

**68 HIGH STREET, HAIL WESTON,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING**

CHER No. ECB 3427

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NGR: TL 1640 6209	Report No. 3651
District: Huntingdonshire	Site Code: AS 1341
Approved: Claire Halpin MIFA	Project No. 4005
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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>		68 High Street, Hail Weston, Cambridgeshire	
<p><i>In August and September 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological monitoring and recording at land to the rear of 68 High Street, Hail Weston, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 1640 6209). The monitoring was commissioned by Mr Tony Huckle and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the installation of underground pipework as part of a ground source heating system.</i></p> <p><i>The site lies within the historic medieval and post-medieval core of the village of Hail Weston, to the south of the High Street and west of the 13<sup>th</sup> century Church of St Nicholas. It had a potential for medieval and post-medieval remains related to the settlement of the village. It also had a potential for Romano-British remains.</i></p> <p><i>In the event the monitoring revealed eight features, including seven possible pits and one ditch. No finds were recovered from the features, which are probably relatively recent and relate to agriculture.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)		9 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup> August & 20 <sup>th</sup> September 2010	
Previous work (Y/N/?)		N	Future work (Y/N/?) N
P. number		4005	Site code AS 1341
Type of project		Archaeological Monitoring and Recording	
Site status		-	
Current land use		Field/rear garden	
Planned development		Ground source heating system	
Main features (+dates)		Seven undated pits and one undated ditch	
Significant finds (+dates)		None	
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish		Cambridgeshire	Huntingdonshire Hail Weston
HER/ SMR for area		Cambridgeshire HER	
Post code (if known)		PE19 5JW	
Area of site		c. 2100m <sup>2</sup>	
NGR		TL 1640 6209	
Height AOD (min/max)		c. 30m	
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by		CAPCA	
Project supervisor/s (PO)		Zbigniew Pozorski	
Funded by		Mr Tony Huckle	
Full title		68 High Street, Hail Weston, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Monitoring and Recording	
Authors		Pozorski, Z.	
Report no.		3651	
Date (of report)		October 2010	

## **68 HIGH STREET, HAIL WESTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING**

#### **SUMMARY**

*In August and September 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological monitoring and recording at land to the rear of 68 High Street, Hail Weston, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 1640 6209). The monitoring was commissioned by Mr Tony Huckle, and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the installation of underground pipework as part of a ground source heating system.*

*The site lies within the historic medieval and post-medieval core of the village of Hail Weston, to the south of the High Street and west of the 13<sup>th</sup> century Church of St Nicholas. It had a potential for medieval and post-medieval remains related to the settlement of the village. It also had a potential for Romano-British remains.*

*In the event the monitoring revealed eight features, including seven possible pits and one ditch. No finds were recovered from the features, which are probably relatively recent and relate to agriculture.*

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In August and September 2010 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological monitoring and recording at land to the rear of 68 High Street, Hail Weston, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 1640 6209; Figs. 1 & 2). The monitoring was commissioned by Mr Tony Huckle, and was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the installation of underground pipework as part of a ground source heating system (Huntingdonshire District Planning Ref. 1000711/FUL).

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning & Countryside Advice office (CAPCA; dated 20/07/2010) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 23/07/2010) and approved by CAPCA. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for An Archaeological Watching Brief* (revised 2008), as well as the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the project of archaeological monitoring and recording were:

- to ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains;
- to secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme; and
- to secure the analysis, interpretation, publication (if required), long-term conservation and storage of the project archive.

### *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 Hail Weston is situated 3km north-west of St Neots and 1.25km due west of the A1 road. The B645 road linking Eaton Ford and Great Staughton, runs through the village. The site is located to the south of Hail Weston's High Street, c. 80m to the west of St Nicholas' church. Hail Weston House lies to the south. The site comprises a sub-rectangular field with buildings to the north, fields and a yard or car parking area to the west, an access road and car park to the south, and an open field to the east.

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

3.1 The site lies at c.30m AOD on a slight spur, with South Brook 300m to the south and another stream, the Kym, 350m to the north. Both tributary

streams run into the River Great Ouse 1.75km to the east. The site is situated on relatively flat land at c. 30m AOD. It lies on river terrace gravels and the solid geology of the area comprises Jurassic mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of Kellaways formation and Oxford clay formation (British Geological Survey 1978). 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 (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

4.1 Prehistoric finds are sparse from the immediate locality of the site but include a Neolithic polished stone axe and flint implements found c. 700m to the east (CHER 00521).

4.2 Roman finds have been recovered from the area and include a small bronze figurine of Mercury discovered some 350m to the south-east of the site (CHER 00496). Scatters of Roman pottery were also found in the village and the surrounding area (CHER 00454, 00471, 00481, 00482, 00505, and 77984). An inhumation comprising a complete skeleton believed to be Roman was found 700m north of the site (CHER 00501).

4.3 The village derives its name from the River Hail or Hayle, known today as Kim (Kym). In the 12<sup>th</sup> century the village was called *Heilweston* which evolved later to *Hailweston* and *Haleweston*. During the reign of Edward the Confessor the manor of Hail Weston was owned by two men: Saxi and Uluin Chit. After the Conquest the manor was spilt into four parts and taken over by several noble men. The church of St Nicholas was originally a chapelry annexed to Southhoe, and services are recorded having taken place in 1209. The remains of the earliest church comprise: a lancet window, double piscine and some stonework in the south doorway, and also the shape of the nave and chancel. The church was partially rebuilt in 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries and entirely restored in 1884 (CHER MCB 14879).

4.4 A medieval pit and post-medieval ditch have been recorded during archaeological investigations at Bird Lane 180m to the west (CHER 14596), and potentially extend into the current site. Medieval earthworks believed to include house platforms have been found in the field close to the dog-leg in High Street and west of the church, the closest is approximately 120m from the site (CHER 00500). Medieval ridge and furrow has been found south of the church and further potentially medieval earthworks comprising ridge and furrow, ditches, field boundaries and quarry pits are also located in the agricultural land around Hail Weston.

4.5 The village has retained its rural character since the medieval period. In the post-medieval period Hail Weston was known for its water springs and attracted people searching for more diverse remedies for ailments, resulting in a water bottling industry operating until 1966.

## 5 METHODOLOGY

5.1. The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all groundworks, the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features and the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the excavated area was scanned by metal detector.

5.2 The principal elements monitored were mechanically-excavated trenches for a new underground pipework system. Trenches for this were excavated throughout the site (Fig. 3).

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 The monitoring revealed eight features located within the excavated trenches for a new pipework system.

F1003 was probably a pit (2.30 x 1.20+ x 0.50m+) located within Trench 7 (DP 6). It had rectangular or oval shape and moderately sloping sides. Its fill, L1004, was a yellowish dark brown, friable, clayey silt with gravel. It contained no finds.

F1005 was located to the immediate east of F1003, within Trench 7 (DP 7). It was likely a pit (2.50 x 1.20+ x 0.50m+) and it had a rectangular or oval shape and moderately sloping sides. Its fill, L1006, was a dark greyish brown, friable, clayey silt. No finds were recovered from the fill.

F1007 was located in the eastern end of Trench 5 (DP 8). It was probably a pit (2.50 x 1.20+ x 0.45m) and it had moderately sloping sides. Its shape was not established. The pit contained two fills. The upper fill, L1008, was a mixed deposit of loose, yellow sand, brown sandy silt and white chalk (0.32m thick). The lower fill, L1009, was a dark brownish grey, friable, sandy silt (0.13 – 0.45m thick). No finds were recovered from the deposits.

F1010 (3.10 x 0.40+ x 0.40m+) was located in the central part of Trench 5 (DP 9). It was probably rectangular in shape and had moderately sloping sides. It contained two fills. The upper deposit, L1011, was a greenish grey, compact, clayey silt (0.20m thick). The lower fill, L1012, was a dark blackish grey, friable, clayey silt and it was 0.40m thick. F1010 may have been a pit.

F1013 was located to the west of F1010 (DP 10). It was a pit or a ditch with near vertical sides and it measured 1.70 x 1.20+ x 0.70m. It contained two fills. The upper fill, L1014, was a light yellow, compact, silty clay (0.22m thick). The lower fill, L1015, was a dark blackish grey, friable, clayey silt (0.50m thick). No finds were recovered from either of the fills.



F1016 was located to the immediate west of F1013 and was probably a ditch (DP 11). It had vertical sides and it measured 1.20+ 0.70 x 0.45m. Its single fill, L1017, was a light brown, compact, clayey silt and it was 0.45m+ thick. No finds were recovered.

F1018 was a large (10+ x 7+ x 0.60m) feature, probably a pit, present within trenches in the area of their junction (Fig. 3; DP 12). F1018 had an oval shape and near vertical sides. It contained single fill, L1019, a mid brownish grey, loose, gravely silt. No finds were recovered from the fill.

F1020 (DP 13) was located within Trench 3 and it was a large (4.20 x 1.20+ x 0.50m+) feature, probably a pit. It had moderately sloping sides and it contained a single fill L1021. It was a mid brown, friable, sandy silt and contained no finds.

## **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 dark, blackish grey, soft, sandy silt (0.10 – 0.25m thick). It overlay Subsoil L1001, a light greyish brown, friable, sandy silt with gravel (0.30 – 0.50m thick). A layer of made ground, L1022, was present in several locations within the site. It comprised a mid brown, loose, gravely sand and it was 0.25 – 0.35m thick.

8.2 The natural gravel, L1002, was present at 0.40 – 0.60m below existing ground level and comprised a light to mid yellow, loose, gravel.

## **9 DISCUSSION**

9.1 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for the medieval archaeology. Such remains have been found in the vicinity of the site, in particular, at Bird Lane to the west. The potential remains related to the medieval and post-medieval settlement of the village.

9.2 In the event eight archaeological features were revealed. The majority of them were probably pits which may have relate to farm or garden activity, likely in the modern era; however, the medieval or post-medieval derivation of the features should not be discounted. ?Ditch F1016 may have been of an earlier date due to it being different to the other features. The large Pit F1018 was probably created during the works preceding current development. No finds were recovered from the features.



## 10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

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

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mr Tony Huckle for funding the project and for his assistance.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning & Countryside Advice.

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## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. Land rear to 68 High Street, Hail Weston. View W.



DP 2. Trench 1. View WNW.



DP 3. Trench 3. View N.



DP 4. Trench 5. View NNW.



DP 5. Trench 7. View WNW.



DP 6. Trench 7, F1003. View SSW.





DP 7. Trench 7, F1005. View SE.



DP 8. Trench 5, F1007. View SSW.



DP 9. Trench 5, F1010. View SSW.



DP 10. Trench 5, F1013. View SSW.



DP 11. Trench 5, F1016. View SSW.

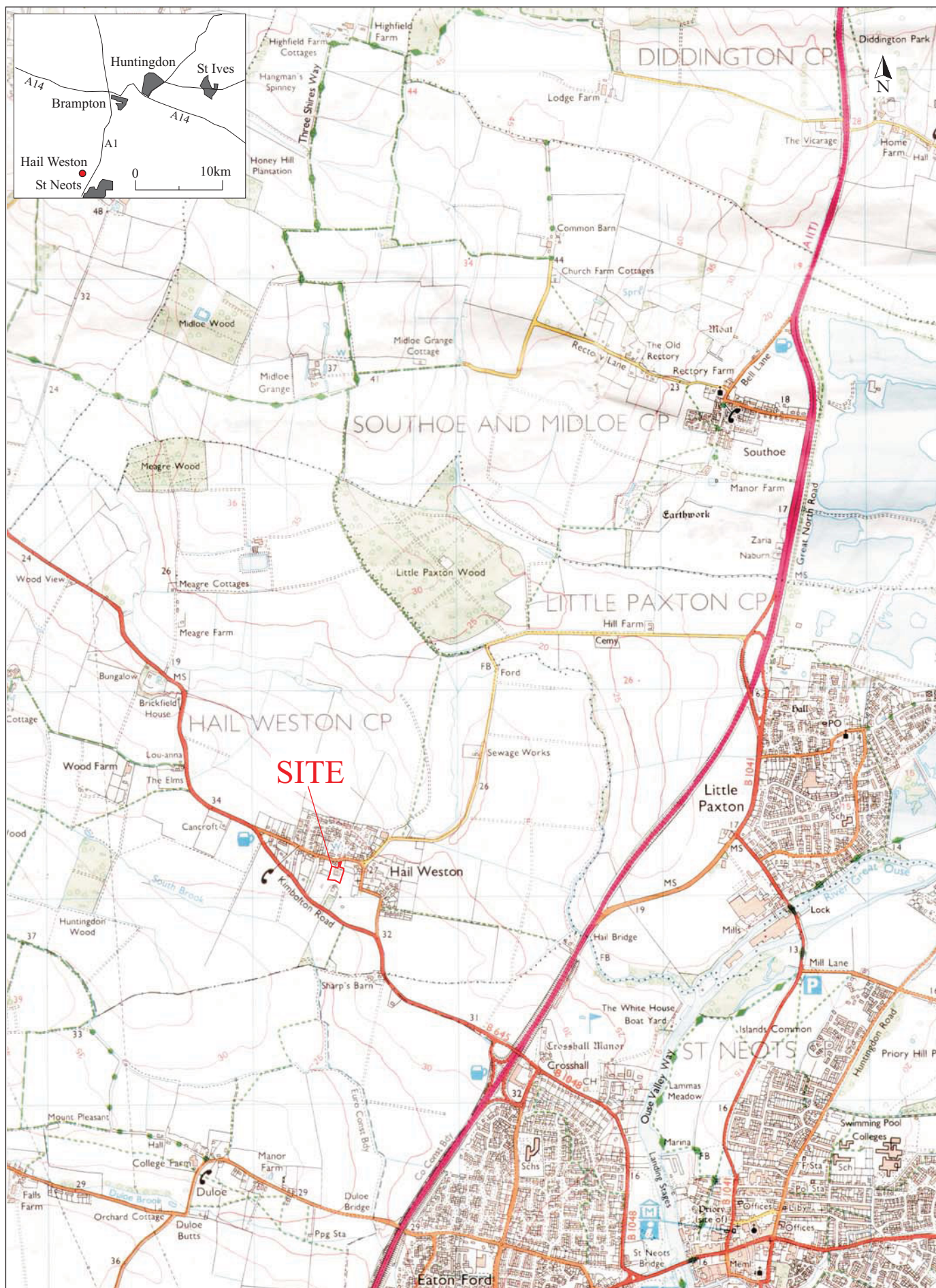


DP 12. Trench 3, F1018. View NW.



DP 13. Trench 3, F1020. View SW.

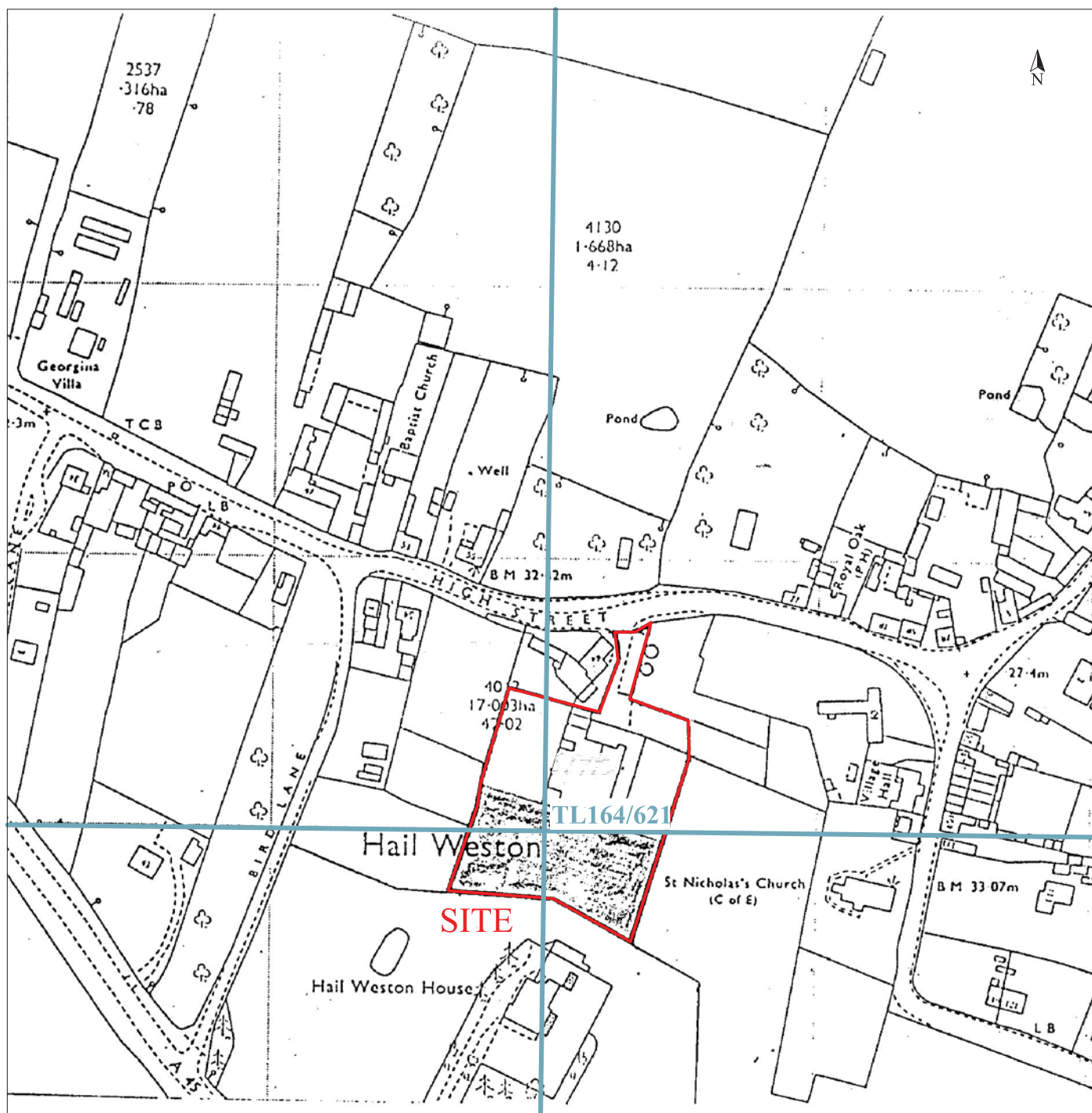




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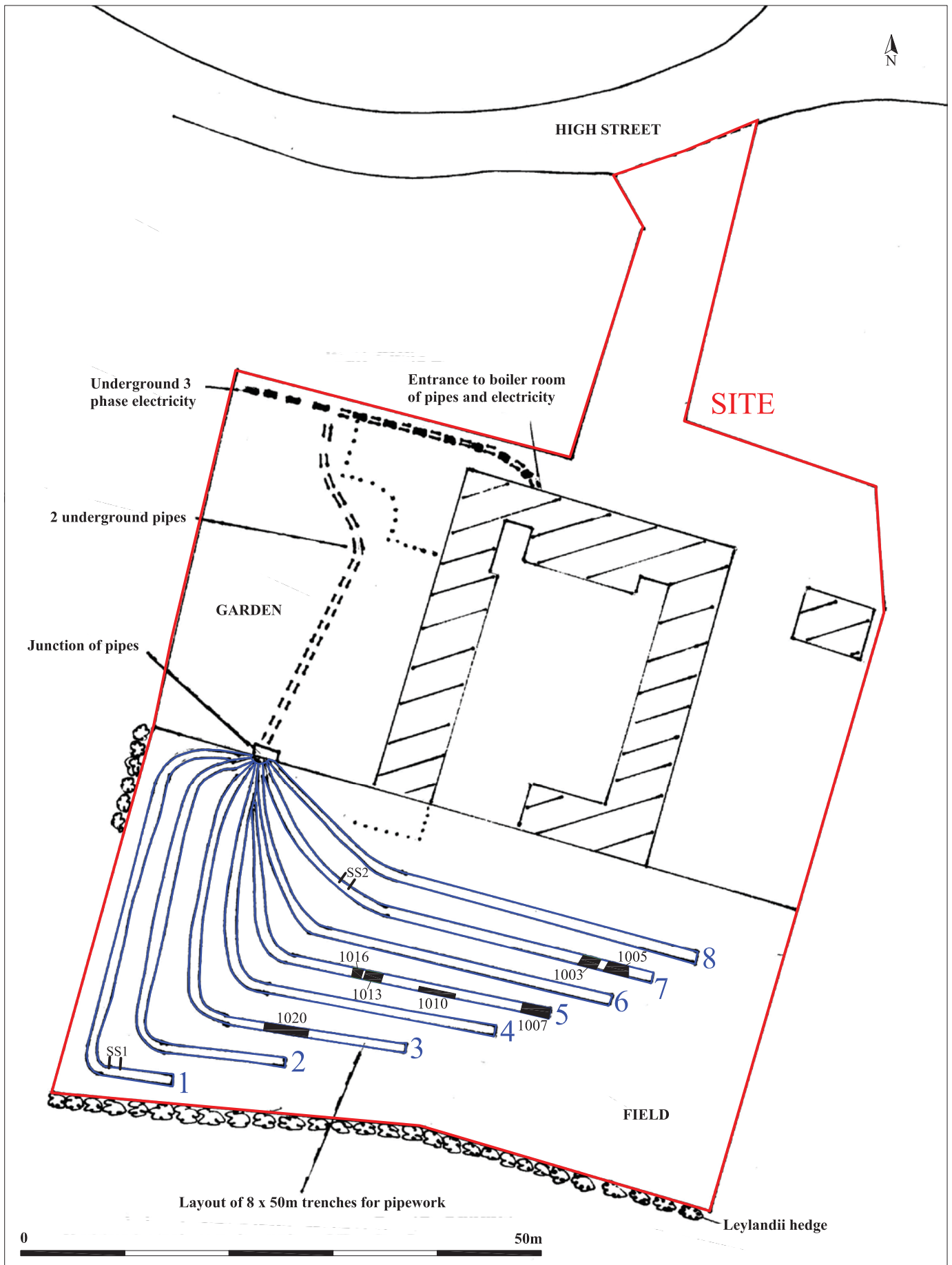
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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4





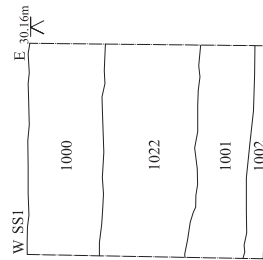
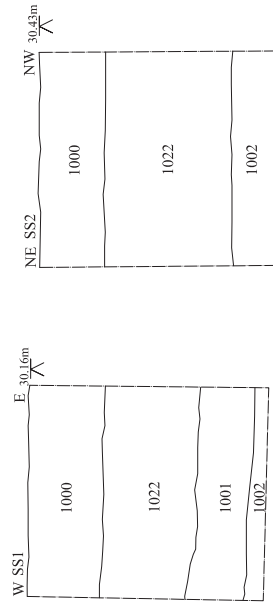
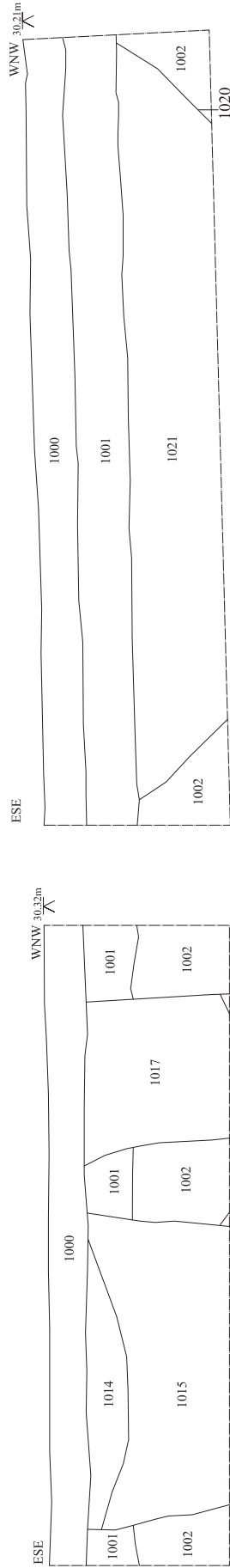
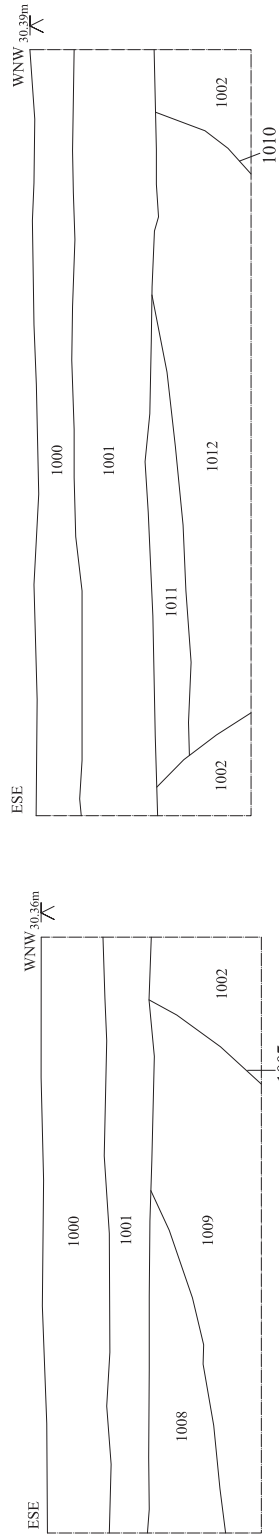
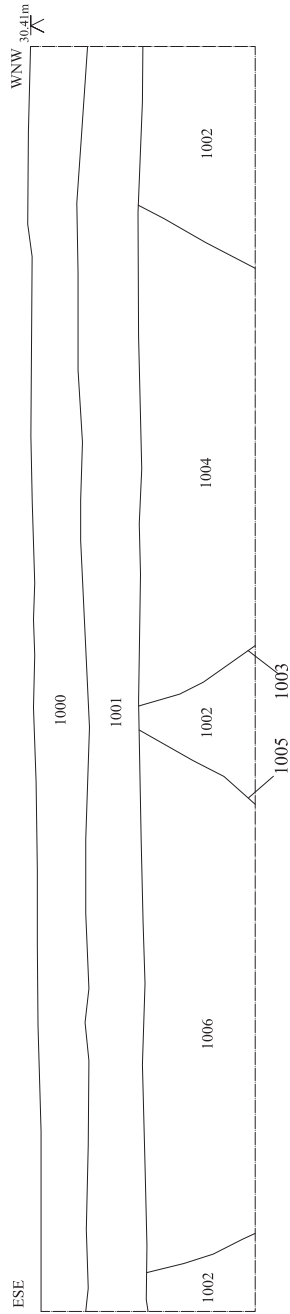
0 150m

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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
 Scale 1:2000 at A4



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**Fig. 3 Trench location plan**  
 Scale 1:500 at A4





SS = Sample section

