
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**HUNDRED ACRE FARM,
RED LODGE, SUFFOLK**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
PHASE V**

Authors: Kate Doyle BA Lisa Smith BA	
NGR: TL 7050 7050	Report No. 3086
Parish: Freckenham & Worlington	Site Code: FRK095
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 1854
Signed:	Date: May 2008

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CONTENTS

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

SUMMARY

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
- 2 SITE DESCRIPTION**
- 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**
- 4 METHOD OF WORK**
- 5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS**
- 6 CONFIDENCE RATING**
- 7 DEPOSIT MODEL**
- 8 DISCUSSION**

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Hundred Acre Farm, Red Lodge, Suffolk.</i>		
Project description (250 words)			
<i>In May 2008 Archaeological Solutions carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at Hundred Acre Farm, Red Lodge, Suffolk. The evaluation was undertaken in association with the development of the site as a pavilion and sports facilities. It represented Phase V of a large area of development, previously subject to trial trenching</i>			
<i>The remains of a ploughed-out Bronze Age round barrow (or possibly the site of a 13th century gallows) are present in the south west portion of the overall site, between Hundred Acre Farm and Beech Belt (SMR FRK.008). A number of other barrows are also present in this generally low-lying area between the rivers Kennett and Lark.</i>			
<i>Five trial trenches were excavated, and none revealed archaeological features. The findings were consistent with the results of the previous phases of trial trenching: Phase I to the north west of the site, Phase II to the north of the site, Phase III to the south west of the site and Phase IV west of the site. None of the previous phases revealed archaeological features (Hounsell 2003; Crank 2003; Doyle and McDonald 2005).</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>May 2008</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>1854</i>	Site code	<i>FRK095</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>Environmentally-sensitive Breckland area</i>		
Current land use	<i>Agricultural</i>		
Planned development	<i>Recreational</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Natural tree rooting</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>x4 struck flint from the topsoil</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Suffolk</i>	<i>Freckenham & Worlington</i>	
HER/ SMR for area			
Post code (if known)			
Area of site			
NGR	<i>TL 7050 7050</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>c.21m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>SCC AS</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Tom McDonald</i>		
Funded by	<i>Crest Nicholson Residential (Eastern) Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Hundred Acre Farm, Red Lodge, Suffolk,</i>		
Authors	<i>Doyle, K and Smith, L</i>		
Report no.	<i>3086</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>May 2008</i>		

HUNDRED ACRE FARM, RED LOGE, SUFFOLK AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION PHASE V

SUMMARY

In May 2008 Archaeological Solutions carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at Hundred Acre Farm, Red Lodge, Suffolk. The evaluation was undertaken in association with the development of the site as a pavilion and sports facilities. It represented Phase V of a large area of development, previously subject to trial trenching

The remains of a ploughed-out Bronze Age round barrow (or possibly the site of a 13th century gallows) are present in the south west portion of the overall site, between Hundred Acre Farm and Beech Belt (SMR FRK.008). A number of other barrows are also present in this generally low-lying area between the rivers Kennett and Lark.

Five trial trenches were excavated, and none revealed archaeological features. The findings were consistent with the results of the previous phases of trial trenching: Phase I to the north west of the site, Phase II to the north of the site, Phase III to the south west of the site and Phase IV west of the site. None of the previous phases revealed archaeological features (Hounsell 2003; Crank 2003; Doyle and McDonald 2005).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In May 2008 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation of land at Hundred Acre Farm, Red Lodge, Suffolk (NGR TL 7050 7050) (Figs. 1-2). The evaluation was commissioned by Crest Nicholson Residential (Eastern) Ltd., and undertaken in compliance with a planning requirement of the local planning authority (based on advice from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCC AS)). The site is to provide sport facilities and a pavilion (Forest Heath DC Planning Ref. F/2007/0928). The current investigations represent Phase V of a larger development area, previously subject to trial trenching.

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken according to a brief prepared by SCC AS (dated 03/02/03) and a specification prepared by HAT (now AS) (dated 02/03). It conformed to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2001), and Gurney (2003), *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*.

1.3 The general aims of the evaluation were to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. More specific objectives were (as set out in the brief Sections 2.1 - 2.5):

- To identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological sites within the area of proposed development;
- To evaluate whether or not waterlogged organic deposits are likely to be present within the area of proposed development; and
- To provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy for dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost as, and if, appropriate.

1.4 An archaeological desk-based assessment of the area of proposed development was carried out by HAT in 2002 (O'Brien 2002). Trial trench evaluations were carried in the northern sector, Phases I and II (Crank 2003; Hounsell 2003) and in the southern sector, Phases III and IV (Doyle and McDonald 2005)

2 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 The site lies on the south-western edge of the environmentally-sensitive Breckland area, close to the border between Suffolk and Cambridge, east of the Cambridge fens. It occupies a strip of land located east of the largely post-war, housing development of Red Lodge. The latter is located *c.* 9km north-east of Newmarket, *c.* 4km south-east of Freckenham and *c.* 4km south-west of Barton Mills. The village is bypassed to the west by the A11 which connects Newmarket and Thetford, and straddles the B1085. The River Kennett passes south of the village, running south-east to north-west and draining into the fens to the north-west. The River Lark passes *c.* 4km to the south of the village.

2.2 The site is located at a height of *c.* 21m AOD. It is bounded by the recently-built housing estate to the north and west, and by Hundred Acre Farm to the south and east.

2.3 Phase I (Hounsell 2003) encompassed a field (*c.* 6 hectares) in the north-western corner of the overall area of proposed development (Trenches 1 – 80; Fig. 2). No archaeological features were revealed during the first phase of the archaeological evaluation. Phase II (Crank 2003) encompassed two fields (10.25 hectares) in the north-eastern corner of the overall area of proposed development (Trenches 81 - 150), linked to a small land parcel proposed for a storage pond (Trenches 151-154; Fig. 2). Two smaller land parcels were also evaluated at this stage (Trenches 155 - 156). Again no archaeological features were revealed.

2.4 Phases III and IV of the development lie due south of Phase I bordering Warren Road to the west and Green Lane to the south (Fig.2). Phase III encompassed a single field (*c.* 0.8 hectares) in the south-western corner of the overall area of proposed development. Phase IV comprised an irregularly shaped section between Phases I, II and III and to the immediate east of Warren Road.

2.5 Phase V lies at an average height of *c.* 21m AOD. The geology of the total site consists of glacially deposited sands and gravels overlying a solid geology of chalk. The overlying soil comprises well drained, acidic, sandy soils of the Newport 4 association (SSEW 1983).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment of the area has been carried out, and it identified the potential for prehistoric and possibly Roman archaeological deposits within the general area (O'Brien 2002). A summary of this assessment is presented below.

3.2 The site lies in the extreme south-west of the Breckland Environmentally Sensitive Area, in an area where little archaeological work has been undertaken, and where there is relatively little identified known archaeology. There is, however, some scant evidence to suggest the possibility of prehistoric activity. This includes finds of two Palaeolithic flint hand axes on Red Lodge Heath and numerous find spots of Neolithic axes and other tools from the general region, possibly reflecting forest clearance during this period. The remains of a ploughed-out Bronze Age round barrow (or possibly the site of a 13th century gallows) are present in the south west portion of the overall site, between Hundred Acre Farm and Beech Belt (SMR FRK.008). A number of other barrows are also present in this generally low-lying area between the rivers Kennett and Lark. There is no evidence for any Iron Age activity within the vicinity of the site.

3.3 Chance finds of coin hoards, coffined burials and fragments of hypocaust have been found west of Red Lodge, close to the river Lark and Jude's Ferry. These finds suggest that a Roman villa was located near the Lark to the north, possibly forming part of a series of estates situated on the dry, fertile chalk belt above the wet fens to the west. There is little evidence for any Anglo-Saxon activity within the immediate area of the site.

3.4 From the 13th century onwards, the open heath was used as a warren. Three square banked enclosures, probably related to rabbit rearing or fodder growing, are located west of the site. The Red Lodge, now a public house, was probably once the gamekeeper's fortified house. The 18th century Turnpike Road between Newmarket and Thetford ran west of the site. The hamlet has been subjected to considerable post-war development. Cartographic evidence indicates that the site was used as open heathland for sheep grazing or rabbit rearing and hunting until Enclosure in 1824, and Hundred Acre Farm was established after this time.

4 METHOD OF WORK

4.1 Five trial trenches were excavated (Fig. 2) totalling 200m. The pitches of the sport facilities had been laid out and constructed and trenches were located in positions which did not impact the newly-laid pitches or drains, by agreement with SCC AS. The trenches were excavated using a 360° tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil was mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision, thereafter all further excavation was undertaken by hand.

4.2 Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand as appropriate and deposits/features revealed were recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and

photographed. In addition, all excavated spoil was screened on the surface for the presence of archaeological artefacts, and the site was scanned by metal detector as the project progressed.

5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

5.1 Trench 321 Fig. 3; DP 1

<i>Sample section: W end, S facing</i> <i>0.00 = 20.44m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000	Turf Layer. Light greyish brown silty sand.
0.10 – 0.30m	L1001	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional angular fragments of chalk and flint.
0.30 – 0.37m+	L1002	Natural. Light brownish white silty sand with occasional small angular flint and frequent fragments and flecks of sub angular chalk.

<i>Sample section: E end, S facing</i> <i>0.00 = 20.37m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000	Turf Layer. As above.
0.10 – 0.35m	L1001	Topsoil. As above.
0.35m+	L1002	Chalk Natural. As above.

Description: An area of natural tree rooting (F1014) was excavated in Trench 321.

5.1.1 Tree rooting F1014 (Length >1.8m, Width 2.90m, Depth 1.08m) was linear in plan. It had irregular edges and an uneven base. Its upper fill (L1015) was a light greyish brown silty sand with occasional flint. Its lower fill (L1016) was a mid reddish brown silty clay. No finds were present.

5.2 Trench 322 Fig. 3

<i>Sample section: S end, W facing</i> <i>0.00 = 20.37m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1000	Turf Layer. As above Tr.321.
0.12 – 0.36m	L1001	Topsoil. As above Tr.321.
0.36m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.321.

<i>Sample section: N end, W facing</i> <i>0.00 = 20.75m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.08m	L1000	Turf Layer. As above Tr.321.
0.08 – 0.34m	L1001	Topsoil. As above Tr.321.
0.34m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.321.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

5.3 Trench 323 Fig. 3; DPs 2 & 6

<i>Sample section: W end, N facing</i> <i>0.00 = 20.95m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.45m	L1001	Topsoil. As above Tr.321.
0.45m+	L1002	Chalk Natural. As above Tr.321.

<i>Sample section: E end, N facing</i> <i>0.00 = 20.94m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1001	Topsoil. As above Tr.321.
0.32m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.321.

Description: Three areas of natural tree rooting (F1003, F1006 and F1008) were excavated in Trench 323.

5.3.1 Tree rooting F1003 (>1.81m x 1.62m x >1.12m; DP 6) was linear in plan. It had an irregular profile and an uneven base. Its upper fill (L1004) was a light greyish brown sandy silt with moderate medium sized fragments of angular flint and chalk. L1005 was a dark reddish brown silty sand with moderate medium-sized fragments of angular flint and chalk. No finds were present.

5.3.2 Tree rooting F1006 (>1.80m x 2.25m x 0.53m) was identified as linear in plan. Its profile was irregular with an uneven base. L1007 was allocated to its fill which was a mid reddish brown silty sand with moderate chalk and flint fragments. No finds were present.

5.3.3 Tree rooting F1008 (>3.10m x 0.47m x 0.28m) was linear in plan with an irregular profile and an irregular base. Its fill (L1009) was a mid reddish brown silty sand with frequent fragments of angular flint and chalk flecks.

5.4 Trench 324 Fig. 4; DPs 3 & 5

<i>Sample section: E end, N facing</i> <i>0.00 = 20.73m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1001	Topsoil. As above Tr.321.
0.34 – 0.41m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.321.

<i>Sample section: W end, S facing</i> <i>0.00 = 20.95m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1001	Topsoil. As above Tr.321.
0.28 – 0.32m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.321.

Description: One area of natural tree rooting (F1010) was excavated in Trench 324.

5.4.1 Tree rooting F1010 (>1.80m x 1.83m x 0.70m; DP 5) was linear in plan. Its profile was irregular with an uneven base. Its fill, L1011, was a mid reddish brown silty sand. No finds were present.

5.5 Trench 325 Fig. 4; DP 4

<i>Sample section: S end, E facing</i> <i>0.00 = 20.61m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1001	Topsoil. As above Tr.321.
0.30 – 0.34m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.321.

<i>Sample section: N end, E facing</i> <i>0.00 = 20.54m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1001	Topsoil. As above Tr.321.
0.25 – 0.42m+	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.321.

Description: One area of natural tree rooting (F1012) was excavated in Trench 325.

5.5.1 Tree rooting F1012 (1.8m x 1.07m x 0.79m) was identified as linear in plan. It had an irregular profile and an uneven base. Its single fill, L1013, was a mid reddish brown sandy silt. No finds were present.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

6.1 It is not felt that any factors hindered the recognition of archaeological features or the recovery of finds during the course of the evaluation.

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 Turf layer (L1000) was a compact light greyish brown silty sand in Trenches 321 and 322, extending up to 0.12m below the ground surface. This layer, which was associated with the sports facilities, had been laid prior to evaluation. A series of field drains associated with the laying of this turf was visible aligned north-west to south-east in Trench 322.

7.2 A layer of topsoil (L1001) was identified as the uppermost layer in Trenches 323, 324 and 325. In Trenches 321 and 322 it was seen after the removal of turf layer L1000. It consisted of a mid greyish brown silty sand with occasional angular fragments of chalk and flint and was visible up to 0.45m below the ground surface.

7.3 The natural (L1002) was observed as a consistent deposit in the base of all of the trenches during this phase of the investigation. It was a light brownish white silty sand with occasional small angular flint and frequent fragments and flecks of sub angular chalk.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 Summary of the archaeology

8.1.1 The trial trench evaluation of Phase V at the Red Lodge site revealed areas of natural tree rooting of which a sample was investigated. No finds were present.

8.2 Interpretation of the site

8.2.1 The natural tree rooting encountered during this investigation suggests that this area would have been woodland comprising mixed deciduous trees some of which can still be seen bordering along the eastern boundary of the site. This area was then cleared for use as agricultural land when Hundred Acre Farm was established.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Store. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AS is grateful to Crest Nicholson Residential (Eastern) Ltd for their co-operation and funding of the archaeological evaluation, and for their assistance (in particular Messrs Matt Parsons, Tim West and Mel Taylor).

AS is also pleased to acknowledge Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service for their input and advice, in particular Mr Edward Martin.

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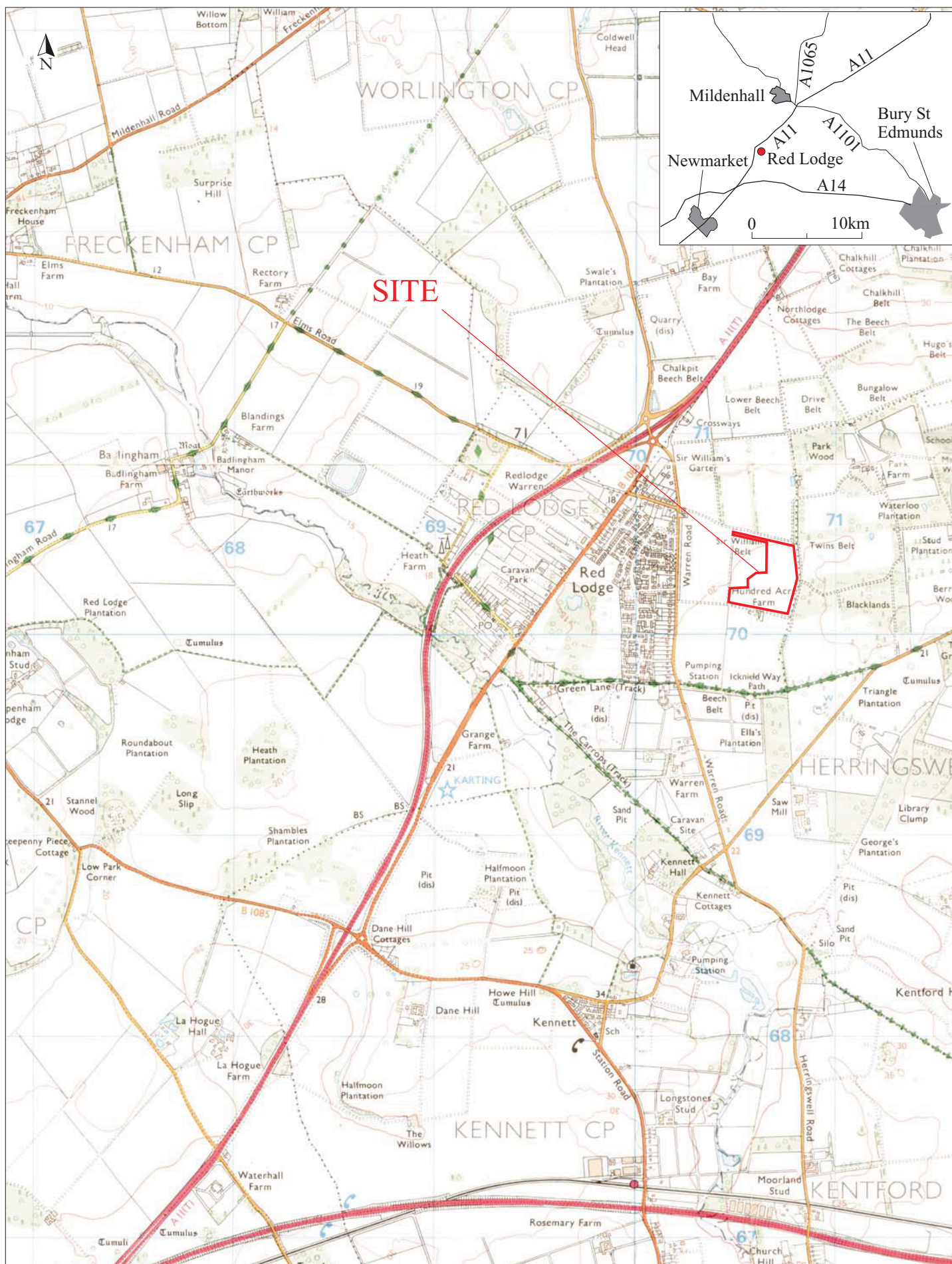
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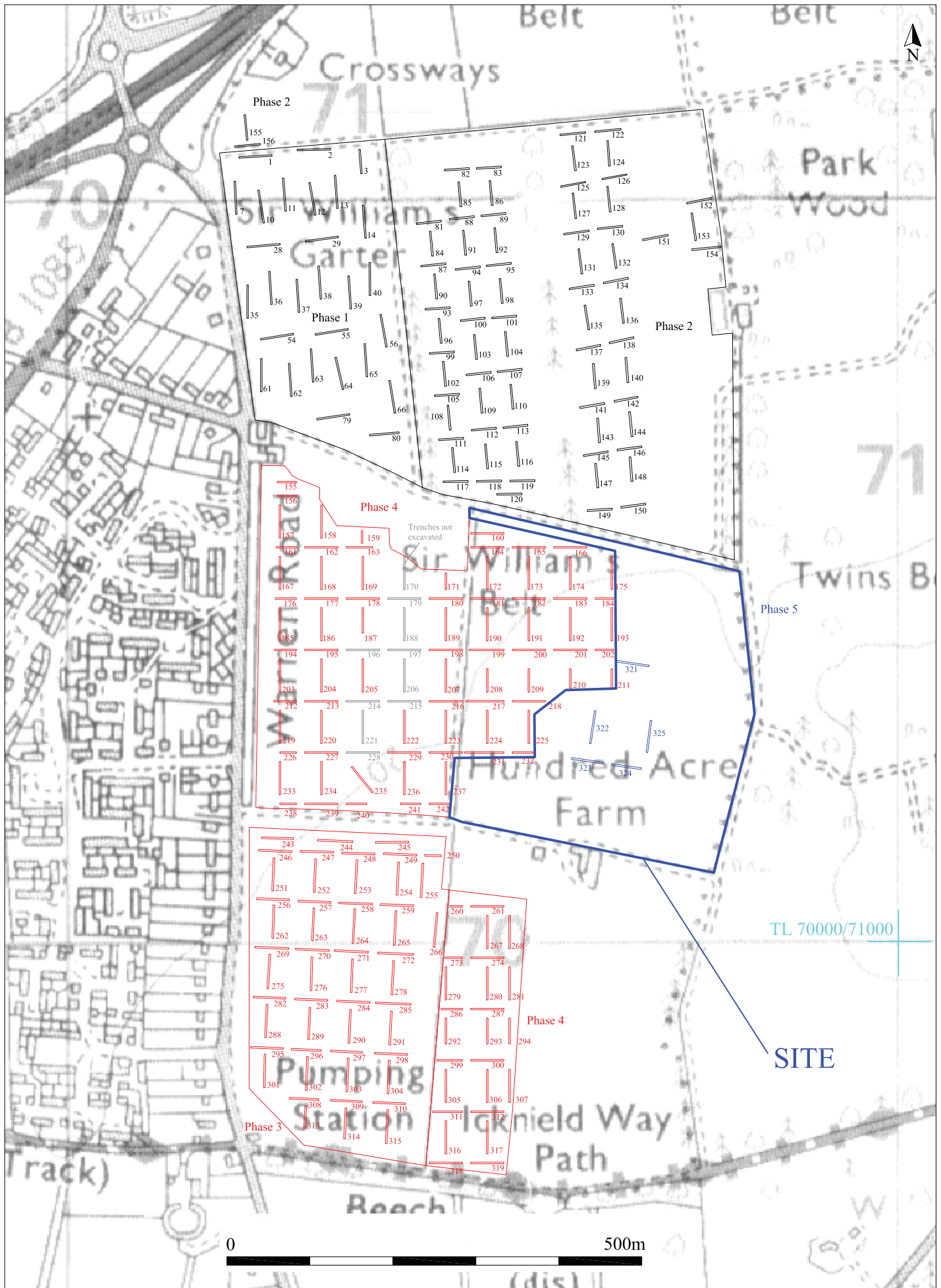
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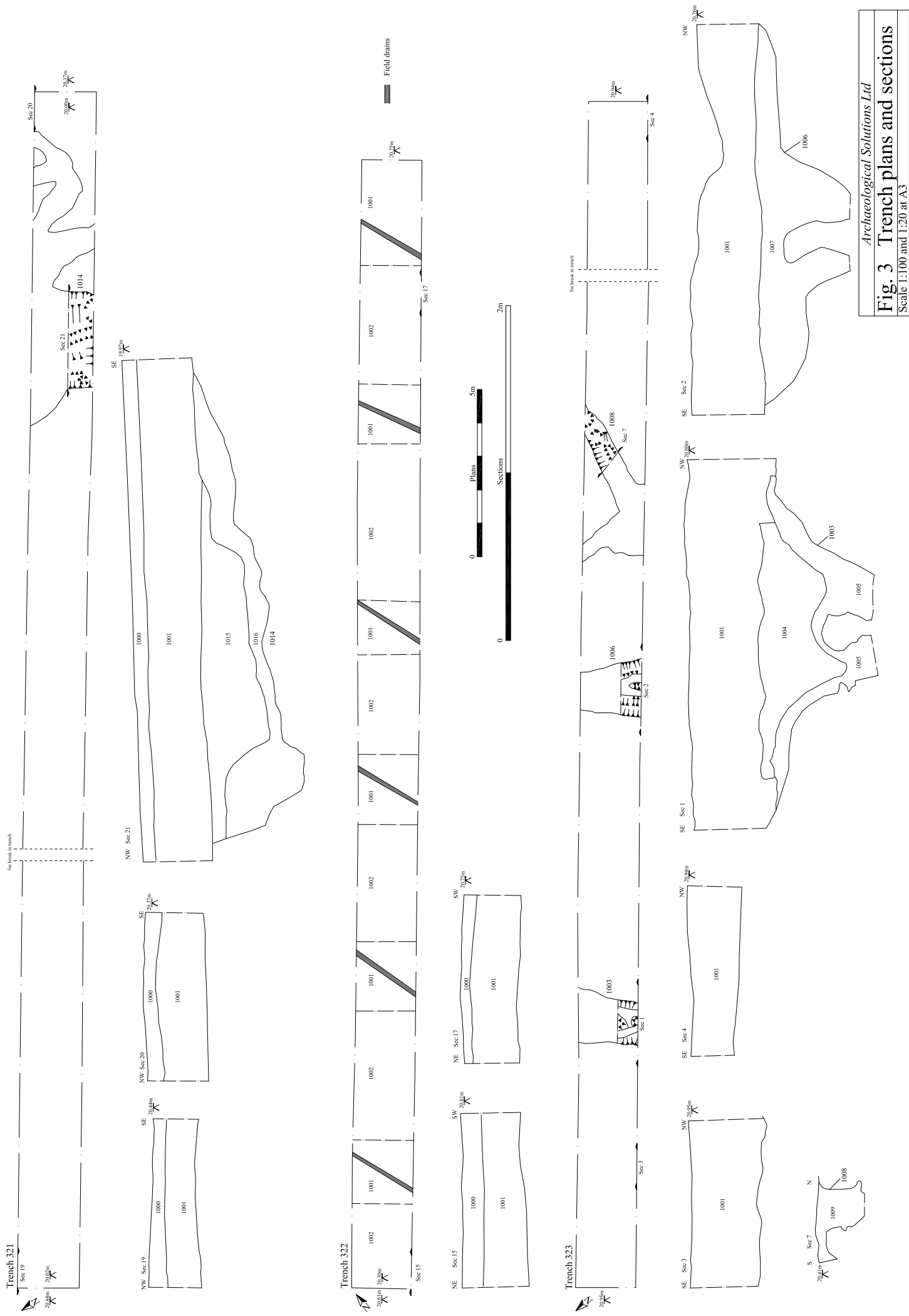
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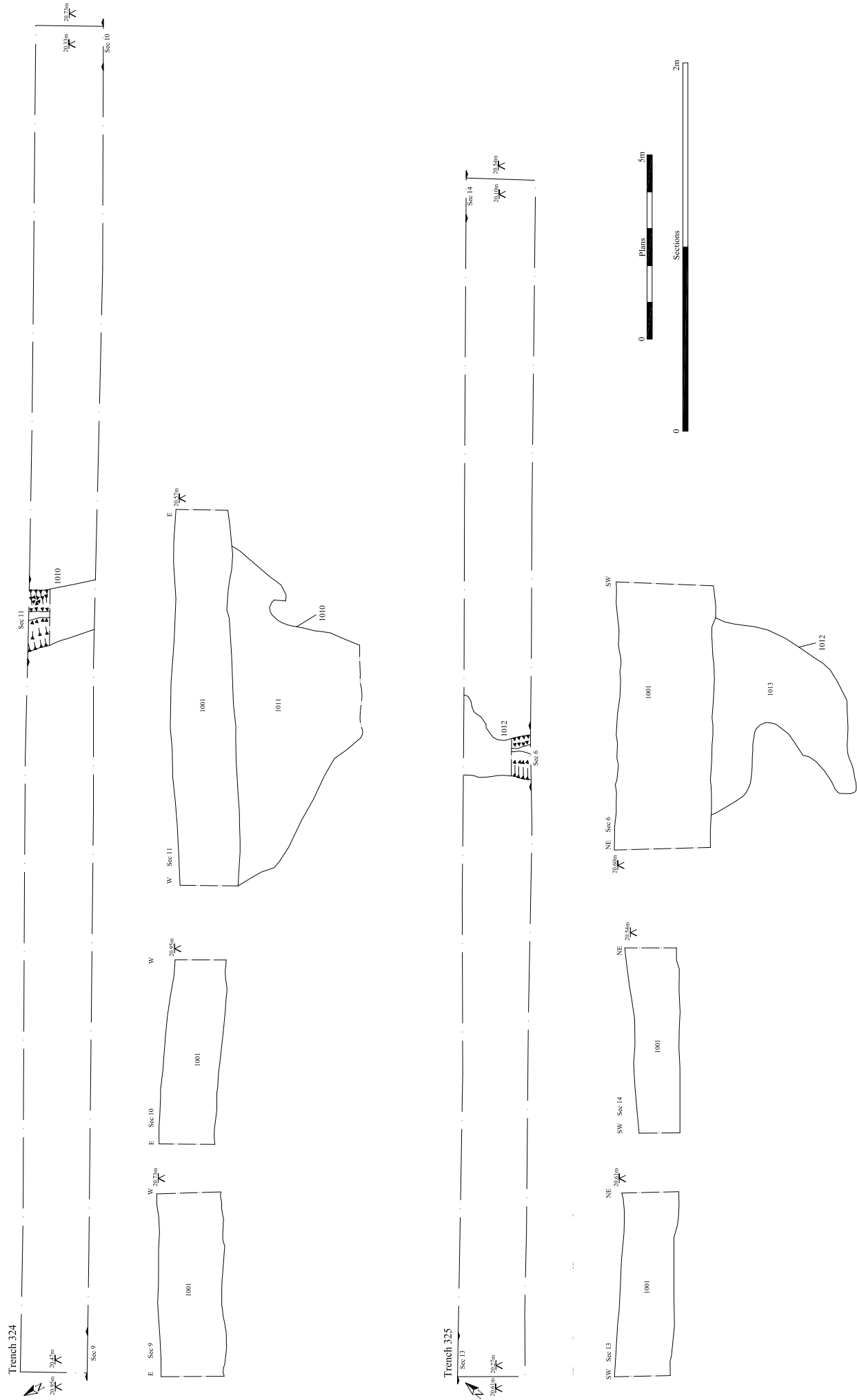
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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Fig. 2 Trench Location Plan
 Scale: 1:6000 at A4





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Fig. 4 Trench plans and sections

Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3