

Westley Hall Farm, Westley, Suffolk

Planning application: SE/10/0810

HER Ref: WLY 011

Archaeological Evaluation Report

(© John Newman BA MIFA, 2 Pearsons Place, Henley, Ipswich, IP6 0RA)

(October 2010)

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Site details for HER

Name: Westley Hall Farm, Westley, Suffolk, IP33 3TR

Client: R C Browne & Sons

Local planning authority: St Edmundsbury DC

Planning application ref: SE/10/0810

Development: Agricultural reservoir

Date of fieldwork: 5-7 October, 2010

HER Ref: WLY 011

OASIS ref: johnnewm1_84697

Grid ref: TL 8195 6452/ height- 70/72mOD

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Summary: Westley Hall Farm, Westley (WLY 011, TL 8195 6452) evaluation trenching for a proposed agricultural reservoir just to the north of the site of the medieval church at in the parish revealed ditches from at least three periods of field system. While the number of finds recovered was very low a definite Post medieval and probable later prehistoric and medieval phases of activity were identified. Environmental evidence was also sparse but did support pre-Saxon activity in the area. The only non-ditch type feature was a slot or trench with possible post settings in its base; this feature is undated and it is uncertain whether it represents another element in a land division system or part of a structure. (John Newman Archaeological Services for R C Browne & Sons).

1. Introduction & background

1.1 R C Browne & Sons commissioned John Newman Archaeological Services (JNAS) to undertake the archaeological evaluation works on the site of a proposed agricultural reservoir at Westley Hall Farm (see Fig. 1) as required under condition for a programme of archaeological works of the planning decision notice for application SE/10/0810. The evaluation requirements were set out in a Brief and Specification set by Dr A Antrobus of the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service to satisfy this condition (Appendix II). The evaluation works were carried out between 5 & 7 October, 2010, under generally good weather conditions though low sunlight did cause problems with soil colour differentiation at times.

1.2 Westley lies to the west of Bury St Edmunds and historically is mapped by Hodskinson in 1783 as a small settlement centred around a staggered crossroads with a somewhat detached medieval parish church just to the west. The village has seen some major change in the last 200 years as the east-west route at the crossroads has declined in status to being a farm track with the north-south road forming the modern focus in the settlement. The medieval parish church of St Thomas a Becket (HER WLY 002), which is 50m to the south of the proposed reservoir (see Fig. 2), is now ruinous and its Post medieval replacement is adjacent to the main road through the village.

1.3 Topographically Westley is located on gently rising ground to the north of the River Linnet with the proposed reservoir being just below the 75m OD contour with the local slope dropping away gradually to the east and south-east. Soils around the site are described as being 'deep loam to clay of the Melford series derived from the underlying chalky till.'

2. Evaluation methodology

2.1 The proposed reservoir site was trenched to a previously agreed plan with 5 trenches sampling all parts of the proposed development area which measures 100m x 106m, or 10,600m² (see Fig. 2). The brief and specification called for a 5% sample of the site which entailed 530m² at a minimum trench width of 1.8m. In total 233m of 2.4m wide trial trench, or 5.28% of the development area, were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision to the top of the underlying natural till surface using a wide, toothless, ditching bucket. Across the site the topsoil varied between 250mm and 300mm in depth below which the mid brown subsoil in turn varied between being virtually non-existent and 100mm/150mm deep, in places plough marks could be seen scarring the natural till surface but such recent agricultural disturbance was limited in extent. The exposed till surface was closely examined for archaeological features and any indistinct areas were hand cleaned and exposed cut features were hand sampled, using 1m wide sections across linear ones, and bulk sampled. Mechanically upcast spoil and spoil from hand sampled features was searched by an experienced metal detector user and visually examined for archaeological finds. Site visibility for features and finds is considered to have been generally good throughout the evaluation trenching though, as noted above, bright low sunlight did make soil colour differentiation difficult at times. In addition the natural drift geology encountered varied between yellowish sandy clay with flints, a pale brown silty sand not unlike some feature fill and a chalky sandy clay across the site and often within individual trenches. Therefore at some points the mechanical excavation of the trenches was taken below the 100/150mm of mid brown subsoil which was encountered across much of the site in order to clarify whether potential features were natural or of genuine archaeological interest. All recording within the trench was done at 1:50 in plan and 1:20 in section. The trench locations and absolute levels adjacent to archaeological features were secured using a GPS

on the Leica Smartnet system. A full photographic record in digital and monochrome film was taken of the trenching works.

2.2 At the time of the evaluation the proposed development area had a well weathered, bare surface giving good visibility for surface finds though only the odd medieval or later sherd was noted. The surface of the development area was also systematically metal detected as an addition to the specified searching of the evaluation trenches.

3. Results

3.1 The basic trench details are as follows (see Appendix III for context list):

Trench	Orientation	Length (m)	Area (m ²)	Depth (mm)	Features/Period
1	NE-SW	55	132.00	300/400	Ditch/?emed
2	NW-SE	44	105.60	350/450	Ditches/?IA, Pmed & ?
3	NE-SW	39	93.60	350/400	Ditches/?
4	NW-SE	46	110.40	300/400	Slot &Ditches/Pmed & ?
5	NE-SW	49	117.60	300/450	Ditches/?IA & ?
Total		233	559.20		

3.1 The metal detector search of the upcast spoil and trench base, sides and features revealed did not recover any pre-modern non-ferrous finds. However the general detector search did recover 4 Roman period coins of in addition to 6 non-ferrous finds of Post medieval/modern or uncertain date scattered across the surface of the field (see section 4.2 below- small finds from the field surface as contexts 0100-0110 with relevant grid references).

3.2 Trench 1 was 55m long, 2.4 m wide, 300/400mm deep and orientated north east-south west across the southern part of the site and therefore only 60m north of the nearby medieval church site. As across the entire site the topsoil is a moderately heavy sandy clay loam which was mechanically stripped in c100mm spits to reveal the naturally occurring underlying light yellow sandy clay with flints till surface. This trench revealed one discrete feature, a north/south ditch (0002- see Fig. 3). The ditch (0002) is a moderately substantial feature being 500mm wide and 400mm deep. This feature appears to be possibly later Saxon or, more likely, medieval in date as the only readily identifiable find from the fill (0003) was a small single rim sherd of St Neots ware. On re-inspection of the trench another possible, shallow, ditch (0041- see Fig. 3) was noted and which may have been interpreted as an area of deeper subsoil during the machine watching. This possible feature appears to be on a north east/south west alignment, some 800mm wide and c150/200mm deep.

3.3 Trench 2 was 44m long, 2.4m wide, 300/400mm deep and orientated north west-south east on the eastern side of the site. The 300mm of top, or plough soil was similar to Trench 1 and this lay over 100/150mm of mid brown subsoil. Four ditches were identified in this trench (see Fig. 3) with two (0027 & 0031) on east/west alignments and the other two (0025 &

0029) on a south west/north east one. Both east-west ditches intersected with one of the other ditches and in each instance the relevant junction areas were hand cleaned in order to identify the relevant relationship and in each case the latter alignment preceded the former one. This relationship seen on the trench base as the fill of the east/west ditch cutting through the fill of the relevant north west/south east ditch was supported by the, admittedly, sparse finds recovered from two of the feature fills. Towards the northern end of the trench the east/west ditch (0027) contained a small fragment of Post medieval tile (in fill 0028) while the ditch (0025) cut by this feature produced a sherd of probable Iron Age pottery from its fill (0026). In common with many of the features on the site the two ditches towards the southern end of this trench did not produce any finds though it could be ascertained, as noted above, that the east/west feature (0031) was of a later phase of activity to the north west/south east aligned one (0029). Of possible note in Trench 2 was the profile of the probable Iron Age period ditch (0025- see Fig. 3) as it proved to have particularly steep sides and a flat base which appeared to be more 'trench' than ditch like though any real interpretation from such a limited sample of the feature is impossible. Two possible small, contained, features were noted close to the northern edge of one of the east-west ditches (0031). However on investigation they proved to be irregular in form with their fill going down at an acute angle to the natural till surface of the trench and therefore these were interpreted as naturally formed burrow or root disturbances.

3.4 Trench 3 was 39m long, 2.4m wide, 350/400mm deep and orientated north east-south west across the central part of the site. Features were revealed at the eastern end of the trench (see Fig. 3) with two ditches (0037 & 0039) on a north-south alignment. No finds were recovered from either feature.

3.5 Trench 4 was 46m long, 2.4m wide, 300/400mm deep and orientated north west-south east across the western part of the site. Various linear features were recorded in this trench (see Fig. 4) with one (0033) being notable as a slot or trench running on a north-south alignment towards the southern end of trench 4 and the only non-ditch type linear feature recorded on the evaluation. This slot or trench (0033) was some 300/350mm wide by 300mm deep and butt ends (0034 & 0035) were identified at either end of 9.50m run within trench 4 though the alignment was also seen to continue under the eastern side of the trench (0005). The slot or trench was also notable in having an irregular base within one excavated section (0004) perhaps indicative of post settings. No finds were recovered from this feature. The remainder of trench 4 revealed various ditches and working from south to north one (0009) on an east-west alignment was seen to cut another (0007) on a south west-north east line, neither of these ditches could be dated. Beyond this pair of ditches what initially appeared to be a wide linear feature proved on excavation to be a pair of parallel, shallow ditches on a south west- north east alignment with the western one (0011) cutting the eastern (0013) though being on the same orientation a broadly contemporary period of use can be inferred. Unfortunately no finds were recovered from either ditch. Finally at the northern end of trench 4 an east-west aligned ditch (0015) was located and this feature produced what is probably the most secure dating evidence for any feature on the site as a relatively large sherd of Post medieval pottery was recovered from well within the excavated fill (0016).

3.6 Trench 5 was 49m long, 2.4m wide, 300/450mm deep and orientated north east-south west towards the northern edge of the site. Archaeological features were only located at the

western end of this trench (see Fig. 4) with two parallel, shallow, ditches (0017 & 0019) running on a south west-north east alignment. The western of these ditches (0017) was seen to cut the eastern one (0019) and it is noteworthy that the stratigraphically later feature (0017) produced one pottery, slightly abraded, sherd of Iron Age or Early Anglo-Saxon date from its fill (0018). Some 1.5m to the east of these parallel features a ditch (0021) on a north west-south east alignment was identified and this one cut another ditch (0023) that ran on a north-south line. Neither of these two ditches (0021 & 0023) produced any dating material.

4. The finds (ceramics by S Anderson & coins & metal finds by N Crummy)

4.1 Ceramics

Ceramic sherds were collected from five contexts, as shown in Table 1.

Context	Pottery		CBM		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0003	1	2			11th c.
0016	1	60			18th c.
0018	1	9			IA/ESax?
0026	1	7			IA?
0028			1	6	PMed
Total	4	78	1	6	

Table 1. Ceramic Finds- quantification.

Four sherds of pottery were recovered from ditch fills. The earliest, from 0026, was a body sherd of handmade pottery with fine flint tempering in a hard medium sandy matrix, likely to be of Iron Age date. Another handmade sherd, slightly abraded, was recovered from 0018; this was in a medium sandy hard fabric with an oxidised external surface, and was either of Iron Age or Early Saxon date. A small sherd from 0003 is a fragment of St. Neot's-type ware of Late Saxon date, but it is uncertain whether it formed part of the rim of a bowl or the edge of a strap handle. A large fragment of a Staffordshire-type press-moulded flatware with internal slip decoration was found in 0016.

A small fragment of plain roof tile in a medium sandy oxidised fabric was found in 0028 and is probably of post-medieval date.

4.2 The coins and other metalwork

The assemblage

The assemblage consists of five coins and six other objects, ranging in date from Roman to modern. The objects are in good condition and are stored in standard polythene bags. All the metal finds are unstratified, plough soil finds from the site.

Four of the coins are Roman, the earliest is very worn but may be as early as the mid 1st century while three are late Roman. All three belong within late 3rd century and mid 4th century periods of high coin supply and subsequent loss as defined by Reece (1991; 1995). Although small, as a whole this group of coins conforms to the pattern usually seen on rural sites in Britain, with little or no coinage until the late 3rd century (Reece 1995; Guest 2003), pointing to a local economy based on barter rather than cash until the late 3rd century or later. A similar pattern of coin loss also applies to many settlement sites in Suffolk (Plouviez 2004).

The fifth coin is a farthing that probably dates to the first part of the 20th century. Most of the other objects date to the late post-medieval or early modern periods. The exception is a lead

weight that is probably late medieval or early post-medieval. Similar weights have been found at London and York (Egan 1998, 310-18; Ottaway and Rogers 2002, 2953-6).

Catalogue

(0102). Copper-alloy coin: very worn and illegible as, mid 1st-early 3rd century. Diameter 23 mm.

(0101). Copper-alloy coin: barbarous radiate, irregular flan, very worn and illegible on both faces but radiate crown visible on obverse. Maximum diameter 14 mm. AD 274-94.

(0104). Copper-alloy coin: Constans, obverse DN CONSTA-NS PF AVG, bust right, draped, with pearl diadem; reverse FEL TEMP REPARATIO, emperor standing to left, head right, on galley, holding victoriola and labarum, Victory seated at helm. Mint-mark obscured. Diameter 20 mm. Reference: as Carson and Kent 1972, no. 43. AD 349-50.

(0106). Copper-alloy coin: Constantius II, obverse DN CONSTAN-TIVS PF AVG, bust to right, draped, with pearl diadem; reverse FEL TEMP REPARATIO, Virtus to left with shield on arm, spearing falling horseman. Lyons mint, mint-mark CPLG. Diameter 16 mm. Reference: as Carson and Kent 1972, no. 256. AD 354-5.

(0110). Copper-alloy coin: very worn and illegible on both faces, probably an early 20th century farthing. Diameter 21 mm.

(0100). Lead disc weight, with a worn obscure design on the upper face, possibly a male or female bust, and with incised linear marks on both faces that may in some cases be deliberate and in others random damage. Diameter 35 mm, 7 mm thick. Weight 60 g, which is slightly over 2 ounces. Date range late medieval to post-medieval.

(0103). Copper-alloy one ounce weight of George III with a small central depression on the underside where it was attached to a lathe for finishing. The underside is flat; the upper face is countersunk and bears a pair of concentric grooves and four stamped countermarks, a capital A, a dagger, a ewer and the royal cypher, consisting of a crowned capital G. Diameter 29 mm, 6 mm thick. Weight 27 g (1 ounce).

(0105). Fragment of a copper-alloy fitting of staple-like form, with a short returned arm for attachment, now bent. The upper part has vegetal mouldings. Length 14 mm, width 25 mm (incomplete), thickness 9 mm. Date-range late post-medieval to early modern.

(0108). Fragment of a copper-alloy fitting as that from (0105) above, and probably part of it, although the broken ends do not fit closely. The returned arm is straight. Length 15 mm, width 26 mm (incomplete), thickness 9 mm.

(0109). Copper-alloy fitting with circular bar and flat tab, possibly part of a hinge mechanism. Maximum dimensions 30 by 21 mm, 7 mm thick. Date range late post-medieval to early modern.

(0107). Thick copper-alloy disc, triangular in section. Diameter 15 mm, 4 mm thick. Date range uncertain.

Research potential and recommendations

The assemblage confirms to patterns of coin loss noted both for the Suffolk region and for Britain as a whole during the Roman period. It offers no further scope for meaningful research and therefore no further action is needed.

5. The environmental evidence (V Fryer)

5.1 Introduction and method statement

Evaluation excavations at Westley, near Bury St. Edmunds, were undertaken by John Newman. Although the site was located within the immediate vicinity of a ruined medieval church, the work recorded a small number of largely undated ditches and slots, which possibly formed part (or parts) of an earlier field system. Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken, and eleven were submitted for assessment.

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 2. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and will be sorted when dry. Any artefacts/ecofacts will be retained for further specialist analysis.

5.2 Results

Although the assemblages were all extremely small (considerably less than 0.1 litres in volume), all except one (from context [0016]) contained cereal grains and/or seeds. The cereals were generally very poorly preserved and fragmented, but possible barley (*Hordeum* sp.) grains were noted from contexts [0018] and [0026] and the latter sample also included a 'drop-form' wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grain, possibly of spelt (*T. spelta*) type. A spelt wheat glume base was noted within the assemblage from context [0030] and other possible glumed wheat chaff was noted within contexts [0022] and [0026]. The only seeds noted were small indeterminate legumes (Fabaceae) from contexts [0003] and [0026]. Charcoal/charred wood fragments were present throughout at a low to moderate density and occasional pieces of charred root/stem were also noted.

Small pieces of coal were recorded within most assemblages, along with fragments of black porous and tarry material, with the latter possibly being residues of the combustion of the coal. It was assumed that all were probably intrusive within the contexts, possibly being derived from the use of steam implements on the land in the recent past. Other remains included small, abraded fragments of bone, a small pellet of burnt or fired clay and two small pieces of pottery. Shells of terrestrial molluscs were recorded within the samples from contexts [0016] and [0022], although as all retained good surface structuring, it was assumed that they were probably intrusive within the features.

5.3 Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, although the assemblages are small, the content of those from contexts [0022], [0026] and [0030] is of interest, as all contain chaff elements from glumed wheats. Although a staple crop throughout the later prehistoric and Roman periods, the production of these cereals had largely ceased in eastern England by the Middle Saxon period. Although this may indicate that these features are of earlier rather than later date, it should be noted that single chaff elements, as present here, can move through the soil column very easily and may, therefore, be either residual or intrusive within the contexts from which the samples were taken.

Although these assemblages do illustrate that plant remains are present within the archaeological horizon at Westley, the density of material recorded is very low indeed, probably suggesting that these ditches were entirely peripheral to any main centre of

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domestic and/or agricultural activity. In addition, the features are largely undated and, therefore, the value of the few remains recorded is somewhat diminished. Therefore, no further sampling is recommended. As the current assemblages are so limited, and as none contain a sufficient density of remains for quantification, no further analysis is recommended.

Context No.	0003	0004	0008	0010	0016	0018	0020	0022	0026	0030	0032
Feature No.	0002	0033	0007	0009	0015	0017	0019	0021	0025	0029	0031
Feature type	Ditch	Slot	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch
Plant macrofossils											
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)						xcf			xcf		
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grain)									x		
(glume base)								xcff g		x	
(spikelet base)									x		
<i>T. spelta</i> L. (glume base)										x	
Cereal indet. (grain frags.)	x	x	xcf	x					xcf		x
Fabaceae indet.	x								x		
Charcoal <2mm	XX	XX	x	x	x	XX	x	x	XX	XX	x
Charcoal >2mm		x		x	x			x	x		x
Charred root/stem			x		x		x				
Other remains											
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	
Black tarry material				x						x	
Bone	x	x				x			x	x	x
Burnt/fired clay									x		
Mollusc shells					XX			x			
Pottery	x										
Small coal frags.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	
Small mammal/amphibian bones					xpmc						
Sample volume (litres)	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

Table 2: Charred plant macrofossil & other remains (Key to Table: x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 10 – 20 specimens cf = compare fg = fragment pmc = possible modern contaminant)

6. Conclusions

6.1 The evaluation revealed archaeological features in all of the trenches though at a moderately low density across the great majority of the site, only trenches 2 and 4 containing features along most of their exposed length. With the exception of the slot or trench type feature (0033) in trench 4 all of the recorded features proved to be ditches on various alignments with north/south and south west/north east lines being particularly favoured. The overall impression from the evaluation results being that the proposed reservoir site lies in an area containing evidence for field systems from various past periods of agricultural activity in the Westley area. Dating evidence for the recorded features was sparse with 4 pottery sherds and one small tile fragment recovered from secure contexts leaving 10 ditches undated. Of the 5 ditches with single, dateable finds; two (0017/0018 in T5 and 0025/0026 in T2) appear to be of later prehistoric date, one (0002/0003 in T1) appears to be of medieval date and one is of more certain Post medieval date (0015/0016 in T4) which

could well be the same ditch to the east (0027/0028 in T2) that produced a small fragment of similar dated tile. The only non-ditch type feature recorded was a slot/trench (0033) in trench 4 that also revealed some evidence for post settings in its base. This slot or trench is likely to be of an interrupted type, possibly with an entry or access point at its northern end, as while a it formed a contained length within trench 4 it appeared to start again (as 0005 in T4) close to the edge of the trench. Unfortunately no dating evidence was recovered from this feature and whether it fulfilled a similar role to the ditches recorded on the site as some form of land boundary or whether it formed part of a structure is impossible to ascertain from the evidence recorded in the evaluation trench.

6.2 As noted in section 4.2 above no non-ferrous metal small finds were recovered from any of the trenches though a general search of the site did recover one worn Roman period coin of 1st-3rd century date and 3 other, common, copper alloy coins of late 3rd to earlier 4th century date as well as a small group of Post medieval to modern or undateable artefacts. These results while not being conclusive are also more indicative of the evaluation site having been an area in general agricultural use in the past and somewhat peripheral to any related, nearby settlement foci. However the recovery of 4, admittedly, common Roman period coins is of interest given that some of the limited pottery evidence from the site points to a later prehistoric component to the field system pattern recorded in the evaluation as most Iron Age landscape organisation would be expected to influence the succeeding Roman period land use.

6.3 Finally the environmental evidence, as outlined in section 5 above, while also sparse in terms of ecofacts recorded also points to components in the field systems represented by the sampled ditches being of at least pre-Middle Saxon date as glumed wheats are present in some of the samples. Again the conclusion gained from the evaluation results is that the proposed reservoir site while containing archaeological features from various periods is not in close proximity to settlement foci.

6.4 In summary the evaluation has revealed evidence for field systems from at least three, and possibly more, past periods of agricultural activity with probable later prehistoric/Roman, medieval and Post medieval phases being apparent. An undated slot or trench with possible post settings may be a more sophisticated form of land division or could be a structural element. As evidence for past land utilisation is present on the site the possibility must also exist for scattered or small concentrations of contained archaeological features, such as pits or post settings, as the evaluation sample is only just over 5% of the proposed reservoir site. Due to the mixed character of the natural till deposits and varying depths of subsoil within the trenches, and the close similarity between the subsoil and feature fills, it is also possible that occasional shallow ditches may not have been recognised during the evaluation. In trench 1 a pocket of subsoil (0041) was identified as being a possible shallow ditch during a re-examination of the trench.

While the sample gained from this evaluation is sparse in terms of dating material any further archaeological work on site appears to have the potential to address various areas highlighted in the formally adopted research frameworks for archaeological research strategy (Bryant, 2000, 17 & Going & Plouviez, 2000, 21) as follows:

- Iron Age/Roman transition- evidence for agriculture land use and stock management, development of the agrarian economy
- Landscape change/continuity over various periods, environmental evidence for landscape use and cropping regimes

6.5 Any requirement for further archaeological work on this site rests with the official advisors to the local planning authority and would be the subject of a further Brief and Specification for the relevant archaeological works.

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Archive- to be deposited with the Suffolk CC Archaeological Service under the HER ref. WLY 011.

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Disclaimer- any opinions regarding the need for further archaeological in relation to this proposed development are those of the author's alone. Formal comment regarding the need for further work must be sought from the official Archaeological Advisors to the relevant Planning Authority.

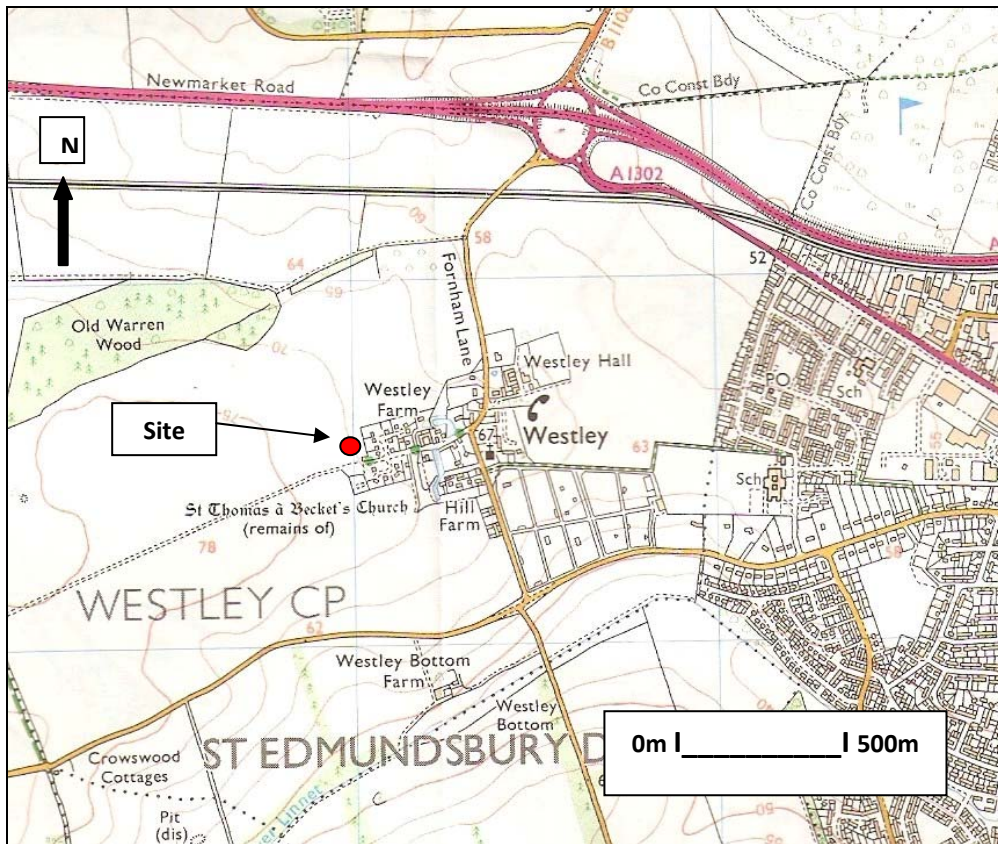
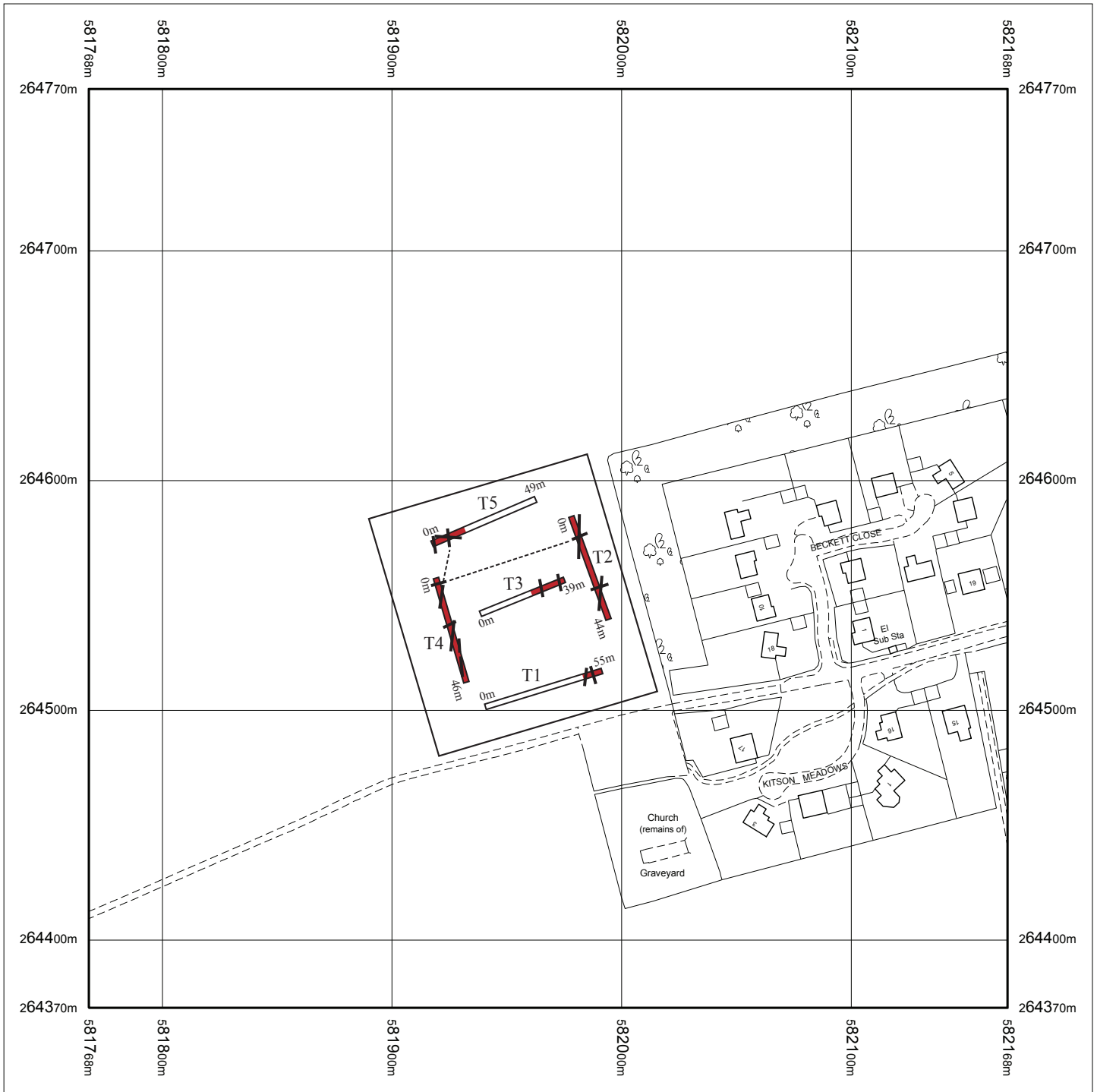


Fig. 1: Site location: (Ordnance Survey © Crown copyright 2006, All rights reserved, Licence number 100049722)



planned area of trench
 unplanned area of trench

0 80m

Fig.2: Trench location with main archaeological features & site in relation to medieval church (Ordnance Survey©Crown copyright 2010. All rights reserved. Licence no:100049722)

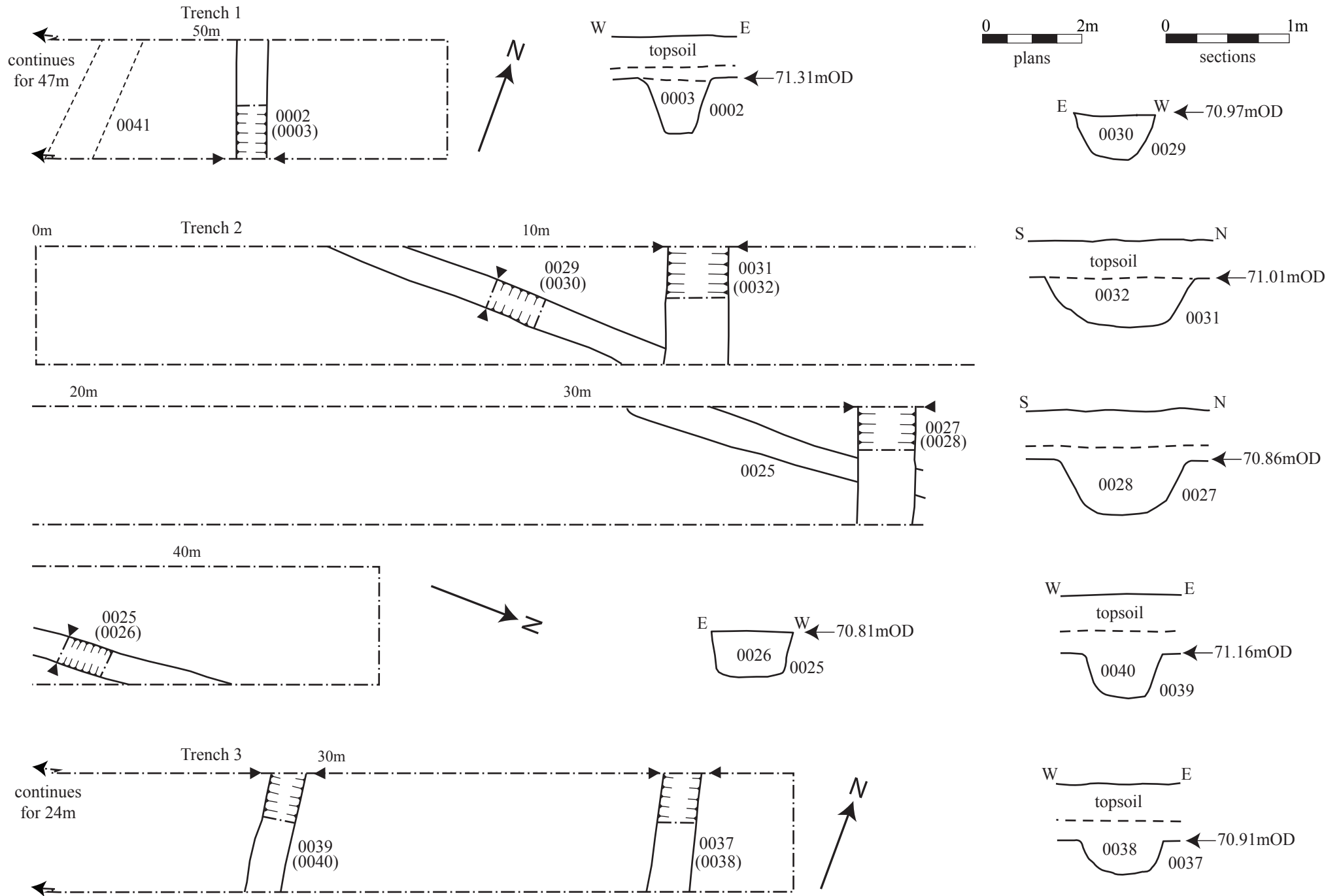


Fig.3: Trenches 1-3 - plans & sections

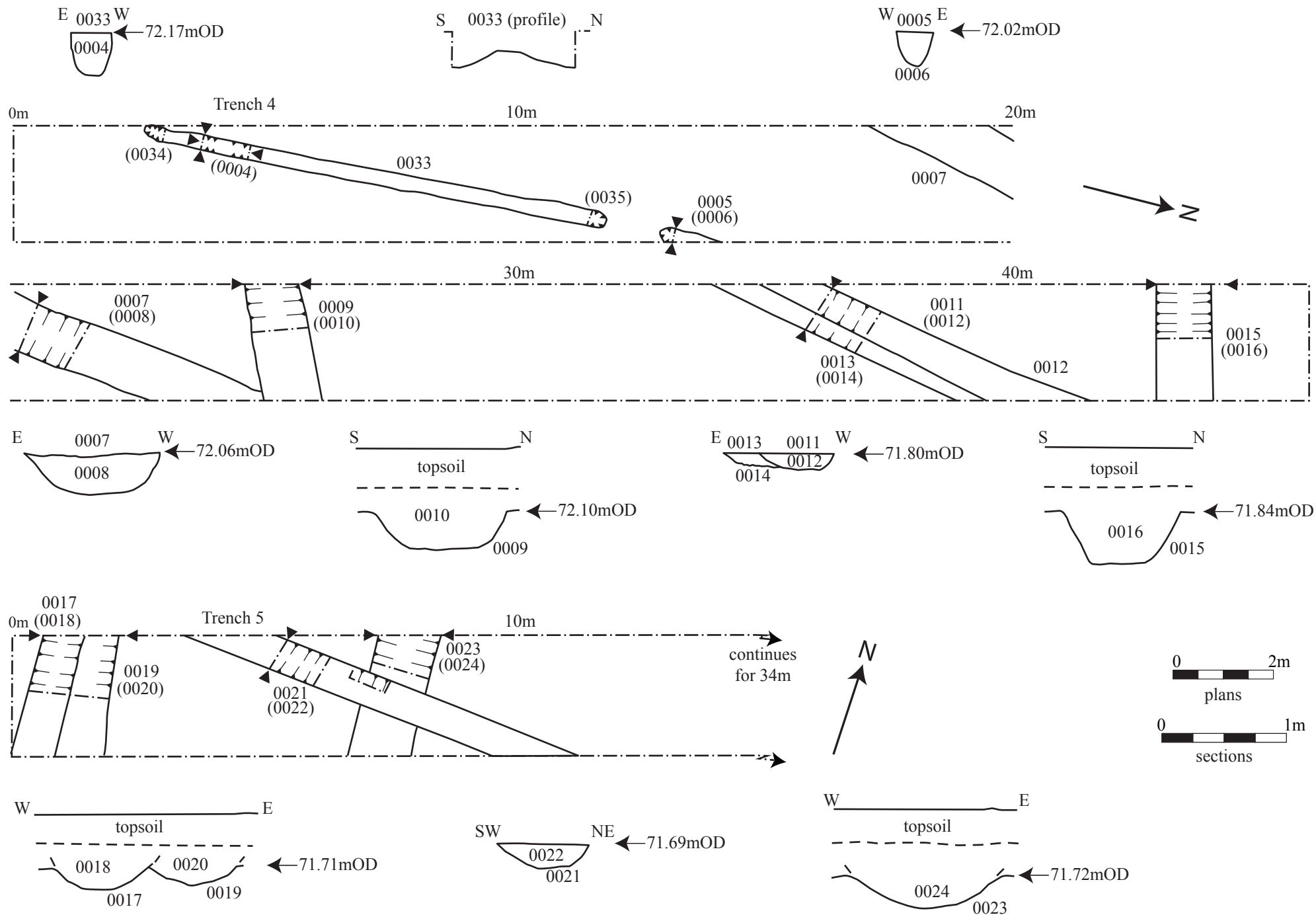


Fig.4: Trenches 4-5 - plans & sections

Appendix I- selected images



Site from south east



Ditch 0002/T1 from north



Ditches 0017&0019/T5 from south



Ditch 0025/T2 from north



Slot/trench 0033/T4 from south, butt end 0034 in foreground, section 0004 in mid distance



Trench 5 from west, 0017&0019 in foreground, 0021&0023 beyond

Economy, Skills and Environment
9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 2AR

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

WESTLEY HALL FARM, WESTLEY, SUFFOLK (SE/10/0810)

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities.

1. The nature of the development and archaeological requirements

- 1.1 An application has been made to St Edmundsbury District Council (SE/10/0810) for the construction of an agricultural reservoir on land at Westley Hall Farm, Westley, Suffolk (TL 818 644). **Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.**
- 1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that the location of the proposed reservoir could affect important heritage assets with archaeological interest, and that the applicant should be required to undertake an archaeological field evaluation prior to consideration of the proposal, in accordance with PPS5 Planning for the Historic Environment (Policy HE6).
- 1.3 The site is located to the east of Westley village, at 70 - 75 m AOD. The soil is deep loam to clay of the Melford series derived from the underlying chalky till.
- 1.4 The site of the proposed reservoir is in the immediate vicinity of the medieval church (County Historic Environment Record WLY 002). It therefore affects an area of high archaeological potential where medieval settlement remains may exist. Further, the site, overlooking the valley of the River Lark, is topographically favourable for early occupation. A multi-period finds scatter to the south-east (WLY 008) demonstrates that there was activity in the vicinity. The large size of the development (just over 1 ha), the landscape setting and the proximity to recorded sites all mean that there is potential for hitherto unknown important remains to exist in the area of the proposed reservoir – these would be totally destroyed by its construction. The site has not been the subject of previous systematic investigation. This needs to be carried out in order to define heritage assets and, if necessary, to ensure their preservation *in situ*.
- 1.5 In order to inform the proposal, the following archaeological evaluation will be required:
 - A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area.
- 1.6 **The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. Should there be any significant archaeological finds, the results of the evaluation will inform decisions on the suitability of the area for development, and on the need for and scope of any further work.**
- 1.7 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
- 1.8 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.

- 1.9 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the WSI as satisfactory.
- 1.10 The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to satisfy the requirements of this specification. However, only the full implementation of the scheme, both completion of fieldwork and reporting based on the approved WSI, will enable SCCAS/CT to advise St Edmundsbury District Council that the investigation has been adequately completed.
- 1.11 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC (SCCAS/CT) before execution.
- 1.12 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work, e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 1.13 Any changes to the specifications that the project archaeologist may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT and the client for approval.

2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation

- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*.
- 2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- 2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- 2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 2.6 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design; this document covers only the evaluation stage.

- 2.7 The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.
- 2.8 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.
- 2.9 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3. Specification: Trenched Evaluation

- 3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a minimum of 5% by area of the reservoir. The trenches shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site, especially including the area towards the church on the south. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide (min.) unless special circumstances can be demonstrated.
- 3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.50m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins.
- 3.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket, down to the interface layer between topsoil and subsoil or other visible archaeological surface. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 3.4 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
- 3.5 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled. For guidance:
- For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min.) should be excavated across their width;
- For discrete features, such as pits, 50% of their fills should be sampled (in some instances 100% may be requested).
- 3.6 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 3.7 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. The contractor shall show what provision has been made for environmental assessment of the site and must provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from Dr Helen Chappell, English

Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.

- 3.8 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
- 3.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.11 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.
- 3.12 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.
- 3.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 3.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 3.15 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT.

4. General Management

- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by SCCAS/CT. The archaeological contractor will give not less than five days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.
- 4.2 The composition of the archaeology contractor staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this evaluation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 4.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Brief.
- 4.4 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.
- 4.5 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 4.6 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 5.2 The report should reflect the aims of the WSI.
- 5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 5.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 5.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.7 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 5.8 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the report.
- 5.9 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain an HER number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 5.10 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 5.11 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the full site archive, and transfer of title, with the intended archive repository before the fieldwork commences. If this is not achievable for all or parts of the finds archive then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, scientific analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.12 The project manager should consult the intended archive repository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation, and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.
- 5.13 If the County Store is the intended location of the archive, the project manager should consult the SCCAS Archive Guidelines 2010 and also the County Historic Environment Record Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive. A clear statement of the form, intended content, and standards of the archive is to be submitted for approval as an essential requirement of the WSI.
- 5.14 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure the proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).

- 5.15 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.16 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.17 An unbound copy of the evaluation report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.
- Following acceptance, two copies of the report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT together with a digital .pdf version.
- 5.18 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 5.19 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.20 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

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Date: 13 August 2010

Reference: Westley/2010_0810

This brief and specification remains valid for six months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.

If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.

Appendix III

Context list- WLY 011

S= sample taken for assessment

F = finds recovered

Context	Trench	Type	Part of	Description
0001	all	U/S	NA	U/S finds, whole site
0002	T1	ditch	0002	N-S ditch
0003	T1	fill	0002 F S	mid-brown silty sand
0004	T4	fill	0033 S	section of slot 0033, pale/mid brown silty sand with irregular base for possible post settings
0005	T4	slot	0005	slot, NE cont. of 0033
0006	T4	fill	0005	pale/mid brown silty sand
0007	T4	ditch	0007	SW-NE aligned ditch
0008	T4	fill	0007 S	mid brown silty sand
0009	T4	ditch	0009	E-W aligned ditch
0010	T4	fill	0009	mid brown silty sand
0011	T4	ditch	0011	shallow SW-NE ditch, cuts 0013
0012	T4	fill	0011	mid/dark brown silty sand
0013	T4	ditch	0013	shallow SW-NE ditch, cut by 0011
0014	T4	fill	0013	mid brown silty sand
0015	T4	ditch	0015	E-W aligned ditch
0016	T4	fill	0015 F S	mid/dark brown silty sand
0017	T5	ditch	0017	shallow SW-NE aligned ditch, cuts 0019
0018	T5	fill	0017 F S	mid/dark brown silty sand
0019	T5	ditch	0019	shallow SW-NE aligned ditch, cut by 0017
0020	T5	fill	0019 S	mid brown silty sand
0021	T5	ditch	0021	NW-SE aligned ditch, cuts 0023

Context	Trench	Type	Part of	Description
0022	T5	fill	0021 S	mid/dark brown silty sand
0023	T5	ditch	0023	N-S aligned ditch, cut by 0021
0024	T5	fill	0023	mid brown silty sand
0025	T2	ditch	0025	N-S aligned ditch, cut by 0027
0026	T2	fill	0025 F S	mid brown silty sand
0027	T2	ditch	0027	E-W aligned ditch, cuts 0025
0028	T2	fill	0027 F	mid/dark brown silty sand
0029	T2	ditch	0029	NE-SW aligned ditch
0030	T2	fill	0029 S	mid brown silty sand
0031	T2	ditch	0031	E-W aligned ditch
0032	T2	fill	0031 S	mid/dark brown silty sand
0033	T4	slot	0033	overall number for N-S aligned slot (inc. 0004/0034/0035 & cont. to NE 0005/0006)
0034	T4	fill	0033	pale/mid brown silty sand, southern end of slot 0033
0035	T4	fill	0033	pale brown silty sand
0036	(not used)			
0037	T3	ditch	0037	N-S aligned ditch
0038	T3	fill	0037	mid brown silty sand
0039	T3	ditch	0039	N-S aligned ditch
0040	T3	fill	0039	mid brown silty sand
0041	T1	?ditch	0041	possible ditch, in trenching seen as deeper area of subsoil but could be a shallow, c200mm, deep SW-NE ditch

Metal detector finds from overall survey of the site, all unstratified from general topsoil cover, no pre-modern metal finds from trenches or upcast spoil:

0100 lead disc weight- TL 8192 6451

0101 Cu alloy coin, Roman- TL 8191 6458

0102 Cu alloy coin, Roman- TL 8195 6452
0103 Cu alloy weight – TL 8193 6449
0104 Cu alloy coin, Roman- TL 8199 6452
0105 Cu alloy fitting- TL 8196 6452
0106 Cu alloy coin, Roman TL 8196 6457
0107 Cu alloy disc- TL 8200 6452
0108 Cu alloy fitting- TL 8193 6455
0109 Cu alloy fitting- TL 8197 6453
0110 Cu alloy coin, modern- TL 8196 6450

Appendix IV- Survey data WLY 011

TL		Level OD	Feature/Trench
Easting	Northing	RL	Description
581986.979	264514.734	71.313	F02
581926.576	264531.237	72.059	F07
581925.030	264536.539	72.100	F09
581922.281	264547.266	71.798	F012
581919.680	264553.725	71.840	F015
581919.275	264574.429	71.706	F017
581922.531	264575.918	71.686	F021
581980.942	264576.683	70.811	F025
581980.660	264573.420	70.862	F027
581990.544	264549.294	70.970	F029
581987.804	264552.903	71.011	F031
581930.521	264516.132	72.173	F033
581972.679	264556.937	70.910	F037
581965.105	264553.718	71.161	F039
581991.024	264517.169	71.616	TRENCH 1 START
581940.579	264501.321	72.739	TRENCH 1 END
581977.645	264584.338	71.191	TRENCH 2 START
581993.690	264539.358	71.488	TRENCH 2 END
581974.807	264556.803	71.366	TRENCH 3 START
581938.495	264541.548	72.223	TRENCH 3 END
581932.456	264512.567	72.669	TRENCH 4 START
581918.989	264557.351	72.536	TRENCH 4 END
581917.180	264572.263	72.382	TRENCH 5 START
581962.232	264591.719	71.484	TRENCH 5 END