
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**58-66 HIGH STREET,
SANDY, BEDFORDSHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Walter McCall PhD MIFA (Fieldwork & report) Hannah Tweedie MPhil (Background Research) Charlotte Davis BA (Graphics)	
NGR: TL 17634 48924	Report No. 3478
District: East Bedfordshire	Site Code: AS1269
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. P3785
Signed:	Date: Feb 2010

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Archaeological Solutions Ltd, 98-100 Fore Street, Hertford, SG14 1AB
Tel: 01992 558170 Fax: 01992 553359 E-mail: info@ascontracts.co.uk
Web: www.archeologicalsolutions.co.uk
Registered Number: 4702122

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	58-66 High Street, Sandy, Bedfordshire		
Project description (250 words)	<p><i>In February 2010 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at 58-66 High Street, Sandy, Bedfordshire (NGR TL 17634 48924). The evaluation was carried out to fulfil a planning condition attached to planning approval for the demolition of existing buildings and the construction of a residential development of 11 houses and 8 apartments, for housing association use (Central Bedfordshire Council Planning Ref. CB/09/00580/FULL).</i></p> <p><i>Archaeological features were recorded in each trench. They were less numerous in Trenches 1b and 3. Nearly half the features were either ditches or gullies, and the remainder were pits and postholes. The dated features were post-medieval or modern. No residual finds occurred.</i></p> <p><i>The site was built upon in the 19th and 20th centuries. It was until recently occupied by light industrial buildings and two semi-detached houses, now demolished. It is likely that the majority of features were contemporary with these buildings.</i></p>		
Project dates (fieldwork)	1/02/2010-09/02/2010		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	TBC
P. number	P3785	Site code	AS 1269
Type of project	Trial trench evaluation		
Site status	-		
Current land use	Demolition of existing buildings		
Planned development	11 houses and 8 apartments for housing association use		
Main features (+dates)	Ditches, gullies, pits and postholes		
Significant finds (+dates)	Post-medieval and modern		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	Bedfordshire	East Bedfordshire	Sandy
HER/ SMR for area	Bedfordshire & Luton Historic Environment Record		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	c.0.25ha		
NGR	TL 17634 48924		
Height AOD (max/ min)	c.30m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	Conservation & Design, Central Bedfordshire Council		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Walter McCall		
Funded by	Grand Union Housing Association		
Full title	58-66 High Street, Sandy, Bedfordshire. An Archaeological Evaluation		
Authors	Walter McCall & Hannah Tweedie		
Report no.	3478		
Date (of report)	Feb 2010		

58-66 HIGH STREET, SANDY, BEDFORDSHIRE AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In February 2010 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at 58-66 High Street, Sandy, Bedfordshire (NGR TL 17634 48924). The evaluation was carried out to fulfil a planning condition attached to planning approval for the demolition of existing buildings and the construction of a residential development of 11 houses and 8 apartments, for housing association use (Central Bedfordshire Council Planning Ref. CB/09/00580/FULL).

Archaeological features were recorded in each trench. They were less numerous in Trenches 1b and 3. Nearly half the features were either ditches or gullies, and the remainder were pits and postholes. The dated features were post-medieval or modern. No residual finds occurred.

The site was built upon in the 19th and 20th centuries. It was until recently occupied by light industrial buildings and two semi-detached houses, now demolished. It is likely that the majority of features were contemporary with these buildings.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In February 2010 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out an archaeological evaluation at 58-66 High Street, Sandy, Bedfordshire (NGR TL 17634 48924; Figs 1 & 2). The evaluation was commissioned by Lodge Park Ltd on behalf of Grand Union Housing Association. It was carried out to fulfil a planning condition attached to planning approval for the demolition of existing buildings and the construction of a residential development of 11 houses and 8 apartments, for housing association use (Central Bedfordshire Council Planning Ref. CB/09/00580/FULL).

1.2 The archaeological evaluation was conducted in accordance with a 2-part brief issued by the Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists (CBC) *Brief for An Archaeological Field Evaluation at 58-66 High Street, Sandy, Bedfordshire* and *Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Investigation, Recording, Analysis and Publication at 58-66 High Street, Sandy, Bedfordshire* (both dated 19/01/2010), and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 21/01/2010), and approved by Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists. The project conformed to the procedures outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (revised 2001) and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The principal objectives of the archaeological trial trench evaluation were:

- 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

1.4 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 (Fig. 1-2)

2.1 Sandy is a small town which lies above the valley of the River Ivel. It lies c. 4km to the north of Biggleswade and c.8km to the south of St Neots.

2.2 The site at 58-66 High Street, lies within an area of archaeological potential at the south-western side of High Street and until recently was occupied by light industrial buildings and two semi-detached houses. All have since been demolished.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site lies at c.30m AOD, above high ground overlooking the valley of the River Ivel, which flows some 250m to the southwest.

3.2 The site is underlain by solid geology of the Woburn Sand Formation of the Lower Greensand Group.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (Fig. 3)

Prehistoric (before AD 43)

4.1 The area of Sandy is prolific in archaeological remains dating from the Mesolithic period onwards; a Mesolithic flint scatter including microliths, cores, blades and flakes was recovered from within or near Sandy Lodge hillfort (HER 1165). Another notable find is a European bell beaker type biconvex wristguard, dating to the late Neolithic (HER 1505). Sandy developed significant settlement from the Iron Age onwards, with extant hillforts above the town to the east and south east at Galley Hill, Caesar's Camp and Sandy Lodge (HER 445, 442 & 1164). Caesar's Camp (HER 442) is by far the largest of these hillforts, and features a single rampart and ditch enclosing an area of c. 7 acres to the northeast of the site. Closer to the modern town, evidence of Iron Age occupation comes from Cox Hill & Stratford Road (HER 453, 1496 & 11323), and a large number of findspots of coins of Cunobelinus (HER 447, 11320 and 16033 have led to the suggestion that Sandy may have been the site of a tribal mint (Dawson 1997) . Evidence for an Iron Age cemetery was found in 1905, to the southeast of the site, where the remains of five vessels including three pedestal urns, one of which contained calcined bones, were recovered along with many other artefacts including an ibex headed pin (HER 1501).

Romano-British (AD 43 –AD 410)

4.2.1 A significant small town was established in Sandy in the Roman period, with a core settlement area some 500m to the south east of the current study site (HER 444). The main cemetery associated with this town (HER 11318) is some 260 metres to the south east of the current study site, and has been known since the 17th century when the area was used for market gardening and the first glass and pottery vessels, often containing cremated bones, were recovered (HER 444). The Roman cemetery also contained associated occupation remains including layers of crushed brick, a surface of flat sandstone and a number of refuse pits containing large quantities of broken pottery (HER 11313). The historical development of the Roman town has been detailed in the Extensive Urban Survey prepared for the Roman town (Albion 2005). It is thought that the main north - south road from Sandy to Godmanchester (HER 505) being subject to metalling during the 1st century AD formalised the road's importance, providing the impetus for the development of the town, which may have evolved from an earlier proto-urban *oppidum* settlement. The settlement was subject to growth throughout the Roman period and its layout shows a high level of planning. It has been suggested that Sandy would have had a marketplace, temple and even a *mansio*. Sandy's importance is evident from the range of imported goods which been recovered, including ivory from Italy, silver coins from Trier in Germany, pottery from Gaul and the Rhineland and quernstones from Eifel in Germany. Other

pottery found on the site was produced in Oxfordshire, Hadham in Hertfordshire and the Nene Valley (Dawson 1997).

4.2.2 As Roman Sandy is located to the southeast of the modern town, primarily on a green-field site the town offers a unique opportunity to study the continuity and development from Iron Age to Romano-British settlement. Recent excavations in the modern town have failed to reveal substantial evidence of Roman settlement. Watching briefs at St Swithun's Church, 59-61 High Street and 56 High Street, all located to the north-west of the Roman town, also failed to uncover surviving archaeological deposits (Albion 2005). Watching briefs at Stonecroft and Bedford Road also found no archaeological deposits suggesting that these sites were outside the Roman town boundaries (Dawson 1995, 168).

Anglo-Saxon and Medieval (AD 411 – 1539)

4.3 By the end of the 4th century occupation at Sandy seems to change to a more agricultural nature, with the site apparently going out of use in the 6th century (Albion 2005). Some continuity of occupation must have occurred, but the location of early Saxon settlement at Sandy is unknown, but a cemetery associated with the settlement was recorded some 100m east of the current site during railway construction works, and contained finds dating from the early – mid 5th century to the 6th century including ornamented cinerary urns (HER 432). The Church of St Swithin some 300m to the northwest is recorded in the 13th century, and may have had a Saxon precursor (HER 5396). Sandy developed as a linear settlement along the High Street in the medieval period, with the market square at its north west end (HER 17131).

Post-medieval (AD 1540 – present)

4.4 The area surrounding the site is dominated by post-medieval and modern evidence, in the form of extant or former buildings, including to the southeast of the site, a former gasworks built in 1862 (HER 3240) and the former site of Sandy Mill (HER 1111) to the west of the site. A large number of quarrying pits for the extraction of clay or sand area also noted within the area surrounding the site (HER 3029, 3026, 6689, 750, 3032, 10182, 3028, 3027). A large number of buildings listed as being of architectural or historical interest are located in the area, including the Grade II* Listed St Swithin's Church (HER 8959), and the Grade II Listed former manor of Sandaye Place which is built in the style of Henry Flitcroft, and located on an earthwork of unknown date (HER 440).

4.5 The site was until recently occupied by light industrial buildings and two semi-detached houses. All have since been demolished. A 2007 site investigation report (Broughton Beatty 2007) examined a limited sample of the site via geotechnical testpits and window sample boreholes and recorded the Woburn Sand deposits to be present below variable made ground of between 0.70m and 1.50m thickness

5 METHODOLOGY (Trial trenching)

5.1 Five trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Figs. 2 - 3). The trench locations were located to provide a broad coverage of the development area (based on 5% sample of the site; Fig.3), and their locations were agreed with CBC. Topsoil and undifferentiated overburden were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Trench 1 was divided into trenches 1a and 1b to maintain the site access.

5.2 Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. 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 by a metal detector.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 Fig. 7

Sample Section 1: North-west end, south-west facing 0.00 = 30.95m AOD		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Current surface. Loose, mid grey brown silty sand mixed with occasional light brown sand, rubble and tarmac.
0.27 – 0.48m	L1002	Re-deposited sand. Semi-compact, light yellow brown silty sand.
0.48m+	L1003	Natural. Loose, white and yellow sand with brown mottling.

Additional description of deposits: Trench 1 was divided into trenches 1a and 1b in order to maintain access onto the site. The stratigraphic sequence was the same in both halves of Trench 1. The upper hard-packed surface, L1000, was not present in the south-east of the site in Trenches 4 and 5. The large quantity of broken glass and rubble likely represents demolition debris.

Description: A large, buried modern brick structure St1087 occupied most of Trench 1a, it was constructed in at least two phases the earliest of which dated to the late 19th century. It cut Gully F1004. A short linear feature, possibly of natural origin, F1006, was revealed in Trench 1b. Both linear features were sealed by the subsoil, L1002.

Gully F1004 (1.65+ x 0.42 x 0.13m) was linear in plan, orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides, a concave base and a narrow rounded terminus.

Its fill, L1005, was a loose, mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small angular stones. No finds were present.

Linear F1006 (1.11 x 0.24 x 0.16m) was sinuous in plan, orientated NW/SE, with relatively steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1007, was a loose, mid grey brown silty sand with occasional small stones. No finds were present.

Trench 2 Fig. 7

Sample section 2: North-east end, south-east facing 0.00 = 31.57m AOD		
0.00 – 0.16m	L1000	Current surface. As above, Tr.1.
0.16 – 0.20m	L1001	Tarmac surface. Dark grey black silty sand and degraded tarmac with occasional CBM.
0.20 – 0.57m	L1002	Re-deposited sand. As above, Tr. 1.
0.57m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Tr.1.

Sample section 3: South-west end, south-east facing 0.00 = 31.52m AOD		
0.00 – 0.18m	L1000	Surface. As above, Tr.1.
0.18 – 0.26m	L1001	Tarmac surface. As above, Tr.2.
0.26 – 0.42m	L1056	Made ground. Semi-compact, mid grey brown silty sand with occasional charcoal.
0.42 – 0.68m	L1002	Re-deposited sand. As above, Tr.1.
0.68m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Tr.1.

Description: Inter-cutting gullies was revealed in Trench 2, parallel or perpendicular to each other and containing similar fills. Gullies F1013, F1017 and F1019 spanned the long axis of the trench and terminated within the trench. They were cut at right angles by Gullies F1015, F1021 and F1023. A large burnt posthole, F1010, was cut by Gully F1019. Two further postholes, F1025 and F1027, were located. F1027 cut Gullies F1017 and F1019. Pit F1008 was also recorded. All the features in Trench 2 were sealed by L1002.

Gully F1013 (6.80+ x 0.46 x 0.12m) was linear in plan, orientated NE/SW. It had steep sides, a flattish base, and a narrow rounded terminus. Its fill, L1014, was a loose, dark brown sandy silt. No finds were present. Gully F1013 was cut by Gully F1015.

Gully F1015 (2.10+ x 0.40+ x 0.15m) was linear in plan, orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1016, was loose dark brown silty sand. No finds were present. Gully F1015 cut Gullies F1013 and F1019.

Gully F1017 (15.74+ x 0.59 x 0.17m) was linear in plan, orientated NE/SW. It had shallow sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1018, was a semi-compact, dark red brown sandy silt with occasional pockets of clay. Finds comprise a clay pipe stem (1g). Gully F1017 was cut by Gully F1019 at the north-eastern end of the trench (Slot D).

Gully F1019 (15.40+ x 0.60 x 0.16m) was linear in plan, orientated NE/SW. It had shallow sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1020, was a loose, dark brown silty sand with occasional small stones. Finds comprise 18th – 19th/20th C pottery (1g), CBM (47g), a clay pipe stem fragment (1g) and glass (1g).

Gully F1021 (2.10+ x 1.11 x 0.14m) was linear in plan, orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1022, was a semi-compact dark red/grey brown sandy silt with occasional small angular stones. Finds comprise a clay pipe stem fragment (2g).

Gully F1023 (2.10+ x 0.86 x 0.34m) was linear in plan, orientated NW/SE. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1024, was a semi-compact dark red/grey brown sandy silt with occasional small angular stones. Finds comprise a clay pipe stem fragment (2g).

Posthole F1025 (0.28 x 0.22 x 0.15m) was circular in plan with steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1026, was a friable, mottled dark grey silty sand with occasional charcoal. It contained 19th – 20th C pottery (23g) and CBM (45g).

Posthole F1027 (0.27 x 0.25 x 0.12m) was circular in plan with shallow sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1028, was a loose, dark grey black silty sand with frequent charcoal. No finds were present.

Pit F1010 (0.70 x 0.61 x 0.28m) was circular in plan with steep sides and a concave base. Two fills were present. The primary fill, L1011, was a loose, mottled medium grey and black silty sand with moderate charcoal. The upper fill, L1012, was a loose, very dark grey black silty sand and charcoal. No finds were present in either fill. Fill L1012 resembled a post pipe surrounded by packing material, L1011.

Pit F1008 (0.71 x 0.61 x 0.28m) was oval in plan with steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1009, was a loose, medium red grey silty sand. No finds were present.

Trench 3 Fig. 7

Sample section 4: South-east end, south-west facing		
0.00 = 31.44m AOD		
0.00 – 0.18m	L1000	Current surface. As above, Tr.1.
0.18 – 0.28m	L1001	Tarmac surface. As above, Tr.2.
0.28 – 0.54m	L1056	Made ground. As above, Tr.2.
0.54 – 0.76m	L1002	Re-deposited sand. As above, Tr.1.
0.76m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Tr.1.

Description: Trench 3 contained large modern rubbish pits filled with glass and rubbish in a very dark black sandy silt matrix, these were not excavated due to health and safety concerns and because of their modern date. They were recorded in plan, but were not assigned context numbers. A small gully,

F1029, on the same alignment as F1017 and F1019 (Tr. 2), was exposed at the north-east end of Trench 3. F1047 near the centre of the trench may have been the terminus of a second gully. A cluster of seven small pits and postholes (F1031, F1033, F1037, F1039, F1041, F1043 and F1045) was also present. One, F1033, cut Gully F1029. Two further pits, F1049 and F1051, were revealed at the south-eastern end of the trench. F1035 was a rectangular modern rubbish pit.

Gully F1029 (1.30+ x 0.34 x 0.06) was linear in plan, orientated NE/SW. It had shallow sides and a shallow, concave base. Its fill, L1030, was a compact, dark orange brown sandy silt. Finds comprise 20th C pottery (2g), CBM (30g), a clay pipe stem fragment (2g), and an iron nail fragment (13g). Gully F1029 was cut by Posthole F1033.

F1047 (1.20+ x 0.40 x 0.21) was linear in plan, orientated N/S. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1048, was a compact, mottled medium orange brown sandy silt. No finds were present.

Posthole F1031 (0.30 x 0.25 x 0.10) was circular in plan with steep sides and a flattish base. Two fills were present. L1032, was a compact, medium orange brown sandy silt, and represented packing around a post. It contained no finds. The post pipe, L1054, was a compact, black brown pulpy, organic silt. No finds were present. Posthole F1031 was cut by Posthole F1033.

Posthole F1033 (0.31 x 0.30 x 0.20m) was square in plan with steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1034, was a compact, medium orange brown sandy silt. It contained no finds.

Posthole F1037 (0.20 x 0.19 x 0.11m) was circular in plan with steep sides and a narrow base. Its fill, L1038, was a compact, dark brown black sandy silt. Finds comprise glass (9g) and a clay pipe stem fragment (1g). Posthole F1037 cut Pit F1039.

Pit F1039 (0.80 x 0.41 x 0.06) was irregular in plan with moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill was a loose, medium orange brown silty sand. Pit F1039 was likely natural in origin.

Posthole F1041 (0.32 x 0.15+ x 0.12m) was circular in plan with steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1042, was a loose, medium orange brown sandy silt. Finds comprise CBM (67g).

Pit F1043 (0.50 x 0.18 x 0.08m) was irregular in plan with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1044, was a loose, light orange brown sandy silt. No finds were present.

Pit F1045 (0.50 x 0.29 x 0.06) was oval in plan with shallow sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1046, was a compact, light orange brown sandy silt. No finds were present.

Pit F1049 (0.60 x 0.20+ x 0.17m) was oval in plan with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1050, was a loose, light orange brown sandy silt. No finds were present.

Pit F1051 (0.50 x 0.33+ x 0.13m) was square with rounded corners. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1052, was a loose, medium orange brown sandy silt. Finds comprise slag (18g), shell (5g) and an ?iron nail fragment (4g).

Pit F1035 (1.40+ x 0.40 x 0.11m) was rectangular in plan with steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1036, was a compact, dark black brown sandy silt. Finds comprised modern rubbish including a piece of aluminium foil

Trench 4 Fig. 8

Sample section 5: North-east end, north-west facing		
0.00 = 31.24m AOD		
0.00 – 0.40m	L1055	Garden soil. Loose, dark black brown compost.
0.40 – 0.75m	L1087	Subsoil. Yellow brown silty sand.
0.75m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Tr.1.

Additional description of deposits: Trench 4 was located within a back garden area. The external brick wall of a structure was visible in the north-west section. The remainder of the trench contained a thick layer of garden soil with fragments of clay and plastic plant pots visible on the surface.

Description: Two wide ditches, F1063 and F1065, converged at the north-eastern end of Trench 4. F1065 cut F1063. F1065 also cut a small rectangular pit, F1061, and was cut by a small posthole, F1067. Ditch F1063 was re-cut by a narrower ditch, F1069. A small square pit was revealed near the centre of the trench, F1057, and another pit, F1059, was located at the south-western end.

Ditch F1063 (1.65+ x 1.24 x 0.19m) was linear in plan, orientated ENE/WSW. It had moderately sloping sides, a concave base and a rounded terminus. Its fill, L1064, was a loose, light grey brown silty sand with occasional small stones. Finds comprise animal bone (25g). Ditch F1063 was cut by Ditch F1065 and re-cut by Ditch F1069.

Ditch F1069 (1.40+ x 0.80 x 0.47m) was linear in plan, orientated ENE/WSW. It had steep sides, a flattish base, and a squared terminus. Its fill, L1070, was a compact, dark grey brown slightly clayey silty sand. No finds were present.

Ditch F1065 (4.60+ x 0.83 x 0.40) was linear in plan, orientated ENE/WSW. It had steep sides, a concave base, and a rounded terminus. Its fill, L1066, was a loose, light grey brown sandy silt. No finds were present. Ditch F1065 cut Pit F1061.

Pit F1061 (1.09 x 0.73 x 0.54m) was rectangular in plan with almost vertical sides and flattish base. Its fill, L1062, was a compact, dark grey brown sandy silt with moderate charcoal. No finds were present.

Posthole F1067 (0.31 x 0.23 x 0.22) was circular in plan with steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1068, was a loose, mottled medium and dark grey brown sandy silt. It contained no finds.

Pit F1057 (0.57 x 0.42+ x 0.12m) was square with rounded corners. It had vertical sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1058, was a loose, medium grey and red brown sandy silt. Finds comprise 19th - 20th C pottery (4g) and glass (10g).

Pit F1059 (0.59 x 0.54 x 0.22m) was circular in plan with steep sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1060, was a loose, medium grey brown sandy silt. Finds comprise 19th – 20th C pottery (2g).

Trench 5 Fig. 8

Sample section 6: North-east end, north-west facing 0.00 = 31.29m AOD		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1085	Modern Interlocking bricks above a firm, red and yellow brown silty sand levelling layer with frequent small flint and tile.
0.25 – 0.65m	L1086	Topsoil. Loose, black grey silty sand.
0.65 – 0.96m	L1087	Subsoil. As above, Tr.4
0.96m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Tr.1.

Sample section 7: South-west end, north-west facing 0.00 = 31.18m AOD		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1086	Topsoil. As above, Tr.5.
0.24 – 0.86m	L1087	Subsoil. As above, Tr.4.
0.86m+	L1003	Natural. As above, Tr. 1.

Additional description of deposits: The brick surface was only present at the north-eastern end of the trench. L1086 may represent the only visible topsoil on the site not truncated by the former development.

Description: Four parallel linear ditches, F1073, F1075, F1081, and F1077, were revealed in Trench 5. Of these, Ditch F1073 was re-cut by F1071. A pit, F1079, and a posthole, F1083, were present at the eastern end.

Ditch F1071 (1.20+ x 2.18 x 0.46m) was linear in plan, orientated NW/SE. It had vertical sides and a flat base. Its fill, L1072, was a compact, dark orange brown sandy silt with occasional stones. Finds comprise late 17th – 18th C pottery (12g). F1071 was a re-cut of Ditch F1073.

Ditch F1073 (2.10+ x 1.25 x 0.76m) was linear in plan, orientated NW/SE. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1074, was a compact, medium orange brown sandy silt with occasional stones. Finds comprise glass (5g).

Ditch F1075 (1.50+ x 1.40 x 0.07) was linear in plan, orientated NW/SE. It had shallow sides, a flattish base, and a squared terminus. Its fill, L1076, was a compact, medium orange brown sandy silt with occasional stones. No finds were present.

Ditch F1081 (1.60+ x 1.00 x 0.14m) was linear in plan, orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides, a concave base, and a squared terminus. Its fill, L1082, was a compact, medium orange brown sandy silt with occasional stones. No finds were present.

Ditch F1077 (2.40+ x 0.60 x 0.09m) was linear in plan, orientated NW/SE. It had moderately sloping sides, a flattish base, and a squared terminus. Its fill, L1078, was a loose, dark orange brown sandy silt with occasional small stones. Finds comprise late 18th – 19th C pottery (6g).

Pit F1079 (0.62+ x 1.00 x 0.13m) was oval in plan with steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, F1080, was a loose, dark brown silty sand. Finds comprise late 18th – 19th C pottery (60g).

Posthole F1083 (0.60 x 0.60 x 0.28m) was circular in plan with steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1084, was a dark brown black sandy silt with occasional small stones. No finds were present.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 A modern surface (L1000), tarmac (L1001), made ground (L1056), and re-deposited sand (L1002) were recorded in Trenches 1, 2 and 3, to a depth of 0.48 (Tr.1) – 0.76m (Tr.3). Below these modern layers, the natural, L1003, was a white and yellow sand with brown mottling, (0.48 (Tr.1) – 0.76m (Tr.3)) below the present day ground surface.

8.2 On the eastern side of the site (Trenches 4 and 5) the stratigraphy was less truncated. A garden soil (Tr.4) and topsoil (Tr.5) overlay Subsoil L1087. The natural, L1003, was present 0.75 (Tr.4) – 0.86m (Tr.5) below the present day ground surface.

9 DISCUSSION

Summary of the archaeology

9.1 Archaeological features were recorded in each trench and are tabulated:

Feature Number	Trench	Description	Date
St1087 (M1-8)	1a	Brick structure	Modern
F1004	1a	Gully	-
F1006	1b	?Natural	-
F1008	2	Pit	-
F1010	2	Posthole	-
F1013	2	Gully	-
F1015	2	Gully	-
F1017	2	Gully	-
F1019	2	Gully	18 th – 19 th / 20 th C
F1021	2	Gully	-
F1023	2	Gully	-
F1025	2	Posthole	19 th – 20 th C
F1027	2	Posthole	-
F1029	3	Gully	Late 18 th – 19 th / early 20 th C
F1031	3	Posthole	-
F1033	3	Posthole	-
F1035	3	Pit	-
F1037	3	Posthole	-
F1039	3	Pit	-
F1041	3	Posthole	-
F1043	3	Pit	-
F1045	3	Pit	-
F1047	3	Gully	-
F1049	3	Pit	-
F1051	3	Pit	-
F1057	4	Pit	19 th – 20 th C
F1059	4	Pit	19 th – 20 th C
F1061	4	Pit	-
F1063	4	Ditch	-
F1065	4	Ditch	-
F1067	4	Posthole	-
F1069	4	Ditch	-
F1071	5	Ditch	Late 17 th – 18 th C
F1073	5	Ditch	-
F1075	5	Ditch	-
F1077	5	Ditch	Late 18 th – 19 th C
F1079	5	Pit	Late 18 th – Late 19 th C
F1081	5	Ditch	-
F1083	5	Posthole	-

9.2 Archaeological features were recorded in each trench. They were less numerous in Trenches 1b and 3. Nearly half the features were either ditches or gullies. The remainder were pits and postholes. The dated features were all post-medieval or modern in date. The earliest sherd was from F1071 (Tr.5), and consists of a Staffordshire manganese flecked sherd, from a tankard. Staffordshire manganese flecked ware reached its height of production in the late 17th - early 18th centuries, but probably continued to be made until the end of that century (see Appendix 2). No residual finds occurred.

9.3 On the eastern side of the site (Trs. 4 & 5) the stratigraphy was less truncated.

9.4 Cartographic sources show that the site was built upon in the 19th and 20th centuries (Figs. 4-6). It was until recently occupied by light industrial buildings and two semi-detached houses, now demolished. It is likely that the majority of features recorded during the evaluation were contemporary with these buildings as shown on the cartographic sources. The modern brick structure recorded in Trench 1a occupies the same position as the former buildings fronting the High Street as depicted on the 1926 Ordnance Survey Map (see Fig. 6). The linears recorded in Trenches 2 and 4 can be interpreted as probable boundary divisions. The discrete features in Trenches 1b, 3, 4 and 5 are located in areas which are depicted on the 1926 Ordnance Survey map as backyard/ garden areas and can therefore be understood as backyard domestic activity.

9.5 Despite the archaeological potential of the site for Roman, Saxon and medieval remains, the evaluation did not reveal such archaeological features. Cartographic sources show that the site was built upon in the 19th and 20th century and this is the likely cause of truncation to the stratigraphy which is evident in Trenches 1 – 3. In Trenches 4 and 5 the site stratigraphy was preserved and Subsoil L1087 was recorded in both trenches.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

The archive records, with an inventory, will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. The archive will be deposited with the Bedford Museum (Accession Number: BEDFM:2010.7).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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AS would also like to acknowledge the help of staff at Bedfordshire HER.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the input and advice of Ms Hannah Firth and Mr Martin Oake, Central Bedfordshire Council Archaeologists.

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APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

AS 1269: 58-66, The High Street, Sandy, Bedfordshire

Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
1017	1018	C	2	Ditch Fill	18th - 19th/20th	(1) 1g	47		Clay Pipe (1) 1g Clay Pipe (1) 1g Glass (1) 1g
1019	1020		2	Ditch Fill					
1021	1022	D	2	Ditch Fill	19th - 20th Late 18th - 19th/Early 20th	(1) 23g (2) 2g	45 30		Clay Pipe (1) 2g Clay Pipe (1) 2g Fe Fragment (1) 13g Clay pipe (1) 2g Glass (1) 9g Clay Pipe (1) 1g
1024	1023	2	Ditch Fill						
1025	1026	2	Posthole						
1029	1030		3	Ditch Fill					
1037	1038		3	Posthole			67		
1041	1042		3	Posthole fill					
1051	1052		3	Pit Fill					
1057	1058		4	Pit Fill	19th - 20th	(1) 4g			Slag (1) 18g Fe Fragment (1) 4g Shell (1) 5g Glass (1) 10g
1059	1060		4	Pit Fill	19th - 20th	(1) 2g			
1063	1064		4	Ditch Fill				25	
1071	1072		4	Ditch Fill	Late 17th - 18th	(1) 12g			
1074	1073		4	Ditch Fill					
1077	1078		5	Ditch Fill	Late 18th - 19th	(1) 6g			Glass (1) 5g
1079	1080		5	Pit Fill	Late 18th - late 19th	(3) 60g			

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery

by Peter Thompson

The evaluation recovered 11 abraded sherds weighing 105g. All of the pottery is early modern to modern in date (mid 18th century onwards). The possible exception is a Staffordshire manganese flecked sherd, from a tankard, from Linear (F1071) which reached its height of production in the late 17th-early 18th centuries, but continued to be made probably to the end of that century.

Key:

PMRE: Post-medieval red earthenware late 16th-19th+

STMO: Staffordshire mottled ware mid 17th-18th

ENGS: English stoneware mid 18th-20th

REFWE: Refined factory made white earthenware mid 18th-19th+

TPW: Transfer Printed Ware (Willow Pattern) late 18th -19th+

MOCH: Mocha ware late 18th-19th+

Feature	Context	Type	Quantity		Comment
1019	1020 B	Linear	1x1g PMRE	18 th - 19 th /20 th	-
1025	1026	Post-hole	1x22g ENGS	19 th - 20 th	-
1029	1030	Linear	1x1g REFWE 1x1g TPW	Late 18 th - 19 th /early 20 th	-
1057	1058	Pit	1x4g TPW	19 th -20 th	-
1059	1060	Pit	1x2g REFWE	19 th -20 th	-
1071	1072	Linear	1x10g STMO	Late 17 th - 18 th	Fragment of tankard
1077	1078	Linear	1x6g MOCH	Late 18 th - 19 th	Mug base
1079	1080	Pit	3x58g REFWE	Late 18 th - late 19 th	2 sherds are probably Creamware mid 18 th - late 19 th

The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey

The trial trench evaluation recovered a total of six fragments (189g) of highly fragmented post-medieval CBM. The CBM was entirely in a locally-produced fabric that was oxidised red throughout (slightly mottled) with common calcareous inclusions/voids (0.5-10mm), sparse fine quartz (<0.25mm) and red iron-rich inclusions (0.2-0.5mm).

Ditch F1029 (L1030) and Posthole F1041 (L1042) each contained a single small fragment of peg tile (30g and 67g respectively), while Posthole F1025 (L1026) contained small fragments of ridge tile and miscellaneous brick (45g in total), and Ditch D1019 (L1020) a single fragment of miscellaneous brick (47g). The assemblage is too limited in size to allow any conclusions to be drawn.

AS 1269: 58-66, The High Street, Sandy, Bedfordshire
Concordance of Samples

Sample	Size (l)	Feature	Context	Trench	Area	Description	Spot Date	Flot (ml)	Pot (g)	A. Bone (g)	Shell (g)	CBM (g)
1	10	1010	1011	2		Posthole	-	20				
2	10	1010	1012	2		Posthole	-	30				
3	10	1025	1026	2		Posthole	19th - 20th	5				
4	10	1027	1028	2		Posthole	-	5				12
5	1	1053	1054	3		Posthole	-	30				
6	1	1031	1032	3		Posthole	-	1				
7	10	1010	1011	2		Posthole	-	15		2		
8	10	1010	1012	2		Posthole	-	20				

The flots have been sent to A. Livarda for analysis

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX

1



Post excavation, Trench 2,
looking south-west

2



Post excavation, Trench 3,
looking south-east

3

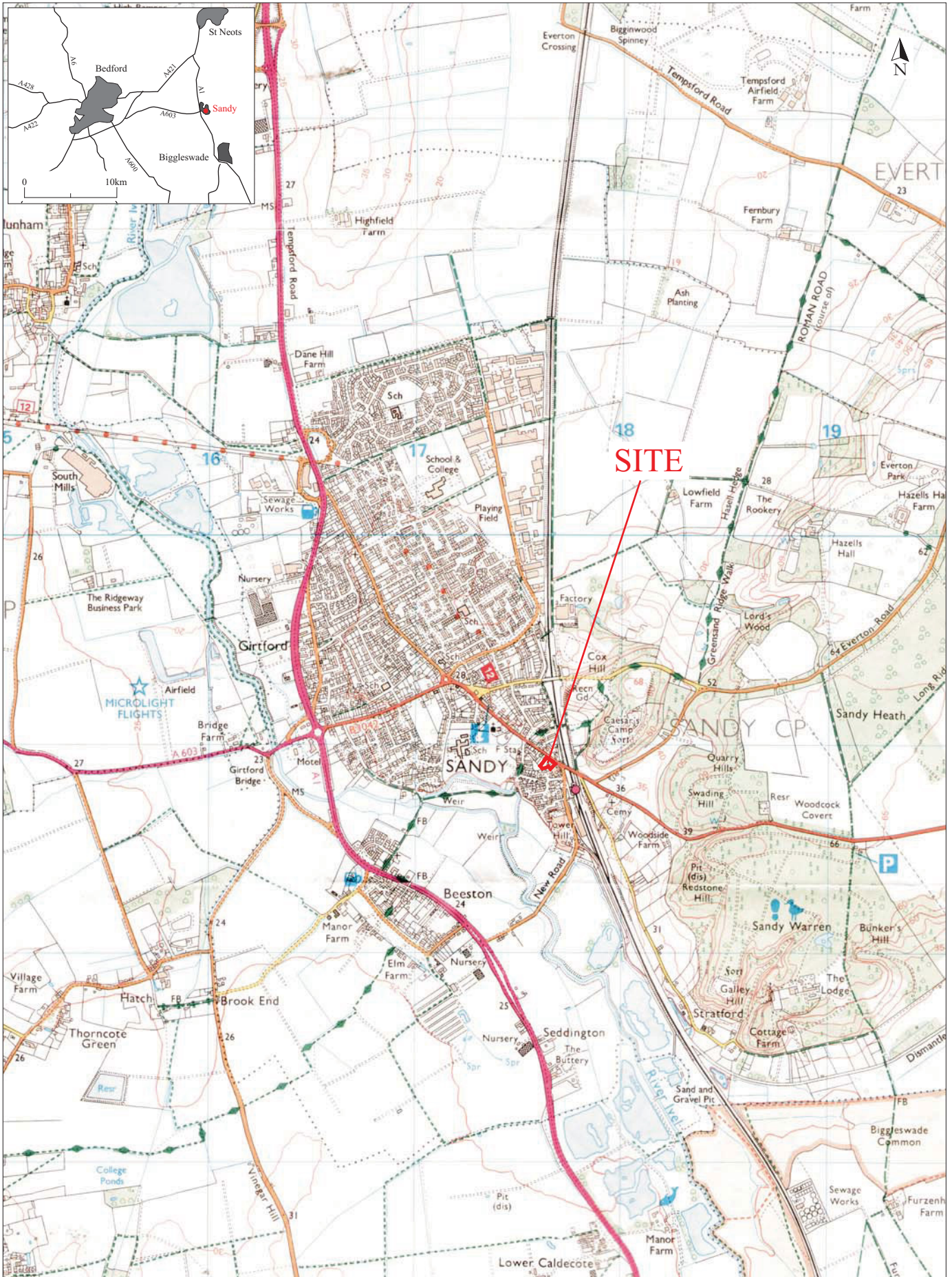


Post excavation, Trench 4,
looking north-east

4

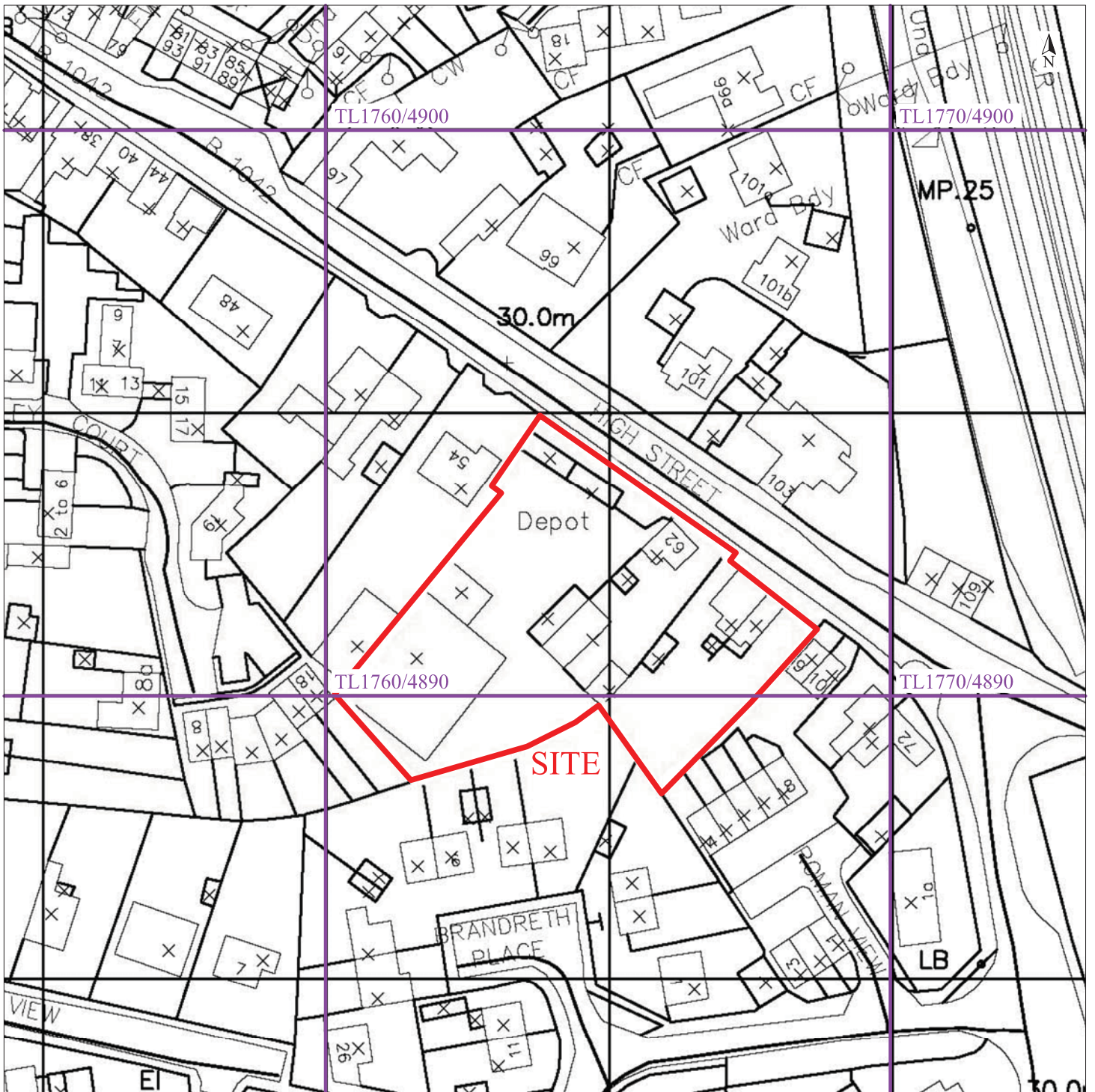


Post excavation, Trench 5,
looking north-east



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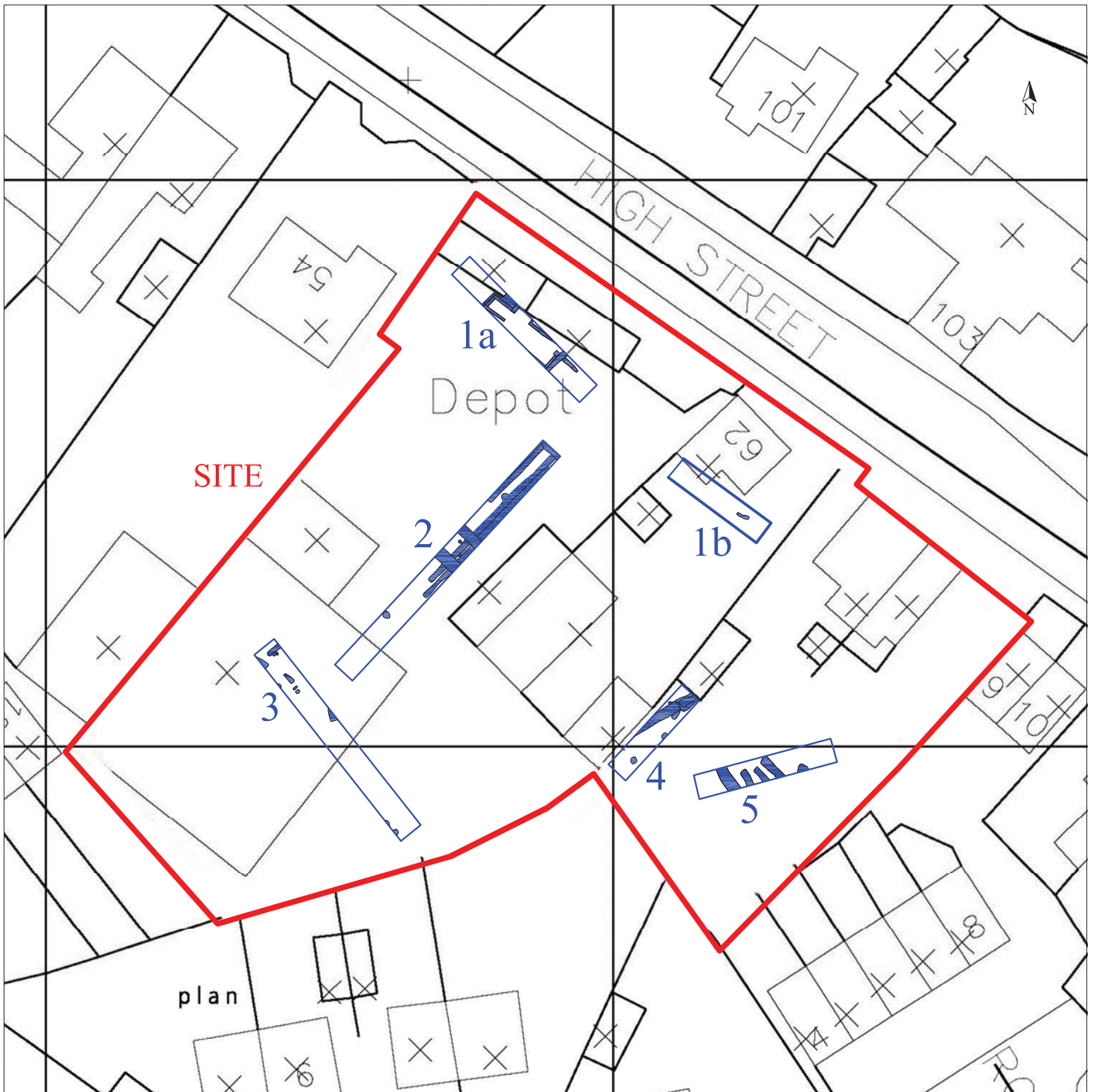
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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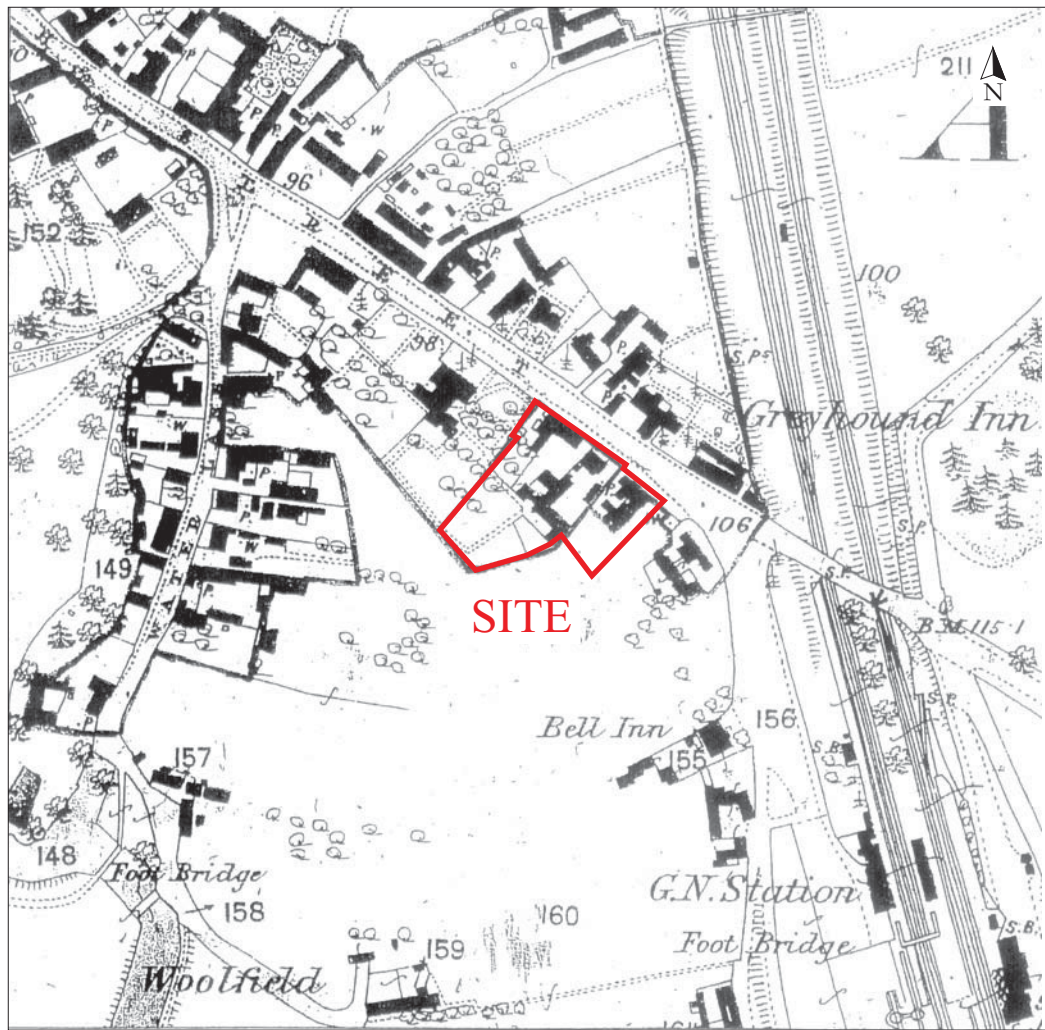
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Fig. 2 Detailed site location
 Scale 1:1000 at A4



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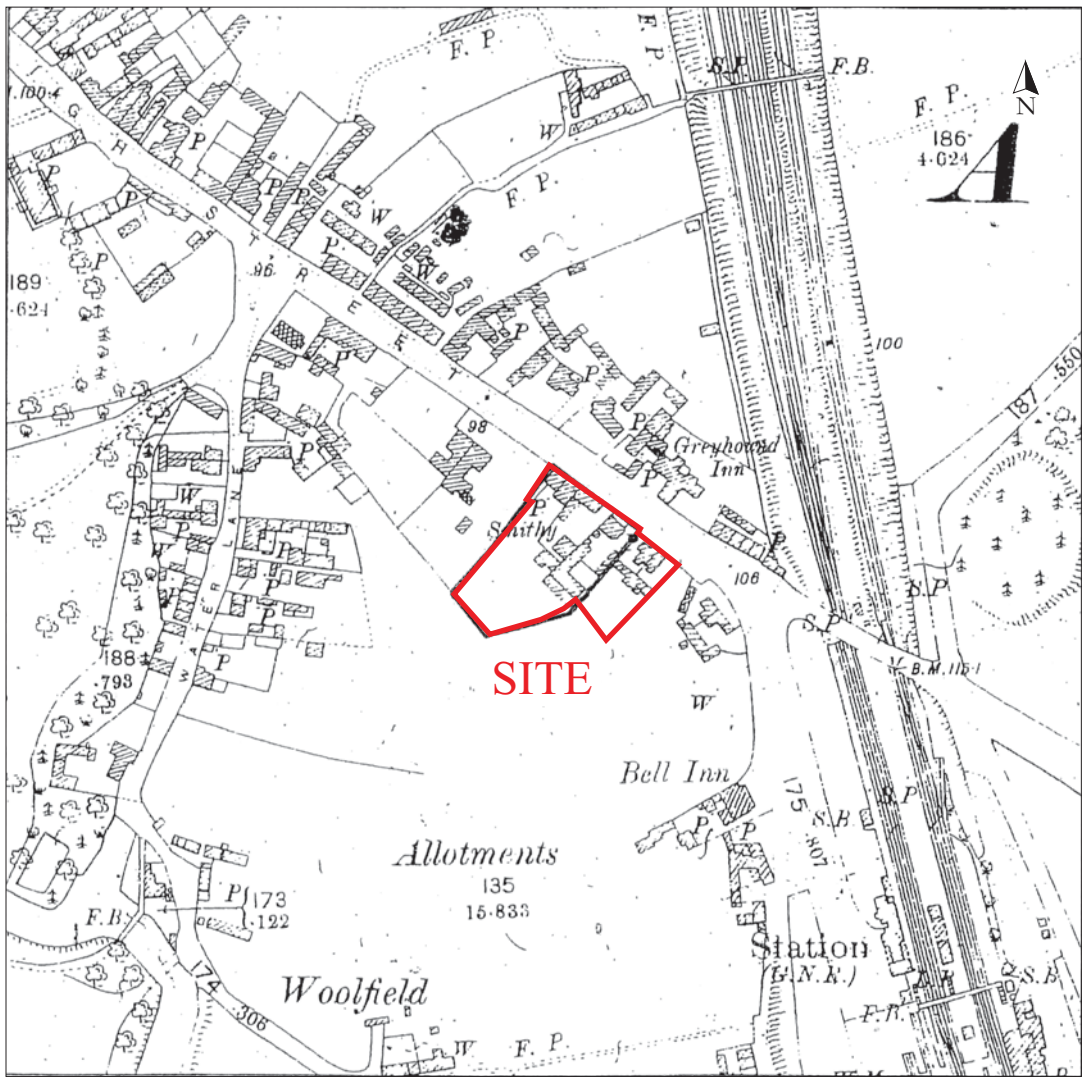


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Fig. 3 Trench location plan
 Scale 1:500 at A4



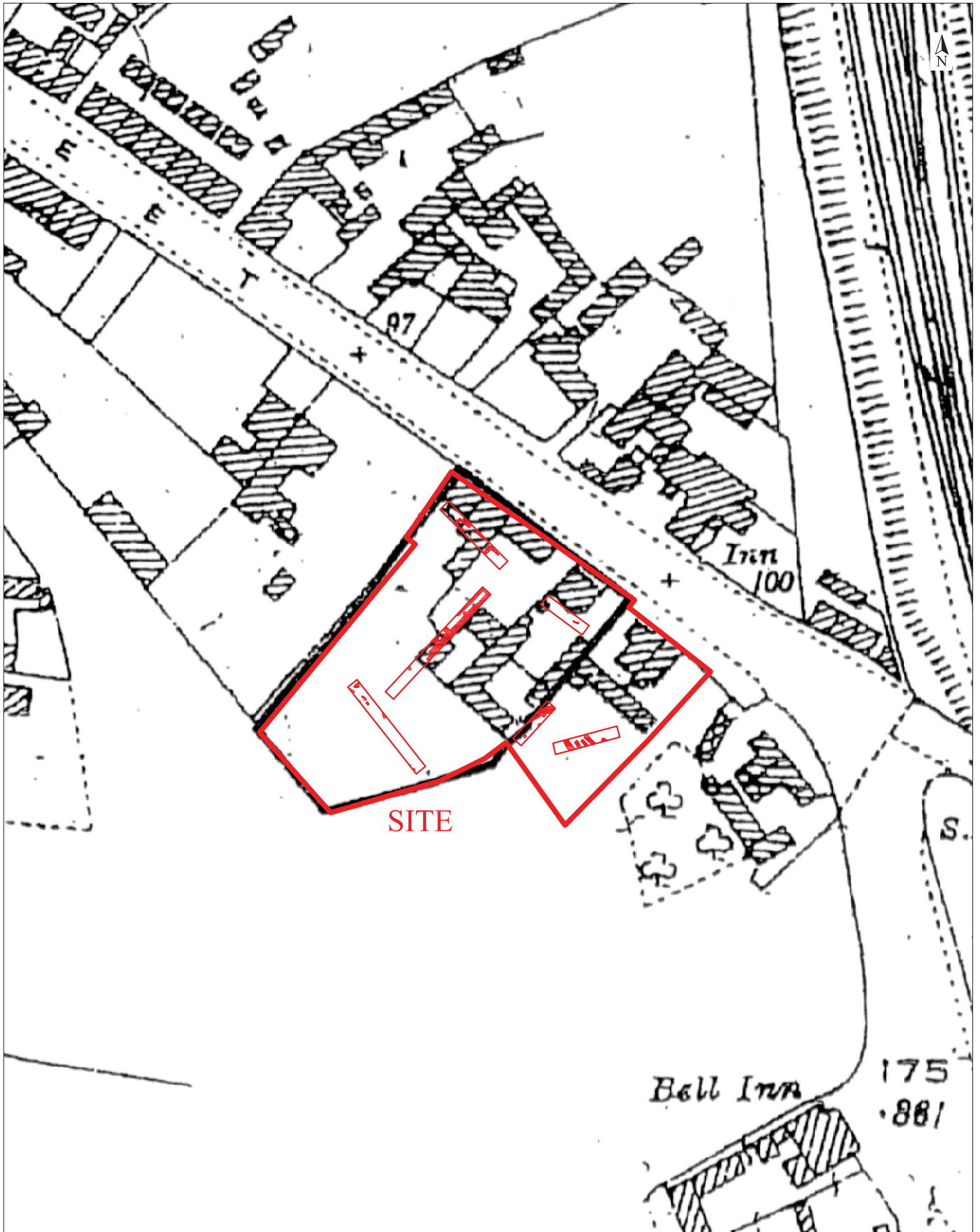
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Fig. 4 OS map, 1884
Scale 1:2500 at A4



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Fig. 5 OS map, 1901
 Scale 1:2500 at A4



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Fig. 6 OS map, 1926
Scale 1:1000 at A4 (reproduced from the 1:2500 map)

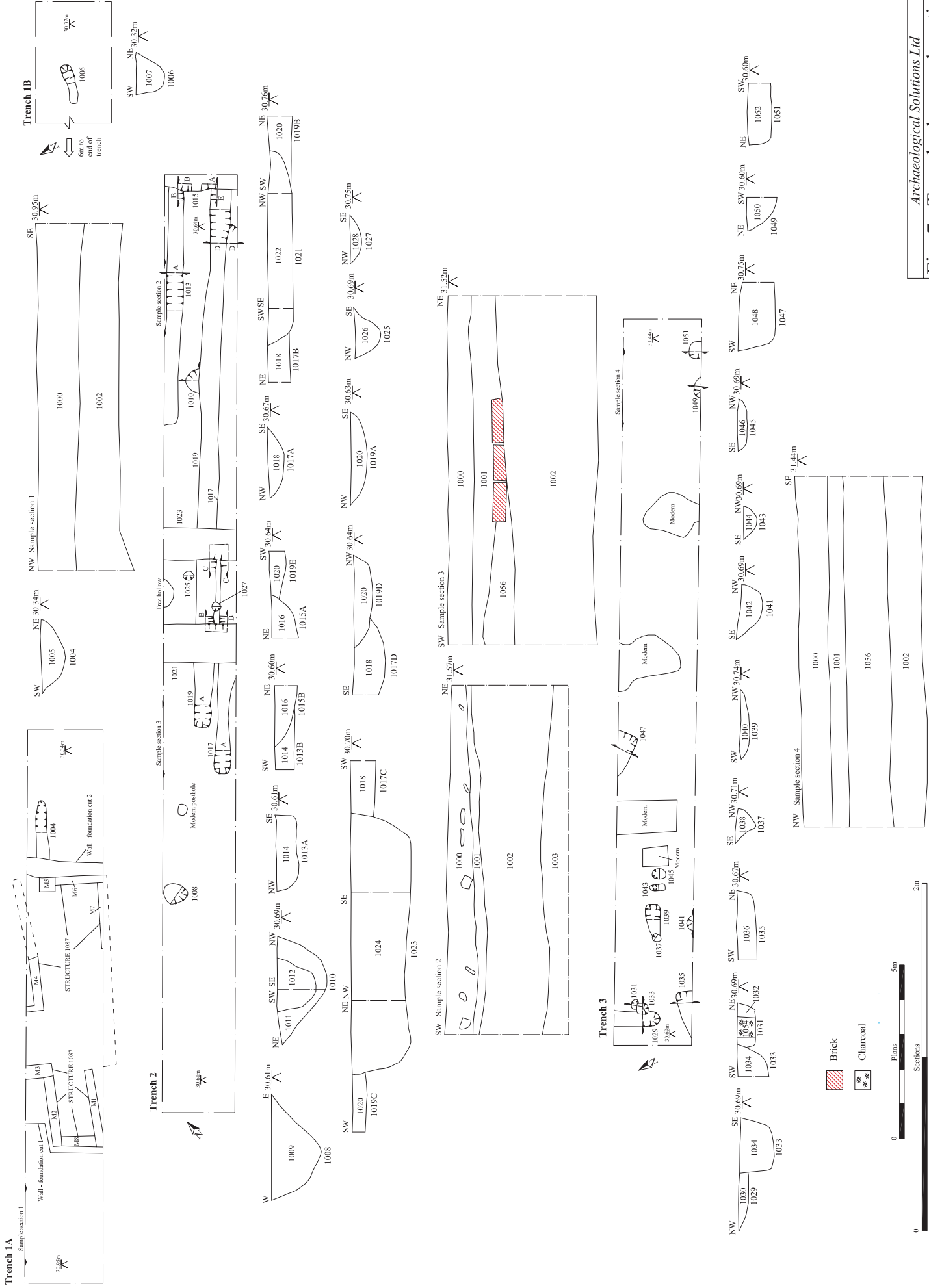
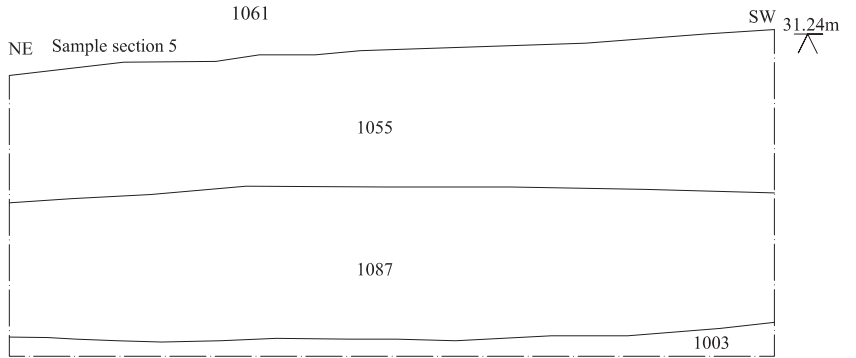
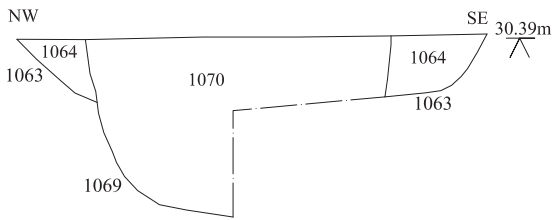
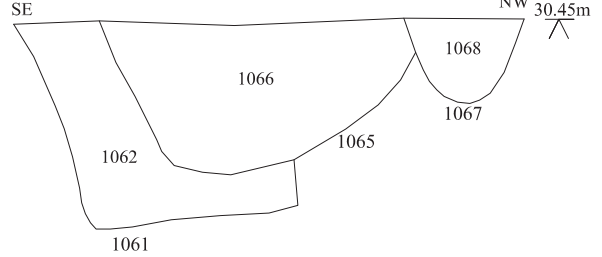
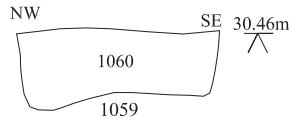
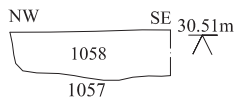
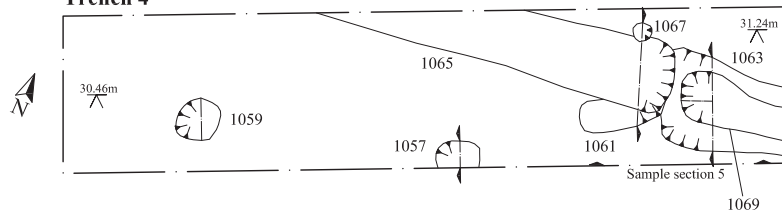
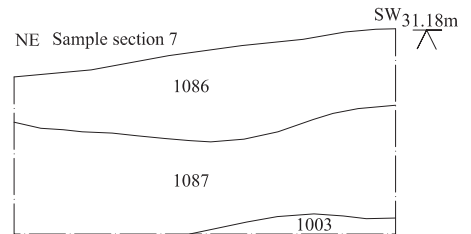
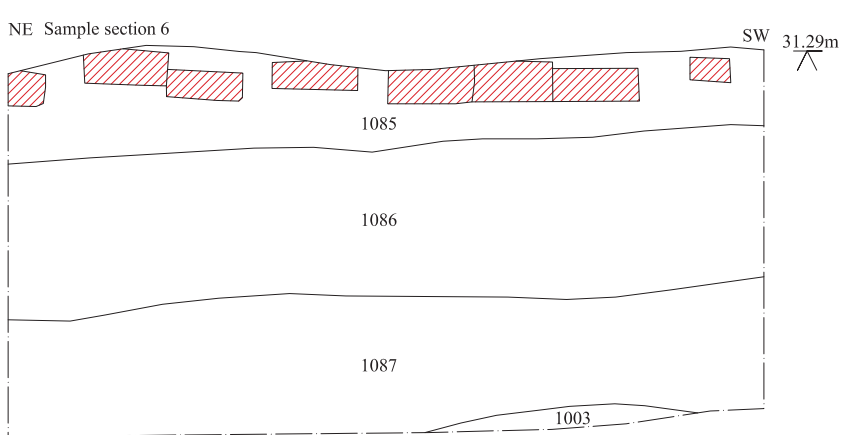
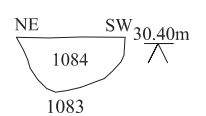
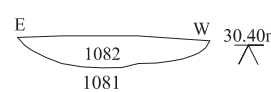
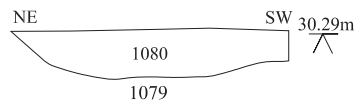
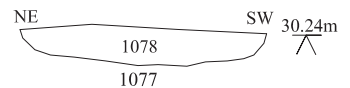
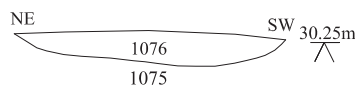
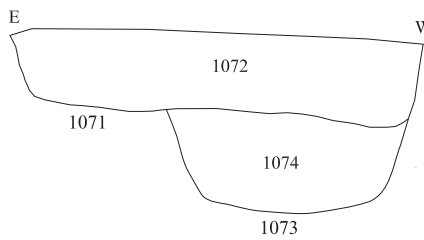
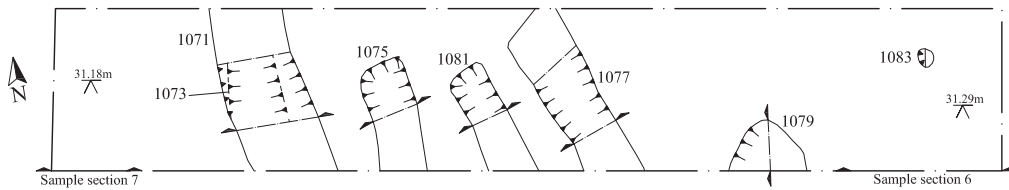


Fig. 7 Trench plans and sections
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A3

Trench 4



Trench 5

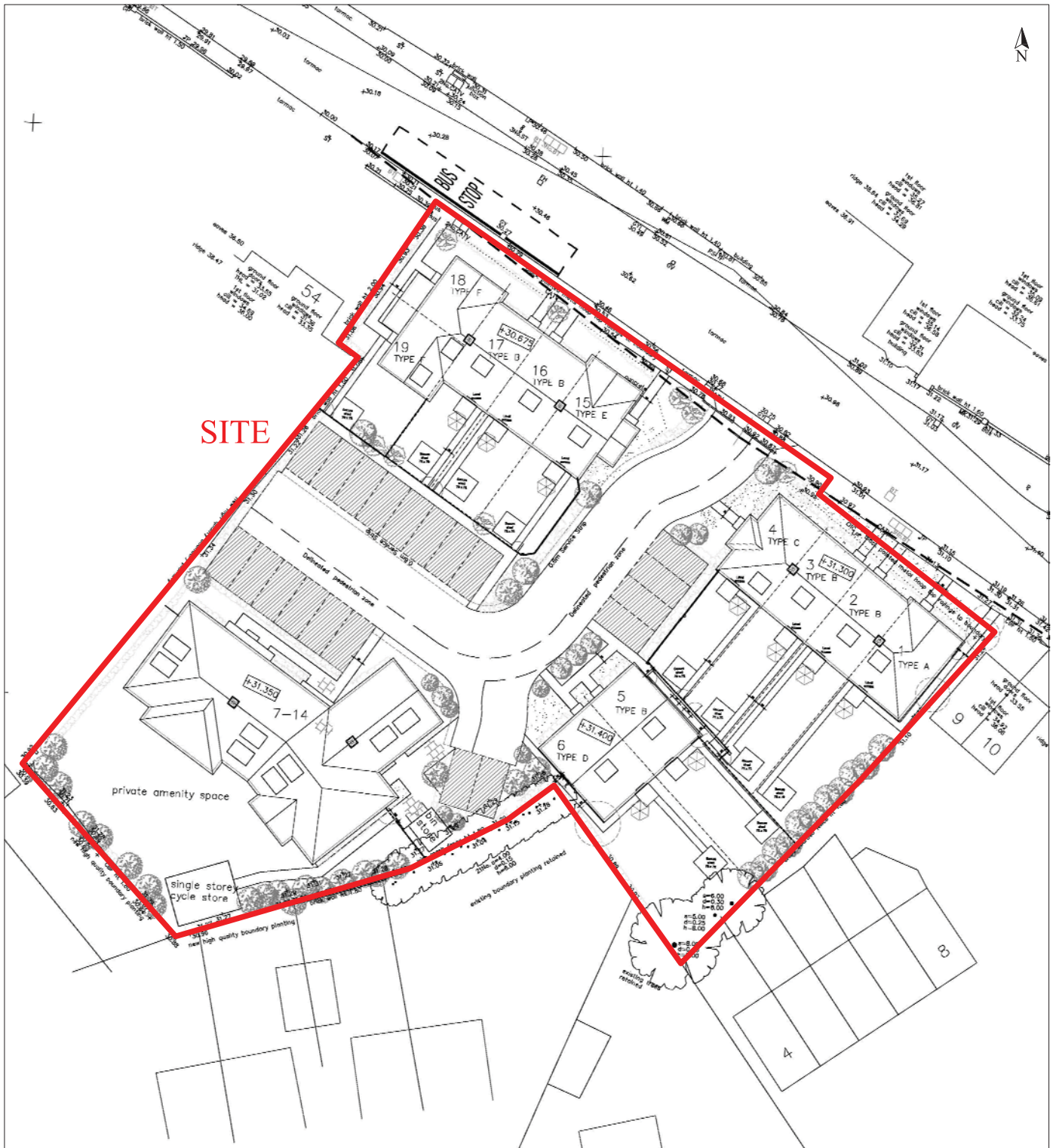


 Brick

0 Sections 2m

0 Plans 5m

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Fig. 8 Trench plans and sections
 Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A4



0 25m

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Fig. 9 Proposed development plan
 Scale 1:500 at A4