



SANDIFORD WATER TREATMENT WORKS, CHESHIRE

Archaeological Walkover Survey and Evaluation



Oxford Archaeology North

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SUMMARY

Oxford Archaeology North was commissioned by United Utilities to carry out a walkover survey and archaeological evaluation of the proposed Water Treatment Works at Sandiford, Cheshire centred on SJ 56750 66758 (Fig 1). The proposed development lies to the south of the Seven Lows (SMR No 840/1/0), seven round barrows clustered around a dry valley, to the south Delamere. The site is now severely damaged by gardens, quarries and ploughing. Consequently, a programme of archaeological work was requested by Cheshire County Council in order to identify areas of archaeological interest that might be affected by the proposed scheme. The walkover survey and evaluation was carried out in October and November 2005.

The proposed development is situated to the North of Cotebrook and immediately to the east of the B5152. The archaeological investigation comprised four trenches, three of which were located directly under the proposed buildings, with a fourth located to the west of the building works. All trenches measured 40m by 2m.

A rectangular posthole **1004** was located within Trench 1, containing a mid-blackish-grey silty-sand **1003**; no other archaeological features were discovered in this trench or within the other three. In total, four artefacts were recovered, three fragments of pottery dating between the eighteenth and early twentieth century and a piece of flint.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank United Utilities for commissioning the project. We would also like to thank Mark Leah of Cheshire County Council for his assistance with the project. Thanks are also due to the farmer Derek Davies for his local knowledge and assistance.

The walkover survey was undertaken by Andy Lane, who also undertook the evaluation along with Christina Clarke and Jason Clarke. The report was written by Andy Lane and the drawings were produced by Mark Tidmarsh. The finds were assessed by Jo Dawson and the environmental assessment was undertaken by Sandra Bonsall. Alison Plummer managed the project and edited the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Following the proposal by United Utilities to construct a new Water Treatment Works north of Cotebrook, centred on SJ 56750 66758, the Planning Archaeologist for Cheshire County Council, made a request for a walkover survey and archaeological evaluation. In response to a recommendation from Cheshire County Council, OA North produced a project design outlining the work to be carried out (*Appendix 1*).
- 1.1.2 The walkover survey and evaluation, undertaken in October and November 2005, comprised a visual inspection of the site and an excavation of a total of four trenches (Fig 2), positioned where the development would have the greatest impact to archaeological features or deposits.
- 1.1.3 This report sets out the results of the walkover survey and archaeological evaluation in the form of a short document, outlining the findings, followed by a statement of the archaeological potential and significance.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 OA North submitted a project design (*Appendix 1*) in response to a recommendation by Cheshire County Council. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 WALKOVER SURVEY

2.2.1 **Visual Inspection:** prior to the evaluation trenching taking place a level I walkover survey (*Appendix 1*) was undertaken to inform the positioning of the trenches and to collect and record any artefact scatters. This encompassed the entire development area, walked in a systematic fashion. Archaeological features identified within the landscape was recorded using the relevant OA North pro forma, and the features accurately positioned with the use of either a GPS, which can achieve accuracies of $\pm 0.1\text{m}$ with respect to the OS national grid, or by manual survey techniques which will tie in new features to features already shown on the relevant OS map.

2.3 EVALUATION

2.3.1 The evaluation is required to evaluate a minimum of 5% of the development area. This took the form of four linear trenches each measuring 40m x 2m.

2.3.2 The topsoil was removed by machine (fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, approximately 1.6m in width) under archaeological supervision to the surface of the first significant archaeological deposit. This deposit was cleaned by hand, using either hoes, shovel scraping, and/or trowels depending on the subsoil conditions, and inspected for archaeological features. All features of archaeological interest were investigated and recorded as agreed by the County Archaeology Service. The trenches were not excavated deeper than 1.20m to accommodate health and safety constraints.

2.3.3 All trenches were excavated in a stratigraphical manner, whether by machine or by hand. Investigation of intact archaeological deposits was exclusively manual. A minimum sample of 50% of archaeological features was to be examined by excavation. The pits and posthole observed were half-sectioned. All excavation, whether by machine or by hand, were undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features, which appear worthy of preservation *in situ*.

2.3.4 Samples were collected for technological, pedological and chronological analysis as appropriate. Conservation advice and facilities were made available. OA North maintains close relationships with Ancient Monuments Laboratory staff at the Universities of Durham and York and, in addition, employs artefact and palaeozoological specialists with considerable expertise in the investigation,

excavation and finds management of sites of all periods and types, who were readily available for consultation.

2.4 ASSESSMENT OF CHARRED AND WATERLOGGED PLANT REMAINS

2.4.1 One bulk sample was taken from the secure fill of a posthole (context **1003**) for the assessment of charred and waterlogged plant remains. The sample was also assessed as to its potential for radiocarbon dating.

2.4.2 One (6 litre) bulk sample was processed for this assessment. The sample was hand-floated and the flot collected on a 250 micron mesh and air-dried. The flot was scanned with a Leica MZ6 stereo microscope and plant material was recorded and provisionally identified. The data are shown in Table 1 (*Section 4*). Botanical nomenclature employed for the purpose of this report follows Stace (1991). Plant remains were scored on a scale of abundance of 1-5, where 1 is rare (less than 5 items) and 5 is abundant (more than 100 items). The components of the matrix were also noted.

2.5 ARCHIVE

2.5.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 1*), and in accordance with current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited in the Cheshire Record Office.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The proposed Water Treatment Works is situated approximately 1.5km to the north of Cotebrook (SJ 56750 66758) (Fig 1) and lies immediately to the south of the Seven Lows Barrow Cemetery. The site also lies to the west of the B5152; the area to be investigated is approximately 74m AOD.
- 3.1.2 The solid geology is reddish-pink sandstone, forming the Cheshire Sandstone Ridge which is a discontinuous ridge of Triassic sandstone running from north to south. Flanking the northern part of the Ridge are fluvio-glacial deposits of sands and gravels, and Pebble beds of the Bunter Series (Countryside Commission 1998, 149). The geology is reflected in the local quarries to the north of the site.
- 3.1.3 The majority of the soil coverage is humo-ferric podzols of the Crannymoor group (Ordnance Survey 1983). Extensive tracts of woodland, mostly pine with some birch as well as conifer plantation, surround the site, notably Delamere Forest to the north. The main agricultural land use is mixed farming (Countryside Commission 1998, 148).

3.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 The Seven Lows (SMR 840/1/0) are immediately to the north of the development site, consisting of seven round barrows clustered around a dry valley, c.75m AOD; two further barrows are located nearby. One barrow was destroyed in the nineteenth century for the road and another opened in 1845 to reveal an inverted Collared Urn on a flat stone (Mullin 2003, 16).
- 3.2.2 The earliest mention of the Seven Lows came from John Leland's Itinerary written circa 1540: 'there is a place in the forest of Delamere cawlid the VII Loos wher be seen VII Caste Dikes. The people there speak much of them. I think they were made by men of warre.' (The Megalithic Portal 2003).
- 3.2.3 Ormerod noted them in the nineteenth century, although by then two have been removed due to recent alterations of the forest and excavation at a former period. Only five of the original seven are identifiable today. The remaining five are Scheduled Monuments (Cheshire County Council 2004). The barrows can be seen from the B5152 near Ottersbank farm, however the site is now severely damaged by gardens, quarries and ploughing (Mullin, 2003).

4. RESULTS

4.1 WALKOVER SURVEY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

- 4.1.1 **Walkover Survey:** the walkover survey aimed to inform the position of the four evaluation trenches and to collect and record any artefact scatters. The field within which the proposed development sat and the adjoining field to the north (Field 1 and Field 2, respectively) (Fig 2) were walked in a systematic fashion. The ground conditions were good for identifying possible archaeological features with a mixture of short to medium height grass coverage (Plate 1).
- 4.1.2 The walkover survey revealed no identifiable archaeological features within the fields and no archaeological finds were recovered. However, of interest were the field boundaries. The western boundary of Field 1 comprised an earth bank *c.* 0.5m high with roughly-cut stone capping, a hedge lay on top of this. Within the hedge dividing Field 1 and Field 2 were two gate posts, one of which has a bench mark on the face towards the road. The south-east boundary is hedged with a sharp drop of *c.* 1m into the adjoining field. Another feature of note constructed in the early twentieth century is a brick and stone-capped culvert, built to protect cast-iron water pipes that run through the field.
- 4.1.3 **Evaluation:** the trench locations (Fig 2) took into consideration the location of the proposed structures in order to investigate the areas where the development would create maximum disturbance.
- 4.1.4 **Trench 1:** located *c.*30m to the north-west of the existing pumping station, it was positioned within the footprint of the proposed membrane building. The trench was aligned north-east/south-west (Plate 2) and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.07m at the north-eastern end to ascertain the natural geology. The remainder of the trench was excavated to a depth of 0.56m. The plan is shown in Figure 3 and the section in Figure 4.
- 4.1.5 The trench revealed 0.30m of mid-brown silty-sand topsoil, **1002**, 0.20m of dark orange-brown subsoil, **1001**, and a mid-light orange sand natural, **1000**. Within the trench a solitary small square posthole, **1004** (Fig 3 and Fig 4), 0.22m by 0.2m and 0.1m deep with vertical sides, was located. The fill was a mid-blackish-grey silty-sand, **1003**. The trench had frequent irregular features containing a compact black soil, these were identified as tree boles and rooting. Within the topsoil, **1002**, a piece of flint typical of that occurring naturally in the area was found, it appears not to have been worked.
- 4.1.6 **Trench 2:** positioned parallel with and 10m to the north-west of Trench 1 within the footprint of the proposed membrane building, it was excavated to a depth of 0.65m (Plate 3). The trench revealed 0.35m of light blackish-grey clay-sand topsoil, **1005**, 0.05m of mid-greyish black clay-sand subsoil, **1006** and mid-brown-orange sand natural **1007** (Fig 8). Within the trench frequent irregular features were observed, containing a compact black soil, these were identified as tree boles and rooting (Fig 5). No archaeological features, deposits or finds were found within this trench.

- 4.1.7 **Trench 3:** located *c.*25m to the south of the north-east field boundary (Fig 6), and positioned under the proposed development of the pumping station and generator plant, this trench was aligned north-west/south-east (Plate 4). It was excavated to a depth of 0.87m and revealed 0.38m of mid-grey-brown silty-sand topsoil, **1012**, 0.14m of light brown clay-sand subsoil, **1011**, and 0.28m of dark greyish-black mixed with orange and grey-white sand colluvial deposits **1010** (Fig 8, Plate 5). These overlay a light grey-white natural sand deposited by water action, **1008**, and in turn a mid-orange natural sand, **1009**. Three fragments of dinner ware pottery were recovered from the topsoil, **1012**, dating between the late eighteenth and early twentieth centuries.
- 4.1.8 **Trench 4:** located *c.*25m from the west field boundary, aligned north-east/south-west (Fig 7), it was excavated to a depth of 0.6m (Plate 6). This trench revealed 0.3m of mid-blackish-grey sandy-silt topsoil, **1013**, overlying 0.1m of light blackish-grey sandy-silt subsoil, **1014** (Fig 8), which in turn overlay mid-grey-orange natural sand with occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions, **1015** (Plate 7). The natural becomes increasingly stoney to the north-east of the trench, due to the slope declining to the north of the field. No archaeological features or deposits were observed within this trench and no finds were recovered. Soil staining, rooting and animal burrows were seen and investigated.

4.2 FINDS

- 4.2.1 **Introduction:** in total, four artefacts were recovered from the evaluation trenches (Table 3), three of which were pottery and one of flint. The finds were retrieved from the topsoil, **1002**, and **1012**, in Trenches 1 and 3. The table below shows a summary of the finds recovered.

Context	Trench	Quantity	Material	Description	Category	Type	Date range
1002	1	1	Flint	Pebble			not datable
1012	3	1	Ceramic	Willow pattern white earthenware	vessel	Dinner ware	19 th – early 20 th century
1012	3	1	Ceramic	Fine red earthenware	Vessel	Hollow -ware	Late 18 th – early 20 th century
1012	3	1	Ceramic	Blue transfer printed pattern white earthenware with gadrooned rim?	Vessel	Dinner ware	19 th – early 20 th century

Table 1: Finds retrieved from Trenches 1 and 3

- 4.2.2 **Conclusion:** the assemblage recovered is very small, and includes artefacts of a domestic nature, usually found within a rural setting on land that has been used for agricultural purposes. The piece of flint did not appear to be worked, the pebble was fractured with the cortex remaining, although it is of interest as flint tools would have been used at the time of the Seven Lows Barrows.

4.3 ASSESSMENT OF CHARRED AND WATERLOGGED PLANT REMAINS

4.3.1 **Results:** the results of the assessment are shown in Table 1 below. The sample contained abundant quantities of modern roots. Coal and clinker was present in common quantities. The only charred plant remains identified were a single (<4mm) seed. The sample contained few waterlogged plant remains, which included *Chenopodium* (goosefoots), *Juncus* (rushes), *Polygonum aviculare* (knotgrasses), *Taraxacum* (dandelion) and *Prunus* sp. It is thought that all the waterlogged plant remains are modern contamination due to their preservation, except the *Prunus* sp. stones, which were quite degraded and so could be much older. It is not possible to confirm the *Prunus* sp. due to this degradation but because of the size of the stones it is likely to be either *P. spinosa* (blackthorn) or *P. paduus* (bird cherry), both native taxa.

Site code	Sample	Context	Feature	Sample vol. (litres)	Flot description	Plant remains	Potential
SWC05	1	1003	Posthole	6	475ml. Modern root (5), sand (5), insect fragments (3), coal (3), clinker (3)	CPR (1) Legume WPR (1) <i>Chenopodium</i> , <i>Juncus</i> , <i>Polygonum aviculare</i> , <i>Taraxacum</i> , <i>Prunus</i> sp.	None

Table 1: Assessment of charred and waterlogged plant remains from Sandiford Water Treatment Works.

Plant remains scored on a scale of 1-5, where 1 is rare (1-5) items and 5 is abundant (more than 100 items).

Key CPR=charred plant remains. WPR=waterlogged plant remains.

4.3.2 **Potential:** the assessment of charred and waterlogged plant remains recorded low numbers of both, therefore, the environmental dataset is very limited. There is no further potential for further analysis of the charred and waterlogged plant remains. No material suitable for scientific dating was identified in the sample.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 CONCLUSION

5.1.1 Of the four trenches only one revealed an archaeological feature, a square shallow posthole **1005** in Trench 1, the fact that only one was seen along with no other features observed, means that its purpose or function remains inconclusive. The pottery recovered from the topsoil of Trench 3 indicates activity from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth century in an agricultural environment. The presence of flint that may possibly have been utilised in the Bronze Age or earlier suggests that people visited this area at the time. Overall, the trenches revealed that the area was covered in trees to the south descending to a dry valley in the north where colluvial deposits and natural sands had been deposited.

5.2 IMPACT

5.2.1 The discovery of a single archaeological feature suggests that the development site is devoid of significant archaeological features and therefore the proposed development will not have a significant impact on the archaeological record

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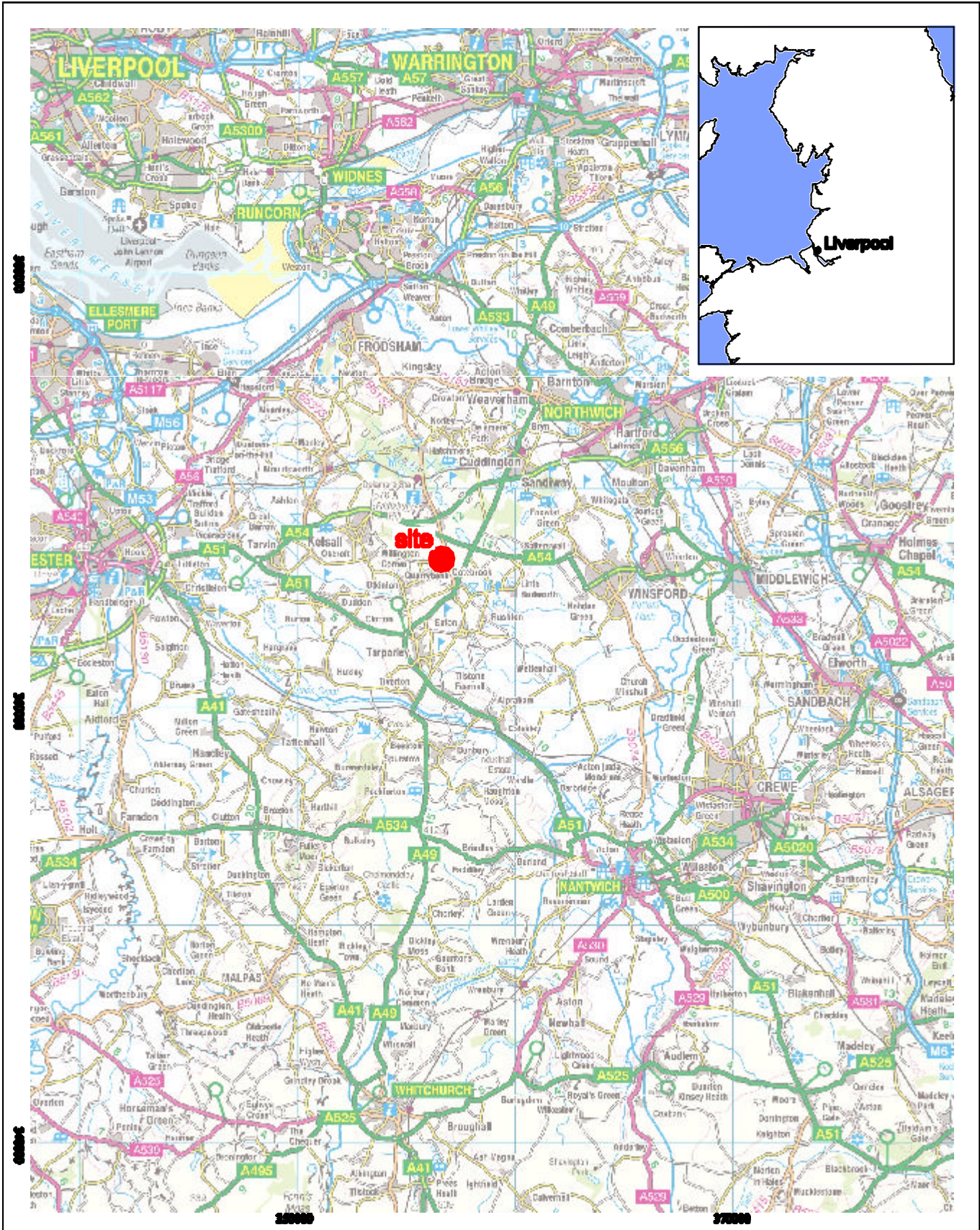
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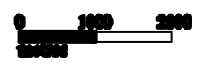
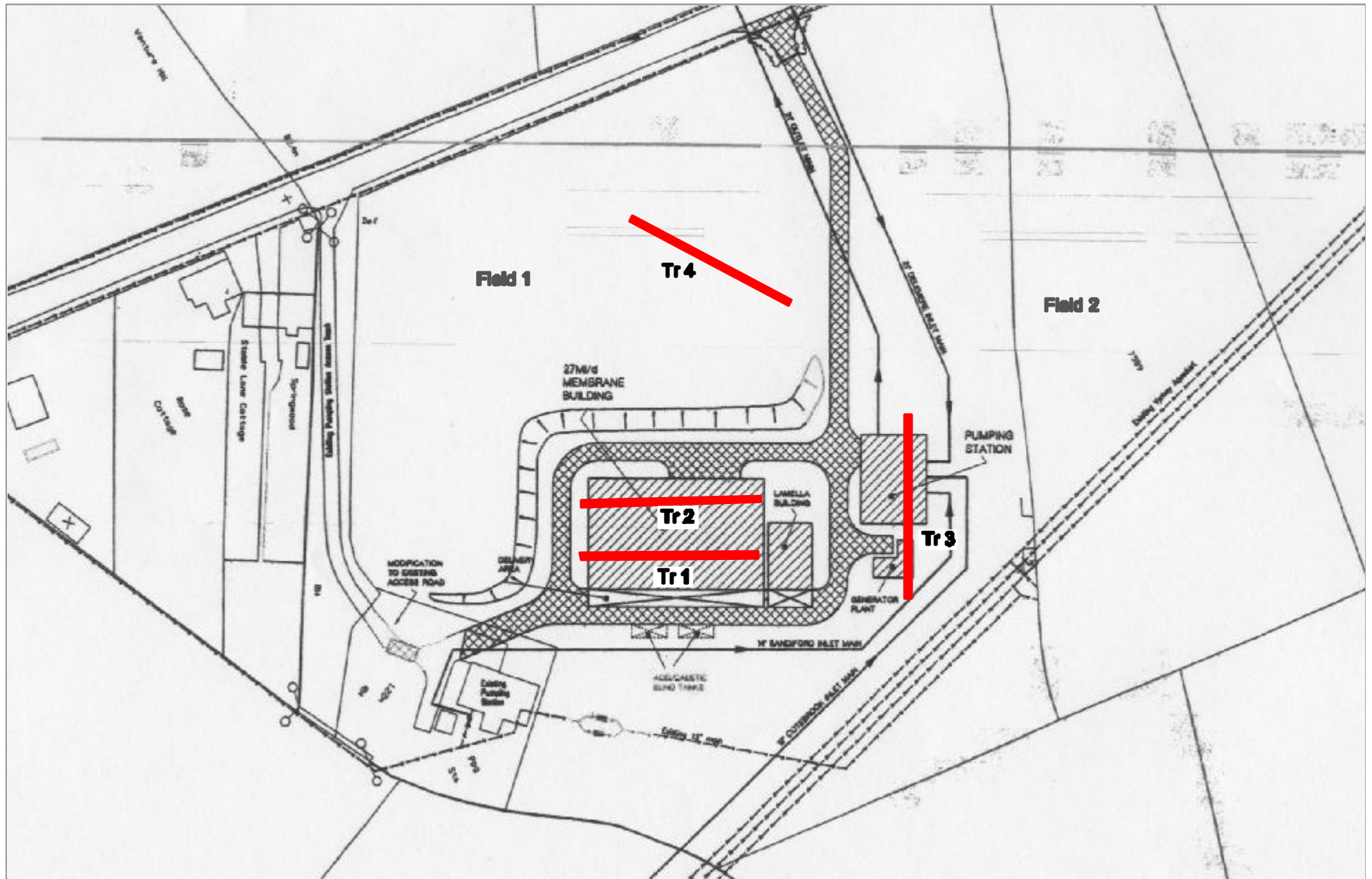


Figure 1: Location Map



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Figure 2: Location of walkover survey and evaluation trenches

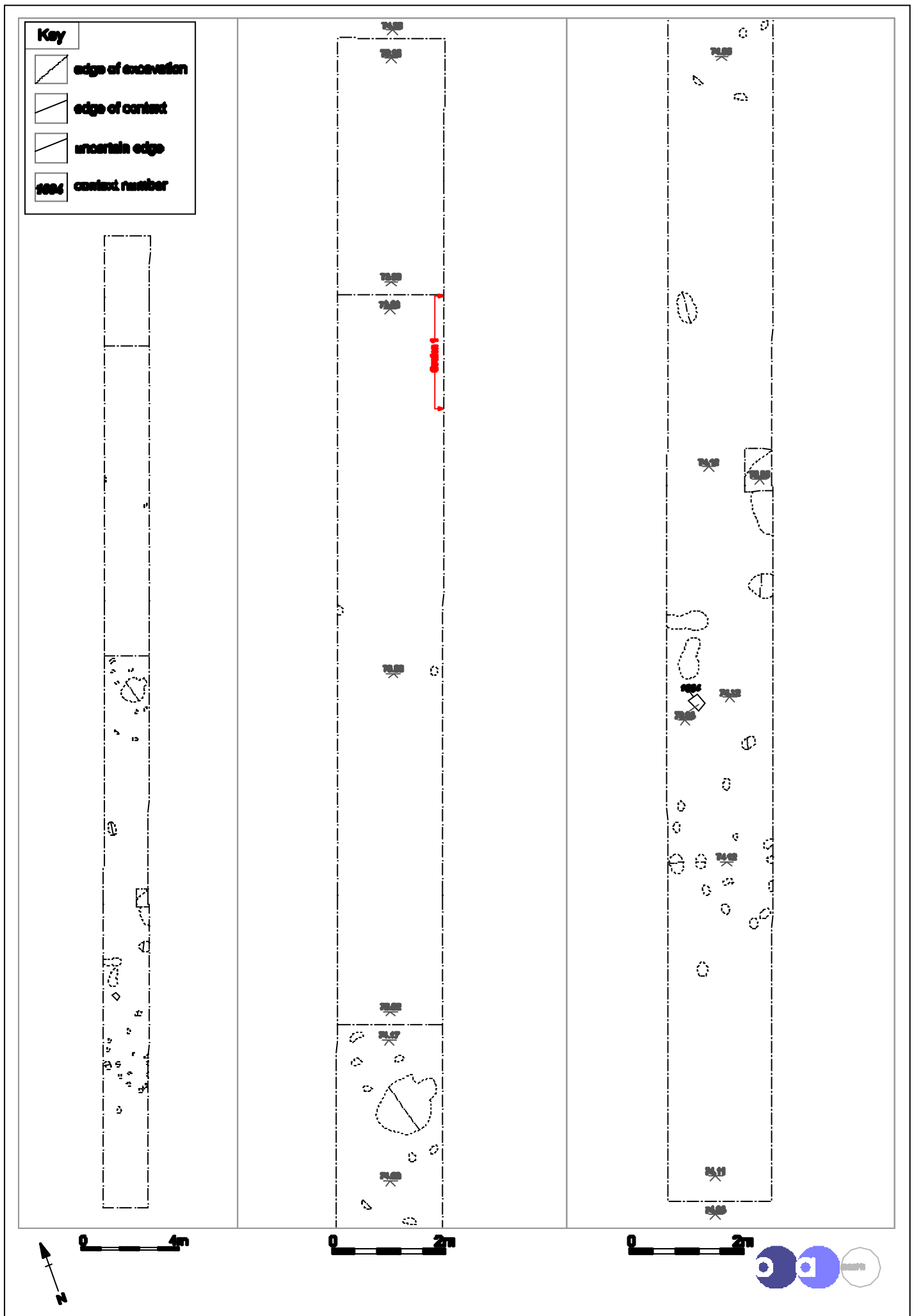






Figure 3: Plan of Trench 1

Key

-  edge of excavation
-  edge of contact
-  uncertain edge
-  contact number

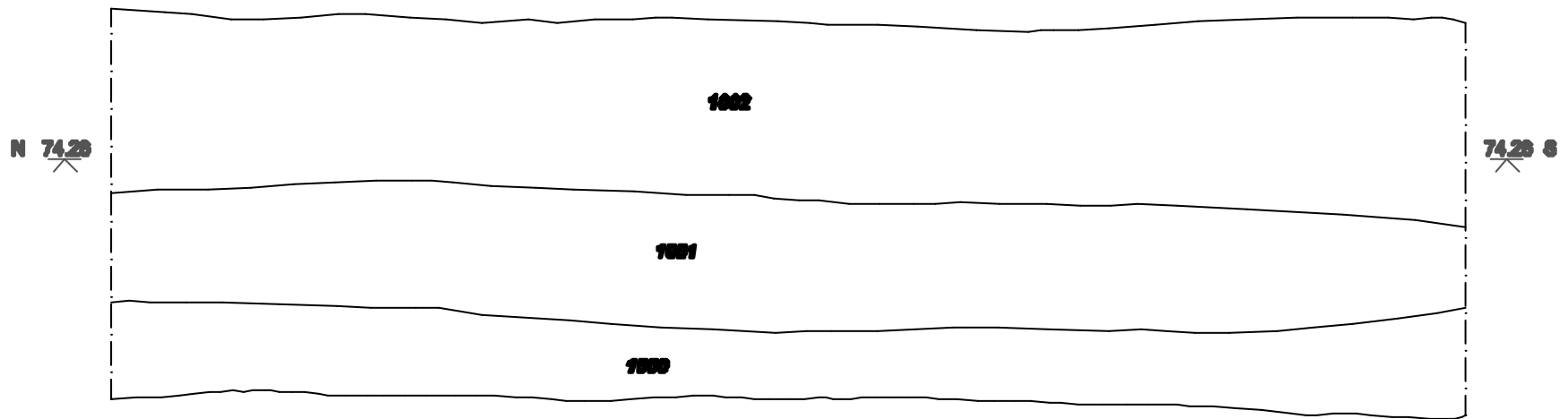
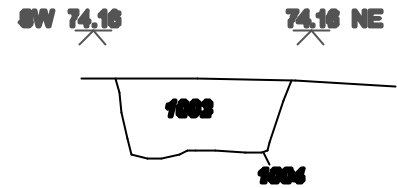


Figure 4: Section of Trench 1 and Post hole 1004

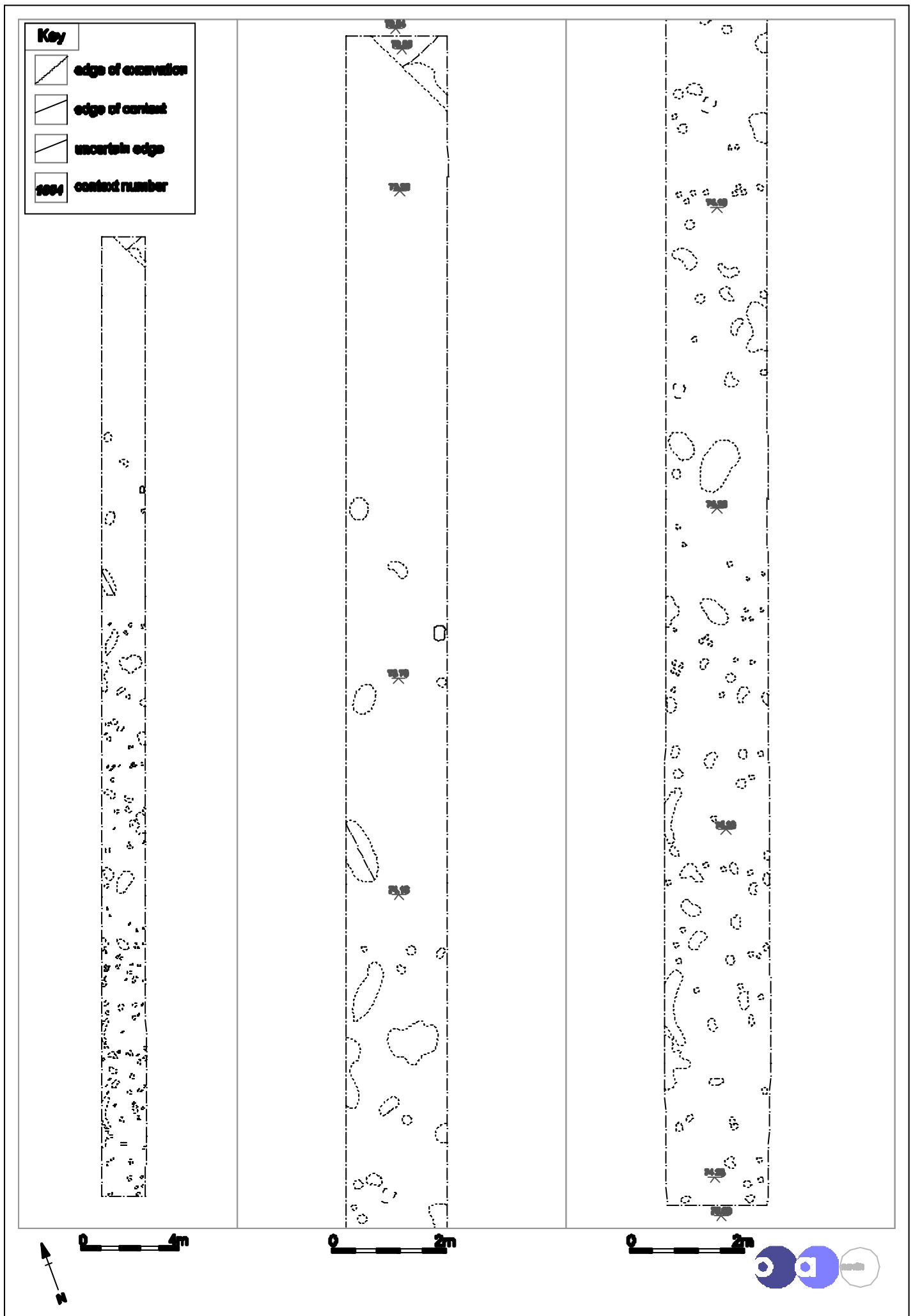


Figure 5: Plan of Trench 2

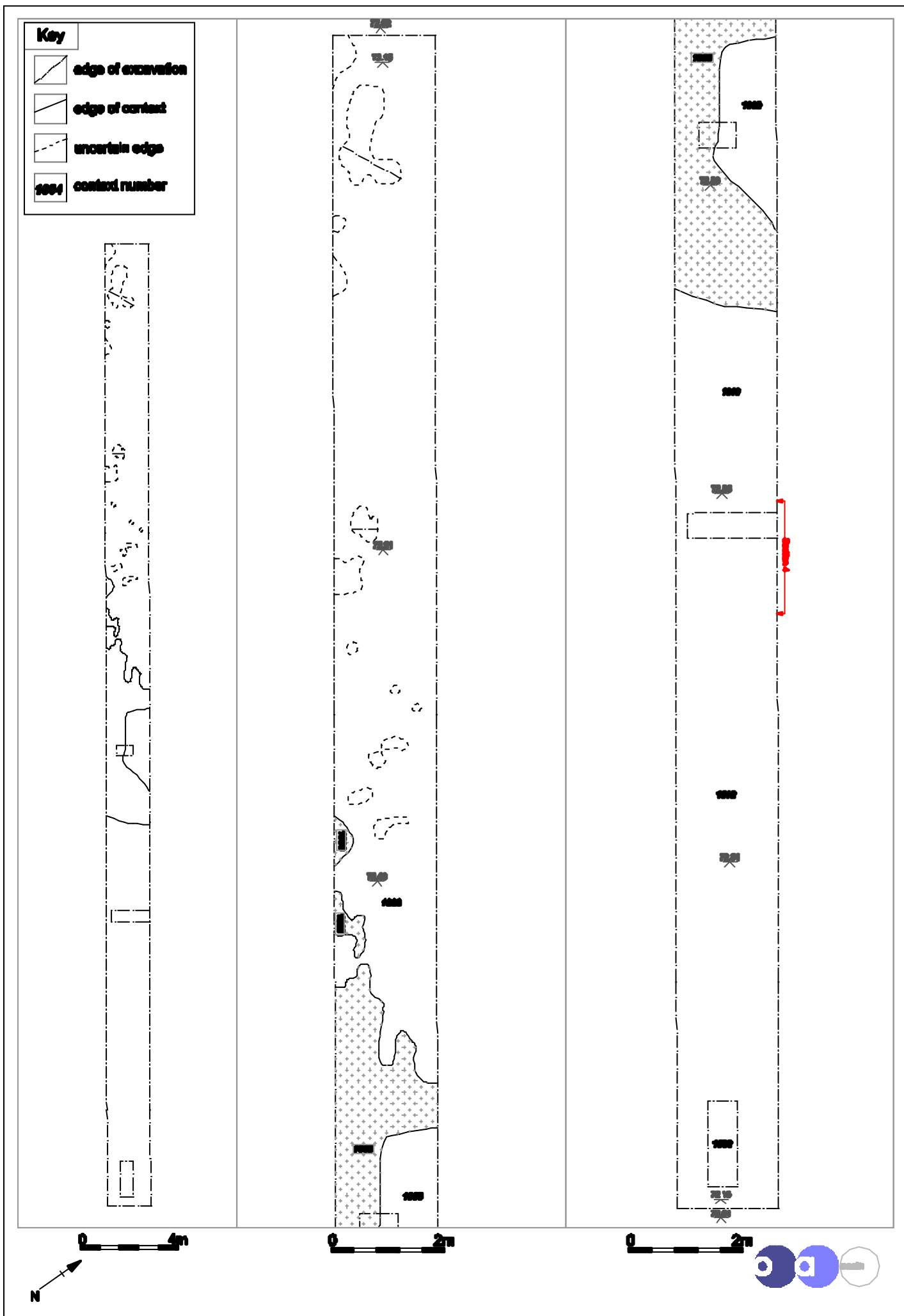


Figure 6: Plan of Trench 3

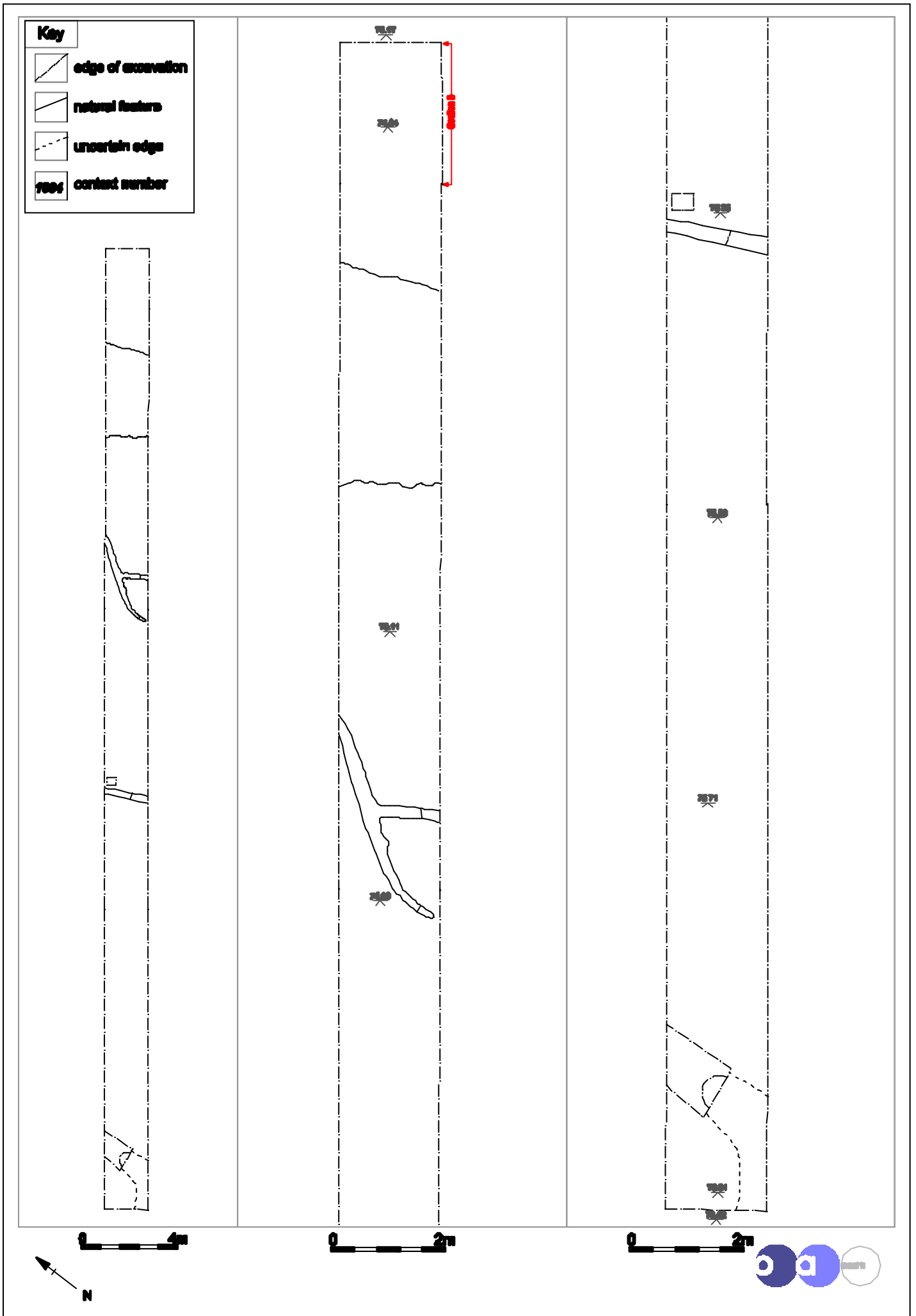




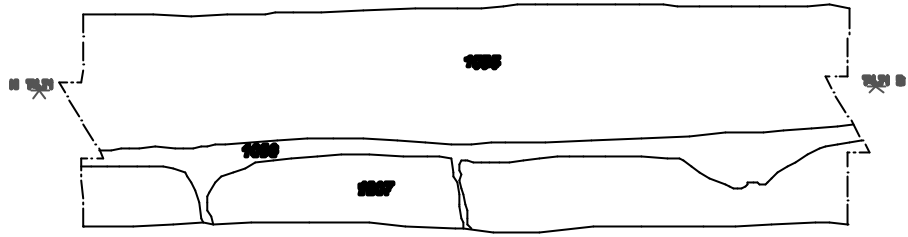


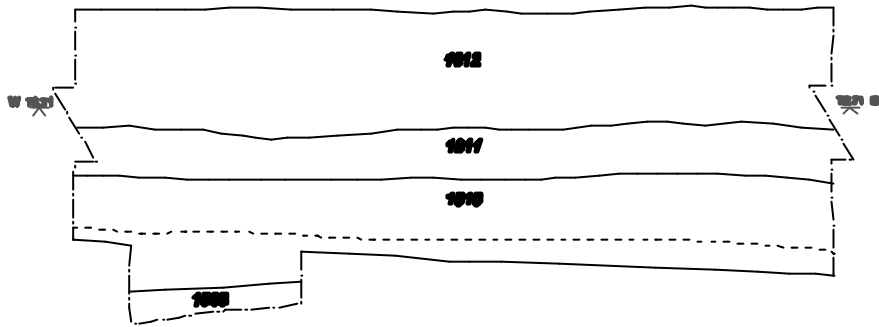
Figure 7: Plan of Trench 4

Key

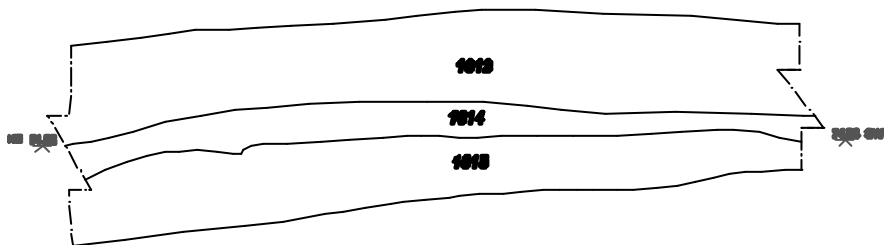
-  edge of excavation
-  edge of contact
-  uncertain edge
-  contact number



Sample section from Trench 2



Sample section from Trench 3



Sample section from Trench 4

0 0.4m



Figure 8: Sections of trenches 2, 3 and 5



Plate 1: General view of Field 1, looking south



Plate 2: Plan view of Trench 1, looking north-east



Plate 3: Plan view of Trench 2, looking north-east



Plate 4: Plan view of Trench 3, looking north-west



Plate 5: South-west-facing section of Trench 3



Plate 6: Plan view of Trench 4, looking north-east



Plate 7: North-west-facing section of Trench 4

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 United Utilities (hereafter the client) propose to construct a Water Treatment Works at Sandiford, Cheshire. The proposed works lie immediately to the south of the Seven Lows Barrow Cemetery comprising a number of individual barrows lying on either side of the Fishpool Road. The mounds are recorded in the Cheshire SMR and are designated as Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Although none of the known mounds will be affected by the development works, it is entirely possible that ploughed out mounds or peripheral burials may be affected by the new treatment works.
- 1.2 The Historic Environment Planning Officer (Archaeology) at Cheshire County Council has requested that a programme of field evaluation is undertaken comprising fieldwalking and trial trenching. This is to be undertaken prior to the determination of any planning application.
- 1.3 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) has considerable experience of the assessment and excavation of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects during the past 20 years. Evaluations and assessment have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables. OA North has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency.
- 1.4 OA North is an Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) registered organisation, registration number 17, and all its members of staff operate subject to the IFA Code of Conduct.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The following programme has been designed to provide an accurate archaeological assessment of the designated area within its broader context. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:
- 2.2 **Walkover Survey:** to undertake a visual inspection of the site in order to determine the presence of above ground archaeological remains, and to record any surface remains or artefact scatters that may be encountered;
- 2.3 **Evaluation:** to implement a programme of trial trenching examining 5% of the development in order to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains;
- 2.4 **Report and Archive:** the final report will be produced for the client within eight weeks of completion. A site archive will be produced to English Heritage guidelines (MAP 2) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990).

3. METHODS STATEMENT

3.1 The following work programme is submitted in line with the stages and objectives of the archaeological work summarised above.

3.2 WALKOVER SURVEY

3.2.1 **Visual Inspection:** prior to the evaluation trenching taking place a level I walkover survey (*Appendix 1*) will be undertaken to inform the positioning of the trenches and to collect and record any artefact scatters. This will encompass the entire development area, to be walked in a systematic fashion. Archaeological features identified within the landscape will be recorded using the relevant OA North pro forma, and the features accurately positioned with the use of either a GPS, which can achieve accuracies of $\pm 0.1\text{m}$ with respect to the OS national grid, or by manual survey techniques which will tie in new features to features already shown on the relevant OS map.

3.3 EVALUATION

3.3.1 The evaluation is required to evaluate a minimum of 5% of the development area. This will take the form of four linear trenches 40m x 2m or the equivalent, dependent upon the topographical conditions.

3.3.2 The topsoil will be removed by machine (fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, approximately 1.6m in width) under archaeological supervision to the surface of the first significant archaeological deposit. This deposit will be cleaned by hand, using either hoes, shovel scraping, and/or trowels depending on the subsoil conditions, and inspected for archaeological features. All features of archaeological interest must be investigated and recorded unless otherwise agreed by the County Archaeology Service. The trenches will not be excavated deeper than 1.20m to accommodate health and safety constraints; any requirements to excavate below this depth will involve recosting.

3.3.3 All trenches will be excavated in a stratigraphical manner, whether by machine or by hand. Any investigation of intact archaeological deposits will be exclusively manual. A minimum sample of 50% of archaeological features must be examined by excavation. Selected pits and postholes will normally only be half-sectioned, linear features will be subject to no less than a 25% sample, and extensive layers will, where possible, be sampled by partial rather than complete removal. It is hoped that in terms of the vertical stratigraphy, maximum information retrieval will be achieved through the examination of sections of cut features. All excavation, whether by machine or by hand, will be undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features, which appear worthy of preservation *in situ*.

3.3.4 Samples will also be collected for technological, pedological and chronological analysis as appropriate. If necessary, access to conservation advice and facilities can be made available. OA North maintains close relationships with Ancient Monuments Laboratory staff at the Universities of Durham and York and, in addition, employs artefact and palaeozoological specialists with considerable expertise in the investigation, excavation and

finds management of sites of all periods and types, who are readily available for consultation.

- 3.3.5 **Human Remains:** any human remains uncovered will be left *in situ*, covered and protected. No further investigation will continue beyond that required to establish the date and character of the burial. Merseyside Archaeological Service and the local Coroner will be informed immediately. If removal is essential the exhumation of any funerary remains will require the provision of a Home Office license, under section 25 of the Burial Act of 1857. An application will be made by OA North for the study area on discovery of any such remains and the removal will be carried out with due care and sensitivity under the environmental health regulations, and if appropriate, in compliance with the 'Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981.
- 3.3.6 **Recording:** all information identified in the course of the site works will be recorded stratigraphically, with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and both black and white and colour photographs) to identify and illustrate individual features. Primary records will be available for inspection at all times.
- 3.3.7 Results of the field investigation will be recorded using a paper system, adapted from that used by Centre for Archaeology of English Heritage. The archive will include both a photographic record and accurate large-scale plans and sections at an appropriate scale (1:50, 1:20, and 1:10). Levels will be tied into the Ordnance Datum. All artefacts and ecofacts will be recorded using the same system, and will be handled and stored according to standard practice (following current Institute of Field Archaeologists guidelines) in order to minimise deterioration.
- 3.3.8 **Treatment of finds:** all finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid For Finds*, 1998 (new edition) and the recipient museum's guidelines.
- 3.3.9 **Treasure:** any gold and silver artefacts recovered during the course of the excavation will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act, 1996. Where removal cannot take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security will be employed to protect the finds from theft.
- 3.3.10 All identified finds and artefacts will be retained, although certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is retained on advice from the recipient museum's archive curator.
- 3.3.11 **Contingency plan:** in the event of significant archaeological features being encountered during the evaluation, discussions will take place with the Archaeological Officer, as to the extent of further works to be carried out, and in agreement with the Client. All further works would be subject to a variation to this project design. In addition, a contingency costing may also be employed for unseen delays caused by prolonged periods of bad weather, vandalism, discovery of unforeseen complex deposits and/or artefacts which require specialist removal, use of shoring to excavate important features close

to the excavation sections etc. This has been included in the costing and would be in agreement with the client.

3.4 ASSESSMENT REPORT

3.4.1 **Archive:** the results of Stages 3.2 to 3.3 will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IFA in that organisation's code of conduct.

3.4.2 This archive can be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology Service format, both as a printed document and on computer disks as ASCII files (as appropriate), and a synthesis (in the form of the index to the archive and the report) will be deposited with the Cheshire Sites and Monuments Record offices. OA North practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic, and plastic media) with the appropriate County Record Office, and, where appropriate the material archive (artefacts, ecofacts, and samples) with the County Museums Service. In this instance, the record archive will be sent to the Cheshire Record Office.

3.4.3 **Collation of data:** the data generated by 3.2 will be collated and analysed in order to provide an assessment of the nature and significance of the known surface and subsurface remains within the designated area. It will also serve as a guide to the archaeological potential of the area to be investigated, and the basis for the formulation of any detailed field programme and associated sampling strategy, should these be required in the future.

3.4.4 **Assessment Report:** two copies of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the Client, one copy submitted to the Cheshire SMR, and two further copies to the Cheshire Planning Archaeologist:

- 1 a concise, non-technical summary of the project results;
- 2 an introduction to the circumstances of the project and the aims and objectives of the study;
- 3 a summary of the methodology and an indication of any departure from the agreed project design;
- 4 a copy of the agreed project design;
- 5 a brief outline of past and present land-use;
- 6 a summary of the archaeological background;
- 7 results of the fieldwork set in a local and regional context;
- 8 appropriate figures and plates;
- 9 a full list of references to and bibliography of primary and secondary sources consulted and a list of any further sources identified but not consulted;
- 10 an index of the project archive.

3.4.5 The report will be in the same basic format as this project design; a copy of the report can be provided on 3.5" disk (IBM compatible format).

3.4.6 **Confidentiality:** the assessment report is designed as a document for the specific use of the client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project brief and this project design, and should be treated as such; it is not suitable for publication as an academic report, or otherwise, without amendment or revision. Any requirement to revise or reorder the material for submission or presentation to third parties beyond the project brief and project design, or for any other explicit purpose, can be fulfilled, but will require separate discussion and funding.

4. OUTLINE RESOURCES

4.1 Present timetabling constraints preclude detailing at this stage exactly who will be undertaking the fieldwork. The evaluation will be directed by an OA North supervisor. All OA North's project officers and supervisors are experienced field archaeologists who regularly undertaken supervision of numerous small- and large-scale evaluation and excavation projects.

4.2 Assessment of any finds from the evaluation will be undertaken by **Sean McPhillips BA**. Sean has worked as a finds supervisor for English Heritage and MOLAS on a number of occasions and has extensive knowledge concerning finds. All OA North project officers and supervisors are experienced

4.3 The project will be under the management of **Alison Plummer** (OA North Senior Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.

5. PROJECT MONITORING

5.1 The project will be monitored by the Cheshire Planning Archaeologist, or his representative.

6. TIMETABLE

6.1 **Walkover Survey:** the fieldwork element of this will take one day;

6.2 **Trial Trenching:** this will take in the region of four days to complete;

6.3 **Report and Archive:** the report will be submitted within eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork programme.

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Trench	Description	Max. Depth
1000	1	Mid-light orange soft to moderately loose sand - natural	
1001	1	Dark orange-brown moderately loose friable silty-sand - subsoil	0.2m
1002	1	Mid-brown friable silty-sand - topsoil	0.3m
1003	1	Mid-blackish-grey loose silty-sand - fill of posthole 1004	0.1m
1004	1	Cut of square posthole - filled by 1003	0.1m
1005	2	Light blackish-grey loose clay-sand - topsoil	0.35m
1006	2	Mid-greyish-black compact clay-sand - subsoil	0.05m
1007	2	Mid- brown-orange loose sand - natural	
1008	3	Light greyish-white soft sand - natural	
1009	3	Mid-orange moderately loose sand - natural	
1010	3	Dark greyish-black mixed with orange and grey-white loose sand - colluvial	0.28m
1011	3	Light brown moderately firm clay-sand - subsoil	0.14m
1012	3	Mid-grey-brown friable silty-sand - topsoil	0.38m
1013	4	Mid blackish-grey loose sandy-silt - topsoil	0.3m
1014	4	Light blackish-grey loose sandy-silt - subsoil	0.1m
1015	4	Mid-grey-orange loose sand - natural	