

Witham Archaeology

A Report to South Norfolk Developments Ltd

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THE FORMER THETFORD COTTAGE HOSPITAL SITE, EARL STREET, THETFORD, NORFOLK

**Informative Trenching as Part of a Programme of
Archaeological Mitigation Work**

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THE FORMER THETFORD COTTAGE HOSPITAL SITE, EARL STREET, THETFORD, NORFOLK

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Informative Trenching as Part of a Programme of Archaeological Mitigatory Work

<i>Contents</i>	<i>Page</i>
SUMMARY	1
1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY (Figs. 1 & 2 , Plates 1 - 5).....	2
3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	2
4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES	3
5.0 METHODOLOGY (Fig. 3).....	3
6.0 RESULTS	3
6.1 Trench 1 (Figs. 2, 3 & 4) (Plates 6 - 9).....	3
6.2 Trench 2 (Figs. 2, 5 & 6) (Plates 10 - 14).....	3
7.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION	5
8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	5
9.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY	5
10.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS	6
10.1 Project Information.....	6
10.2 Archive Details.....	6

Colour plates

Plate 1: View of development site from the Earl Street frontage facing southeast. 7
Plate 2: View of Oddfellows Hall with site frontage beyond. Facing north..... 7
Plate 3: General view of the development site facing southeast. 8
Plate 4: General view of the development site facing south..... 8
Plate 5: General view of the development site facing southwest..... 9
Plate 6: General view of the south part of Trench 1 facing southeast, scale 1 x 1m..... 9
Plate 7: General view of the north part of Trench 1 facing southeast, scale 1 x 1m..... 10
Plate 8: View of machine excavated sondage into probable Chalk Pit [103] facing east, scale 1 x 1m..... 10
Plate 9: View of Wall Foundation [107] facing southwest, scale 1 x 1m..... 11
Plate 10: View of probable Chalk Pit [215] in Trench 2 (Sondage 1) facing south, scale 1 x 1m..... 11
Plate 11: View of probable Chalk Pit [215] in Trench 2 (Sondage 2), scale 1 x 1m 12
Plate 12: General view of Trench 2 facing southwest, scale 1 x 1m 12
Plate 13: View of probable Chalk Pit [216] in Trench 2 facing south, scale 1 x 1m..... 13
Plate 14: View of Demolition material in Trench 2 facing east, scale 1 x 1m 13

Illustrations

- Fig. 1 General Location Maps
Fig. 2 Trench Location Map, scale 1:500
Fig. 3 Plan of Trench 1, scale 1:125
Fig. 4 Trench 1 Sections, scale 1:20
Fig. 5 Plan of Trench 2, scale 1:100
Fig. 6 trench 2 Sections, scale 1:20

APPENDIX A – CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

APPENDIX B– OASIS SUMMARY DETAILS FORM

THE FORMER THETFORD COTTAGE HOSPITAL SITE, EARL STREET, THETFORD, NORFOLK

INFORMATIVE TRIAL TRENCHING AS PART OF A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATORY WORK

SUMMARY

This report presents the results of Informative Trial Trenching carried out as part of a programme of Archaeological Mitigatory Work on land at The Former Thetford Cottage Hospital Site, Earl Street, Thetford, Norfolk. The project, commissioned by South Norfolk Developments Ltd in response to a condition of planning permission, was designed to assess the condition of any archaeological deposits present on the site and the likely impact of the proposed development on any surviving remains.

The area of the proposed development comprises 9250m² of vacant land situated on the periphery of the historic core of Thetford. The site lies immediately east of Earl Street, around 300m northwest of the Norman castle and 100m north of the medieval core of the town. The development proposal is for the construction of nine terraced dwellings.

Two evaluation trenches were excavated forming a 5% sample of the site. The work established that the site has suffered heavy truncation. Some truncation probably took place when the hospital was built in 1898 but major truncation appears to have occurred during demolition of the building to make way for the present development.

At least two undated large pits were recorded which probably result from chalk extraction. Two wall foundations are likely to represent remains associated with the now demolished hospital. The total absence of shallower cut features is probably due to the severe truncation of the site.

The work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with the archaeological adviser to the local planning authority.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of Informative Trial Trenching carried out as part of a programme of archaeological mitigatory work on land at The Former Thetford Cottage Hospital Site, Earl Street, Thetford, Norfolk (Figs. 1 & 2). The project was commissioned by South Norfolk Developments Ltd in response to a condition included in planning permission (3PL/2019/1344/F) granted by Breckland District Council for the construction of nine terraced dwellings and a car park on the site. Fieldwork was carried out between the 20th and 23rd July 2020, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Witham Archaeology and approved by the local authority Planning Archaeologist.

The information in this document is presented with the proviso that further data may yet emerge. Witham Archaeology cannot, therefore, be held responsible for any loss, delay or damage, material or otherwise, arising out of this report. The document has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY (Figs. 1 & 2, Plates 1 - 5)

Thetford is a market town and civil parish located in the county of Norfolk, 18km north of Bury St Edmunds and 43km southwest of Norwich in the administrative district of Breckland. The site of the proposed development comprises approximately 9250m² of vacant land located 300m north of the town centre and immediately east of Earl's Street. The site is bounded to the north by private dwellings, to the south by Oddfellows Hall and to the east by The Grove Medical Practice.

The site lies just to the north of the valley of the River Thet at an elevation of approximately 20m OD. The underlying solid geology is chalk of Lewes Nodular Formation whilst the superficial deposits comprise River terrace sands and gravels (www.bgs.ac.uk).

The site is was formerly occupied by the disused buildings of the Thetford Cottage Hospital built in 1898. The hospital was demolished as part of the redevelopment in the week prior to commencement of the archaeological work.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Thetford is a small market town in the southwest of the county of Norfolk close to the border with Suffolk. The town lies within an area of Norfolk and south Suffolk known as Breckland, characterised by light sandy soils and heathlands. Thetford lies close to the confluence of the Rivers Little Ouse and Thet as well as the Icknield Way, an ancient trackway from northwest Norfolk to southern England. The presence of these routes is likely to have been instrumental in the early settlement of the area, providing access to the Fens, North Sea and inland to what is now Norfolk and Suffolk.

Archaeological evidence indicates a longevity to human presence in the Breckland area with Middle Palaeolithic activity at Lynford Quarry, Upper Palaeolithic Long Blade sites along the river valleys and Neolithic flint mines at Grimes Graves (NHER 5640) some 8km to the north-west of the development site. Isolated finds of prehistoric flintwork have been recovered from around the current development site.

A site of national importance spanning the Iron Age and Roman periods lies at Fison Way c.1.3km to the northwest of the proposed development site. Here the excavation of a Roman temple complex (NHER 5853) in the 1980s also revealed earlier activity from the later Neolithic through to the Iron Age with Bronze Age cremations and Iron Age domestic activity. A nationally important hoard, the Thetford treasure, was recovered from this site and dates to the second half of the 4th century AD. A number of findspots of Roman date have been recorded within the town itself and includes a Roman coin found on the development site itself (NHER 5835).

Thetford Castle (NHER 5747) was originally an Iron Age fort that was built to guard the point where the Icknield Way (NHER 1398) crossed the River Thet, before being converted to a motte and bailey castle during the rebellion of 1075. Early Saxon occupation in Thetford probably developed around a fordable point on the south bank of the River Little Ouse close to the castle, with Middle Saxon occupation mainly to the west of this though the extent of this occupation in the vicinity of the town is not well understood. From around the late 9th century Thetford appears to have developed with some rapidity, benefiting from its geographical position and the growth of other towns in the region such as Bury St Edmunds and Norwich.

By the time of the Norman Conquest of 1066 Thetford was one of the six most important towns in the country with an enclosed area north and south of the river of perhaps sixty hectares, a mint and the expansion of extra mural suburbs. The current development site lies on the periphery of the core of the medieval town and is possibly located on the line of the Late Saxon east defensive ditch. Part of the ditch was recorded during excavations west of Guildhall Street (NHER 25296) at a distance of 220m south of the development site whilst sections of the west ditch have been recorded off London Road (NHER 5886).

4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The principal objectives of the project, as set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation dated 27th January 2020, were to:

- *provide information on the presence/absence, nature, date and quality of survival of archaeological deposits and remains which might be contained within the site, at the depth of proposed construction disturbance, and to assess the importance of such remains in terms of their local, regional and national context.*
- *assess the possible scale of development impact on any remains and provide information which might influence development design so that impact on any remains can be avoided or minimised.*
- *provide information that will allow the local planning authority to reconcile development proposals with their policy for preserving archaeological remains and make an informed and reasoned decision on the planning application.*
- *provide site specific archaeological information which (if necessary) would allow for the design and integration of timing and funding of any further archaeological work (or other mitigating strategy) which might be required in advance of or during any subsequent development programme.*
- *produce a project archive for deposition with the appropriate museum and from which the potential for further study and academic research could be assessed.*
- *provide information for accession to the Norfolk Environment Record (HER).*

5.0 METHODOLOGY (Fig. 2)

The Written Scheme of Investigation provided for the excavation of two trenches, forming a sample of approximately 5% of the site (Fig. 2). The trenches were located within the footprint areas of the new dwellings.

All topsoil and overburden removal from trenches was carried out by mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket. Where required, the trench base and sides were then cleaned by hand to allow characterisation and where possible dating of the stratigraphic sequence.

A record of the site was compiled through plans drawn at scale 1:20 and sections at 1: 10, colour digital photographs, and individual written context records on pro forma recording sheets.

All features and spoil was scanned with a metal detector. These objects were of minimal archaeological interest and were therefore not collected.

6.0 RESULTS

Results are presented below on a trench by trench basis. Full context descriptions are provided in Appendix A.

6.1 Trench 1 (Figs. 2,3 & 4) (Plates 6 - 9)

Trench 1 was located in the west part of the development area and aligned south southeast-to-north northwest (Fig. 2, Plates 6 & 7). The trench targeted the footprint area of new dwellings to be built on the Earl Street frontage. An obstruction in the form of a gas pipe meant that the trench was not placed along the central axis of the footprint as proposed in the Written Scheme of Investigation but angled across it. Two gaps in the line of the excavated trench are due to the presence of live electricity cables. The trench was machine excavated to a depth of 0.40m below the present ground surface where natural material (104) was encountered at 19.33m OD (Fig. 4, Section 1). The natural material (104) consisted

of light-to-mid yellow coarse sand with occasional large patches of beige/brown silty sand mixed with chalk.

Above the natural material (104) was a widespread deposit of modern building rubble (105) which included brick, tile and concrete in a matrix of light-to-mid grey silty sand. The rubble comprised around 50% of the deposit whilst 50% of the deposit consisted of the silty sand component. It measured an average of around 0.40m in thickness. The rubble deposit results from the recent demolition of the hospital and indicates that much of the site has been disturbed down to the level of the natural material (104). However, areas of the site were less effected as evidenced by the survival of the late 19th century wall foundation [107] which is described below. The only other feature of archaeological interest in Trench 1 was a large probable chalk pit [103].

Chalk Pit [103]

Chalk Pit [103] was recorded in the south part of the trench (Fig. 3). It measured at least 6.95m north-to-south and continued beyond the east, west and south limits of excavation. A machine excavated sondage into the pit was located close to the south end of the trench. Natural white chalk was encountered at a depth of 1.80m (Fig. 4, Section 2 & Plate 8). The primary fill (100) consisted of light-to-mid brown sand and measured 0.60m in thickness. Above the primary fill (100) was a 0.68m depth of mid greenish brown silty sand (101). The uppermost fill of the pit consisted of dark grey silty sand (102) which measured 0.54m in maximum thickness.

Wall foundation [107]

East northeast-to-west southwest orientated wall foundation [107] was located in the north part of the trench (Fig. 3). The cut measured 0.85m in width and had a depth of 0.65m (Fig. 4, Section 3 & Plate 9). The sides of the cut varied between steeply and vertically inclined whilst the base was flat. The fill of the cut consisted mostly of rubble including brick, tile and lumps of white mortar. Fragments of late 19th century or early 20th century bottle glass were also present. The rubble comprised around 80% of the deposit whilst the remaining 20% of the deposit consisted of dark grey silty sand.

6.2 Trench 2 (Figs. 2, 5 & 6) (Plates 10 - 14)

Trench 2 was located in the southeast part of the site and partially located within the footprint area of the new dwellings to be built in this part of the site (Fig. 2). The trench was excavated in three parts over a distance of 23m (Fig. 5) and aligned east northeast-to-west southwest. The trench was not machine excavated in a continuous strip owing to the discovery of a substantial chalk pit [215] in Sondage 1. The uppermost fill of the chalk pit was located immediately beneath a thin layer of demolition material resulting from the recent demolition of the hospital. Rather than machine a continuous trench across the top of the chalk pit and into its upper fills, it was decided to excavate a series of sondages at intervals until undisturbed natural deposits were located. Sondage 2 placed further west recorded a continuation of the chalk pit but the west edge of the chalk pit was located at the east end of the wider trench excavated 4.15m west of Sondage 2. A further probable chalk pit [216] was located close to the southwest end of the trench (Fig. 5) From this point a machine excavated linear trench was excavated measuring 10.40m in length and 1.80m in width

Probable Chalk Pit [215]

In Sondage 1, the machine excavated sondage into probable Chalk Pit [215] measured 1.86m in depth. Natural white chalk was encountered at the base of the sondage (Fig. 6, Section 4 & Plate 10). The primary fill of the chalk pit consisted of reddish brown sand (206) which measured 0.23m in depth. Above the primary fill (206) was a secondary deposit of mid greyish brown silty sand (205) which measured 0.37m in maximum depth and recorded to a width of 1.17m. Sealing (205) was a 0.65m thick layer of mid brown silty sand (204) which measured 1.60m in width. This was sealed in turn by a tertiary fill comprised of mid greenish brown silty sand (203) which measured 0.50m in thickness and recorded to a width of 1.86m. The uppermost fill (202) consisted of dark grey silty sand. It measured 0.26m in maximum thickness and was recorded for distance of 2.10m east-to-west.

A continuation of probable Chalk Pit [215] was recorded in Sondage 2 which was located 4.70m southwest of Sondage 1 (Fig. 5). The recorded fills of the pit mirrored those recorded in Sondage 1 (Fig. 6, Section 5 & Plate 11). The sondage was excavated to a depth of 1.2m. At this depth, the base of the pit was not reached.

Natural sand and chalk (214) was identified in the linear trench excavated at a distance of 4m southwest of Sondage 2. The west edge of the probable Chalk Pit [215] was identified close to the northeast end of the trench (Fig. 5).

Probable Chalk Pit [216]

The east edge of another probable chalk pit [216] was identified close to the southwest end of the linear trench and could feasibly represent the east edge of Chalk Pit [103] recorded in the south part of Trench 1. The cut curved across the line of the trench. In section (Fig. 6, Section 7 & Plate 13), the cut was seen to be gently sloped and measured 0.44m in maximum depth. Presumably, as the cut progressed westwards, it would have become progressively deeper. The cut was filled by a single deposit of light-to-mid brown sand (213).

Wall foundation (201)

A south southeast-to-north northwest orientated wall foundation (201) was inserted into the uppermost fill of the chalk pit [215] in Sondage 1 (Fig. 6, Section 4, Plate 10). The wall foundation consisted of a very hard and compacted mixture of light yellow lime mortar and flint fragments. It measured 0.82m in width and had a thickness of 0.28m. Its sides were vertical whilst the base was flat. The wall foundation was covered by a thin layer of demolition material (200) resulting from the recent demolition of the hospital. It measured an average of around 70mm in thickness.

Demolition material (212)

In the linear trench, the cuts for chalk pits [215] and [216] were sealed by a 0.70m depth of demolition rubble (212) composed of dark grey silty sand which included frequent quantities of modern brick, flint cobbles, concrete fragments and mortar lumps (Fig. 6, Section 6 & Plate 14). This material is derived from the recent demolition of the Thetford Cottage Hospital and shows that the site in this area has been truncated to the current level of the natural material (214).

7.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

The archaeological investigations on land at The former Thetford Cottage Hospital Site, Earl Street Thetford recorded at least two large pits which are almost certainly the result of chalk extraction. No artefacts were recovered from the pits and therefore they remain undated although a medieval or early post-medieval date is likely. Two wall foundations recorded during the work are almost certainly associated with the construction of the now demolished Thetford Cottage Hospital which was built in 1898. Evidence from the current work suggests that much of the site was probably damaged by the construction of the hospital whilst more severe truncation appears to have occurred during demolition of the hospital in the weeks prior to the archaeological work taking place. These episodes of truncation would have probably removed evidence of shallower cut archaeological features and deposits. Therefore, evidence of past land use on the site is largely lost but deeper cut features would have survived truncation as evidenced by the presence of the chalk pits. However, no evidence of the medieval town defences in the form of a large ditch was recorded. The defences could have been located closer to the line of Earl Street or on its west side.

8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author of this report would like to thank Richard Laws of South Norfolk Developments Ltd and Steve Hickling of the Historic Environment Team, Norfolk County Council for their assistance in ensuring a successful outcome to the project.

9.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS 1991 East Anglia Sheet 52N 00 Quaternary Natural Environment Research Council

10.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS

10.1 Project Information

SITE CODE: ENF 149244

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: 3PL/2019/1344/F

FIELD OFFICER: Gary Trimble

NGR: TL 8720 8317

CIVIL PARISH: Thetford

DATES OF INTERVENTION: 20st and 23rd July 2020

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Informative Trial Trench as part of a Programme of Archaeological Mitigatory Work.

UNDERTAKEN FOR: South Norfolk Developments Ltd

10.2 Archive Details

PRESENT LOCATION: Witham Archaeology, 2 High Street, Ruskington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 9DT

FINAL LOCATION: Norfolk Museums Service

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: NWHCM 2020.123

ACCESSION DATE: TBC

The Site Archive Comprises:

Context Records	26
Section Drawings at Scale 1:10	2 Sheets, seven sections
Digital Photographs	53

It is intended that transfer of the archive in accordance with current published requirements will be undertaken following completion of this project.

COLOUR PLATES



Plate 1: View of development site from the Earl Street frontage facing southeast.



Plate 2: View of Oddfellows Hall with site frontage beyond. Facing north.



Plate 3: General view of the development site facing southeast.



Plate 4: General view of the development site facing south.



Plate 5: General view of the development site facing southwest.



Plate 6: General view of the south part of Trench 1 facing southeast, scale 1 x 1m.



Plate 7: General view of the north part of Trench 1 facing southeast, scale 1 x 1m



Plate 8: View of machine excavated sondage into probable Chalk Pit [103] facing east, scale 1 x 1m



Plate 9: View of Wall Foundation [107] facing southwest, scale 1 x 1m



Plate 10: View of probable Chalk Pit [215] in Trench 2 (Sondage 1) facing south, scale 1 x 1m



Plate 11: View of probable Chalk Pit [215] in Trench 2 (Sondage 2), scale 1 x 1m



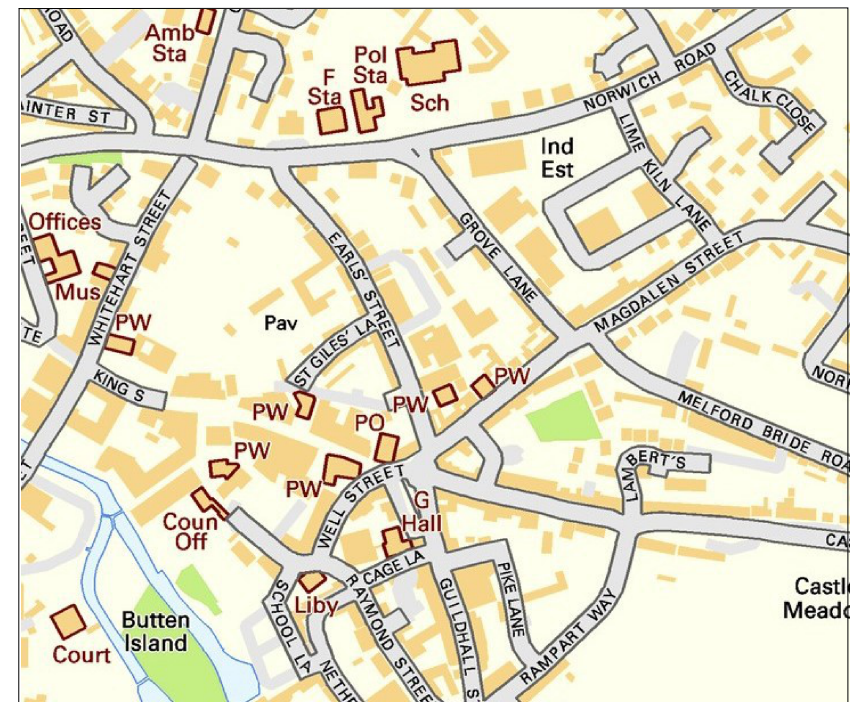
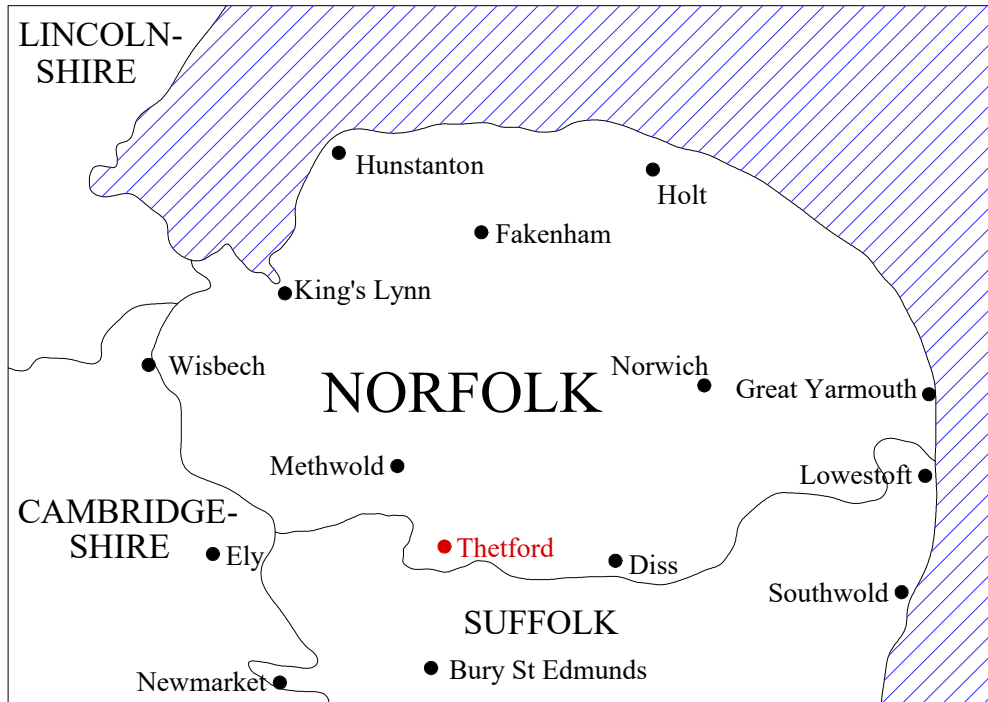
Plate 12: General view of Trench 2 facing southwest, scale 1 x 1m



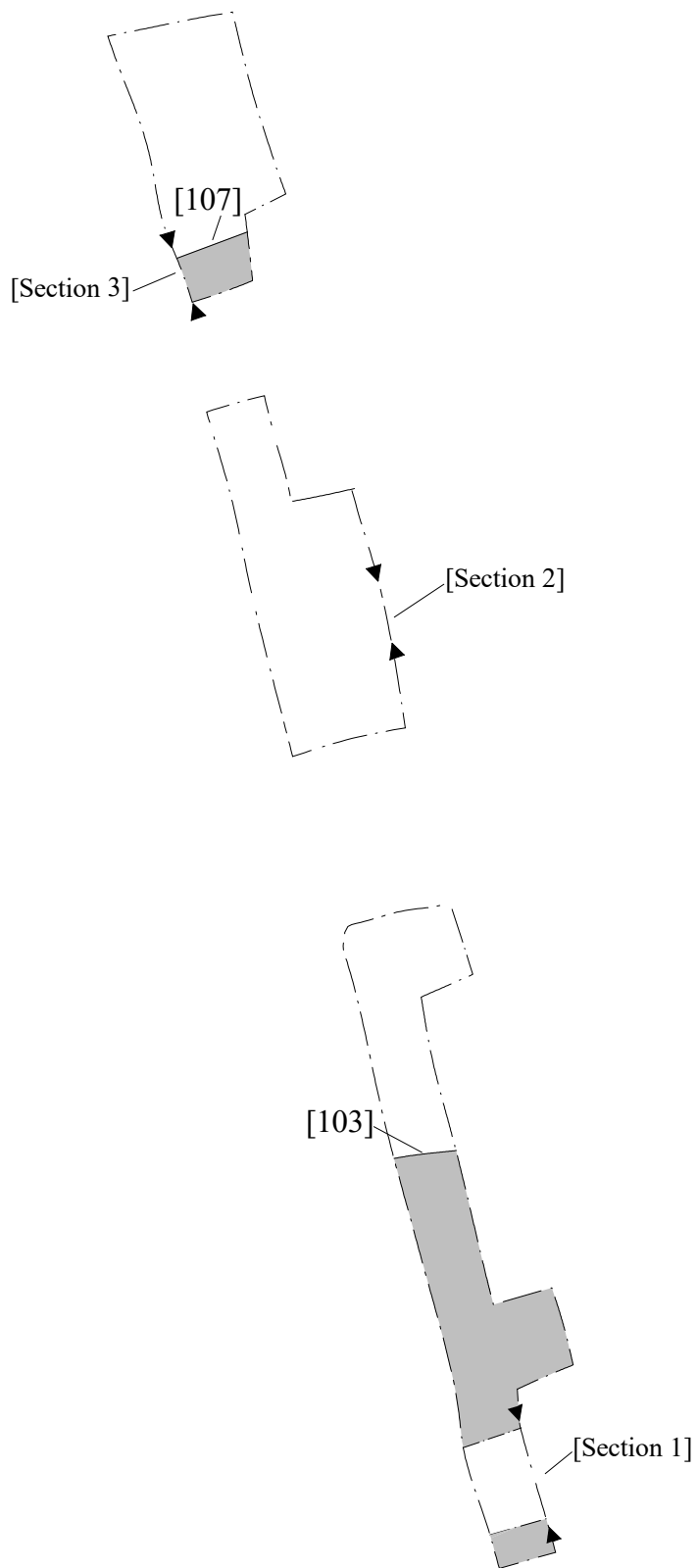
Plate 13: View of probable Chalk Pit [216] in Trench 2 facing south, scale 1 x 1m

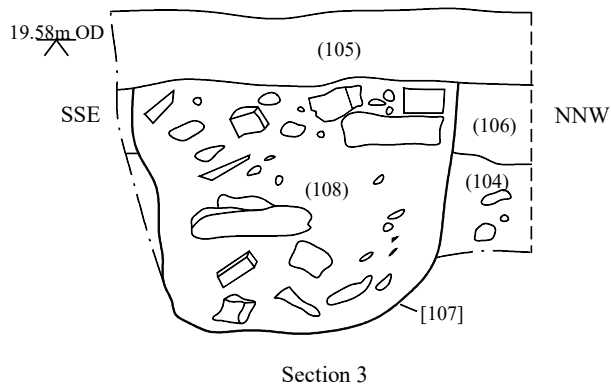
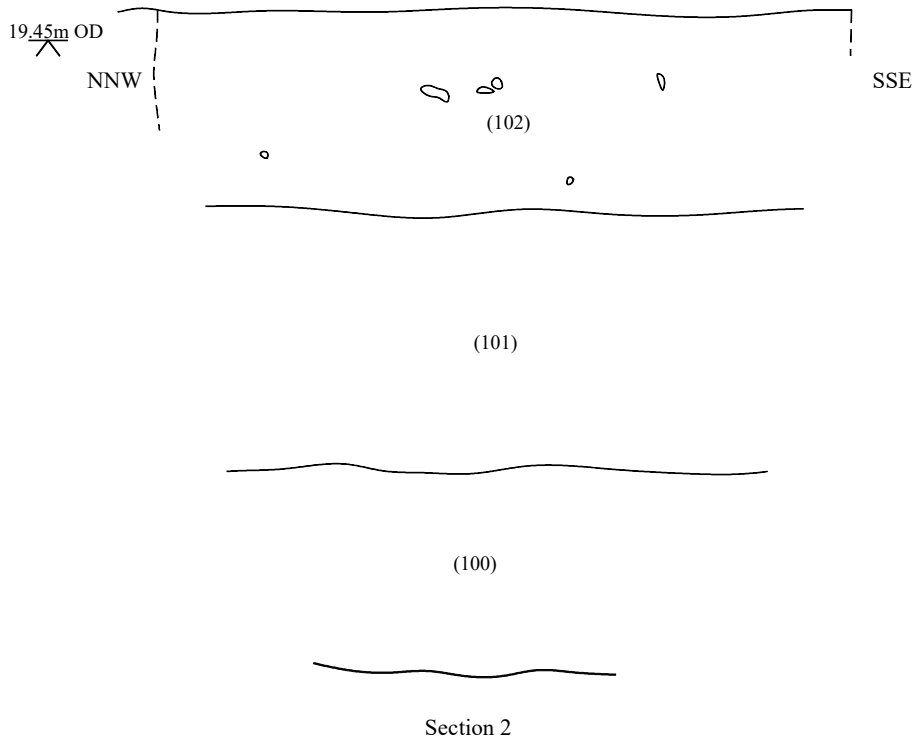
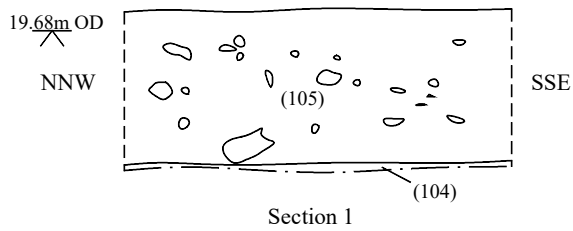


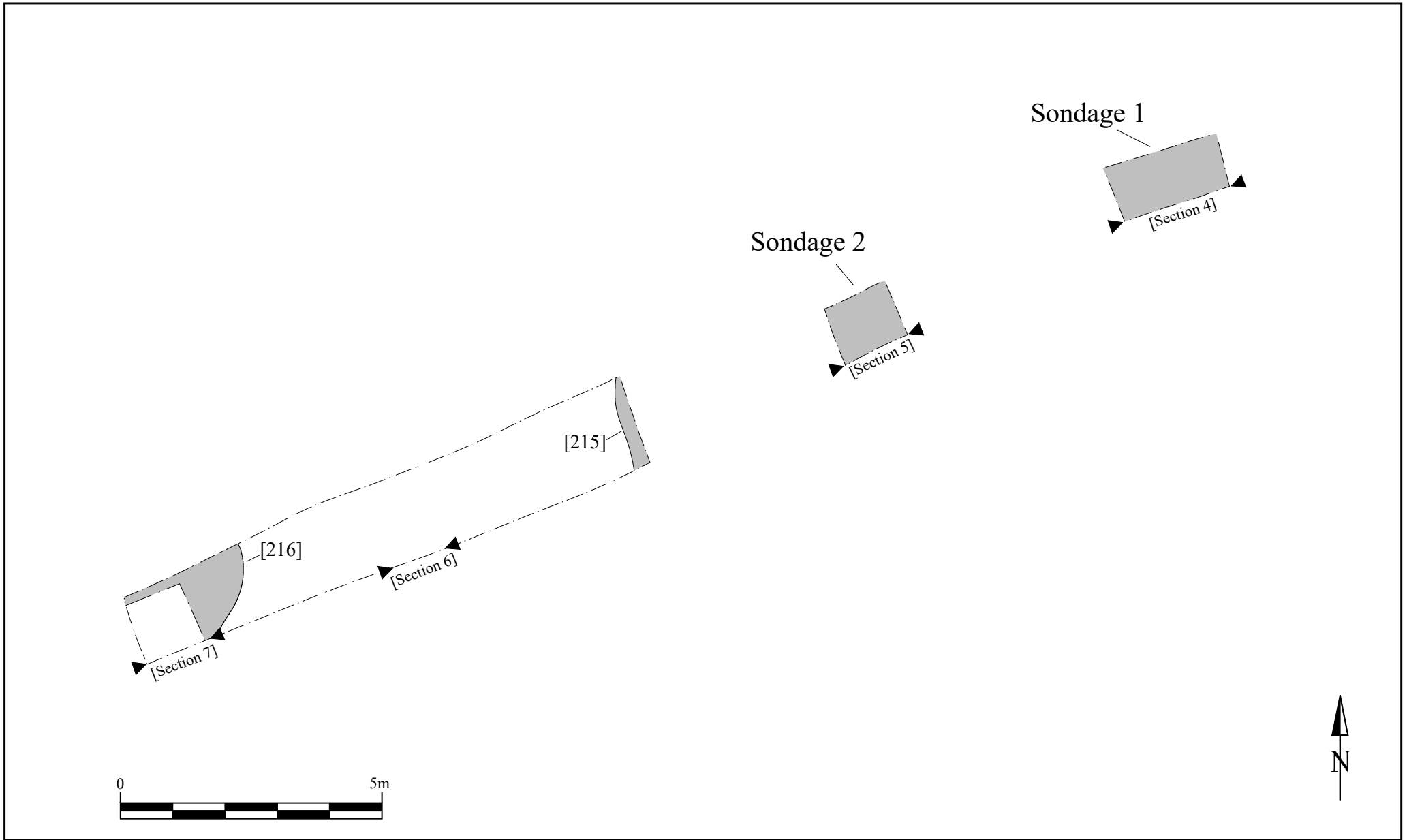
Plate 14: View of Demolition material in Trench 2 facing east, scale 1 x 1m

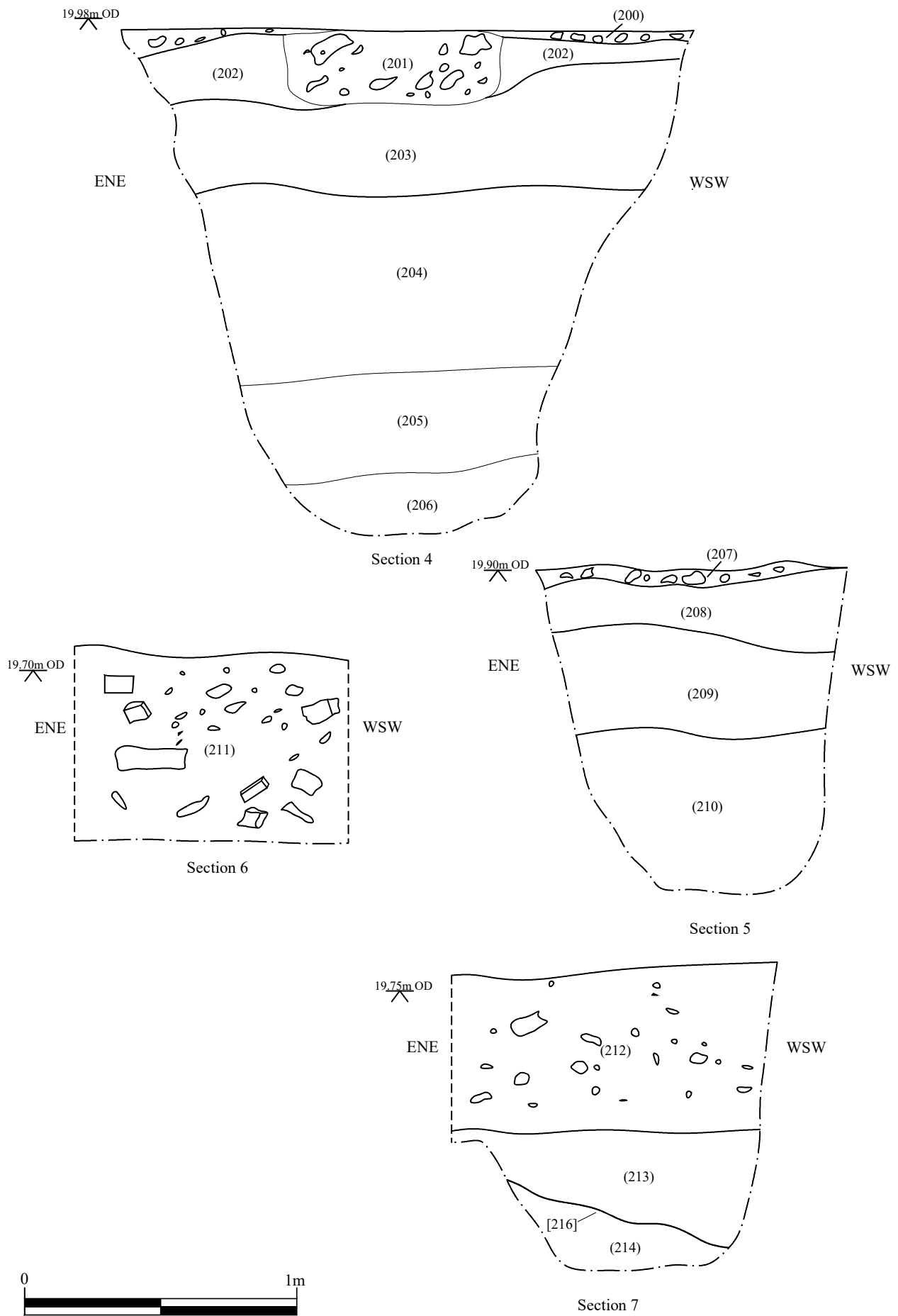












Appendix A. Context Descriptions

<i>Context</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>
100	Trench 1	Fill in Chalk Pit [103]	Moderately compacted light-to-mid brown sand which included occasional quantities of pea grit and small stones up to 10mm in diameter.
101	Trench 1	Fill in Chalk Pit [103]	Moderately firm compacted mid greenish brown silty sand which included frequent quantities of chalk flecks and small fragments. It also included moderate quantities of pea grit.
102	Trench 1	Uppermost fill in Chalk Pit [103]	Firmly compacted deposit of dark grey silty sand which included frequent quantities of chalk flecks and moderate quantities of angular stones and flint up to 0.25m in diameter
103	Trench 1	Cut of Chalk Pit.	Chalk pit which occupied much of the south part of Trench 1. The extent of the pit is uncertain as only the north edge of the cut was recorded in the area of excavation. The pit continued beyond the east, west and south limits of excavation. A north-to-south extent of 6.92m was recorded in the trench with a machine excavated sondage into the pit located close to the south end of the trench. The sondage measured 1.80m in depth. The base of the pit was not identified at this level.
104	Trench 1	Natural material in Trench 1	The natural consisted mostly of light-to-mid yellow coarse sand which included frequent flint fragments. Occasional large patches of beige/brown silty sand mixed with chalk.
105	Trench 1	Rubble demolition deposit	Deposit comprised modern building rubble including brick, tile and concrete in a matrix of light-to-mid grey silty sand. The rubble comprised around 50% of the deposit whilst 50% consisted of the silty sand component. The deposit measured 0.40m in thickness.
106	Trench 1	Rubble demolition deposit	Deposit comprised modern building rubble including brick, tile and concrete in a matrix of light-to-mid grey silty sand. The rubble comprised around 50% of the deposit whilst 50% consisted of the silty sand component. The deposit measured 0.40m in thickness.
107	Trench 1	Cut of wall foundation	East northeast-to-west southwest orientated wall foundation. The cut measured 0.85m in width and had a depth of 0.65m. The sides of the cut varied between steeply or vertically inclined whilst the base was flat.
108	Trench 1	Fill of wall foundation [107]	Around 80% of the deposit consisted of rubble including brick, tile and lumps of white mortar. Fragments of late 19 th century or early 20 th century bottle glass were also present. The remaining 20% of the deposit consisted of dark grey silty sand.
200	Trench 2	Modern demolition rubble.	Spread of modern demolition rubble which included concrete, brick and limestone lumps. It

			averaged around 70mm in thickness and occupied much of the southeast part of the site.
201	Trench 2	Wall foundation	Very hard and compacted mixture of light yellow lime mortar and flint fragments. It measured 0.82m in width and had a thickness of 0.28m. The sides were vertical whilst the base was flat.
202	Trench 2	Uppermost fill of chalk pit.	Firmly compacted dark grey silty sand which included moderate quantities of charcoal and peagrit. The deposit measured 0.26m in maximum thickness and was recorded for distance of 2.10m east-to-west.
203	Trench 2	Fill of chalk pit	Firmly compacted mid greenish brown silty sand which included frequent quantities of chalk flecks and fragments and frequent peagrit. The deposit measured 0.50m in thickness and recorded to a width of 1.86m
204	Trench 2	Fill in chalk pit	Moderately compacted mid brown silty sand which included occasional quantities of chalk flecks and fragments and frequent quantities of pea grit. The deposit measured 0.63m in maximum depth and recorded to a width of 1.64m.
205	Trench 2	Fill of chalk pit	Loosely compacted deposit of mid greyish brown silty sand which included moderate quantities of pea grit. It measured 0.37m in maximum depth and recorded to a width of 1.17m.
206	Trench 2	Fill of chalk pit	Loosely compacted deposit of mid reddish brown sand which included moderate quantities of pea grit and small stones. It measured 0.23m in thickness.
207	Trench 2	Modern demolition rubble. Same as (200)	Spread of modern demolition rubble which included concrete, brick and limestone lumps. It averaged around 70mm in thickness and occupied much of the southeast part of the site.
208	Trench 2	Uppermost fill of chalk pit. Same as (202)	Firmly compacted dark grey silty sand which included moderate quantities of charcoal and peagrit. The deposit measured 0.29m in maximum thickness and was recorded for distance of 1.11m east-to-west.
209	Trench 2	Fill of chalk pit. Same as (203)	Firmly compacted mid greenish brown silty sand which included frequent quantities of chalk flecks and fragments and frequent peagrit. The deposit measured 0.38m in thickness and recorded to a width of 1.05m
210	Trench 2	Fill in chalk pit. Same as (204)	Moderately compacted mid brown silty sand which included occasional quantities of chalk flecks and fragments and frequent quantities of pea grit. The deposit measured 0.61m in maximum depth and recorded to a width of 0.92m.
211	Trench 2	Modern demolition rubble	Loosely compacted dark grey silty sand which included frequent quantities of modern brick, flint cobbles, concrete fragments and mortar lumps. The deposit measured 0.70m in thickness.
212	Trench 2	Modern demolition rubble. Same as (211)	Loosely compacted dark grey silty sand which included frequent quantities of modern brick, flint cobbles, concrete fragments and mortar lumps. The deposit measured 0.56m in thickness.

213	Trench 2	Uppermost fill of Chalk pit	Moderately compacted deposit of light-to-mid brown sand. It included frequent quantities of chalk flecks and fragments and occasional quantities of small and medium sized flints.
214	Trench 2	Natural chalk	White natural chalk.
215	Trench 2	Cut of chalk pit	Chalk pit which occupied east part of Trench 2. And investigated by the insertion of two sondages. The extent of the pit is uncertain as only the west edge of the cut was recorded in the area of excavation. The pit continued beyond the east, north and south limits of excavation. A minimum east-to-west extent of 12.60m was recorded across the trench and two machine excavated sondages. Natural chalk was encountered at a depth of 1.86m in the easternmost sondage.
216	Trench 2	Cut of probable chalk pit	Cut of a probable chalk pit recorded close to the west end of Trench 2. The cut continued beyond the west, north and south limits of the excavation. The exposed part of the cut was curved and exposed for a distance of 2.50m west southwest-to-east northeast and 1.80m south southeast-to-north northwest. A depth of 0.43m was recorded.

Appendix B. OASIS Summary Form

OASIS ID: withamar1-418588

Project details

Project name	The Former Thetford Cottage Hospital Site, Earl Street, Thetford.
Short description of the project	Informative Trial Trenching was carried out at the former Thetford Cottage Hospital Site, Earl Street, Thetford, Norfolk. The work formed part of a programme of Archaeological Mitigatory Work. The area of the proposed development comprises 9250m ² of vacant land situated on the periphery of the historic core of Thetford. The site lies immediately east of Earl Street, around 300m northwest of the Norman castle and 100m north of the medieval core of the town. The development is for the construction of nine terraced dwellings on the site. Two evaluation trenches measuring 30m in length and 1.8m in width were excavated forming a 5% sample of the site. The work established that the site had suffered heavy truncation. Some truncation probably took place when the hospital was built in the Late Victorian period but major truncation appears to have occurred during demolition of the building to make way for the present development. At least two large pits were recorded which probably result from chalk extraction and two wall foundations are likely to represent remains associated with the now demolished hospital. The total absence of shallower cut features is probably explained by the heavy truncation of the site.
Project dates	Start: 20-07-2020 End: 23-07-2020
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	ENF149244 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	WALL FOUNDATION Post Medieval
Monument type	CHALK PIT Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK BRECKLAND THETFORD The former Cottage Hospital Site, Earl Street, Thetford

Postcode	IP24 2AD
Study area	9250 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 8720 8317 52.41399751084 0.752856925606 52 24 50 N 000 45 10 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 19.33m Max: 19.96m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Witham Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Gary Trimble
Project director/manager	Gary Trimble
Project supervisor	Gary Trimble
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	GCC Developments Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Report", "Section", "Survey", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	The Former Thetford Cottage Hospital Site, Earl Street, Thetford. Informative Trenching as part of a Programme of Archaeological Mitigation Work..
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