

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

LAND AT 13 SANDERS LANE, POTTERS PURY, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION,
RECORDING, ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION

Authors: Andrew Newton	
NGR: SP 75705 43273	Report No: 5678
District: South Northants	Site Code: AS 1866
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 7010
	Date: 22 October 2018

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Land at 13 Sanders Lane, Potterspur, Northamptonshire.</i>		
<p><i>In April 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring on land at 13 Sanders Lane, Potterspur, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 75705 43273; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by Lodge Park Limited and was undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of a detached dwelling within existing garden land adjacent to No 13.</i></p> <p><i>A test pit evaluation was carried out by AS prior to the determination of the planning application, as required by NCC (Pozorski 2017). Two test pits were excavated. The evaluation revealed a late post-medieval (18th – 19th century) pit. Residual medieval (12th – 14th), late medieval (15th – 16th) and post-medieval (17th – 18th century) pottery was found within the topsoil and made ground layers. The pit may have been a clay extraction pit associated with the kilns known from neighbouring plots.</i></p> <p><i>The monitoring of the excavation of the foundation trenches for the new dwelling revealed only modern made ground layers. No archaeological features or finds were present.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>19th April 2018</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>7010</i>	Site code	<i>AS1866</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Analysis, and Publication</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Garden</i>		
Planned development	<i>Dwelling</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Modern made ground</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Northants</i>	<i>South Northants</i>	<i>Potterspur</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Northamptonshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>NN12 7QF</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 250m²</i>		
NGR	<i>SP 75705 43273</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c.88m</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>NCC</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Archaeological Solutions</i>		
Funded by	<i>Lodge Park Limited</i>		
Full title	<i>Land at 13 Sanders Lane, Potterspur, Northamptonshire. Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Analysis, and Publication</i>		
Authors	<i>Newton, A.</i>		
Report no.	<i>5678</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>October 2018</i>		

LAND AT 13 SANDERS LANE, POTTERSPURY, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATION, INVESTIGATION, RECORDING, ANALYSIS AND PUBLICATION

SUMMARY

In April 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring on land at 13 Sanders Lane, Potterspury, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 75705 43273; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by Lodge Park Limited and was undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of a detached dwelling within existing garden land adjacent to No 13.

The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for medieval and post-medieval archaeology. It lies in an area where archaeological remains of medieval/post-medieval settlement and pottery production are present.

A test pit evaluation was carried out by AS prior to the determination of the planning application, as required by NCC (Pozorski 2017). Two test pits were excavated. The evaluation revealed a late post-medieval (18th – 19th century) pit. Residual medieval (12th – 14th), late medieval (15th – 16th) and post-medieval (17th – 18th century) pottery was found within the topsoil and made ground layers. The pit may have been a clay extraction pit associated with the kilns known from neighbouring plots.

The monitoring of the excavation of the foundation trenches for the new dwelling revealed only modern made ground layers. No archaeological features or finds were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In April 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring on land at 13 Sanders Lane, Potterspury, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 75705 43273; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by Lodge Park Limited and was undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of a detached dwelling within existing garden land adjacent to No 13, as a condition of planning approval S/2017/0332/FUL.

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by the Assistant Archaeological Advisor of Northamptonshire County Council (NCC; dated 12/04/2017) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 01/06/2017) and approved by NCC. The project conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Code of

Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2014).

1.3 The principal objectives for the archaeological observation, monitoring and recording were:

- To determine the location, date, extent, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development, 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 Potterspury is located on A5 Watling Street between Milton Keynes and Towcester, Northamptonshire (Fig. 1). The centre of Milton Keynes, which is in Buckinghamshire, lies c.8km to the south-east. The site comprises a current garden area with raised beds, lawn and driveway to the immediate south of the existing residential dwelling of 13 Sanders Lane, in the north-western sector of Potterspury (Fig. 2).

3 THE EVIDENCE

3.1 Topography, geology & soils

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

3.2 Archaeological & historical background

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

3.2.2 The nucleus of a medieval village probably developed around the church of St. Nicholas c.400m to the east (HER 1223/1/1). The present church dates from the 12th century. A second focal point may have been a Hundred meeting place at Cheley Well, just 20m south of the site (HER 1223/0/24), which dates from at least 1076. The latter may have led to the development of two distinctive 'ends' to the village, with the site at the western 'Blackwell End) as opposed to the eastern 'Lower or Church End'. During the medieval period and certainly by the 14th century a significant pottery industry had developed in the village, giving rise to the place name of 'Potterspury'. The highest concentration of known kilns is c.300m to the east within 'Church End', around the modern Woods Lane and Church Lane (HER 1223/2/5, 6, 7,

¹ Above Ordnance Datum

9, 10 & 11). At least 14 kilns have been recorded in the eastern area of the village, with evidence that several were fired multiple times. The pottery industry has proved more extensive with a kiln and waster dump recorded on the High Street c.150m to the east (HER 1223/2/2 & 8). A second smaller concentration of kilns has been identified in the immediate vicinity of the site. Two medieval kilns were identified within the plot adjacent to the west of the site, and appeared to be extending eastwards into the present site of 13 Sanders Lane (HER 1223/7/8). Two additional medieval kilns were located c.20m to the south (HER 1223/7/1). An outlying kiln was recorded slightly further west (HER1223/2/12). Plots close to the south of the site have revealed large waster dumps of medieval pottery (HER 1223/7/0 & 2), including vessels from the 14th century, possibly from close to the beginning of the industry. Clay pits containing medieval pottery have been excavated c.30m to the west (HER 1223/7/6). Several boundary ditches and rubbish pits have been identified in the eastern 'End' of the village (i.e. HER 1223/0/18), and although less evidence for settlement has been recorded close to the site.

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

3.2.4 A test pit evaluation was carried out by AS prior to the determination of the planning application, as required by NCC (Pozorski 2017). Two test pits were excavated. The evaluation revealed a late post-medieval (18th – 19th century) pit. Residual medieval (12th – 14th), late medieval (15th – 16th) and post-medieval (17th – 18th century) pottery was found within the topsoil and made ground layers. The pit may have been a clay extraction pit associated with the kilns known from neighbouring plots.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 The excavation of the foundation trenches for the new building were monitored (Figs. 2 - 3).

4.2 The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all groundworks likely to affect archaeological remains, the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Encountered features and deposits were cleaned by hand and recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for finds.

5 RESULTS

5.1 The encountered stratigraphy was recorded in sample sections presented below

Sample section 1 0.00 = 87.72m AOD		
0.00 - 0.06m	L1000	Drive surface. Loose, pale grey brown gravel.
0.06 – 0.58m	L1001	Topsoil. Firm, dark grey clay silt with occasional small stones.
0.58 – 1.10m	L1002	Subsoil. Firm, pale-mid brown clay with frequent small stones.
1.10m+	L1003	Natural deposit. Firm, brown grey, fading to blue black, to orange yellow, clay.

Sample section 2 0.00 = 87.69m AOD		
0.00 – 0.14m	L1005	Made ground. Friable, orange brown coarse sand.
0.14 – 0.97m+	L1003	Natural deposit. As above.

Sample section 3 0.00 = 87.56m AOD		
0.00 – 0.11m	L1001	Topsoil. As above.
0.11 – 0.95m+	L1003	Natural deposit. As above.

Sample section 4 0.00 = 87.57m AOD		
0.00 – 0.06m	L1005	Made ground. As above.
0.06 – 0.81m	L1002	Subsoil. As above.
0.81 – 1.20m+	L1003	Natural deposit. As above.

Sample section 5 0.00 = 87.51m AOD		
0.00 – 0.11m	L1006 (=L1001)	Topsoil. Firm, dark grey clay silt with occasional small stones.
0.11 – 0.63m	L1002	Subsoil. As above.
0.63m+	L1003	Natural deposit. As above.

Sample section 6 0.00 = 87.42m AOD West facing		
0.00 – 0.14m	L1006	Topsoil. As above.
0.14 – 0.82m	L1002	Subsoil. As above.
0.82 – 1.05m+	L1003	Natural deposit. As above.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present. Modern services traversed the site.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 In the north-eastern part of the site the Topsoil L1001 (= L1006) was a 0.11 – 0.14m thick layer of firm, dark grey clay silt with occasional small stones. Below L1001 was Subsoil L1002, a firm, pale-mid brown clay with frequent small stones, between 0.52m and 0.68m thick. The natural deposits (L1003) of firm, brown grey, fading to blue black, to orange yellow, clay. were encountered between 0.63m and 0.82m below the current ground surface.

7.2 In the southern part of the site a layer (L1000) of loose, pale grey brown gravel overlay the Topsoil L1001. On the western side uppermost was a 0.14m thick made ground layer (L1005) of friable, orange brown coarse sand; directly overlying the natural deposits L1003.

8 DISCUSSION

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

8.2 An evaluation conducted by AS in 2017 (Pozorski 2017) revealed a late post-medieval (18th – 19th century) pit. Residual medieval (12th – 14th), late medieval (15th – 16th) and post-medieval (17th – 18th century) pottery was found within the topsoil and made ground layers. The pit may have been a clay extraction pit associated with the kilns known from neighbouring plots.

8.3 The monitoring of the excavation of the foundation trenches for the new dwelling recorded modern made ground layers. No archaeological features or finds were present.

9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

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

11 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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OASIS ID: archaeol7-331540

Project details

Project name	LAND AT 13 SANDERS LANE, POTTERS PURY, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE (WB)
Short description of the project	In April 2018 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out archaeological monitoring on land at 13 Sanders Lane, Potterspury, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 75705 43273; Figs. 1 and 2). The monitoring was commissioned by Lodge Park Limited and was undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of a detached dwelling within existing garden land adjacent to No 13. A test pit evaluation was carried out by AS prior to the determination of the planning application, as required by NCC (Pozorski 2017). Two test pits were excavated. The evaluation revealed a late post-medieval (18th - 19th century) pit. Residual medieval (12th - 14th), late medieval (15th - 16th) and post-medieval (17th - 18th century) pottery was found within the topsoil and made ground layers. The pit may have been a clay extraction pit associated with the kilns known from neighbouring plots. The monitoring of the excavation of the foundation trenches for the new dwelling revealed only modern made ground layers. No archaeological features or finds were present.
Project dates	Start: 01-04-2018 End: 30-04-2018
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P7010 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	AS1866 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	MODERN MADE GROUND Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORTHAMPTONSHIRE SOUTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE POTTERS PURY Land at 13 Sanders Lane, Potterspury, Northamptonshire.
Postcode	NN127QF
Study area	250 Square metres

Site coordinates SP 75705 43273 52.082212516376 -0.895093070148 52 04 55 N 000 53 42 W Point
 Height OD / Depth Min: 88m Max: 88m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeological Solutions Ltd
 Project brief originator NCC
 Project design originator Jon Murray
 Project director/manager Jon Murray
 Project supervisor Archaeological Solutions Ltd
 Type of sponsor/funding body Lodge Park Limited
 Name of sponsor/funding body Lodge Park Limited

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
 Digital Archive recipient Northamptonshire County Store
 Digital Contents "none"
 Digital Media available "Database","Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"
 Paper Archive recipient Northamptonshire County Store
 Paper Contents "none"
 Paper Media available "Context sheet","Drawing","Map","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Land at 13 Sanders Lane, Potterspury, Northamptonshire. Archaeological Observation, Investigation, Analysis, and Publication
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Newton, A
 Other bibliographic details 5678
 Date 2018
 Issuer or publisher Archaeological Solutions Ltd
 Place of issue or publication Bury St Edmunds
 Entered by Hollie Wesson (admin@ascontract.co.uk)
 Entered on 3 December 2018

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX (P7010)



1
Site prior to excavation of footings looking south



2
Site prior to excavation of footings looking west



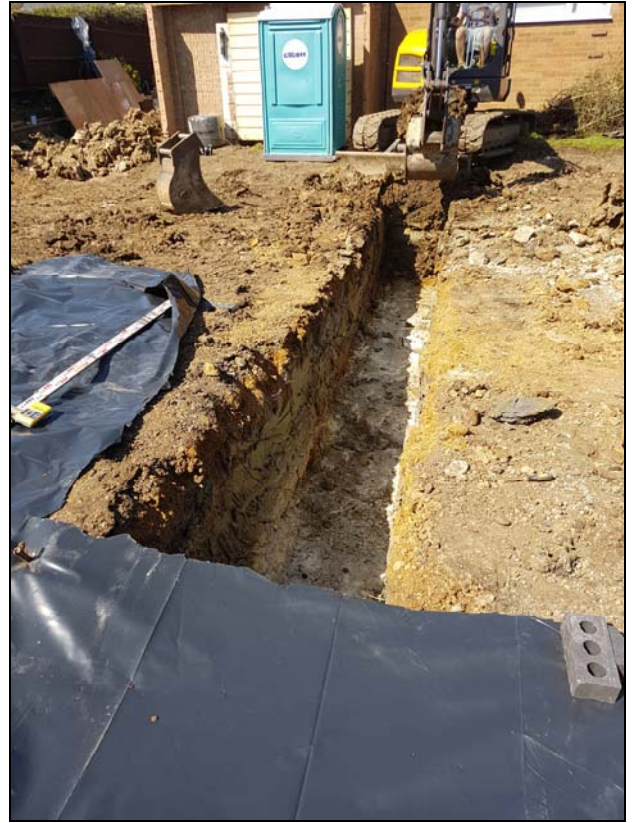
3
Site during excavation of footings looking west



4
Site during excavation of footings looking east



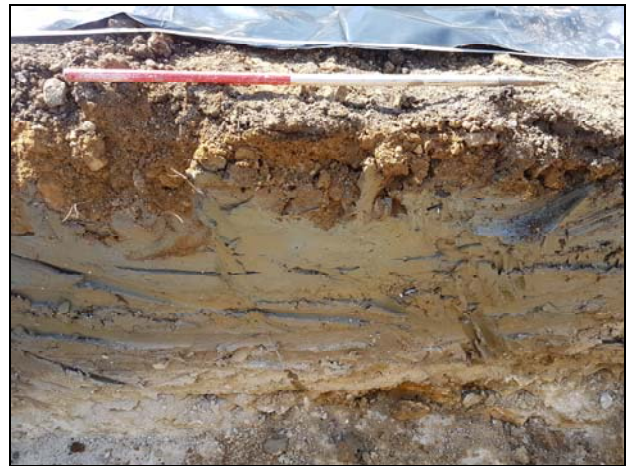
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View along southern foundation cut looking west



6
View along western foundation cut looking north



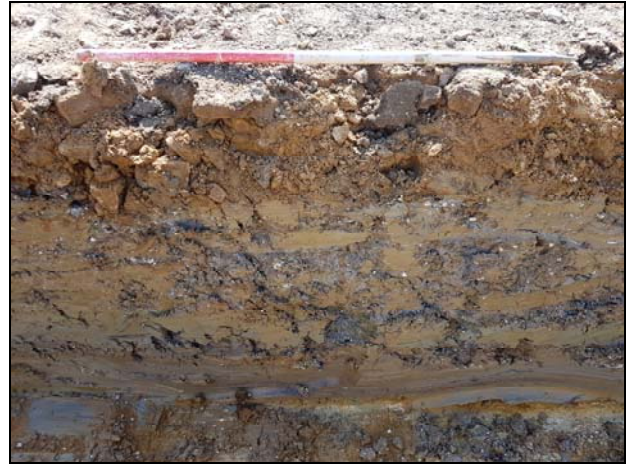
7
Sample Section 1 looking south



8
Sample Section 2 looking west



9
Sample Section 3 looking east



10
Sample Section 4 looking south



11
Sample Section 5 looking south



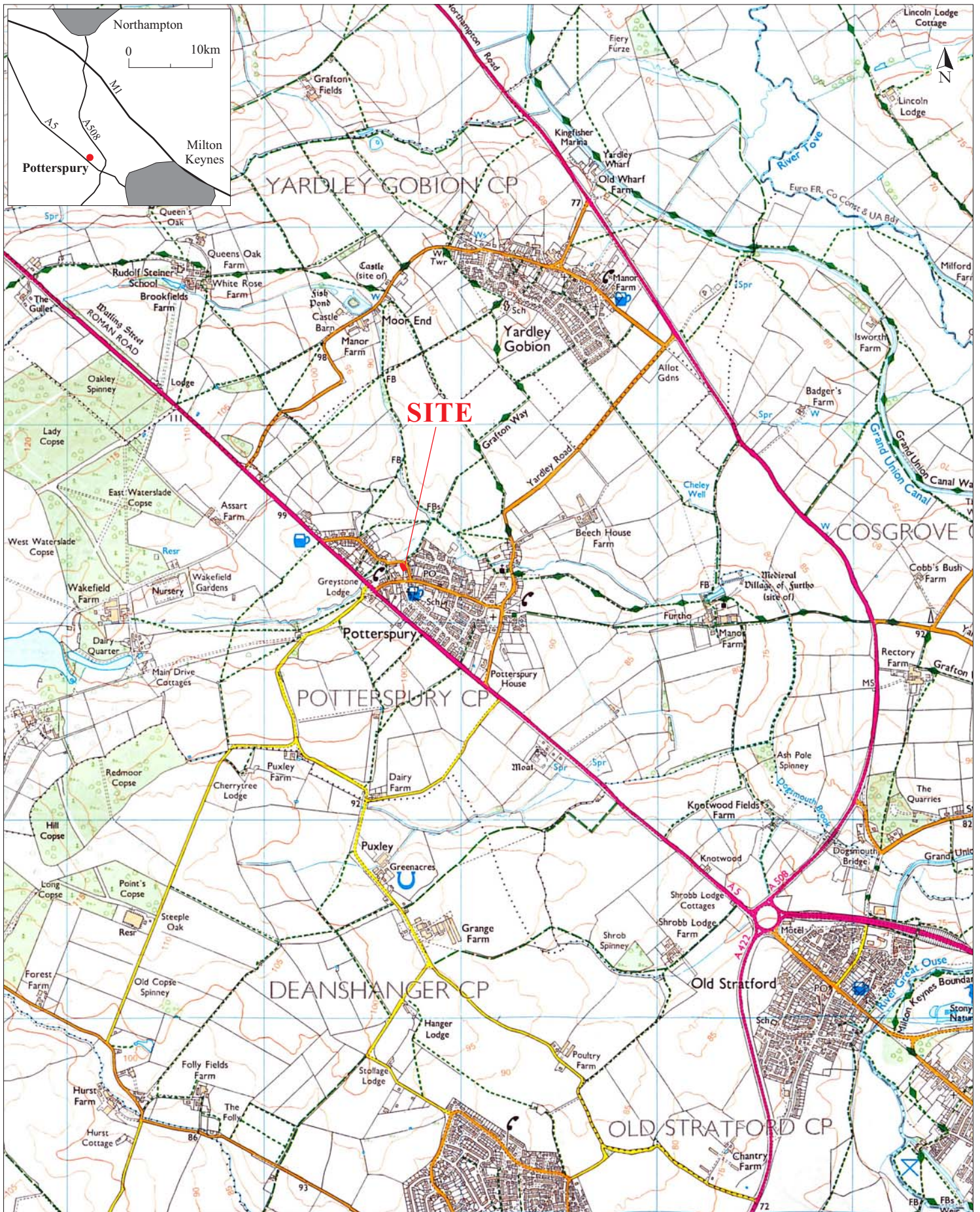
12
Sample Section 6 looking north



13
Site following excavation of footings looking south

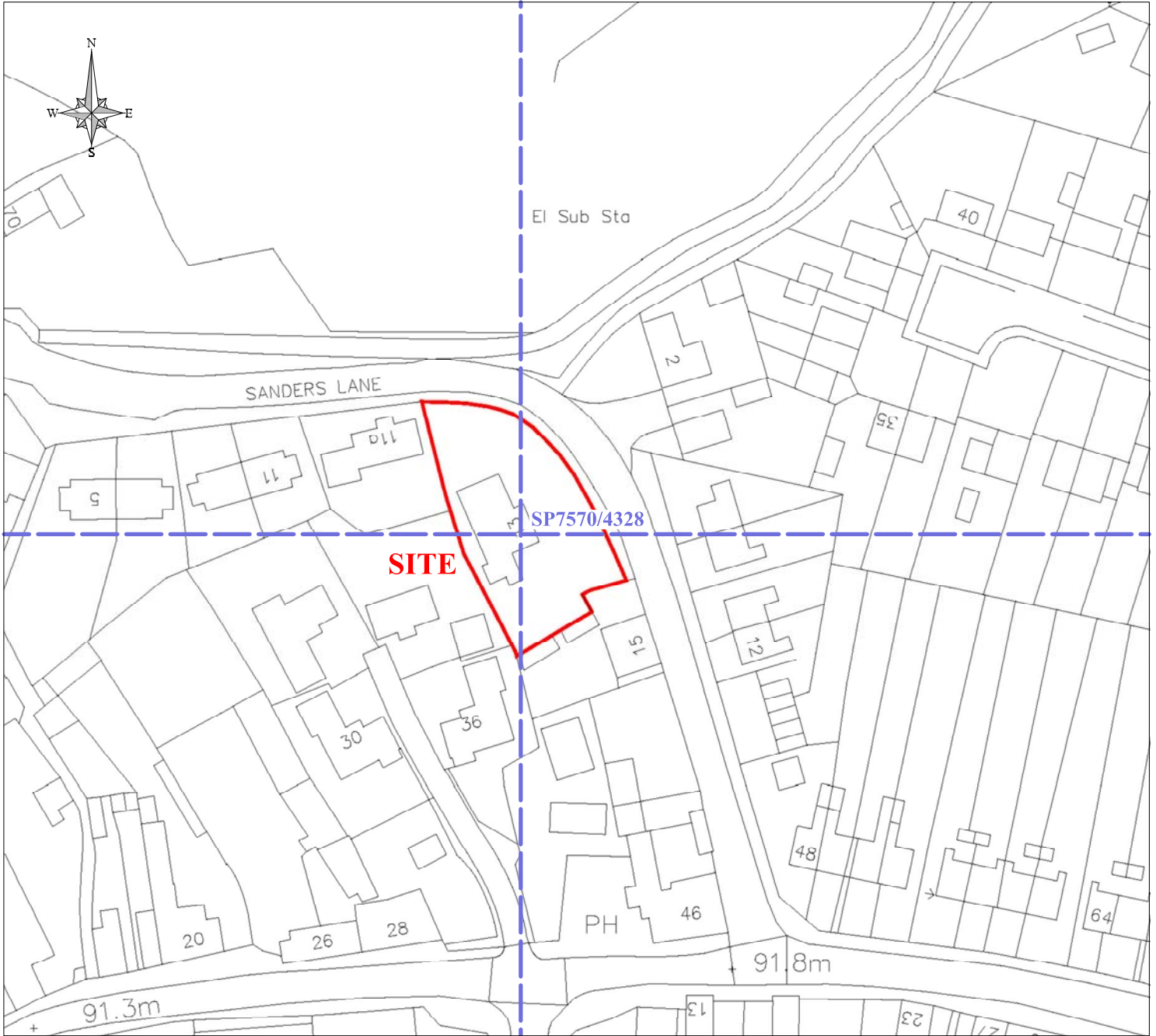


14
Site following excavation of footings looking north

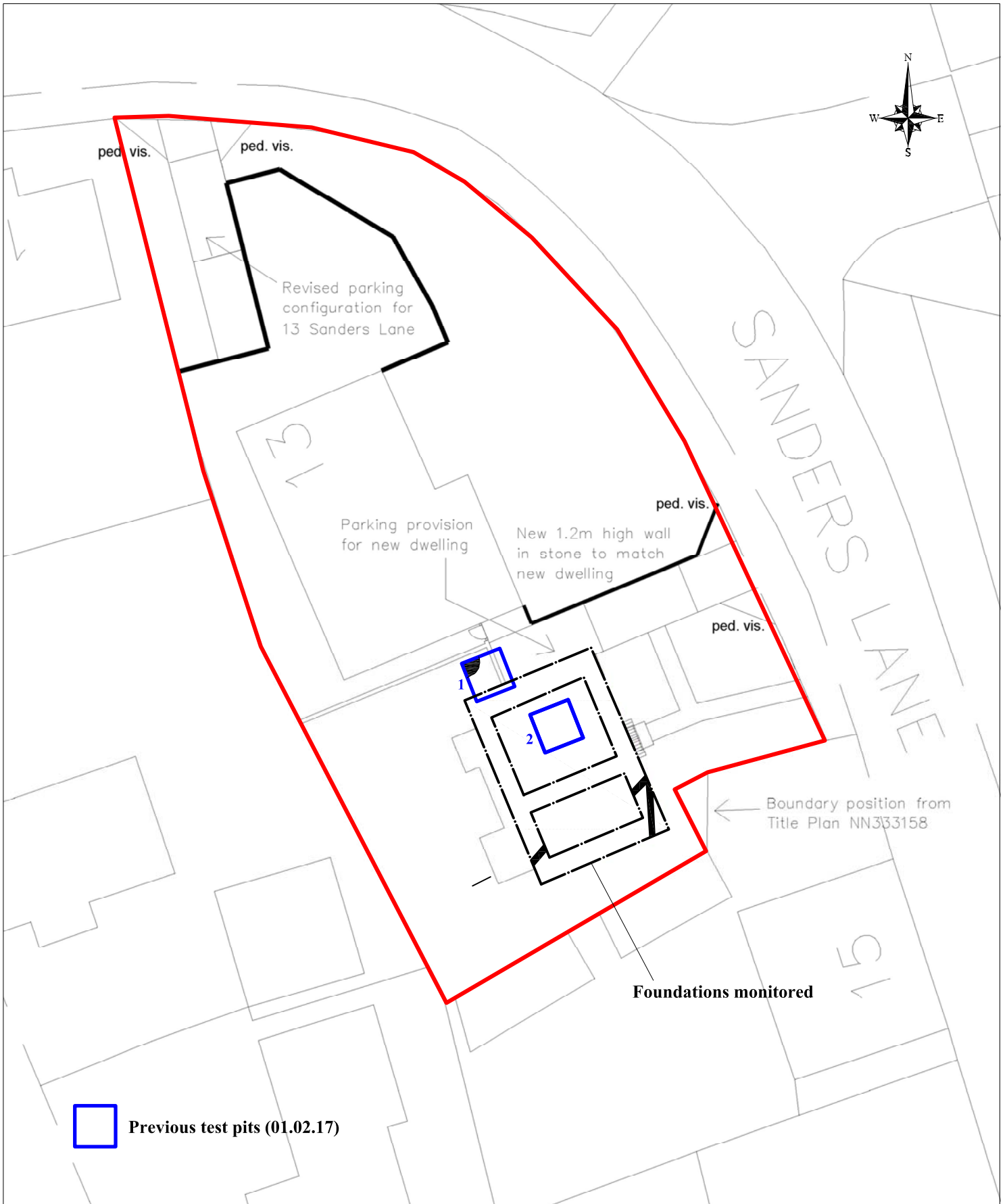


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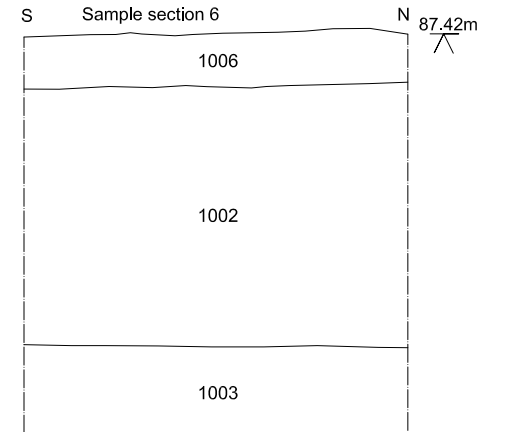
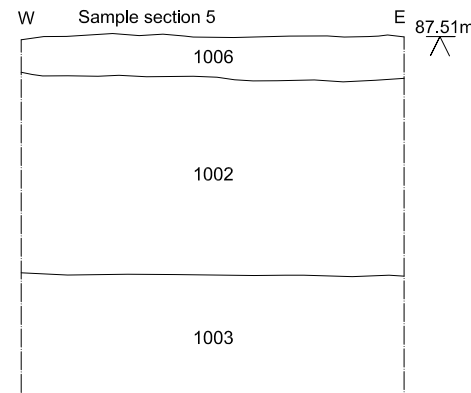
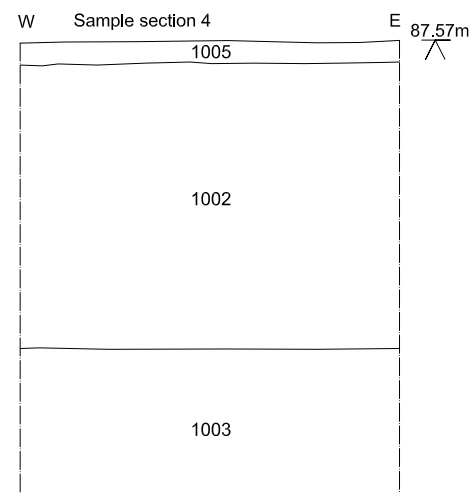
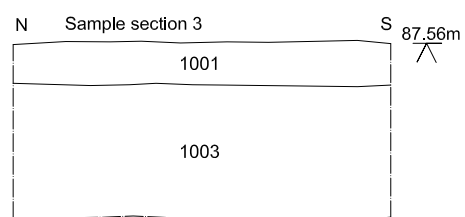
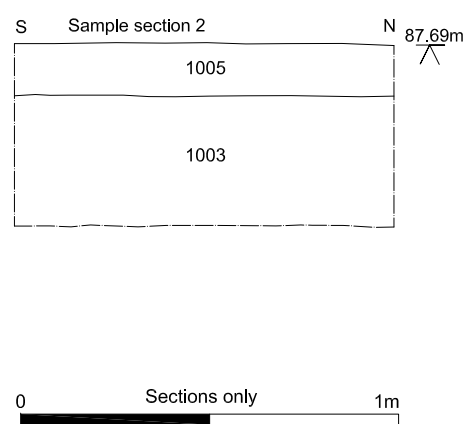
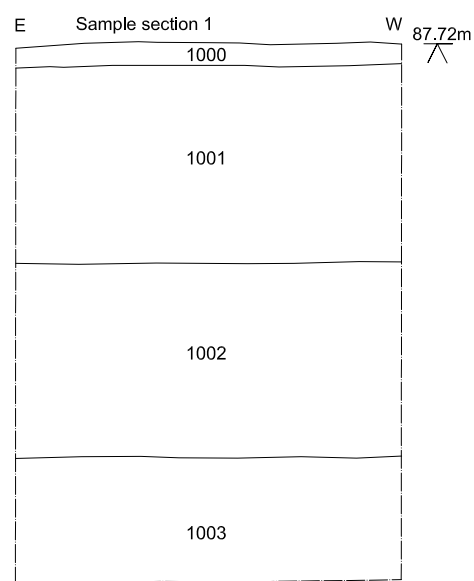
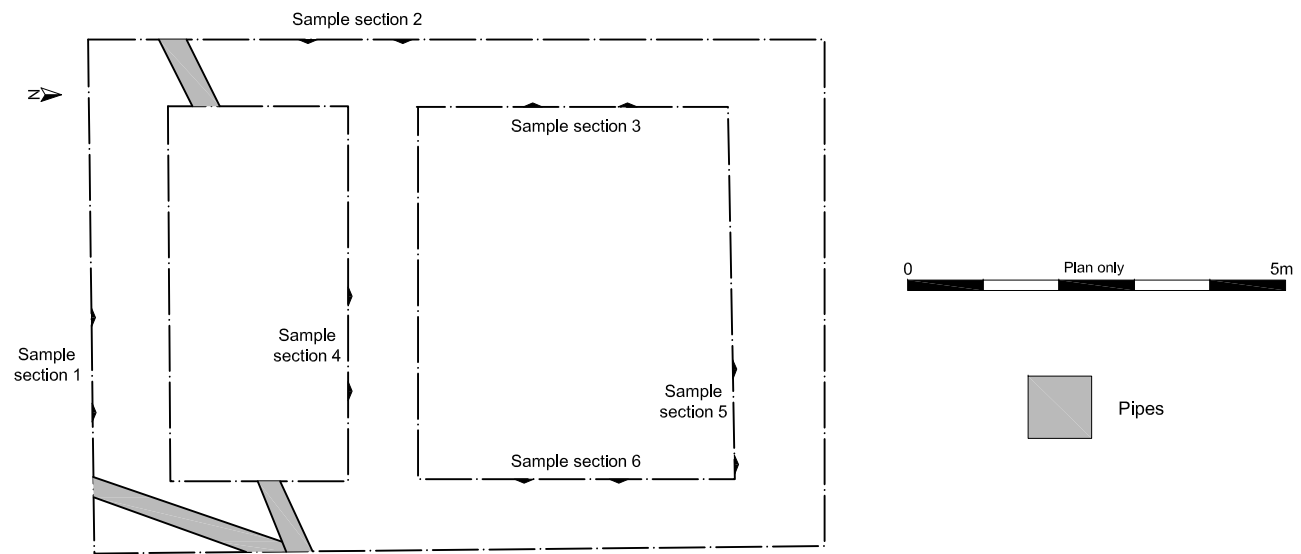
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 13 Sanders Lane, Potterspurty, Northants (P7010)



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



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Fig. 3 Areas of monitoring
Scale 1:250 at A4
13 Sanders Road, Potterspur, Northants (P7010)



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Fig. 4 Trench plan and sections
 Scale Plan 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3
 13 Sanders Lane, Potterspury, Northants (P7010)