

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording Postwick, Norfolk



Archaeological Monitoring and Recording Report



Feb 2014

Client: Anglian Water

OA East Report No: 1582

OASIS No: oxfordar3-133473

NGR: TG29610839

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording, Postwick, Norfolk.

Site Code: XNF POW 14

CHER No. ENF 133473

Date of Works: 21st January 2014

Report No:1582

Excavator: Tam Webster

Client:Anglian Water

Report Date: January 2014

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Summary

On the 21st January 2014, OA East carried out an archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Postwick, Norfolk (TG29610839). The monitoring was carried out during excavation of six geological test pits. No archaeological features were observed during the monitoring works.

1 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.1.1 The site lies between 16m OAD and 23m OAD on Norwich Crag sand and gravels (BGS, Geology of Britain Viewer; Borehole logs from the A47 scheme from location to the north and west of the site mostly identify approximately 0.4m-0.5m of topsoil over 1.1m to 1.6m of silty sands or silty clays.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Background Study

- 2.1.1 In line with Norfolk HES's recommendations, which preclude the use of data from the Norfolk Heritage Explorer online resource for commercial work, a formal search of the NHER was commissioned by OA East, with data supplied on 9/12/13.
- 2.1.2 This data confirms that the site lies within what was a densely utilized environment throughout most periods.

Undated

- 2.1.3 The cropmarks of a group of undated ditches are visible on aerial photographs to the south west of the Postwick Transmitter Station, and to the west of a comparable cropmark site (NHER 49558) – just east of this site. It seems likely that these cropmarks represent several phases of activity, and may date to the Late Prehistoric to Roman period or medieval to post medieval period. The cropmarks seen within the site (particularly the linear anomalies recorded in the west of the site) represent part of this wider grouping and as such remain undated (although see 2.2 below).

Prehistoric

- 2.1.4 Records of casual finds and non-metallic finds recovered during detecting within close proximity of the site indicate the presence of flint tools and prehistoric pottery (e.g. NNER 29867) indicating activity areas and possibly occupation close by.
- 2.1.5 It is possible that the parallel ditch features recorded to the west of the site (NNHER 52004) represent the fragmentary remains of a prehistoric trackway.
- 2.1.6 A ring ditch, which probably dates to the Bronze Age or Iron Age (or just possibly the Roman, or medieval to post medieval period) is located in the eastern part of the development area. The ring ditch measures approximately 9.9m in internal diameter, which is quite small for a Bronze Age round barrow, although examples of this size are known. An alternative interpretation is that the ring ditch represent the remains of eavesdrip gully from a roundhouse. This site is located within an area of undated cropmarks relating to field boundaries and enclosures, which may be late prehistoric to Roman, or medieval to post medieval in date (NHER 52004).
- 2.1.7 A cropmark of a possible Bronze Age ring ditch or hengiform monument located 200m to the northwest of the site was visible on aerial photographs, and was excavated as part of the NDR evaluation (NHER 49758). It is possible that this feature represents a C-shaped hengiform monument, such as that at Roughton (NHER 38501), and is not, in fact, a round barrow.
- 2.1.8 Several cropmark records from areas only a few hundred metres to the north and west of the site include pit alignments characteristic of neolithic or later prehistoric activity.

2.1.9 In conclusion there is evidence for a variety of kinds of activity and types of remains across the period from the neolithic to the Iron Age within the general vicinity of the site, and therefore potential for similar discoveries here. In addition the site is known to contain cropmarks that may be either a Bronze Age barrow (burial mound) or late prehistoric ring gully (house site), and ditches that probably relate to a prehistoric, or later, enclosure system.

2.1.10 Roman-British

As indicated above it is possible that the ring ditch recorded within the site is the remains of an eavesdrip gully from an iron Age or Romano-British building. Additionally the multi-period enclosure systems seen across many fields to the east and north of the site include alignments that are characteristic of Roman-British agriculture.

Roman coins were found during metal detecting immediately to the south of the site (NNHER 23777).

In conclusion the site may include Roman-British settlement and/or enclosure systems.

2.1.11 Saxon to medieval and post-medieval

An early Saxon brooch was recovered 300m to the southeast of the site (NNHER 50468).

Cropmark features identified to the northwest of the site (NNHER 52045, 52046) may be evidence for Saxon SFBs, although they could equally have an origin as quarries or field ponds.

Very substantial numbers of metal finds have been recovered from fields immediately to the south and west of the site (e.g. NNHER 16847, 30475, 31762) and additionally small numbers of similar objects have been found along the site's western periphery (e.g. NNHER 24062, 240630). These finds date primarily to the medieval and post-medieval periods.

The site lies just beyond the historic village envelope of Postwick, and HER records from the settlement itself lying just to the southwest attest to the unsurprising discovery of medieval pottery and coins.

The range of evidence for the Saxon to medieval period, as described in this section, all point to the site being previously within the area of medieval to post-medieval infield activity and the settlement periphery. Settlement shift from the early Saxon period onwards may have at times included this location.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1.1 The objective of this watching brief was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

- 3.1.2 The Brief required that all monitoring works will be carried out under Archaeological Supervision and Control.
- 3.1.3 The area of investigation was located to the North of Postwick, north of Brundell Low road south of A 1042/A47 dual carriage way Grid Ref TG26910839.
- 3.1.4 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 3.1.5 Site conditions were very wet due to previous heavy rainfall.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Test Pit 1 (Fig 3, plate 1)

- 4.1.1 The test pit was located towards the north end of the field along the west side. The test pit measured 1.60m x 0.80m x 1.22m deep and aligned west to east.
- 4.1.2 The test pit was excavated down into the natural (14) a pale yellow sand, with occasional clay lumps and flints, at a depth of 0.96m. The natural was sealed by a lower sub soil (13) a mid brown sandy silt with flint inclusions, the layer was 0.30m thick and sealed by an upper sub soil (12) a mid reddish brown sandy silt with inclusions of clay lumps and flints, the layer was 0.34m thick, and sealed by the top/plough soil (1) a mid grey brown sandy silt at 0.30m thick.

4.2 Test Pit 2 (Fig 3, plate 2)

- 4.2.1 The test pit was located midway along the west side boundary of the field. The test pit measured 1.6m x 0.85m x 1.1m deep and aligned west to east.
- 4.2.2 The test pit was excavated down into the natural (16) a pale yellow sand with occasional clay lumps, at a depth of 0.70m. The natural was sealed by a sub soil (15) a mid brown sandy silt with occasional clay patches, the layer was 0.28m thick and cut by a possible pit [18] with steep near vertical sloping east edge down to a flattish base at 0.55m deep. The pit was filled by a single deposit (17) a reddish orange sand with clay/silt and grey soil lenses, this layer possibly represented a redeposited natural. A top/plough soil (1) sealed the pit and was 0.32m thick.

4.3 Test Pit 3 (Fig 3, plate 3)

- 4.3.1 The test pit was located towards the south end and west side of the field. The test pit measured 1.5 x 0.80 x 0.95m deep and aligned south to north.
- 4.3.2 The test pit was excavated down into the natural (3) a mid reddish brown sand with flints and sand/gravel lenses, at a depth of 0.68m. The natural was sealed by a sub soil (2) a pale brown reddish sandy silt with clay patches, the layer was 0.38m thick and sealed by the top/plough soil 1, which was 0.30m thick.

4.4 Test Pit 4 (Fig 3, plate 4)

- 4.4.1 The test pit was located towards the north edge of the field, east of test pit 1. The test pit measured 1.5m x 0.95m x 1.1m deep and aligned west to east.
- 4.4.2 The test pit was excavated down into the natural (11) a pale yellow sand with silt lenses, at a depth of 0.92m. The natural was sealed by a lower sub soil (10) a mid grey

brown sandy silt with clay inclusions, the layer was 0.32m thick and sealed by an upper sub soil (9) a mid brown sandy silt including occasional flints and clay lumps, the layer was 0.28m thick. A top/plough soil (1) sealed 9 and was 0.32m thick.

4.5 Test Pit 5 (Fig 3, plate 5)

- 4.5.1 The test pit was located east of test pit 2 mid way between test pits 4 and 6. The test pit measured 1.35 x 0.9 x 0.75m and aligned west to east.
- 4.5.2 The test pit was excavated down into the natural (8) a reddish yellow sand with flints and occasional clay lenses, at a depth of 0.62m. The natural was sealed by sub soil (7) a mid brown reddish sandy silt with flint inclusions the layer was 0.30m thick and sealed by the top/plough soil (1) at 0.32m thick.

4.6 Test Pit 6 (Fig 3, plate 6)

- 4.6.1 The test pit was located towards the southern boundary of the field, east of test pit 3, measured 1.7 x 0.85 x 0.75m deep and aligned west to east.
- 4.6.2 The test pit was excavated down into a lower natural (6) a mid reddish brown sand with silt and flint/gravel inclusions, at 0.68m depth and sealed by an upper natural (5) a pale yellow brown sand with flint and clay inclusions, at a depth of 0.52m. The natural was sealed by a sub soil (4) a mid reddish brown sandy silt including flints and clay patches, the layer was 0.22m thick. The top/plough soil 1 sealed 4 and was 0.3m thick.

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 Sub-heading

- 5.1.1 The monitoring of the six trial holes, for geotechnical purposes, resulted in no archaeological remains being found.
- 5.1.2 The test pit were located as to avoid known anomalies plotted during a recent geophysical survey of the site.
- 5.1.3 A single feature, located in test pit 2, [17], possibly represented a recent tree bowl or vegetation pit.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 6.1.1 The author would like to thank Anglian Water who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by Dr P Spoerry.
- 6.1.2 The generic brief for archaeological works was written by Ken Hamilton, NCC Historic Environment Service.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hamilton, K, 2012. Generic Brief for the monitoring of works under archaeological supervision and control.

Spoerry, Dr P, 2014. Specification for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording at Postwick, Norfolk.

Web site consulted. [Http:// mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html](http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html)).

APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	<input type="text"/>		
Project Name	<input type="text"/>		
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start <input type="text"/>	Finish	<input type="text"/>
Previous Work (by OA East)	<input type="text"/>	Future Work	<input type="text"/>

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	<input type="text"/>	Planning App. No.	<input type="text"/>
HER No.	<input type="text"/>	Related HER/OASIS No.	<input type="text"/>

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt

Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Field Observation (periodic visits)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Record
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Excavation (100%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Field Walking
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Recorded Observation	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Metal Detector Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pit Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Open-Area Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Watching Brief

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
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<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Project Location

County	<input type="text"/>	Site Address (including postcode if possible) <input type="text"/>	
District	<input type="text"/>		
Parish	<input type="text"/>		
HER	<input type="text"/>		
Study Area	<input type="text"/>	National Grid Reference	<input type="text"/>

Project Originators

Organisation	
Project Brief Originator	
Project Design Originator	
Project Manager	
Supervisor	

Project Archives

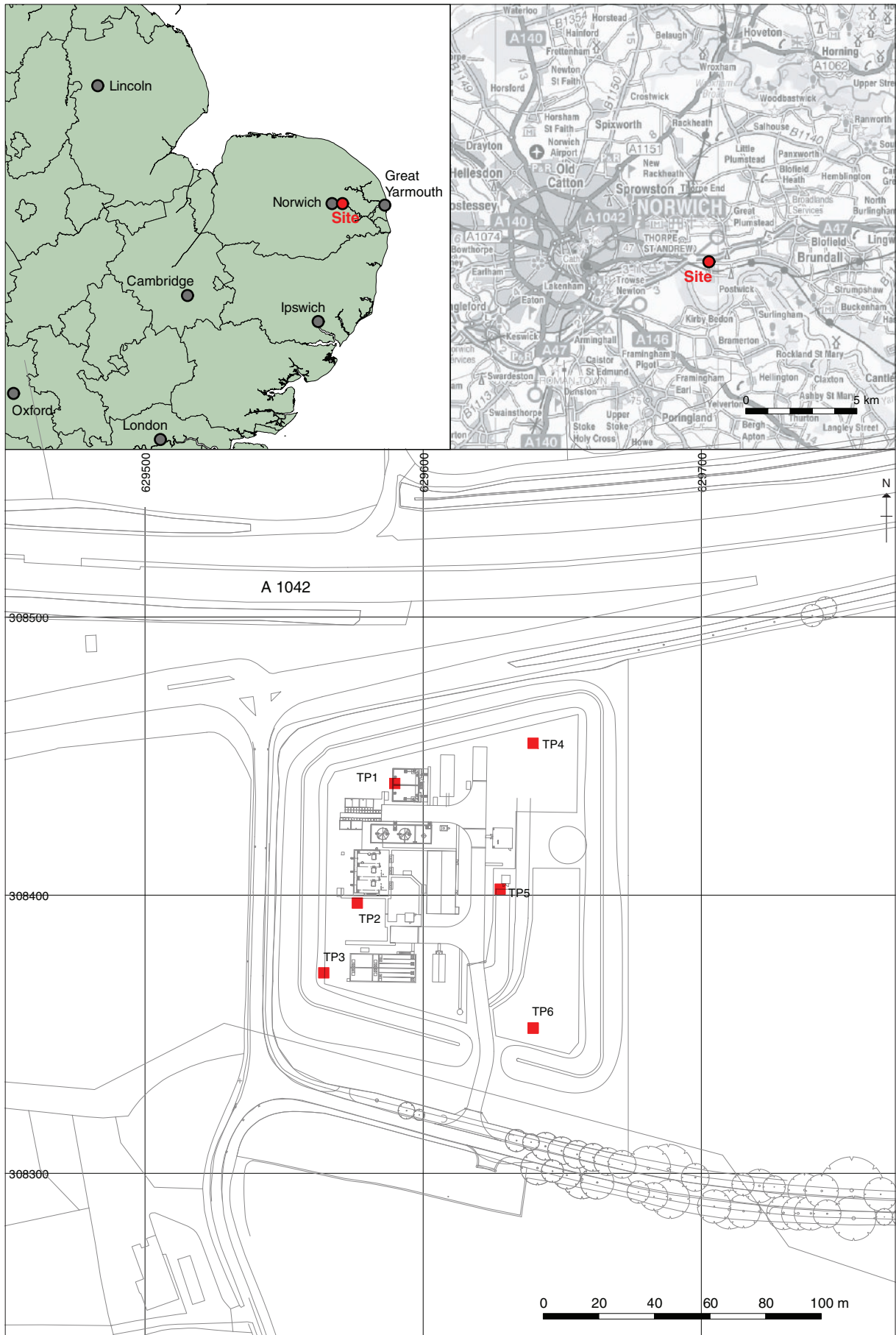
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Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
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Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Digital Media	Paper Media
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	<input type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological test pits 1-6 (red). Scale 1: 2000

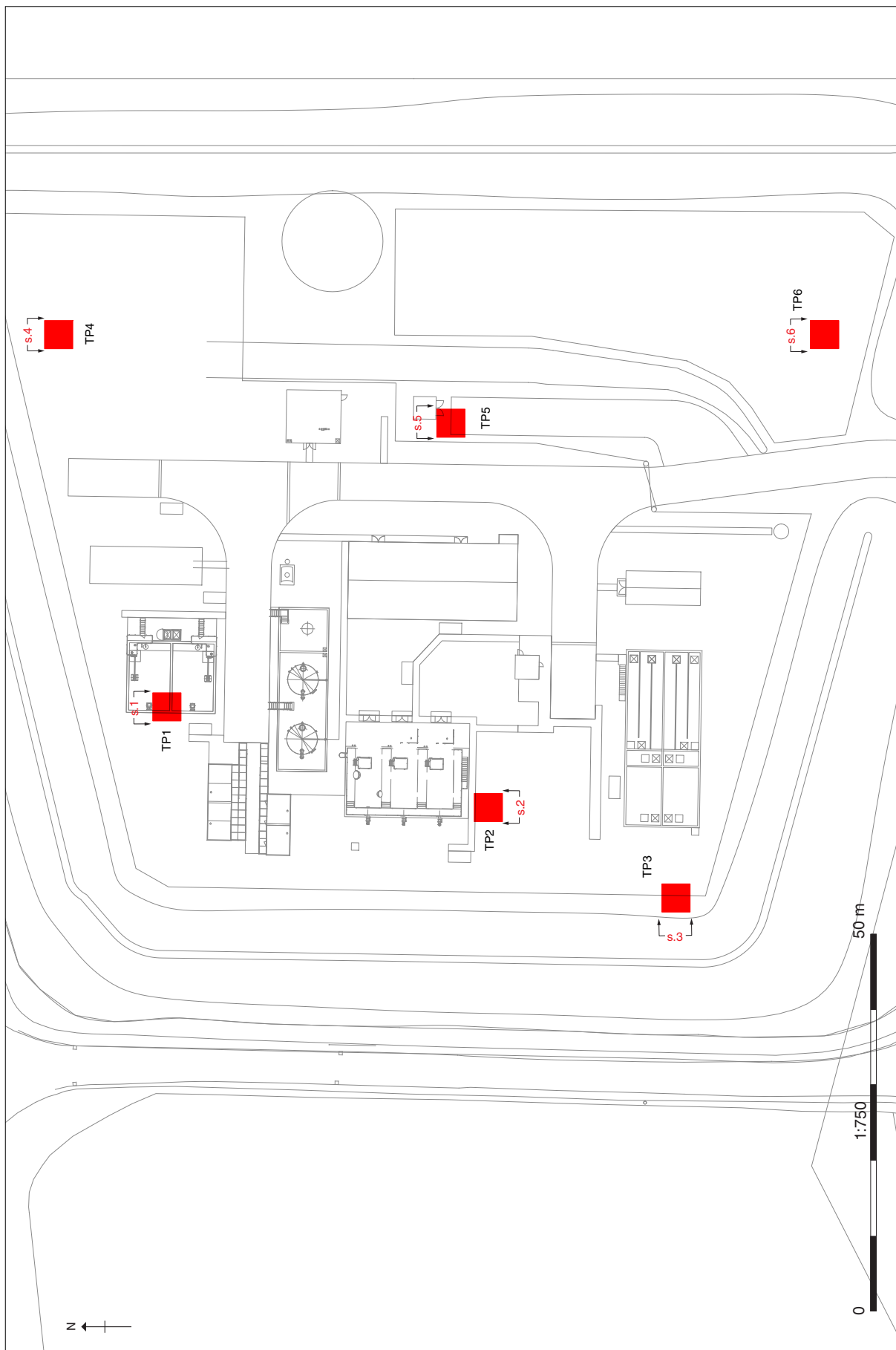
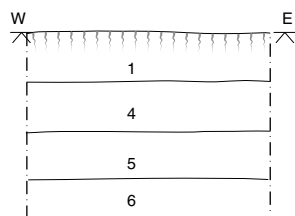
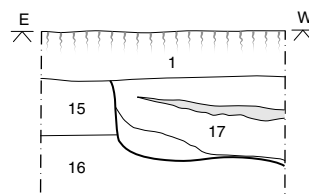


Figure 2: Plan showing location of test pits 1-6. Scale 1:750

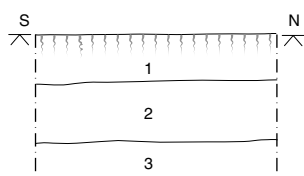
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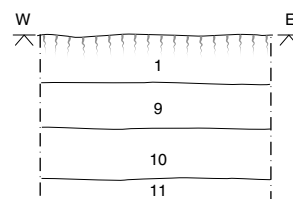
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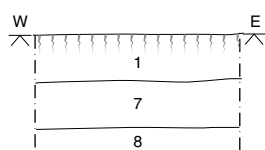
TP 3 Section 3



TP 4 Section 4



TP 5 Section 5



TP 6 Section 6

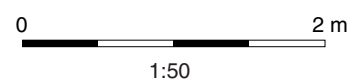
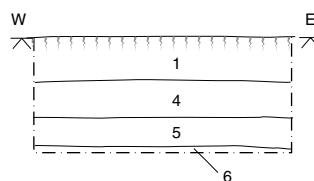


Figure 3: Sections 1-6



Plate 1: Test Pit 1



Plate 2: Test Pit 2



Plate 3: Test Pit 3



Plate 4: Test Pit 4



Plate 5: Test Pit 5



Plate 6: Test Pit 6



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