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LAND ADJOINING THE VILLAGE HALL, REDISHAM ROAD, RINGSFIELD, SUFFOLK

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Walter McCall PhD MIFA (Fieldwork & report) Charlotte Davies BA (Graphics)	
NGR: NGR TM 408 872	Report No. 3589
District: Waveney	Site Code: RGD011
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. P3928
Signed:	Date: July 2010

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Land adjoining the Village Hall, Redisham Road, Ringsfield, Suffolk</i>		
Project description (250 words)			
<p><i>During July 2010, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS), conducted an archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) of land adjoining the Village Hall, Redisham Road, Ringsfield, Suffolk (NGR TM 408 872. The evaluation was required to comply with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of new holiday cabins, lake etc. (Waveney Planning Ref. DC/09/0926/OUT).</i></p> <p><i>The archaeological potential of the site stemmed from its location within an area of archaeological potential defined by the County Historic Environment Record, which relates to the medieval green of Ringsfield Common. Little systematic archaeological work has taken place in the vicinity, but the site had a potential for medieval occupation evidence associated with the green.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the evaluation revealed only a modern ditch, and no archaeological features or finds</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>July 2010</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>TBC</i>
P. number	<i>P3928</i>	Site code	<i>RGD 011</i>
Type of project	<i>Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Grass</i>		
Planned development	<i>New holiday cabins</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Suffolk</i>	<i>Waveney</i>	<i>Ringsfield</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Suffolk SMR</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 1.2ha</i>		
NGR	<i>NGR TM 408 872</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>c.35m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Suffolk County Council, Archaeological Service – Conservation Team</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Walter McCall</i>		
Funded by	<i>Mr Brian Byles</i>		
Full title	<i>Land adjoining Redisham Road, Ringsfield, Suffolk. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Walter McCall</i>		
Report no.	<i>3589</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>July 2010</i>		

LAND ADJOINING THE VILLAGE HALL, REDISHAM ROAD, RINGSFIELD, SUFFOLK

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

During July 2010, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS), conducted an archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) of land adjoining the Village Hall, Redisham Road, Ringsfield, Suffolk (NGR TM 408 872. The evaluation was required to comply with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of new holiday cabins, lake etc. (Waveney Planning Ref. DC/09/0926/OUT).

The archaeological potential of the site stemmed from its location within an area of archaeological potential defined by the County Historic Environment Record, which relates to the medieval green of Ringsfield Common. Little systematic archaeological work has taken place in the vicinity, but the site had a potential for medieval occupation evidence associated with the green.

In the event the evaluation revealed only a modern ditch, and no archaeological features or finds

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 During July 2010, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS), conducted an archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) of land adjoining the Village Hall, Redisham Road, Ringsfield, Suffolk (NGR TM 408 872; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was required to comply with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the construction of new holiday cabins, lake etc. (Waveney Planning Ref. DC/09/0926/OUT).

1.2 The archaeological evaluation was conducted in accordance with a specification prepared by AS (dated 18/05/10), and a brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (07/05/10). The project followed the procedures outlined in the Institute of for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008). It also adhered to the relevant sections of *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The principal research objectives for the evaluation include:

- To establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*

- To identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- To evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits, along with the potential for the survival of environmental evidence
- To provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

1.4 The principal research issues for the site will be to identify and characterise any evidence of medieval or earlier occupation at Redisham Road, Ringsfield.

Planning Policy Context

1.5 PPG16 (1990), the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to archaeology and PPG15 (1994) the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to 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) have been replaced by Planning Policy Statement 5 (2010), the national Planning Policy Statement that applies to the historic environment

1.6 PPS5 (2010) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The Planning Policy Statement aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. It aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. It states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment and to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past, and to make this publicly available, should be taken, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 SITE DESCRIPTION ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The site lies in an area of archaeological potential on the western side of Redisham Road, Ringsfield, close to the medieval green of Ringsfield Common. The site is some 1.2ha, located at c.35m AOD on chalky till deposits (deep loam to clay soils).

2.2 It is proposed to construct a new holiday cabin development, with central lake, shop, access and parking on the site, which is currently under grass cover.

2.3 The archaeological potential of the site stems from its location within an area of archaeological potential defined by the County Historic Environment Record, which relates to the medieval green of Ringsfield Common. Little systematic archaeological work has taken place in the vicinity, but the site has a potential for medieval occupation evidence associated with the green.

3 METHOD OF WORK

3.1 A total of 11 trial trenches providing a 5% sample of the site were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. The trench locations were approved by Suffolk County Council, Archaeological Service Conservation Team. The individual trenches were linear in plan and approximately 30m in length. They were all 1.80m wide.

3.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a mechanical 360° excavator fitted with a 1.80m toothless ditching bucket. Thereafter, all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the trenches were scanned by metal detector.

4 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 Fig. 3, DP1

Sample section: North end, east facing 0.00 = 35.36m AOD		
0.00 – 0.18m	L1000	Friable, dark grey brown clayey silt topsoil with frequent rootlets.
0.18 – 0.32m	L1001	Friable, mid red brown clayey silt subsoil with occasional small stones and moderate chalk.
0.32m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit. Compact, light red brown silty clay with occasional small stones throughout and intermittent pockets of gravel.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 2 Figs. 3, DP2

Sample section: East end, south facing 0.00 = 35.42m AOD		
0.00 – 0.13m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.13 – 0.30m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.30m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit. As above Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 3 Fig. 3

Sample section: East end, south facing 0.00 = 35.61m AOD		
0.00 – 0.18m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.18 – 0.30m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.30m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit. As above Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 4 Fig. 3, DP3

Sample section: North end, east facing 0.00 = 35.50m AOD		
0.00 – 0.13m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.13 – 0.25m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.25m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit. As above Tr.1.

Description: A continuation of modern Ditch F1004 was observed in the middle of the trench, orientated NE/SW and sealed by the subsoil. F1004 was also recorded in Trenches 7 and 11.

Trench 5 Fig. 3

Sample section: North end, east facing 0.00 = 35.70m AOD		
0.00 – 0.14m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.14 – 0.27m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.27m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit. As above Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 6

Sample section: North end, east facing 0.00 = 35.83m AOD		
0.00 – 0.17m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.17 – 0.29m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.29m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit. As above Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 7 Fig. 3, DP4 - 5

Sample section: East end, south facing 0.00 = 35.58m AOD		
0.00 – 0.18m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.18 – 0.30m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.30m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit. As above Tr.1.

Description: A modern ditch, F1004, was revealed in the centre of the trench. F1004 was also recorded in Trenches 4 and 11.

Ditch F1004 (3.70+ x 0.70 x 0.35m) was linear in plan, orientated NE/SW. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1005, was a compact, medium brown grey clayey silt with occasional angular stones. Finds comprise modern pottery, CBM, and iron nails.

Trench 8 Fig. 3

Sample section: North end, east facing 0.00 = 35.64m AOD		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.12 – 0.28m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.28m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit. As above Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 9 Fig. 3

Sample section: East end, south facing 0.00 = 35.82m AOD		
0.00 – 0.13m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.13 – 0.30m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.30m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit. As above Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 10 Fig. 3

Sample section: East end, south facing 0.00 = 35.76m AOD		
0.00 – 0.16m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.16 – 0.29m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.29m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit. As above Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.

Trench 11 Fig. 3, DP6

Sample section: North end, east facing 0.00 = 35.71m AOD		
0.00 – 0.16m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.16 – 0.30m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.30m+	L1003	Natural geological deposit. As above Tr.1.

Description: An continuation of modern ditch, F1004, orientated NE/SW was observed in the middle of the trench. F1004 was also recorded in Trenches 4 and 7.

5 CONFIDENCE RATING

5.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features and finds at Holiday Lodges, School Road, Ringsfield, Suffolk.

6 DEPOSIT MODEL (Fig. 3, DP 2)

6.1 The site comprised a large, relatively flat field divided into two halves by a tall hedgerow and bounded by trees and hedges on all sides. A simple stratigraphic sequence was observed throughout the trenches, comprising topsoil overlying a subsoil which in turn overlay the natural clay.

6.2 Topsoil L1000 was a thin turf layer of dark, clay-rich silt (depth of 0.12 – 0.18 m). Subsoil L1001 was a medium red brown clayey silt (0.12 – 0.17m). The natural comprised a compact, light to medium red brown clayey silt with moderate small stones throughout and occasional pockets of gravel.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Very little systematic archaeological work has been undertaken in the vicinity of the site. The potential for medieval occupation was significant given the proximity of the medieval green of Ringsfield common.

7.2 In the event the evaluation revealed a modern ditch, F1004, orientated NE/SW and recorded in Trenches 4, 7 and 11. The ditch had steep sides and a flattish base. It contained modern finds, and was likely associated with field drainage and agriculture. Smaller field drains also criss-crossed the site on NE/SW and NW/SE alignments. No other archaeological finds or features were present which suggest early activity on the edge of Ringsfield Common.

8 DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE

8.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at the County Historic Environment Record. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

8.2 The archive will be deposited within six months of the conclusion of the fieldwork. It will be prepared in accordance with the UK Institute for Conservation's *Conservation Guideline No.2* and according to the document *Deposition of Archaeological Archives in Suffolk* (SCC AS Conservation Team, 2008).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AS would like to thank Mr Brian Byles for funding the project and for his kind assistance. AS would also like to thank Mr Byles' agent, Mr Malcolm Dixon, for his kind assistance.

AS also gratefully acknowledges the input and advice of Dr Jess Tipper of the Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service Conservation Team (SCC AS).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Gurney, D. 2003, *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14/ALGAO

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) 1994 (revised 2008) *Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluation*. IfA

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
Trench 1. Looking north.



2
Trench 2. Sample section. Looking north



3
Trench 4. Unexcavated Ditch F1004 visible in middle ground. Looking north.



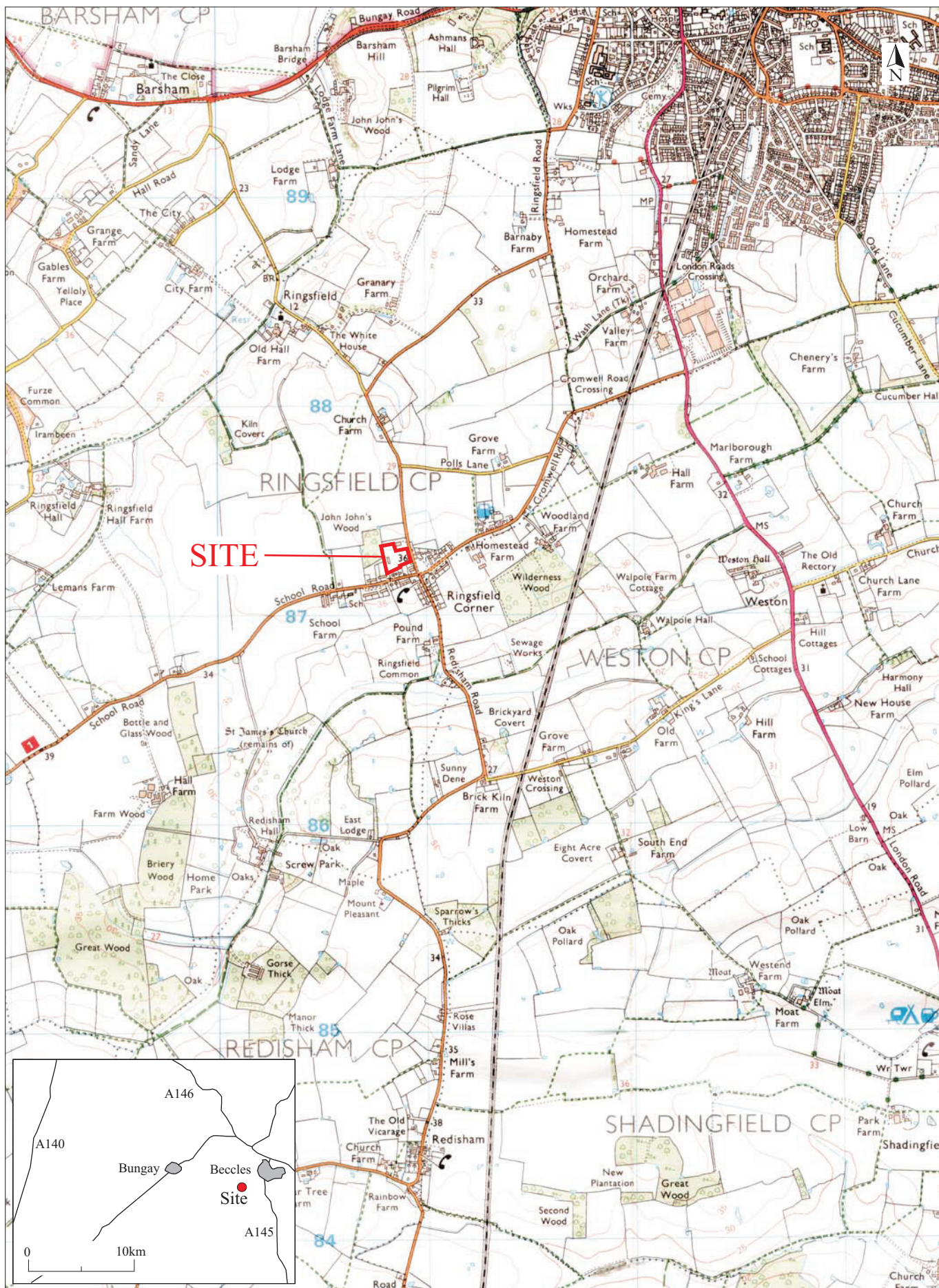
4
Trench 7. Natural depression filled with L1002. Looking north.



5
Trench 7. Ditch F1004. Looking southwest..



6
Trench 11. Looking north.



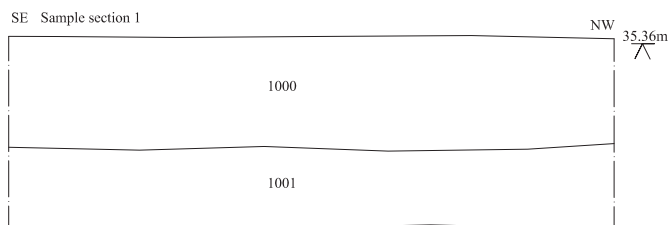
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4

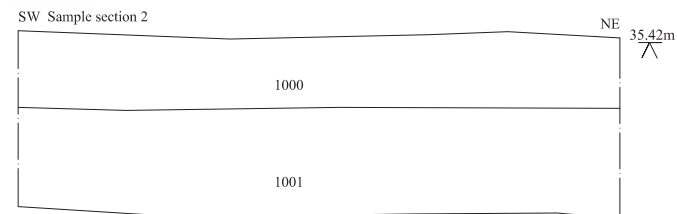


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Fig. 2 Trench location plan
 Scale 1:1000 at A4

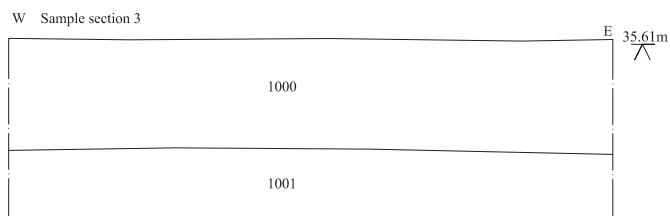
Trench 1



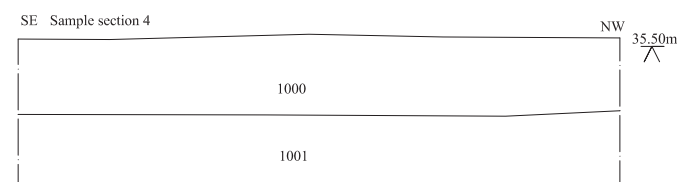
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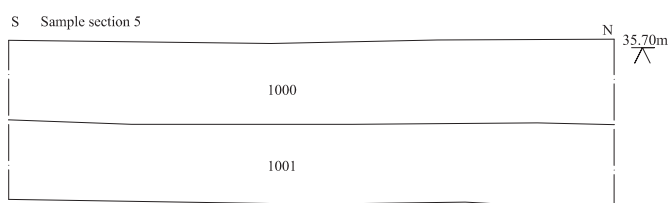
Trench 3



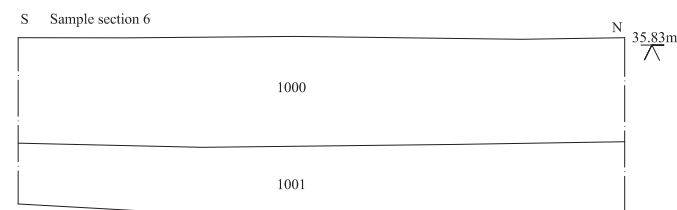
Trench 4



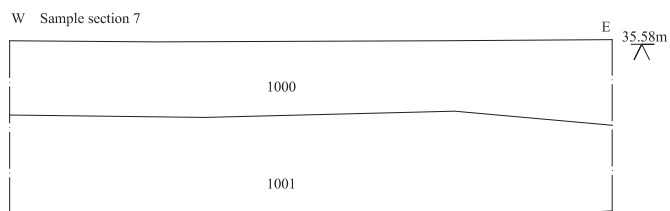
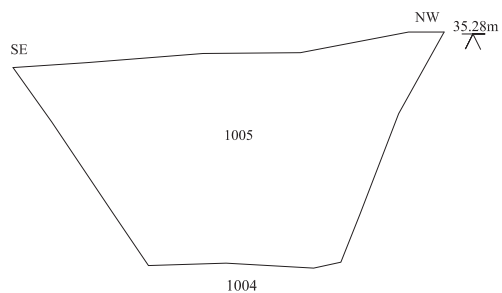
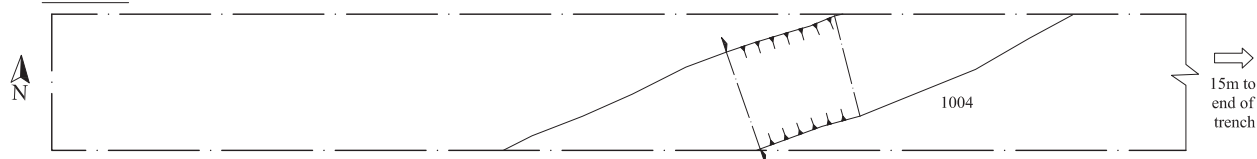
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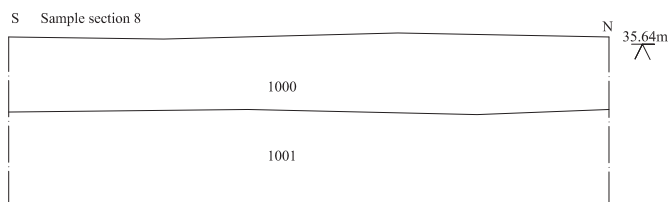
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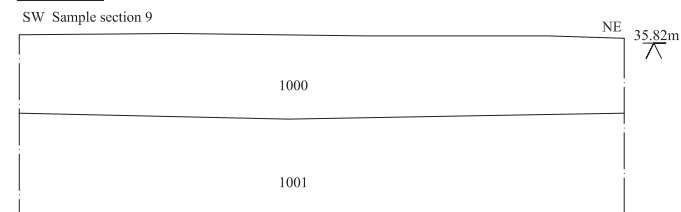
Trench 7



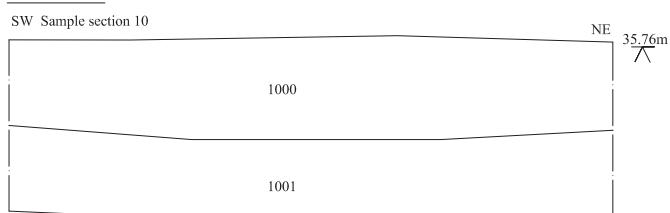
Trench 8



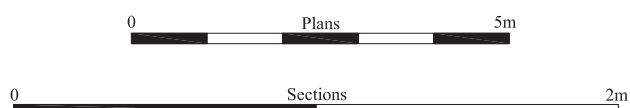
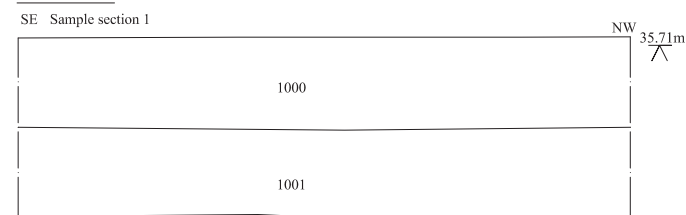
Trench 9



Trench 10



Trench 11



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Fig. 3 Plans & sections

Scale plans at 1:100 & sections at 1:25 at A4