

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**St Edmund's Churchyard extension,
Warkton, Northampton**

Archaeological Evaluation

by Susan Porter

Site Code: SEW15/158

(SP 8935 7982)

Proposed churchyard extension, St Edmund's Church, Warkton, Northamptonshire

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for St Edmunds Parochial Church Council**

by Susan Porter

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code SEW 15/158

July 2015

Summary

Site name: St Edmund's Churchyard extension, Warkton, Northampton

Grid reference: SP 8935 7982

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 17th July 2015

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Susan Porter

Site code: SEW 15/158

Area of site: 420sq m

Summary of results: A single ditch of middle/late Iron Age or later date was recorded. A single struck flint of Neolithic or Bronze Age date was also recorded. The site is considered to have some archaeological potential.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited in a Northamptonshire Archives store in due course.

*This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website:
www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 27.07.15 Steve Preston✓ 27.07.15

Proposed churchyard extension, St Edmund's Church, Warkton, Northamptonshire An Archaeological Evaluation

by Susan Porter

Report 15/158

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at St Edmund's Church, Warkton, Kettering, Northamptonshire SP 8935 7982 (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Edward Lamb on behalf of the Parochial Church Council.

Planning permission (KET/2015/0378) has been sought from Kettering Borough Council for an extension to the churchyard at St Edmunds Church, Warkton. Information from field evaluation has been requested to assess the archaeological potential of the site, and allow for the mitigation of the impact of the proposed development, if any.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the Borough Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Liz Mordue, archaeological officer for Northamptonshire. The fieldwork was undertaken by Susan Porter and Will Attard on 17th July 2015 and the site code is SEW 15/158. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited in a Northamptonshire Archives store in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located within a field to the rear (east) of the existing churchyard of St Edmunds Church Warkton (Fig. 2). The churchyard wall forms the western boundary of the site with fields to the north and south. Slightly further to the east is further housing and a public footpath. The site lies at a height of 78m above Ordnance Datum and the underlying geology is mapped as Northampton Sand Ironstone (BGS 1976) which was observed across the site.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a brief prepared for the project by Northamptonshire County Archaeology Service. In summary this potential stems from its location within the

historic (Saxon/ medieval) core of Warkton. Warkton has late Saxon origins and is documented in Domesday Book of 1086 (Williams and Martin 2002) The parish church, which has 12th century fabric and is a listed building, is usually regarded as lying close to the centre of the historic settlement. The settlement has shrunk since medieval times and various earthworks reflecting this are recorded in the county historic environment record for other locations around the village. Several listed buildings are also present in the village.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the area of development. This work was to be carried out in a manner which would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which warrant preservation *in-situ*, or might be better excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

More specific aims of this project were:

- to determine if any archaeological deposits were present;
- to determine if any prehistoric occupation or landscape features were present on the site; and
- to determine if there were later Roman, Saxon or medieval deposits present on the site.

The potential and significance of any deposits located was to be assessed according to research priorities such as set out in *English Heritage Research Agenda* (English Heritage 2005) or the more local or thematic research priorities such as the *East Midlands Heritage Updated Research Agenda* (Knight *et al.* 2012).

It was proposed to dig two trenches 10m long and 1.6m wide to target the intended area of excavation. A contingency of 5m of trench was included should it have been required to clarify initial findings. Topsoil and overburden was removed by a JCB type machine equipped with a toothless ditching bucket in order to expose archaeologically sensitive levels. Where archaeological features were present these were hand cleaned and excavated by hand.

Results

Both trenches were dug as planned. They were 10m in length and ranged in depth from 0.70-0.95m. A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4; Pls 1 and 2)

Trench 1 was aligned north - south and was 10m long and 0.70m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.40m of topsoil and 0.30m light grey brown silty sand subsoil overlying mid orange brown silty sand with sandstone

inclusions natural geology. A north west-south east orientated ditch (1) was recorded which was 1.80m wide and 0.62m deep and filled with friable mid red brown silty sand with frequent large stone and root inclusions (52). Two fragments of middle to late Iron Age pottery was recovered along with one piece of worked flint and a small animal bone assemblage.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3)

Trench 2 was aligned north north west - south south east and was 10m long and 0.95m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.60m of topsoil and 0.35m light brown grey silty sand subsoil overlying mid orange brown silty sand with sandstone inclusions natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Finds

Pottery by Paul Blinkhorn

Two sherds of pottery weighing 10g occurred in ditch 1(52). They are both Iron Age. One weighs 5g, and is in a fine fabric containing moderate pounded shell up to 1mm, with most 0.5mm or less. It has very smooth, 'wet-hand' finished surfaces, and the outer is lightly and evenly burnished. The other, which is somewhat damaged, also weighs 5g, and has a moderate temper of fairly coarse shell up to 5mm.

The sherds are very typical of the Iron Age tradition in the region, and have close parallels with pottery from a number of sites in the Kettering area (eg. Jackson 1976, 85). They probably date to the middle - late Iron Age.

Animal Bone by Ceri Falys

Nine small fragments of animal bone were recovered from ditch 1 (52). Weighing just 32g, the overall preservation of the remains was good, although a moderate degree of fragmentation was present. Initial analyses roughly sorted elements into categories based on size, not by species: "large", "medium", and "small". Horse and cow are represented by the large size category, sheep/goat and pigs are represented in the medium size category, and any smaller animal (e.g. dog, cat etc.) were designated to the "small" category. Wherever possible, a more specific identification to species was made. The determination of the minimum number of individuals (MNI) both within and between the species was attempted based on the duplication of elements, and differences in skeletal development (i.e. age categories).

Based solely on the general size of the pieces of long bone shafts present and the thickness of cortical bone, the presence of a total of three animal individuals are suggested by the small assemblage: one large, one medium and one small. It was not possible to identify species of origin of any of the three individuals. Patches of grey coloured active new bone formation were identified on a fragment of left mandible from a small animal, which was located just inferior to the tooth sockets on both sides of the mandibular body. No further information can be retrieved.

Struck Flint by Steve Ford

A single struck flint was recovered from ditch 1 (52). It was a small core with several small removals. It was patinated a creamy white. It is not closely datable and only a broad Neolithic or Bronze Age date can be suggested.

Charred Plant Remains by Jo Pine

A 10L soil sample from ditch [1] (52). The sample was floated and sieved using a 0.25mm mesh, air dried and rapidly assessed. The sample produced a small quantity of wood charcoal and a small number of unidentified cereal grains.

Conclusion

The evaluation recorded a single deposit of archaeological interest which comprised a ditch dating from at least the middle/ late Iron Age. A residual struck flint of Neolithic or Bronze Age was also recorded. The site is considered to have some archaeological potential.

References

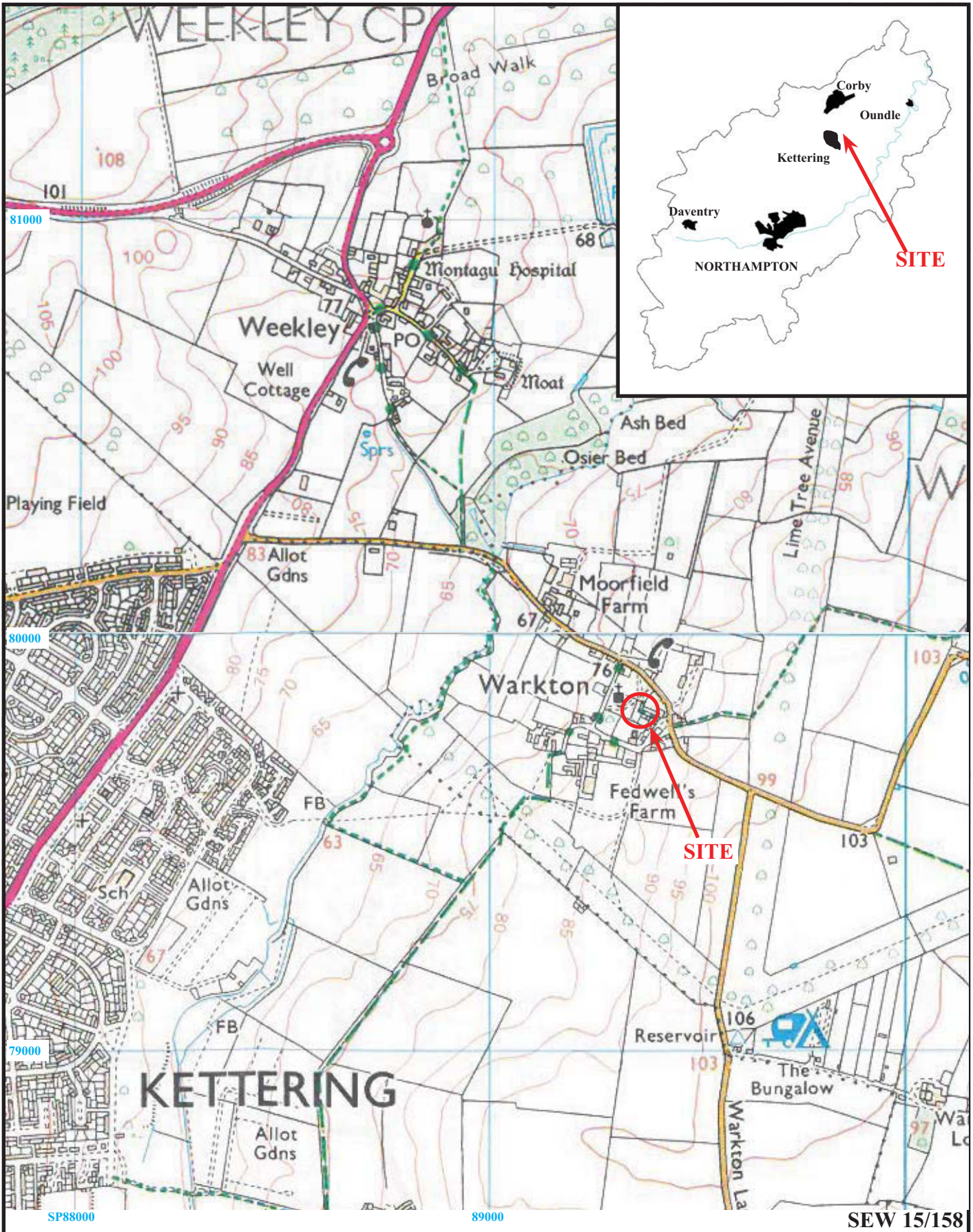
- BGS, 1976, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50000, Sheet 171 Solid and drift Edition, Keyworth
English Heritage, 2005, *Research Agenda*, English Heritage, London
Jackson, D, 1976, 'Two Iron Age Sites North of Kettering, Northamptonshire', *Northamptonshire Archaeol* **11**, 71–89
NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London
Williams A and Martin G H, 2002, *Domesday Book a complete translation*, London

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

Trench	Length (m)	Breadth (m)	Depth (m)	Comment
1	10	1.60	0.70	0-0.40m topsoil; 0.40-0.70m light grey brown silty sand subsoil; 0.70+m mid orange brown silty sand with sandstone inclusions natural geology. Ditch [1] 1.80m wide 0.62m deep [Pls 1 and 2]
2	10	1.60	0.95	0-0.60m topsoil; 0.60-0.95m light grey brown silty sand subsoil; 0.95+m mid orange brown silty sand with sandstone inclusions natural geology.

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

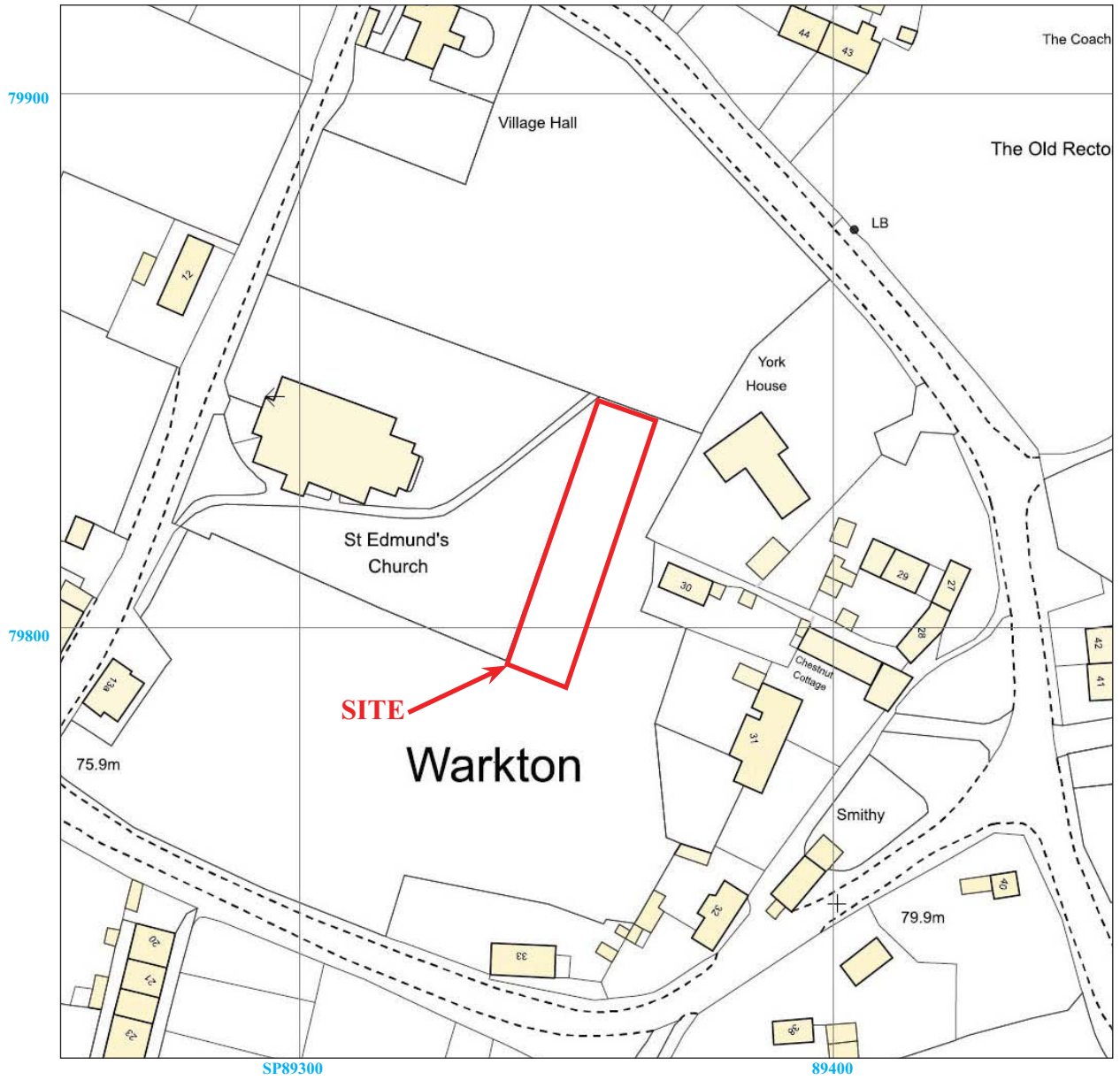
Trench	Cut	Fill (s)	Type	Date	Dating evidence
1	1	52	Ditch	Middle to Late Iron Age	Pottery



**St Edmunds Churchyard Extension, Warkton,
Northamptonshire, 2015
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Warkton and Northamptonshire.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Explorer 224 at 1:12500
Ordnance Survey Licence 100025880



SEW 15/158

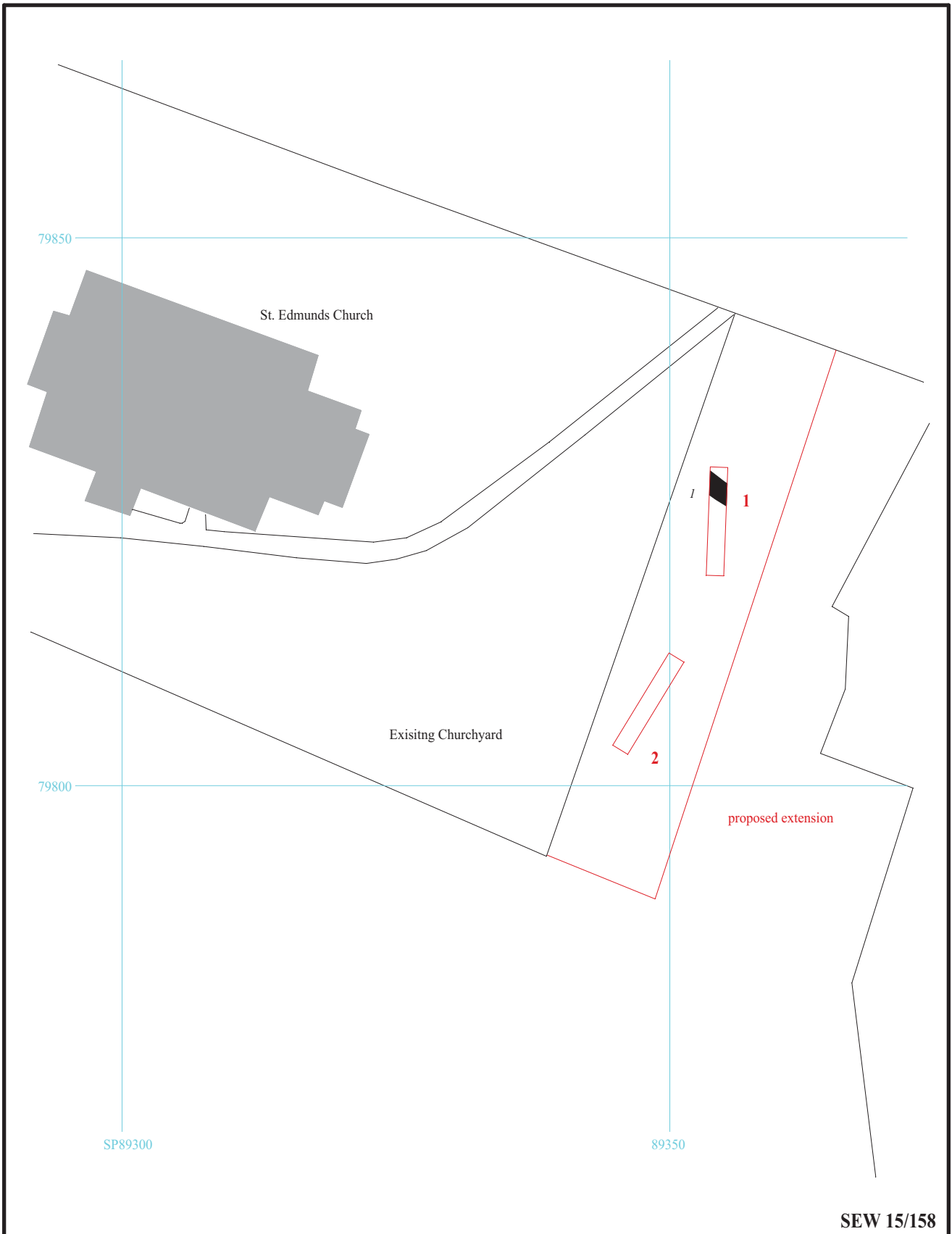


**St Edmunds Churchyard Extension, Warkton,
Northamptonshire, 2015
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 2. Detailed location of site.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Digital Mapping under licence.
Crown copyright reserved. Scale 1:1250

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES



SEW 15/158

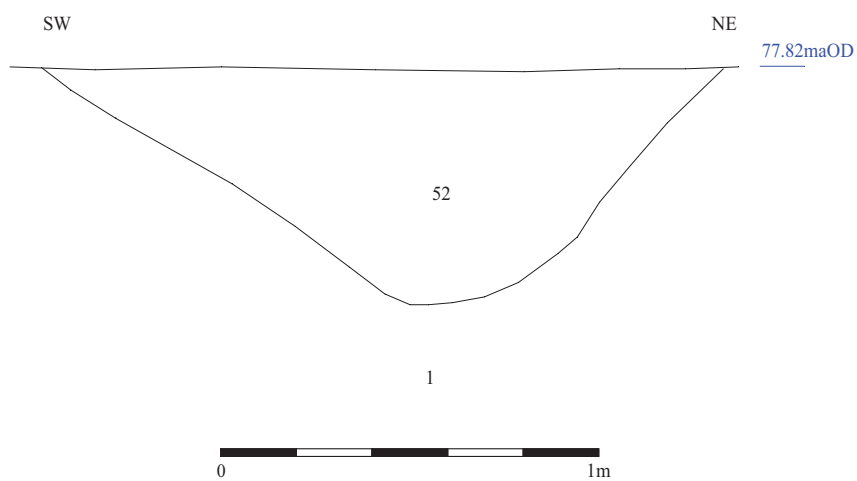
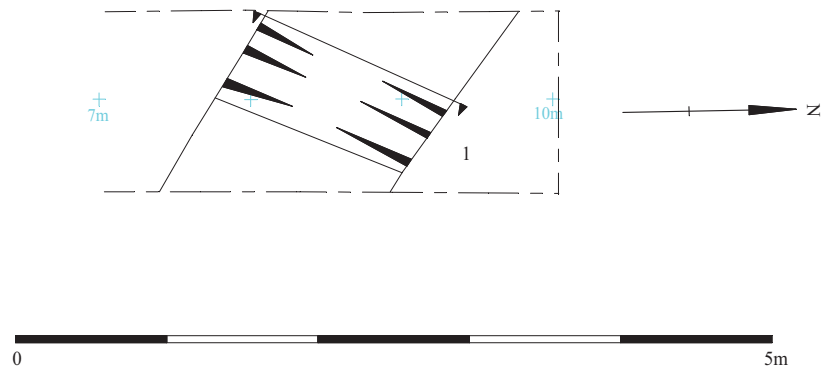
**St. Edmunds Churchyard Extension, Warkton,
Northamptonshire, 2015
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 3. Location of trenches.



THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

Trench 1



SEW 15/158

**St. Edmunds Churchyard Extension, Warkton,
Northamptonshire, 2015
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 4. Detail and section of Trench 1.



Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 1, ditch 1, looking north west, Scales: 1m and 0.5m.

SEW 15/158

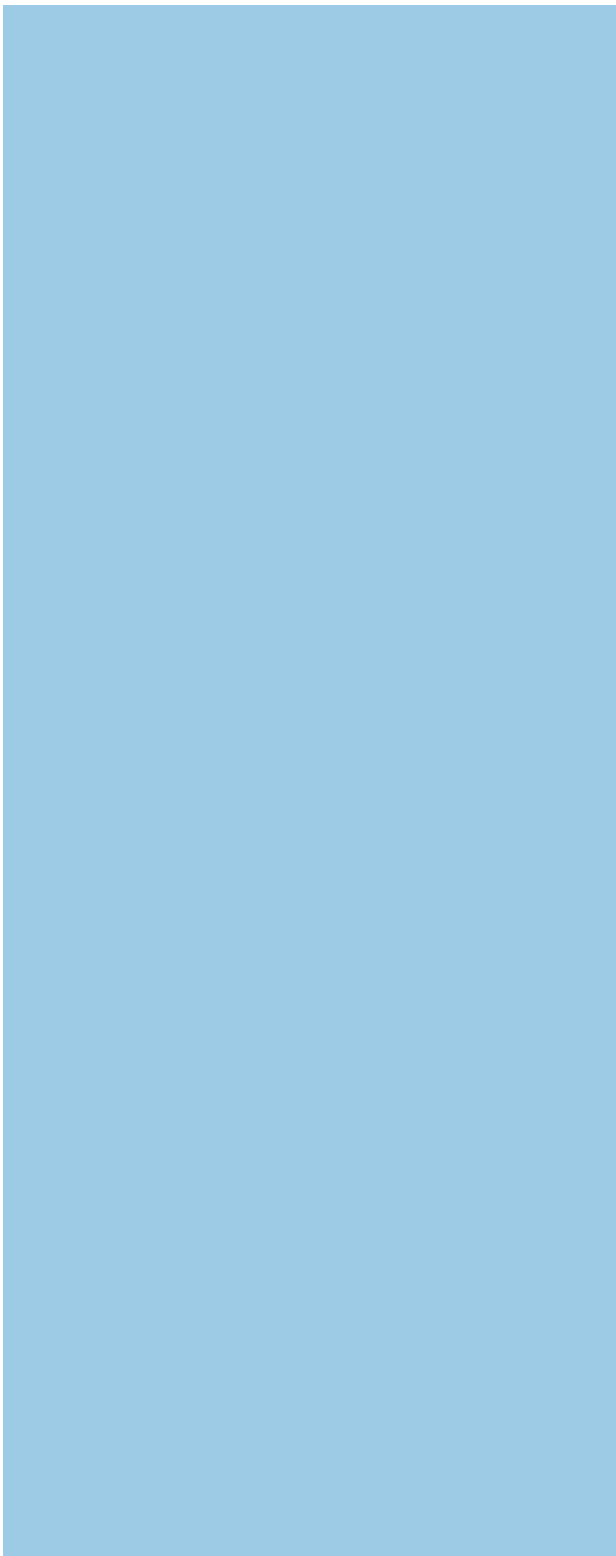
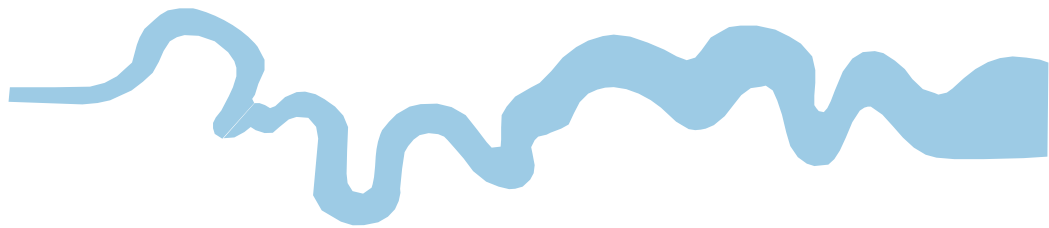
**St. Edmunds Churchyard Extension, Warkton,
Northamptonshire, 2015
Archaeological Evaluation
Plates 1 - 2.**

THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES

TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late -----	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle -----	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early -----	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





**Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd,
47-49 De Beauvoir Road, Reading,
Berkshire, RG1 5NR**

**Tel: 0118 9260552
Fax: 0118 9260553
Email: tvas@tvas.co.uk
Web: www.tvas.co.uk**