

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**BROOK HOUSE, TRING ROAD, WENDOVER,
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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NGR: SP 8700 7888	Report No: 4120
District: Aylesbury Vale	Site Code: AS 1268
Approved: Claire Halpin MIfA	Project No: 3705
Signed:	Date: August 2012 Revised: September 2012

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Brook House, Tring Road, Wendover, Buckinghamshire</i>		
<i>In August 2012 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation on land at Brook House, Tring Road, Wendover, Buckinghamshire (NGR SP 8700 0788; Figs. 1 and 2). The evaluation was commissioned by V & R Homes Ltd and was undertaken prior to the determination of planning permission.</i>			
<i>Each evaluation trench contained features, predominantly pits and also ditches and a wall. Pit F1019 may date to the post medieval period; it contained flecks of CBM. While Ditch F1009 (Tr.1) (=F1011 Tr.2) contained a significant quantity of late medieval (15th century) pottery (689g and 193g respectively), though each ditch segment also contained significant quantities of post-medieval CBM (4814g and 814g respectively). The remaining features were post-medieval and modern. The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for medieval and post-medieval archaeology. Such remains have been found in the vicinity of the site and relate to the medieval and post-medieval settlement of Wendover and Brook House.</i>			
<i>The majority of the features were post-medieval (17th century +) and modern, and these later features were associated with Brook House which dates from the 17th century. Late medieval (15th century) pottery was found in Ditch F1009 (=F1011) and is evidence of earlier occupation.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>31/07-02/08 2012</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>3705</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1268</i>
Type of project	<i>An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>Grade II Listed Building</i>		
Current land use	<i>Derelict building and disused garden</i>		
Planned development	<i>Demolition and construction of a replacement dwelling</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Post-medieval and modern pits, ditches and a wall</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>15th century pottery</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Buckinghamshire</i>	<i>Aylesbury Vale</i>	<i>Wendover</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Buckinghamshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>HP22 6NW</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 1800m²</i>		
NGR	<i>SP 8700 0788</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>123/125m</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>BCAS</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>V & R Homes Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Brook House, Tring Road, Wendover, Buckinghamshire. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4120</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>August 2012 (Revised September 2012)</i>		

BROOK HOUSE, TRING ROAD, WENDOVER, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In August 2012 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Brook House, Tring Road, Wendover, Buckinghamshire (NGR SP 8700 0788). The evaluation was commissioned by V & R Homes Ltd and was undertaken prior to the determination of planning permission.

The site lies on the south side of Tring Road close to the centre of the market town of Wendover, near Aylesbury. Brook House was severely damaged by fire in December 2007. Historic building recording reports have been prepared (Collins et al 2010, Prosser 2012). The house comprised an historic main range, timber-framed, and probably of c.1600 in date. It had been jettied to the front and side, together with a contemporary rear service range to the west. The building was probably remodelled in the 18th century, when chimney stacks were added, and the original timber-frame was underbuilt and bricked up. It was further augmented in the early 19th century, when a second rear range was constructed, the building rendered and given wider sash windows to the main frontage.

Each evaluation trench contained features, predominantly pits and also ditches and a wall. Pit F1019 may date to the post medieval period; it contained flecks of CBM. While Ditch F1009 (Tr.1) (=F1011 Tr.2) contained a significant quantity of late medieval (15th century) pottery (689g and 193g respectively), each ditch segment also contained significant quantities of post-medieval CBM (4814g and 814g respectively). The remaining features were post-medieval and modern. The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for medieval and post-medieval archaeology. Such remains have been found in the vicinity of the site and relate to the medieval and post-medieval settlement of Wendover and Brook House.

The majority of the features were post-medieval (17th century +) and modern, and these later features were associated with Brook House which dates from the 17th century. Late medieval (15th century) pottery was found in Ditch F1009 (=F1011) and is evidence of earlier occupation.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In August 2012 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation on land at Brook House, Tring Road, Wendover, Buckinghamshire (NGR SP 8700 0788; Figs. 1 and 2). The evaluation was commissioned by V & R Homes Ltd and was undertaken prior to the

determination of planning permission (Aylesbury Vale District Council Planning Ref. 12/00023/APP).

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a generic brief for archaeological trial trenching prepared by Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service (BCAS) and advice from Eliza Alqassar of BCAS, as well as a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 31/07/2012) and approved by BCAS. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008).

1.3 The evaluation aimed to collate, verify and assess all information relevant to presence, survival and character of archaeological remains/structures within the study area. In particular it aimed:

- To establish the date, character and extent of any medieval and post-medieval or earlier occupation of the site
- To establish the date and potential of environmental deposits for informing understanding of past environments and land use
- To establish the presence of any medieval or post-medieval activity associated with the historic core of Wendover
- To identify any evidence for medieval/ post-medieval occupation, property boundaries, domestic/ commercial/ industrial activity associated with the medieval town

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 market town of Wendover lies close to Aylesbury at the foot of the Chiltern Hills, Buckinghamshire. Brook House lies on the south side of Tring Road close to the town centre. The house is set back slightly from the road with a large, sloping garden to the rear. A single wall from a former, timber-framed outbuilding survives on the east side of the garden. A small watercourse runs immediately to the west of the building, while the distinctive red brick village clock tower built in 1842 occupies a neighbouring plot to the west.

2.2 Brook House is Grade II Listed (LBS No 42862), and is described as of early 17th century date, altered in the 18th. After several years of neglect and increasing dereliction, Brook House was attacked by arsonists on 31 December 2007 and severely damaged. For the majority of the structure, only the outer walls survived the fire and subsequent remedial action to make the structure safe.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 Wendover is located at the foot of Chiltern Hills. The site is situated on land gently rising towards the south at 123.10-124.70m AOD. The solid geology of the environs is Cenomanian Chalk of Grey Chalk Subgroup (British Geological Survey 1978). Soils on the site are clayey soils of the Andover 1 association, described as shallow well drained calcareous silty soils over chalk on slopes and crests and deep calcareous and non-calcareous fine silty soils in valley bottoms (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric

4.1 Evidence of prehistoric archaeological remains is very limited within the vicinity of the site, although a significant quantity of prehistoric earthworks are recorded within the wider area. Evidence of Neolithic settlement is derived from field systems and barrows (HERs 0001100000, 0001103000, 0001104000 and 0001102000) located c. 1km to the south-west. A possible Neolithic round barrow (HER 0223000000) has been recorded to the north-east. Numerous flint implements (HER 0222800000) of Neolithic date have

been discovered during field-walking and metal-detecting surveys c. 1.5km to the north.

4.2 Bronze Age archaeological remains comprise Boddington hillfort (HER 0164500000) situated c. 1km to the east. Earthworks of Iron Age date (HERs 0014012000 and 0572100000) have been recorded to the south-east and south-west of Wendover. A section of the Icknield Way (HER 0994900000), a trackway with possible prehistoric origins, is located 500m to the south-east.

Romano-British

4.3 Similarly, Romano-British archaeological remains within the vicinity of the site are limited. Four coins (HERs 0222800003, 0437500000, 0582400000 and 0248700000) are recorded 500m – 750m to the north of the site and c. 50m to the north-west respectively. A significant quantity of tesserae and oyster shells (HER 0686600000) was discovered c. 125m to the west and a possible cemetery site (HER 0096200000) is recorded c. 2km to the north-east at Halton.

Anglo-Saxon and medieval

4.4 The town name is Brythonic in origin and signifies 'white waters', derived from the stream that rises in the adjacent hills and flows through the middle of Wendover, bringing chalk deposits on its way (Cameron 1961, 34). Wendover is mentioned between 965 and 971 in the will of Ælfheah the Ældorman, who owned land in 'Wændofron' (Wendover) (Page 1925). At the time of the Domesday survey, the manor of Wendover (HER 0706700000) was part of the Aylesbury Hundred (Williams and Martin 2002, 395). It was held by King William I and was assessed at 24 hides (*Ibid*). The survey records two watermills in the parish and 26 villagers (*Ibid*), as well as alluding to the existence of a market (see Wendover Historic Town Assessment, website 1; after Morris 1978).

4.5 Further evidence of Anglo-Saxon settlement within the vicinity of the site is sparse and comprises human remains of possible Anglo-Saxon date (HER 0615400000) discovered c. 200m to the east. It is thought that the original early medieval settlement was focussed on the Church of St Mary to the south of the town.

4.6 A charter fair was granted at Wendover in 1214 by Hugo de Gurnay. Wendover was a borough in 1227 - 1228 by prescription (market charter), although it never attained a status of self-government and always remained in the possession of the monarch (Page 1925). In the early 13th century there is some evidence of a local dyeing and fulling industry in the town and it is possible that burgage tenure may have been granted by the lord of the manor, as the settlement's location in the Chiltern valley was favorably suited for a market town (*Ibid*).

4.7 The Church of St Mary (HER 0201600000) dates from the 13th century and is located c. 750m to the south. It is thought that the later medieval

settlement was focused to the north of the Church of St Mary. Literary records refer to a 13th – 14th century hospital of St John the Baptist and a chapel (HERs 0246100000 and 0246101000) situated c. 70m – 100m to the north of the site. A sword pommel (HER 0686400000) and a medieval seal (HER 0686500000) was discovered c. 60m and 800m to the north-east respectively. In 1347 Sir John de Moleyns granted a fair charter to Wendover and two windmills/ watermills were recorded as Clerks Mill and Poyntz Mill (Wendover Historic Town Assessment, Website 1).

4.8 Evidence of late medieval settlement comprises a number of 15th century timber-framed houses (HERs 0097100000, 0097100001 and 1136800000) located c. 40m to the north and c. 125m to the north-west respectively. The earliest reference to a public house in the town is the *Maydynhed Inn* in 1514 (Wendover Historic Town Assessment, Website 1). An assemblage of late medieval pottery (HER 0441500000) was discovered c. 250m to the south of the site.

4.9 The present site falls within zone 3 of the Wendover Historic Town Assessment (Website 1), summarized as follows: this zone encompasses buildings at the western end of Tring Road (formerly East Street), immediately to the east of the High Street and market, and is thought to have comprised an eastward extension of the town and part of the medieval borough (*Ibid*). The medieval borough is cited as encompassing c. 30-40 acres of land, the majority of which contained housing (*Ibid*). The Z-shaped plan of Wendover's High Street (*Ibid*, fig. 18) is thought to be a product of medieval town planning and includes Aylesbury Road, immediately to the north-west of the current site. If originally part of the medieval town, the site may have comprised 'burgage' plots as identified along the High Street and (possibly) at the southern end of Aylesbury Road (*Ibid*). Such plots, to the rear of the street frontage, would have been the focus of commercial and/ or industrial activities.

Post-medieval and modern

4.10 The town of Wendover flourished in the 16th century and urban development focussed on the streets surrounding the High Street to the west (HERs 1140700000 and 1140701000), south-west (HERs 0096300000, 1139300000, 1138300000, 1139900000 and 1139800000) and north (HERs 1136700000 and 1136600000) of the site. An inventory (Return of Vintners) compiled in 1577 recorded one tavern and eight inns. A possible explanation for the large quantity of public houses in the town is its close proximity to London - they may have served as convenient stopping points for travelers or merchants.

4.11 Residential and commercial development continued to thrive throughout the 17th century and timber-framed houses are known on the High Street (HER 1140600000), Tring Road and Aylesbury Road (HERs 1139200000, 1140200000, 1135900000 and 0097101000). Brook House (the site; HER 1143500000, EHBID 42862) is one such property that was built on Tring Road in the early 17th century.

4.12 In the 18th century, improvements to transportation schemes were introduced in the town. The Wendover to Buckingham turnpike was opened in 1721 and a branch of the Grand Union Canal was opened in 1796-7 (Wendover Historic Town Assessment, Website 1). Nether Mill (HER 040200000) was built in the late 18th century c. 50m to the south of the site and the enclosure for Wendover was compiled in 1794. Residential development continued to thrive along the High Street to the west and Tring Road to the east (HERs 1138200000, 1140300000 and 1137700000).

4.13 In the 19th century there were no significant industries other than agriculture and most activities within the borough comprised small businesses such as lace and shoe-making (*Ibid*). Residential and commercial development occurred throughout the town along Tring Road and the High Street, including the clock tower and fire engine house (HER 1139500000) situated c. 50m to the north-west. The arrival of the Metropolitan Railway from London in 1892 provided a catalyst for urban industrial growth and further residential development along with a population increase (*Ibid*).

4.14 As a consequence of numerous problems with the Wendover Grand Union Canal, the canal branch closed in 1901 (*Ibid*). During the 1920s, Wendover became a popular town for weekend visitors and professionals working in London. As a result of the town's popularity, there was an increase in development, notably country houses and large suburban semi-detached dwellings (*Ibid*). In 1922 a war memorial (HER 1339900000) was constructed c. 200m to the west of the site to commemorate local men who were killed in the First World War. The Wendover Gasworks, situated c.500m to the north, was built in c. 1925 (HER 0520100000) although only an artificial mound and steel rivets remain.

Brook House

4.15 Brook House was substantially damaged by fire in December 2007. An historic building report was prepared following the fire (Collins *et al.* 2010) and subsequently (Prosser 2012). In summary:

The building is Grade II Listed (LBS No 42862), and is described as of early 17th century date, altered in the 18th.

The house comprised an historic main range, timber-framed, and probably of c.1600 in date. It had been jettied to the front and side, together with a contemporary rear service range to the west. The building was probably remodelled in the 18th century, when chimney stacks were added, and the original timber-frame was underbuilt and bricked up. It was further augmented in the early 19th century, when a second rear range was constructed, the building rendered and given wider sash windows to the main frontage.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Three trenches were excavated using a mechanical 360° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). The trenches locations were approved by BCAS. The locations of Trenches 1 and 2 were slightly modified to avoid large piles of overburden and rubble.

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

Trench 1 (Figs. 2-3, DP 1-2)

<i>Sample section 1A (DP 3): west end, south-south-east facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 123.46m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.19m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark brownish grey, soft, silty sand with frequent roots.
0.19 – 0.50m	L1001	Made ground. Light grey, friable, sandy and clayey silt with occasional CBM fragments.
0.50 – 0.58m	L1002	Dark brownish grey, compact, sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks.
0.58 – 0.70m	L1021	Mid grey, compact, clayey silt with occasional CBM fragments and charcoal flecks.
0.70 +	L1003	Natural white, compact, chalk.

<i>Sample section 1B (DP 4): east end, south-south-east facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 123.50m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.16m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.16 – 0.23m	L1001	Made ground. As above.
0.23m +	L1003	Natural chalk. As above.

Description: Two pits (F1004 and F1019), a ditch (F1009) and a wall (M1007) were present within the trench.

Pit F1019 was probably rectangular (0.84 x 0.22 x 0.19m; DP 9). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1020, was a dark brownish grey, friable, clayey silt with occasional small CBM fragments.

Ditch F1009 was linear (1.60+ x 2.88 x 0.62m; DP 7 - 8), orientated north-north-west/ south-south-east. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1010, was a light to mid brownish grey, compact, silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks, chalk and flint. It contained 15th century pottery (689g), post-medieval CBM (4814g) and a large quantity of animal bone including cattle

horn cores (2962g). Ditch F1009 continued into Trench 2 to the south (F1011).

Brick Wall M1007 was located in the central/ east part of the trench and was present below the topsoil (DP 6). It formed a rectangular structure with its northern side measuring 1.72m, and the eastern and western lengths measuring 0.54m+. The wall was 0.21m thick (two courses of bricks) and was constructed of red bricks (0.220 x 0.100 x 0.060m) bonded with white chalky mortar. The interior of the structure was filled with L1008, a loose brick rubble with a light grey, loose, clayey silt. The structure may have been a garden feature or an outbuilding of late 19th – 20th century date.

Pit F1004 was irregular in plan, possibly circular (1.81+ x 1.21+ x 0.13m; DP 5). It had gently sloping sides and an uneven base. Its fill, L1005, was a mid grey, loose, silty clay with white chalk and moderate charcoal flecks and rounded flint. Post medieval (17th-18th century) pottery (35g), CBM (104g) and an Fe fragment (37g) were recovered from the fill. Pit F1004 was truncated by tree roots.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2, DP 10-11)

<i>Sample section 2A (DP 12): central/west part, south-south-east facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 123.50m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.27m +	L1003	Natural chalk. As above, Tr. 1.

<i>Sample section 2B (DP 13): east end, south-south-east facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 123.58m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.23m +	L1003	Natural chalk. As above, Tr. 1.

Description: Ditch F1011 and Pit F1013 were present within the trench.

Pit F1013 was circular (0.63 x 0.58 x 0.36m; DP 16). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1014, was a mid brownish grey, compact, clayey silt with moderate CBM fragments and charcoal flecks. It contained modern pottery (9g), CBM (344g) and animal bone (9g).

F1011 was likely a continuation of Ditch F1009 (Tr.1) with its terminus located within the trench (2.80 x 1.40+ x 0.55m; DP 14-15). It was orientated north-north-west/ south-south-east. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1012, was a light to mid brownish grey, compact, silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks, chalk and flint. Some large (c. 0.20 x 0.20 x 0.10m) stones were contained within this fill. Late medieval (15th century) pottery (193g), post-medieval CBM (814g), animal bone (184g) and an Fe fragment (46g) were present.

Trench 3 (Figs. 2 - 3, DP 17-18)

<i>Sample section 3A (DP 19): north end, west-south-west facing</i> <i>0.00 = 124.44m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.31m +	L1003	Natural chalk. As above, Tr. 1.

<i>Sample section 3B (DP 20): south end, west-south-west facing</i> <i>0.00 = 124.63m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.32m +	L1003	Natural chalk and light yellowish grey, compact, silty clay.

Ditch F1015 was linear (1.6+ x 0.96 x 0.13m; DP 21), aligned east-north-east/west-south-west. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1016, was a light brownish grey, compact, silty clay with moderate flint and occasional charcoal flecks and chalk. It contained post-medieval CBM (1165g), and an Fe fragment (124g).

Oval Pit F1017 (1.69 x 0.91+ x 0.38m; DP 22) was located in the southern part of the trench. It had steep sides and flattish base. It contained L1018, a mid brownish grey, firm, silty clay with moderate charcoal flecks and occasional flint and chalk. Modern (19th-20th century) pottery (45g), CBM fragments (244g), residual struck flint (11g), and coal (23g) were recovered.

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 brownish grey, soft, silty sand with frequent roots (0.15 – 0.35m thick). In Trench 1, in particular the western sector, Topsoil L1000 overlay deposits of made ground up to 0.50m thick. Elsewhere the topsoil lay directly above natural, compact, chalk (L1003). In the southern part of Trench 3 the Chalk L1003 gave way to a light yellowish grey, compact, clay.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The archaeological features are tabulated:

Trench	context	description	Date
1	F1004	Pit	Post medieval
	M1007	Wall	Modern
	F1009 (= F1011 Tr.2)	Ditch	?Late medieval/ post-medieval
	F1019	Pit	?Post medieval
2	F1011 (= F1009 Tr.1)	Ditch	?Late medieval/ post-medieval
	F1013	Pit	Modern
3	F1015	Ditch	Post-medieval
	F1017	Pit	Modern

9.2 Each trench contained features, predominantly pits and also ditches and a wall. Pit F1019 may date to the post medieval period; it contained flecks of CBM. Ditch F1009 (Tr.1) (=F1011 Tr.2) contained a significant quantity of late medieval (15th century) pottery (689g and 193g respectively), though each ditch segment also contained significant quantities of post-medieval CBM (4814g and 814g respectively). The remaining features were post-medieval and modern.

9.3 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for medieval and post-medieval archaeology. Such remains have been found in the vicinity of the site and relate to the medieval and post-medieval settlement of Wendover and the construction of Brook House. The site falls within Zone 3 of the Wendover Historic Town Assessment (Website 1), an area thought to have comprised an eastward extension of the medieval town along Tring Road (formerly East Street).

9.4 The majority of the features were post-medieval (17th century +) and modern. However, Ditch F1009 (=F1011) yielded 15th century pottery and was perpendicular to Tring Road/ parallel to Hale Road. This feature, based on its possible date and orientation, may relate to the medieval town plan as presented in the Wendover Historic Town Assessment (Website 1), perhaps constituting a 'burgage plot' boundary or similar. If 15th century in date, the horn core assemblage from F1009 (=1011) potentially represents craft waste from the medieval town (see Cussans *this* volume). The potential to identify such material forms part of the local archaeological research agenda as stated in the Wendover Historic Town Survey (Website 1), though the present assemblage is too small to permit detailed analysis (Cussans *this* volume). Modern rectangular structure (M1007) may have been a garden feature or small outbuilding. These later features were associated with Brook House which dates from the 17th century.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr. Richard Dell of V & R Homes Ltd for funding the project and for his assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Eliza Alqassar and Mr Sandy Kidd of Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service.

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http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/archaeology/Historic_Towns.page

APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A. Bone (g)	Other
1004	1005	1	Pit	17 th -18 th C	(4) 35g	104		Fe. Frag (1) - 37g
1009	1010	1	Ditch	15 th C	(31) 689g	4814	2962	
1011	1012	2	Ditch	15 th C	(22) 193g	814	184	Fe. Frag (1) - 46g
1013	1014	2	Pit	19 th -20 th C	(1) 9g	344	9	
1015	1016	3	Ditch			1165		Fe. Frag (1) - 124g
1017	1018	3	Pit	19 th -20 th C	(5) 45g	244		Str. Flint (1) - 11g Coal – 23g

APPENDIX 2 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

The Pottery

by Peter Thompson

The evaluation recovered 63 sherds weighing 919g from five features. The pottery has been recorded by context in Table 1.

Ditch F1009 (L1010) contained 31 sherds (647g) of late medieval and early post-medieval pottery ranging in condition from light to moderate abrasion. The assemblage includes glazed Brill/ Boarstall ware, late medieval sandy reduced and oxidised wares, and early post-medieval red earthenware. The latest sherd comprises a brown glazed post-medieval red earthenware which would indicate a late 16th-18th centuries date, but this may be intrusive as the bulk of the assemblage is earlier and not noticeably any more abraded, and a 15th century date is suggested.

Ditch F1011 (L1012) contained 22 sherds weighing 184g comprising a similar medieval pottery group to Ditch F1009. Pit F1004 contained three medieval reduced sandy sherds along with a post-medieval sherd. The remaining pits F1013 and F1017 contained early modern to modern pottery.

KEY:

(Bucks fabric codes have been assigned where applicable)

M40: M40 ware 11th-14th

MCS (MS2): Medieval coarse sandy ware late 13th-early 15th

SO (MS26): Sandy oxidised ware 13th-15th

SGR (MS3/ TLMS3): Sandy grey ware late 12th-15th

SHER (MS3): South Hertfordshire Grey ware late 12th-late 14th

BRIM (MS9): Brill/ Boarstall ware: mid-13th-15th

L/BRIM (MS9): Late Brill/ Boarstall 15th-16th

EPMRE: Early post-medieval red earthenware 15th-16th

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

ENGS (PM28): English stoneware 18th +

ENPO (PM27): English Porcelain late 18th +

TPW (PM25): Transfer Printed ware late 18th+

Feature	Context	Quantity	Date	Comment
Pit 1004	1005	2x30g SHER 1x3g SGR 1x4g PMRE	17 th -18 th	
Ditch 1009	1010	8x259g SGR 4x131g BRIM 10x128g SO 2x27g MCS 1x9g M40 3x55g EPMRE 2x27g ?L/ BRIM 1x11g PMRE	15 th	SGR: x 1 incised strap handle SO: bowl rim MCS: wavy line deco PMRE: intrusive?
Ditch 1011	1012	6x42g BRIM 6x53g SGR 8x74g SO 2x15g EPMRE	15 th	BRIM: 20 cm jar rim SO: 22cm jar rim SGR: cooking pot rim
Pit 1013	1014	1x9g TPW	19 th -20 th	
Pit 1017	1018	3x18g PMRE 1x20g ENGS 1x4g ENPO	19 th -20 th	

Table 1: Quantification of pottery by context

The Ceramic Building Materials

by Andrew Peachey MIfA

The evaluation recovered 130 fragments (7485g) of post-medieval CBM. The CBM is predominantly comprised of peg tile with sparse brick fragments (Table 2, below), including occasional glazed fragments of both form types that were probably manufactured in the 17th-18th centuries. The CBM is highly fragmented but only slightly abraded and includes a concentration of 63 fragments (4814g) of peg tile in Ditch F1009 (L1010).

Post-medieval CBM type	Fabric type	Fragment Count	Weight (g)
Peg Tile (unglazed)	Fabric 1	105	5747
Peg Tile (glazed)	Fabric 2	2	320
Brick (unglazed)	Fabric 1	12	1249
Brick (glazed)	Fabric 2	1	169
<i>Total</i>		<i>130</i>	<i>7485</i>

Table 2: Quantification of CBM form types in the assemblage

The CBM was quantified by fragment count and weight (g) with fabric types and any extant dimensions or characteristics also recorded. All data was entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that forms part of the site archive.

The CBM Fabrics

The CBM occurred in two fabrics, both of which would have been produced locally in the Wendover region, exploiting local clay resources. The latter is a glazed and re-fired version of the former.

- Fabric 1: Typically orange-red throughout, occasionally with reduced margins/core. Inclusions comprise common poorly-sorted quartz (0.1-0.75mm), sparse red clay pellets/ crushed tile (0.25-3mm, coarser in bricks) and sparse black iron ore (0.1-0.5mm)
- Fabric 2: Dark grey surfaces contrasting with a dark red core; the surfaces may have a dark green lead glaze. Inclusions comprise a near vitrified matrix of common poorly-sorted quartz (0.1-0.75mm), sparse dark grey clay pellets/ crushed tile (0.25-3mm, coarser in bricks) and sparse black iron ore (0.1-0.5mm).

The CBM Forms

The bulk of the CBM is accounted for by peg (roof tile), almost entirely in unglazed Fabric 1. The peg tile has partial dimensions of ? x 140 x 12-14mm, with a sanded base, slightly creased profile and two circular peg holes at one end. Ditch F1009 (L1010) contained a concentration of 63 non-cross-joining fragments (4814g) of peg tile, including two Fabric 2 fragments (320g) that exhibited traces of a dark green lead glaze and may have had a supplementary decorative function to the common tile type. In addition to this concentration peg tile was contained in Ditches F1011, F1015, Pits F1004, F1013 and F1017. Similar peg tiles to these were manufactured at Brill (Lilley 1988), c. 22km to the west, from the late 15th century but the peg tiles were slightly thicker and less regular than the examples in this assemblage. This suggests these examples are somewhat later, probably no earlier than the 17th century. The peg tile (and the brick below) was probably produced in the Wendover area possibly at a production centre such as Brill, although other local post-medieval kilns have been recorded at Gt. Missenden, Chesham, Cholesbury and Hartwell (Bucks. HER).

The brick in the assemblage forms a cohesive group but is only present in limited quantity and fragmented condition, in total 13 fragments (1418g). The brick fragments consistently have a thickness of 50-55mm with slightly rounded arrises and slightly creased faces, suggesting a date of manufacture in the 17th or 18th centuries. A single (Fabric 2) fragment contained in Pit F1013 (L1014) exhibits the remnants of a dark green lead glaze on at least one header and stretcher faces. This type of brick was predominantly manufactured in the late 17th to early 18th centuries, often to form part of decorative courses in a wall or as part of a hearth. The remaining sparse fragments of unglazed (Fabric 1) brick were contained in Ditches F1011 and F1015, and Pits F1013 and F1017, always in association with peg tile.

Although the quantity of CBM sampled by the trial-trench evaluation appears limited, it is of sufficient quantity and preservation to suggest that the CBM may be directly associated with a structure in the close vicinity, although the concentration contained in Ditch F1009 is not extensive enough to consider it a demolition dump.

References

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CBM Data											
Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	CBM (g)	Fabric 1			Fabric 2		
						Peg tile 1	Brick 1	Peg Tile 2	Brick 2		
						F	W	F	W	F	W
1004	1005	1	Fill of Pit	17th-18th C	104	8	104				
1009	1010	1	Fill of Ditch	15th C	4814	61	4494		2	320	
1011	1012	2	Fill of Ditch	15th C	814	24	737	1	77		
1013	1014	2	Fill of Pit	19th-20th C	344	1	93	1	82		1
1015	1016	3	Fill of Ditch		1165	8	211	6	954		
1017	1018	3	Fill of Pit	19th-20th C	244	3	108	4	136		
					7485	105	5747	12	1249	2	320
											1
											1

Table 3.

Fabric 1: Typically orange-red throughout, occasionally with reduced margins/core. Inclusions comprise common poorly-sorted quartz (0.1-0.75mm), sparse red clay pellets/crushed tile (0.25-3mm, coarser in bricks) and sparse black iron ore (0.1-0.5mm)

Fabric 2: Dark grey surfaces contrasting with a dark red core; the surfaces may have a dark green lead glaze. Inclusions comprise a near vitrified matrix of common poorly-sorted quartz (0.1-0.75mm), sparse dark grey clay pellets/crushed tile (0.25-3mm, coarser in bricks) and sparse black iron ore (0.1-0.5mm). A glazed, re-fired version of Fabric 1.

Peg tile 1: ?x140x12-14mm flat tile, slightly creased, sanded base, two circular peg hole at one end

Peg tile 2: 12-14mm thick flat tile, slightly creased with a dark green lead glaze on the upper surface

Brick 1: 50-55mm thick, regular slightly rounded arises, slightly creased faces. Probably 17-E18th C.

Brick 2: 50mm thick, slightly creased faces, dark green lead glaze on at least one header and stretcher face. Probably L17-E18th C.

The Struck Flint

by Andrew Peachey

A single flake of struck flint (11g) in a slightly patinated condition was contained in Pit F1017 (L1018). The raw flint is dark grey with a thick white cortex, indicating it was almost certainly sourced from the primary chalk deposits of the Chiltern scarp. The flake comprises a tertiary flake with blade like dorsal scars and appears to have been removed from a pre-prepared striking platform; characteristics that are typical of earlier Neolithic core reduction. However the quantity of evidence is limited and the patination on the flake suggest it has been weathered and re-deposited.

The Animal Bone

By Dr Julia E. M. Cussans

A total of 75 animal bones were recovered from trial trench excavations at Brook House. These derived from L1010 (Ditch F1009), L1012 (Ditch F1011) and L1014 (Pit F1013). The bones were in a generally good state of preservation with little in the way of abrasion or fresh breaks; a small number of the bones showed signs of dog gnawing. Of the 75 bones 26 could not be identified to species; these were classed as either large (cattle or horse sized) or medium (sheep or pig sized) mammal.

The majority of the bones (61) came from L1010 with approximately half of these belonging to cattle. Of these cattle bones 16 were complete or near complete horn cores and a further five were substantial fragments of horn core; other cattle bones comprised a mix of limb and foot bones. A number of the horn cores displayed butchery marks. In the main these consisted of heavy blade chops below the horn core through the parietal, close to its suture with the frontal bone, essentially chopping in horizontally and from the side of the skull. The largest of the horn cores also had its tip sawn off. All of the horns appeared to be of the short horn type and cattle of varying ages were represented; two of the horn cores being noted as coming from particularly young individuals, the smallest of which had chop marks into the base of the horn core. Sheep/ goat (8 bones) and pig (3 bones) were also represented in this assemblage; sheep/ goat by limb bones, some of which showed signs of butchery, and pig by bones of the feet and skull.

Ditch F1011 (L1012) contained a small number of cattle, sheep/ goat and large mammal bones, some of which displayed butchery marks. A single medium mammal long bone shaft fragment was recovered from L1014; this had been entirely sawn through perpendicular to the long axis of the shaft.

Although the excavated animal remains only represent a small assemblage the deposit of cattle horn cores from ?late medieval (15th century) Ditch Fill L1010 (F1009=1011) is particularly interesting and likely represents horn working debris. The spot date attributed to this feature is particularly significant as the potential to identify the presence/ absence of activity (commercial, craft or industrial) within the rear of medieval 'burgage' plots

forms part of the local archaeological research agenda as identified by the Wendover Historic Town Assessment (Website 1). A larger assemblage, if available, would potentially permit assessment of sex ratios from cattle horn core measurements and the identification of working methods based on butchery evidence. A larger overall bone assemblage would also allow the identification of more general economic trends and/ or other 'industrial' activities if butchery, domestic or other waste deposits were excavated.

Websites

1. Wendover Historic Town Assessment (Draft):
http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/archaeology/Historic_Towns.page

The Environmental Samples

by Dr John Summers

Introduction

A single 20 litre bulk soil sample for environmental archaeological assessment was taken during trial excavations at Brook House, Wendover. The sample was from Ditch Fill L1010 (F1009=1011). This report presents the results from the assessment of the bulk sample light fraction and discusses the significance and potential of the material recovered.

Methods

The sample was processed by water flotation at the Archaeological Solutions Ltd facilities in Bury St. Edmunds using a Siraf type flotation tank. The light fraction was captured in a 250µm mesh and the heavy fraction was retained in a 500µm mesh. Once dry, the samples were scanned using a low-power stereomicroscope and any remains recorded.

Results

The remains recorded in the sample are presented in Table 4 below. The main class of material was charred cereal grain, with free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum/ compactum* type) and hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.) both represented. Wheat grains were more numerous than barley grains. A single cotyledon of a medium legume (Fabaceae indet.) was also present, which may have grown as a weed amongst the cereals and been present as a contaminant of the grain.

Discussion and statement of potential

It is unreliable to make any detailed interpretations based on a single sample, but it would appear that cereals were at least used and became carbonised at the site. It is impossible to determine whether the inhabitants of the site were engaged in cereal cultivation and processing. The density of material implies that general refuse disposal is represented, although the presence of cattle

horn cores also suggests some specialist deposition of horn working debris in Ditch F1009 (=1011; L1010; Cussans *this volume*).

Although limited conclusions can be drawn at present, the material in this single sample indicates that recovery of charred macrofossils could be quite good from the site if further work were to be carried out. With a larger assemblage (c. 10+ productive samples containing >50 identified items), the relative importance of the main cereal crops could be assessed. The potential recovery of chaff and non-cereal/ weed taxa would facilitate a better understanding of whether crops were imported or grown locally and, if so, under what conditions they were grown (e.g. soil conditions, sowing times and harvesting techniques). Comparison with analogous sites from the county would allow the results to be put into a regional perspective. Should no further investigations take place at the site, there is no potential for more detailed analysis of the present material.

Site code	AS1268	Sample number	1	Context	1010	Feature	1009=1011	Feature type	Ditch	Spot date	15th century	Volume (litres)	20	Flot (ml)	35	Cereal grains	XX	Cereal chaff	-	Notes	FTW (5), Trit (6), HB (3), Hord (1), NFI (10), Frag (X)	Grain preservation	5	Non-cereal taxa		Molluscs		Contaminants	
																								Seeds	X	Notes	Medium Fabaceae (1)	Molluscs	X

Table 4: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fraction from Brook House, Wendover. Abbreviations: HB = hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.); Hord = barley (*Hordeum* sp.); FTW = free-threshing type wheat (*Triticum aestivum*/ compactum type); Trit = wheat (*Triticum* sp.); NFI = indeterminate cereal grain; Frag = cereal grain fragments.

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OASIS ID: archaeol7-330200

Project details

Project name	BROOK HOUSE, TRING ROAD, WENDOVER, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE TT
Short description of the project	In August 2012 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation on land at Brook House, Tring Road, Wendover, Buckinghamshire (NGR SP 8700 0788; Figs. 1 and 2). The evaluation was commissioned by V and R Homes Ltd and was undertaken prior to the determination of planning permission. Each evaluation trench contained features, predominantly pits and also ditches and a wall. Pit F1019 may date to the post medieval period; it contained flecks of CBM. While Ditch F1009 (Tr.1) (=F1011 Tr.2) contained a significant quantity of late medieval (15th century) pottery (689g and 193g respectively), though each ditch segment also contained significant quantities of post-medieval CBM (4814g and 814g respectively). The remaining features were post-medieval and modern. The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for medieval and post-medieval archaeology. Such remains have been found in the vicinity of the site and relate to the medieval and post-medieval settlement of Wendover and Brook House. The majority of the features were post-medieval (17th century +) and modern, and these later features were associated with Brook House which dates from the 17th century. Late medieval (15th century) pottery was found in Ditch F1009 (=F1011) and is evidence of earlier occupation.
Project dates	Start: 31-07-2012 End: 02-08-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	P3705 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	AS 1268 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PITS Modern
Monument type	DITCHES Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	BUCKINGHAMSHIRE AYLESBURY VALE WENDOVER Brook House, Tring Road, Wendover, Buckinghamshire
Postcode	HP22 6NW
Study area	1800 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 8700 0788 51.76237987232 -0.739230816309 51 45 44 N 000 44 21 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 123m Max: 125m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Project brief originator	BCAS
Project design originator	Jon Murray
Project director/manager	Jon Murray
Project supervisor	Zbigniew Pozorski
Type of sponsor/funding body	V and R Homes Ltd
Name of sponsor/funding body	V & R Homes Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Buckinghamshire County Museum
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","other"
Digital Archive recipient	Buckinghamshire County Museum
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Buckinghamshire County Museum
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Map","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Brook House, Tring Road, Wendover, Buckinghamshire. An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Pozorski, Z
Other bibliographic details	4120
Date	2012

Issuer or publisher Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Place of issue or publication Bury St Edmunds

Entered by Hollie Wesson (admin@ascontract.co.uk)
Entered on 5 October 2018

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DP 10. Trench 2. Looking north-east.



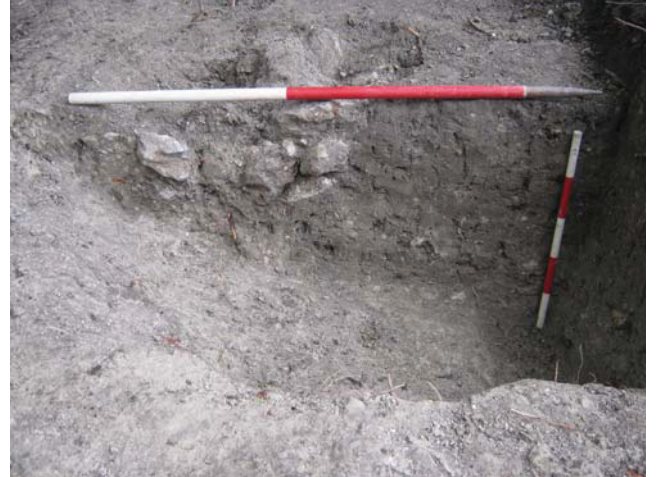
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DP 17. Trench 3. Looking north-west.



DP 18. Trench 3. Looking south-south-east.



DP 19. Trench 1, north end. Sample section 1A. Looking east-north-east.



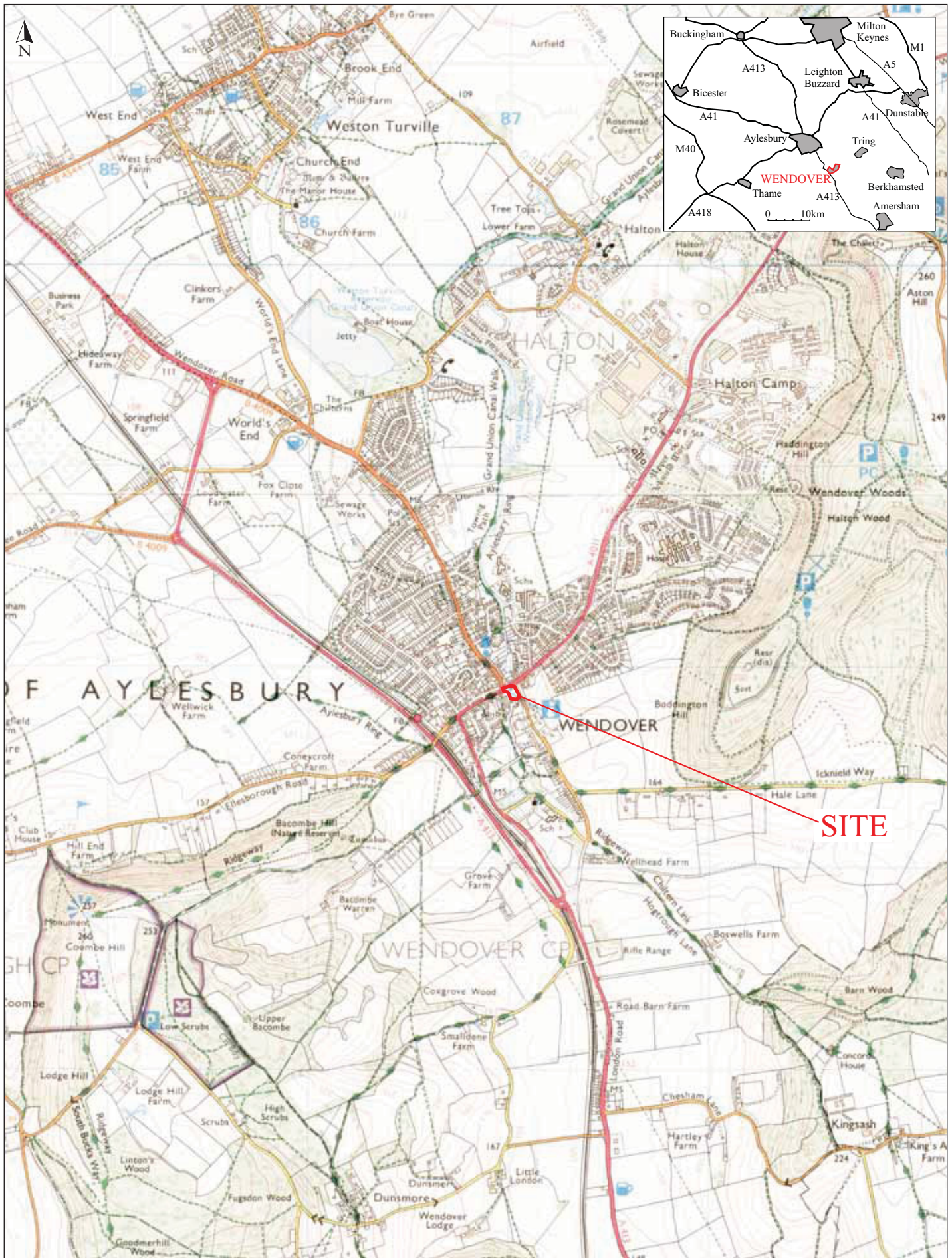
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DP 21. Ditch F1015. Looking east-north-east.

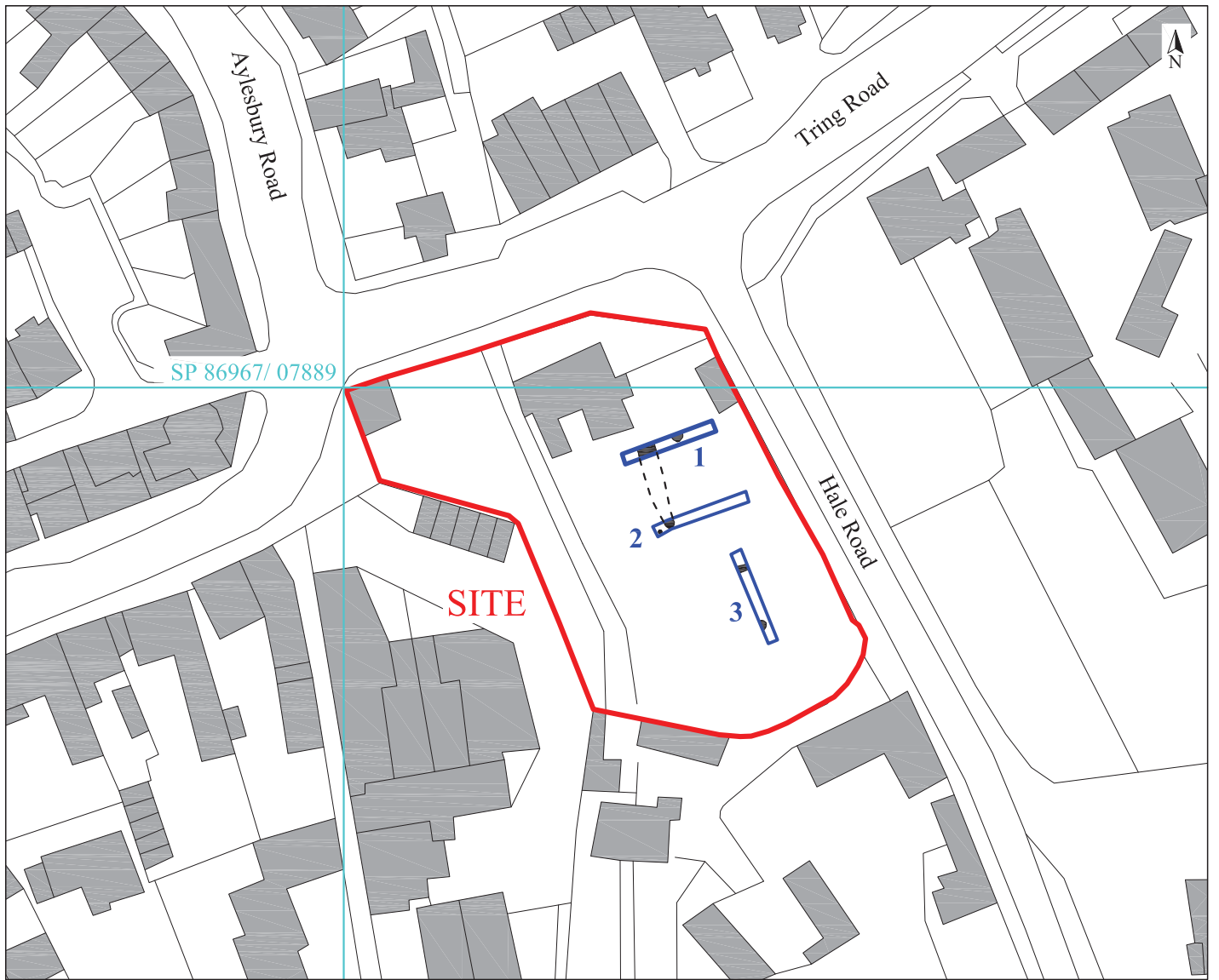


DP 22. Pit F1017. Looking south-south-east.

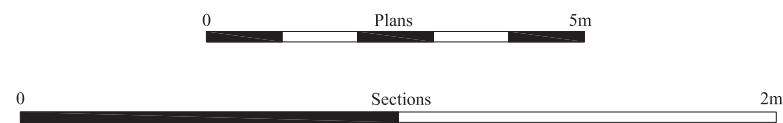
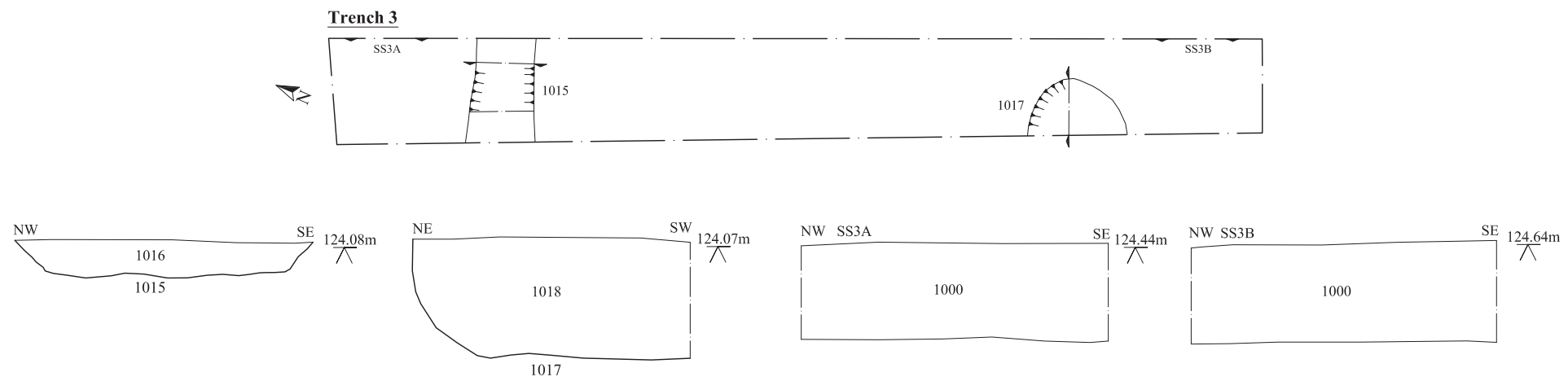
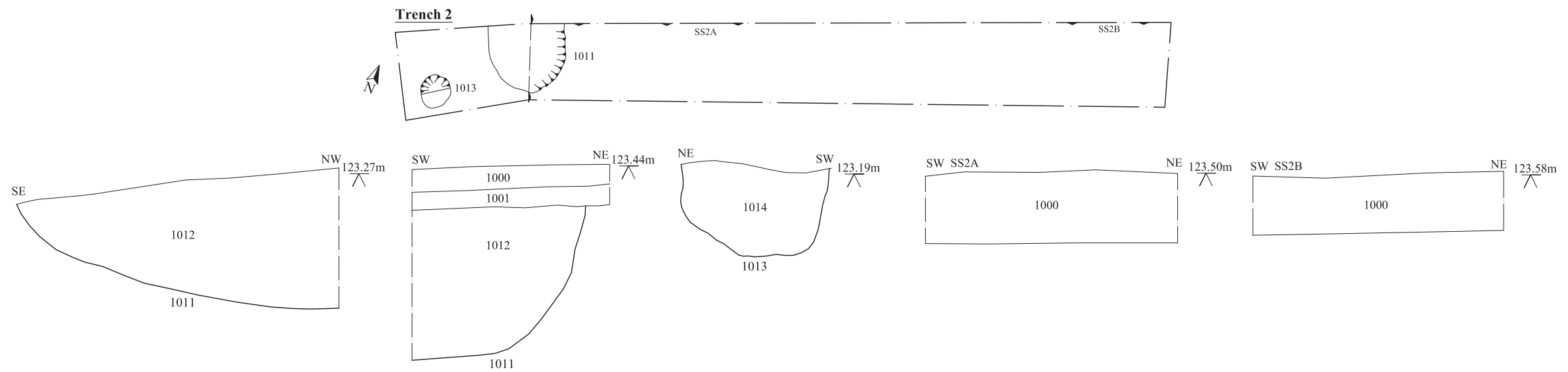
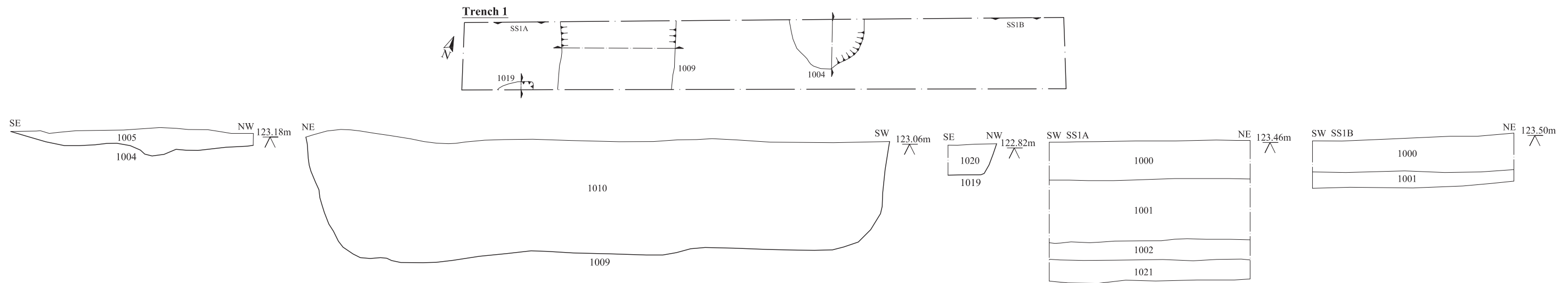


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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:1000 at A4



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Fig. 3 Plans and sections
 Scale plans at 1:100 & sections at 1:20 at A3

