

83 HIGH ROAD, GORLESTON ROAD,
GREAT YARMOUTH, NORFOLK

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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NGR: TG 5263 0529	Report No: 3609
District: Great Yarmouth	Site Code: ENF 125133
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No: P3995
Signed:	Date: August 2010

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	83 High Road, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk		
<p><i>In August 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological evaluation at 83 High Road, Gorelston, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk (NGR TG 5263 0529 Figs. 1-2). The evaluation was commissioned by Paul Robinson Partnership (UK) LLP on behalf of the client, Mr E Miller, in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a house (Planning Ref. 06/10/0134/F).</i></p> <p><i>The site lies along the river frontage of Gorleston. It lies adjacent to the friary precinct, and between the precinct and the river, and hence there was considerable potential for medieval deposits, and possible evidence for the use of the river by the friary.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the evaluation revealed alluvial deposits and a residual sherd of high to late medieval pottery.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	11 - 12/08/2010		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Futurework (Y/N/?)	TBC
P. number	3995	Site code	
Type of project	Archaeological Evaluation		
Site status	-		
Current land use	Residential dwelling		
Planned development	Rebuild of dwelling		
Main features (+dates)	-		
Significant finds(+dates)	Residual sherd of high – late medieval pottery		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	Norfolk	Great Yarmouth	Gorleston
HER/ SMR for area	Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER)		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	500 m2		
NGR	TG 5263 0529		
Height AOD (max/ min)	c.5m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	Dr Ken Hamilton, Norfolk Landscape Archaeology		
Projectsupervisor/s(PO)	Tim Schofield		
Funded by	Mr E Miller		
Full title	83 High Road, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk An Archaeological Evaluation		
Authors	Schofield, T., & Thompson, P.		
Report no.	3609		
Date (of report)	August 2010		

83 HIGH ROAD, GORLESTON, GREAT YARMOUTH, NORFOLK AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In August 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological evaluation at 83 High Road, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk (NGR TG 5263 0529 Figs. 1-2). The evaluation was commissioned by Paul Robinson Partnership (UK) LLP on behalf of the client, Mr E Miller in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a replacement house (Great Yarmouth Borough Council Planning Ref. 06/10/0134/F).

The site lies along the river frontage of Gorleston. It lies adjacent to the friary precinct, and between the precinct and the river, and hence there was considerable potential for medieval deposits, and possible evidence for the use of the river by the friary.

In the event the evaluation revealed alluvial deposits and a residual sherd of high to late medieval pottery.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In August 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological evaluation at 83 High Road, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk (NGR TG 5263 0529 Figs. 1-2). The evaluation was commissioned by Paul Robinson Partnership (UK) LLP on behalf of the client, Mr E Miller, in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a replacement house (Great Yarmouth Borough Council Planning Ref. 06/10/0134/F).

1.2 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (Dr. K. Hamilton, dated 06/07/2010), and a specification compiled by AS (dated 02/08/2010), and approved by NLA. The evaluation followed the procedures outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (both revised 2008), as well as those highlighted in the IFA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008) and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The trial trenching was carried out to determine the presence/absence, date, extent, state of preservation and significance of any archaeological layers or subsoil containing archaeological features.

Planning policy context

1.4 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.

1.5 PPS5 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 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE (Fig. 1)

2.1 Gorleston-on-Sea is situated at the south end of Great Yarmouth. High Street is immediately west of the quay where the River Yare runs parallel to the sea before entering it c.1.5km to the south. Riverside Road bounds to the site to the east and High Road borders to the west.

2.2 The site is steeply terraced up the west (at maximum height of some 10m AOD), with the existing dwelling and drive area occupying a lower, level area of the site (c.5m AOD).

3 METHODOLOGY (Desk-based research)

Information was sought from a variety of available sources.

3.1 Archaeological databases

The standard collation of all known archaeological sites and spot finds within Norfolk comes from the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER). Sites within c. 150m have been described in the text.

4 THE EVIDENCE

4.1 Topography, geology and soils

4.1.1 As noted above, the site is located at c.5m AOD, with higher ground immediately to the west. The local topsoil overlies made up ground which overlies alluvium and sand.

4.2 Archaeological and historical background

4.2.1 No prehistoric remains have been found from within c.150m of the site. In the Roman period two important Roman coastal forts were located at Burgh, to the west, and Caister to the north, but no Romano-British remains have been found within c.150m of the site.

4.2.2 Gorleston-on-Sea is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey in 1086 as *Gorlestuna* meaning 'farmstead of a man called Gurl'. The settlement probably predates Great Yarmouth, and the Domesday Book lists a population of 20 villeins, 5 bordars, 5 slaves, 6 freemen and 24 fishermen. No Anglo-Saxon finds have been found within c.150m of the site.

4.2.3 In the reign of Edward I (1272-1307) an Augustinian friary was founded by William Woderove, and his wife Margaret. It was enlarged in 1311 and 1338, with a cell added across the water in Yarmouth. In the medieval period there were two manors, Gorleston manor and a smaller manor called Bacons. No medieval or early post-medieval finds have been found from within c.150m of the site.

4.2.4 In 1832 Gorleston became part of the municipal borough of Great Yarmouth. Several World II sites are recorded from within c.150m of the site. The closest is a WWII light and anti-aircraft tower recorded at Fisherman's Wharf; a spigot mortar base and possible air raid shelter were also noted (NHER 32655: NGR 5264 0535). A little to the north, WWII structures have been noted on aerial photographs at the fire station and Ferryside offices (NHER 43301: NGR 5252 0550). To the north-west, around Manby Road a group of WWII air raid shelters are known centred on NGR 5244 0528 (NHER 43581-43585). A watching brief nearby found no archaeological features (NGR 5247 0533). More air raid shelters are recorded off Addison Road (NHER 43579 and 43580).

4.2.5 Several buildings of historical interest are located along High Road; Koolunga House, a detached house built in 1826 (NHER 3509), Manby House and Ahoy, built in the 1840s (NHER 43002), Providence Villa, built in 1843 (NHER 49916), and 96 High Road, which is an 1830s house (NHER 42917). The Maltings to the north of the site date from the 19th century and are said to have been used as a Napoleonic prison (NHER 14149: NGR 525 055).

4.3 The site

4.3.1 The 1832 First Edition OS map predates the house but shows the point where High Road and Ferry Hill Road meet. Addison Road was not built at this time (Fig 3). The 1946 aerial photograph shows the junction of Addison Road with High Road, but individual buildings are not clear although the existing house on the site was built before the Second World War (Fig 4). The 1988 aerial photograph shows better clarity and the detached house can be seen in association with the contiguous roads, High Road, Ferry Hill and Riverside Road (Fig 5).

5 METHODOLOGY (TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION)

5.1 One trench was mechanically excavated using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth bladed ditching bucket, under the close supervision of an archaeologist. Trench 1 measured 3.20 x 3.90 x 5.00m. The topsoil, subsoil and a modern made ground layer was removed; 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* record sheets, drawn to scale and photographed. The trenches and features were recorded accurately using a Leica 805 Total Station. Soil heaps were scanned for finds and metal detected using a C.Scope CS1220R.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Trench 1 DP1, 2 and 3

<i>Sample Section 1; east side, west facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 5.15m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.04m	L1006	Modern concrete surface layer.
0.04 – 0.14m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark brown, firm clay silt.
0.14 – 0.63m	L1001	Subsoil. Mid brown grey, compact clay silt with occasional round and sub-round gravel.
0.63 – 1.35m	L1002	Made Ground. Light red yellow, loose sandy gravel with frequent shell and round pebbles.
1.35m+	L1003	Natural Drift Geology. Light yellow, friable sand.

<i>Sample Section 2; west side, east facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 5.10m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.18m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Sample Section 1.
0.18 – 0.70m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Sample Section 1.
0.70 – 1.02m	L1002	Made Ground. As above Sample Section 1.
1.02 – 1.20m	L1005	Alluvial Deposit. Mid grey brown, compact alluvial silt.

Description: Trench 1 contained alluvial deposit, L1005. No archaeological features were present. Made Ground L1002 contained early modern pottery and one residual sherd of high – late medieval grey ware.

Alluvial deposit, L1005 (DP3), was linear in plan (4.20+ x 0.65max x 0.26m) orientated NW/SE. It comprised a mid grey brown, compact alluvial silt. It was overlain by Backfill L1004 (Fig.6 Sample Section 3), a mid grey brown silt with post-medieval brick rubble.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 Although the site had been disturbed, it is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Uppermost within the stratigraphic sequence was Concrete Slab L1006. It comprised a modern light white grey concrete (maximum depth of 0.04m). Below the concrete slab, L1006, was Topsoil L1000, a dark brown, firm clay silt. Below Topsoil L1000 was Subsoil L1001, a mid brown grey, compact clay silt with occasional gravel. Below L1001 was Made Ground L1002, a light red yellow, loose sandy gravel with frequent shell and round pebbles. L1002 contained early modern pottery and a high – late medieval residual sherd. At the base of the stratigraphic sequence was Natural Drift Geology L1003, a light yellow, friable sand.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The trial trench revealed alluvial deposits (L1005) relating to the previous course of the River Yare. Cracks are clearly visible in the existing house caused by subsidence, along the line of this sloping alluvial deposit. The plot of land appears to have been reclaimed and is recorded on the First Edition OS Map.

9.2 In the event the evaluation revealed no evidence relating to the friary or medieval deposits.

DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site with Norwich Castle Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AS is grateful to Mr E Miller for funding the work and for his kind assistance, and Mr Simon Nicholas of Paul Robinson Partnership (UK) LLP for his kind assistance.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Dr Ken Hamilton of Norfolk Landscape Archaeology

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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 2008) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessment*

Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2008) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation*

WEB SITES

Norfolk County Council (historic maps)
Norfolk Heritage Explorer (HER)

APPENDIX 1 CARTOGRAPHIC AND PHOTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

Date	Scale	Source
Modern	1:25,000	OS Explorer
Modern	1:100	Client
1st edition	25 inch	OS
1946	1:10,000	RAF aerial photograph
1988	1:10,000	Norfolk County Council aerial photographs

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORT

The Pottery

by Peter Thompson

The evaluation recovered 8 moderately abraded sherds of pottery weighing 73g. One residual sherd weighing 12g is a wheel-made high to late medieval residual medieval sandy grey ware. The remaining sherds are all early modern, and would suit a late 18th to late 19th century date.

Feature	Type	Quantity	Date	Comment
1002	Made Ground	3x18g Post-medieval red earthenware 1x10g Pearl Ware 3x33g Refined white earthenware 1x12g medieval sandy grey ware	Late 18 th -late 19 th	PMRE: 2x white slip under clear glaze PW: Plate rim REFWE: 1x bowl base

1



Sample Section 2, Trench 1,
looking E

2



Sample Section 1, Trench 1,
looking W

3



Alluvial Deposit L1005 & Backfill
L1004, Trench 1, looking W

4

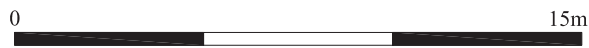
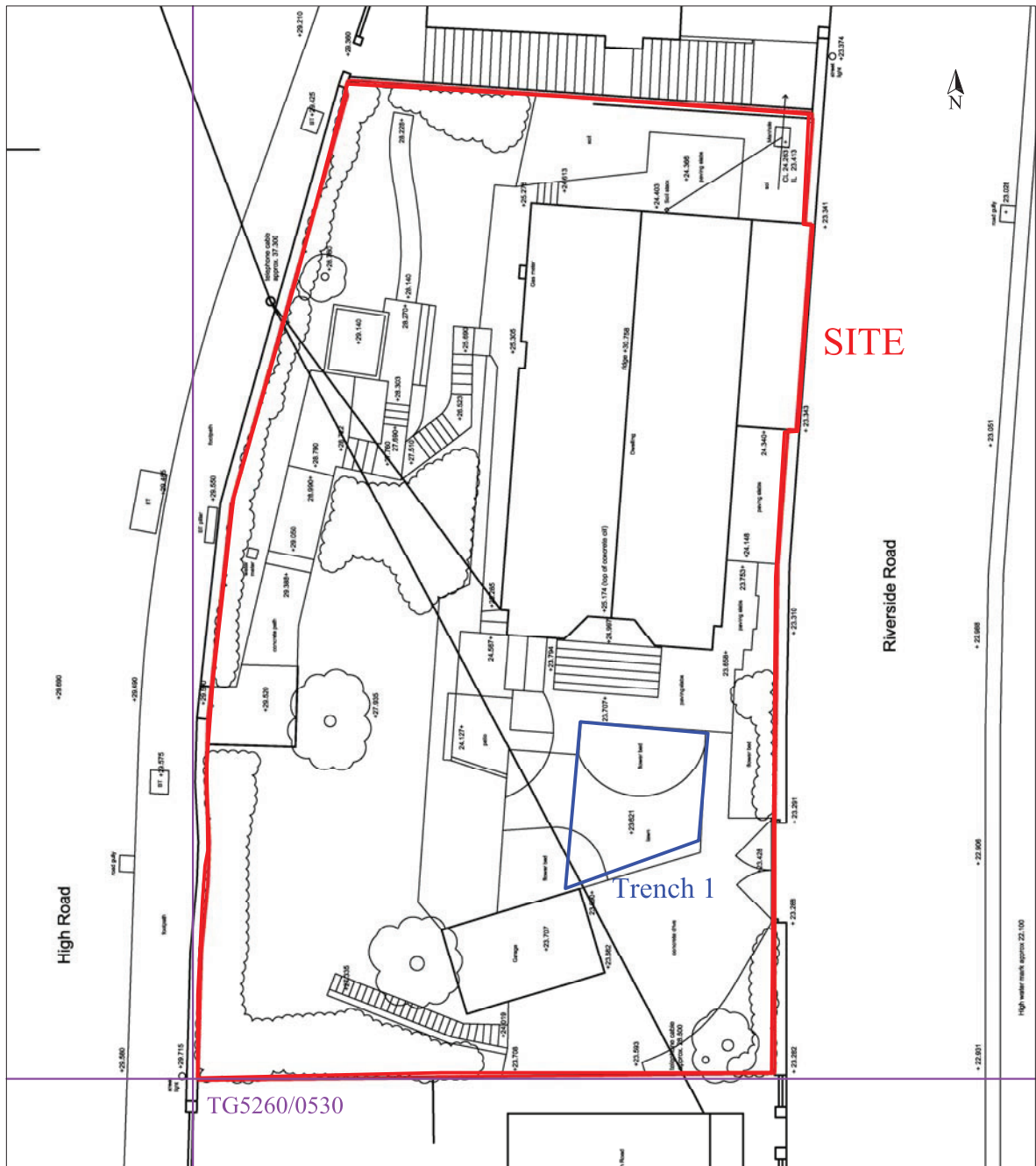


General site shot, Trench 1,
looking SW



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

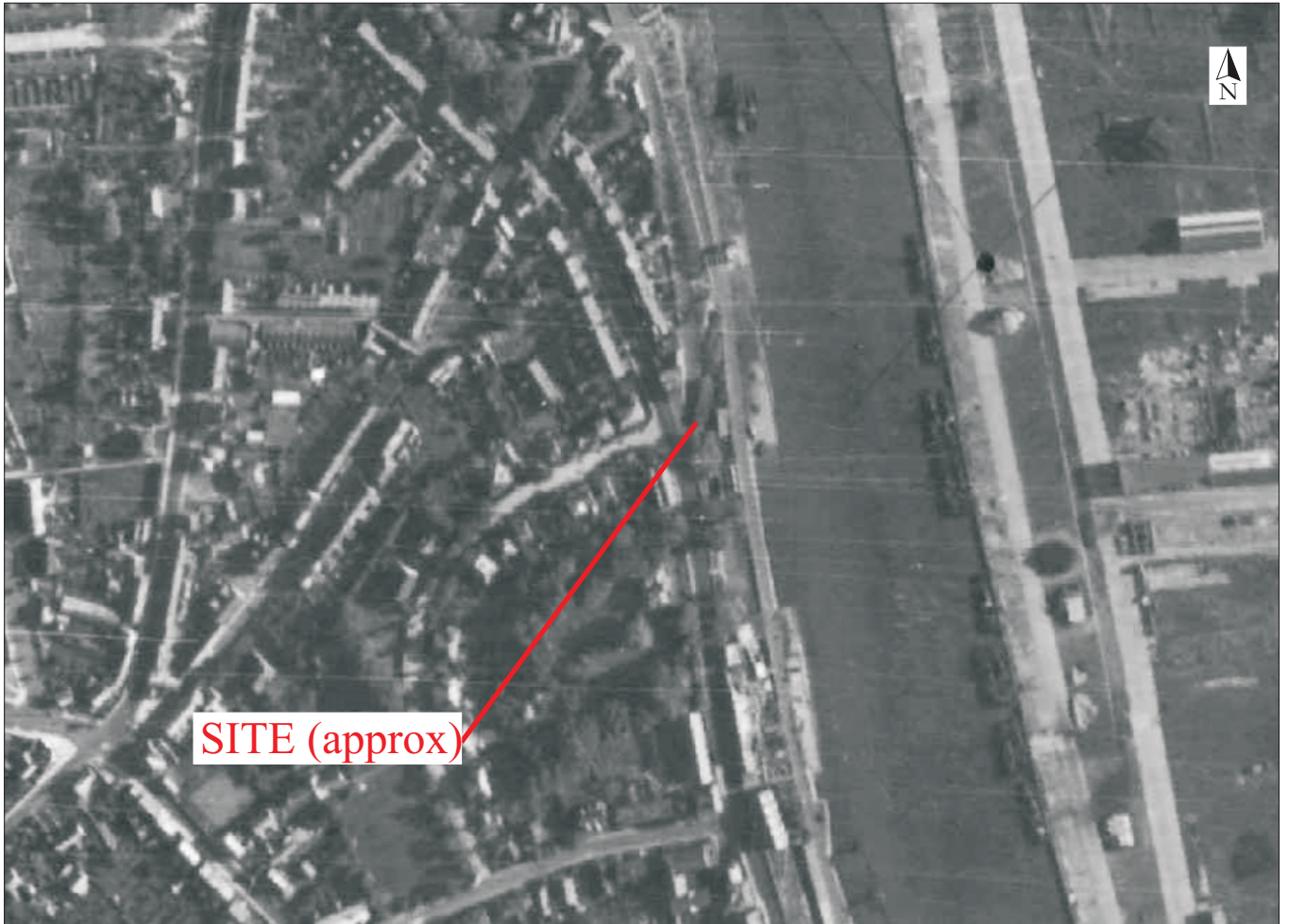


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Fig. 2 Trench location plan
 Scale 1:200 at A4



Reproduced from the 1878 Ordnance Survey 25" to 1 mile map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

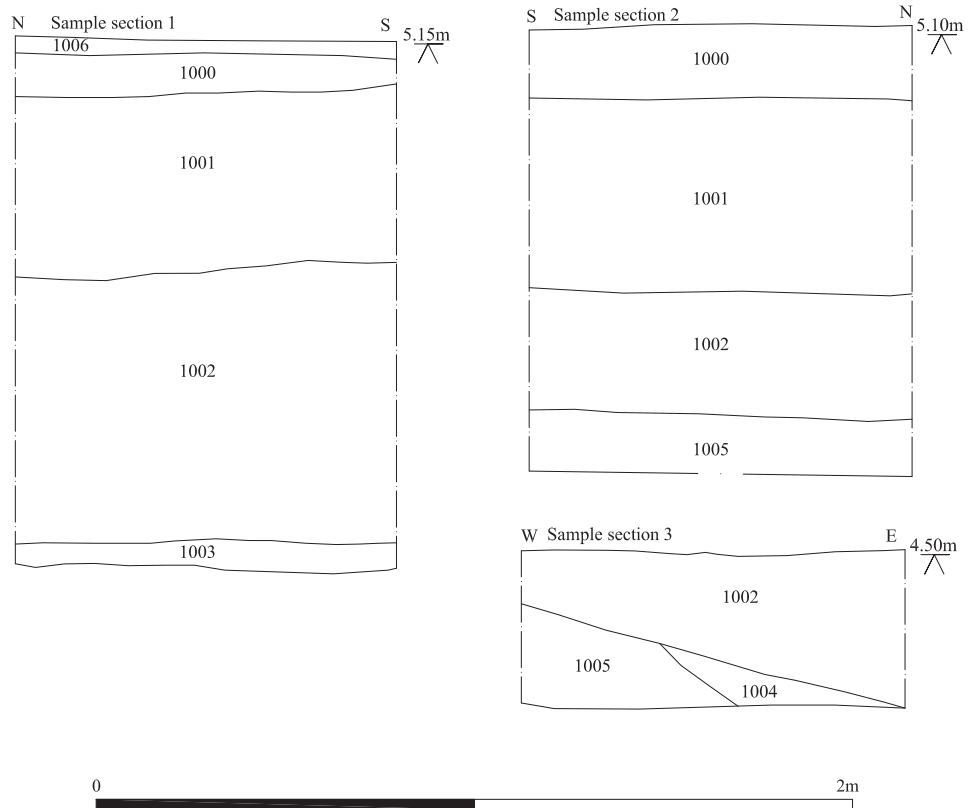
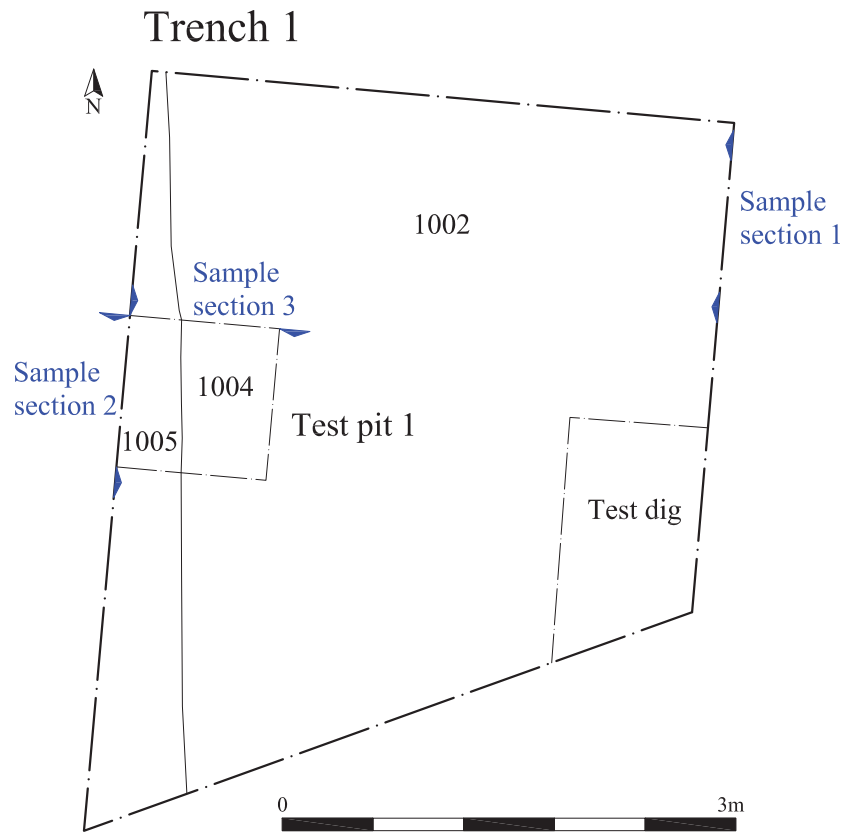
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 Fig. 3 1st edition OS map, 1878
 Not to scale



<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 4 Aerial Photograph, 1946
Not to scale



<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
Fig. 5 Aerial Photograph, 1988
Not to scale



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Fig. 6 Trench plan & sections

Scale plan at 1:50 & sections at 1:20 at A4