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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**ENDURANCE TRACK, MOORLEY FARM, SAXON  
STREET, WOODDITTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**RESEARCH ARCHIVE REPORT**

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NGR: TL 664 596	Report No. 3329
Borough: East Cambs	Site Code: AS1192
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No. 3408
Signed:	Date: Sept 2009

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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	<i>Endurance Track, Moorley Farm, Saxon Street, Woodditton, Cambridgeshire.</i>		
Project Description			
<p><i>In February and March 2009, Archaeological Solutions (AS) Ltd. undertook an archaeological strip, map and record investigation at Moorley Farm, Saxon Street, Woodditton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 664 596). The archaeological investigation was commissioned by James Midwood of Darley Stud Management Co Ltd., in compliance with a planning condition attached to approval for the development of a 2.1km racehorse endurance track. The investigation comprised two areas within the footprint of the endurance track. The outer area was 2.07km long and 3m wide, and encompassed the track. The internal area was 2.03km long and 8m wide, and encompassed the construction access and earthwork bund.</i></p> <p><i>Four phases of archaeological activity were identified. Phase 1 (Iron Age) comprised five pits and three ditches. These features were identified in all quadrants of the site. A dew pond was also investigated and may have been utilised from Phase 1 onwards. Phase 2 (Romano-British) comprised pits and ditches thought to derive from agricultural activity. The features were concentrated in the southeastern corner of the site. Phase 3 (post-medieval) comprised a single ditch in the southeastern corner of the site. Also investigated were numerous modern (Phase 4) field ditches and drains, and natural features including two large dry valleys.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>13<sup>th</sup> February -13<sup>th</sup> March 2009</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>P3408</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1192</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological strip map and record</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Pasture and an all-weather racehorse track</i>		
Planned development	<i>Racehorse endurance track</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Iron Age pits and ditches, Romano-British pits and boundary ditches, a post-medieval ditch, an undated dew pond</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Early Iron Age Darmsden Linton vessel</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Cambs.</i>	<i>South Cambs</i>	<i>Woodditton</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Cambridgeshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)			
Area of site	<i>20475m<sup>2</sup></i>		
NGR	<i>TL 664 596</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>80 – 105m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>Cambridgeshire HER</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Tim Schofield</i>		
Funded by	<i>Darley Stud Management Co Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Endurance Track, Moorley Farm, Saxon Street, Woodditton Research Archive Report</i>		
Authors	<i>Schofield, T &amp; Stone, P</i>		
Report no.	<i>3329</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>Sept 2009</i>		

# **ENDURANCE TRACK, MOORLEY FARM, SAXON STREET, WOODDITTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE RESEARCH ARCHIVE REPORT**

## *Summary*

*In February and March 2009, Archaeological Solutions (AS) Ltd. undertook an archaeological strip, map and record investigation at Moorley Farm, Saxon Street, Woodditton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 664 596). The archaeological investigation was commissioned by James Midwood of Darley Stud Management Co Ltd., in compliance with a planning condition attached to approval for the development of a 2.1km racehorse endurance track. The investigation comprised two areas within the footprint of the endurance track. The outer area was 2.07km long and 3m wide, and encompassed the track. The internal area was 2.03km long and 8m wide, and encompassed the construction access and earthwork bund*

*Four phases of archaeological activity were identified. Phase 1 (Iron Age) comprised five pits and three ditches. These features were identified in all quadrants of the site. A dew pond was also investigated and may have been utilised from Phase 1 onwards. Phase 2 (Romano-British) comprised pits and ditches thought to derive from agricultural activity. The features were concentrated in the south-eastern corner of the site. Phase 3 (post-medieval) comprised a single ditch in the southeastern corner of the site. Also investigated were numerous modern (Phase 4) field ditches and drains, and natural features including two large dry valleys.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 This report comprises the research archive for excavations at the Endurance Track, Moorley Farm, Saxon Street, Woodditton, Cambridgeshire (centred on NGR TL 664 596; Figs. 1 & 2). The excavations were carried out by Archaeological Solutions Ltd. in February and March 2009. They were commissioned by James Midwood on behalf of Darley Stud Management Co. Ltd., in compliance with a planning condition attached to an approval for the development of a 2.1km racehorse endurance track (Planning Ref. E/08/01138/FUL).

1.2 The excavations were undertaken in response to advice from Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning & Countryside Advice (CCC CAPCA, e-mail dated 11/02/09), and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and Supplementary Method Statement prepared by AS (dated 12/02/09 and 13/02/09). The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Excavations* (revised 2001), and adhered to the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003). This report has been compiled in accordance with EH MAP 2, Section 7 and Appendix 6, and MoRPHE (2006). It follows the Interim Site Narrative (Stone and Schofield 2009)

and the Post-Excavation Assessment and Updated Project Design (Stone 2009).

1.3 The purpose of this Research Archive Report is to describe, analyse and interpret the archaeological remains found during the investigations. The report is supported by catalogues, databases and an archaeological description compiled during post-excavation analysis (on the accompanying CD), plans and section drawings (Figs. 1 - 19).

## **2 SITE NARRATIVE**

### **2.1 Topography and Geology (Fig. 3)**

2.1.1 The site extends over four fields which have been used for grazing livestock. The excavations took place within two elongated stripped areas around the circumference of these fields; the outer strip was 2.07km long and approximately 3m wide (encompassing the track), the internal strip was 2.03km long and approximately 8m wide (encompassing the construction access and bund; Fig. 2).

2.1.2 The site lies on an incline of between 80 and 105m AOD from the south-eastern to the north-western corner. The River Stour is c. 6km to the south of the site and the River Kennet is c. 6km to the east. The site and its surrounding area are currently pasture occupied by substantial equestrian facilities to the south and west of Newmarket. The geology of the area is dominated by prequaternary undivided, with pockets of river terrace and marine gravels. The overlying soils are highly variable, and include Moulton, Newmarket 2, Swaffham Prior and Hanslope association soils which are all well-drained calcareous soils over chalk rubble except for the Hanslope association soils which are slowly permeable. They are well suited to supporting cereals, beet and pastureland.

### **2.2 Historical and Archaeological Background (Figs. 3 - 4)**

#### *Prehistoric (to AD 43)*

2.2.1 Four sections of the Icknield Way pass through the parish of Woodditton. Two of these are located immediately to the north and south of the site. Despite some dispute over the validity the Icknield Way as a series of prehistoric routeways (Harrison 2005), it is generally accepted that the tracks were in use from the Neolithic and Bronze Age, and formed a network of paths between southwest England and East Anglia.

2.2.2 A ring ditch cropmark has been identified through aerial photography (CHER 09134, NGR TL 663 596) near to the site, and may represent the remains of a ploughed out Bronze Age barrow. There is an apparent concentration of broadly contemporary funerary monuments along the southwest-northeast chalk ridge running just to the north of Woodditton, though the greater visibility of such cropmarks on chalky soils as opposed to those on heavy clay soils could have prompted a misinterpretation of this 'concentration' (Kirby & Oosthuizen 2000, 9).

### *Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)*

2.2.3 The nearest known Roman settlements are some distance from Woodditton although sections of the Icknield Way, and also of Ashwell Street, which is parallel to it, were in use in the Roman period. Archaeological monitoring southeast of the site, close to the Moorley Plantation, recorded the presence of two small gullies of prehistoric to late Roman date (CHER MCB16934; Bailey 2004). There is speculation as to the existence of a temporary Romano-British camp c. 5km from the site of the Endurance Track at Dullingham, near to the 'Devil's Ditch' (Babington 1983, CHER 07408), though no earthworks are present and no cropmarks are visible on available aerial photographs. Close by to this possible camp a small pottery vessel was found in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century (Neville 1854), and also found directly on the 'Devil's Ditch' was a Romano-British toiletry set (CHER 07412). About 3km to the north of the site of the Endurance Track, a Romano-British burial was found in a back garden (CHER 07468). It comprised the burial, a narrow-mouthed pottery vessel and a jar with a pierced colander base. This burial is very close to the route of a possible Roman road thought to have run parallel to the current Newmarket to Cheveley Road, and identified in part during fence construction at the Sandwich Stud, Cheveley, in 1936. The road was thought to be c. 7ft wide and metalled, and was dated by the presence of a coin from the reign of Nero (CHER 08429).

### *Anglo-Saxon (AD 411 – 1065)*

2.2.4 'Ditton' means 'settlement by a dyke or ditch' (Ekwall 1936:140), the prefix 'wood' undoubtedly denoting that the area was formerly woodland. The dyke/ditch part of the name refers to the Devil's Dyke, which forms the western boundary of Woodditton Parish and part of which is located c. 1km to the west of the site. The dyke was seemingly constructed in one phase and extends over 11km. In places it has survived to a height of 10.5m from the base of the ditch to the peak of the embankment. The dykes were strategically positioned across the Icknield Way, controlling access to areas of East Anglia, although it has yet to be established with certainty if the dykes represent territorial boundaries or defensive installations (Muir 2002). The dating of the dykes is uncertain, though excavations in the 1990's produced evidence to suggest that they were built in the immediate aftermath of the Roman withdrawal. They had previously been connected with conflicts between the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of the 7<sup>th</sup> century (Kirby & Oosthuizen 2000, 27).

2.2.5 The land units of Ditton and Saxton pre-date 1086 and the Domesday survey records dispersed communities in the general area. As yet no archaeological evidence of a Saxon settlement has been discovered within Woodditton. A minster was established in neighbouring Kirtling during the 10<sup>th</sup> century and it is likely that the settlement there was at this time a relatively important local centre (Kirby & Oosthuizen 2000, 28). Several mid 10<sup>th</sup>-century coins have also been recovered in the parish of Kirtling (Kirby & Oosthuizen 2000, 29).



### *Medieval (AD 1066 – 1539)*

2.2.6 Woodditton Parish comprises two ancient land units; Ditton and Saxton, although Ditton had been subdivided some time prior to 1086 (Lewis 2002, 80). Consequently, medieval Woodditton was divided between three principal manors: Ditton Camoys in the west, Ditton Valence in the centre, and Saxton in the east. To the northeast of Woodditton, Cheveley Park (CHER 12335) appears to have first been enclosed as early as the 14<sup>th</sup> century, although the earliest documentary reference to the park is in 1517.

2.2.7 Much of the area of modern Woodditton parish comprised small patches of forest, and records indicate a significant amount of coppicing and clearing of woodland during the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries in Saxton Heath, Ditton Park, Ditton Valence and Derisley (Lewis 2002, 80). Non-wooded land north of the village and in Saxton Heath was traditionally used for grazing.

2.2.8 The parish economy was at this time based on mixed cereal production and sheep husbandry. Open-field arable land occupied the centre of the parish, incorporating most of the site (Lewis 2002, 79). A larger settlement at Newmarket was established in c. 1200, and since the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the most important roads in Woodditton parish have been those leading to and from the town.

### *Post-medieval (AD 1540 to present)*

2.2.9 In the 1730 – 40's, Charles Seymour, Duke of Somerset, bought up most of the land in Woodditton and incorporated it into the Cheveley Park Estate. Cheveley Park, c. 800m east of the site (CHER 12335) may have originated as a medieval deer park but was enlarged and landscaped during the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. By 1775, wide avenues and rides had been established in the park. The parish was enclosed in c. 1816, although the formal award was not made until 1823.

2.2.10 The Cheveley Park Estate was divided up around 1920 and stud farms increasingly sprung up throughout the parish. The first, later titled Woodditton Stud, was established in the mid-1890s by a Newmarket trainer, Martin Gurry. Others were founded after 1920 on land formerly part of the Cheveley Estate, which included the area of the site.

2.2.11 Woodditton never grew to be more than a small hamlet, similar in size and setting to those at Little Ditton and Ditton Green. In 1694, there were approximately 93 houses in the parish and by 1801, this number had only risen to around 100 (Lewis 2002, 82). New farmhouses were constructed after the inclosure of 1823, including one at Derisley Wood.

## **2.3 Previous Archaeological Investigations (Figs. 3 - 4)**

2.3.1 Between March 2006 and January 2007, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) undertook a series of trial trench evaluations, monitoring and recording exercises,

and small open area excavations at three sites near Newmarket and Moorley Farm (Grassam 2007). These investigations were at Moulton Road (TL 670 644), School Road (TL 6662 5987) and Darley Stud (TL 6616 6075). The School Road site, which was the largest of the three, covered an area of 185 hectares but the ground disturbance and areas of archaeological investigation were small scale. The Endurance Track site is located within this area.

2.3.2 These previous investigations revealed activity dating to the prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods which are summarised in the below table;

Site	Phase	Features and finds
Moulton Road	Late Neolithic/ early Bronze Age	A large sherd of a collared urn and a ?ring ditch
School Road		Four pits and a ditch
Darley Stud	Late Bronze Age to Iron Age	A pit and a ditch
School Road		Two pits, a ditch and residual pot sherds
School Road	Romano-British	A ditch and a gully
School Road	Late Saxon to medieval	A gully and a pit
Darley Stud		Two, possibly three ditches
Moulton Road	Later medieval to post-medieval	A gully and a large pit
School Road		Five ditches and a pit
School Road	Modern	Field drains, drainage pipes and ditches
School Road	Unphased	A dewpond, plough scars and two burnt layers
Moulton Road		A burnt layer

*Table 1: Summary of features and finds from previous archaeological investigations*

## 2.4 Phasing

Dateable material from the current excavation was assigned to the four chronological phases outlined below (Figs. 5 and 6):

PHASE	DATE
Phase 1	Iron Age (700 BC to AD 43)
Phase 2	Romano-British (AD 100 - 200)
Phase 3	Post-Medieval (AD1500 to AD 1750)
Phase 4	Modern
Unphased	-

*Table 2: Chronological Phasing*

## 2.5 Phase 1: Iron Age (700 BC to 43AD)

2.5.1 The Iron Age activity comprised five pits, two of which were possibly



paired and three of which were intercutting. Three ditches were also identified as being of Iron Age date

*Possible paired early Iron Age pits (Figs. 2, 5 & 13, Plate 1)*

2.5.2 Two pits (F1132 and F1134) in the southern sector of the site were located immediately adjacent to each other and may have been associated. During the excavation of Pit F1132 it was thought that it may have been a cremation; however this was disproved during the analysis of the bone material derived from an environmental sample, all of which was found to be un-cremated faunal material (Morris, this report). Pit F1134, located directly to the northwest of Pit F1132, contained a largely complete (490g, 140 sherds) early Iron Age Darmsden style vessel with a slightly everted rim and a horizontal or oblique band(s) of incised lines comparable to early Iron Age vessels recorded at Little Bealings and Coddensham (Martin 1999). With the exception animal bone (20g) no finds were recovered from this feature. Although Pit F1134 was clearly not a funerary deposit, the presence of a substantially complete vessel placed in an upright position is suggestive of a structured deposit.

*The three intercutting pits (Fig. 14, Plates 2, 3 and 4)*

2.5.3 Pits F1151, F1154 and F1157 (Fig. 14) were located c. 100m to the southwest of Pits F1132 and F1134. Pit F1157 was the stratigraphically earliest of these pits. It contained 40g (20 sherds) of middle to late Iron Age pottery in the middle of its three fills. Pit F1154 was the middle of the three pits; it cut Pit F1157 and was cut by Pit F1151. It contained 464g (61 sherds) of early Iron Age pottery, a large amount of animal bone (850g) and daub (280g). The latter included a small number of fragments identified as being potentially of structural origin (Peachey; The daub and ceramic building materials, Section 3.3). The uppermost of the pits (F1151) contained a small amount (10g) of early Iron Age and a larger amount (365g, 56 sherds) of middle to late Iron Age pottery. The presence these two fabrics in Pit F1151, and in these intercutting contexts is unusual as both reflect distinct chronologies which usually occur almost exclusively from one another (Peachey, see section 3.3). As such, our understanding of the stratigraphic relationships between these pits and their precise phasing is uncertain (possibly contamination occurred during their excavation). The three pits were overlain by an undated, dark blackish brown layer (L1164).

2.5.4 Sparse sherds of early Iron Age pottery were recovered from curvilinear Ditch F1020 (Phase 2) and from some of the ditches thought to relate to the possible Romano-British ditch system (F1010, F1021, F1024, F1055 and F1082). Middle to late Iron Age material was sparsely distributed as residual material in two further features (Pit F1157 and F1082) and at Find Spot 15. The presence of this material, albeit limited, is suggestive of additional Iron Age activity.

2.5.5 Ditches F1021, F1024 and F1055 were dispersed across the southern half of the site. They each contained small amounts of early Iron Age and/or mid-late Iron Age pottery. They were also aligned either southeast to northwest or southwest to northeast. These alignments were the same as the alignments of

the Romano-British ditches (see below). The similarities in alignments may suggest a link between these ditches and those assigned to Phase 2. Possibly the later ditches represent a re-establishment of an earlier system of land division. It is possible, given the very limited quantities of Iron Age pottery, that the ditches may be Romano-British and that the pottery found within them is residual.

## 2.6 Phase 2: Romano-British

*The possible Romano-British Field System (Figs. 2, 5-6, & 8 - 11, 19, Plate 5)*

2.6.1 Ditches thought to represent a possible Romano-British field system were identified across the southern half of the site. In total seven ditches were assigned to this phase.

Feature	Context	Dimensions	Alignment	Finds
1066	L1067	35m+ x 0.87m x 0.34m	SE – NW	Romano-British pottery (221g, 77 sherds), animal bone (29g) and Fe (1 fragment)
1076	L1077	12m+ x 1.80m x 0.68m	SW – NE	Animal bone (76g)
1078	L1079	6m+ x 1.80m x 0.64m	SE - NW	Romano-British pottery (12g, 4 sherds), struck flint (20g)
1082	1083	12m+ x 1.05m x 0.45m	SW – NE	Early Iron Age Pottery (2g, 2 sherds), mid to late Iron Age pottery (11g/5 sherds)
1109	L1110	4m+ x 0.80m 0.25m	N – S	Romano-British pottery (14g, 2 sherds), animal bone (9g)
1113	L1114	20m+ x 1.75m x 0.75m	SW – NE	Romano-British pottery (76g, 2 sherds), slag (174g)
1115	L1116	23m+ x 0.75m x 0.30m	SW – NE	Romano-British pottery (204g, 45 sherds), animal bone (30g) and oyster shell (18g)

*Table 3: Summary of Romano-British ditches*

2.6.2 Ditches F1066, F1078, F1109, F1113 and F1115 all contained Romano-British pottery. All were located in the southeast corner of the site, and formed the largest concentration of activity anywhere at the site (see Section 4 Discussion and Fig. 19).

2.6.3 The only Romano-British features identified during previous excavations were a ditch and a gully which were revealed in Trench 32 of the School Road site, c. 500m to the south of the Endurance Track site. These features, which were aligned SE/NW and SW/NE, were also interpreted as possibly being part of a system of field ditches (Grassam 2007). The limited area of excavation does not allow much scope to comment on the Romano-British landscape; however the presence of similarly aligned ditches within 500m of each other might

tentatively imply a widespread ditch system. While the features and material revealed during the excavation denote agricultural activity in the area during the Romano-British period, the presence of a small number of sherds of fineware may indicate settlement activity in the local area.

#### *The curvilinear ditch (Figs.2, 5 and 8, Plate 6)*

2.6.4 Curvilinear Ditch F1020 (9.00+ x 2.60 x 0.64m) was located in the northern corner of the site and extended beyond the boundary of the site to both the north and south. The semi-circular shape of the feature suggest that if it extended past the site boundary on the same alignment, it would have formed a ring ditch with a circumference of between 10m and 12.5m, though this cannot be proven. The ditch contained both early Iron Age (2g, 2sherds) and Romano-British pottery (380g, 65sherds), as well as Romano-British flat tile (14g) and animal bone (14g).

#### *The Romano-British pits (Figs.2, 5, 10, 11 and 13)*

2.6.5 Five pits were also assigned a Romano-British date based on the presence of small quantities pottery. These pits were all located on the eastern side of the site. Pits F1072, F1100, F1117, F1143 and F1125 were all either circular or oval.

### **2.7 Phase 3: post-medieval (AD 1500 to AD 1750)**

2.7.1 A single post-medieval ditch (F1070 (=F1084)) was identified (Figs. 2 & 10). Ditch F1070 was located in the eastern corner of the excavation between Romano-British Ditches F1113 and F1066.

### **2.8 Phase 4: modern**

2.8.1 The modern features comprised a number of modern land drains (including F1008 and F1041), a pit (F1086) and a gully (F1062) (Figs. 2, 7, 10 and 15).

### **2.9 Unphased**

2.9.1 Undated features comprised nine ditches, nineteen pits, ten postholes, one gully and one layer. Of the unphased gully and ditches, two features (Ditch F1128 and Gully F1165) are thought to have potentially been associated with the Romano-British field system based on their similarities in shape, size and orientation with ditches securely dated to this phase (Figs. 2, 7 – 15).

#### *The possible dew pond (Figs.2, 9 and 16, Plate 7)*

2.9.2 Possible Dewpond F1059 was located towards the southeast part of the site. It was an irregular oval shape in plan and had slightly sloping sides and a flat

base. The basal (L1060) and middle fills (L1061) contained a small quantity of burnt flint and animal bone. Environmental analysis identified aquatic snails present within these fills. The species present, *Lymnaea palustris*, *Aplexa hypnorum* and *Lymnaea stagnalis*, all inhabit small stretches of overgrown stagnant water at low altitudes. The upper fill (L1038) contained Iron Age pottery (8 sherds, 38g) and animal bone (70g).

2.9.3 The presence of the aquatic species of snail in L1061 indicates that this feature may have been a pond. It is possible that it was a naturally-occurring pond but the presence of the flint in both fills and the seemingly deliberately cut sides may suggest that it was a dew pond.

### **3 SPECIALISTS' FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS**

#### **3.1 The Pottery – By Andrew Peachey**

The excavation recovered a total of 634 sherds (3036g) of pottery, principally Iron Age and Roman in date, with occasional post-medieval sherds also present. The entirety of the assemblage is poorly preserved and is in a moderately to highly abraded and fragmented condition. The assemblage includes relatively few diagnostic sherds but exhibits sufficient homogenous traits to suggest occupation in the early Iron Age, middle to late Iron Age and the first half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD.

##### *Methodology*

The pottery was quantified by sherd count, weight (g) and R.EVE with fabrics examined at x20 magnification and fully described or referenced in the report. Rim type, profile and decoration were also recorded in free text comments in accordance with the guidelines developed by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1995) and Study Group for Roman Pottery. All data was entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that forms part of the site archive.

##### *The early Iron Age Pottery*

A total of 329 sherds (1502g) of Iron Age pottery were contained in 14 pit and ditch features. These sherds could be divided into two groups according to fabric type (described below), which occur almost exclusively from one another reflecting distinct chronologies in the early Iron Age and the middle to late Iron Age.

##### Iron Age Fabric Descriptions

Fabric 1: Flint-tempered ware (early Iron Age). Surfaces may be red-brown to dark grey or black while the core is reduced dark grey. Inclusions comprise common calcined flint (generally 0.25-5mm, occasionally to 10mm) with sparse quartz (<0.25mm). Handmade, moderately hard with abrasive surfaces.

Fabric 2: Sand-tempered ware (middle to late Iron Age). Surfaces may be red-brown to dark grey or black while the core is reduced dark grey. Inclusions comprise common quartz sand (0.1-0.5mm) and occasional flint fragments (<10mm). Handmade with slightly abrasive surfaces.

### Commentary

Fabric 1 accounts for 248 sherds (1074g) of the Iron Age pottery and can be dated by form and fabric comparisons to the early Iron Age. Comparable flint tempered fabrics are well attested to in the region, notably at West Harling (Clark and Fell 1953, 24), and also including Ingham (Percival 1999, 39) and Barham (Martin 1993).

High concentrations of Fabric 1 sherds were contained in Pit F1134 (140 sherds, 490g) and Pit F1154 (61 sherds, 464g). The concentration of Fabric 1 sherds in Pit F1134 (L1135) comprised the highly fragmented remains of a Darmsden style vessel with a slightly everted rim and a horizontal or oblique band (s) of incised lines comparable to early Iron Age vessels recorded at Little Bealings and Coddensham (Martin 1999, 75: fig.3.16.3 and 6). The concentration of Fabric 1 sherds in Pit F1154 (L1155, L1156 and L1161) was limited to non-diagnostic and basal sherds. The remaining Fabric one sherds are sparsely distributed in Ditches F1010 (L1011 Seg. A), F1020 (L1028), F1021 (L1022 Segs. A and B), F1024 (L1025 Seg. A), F1055 (L1056 Segs. B and C), F1082 (L1083), Pits F1151 (L1152), F1154 (L1161) and Dew Pond F1059 Seg.C).

Fabric 2 accounts for 81 sherds (428g) of the Iron Age pottery. Sand-tempered fabrics such as Fabric 2 become common in the middle Iron Age and continue to be used throughout the late Iron Age in Suffolk (Martin 1999, 80). A concentration of Fabric 2 sherds was contained Pit F1151 (56 sherds, 365g), with remaining Fabric 2 sherds sparsely distributed in Pit F1157 (L1162), Ditch F1082 (L1083 Seg. B) and Find Spot 15. The concentration of sherds in Pit F1151 (L1153) is composed of body sherds from a single, probably barrel-shaped vessel, but no further diagnostic rim or basal sherds are present.

### *The Roman Pottery*

A total of 298 sherds (1507g) of Roman pottery are present in the assemblage, principally recovered from ditch features and as finds from the topsoil or surface. The bulk of the Roman pottery is accounted for by concentrations of sherds in Ditches F1020, F1066, F1084 and F1115. The Roman pottery is dominated by locally produced, reduced coarse wares with rare white ware and samian ware sherds (described below and Table 4)



## Roman Fabric Descriptions

**GRS:** Sandy grey ware, probably locally produced and including products of the Horningsea kilns.

**BSW:** Black surfaced/Romanising grey ware, probably locally produced and including products of the Horningsea kilns.

**WAT RE:** Wattisfield reduced ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 184)

**HOR RE:** Horningsea reduced ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 116)

**COL WH:** Colchester white ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 133)

**LEZ SA2:** Lezoux samian ware 2 (Tomber and Dore 1998, 32)

Fabric type	Sherd Count	Weight	R.EVE
GRS	50	175	0.03
BSW	201	884	0.25
WAT RE	6	28	0.10
HOR RE	35	410	0.26
COL WH	4	8	0.00
LEZ SA2	2	2	0.00
<i>Total</i>	<i>298</i>	<i>1507</i>	<i>0.74</i>

*Table 4: Total quantities of Roman fabric types in the assemblage.*

## Commentary

Ditch F1066 (L1067 Segs. B and D) contained a total of 77 sherds (221g) of Roman pottery, almost entirely comprising BSW sherds with single sherds of GRS and LEZ SA2 also present. The 26 sherds (74g) of BSW in Ditch F1064 (L1067 Seg. B) are entirely derived from a necked jar with a plain rim and plain shoulder cordon, comparable to types produced at both Stowmarket (Plouviez 1989, 7: fig.7.9-10) and Horningsea (Evans 1991, 41: fig.4.42). The fabrics and forms present in Ditch F1066 strongly suggest an early Roman date of deposition, probably in the first half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD.

Ditch F1084 (L1085) contained a total of 48 sherds (309g) of Roman pottery, but also 3 sherds (4g) of probably intrusive post-medieval pottery. The Roman pottery is dominated by sherds from a single HOR RE necked jar with a bead rim and plain body (Evans 1991, 41: fig.4.26-29) with sherds of WAT RE and BSW also from beads rim jars, and body sherds of GRS and LEZ SA2. Like Ditch F1066, the pottery in Ditch F1084 strongly suggests an early Roman date, probably within the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD.

Ditch F1020 (L1029 Segs. A and B) contained a total of 65 sherds (380g), principally contained in Segment A. This group included body sherds of GRS, BSW, HOR RE and COL WH. Similarly Ditch F1115 (L1116 Segs. C and D) contained a total of 45 sherds (204g), including body sherds of GRS and BSW. Although lacking any diagnostic sherds, the pottery in Ditches F1020 and F1115 appears homogenous in character with that from Ditches F1066 and F1084 and may be assumed to be contemporary in the early Roman period (2<sup>nd</sup> century AD).

The of the remaining Roman pottery, 37 sherds (239g) are sparsely distributed in



other feature types, while 26 sherds (154g) were recovered from the topsoil and as surface finds. Of particular note are 'Natural' Feature F1080 (L1081) which contained fragments from two BSW jars including a bifid rim type (Evans 1991, 41: fig.4.38), and Pit F1113 (L1114) which contained the bead rim of a Horningsea (HOR RE) storage jar (Evans 1991, 40:fig.3.10). The pottery from both features concurs with the early Roman (2<sup>nd</sup> century AD) chronology and character of the concentrations in the Ditch features, as do the sparse body sherds of BSW, GRS, HOR RE and COL WH from other features, the topsoil and as surface finds.

### *The post-medieval pottery*

The post-medieval sherds are limited to 7 sherds (27g) in Dew Pond F1059, Ditch F1084 and from Find Spots 18 and 19. The post-medieval pottery in Ditch F1084 (L1085) is limited to very small sherds of glazed red earthen ware, while that in Dew Pond F1059 (Test Pit 7) is also limited to a single very small sherd of glazed red earthen ware. Further sherds of glazed red earthen ware alongside glazed cream ware were recovered from Find Spots 18 and 19.

## **3.2 The Flint – By Andrew Peachey**

Excavations recovered a total of 26 fragments of struck flint (194g) and a single fragment (36g) of burnt flint. The flint is sparsely distributed and does not include any significant concentrations of flakes. The struck flint assemblage includes two scrapers, a rod, blades and debitage that have affinities with Neolithic and early Bronze Age flint work.

A significant proportion of the assemblage exhibits a low degree of patination, which combined with the presence of early Iron Age to Roman pottery in some features suggests the assemblage has predominantly or wholly been re-deposited in later prehistoric and Roman features.

### *Methodology & Terminology*

The flint was quantified by fragment count and weight (g), with all data entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that forms part of the site 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 its 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).

### *Raw Material*

The raw flint is mid to dark grey in colour with a thick, white cortex surviving on many flakes. Relatively high quality flint such as this is to be expected in a region with plentiful flint from primary chalk deposits (Waddington 2004, 3).

### *Commentary*

The scrapers in the assemblage comprise one flake tool and one scraper formed from a pebble. The example in Pit F1033 (L1037) is a side/end scraper that comprises a soft-hammer struck, blade-like, tertiary flake with abrupt retouch on the bulbar end and both lateral edges. Comparable side/end scrapers of probable late Neolithic/early Bronze Age date have been recorded at Barnham (Martin 1993, 16), but are also relatively common in earlier Neolithic assemblages from the region (Healy 1988, 46). The second scraper, recovered from Find Spot 4, is a side scraper formed by bifacially flaking and retouching a single lateral edge of a small oval pebble and leaving the opposing edge backed by cortex. Scrapers on non-flake blanks are more typical of later Neolithic and early Bronze Age flint work in the region (Healy 1988, 46).

The remaining retouched implement in this assemblage comprises a rod recovered from Find Spot 5. The rod (weighing 20g, and with dimensions of 60x15x12mm) has been bi-facially retouched to form a regular D-shape profile, but cortex has been left intact on the dorsal face. Rods are generally found in earlier Neolithic assemblages and their precise function is unknown (Butler 2005, 134) although the absence of wear, as on this example, suggests they were not used as fabricators.

The blades in the assemblage ranged from 25 to 40mm in length, 15 to 20mm in width and were never more than 5mm thick. The blades appear to have been soft-hammer struck and are typical of those common in earlier Neolithic assemblages from the region (Healy 1988, 46). These blades occurred in Ditches F1021 (L1022 Seg. A), F1055 (L1056), Pits F1033 (L1037), F1100 (L1102) and Find Spot 3.

Of the 18 debitage flakes in the assemblage, ten are tertiary flakes that are blade-like in profile and may have functioned as such, or may reflect the neat systematic flint reduction techniques typical of the earlier Neolithic (Healy 1988, 46). The remaining debitage includes primary, secondary and uncorticated flakes that probably represent core preparation and maintenance. The single fragment of burnt flint was contained in Ditch F1021 (L1022 Seg. B) alongside two debitage flakes.

### **3.3 The Daub and Ceramic Building Materials – By Andrew Peachey**

Excavations recovered a total of 37 fragments (507g) of prehistoric daub and 25 fragments (167g) of Roman CBM and 16 fragments (661g) of post-medieval CBM. The daub is in a friable condition but is moderately well-preserved, while

the CBM is entirely in a very highly abraded and fragmented condition.

### *Methodology*

The CBM was quantified by fragment count and weight (g), with fabrics examined at x20 magnification. Any extant dimensions or features will be measured and/or characterised. All data was entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that forms part of the site archive.

### *The Daub*

A total of 37 fragments of daub were contained in Pit F1154 (L1155 and L1156). The daub is in a sun-dried (not baked or fired), yellow-brown fabric tempered with common crushed chalk (0.5-8mm). Several fragments in L1156 exhibit wattle impressions and smoothed 'exterior' surfaces, suggesting these fragments formed part of a structure. Pottery sherds associated with the daub in this feature suggest a prehistoric date, probably within the early Iron Age period.

### *The Roman Ceramic Building Materials*

The 25 fragments (167g) of Roman CBM are very highly abraded and fragmented with a very low average fragment weight of 6.68g. The fragments occur in an oxidised orange fabric tempered with medium quartz sand, sparse flint and iron rich inclusions. All the fragments appear to be derived from flat tile, probably tegula roof tile, although it is impossible to discount the possibility of box flue tile fragments being present. These fragments were contained in Ditch F1020 (L1029 Seg. A), Pits F1045 (L1046), F1064 (L1065), Natural Feature F1080 (L1081), Dry Valley F1130 (Test Pit 16) and Find Spots 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 21, 23 and 28.

### *The post-medieval Ceramic Building Materials*

The 16 fragments (661g) of post-medieval CBM include fragments of highly abraded pan-tile, field drain and brick. The fragments of pan-tile, which may date from the late 17<sup>th</sup> to modern periods, were recovered from Find Spots 17 and 20, while a fragment of similarly dated field drain was contained in Ditch F1076 (L1077 Seg. B).

Five small fragments (66g) of unidentifiable brick containing coarse sand and clinker (crushed industrial waste/ash) as temper were recovered from Ditch F1084 (L1085). Fabrics such as this were used to manufacture bricks from the mid 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Although recovered in five pieces, these fragments appear to represent a single weathered fragment that may be intrusive alongside the predominantly Roman pottery in the ditch. Other brick fragments in comparable fabrics were limited to those recovered from Find Spots 10, 12, 14, 16 and 20.

### 3.4 The animal bone - by Dr James Morris

#### *Introduction*

The excavations produced a small assemblage of animal remains, in total 308 fragments (2,623g), was recovered. The majority of the assemblage (264 fragments) was recovered by hand, with the rest collected from the environmental samples. The remains were collected from 20 separate contexts which dated to either the early Iron Age or the Romano-British period. The largest proportion of the assemblage, 149 fragments, came from the Romano-British contexts, 128 from the early Iron Age and the remaining 31 from undated contexts. The remains from the undated contexts are not discussed below.

#### *Methodology*

All animal bones have been recorded individually into a Microsoft Access database which will be included in the site archive. When possible bones with recent breaks were reconstructed and counted as single specimens. Where appropriate, the following information for each fragment was recorded: context; phase; species; anatomy; zone(s) of bone present; fusion data; taphonomic condition; tooth ageing data; pathological data; butchery data; metrical data; other comments.

Taxonomic identification was checked utilising available reference collections. Where fragments can be assigned to a particular size of mammal but not to species, the categories 'SAR' (small ungulate size) for indistinguishable fragments from sheep/goat, pig (*Sus scrofa*) size mammals, and 'LAR' (large ungulate size) for indistinguishable fragments from cattle (*Bos taurus*) size mammals. Other unidentified mammal fragments will be recorded as 'MAM' (unidentified mammal).

Counts of the number of identified specimens present (NISP) include any identified limb bone fragments, ribs, skull fragments, loose teeth and vertebral bodies. To ascertain the effect taphonomic conditions have had upon the assemblage the level of erosion was recorded. These are defined as; E1, slightly eroded (c.25% of the bone is effected), E2, moderately eroded (26-50% of the bone is effected), E3, severely eroded (>50% of the bone is effected). Long bone epiphyseal fusion was recorded following Silver (1969). Evidence of gnawing, burning, butchery (knife cuts, chopping, deliberate smashing, sawing), pathology and any taphonomic effects were also recorded.

#### *Preservation*

Overall the assemblage is poorly preserved. Preservation was recorded for each context on a scale from 'very good' to 'very poor'. In total, nine contexts were rated as 'poor' and ten contexts 'very poor'. Only Pit F1152 was rated as having 'fair' preservation. A large proportion of the assemblage was eroded and fragmented (where more than one fragment from the same element is present).

Overall 61% (187 fragments) of the assemblage was recorded as eroded, with 11% recorded as E1, 31% E2 and 19% E3. The high level of erosion was present on the assemblages from each time period and feature type. It therefore appears that the underlying geological conditions are not conducive to bone preservation. The erosion is likely to be caused by an acidic soil pH level combined with water action, resulting in the destruction of the bones mineral components.

The poor preservation is also reflected in the proportion of loose teeth present in the identifiable assemblage. As Maltby (1985) has noted, teeth survive the taphonomic process better than other elements. Therefore, loose teeth often make up a high proportion of poorly preserved assemblages. The level of preservation also makes it difficult to identify fragments to element and species, due to the destruction of morphological characteristics. It was only possible to identify 22% (67) of the assemblage to species and element. The high degree of erosion and fragmentation means it was not possible to retrieve any metrical or aging data.

### *Iron Age*

Faunal remains dating to the Iron Age were recovered from seven features and totalled 128 fragments. It was possible to identify 23% (30) of the assemblage to species and element. The majority of the faunal remains for this period were collected by hand. Environmental samples were collected from Pit F1133 (L1132). In total, 16 fragments were recovered from this sample, all of which were highly eroded. It was only possible to identify the remains as mammal fragments. The remains from this feature were identified as the possible remains of a human cremation, however no human remains were identified in the sample and none of the remains were cremated, the confusion being caused by the high level of erosion.

The identified remains consisted of elements from cattle (*Bos Taurus*), sheep/goat (*Ovis/Capra*) and horse (*Equus caballus*). The majority of the identified elements were from cattle (22 fragments), then sheep/goat (7 fragments) and horse (1 fragment) (see table 5). With the exception of the toes most body areas are represented by the cattle remains. The most commonly identified elements are from the upper hind limb (femur and tibia). However, this is likely to be a reflection of the poor preservation as the femur and tibia are two of the densest elements and therefore have a higher rate of preservation compared to other bones. They are also highly morphologically distinct and can often be identified even in highly eroded assemblages. Three cattle skull fragments are also present, all from the densest parts of the skull, such as the ear osical. The sheep/goat remains also consist of the most robust limb bone elements, in this case the radius and metacarpal. The one horse element consists of a fragment of femur from Pit F1154 (L1156).

Anatomy	cattle	sheep/goat	horse	LAR	SAR	MAM
Horncore	2					
Skull fragment	3			11		
Mandible		1				
Loose teeth	1					
Scapula	2	1				
Humerus	2					
Radius	1	2				
Metacarpus	1	2				
Femur	4		1			
Tibia	3	1				
Metatarsus	2					
Calcaneum	1					
Vertebra fragment				8		
Rib				11		
Limb shaft fragment				21	7	
Fragment				17		23
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>23</b>

*Table 5: NISP element counts per species for the late Bronze Age to early Iron Age*

The remains from Pit F1132 were identified in the field as a possible cremation. However, examination of the osteological material indicated all the remains are from animals, but due to their condition it was not possible to identify to species. The remains are not burnt, but are extremely eroded. A large proportion of the faunal remains from this period (65 fragments) were recovered from the fills of Pit F1154. The majority of the identified remains from this feature come from cattle (14 fragments), with one horse and one sheep/goat element also present. The unidentified remains mainly consist of large mammal (LAR) limb shaft and skull fragments. This reflects the pattern seen in the whole assemblage from this period, with the majority of the unidentified remains from large mammals. As cattle are the most commonly identified mammal, it is likely that most of the LAR remains are also from cattle.

It therefore appears that the communities in this area in the early Iron Age were mainly concentrating on cattle for their animal husbandry. This is a pattern which is seen on other sites in this area, particularly in the Iron Age. Cattle are the most common species recovered from the Bronze Age sites of Poors Heath 64 barrow (Cornwall 1976) and West Row Fen, Mildenhall (Olsen 1994). They are also the most common species on a number of Iron Age sites in this region (Crabtree 1990; Hambleton 1999; King 1987).

### *Romano-British*

Faunal remains dating to the Romano-British period were recovered from 10 separate contexts and features. In total, 149 fragments were recovered, of which it was possible to identify 18% (27) to both species and element. Again the low



level of identification is due to the poor preservation of the assemblage. The majority of the remains were recovered by hand with environmental samples accounting for 28 fragments.

The identified remains consist of elements from cattle, sheep/goat and horse. The rest of the remains were large ungulate size, small ungulate size or simply mammal. Cattle are the most commonly identified species, with 18 fragments, followed by sheep/goat seven and horse two. All the horse and the majority of the sheep/goat remains consist of loose teeth (see table 6). Elements representing most body areas of cattle are present, it is notable that lower foot and toe bones are not represented. The most common cattle bones are femurs, mandibles and loose teeth. As with the previous periods these are the elements which best survive the taphonomic process.

Anatomy	cattle	sheep/goat	horse	LAR	SAR	MAM
Skull	1					
Mandible	3					
Loose tooth	3	5	2			
Scapula	1					
Humerus	2					
Radius	1					
Metacarpus		1				
Pelvis	1					
Femur	4					
Tibia	2	1				
Rib				15		
Limb shaft fragment				48	14	
Fragment				18	4	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>23</b>

*Table 6: NISP element counts per species for the Romano-British period*

A large proportion of the faunal remains from this period were recovered from three features, Tree Hollow F1080 and Pits F1117 and F1125. Cattle are the most numerous identified species from these features, with a small number of sheep/goat and one loose horse tooth present. As with the previous period the majority of the remains are LAR limb bone shaft fragments. It is also likely that most of the LAR elements are from cattle. The dominance of cattle remains is a noted trend for the Romano-British period (King 1978; 1999; Maltby 1984).

### *Conclusions*

The excavations produced a small and poorly preserved animal bone assemblage. The elements present are highly eroded which is likely to be due to the underlying geology of the site. As the majority of the archaeological features are associated with possible field systems, the bone material may have accumulated on the site by the use of midden material as fertiliser. Therefore the faunal remains do not appear to represent the deposition of butchery or

consumption waste from specific events. Rather they offer a general overview of the species utilised for animal husbandry during the time periods covered. Both the early Iron Age and the Romano-British assemblages are dominated by cattle remains. This is a pattern seen on other sites within this region. Although small, this assemblage suggests there is little difference between the species utilised for the periods covered, but this would require a large and better preserved assemblage to confirm.

### **3.5 The Environmental Samples – By Alex Livarda**

#### *Introduction*

Environmental bulk samples were taken for the recovery of archaeobotanical and other bio-archaeological remains. All phases of occupation were sampled, with Phases 1 (Iron Age) and 2 (Romano-British) being the best represented as indicated by spot dating.

#### *Sampling and processing methods*

Several ditches and pits, as well as a ?dew pond, were sampled for archaeobotanical remains based on a judgement sampling strategy and resulting in 23 samples. Sample size ranged between 10 and 40 litres. All samples were floated by staff at Archaeological Solutions, using meshes with 1 mm and 0.25mm apertures for the retention of the residues and the flots respectively.

All flots were fully scanned using a stereoscope with magnifications ranging from x7 to x45. The plant remains were recorded and their abundance estimated (+ = scarce <10; ++ = moderate 10-100; +++ = frequent >100) on the basis of the minimum number of characteristic plant parts. Plant names follow Stace (1997). Charcoal fragments and other organic material were also noted, estimating their abundance.

#### *Results*

All samples were dominated by several modern roots, while their archaeobotanical material was very low and poorly preserved. In particular, only five samples included archaeobotanical remains: one sample spot dated to Phase 1 (Sample 7; Ditch F1055A), two samples assigned to Phase 3 (Sample 21; Ditch F1076 and Sample 28; Ditch F1113), one sample spot dated to post-medieval Phase 4 (Sample 26; Ditch F1070 (=1084) and one unphased sample (Sample 24; Ditch F1074). The overall nature of their bio-archaeological content suggests the presence of some food processing/waste remains, scattered and incorporated into the various deposits. Samples 7 and 21 contained one poorly preserved cereal grain each, while Sample 26 had a couple of cereal grains that were slightly better preserved and identified as wheat (*Triticum* sp.). The other two samples (Sample 24 and Sample 28), contained a few glume bases, processing remains of glume wheat, which were too poorly preserved to indicate the species. Scarce charcoal fragments were present in all these samples.

Abundant charcoal fragments were found only Sample 27 (Pit F1100). Additionally, Sample 21 (Ditch F1076) and the unphased Sample 14 (Pit F1045) contained some marine molluscs. All other samples had variable amounts of modern vegetation, land snails and occasional insect remains, suggesting the potential presence of intrusive/residual material in the deposits.

### *Bibliography*

Stace, C. 1997 *New Flora of the British Isles*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

**Flots with archaeobotanical material.**

Sno = sample number; Sz = size; Ftr = feature; Cxt = context; Ab = archaeobotanical material; Un = uncharred seeds; Cha = charcoal; Sn = land snail; Mm = marine mollusc; Ins = insect/beetle remains; + = <10; ++ = 11-100; +++ = >100.

Sno	Sz (l)	Ftr	Cxt	Description	Flot (ml)	Ab	Un	Cha	Sn	Mm	Ins	Comment
4	20	1020	1030	Ditch Fill	25			+	+			Dominated by modern roots. A few charcoal fragments
5	20		1038C	Pond	20			+	++			Sandy with several modern roots. A few charcoal fragments
7	40	1055A	1056A	Ditch Fill	15	+	+	+	+		+	Dominated by modern roots. A cereal grain
9	10	1010A	1011A	Ditch Fill	20		+	+	++		+	Sandy with several modern roots. A few charcoal fragments
10	10	1010B	1011B	Ditch Fill	30		+	+	++			Dominated by modern roots. A few charcoal fragments
11	20	1024B	1025B	Ditch Fill	35		+	+	++			Sandy with several modern roots. A few charcoal fragments and many flecks
14	20	1045	1046	Pit Fill	15			+		+		Dominated by modern roots. A few charcoal fragments
15	20	1047	1048	Ditch Fill	25			+	+		+	Dominated by modern roots. A few charcoal fragments
17	40	1062	1063	Gully Fill	20		+	+	+			Sandy with several modern roots. A few charcoal fragments
21	20	1076	1077	Ditch Fill	5	+		+	+	+		Dominated by modern roots. A cereal grain

Sno	Sz (l)	Ftr	Cxt	Description	Flot (ml)	Ab	Un	Cha	Sn	Mm	Ins	Comment
23	20	1082	1083	Ditch Fill	5			+	+			Dominated by modern roots. A few charcoal fragments
24	20	1074	1075	Ditch Fill	10	+	+	+	+			Dominated by modern roots. A couple of glume bases
26	20	1084	1085	Ditch Fill	15	+	+	+			+	Sandy with several modern roots. A couple of wheat grains
27	20	1100	1102	Pit Fill	10		+	+++	+		+	Dominated by modern roots. Many charcoal fragments
28	40	1113	1114	Pit Fill	30	+		+				Sandy. A glume base and several charcoal flecks
31	20	1117	1118	Pit Fill	15			+	+			Dominated by modern roots. A few charcoal fragments
32	20	1109	1110	Gully Fill	10		+	++	+		+	Dominated by modern roots. Some charcoal fragments
34	20	1125	1126	Pit Fill	10		+		+			Dominated by modern roots.
35	20	1132	1133	Cremation?	10			+	+			Dominated by modern roots. A few charcoal fragments
36	10	1134	1135	Pit Fill	25		+	++	+			Dominated by modern roots. Some charcoal fragments and many flecks
39	20	1151	1153	Pit Fill	5			+				Dominated by modern roots. A few





## DISCUSSION

### *Prehistoric activity*

The excavations yielded a small amount of early Iron Age evidence. The paucity of evidence is reflected in other archaeological investigations in the local area.

Site	Phase	Features
Moulton Road	Late Neolithic/ early Bronze Age	Large collared urn sherd and ?barrow
School Road		Three pits and two ditches
Darley Stud	Middle Bronze Age/ Iron Age	Isolated Pit
School Road		Two ditches
School Road	Late Iron Age	Two pits and a ditch

*Table 7: Prehistoric finds and features from local archaeological investigations*

The presence of a possible ploughed out barrow at Moulton Road was not unexpected. Numerous such features have been identified as ring ditch cropmarks around Newmarket. The near complete Darmsden style vessel in Pit F1134 at the Endurance Track has been identified as potentially being a structured deposit, which may have had ritual connotations. The absence of human bone or any other material inhibits interpretation.

The evidence from all of the sites is limited by the small size of each of the investigations. The presence of three ditches dated, albeit tentatively, to the Iron Age, possibly suggest the presence of an agricultural landscape. Features which can not be directly attributed to agricultural activity may be the result of transient activity possibly associated with the Icknield Way, branches of which are thought to have criss-crossed the landscape surrounding the Endurance Track (Moss-Echardt 1991). Three pits containing hearth waste and thought to date to the late Neolithic/ early Bronze Age have been excavated at the School Road site, and are tentatively interpreted as being the results of temporary settlement (Grassam 2007). It is recognised that a more sedentary settlement pattern was not achieved until the middle Bronze Age (Woodward 2000) in much of Britain.

### *The Romano-British possible field system*

The Endurance Track excavations yielded a relatively large amount of Romano-British activity compared to that recovered during other archaeological excavations in the local area, which comprised just a ditch, a gully and a posthole at the School Road site (Grassam 2007).

The majority of the ditches at the Endurance Track were aligned southeast to northwest or southwest to northeast. It is these common alignments which suggest that the ditches are part of a field-system (Fig. 19). The ditch and gully excavated at the School Road site shared a similar alignment and, being just 500m away, may have been associated. The evidence is entirely agricultural in nature, except for the presence of small amounts of Roman tegula roof tile and domestic pottery, including some small sherds of fine ware. No direct evidence of

domestic settlement has been found but the lack of evidence is likely due to the limited size of the archaeological investigations.

### *The possible Dew Pond*

Dew ponds are enigmatic and ephemeral features of prehistoric and historic landscapes that are rarely acknowledged or explored in detail. They are man made features, usually created in naturally-occurring depressions, and were lined with puddled clay or puddled clay mixed with straw, which was then coated with loose flint. An air of mystery is popularly associated with such features, and while it is likely that the craft of making dew ponds probably originates in prehistory such ponds were still being made during the Second World War (Muir 2002, 209-210). Both early Iron Age pottery and post-medieval pottery were recovered from the upper fill L1038. Due to the small size and abraded character of the sherds from both periods it is unlikely that this is the primary depositional context for any of this pottery.

Ponds of any kind, not least those specifically identified as dew ponds, are rarely encountered in Suffolk or Cambridgeshire. Only one such feature is recorded in the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER 03469), and was found at Conington. It was identified by a band of green clay within a large pit, originally interpreted as being a quarry. The majority of the finds present in the feature were recovered from the band of clay, and date the feature to the Romano-British period. A search of the Suffolk Historic Environment Record revealed 13 ponds present. Of these however, only three might have been dew ponds, and this interpretation remains tenuous. All of these possible examples are undated.

Despite this general paucity in Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, a dew pond was also excavated at the School Road site (Grassam 2007). This feature contained Bronze Age to Iron Age pottery, a single sherd of Roman pottery and the tip of an iron ploughshare, identified as Iron Age or Roman. It is possible that Dew Pond F1059 was broadly contemporary with the School Road example. The existence of two dew ponds in a small area is unusual, and implies that the land was grazed during this period. The presence of an Iron Age ploughshare within the School Road dew pond suggests that arable agriculture was also being undertaken locally. This land use would certainly have been supported by the local geology and soils, which are extremely well suited to cereal agriculture and pastureland and continue to be utilised for these purposes to the present day.

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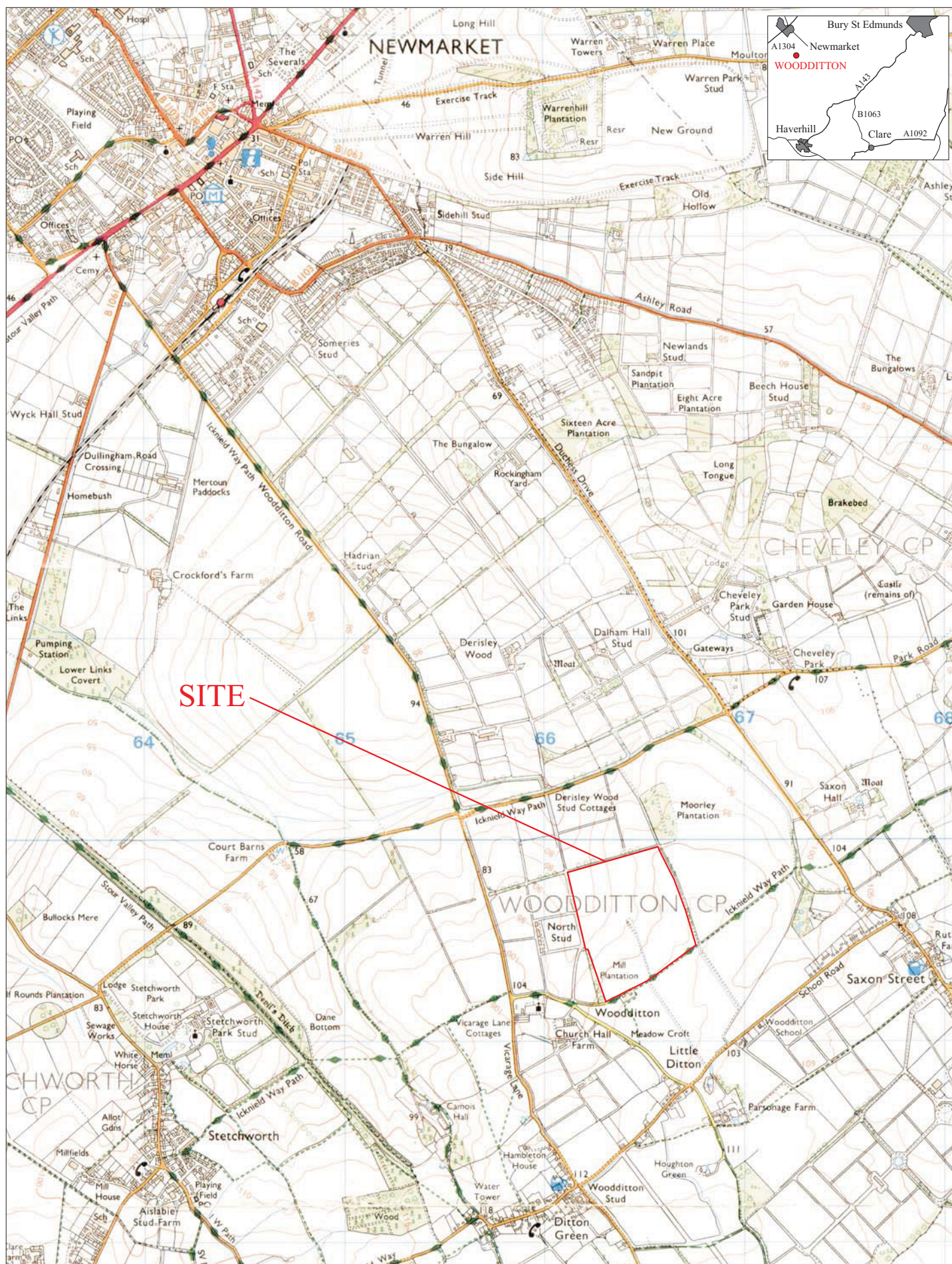
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## APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA

The following sites are those that lie within the assessment area (c. 5km radius of the site). The table has been compiled from data held by the Cambridge Historic Environment Record (CHER) and using information contained on the Archaeological Service Database ([www.ads.ahds.ac.uk](http://www.ads.ahds.ac.uk)).

CHER	NGR TM	Description	Fig. 3
<i>Prehistoric (500,000 BC – 42 AD)</i>			
07248	TL 6246 6048	Two captains round barrow, now destroyed. Evident on 1959 OS Map and 1814 Inclosure Map.	1
07429	TL 6248 6047	Two captains round barrow, now destroyed. Evident on 1959 OS Map and 1814 Inclosure Map.	2
09021	TL 659 635	Ring-ditch and linear ditch, visible as an earthwork and on aerial photos.	3
09022	TL 679 610	Large circular cropmark with entrance and other features visible on aerial photos.	4
09023	TL 696 603	Enclosures visible on aerial photos	5
09070	TL 656 634	Three ring-ditches identified on aerial photos	6
09130	TL 649 555	Rectangular enclosure identified on aerial photos	7
09131	TL 651 576	Enclosure with linear bank attached visible on aerial photos	8
09132	TL 651 584	Enclosures visible on aerial photos	9
09133	TL 696 590	Enclosures visible on aerial photos	10
09134	TL 663 596	Ring-ditch visible on aerial photos	11
09138	TL 637 594	Two four-sided enclosures visible on aerial photos	12
09139	TL 635 590	Two rectangular enclosures visible on aerial photos	13
09141	TL 628 577	Several parallel banks visible on aerial photos	14
09159	TL 647 577	Enclosure visible on aerial photos	15
11174	TL 661 634	Ring-ditch visible on aerial photos	16
<i>Roman (43 – 410 AD)</i>			
01952a	TL 686 573	Roman pottery found during an excavation carried out prior to the reduction of the bank on the west side of the moat at Kirtling towers.	17
07407	TL 63 58	Small Roman pottery vessel dug up at Dullingham	18
07408	TL 63 58	Alleged site of a Roman camp close to the 'Devil's Ditch'	19
07412	TL 642 596	Silver toilet set found at the 'Devil's Ditch', originally thought to be Anglo-Saxon, now considered Roman	20
07468	TL 659 628	Roman burial with narrow mouthed pot and jar with pierced collander base dug up in a back garden	21
08429	TL 686 621	Route of possible Roman road running parallel to the Newmarket to Cheveley road. It was c. 7ft wide and metalled. Also recovered a coin dated to the reign of Nero	22

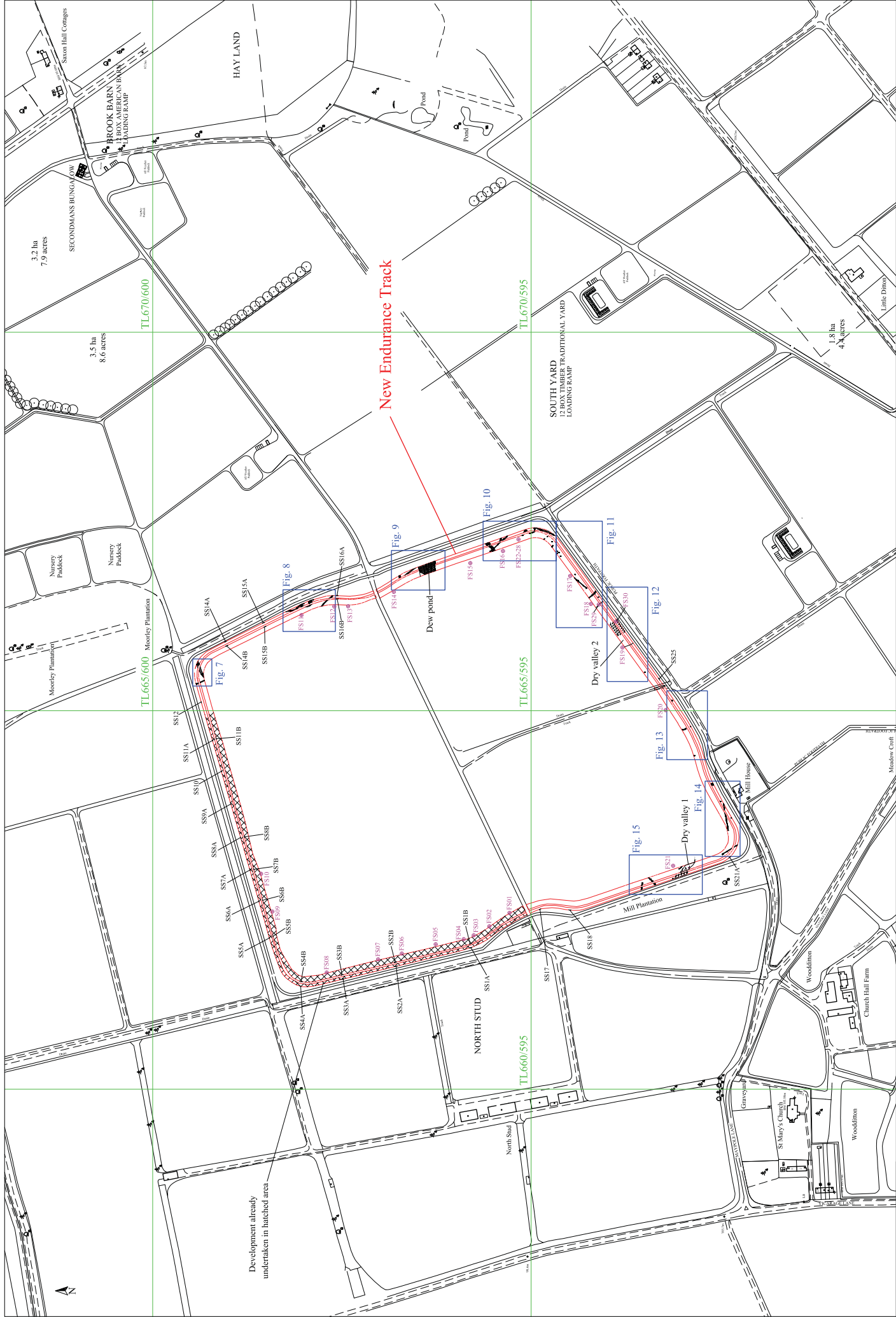




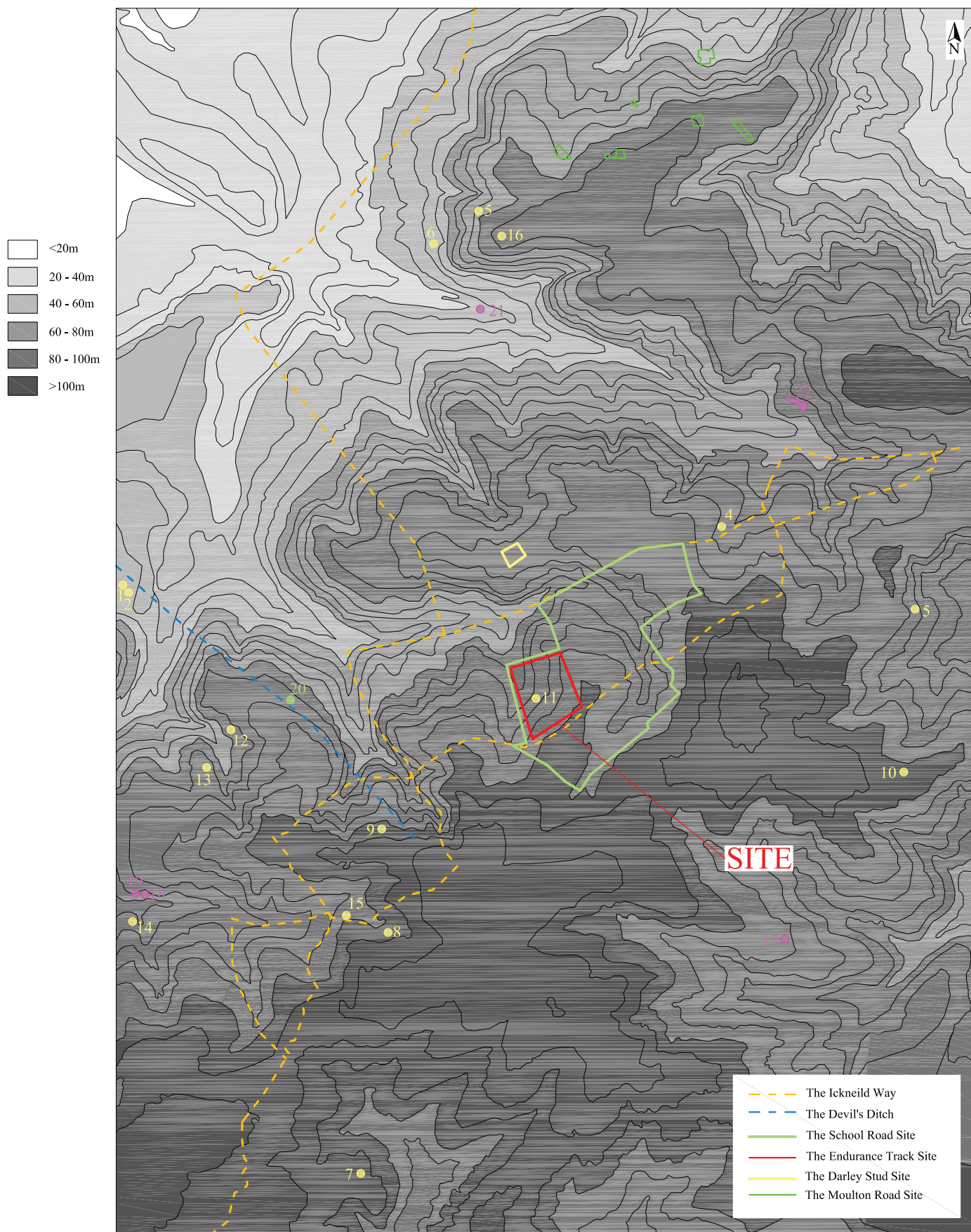
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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4





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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
 Scale 1:5000 at A3



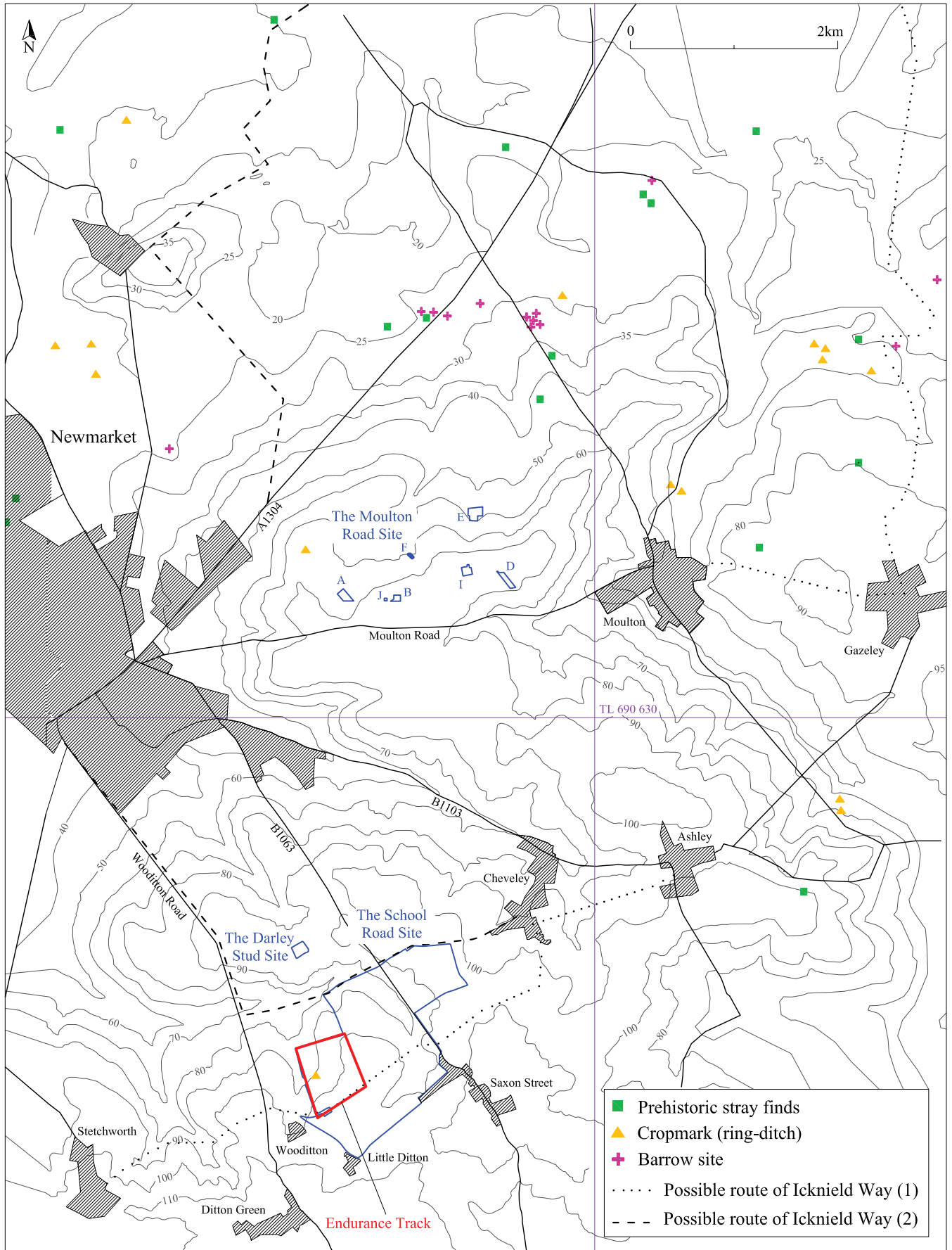
- 1: 07248 Round barrow
- 2: 07429 Round barrow
- 3: 09021 Ring-ditch & linear ditch
- 4: 09022 Circular cropmark
- 5: 09023 Enclosures
- 6: 09070 Three ring-ditches
- 7: 09130 Rectangular enclosure
- 8: 09131 Enclosure with linear bank

- 9: 09132 Enclosures
- 10: 09133 Enclosures
- 11: 09134 Ring-ditch
- 12: 09138 Two enclosures
- 13: 09139 Two rectangular enclosures
- 14: 09141 Parallel banks
- 15: 09159 Enclosure

- 16: 11174 Ring-ditch
- 17: 01952a Roman pottery
- 18: 07407 Roman pottery
- 19: 07408 Roman camp
- 20: 07412 Silver toilet set
- 21: 07468 Roman burial
- 22: 08429 Roman road

- Prehistoric CHER sites
- Roman CHER sites

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**Fig. 3 Topography plan with HER Data**  
 Scale 1:50,000 at A4

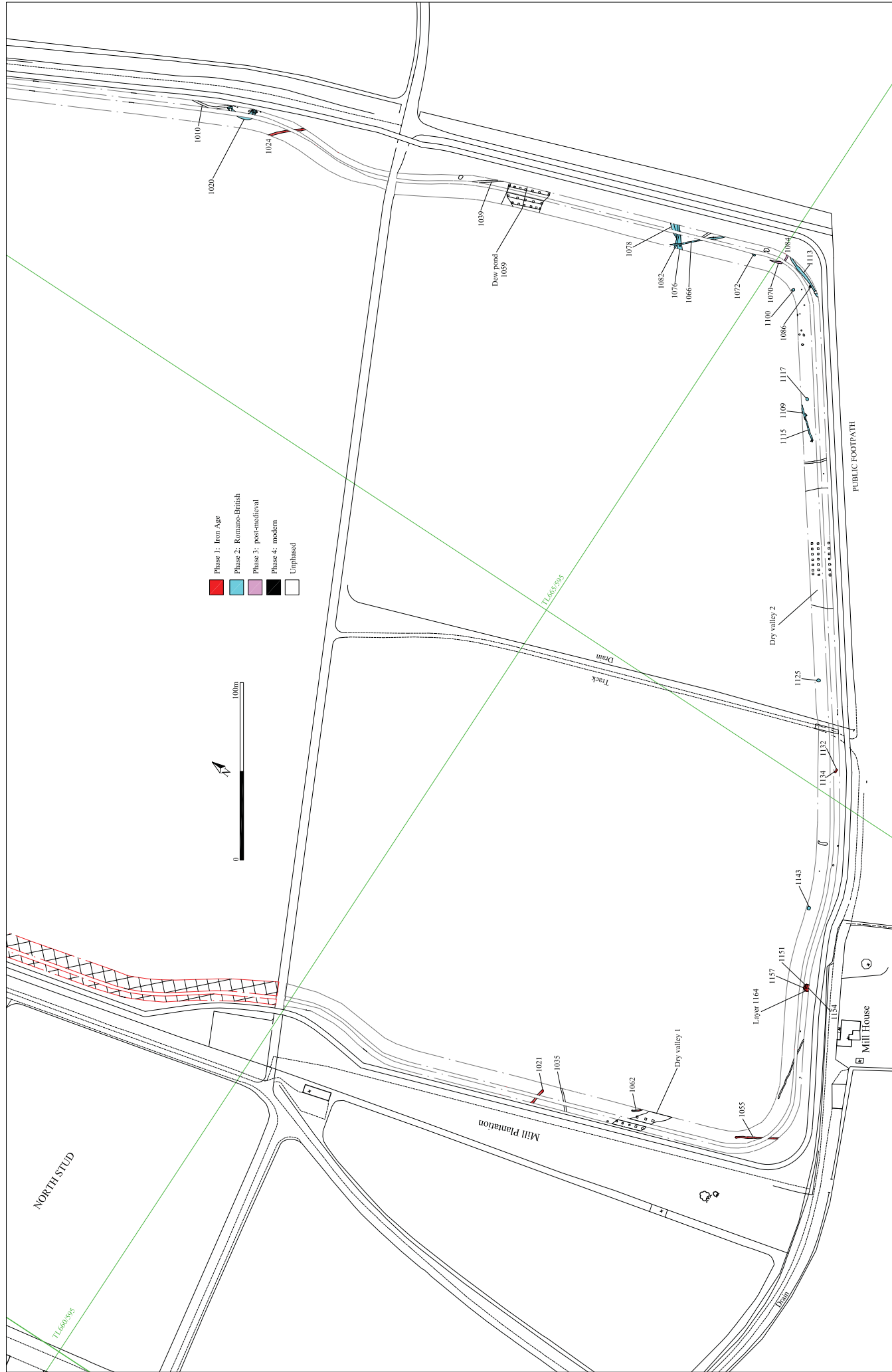


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**Fig. 4 Ring-ditches, barrows and prehistoric material in the Newmarket area**

Scale 1:50,000 at A4

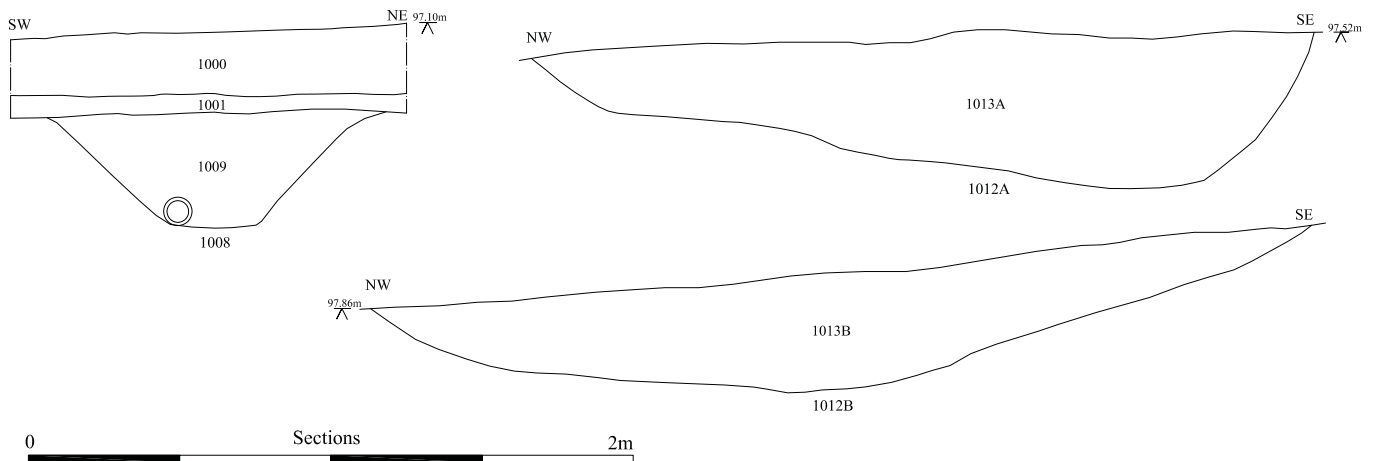
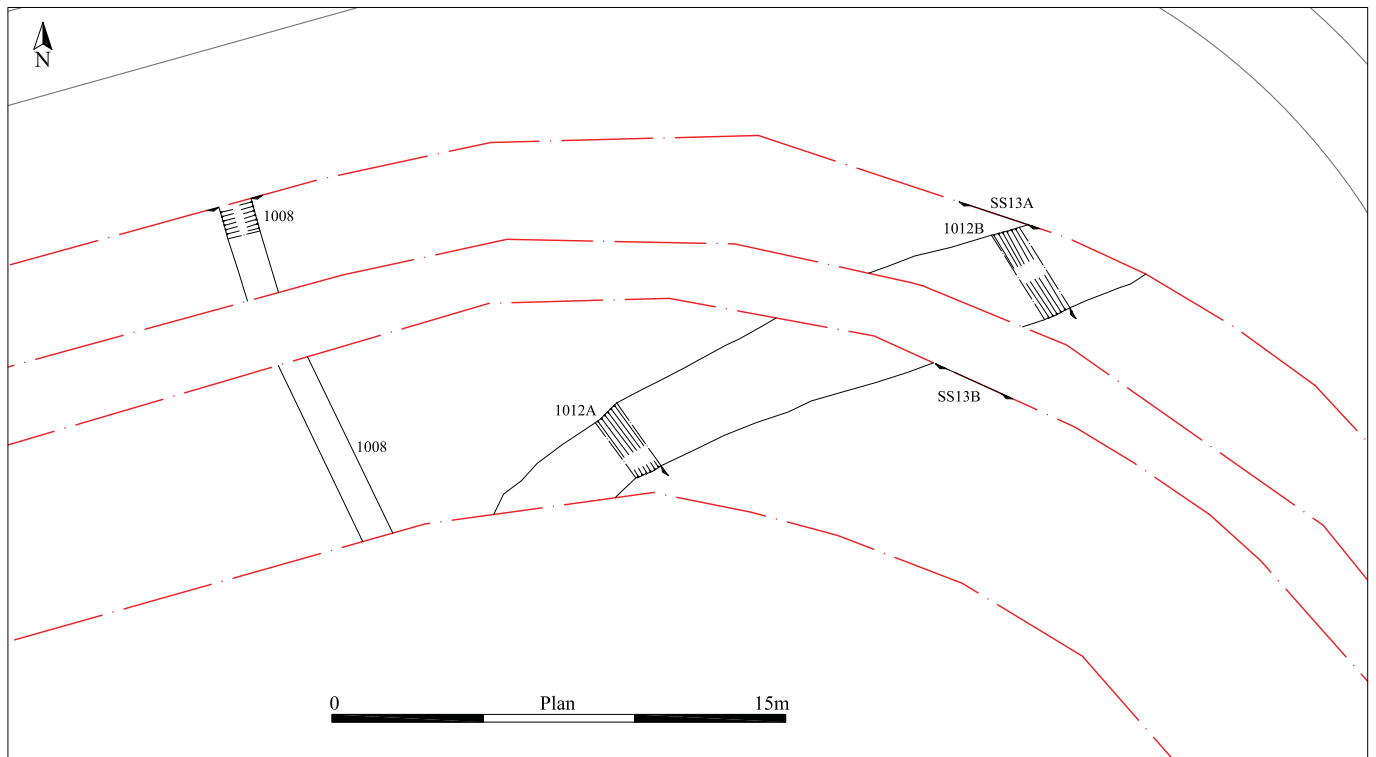




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**Fig. 5 Phase plan (southern half)**  
 Scale 1:2000 at A3

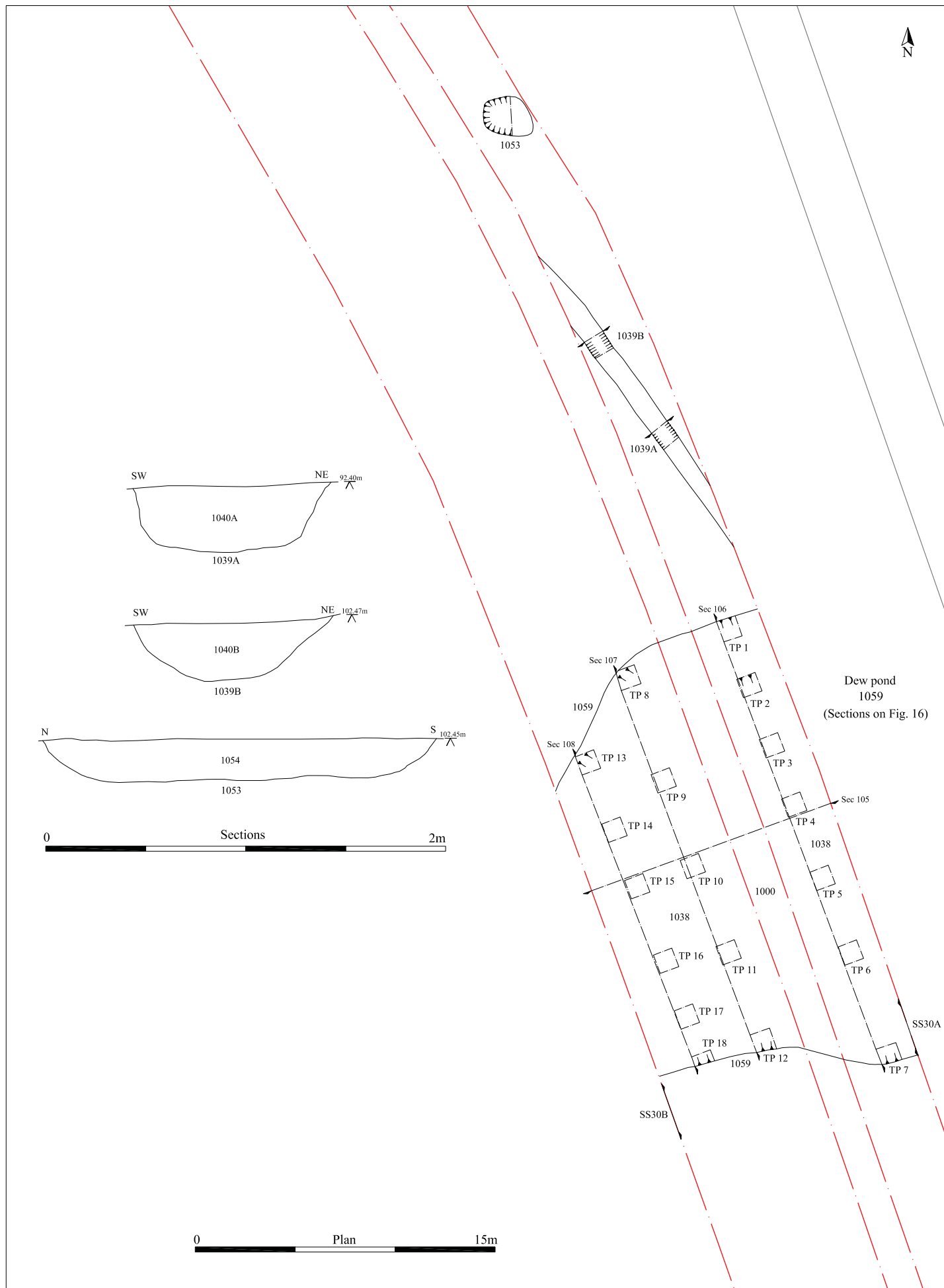




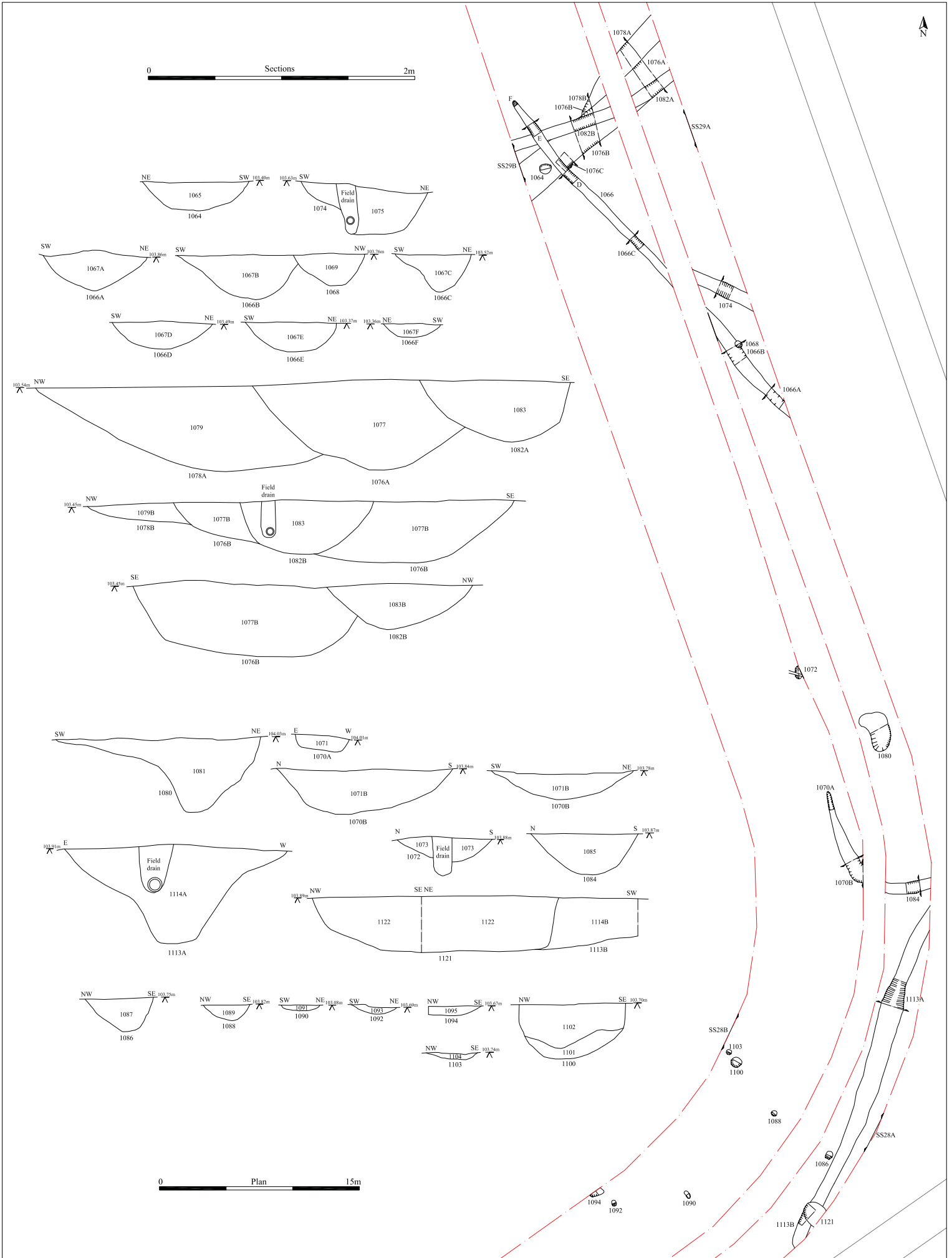


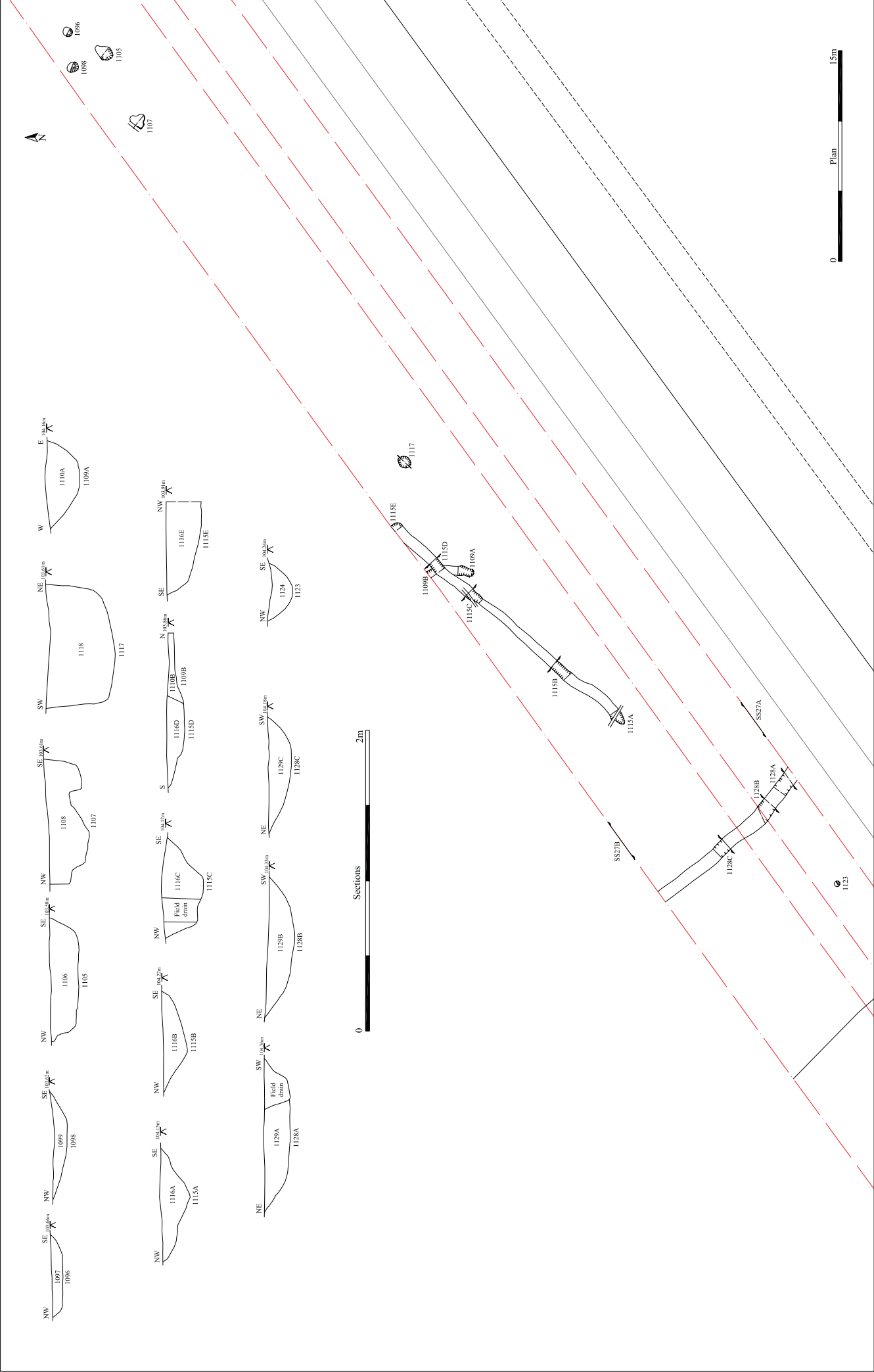
<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
<b>Fig. 7 Plan and sections</b>
Scale Plan 1:250, sections 1:25 at A4



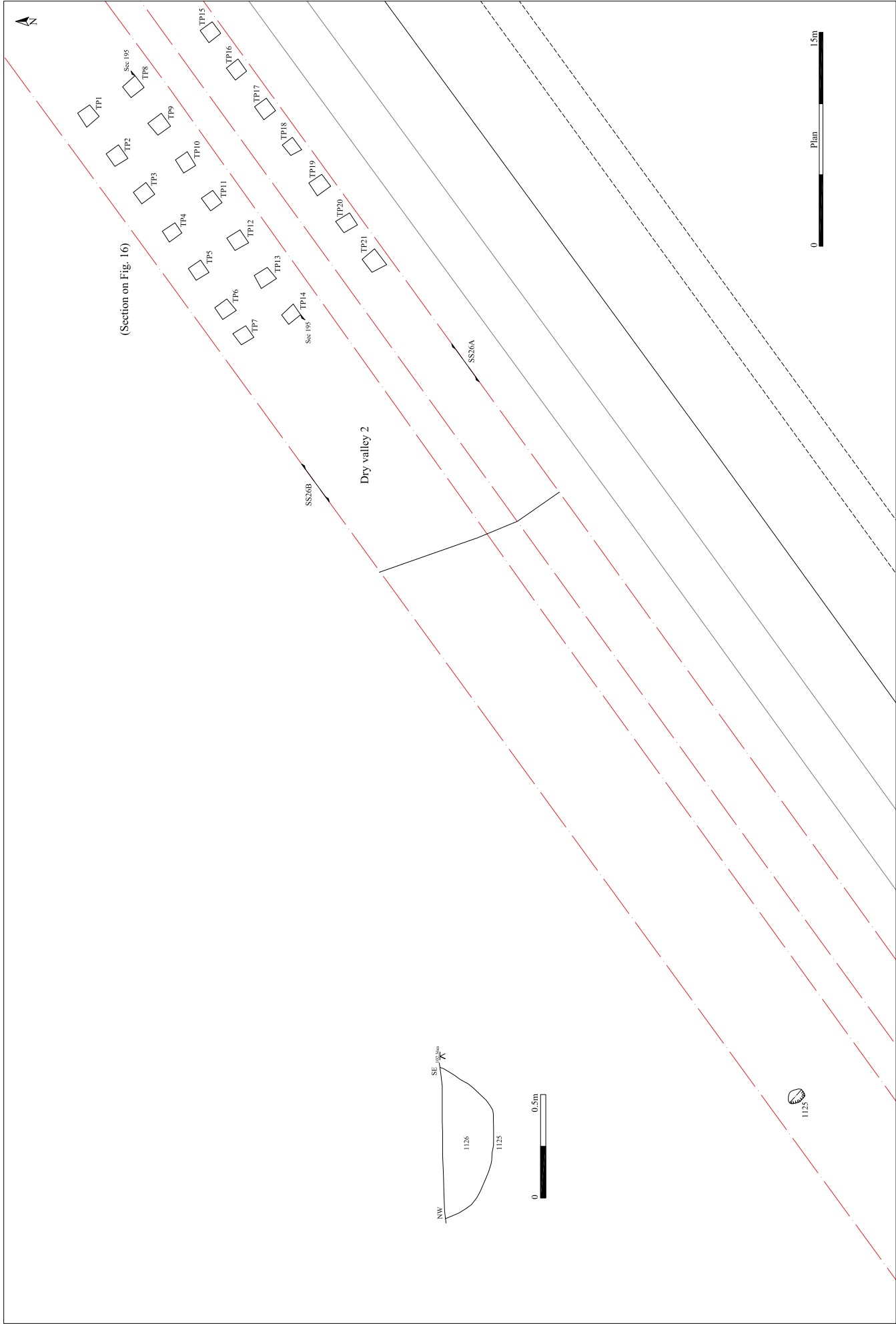


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<b>Fig. 9 Plan and sections</b>
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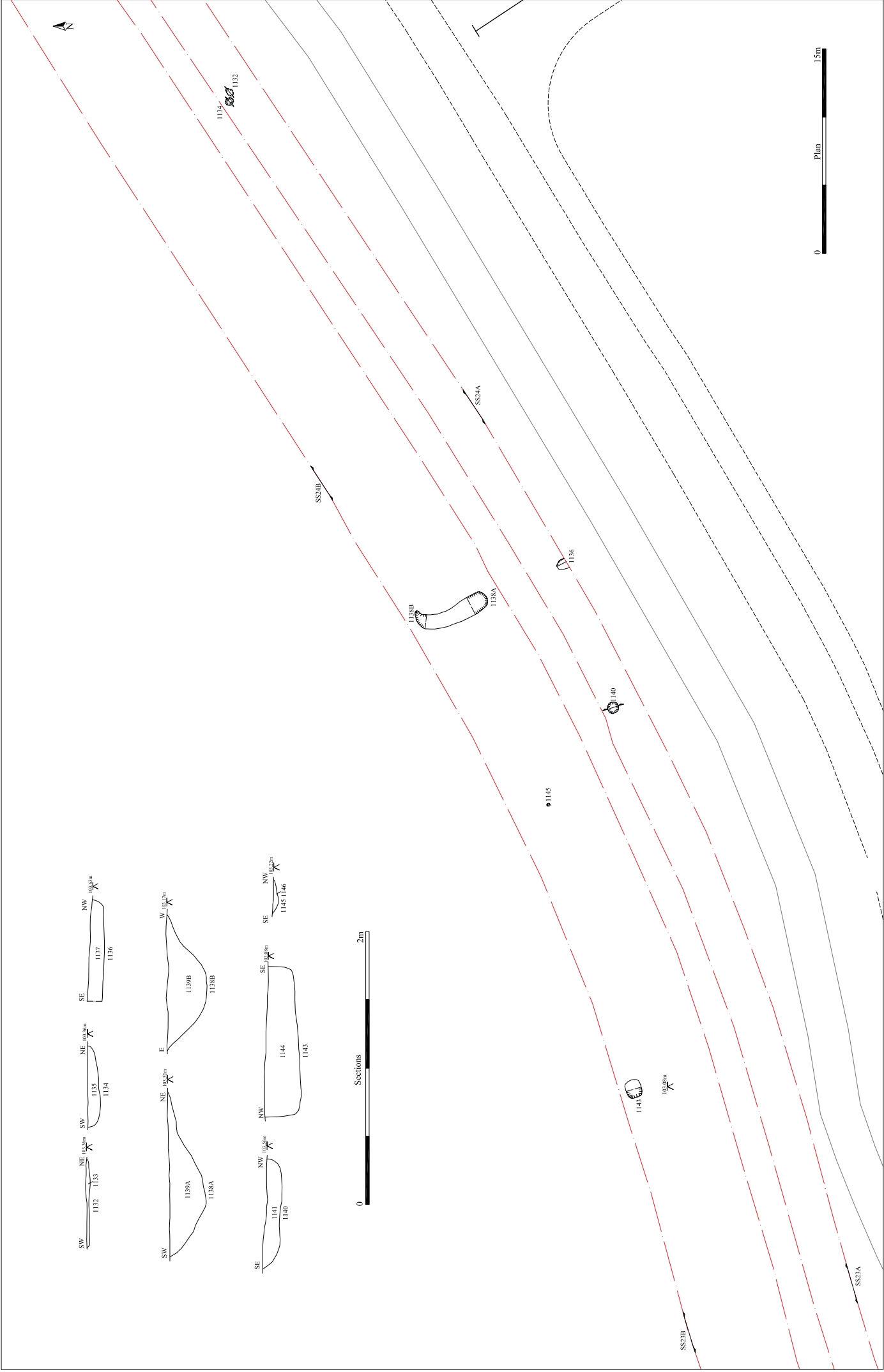




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**Fig. 11 Plan and sections**  
Scale Plan 1:250, sections 1:25 at A3





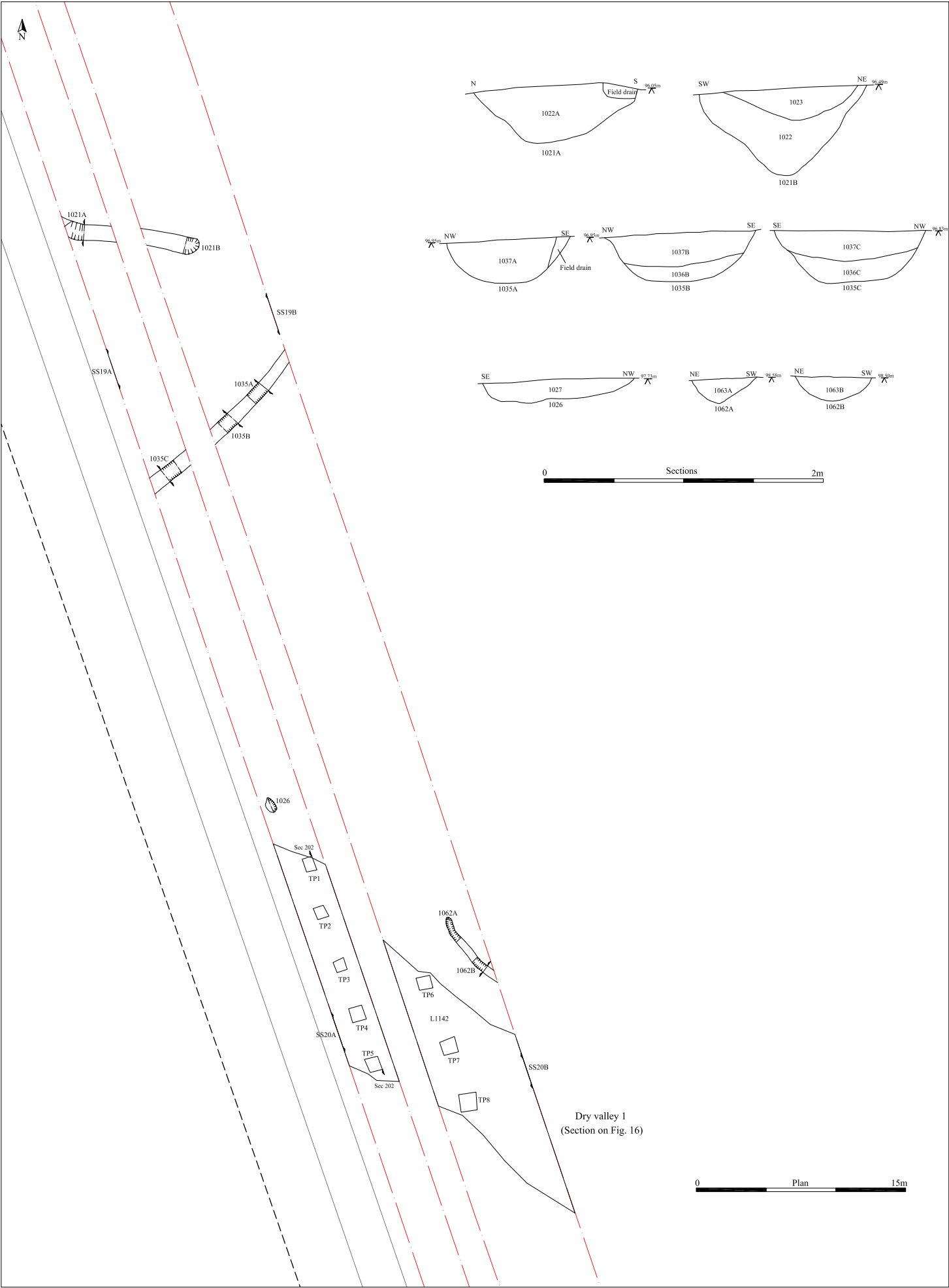


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**Fig. 13 Plan and sections**

Scale Plan 1:250, sections 1:25 at A3





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**Fig. 15 Plan and sections**  
Scale Plan 1:250, sections 1:25 at A3

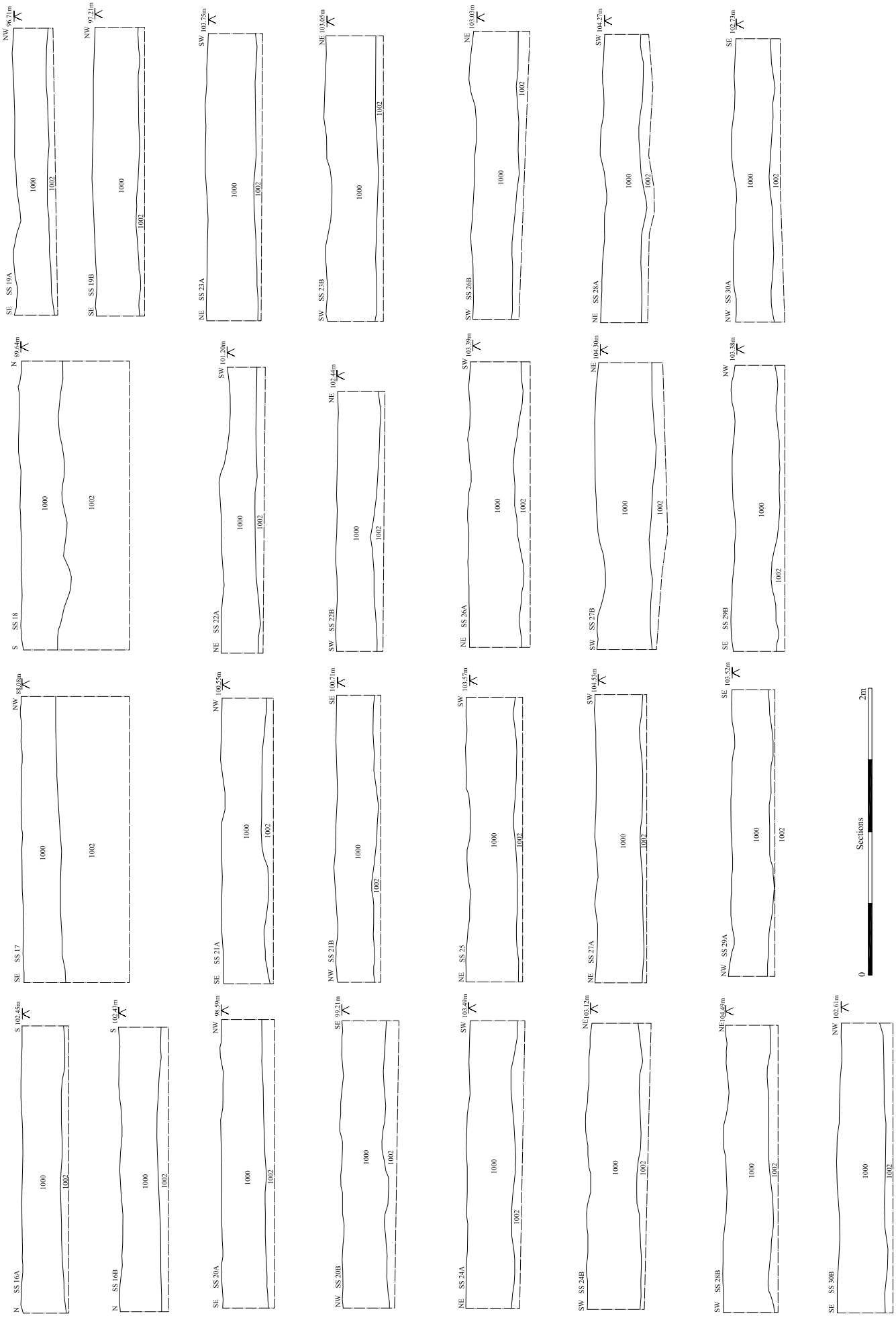




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**Fig. 17 Sample sections**

Scale 1:25 at A3

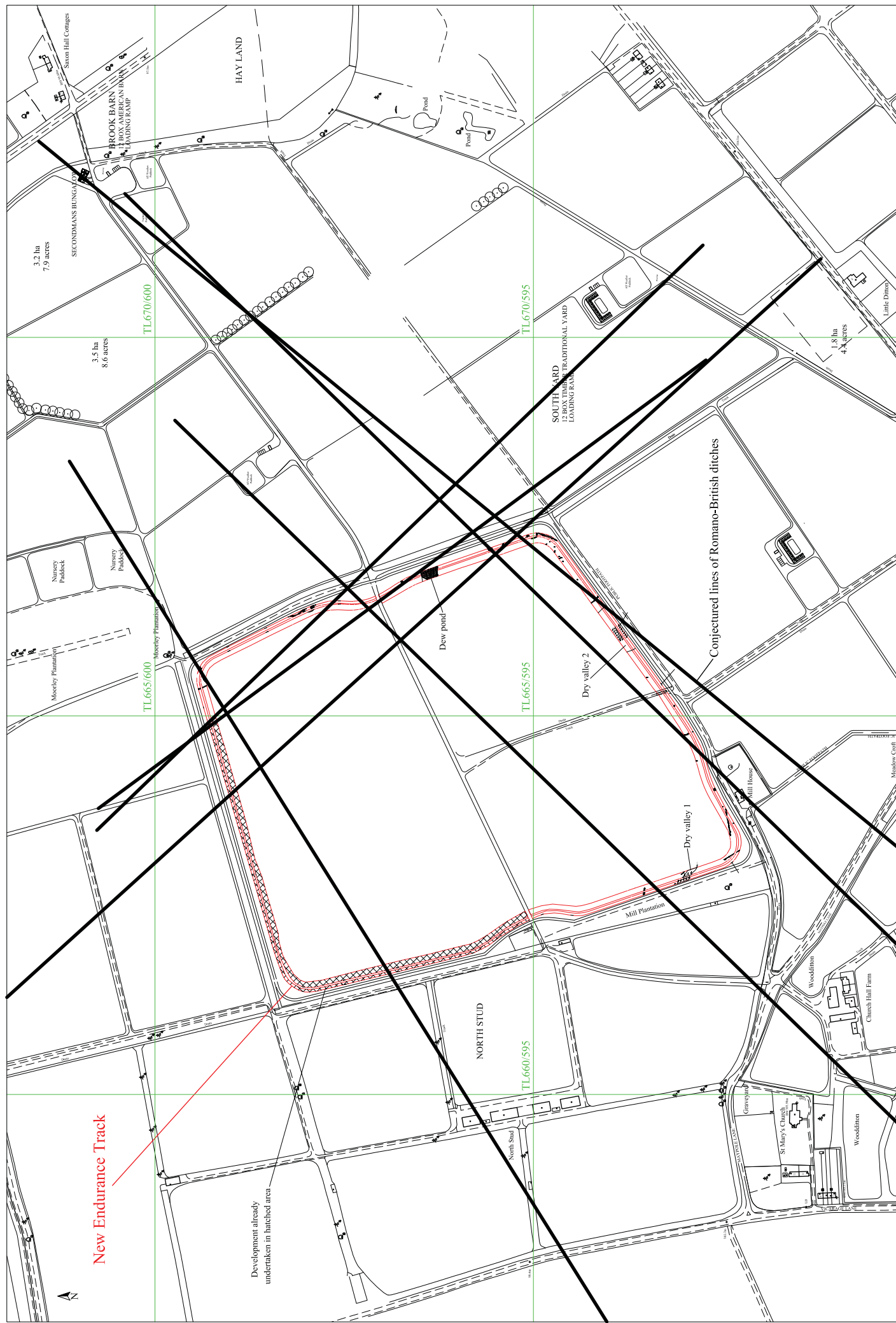


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**Fig. 18 Sample sections**

Scale 1:25 at A3





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Fig. 19 Conjectured Romano-British field system

Scale 1:5000 at A3

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