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LAND AT STOREFIELD LODGE, OAKLEY ROAD RUSHTON, KETTERING, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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NGR: SP 855 842	Report No. 3312
Parish: Rushton	Site Code: AS1171
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 3281
Signed:	Date: May 2009

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Project details			
Project name	*Land at Storefield Lodge, Oakley Road, Rushton, Kettering, Northamptonshire. An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation*		
Project description *In May 2009, Archaeological Solutions (AS) conducted an archaeological trial trench evaluation of Area C at Storefield Lodge, Oakley Road, Rushton, Kettering, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 855 842). The evaluation was undertaken in support of a planning application for a proposed landfill site at Storefield Lodge.* *The desk-based assessment and field walking revealed potential for multi-period remains, in particular for prehistoric and Roman remains. The evaluation revealed a single undated ditch in Trench 4, F1003*			
Project dates (fieldwork)	*20 - 22/05/2009*		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	*N*	Future work (Y/N/?)	
P. number	*3281*	Site code	*AS 1171*
Type of project	*Archaeological evaluation*		
Site status			
Current land use	*Agricultural*		
Planned development	*Proposed quarrying*		
Main features (+dates)	*Undated Ditch*		
Significant finds (+dates)	*None*		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	*Northamptonshire*	*Kettering*	*Rushton*
HER or SMR for area	*Northamptonshire SMR*		
Post code (if known)			
Area of site	*Approx 2.3 ha*		
NGR	*SP 855 842*		
Height AOD (max/min)	*c.110mAOD*		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	*Spatial Environmental and Economic Planning, Northamptonshire County Council*		
Project Officers	*Lisa Smith, Zbigniew Pozorski*		
Funded by	*Mick George (Haulage) Ltd*		
Full title	*Land at Storefield Lodge, Oakley Road, Rushton, Kettering, Northamptonshire. An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation*		
Authors	*Higs, K, Pozorski, Z, Smith L.*		
Report no.	*3312*		
Date (of report)	*May 2009*		

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In May 2009, Archaeological Solutions (AS) conducted an archaeological trial trench evaluation of Area C at Storefield Lodge, Oakley Road, Rushton, Kettering, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 855 842). The evaluation was undertaken in support of a planning application for a proposed landfill site at Storefield Lodge.

The desk-based assessment and field walking revealed potential for multi-period remains, in particular for prehistoric and Roman remains, in the event a single undated ditch was revealed in Trench 4, F1003

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In May 2009, Archaeological Solutions (AS) conducted an archaeological trial trench evaluation of Area C at Storefield Lodge, Oakley Road, Rushton, Kettering, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 855 842; Figs. 1-2). The evaluation was commissioned by John Gough on behalf of Mick George Ltd in support of a planning application for green waste composting, biorediation, recovery of limestone and additional non hazardous waste landfill. It complies with a request for further information from the local planning authority (based on the advice of the Northamptonshire County Council, County Archaeological Advisor (NCC CAA)

1.2 An archaeological desk-based assessment and field walking have been previously undertaken (Unger *et al*, AS Report No.3258)

1.3 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken according to a two-part brief issued by NCC County Archaeological Advisor (dated 01/05/2009), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 13/05/2009) and approved by NCC CAA. The project conformed to the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2001).

1.4 The project's general aims and objectives, as site out in the brief

- To determine the location, extent, nature and date of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present
- To provide information on the integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that may be present
- The recovery of artefacts to assist in the development of a type series within the region; and

- The recovery of palaeoenvironmental remains to determine local environmental conditions

Planning policy context

1.5 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).

1.6 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.

1.7 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 lies within the parish of Rushton in north Northamptonshire, *c.*1km north-east of the village itself. The village of Rothwell is situated *c.* 4 km to the south-west while the large town of Corby is located *c*. 4 km north-east of the site. The River Isle flows east towards the village of Geddington *c.*750m south of the site.

2.2 To the west of the site lies Oakley Road and to the east is the A6003 Corby link road that runs south to the edge of Kettering. The site is bounded to the east, west and north by agricultural land and several farms, including Storefield Lodge which borders the north of the site. An area of woodland known as Storefield Wood is located on the north east boundary of the site. Previous quarrying has been carried out to the immediate south of the site and is currently being backfilled with landfill. The whole site is *c.* 35 ha in size, with some 28 ha being undisturbed agricultural land. Area C, the proposed area of soil remediation composting, is c.2.3 ha.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site lies at a surface elevation of approximately 110m AOD (Above Ordnance Datum) with the ground level gradually decreasing towards the south-east. The solid geology of the area consists of Middle Jurassic clay

overlain by Jurassic and Cretaceous ironstone and Boulder Clay in some areas. The soils of the area are of the Banbury association which comprise well drained brashy fine and coarse loamy soils with slowly permeable subsoils (SSEW 1983).

4 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

4.1 The wider site has been subject to a previous desk-based assessment and fieldwalking/metal detector survey by AS (Unger *et al* 2009), and it details the archaeological background to the immediate area. In summary:

4.2 The desk-based assessment revealed potential for multi-period remains to be found on the site. The discovery of possible Bronze Age and Iron Age remains nearby indicates that further evidence of occupation may be found. Roman settlement evidence has been recorded in the area along with possible Roman/Saxon secondary burials surrounding a Bronze Age round barrow. The two medieval settlements of Rushton were located c. 1km south-west of the site. Cartographic sources suggest that the site has only been slightly damaged by small-scale farming development and its use as combined pasture and arable land may have increased the potential of discovering well preserved archaeological remains.

4.3 The current site (known as Area C) could not be fieldwalked due to grass cover. The fieldwalking and metal detector survey of the remainder of the site produced scant evidence of prehistoric activity with one struck flint flake present. Despite the moderate potential for Iron Age, Roman and Saxon remains only one sherd of abraded Roman pottery was present in the ploughsoil. The majority of artefacts were from the medieval, post medieval and modern periods. They were evenly spread across the site, and probably deposited through manuring. A slightly higher concentration of artefacts from these periods was present south of Storefield Lodge that may relate to rubbish pits associated with the dwelling that have been disturbed by the plough.

4.4 As confirmed in the brief, the location of the site on the fertile soils above the river Ise enhances the potential for prehistoric settlement evidence. An Iron Age settlement was investigated in the 1970s within the quarry area to the south, revealing large quantities of Iron Age pottery (SMR Ref. ENN 9549), and investigations along the A43 Corby Link Road to the east also identified evidence of prehistoric and Roman activity.

5 METHODOLOGY (Trial Trenching)

5.1 Eight trenches, each measuring 40m x 1.80m were excavated in locations approved by NCC CAA (Fig. 3).

5.2 The trenches were mechanically excavated using a 360° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Top soil and undifferentiated overburden were removed mechanically under close archaeological

supervision. All further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches were scanned with a metal detector.

5.3 Following on-site advice from the NCC CAA, a number of the trenches lower down the slope were re-machined to remove remnants of the interface between the subsoil and the natural drift. No additional archaeological features were revealed.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Trench 1 Fig. 3, DP 1

Sample sections:

N end,W facing *0.00 = 105.48m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown compact silty clay
0.23 – 0.68m	L1001	Subsoil. Mid reddish brown firm silty clay
0.68m +	L1002	Natural Drift. Mid yellowish brown firm clay

S end,W facing *0.00 = 106.03m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.19m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.19 – 0.54m	L1001	Subsoil. As above
0.54m +	L1002	Natural. As above

Description: Hand excavation was undertaken to remove areas of remaining subsoil. No archaeological features or finds were revealed.

Trench 2 Fig. 3

Sample sections:

E end, N facing *0.00 = 105.22m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As Trench 1
0.20 – 0.63m	L1001	Subsoil. As Trench 1
0.63m +	L1002	Natural. As Trench 1

W end, N facing *0.00 = 105.47m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Topsoil. As Trench 1
0.22 – 0.61m	L1001	Subsoil. As Trench 1
0.61m +	L1002	Natural. As Trench 1

Description: Trench 2 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 3 Fig. 3, DP 2

Sample sections:

S end, E facing *0.00 = 105.53m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As Trench 1
0.20 – 0.66m	L1001	Subsoil. As Trench 1
0.66m +	L1002	Natural. As Trench 1

N end, E facing *0.00 = 104.91m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. As Trench 1
0.23 – 0.60m	L1001	Subsoil. As Trench 1
0.60m +	L1002	Natural. As Trench 1

Description: Trench 3 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 3 was re-machined. No change in the stratigraphy was recorded.

Hand excavation was undertaken to remove areas of remaining subsoil. No archaeological features or finds were revealed.

Trench 4 Figs. 3 - 4, DPs 3 & 6

Sample sections:

N end, W facing *0.00 = 105.47m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As Trench 1
0.25 – 0.75m	L1001	Subsoil. As Trench 1
0.75m +	L1002	Natural. As Trench 1

S end, W facing *0.00 = 107.28m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. As Trench 1
0.23 – 0.70m	L1001	Subsoil. As Trench 1
0.70m +	L1002	Natural. As Trench 1

Description: Trench 4 contained a ditch, F1003.

Ditch F1003 was linear (length 2.00m+; width 1.05m, depth 0.38m), aligned NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1004, was a dark greyish brown, firm, silty clay with frequent chalk fragments. It contained no finds.

Trench 4 was re-machined. No change in the stratigraphy was recorded.

Hand excavation was undertaken to remove remaining some subsoil. No additional archaeological features or finds were revealed.

Trench 5 Fig. 3, DP 4

Sample sections:

E end, N facing *0.00 = 106.37m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. As Trench 1
0.24 – 0.55m	L1001	Subsoil. As Trench 1
0.55m +	L1002	Natural. As Trench 1

W end, N facing *0.00 = 106.90m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. As Trench 1
0.23 – 0.58m	L1001	Subsoil. As Trench 1
0.58m +	L1002	Natural. As Trench 1

Description:

Trench 5 was re-machined. No change in the stratigraphy was recorded.

Hand excavation was undertaken to remove remaining some subsoil. No archaeological features or finds were revealed.

Trench 6 Fig. 3

Sample sections:

S end, E facing *0.00 = 110.92m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1000	Topsoil. As Trench 1
0.25 – 0.35m	L1001	Subsoil. As Trench 1
0.35m +	L1002	Natural. As Trench 1

N end, E facing *0.00 = 108.60m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. As Trench 1
0.24– 0.64m	L1001	Subsoil. As Trench 1
0.64m +	L1002	Natural. As Trench 1

Description: Trench 6 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 7 Fig. 3

Sample sections:

S end, W facing *0.00 = 109.69m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.17m	L1000	Topsoil. As Trench 1
0.17– 0.70m	L1001	Subsoil. As Trench 1
0.70m +	L1002	Natural. As Trench 1

N end, W facing *0.00 = 107.35m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As Trench 1
0.28 – 0.52m	L1001	Subsoil. As Trench 1
0.52m +	L1002	Natural. As Trench 1

Description: Trench 7 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 7 was re-machined. No change in the stratigraphy was recorded. No archaeological features or finds were revealed

Trench 8 Fig. 3, DP 5

Sample sections:

E end, N facing *0.00 = 112.15m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As Trench 1
0.26 – 0.66m	L1001	Subsoil. As Trench 1
0.66m +	L1002	Natural. As Trench 1

W end, N facing *0.00 = 112.00m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. As Trench 1
0.24 – 0.70m	L1001	Subsoil. As Trench 1
0.70m +	L1002	Natural. As Trench 1

Description: Trench 8 was re-machined. No change in the stratigraphy was recorded.

Hand excavation was undertaken to remove some remaining subsoil. No archaeological features or finds were revealed.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 Trenches 3 – 5 and 7 - 8 were re-machined. No change in the stratigraphy was recorded. No additional archaeological features or finds were revealed

7.2 Hand excavation was undertaken to remove subsoil in Trenches 1, 3 - 5 and 8. No archaeological features or finds were revealed.

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

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The stratigraphy was uniform across the site. The topsoil was a dark greyish brown, compact silty clay, L1000 (0.19 – 0.28m deep). It overlay a subsoil, L1001, a mid reddish brown, firm, silty clay (0.10 – 0.53m thick). The subsoil in turn overlay the natural, L1002, a mid yellowish brown firm silty clay (0.52 – 0.75) below the present ground surface.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The desk-based assessment and field walking revealed potential for multi-period remains, in particular for prehistoric and Roman remains. Despite a concentration of activity of a variety of dates to the south-east, only a single undated ditch, F1003, present in Trench 4, was recorded at the site.

9.2 Cartographic evidence indicates that the site has lain within what has been agricultural land throughout recent history, and it is reasonable to suggest that this land use extends back much further. The topography of the site could suggest that the river valleys to the north and south would have been more attractive for any concentrated settlement, with the higher ground potentially having been subject to more agricultural use.

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with the finds from the site, at the appropriate local museum, once a suitable archive is available in the county. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data. Copies of the final report will be lodged with the CHER, CAS and the National Monument Record, Swindon.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank John Gough and Mick George Ltd for their co-operation and funding of the evaluation.

AS gratefully acknowledge the input and advice of Lesley-Ann Mather, County Archaeological Advisor for Northamptonshire County Council.

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Unger, S, Pozorski, Z, Schofield, T & Newton, AS, 2009, *Land at Rushton, Northamptonshire; Archaeological Desk-based Assessment, Archaeological Evaluation (Field Walking & Metal Detector Survey),* AS Report 3258

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX

DP 1. Trench 1. Taken from S.

DP 2. Trench 3. Taken from S.

DP 3. Trench 4. Taken from N.

DP 4. Trench 5. Taken from W.

DP 5. Trench 8. Taken from E.

DP 6. Trench 4. Ditch F1003. Facing W

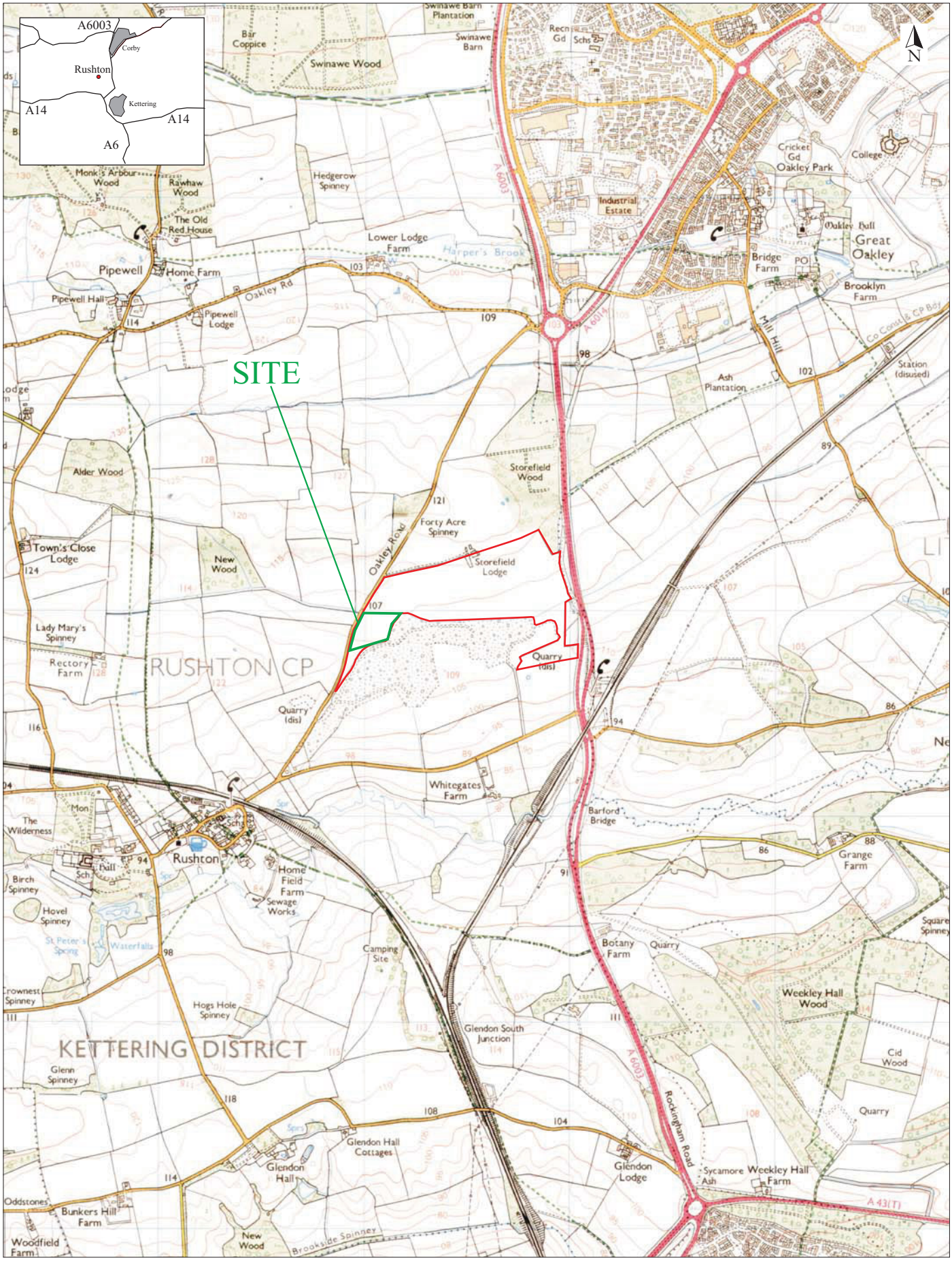

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Fig. 1 Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000 at A4

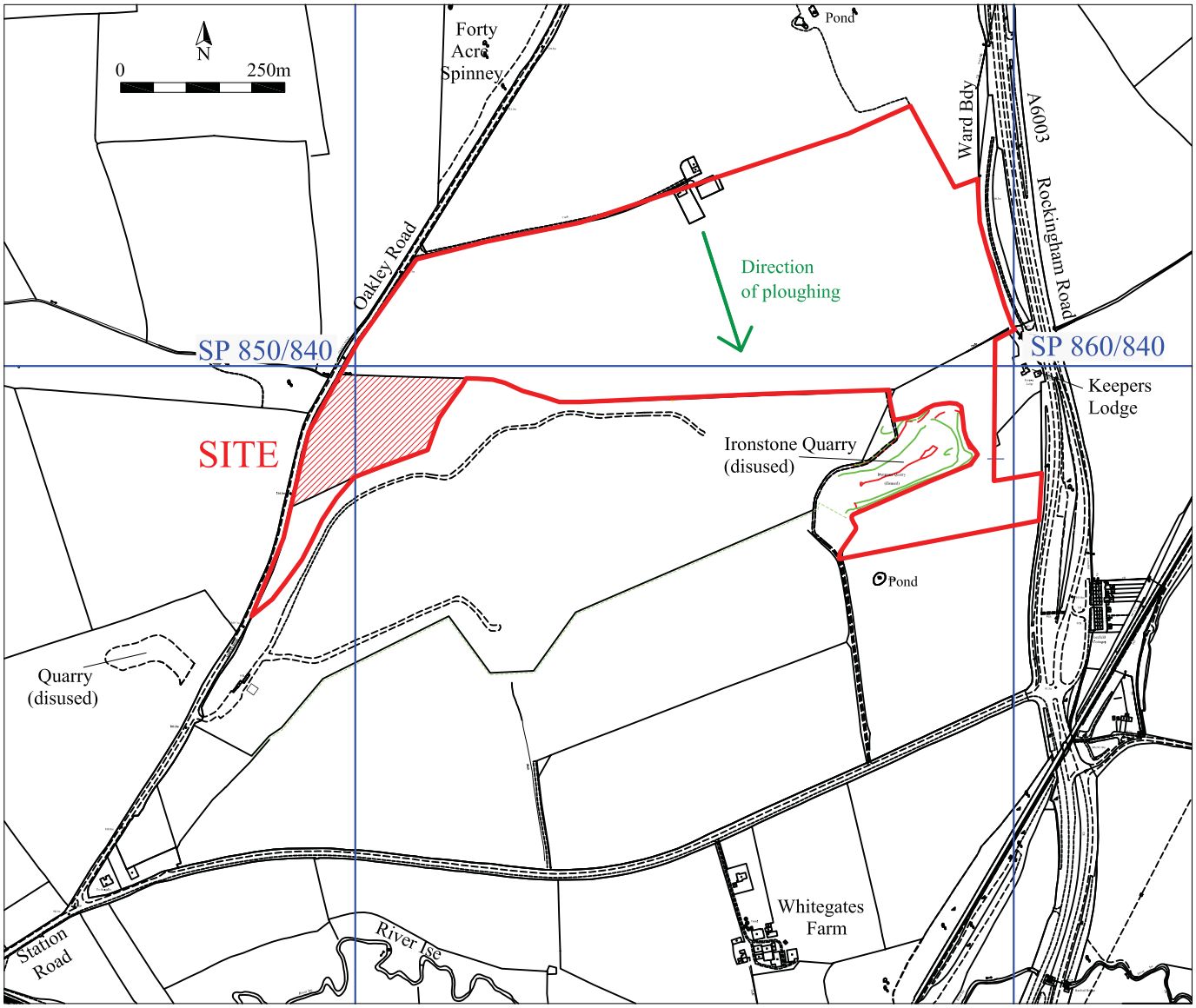

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Fig. 2 Detailed Site location

Scale 1:10,000 at A4

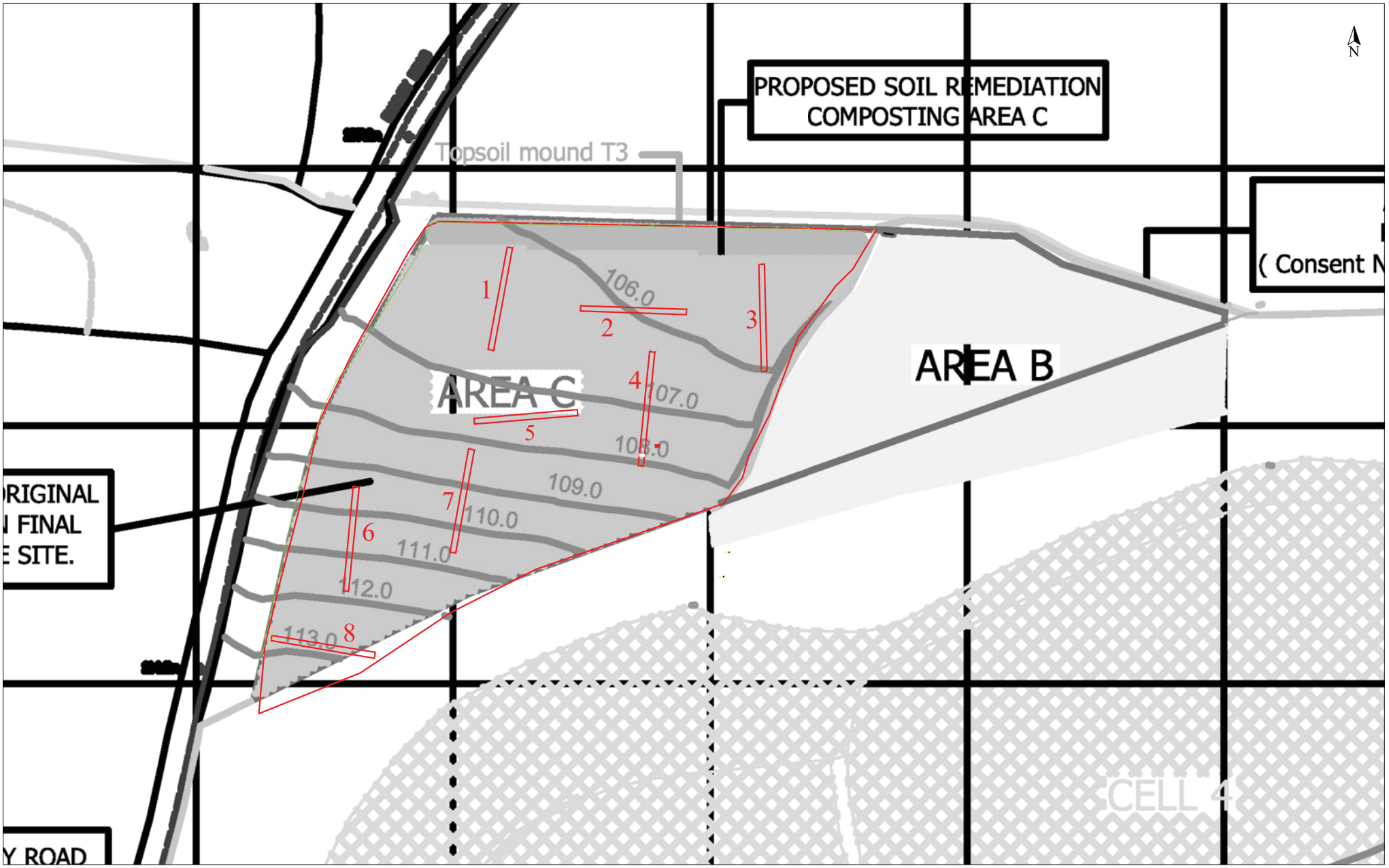

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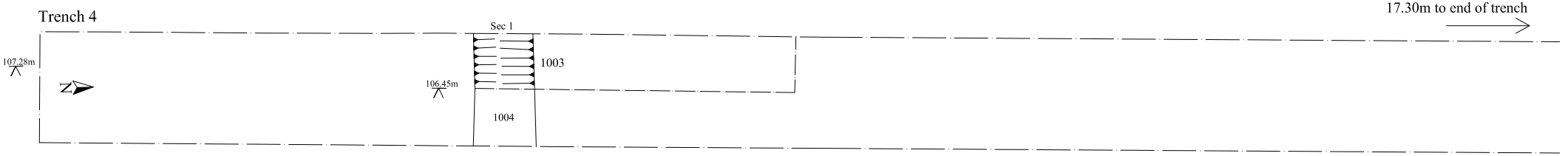
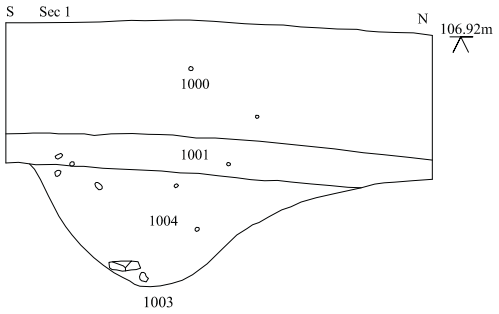
Fig. 3 Trench location plan

Scale 1:2000 at A4





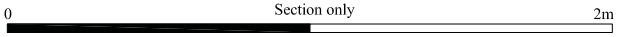


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Fig. 4 Trench plan and section

Scale 1:100 and 1:25 at A4