ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

PROPOSED EXTENSION TO THE BURIAL GROUND LAND NORTH OF THAXTED WINDMILL, THAXTED, ESSEX

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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NGR: TL 6098 3083	Report No. 3226
District: Uttlesford	Site Code: TX17
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. P2818
Signed:	Date: December 2008

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	*Proposed extension to the burial ground, land north of Thaxted Windmill, Thaxted, Essex, An Archaeological Evaluation*		
Project description (250 words) *In late November/early December 2008 Archaeological Solutions (AS) Limited carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land north of Thaxted windmill (NGR TL 6098 3083). The evaluation was commissioned by Thaxted Parish Council in compliance with a planning condition and prior to the proposed extension of an existing graveyard.* *The site is located on the top of a ridge which slopes gently down to the south and east with the valley of river Chelmer to the west. It is located in an exposed position with excellent views to the east, south and west.* *Three features contained a small quantity of residual struck flint (F1021 Tr.3, F1024 Tr.2 & F1028, Tr.2). The earliest feature was Ditch F1024 (Trench 2) which contained 8th – 5th century BC pottery (late Bronze Age – early Iron Age). A medieval feature was excavated: Pit F1056 (Trench 2), and Ditch F1033 (Trench 3) contained residual medieval pottery. The large ill-defined feature in Trench 3, F1053, contained late 17th – 19th century pottery. It may represent the remains of a cut for the base of a windmill. It is suggested that the CBM found in F1053 and Ditches F1028 (Tr.2) and F1033 (Tr.3) may be derived from a possible structure (windmill?). The feature is unusually large*		
Project dates (fieldwork)	*25th November to 3rd December 2008*		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	*N*	Future work (Y/N/?)	*TBC*
P. number	*P2818*	Site code	*TX17*
Type of project	*Archaeological evaluation*		
Site status			
Current land use	*Pasture*		
Planned development	*Extension to the burial ground*		
Main features (+dates)	*LBA-EIA ditch, medieval pit, possible post-med cut for windmill*		
Significant finds (+dates)	*LBA-EIA pottery ,post medieval pottery, CBM, animal bone.*		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	*Essex*	*Uttlesford*	*Thaxted*
HER/ SMR for area	*ECC HEM*		
Post code (if known)	*CM6 2PG*		
Area of site	*≈2000m²*		
NGR	*TL 6098 3083*		
Height AOD (max/ min)	*90 – 95m AOD*		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	*ECC HEM*		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	*Michal Rozwadowski*		
Funded by	*Thaxted Parish Council*		
Full title	*Proposed extension to the burial ground, land north of Thaxted Windmill, Thaxted, Essex, An Archaeological Evaluation*		
Authors	*Rozwadowski, M.*		
Report no.	*3226*		
Date (of report)	*December 2008*		

PROPOSED EXTENSION TO THE BURIAL GROUND, LAND NORTH OF THAXTED WINDMILL, THAXTED ESSEX AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In late November/early December 2008 Archaeological Solutions (AS) Limited carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land north of Thaxted windmill (NGR TL 6098 3083). The evaluation was commissioned by Thaxted Parish Council in compliance with a planning condition and prior to the proposed extension of an existing graveyard.

The site is located on the top of a ridge, which slopes gently down to the south and east with the valley of river Chelmer to the west. It is located in an exposed position with excellent views to the east, south and west.

Three features contained a small quantity of residual struck flint (F1021 Tr.3, F1024 Tr.2 & F1028, Tr.2). The earliest feature was Ditch F1024 (Trench 2) which contained 8th – 5th century BC pottery (late Bronze Age – early Iron Age). A medieval feature was excavated: Pit F1056 (Trench 2), and Ditch F1033 (Trench 3) contained residual medieval pottery. The large ill-defined feature in Trench 3, F1053, contained late 17th – 19th century pottery. It may represent the remains of a cut for the base of a windmill. It is suggested that the CBM found in F1053 and Ditches F1028 (Tr.2) and F1033 (Tr.3) may be derived from a possible structure (windmill?). The feature is unusually large

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In late November/early December 2008, Archaeological Solutions (AS) Limited carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land north of Thaxted windmill (NGR TL 6098 3083, Figs. 1-2) The evaluation was commissioned by Thaxted Parish Council in compliance with a planning condition and in advance of the proposed extension of an existing graveyard.

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken according to a specification prepared by AS (dated 17th November 2008) and a brief issued by Essex County Council Historic Environment Management (ECC HEM; Richard Havis dated 14th November 2008). The project conformed to the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (revised 2001).

1.3 The aims of the evaluation were to determine, as far as was reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. An adequate representative sample of all areas of where archaeological remains were potentially threatened was studied. Specific research aims highlighted by the brief comprised:

- Identification of any evidence of Roman occupation, and its nature and extent;

- Identification of any evidence of medieval structures associated with the windmill;
- Identification of any evidence of the relationship between any medieval or post-medieval occupation on the site and the development of the nearby historic town; and
- Identification of the range of objects in use on the site, their status and the presence of any imports.

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

2.1 The site is located on edge of the small historic market town of Thaxted with a population of approximately 3000. The site of a 19th century windmill lies to the south, a modern graveyard is present to the north, an arable field lies to the west, and a public footpath bounds the site to the east. In close proximity to the site is the church of St. John the Baptist, St. Mary and St. Laurence. Thaxted lies to the north and east. Currently the site is grassland, surrounded by hedges on all sides with access from the west.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is located on top (94m AOD) of a ridge which slopes gently down to the south and east with the valley of the river Chelmer to the west. The site is located in a very exposed position with excellent views to the east, south and west. The soils comprise lime-rich loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage. The site is situated on Palaeogene marine silty clays, clayey and sandy silts of the London clay association overlying Cretaceous white chalk with flints of the upper chalk association.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 An archaeological watching brief carried out by Essex County Council Planning Department Field Archaeology Group (ECC FAU) on land at Weaverhead Lane (NGR TL 613 309) in 1993 recovered prehistoric pottery and a single struck flake. Late medieval and post-medieval remains were also present. A prehistoric dolerite axe – hammer was founded 150m north of the site.

4.2 Isolated finds located in the surrounding area include a Roman pottery lamp found to the north of the windmill in the immediate vicinity of the site (TL 6101 3078) (EHER 16201). The lamp may be indicative of burials. Roman coins were also found 150m north of the site and 250m north-east.

4.3 Approximately 300m north of the site, during a small excavation on the field behind Thaxted Primary School, the remains of a Roman road were identified. Approximately 500m south of the site two waste flakes, a Roman comb, and late medieval and post-medieval pottery were founded in close proximity of old water mill.

4.4 The development site lies on the edge of the medieval town of Thaxted, close to the church of St. John the Baptist, St. Mary and St. Laurence and the adjacent graveyard. It lies immediately north of Thaxted windmill (EHER 1410 – 1411) which originally dates to the medieval period.

4.5 An archaeological evaluation carried out by ECC FAU in 2008 on land to the rear of 34 Town Street in Thaxted (NGR TL 612 309) recorded late medieval and early post-medieval features including two post-holes, two ditched property boundaries and a large cess pit. Similar evidence including pits and boundary ditches was recorded during an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Heritage Network on land also at Weaverhead Lane (NGR TL 6123 3101) in 2003.

4.6 Fieldwalking and metal-detecting in the Park Farm fields, around Church Mill, produced Roman, medieval and post-medieval coins and tokens as well as a Roman copper alloy brooch, which dates from AD 50-80. The coins and tokens found in this field indicate the possibility of occasional use as a fair green.

5 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

5.1 Chapman and Andre's Map 1777 Fig. 3

This is the earliest known depiction of the site. It appears to have been open land at the time and most likely to have been used as farm land. Although there are three windmills shown to the north and east of Thaxted, that now adjacent to the site is not depicted. The present mill was constructed in 1804. Thaxted itself appears to have been a substantial settlement by the time and the layout of its main streets has been little altered since. The buildings are grouped tightly around the church. The surrounding countryside has a scattering of hamlets and farms, e.g. Bardfield Green

and Mill Hill. There are also a number of woods including West Wood and Marks Wood.

5.2 Thaxted Tithe Map 1844 Fig.4

This map shows little change in the shape and size of Thaxted and the surrounding countryside since 1777. The Tithe Map shows field boundaries and the site falls within a large field immediately south of the village centre (Lot 814). The accompanying Tithe Award records the plot as "Mill Mead" belonging to and occupied by John Webb who used it for arable farming. The windmill just to the south of the site is depicted.

5.3 Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1897 Fig.5

This map shows much more detail than any previous depiction of the site. In particular the form of the village of Thaxted, including the church and graveyard, town houses and public buildings e.g. the Almshouses, Sunday School and Guild Hall. The site is now part of a smaller field and is traversed on the eastern side by a track leading to the windmill. The latter is now labelled *"Windmill (Corn)"*.

5.4 OS Map 1920 Fig. 6

This map shows virtually no change to the village or the site since 1897.

6 METHOD OF WORK

6.1 Three trenches, each 20m long and 1.8m wide, were excavated using a 180º mechanical excavator fitted with a wide toothless bucket (Fig.2). The excavation was carried out under the close supervision of an archaeologist.

6.2 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.

7 DESCRIPTIONS OF RESULTS

7.1 Trial Trench 1 Figs. 2 & 7, DP 4, 17

Sample section; E end of test trench, facing N 0.00 = 93.67m (AOD)		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark blackish grey clayey silt with moderate small pebbles and occasional chalk and CBM.
0.30 – 0.49m	L1001	Subsoil. Dark greyish brown clayey silt with moderate pebbles and occasional chalk and CBM
0.49 – 0.80m	L1002	Subsoil. Dark orange brown silty clay with moderate pebbles and occasional cobbles, chalk and sub angular flint

0.80m+	L1003	Natural. Mid orange yellow mottled with white gravely clay with frequent chalk and moderate flint.

Sample section; W end of test trench, facing N 0.00 = 94.34m (AOD)		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.30 – 0.45m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.45m+	L1003	Natural. As above.

Description: Two features were located in Trench 1, a ?pit or tree hollow (F1016) and a ?gully or root (F1014)

F1016 (1.7+x0.8+x0.4m) was a possible pit or tree hollow (Fig. 7, DP 3). It was possibly oval in plan with irregular sides and a flattish base. It contained two fills. L1017 was a dark greyish black sandy silt; it comprised a thin layer located against the southern edge of the feature. The principal fill, L1018, was a light orange brown clayey silt with frequent sand and moderate sub angular flint. No finds were present.

F1014 (1.5+x0.6x0.2m) was a small ?gully or area of rooting (Fig. 7). It had steep irregular sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1015, was a dark yellowish grey clayey silt with occasional sub angular flint. No finds were present.

7.2 Trial Trench 2 Figs. 2 & 7, DP 10, 13

Sample section; N end of test trench, facing W 0.00 = 94.10m (AOD)		
0.00 – 0.19m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.19 – 0.40m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.40 – 0.64m	L1002	Colluvium. As above.
0.64m+	L1003	Natural. As above.

Sample section; S end of test trench, facing W 0.00 = 94.08m (AOD)		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.24 – 0.53m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.53 – 0.73m	L1002	Colluvium. As above.
0.73m+	L1003	Natural. As above.

Description: A ditch (F1028), two gullies (F1024, F1026), two pits (F1056, F1058), and a posthole (F1054) were located in Trench 2. F1004 and F1006 were possible pits or tree hollows. F1008 was a natural feature.

F1006 (0.95+x0.2+x0.33m) was a ?pit or tree hollow (Fig.7). It had steep sides and narrow base. Its fill, L1007, was a mid orange brown sandy silt. It cut Pit F1004. No finds were present.

F1004 (1.56+x0.54+x0.33m) was a ?pit or tree hollow (Fig. 7). Its visible side was irregular and the base was flat. It contained two fills. The principal fill, L1005, was a

mid orange brown sandy silt. L1060 was a mid orangey yellow mottled with white silty clay with frequent chalk. F1004 was cut by F1006. No finds were present.

F1008 (0.51x0.82x0.12m) was an irregular area, likely to represent root disturbance. Its fill, L1009, was a dark orangey brown sandy silt. No finds were present.

F1024 (1.8+x0.93x0.38m) was a small curvilinear gully (Fig. 7, DP 5). It had steep sides and a narrow base. Its fill, L1025, was a mid orangey brown silty clay. It contained 8th – 5th century BC pottery and struck flint (13g).

F1028 (1.8x2.5x0.7m) was a linear ditch (Fig. 7, DP 9), aligned E/W. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. It contained four fills. The primary fill, L1029, was a mid brownish grey clayey silt with frequent pebbles and moderate sub angular flint. It contained a large quantity of animal bone (998g) and CBM (591g), as well as struck flint (5g). Overlying L1029 was L1030, a mid brownish grey clayey silt with frequent cobbles and pebbles, and moderate sub angular flint. No finds were present. Overlying L1030 was L1031, a dark brownish grey mottled with black clayey silt with moderate pebbles, and occasional cobbles and angular flint. A large quantity of animal bone (330g) and CBM (368g) was recovered. The uppermost fill, L1032, was a mid brownish grey clayey silt with moderate pebbles. It also contained a large quantity of animal bone (336g) and CBM (336g).

F1054 (0.36x0.37x0.10m) was a circular posthole (Fig. 7). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1055, was a dark greyish brown silty clay. No finds were present.

F1056 (1.39x0.85x0.52) was a sub rectangular pit (Fig. 7, DP 11). It had irregular sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1057, was a dark greyish brown silty clay. It contained 12th – 13th century pottery (17g), animal bone (92g) and CBM (23g). It cut Gully F1026.

F1058 (0.9+x1.55x0.6+m) was an oval pit (Fig. 7, DP 12). It had irregular sides. The base was not reached. Its fill, L1059, was a dark greyish brown silty clay. It contained animal bone (59g). It also cut Gully F1026

F1026 (1.8x1.02x0.31m) was a small linear gully (Fig.7, DP 16), aligned NW/SE. It had moderately steep sides and a narrow base. Its fill, L1027, was a mid orange brown silty clay. No finds were present. It was cut by ?Pits F1056 and F1058.

7.3 Trial Trench 3 Figs. 2 & 8, DP 6, 14

Sample section; N end of test trench, facing W 0.00 = 93.23m (AOD)		
0.00 – 0.45m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.45 – 0.58m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.58m+	L1003	Natural. As above.

Sample section; S end of test trench, facing W 0.00 = 93.34m (AOD)

0.00 – 0.41m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.41 – 0.65m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.65m+	L1003	Natural. As above.

Description: A ditch (F1033), a large ill-defined feature (F1053), a ?gully (F1012) a curvilinear ?ditch/tree hollow (F1019), a ?pit/tree hollow (F1021), and a tree hollow (F1010) were located in Trench 3.

F1033 (1.8+x2.42x0.86m) was a linear ditch (Fig. 8, DP 15), aligned E/W. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. It contained five fills. Its primary fill, L1038, was a mid orangey brown clayey silt with moderate cobbles and sub angular flint. It contained animal bone (1g) and CBM (190g). Overlying L1038, L1037 was a light greenish grey clayey silt with moderate sub angular flint. Overlying L1037, L1036 was a mid brownish grey clayey silt with occasional pebbles and sub angular flints. It contained residual 13th – 14th century pottery (43g), animal bone (39g), CBM (970g), oyster shell (358g) and iron nail fragments (43g). Overlying L1036, L1035, was a light brownish grey sandy silt with frequent gravel and sub angular flint. It contained no finds. The uppermost fill, L1034, was a light brownish yellow loose sandy gravel with moderate chalk. It contained CBM. Ditch F1033 cut F1053.

F1053 (1.6+x3.7+x1.45+m) was a large feature, only partially revealed within the trench, and was ill-defined (Fig.8, DP 15). It had a very steep side. The base of the feature were not reached. F1053 was cut by Ditch F1033. It contained several deposits which are tabulated below and depicted (Fig.8):

Context	**Soil Description**	**Finds**
L1039	Mid greyish brown clayey silt with occasional sub angular flint.	Late 17th - 19th century pottery (11g), animal bone (64g), CBM (1165g), glass (5g), oyster shell (1g)
L1040	Mid brownish yellow sandy gravel with moderate chalk and sub angular flint.	Animal bone (42g), iron fragment (3g)
L1041	Dark greyish brown clayey silt with occasional sub angular flint	Iron fragment (1g)
L1042	Mid brownish yellow silty sand with frequent pebbles.	Animal bone (58g)
L1043	Light greyish brown clayey silt with frequent pebbles and moderate sub angular flint.	None
L1044	Dark greyish brown clayey silt	
L1045	Light brownish grey clayey silt with occasional sub angular flint.	None
L1046	Mid brownish grey silty clay with occasional chunks of chalk and pebbles	None
L1047	Light brownish yellow sandy gravel.	None
L1048	Mid brownish orange clayey silt with occ small pebbles	
L1049	Light creamy grey clay	None
L1050	Mid yellowish brown clayey silt with	None

	frequent pebbles	
L1051	Light creamy grey clay	None
L1052	Light yellowish brown clayey silt with occasional sub angular flint.	None

F1010 (1.7x1.08+x0.41m) was an irregular tree hollow (Fig. 8). It was irregular in plan and section. Its fill, L1011, was a mid brownish orange clayey silt with frequent sub angular flint. No finds were present.

F1019 (3.5+x0.67+x0.32+m) was a curvilinear ?ditch/tree hollow (Fig. 8, DP 7). It was irregular in plan and section. The base of the feature was not reached. Its fill, L1020, was a mid brownish orange clayey silt with frequent flint. No finds were present.

F1012 (1.0+x1.1x0.3m) was a possible gully (Fig. 8, DP 2), aligned SW/NE. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1013, was a dark reddish brown clayey silt with moderate flint and pebbles, and occasional cobbles. No finds were present.

F1021 (3.3x1.3+x0.5m) was a possibly elongated ?pit/tree hollow (Fig. 8, DP 8). It was irregular in plan and section. Its fill, L1022, was a mid brownish orange silty clay with frequent chalk and flint, and moderate pebbles and cobbles. Its fill, L1023, was a dark orange brown clayey silt with frequent angular flint, and moderate pebbles and cobbles. An iron nail (7g) and struck flint (7g) were recovered from the fill but very close to the surface.

8 CONFIDENCE RATING

8.1 No factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or the recovery of archaeological finds.

9 DEPOSIT MODEL

9.1 The stratigraphy was generally uniform across the whole site. The topsoil, L1000, was a dark blackish grey clayey silt with moderate small pebbles and occasional chalk and CBM (0.20-0.40m thick). Below the topsoil, Subsoil L1001 was a dark greyish brown clayey silt with moderate pebbles and occasional chalk and CBM (0.15-0.20m thick). Within Trench 2 and the eastern end of Trench 1, L1002, a dark orange brown silty clay with moderate pebbles and occasional cobbles, chalk and sub angular flint was present beneath L1001. The natural geological deposit, L1003, was a mid orange yellow mottled with white gravely clay with frequent chalk and moderate flint (0.45 – 0.80m below the present ground surface).

10 DISCUSSION

10.1 Summary and interpretation of archaeology

Trench	Context	Description	Spot Date
1	1014	?pit/tree hollow	No finds
1	1016	?gully/root	No finds
2	1028	Ditch	
2	1024	Gully	8th – 5th C BC
2	1026	Gully	No finds
2	1056	Pit	12th – 13th C
2	1058	Pit	Undated
2	1054	Posthole	No finds
2	1004	?Pit/tree hollow	No finds
2	1006	?Pit/tree hollow	No finds
2	1008	Natural feature	No finds
3	1033	Ditch	13th – 14th C
3	1053	Large ill-defined feature	Late 17th – 19th C
3	1012	?gully	No finds
3	1019	?ditch/tree hollow	No finds
3	1021	?pit/tree hollow	Undated
3	1010	Tree hollow	No finds

10.1.1 The archaeological features comprised: in Trench 2, Ditch F1028, Gullies F1024 and F1026, Pits F1056 and F1058, and Posthole F1054; in Trench 3, Ditch F1033, and ill-defined feature F1053. Only features of probable natural origin were present in Trench 1.

10.1.2 Three features contained small quantities of struck flint (F1021 Tr.3, F1024 Tr.2 & F1028, Tr.2). The earliest dated feature was Ditch F1024 (Trench 2) which contained 8th – 5th century BC pottery (late Bronze Age – early Iron Age). A medieval feature was excavated: Pit F1056 (Trench 2), and Ditch F1033 (Trench 3) contained residual medieval pottery. The large ill-defined feature in Trench 3, F1053, contained late 17th – 19th century pottery. It may represent the remains of a cut for the base of a windmill. It is suggested that the CBM found within F1053 and Ditches F1028 (Tr.2) and F1033 (Tr.3) may be derived from a possible structure (windmill?) (CBM Report below). The feature is unusually large

10.1.3 Features of probable natural origin comprise the `features' in Trench 1, F1014 and F1016. In Trench 2 `features' F1004, F1006 and F1008, and in Trench 3 `features' F1010, F1012, F1019 and F1021.

10.2 Finds Data

10.2.1 Prehistoric struck flint was found in three contexts, largely residual. It is in an unpatinated, sharp condition, and the small assemblage includes a single implement; a

blade (Struck Flint Report below). The pottery is moderately to heavily abraded, and generally occurred in small quantities (1-6 sherds) (Pottery Report below)

10.2.2 The CBM is in a fragmented but only slightly abraded condition. It was largely contained in the fills of two ditches (F1028 Tr.2 & F1033 Tr.3), and F1053. Ditch F1033 also contained residual medieval pottery. The CBM contained in Ditches F1028 and F1033, and F1053 is almost entirely peg tile. It is suggested that although fragmented the small concentrations and relatively well-preserved nature of the CBM suggest that these fragments could be related to a possible structure (windmill?) in the close vicinity of the features (CBM Report below).

10.2.3 In total 20 oyster shells were recovered from context L1036 and 1 from context L1039. Oysters were commonly consumed in the medieval period, and are a common occurrence on archaeological sites (Shell Report below). The preservation of the majority of the animal bone assemblage is moderate. The best preserved elements were recovered from contexts L1029, L1031, L1057 and L1059, all of which were discovered within Trench 2. Overall domestic mammals dominate the assemblage with only a small number of bird elements present. Cattle are the most common species identified in each phase. Pig elements were present from each phase, but sheep/goat is only present in the post-medieval assemblage. The erosion present on the assemblage may also limit the amount of butchery data present, with only six bones recorded as having butchery marks. The butchery marks that are present were made with either a knife or a cleaver and are associated with the dismemberment of the skeleton (Animal Bone Report below).

10.3 Research Potential

10.3.1 The evaluation recovered evidence relating to four periods:

- Prehistoric (struck flint from 3 features),
- Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age (Ditch F1024 Tr.2),
- Medieval (F1033 Tr.3 residual, F1056 Tr.2), and
- post-medieval (F1053 Tr.3, possible cut for windmill)

10.3.2 The prehistoric and medieval finds tie in with the small quantity of comparable material found locally. The large ill-defined post-medieval feature, F1053, is interesting for its potential as a possible cut for a windmill. The site lies immediately north of Thaxted windmill (EHER 1410 – 1411) which originally dates to the medieval period.

ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at the Museum of Saffron Walden. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Thaxted Parish Council for their co-operation and funding of the project, and also for their assistance.

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APPENDIX 1

CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Maps

Date	Name	Scale	Reference
1777	Chapman & Andre's Map of Essex	-	Sheets 2 & 7
1844	Thaxted Tithe Map and Award	-	D/CT 348 / D/CT 348 A
1897	Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map	1:2500	Sheet XIV / 8
1920	OS Map 1920	1:2500	Sheet 24 / 3

APPENDIX 2
CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
1021	1023	3	Pit Fill					Fe Nail (1) 7g Struck Flint (3) 7g
1024	1025	2	Ditch Fill	8th - 5th C BC	(4) 27g			Struck Flint (3) 13g
1028	1029	2	Ditch Fill			591	998	Struck Flint (1) 5g
	1031	2	Ditch Fill			368	330	
	1032	2	Ditch Fill			80	336	
1033	1036	3	Ditch Fill	13th - 14th	(6) 43g	970	39	Oyster Shell (21) 358g Fe Fragments (3) 43g
	1038	3	Ditch Fill			190	1	
1053	1039	3	Possible Windmill	Late 17th - 19th	(3) 11g	1165	64	Clay Pipe Stem (5) 25g Glass (1) 5g Oyster Shell (1) 1g
	1040	3	Possible Windmill				42	Fe Fragment (1) 3g
	1041	3	Possible Windmill					Fe Fragment (1) 1g
	1042	3	Possible Windmill				58	
1056	1057	2	Pit Fill	12th - 13th	(1) 17g	23	92	
1058	1059	2	Pit Fill				59	

APPENDIX 3
SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Struck Flint
Andrew Peachey

The evaluation produced seven fragments (29g) of struck flint in an unpatinated, sharp condition. The flint is very dark grey in colour and includes flakes with a pale orange-brown cortex that varies between thick and pock-marked and thin and smooth. These characteristics suggest the flint was sourced from local tertiary surface gravels that are plentiful in the region.

This small assemblage includes a single implement: a blade with dimensions of 35x15x4mm in Pit F1012 (L1023) that occurs alongside a single uncorticated flake. The blade has been neatly struck with the distal end deliberately snapped so that it is regular and blunt, while both lateral edges exhibit traces of micro-wear. Ditch F1024 (L1025) contained a small secondary flake and an uncorticated flake, while Ditch F1028 (L1029) also contained a small secondary flake. This small assemblage is too small to infer any further conclusions.

A note on Methodology & Terminology

The flint will be quantified by fragment count and weight (g), with all data entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will be deposited as part of the archive. Flake type (see 'Dorsal cortex,' below) or implement type (after Healy 1988, 48-9), patination and colour were also recorded as part of this data set.

The term 'cortex' refers to the natural weathered exterior surface of a piece of flint, and the term 'patination' to the colouration of a flaked surface exposed by human or natural agency. Dorsal cortex is categorised after Andrefsky (2005, 104 & 115) with 'primary flake' referring to those with cortex covering 100% of the dorsal face; 'secondary flake' with 50-99%; 'tertiary' with 1-49% and 'non-corticated' to those with no dorsal cortex. A 'blade' is defined as an elongated flake whose length is at least twice as great as it's breadth, often exhibiting parallel dorsal flake scars (a feature that can assist in the identification of broken blades that, by definition, have an indeterminate length/breadth ratio).

The Pottery
By Peter Thompson

The evaluation recovered 14 moderately to heavily abraded sherds weighing 99 grams, and representing three time periods (Table 1). The sherds were all examined under x35 binocular microscope and recorded on Excel database which has been included as part of the archive. The pottery is described by feature below.

Period	*Sherd Count*	*Fabric Weight (g)*
Prehistoric	4	26

Medieval	7	61
Post-medieval-early modern	3	12

Table 1. Quantification of the pottery by period

Ditch F1024 contained four prehistoric sherds, (26g) three in coarse burnt, crushed white flint tempered fabrics and one in fine sand. The only profile is a small flint tempered cup rim in a finer gritted fabric to the others. This indicates a Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age date (c.8th-5th centuries BC).

Ditch F1033 contained six medieval sherds (43g). Five are coarse wares in grey fabrics, one with an oxidised outer surface, and containing abundant medium to coarse sub-angular to rounded quartz. These all belong to the Essex Fabric 20 group. The sixth sherd is an East Anglian Red Ware in fine oxidised fabric with occasional larger quartz inclusions, and clear patchy external glaze. The group would suit a 13th-14th century date.

Pit F1056 contained a similar coarse ware fabric to the above, but with coarser quartz and an oxidised inner surface. It is a jar rim profile whose description, a flat topped with external bevel producing an incipient bead, matches Fabric 20 forms from Colchester (Cottar 2000, 47). The oxidisation and sherd thickness suggest it is an earlier example in the range, and probably dates mid 12th-late 13th century.

F1053 produced three sherds, two in post-medieval red earthenware and an unsourced fragment of English stone ware of late post-medieval to early modern date.

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Cottar J. 2000 Colchester Archaeological Report 7: Post-Roman Pottery from Excavations in Colchester, 1971 -85. English Heritage

The Ceramic Building Materials

By Andrew Peachey

The evaluation produced a total of 55 fragments (3359g) of post-medieval CBM in a fragmented but only slightly abraded condition. The CBM was contained in the fills of two ditches and F1053. The CBM was quantified by fragment count and weight (g), with fabrics examined at x20 magnification and any extant dimensions measured. All data was entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that forms part of the site archive.

A CBM was present in a single fabric that was used in the manufacture of both peg tile and brick, although slightly coarser temper was used in brick forms. The fabric was oxidised red throughout with inclusions of common, moderately-sorted quartz (0.1-0.5mm), red iron rich grains (0.25-2.5mm in tile, up to 30mm in brick) and

occasional flint (generally <3mm, occasionally larger). The fabric is hard with abrasive surfaces.

The CBM contained in Ditches F1028, F1033 and F1053 is almost entirely peg tile. The only extant dimension of the peg tile is a thickness of 12-14mm, while both circular and diamond shaped peg holes were recorded. Ditch F1028 (L1029, L1031 and L1032) contained a total of 14 fragments (731g) of peg tile, Ditch F1033 (L1036 and L1038) a total of 16 fragments (1193g) of peg tile, and F1053 (L1039) 23 fragments (949g) of peg tile. Also present in Ditch F1028 (L1029) and F1053 (L1039) were single fragments of unidentifiable brick. Like the peg tile these fragments were only slightly abraded but were too fragmented to preserve any extant dimensions or diagnostic characteristics. Although fragmented the small concentrations and relatively well-preserved nature of this CBM suggest that these fragments could be related to a possible structure (windmill?) in the close vicinity of the features.

Shell and Animal Bone
By Dr James Morris

Shell

A small amount of marine shell was recovered from the site. In total 20 oyster shells were recovered from context L1036 and 1 from context L1039. The shells were relatively complete but no upper and lower bivalve pares could be identified. There was no evidence of opening on any of the shells. Oysters were commonly consumed in the medieval period, and a common occurrence on archaeological sites (Wilson 1991, 42). It is likely further excavation will produce a moderate sized shell assemblage of a similar composition.

Animal bone

Introduction

The trial trenching carried out at Land North of Windmill, Thaxted, Essex, resulted in the hand collection of approximately 131 fragments of animal bone from 9 contexts. An initial scan was carried out to assess the general nature of the assemblage, its preservation and areas of further investigation. Spot dating indicates the faunal remains come from the early medieval (AD1150-1250) high medieval (AD1250-1400) and post-medieval (AD1500-1750) periods. The majority of the assemblage, 99 elements, was recovered from the fills of post-medieval ditch F1028.

Methods

The faunal remains from each context were scanned in line with MAP2 procedures (Archaeological Solutions 2003; Davis 1992; English Heritage 1991; 2002) during which each fragment was identified to species. When it was not possible to identify to species the bones were recorded as unidentified. As the scan is to ascertain the

assemblage's potential, bird and fish bones are not identified to species and are recorded as 'BIRD' and 'FISH'.

For an assessment of this nature element information was not recorded. The number of fragments with available taphonomic, butchery, ageing and metrical information was also recorded. All data was entered into a Microsoft Access database which will be included in the site archive.

Results-preservation

The preservation of the majority of the assemblage is moderate. Erosion and fragmentation (when two or more inter-fitting fragments from the same bone are present) was noted from most contexts. A number of elements from all periods had canid gnawing present.

The best preserved elements were recovered from contexts L1029, L1031, L1057 and L1059, all of which were discovered within trench 2. It was noted that by comparison the faunal remains recovered from features within trench 3 were not as well preserved. In particular the bone from context L1036 was particularly poorly preserved with all the elements affected by erosion.

Overall, the condition of the assemblage indicates the site has moderate bone preservation conditions, which appear to be variable across the site.

Results-species present

Overall, domestic mammals dominate the assemblage with only a small number of bird elements present (Table 1). Cattle were the most common species identified in each phase. Pig elements were present from each phase, but sheep/goat is only present in the post-medieval assemblage. Two dog bones, a fragment of unfused distal femur and a cervical vertebra were recovered from post-medieval context L1031. The two bird bones present are both from domestic fowl.

Phase	Context	Cow	S/G	Pig	Dog	Bird	Unidentified	**Total**
Early med	1057	2					2	**4**
	1059	1		2		1	1	**5**
High Med	1036	1		1			5	**7**
	1038						1	**1**
Post Med	1029	20	13	1		1	11	**46**
	1031	9	8	2	2		8	**29**
	1032	6	4	3			11	**24**
	1039	2	3	2			2	**9**
	1040	4	1				1	**6**
Total		**45**	**29**	**11**	**2**	**2**	**42**	**131**

Table 1 Summary of the NISP (number of identified specimens) per species for each context

Results-further information

Due to the small size of the assemblage and the poor preservation in some contexts, only a limited amount of further information is available. No mandibles with teeth in situate were recovered, therefore no tooth wear data would be available from this assemblage. Ageing information is present in the form of long bone epiphysis fusion data, the majority of which comes from cattle and sheep elements in contexts L1029 and L1031 (Table 2). Due to the moderate levels of preservation only ten elements are complete enough for metrical data to be retrieved. The erosion present on the assemblage may also limit the amount of butchery data present, with only six bones recorded as having butchery marks. The butchery marks that are present were made with either a knife or a cleaver and are associated with the dismemberment of the skeleton.

Phase	Context	Fusion	Measurements	Butchery	**Total**
Early med	1059	1		1	**2**
High Med	1036	1			**1**
Post Med	1029	14	5	4	**23**
	1031	12	4	1	**17**
	1032	6	1		**7**
	1039	3			**3**
	1040	1			**1**
Total		**38**	**10**	**6**	**54**

Table 2 Summary of further information available from the assemblage per context

Summary of potential

The preliminary scan of the assemblage indicates that bone survival on the site can be rated as moderate. Therefore if further archaeological work was to take place an animal bone assemblage will be produced, but it may be of variable quantity and quality.

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PHOTO INDEX

DP 1 General view of the site pre-works. Looking NE.

DP 2 Trench 3. F1012. Looking NE.

DP 3 Trench 1. F1016. Looking W.

DP 4 Trench 1. Sample section. East end. Looking S.

DP 5 Trench 2. F1024. Looking SW.

DP 6 Trench 3. Sample Section. South end. Looking E

DP 7 Trench 3. F1019. Looking N

DP 8 Trench 3. F1021. Looking S

DP 9 Trench 2. F1028. Looking E.

DP 10 Trench 2. Sample section North end. Looking E.

DP 11 Trench 2. F1056. Looking ENE.

DP 12 Trench 2. F1058. Looking ENE.

DP 13 Trench 2. Post-ex. Looking N.

DP 4 Trench 3. Post-ex. Looking N.

DP 15 Trench 3. F1033 and F1053. Looking W.

DP 16 Trench 2. F1026. Looking SE.

DP 17 Trench 1. Post-ex. Looking W.

DP 18 Trench 2. Work in progress.

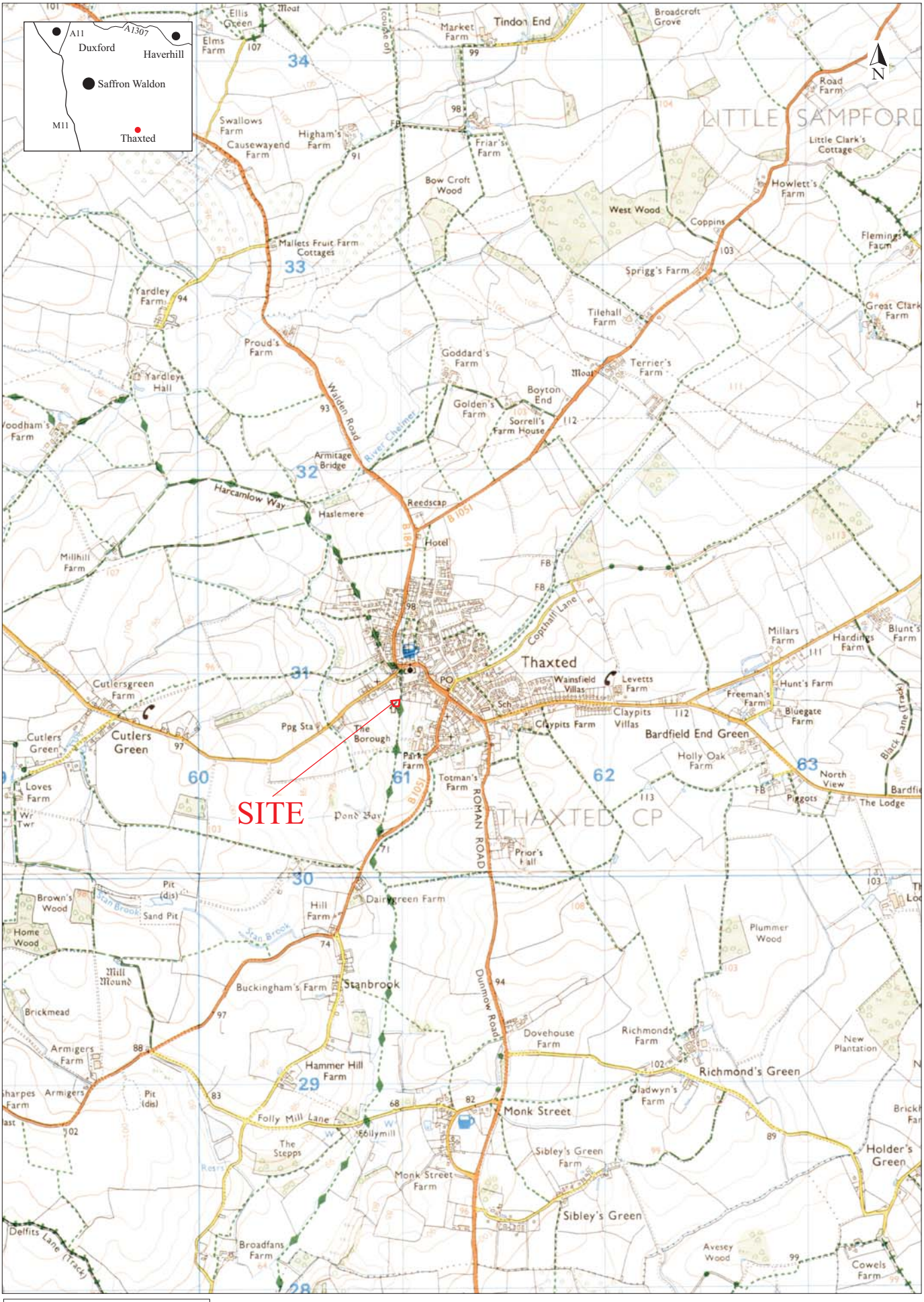

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Fig. 1 Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000 at A4

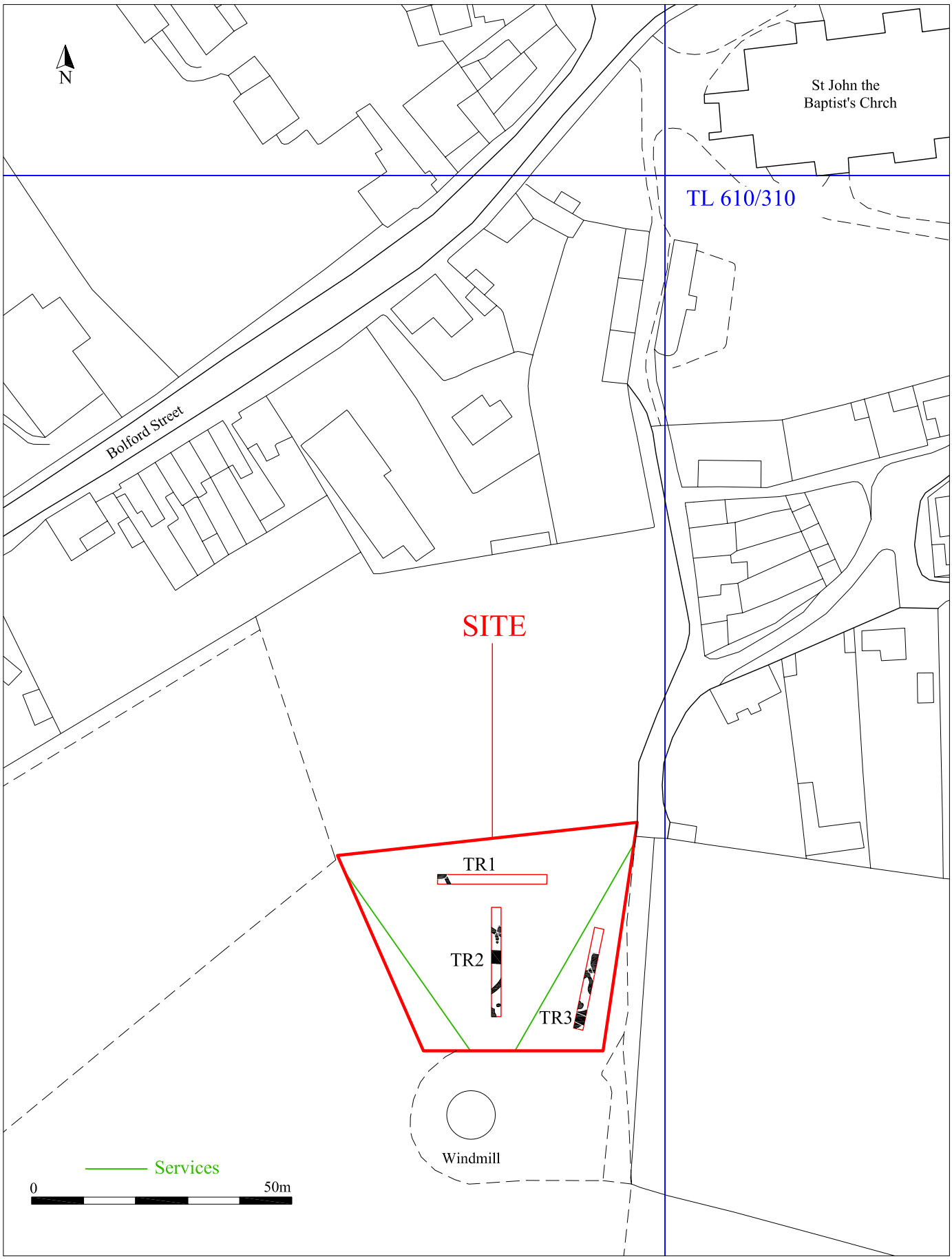

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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan

Scale 1:1000 at A4

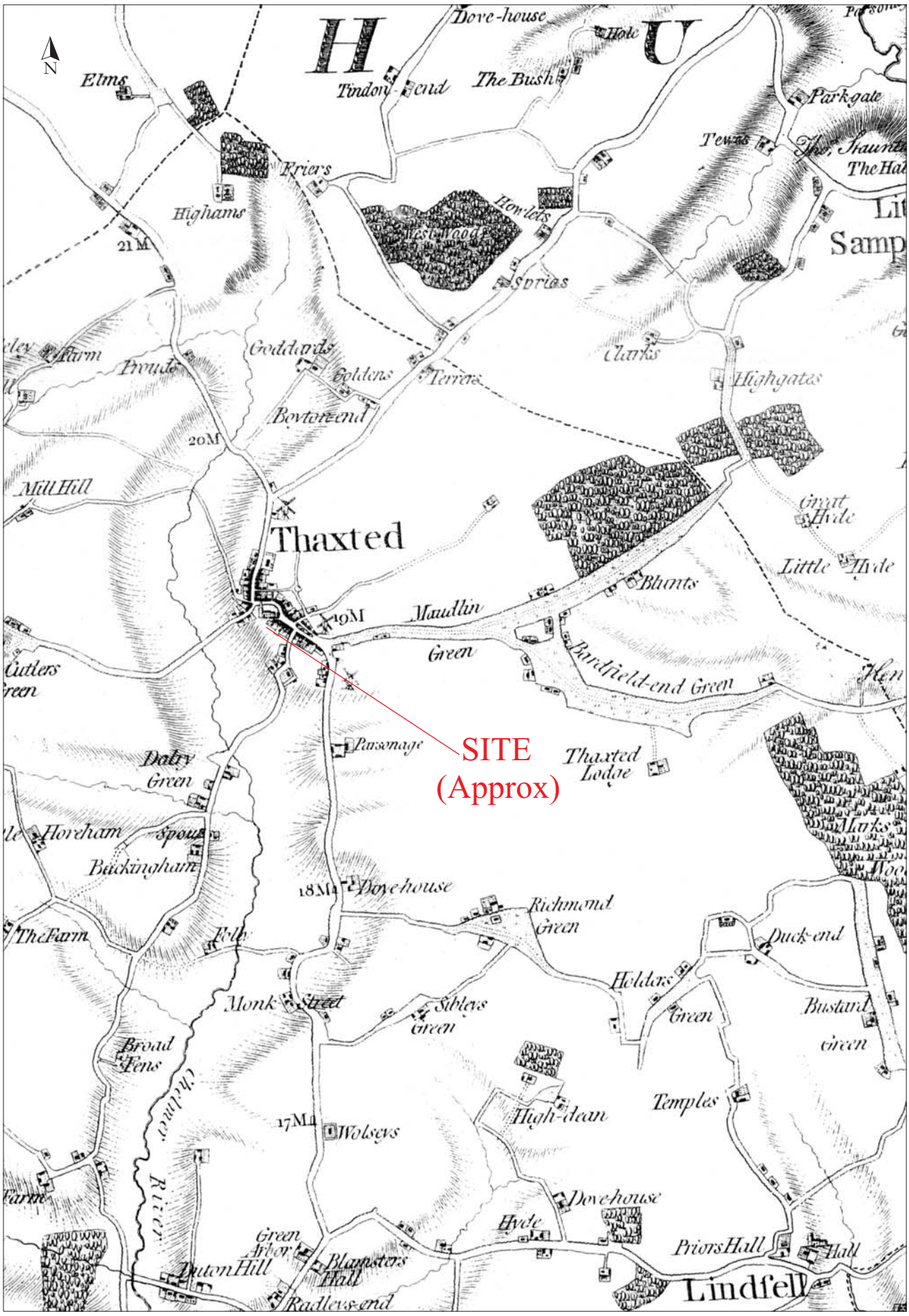

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Fig. 3 Chapman and Andre's map, 1777
Not to Scale

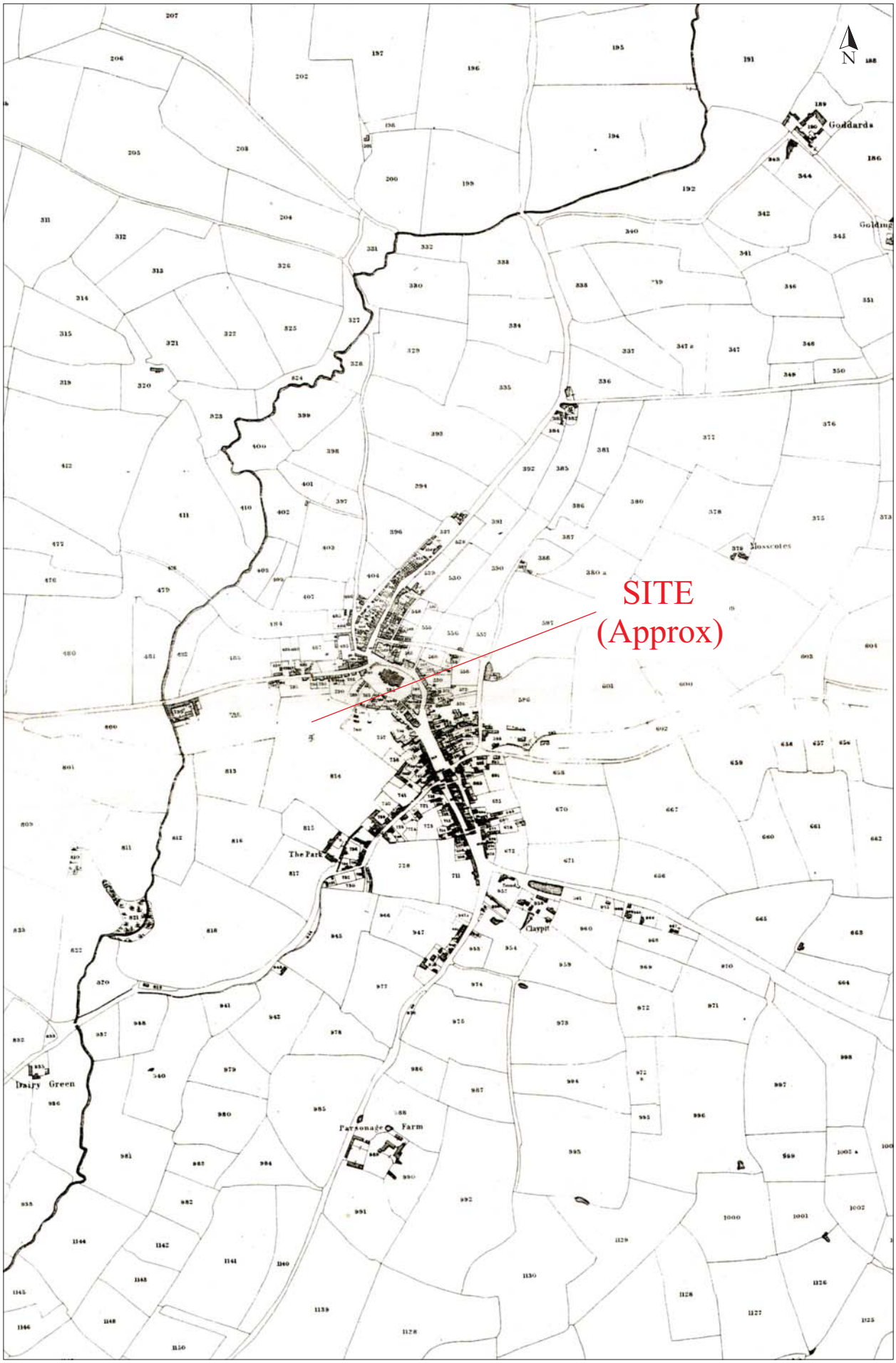

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Fig. 4 Thaxted tithe map, 1844

Not to Scale

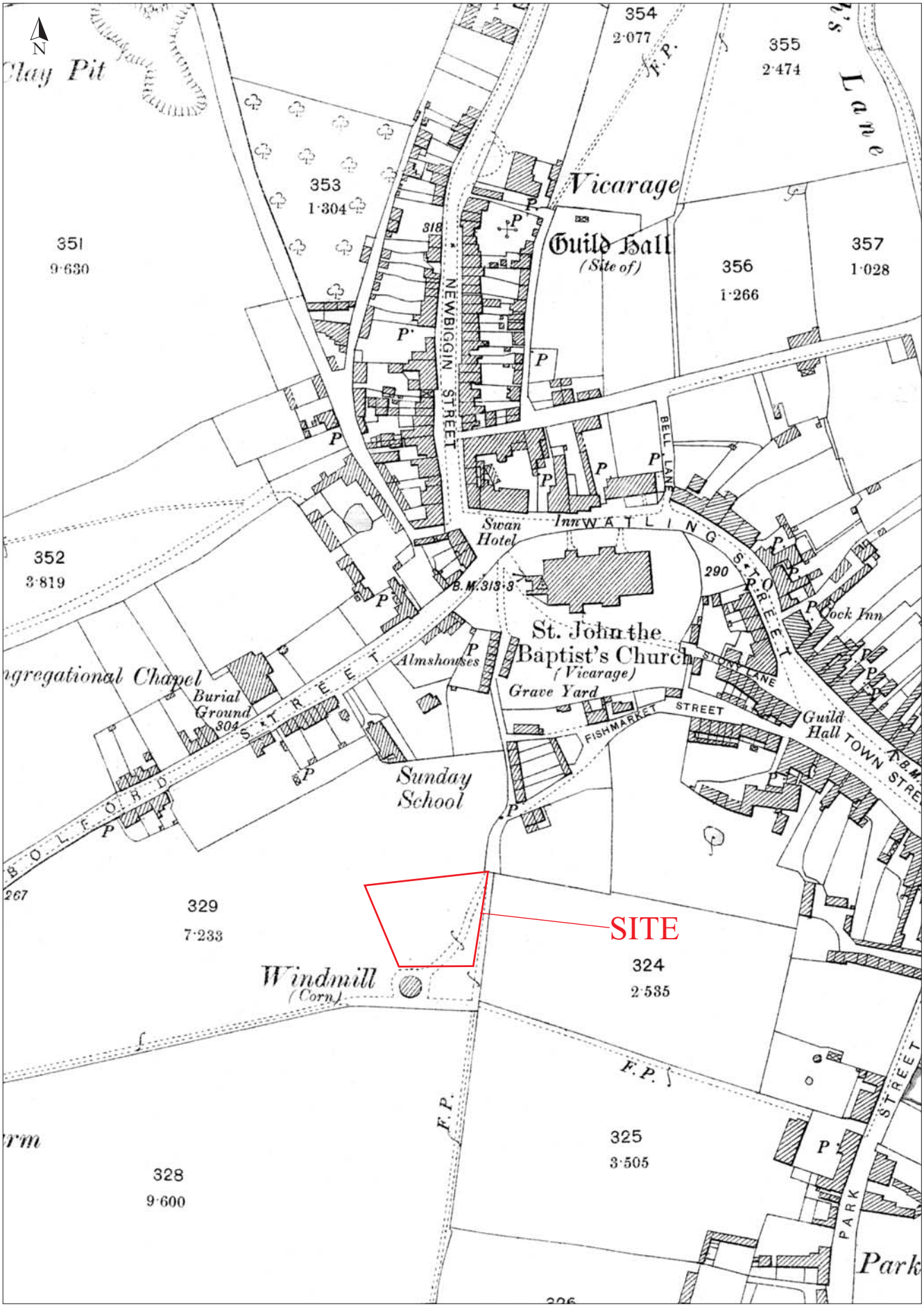

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Fig. 5 2nd edition OS map, 1897

Scale 25" to 1 mile

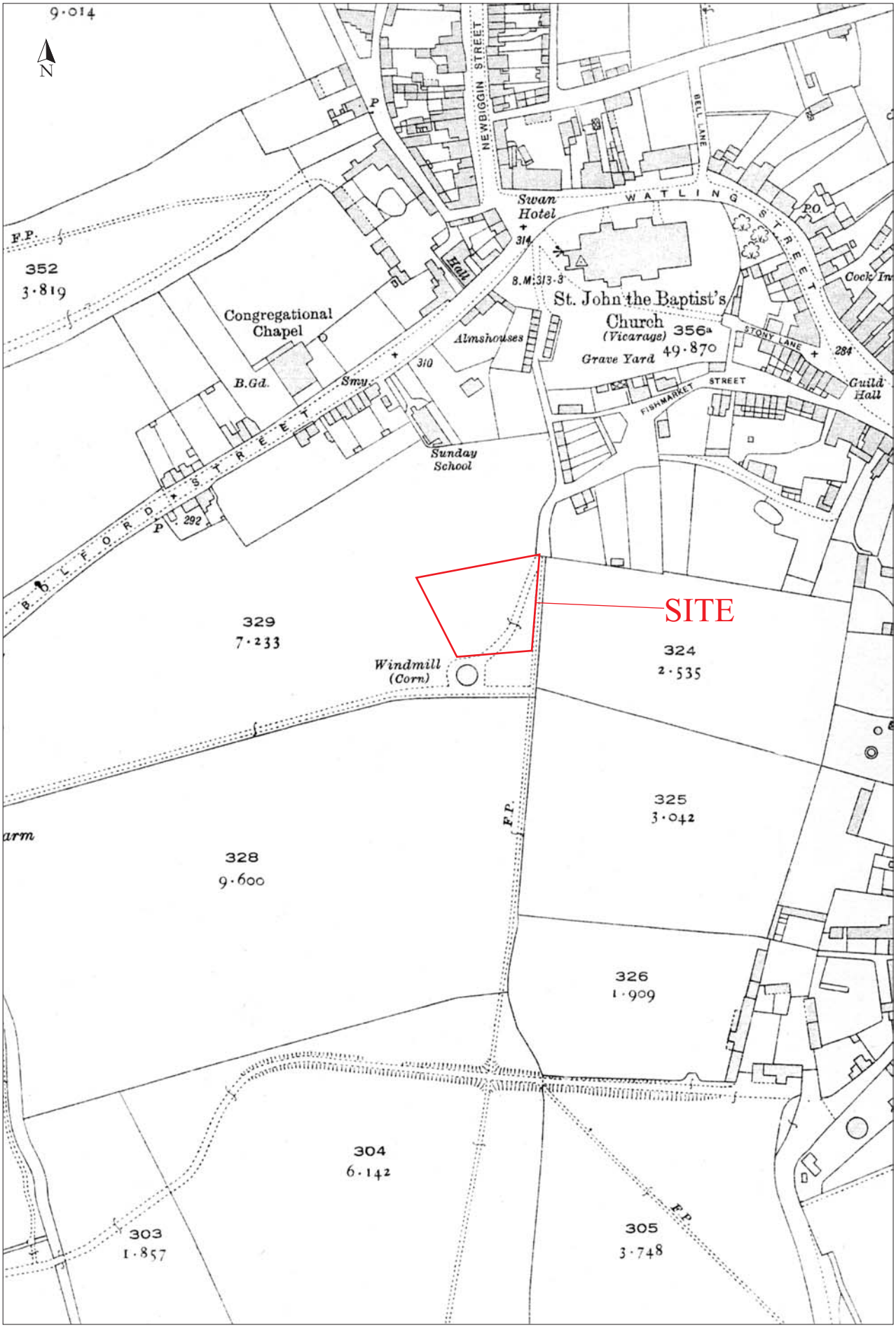

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Fig. 6 OS map, 1920

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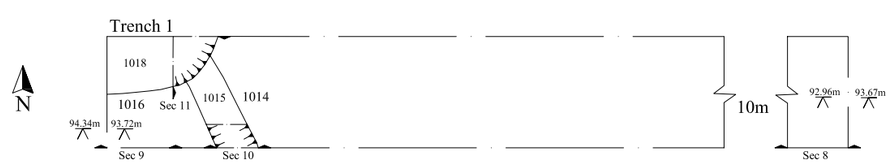

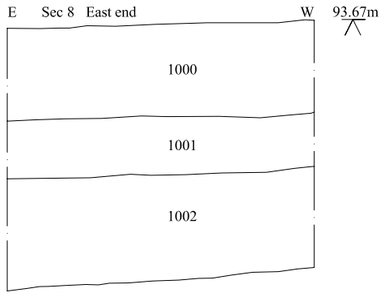

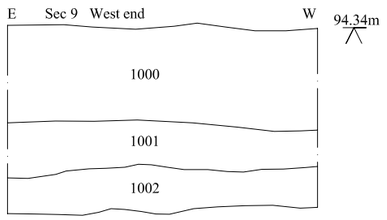

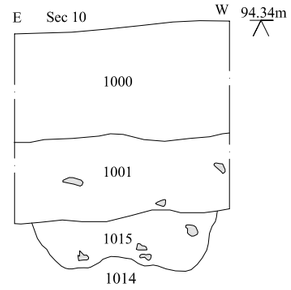

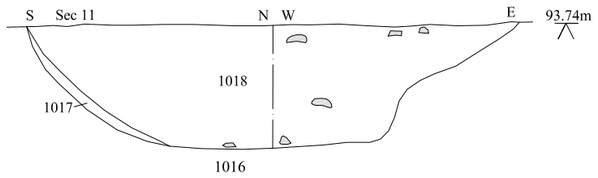

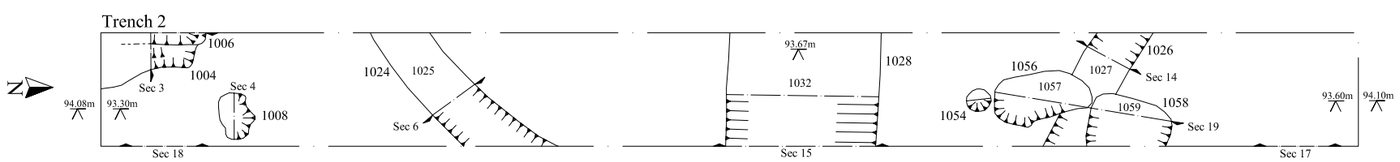

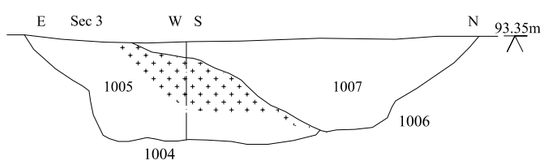

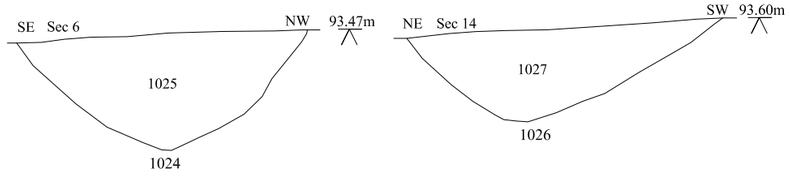

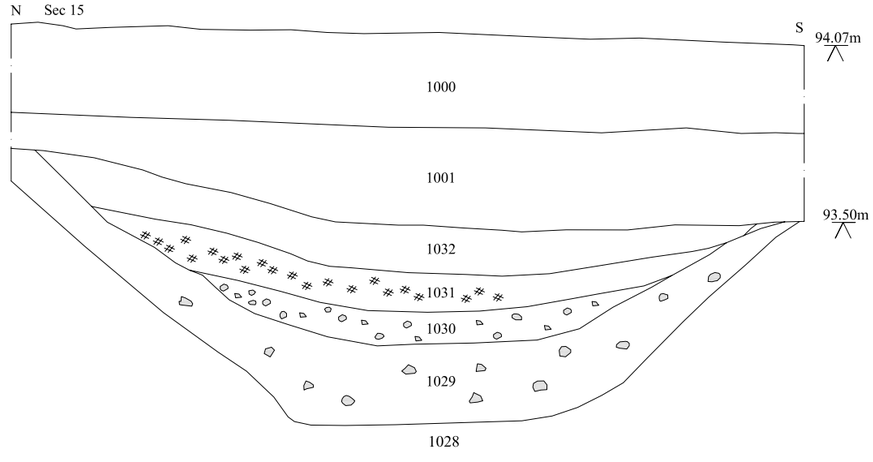

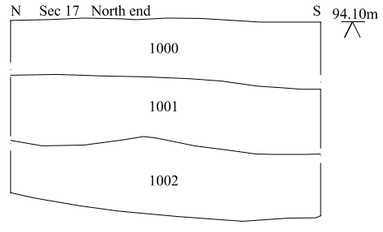

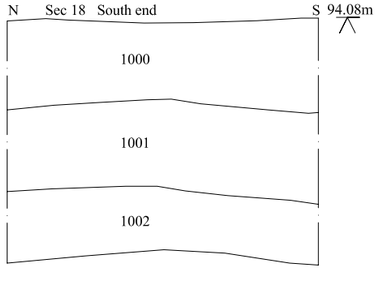

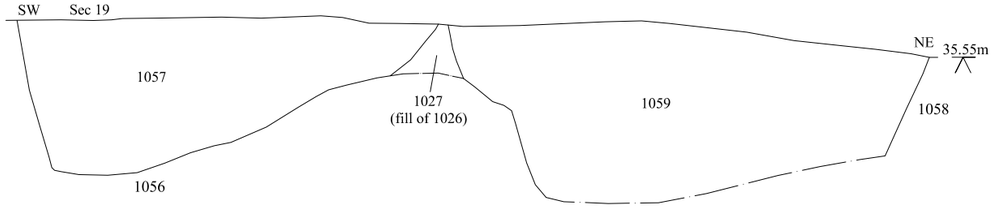

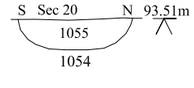

Charcoal
Flint
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0 Sections 2m

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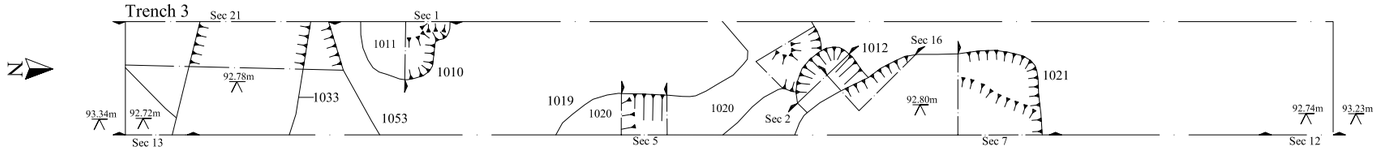
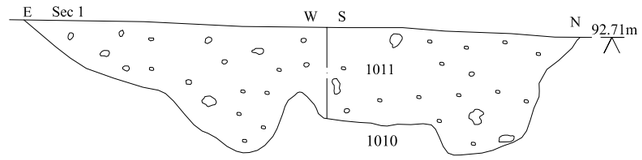
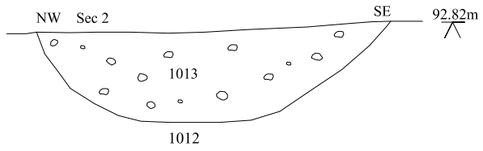
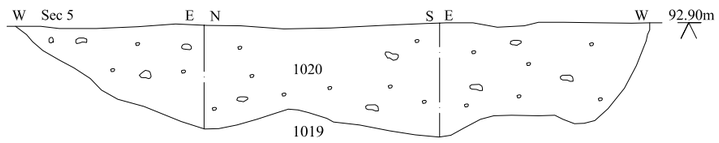
Fig. 7 Trench plans and sections

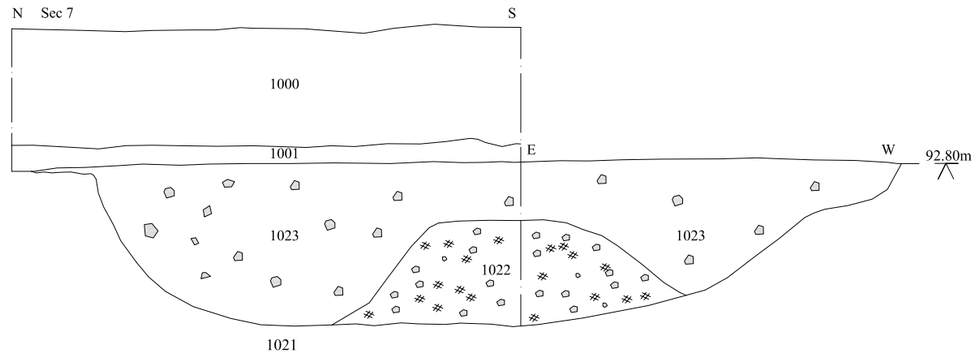
Scale Plans 1:100 and Sections 1:20 at A3

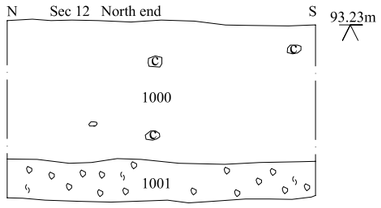


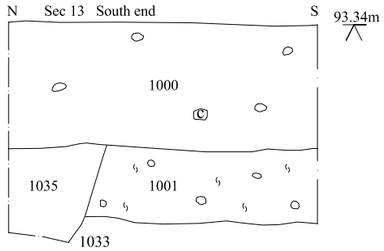


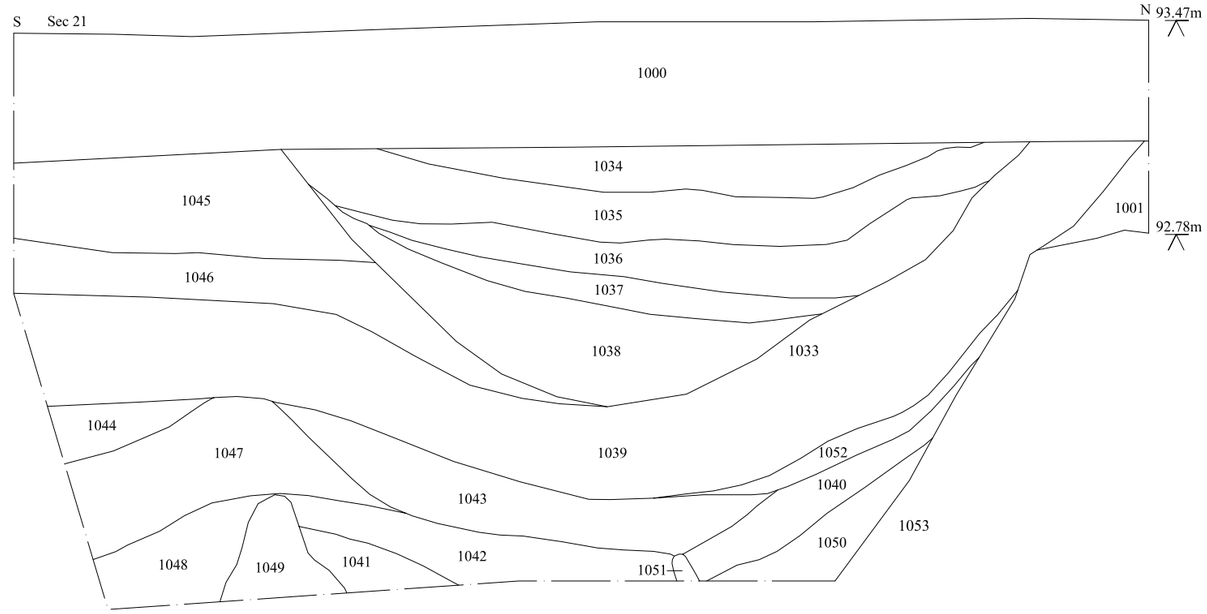


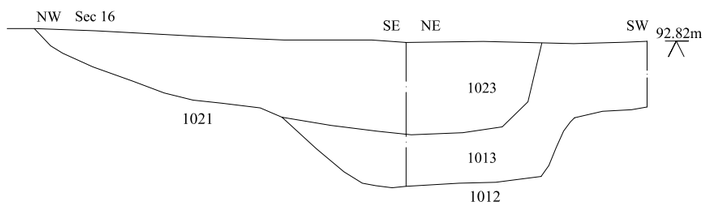


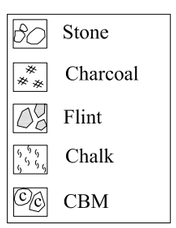


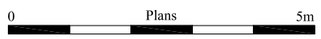












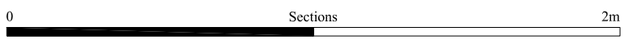


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Fig. 8 Trench plans and sections

Scale Plans 1:100 and Sections 1:20 at A3