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**LAND WEST OF MAGNOLIA COTTAGE, KIRKGATE,
TYDD ST GILES, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

ECB 6263

Authors: Gareth Barlow (Fieldwork & Report)	
NGR: TF 4329 1653	Report No: 6094
District: Fenland	Site Code: ECB 6263
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 8253
	Date: 26 August 2020

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CONTENTS

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

SUMMARY

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Project details			
Project name	<i>Land west of Magnolia Cottage, Kirkgate, Tydd St Giles, Cambridgeshire</i>		
<p><i>In August 2020 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land west of Magnolia Cottage, Kirkgate, Tydd St Giles, Cambridgeshire (NGR TF 4329 1653; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of four dwellings and associated site works (Fenland district Council Approval Ref. F/YR18/08410/O). It was required by the local planning authority based on the advice of the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed tidal silts and no archaeological features or finds. No finds were present within the topsoil or subsoil layers. Despite the presence of medieval settlement remains close by on the northern side Kirkgate it appears that this site on the southern side of the road was never settled. The absence of medieval features so close to the settlement activity suggest that this area was very wet or submerged into the medieval period.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>17th & 18th August 2020</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	<i>Future work</i>	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>8253</i>	<i>Site code</i>	<i>ECB 6263</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Paddock</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Tidal flat silt fen deposits.</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Project location	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>Fenland</i>	<i>Tydd St Giles</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>CCC HET</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>0.37ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TF 4329 1653</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>c.2m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Cambridgeshire County Council</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr & Mrs E Bell</i>		
Full title	<i>Land West of Magnolia Cottage, Kirkgate, Tydd St Giles, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Barlow, G.</i>		
Report no.	<i>6094</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>August 2020</i>		

LAND WEST OF MAGNOLIA COTTAGE, KIRKGATE, TYDD ST GILES, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In August 2020 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land west of Magnolia Cottage, Kirkgate, Tydd St Giles, Cambridgeshire (NGR TF 4329 1653; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of four dwellings and associated site works (Fenland district Council Approval Ref. F/YR18/08410/O). It was required by the local planning authority based on the advice of the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).

The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) notes that the site lies within an area of archaeological potential, within the medieval settlement area of Tydd St Giles. Approximately 530m to the west of the development site Saint Giles' Church is located (CHER CB14987; NHLE 1125926). The church appears to have been founded in the early 13th century. Significantly, an excavation c.20m north-east of the site revealed medieval features and finds consistent with domestic activity (pottery, animal bone and marine shell), and the site reflects settlement along the medieval drove which later became Kirkgate (CHER ECB1262).

The evaluation revealed tidal silts and no archaeological features or finds. No finds were present within the topsoil or subsoil layers. Despite the presence of medieval settlement remains close by on the northern side Kirkgate it appears that this site on the southern side of the road was never settled. The absence of medieval features so close to the settlement activity suggest that this area was very wet or submerged into the medieval period.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In August 2020 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land west of Magnolia Cottage, Kirkgate, Tydd St Giles, Cambridgeshire (NGR TF 4329 1653; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of four dwellings and associated site works (Fenland district Council Approval Ref. F/YR18/08410/O). It was required by the local planning authority based on the advice of the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by the Historic Environment Team of Cambridgeshire County Council. (Kasia Gdaniec, dated 20th November 2019), and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by AS (dated 13th July 2020) and approved by CCC HET. It followed the procedures outlined in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists'

Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation (2014), and also adhered to the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the evaluation were to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition significance and quality of any archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

Planning Policy Context

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2019) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

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

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1. The site lies on the southern side of Kirkgate in Tydd St Giles village, close to the Cambridgeshire/Lincolnshire border. It extends to some 0.37ha and is an open hedged field.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site lies at c.2m AOD and lies on Ampthill Clay geology with tidal flat silt fen deposits above.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) notes that the site lies within an area of archaeological potential, within the medieval settlement area of Tydd St Giles. An archaeological evaluation 20m to the north east of the site revealed medieval features and debris consistent with domestic activity (pottery, animal bone and marine shell). The site reflects settlement along the medieval drove which later became Kirkgate (CHER ECB1262). The county boundary runs along Shire Drain to the north. This is an historic boundary formerly known as Lady Anne's Eau, separating the two counties, two dioceses and also believed to be the boundary between two Saxon sub-Kingdoms recorded in the 7th century Tribal Hideage.

4.2 Saxon artefacts have been recovered in the landscape surrounding the site, including a scatter of early to middle Saxon finds which included a whetstone (CHER 09014), and a scatter containing middle Saxon ceramics and whetstone fragments (CHER 09918). Early Saxon to medieval features associated with a small assemblage of grey ware have also been reported c.530m north of the site (CHER 10919).

4.3 Approximately 530m to the west of the development site Saint Giles' Church is present (CHER CB14987; NHLE 1125926). The church appears to have been founded in the early 13th century and has witnessed numerous phases of modification and restoration. A medieval gravestone has also been recorded within the graveyard of the church (CHER 03967). Significantly, an excavation c.20m north-east of the site revealed a series of medieval features that were likely associated with a settlement (CHER CB15604). The majority of the material remains in this area were of 14th to 15th century date, though unstratified 13th to 14th century pottery was also recovered during the excavation. Cess pits which contained animal bone, structural remains and field boundaries were revealed. The site reflects settlement along the medieval drove which later became Kirkgate (CHER ECB1262). Medieval structural remains and finds (CHER 11166), including a firebrick that may have been associated with the production of Grimston Ware (CHER CB15606), have also been recorded in the area. Numerous other excavations have identified small areas of medieval archaeological activity, including 13th to 15th century ditches and pits north of Kirkgate (CHER MCB19892), and late medieval remains at Hockland Road (CHER MCB20103)

4.4 Archaeological excavations in the area have also recorded a small number of post-medieval ditches (CHER MCB19929; MCB19937). The post-medieval period is, however, well represented in the built heritage. In addition to Saint Giles' Church, the 16th century Kirkgate House may be the earliest extant building in the area (NHLE 1161185). One of the most significant of the post-medieval structures in the area is a late 16th century manor house (CHER MCB18467; NHLE 1125929), which is associated with extensive grounds (CHER MCB18508), and a 18th century barn (NHLE 1310201). Only one extant structure of 17th century date is recorded in the area (NHLE 1125927). A more significant phase of development appears to have occurred during the 19th century, a period in which a blacksmith's workshop (CHER

MCB24498), a Primitive Methodist Chapel (CHER MCB24499), a public house (CHER MCB24500), a schoolhouse (CHER MCB24501), and a corn mill (CHER MCB24506) were constructed.

4.5 Undated archaeological features and finds have also been identified in the area including several cropmarks (CHER 10602), and a scatter of CBM and daub (CHER 10918).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The CCC HET advice required a 3% sample of the development area where new groundworks are proposed to be investigated by trenching. Three trenches of 21m x 1.8m were excavated to investigate the proposed new house plots, garages and access. (Fig. 2).

5.2 A one-metre square of topsoil, subsoil and any lower soil horizons below the existing surfaces was bucket sampled and sorted by hand at each end of the trenches to characterise their artefact content (as required Section 2.8 of the brief). Site records were completed to reflect this exercise. A metal detector was used to enhance finds recovery.

5.2 The trenches were mechanically excavated using a 360° excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision.

5.3 The archaeological evaluation comprised 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. The excavated spoil was checked for finds.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

No archaeological finds were present during the sampling of the topsoil and subsoil.

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Figs. 2 - 3)

Sample section 1A 0.00 = 2.13m AOD		
0.00 – 0.40m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, dark grey brown silty clay with moderate small sub-angular flints.
0.40 – 0.70m	L1001	Subsoil. Firm, mid orange brown silty clay with moderate small sub-angular flints.
0.70 – 0.90m	L1002	Tidal Flat Silts. Firm, pale grey brown sandy silt with very occasional small sub-angular flints.
0.90m+	L1003	Natural Deposits. Firm, mid red brown silty clay.

Sample section 1B 0.00 = 1.84m AOD		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As Sample Section 1A.
0.28 – 0.56m	L1001	Subsoil. As Sample Section 1A.
0.56 – 1.10m	L1002	Tidal Flat Silts. As Sample Section 1A.
1.10m+	L1003	Natural Deposits. As Sample Section 1A.

Description: Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 2 (Figs. 2 - 3)

Sample section 2A 0.0 1.85m AOD		
0.00 – 0.40m	L1000	Topsoil. As Sample Section 1A.
0.40 – 0.62m	L1001	Subsoil. As Sample Section 1A.
0.62 – 1.10m	L1002	Tidal Flat Silts. As Sample Section 1A.
1.10m+	L1003	Natural Deposits. As Sample Section 1A.

Sample section 2B 0.00 = 2.17m AOD		
0.00 – 0.42m	L1000	Topsoil. As Sample Section 1A. Contained no finds.
0.42 – 0.60m	L1001	Subsoil. As Sample Section 1A. Contained no finds.
0.60 – 0.72m	L1002	Tidal Flat Silts. As Sample Section 1A. Contained no finds.
0.72m+	L1003	Natural Deposits. As Sample Section 1A.

Description: Trench 2 contained a natural hollow, and no archaeological features or finds.

Sample section 3A 0.00 = 1.95m AOD		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As Sample Section 1A.
0.28 – 0.60m	L1001	Subsoil. As Sample Section 1A.
0.60 – 0.92m	L1002	Tidal Flat Silts. As Sample Section 1A.
0.92m+	L1003	Natural Deposits. As Sample Section 1A.

Sample section 3B 0.00 = 2.32m AOD		
0.00 – 0.42m	L1000	Topsoil. As Sample Section 1A.
0.42 – 0.64m	L1001	Subsoil. As Sample Section 1A.
0.67 – 1.08m	L1002	Tidal Flat Silts. As Sample Section 1A.
1.08m+	L1003	Natural Deposits. As Sample Section 1A.

Description: Trench 3 contained linear feature of natural origin (F1004), and no archaeological features or finds were present

F1004 was linear or elongated in plan (1.80+ x 2.50+ x 0.67m). It had moderately sloping sides and a flat base. Its basal fill (L1005) was a mid blue grey silty clay and it contained no finds. Its upper fill (L1006) comprised alternating layers of firm mid yellowish grey brown and pale-mid yellow brown clay sand, and it contained no finds. It is likely this feature represented a natural channel or hollow.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The site was overlain by a 0.28m – 0.42m thick topsoil layer (L1000) of firm, dark grey brown silty clay with moderate small sub-angular flints. Below L1000 was a 0.18m – 0.32m thick subsoil layer (L1001) of firm, mid orange brown silty clay with moderate small sub-angular flints. Below L1001 was a 0.12m – 0.54m thick layer of tidal silts (L1002) comprising firm, pale grey brown sandy silt with very occasional small sub-angular flints. These are laminated deposits resulting from repeated flood episodes.

8.2 Excavation was ceased within a layer of firm, mid red brown silty clay (L1003), which was encountered at a depth of between 0.72m and 1.10m below the current ground surface. These are also part of the quaternary superficial geological deposits overlying the Amphthill Clay bedrock, which is present at greater depth.

8.3 Elsewhere on Kirkgate, Saxon and medieval features have been identified cutting the natural silts (Kasia Gdaniec *pers comm.*).

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) notes that the site lies within an area of archaeological potential, within the medieval settlement area of Tydd St Giles. Approximately 530m to the west of the development site Saint Giles' Church is located (CHER CB14987; NHLE 1125926). The church appears to have been founded in the early 13th century. Significantly, an excavation c.20m north-east of the site revealed medieval features and finds consistent with domestic activity (pottery, animal bone and marine shell), and the site reflects settlement along the medieval drove which later became Kirkgate (CHER ECB1262).

9.2 The evaluation revealed tidal silts and no archaeological features or finds. No finds were present within the topsoil or subsoil layers. Despite the presence of medieval settlement remains close by on the northern side Kirkgate it appears that this site on the southern side of the road was never settled. The absence of medieval features so close to the settlement activity suggest that this area was very wet or submerged into the medieval period.

9.3 In Trench 3, Natural Feature F1004 is likely to represent a surface creek with a roddonised surface (L1006). This is probably relatively late in date (medieval or later).

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) would like to thank Mr & Mrs E Bell for funding the project and Mr Richard Bell for all his assistance. AS would also like to acknowledge the assistance of Mr Russell Swann of Swann Edwards Architects.

AS is also pleased to acknowledge the advice of Ms Kasia Gdaniec and Ms Leanne Robinson Zeki of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*, Reading, ClfA

Gurney, D. 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper no. 14.

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OASIS ID: archaeoi7-401400

Project details

Project name	Land West of Magnolia Cottage, Tydd St Giles - TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION
Short description of the project	In August 2020 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land west of Magnolia Cottage, Kirkgate, Tydd St Giles, Cambridgeshire (NGR TF 4329 1653; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of four dwellings and associated site works (Fenland district Council Approval Ref. F/YR18/08410/O). It was required by the local planning authority based on the advice of the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET). The evaluation revealed tidal silts and no archaeological features or finds. No finds were present within the topsoil or subsoil layers. Despite the presence of medieval settlement remains close by on the northern side Kirkgate it appears that this site on the southern side of the road was never settled. The absence of medieval features so close to the settlement activity suggest that this area was very wet or submerged into the medieval period.
Project dates	Start: 17-08-2020 End: 18-08-2020
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	P8253 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ECB 6263 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	SILT DEPOSITS None
Significant Finds	- None
Methods & techniques	""Targeted Trenches""

Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE FENLAND TYDD ST GILES Land West of Magnolia Cottage, Kirkgate
Study area	0.37 Hectares
Site coordinates	TF 4329 1653 52.727040599069 0.122117479975 52 43 37 N 000 07 19 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 2m Max: 2m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Project brief originator	Cambridgeshire County Council
Project design originator	Jon Murray
Project director/manager	Jon Murray
Project supervisor	Barlow, G
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr & Mrs E. Bell

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Store
Digital Media available	"GIS", "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Store
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Map", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land West of Magnolia Cottage, Kirkgate, Tydd St Giles, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation
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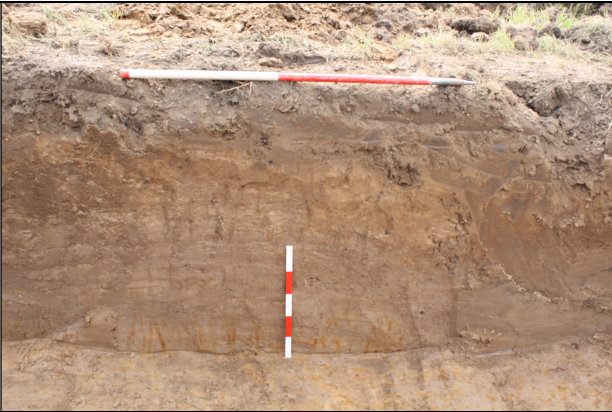
PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX (P8253)



1
Trench 1 looking east



2
Sample section 1A in Trench 1



3
Sample section 1B in Trench 1



4
Trench 2 looking north



5
Trench 2 looking south



6
Sample section 2A in Trench 2



7
Sample section 2B in Trench 2



8
Natural feature tested in Trench 2



9
Trench 3 looking east



10
Trench 3 looking west



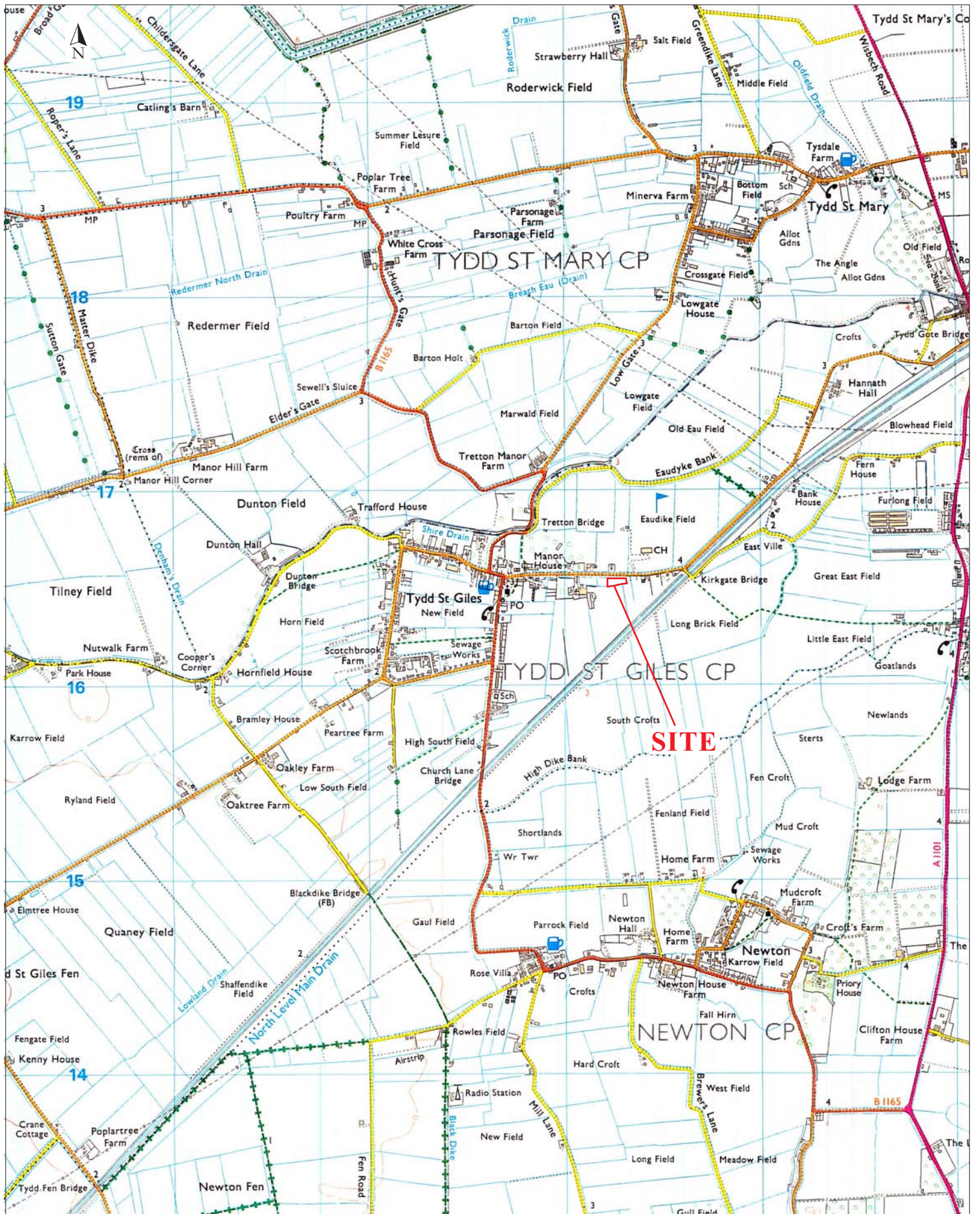
11
Sample section 3A



12
Sample section 3B

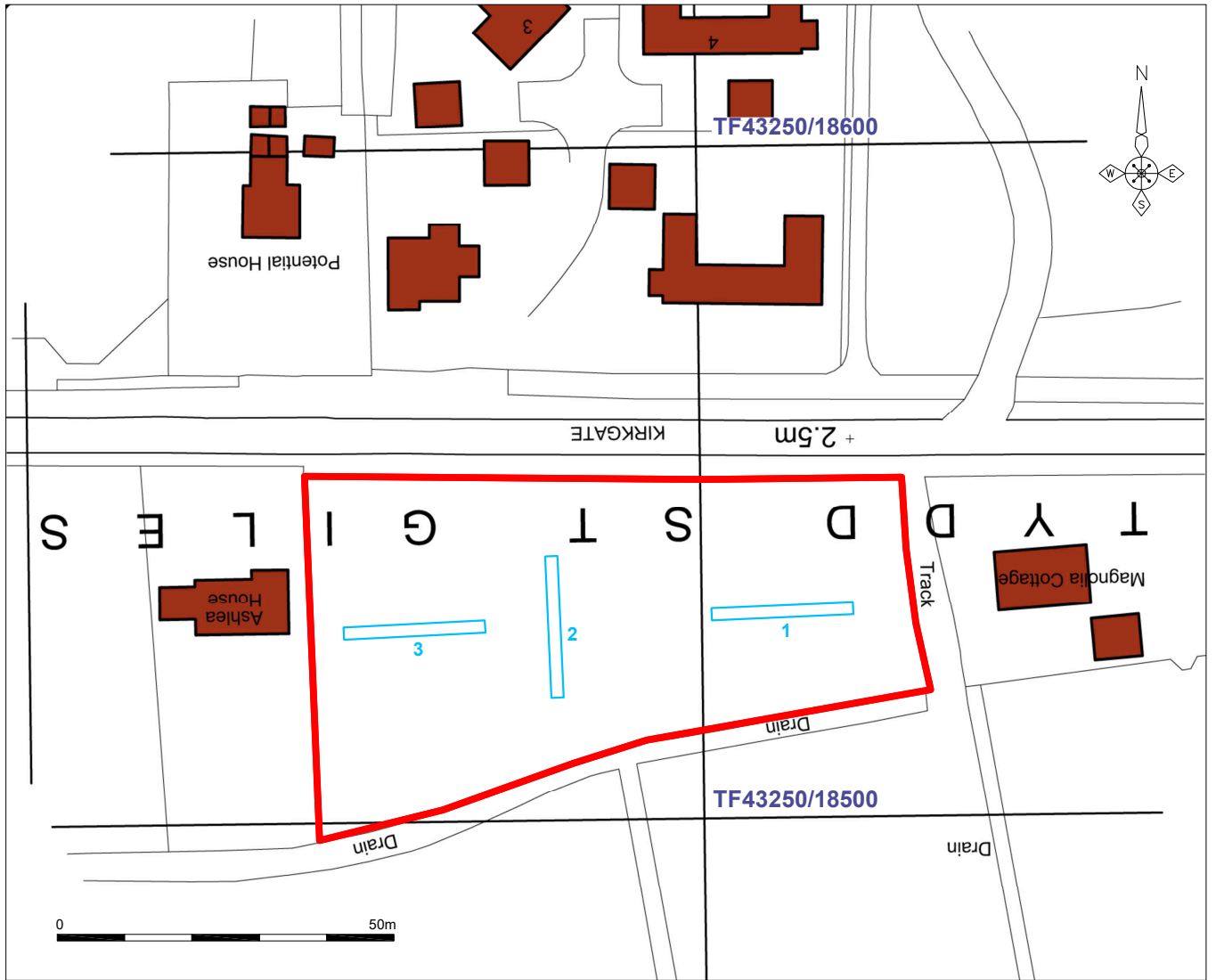


13
Natural feature F1004 in Trench 3

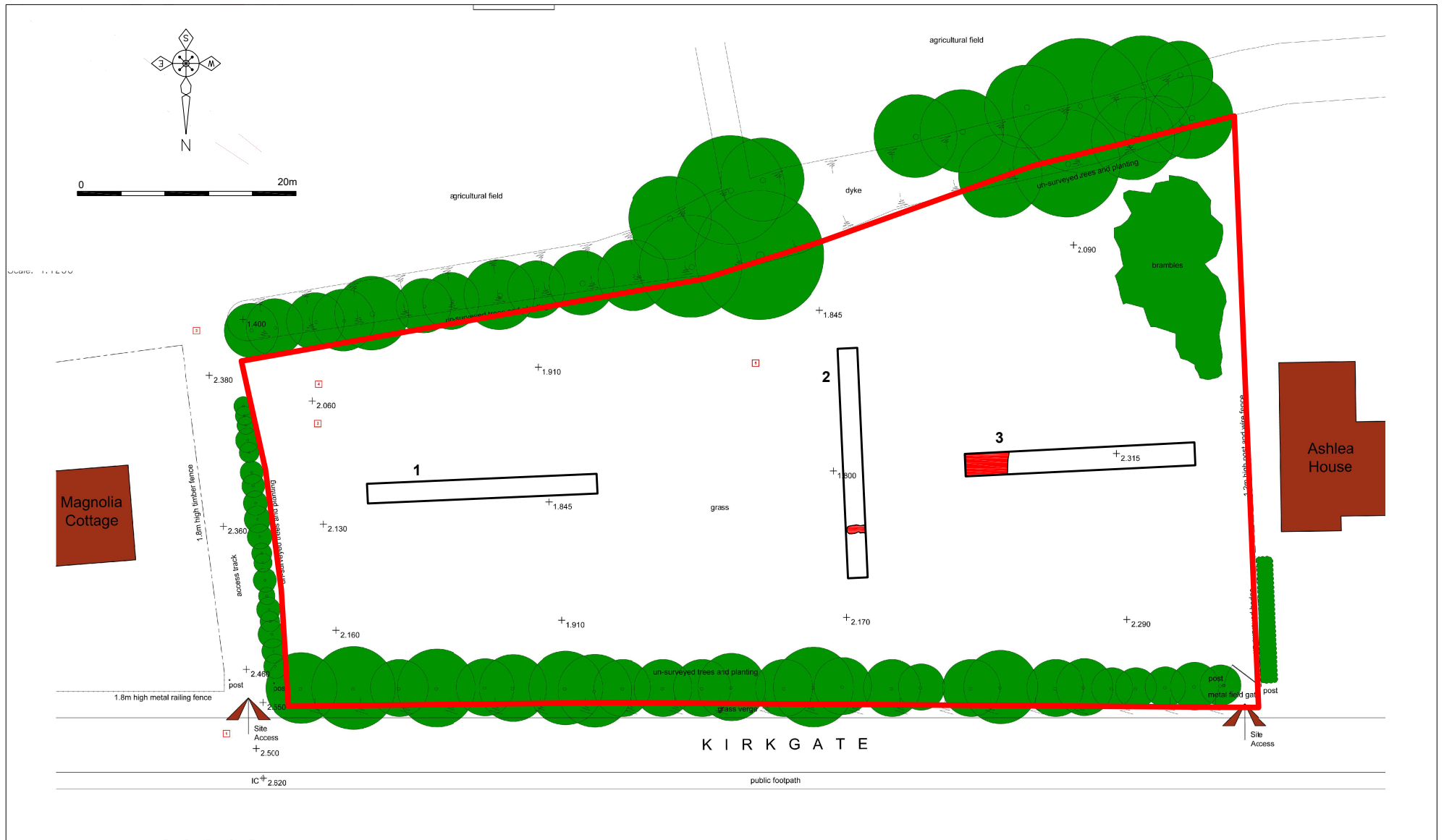


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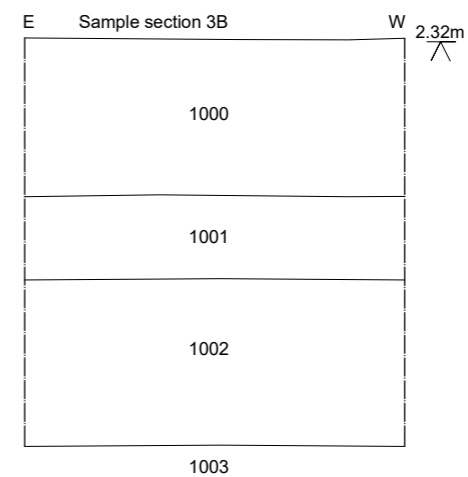
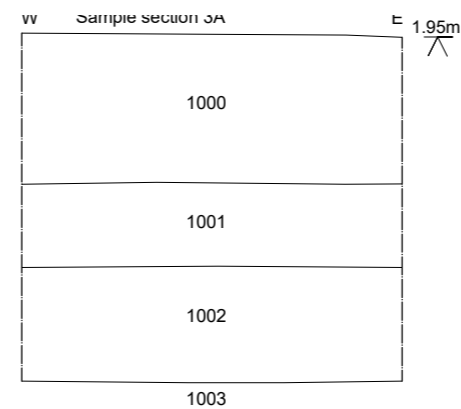
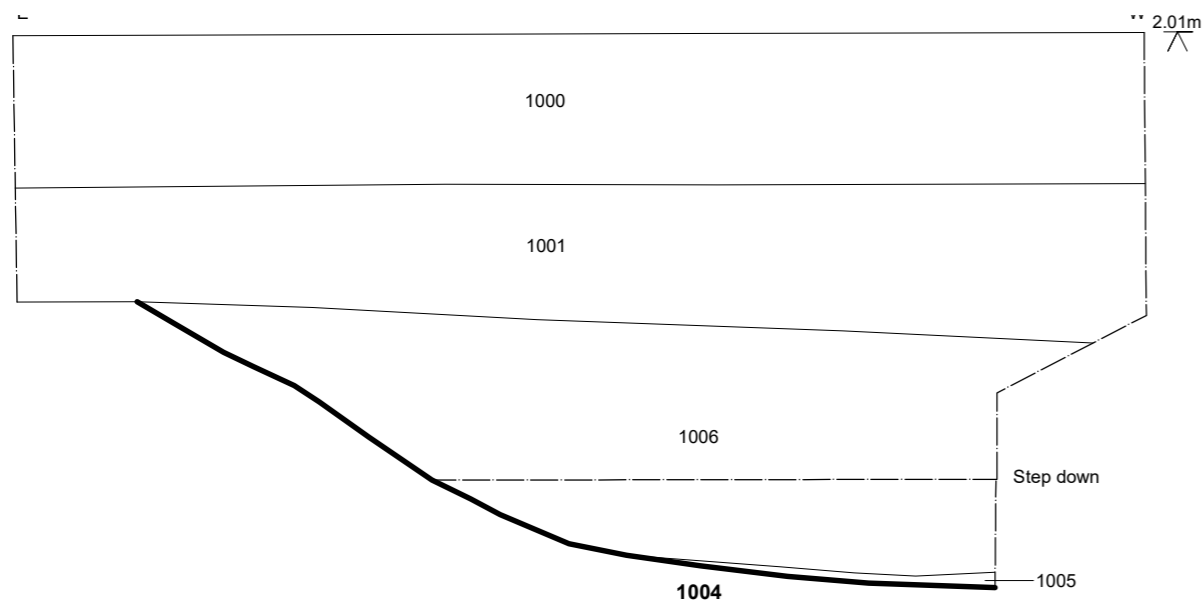
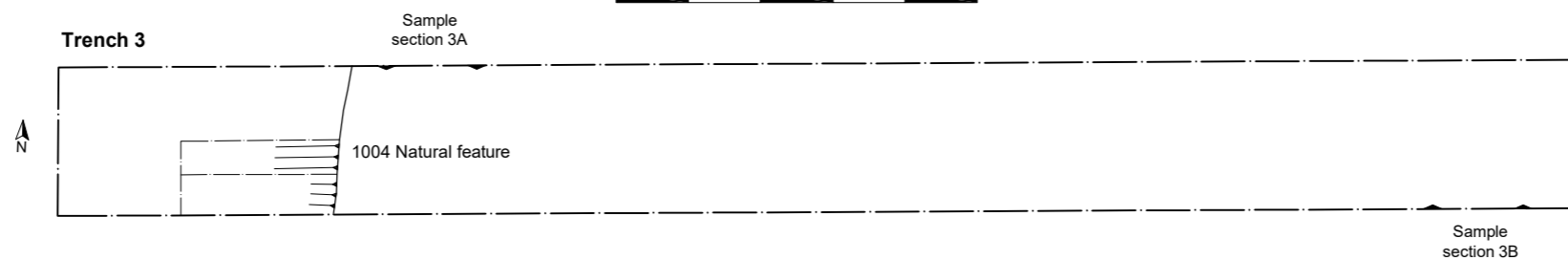
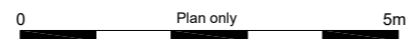
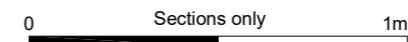
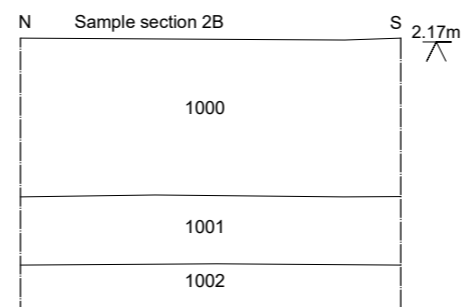
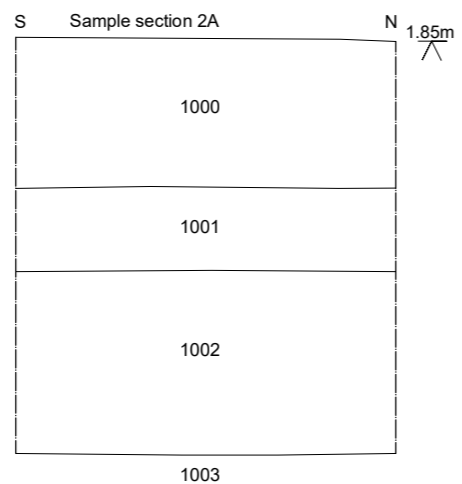
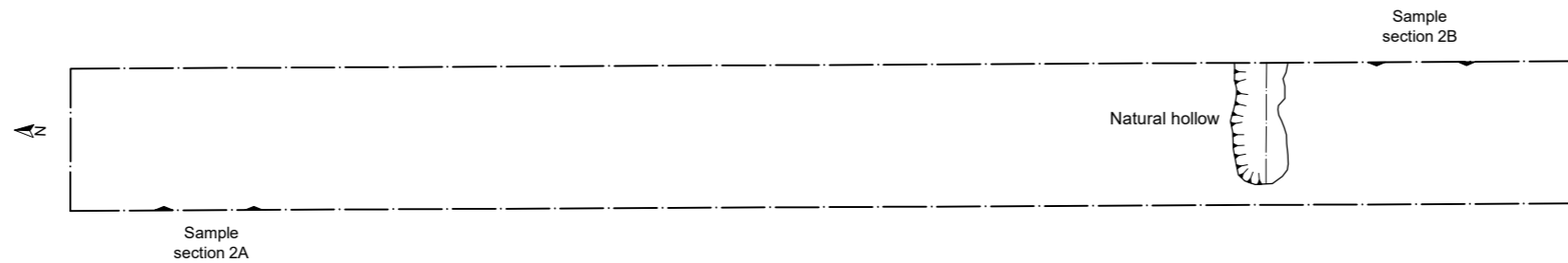
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 Magnolia Cottage, Kirkgate, Tydd St Giles, Cambs (P8253)



<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:1000 at A4
Magnolia Cottage, Kirkgate, Tydd St Giles, Cambs (P8253)



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Fig. 3 Trench location plan
Scale 1:500 at A4
Magnolia Cottage, Kirkgate, Tydd St Giles, Cambs (P8253)



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Fig. 4 Trench plans & sections
 Scale Plans 1:100, sections 1:20 at A3
 Magnolia Cottage, Kirkgate, Tydd St Giles, Cambs (P8253)