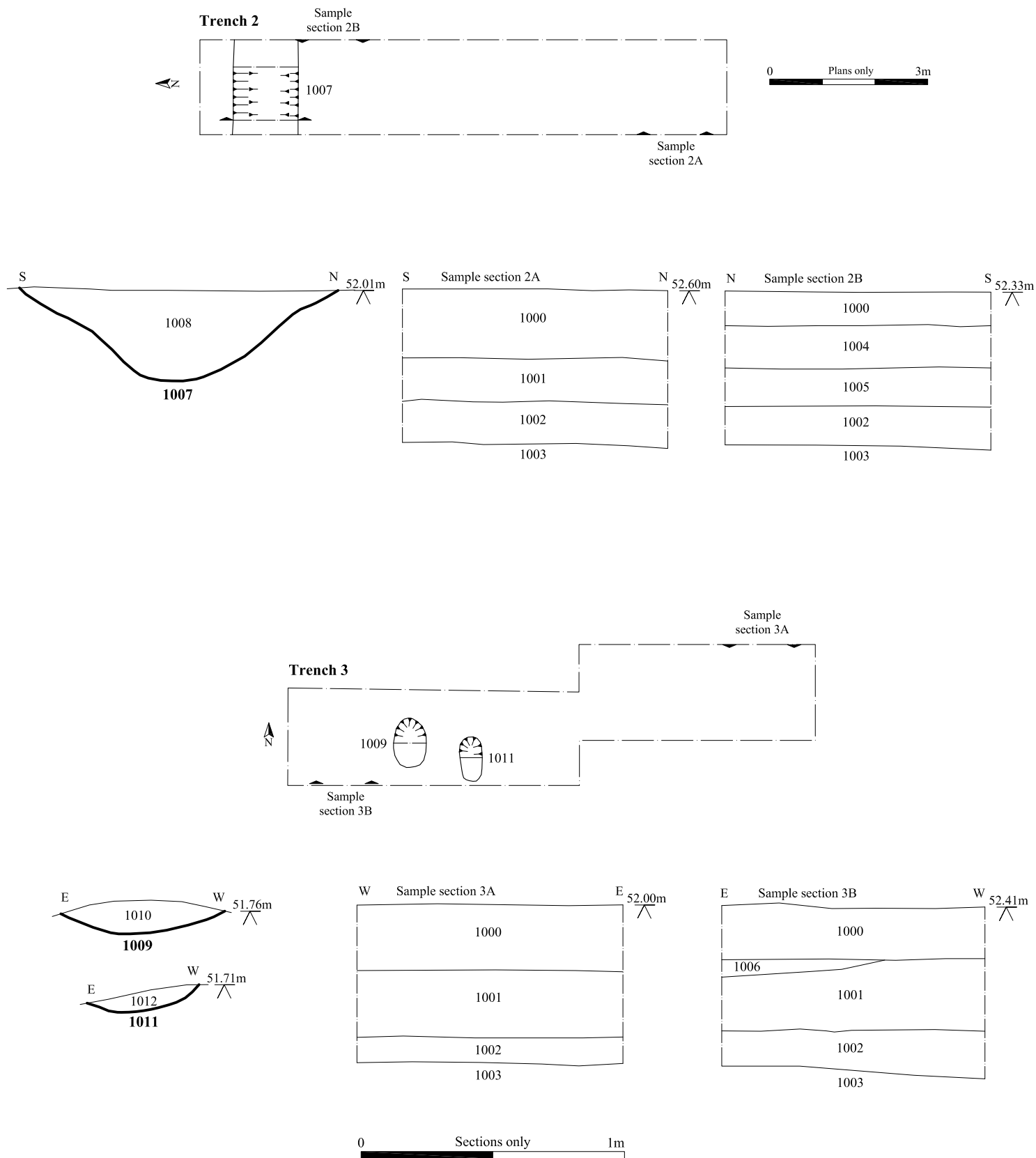
Reproduced from the 2006 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 Yew Tree House, Fyfield, Essex (P7334)



Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:1000 at A4
Yew Tree House, Fyfield, Essex (P7334)





Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Fig. 4 Trench plans and sections

Scale Plans 1:100, sections 1:20 at A4

Yew Tree House, Fyfield, Essex (P7334)