

**WHEATSHEAF MEADOW HOUSE,  
PERIWINKLE CLOSE, BARKWAY,  
HERTFORDSHIRE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

Authors: Zbigniew Pozorski MA (field work & report) Peter Thompson MA (desk-based research)	
NGR: TL 3834 3600	Report No. 3615
District: North Hertfordshire	Site Code: AS 1346
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 3966
Signed:	Date: August 2010

98-100 Fore Street, Hertford SG14 1AB

Unit 6, Brunel Business Court, Eastern Way,  
Bury St Edmunds IP32 7AJ

Tel 01992 558170

Fax 01992 553359

e-mail [info@ascontracts.co.uk](mailto:info@ascontracts.co.uk)

[www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk](http://www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk)

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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>	<i>Wheatsheaf Meadow House, Periwinkle Close, Hertfordshire</i>		
<p><i>In August 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at Wheatsheaf Meadow House, Periwinkle Close, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 3834 3600). The evaluation was commissioned by North Hertfordshire Homes and was undertaken in compliance with a pre-planning requirement as part of a planning application for residential re-development of the site.</i></p> <p><i>The site is situated adjacent to the Area of Archaeological Significance No. 69, which identifies an area of the medieval settlement of the village. The site also lies along what may have been an access route to a possible medieval castle at Periwinkle Hill. Therefore the site had a potential for medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the evaluation revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>24<sup>th</sup> August 2010</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>3966</i>	Site code	<i>AS 1346</i>
Type of project	<i>An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Site status	<i>Adjacent to Area of Archaeological Significance No. 69</i>		
Current land use	<i>Disused residential complex</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential re-development</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>North Hertfordshire</i>	<i>Barkway</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Hertfordshire HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>SG8 8DD</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 3600m<sup>2</sup></i>		
NGR	<i>TL 3834 3600</i>		
Height AOD (min/max)	<i>136.90/139.40</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>HCC HEU</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Zbigniew Pozorski</i>		
Funded by	<i>North Hertfordshire Homes</i>		
Full title	<i>Wheatsheaf Meadow House, Periwinkle Close, Hertfordshire. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>		
Authors	<i>Pozorski, Z.</i>		
Report no.	<i>3615</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>August 2010</i>		

# WHEATSHEAF MEADOW HOUSE, PERIWINKLE CLOSE, BARKWAY, HERTFORDSHIRE

## AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

### **SUMMARY**

*In August 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at Wheatsheaf Meadow House, Periwinkle Close, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 3834 3600). The evaluation was commissioned by North Hertfordshire Homes and was undertaken in compliance with a pre-planning requirement as part of a planning application for residential re-development of the site.*

*The site is situated adjacent to the Area of Archaeological Significance No. 69, which identifies an area of medieval settlement of the village. The site also lies along what may have been an access route to a possible medieval castle at Periwinkle Hill. Therefore the site had a potential for medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.*

*In the event the evaluation revealed no archaeological features or finds.*

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In August 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at Wheatsheaf Meadow House, Periwinkle Close, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 3834 3600; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was commissioned by North Hertfordshire Homes and was undertaken in compliance with a pre-planning requirement as part of a planning application for residential re-development of the site (North Hertfordshire District Planning Ref. 1/0646/10).

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU; dated 06/07/2010) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 09/07/2010) and approved by HCC HEU. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008), as well as the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

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. In particular, it aimed to establish the presence or absence of medieval or post-medieval remains. It was also important to understand the level of truncation on the site.

### *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**

2.1 Barkway is approximately 8km south-east of Royston along the B1368 road. Periwinkle Close leads off Royston road at the north end off the village. The church of St Mary is located c. 350m to the south. The site comprises a sub-rectangular plot of land occupied by a disused complex of two-storey blocks of flats, areas of hardstanding, landscaping and pathways.

## **3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

3.1 The site is situated on a gently sloping land at c. 138-139m AOD, with more rapid slope within its south-eastern corner. The land continues to rise to the north. Soils on the site are clayey soils of the Hanslope association, described as slowly permeable calcareous clayey soils with some slowly permeable non-calcareous clayey soils.

3.2 The solid geology of the area is of Upper Cretaceous Chalk (British Geological Survey 1978). It is composed of structureless, off-white chalk with localised yellow-brown staining and slightly silty gravel. The interface between the Upper Chalk and any overlying deposits is typically undulating and may be characterised by the presence of irregular hollows (termed pipes, swallow holes or solution features) that have resulted from the dissolution of the chalk by slightly acidic water (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### *Prehistoric and Roman*

4.1 A probable Bronze Age ring ditch and a trackway leading towards it are located on open land 400m to the north-west (HHER 6154 & 7792). Other ring ditches are located further to the north. A late Iron sherd was found during archaeological monitoring at Manyons Farm 550m to the south-west (HHER 6515). A Roman votive metal hoard, including tablets to Mars and Vulcan, was found in Rokey Wood to the west (HHER 490 & 2233), and a Roman coin hoard was found in Barkway (HHER 491).

### *Medieval*

4.2 The site is adjacent to Area of Archaeological Significance 69 comprising the medieval village. A manorial estate is recorded in the 1086 Domesday Survey as *Bercheuuei* meaning 'Birch-tree Way'. Much of the medieval settlement was burnt down in a series of fires the latest in 1748 (HHER 2688). The church of St Mary Magdalene is Grade I listed dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> century with rebuilding in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries (HHER 4297). At Manyons Farm a Saxo-Norman double bayed or aisled rectangular building and a pit were recorded along with 12<sup>th</sup> century cess pits (HHER 6516 & 6517).

4.3 A probable motte and bailey castle, identified by crop marks, is situated 1km away on Periwinkle Hill (HHER 855), and a fairly large area of ridge & furrow has been identified just to its north (HHER 7791). Two possible moats are recorded at Rokey Wood and to its south (HHER 7404 & 6388), and other moats and fish ponds are shown on the OS map further west around the village of Reed (Fig. 1).

4.4 A possible Deserted Medieval Village is also located just over 1km to the east of the site at Cokenach in Area of Archaeological Significance 68. Medieval (and Roman) pottery scatters were noted at an unspecified location south of Newsells Park (HHER 11437) where a Deer Park was recorded in 1292 (HHER 6598).

### *Post-medieval*

4.5 Several listed buildings and others of historical interest are recorded within 500m of the site along Barkway High Street (Appendix 1). The closest is the 19<sup>th</sup> century Congregational Chapel and burial ground (HHER 16443). A rubble layer and a pit from post-medieval occupation was recorded at Manyons Farm (HHER 6518). A windmill stood 200m to the north-west of the site (HHER 5982 & 1536). An undated trackway and ditches are also located east and south of Rokey Wood (HHER 7403 & 7405).

## 5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Five trenches were excavated using a mechanical 180° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). The trenches locations were approved by HCC HEU. Trenches 1 to 4 measured 10m x 1.60m whilst Trench 5 measured 15m x 1.60m.

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

### Trench 1 (Fig. 2, DP 2-3)

<i>Sample section 1 (DP 4): N end, E facing</i> 0.00 = 138.62 AOD		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. Greyish brown, soft, sandy silt.
0.33m +	L1002	Natural white, compact, chalk with patches of greenish brown, compact, clay on the top.

<i>Sample section 2 (DP 5): S end, E facing</i> 0.00 = 138.60m AOD		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.21 – 0.51m	L1001	Subsoil. Light brown, friable, silty sand.
0.51m +	L1002	Natural chalk with clay. As above.

*Description:* No archaeological features or finds were present.

### Trench 2 (Fig. 2, DP 6-7)

<i>Sample section 3(DP 8): E end, S facing</i> 0.00 = 138.40m AOD		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.23 – 0.43m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.43 – 0.51m	L1003	Greyish white, loose, chalk.
0.51 – 0.89m	L1004	Blackish grey, compact, clay.
0.89m +	L1002	Natural chalk with clay. As above, Tr. 1.

<i>Sample section 4 (DP 9): W end, S facing</i> 0.00 = 138.40m AOD		
0.00 – 0.21m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr. 1.

0.21 – 0.28m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.28 – 0.49m	L1003	Layer of chalk. As above.
0.49 – 0.74m	L1004	Layer of clay. As above.
0.74m +	L1002	Natural chalk with clay. As above, Tr. 1.

*Description:* No archaeological features or finds were present.

### **Trench 3** (Fig. 2, DP 10-11)

<i>Sample section 5 (DP 12): N end, W facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 138.35 AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.24 – 0.63m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.63 – 0.80m	L1004	Layer of clay. As above, Tr. 2.
0.80m +	L1002	Natural chalk with clay. As above, Tr. 1.

<i>Sample section 6 (DP 13): S end, W facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 138.30m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.23 – 0.30m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.30 – 0.57m	L1003	Layer of chalk. As above, Tr. 2.
0.57 – 1.00m	L1004	Layer of clay. As above, Tr. 2.
1.00m +	L1002	Natural chalk with clay. As above, Tr. 1.

*Description:* No archaeological features or finds were present.

### **Trench 4** (Fig. 2, DP 14-15)

<i>Sample section 7 (DP 16): N end, W facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 138.58 AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.52m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.52m +	L1002	Natural chalk with clay. As above, Tr. 1.

<i>Sample section 8 (DP 17): S end, W facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 138.50m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.62m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.62m +	L1002	Natural chalk with clay. As above, Tr. 1.

*Description:* No archaeological features or finds were present.

### **Trench 5** (Fig. 2, DP 18-19)



<i>Sample section 9 (DP 20): NW end, SW facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 138.30 AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.24 – 0.33m	L1003	Subsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.33 – 1.26m	L1004	Layer of clay. As above, Tr. 2.
1.26m +	L1002	Natural chalk with clay. As above, Tr. 1.

<i>Sample section 10 (DP 21): SE end, SW facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 138.25m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.20 – 0.26m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.26 – 0.48m	L1003	Layer of chalk. As above, Tr. 2.
0.48 – 1.32m	L1004	Layer of clay. As above, Tr. 2.
1.32m +	L1002	Natural chalk with clay. As above, Tr. 1.

*Description:* No archaeological features or 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 The site was commonly overlain by Topsoil L1000, a greyish brown, soft, sandy silt. (0.20 – 0.60m thick). It overlay Subsoil L1001, a light brown, friable, silty sand (0.06 – 0.40m thick). The subsoil was present irregularly only in some areas of the site. Within the southern part of the site, substantial deposits of made ground (L1003 and L1004) were present, measuring up to 1.20m in thickness.

8.2 The natural chalk, L1002, was present at 0.30 – 1.30m below existing ground level and comprised a white, compact, chalk with patches of greenish brown, compact, clay on the top.

## **9 DISCUSSION**

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for medieval and post-medieval archaeology. Such remains may relate to the medieval settlement of Barkway and to a possible access route to medieval castle at Periwinkle Hill.

9.2 In the event no archaeological features or finds were revealed. Deposits of made ground overlay the natural geology. Their presence may have been a result of landscaping works commenced during the 20<sup>th</sup> century

development of the site which included removal of earlier, Victorian buildings. No residual finds were recovered suggestive of any earlier occupation of the site.

## **10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

10.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at North Hertfordshire Museums. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr Finley Wood of North Hertfordshire Homes for commissioning the project and the assistance of Mr Tim Cork of Airey Miller Partnership LLP and Ms Ruth Gray of Vincent & Gorbing Associates.

AS would like to thank the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record and Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies for providing background information.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Andy Instone and Ms Alison Tinniswood of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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

Institute of Field Archaeologists (now Institute for Archaeologists), 1994, (revised 2008), *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*. IfA, Reading

Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW), 1983, *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales*. SSEW, Harpenden

## APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA (HER)

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

HHER No.	National Grid Reference	Details
<i>Bronze Age 2200 – 750 BC</i>		
6154 & 7792	380 362	Probable Bronze Age barrow (15m diam ring ditch) and a trackway leading to it
<i>Iron Age 750 BC – AD 43</i>		
6515	379 358	Late Iron Age sherd at Manyons Farm
<i>Roman AD 43-410</i>		
2233 & 490	374 358	Rokey Wood: Bronze and silver votive hoard found in 1743 including tablets to Mars and Vulcan
491	384 355	Coin hoard from Barkway
11437	-	Roman and medieval pottery from south of Newsells Park
<i>Medieval 1066-1539</i>		
2688	384 354	Barkway Village: Manorial estate recorded in Domesday
4297	382 356	Church of St Mary Magdalene: Grade I listed building; 13 <sup>th</sup> century with rebuilding in 15 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> centuries
855	373 360	Motte & Bailey: crop marks on Periwinkle hill show 1m high mound and D-shaped enclosure with sub-divisions
6516	379 358	Saxo-Norman building plan and a pit at Manyons Farm
6517	379 358	12 <sup>th</sup> century cess pits at Manyons Farm
6598	389 369	Deer park at Newsells first recorded in 1292
<i>Post-medieval 1539+</i>		
5057	384 357	Mile Stone, High Street
5982	382 363	Site of Smock Mill
1536	382 361	Site of Windmill: now demolished
6518	379 358	c.18 <sup>th</sup> century rubble layer and 19 <sup>th</sup> century pit at Manyons Farm
16443	384 359	Congregational Chapel and burial ground
13106	384 358	7-9 High Street: Grade II listed
13480	384 359	2 High Street: Grade II* listed
13028	384 358	24-26 High Street: Half Moon Public House
12607	383 355	Early 19 <sup>th</sup> century Slaughter House off High Street
<i>Undated</i>		

7404	372 355	Possible moat: square enclosure 75m by 75m at Rokey Wood
7403	376 359	Trackway and possible ditches: shown as cropmarks east of Rokey Wood
6388	374 358	Possible moat at Rokey Wood
7791	374 362	Ridge and furrow covering area 220 by 105m
7405	373 354	Crop marks of a linear E-W ditch 90m south of the enclosure in Rokey Wood

## APPENDIX 2      CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

<b>Records</b>	<b>Number</b>
Brief	Y
Specification	Y
Registers	4 (Context, Drawing, Photo, Digital Photo)
Context Sheets	5
Site drawings A1	0
Site drawings A3	2
Site drawings A4	0
Site photographs b/w	15
Site photographs colour slides	15
Digital Photographs	24

### APPENDIX 3 HER SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name and address:</b>	Wheatsheaf Meadow House, Periwinkle Close, Hertfordshire
<b>County:</b> Hertfordshire	<b>District:</b> North Hertfordshire
<b>Village/Town:</b>	<b>Parish:</b> Barkway
<b>Planning application reference:</b>	Welwyn Hatfield District Planning Ref. 6/0928/07
<b>Client name/address/tel:</b>	North Hertfordshire Homes
<b>Nature of application:</b>	Residential re-development
<b>Present land use:</b>	Disused blocks of flats
<b>Size of application area:</b> c. 3600m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Size of area investigated</b> 88m <sup>2</sup>
<b>NGR (8 figures):</b>	TL 3834 3600
<b>Site Code:</b>	AS 1346
<b>Site director/Organization:</b>	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
<b>Type of work:</b>	Trial trench evaluation
<b>Date of work:</b>	24/08/2010
<b>Location of finds/Curating museum:</b>	North Hertfordshire Museums
<b>Related HER Nos:</b>	<b>Periods represented:</b> None
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports:</b> -	-
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>	<p>In August 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at Wheatsheaf Meadow House, Periwinkle Close, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 3834 3600). The evaluation was commissioned by North Hertfordshire Homes and was undertaken in compliance with a planning requirement in association with proposed residential re-development of existing buildings.</p> <p>The site is situated adjacent to the Area of Archaeological Significance No. 69, which identifies an area of medieval settlement of the village. The site also lies along what may have been an access route to a possible medieval castle at Periwinkle Hill. Therefore the site had a potential for medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.</p> <p>In the event the evaluation revealed no archaeological features or finds.</p>
<b>Author of summary:</b> Z Pozorski	<b>Date of Summary:</b> September 2010

## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. Wheatsmeaf Meadow House, Periwinkle Close, Barkway. View SSW.



DP 2. W part of the site with Trench 1. View SSE.



DP 3. Trench 1. View N.



DP 4. Trench 1, N end. Sample section. View W.



DP 5. Trench 1, S end. Sample section. View W.



DP 6. S part of the site with Trench 2. View NE.



DP 7. Trench 2. View W.



DP 8. Trench 2, E end. Sample section. View N.



DP 9. Trench 2, W end. Sample section. View N.



DP 10. S part of the site with Trench 3. View NNW.



DP 11. Trench 3. View N.



DP 12. Trench 3, N end. Sample section. View E.





DP 13. Trench 3, S end. Sample section. View E.



DP 14. E part of the site with Trench 4. View SW.



DP 15. Trench 4. View S.



DP 16. Trench 4, N end. Sample section. View E.



DP 17. Trench 4, S end. Sample section. View E.



DP 18. S part of the site with Trench 5. View NW.



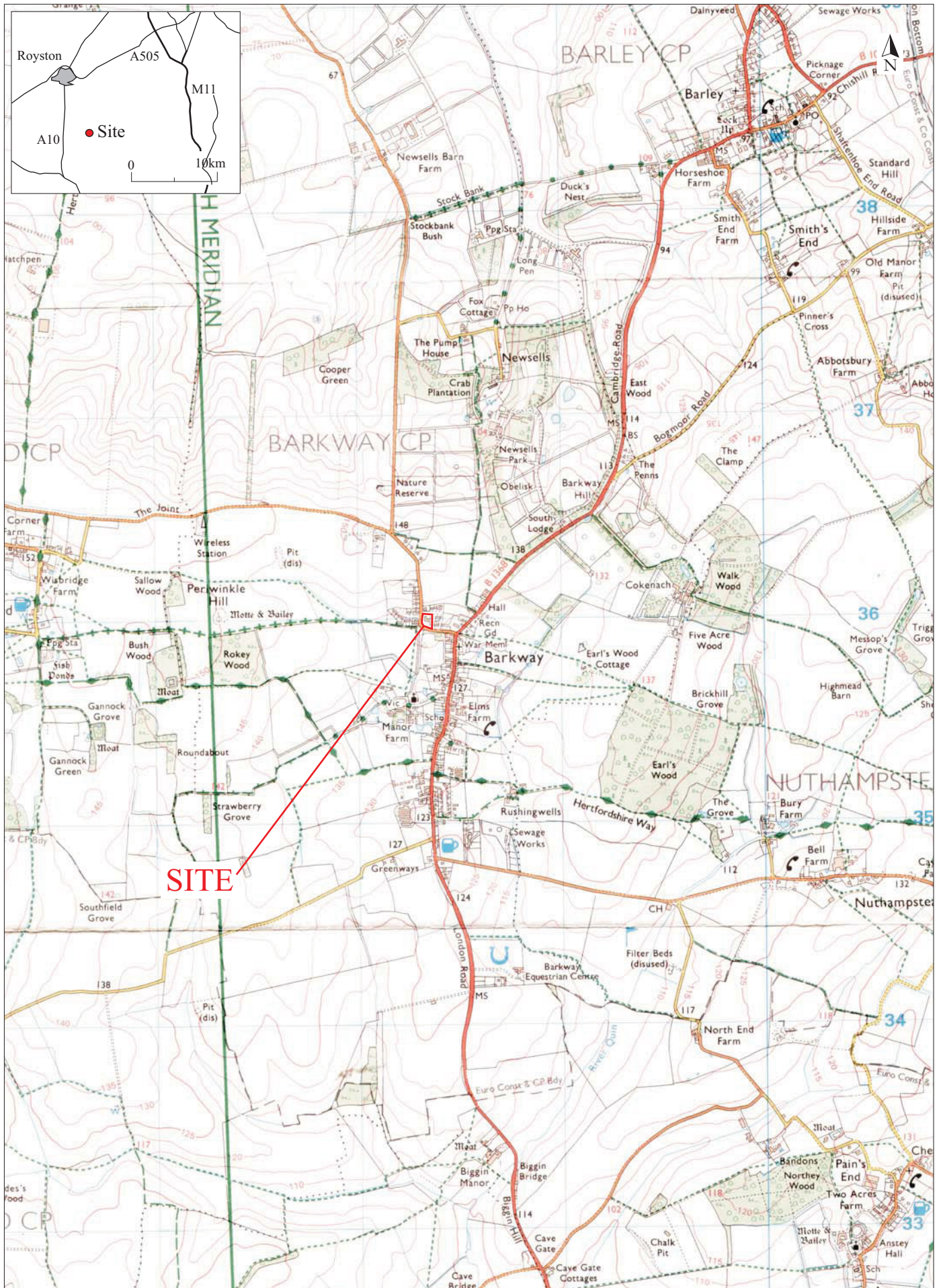
DP 19. Trench 5. View SE.



DP 20. Trench 5, NW end. Sample section. View NE.

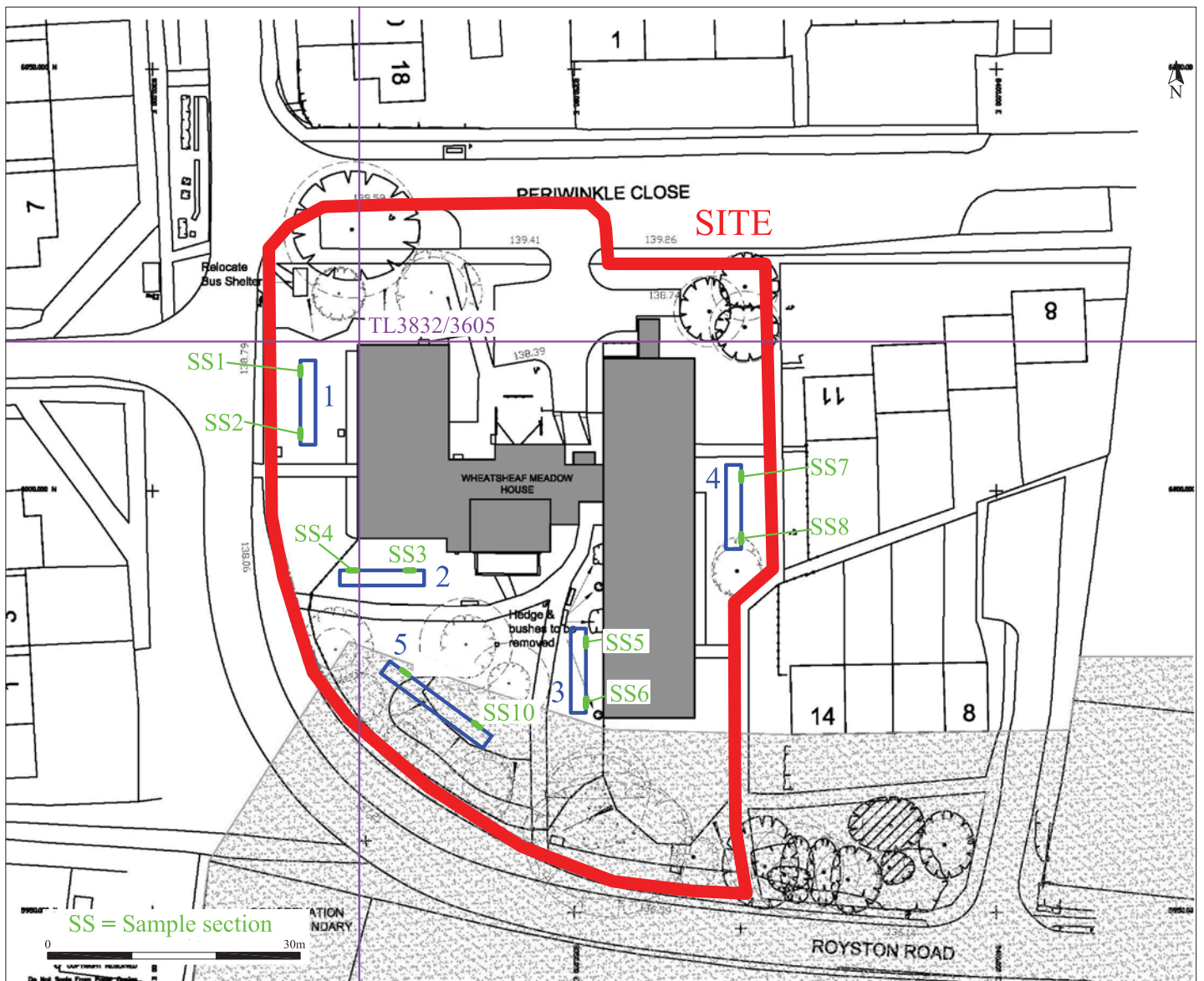


DP 21. Trench 5, SE end. Sample section. View NE.

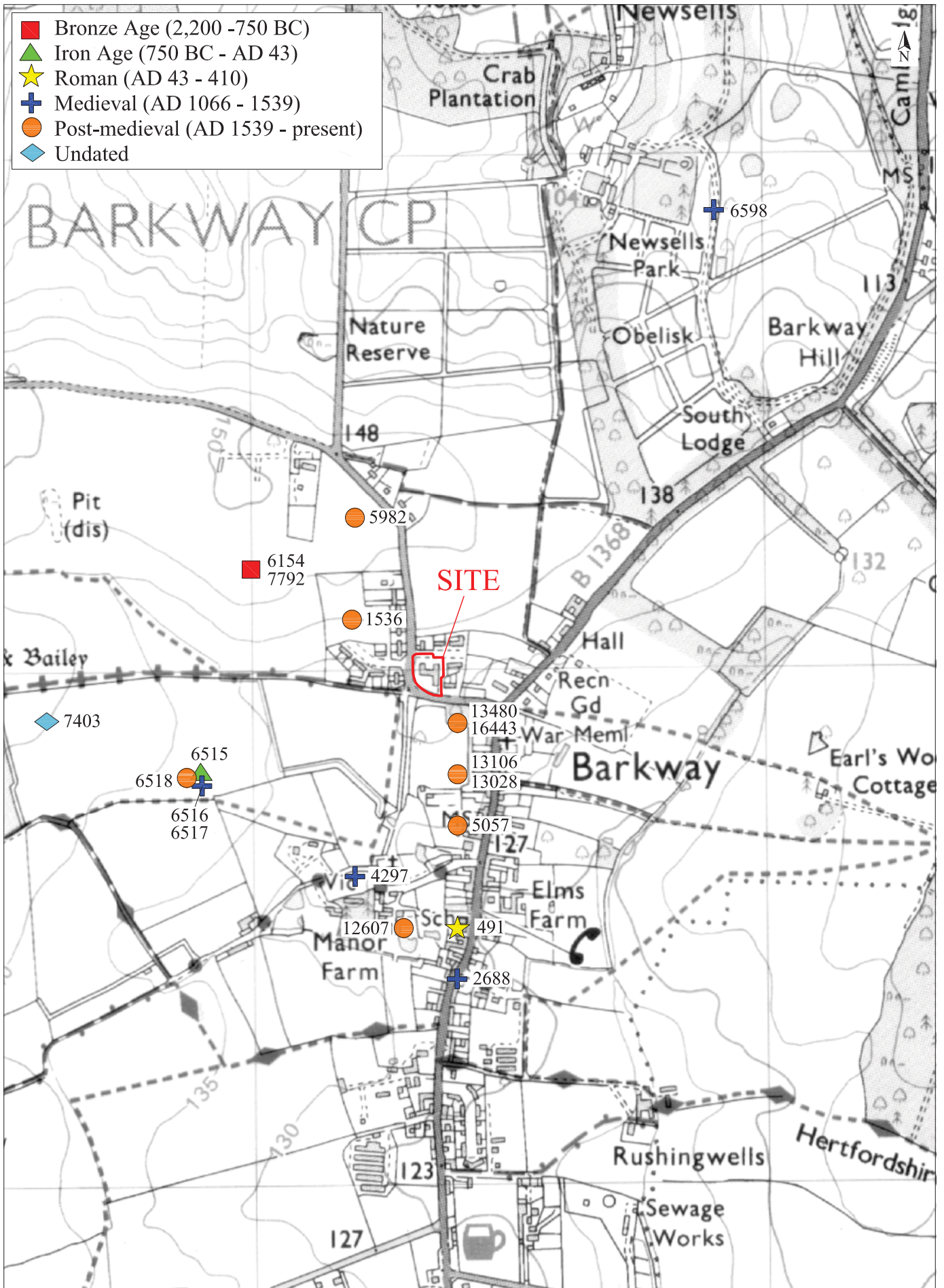


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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4

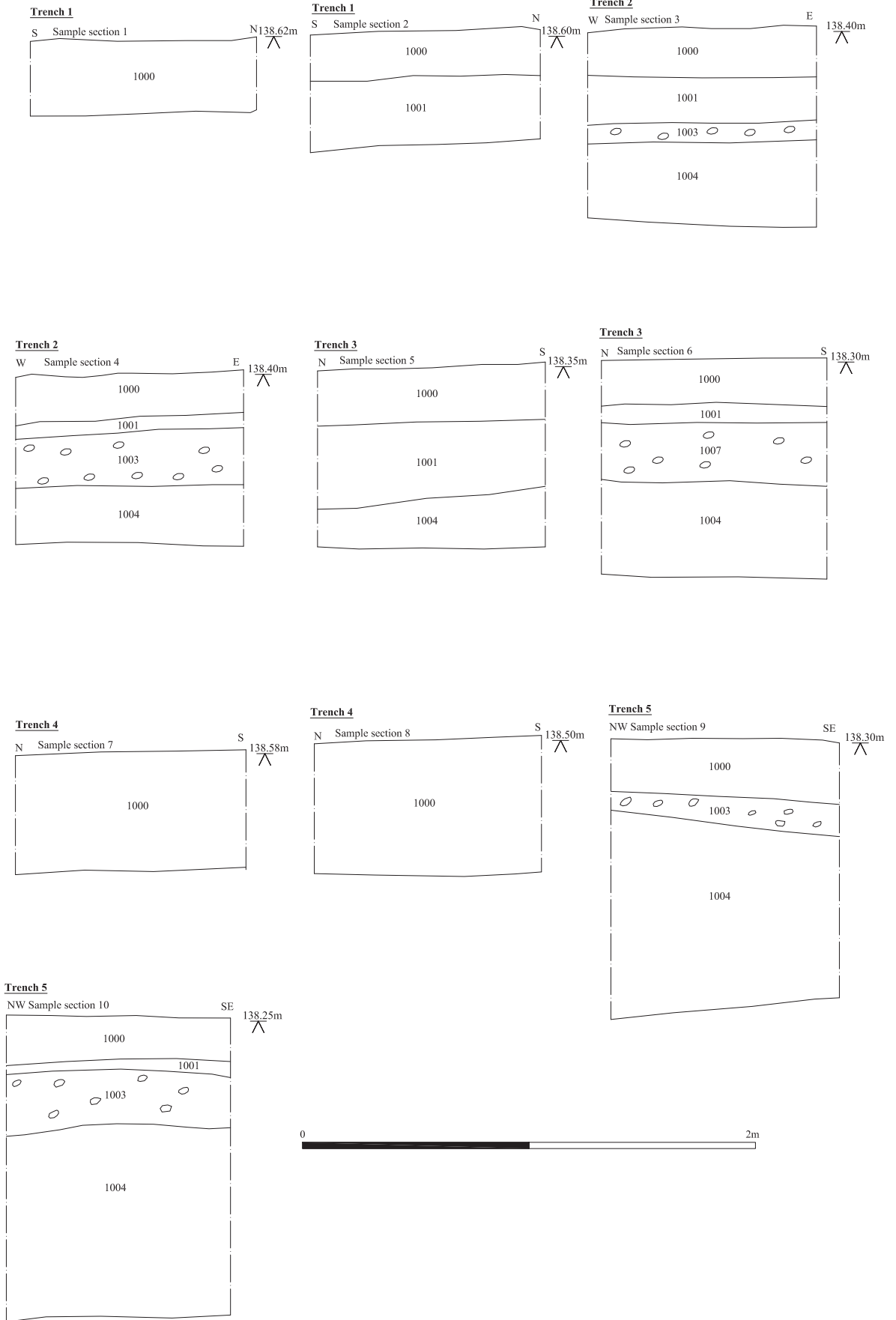


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**Fig. 2 Trench location plan**  
 Scale 1:750 at A4



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**Fig. 3 HER data**  
 Scale 1:10,000 at A4



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**Fig. 4 Sample sections**  
 Scale 1:25 at A4