

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**LAND AT 27 STATION ROAD, WARBOYS,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CHER 3352

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NGR: TL 3122 8054	Report No: 3510
District: Huntingdonshire	Site Code: AS 1289
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 3612
Signed:	Date: March 2010

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Land at 27 Station Road, Warboys, Cambridgeshire</i>		
<p><i>In March 2010 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological evaluation of land at 27 Station Road, Warboys, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 3122 8054). The evaluation was undertaken prior to the proposed residential development of the site (Planning Ref. 09/00623/FUL).</i></p> <p><i>The site is a grassed area adjacent to a garage, off Station Road, Warboys. It lies in the vicinity of the dispersed medieval settlement of Warboys, and close to an extensive area of medieval ridge and furrow.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation comprised a single trial trench, which yielded no archaeological finds or features.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>15 Mar 10</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>3612</i>	Site code	<i>1289</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Garden</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>Huntingdonshire</i>	<i>Warboys</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (HER)</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>c.0.04ha</i>		
NGR	<i>TL 3122 8054</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>c.30m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Dan McConnell</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Walter McCall (PO)</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr Ivan Barrett</i>		
Full title	<i>Land at 27 Station Road, Warboys, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Walter McCall & Peter Thompson</i>		
Report no.	<i>3510</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>March 2010</i>		

LAND AT 27 STATION ROAD, WARBOYS, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In March 2010 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological evaluation of land at 27 Station Road, Warboys, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 3122 8054). The evaluation was undertaken prior to the proposed residential development of the site (Planning Ref. 09/00623/FUL).

The site is a grassed area adjacent to a garage, off Station Road, Warboys. It lies in the vicinity of the dispersed medieval settlement of Warboys, and close to an extensive area of medieval ridge and furrow.

The evaluation comprised a single trial trench, which yielded no archaeological finds or features.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In March 2010 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological evaluation of land at 27 Station Road, Warboys, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 3122 8054; Figs.1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the residential development of the site (Planning Ref. 09/00623/FUL).

1.2 The archaeological evaluation was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning & Countryside Advice (CAPCA; dated 26/02/2009), and a specification compiled by AS (dated 17/08/2009). It was conducted according to the Institute of Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standards for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (both revised 2001). It also adhered to the relevant sections of the document Gurney (2003) *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14/ALGAO.

1.3 The evaluation aimed to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. The evaluation also aimed to identify area of previous ground disturbance on the site.

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, protecting listed buildings (of architectural or historical interest) from demolition and unsympathetic change and safeguarding their settings as far as is possible. This condition is also widely applied by local authorities.

2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

2.1 Warboys is located approximately 8.5 km north-east of Huntingdon slightly to the west of the A141 to Chatteris. The site is at Little End just to the north-east of the village.

2.2 The site comprises a grassed garden area enclosed by trees, off the western side of Station Road. It is level and ranges in height from 29.50 to 29.90m AOD. The solid geology is West Walton Mudstone and Amphill Clay. An existing garage bounds the site to the south.

3 METHODOLOGY (Desk-based assessment)

Information was sought from a variety of available sources in order to meet the objectives of the desk-based assessment.

3.1 Archaeological databases

The standard collation of all known archaeological sites and spot finds within Cambridgeshire comes from the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). In order to provide a representative sample, the HER database was searched for all known entries within a c. 1 km radius of the site. Entries within an approximate 0.5 km radius of the site are listed (Appendix 1) and plotted below. Their significance, where relevant, is discussed in Section 4.2. Significant HER entries from beyond the 1 km radius have also been discussed where relevant.

3.2 Historical and cartographic sources

The principal source for these types of evidence was the Cambridge Record Office (CRO). Relevant documents are listed in Appendix 2.

3.3 Secondary sources

The principal sources of secondary material were the CHER as well as AS's own reference library. All sources, including websites, are listed in the bibliography.

3.4 Geological/geotechnical information

A description of the superficial and solid geology of the local and surrounding area was compiled in order to assess the likely presence and potential condition of any archaeological remains on the site. This information was drawn from appropriate maps based on the work of the British Geological Survey.

4 THE EVIDENCE

4.1 Topography, geology and soils (Fig. 1)

4.1.1 The site is situated on West Walton Mudstone and Amphill Clay formations, at an average height of 30m AOD.

4.2 Archaeological and historical background (Fig. 3)

Prehistoric (c. 700,000 BC – AD 43)

4.2.1 No prehistoric remains have been found within the 1 km radius.

Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

4.2.2 No Romano-British remains have been found within the 1 km radius.

Anglo-Saxon (AD 411 – 1065)

4.2.3 Warboys is first recorded in 974 as *Weardebusc* probably meaning 'bush of a man called Wearda'. No Anglo-Saxon remains have been found within the 1 km radius.

Medieval (AD 1066 – 1539)

4.2.4 At Domesday the Abbot of Ramsey had 10 hides to the geld at *Wardebusc*. The manor is described at this time as having 3 ploughs in demesne with 34 villeins and 13 bordars with 16 ploughs. There was a church and priest, 3 acres of meadow, woodland for pannage and a marsh. Medieval plough and furrow has been located at CHER 11639 to the west of the site and CHER 11632 to the south-east. Medieval features indicative of occupation have been found in Warboys just over 1 km to the south-west

(CHER 10488 and CHER ECB 407).

4.2.5 Warboys Airfield was opened to the south of the village in 1941 where Pathfinder squadron 156 was based. The airfield closed in 1963. The Great Eastern Joint Railway, Ramsay-Somersham opened IN 1863 and ran c.900m north-east of the site (CHER 03696). No post-medieval features have been located within c.1 km of the site

4.3 The site

OS maps of the Development Site

4.3.1 The map regression shows that there has been little change at the site until recent times. The site features in the 1803 enclosure map in a narrow fenced off area between a field owned by J. Richardson and the road. A small group of buildings are located to the north of the site. The 1887 map shows the group of buildings to the north of the site in more detail with a small lake or pond immediately to their south. The 1901 and 1924 OS maps show virtually no change from the above to the immediate environs of the site, although more buildings are appearing in the area in general.

5 METHODOLOGY (TRIAL TRENCHING)

5.1 A single trial trench was excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2; DP 1 & 3). The trench was located to provide a broad coverage of the development area (based on 5% sample of the site) and to encompass the footprints of the proposed residential development (Fig. 3). The trench was 15m long and 1.50m wide.

5.2 Topsoil and undifferentiated overburden were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. 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

The individual trench description is presented below:

Trench 1 Fig. 2, DP 2 & 3

Sample section: North-west end, south-west facing 0.00 = 29.25m AOD		
0.00 – 0.11m	L1000	Dark grey brown sandy, silty clay turf.
0.11 – 0.29m	L1001	Mid grey brown silty clay subsoil with frequent small rounded stones and angular gravel.
0.29m+	L1002	Natural. Mid orange brown silty clay with moderate gravel.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8 DEPOSIT MODEL Fig. 2, DP 4

8.1 A simple stratigraphic sequence was present. A thin layer of turf, overlay a subsoil, which in turn overlay the natural. The turf, L1000, was a dark grey brown sandy, silty clay (0.10 – 0.12m thick). The subsoil, L1001, was a medium grey brown silty clay with moderate gravel. The natural, L1002, was a compact, medium orange brown silty clay with moderate gravel (0.30m below the present ground surface).

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 Little systematic archaeological investigation has been undertaken in the area. The archaeological potential of the site was judged to be moderate given its location between the dispersed medieval settlement areas of Warboys, and an extensive area of medieval ridge and furrow is located directly to the west of the site (HER MCB 13683).

9.2 In the event no archaeological features or finds were present.

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 Cambridge County Archaeological Store (CCAS).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Mr Ivan Barrett for funding of the evaluation and for his kind assistance. AS is also grateful to L Bevans Associates Ltd (in particular Mr Lee Bevans)

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Clare Boyce of Cambridge HER and staff at the Huntingdon record office.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Mr Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire Archaeology Cambridgeshire County Council Planning & Countryside Advice.

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Gurney, D. 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper no. 14

Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2001) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessment*

Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 (revised 1999) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*

APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA

The following sites are those that lie within a c. 1 km radius of the assessment site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Cambridge Historic Environment Record (CHER).

CHER Number	National Reference	Grid	Details
Medieval 1066-1540			
10488 & ECB90	3053 7985		Post-holes in Popes Lane: An evaluation in 1999 found three post-holes, one containing medieval pottery in the NW part of the site. Possible furrows were found in the northern part whilst the southern part was less intensively used containing mainly drainage/water management features
ECB407	30460 79833		Pope's Lane, Warboys: An evaluation in 1991 revealed ditches including a boundary ditch containing 15 th century pottery. A wide shallow feature may have been a moat or fishpond. An 18 th -20 th century orchard and dumped modern material were also present.
11632	3185 7985		Ridge and Furrow at Pidley cum Fenton: NW-SE aligned with some headlands/field boundaries further SE
11639	3075 8056		Ridge and Furrow, Warboys: earthworks immediately north of village development
MCB18587 & ECB3271	3020 8026		Medieval features, Warboys: Evaluation revealed 3 pits, a ditch and 2 post-holes suggesting low density activity on the site. Metal working residue from the ditch suggests small scale industry. Farm buildings stood on the site prior to excavation and an 18 th /19 th century barn had been recently demolished. A large post-medieval pond had been backfilled in the 20 th century
Post-medieval 1540-1900			
03696	3244 8156		Great Eastern Joint Railway, Ramsay-Somersham opened 1863, Warboys station closed 1964
MCB17194	3088 8017		Baptist chapel, Warboys
ECB608	30257 79853		Church of St Mary Magdalene, Warboys: Monitoring around the base of the Tower and South Porch found structures, earlier floor levels and displaced human bones. In the churchyard parts of 3 headstones were revealed dating between the 17 th and 19 th centuries.

APPENDIX 2 LISTED BUILDINGS

Listed Building No	National Grid Reference	Details
54134	31705 79708	The Laurels, Fenton Road, Pidley Cum Fenton: Grade II mid 19 th century house
54197	30364 80084	Clocktower, High Street, Warboys: Grade II built 1887 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee
54198	30405 80072	High Street, Warboys: Grade II early 19 th century house
54199	30500 80066	The Chestnuts, High Street, Warboys: Grade II early 19 th century house
54200	30562 80085	Richardson House, High Street, Warboys: Grade II early 19 th century house
54201	30692 80089	Hughley, High Street, Warboys: Grade II early 19 th century
54202	30782 80103	High Street, Warboys: Grade II mid 19 th century house
54203	30788 80104	High Street, Warboys: Grade II mid 19 th century house and shop
54204	30422 80118	High Street, Warboys: Grade II early 19 th century house
54205	30499 80129	High Street, Warboys: Grade II mid 18 th century house
54206	30663 80144	The White Hart Public House, High Street, Warboys: mid 17 th century house with 18 th century wing
54207	30855 80161	High Street, Warboys: Grade II early 19 th century house
54208	31211 80613	Mill Green, Warboys: Grade II late 18 th century cottage
54209	31206 80216	Mill Green, Warboys: Grade II late 18 th century cottage with 19 th century gable end
54211	30325 80209	Ramsey Road, Warboys: Grade II early 19 th century house
54213	30285 80156	The Chestnuts, Ramsey Road, Warboys: Grade II mid 18 th century house with early 19 th century facade

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
Site access. Looking north-west.



2
Houses on Station Road just beyond the site. Looking north-east.



3
Trench 1. Pocket of natural grey clay in foreground. Looking north-west.



4
Sample stratigraphy. Looking north-east.



5
View of fields adjacent to site. Looking south-west.

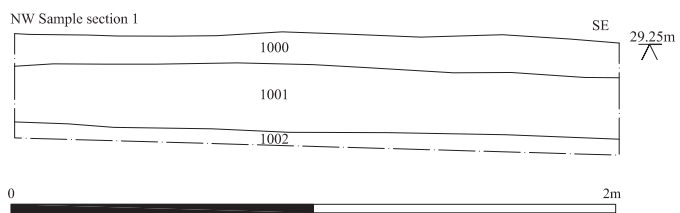
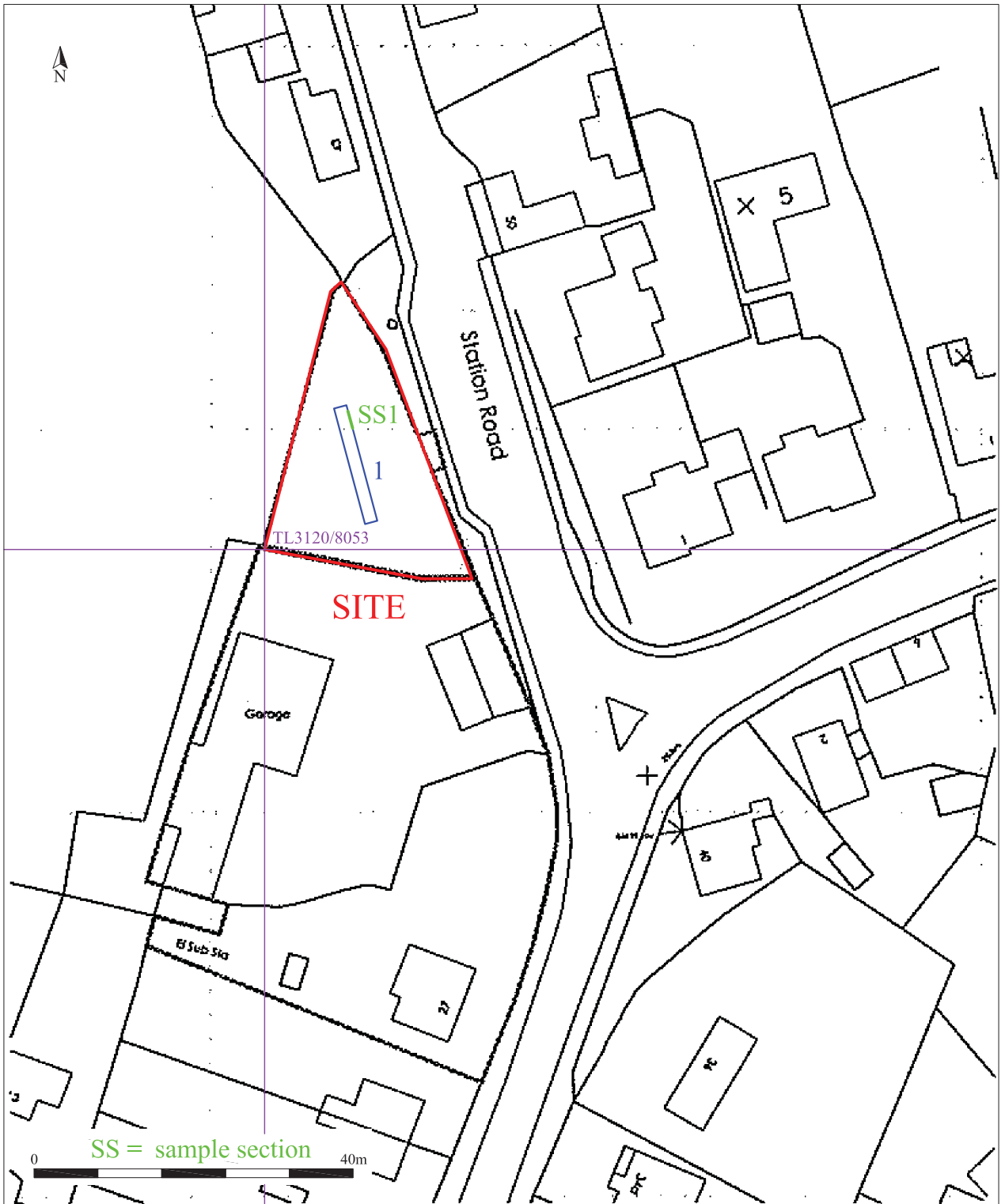


6
General site shot. Looking north-east.

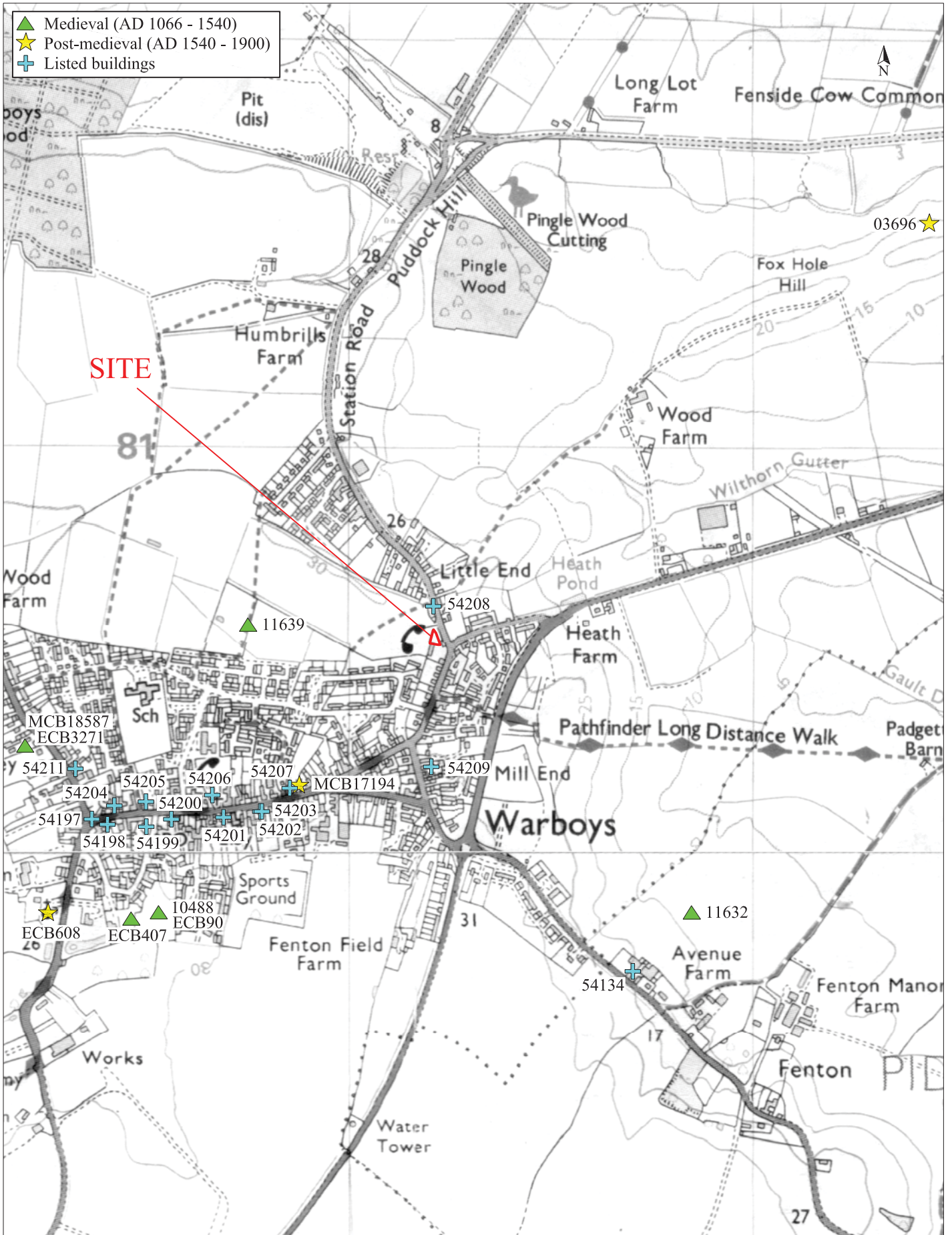


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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



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Fig. 2 Trench location plan & section
 Scale plan at 1:750 & section at 1:25 at A4



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Fig. 3 HER Data
 Scale 1:12,500 at A4



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Fig. 4 Proposed development plan
 Scale 1:300 at A4