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LAND AT CHURCH HILL, EAST OF RIVER FROMUS, SAXMUNDHAM, SUFFOLK

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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NGR: TM 3889 6317	Report No. 3578
District: Suffolk Coastal	Site Code: SXM 022
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. P3909
Signed:	Date: June 2010

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	*Church Hill, East of River Fromus, Saxmundham, Suffolk*		
Project description (250 words) *During June 2010, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS), conducted an archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) of land at Church Hill, East of the River Fromus, Saxmundham, Suffolk (NGR TM 3889 6317). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for commercial and residential development (Planning Ref. C/07/0362).* The evaluation revealed archaeological features distributed widely across the site with marked concentrations in the centre of the southern field (Trenches 22, 24 and 25), the western sector of the middle field (Trenches 12 - 13, 15 and 18) and the centre of the northern field (Trenches 6 - 8). The features were predominantly early Bronze Age pits (Tr.25), and the large enclosure ditches to the north contained Roman pottery (Trs. 6-8). The principal features were early Bronze Age and were contained in Trenches 25 where a tight cluster 16 pits were recorded. The features were located in a small valley between two promontories close to, and leading on to, the river flood plain. The pits appeared to form a linear band aligned north/south which traversed Trench 25. They were sealed by a dark occupation layer (L1033) which also contained early Bronze Age pottery. L1033 was also present in Trenches 22 (to the north) and 24 (to the east) (Fig. 2). Trench 22 contained a gully (F1051) which was also sealed by the dark occupation layer and contained early Bronze Age pottery. Trench 18 contained an early Bronze Age pit, F1056, which was located on the edge of the river flood plain. Similarly undated pits and linear gullies were located on the edge of the flood plain in Trenches 12, 13 and 15, and also occurred in clusters. A large natural depression, F1114, was located at the edge of the flood plain (Trench 5) and contained a worked flint core (Lithics report below). It was adjacent to a dark layer (L1106) similar to the early Bronze Age layer, L1033, recorded in Trenches 22, 24 and 25.			
Projectdates (fieldwork)	*3 – 30 June 2010*		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	*N*	Futurework (Y/N/?)	*TBC*
P. number	*P3909*	Site code	*SXM 022*
Type of project	*Archaeological Evaluation*		
Site status			
Current land use	*Arable*		
Planned development	*Commercial and residential*		
Main features (+dates)	*Early Bronze Age pits, ?Roman enclosure ditches*		
Significant finds (+dates)	*EBA pottery, struck flint*		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	*Suffolk*	*Suffolk Coastal*	*Saxmundham*
HER/ SMR for area	*Suffolk SMR*		
Post code (if known)	*-*		
Area of site	*c. 5.23 ha ((3.87 ha to be built on)*		
NGR	*TM 3889 6317*		
Height AOD (max/ min)	*c.16m AOD*		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	*Suffolk County Council, Archaeological Service – Conservation Team*		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	*Matthew Adams*		
Funded by	*Hopkins Homes Ltd*		
Full title	*Land at Church Hill, East of River Fromus, Saxmundham, Suffolk. An Archaeological Evaluation*		
Authors	*Matthew Adams*		
Report no.	*3578*		
Date (of report)	*June 2010*		

LAND AT CHURCH HILL, EAST OF RIVER FROMUS, SAXMUNDHAM, SUFFOLK

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

During June 2010, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS), conducted an archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) of land at Church Hill, East of the River Fromus, Saxmundham, Suffolk (NGR TM 3889 6317). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for commercial and residential development (Planning Ref. C/07/0362).

The site lies on the eastern side of the river Fromus on the lower western facing slope of the river valley. In all periods this topographic location would have provided a good environment with diverse resources for local people to exploit. Archaeological material has been found within 1km of the site, but is not profilic. The latter is likely due to the general lack of archaeological investigation. The name Saxmundham is of Anglo-Saxon origin. Medieval Saxmundham is unusual in that the main settlement of the town is on the opposite side of the river to the church. The documentary evidence suggests that the main area of Saxmundham has always been to the west of the river Fromus

The evaluation revealed archaeological features distributed widely across the site with marked concentrations in the centre of the southern field (Trenches 22, 24 and 25), the western sector of the middle field (Trenches 12 - 13, 15 and 18) and the centre of the northern field (Trenches 6 - 8). The features were predominantly early Bronze Age pits (Tr.25), and the large enclosure ditches to the north contained Roman pottery (Trs. 6-8).

The principal features were early Bronze Age and were contained in Trenches 25 where a tight cluster 16 pits were recorded. The features were located in a small valley between two promontories close to, and leading on to, the river flood plain. The pits appeared to form a linear band aligned north/south which traversed Trench 25. They were sealed by a dark occupation layer (L1033) which also contained early Bronze Age pottery. L1033 was also present in Trenches 22 (to the north) and 24 (to the east) (Fig. 2). Trench 22 contained a gully (F1051) which was also sealed by the dark occupation layer and contained early Bronze Age pottery.

Trench 18 contained an early Bronze Age pit, F1056, which was located on the edge of the river flood plain. Similarly undated pits and linear gullies were located on the edge of the flood plain in Trenches 12, 13 and 15, and also occurred in clusters.

A large natural depression, F1114, was located at the edge of the flood plain (Trench 5) and contained a worked flint core (Lithics report below). It was adjacent to a dark layer (L1106) similar to the early Bronze Age layer, L1033, recorded in Trenches 22, 24 and 25.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 During June 2010, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS), conducted an archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) of land at Church Hill, East of the River Fromus, Saxmundham, Suffolk (NGR TM 3889 6317; Figs. 1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for commercial and residential development (Planning Ref. C/07/0362).

1.2 The site covers an area of *c.* 5.23 ha., of which only the eastern sector (off the flood plain) is to be built upon (3.87 ha.). An archaeological desk-based assessment had been previously undertaken (Rolfe 2006)

1.3 The archaeological evaluation was conducted in accordance with a specification prepared by AS (dated 06/05/10), and a brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (07/02/05). The project followed the procedures outlined in the Institute of Field 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).

1.4 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.

1.5 The principal research issues for the site will be to identify and characterise any evidence of medieval or earlier occupation at Church Hill, Saxmundham.

Planning Policy Context

1.6 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

1.7 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 archaeological potential of the site centres on its topography and its size. It lies on the eastern side of the river Fromus partially on the flood plain (which is not to be developed), and partially on the lower western facing slope of the valley, 11 – 20m AOD.

2.2 An archaeological desk-based assessment has been prepared, including a documentary study (Rolfe 2006). In summary:

2.3 The site lies on the eastern side of the river Fromus on the lower western facing slope of the river valley. In all periods this topographic location would have provided a good environment with diverse resources for local people to exploit.

2.4 Archaeological material has been found within 1km of the site, but is not profilic. The latter is likely due to the general lack of archaeological investigation

2.5 The name Saxmundham is of Anglo-Saxon origin. Medieval Saxmundham is unusual in that the main settlement of the town is on the opposite side of the river to the church. The documentary evidence suggests that the main area of Saxmundham has always been to the west of the river Fromus

3 METHOD OF WORK

3.1 A total of 28 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 40m in length. They were all 1.80m wide.

3.2 Some minor alterations were necessarily made to the location and/or length of Trenches 1, 2, 9, 14, 17, 23, 27 and 28 (Fig. 2). This was due to the presence of sewer services, high voltage overhead power cables, trees in the north-western orchard and the location of the eastern boundary of the southern field. In the case of shortened trenches, additional length was cut in adjacent trenches, were possible, to ensure full coverage.

3.3 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a 14 tonne mechanical 360º 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.

3.4 Bulk soil samples and two column samples were taken according to a purposeful sampling strategy with the aims of investigating the palaeo-environment and past economy of the site.

4 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below.

Trench 1 Figs. 2 - 3

Trench 1 was shortened slightly to avoid a large walnut tree and overhead cable. Trench 2 was relocated 9m to the west of its proposed location to accommodate existing trees and was extended. A common stratigraphy was observed within Trenches 1 and 2. It comprised topsoil (L1000) overlying a colluvium (L1001), and the natural (L1002).

Sample Section 1A: East End, North Facing 0.00m = 11.70m AOD		
0.00m – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark brown grey, friable humic sandy silt with occasional small flint
0.23m – 0.97m	L1001	Colluvium. Mid yellow Brown sandy silt with occasional small flint
0.97m +	L1002	Natural. Mixed light yellow orange, loose sand with occasional flint gravel and light yellow white, loose sand.

Sample Section 1B: West End, North Facing 0.00m = 12.32m AOD		
0.00m – 0.47m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above.
0.47m – 0.93m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above.
0.93m +	L1002	Natural. As Above.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present in Trench 1.

Trench 2 Figs. 2 - 3

Sample Section 2A: North End, West Facing 0.00m = 12.04m AOD		
0.00 – 0.45m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.45 – 1.10m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above Tr.1.
1.10m +	L1002	Natural. Light orange yellow clay sand with flint gravel.

Sample Section 2B: South End, West Facing 0.00m = 11.58m AOD		
0.00 – 0.54m	L1000	Topsoil. As above. Tr.1.
0.54 – 1.24m	L1001	Subsoil. As above. Tr.1.
1.24m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.2.

Description: Trench 2 contained two linear gullies, F1108 and F1112.

Gully F1108 was linear in plan (3.00+ x 0.62 x 0.11m) aligned north-west/south-east. It had moderately steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1109, was a mid grey brown, firm sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks. Finds comprise animal bone (9g) and post-medieval CBM (363g).

Gully F1112 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.95 x 0.22m) aligned east/west. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1113, was a light orange brown, friable sandy silt with occasional small flints. Finds comprise post-medieval CBM (38g), animal bone (3g), an iron fragment (7g) and fired clay (9g). Gully F1112 is aligned with Gully F1110 in Trench 3 and may be the same feature.

Trench 3 Figs. 2 - 3

Sample Section 3A: North End, West Facing 0.00m = 14.39m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.30 – 0.62m	L1013	Subsoil. Mid to light brown yellow, friable sandy silt.
0.62 – 1.10m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above Tr.1.
1.10m +	L1002	Natural. Light orange yellow sand with flint gravel.

Sample Section 3B: South End, West Facing 0.00m = 13.06m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above. Tr.1.
0.30 – 0.62m	L1013	Subsoil. As Above Tr.3.
0.62 – 0.93m	L1001	Colluvium. As above. Tr.1.
0.93m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.3.

Description: Trench 3 contained a single linear gully, F1110, and a modern test pit (unrecorded).

Gully F1110 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.77 x 0.24m) aligned east/west. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1111, was a mid orange brown, friable sandy silt with occasional small flints. No finds were present. Gully F1110 was aligned with Gully F1112 in Trench 2 and may be the same feature.

Trench 4 Figs. 2 & 4

Trenches 4, 6, 7 and 9 were located on a raised promontory above the river flood plain. Trenches 5 and 8 were located on the flood plain and Trenches 10 and 11 were

located in a small valley to the south of the northern promontory aligned east to west terminating in the river flood plain.

A common stratigraphy was observed within Trenches 4, 6, 7 and 9 to 11. It comprised topsoil (L1000) overlying a colluvium (L1001), and the natural (L1002). A subsoil was present in Trenches 3, 5, 8 and 9 (L1013) overlying the colluvium (L1001).

Sample Section 4A: West End, North Facing 0.00m = 16.84m AOD		
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.37 – 0.96m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above Tr.1.
0.96m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Sample Section 4B: East End, North Facing 0.00m = 14.55m AOD		
0.00 – 0.54m	L1000	Topsoil. As above. Tr.1.
0.54 – 1.24m	L1001	Colluvium. As above. Tr.1.
1.24m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.3.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present in Trench 4.

Trench 5 Figs. 2 & 4; DP10

Sample Section 5A: East End, North Facing 0.00m = 13.26m AOD		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.29 – 0.68m	L1013	Subsoil. As Above Tr.3.
0.68 – 0.93m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above Tr.1.
0.93m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Sample Section 5B: West End, South Facing (Test Pit 5A) 0.00m = 11.36m AOD		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As above. Tr.1.
0.26 – 1.10m	L1001	Colluvium. As above. Tr.1.
1.10 – 1.16m	L1007	Alluvium. Mid yellow brown, firm sandy clay with occasional flint.
1.16 – 1.27m	L1006	Organic Layer. Dark brown grey, friable silty sand with moderate charcoal flecks. It contained burnt flint (41g), fired clay (8g) & struck flint (10g)
1.27 – 1.42m	L1005	Sand. Light yellow white, loose sand with occasional flint pebbles.
1.42m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 5 contained a single large linear natural depression, F1114.

Large Natural Depression F1114 was linear in plan (14.60 x 1.80+ x 0.66m) aligned north/south. It had moderate to shallow sides and an irregular flattish base. Its basal fill, F1117, was a light yellow grey, friable sand with moderate flint stones. No finds were present. Its middle fill, L1116, was a light brown grey, firm clay. Finds comprise struck flint (35g). Its upper fill, L1115, was a mid dark brown, firm clay. No finds were present. Large natural Depression F1114 was possibly a flooded depression or area of standing water.

Trench 6 Figs. 2 & 4

Sample Section 6A: North End, West Facing 0.00m = 15.02m AOD		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.35 – 0.90m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above Tr.1.
0.90m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Sample Section 6B: South End, West Facing 0.00m = 13.62m AOD		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. As above. Tr.1.
0.38 – 0.64m	L1001	Colluvium. As above. Tr.1.
0.64m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.3.

Description: Trench 6 contained a ditch, F1103.

Enclosure Ditch F1103 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 3.55 x 0.23m) aligned east/west. It had shallow sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1104, was a mid orange brown, friable silty clay with occasional small to large flint stones. No finds were present. Ditch F1103 was aligned with Ditch F1003 (Tr. 8) and Ditch F1014 (Tr. 7) and are probably the same feature.

Trench 7 Figs. 2 & 5

Sample Section 7A: North End, West Facing 0.00m = 13.62m AOD		
0.00 – 0.36m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.36 – 0.69m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above Tr.1.
0.69m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Sample Section 7B: South End, West Facing 0.00m = 14.23m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above. TR1.
0.30 – 0.58m	L1001	Colluvium. As above. TR1.
0.58m +	L1002	Natural. As above TR3.

Description: Trench 7 contained a single ditch, F1014 and gully terminus, F1101.

Enclosure Ditch F1014 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 4.80 x 0.45m) aligned east/west. It had shallow sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1015, was a mid brown grey, friable silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and small flint stones. Finds comprise Roman pottery (33; 86g) Ditch F1014 was aligned with Ditch F1003 (Tr. 8) and Ditch F1103 (Tr. 6) and are probably the same.

Gully Terminus F1101 was linear in plan (1.60m+ x 0.86 x 0.21m) aligned north-east/south-west. It had moderate sides and a slightly concave base. Its fill, L1102, was a light grey brown, friable sandy silt with occasional flint stones. No finds were present.

Trench 8 Figs. 2 & 5; DP4

Sample Section 8A: North End, West Facing 0.00m = 13.87m AOD		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.29 – 0.62m	L1013	Subsoil. As Above Tr.3
0.62 – 1.18m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above Tr.1.
1.18m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Sample Section 8B: South End, West Facing 0.00m = 12.98m AOD		
0.00 – 0.40m	L1000	Topsoil. As above. Tr.1.
0.40 – 0.60m	L1013	Subsoil. As Above Tr.3
0.60 – 1.30m	L1001	Colluvium. As above. Tr.1.
1.30m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.3.

Description: Trench 8 contained five ditches, F1003, F1007, F1009, F1011 and F1005.

Enclosure Ditch F1003 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 2.35 x 0.18m) aligned east/west. It had shallow sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1004, was a mid red brown, firm silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and small flint stones. No finds were present. Ditch F1003 was aligned with Ditch F1014 (Tr. 7) and Ditch F1103 (Tr. 6) and are probably the same feature.

Ditch F1005 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 3.56 x 0.37m) aligned north-east/south-west. It had shallow sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1006, was a mid red brown, firm sandy silt with occasional small flint stones. No finds were present. Ditch F1005 was cut to the north by parallel Ditch F1007.

Ditch F1007 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 1.30 x 0.19m) aligned north-east/south-west. It had moderate sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1008, was a mid white grey, loose gravely silty sand. No finds were present. Ditch F1007 was a re-cut for Ditch F1005.

Ditch F1009 was linear in plan (2.50+ x 0.86 x 0.15m) aligned north-west/south-east. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1010, was a mid grey brown (mottled blue), compact silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks. No finds were present. F1009 ran parallel to Ditch F1011.

Ditch F1011 was linear in plan (2.30+ x 1.06 x 0.17m) aligned north-west/south-east. It had moderate sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1012, was a mid grey brown (mottled blue), compact silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks. No finds were present. F1011 was parallel to F1009.

Trench 9 Figs. 2 & 5

Sample Section 9A: East End, South Facing 0.00m = 15.15m AOD		
0.00 – 0.36m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.36 – 0.77m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above Tr.1.
0.77m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Sample Section 9B: West End, South Facing 0.00m = 14.10m AOD		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As above. Tr.1.
0.29 – 0.46m	L1013	Subsoil
0.46 – 0.86m	L1001	Colluvium. As above. Tr.1.
0.86m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.3.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present in Trench 9.

Trench 10 Figs. 2 & 5; DP5

Sample Section 10A: North End, West Facing 0.00m = 13.89m AOD		
0.00 – 0.40m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.40 – 1.42m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above Tr.1.
1.42m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Sample Section 10B: South End, West Facing 0.00m = 13.46m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above. Tr.1.
0.30 – 1.01m	L1001	Colluvium. As above. Tr.1.
1.01m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.3.

Description: Trench 10 contained a single gully, F1087.

Gully F1087 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.55 x 0.19m) aligned east/west. It had moderate sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1088, was a light brown orange, friable sandy silt with occasional flint stones. No finds were present. Gully F1087 is aligned with Gully F1083 in Trench 11 and is probably the same feature.

Trench 11 Figs.2 & 6; DP6

Sample Section 11A: North End, West Facing 0.00m = 15.44m AOD		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.29 – 0.98m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above Tr.1.
0.98m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Sample Section 11B: South End, West Facing 0.00m = 14.08m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above. Tr.1.
0.30 – 1.24m	L1001	Colluvial Subsoil. As above. Tr.1.
1.24m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.3.

Description: Trench 11 contained a single gully, F1083.

Gully F1083 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 0.66 x 0.31m) aligned east/west. It had moderate sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1084, was a light brown orange, friable sandy silt with occasional flint stones. Finds comprise animal bone (104g)

Trench 12 Figs.2 & 6

Trenches 16, 17, 19, 20 and 23 were located on a raised promontory in the eastern area of the site and above the river flood plain. Trenches 12 and 14 were located in the same small valley as Trenches 11 and 12 in the northern sector and to the north of promontory in the middle field. Trenches 13, 15 and 18 were located along the western edge of the site in the river flood plain.

A common stratigraphy was observed within all the trenches in this middle field. It comprised topsoil (L1000) overlying a colluvium (L1001), and the natural (L1002). The topsoil was overlaid by a loose gravel, L1070, in Trenches 12, 13, 15 and 16 associated with a now-demolished modern sewer works which was located in the middle of the field.

Sample Section 12A: West End, North Facing 0.00m = 15.61m AOD		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1070	Gravel (Sewer Bed) Topsoil. Dark grey brown, loose silty sandy gravel.
0.23 – 0.49m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.49 – 1.05m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above Tr.1.
1.05m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Sample Section 12B: East End, North Facing 0.00m = 13.29m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above. Tr.1.
0.30 – 1.24m	L1001	Colluvial Subsoil. As above. Tr.1.
1.24m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.3.

Description: Trench 12 contained a pit, F1077, and a ?gully terminus, F1075.

?Gully Terminus F1075 was linear in plan (0.62 x 0.88 x 0.15m) aligned north/south. It had moderately steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1076, was a mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks and frequent small angular flints. It contained burnt flint (5g) and struck flint (18g).

Pit F1077 was subcircular in plan (0.50 x 0.60 x 0.23m). It had moderately steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1078, was a light greyish brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal flecks. It contained no finds.

Trench 13 Figs. 2 & 12; DP8

Sample Section 13A: West End, South Facing 0.00m = 13.01m AOD		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1070	Gravel (Sewer Bed) Topsoil. As Above Tr.12.
0.25 – 0.45m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.45 – 0.80m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above Tr.1.
0.80m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Sample Section 13B: East End, South Facing 0.00m = 11.62m AOD		
0.00 – 0.25m	L1070	Gravel (Sewer Bed) Topsoil. As Above Tr.12.

0.25 – 0.66m	L1000	Topsoil. As above. Tr.1.
0.66 – 1.55m	L1001	Colluvium. As above. Tr.1.
1.55m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.3.

Description: Trench 13 contained two ditches, F1079 and F1081 and six small pits, F1089, F1091, F1093, F1095, F1097 and F1099.

Ditch F1079 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 1.78 x 0.22m) aligned north/south. It had moderate sides and a flattish irregular base. Its fill, L1080, was a dark yellow grey, friable silty sand with occasional flint stones. No finds were present.

Small Pit F1089 was oval in plan (0.36 x 0.26 x 0.11m) aligned north/south. It had moderate to steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1090, was a light yellow grey, firm sandy silt. No finds were present.

Small Pit F1091 was elongated in plan (0.50 x 0.60 x 0.13m) aligned north/south. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1092, was a light yellow grey, firm silty sand. No finds were present.

Small Pit F1093 was circular in plan (0.30 x 0.26 x 0.07m). It had moderate sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1094, was a light yellow grey, firm silty sand. No finds were present.

Small Pit F1095 was circular in plan (0.28 x 0.28 x 0.08m). It had moderate sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1096, was a light yellow grey, firm silty sand. No finds were present.

Small Pit F1097 was circular in plan (0.26 x 0.24 x 0.06m). It had moderate sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1098, was a light yellow grey, firm silty sand. No finds were present.

Small Pit F1099 was sub-circular in plan (0.46 x 0.40 x 0.07m) aligned north/south. It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1100, was a light yellow grey, firm silty sand. No finds were present.

Ditch F1081 was linear in plan (1.80+ x 1.18 x 0.17m) aligned north-east/south-west. It had moderate sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1082, was a light yellow grey, firm silty sand. No finds were present.

Trench 14 Figs. 2 & 7

Sample Section 14A: South End, West Facing 0.00m = 13.99m AOD		
0.00 – 0.39m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.39 – 0.60m	L1013	Subsoil. As Above Tr.3.
0.60 – 1.40m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above Tr.1.
1.40m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Sample Section 14B: North End, West Facing 0.00m = 15.56m AOD

0.00 – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. As above. Tr.1.
0.38 – 0.64m	L1001	Colluvium. As above. Tr.1.
0.64m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.3.

Description: Trench 14 contained a tree throw, F1085.

Tree Throw F1085 was crescent shaped in plan (1.50 x 0.36 x 0.26m) aligned east/west. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1086, was a mid to dark grey brown (with black red mottling), loose silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and frequent angular flint stones. Finds comprise burnt flint (35g)

Trench 15 Figs. 2 & 7

Sample Section 15A: North End, East Facing 0.00m = 12.00m AOD		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1070	Gravel (Sewer Bed) Topsoil. As Above Tr.12.
0.29 – 0.40m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.40 – 0.76m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above Tr.1.
0.80m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Sample Section 15B: South End, East Facing 0.00m = 12.03m AOD		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As above. Tr.1.
0.28 – 1.12m	L1001	Colluvium. As above. Tr.1.
1.12m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.3.

Description: Trench 15 contained three pits, F1064, F1066 and F1068. F1066 and F1068 may have been natural features

Pit F1064 was circular in plan (0.68 x 0.48 x 0.15m). It had moderately step sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1065 was a dark greyish black, firm silty sand. It contained prehistoric pottery (1g) and burnt flint (15g).

Pit F1066 was elongated in plan (1.50 x 0.80 x 0.30m). It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1067, was a light yellowish grey, firm silty sand with flint. No finds were present.

Pit F1068 was elongated in plan (1.60 x 0.72 x 0.15m). It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1069, was a light yellowish grey, firm silty sand with flint. No finds were present.

Trench 16 Figs. 2 & 7

Sample Section 16A: North end , West Facing 0.00m = 13.69m AOD		
0.00 – 0.36m	L1070	Gravel (Sewer Bed) Topsoil. As Above Tr.12.
0.36 – 0.62m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.62 – 0.94m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above Tr.1.
0.94m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Sample Section 16B: South end , West Facing 0.00m = 14.47m AOD		
0.00 – 0.34m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.

0.34 – 0.69m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above Tr.1.
0.69m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 17 Figs. 2 & 7

Sample Section 17A: East End, North Facing 0.00m = 16.47m AOD		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.32m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Sample Section 17B: West End, North Facing 0.00m = 16.08m AOD		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.26 – 0.59m	L1001	Colluvium. As above Tr.1
0.59m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 18 Figs. 2 & 7; DP 9

Sample Section 18A: East End, North Facing 0.00m = 12.97m AOD		
0.29 – 0.41m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.41 – 0.86m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above Tr.1.
0.86m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Sample Section 18B: West End, North Facing 0.00m = 11.91m AOD		
0.00 – 0.45m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.45 – 1.19m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above Tr.1.
1.19m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Description: Trench 18 contained two pits, F1056 and F1058, and two stakeholes, F1060 and F1062.

Pit F1056 was circular in plan (0.46 x 0.42 x 0.10m). It had moderately steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1057 was a dark greyish black, firm silty sand with charcoal flecks and frequent angular flint. It contained early Bronze Age (EBA) pottery (45; 316g)

Pit F1058 was subcircular in plan (0.94 x 0.79 x 0.22m). It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1059 was a light greyish brown, firm silty sand with moderate small angular flints. It contained no finds.

Stakehole F1060 was circular in plan (0.15 x 0.11 x 0.07m). It had near vertical sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1061 was a dark greyish brown, firm silty sand with charcoal flecks. It contained no finds.

Stakehole F1062 was circular in plan (0.15 x 0.11 x 0.07m). It had near vertical sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1063 was a dark greyish brown, firm silty sand with charcoal flecks. It contained no finds.

Trench 19 Figs. 2 & 8

Sample Section 19A: East End, South Facing 0.00m = 15.05m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.30m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Sample Section 19B: West End, North Facing 0.00m = 13.53m AOD		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.22 – 0.78m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above Tr.1.
0.78m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Description: Trench 19 contained a large pit, F1073.

Pit F1073 was rectangular in plan (2.28 x 0.80 x 0.36+m). It had moderately steep sides. Its base was not revealed. Its fill, L1074 was a mid yellow brown, sandy silt. It contained a struck flint (4g).

Trench 20 Figs. 2 & 20

Sample Section 20A: North End, East Facing 0.00m = 16.72m AOD		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.30 – 0.60m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above Tr.1.
0.60m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Sample Section 20B: South End, East Facing 0.00m = 17.11m AOD		
0.00 – 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.32 – 0.58m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above Tr.1.
0.58m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 21 Figs. 2 & 8)

Trenches 21, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28 were located in the southern field adjacent to the Church. Trenches 26, 27 and 28 were on a raised promontory in the southern area (as was the Church). Trenches 22, 24 and 25 were located between the southern and central promontories in a small natural valley leading into the river flood plain in the west. Trench 21 and part of 26 was located in the river flood plain.

A common stratigraphy was observed within the trenches in this southern field. It comprised topsoil (L1000) overlying a colluvium (L1001), and the natural (L1002). The principal exception to this was in Trenches 22, 24 and 25 where a dark organic occupation layer (L1033) was present between the colluvium (L1001) and the natural (L1002). Some sediment build up existed below the organic layer (L1033) in Trench 24 where the natural valley was most pronounced. This was recorded as a long linear F1053.

Sample Section 21A: North End, West Facing 0.00m = 12.24m AOD		
0.00 – 0.39m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.39 – 0.75m	L1013	Subsoil. As Above Tr.3.
0.75 – 1.39m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above Tr.1.
1.39m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Sample Section 21B: Sotuh End, West Facing 0.00m = 12.58m AOD		
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.37 – 0.77m	L1013	Subsoil. As Above Tr.3.
0.77 – 1.10m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above Tr.1.
1.10m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 22 Figs. 2 & 8

Sample Section 22A: North End, West Facing 0.00m = 15.60m AOD		
0.00 – 0.50m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.50 – 0.96m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above Tr.1.
0.96m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Sample Section 22B: South End, West Facing 0.00m = 14.63m AOD		
0.00 – 0.43m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.43 – 0.78m	L1032	Made Ground.
0.78 – 1.77m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above Tr1.
1.77 – 2.29m	L1033	Occupation layer. As Above Tr.3

Description: Trench 22 contained Gully F1051. It also contained made ground layer L1032

Gully F1051 was linear in plan (1.80m+ x 0.68 x 0.17m). It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1052 was a mid grey brown, sandy silt with sparse flint. It contained no finds.

Trench 23 Figs. 2 & 9

Sample Section 23A: East End, South Facing 0.00m = 15.38m AOD		
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.37m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Sample Section 23B: West End, South Facing 0.00m = 14.94m AOD		
0.00 – 0.28m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.28 – 0.40m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above Tr.1.
0.40m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Description: Trench 23 contained a posthole, F1071, likely modern

Posthole F1071 was subcircular in plan (0.24 x 0.15 x 0.12m). It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1072 was a dark blackish grey, sandy silt sand. It contained no finds. The posthole appeared modern.

Trench 24 Figs. 2 & 9; DP3 & 7

Sample Section 24A: South End, West Facing 0.00m = 17.39m AOD		
0.00 – 0.47m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.47 – 1.39m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above Tr.1.
1.39 – 1.53m	L1033	Occupation Layer.
1.53m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Sample Section 24B: North End, West Facing 0.00m = 17.62m AOD		
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.37 – 0.64m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above Tr.1.
0.64m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Description: Trench 24 contained a large ditch, F1053, possibly natural.

F1053 was linear in plan (11.10+ x 1.80 x 0.80+m). It had irregular sides and a flattish base. It contained two fills. The upper fill, L1054 was a mid grey brown sandy silt with occasional flint. It contained no finds. The basal fill, L1055, was a mid - dark grey brown sandy silt. It contained burnt flint (49g), fired clay (5g) and struck flint (1g).

Trench 25 Figs. 2 & 10; DP 1 – 2 & 11

Sample Section 25A: West End, North Facing 0.00m = 13.65m AOD		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.35 – 1.30m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above Tr.1.
1.30m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Sample Section 25B: East End, North Facing 0.00m = 14.92m AOD		
0.00 – 0.54m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.54 – 1.20m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above Tr.1.
1.20 – 1.65m	L1033	Occupation Layer
1.65m	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Description: Trench 25 contained 16 pits, F1016, F1018, F1020, F1022, F1024, F1026, F1028, F1030, F1034, F1036, F1038, F1040, F1042, F1044, F1046 and F1048. A black occupation layer L1033 was also recorded.

Cut	Fill	Plan & Profile	Length/ m	Width/ m	Depth/ m	Fill Description	Finds
1016	1017	Sub-circular, steep sides and a flat base	0.45	0.33	0.17	Mid grey brown, loose silty sand with frequent charcoal flecks	A. bone (1g); B. Stone (1) 104g, S. Flint (8) 46g
1018	1019	Sub-circular, moderate sides and a concave base	0.30	0.22	0.11	Mid grey brown, loose silty sand with occasional flint	EBA Pottery (2; 25g);
1020	1021	Sub-circular, steep sides and a concave base	0.41	0.30	0.27m	Mid grey brown with red mottling, friable silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks	EBA Pottery (34; 304g) ; F. clay (1; 14g); S. flint (2; 15g)
1022	1023	Sub-circular, moderate sides and a concave base	0.32	0.36	0.14	Mid grey brown, loose silty sand	EBA Pottery (3; 8g); B. Flint (3; 26g)
1024	1025	Sub-circular, moderate sides and a flat base	0.28	0.28	0.21	Dark grey brown, loose silty sand	EBA Pottery (9; 71g) ; F. clay (5; 22g); S. flint (3; 44g)
1026	1027	Sub-circular, steep sides and a flat base	0.36	0.29	0.22	Mid grey brown, loose silty sand with occasional small flint	EBA Pottery (2; 5g) ; CBM (2g); F. clay (3; 12g)
1028	1029	Sub-circular, steep sides and a flat base	0.39	0.32	0.26	Mid grey brown with dark mottling, loose silty sand	EBA Pottery (1; 15g)
1030	1031	Sub-circular, steep sides and a concave base	0.40	0.43	0.37	Mid grey brown, loose silty sand with frequent charcoal flecks	EBA Pottery (5; 28g); S. flint (2; 15g)
1034	1035	Circular, steep sides and a flattish base	0.58	0.54	0.34	Mid brown grey, firm silty sand with occasional flint and charcoal flecks	EBA Pottery (3; 40g); S Flint (1; 12g)
1036	1037	Circular, steep sides and a concave base	0.42	0.40	0.22	Light grey brown, compact silty sand with moderate flint	-
1038	1039	Circular, steep vertical sides and a flat base	0.50	0.47	0.45	Dark brown grey, firm silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and flint	EBA Pottery (2; 52g); CBM (3g)
1040	1041	Circular, steep sides and a concave base	0.44	0.42	0.16	Light grey brown, compact silty sand with moderate flint	EBA Pottery (7; 24g) S. flint (3; 20g)
1042	1043	Circular, steep vertical sides and a flat base	0.28	0.24	0.26	Mid brown grey, compact silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks	EBA Pottery (1; 5g)
1044	1045	Circular, steep vertical sides and a flat base	0.58	0.52	0.32	Light grey brown, compact silty sand with moderate flint	EBA Pottery (2; 14g);
1046	1047 Upper	Circular, steep vertical sides and a flat base	0.88	0.86	0.58	Mid brown grey, firm silty sand with occasional flint stones and charcoal flecks	EBA Pottery (22; 238g); S. flint (3; 40g)
	1050 Basal					Dark brown grey, compact silty sand with frequent charcoal	-
1048	1049	Sub-circular, vertical sides, flat base	0.44	0.30	0.30	Mid grey brown, loose silty sand	-

Occupation Layer, L1033, was a dark grey brown, friable sandy silty with occasional small flint stones. It extended over the eastern 30m of Trench 25 and sealed all the above pits. It was also present in Trench 22 and Trench 24. Finds comprised early Bronze Age pottery (1g), CBM (66g), burnt flint (6g), fired clay (16g) and struck flint (18g).

Trench 26 Figs. 2 & 10

Sample Section 26A: West End, South Facing 0.00m = 17.77m AOD		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.20 – 0.90m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above Tr.1.
0.90m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Sample Section 26B: East End, South Facing 0.00m = 14.99m AOD		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.35 – 0.78m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above Tr.1.
0.78m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 27 Figs. 2 & 10; DP12

Sample Section 27A: West End, South Facing 0.00m = 16.77m AOD		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.38m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Sample Section 27B: East End, South Facing 0.00m = 18.97m AOD		
0.00 – 0.33m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.33m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present

Trench 28 Figs. 2 & 10

Sample Section 28A: East End, North Facing 0.00m = 16.22m AOD		
0.00 – 0.37m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.37 – 0.68m	L1013	Subsoil. As Above Tr. 3
0.68 – 0.90m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above Tr.1.
0.90m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Sample Section 28B: West End, North Facing 0.00m = 18.33m AOD		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1000	Topsoil. As Above Tr.1.
0.35 – 0.62m	L1001	Colluvium. As Above Tr.1.
0.62m +	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr.3

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present

5 CONFIDENCE RATING

5.1 It is not felt that any factors restricted the identification of archaeological features or finds during the evaluation.

6 DISCUSSION

Summary of the archaeology

6.1 The recorded archaeological features are tabulated:

Trench	Feature	Description	Spot Date
2	F1108	Gully	Post-med CBM
	F1112 = F1110 (Tr.3)	Gully	Post-med CBM
3	F1110 = F1112 (Tr.2)	Gully	?Post med
5	F1114	Natural depression	-
6	F1103 = F1003 (Tr.8) = F1014 (Tr.7)	Enclosure Ditch	-
7	F1014 = F1103 (Tr.6) = F1003 (Tr.8)	Enclosure Ditch	Mid 1st Century AD
	F1101	Gully	-
8	F1003 = F1103 (Tr.6) = F1014 (Tr.7)	Enclosure Ditch	-
	F1005	Ditch	-
	F1007	Ditch	-
	F1009	Ditch	-
	F1011	Ditch	-
10	F1087 = F1083 (Tr.11)	Gully	-
11	F1083 = F1087 (Tr.10)	Gully	-
12	F1075	Gully	-
	F1077	Pit	-
13	F1079	Ditch	-
	F1081	Ditch	-
	F1089	Pit	-
	F1091	Pit	-
	F1093	Pit	-
	F1095	Pit	-
	F1097	Pit	-
	F1099	Pit	-
14	F1085	Tree Hollow	-
15	F1064	Pit	Prehistoric
	F1066	Pit, ?natural	-
	F1068	Pit, ?natural	-
18	F1056	Pit	Early Bronze Age
	F1058	Pit	-
	F1060	Stakehole	-
	F1062	Stakehole	-
19	F1073	Pit	-
22	F1051	Gully	Early Bronze Age
23	F1071	Posthole	-
24	F1053	Ditch, ?natural	-
25	F1016	Pit	-
	F1018	Pit	Early Bronze Age
	F1020	Pit	Early Bronze Age
	F1022	Pit	Early Bronze Age
	F1024	Pit	Early Bronze Age
	F1026	Pit	Early Bronze Age
	F1028	Pit	Early Bronze Age
	F1030	Pit	Early Bronze Age
	F1034	Pit	Early Bronze Age

	F1036	Pit	Early Bronze Age
	F1038	Pit	Early Bronze Age
	F1040	Pit	Early Bronze Age
	F1042	Pit	Early Bronze Age
	F1044	Pit	Early Bronze Age
	F1046	Pit	Early Bronze Age
	F1048	Pit	-

6.2 The evaluation revealed archaeological features distributed widely across the site with marked concentrations in the centre of the southern field (Trenches 22, 24 and 25), the western sector of the middle field (Trenches 12 - 13, 15 and 18) and the centre of the northern field (Trenches 6 - 8). The features were predominantly early Bronze Age pits (Tr.25), and the large enclosure ditches to the north contained Roman pottery (Trs. 6-8).

6.3 The principal features were early Bronze Age and were contained in Trenches 25 where a tight cluster 16 pits were recorded. The features were located in a small valley between two promontories close to, and leading on to, the river flood plain. The pits appeared to form a linear band aligned north/south which traversed Trench 25. They were sealed by a dark occupation layer (L1033) which also contained early Bronze Age pottery. L1033 was also present in Trenches 22 (to the north) and 24 (to the east) (Fig. 2). Trench 22 contained a gully (F1051) which was also sealed by the dark occupation layer and contained early Bronze Age pottery.

6.4 Trench 18 contained an early Bronze Age pit, F1056, which was located on the edge of the river flood plain. Similarly undated pits and linear gullies were located on the edge of the flood plain in Trenches 12, 13 and 15, and also occurred in clusters.

6.5 A large natural depression, F1114, was located at the edge of the flood plain (Trench 5) and contained a worked flint core (Lithics report below). It was adjacent to a dark layer (L1106) similar to the early Bronze Age layer, L1033, recorded in Trenches 22, 24 and 25.

6.6 The northern field represented a distinct change in the archaeology. Large enclosure ditches (F1003, F1014, F1103) were present in Trenches 6, 7 and 8 forming the north-western corner of a substantial Roman enclosure. Smaller undated gullies and ditches were present in Trenches 2, 3, 10 and 11 which may indicate a broader distribution of features. No pit clusters were present.

6.7 The central part of the field contained substantial modern disturbance derived from the demolition of the former sewerage works. This was especially evident in Trenches 19, 20 and 23.

Interpretation of the site: archaeology and history

6.8 The desk-based assessment suggested that site had a high potential for archaeological remains of all periods given its location to the river and church. Specific finds from the area indicated activity in the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman-British periods. Limited evidence for Anglo-Saxon settlement exists, however the name of the town and two finds south of the church would suggest some settlement activity. Medieval remains were also likely, although the existing town centre layout remains coincident with the medieval town.

6.9 The evaluation revealed significant early Bronze Age features. The pit cluster in Trench 25 produced a substantial quantity of decorated beaker pottery (Pottery report below). The most noteworthy vessel was contained in Pit F1020 (L1021) comprising a fine-sand and-grog-tempered Beaker vessel with zones of comb-impressed, filled elongate diamonds on a body sherd and a handle. The pit cluster seemed indicative of settlement activity rather than funerary e.g. no cremated bone or human bone was present.

6.10 The features seem to be located at the edge of the river flood plain and the base of a central promontory which is in turn flanked by two small valleys that drain into the flood plain (Fig. 2). Many of the early Bronze Age features were sealed by a dark organic layer (Trs. 22, 24 & 25 L1033) which may suggest that the environment became wetter and marshier close to the river.

6.11 No evidence of Iron Age occupation or activity was present.

6.12 The evaluation also recorded Roman features with a substantial enclosure located in the centre of the northern field. La Graufesenque samian ware pottery was recovered from Tr.7 Ditch F1014 (mid 1st AD). A samian oil lamp was recovered just 50m to the west of the site in 1967, and the results of the current evaluation suggest more substantial Roman-British settlement activity in the area.

6.13 No evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity was present which is perhaps surprising given the proximity of the church immediately to the south of the site.

Interpretation of the site: geology and topography

6.14 The site is located on three sandy promontories in the east which give way to the flood Plain of the River Fromus in the west. Two small east/west valleys divide the promontories and the majority of early Bronze Age features were found either in the valleys of at the western edge of the central promontory. The Romano-British enclosure was located on the southern slope of the northern promontory and other ditches seem to drain from the higher ground in the west into the river flood plain. Trenches 1, 2 and 5 showed evidence of standing water with leeched out sandy natural being present and very limited Fe podsolisation occurred in the underlying natural.

Preservation of the archaeology

6.15 The archaeology was well preserved in all trenches despite modern truncation from the sewerage works in Trenches 19 and 20. A very deep colluvium (L1001) overlay much of the site and this generally preserved the archaeology. The finds are also well-preserved, and a diverse range of finds are present (Finds Concordance below). That said, bone is not preserved in the early features. Such bone as was found, appeared modern, and was from undated features.

Research potential

6.16 The discovery of a large number of early Bronze Age features is of significance and their location within the landscape and the general preservation of paelo-environmental layers offers a significant potential for research in this area.

6.17 The key regional issues for the Neolithic and Bronze Age (as set out by Brown & Murphy in Brown & Glazebrook 2000, 9-13) centre on the theme of the development of farming and the attendant development and integration of monuments, fields and settlements. Medlycott & Brown (2008) suggest that future research on the Neolithic should include synthetic and regional studies for the region; an examination of the Mesolithic/Neolithic transition through radiocarbon dates; the establishment of a chronology for Neolithic ring-ditches; improved understanding of the chronological development of pottery; the excavation and study of cropmark complexes; greater understanding of burial practices; a study of the inter-relationships of settlements; and greater use of scientific methods of dating and modelling of the environmental conditions during this period. Inter-relationships between settlements and greater understanding of patterns of burial practice are also important areas of research for the Bronze Age (Medlycott & Brown 2008).

6.18 Likewise, the presence of a Roman enclosure offers a significant opportunity to further investigate the Romano-British landscape of this part of Suffolk. Research topics for the Roman period are set out by Going & Plouviez (in Brown & Glazebrook 2000, 19-22). These topics include analysis of early and late Roman military developments, further analysis of large and small towns, evidence of food consumption and production, further research into agricultural production, landscape research (in particular further evidence for potential woodland succession/regression and issues of relict landscapes, as well as further research into the road network and bridging points), further research into rural settlements and coastal issues. To these themes Medlycott & Brown (2008) add rural settlements and landscapes, the process of Romanisation in the region, the evidence for the Imperial Fen Estate, and the Roman/Saxon transition.

7 DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE

7.1 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.

7.2 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 Hopkins Homes for their co-operation and funding of the project and for their assistance, especially Graham Watts.

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

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SXM022: Land North of Church Hill, Saxmundham, Suffolk
Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
1001			Subsoil	19th C	(8) 107g	105		B. Flint (1) 8g Clay Pipe (1) 2g S. Flint (2) 173g
1014	1015	7	Ditch Fill	Mid 1 – Early 3rd C AD	(33) 86g			
1016	1017	25	Pit Fill				1	B. Stone (1) 104g S. Flint (8) 46g
1018	1019	25	Pit Fill	EBA	(2) 25g			
1020	1021	25	Pit Fill	EBA	(34) 304g			F. Clay (1) 14g S. Flint (2) 15g
1022	1023	25	Pit Fill	EBA	(3) 8g			B. Flint (3) 26g
1024	1025	25	Pit Fill	EBA	(9) 71g			F. Clay (5) 22g S. Flint (3) 44g
1026	1027	25	Pit Fill	EBA	(2) 5g	2		F. Clay (3) 12g
1028	1029	25	Pit Fill	EBA	(1) 15g			
1030	1031	25	Pit Fill	EBA	(5) 28g			S. Flint (3) 9g
1033			Layer	EBA	(1) 1g	66		B. Flint (2) 6g F. Clay (1) 16g S. Flint (1) 18g
1034	1035	25	Pit Fill	EBA	(3) 40g			S. Flint (1) 12g
1038	1039	25	Pit Fill	EBA	(2) 52g	3		
1040	1041	25	Pit Fill	EBA	(7) 24g			S. Flint (3) 20g
1042	1043	25	Pit Fill	EBA	(1) 5g			
1044	1045	25	Pit Fill	EBA	(2) 14g			
1046	1047	25	Pit Fill	EBA	(22) 238g			S. Flint (3) 40g
1051	1052	22	Gully Fill	EBA	(2) 3g			

1054	1055	24	Lower Fill of Large Pit/Linear					B. Flint (7) 49g F. Clay (1) 5g S. Flint (1) 1g
1056	1057	18	Pit Fill	EBA	(45) 316g			
1064	1065	15	Pit Fill	EBA	(1) 1g			B. Flint (2) 15g
1073	1074	19	Pit Fill					S. Flint (1) 4g
1075	1076	12	Pit Fill					B. Flint (1) 5g S. Flint (6) 18g
1083	1084	11	Gully Fill				104	
1085	1086	14	Fill of Tree Hollow					B. Flint (1) 35g
1106		5	Layer					B. Flint (2) 41g F. Clay (2) 8g S. Flint (1) 10g
1108	1109	2	Gully Fill			363	9	
1112	1113	2	Gully Fill			38	3	Fe Fragment (1) 7g F. Clay (3) 9g
1116		5	Fill of Natural Depression					S. Flint (1) 35g

SXM022: Land North of Church Hill, Saxmundham, Suffolk
Concordance of
Samples

Sample	Size (l)	Feature	Context	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Flot (ml)	Pot (g)	Other
1	20	1016	1017	25	Pit Fill	EBA	200	(1) 2g	B. Flint (33) 63g Charcoal 9g S. Flint (3) 12g
2	10	1018	1019	25	Pit Fill	EBA	40	(4) 6g	B. Flint (4) 49g
3	10	1020	1021	25	Pit Fill	EBA	100	(1) 2g	
4	10	1022	1023	25	Pit Fill		20		B. Flint (9) 13g S. Flint (1) 10g
5	10	1024	1025	25	Pit Fill		3		B. Flint (6) 5g
6	20	1026	1027	25	Pit Fill		5		B. Flint (4) 18g
7	20	1028	1029	25	Pit Fill		3		B. Flint (3) 18g S. Flint (1) 0.5g
8	20	1030	1031	25	Pit Fill		2		B. Flint (8) 24g S. Flint (4) 4g
9	20	1034	1035	25	Pit Fill		10		B. Flint (2) 6g S. Flint (1) 15g
10	20	1038	1039	25	Pit Fill	EBA	30	(1) 5g	B. Flint (20) 24g
11	20	1036	1037	25	Pit Fill	EBA	0.01	(1) 3g	
12	20	1040	1041	25	Pit Fill	EBA	10	(2) 3g	B. Flint (1) 7g S. Flint (5) 17g

13	20	1042	1043	25	Pit Fill	EBA	25	(1) 4g	S. Flint (4) 10g
14	20	1044	1045	25	Pit Fill	EBA	75	(1) 3g	B. Flint (6) 7g S. Flint (15) 17g
15	20	1046	1047	25	Pit Fill		0.1		S.Flint (2) 6g
16	20		1050			EBA	5	(2) 8g	S. Flint (3) 18g
17	20	1056	1057	18	Pit Fill	EBA	2	(85) 175g	
18	10	1064	1065	18	Pit Fill		15		B. Flint (6) 10g S. Flint (2) 8g
19	20	1033		25	Occupation Layer	EBA	10	(1) 6g	B. Flint (2) 14g S. Flint (1) 1g
20	10	1071	1072	23	Fill of Posthole		300		
21	10	1075	1076	12	Pit Fill		15		Charcoal 8g
22	10	1077	1078	12	Pit Fill		2		B. Flint (1) 3g
23	10	1085	1086	14	Fill of Tree hollow		50		B. Flint (4) 16g
24	20	1014	1015	7	Ditch Fill	Roman	10	(1) 1g	
25	40	1112	1113	2	Gully Fill		10		
26	2 Monolith Tins		1001, 1033, 1053, 1054	24	Monolith				
27	2 Monolith Tins		1001, 1115, 1116, 1117	5	Monolith				

The Pottery
Andrew Peachey

The trial trench evaluation recovered a total of 185 fragments of pottery (1331g), predominantly of early Bronze Age Beaker type (Table 1), with a significant concentration contained in Pit F1020.

Pottery date	Sherd Count	Weight (g)
Early Bronze Age	148	1179
Roman	36	128
Post-Medieval	1	24
Total	*185*	*1331*

Table 1: Quantification of pottery by period

Methodology

The pottery was examined at x20 magnification to define fabric categories and quantified by sherd count and weight (g) with all diagnostic features and observations also recorded in accordance with the guidelines of the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1995) and Study Group for Roman Pottery. All data was entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will be deposited as part of the site archive.

The Early Bronze Age Pottery

Of the 148 sherds (1179g) of early Bronze Age Beaker pottery, a total of 36 sherds (297g) representing at least six Beaker vessels were contained in Pit F1020 (L1021), while Pits F1046 (L1047) and F1056 (L1057) contained concentrations of sherds representing single vessels in each pit.

The composition and temper of fabrics used in the manufacture of the early Bronze Age vessels in this assemblage varies considerably from vessel to vessel, but includes sand, sand and grog, sand and calcined flint, and sand, grog and calcined flint with no combination dominant. The fabrics always have oxidised orange or orange-brown surfaces with reduced dark grey or oxidised red-brown core, and tend to be soft with a slightly powdery feel. These fabric variations are common across the Norfolk-Suffolk region, including in the very large settlement assemblage from Hockwold (Healy 1996; Bamford 1982).

The most notable vessel contained in Pit F1020 (L1021) comprises a fine-sand and-grog-tempered Beaker vessel with zones of comb-impressed, filled elongate diamonds on a body sherd and a handle. A small upright rim may also be associated with this vessel, which comprises the only vessel with comb-impressed decoration in the assemblage. The remaining vessels are represented by body sherds only and include a Beaker vessel with horizontal rows of stick or bird bone impressions and four vessels with rows of finger-pinched rustication.

Finger-pinched rustication is the most common form of decoration on the early Bronze Age Beaker pottery. The concentrations of 22 sherds (238g) and 45 sherds (316g) in Pits F1046 (L1047) and F1056 (L1057) respectively represent basal and lower body sherds of vessels with this form of decoration, while further body sherds with finger-pinched rustication were contained in Pits F1024 (L1025), F1030 (L1031) and F1040 (L1041). Other forms of decoration present in the assemblage include body sherds with horizontal rows of impressed cord decoration in Pit F1038 (L1039) and further

sherds with horizontal rows of stick or bird bone impressions in Pits F1022 (L1023) and F1034 (L1035). The predominance of finger-pinched rusticated decoration and comb-impressed decoration with rare other forms of impressed decoration is mirrored at Hockwold (Healy 1996, 104) and in many smaller assemblages from across the region.

The Roman Pottery

The bulk of the Roman pottery is accounted for by exceptionally highly abraded sherds of La Graufesenque samian ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 28) in Ditch F1014 (L1015). These 33 sherds (85g) are all derived from the footring and base of a single bowl, probably samian Form 29 dating to the mid to late 1st century AD. The remaining Roman pottery comprises a rim sherd with an abraded ovolo of Rheinzabern samian ware (Tomber and Dore 1998,39) and body sherds of sandy grey ware recovered from Subsoil L1001.

The Post-Medieval Pottery

The post-medieval pottery is limited to a single sherd (24g) of 19th century transfer-printed cream ware recovered from Subsoil L1001.

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The Lithics

Andrew Peachey

The trial trench evaluation recovered a total of 22 fragments (381g) of struck flint and 33 fragments (248g) of burnt flint. The bulk of the struck flint appears to be debitage of later Neolithic to Bronze Age date, although at least one core and implement are indicative of earlier Neolithic activity. The preservation of the struck flint ranges from unpatinated to moderately patinated, and sharp to blunted.

Methodology & Terminology

The flint was quantified by fragment count and weight (g), with all data entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will be deposited as part of the archive. Flake type (see 'Dorsal cortex,' below) or implement type (after Healy 1988, 48-9), patination and colour were also recorded as part of this data set.

The term 'cortex' refers to the natural weathered exterior surface of a piece of flint, and the term 'patination' to the colouration of a flaked surface exposed by human or natural agency. Dorsal cortex is categorised after Andrefsky (2005, 104 & 115) with 'primary flake' referring to those with cortex covering 100% of the dorsal face; 'secondary flake' with 50-99%; 'tertiary' with 1-49% and 'non-corticated' to those with no dorsal cortex. A 'blade' is defined as an elongated flake whose length is at least twice as great as it's breadth, often exhibiting parallel dorsal flake scars (a feature that can assist in the identification of broken blades that, by definition, have an indeterminate length/breadth ratio).

Commentary

A single core was contained in Natural Depression L1116, while a core fragment was also recovered from Subsoil L1001. The core in Natural Depression L1116 comprised a single platform blade core with flakes removed part the way round (Type A2) that with a weight of 35g appears exhausted, and is characteristic of earlier Neolithic flint technology. In contrast the core fragment from Subsoil L1001 weighs 145g and is the bi-product of unsystematic flint reduction suggesting a later Neolithic to Bronze Age date. It may comprise a core rejuvenation flake, flake blank or simply be debitage.

The range of implements in the assemblage is limited to a single end scraper and sparse blades. The end scraper was recovered from Subsoil L1001 and was manufactured by the application of abrupt retouch to the distal end of a blade-like, uncorticated flake, suggesting an earlier Neolithic origin. Blades of varying size (length ranges from 25-50mm) were contained in Pits F1054 (L1055), F1073 (L1074) and F1075 (L1076), and although blade-technology is more characteristic of earlier Neolithic flint industry, blades continued to be used throughout the later Neolithic and Bronze Age

The remaining struck flint comprises tertiary and uncorticated flakes of debitage that range from slightly irregular to broad and squat in profile, which suggests they are the bi-product of later Neolithic to Bronze Age flint working. The debitage flakes are sparsely distributed in features never present in any concentration, as are the small fragments of burnt flint in the assemblage.

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The Ceramic Building Materials and Fired Clay
Andrew Peachey

The trial trench evaluation recovered a total of 11 fragments (515g) of post-medieval CBM and 14 fragments (142g) of prehistoric fired clay.

The prehistoric fired clay occurred in pale oxidised orange to pale brown tones with inconsistently distrtibuted inclusions of sparse to common medium-coarse sand (<1mm) and occasional flint (2-5mm). The fired clay was contained in early Bronze Age Pits F1020 (L1021), F1024 (L1025), F1026 (L1020) and F1038 (L1039); all within Trench 25. Occupation Layer L1033 and undated Pit F1054 (L1055) also contained fired clay. However the fired clay is limited to small fragments: average fragment weight 10.14g, and only occurs in very small quantities

The post-medieval CBM comprises a highly abraded fragment of 17th to 18th century red brick (dimensions ?x100x50mm) contained in Gully F1108 (L1109), and low quantities of small fragments of post-medieval peg tile contained in Gully F1112 (L1113) and Subsoil L1001.

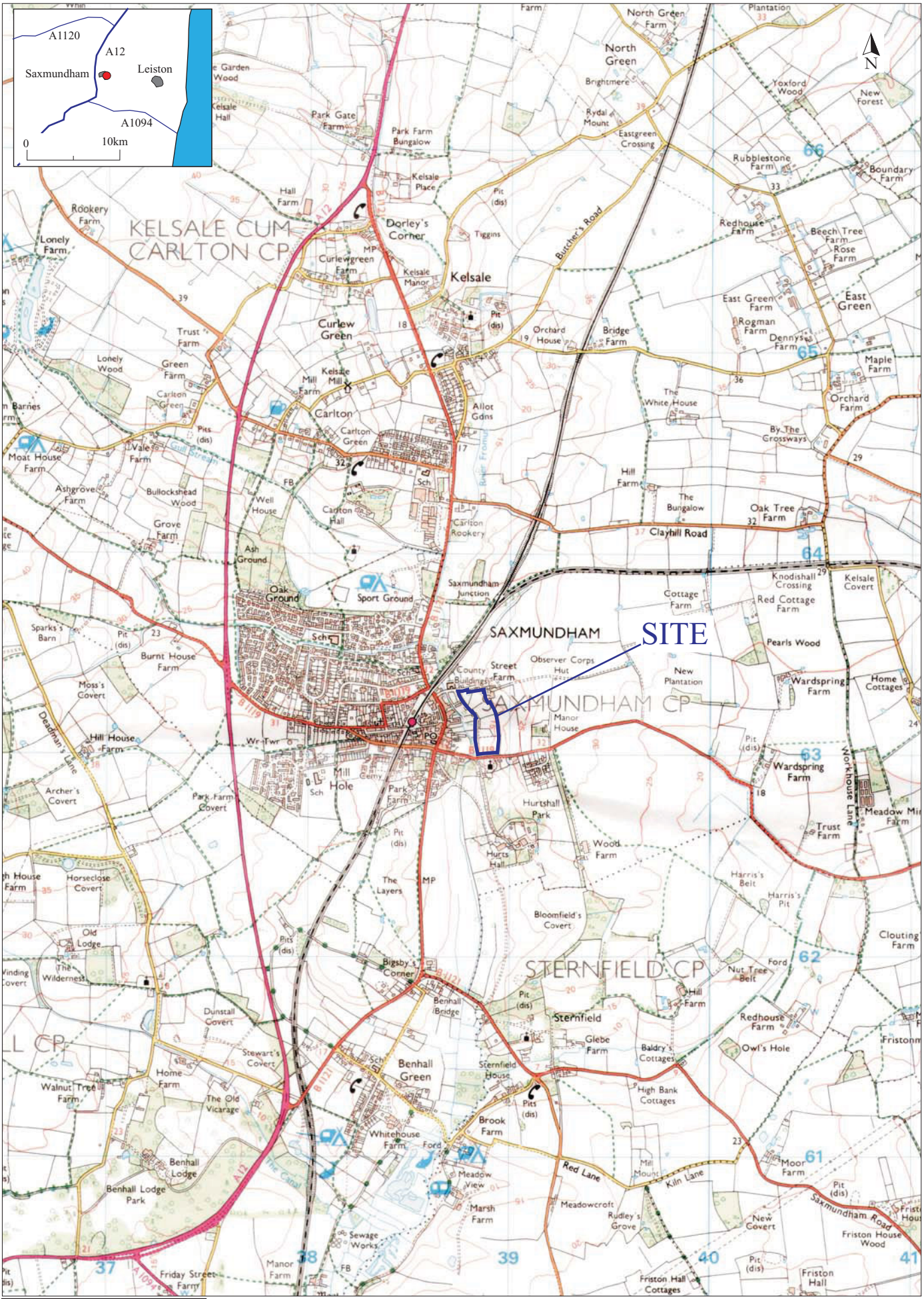

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Fig. 1 Site location plan

Scale 1:25,000 at A4

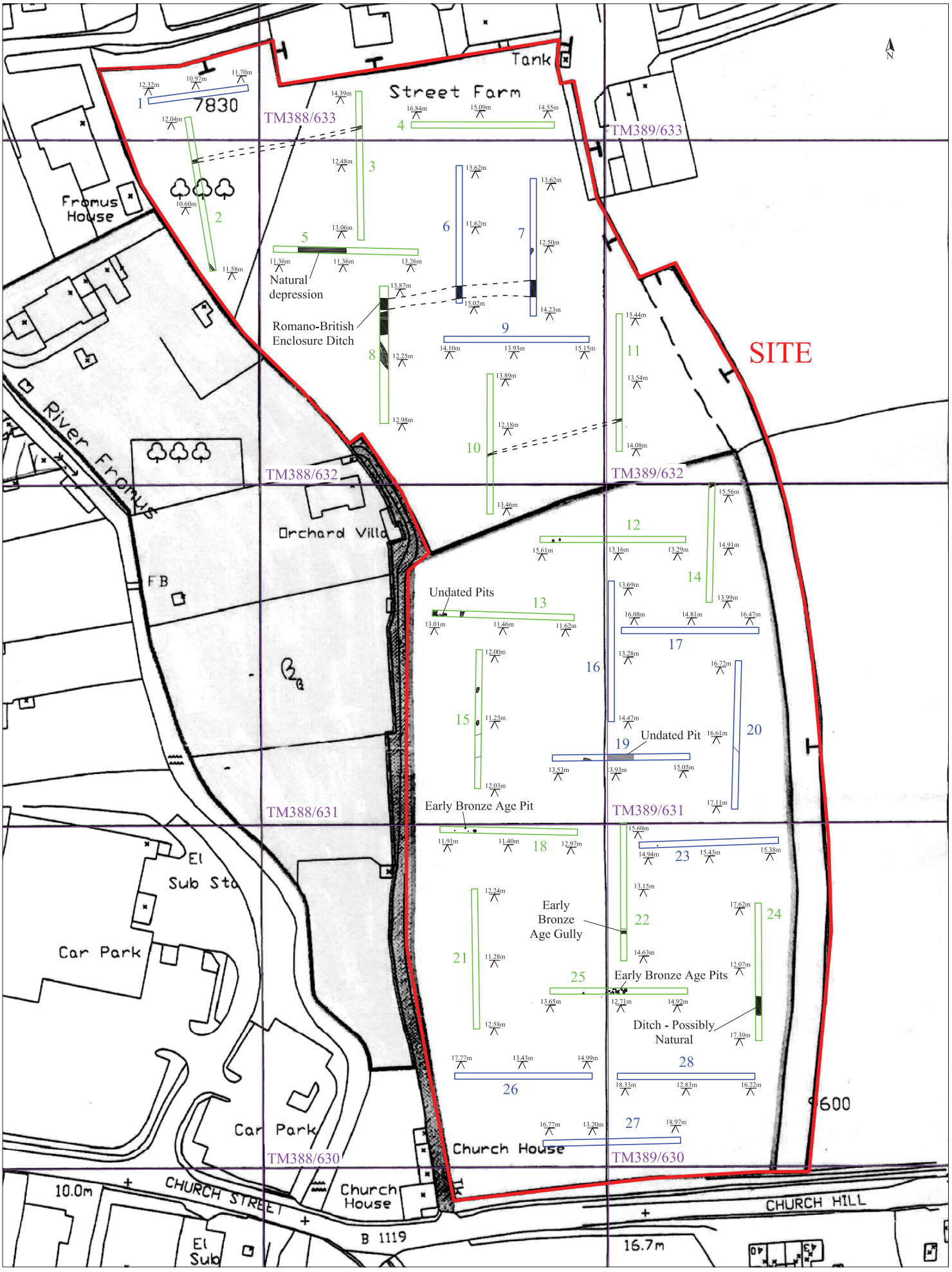

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Fig. 2 Trench location plan

Scale 1:1000 at A3

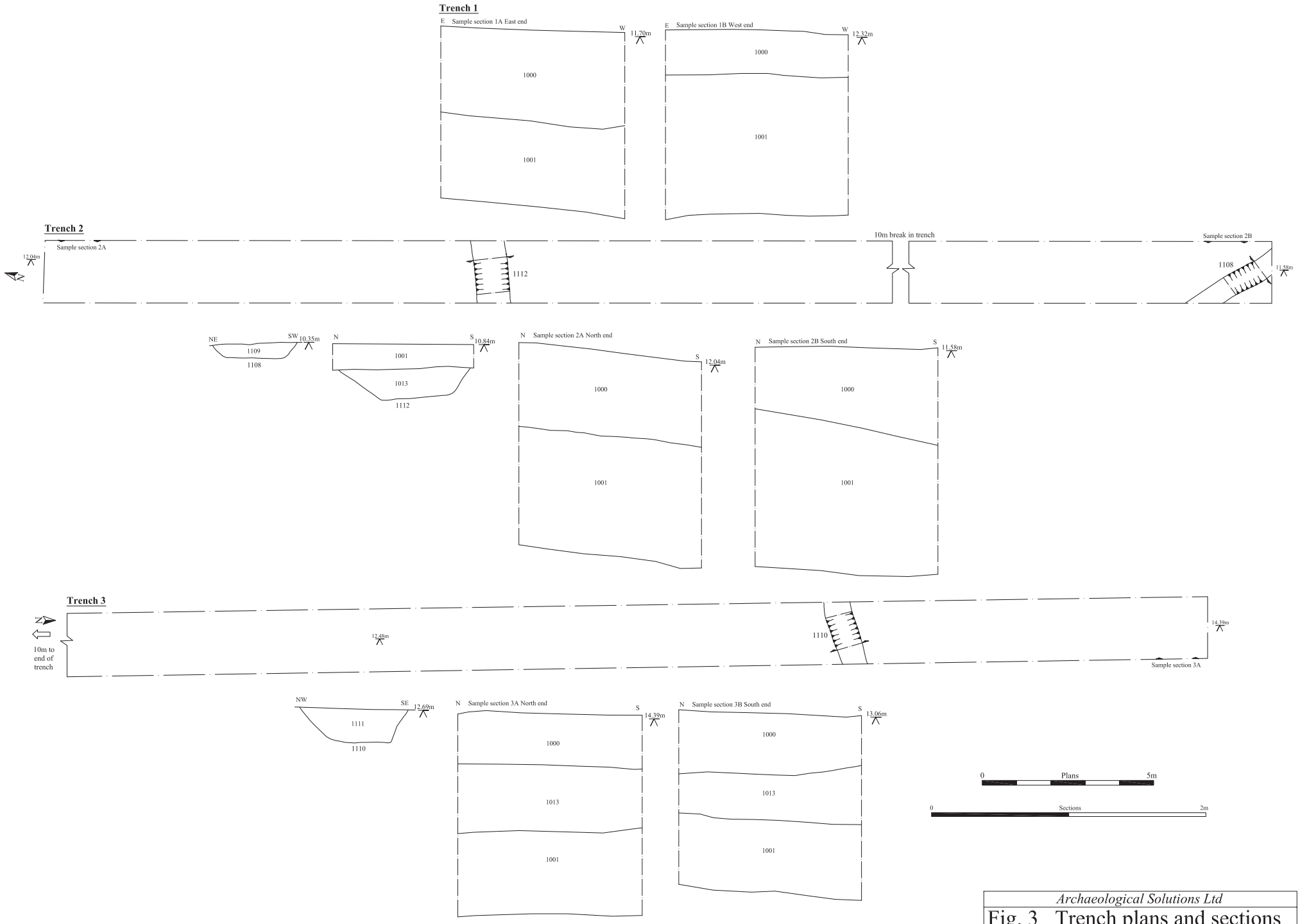

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Fig. 3 Trench plans and sections

Scale plans at 1:100 and sections at 1:25 at A3

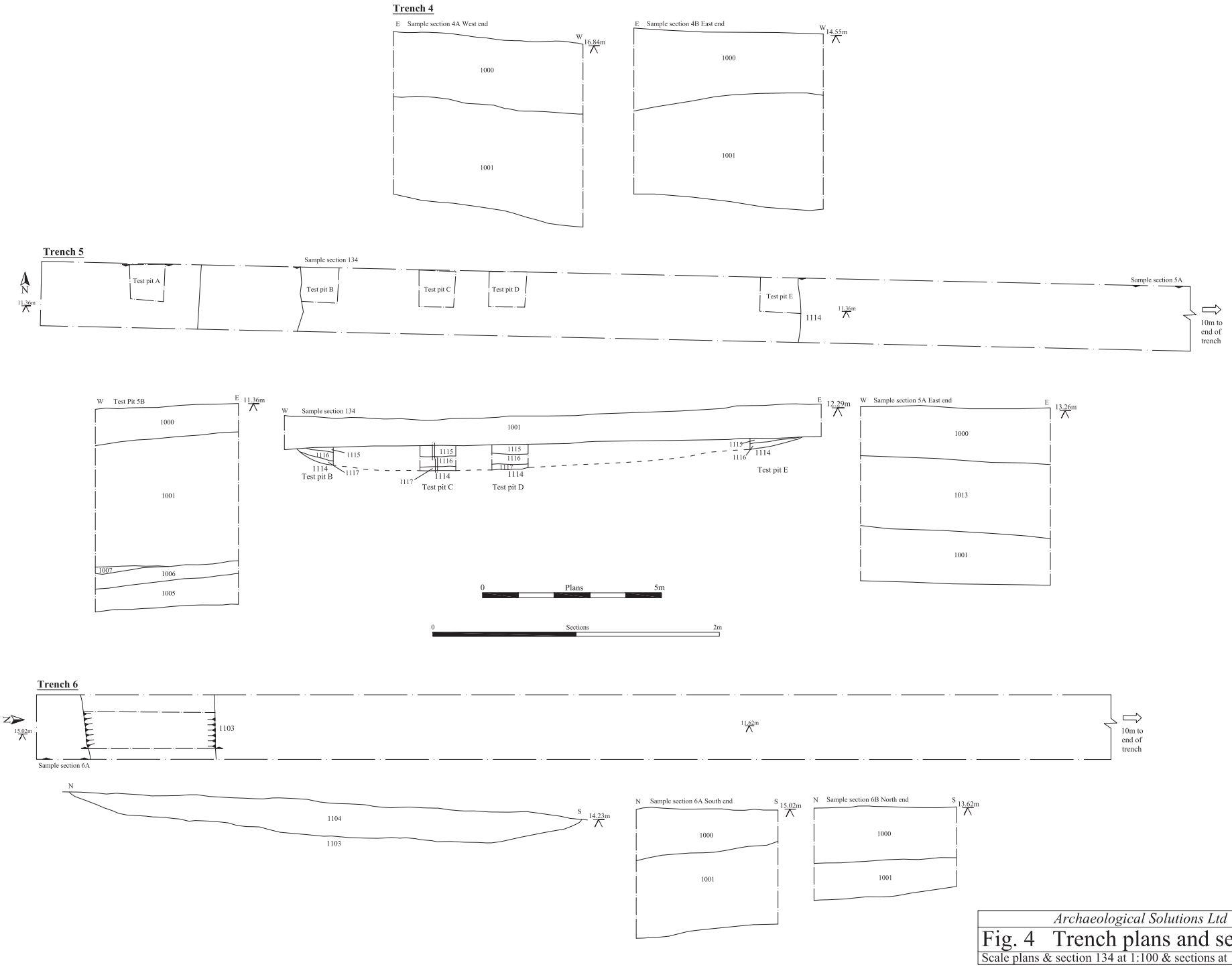

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Fig. 4 Trench plans and sections

Scale plans & section 134 at 1:100 & sections at 1:25 at A3

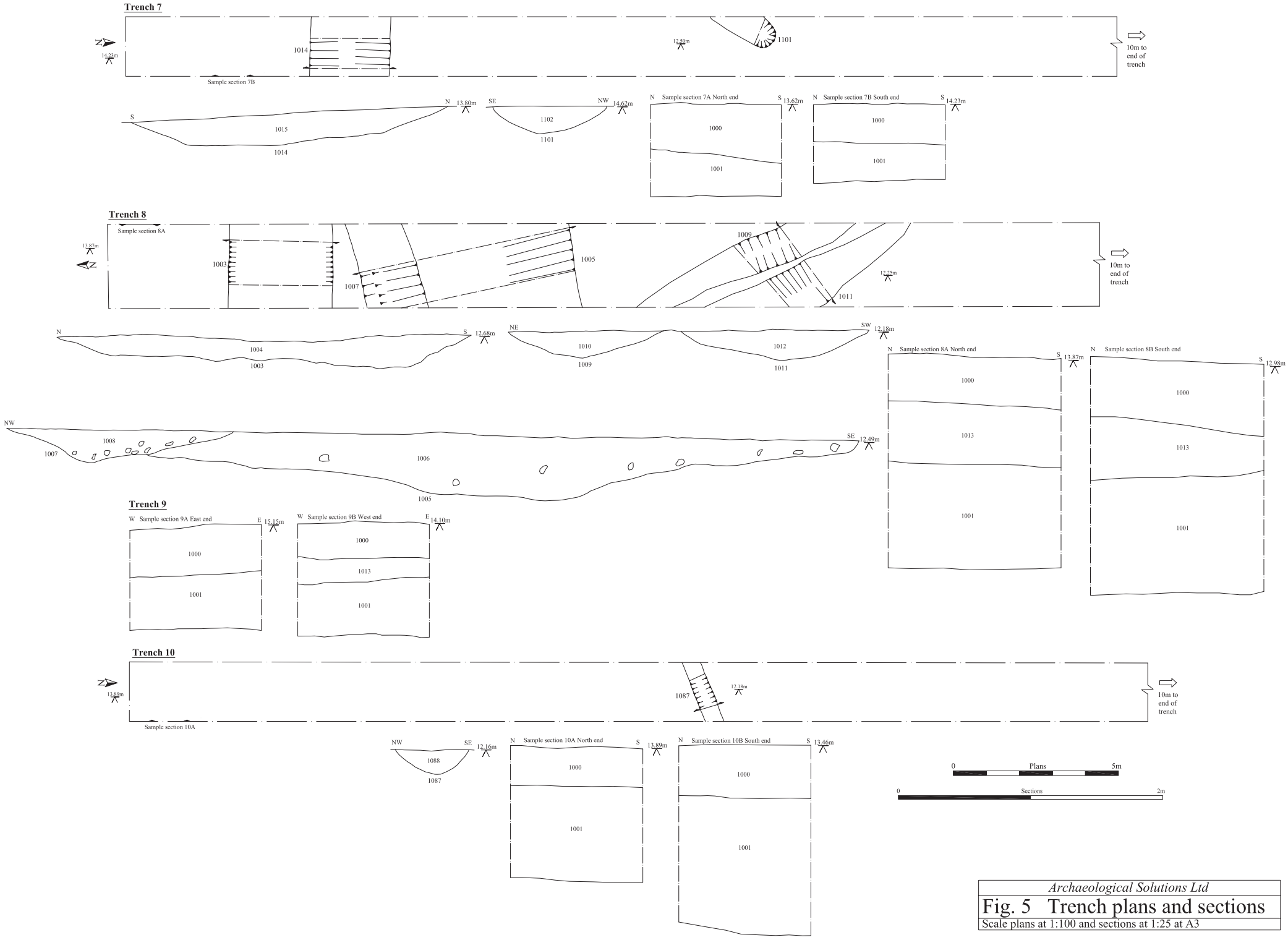

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Fig. 5 Trench plans and sections

Scale plans at 1:100 and sections at 1:25 at A3

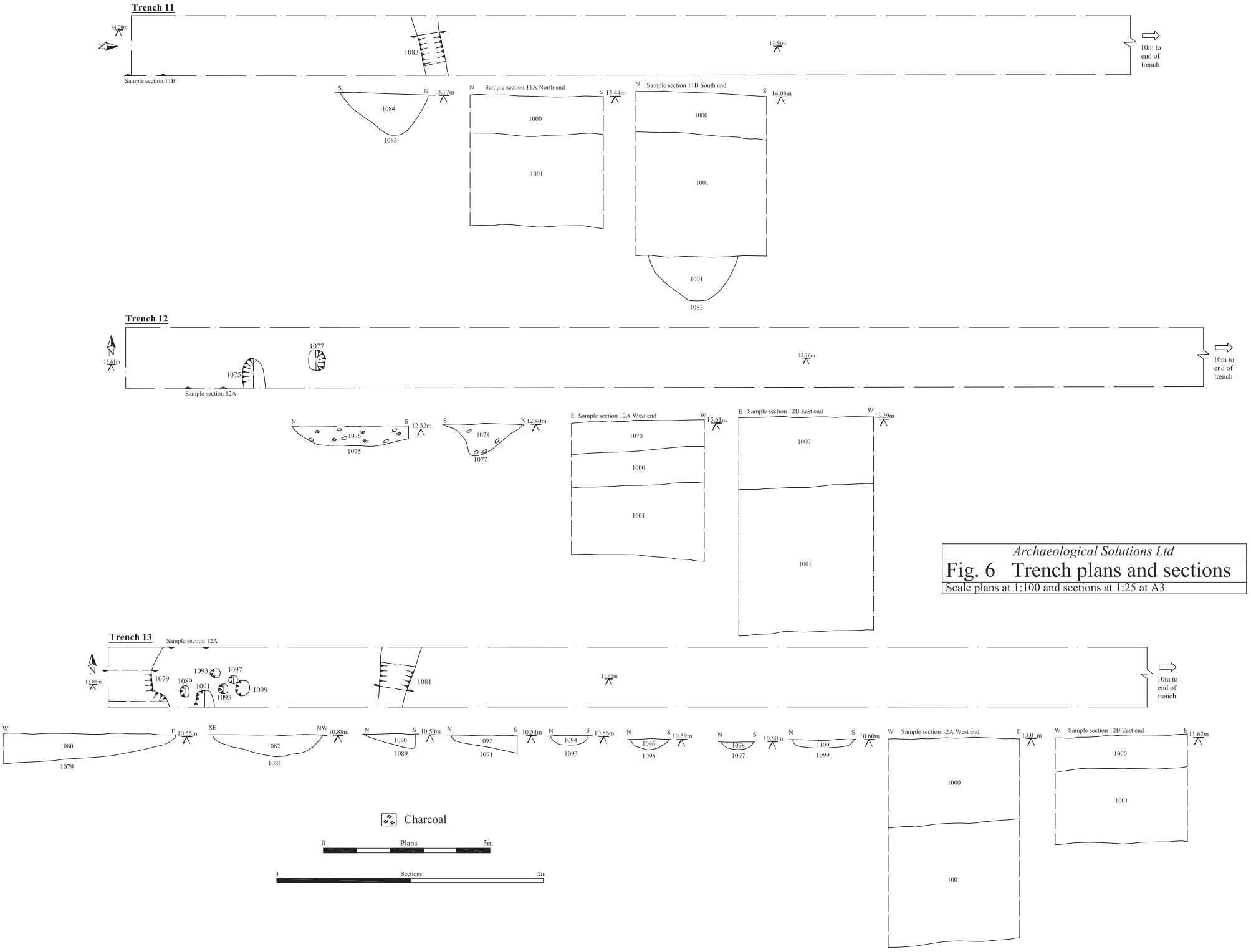

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Fig. 6 Trench plans and sections

Scale plans at 1:100 and sections at 1:25 at A3

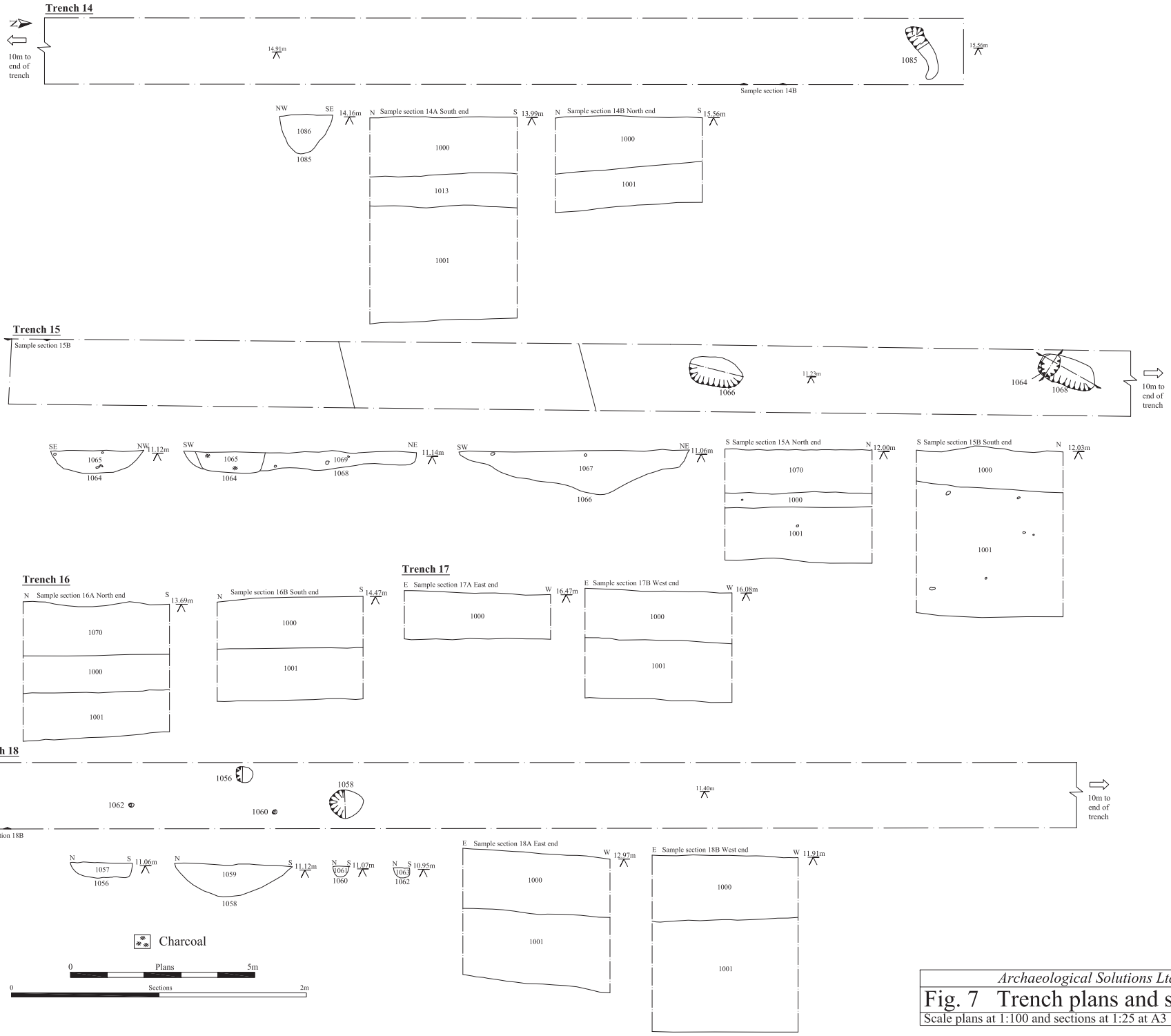

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Fig. 7 Trench plans and sections

Scale plans at 1:100 and sections at 1:25 at A3

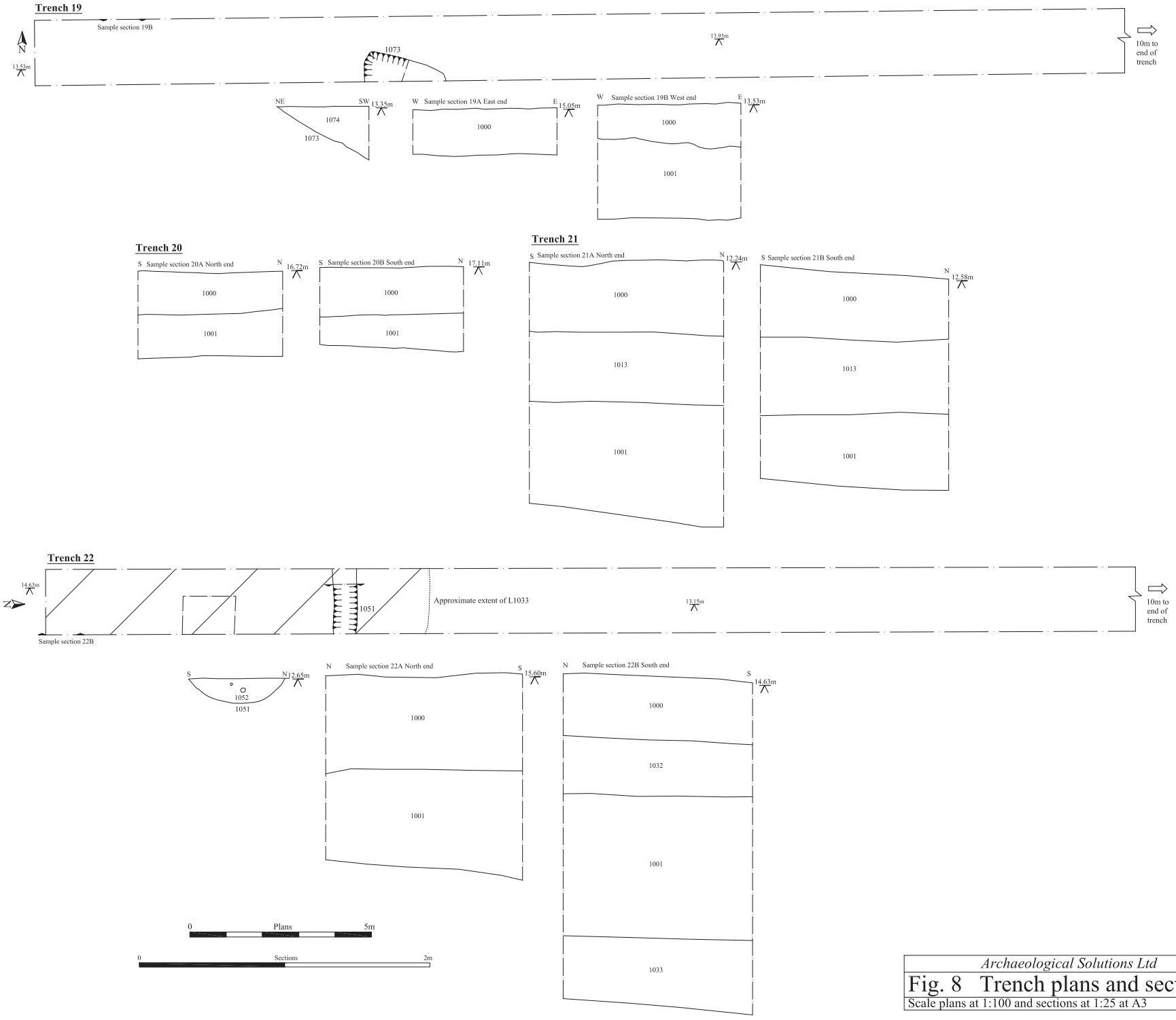

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Fig. 8 Trench plans and sections

Scale plans at 1:100 and sections at 1:25 at A3

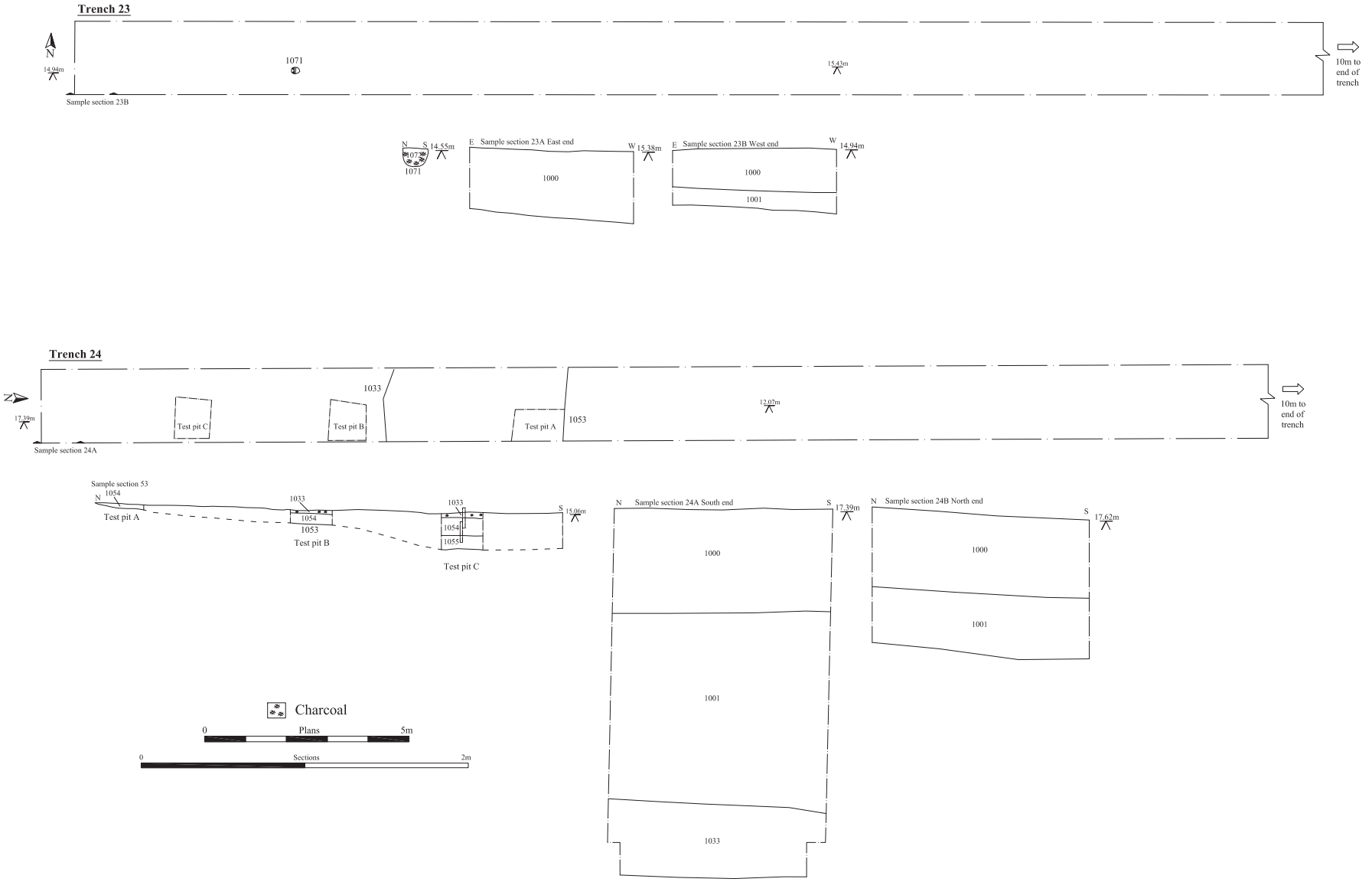

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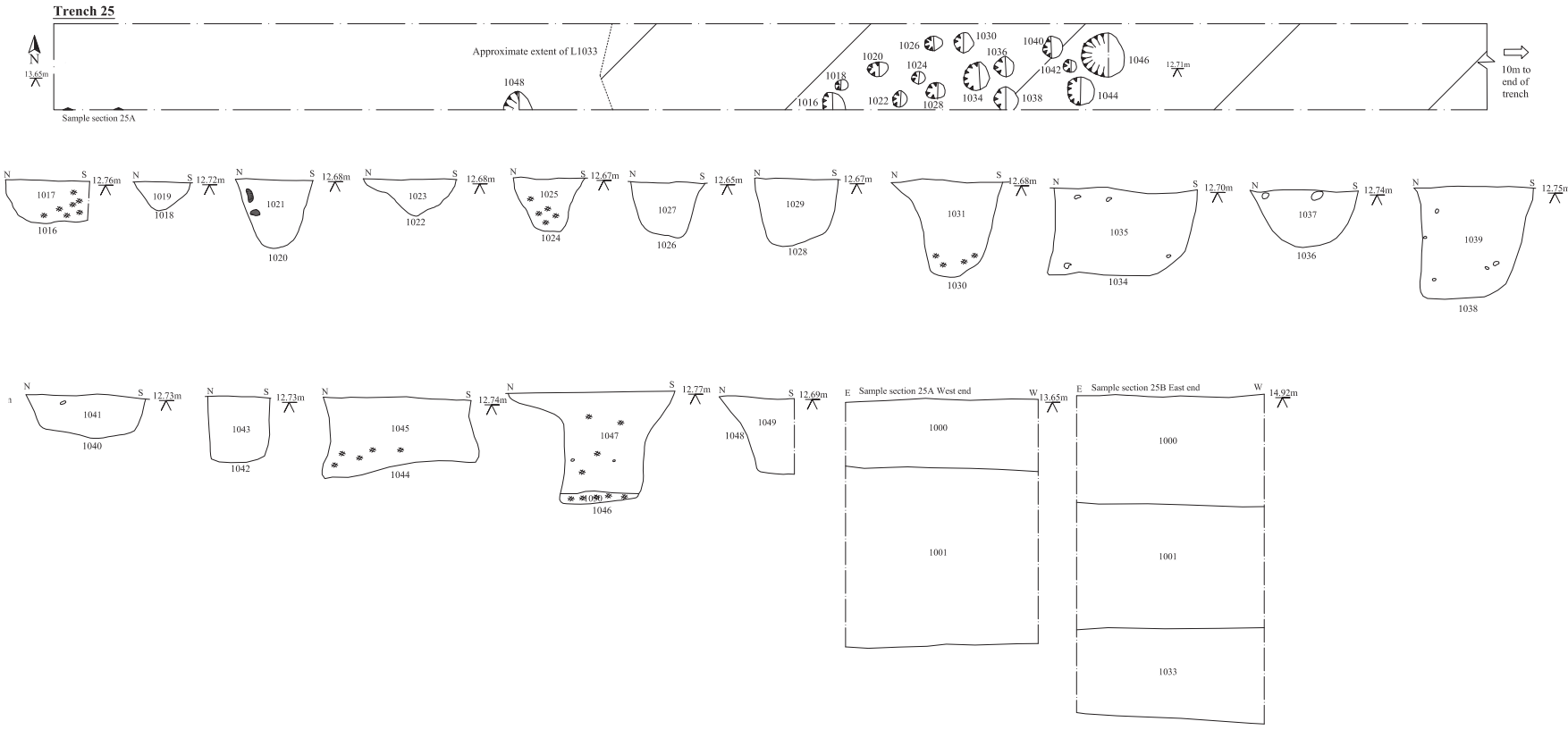
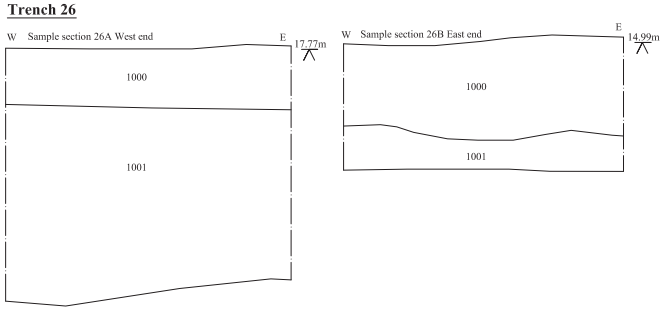
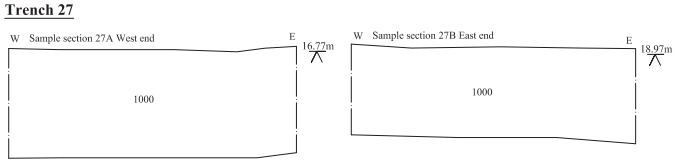
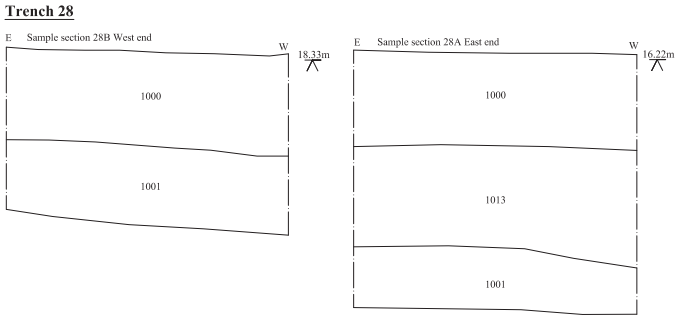
Fig. 9 Trench plans and sections
Scale plans & section 53 at 1:100 and sections at 1:25 at A3









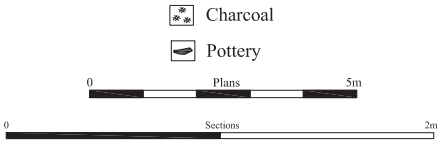


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Fig. 10 Trench plans and sections

Scale plans at 1:100 and sections at 1:25 at A3

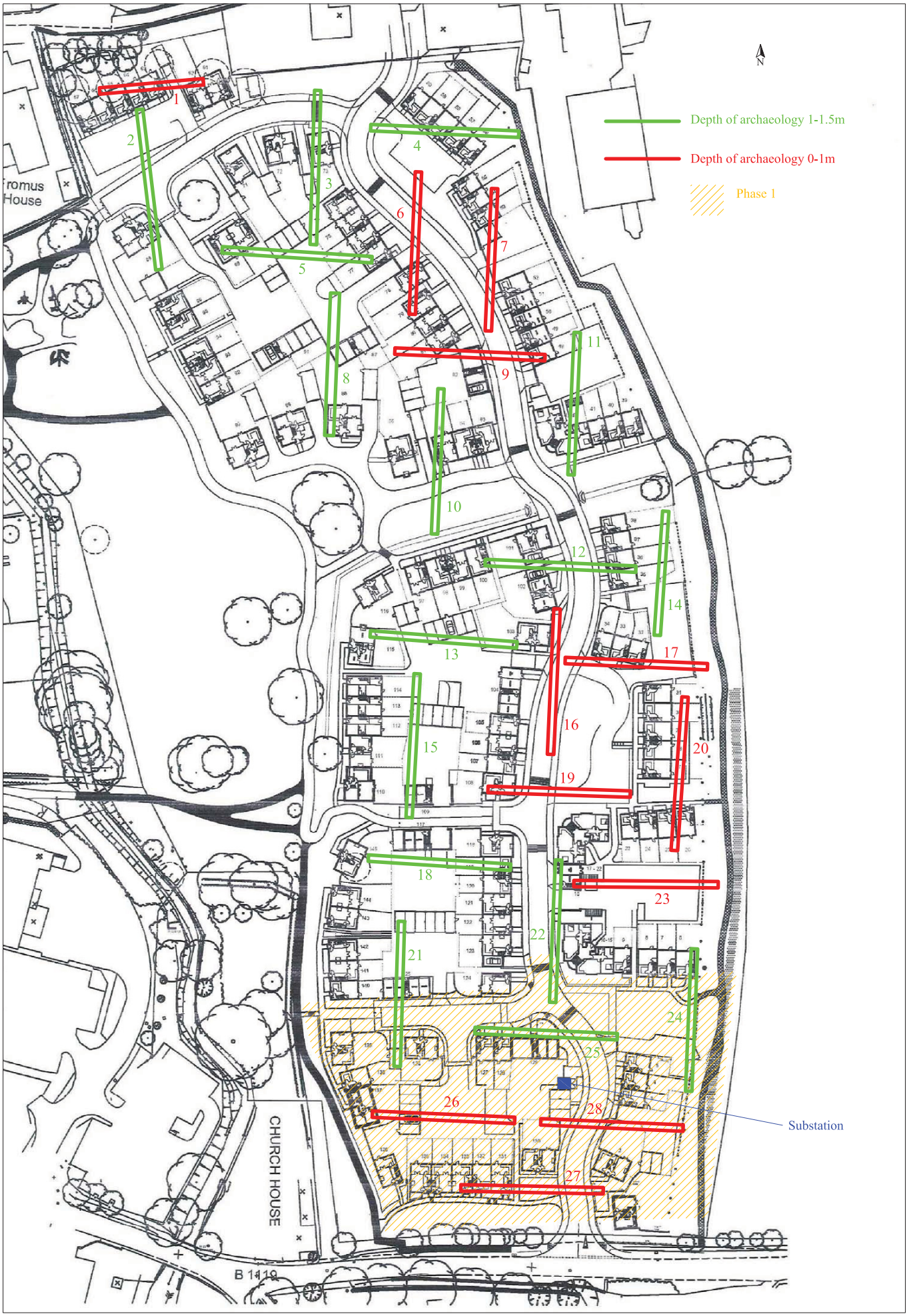

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Fig. 11 Proposed development plan

Scale 1:1000 at A3