

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING
AT NAUNTON COURT, NAUNTON
BEAUCHAMP,
WORCESTERSHIRE

James Goad BA AIFA

Illustrated by Carolyn Hunt

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Project 2512
Report 1227
WSM 33532

Archaeological watching brief at Naunton Court, Naunton Beauchamp, Worcestershire

James Goad

Background information

<i>Client</i>	Border Oak Design and Construction Ltd
<i>Site address</i>	Naunton Court, Naunton Beauchamp, Worcestershire
<i>National Grid reference</i>	SO 9578 5237
<i>Sites and Monuments Record reference</i>	WSM 33532
<i>Planning authority reference</i>	Wychavon District Council W/01/1593
<i>Brief</i>	HEAS 2004a
<i>Project design</i>	HEAS 2004b
<i>Project parameters</i>	IFA 1999
<i>Previous archaeological work on the site</i>	

There has been no previous archaeological work undertaken on site.

Previous archaeological work on associated sites

Naunton Court lies approximately 0.4km due west of the main village of Naunton Beauchamp. The site is situated adjacent to an area with the remains of a moat (WSM 02949, SAM 294). Adjacent to the moat is Sheriffs Naunton Deserted medieval village (WSM 02941). The manor was possibly created during the 13th and 14th century land hunger. Apparently short-lived as an independent settlement, although it maintained its identity until at least 1431. There is some evidence of settlement within the centre of the moated farmstead site, as pottery found there is 15-16th century (TWAS Vol. 37, pp1-10). This moated homestead might have been the home of Roger Aldbury in 1463, who was Lord of Sherriffs Naunton and controlled the manor of Upton Snodsbury. Before 1532 the manor was sold to John Lyttleton of Frankley. The Lyttleton family replaced the moated site with the present Naunton Court (VCH IV, p209).

Aims

The aims of the watching brief was as listed in the brief (HEAS 2004a).

Methods

General specification for watching brief	CAS 1995
Sources consulted	SMR Sources cited by the SMR Ordnance Survey 1:5000 map 1885 (Landmark Digital Mapping 39 so9652)
Date(s) of fieldwork	9-10 th February 2004
Area of deposits observed	c 192m ² . Indicated on Figure 2
Dimensions of excavated areas observed	Foundations length 14.50m width 0.60m depth 0.75m

Access to or visibility of structure

Excavation of the footing trenches was made by 360 degree tracked excavator with a 600mm toothed bucket. Observation of the excavated areas was undertaken during and after machine excavation. The exposed surfaces were sufficiently clean to observe well differentiated archaeological deposits.

Statement of confidence

Access to, and visibility of, deposits allowed a high degree of confidence that the aims of the project have been achieved.

Deposit description

Context	Type Colour Texture	Description	Date	Interpretation	Depth (OD or below ground level)
100	Friable dark grey silty sand	A relatively thin topsoil layer		Topsoil	0-0.15m
101	Friable light brown silty sand	Silty sand with moderate small rounded stones		Subsoil	0.15-0.50m
102	Friable light brown silty sand	Light brown silty sand with few noticeable inclusions		Subsoil	0.50-0.73m
103	Sticky light blue grey clay	Quite firm clay layer, visible mostly at base of trenches on northern half of development		Natural	0.73m-
104	Light brown silty sand	Light brown, rather sterile-looking deposit. Situated at base of furrow – deposit washed down from top of ridge (ridge and furrow agriculture)		Furrow deposit	0.15-0.51m
105	Light grey sandy clay	Visible mostly in southern half of trenched area		Natural	0.40m-

Discussion

The groundworks associated with the development revealed a series of soil layers including material from a furrow (the area is characterised by a large amount of existing ridge and furrow agriculture). However, no significant archaeological features were found within the area of the development.

The trenching and the construction of the house will not have any negative impact on significant archaeological deposits. The development does not even have the potential to flatten existing ridge and furrow as these have already ploughed-out in the immediate area surrounding the house.

Conclusions

It would seem that the medieval settlement existing in and around the area of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (WSM 02949) does not extend as far west as the area under development. There does not appear to be any settlement of any description in this location.

It would appear that this location next to the road has been always used for agricultural purposes, as evidenced by the surrounding ridge and furrow agriculture. The areas of significant archaeology would appear to be to the south and east.

Publication summary

The Service has a professional obligation to publish the results of archaeological projects within a reasonable period of time. To this end, the Service intends to use this summary as the basis for publication through local or regional journals. The client is requested to consider the content of this section as being acceptable for such publication.

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on behalf of Mr RM Clarke and Border Oak Design and Construction Ltd. at Naunton Court, Naunton Beauchamp, Worcestershire (NGR SO 9578 5237; WSM 33532).

The watching brief was conducted on an area of land earmarked for development just north of the present Naunton Court. The area had a moderate potential for the existence of important archaeology due to its proximity to a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

The groundworks for the proposed development were observed and revealed a series of soil layers consistent with agricultural usage. No significant archaeological deposits relating to an area of settlement were encountered.

Archive

Fieldwork progress records AS2	2
Photographic records AS3	2
Digital images	13
Drawings	1

The project archive is intended to be placed at:	Worcestershire County Museum Hartlebury Castle, Hartlebury Near Kidderminster Worcestershire DY11 7XZ
telephone	01299 250416

Acknowledgements

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Bibliography

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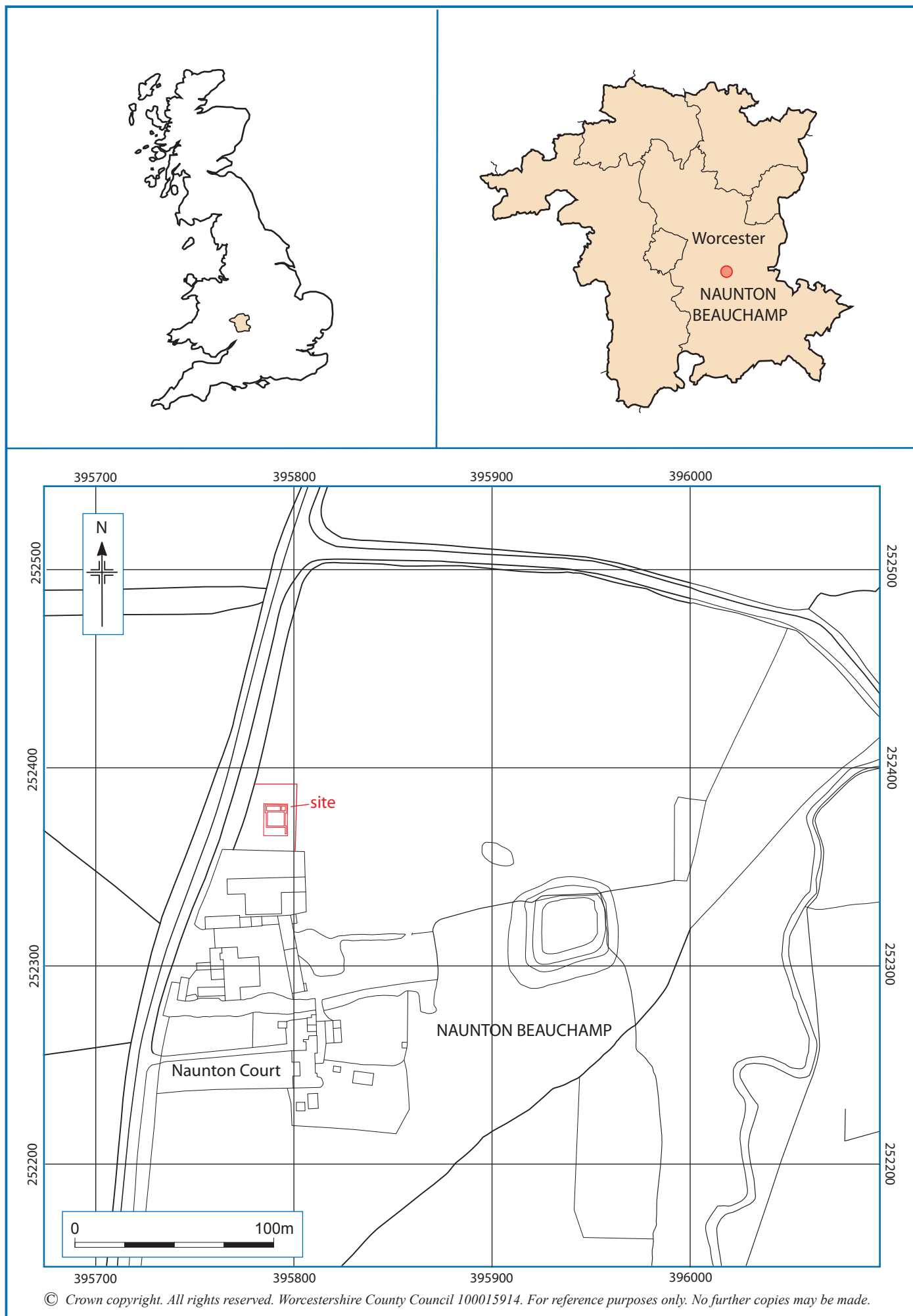
HEAS 2004a *Brief for an archaeological watching brief at Naunton Court, Naunton Beauchamp*, Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council unpublished document dated 24th January 2004

HEAS 2004b *Proposal for an archaeological watching brief at Naunton Naunton Court, Naunton Beauchamp*, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Service, Worcestershire County Council, unpublished document dated 30th January 2004, **P2512**

IFA, 1999 *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Institute of Field Archaeologists

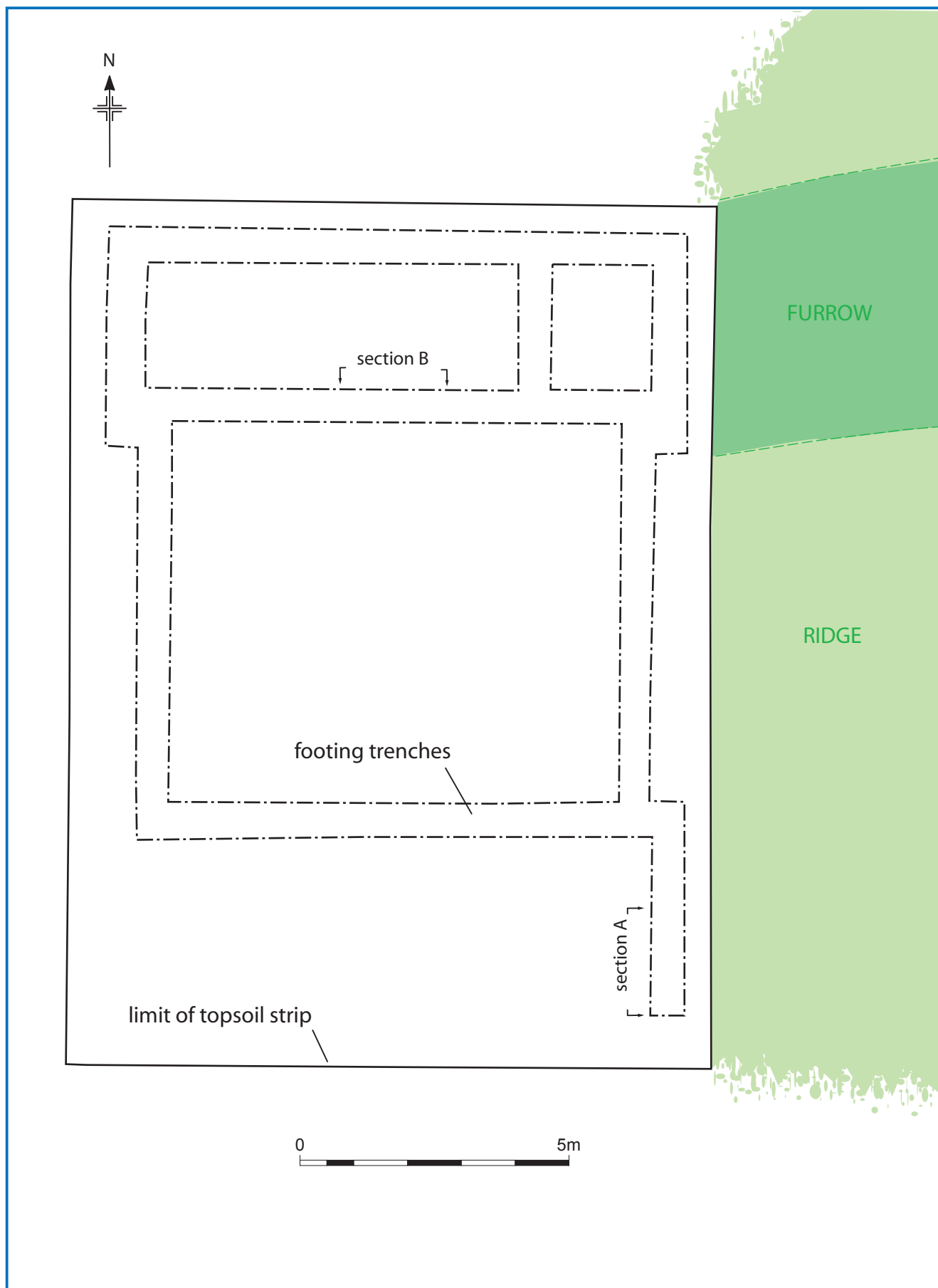
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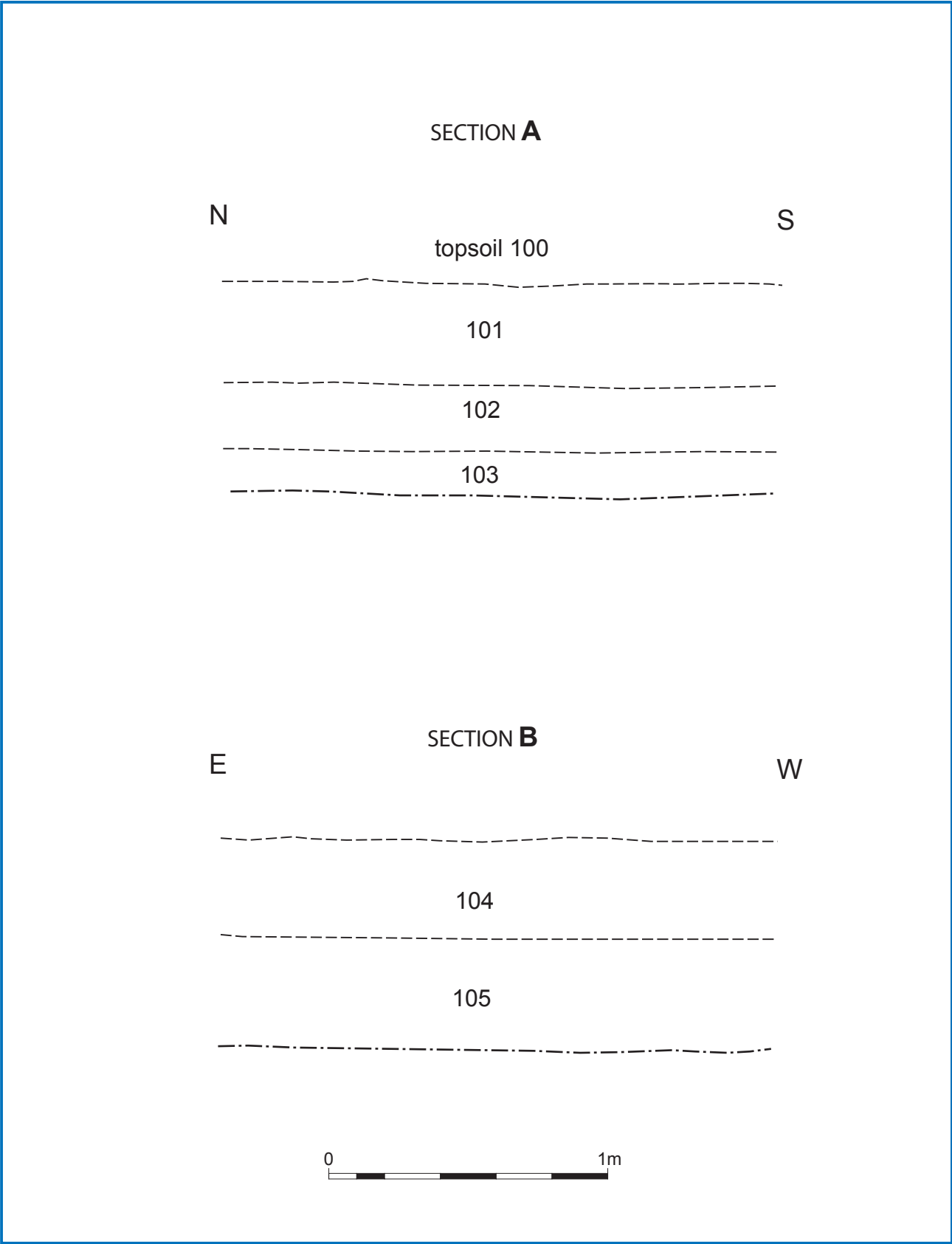
Location of the site.

Figure 1



Area observed.

Figure 2



Sections.

Figure 3