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BRIDGE HOUSE DAIRIES, WORLINGTON ROAD, MILDENHALL, SUFFOLK,

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND WATCHING BRIEF

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NGR: TL 7088 7415	Report No: 3026
District: Forest Heath	Site Code: BTM 040
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA Signed:	Project No: 2097
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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET			
Project name	*Bridge House Dairies, Worlington Road, Mildenhall, Suffolk: Archaeological Evaluation & Watching Brief*		

In February 2008, Archaeological Solutions conducted an archaeological evaluation and watching brief of land at Bridge House Dairies, Worlington Road, Mildenhall, Suffolk (NGR TL 7088 7415). The investigations were undertaken in response to a planning condition (F/2007/0871/RMA) attached to the residential redevelopment of the site.

Bridge House Dairies is situated on the south side of the river Lark. It comprises a roughly square parcel of land encompassing an area of c.2.29 hectares. It is bounded to the north by Worlington Road and to the south by the old railway station (now residential). It was until recently in use as a commercial dairy (now demolished).

The evaluation revealed predominantly pits (sealed features) with some ditches. Very few post holes were revealed. A few natural features, mainly tree hollows, were recorded. The largest number of features occurred in Trenches 16, 18, 19 and 20. A substantial ditch was recorded in Trench 19, F1020, and it may equate to Ditch F1021 (Tr.1). Lesser ditches, F1017 and F1019 (Tr.1) may equate to Ditches F1059 and F1060 (Tr.19). Pit F1073, Trench 17, contained a curious chalk lining. In Trench 12 the form of Pits F1083, F1085, F1094 and F1096 (large, steep sided and flat bottomed) were reminiscent of Iron Age storage pits. Many of the features contained finds, principally pottery and animal bone. Very small quantities of struck and burnt flint were found in many features.

The majority of features date to the Iron Age period. Two ditches (F1017; watching brief and F1077 Tr. 17) produced Bronze Age – Iron Age pottery. One feature, Pit F1087 L1088 (Tr.11) was Roman. A few pieces of struck flint occurred in numerous features suggestive of prehistoric activity

It is noted in the background (Section 4.1 below) that the site lies in an important topographic location for prehistoric activity, in particular, being within the Lark Valley on the edge of the higher chalkland above the former wetland fens to the north and north-west. In the event the evaluation revealed the remains of an Iron Age site, likely originally substantial.

Project dates (fieldwork)	*February 2008*		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	*Y*	Future work (Y/N/?)	*Y*
P. number	*2097*	Site code	*BTM 040*
Type of project	*Archaeological evaluation and watching brief*		
Site status			
Current land use	*Dairy (demolished)*		
Planned development	*Approx. 83 residential dwellings*		
Main features (+dates)	*Pits, Ditches*		
Significant finds (+dates)	*Iron Age pottery, animal bone, baked clay thatch or loom weight*		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	*Suffolk*	*Forest Heath*	*Barton Mills*
SMR for area	*Suffolk*		
Post code (if known)			

Area of site	*2.29 ha*
NGR	*TL 7088 7415*
Height AOD (max)	*c.8m AOD*
Project creators	
Brief issued by	*Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service – Conservation Team*
Project supervisor/s (PO)	*M Adams*
Funded by	*Bellway Homes*
Full title	*Bridge House Dairies, Worlington Road, Mildenhall, Suffolk; An Archaeological Evaluation & Watching Brief*
Authors	*Adams, M*
Report no.	*3026*
Date (of report)	*February 2008*

BRIDGE HOUSE DAIRIES, WORLINGTON ROAD, MILDENHALL, SUFFOLK

AN ARCHAELOGICAL EVALUATION & WATCHING BRIEF

SUMMARY

In February 2008, Archaeological Solutions conducted an archaeological evaluation and watching brief of land at Bridge House Dairies, Worlington Road, Mildenhall, Suffolk (NGR TL 7088 7415). The investigations were undertaken in response to a planning condition (F/2007/0871/RMA) attached to the residential redevelopment of the site.

Bridge House Dairies is situated on the south side of the river Lark. It comprises a roughly square parcel of land encompassing an area of c.2.29 hectares. It is bounded to the north by Worlington Road and to the south by the old railway station (now residential). It was until recently in use as a commercial dairy (now demolished).

The evaluation revealed predominantly pits (sealed features) with some ditches. Very few post holes were revealed. A few natural features, mainly tree hollows, were recorded. The largest number of features occurred in Trenches 16, 18, 19 and 20. Features were also present in Trenches 1-2, 9, 11-12 and 14. A substantial ditch was recorded in Trench 19, F1020, and it may equate to Ditch F1021 (Tr.1). Lesser ditches, F1017 and F1019 (Tr.1) may equate to Ditches F1059 and F1060 (Tr.19). Pit F1073, Trench 17, contained a curious chalk lining. In Trench 12 the form of Pits F1083, F1085, F1094 and F1096 (large, steep sided and flat bottomed) were reminiscent of Iron Age storage pits. Many of the features contained finds, principally pottery and animal bone. Very small quantities of struck and burnt flint were found in many features.

The majority of features date to the Iron Age period. Two ditches (F1017; watching brief and F1077 Tr. 17) produced Bronze Age – Iron Age pottery. One feature, Pit F1087 L1088 (Tr.11) was Roman. A few pieces of struck flint occurred in numerous features suggestive of prehistoric activity

It is noted in the background (Section 4.1 below) that the site lies in an important topographic location for prehistoric activity, in particular, being within the Lark Valley on the edge of the higher chalkland above the former wetland fens to the north and north-west. In the event the evaluation revealed the remains of an Iron Age site, likely originally substantial.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In February 2008, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological evaluation and watching brief of land at Bridge House Dairies, Worlington Road, Mildenhall, Suffolk (NGR TL 7088 7415) (Figs. 1-2). The evaluation was undertaken in response to a planning condition (Ref.

F/2007/0871/RMA) attached to the residential development of the site. It is proposed to build up to 100 new homes and offices, and the evaluation was commissioned by Bellway Homes Ltd.

1.2 The evaluation and monitoring were conducted in accordance with a brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCCAS; dated 15/11/2007), and specifications prepared by AS (evaluation dated 19/11/2007; watching brief dated 16/11/2007). The project adhered to the procedures outlined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations,* and *Standard and Guidance for Watching Briefs (rev*ised 2001) and the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14 (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the evaluation were, as set out in the brief (Section 2.1):

- To establish whether any archaeological deposits exist in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ;*
- to identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation;
- to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits;
- to establish the potential for the preservation and survival of environmental evidence; and
- to provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

Planning policy context

1.4 The relevant planning policies which apply to the effect of development with regard to cultural heritage are Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 'Planning and the Historic Environment' (PPG15) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 'Archaeology and Planning' (PPG16) (Department of the Environment).

1.5 PPG16 (1990) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to archaeology. It states that there should always be a presumption in favour of preserving nationally important archaeological remains in situ. However, when there is no overriding case for preservation, developers are required to fund opportunities for the recording and, where necessary, the excavation of the site. This condition is widely applied by local authorities.

1.6 PPG15 (1994) is the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to the conservation of the historic environment by protecting the character and appearance of Conservation Areas and protecting listed buildings (of architectural or historical interest) from demolition and unsympathetic change and safeguarding their settings as far as is possible. This condition is also widely applied by local authorities.

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

2.1 Mildenhall is located *c.* 13km north-west of Newmarket in Forest Heath District, north-west Suffolk. Bridge House Dairies is situated on the south side of Worlington Road, *c.* 0.75km south of Mildenhall town centre. The river Lark runs parallel immediately to the north of the site.

2.2 The site comprises a roughly square parcel of land covering an area c. 2.29 ha. It is bounded to the north by Worlington Road and to the south by the old railway station (now residential). To the immediate east and west, the dairy site borders relatively undeveloped plots of land that include an electricity sub station and Bridge House.

2.3 The site until recently comprised large, modern structures used for commercial diary purposes and as cowsheds, and several smaller single-storey residential structures situated in the south-east. Until recently it was mostly surfaced by concrete hard-standing. An area of grassland was present in the south-western corner, and an area of gravel lay to the south-east. The buildings and areas of hardstanding were subject to demolition during the execution of the archaeological evaluation. The demolition and groundworks were monitored by AS.

3 TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY

3.1 The site lies on the southern bank of the valley of the river Lark, which flows *c.*50m to the north of the site, and to the south of Mildenhall. The site occupies a relatively flat plot of land at a height of *c.* 8m AOD. It rises gradually to the south to form the large shallow floodplain of the river. Other than the settlement of Mildenhall to the north-east, the majority of the surrounding area comprises low-lying agricultural land, much of which is divided by water-filled dykes.

3.2 The site is located on a local drift geology of Holocene River Terrace gravels and alluvium relating to the nearby river Lark, although the Quaternary geology of the remaining surrounding area is unspecified (BGS 1978). The solid geology of the region, however, comprises Lower Chalk, and Middle Chalk to the east of Mildenhall, both of which date to the Cretaceous period. In addition to the chalky drift and chalk, the river Lark and the northernmost section of the site lies upon a drift geology of fen peat, Gault and Lower Greensand.

3.3 The majority of the area surrounding the site comprises soils of the Swaffham Prior association, which are described as well drained calcareous coarse and fine loamy soils over chalk rubble as well as some similar shallow soils (SSEW 1983). The site comprises soils of the Adventurers' 1 association, which lies along the valley bottom and alongside the River Lark. Soils of the Adventurers' 1 association are described as deep peat soils on flat land with groundwater levels often controlled by ditches and pumps, as well as some undrained areas.

4 BACKGROUND

4.1 Archaeological and historical background

An archaeological desk-based assessment of the site has been undertaken (Doyle and Grassam 2006). In summary:

- Mildenhall, Barton Mills and the Lark Valley in general have yielded evidence for activity for all archaeological periods. In particular, the SMR evidence suggests a local potential for archaeology associated with the Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods. There is a potential for prehistoric finds, such as Palaeolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age flint scatters, although these often occur as residual finds in later deposits and prehistoric features themselves are scarce. No earthworks or standing archaeological remains were visible on the site.

- The site lies in an important topographic location for prehistoric activity, in particular, being within the Lark Valley on the edge of the higher chalkland above the former wetland fens to the north and north-west. It is a prime area for the construction of burial monuments which are known locally. It is also on the edge of the Breckland area. The Icknield Way, the important prehistoric routeway between Wessex and East Anglia, passes close to the south of the site, whilst important flint mines of the Breckland lie to the north-east. The potential for prehistoric remains is attested by Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age finds spots within close proximity of the site.

- Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon occupation of the Lark Valley is also well-known (Glazebrook 1997). The site lay on the periphery of the medieval settlement of Mildenhall to the north, yet within the parish of Barton Mills. The proximity to the river Lark likely attracted some degree of occupation, possibly the site of an early mill on the river. During the medieval period there does not appear to have been any development within the site.

- The post-medieval and modern cartographic sources consistently reveal that the majority of the site remained as part of an agricultural field until at least 1959, and presumably until the construction of the dairy in the 1960s. Although the ownership of the site at the time of the 1796 enclosure map was not clearly depicted, there was a reference to it being an old enclosure of belonging to Sir Grey Cooper (Baronet), but no detail regarding the land use of the site. The ownership of the site at the time of the 1848 tithe also remains unknown due to the lack of an associated tithe apportionment.

- The Ordnance Survey maps reveal that whilst the majority of the site remained undeveloped until the modern period. A range of farm buildings or 'cowsheds' were built in the north-eastern corner at some point before 1884, and a rectangular structure was constructed in the early 20th century. It is likely that the structures on the frontage were associated with Bridge House, barely 20m to the east of the site, particularly since the later rectangular structure was enclosed within a boundary, which also incorporated Bridge House. The site was possibly thus part of a farmland estate

associated with Bridge House and Farm, and the dairy likely developed in 1935 from a small-scale farm dairy to the milk depot of the 1960s onwards.

• The modern Ordnance Survey maps record that there was several stages of building work on the site, and thus groundworks have taken place over several phases, all of which are likely to have truncated and disturbed archaeological deposits. By 1970 the site had been developed and contained no less than six structures including three residential dwellings in the south-eastern corner. By 1984 the three houses remained, but one of the milk depot structures had been extended, and additional four structures, including a tank, constructed.

• Likely truncation and disturbance of archaeological deposits, where present, will have been caused by the various phases of development on the site, which date from the 1960s onwards and consist of at least three stages of building work. Pits, used for effluent storage, and storage tanks are also likely to have caused significant localised truncation in the western/central parts of the site.

• Consultation of recent borehole logs indicated that the site has been truncated. No former land surfaces or subsoil horizons appeared to survive, and it appear that large parts of the site have been previously stripped to the surface of the terrace gravels prior to the casting of concrete ground slabs. The latter relate to the former dairy buildings. The borehole survey confirms that the site is underlain by terrace sands/gravels at shallow depth, above chalk bedrock. No alluvial clays or peats were recorded across the site.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Twenty trial trenches were excavated, totalling 635m (Fig. 2). The individual trenches varied in length between 30-35m; all were 1.8m in width. All the trenches were linear, with the exception of Trenches 1 & 2, which consisted of two intersecting trenches forming a 'T'-shape. The trenches were positioned to avoid areas of known ground disturbance identified by the desk-based assessment and those likely to have been truncated by recently-demolished structures.

5.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a 360° degree mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Thereafter, all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the trenches were scanned by metal detector.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Watching brief

Description: two ditches (F1006 and F1012) were observed, dug and recorded while demolition of the site was in progress.

Ditch F1006, was a linear ditch (20.00m+ long x 1.70m wide x 0.70m deep), located on the west side of the site mid way between the north and south boundaries, close by Trenches 1-2. It was aligned NNE/SSW. It had steep sides which tapered to a narrow base giving a 'V' shaped profile. Its fill. was a light grey/brown clay silt of very firm consistency with moderate chalk flecks. It contained animal bone (316g) and burnt flint (<1g). This was possibly a prehistoric boundary ditch.

Ditch F1012, was a large linear ditch (10.00m+ long x 1.99m wide x 0.77m deep), aligned N/S, and located on the eastern side of the site mid way between the north and south site boundaries. It was located underneath one of the former dairy buildings. It had moderate to steep, irregular sloping sides and an irregular narrow base resulting in a 'V' shaped profile. It contained two fills. The primary fill, L1013, was a dark red/brown sandy silt. The upper fill, L1014, was a mid red/brown sandy silt of friable consistency. No finds were recovered from either fill. Continuity of this feature was found during the subsequent trial trenching.

Individual trench descriptions are presented:

6.1 Trench 1 Fig. 3

Sample section: S end, N facing *0.00 = 8.07m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.41m	L1000. Topsoil. Mid – dark grey/brown sandy silt
0.41 – 0.62m	L1004. Subsoil. Mid red/brown sandy silt with occasional chalk fragments
0.62m +	L1005. Natural. White chalk/light yellow sand gravel

Sample section: N end, S facing *0.00 = 8.06m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000. Topsoil. As above
0.24 – 0.66m	L1004. Subsoil. As above
0.60m +	L1005. Natural chalk/gravel. As above

Description: Trenches 1 and 2 formed a 'T' shape. It contained two gullies (F1017 & F1019) and a ditch (F1021). The gullies were also recorded in Trench 2

Gully F1017 (10m+ long x 0.55m wide x 0.20m deep) was possibly a re-cut of Gully F1019. It was aligned SE/NW, parallel to Gully F1019 and Ditch F1021. It extended beyond the north-western edge of Trench 1. It had moderate to steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1018, was a light grey/brown sandy silt. It contained Bronze – Iron Age pottery (52g) and animal bone (42g). Gully F1017 was also recorded in Trench 2.

Gully F1019 (10m+ long x 0.78m wide x 0.22m deep|) was cut by Gully F1017. It was aligned SE/NW parallel to Gully F1017 and Ditch F1021. It extended beyond the north-western edge of Trench 1. It had moderate to steep sides, and a concave base. Its fill, L1020, was a light grey/brown sandy silt. It contained Late Iron Age pottery

(8g), animal bone (2g) and burnt flint (30g). Gully F1019 was also recorded in Trench 2.

Ditch Terminal F1021 (1.56m+ long x 1.30m+ wide x 0.45m deep) was aligned SE/NW parallel to Gullies F1017 and F1019. It had relatively steep irregular sides and an irregular narrow base. Its fill, L1007, was a medium to dark grey/ brown sandy silty. It contained Mid – Late Iron Age pottery (16g) and animal bone (34g). This ditch seemed to respect the earlier boundaries.

6.2 Trench 2 Fig. 3

Sample section: E end, N facing *0.00 = 7.983m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000. Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.23 – 0.42m	L1004. Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.42m +	L1005. Natural chalk/gravel. As above Tr.1

Sample section: W end,E facing *0.00 = 7.81m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.40m	L1000. Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.40 – 0.64m	L1004. Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.64m +	L1005. Natural chalk. As above Tr.1

Description Trench 2 contained two gullies (F1017 & F1019) also recorded in Trench 1

Gully F1017 (10m+ long x 0.52m wide x 0.360m deep) was aligned SE/NW on a parallel alignment to the Gully F1019 and Ditch F1021. It extended beyond the northern edge of Trench 2 into Trench 1. It had moderate to steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1018, was a light grey/brown sandy silt. No finds were present.

Gully F1019 (Segment B) (10m+ long x 0.87m wide x 0.40m deep|) was aligned SE/NW parallel to the Gully L1017 and Ditch F1021. It extended beyond the northern edge of Trench 2 into Trench 1. It had moderate to steep sides, and a concave base. Its fill L1020, was a light grey/brown sandy silt. It contained no finds.

6.3 Trench 3 Fig. 3

Sample section: E end, W facing *0.00 = 8.67m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.21m	L1008. Made Ground. Light orange/yellow sand gravel rubble with CBM
0.21 – 0.36m	L1003. Demolition/levelling layer. Dark grey/brown sandy silt.
0.36 – 0.58m	L1004. Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.58m +	L1005. Natural chalk. As above Tr.1

Sample section: W end, E facing *0.00 = 8.50m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.22m	L1008. Made Ground. As above.
0.22 – 0.40m	L1003. Demolition/levelling. As above.
0.40 – 0.71m	L1004. Natural chalk/gravel. As above Tr.1
0.71m +	L1005. Natural chalk/gravel. As above Tr.1

Description: Trench 3 contained a pit, F1023

Pit F1023 was small (0.50m+ long x 0.40m wide x 0.22m deep). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1024, was a mid orange/brown sandy silt. It contained animal bone (44g) and daub (8g).

6.4 Trench 4

Sample section: N end, W facing *0.00 = 8.39m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.90m	L1015. Demolition Layer with CBM, concrete and mixed soils
0.90m +	L1005. Natural. Chalk/gravel. As above Tr.1

Sample section: S end, W facing *0.00 = 7.79m AOD*	
0.00 – 1.15m	L1015. Demolition Layer. As above
1.15m +	L1005. Natural chalk/gravel. As above Tr.1

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present possibly due to the ground being truncated

6.5 Trench 5

Sample section: E end, N facing *0.00 = 8.39m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.60m	L1015. Demolition Layer. As above Tr.4
0.60m +	L1005. Natural. Chalk/gravel. As above Tr.1

Sample section: S end, N facing *0.00 = 7.79m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.95m	L1015. Demolition Layer. As above Tr.4
0.95m +	L1005. Natural chalk/gravel. As above Tr.1

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present possibly due to the ground being truncated.

6.6 Trench 6

Sample section: E end, N facing *0.00 = 8.02m AOD*	
0.00 – 1.20m	L1015. Demolition Layer. As above Tr.4
1.20m +	L1005. Natural. Chalk/gravel. As above Tr.1

Sample section: S end, N facing *0.00 = 8.58m AOD*	
0.00 – 1.05m	L1015. Demolition Layer. As above Tr.4
1.05m +	L1005. Natural chalk/gravel. As above Tr.1

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present possibly due to the ground being truncated.

6.7 Trench 7

Sample section: E end, S facing *0.00 = 8.69m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.85m	L1015. Demolition Layer. As above Tr.4
0.85m +	L1005. Natural. Chalk/gravel. As above Tr.1

Sample section: W end,S facing *0.00 = 8.53m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.57m	L1015. Demolition Layer. As above Tr.4
0.57m +	L1005. Natural chalk/gravel. As above Tr.1

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present possibly due to the ground being truncated.

6.8 Trench 8

Sample section: S end, W facing *0.00 = 8.49m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.66m	L1015. Demolition Layer. As above Tr.4
0.66m +	L1005. Natural. Chalk/gravel. As above Tr.1

Sample section: N end, W facing *0.00 = 8.48m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.71m	L1015. Demolition Layer. As above Tr.4
0.71m +	L1005. Natural chalk/gravel. As above Tr.1

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present possibly due to the ground being truncated. A modern service trench was present.

6.9 Trench 9 Fig. 4

Sample section: S end, W facing *0.00 = 8.13m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.95m	L1015. Demolition Layer. As above Tr.4
0.95m +	L1005. Natural. Chalk/gravel. As above Tr.1

Sample section: N end, W facing *0.00 = 8.50m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.80m	L1015. Demolition Layer. As above Tr.4
0.80m +	L1005. Natural chalk/gravel. As above Tr.1

Description: Trench 9 was intermittently truncated. It contained a Pit/Tree hollow (F1118) and a Pit (F1120).

Pit/Tree hollow F1118, was a medium-sized pit or possible tree hollow (1.60m long x 1.00m+ wide x 0.22m deep). It was partially revealed. It had shallow, irregular sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1119, was a light yellow/brown sandy silt. No finds were present.

Pit F1120 was a medium-sized (1.60m long x 0.85m+ x 0.23m deep). It had shallow moderately sloping side and a slightly irregular flattish base. Its fill, L1121, was a mid yellow/brown sandy silt. It contained pottery (30g), animal bone (66g) and a copper alloy ring fragment (SF1; <1g), and struck flint (4g).

6.10 Trench 10

Sample section: S end, W facing *0.00 = 8.08m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.80m	L1015. Demolition Layer. As above Tr.4
0.80m +	L1005. Natural. Chalk/gravel. As above Tr.1

Sample section: N end, W facing *0.00 = 8.35m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.77m	L1015. Demolition Layer. As above Tr.4
0.77m +	L1005. Natural chalk/gravel. As above Tr.1

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present possibly due to the ground being truncated.

6.11 Trench 11 Fig.4

Sample section: S end, W facing *0.00 = 8.49m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.09m	L1000. Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.09 – 0.33m	L1016. Buried Topsoil.
0.33 – 0.74m	L1004. Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.74m+	L1005. Natural. Chalk/gravel. As above Tr.1

Sample section: N end, W facing *0.00 = 8.48m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.17m	L1002. Made Ground. Base construction layer for dairy.
0.17 – 0.44m	L1016. Buried Topsoil. As above.
0.44 – 0.89m	L1004. Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.89m+	L1005. Natural chalk/gravel. As above Tr.1

Description Trench 11 contained a modern service trench aligned NE/SW. It also contained two pits, F1087 and F1099

Pit F1087 was a medium to large sized pit (1.70m long x 1.50m wide x 0.39m deep). It was oval in plan. It had irregular moderately sloping sides and a slightly irregular flattish base. Its fill, L1088, was a medium yellow/brown sandy silt. It Roman pottery (242g), animal bone (172g), daub (<1g) and struck flint (<1g)

Pit F1099 was a circular medium sized pit, (1.10m long x 1.04 wide x 0.19m deep). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1100, was a mid yellow/brown sandy silt. It contained Late Iron Age pottery (350g) and animal bone (58g). The fill was flecked with charcoal and showed evidence of burning.

6.12 Trench 12 Fig. 4

Sample section: W end, S facing *0.00 = 8.09m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.06m	L1002. Made Ground. As above Tr.11
0.06 – 0.18m	L1003. Demolition/levelling layer. As above Tr.3
0.18 – 0.35m	L1016. Buried Topsoil. As above Tr.11
0.35 – 1.10m	L1004. Subsoil. As above Tr.1
1.10m+	L1005. Natural. Chalk/gravel. As above Tr.1

Sample section: E end ,N facing *0.00 = 8.07m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.05m	L1002. Made Ground. As above Tr.11
0.05 – 0.12m	L1003. Demolition/levelling layer. As above Tr.3
0.12 – 0.34m	L1016. Buried Topsoil. As above Tr. 11
0.34 – 0.61m	L1004. Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.61m+	L1005. Natural chalk/gravel. As above Tr.1

Description: Trench 12 contained 5 pits (F1083, F1085, F1094, F1096 & F1101)

Pit F1083 was a large circular pit (1.40m long x 1.40m wide x 0.75 m deep). It had very steep, slightly obliquely cut, sides giving a slight 'bell' shape profile. The base was flat. The feature was likely a storage pit backfilled with domestic waste at the end of its usage. It contained two fills tabulated below. It also contained re-deposited chalk (L1005)

Context	Description	Finds (count; weight)	Spot Date
L1084 Upper	Mid grey brown sand/clay with moderate chalk	Late IA pottery (459g), animal bone (2990g), struck flint (64g), burnt stone (212g)	
L1089 Basal	Light grey/yellow, compacted clay/sand	Late IA pottery (42g), animal bone (1264g), daub (293g)	

Fills of Pit F1083

Pit F1085 was a medium sized circular pit (1.21m long x 1.12m wide x 0.29m deep). It had steep, vertical sides and an irregular flattish base. Its fill, L1086, was a dark yellow/brown sand/silt with occasional flecks of charcoal. It contained no finds

Pit F1094 was a large circular pit (1.46m long x 1.13m+ wide x 0.48m deep). It had steep vertical sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1095, was a medium grey/brown sandy silt. It contained Mid – Late Iron Age pottery (14g), animal bone (269g) and burnt flint (16g). Again this feature appeared to be an Iron Age storage pit backfilled at the end of it use.

Pit F1096 was a large circular pit (1.70m long, 0.85m+ wide x 0.55m deep). It had steep, vertical sides and a flat base. Its form was similar to Pits F1083 and F1094, and it was also probably a storage pit back filled with domestic waste at the end of its use. The primary fill, L1098, was relatively compact and may represent a lining for the pit. It contained two fills tabulated below:

Context	Description	Finds (count; weight)	Spot Date
L1097 Upper	Mid yellow brown, sandy silt with moderate chalk and flint	Late IA pottery (88g), animal bone (487g), struck flint (<1g)	
L1098 Basal	Mid - light grey brown, sandy silt	Animal bone (88g)	

Fills of Pit F1096

Pit F1101 was a medium-sized circular pit with slightly irregular edges (0.98m long x 1.06m wide x 0.19m deep). It had slightly irregular, moderately sloping sides, and an irregular flattish base. Its fill, L1102, was a mid to dark grey/brown sandy silt. It contained animal bone (188g) including a horn placed at the central base of the pit. The pit had suffered considerable rooting action causing its irregular form

6.13 Trench 13

Sample section: W end, N facing *0.00 = 7.63m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.80m	L1015. Demolition Layer. As above Tr.4
0.80m +	L1005. Natural. Chalk/gravel. As above Tr.1

Sample section: E end, N facing *0.00 = 7.79m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.91m	L1015. Demolition Layer. As above Tr.4
0.91m +	L1005. Natural chalk/gravel. As above Tr.1

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present possibly due to the ground being truncated.

6.14 Trench 14 Fig. 5

Description:	
0.00 – 0.41m	L1015. Demolition Layer. As above Tr.4
0.41 – 0.75m	L1004. Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.75m +	L1005. Natural. chalk/gravel As above Tr.1

Sample section: E end, S facing *0.00 = 8.00m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.42m	L1000. Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.42 – 0.82m	L1004. Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.82m +	L1005. Natural chalk/gravel. Tr.1

Description: Trench 14 contained two modern features: a sewerage pipe and a large service trench/chamber. Trench 14 also contained a large natural tree hollow. Four pits were recorded in Trench 14 (F1122, F1132, F1134 & F1136).

Pit F1122 was a medium sized circular pit (1.40m long x 1.05m+ wide x0.40m deep). It had steep sides and an irregular flattish base. Its fill, L1123, was a mid brown/grey sandy silt with chalk. It contained a large volume of animal bone (1292g) and Late Iron Age pottery (42g)

Pit F1132 was a medium to small circular pit (0.90m long x 0.44m+ wide x 0.15m deep). It had moderately sloping sides and a flat slightly concave base. Its fill, L1133, was a mid to dark grey/brown sandy silt. It contained Mid – Late Iron Age pottery (24g) and animal bone (106g).

Pit F1134 was a large circular pit (1.00m long x 1.00m wide x 0.20m deep). It had regular steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1135, was a mid grey/brown sandy silt. It contained Mid – Late Iron Age pottery (8g), struck flint (<1g) and animal bone (8g).

Pit F1136 was a shallow and circular (0.95m long x 0.55m+ wide x 0.08m deep). It had shallow sides, and a flat base. Only the very base of this feature was preserved. Its fill, L1137, was a light orange/brown sandy silt. It contained struck flint (<1g) . The light hue of the fill is similar to the Bronze Age features recorded on this site.

6.15 Trench 15

Sample section: W end, S facing *0.00 = 7.62m AOD*	
0.00 – 1.20m	L1015. Demolition Layer. As above Tr.4
1.20m +	L1005. Natural. Chalk/gravel. As above Tr.1

Sample section: E end, S facing *0.00 = 7.49m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.90m	L1015. Demolition Layer. As above Tr.4
0.90m +	L1005. Natural chalk/gravel. As above Tr.1

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present possibly due to the ground being truncated.

6.16 Trench 16 Fig. 5

Sample section: N end, E facing *0.00 = 7.85m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.47m	L1015. Demolition Layer. As above Tr.4
0.47 – 0.56m	L1004. Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.56m +	L1005. Natural. chalk/gravel As above Tr.1

Sample section: S end, W facing *0.00 = 7.91m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.56m	L1015. Demolition Layer. As above Tr.4
0.56 – 0.79m	L1004. Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.79m +	L1005. Natural chalk/gravel. Tr.1

Description Trench 16 contained a pit/tree hollow (F1105), four pits (F1103, F1107, F1110 & F1115), and a re-cut ditch (F1124 & F1126)

Pit F1103 was medium-sized and circular (1.35m long x 0.85m+ wide x 0.18m deep). It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1104, was a mid grey/brown sandy silt with occasional flecks of charcoal. It contained animal bone (32g)

Pit/Tree Hollow F1105 was large and shallow (1.28m long x 1.14m+ wide x 0.13m deep). It had irregular sides and an uneven base. Its fill, L1106, was a mid grey/brown sandy silt. No finds were present. Its irregular form and the lack of finds suggests that this was a natural feature.

F1107 was a large sub circular pit (1.40m long x 1.30m wide x 0.37m deep). It had moderately sloping, irregular sides and an irregular narrow base. It contained two fills tabulated below:

Context	**Description**	**Finds (count; weight)**	**Spot Date**
L1109	Light grey/brown silty clay.	Mid – Late IA pottery	

Upper	Basal fill.	(18g), daub (10g)	
L1108 Basal	Light yellow/grey silty sand. Primary fill.	None	

Fills of Pit F1107

F1110 was a medium-sized, circular pit (1.00m long x 0.75m+ wide x 0.60m deep). It had steep, stepped sides and a flat base. It contained four fills tabulated below. The primary fill, L1114, appeared to include burnt material.

Context	**Description**	**Finds (count; weight)**	**Spot Date**
L1111 Upper	Dark grey/brown sandy silt Upper fill	Late IA pottery (38g), animal bone (46g)	
L1112	White chalk/clunch l	None	
L1113	Light yellow/grey silty sand .	None	
L1114 Basal	Dark blackened brown sandy silt. Primary fill	None	

Fills of Pit F1110

F1115 was a small to medium sized, circular pit (1.66m long x 0.67m+ wide x 0.24m deep). It had moderate to steeply sloping sides and an uneven slightly concave base. It contained two fills tabulated below:

Context	**Description**	**Finds (count; weight)**	**Spot Date**
L1117 Upper	Mid orange/brown silty sand	None	
L1116 Basal	Mid yellow/orange sandy silt. Primary fill.	None	

Fills of Pit F1115

F1124 was a large linear ditch (2.00+m long x 2.80m wide x 0.90m deep) aligned E/W. It was re-cut by Ditch F1126. It had steep, near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained three fills tabulated below:

Context	**Description**	**Finds (count; weight)**	**Spot Date**
L1130 Upper	Mid orange/brown silty sand	None	
L1125	Light yellow/grey silty sand	Late IA pottery (26g), animal bone (102g), struck flint (<1g)	
L1129 Basal	Light grey/brown sandy silt with moderate chalk. Primary fill.	None	

Fills of Ditch F1124

Ditch F1126 (2.00m+ long x 3.25m wide x 0.60m deep) re-cut Ditch F1124. It adhered to the same E/W alignment. It had steep, near vertical sides and a slightly concave base. It cut Ditch F1124. Its three fills are tabulated below:

Context	Description	Finds (count; weight)	Spot Date
L1128 Upper	Dark red/brown sandy clay	Late IA pottery (32g), animal bone (106g)	-
L1127	Light grey/brown sandy silt with moderate chalk	Late IA pottery (120g), animal bone (369g)	-
L1131 Basal	Mid grey/brown silty sand	None	-

Fills of Ditch F1126

6.17 Trench 17 Fig. 6

Sample section: E end, S facing *0.00 = 7.39m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.36m	L1000. Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.36 – 0.97m	L1004. Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.97m+	L1005. Natural. chalk/gravel As above Tr.1

Sample section: W end, N facing *0.00 = 7.61m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000. Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.26 – 0.63m	L1002. Made Ground. As above Tr.11
0.63 – 0.1.10m	L1004. Subsoil. As above Tr.1
1.10m +	L1005. Natural chalk/gravel. Tr.1

Description: Trench 17 contained three inter cutting pits (F1073, F1079 & F1090) and a ditch (F1077)

Pit F1073 was circular (length 1.29m, width 1.11m, depth 0.32m). It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. It contained a chalk `lining', L1075. The function of lining is uncertain. The fill of the chalk `lining', L1076, was a very dark brown silty sand. It contained animal bone (20g) and burnt flint (14g). The upper fill of the pit, L1074, was a medium brown silty sand with occasional small red-coloured stones It contained no finds. F1073 Cut Pit F1092

Pit F1092 was circular (length 0.68m, width 0.31m+, depth 0.46m). It had steep irregular sides and a concave base. It fill, L1093, was a light grey silty sand. It contained burnt flint (<1g). It was cut by Pit F1073.

Ditch F1077 was linear (length 10m, width 1.30m, depth 0.60m), aligned ENE/WSW. It had steep sides and a narrow base. It fill, L1078, was a dark grey brown silty sand. It contained Bronze – Iron Age pottery (58g). animal bone (350g), struck flint (12g) and burnt stone (46g). It may represent a continuation of Ditch F1052 (Tr.19) or Ditch F1054 (Tr.19)

Pit F1079 was circular (length 0.95m+, width 1.12m, depth 0.05m). It had steep sides and a concave base. It contained three fills tabulated below. F1079 cut Pit F1090

Context	Description	Finds (count; weight)	Spot Date
L1082 Upper	Dark brown silty sand with occ chalk	Mid – Late IA Pottery (2g)	
L1081	Greyish brown silty sand	Mid – Late IA Pottery (212g), animal bone (34g)	
L1080 Basal	Dark grey sandy Basal fill.	Mid – Late IA Pottery (60g), animal bone (74g)	

Fills of Pit F1079

Pit F1090 was circular (length 0.60m+, width 0.50m+, depth 0.30m). It had steep sides and a concave base. It fill, L1091, was a dark grey brown silty sand. It contained Mid – Late Iron Age pottery (254g) and animal bone (26g). It was cut by Pit F1079

6.18 Trench 18 Fig. 6

Sample section: S end, E facing *0.00 = 7.65 AOD*	
0.00 – 0.45m	L1015. Demolition Layer. As above Tr.4
0.45m+	L1005. Natural. chalk/gravel As above Tr.1

Sample section: N end, W facing *0.00 =7.79 AOD*	
0.00 – 0.66m	L1015. Demolition Layer. As above Tr.4
0.66m +	L1005. Natural chalk/gravel. Tr.1

Description: Trench 18 contained a root hollow (F1029), a gully (F1039) and nine pits (F1025, F1027, F1030, F1033, F1035, F1037, F1043, F1045 and F1057)

Root Hollow F1029 was irregular (length 1.00m+, width 0.25m, depth 0.15m). It fill, L1030, was a light red brown silty sand. It contained no finds

Shallow Pit F1025 was circular (length 0.60m, width 0.55m, depth 0.13m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It fill, L1026, was a light grey brown silty sand. It contained animal bone (2g)

Pit F1027 was oval (length 1.50m+, width 1.07m, depth 0.20m). It had irregular sides and a concave base. It fill, L1028, was a light yellowish brown silty sand. It contained animal bone (98g). It was cut by a root hollow (F1029)

F1031 was a large shallow irregular pit (length 1.80m, width 1.00m, depth 0.15m). It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It fill, L1032, was a light orange brown silty sand. It contained Mid – Late Iron Age pottery (10g) and animal bone (2g). It was cut by Pit F1029

Pit F1033 was subcircular (length 1.43m, width 0.69m+, depth 0.22m). It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. It fill, L1034, was a light grey brown silty sand with frequent angular gravel. It contained no finds. It cut Pit F1027.

Pit F1035 was circular (length 1.14m, width 0.74m+, depth 0.12m). It had steep sides and a flattish base. It fill, L1036, was a mid yellowish brown silty sand with occasional chalk and flint. It contained no finds

Pit F1037 was circular (diameter 1.10m, depth 0.25m). It had moderately sloping sides, slightly irregular and a concave base. It fill, L1038, was a mid orange brown silty sand. It contained Mid – Late Iron Age pottery (2g)

Gully F1039 was linear (length 6m, width 0.65m, depth 0.15m), aligned SSE/NNW. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It fill, L1040, was a mid greyish brown silty sand. It contained struck flint (<1g). It was cut by Pit F1045

Pit F1043 was circular, slightly irregular (length 1.90m, width 1.40m, depth 0.55m). It had moderately steep sides and a flattish base. It fill, L1044, was a light grey brown silty sand with sparse flint and chalk. It contained animal bone (128g)

Pit F1045 was oval (length 1.30m, width 1.10m, depth 0.25m). It had moderately steep sloping sides and a concave base. It fill, L1046, was a dark greyish brown silty sand with frequent flint. It contained animal bone (24g). It cut Gully F1039

Pit F1057 was oval (length 0.75m, width 0.21m+, depth 0.27m). It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. It fill, L1058, was a grey/orange brown silty sand. It contained Late Iron Age pottery (10g)

6.19 Trench 19 Fig. 7

Sample section: E end, S facing *0.00 = 7.76 AOD*	
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000. Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.10 – 0.50m	L1001. Levelling Layer.
0.50 – 0.58m	L1002. Made Ground. As above Tr.11
0.58 – 0.68m	L1003. Demolition/Levelling Layer. As above Tr.3
0.68 – 1.50m	L1004. Subsoil. As above Tr.1
1.50m+	L1005. Natural. chalk/gravel As above Tr.1

Sample section: W end, S facing *0.00 = 7.65 AOD*	
0.00 – 0.45m	L1015. Demolition Layer. As above Tr.4
0.45 – 0.55m	L1004. Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.55m+	L1005. Natural. chalk/gravel As above Tr.1

Description: Trench 19 contained two gullies (F1041 & F1060), two ditches (F1052 & F1059) and a post hole/pit (F1055).

Gully F1041 was linear (length 2m+, width 0.72m, depth 0.25m), aligned N/S. It had steep sides and a concave base. It fill, L1042, was a medium grey brown silty sand. It contained animal bone (28g)

Gully F1060 was linear (length 20m+, width 0.66m, depth 0.25m), aligned WNW/ESE. It had steep sides and a concave base. It fill, L1061, was a light grey silty sand. It contained no finds. It was cut by Ditch F1052. F1060 was possibly a re-cut of F1059, and it may represent a continuation of F1017 (Tr.1).

Ditch F1052 was curvilinear (length 20m+, width 3.40m, depth 0.45m). It had moderately steep irregular sides and a concave base. It fill, L1054, was a light grey silty sand. It contained Mid – Late pottery (80g) and animal bone (86g). F1052 cut F1055, F1059 and F1060. It may represent a continuation of F1021 (Tr.1)

Ditch F1059 was linear (length 20m+, width 0.60m, depth 0.55m). It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. It fill, L1053, was a light grey silty sand. It contained animal bone (40g). It was cut by Ditch F1052

Post Hole/Pit F1055 was subcircular (length 0.55m, width 0.25m+, depth 0.26m). It had steep sides and a concave base. It fill, L1056, was a dark grey brown silty sand. It contained animal bone (68g). It was cut by Ditch F1052

6.20 Trench 20 Fig. 7

Sample section: S end, E facing *0.00 = 7.35m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000. Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.28 – 0.83m	L1004. Subsoil. As above Tr.1
0.83m+	L1005. Natural. chalk/gravel As above Tr.1

Sample section: W end, S facing *0.00 = 7.60m AOD*	
0.00 – 0.72m	L1015. Demolition Layer. As above Tr.4
0.72 – 1.38m	L1004. Subsoil. As above Tr.1
1.38m+	L1005. Natural. chalk/gravel As above Tr.1

Description Trench 20 contained a modern service, a tree hollow (F1050), a post hole (F1071) and four ditches (F1047, F1062, F1066 and F1068)

Tree Hollow F1050 was irregular in its form (length 0.62m, width 0.32m, depth 0.12m). It fill, L1051, was a dark greyish black silty sand. It contained no finds

Ditch F1047 was linear (length 1.86m+m, width 1.75m, depth 0.36m), aligned E/W. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained two fills. The upper fill, L1048, was a light yellowish grey silty sand with occasional small angular gravel. It contained animal bone (64g), struck flint (62g and burnt flint (12g). The lower fill, L1049, was a light grey silty sand. It contained no finds

Ditch F1062 was large (length 10m, width 1.65m+, depth 0.92m), aligned NNW/SSE. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. It contained three fills tabulated below. F1062 cut Ditch F1068.

Context	Description	Finds (count; weight)	Spot Date
L1065 Upper	Mid red/brown sandy silt Upper fill	Late Iron Age pottery (4g), animal bone (4g) and struck flint (8g)	
L1064	Mid – dark grey brown silty sand .	Animal bone (138g) struck flint (8g)	
L1063 Basal	Light yellow grey sandy silt. Primary fill	None	

Fills of Ditch F1062

Ditch F1066 was linear (length 5m+m, width 1.40m, depth 0.44m), aligned E/W. It had steep sides and a narrow base. It fill, L1067, was a light grey silty sand. It contained struck flint (<1g). It was cut by Ditch F1068

Ditch F1068 was linear (length 5m+m, width 0.95m, depth 0.60m), aligned E/W. It had relatively steep sides and a concave base. It contained two fills. The upper fill, L1069, was a mid grey brown silty sand. It contained no finds. The lower fill, L1070, was a mid yellow grey silty sand. It contained no finds. It cut Ditch F1066, and was cut by Ditch F1062.

Post Hole F1071 was circular (length 0.30m, width 0.31m, depth 0.19m). It had moderately steep sides and a narrow base. It fill, L1072, was a mid grey brown silty sand. It contained animal bone (32g) and struck flint (46g)

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 Trenches 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 13 and 15 were all recorded as being truncated, and no archaeological features were present. The stratigraphy in Trench 9 was partly truncated. Archaeology within these areas of the site, if present (which is likely given the volume of features recorded elsewhere), has been destroyed. The desk-based assessment anticipated that much of the site was truncated during the several phases of building which occurred in the 20th century.

7.2 The areas of preservation are towards the boundaries of the site

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Deposits of levelling (L1001), made ground (L1002, L1008), demolition debris (L1003, L1015) were recorded in Trenches 3 – 10, 12 – 16, 18 – 19. These layers are derived from the various phases of the development of the site in the 20th century, and also the more recent demolition of the Bridge House Dairy. In Trenches 4 – 10, 13, 15 and 18, demolition debris L1015 directly overlay the natural L1005. In these trenches the site stratigraphy had been truncated. Archaeological features were recorded in Trenches 9 and 18.

8.2 The site stratigraphy was best preserved in Trenches 1, 2, 11, 17 and 20. Here the topsoil, L1000, overlay a buried topsoil, L1016. The latter overlay a subsoil, L1004, which in turn overlay the natural, L1005.

8.3 The stratigraphy was partially preserved in Trenches 3, 12 and 19, where beneath Made Ground (L1002, L1008), Levelling (L1001) and Demolition Debris (L1003), the buried topsoil, L1016, and subsoil, L1004, survived in tact.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 Summary of the archaeology

9.1.1 A summary of the archaeological features recorded is tabulated:

Trench	Features	Context
1	2 Gullies	F1017, F1019
	1 Ditch	F1021
2	2 Gullies	F1017, F1019
3	1 Pit	F1023
9	Pit/tree hollow	F1118
	Pit	F1120
11	2 Pits	F1087, F1099
12	5 Pits	F1083, F1085, F1094, F1096, F1101
14	4 Pits	F1122, F1132, F1134, F1136
16	Pit/ tree Hollow	F1105
	4 Pits	F1103, F1107, F1110, F1115
	2 Ditches	F1124, F1126
17	3 Pits	F1073, F1079, F1090
	Ditch	F1077
18	Gully	F1039
	9 Pits	F1025, F1027, F1030, F1033, F1035, F1037, F1043, F1045, F1051
19	2 Gullies	F1041, F1060
	2 Ditches	F1052, F1059
	Pit / Post Hole	F1055
20	Tree Hollow	F1050
	Post Hole	F1071
	4 Ditches	F1047, F1062, F1066, F1068

9.1.2 The features are predominantly pits (sealed features) with some ditches. Very few post holes were revealed. A few natural features, mainly tree hollows, were recorded. The largest number of features occurred in Trenches 16, 18, 19 and 20. Features were also present in Trenches 1-2, 9, 11-12 and 14. A substantial ditch was recorded in Trench 19, F1020, and it may equate to Ditch F1021 (Tr.1). Lesser ditches, F1017 and F1019 (Tr.1) may equate to Ditches F1059 and F1060 (Tr.19). Pit F1073, Trench 17, contained a curious chalk lining. In Trench 12 the form of Pits F1083, F1085, F1094 and F1096 (large, steep-sided and flat-bottomed) were reminiscent of Iron Age storage pits. Many of the features contained finds, principally Iron Age pottery and animal bone. Very small quantities of struck and burnt flint were found in many features.

9.1.3 The majority of features date to the Iron Age period. Two ditches (F1017; watching brief and F1077 Tr. 17) produced Bronze Age – Iron Age pottery. One feature, Pit F1087 L1088 (Tr.11) was Roman. A few pieces of struck flint occurred in numerous features suggestive of prehistoric activity

9.2 Finds and environmental evidence

9.2.1 Large animal bone assemblages occurred within Pit F1083 and Pit F1096 (Tr. 12), Pit F1122 (Tr. 14) and Ditch F1126 (Tr. 16). Pit F1083 (Tr.12) also contained a large pottery assemblage. Other large pottery assemblages were obtained from Pit F1079 (Tr. 17), Pit F1087 (Tr.11). A copper alloy ring fragment (SF1) came from Pit F1120 (Tr.9).

9.2.2 The evaluation produced fragments of highly abraded daub, and fragments (280g) of baked clay likely derived from a triangular thatch or loom weight (Pit F1083 L1089) (Daub and Baked Clay report below). The struck flint includes a scraper (Pit F1083 L1084 Tr.12) and a heavily patinated awl (also Pit F1083 L1084 Tr.12). The presence of a multi platform flake core (Post Hole F1071 L1072 Tr.20) suggests that secondary knapping took place within the site (Struck Flint report below). The animal bone is of moderate condition. Cattle and sheep/goat are likely to have been kept and utilised in the highest numbers on site (Animal Bone report below). The ageing evidence suggests a range of different aged animals were utilised on site and considering the presence of a very young calf, it is likely that cattle breeding was taking place in the area. Pigs appear to have been utilised in lower numbers, this is a common husbandry pattern on British sites. The partial remains of the horse in Pit F1083 L1084 (Tr.12) falls within the height range of 10-14 hands found at other Iron Age sites (Harcourt 1979, 153; Maltby 1981, 192). The exploitation of horse carcasses for produces such as skin, meat and bone marrow is not an unusual occurrence at Iron Age sites. Although it is likely these are secondary produces, as primarily horses were likely to have been exploited for their speed. The presence of red deer suggests that their preferred habitat of a woodland/forest environment was situated close to the site. The environmental samples are currently being processed, and a report will be prepared thereafter

9.3 Preservation of the archaeology

9.3.1 When not wholly removed (Trenches 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 13 and 15) the archaeology is moderately preserved. Archaeological features are preserved in the western and south-eastern sectors of the site.

9.4 Research potential

9.4.1 It was noted in the background (Section 4.1 above) that the site lies in an important topographic location for prehistoric activity, in particular, being within the Lark Valley on the edge of the higher chalkland above the former wetland fens to the north and north-west. In the event the evaluation revealed the remains of an Iron Age site, likely originally substantial.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with the finds from the site, at the Suffolk Historic Environment Record. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Bellway Homes Limited – Essex for commissioning and funding this project, in particular Mr Paul Horrigan for his assistance.

Archaeological Solutions is also pleased to acknowledge the input and advice of Will Fletcher of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team.

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APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

BTM040: Bridge House Dairies, Mildenhall (P. 2097)
Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	A.Bone (g)	Other
1006	1007			Ditch Fill			361	Burnt Flint (1), <1g
1017	1018	A	1	Gully Fill	1000-1 BC	(7), 52g	42	
1019	1020	A	1	Gully Fill	100 BC - AD 50/100	(2), 8g	2	Burnt Flint (2), 30g
1021	1022		1	Ditch Fill	250 BC - AD 100	(1), 16g	34	
1023	1024		3	Pit Fill			44	Daub (1), 8g
1025	1026		18	Pit Fill			2	
1027	1028		18	Pit Fill			98	
1031	1032		18	Pit Fill	250 BC - AD 50	(1), 10g	2	
1037	1038		18	Pit Fill	250 BC - AD 100	(1), 2g		
1039	1040		18	Gully Fill				Struck Flint (1), <1g
1041	1042		19	Gully Fill			28	
1043	1044		18	Pit Fill			128	
1045	1046		18	Pit Fill			24	
1047	1048		20	Ditch Fill			64	Struck Flint (13), 62g Burnt Flint (2), 12g
1052	1054		19	Ditch Fill	Mid - Late Iron Age	(10), 80g	86	
1055	1056		19	Posthole Fill			68	
1057	1058		18	Pit Fill	100 BC - AD 50/100	(1), 10g		
1059	1053		19	Ditch Fill			40	
1062	1064		20	Ditch Fill			138	Struck Flint (3), 8g
	1065				20 BC - AD 100	(1), 4g	4	Struck Flint (1), 8g
1066	1067		20	Ditch Fill				Struck Flint (1), <1g
1071	1072		20	Posthole Fill			32	Struck Flint (4), 46g
1073	1076		17	Pit Fill			20	Burnt Flint (1), 14g
1077	1078	A	17	Ditch Fill	200 BC - AD 50/100	(5), 42g	166	
		B					88	Struck Flint (1), <1g
								Burnt Stone (1), 46g
		C			200 BC - AD 50/100	(1), 6g	96	Burnt Flint (1), 12g
		D			1500 - 100 BC	(1), 10g		
1079	1080		17	Pit Fill	250 BC - AD 50	(6), 60g	74	
	1081				250 BC - AD 50	(11), 212g	34	

	1082				250 BC - AD 50	(3), 2g		
1083	1084		12	Pit Fill	20 BC - AD 100	(11), 118g	356	Struck Flint (4), 64g Burnt Stone (2), 212g
		B			100 BC - AD 50/100	(15), 341g	2634	
	1089						1064	Daub (34), 271g
		B			100 BC - AD 50/100	(5), 42g	560	Daub (1), 22g
1087	1088		11	Pit Fill	Early Roman	(14), 242g	172	Daub (1), <1g Struck Flint (3), <1g
1090	1091		17	Pit Fill	250 BC - AD 50	(9), 254g	26	
1092	1093		17	Pit Fill				Burnt Flint (1), <1g
1094	1095		12	Pit Fill	250 BC - AD 50	(3), 14g	269	Burnt Flint (2), 16g
1096	1097		12	Pit Fill	20 BC - AD 100	(4), 88g	487	Struck Flint (1), <1g
	1098						88	
1099	1100		11	Pit Fill	100 BC - AD 50/100	(5), 350g	58	
1101	1102		12	Pit Fill			188	
1103	1104		16	Pit Fill			32	
1107	1109		16	Pit Fill	250 BC - AD 50/100	(5), 18g		Daub (1), 10g
1110	1111		16	Pit Fill	100 BC - AD 50/100	(1), 38g	46	
1120	1121		9	Pit Fill	250 BC - AD 50	(3), 30g	66	**SF1:** Cu Alloy Ring Fragment (1), <1g Struck Flint (1), 4g
1122	1123		14	Pit Fill	100 BC - AD 50/100	(4), 42g	1292	
1124	1125		16	Ditch Fill	100 BC - AD 50/100	(1), 26g	102	Struck Flint (1), <1g
1126	1127		16	Ditch Fill	Late Iron Age	(5), 120g	369	
	1128				250 BC - AD 50	(4), 32g	106	
1132	1133		14	Pit Fill	250 BC - AD 50	(1), 24g	106	
1134	1135		14	Pit Fill	250 BC - AD 50	(2), 8g	8	Struck Flint (1), <1g
1136	1137		14	Pit Fill				Struck Flint (1), <1g
U/S			18					Fe Nails (5), 90g

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALISTS' REPORTS

The Pottery

by Peter Thompson

The evaluation recovered 142 sherds weighing 2.229 Kg. The assemblage is overall in good condition with a number of large pieces of pottery in comparatively good condition and the forms, fabrics and decoration indicate a mid to late Iron Age date (and may well all date to the latter). The pottery indicates the site has good archaeological potential.

The earliest pottery comprises several Bronze Age sherds but these are probably all residual in later features. Two or three sherds cannot be closely dated and have been assigned a Bronze Age or Iron Age date.

The Iron Age sherds are in very mixed fabrics mainly comprising various quantities of flint, sand and grass temper. Several shell tempered sherds were also present most notably from pit 1083 (L1084). This included a burnished angled jar profile similar to Late Iron Age forms from Burgh. Shell tempered Iron Age pottery is unusual in Norfolk and it is possible it could be and import from Essex or Cambridgeshire. Another jar rim with finger tip decoration to the rim and scoring on the sides would suit a Late Iron Age date. This was accompanied by a small wheel-made cordon of Belgic-type containing sand, grass and shiny black inclusions probably iron mineral. This suggests a date centred on the first half of the first century AD. Another proto-Belgic rim sherd with incised decoration and a bowl with curvilinear decoration (similar to that found on Hunsbury bowls) also show a Late Iron Age date. Ditch 1062 contained a small sand tempered sherd with buff surfaces which is quite similar to Early Medieval ware but is also probably from a Late Iron Age coarse ware. Pit 1087 contained 6 sherds of Roman pottery, the only Roman ceramics from the site. As this feature was in a line of pits it is probable they all belong to the same phase. This would suggest that some of the Iron Age pottery continued to be manufactured alongside early Roman forms and so the assemblage, or part of it, could date into the second half of the 1st century AD and maybe even slightly beyond.

The Daub & Baked Clay
Andrew Peachey

Excavations produced a total of 4 fragments (44g) of highly abraded baked clay probably derived from daub, and a further 35 fragments (280g) of baked clay derived from an identifiable clay object. The daub and baked clay were quantified by fragment count and weight, with fabrics examined at x20 magnification.

The four small fragments of highly abraded daub were present as single fragments in Pits F1023 L1024 (9g), F1083 L1089b (24g), F1087 L1088 (1g) and F1107 L1109 (10g). The fabric of each fragment contained inclusions of common, poorly sorted quartz sand with sparse fragments of either or both chalk and flint. The fragments occurred in a range of pale oxidised tones and consistency of fabric could be demonstrated. Although probably derived from daub, the very limited size and preservation of these fragments does not allow any further comment.

Pit F1083 L1089 produced 35 fragments (280g) of baked clay in a homogenous fabric and derived from a single objective source. The fabric of these fragments is pale brown (7.5YR 6/4) with inclusions of common poorly-sorted quartz (0.1-0.25mm), sparse red iron oxide (0.1-0.5mm and sparse chalk (0.5-6mm). The fabric has a moderate hardness and has been baked (as opposed to sun-dried), and has a slightly powdery feel. Although fragmented two fragments within this group clearly exhibit crudely formed rounded edges of an object approximately 50-60mm thick, that would have had a hole (c.10mm diameter) pierced though its narrowest side at an angle of c.45° to the surface that it was penetrating. Despite the fragmentation it is almost certain that the object these fragments are derived from would have been a triangular thatch or loom weight.

Struck Flint
By Tom McDonald

Thirty five struck flints, weighing 220g, were recovered by hand from 14 contexts. The majority of the flint, within this small collection, are flakes displaying both hard and soft hammer core reduction.

Evidence of an earlier industry is noted by the presence re-used patinated flint and a small number of blades.

The most notable pieces are a bulbous scraper (Pit F1083 L1084 Tr.12) and a heavily patinated awl (also Pit F1083 L1084 Tr.12). The presence of a multi platform flake core (Post Hole F1071 L1072 Tr.20) would suggest secondary knapping took place within the site.

Context	Description	Pottery Spot Date
1040	1 small brown tertiary flake, possible notch? not sharp.	
1048	12 flakes small to large, 1 blade like flake, 8 secondary, 5 tertiary, light grey-dark grey, varying degrees of patination, not sharp-fairly sharp. Retouched pieces include two small end scrapers and a heavily patinated awl?.	
1064	3 small struck flakes, light brown – dark grey brown. Secondary and tertiary. All soft percussion, fairly sharp, re-use of patinated flint. Miscellaneous retouch.	
1065	1 small chunky flake, dark brown, light bluish grey patination, probably plough struck	
1067	1 small brown lightly patinated flake, fairly sharp.	
1072	3 small secondary flakes, dark brown, fairly sharp, one display miscellaneous retouch 1 multi-platform flake core, cortical, dark brown, fairly sharp.	
1078	1 small tertiary flake, light brown, bluish white patination, narrow platform, perceptible bulb of percussion, fairly sharp.	
1084	2 small secondary flakes, 1 small backed blade, 1 large heavy scraper, brown-dark brown, fairly sharp. Scraper displays wide platform, pronounced bulb of percussion, not sharp	
1088	3 small flakes secondary and tertiary. Fairly sharp, wide platform, hinged fracture.	
1097	1 small secondary struck flake, dark brown, not sharp, probably plough struck.	
1121	1 possible notched flake, brown, fairly sharp, narrow platform.	

1125	1 small heavily patinated blade, narrow platform, hinged fracture, fairly sharp	
1135	1 small struck flake, light brown, blue grey patination, tertiary, reuse of a patinated flint, fairly sharp.	
1137	1 small struck flake, brown, wide platform, fairly sharp, hinged fracture.	

The Animal Bone
By Carina Phillips

Introduction

349 fragments of animal bone were recovered during hand excavation. The bone is of moderate condition. Fragmentation in some instances hindered identification of the bone and is likely to have affected identification of butchery evidence. The hand recovery technique used may be biased towards the recovery of larger bones, possibly resulting in an under-representation of small bones and small species, particularly bird and fish. The features containing animal bone date to the Mid Late Iron Age.

Method

Bones were identified and recorded to species and element when possible. The category sheep/goat has been used unless it was possible to clearly identify the species sheep (*Ovis sp.)* or goat (C*apra sp.*). Measurements were taken when viable following the methods of Jones *et al* (1976) and von den Driesch (1976). Withers heights for horses were calculated following Kiesewalter in Driesch & Bosseneck (1974). When available the fusion state of identifiable bones was also recorded. Tooth wear was recorded following Grant (1982) and ages were assigned following Hambleton (1999). Fragments unidentifiable to a particular species were recorded under the categories of 'large sized', consisting of cattle *(Bos sp.)*, large deer and horse *(Equus sp.*) sized fragments and 'small sized' consisting of sheep/goat, small deer, pig *(Sus sp.)* and dog *(Canis familiaris)* sized bone fragments. All other unidentifiable bone fragments were recorded as such. Evidence of burning, sawing, chopping, knife-cutting and gnawing was also recorded, as was smashed bone. The minimum number of individuals (MNI) of a species was calculated from most frequent left or right skeletal element (minimum number of elements).

Results

38% of the assemblage was identified to species. Sheep/goat (*Ovis/Capra* sp.) and cattle (*Bos* sp.) were most frequently identified in the assemblage. Horse (*Equus* sp.) and pig (*Sus* sp.) were also identified. It is noted that 12 of the horse bones come from L1084. These 12 bones include the pelves of one individual and both pelves, and a majority of the left leg from another individual. This individual stood approximately 128.4 cm at the withers (12.6 hands). The metatarsal of this left leg exhibits cut marks suggestive of skinning. A horse talus from (L1121) also exhibited cut marks indicating utilisation of horse carcasses. Butchery evidence was observed

in small numbers on the rest of the assemblage and occurred most frequently on cattle bones. A fragment of red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) antler and a frog/toad (*Rana/Bufo* sp.) humerus represents the only wild species identified in the assemblage. The red deer antler had been sawn from the skull, indicating it came from a carcass, rather than having been collected as shed antler.

Three cattle mandibles gave age at death estimates of 0-1 months, 8-18 months and a young adult. A 6-12 month old and a 4-6 year old sheep/goat were present in the assemblage. A single pig mandible gave an age at death estimate of 14-21 months.

	NISP	MNI	Chopped	Cut	Smashed	Sawn	Gnawed	Burnt
Sheep/goat	51	5	0	0	0	0	2	0
Cattle	50	5	0	1	5	0	4	1
Horse	17	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
Pig	10	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red deer	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Frog/toad	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bird	2	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Large sized	36	-	2	1	3	0	0	1
Small sized	68	-	0	0	0	0	2	1
Unidentifiable	113	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	349	-	2	4	8	1	8	3

Table 1: Number of Identified Specimens/fragments (NISP), Minimum Number of Individuals (MNI) and counts of butchery, gnawed and burnt bone.

Discussion

Cattle and sheep/goat are likely to have been kept and utilised in the highest numbers on site. The ageing evidence suggests a range of different aged animals were utilised on site and considering the presence of a very young calf, it is likely that cattle breeding was taking place in the area. Pigs appear to have been utilised in lower numbers, this is a common husbandry pattern on British sites. The partial remains of the horse in L1084 falls within the height range of 10-14 hands found at other Iron Age sites (Harcourt 1979, 153; Maltby 1981, 192). The exploitation of horse carcasses for produces such as skin, meat and bone marrow is not an unusual occurrence at Iron Age sites. Although it is likely these are secondary produces, as primarily horses were likely to have been exploited for their speed. The presence of red deer suggests that their preferred habitat of a woodland/forest environment was situated close to the site.

Potential

Further excavation will contribute to the understanding of the use of animals on this site as gained from analysis of the trial trench assemblage. A larger assemblage would provide a more detailed understanding of the husbandry practices in use. The low number of butchery marks in the trial trench assemblage may also occur in an assemblage from further excavation, which would restrict consideration of butchery techniques. However some understanding of the utilisation of the domestic species may be gleaned from the type of bones present. Further evidence of wild species may contribute to an understanding of the surrounding environment to the site. It will be

necessary to compare all the results gained from future excavation and analysis to sites of a similar date in the area.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX

DP 1

F1079, F1090 in trench 17 looking south

DP 2

F1083 in trench 12 looking south east

DP 3

F1066, F1068, F1070 in trench 20 looking east

DP 4

F1062B in trench 20 looking north

DP 5

Trench 17 looking west

DP 6

F1110 in trench 16 looking north

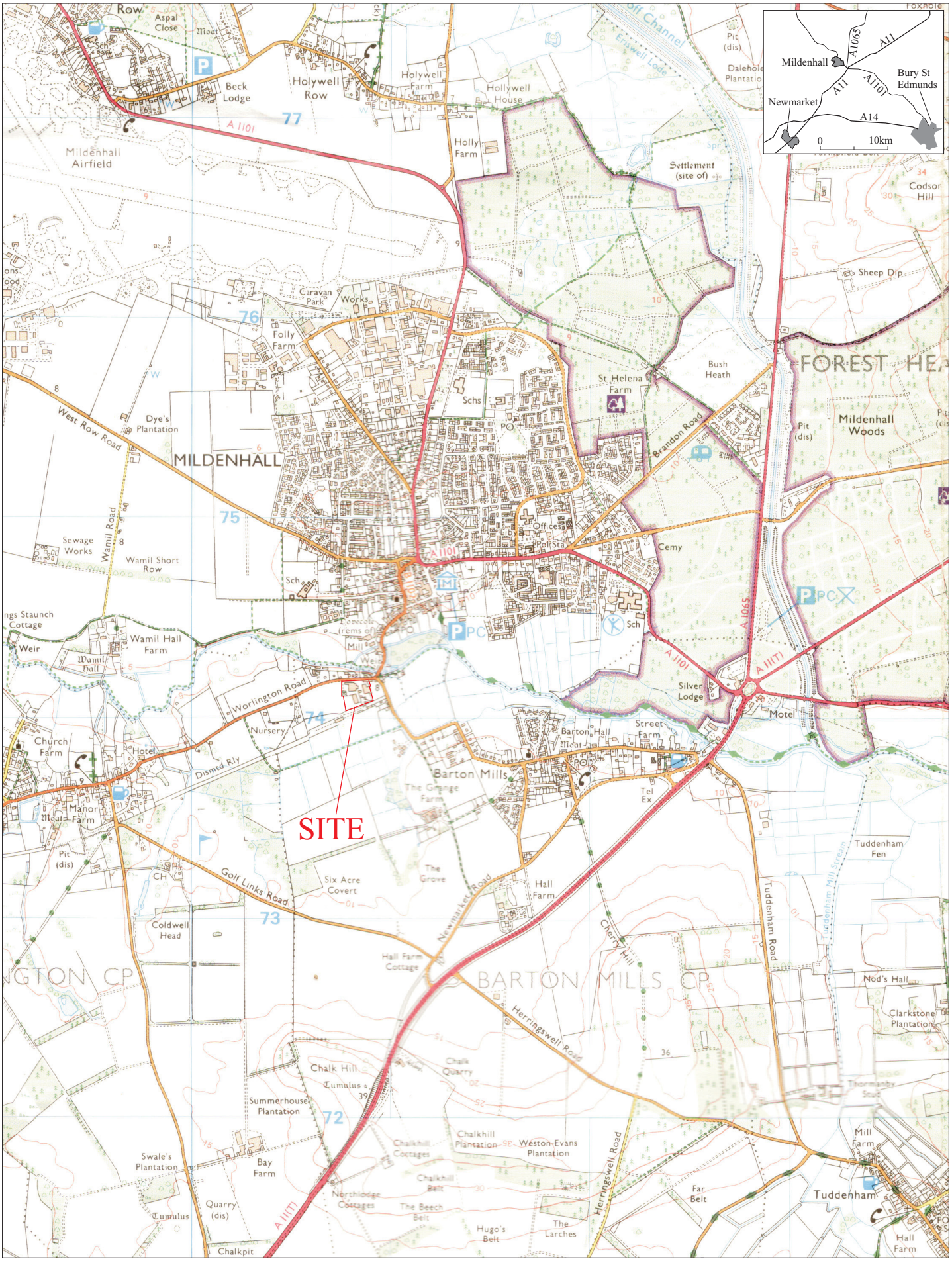

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Fig. 1 Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000 at A4

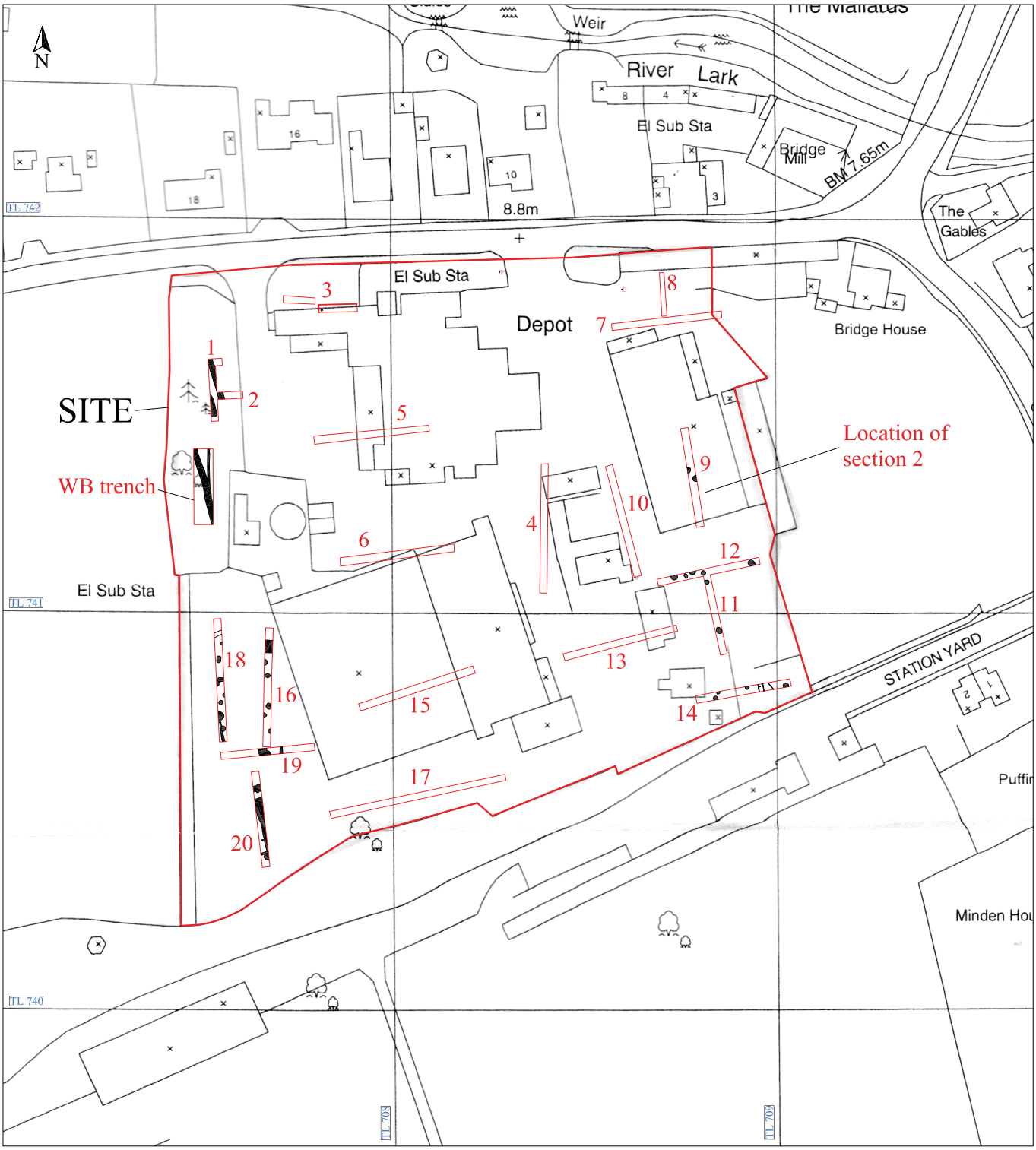

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Fig. 2 Trench location plan

Scale 1:1500 at A4

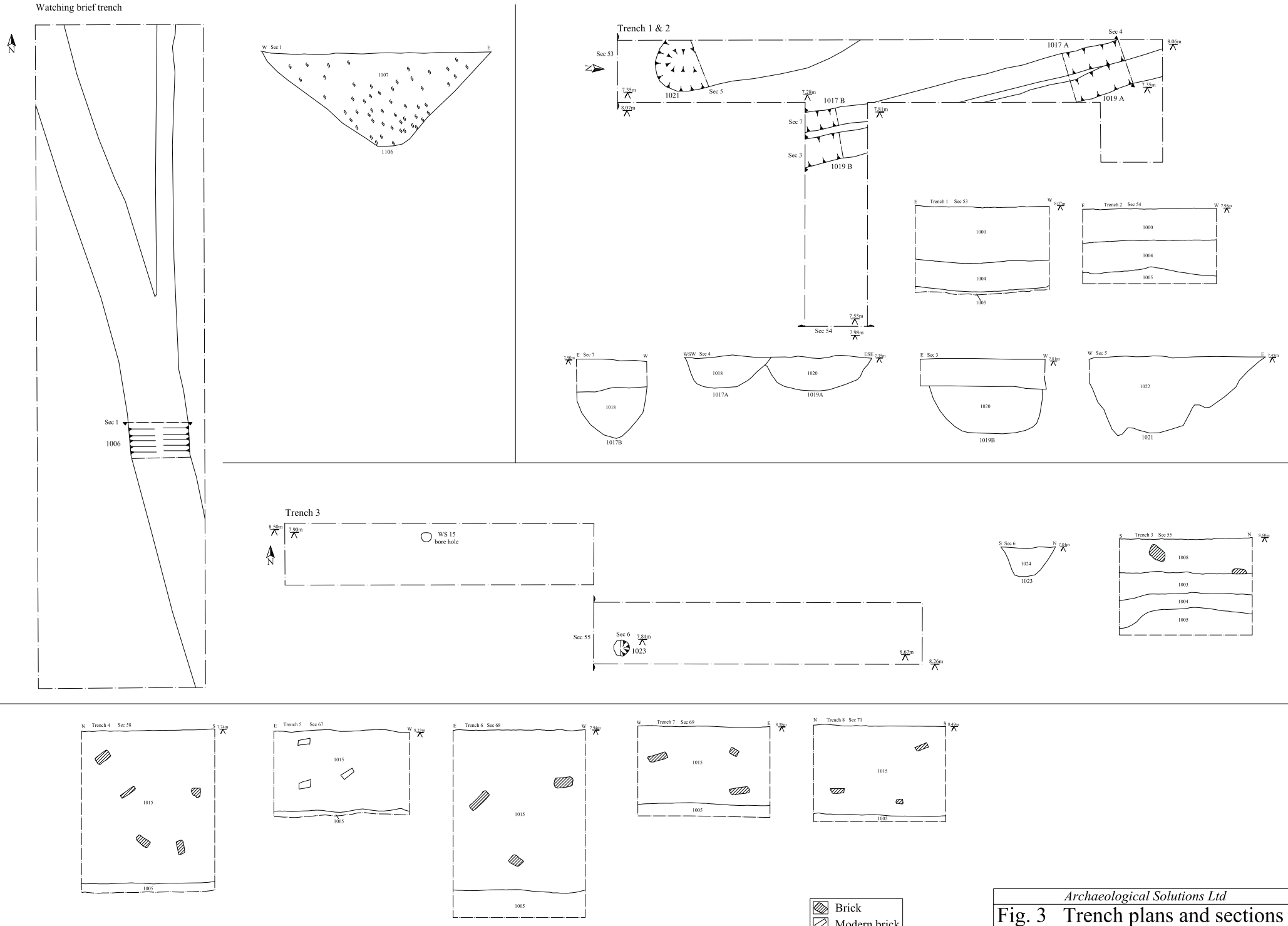

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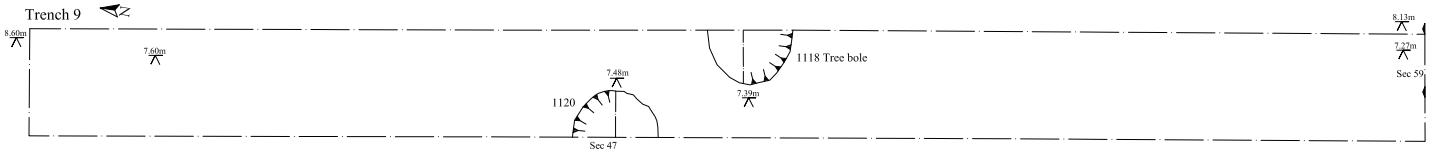
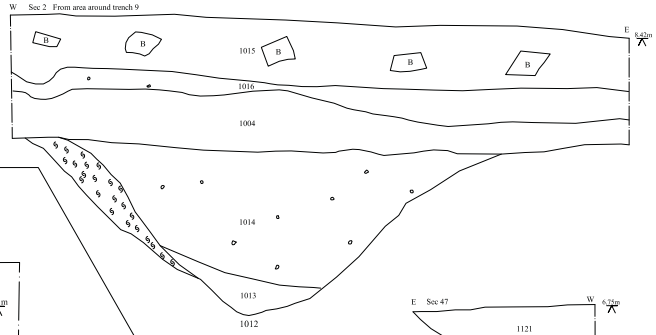
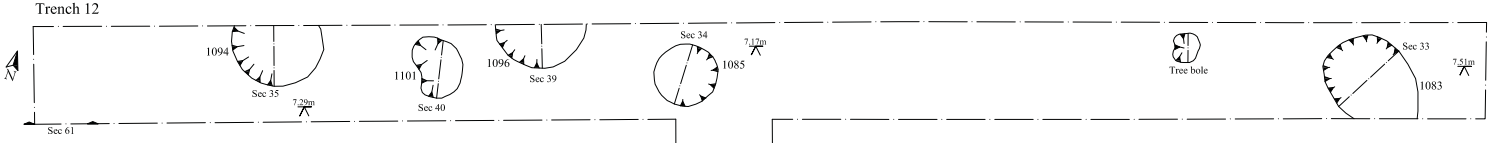
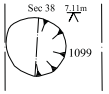
Fig. 3 Trench plans and sections

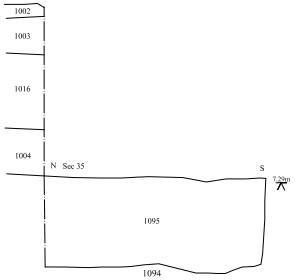
Scale 1:100 and 1:25 at A3

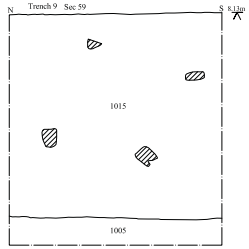


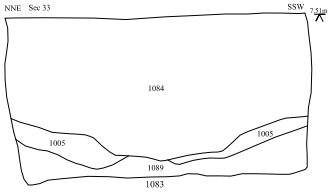


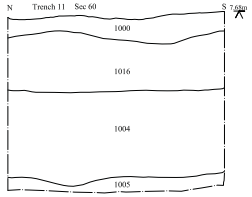


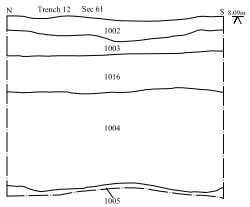


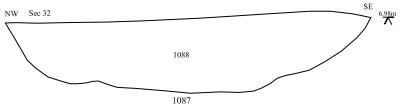


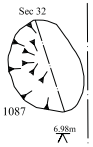


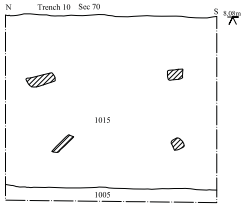


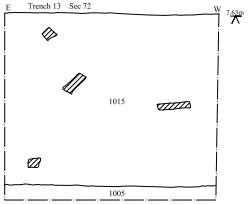


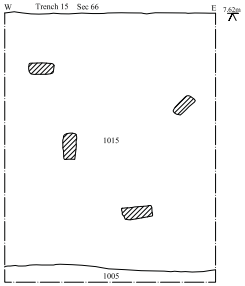


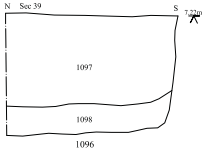


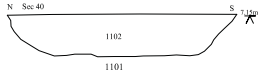












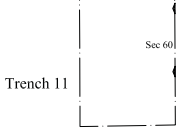


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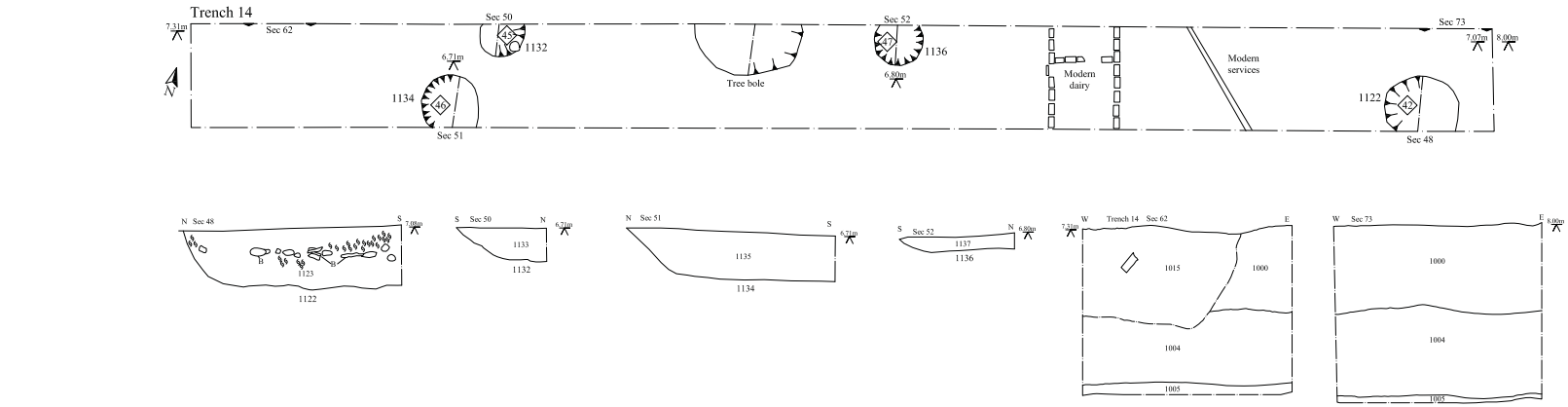
Fig. 4 Trench plans and sections

Scale 1:100 and 1:25 at A3



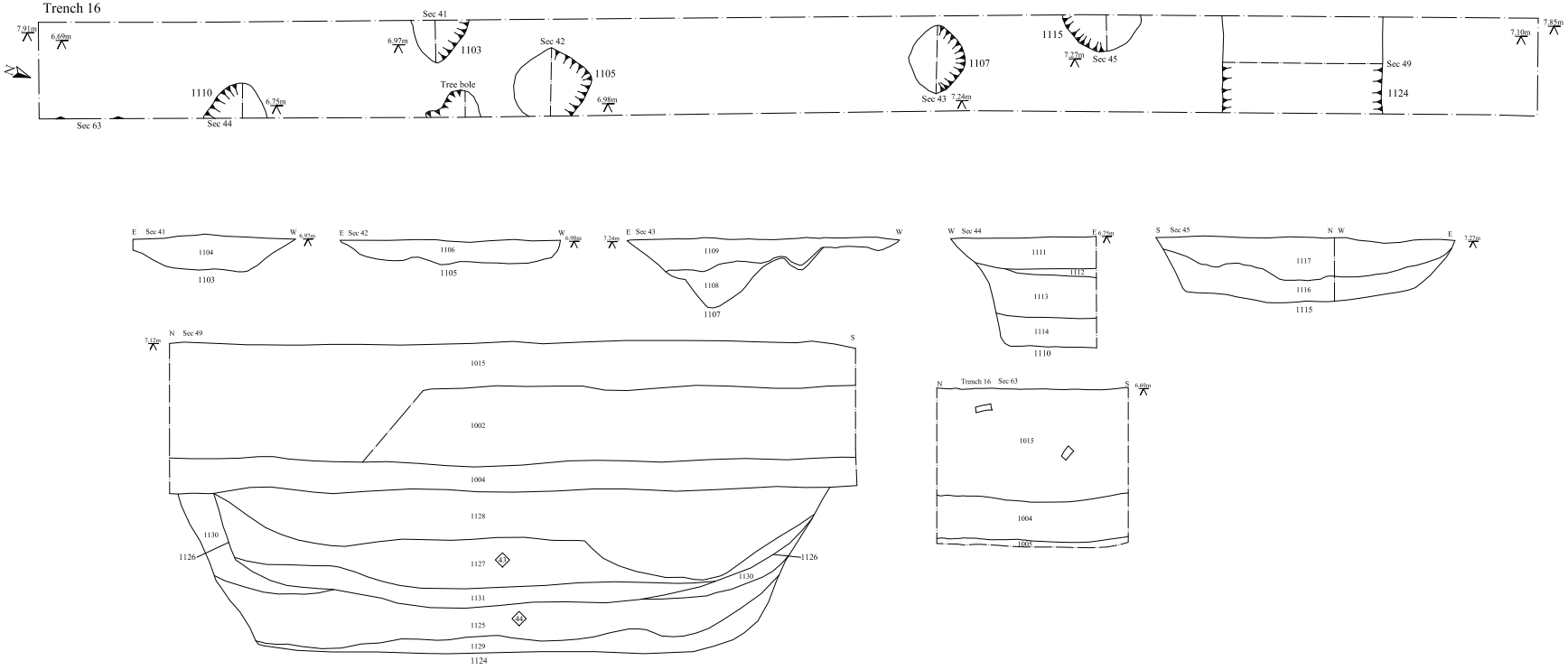


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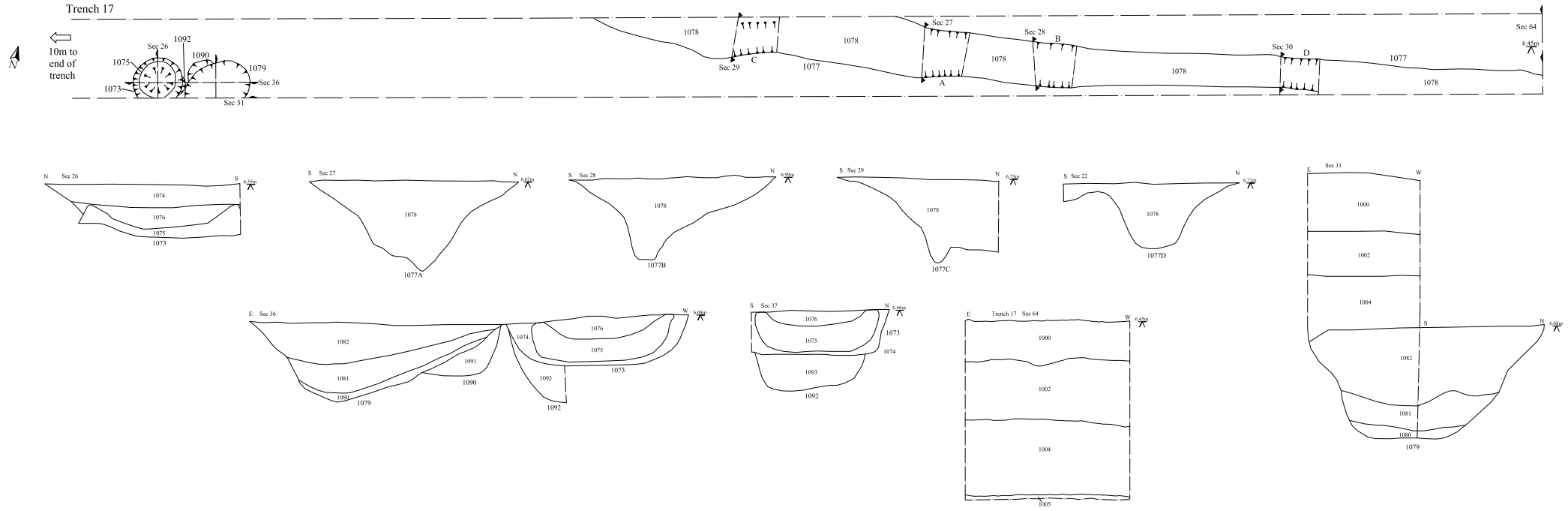
Fig. 5 Trench plans and sections
Scale 1:100 and 1:25 at A3



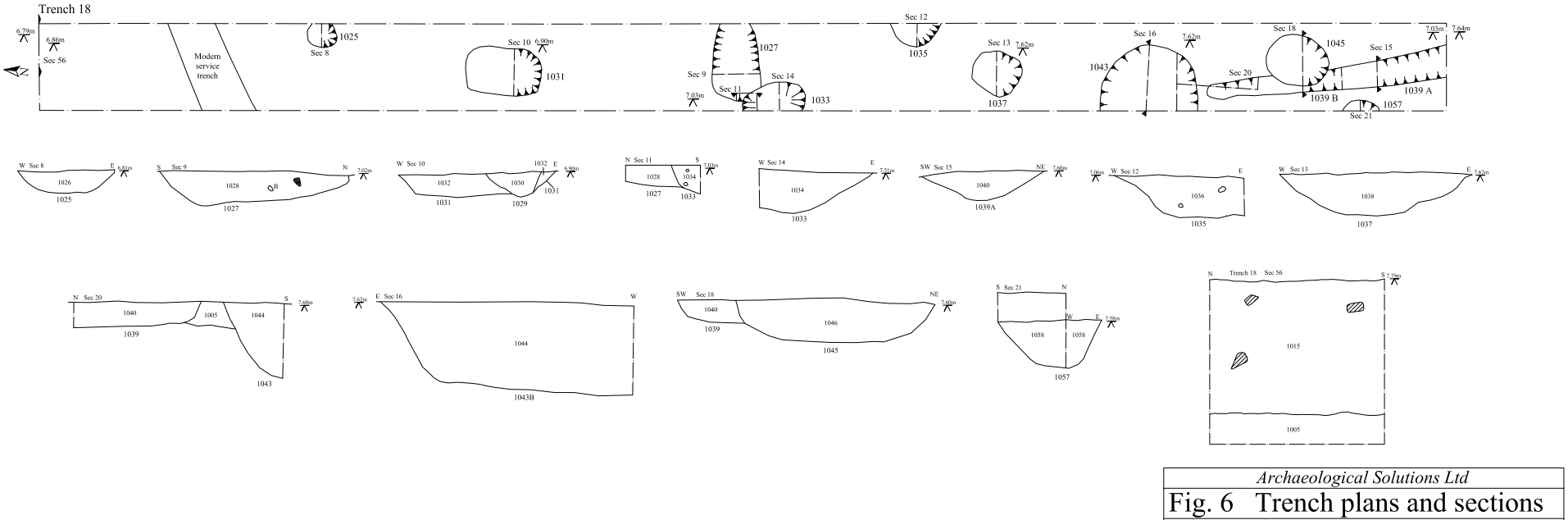


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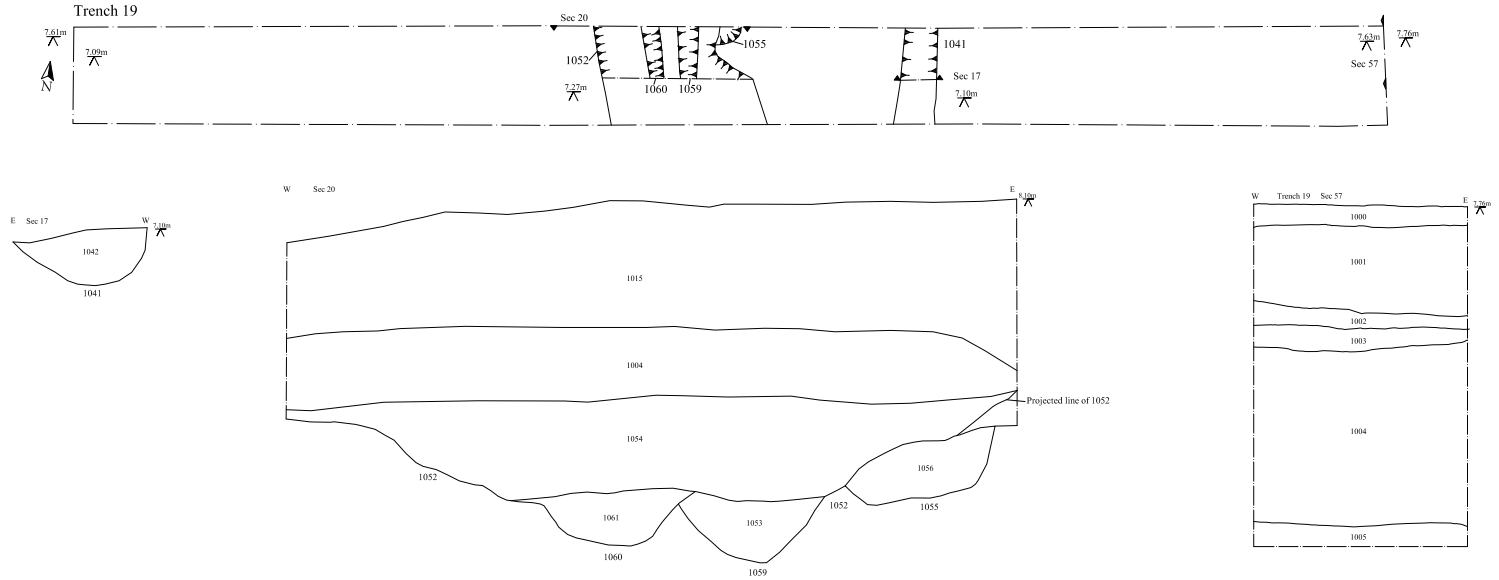
Fig. 6 Trench plans and sections

Scale 1:100 and 1:25 at A3



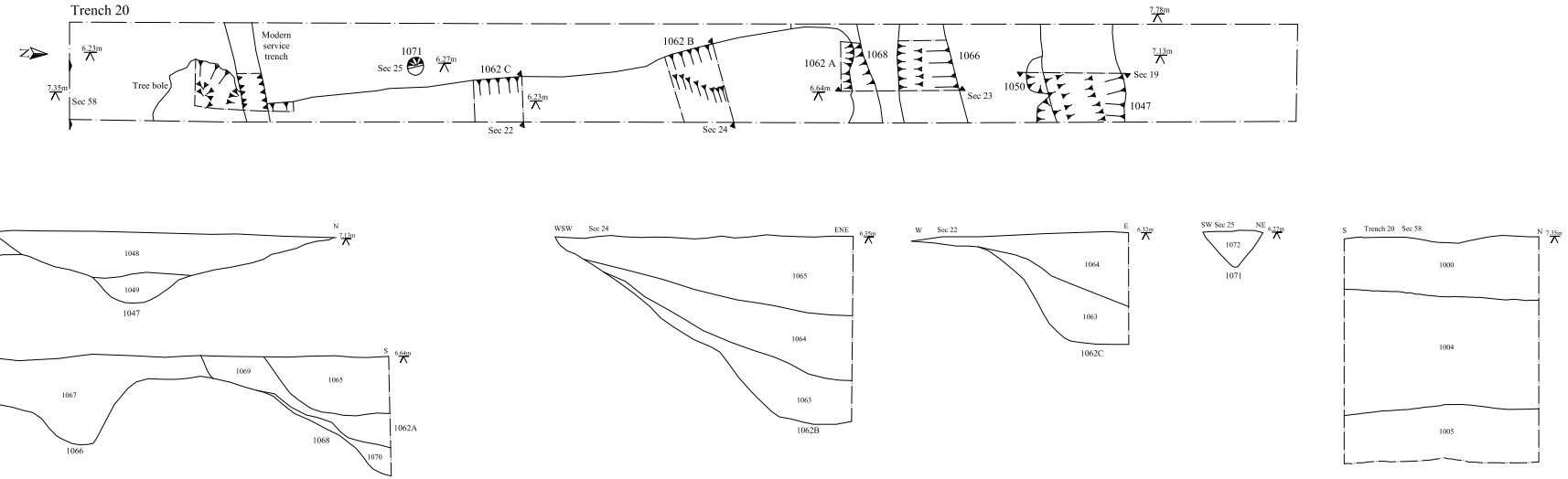


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Fig. 7 Trench plans and sections
Scale 1:100 and 1:25 at A3

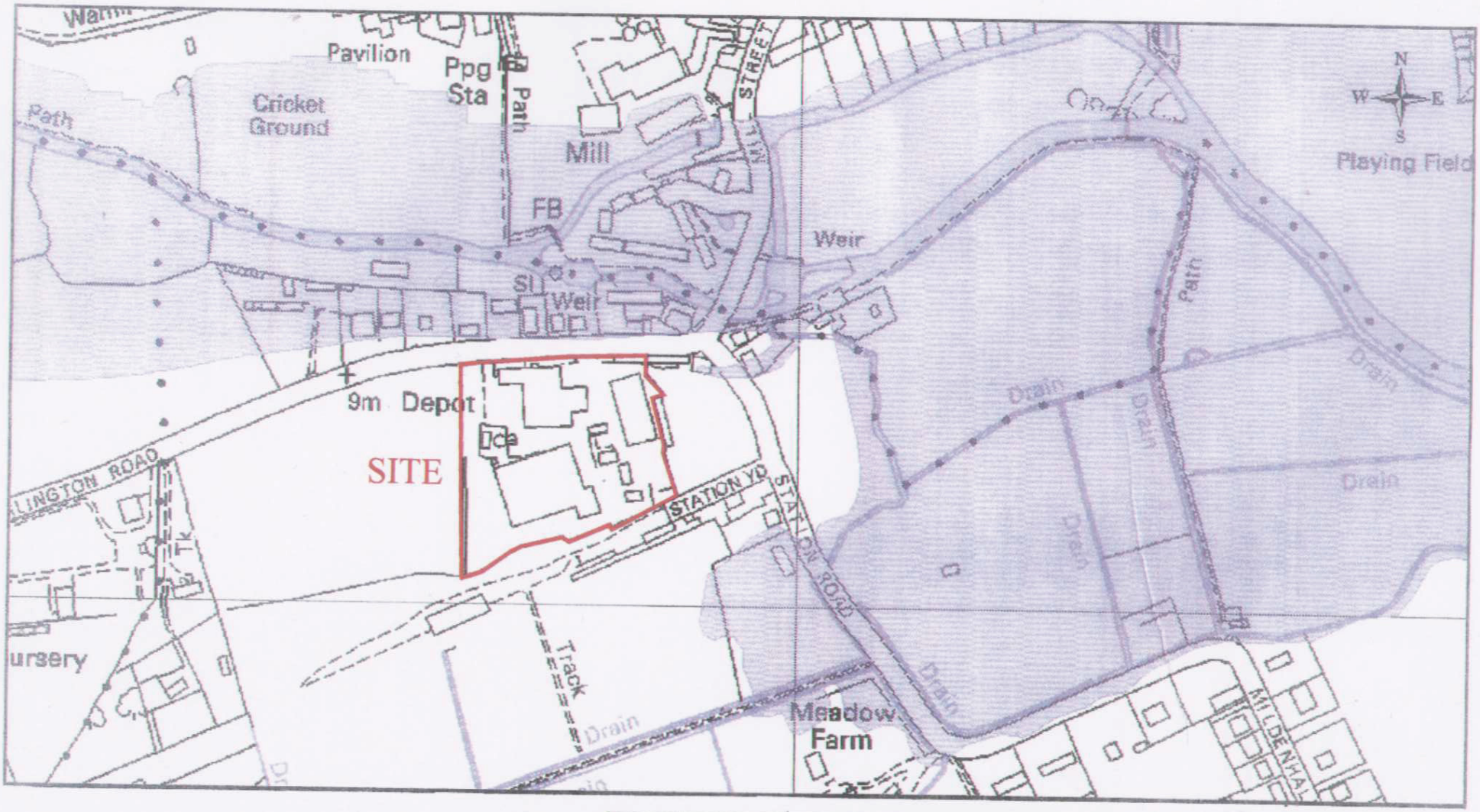

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Fig. 8 Floodplain model (Map provided by Suffolk CC)

Scale 1:2000 at A4