

# **Witham** Archaeology

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A Report to Orbit Homes Ltd

September 2017



**ELM FARM, WILDE STREET, BECK ROW, SUFFOLK**

**Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation**

*G Trimble*

# ELM FARM, WILDE STREET, BECK ROW, SUFFOLK

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## *Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation*

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# **ELM FARM, WILDE STREET, BECK ROW, SUFFOLK**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION**

### **SUMMARY**

*This report presents the results of an archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation undertaken on land at Elm Farm, Wilde Street, Beck Row, Suffolk. The project was commissioned by Orbit Homes Ltd in response to a condition of planning permission requiring an archaeological evaluation to assess the condition of any archaeological deposits which may survive at the site and to assess the impact of the proposed development on these.*

*The site lies on the northeastern fringe of the village of Beck Row and on the southeast side of Wilde Street. Eleven trenches representing a 5% sample of the proposed development area were excavated as part of the evaluation. The trenches were randomly targeted but distributed to achieve maximum coverage of the area.*

*Overall, the results of trial trenching indicate that archaeological features do survive on the site although plough truncation has caused significant damage. Evidence of prehistoric activity was recorded in the form of two small pits, probably representing the surviving bases of plough-truncated features. A single flint flake recovered from the fill of one of the pits suggests a late Neolithic or early Bronze Age date for these features. Seven linear ditches were recorded on the site. The ditches remain undated but cartographic evidence suggests that they probably predate the later post-medieval period. Five large amorphous shaped spreads of sandy silts within the natural sands are likely to represent fills in natural undulations or solution hollows.*

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This report presents the results of an archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation undertaken on land at Elm Farm, Wilde Street, Beck Row, Suffolk. The project was commissioned by Orbit Homes Ltd to provide archaeological information in support of a planning application (DC/17/1107/FUL) submitted to Forest Heath District Council for residential development at the site. Fieldwork was carried out from the 21<sup>st</sup> of August 2017 to the 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2017, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by PCA Heritage and approved by the local planning 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 of Archaeologists.

### **2.0 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY (Figs. 1 and 2, Plates 1-6)**

The village of Beck Row is located in the county of Suffolk, 3.5km northwest of the town of Mildenhall and 21km northwest of Bury St Edmunds in the administrative district of Forest Heath. The site of the proposed development is located on the eastern outskirts of the village, approximately 850m from the historic core. The site comprises a triangular shaped 1.28 hectare parcel of land located on the southeast side of Wilde Street. It is bordered on its eastern, southern and western sides by relatively modern housing developments. A private residence and associated gardens and outbuildings currently occupy part of the western side of the site. The area comprises flat ground mostly covered by unmanaged grass. The private residence is surrounded by lawns.

British Geological Survey mapping indicates that the solid geology of the area is Grey Chalk formed in the Cretaceous period in warm shallow 'Chalk' shelf seas with little sediment input from land. The surface (or drift) geology comprises Quaternary 1st River Terrace deposits of riverine sand and gravel detrital material laid in channels (BGS 1991). The soils are described as freely draining Breckland soils (Soilscapes 2017).

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (Figs. 17, 18 & 19)**

The site is located within an area of rich and diverse archaeological remains identified through aerial photography, fieldwalking and subsurface archaeological intervention. A map showing the distribution of findspots and monuments in the vicinity of the evaluation site is presented as Figure 19. Although no sites of archaeological interest are known to exist within the confines of the development area, numerous sites are recorded in the locality. Cartographic information shows that the site lies between the hamlets of Beck Row and Wilde Street with Beck Row to the west and Wilde Street to the east. On Hodkinson's map of Suffolk of 1793 the site is shown within a linear green which stretches east-to-west along the road now known as Wilde Street linking the hamlets of Wilde Street and Beck Row (Fig. 17). The area of the site is shown to be open land, free of any buildings. The 1858 Tithe Map (Fig. 18) also shows the land as being open and undeveloped, but by this time it is probably under cultivation. The north-to-south line of Aspal lane to the west of the development area is an historic road linking Wilde Street with Cake Street to the south. The medieval moated manor of Aspal Hall (SHER MNL 083) and its associated park (SHER MNL 483) is located around 400m south and southwest of the development site. An archaeological evaluation undertaken in 2013 on land off Aspal Lane (Orzechowski 2013) and around 300m south of the current site at SHER MNL 705 recorded a pit containing pottery of 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century date in addition to numerous undated features in the form of pits, ditches, furrows and gullies. Further to the east a spread of medieval pottery sherds and ceramic building material has been recorded at SHER MNL 071.

The evaluation site lies 700m to the south of the fen edge. Mildenhall common lies between the line of Wilde Street and the lower lying fen to the north. The rich resources provided by a fen edge location were attractive to occupation in the prehistoric period, and various find spots of this date including Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery and flint artefacts are located to the north of the evaluation site (SHER MNL 323, 114, 111, 571 & 318). To the east of the site are two more isolated Neolithic or Bronze findspots of pottery and flint (MNL 126 & 335) whilst SHER MNL 203 represent a Mesolithic flint scatter.

The results of an archaeological excavation undertaken at The Former Smoke House, Beck Row situated approximately 1.2km west of the current site at SHER MNL502 highlight the continued importance of this locality to Iron Age and Romano-British communities (Mustchin 2014). Here an extensive Romano-British rural landscape of enclosures and field systems was recorded in addition to evidence of occupation and funerary activity.

### **4.0 AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

The principal objectives of the project, as set out in a Witham Archaeology specification 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 Suffolk County Council Historic Environment Record (HER).
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## 5.0 METHODOLOGY (Fig. 2)

The project specification provided for the excavation of eleven trenches forming approximately a 5% sample of the site. All of the trenches measured 30m in length and 1.80m in width.

All topsoil and overburden removal from the trenches was carried out by a mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket. Trench bases 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 and monochrome (35mm) photographs, and individual written context records on *pro forma* recording sheets. Trenches were located by a survey grade Topcon GPS receiver linked to a rugged Topcon datalogger.

All features and excavated spoil was scanned with a metal detector. Artefacts recovered included modern iron implements. Many of these artefacts were obviously corroded tractor and other farm machinery parts and reflect the previous use of this area as farmland. All of these objects were discarded.

Archaeological deposits were assessed on site for their potential for environmental sampling. The features were of a general shallow nature and were deemed to be unsuitable for sampling owing to the high frequency of rooting, animal burrowing and/or plough damage. Therefore, no environmental samples were taken during the course of the project.

## 6.0 RESULTS

For ease of reference, the following account is presented on a trench-by-trench basis. Full context descriptions are provided in Appendix A and a complete catalogue of finds is provided in Appendix B.

### 6.1 Trench 1 (Figs. 3 & 13) (Plate 7)

Trench 1 (c. 30m long x 1.80m wide) was aligned southwest-to-northeast and located in the northern part of the site (Fig. 3 & Plate 7). The trench was excavated to an average depth of 0.35m (4.33m OD) below the present ground surface, with natural deposits encountered at a depth of 0.30m (4.28m OD). The natural deposits (100) consisted of mid orangey yellow sand including patches of white chalk. Natural deposits were directly overlain by topsoil deposit (101) which consisted of mid grey silty sand and measured around 0.30m in average thickness (Figure 13 Section 11). No features or deposits of archaeological interest were recorded in Trench 1.

### 6.2 Trench 2 (Figs. 3, 4 & 13) (Plate 8)

Trench 2 (c. 30m long x 1.80m wide) was west southwest-to-east northeast aligned and located within the northern part of the development area (Fig. 3 & Plate 8). The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.40m (4.50m OD) below the present ground surface. The natural (200) mainly consisted of mid orangey yellow sand which included patches of white chalk. Topsoil in Trench 2 was comprised of light to mid grey silty sand (201) 0.36m in thickness (Fig. 13 Section 12).

A large cut curved 'cut' [202] was located in the central part of the trench (Fig. 4). It was only partially revealed but probably represents the southern edge of a natural undulation in the sand or a solution hollow. The visible dimensions of the feature were 7.16m east to west and 1.54m north to south. The feature, which was not excavated, was filled by a deposit of firmly compacted light grey silty sand (203).

### **6.3 Trench 3 (Figs 3, 5 & 13) (Plates 9-13)**

Trench 3 (c. 30m x 1.8m) was aligned southeast to northwest and located in the northern part of the site (Fig. 3 & Plate 9). The trench was excavated to an average depth of 0.4m (4.38m OD) below the present ground surface with natural deposits encountered at a depth of 0.37m (4.4m OD). The natural deposits (302) consisted of mid orangey yellow sand including patches of white chalk (Figure 13 Section 4). Natural deposits were directly overlain by topsoil (301) which consisted of mid grey silty sand 0.36m in average thickness. Two linear ditches and a natural feature were recorded in the trench.

#### *Ditches [303] and [305]*

Two parallel ditches [303] and [305] were orientated north-northwest to south southeast and separated by a distance of 9.24m (Fig. 5). Ditch [303] was located at the northwestern limit of the trench and measured 0.60m in width, 0.17m in depth and was recorded for a distance of 3.75m. Its sides varied between gradually and gently sloped whilst the base was concave (Fig. 13 Section 1 & Plate 11). Ditch [305] was situated in the central part of the trench and measured 0.50m in width, 0.10m in depth and was recorded for a distance of 4.13m. The sides of the cut varied in degree of slope between gentle and gradual whilst the base was concave (Fig. 13 Section 2 & Plate 12). The ditches were filled by identical deposits of firmly compacted dark brown silty sand (304) and (306). Neither of the features produced datable artefacts.

#### *Natural Feature [307]*

Natural feature [307] was located in the central part of the trench. The feature had roughly parallel sides aligned southwest to northeast across the line of the trench. It measured 3.25m in width and was excavated to a depth of around 0.60m (Fig. 13 Section 3 & Plate 13). The excavated southeast side had an irregular but gradual slope. It was filled by a deposit of light to mid brown sandy silt (308) which continued beneath the natural chalk. The feature has been interpreted as natural anomaly, possibly a solution hollow.

### **6.4 Trench 4 (Figs. 3, 6 & 14) (Plates 14 & 15 )**

Trench 4 (c. 30m x 1.8m) was located within the central part of the site and aligned east to west (Fig. 3, Plate 14). The trench was machine excavated to a depth averaging around 0.35m below the present ground surface. Undisturbed natural deposits (400) recorded at a depth of 4.14m OD consisted of mid orangey yellow sand with some patches of white chalk. The topsoil across Trench 4 consisted of mid grey silty sand (401) an averaging 0.30m in depth (Fig. 14 Section 9). A ditch and a probable natural feature were recorded in the trench.

#### *Ditch [402]*

Ditch [402] was located in the eastern part of the trench (Fig. 6). It was orientated southwest to northeast and measured 1.20m in width, 0.20m in depth and extended for a distance of 4.15m. The sides of the cut were gently sloped whilst the base was flat (Fig. 14 Section 10 & Plate 15). It was filled by a single deposit of mixed light grey and dark grey silty sand (403). The dark grey areas are likely to be the result of rooting action.

#### *Probable natural feature [404].*

A large 'cut' located at the western end of the trench is likely to represent a natural undulation in the natural sand or a solution hollow (Fig. 6). The feature was not fully revealed in the evaluation trench and was not excavated. The exposed portion represents the east side of the feature which extends beyond the west, north and south limits of the evaluation trench. The revealed dimensions were 6.83m east-to-west and 1.80m north-to-south. It was filled by light to mid brownish grey silty sand (405) which included occasional patches of chalk.

### **6.5 Trench 5 (Figs. 3 & 14) (Plate 16)**

Trench 5 (c. 30m x 1.8m) was situated on the southeastern side of the site development area and aligned southeast to northwest (Fig. 3, Plate 16). The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.35m below the present ground surface where natural deposits were encountered at a level of 4.18m OD. Natural (500) consisted of light yellowish brown sand, which included mixed lenses of gravel. Topsoil (501) consisted of mid grey silty sand around 0.35m in average thickness (Fig. 14 Section 13). No features or deposits of archaeological interest were recorded in Trench 5.

### **6.6 Trench 6 (Figs 3, 7 & 14) (Plates 17 & 18)**

Trench 6 (c. 30m x 1.5m) was located in the southeastern corner of the development area (Fig. 3, Plate 17) and orientated east southeast to west northwest. Topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.27m below the present ground level to the surface of natural deposits, which were encountered at 4.18m OD. Natural in Trench 6 comprised mid orangey yellow sand with some patches of white chalk (600). Topsoil (603) consisted of mid grey silty sand averaging around 0.30m in depth (Fig. 14 Section 15). The only feature of archaeological interest recorded in the trench was a linear gully.

#### *Gully [600]*

Linear Gully [600] was located in the central part of the trench (Fig. 7). It was orientated southwest to northeast and recorded for a distance of 2.38m. the cut averaged around 0.40m in width and had a depth of 0.10m. The sides of the cut were gradually sloped whilst the base was concave (Fig. 14 Section 14). It was filled by a single deposit of mid grey silty sand (601).

### **6.7 Trench 7 (Figs 3, 8 & 14) (Plates 19 - 21)**

Trench 7 was located in the southeast part of the development area and aligned on an east to west orientation (Fig. 3 & Plate 19). The trench was machine excavated to a depth averaging around 0.35m below the present ground surface. Undisturbed natural deposits (704) were recorded at 4.25m OD and consisted of mid yellowish brown sand with some patches of white chalk. The topsoil across Trench 7 consisted of mid grey silty sand (705) which measured an average of 0.35m in depth (Fig. 14 Section 18). Two small pits were recorded in the trench.

#### *Pits [700] and [702]*

Pits [700] and [702] were located in the eastern part of the trench (Fig. 8) 2.35m apart. Both pits had suffered disturbance by ploughing and root action, with plough marks crossing each one. The pits were fully excavated. The larger pit was [700] sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.57m in maximum diameter and 0.14m in depth. The sides of the pit were gradually sloped whilst the base was concave (Fig. 14 Section 16 & Plate 20). The fill was a dark grey ash and silty sand (701) which yielded a single flint flake of probable late Neolithic or early Bronze Age date.

Pit [702], which was also sub-circular in plan, measured 0.40m in maximum diameter (Fig. 8) by 0.17m deep. The sides of the cut varied in degree of slope between steep and gradual (Fig. 14 Section 17 & Plate 21) while the base was slightly concave. It was filled by dark grey ash and silty sand (703) which included a small quantity of charcoal flecks.

### **6.8 Trench 8 (Figs. 3, 9 & 15) (Plate 22)**

Trench 8 (c. 25m x 1.8m) was located in the southeastern part of the site and orientated north to south (Fig. 3, Plate 22). Topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.40m below the present ground surface revealing undisturbed natural deposits at 4.20m OD. Natural in Trench 8 (800) consisted of light to mid yellowish brown sand with patches of white chalk measuring up to 2m in diameter. Topsoil (801) consisted of mid grey silty sand which averaged around 0.35m in depth (Fig. 15 Section 22). A large probable natural feature was recorded in the trench.

#### *Probable natural feature [802].*

A large 'cut' [802] located in the southern part of the trench is likely to represent a natural undulation in the natural sands (Fig. 9). The feature was not fully revealed and was not excavated. It extended beyond the limits of the evaluation trench to the west and east. The feature had an amorphous plan shape which occupied the full width of the trench (1.80m) and extended along the length of the trench for a distance of 9.25m. It was filled by a deposit of mid grey silty sand (803) which incorporated occasional lumps of redeposited chalk.

### **6.9 Trench 9 (Figs. 3, 10 & 15) (Plates 23-25)**

Trench 9 (c. 30m x 1.8m) was positioned in the southern part of the development site and aligned north to south (Fig. 3, Plate 23). Topsoil was removed to a depth of 0.40m below the present ground surface revealing undisturbed natural deposits at 4.00m OD. The natural (904) consisted of mid yellowish orange sand which incorporated patches of gravel up to 2m in diameter. Topsoil in Trench 9 consisted of mid grey silty sand which measured an average of around 0.30m in thickness (Fig. 15 Section 21). A possible chalk extraction pit was recorded in the trench.

#### *Possible Pit [900]*

Possible Pit [900] located in the north part of the trench (Fig. 10) was investigated in a hand-excavated sondage (Plate 24). The cut was large with roughly parallel sides and orientated east-to-west across the line of the trench. It occupied the full width of the trench (1.80m) and measured 5.90m in extent north to south. The sides and base of the cut were difficult to define and initially the feature was suspected to be of natural origin. However, a machine excavated sondage on the south side of the feature revealed a near vertical edge and a sharp break of slope between the side and base (Fig. 15 Section 19 & Plate 25) which suggests a possible archaeological origin perhaps for the extraction of chalk. In this part of the site, the geological sequence consisted of a layer of sand measuring around 0.20m in thickness located over white chalk. The feature contained a sequence of three generally horizontal fills. The primary fill (901) of light grey sandy silt was 0.23m thick which included flecks and small lumps of redeposited chalk. Above (901) mixed mid grey silty sand and mid orange gravel (902) 0.12m in depth. The uppermost fill (903) was 0.12m in thickness consisting of light grey silty sand with flecks and small lumps of redeposited chalk.

### **6.10 Trench 10 (Figs. 3, 11 & 16) (Plates 26-28)**

Trench 10 was located in the central western part of the site and aligned southeast to northwest (Fig. 3 & Plate 26). The trench was machine excavated to a depth around 0.40m below the present ground surface. Undisturbed natural (1000) was recorded at 4.35m OD consisted of yellowish orange sand with patches of gravel measuring up to 1m in diameter. Topsoil over Trench 10 (1005) consisted of mid grey silty sand which measured an average of 0.35m in depth (Fig. 16 Section 8). Two linear ditches were recorded in the trench. The projected ditches possibly form the southeast corner of an enclosure.

#### *Ditch [1001]*

Ditch [1001] was located in the northwestern part of the trench (Fig. 11) and orientated north to south. Recorded for a distance of 7.75m. The cut measured 1.03m in width and 0.227m in depth. Its sides varied in degree of slope between gradual and gently sloped whilst the base was concave (Fig. 16 Section 6 & Plate 27). It was filled by a single deposit light to mid grey silty sand (1002).

#### *Ditch [1003]*

Ditch [1003] was situated in the southeast part of the trench and orientated east-to-west (Fig. 11). It measured 1.30m in width and had a depth of 0.35m. The sides of the cut were gradually sloped and the base was flat (Fig. 16 Section 7 & Plate 28). The ditch was filled by a single deposit of mid grey silty sand (1004).

### **6.11 Trench 11 (Figs. 3, 12 & 16) (Plates 29 & 30)**

Trench 11 was located in the southwest corner of the site and aligned southeast to northwest (Fig. 3 & Plate 29). The trench was machine excavated to a depth averaging around 0.50m below the present ground surface. Undisturbed natural (1104) recorded at 4.40m OD consisted of yellowish orange sand with patches of gravel measuring up to 1m in diameter. The topsoil over Trench 11 (1103) consisted of mid grey silty sand averaging 0.35m in depth (Fig. 16 Section 20). One linear ditch was recorded in Trench 11.

#### *Ditch [1100]*

Ditch [1100] located in the southeastern part of the site (Fig. 12) was aligned west-southwest to east-northeast. The cut measured 1.10m in width and 0.35m in depth. Its sides were gradually sloped whilst the base was concave (Fig. 16 Section 20 & Plate 30). The primary fill (1101) consisted of firmly compacted dark grey silty sand 0.48m in width and 0.07m in depth. Secondary fill (1102) comprised mid grey silty sand which measured 1.10m in maximum width and had a depth of 0.27m. Patches and bands of dark grey silty sand were probably the result of animal burrowing or rooting.

## **7.0 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION**

The archaeological trial trenching at Elm Farm, Wilde Street, Beck Row identified surviving archaeological features in nine of the eleven trenches. The features included seven linear ditches or gullies and two small pits.

Modern plough marks were present in all of the trenches indicating at least a degree of plough truncation. The relative shallowness of the recorded features indicates a high level of truncation, also suggesting that some features may have been lost altogether.

The earliest features recorded on the site were two small pits in Trench 7, dated to the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age on the basis of a single piece of struck flint. The fills were dark and ashy, a characteristic commonly found on occupation sites of this period in East Anglia. Pits filled with 'blackened sand' have been found on nearby late Neolithic/early Bronze Age sites at Lakenheath and Mildenhall (Bamford 1982) but no interpretation as to the function of the pits was posited. Although the pits fills at Elm Farm appear to be residues from fire or hearths there is no evidence of in situ burning.

No dating evidence was recovered from any of the recorded ditches. However, the alignments of the ditches suggest at least two phases of field system (Fig. 3). Two parallel ditches recorded in Trench 3 in the eastern part of the site respect the orientations of two ditches recorded in Trench 10 and possibly that of a further ditch in the western part of the site, in Trench 11. A ditch recorded in Trench 4 is on a similar southwest to northeast orientation to a gully or heavily truncated ditch in Trench 6 and together they probably represent a different phase from those recorded in Trenches 3, 10, and 11. Hodkinson's Map of Suffolk of 1783 (Fig. 17) shows the area of the site lying within an elongated green which stretches from the hamlet of Wilde Street in the east to the hamlet of Beck Row in the west. The 1858 Tithe Map (Fig. 18) shows the area of the site located to the west side of a large open field which was only later subdivided into the present configuration. The cartographic evidence would suggest that the area of the site was not subject to an arable agricultural regime in the post-medieval period although plough marks and the presence of a significant quantity of iron artefacts from mechanised machinery testify to arable cultivation in more recent years. Therefore, the ditches are likely to date to the early post-medieval period or earlier.

Four large features recorded in Trenches 2, 4, 8 & 9 are likely to be of natural origin similar to the excavated natural anomaly [307] (possibly a solution hollow) recorded in Trench 3. However, excavation of the large pit like feature [900] in Trench 9 showed it to have near vertical sides with a sharp break of slope to a flat base. The profile suggests an archaeological origin, possibly as a chalk extraction pit. The other large but unexcavated features may be interpreted as further chalk pits but are more likely to be the result of natural processes, possibly solution hollows or slight hummocks and shallow hollows in the natural sands. The geology of the site consists of a relatively thin layer of sand located above chalk and in most trenches patches of chalk were visible as small outcrops through the sand.

## **8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The author of this report would like to thank Rachael Abraham of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service and Jacek Gruszczynski of PCA Heritage for their assistance in ensuring a successful outcome to the project. Thanks are also due to Mark Walker of Orbit Homes, Odette Robson of Robson ecology and to Andy Peachey of Archaeological Solutions for the Flint report.

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## **10.0 PROJECT/ ARCHIVE DETAILS**

### **10.1 Project Information**

SITE CODE: MNL 788

EVENT No.: ESF25771

PLANNING APPLICATION No.: DC/17/1107/FUL

FIELD OFFICER: Gary Trimble

NGR: TL 70080 78091

CIVIL PARISH: Beck Row

DATES OF INTERVENTION: 21<sup>st</sup> August 2017-25<sup>th</sup> August 2017

TYPE OF INTERVENTION: Trial Trench Evaluation

UNDERTAKEN FOR: Orbit Homes Ltd

### **10.2 Archive Details**

PRESENT LOCATION: Witham Archaeology, 2 High Street, Ruskington, Lincolnshire. NG349DT

FINAL LOCATION: Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service

MUSEUM ACCESSION No.: TBC

ACCESSION DATE: TBC

#### ***The Site Archive Comprises:***

Context Records	37
Plans at Scale 1:50	GPS plans
Section Drawings at Scale 1:20	5 Sheets, fourteen sections
Black and White photographs	48 frames
Digital Photographs	63



*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 along Wilde Street facing northeast. The entrance to the site is through the gate to the right*



*Plate 2: General view of the eastern part of the site area prior to trenching, facing northeast*





*Plate 3: General view of the west part of the site from the western corner of the site showing the bungalow and associated gardens*



*Plate 4: View of the eastern part of the development site (facing northeast) following the backfilling of the trenches*





*Plate 5: General view of the development area looking southwest, showing backfilled Trench 6*



*Plate 6: View of the west part of the development area facing southwest, showing backfilled Trench 11*





*Plate 7: General View of Trench 1 looking northeast, scale 1 x 2m*



*Plate 8: General view of Trench 2 facing west, scale 1 x 2m*





*Plate 9: General view of Trench 3 facing southwest, scales 1 x 2m*



*Plate 10: View of Ditch [303] in Trench 3 facing north, scale 1 x 0.5m*





*Plate 11: General view of Ditch [303] in Trench 3 facing north, scale 1 x 0.5m*



*Plate 12: View of Ditch [305] facing north, scales 1 x 0.5m*





*Plate 13: View of natural feature [307] in Trench 3 facing northeast, scales 1 x 2m*



*Plate 14: General view of Trench 4 facing east, scales 2 x 1m*





*Plate 15: View of Ditch [402] in Trench 4 facing northeast, scales 1 x 1m & 1 x 0.20m*



*Plate 16: General view of Trench 5 facing northwest, scale 1 x 2m*





*Plate 17: General view of Trench 6 facing southeast, scale 1 x 2m*



*Plate 18: View of Gully [600] facing southwest, scale 1 x 0.30m*





*Plate 19: General view of Trench 7 facing east, scales 2 x 1m*



*Plate 20: View of Pit [700] facing southwest, scales 1 x 0.2m & 1 x 0.3m*





*Plate 21: View of Pit [702] facing southwest, scales 1 x 0.2m & 1 x 0.3m*



*Plate 22: General view of Trench 8 facing south, scales 2 x 1m*





*Plate 23: General view of Trench 9 facing south, scales 2 x 1m*



*Plate 24: View of Probable Chalk Pit [900] facing northwest, scales 2 x 1m, 1 x 0.3m & 1 x 0.2m*





*Plate 25: View of machine excavated south side of Probable Chalk Pit [900], scale 1 x 1m*



*Plate 26: General view of Trench 10 facing southeast, scales 2 x 1m*





*Plate 27: General view of Ditch [1001] in Trench 10 facing southeast, scales 1 x 1m & 1 x 0.3m*



*Plate 28: View of Ditch [1003] in Trench 10 facing east, scales 1 x 1m & 1 x 0.3m*



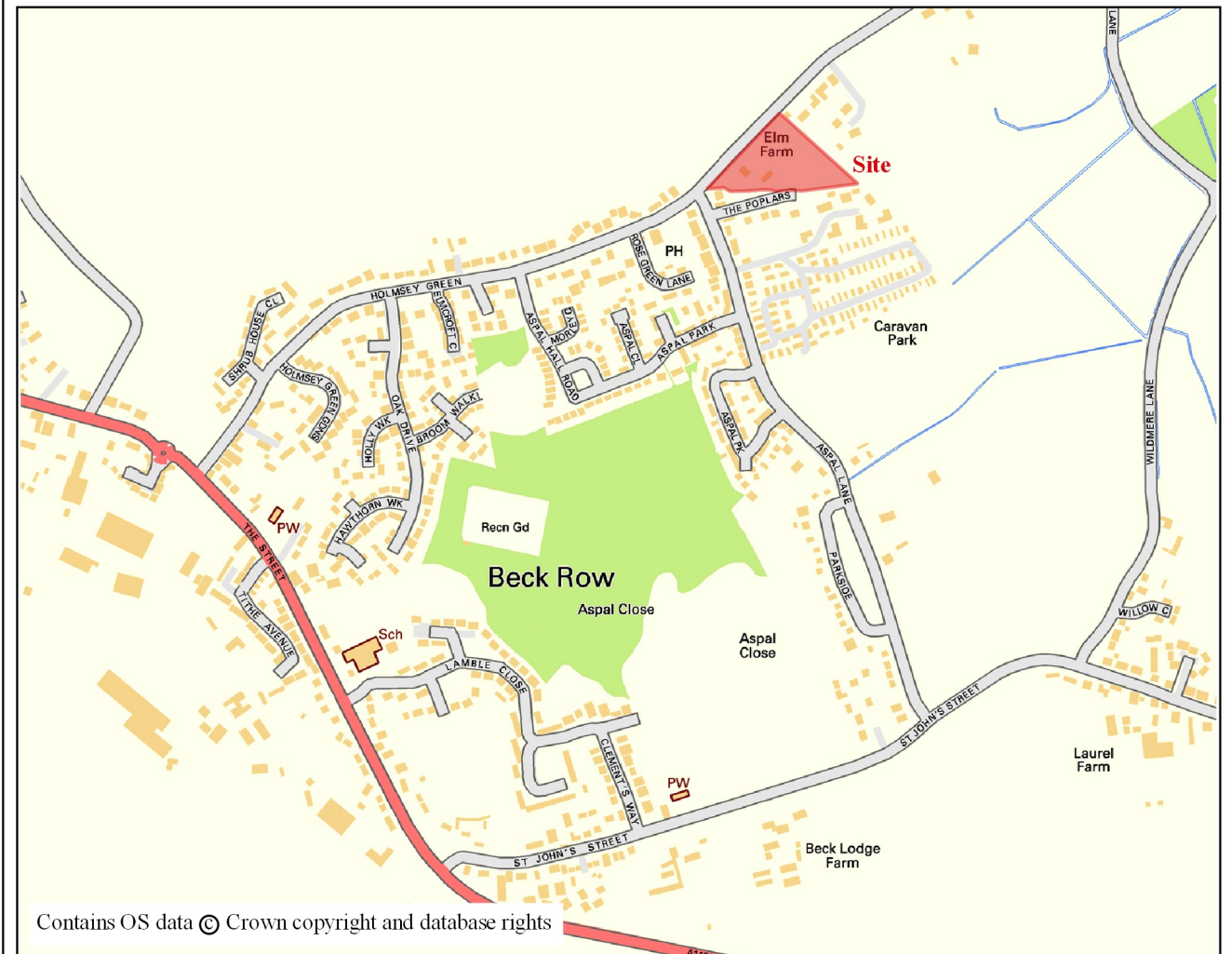
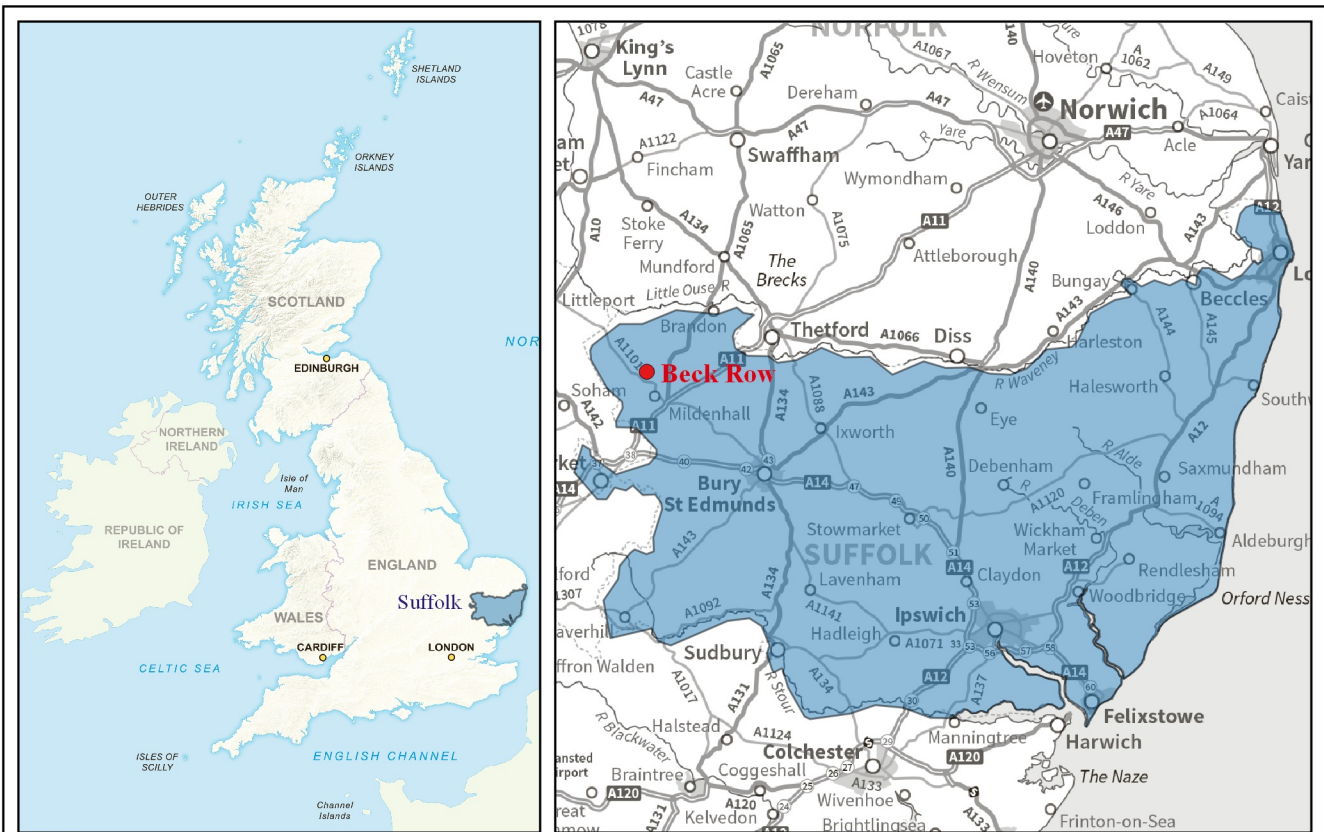


*Plate 29: General view of Trench 11 facing southeast, scales 2 x 1m*

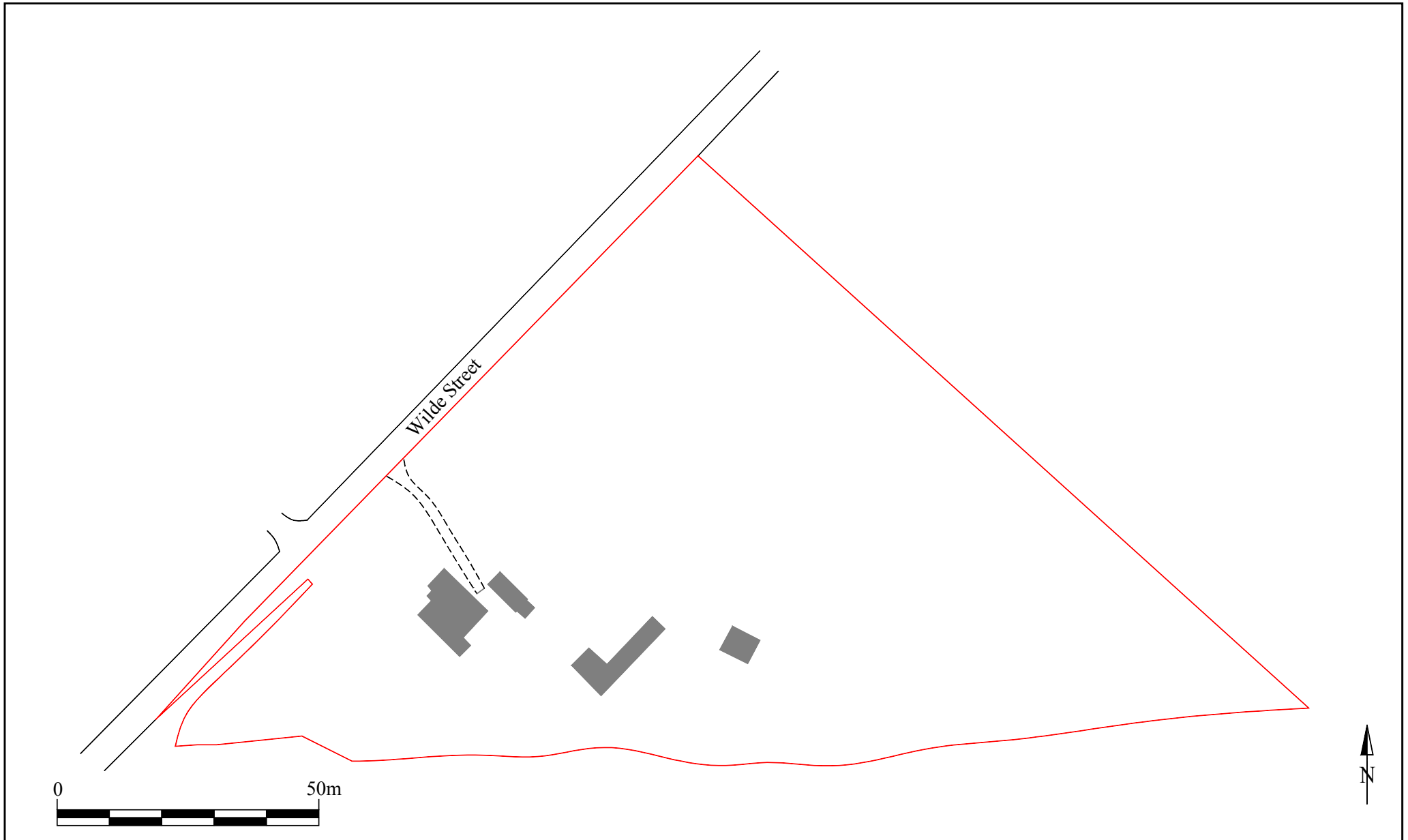


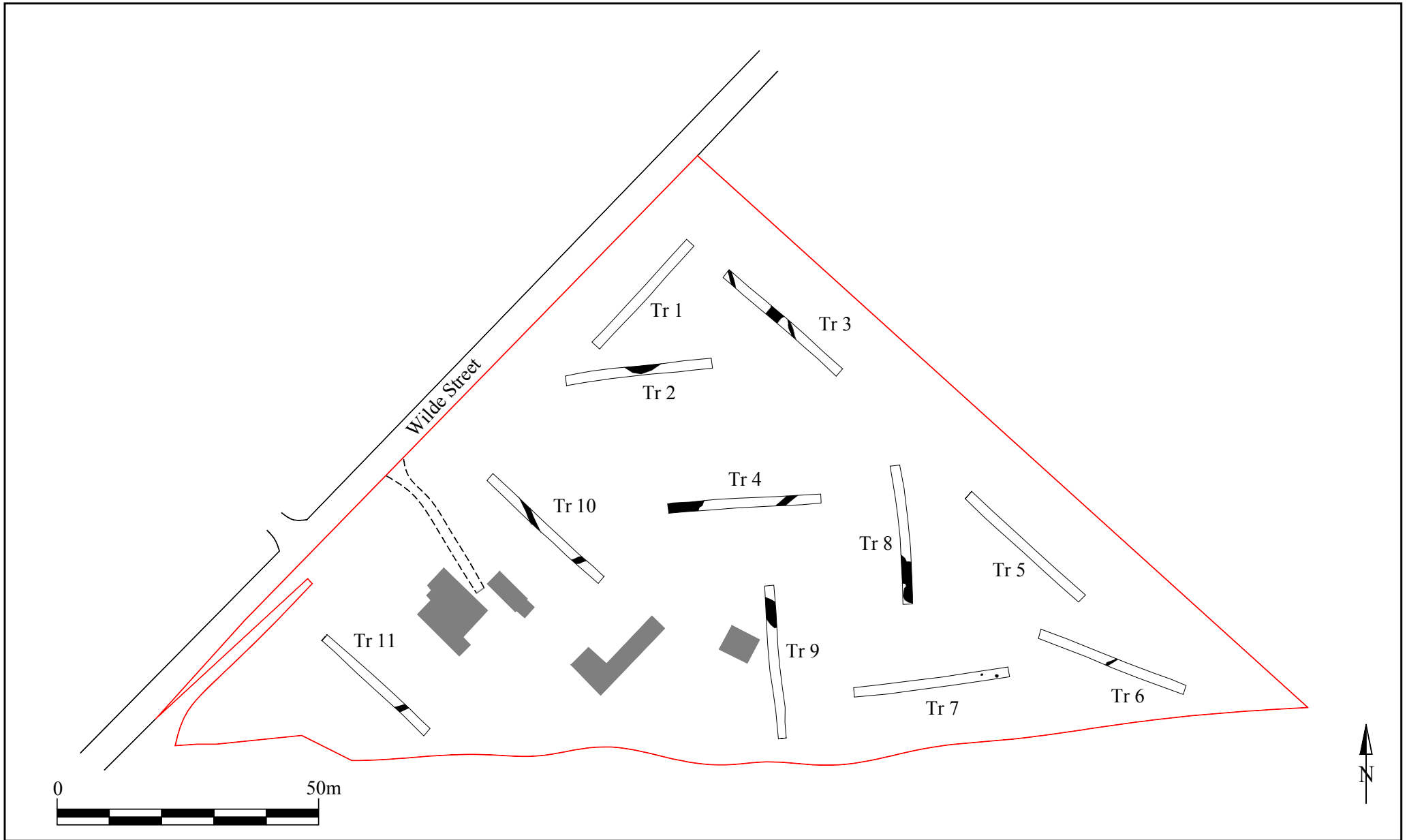
*Plate 30: View of Ditch [1100] in Trench 11 facing west, scales 2 x 1m*

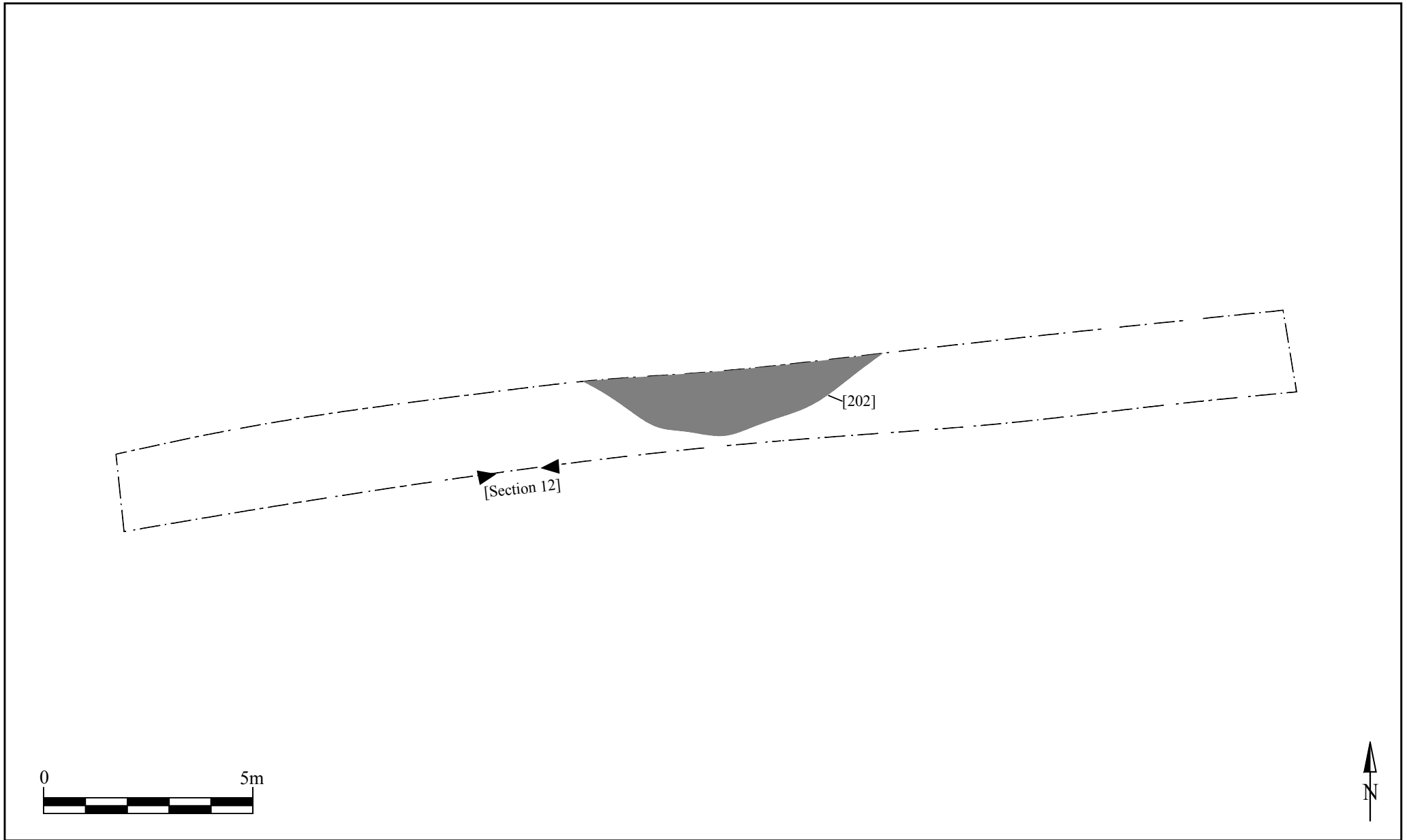


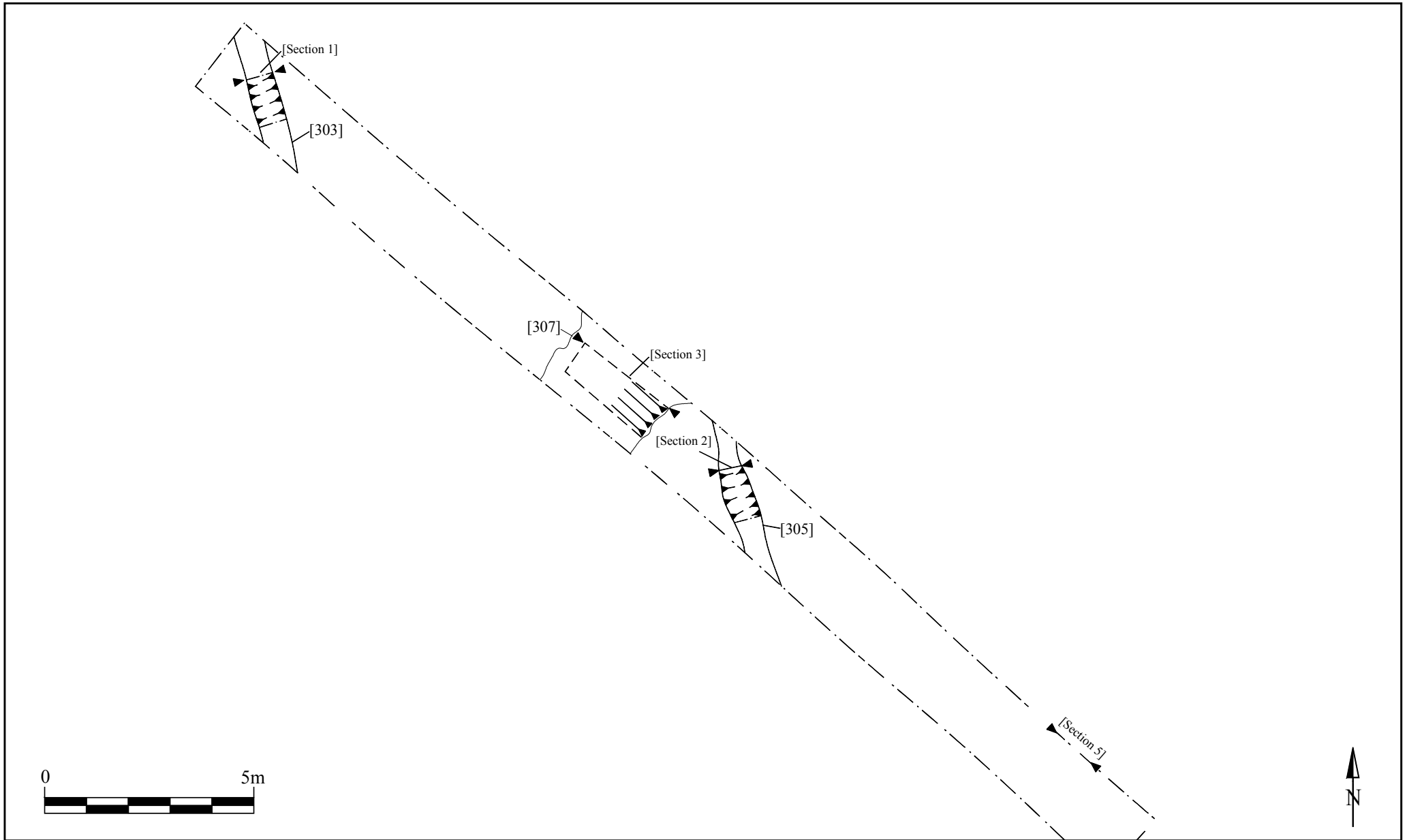


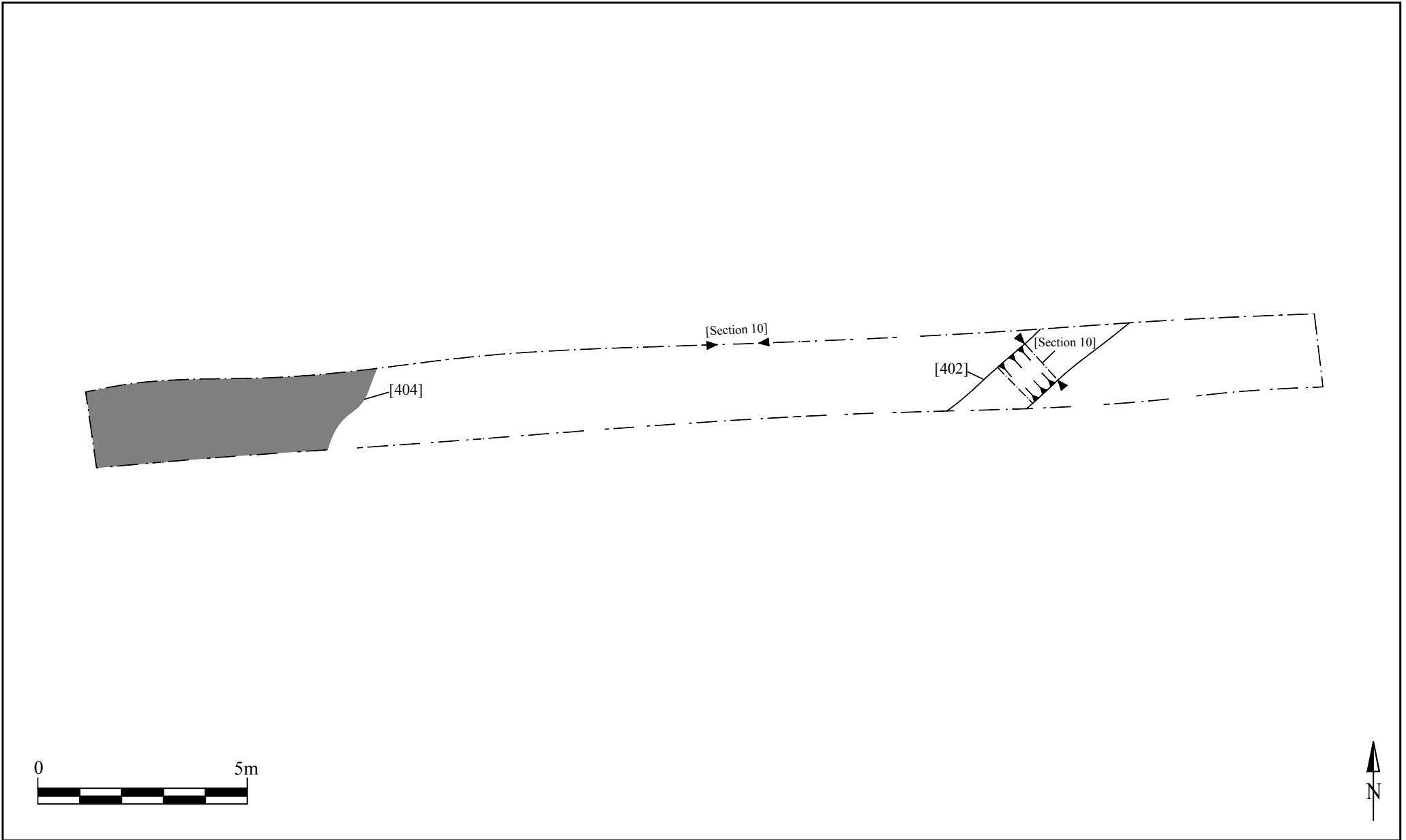
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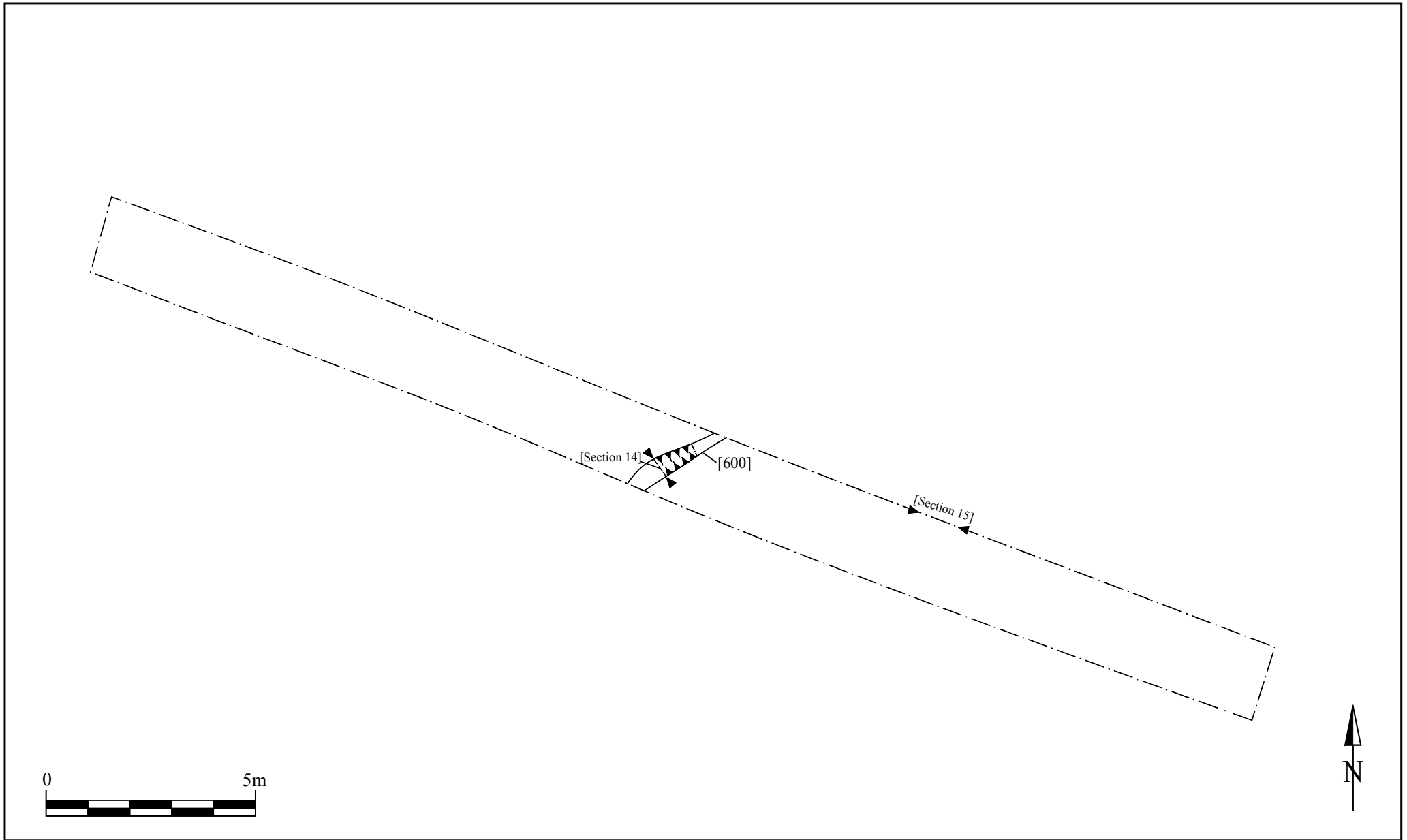


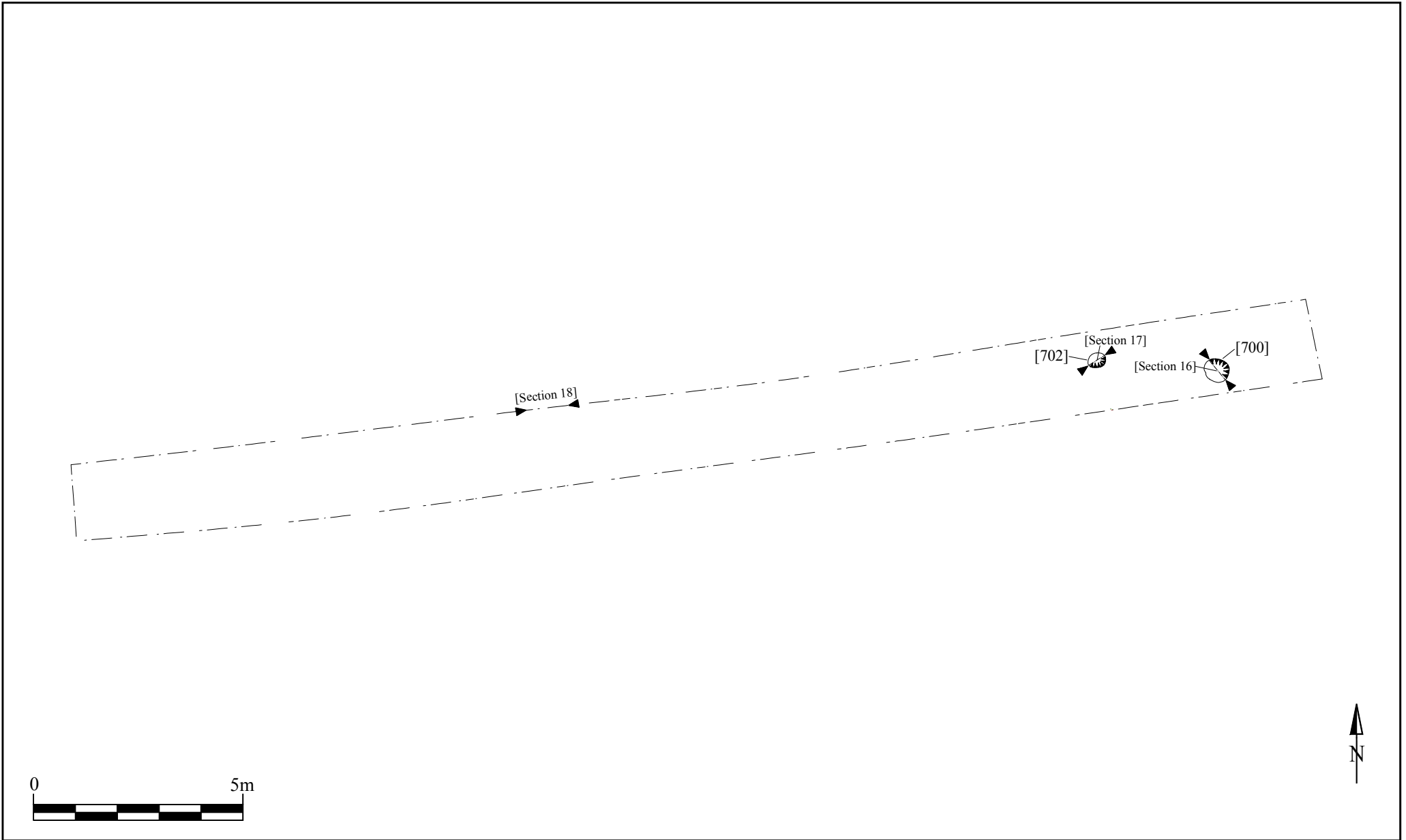




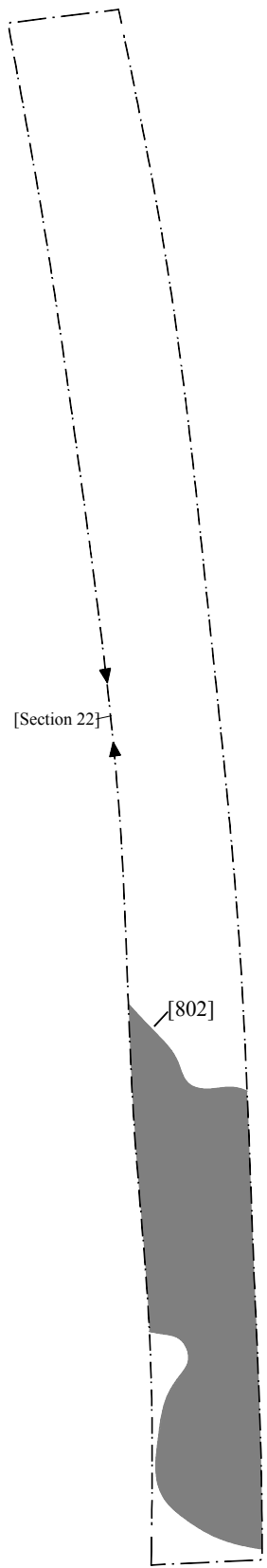


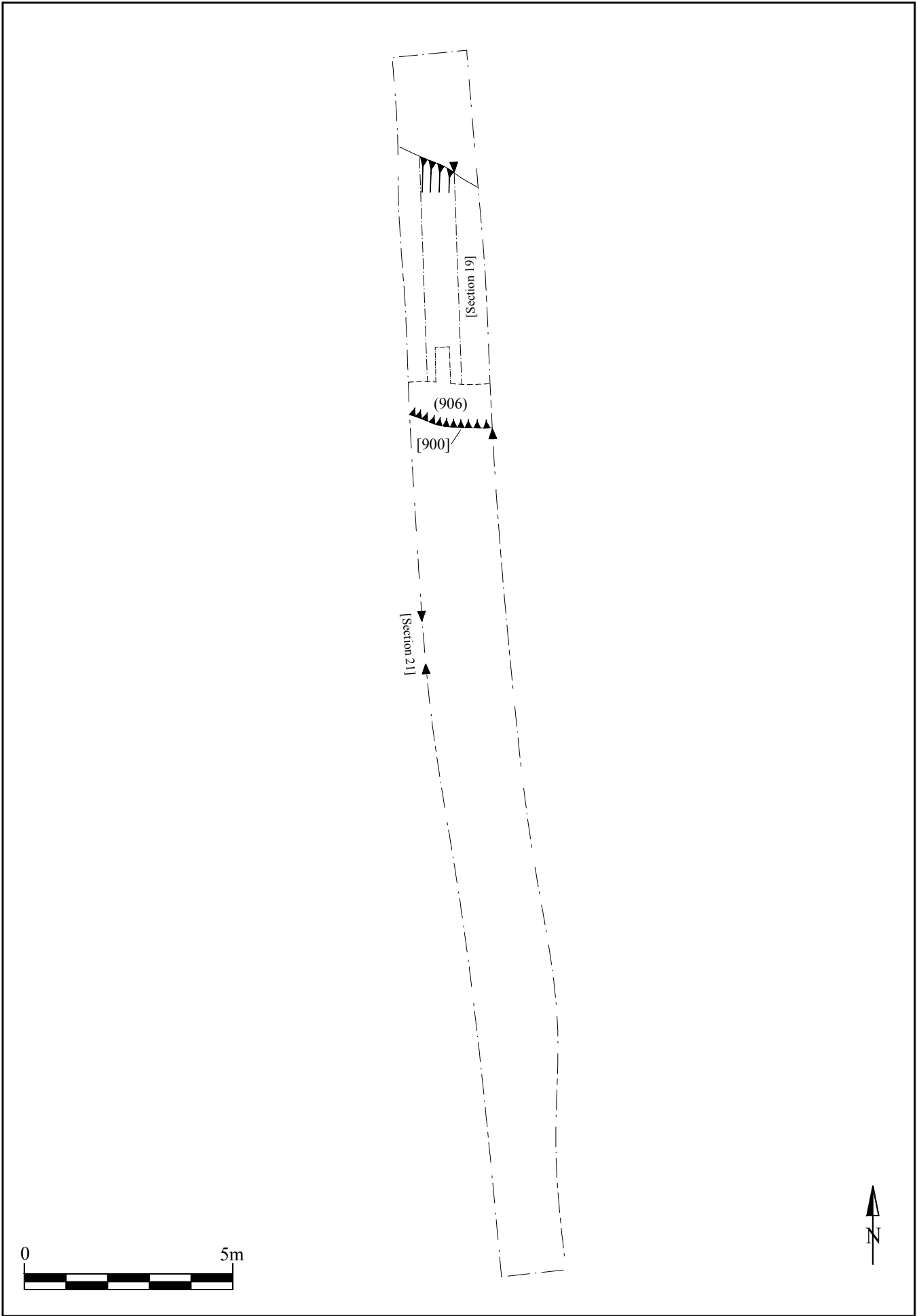


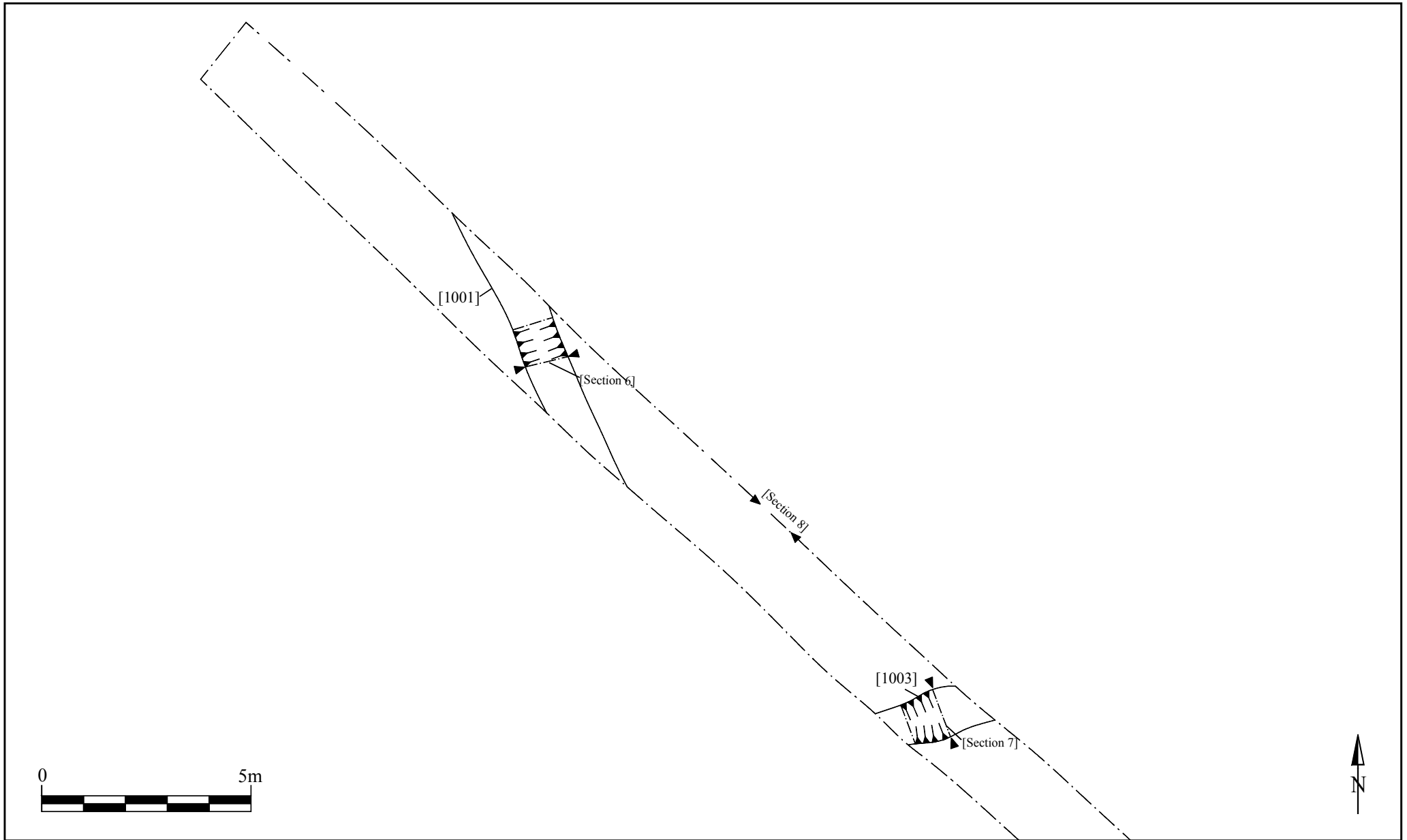


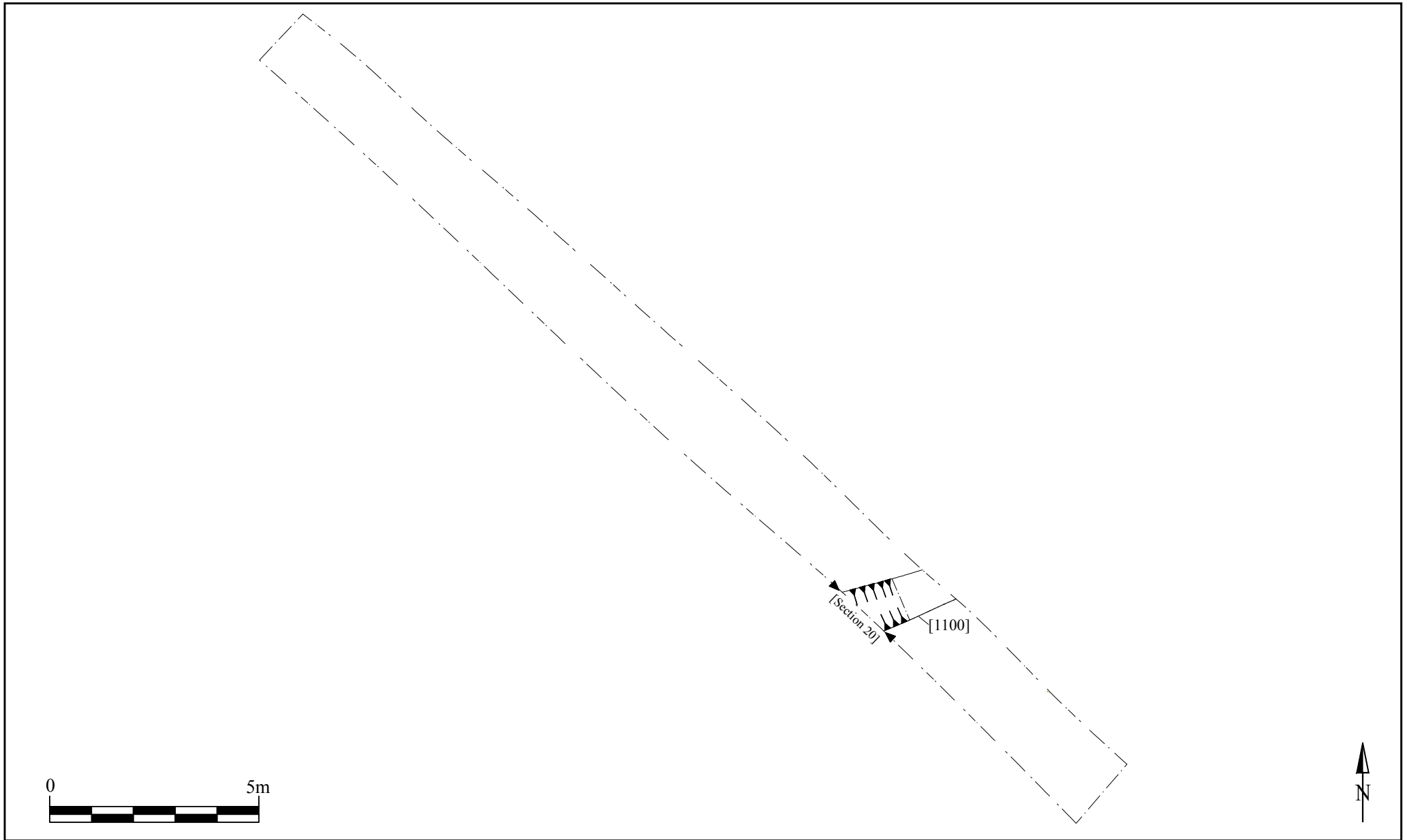


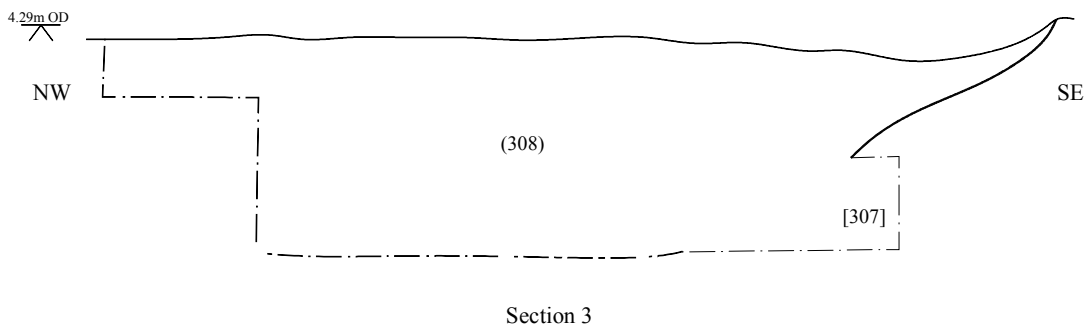
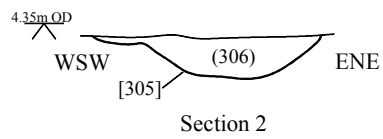
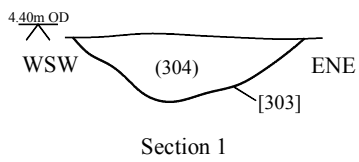
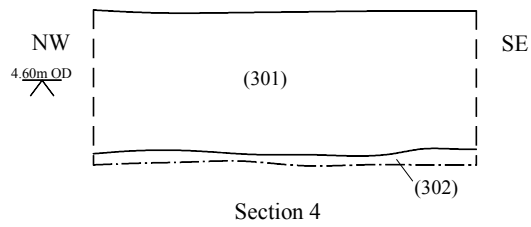
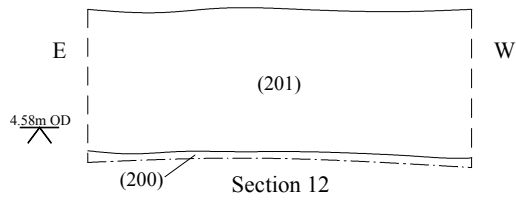
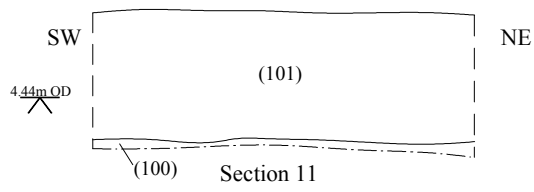


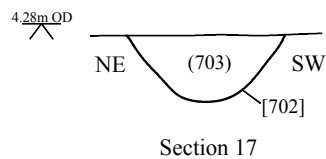
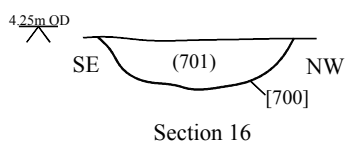
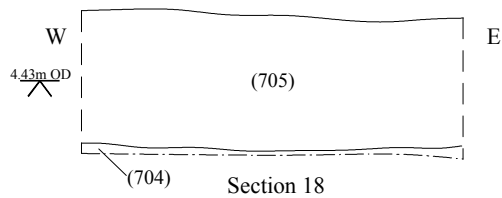
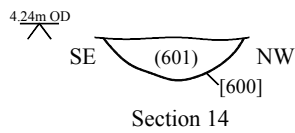
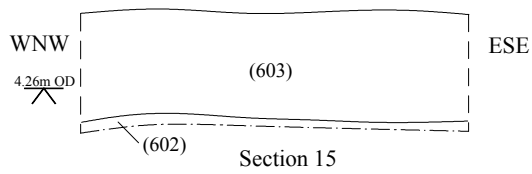
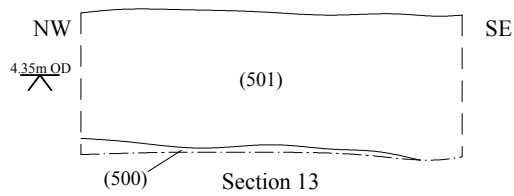
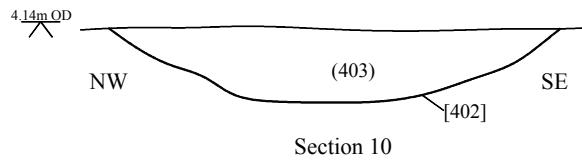
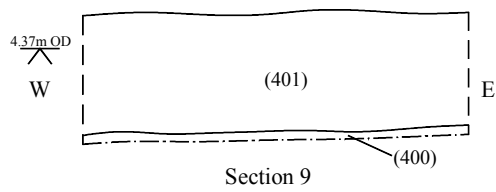


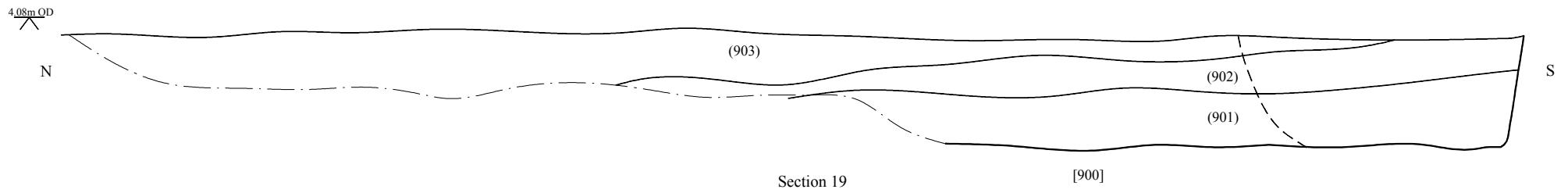
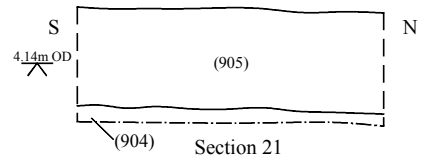
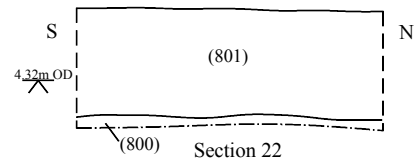


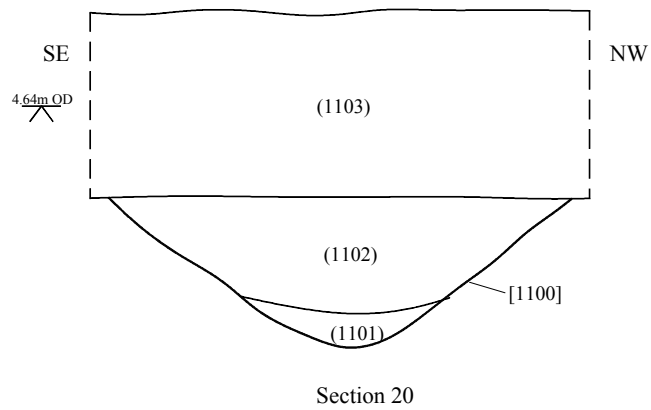
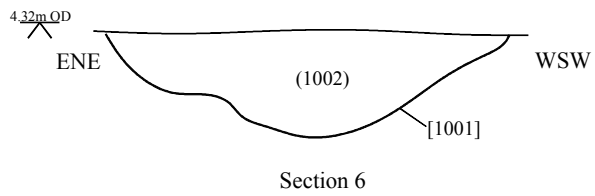
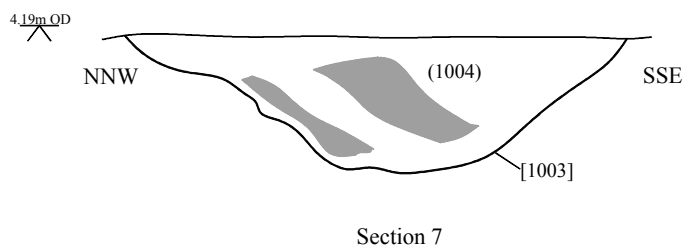
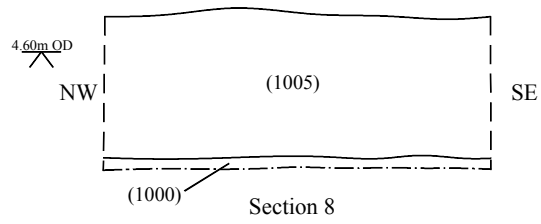




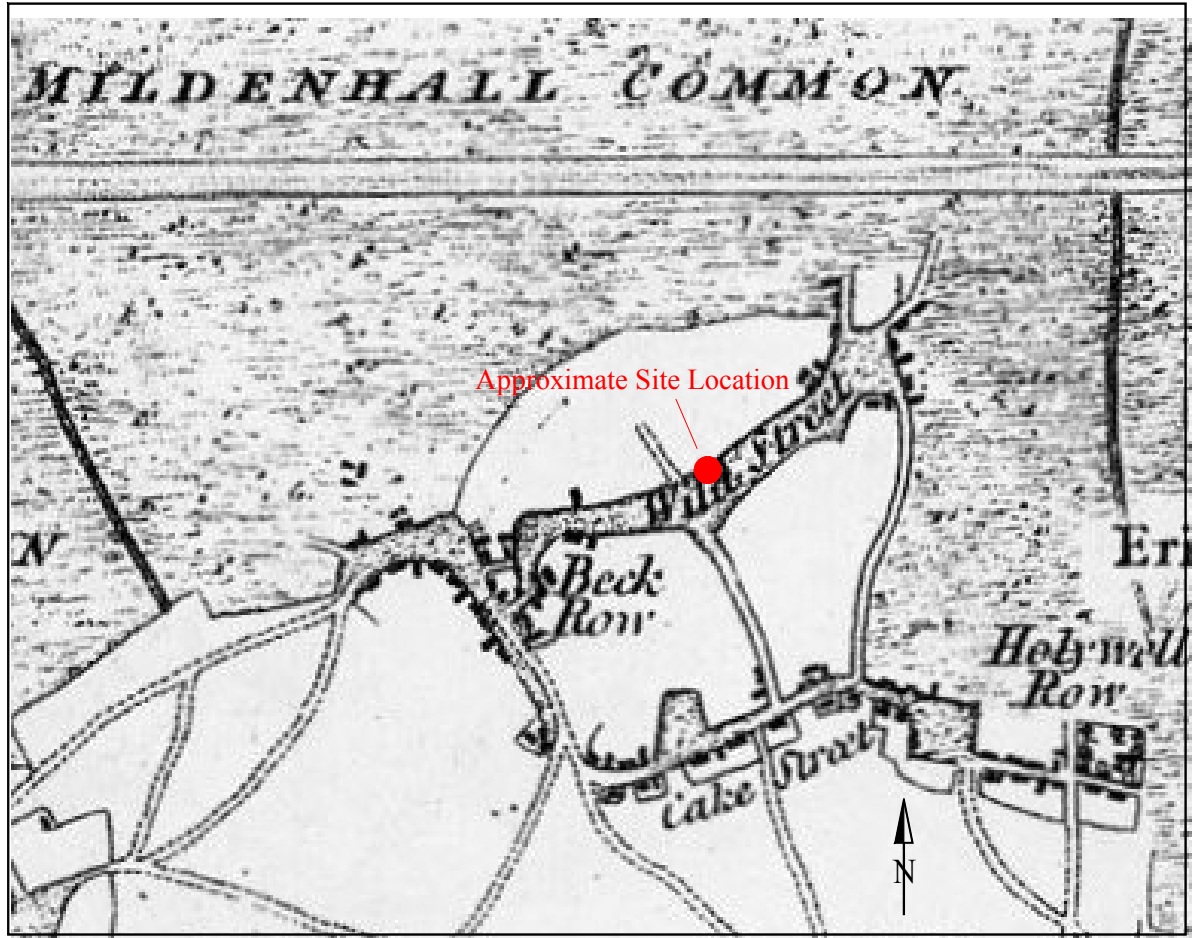




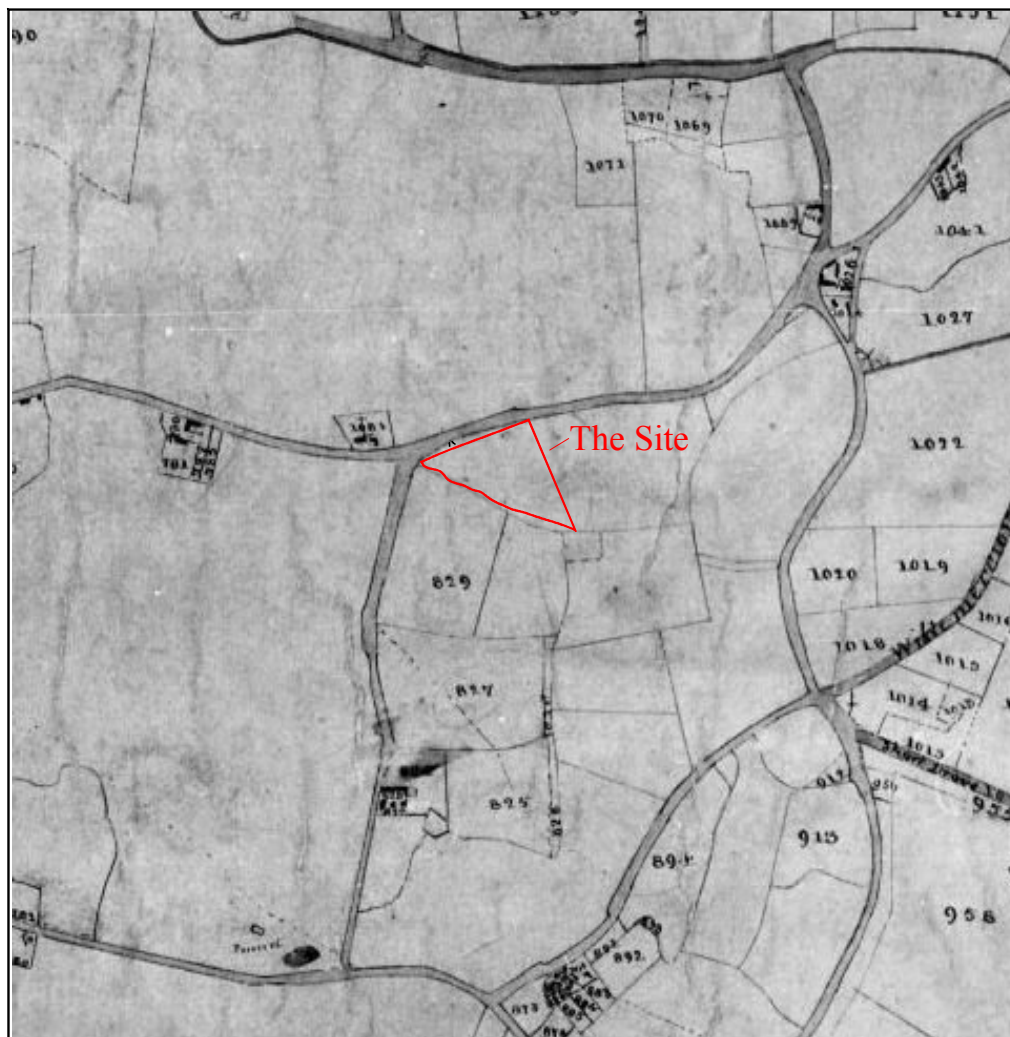








Extract from Hodskinson's Map of Suffolk 1783. Not to Scale





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## ESF25771

### Appendix A. Context Descriptions

<i>Context</i>	<i>Trench</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Description</i>
100	T1	Natural deposits	Mid orange yellow sand. The deposit included occasional patches of white chalk and moderate quantity of small stones and flint
101	T1	Topsoil	Firmly compacted light to mid grey silty sand. The deposit included occasional gravel and occasional small and medium sized flints.
200	T2	Natural deposits	Mid orange yellow sand. The deposit included occasional patches of white chalk and moderate quantities of small stones and flint
201	T2	Topsoil	Firmly compacted light to mid grey silty sand. The deposit included occasional gravel and occasional small and medium sized flints. It average 0.36m in depth
202	T2	Natural hollow	Large curving 'cut' which was only partially revealed in the evaluation trench. The exposed portion appears to form the south edge of the feature. The revealed dimensions were 7.16m east-to-west and 1.54m north-to-south. The feature was not excavated.
203	T2	Fill of probable natural hollow [202]	Firmly compacted light grey silty sand. The deposit included occasional gravel and occasional small and medium sized flints. Also occasional flecks and lumps of white chalk.
301	T3	Topsoil over Trench 3	Firmly compacted dark brown silty sand. The deposit included occasional chalk flecks and occasional small gravels. Ranged in thickness between 0.25m and 0.35m
302	T3	Natural deposits in Trench 3	Loose light yellowish brown sand.
303	T3	Cut of ditch	Linear north-northwest to south-southeast ditch. Revealed for a distance of 3.75m. The cut measured 0.60m in width and 0.17m in depth. The sides varied in degree of slope between gentle and gradual. The base was concave.
304	T3	Fill of Ditch [303]	Firmly compacted greyish brown sandy silt which included occasional pea grit. It formed the only fill of the cut.
305	T3	Cut of ditch	Linear north northwest to southeast orientated ditch, revealed for a distance of 4.13m. The cut measured between 0.50m and 0.60m in width and had a depth of 0.10m. The sides varied in degree of slope between gentle and gradual. The base was concave.
306	T3	Fill of Ditch [305]	Firmly compacted greyish brown sandy silt which included occasional pea grit. It formed the only fill of the cut.
307	T3	Probable natural feature	The feature was not fully revealed in the evaluation trench but had two parallel straight sides extending across the full width of the trench (1.80m). It measured 3.24m in width and had a depth of around 0.60m. The excavated side had a

			gradual slope whilst the base was flat.
308	T3	Fill of probable natural feature [307]	Firmly compacted light to mid brown sandy silt. It included occasional small chalk flecks and occasional small angular flint.
400	T4	Natural deposits in Trench 4	Mid orangey yellow sand with some patches of white chalk. Includes moderate quantities of small stones and gravel.
401	T4	Topsoil over Trench 4	Firmly compacted mid grey silty sand which included occasional small stones and angular flint.
402	T4	Cut of ditch	Linear southwest-to-northeast orientated cut. It measured 1.20m in width and had a depth of 0.20m. The sides were gently sloped whilst the base was flat.
403	T4	Fill of Ditch [402]	Firm but friable mixed deposit comprised of patches of light grey and dark grey sand. The dark patches are probably the result of root action. The deposit included occasional small stones and gravel.
404	T4	Probable natural hollow	The feature was not fully revealed in the evaluation trench and was not excavated. The revealed portion suggest the south side of a large circular 'cut'. The revealed dimension were 6.83m east-to-west and 1.55m north-to-south.
405	T4	Fill of probable natural hollow [404]	Firmly compacted light to mid brownish grey silty sand which included occasional patches of degraded chalk and occasional small angular flint and gravel.
500	T5	Natural deposits in Trench 5	Light yellowish brown sand which includes patches of gravel and moderate quantities of small stones.
501	T5	Topsoil in T5	Firmly compacted mid grey silty sand which included occasional pea grit. It averaged 0.35m in depth.
600	T6	Cut of gully	Linear southwest-to-northeast orientated gully, which was revealed in the evaluation trench for a distance of 2.38m. It averaged 0.40m in width and had a depth of 0.10m. The sides of the cut were gradually sloped whilst the base was concave.
601	T6	Fill of Gully [600]	Firmly compacted mid grey silty sand which included occasional gravel and chalk flecks. It was the only fill of the gully.
602	T6	Natural deposits in Trench 5	Mid orangey yellow sand with some patches of white chalk. Includes moderate quantities of small stones and gravel.
603	T6	Topsoil over Trench 6	Firmly compacted mid grey silty sand which included moderate quantities of pea grit and small angular flint. It averaged around 0.30m in depth.
700	T7	Cut of small pit	The cut was sub-circular in plan with a small and shallow ovoid projection on its west side, probably the result of animal burrowing or rooting. The pit was 0.57m in maximum diameter and 0.14m in depth. The appendage on the west side was 0.28m in diameter and had a depth of 0.05m. The sides of the pit were gradually sloped whilst the base was concave. The feature has been cut through by a

			plough mark.
701	T7	Fill of Pit [700]	Loosely compacted dark grey silty sand which included occasional quantities of small stones, pea grit, charcoal flecks and chalk flecks. The deposit was the only fill of the feature.
702	T7	Cut of pit	Sub-circular in plan, the cut was 0.40m in maximum diameter and 0.17m in depth. The sides varied in degree of slope between steep and gradual. The base was slightly concave.
703	T7	Fill of Pit [702]	Loosely compacted dark grey silty sand which included occasional small stones and pea grit. Also occasional charcoal and chalk flecks. The only fill of the feature.
704	T7	Natural deposits in Trench 7	Mid yellowish brown sand which included moderate quantities of small stones, pea grit and angular flints.
705	T7	Topsoil over Trench 7	Firmly compacted mid grey silty sand which included moderate quantities of pea grit and occasional small stones. It averaged 0.35m in thickness.
800	T8	Natural deposits in Trench 8	Loosely compacted light to mid yellowish brown sand which includes occasional patches of gravel up to 2m in diameter and patches of chalk up to 2m in diameter.
801	T8	Topsoil over Trench 8	Firmly compacted mid grey silty sand which includes moderate quantities of pea grit and occasional angular stones and flint.
802	T8	Probable natural hollow.	Amorphous but curving shape in plan but not fully revealed in the evaluation trench. It occupied the full width of the trench (1.80m) and extended along the length of the trench for a distance of 9.24m.
803	T8	Fill of natural hollow [802].	Loosely compacted mid grey silty sand which included moderate quantities of pea grit, small stones and occasional chalk lumps.
900	T9	Cut of possible chalk extraction pit.	Large cut with roughly parallel sides which ran across the line of the evaluation trench. It extended across the full width of the trench (1.80m) and had a north-to-south extent of 5.90m. The excavated side was near vertical with a sharp break of slope to a flat base. The feature had a depth of 0.50m.
901	T9	Primary fill of possible chalk extraction pit [900]	Firmly compacted light grey sandy silt which included moderate quantities of small and medium sized stones and flint. Also moderate quantities of chalk flecks and chalk lumps up to 0.08m in diameter. It had a constant thickness of 0.23m.
902	T9	Secondary fill of possible chalk extraction pit [900]	Firmly compacted mid grey and mid orange mixture of silty sand and gravel. It included frequent pea grit and occasional chalk lumps up to 0.10m and had a thickness of 0.12m and an extent of 3m.
903	T9	Upper fill of possible chalk extraction pit [900]	Firmly compacted light grey silty sand which included frequent pea grit and small stones. It also included occasional chalk lumps and moderate chalk flecks. It measured an average of 0.12m in depth.
904	T9	Natural deposits in Trench 9	Loosely compacted yellowish orange sand with

			patches of gravel up to 2m in diameter. The sand included moderate gravel and small stones.
905	T9	Topsoil over Trench 9	Firmly compacted mid grey sand which included moderate small and medium sized stones and flint. It averaged 0.30m thick.
1000	T10	Natural deposits in Trench 10	Loosely compacted yellowish orange sand with patches of gravel up to 1m in diameter. The sand included moderate gravel and small stones.
1001	T10	Cut of ditch	Linear north-to-south orientated ditch. It measured 1.03m in width and had a depth of 0.27m. The sides varied between gradual and gently sloped and the base was concave.
1002	T10	Fill of Ditch [1001]	Firmly compacted light to mid grey silty sand which included moderate quantities of pea grit. The deposit was the only fill of the ditch.
1003	T10	Cut of ditch	Linear east-to-west orientated ditch. It measured 1.30m in width and had a depth of 0.35m. The sides were gradually sloped and the base was flat.
1004	T10	Fill of Ditch [1003]	Firmly compacted light to mid grey silty sand which included moderate quantities of pea grit. The deposit was the sole fill of the ditch.
1005	T10	Topsoil over Trench 10	Firmly compacted mid grey sand which included moderate small and medium sized stones and flint. It averaged 0.38m thick.
1100	T11	Cut of ditch	Linear WSW-to-ENE orientated ditch. It measured 1.10m in width and had a depth of 0.35m. The sides were gradually sloped and the base was concave.
1101	T11	Primary fill of Ditch [1100]	Moderately firm dark grey silty sand which included occasional small stones. The deposit measured 0.48m in width and had a depth of 0.07m.
1102	T11	Upper fill of Ditch [1100]	Moderately compacted mostly comprised of mid grey silty sand. Dark grey patches and bands are probably the result of animal burrowing or rooting. Yellow sand pockets are also likely to be the result of tree roots. The deposit included occasional quantities of small stones and flint. It measured 0.27m in depth and 1.10m in width.
1103	T11	Topsoil over Trench 11	Firmly compacted mid grey sand which included moderate quantities of small and medium sized stones and flint. It averaged 0.45m in thickness.
1104	T11	Natural deposits in Trench 11	Loosely compacted yellowish orange sand with patches of gravel up to 1m in diameter. The sand included moderate quantities of gravel and small stones.

## **Appendix B. Finds Report**

### **The Struck Flint**

*Andrew Peachey*

Pit [702] (703) produced a single un-corticated flake (28g) of dark brown-red flint, probably sourced from local river terrace deposits. The flake is broad with a wide diffuse bulb of percussion and dorsal flake scars from removals around the circumference of the flake. These traits suggest the flake was removed by hard hammer percussion from a discoidal core; utilizing a reduction strategy most common in the late Neolithic to early Bronze Age, though based on a single flake this remains a tentative conclusion.



## **Appendix C. Oasis Form**

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

## Printable version

**OASIS ID: withamar1-296231**

### Project details

Project name	Elm Farm, Wilde Street, Beck Row, Suffolk. Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation
Short description of the project	An archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation was undertaken on land at Elm Farm, Wilde Street, Beck Row, Suffolk. The site lies to the northeast fringe of the village of Beck Row and located to the southeast side of Wilde Street. Eleven trenches representing a 5% sample of the proposed development area were excavated. The trenches were randomly targeted but distributed to achieve maximum coverage of the proposed development area. Overall, the results of trial trenching indicate that there is little evidence of past human activity on the site. Evidence of prehistoric activity was represented by two small pits which probably represent the surviving bases of at one time larger but now plough truncated features. A single flint flake suggests a late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date for the pits. A total of seven ditches were recorded around the site. The ditches remain undated but do not conform to the modern pattern of fields in the locality. This suggests a medieval or earlier date for the recorded ditch lines. Five large and generally amorphous shaped features probably represent natural undulations in the natural sands although one of the features could have served as a quarry - possibly for chalk extraction.
Project dates	Start: 21-08-2017 End: 25-08-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ESF25771 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	DITCHES Uncertain
Monument type	PITS Early Bronze Age
Monument type	POSSIBLE QUARRY Uncertain
Significant Finds	STRUCK FLINT Early Bronze Age
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""
Development type	Housing estate
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK FOREST HEATH BECK ROW, HOLYWELL ROW AND KENNY HILL Elm Farm, Wilde Street, Beck Row

Postcode	IP28 8BW
Study area	1.28 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 7008 7809 52.373979715493 0.498792846128 52 22 26 N 000 29 55 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 4.05m Max: 4.5m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Witham Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Jacek Gruszczynski, PCA Heritage
Project director/manager	Gary Trimble
Project supervisor	Gary Trimble
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Orbit Homes Ltd

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	TBC
Physical Contents	"Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	TBC
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	TBC
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Report","Section","Unpublished Text"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Elm Farm, Wilde Street, Beck Row, Suffolk. Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation
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Entered by Gary Trimble (gary.trimble@withamarchaeology.co.uk)  
Entered on 16 November 2017

## OASIS:

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## **APPENDIX D – WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION**

# PCA HERITAGE

**Elm Farm  
Wilde Street, Beck Row  
Suffolk**




*Written Scheme of Investigation  
for an Archaeological Evaluation*

*Client:*

**Orbit Homes Ltd**

*PCA Heritage Ref.:*

**10043/R01**

Document Number	10043/R01	
Prepared by	Jacek Gruszczynski Senior Archaeologist	
Reviewed by	Andy Shelley Director	
Approval by	Andy Shelley Director	

Revision History		
Rev	Date	Comment

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Figure 1 Site location and proposed trench layout



## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Origin and Scope of the Project

- 1.1.1. PCA Heritage (the Archaeological Consultant) is instructed by Orbit Homes Ltd (hereafter 'the Client') to design and manage the archaeological requirements associated with development of a parcel of land at Elm Farm, Wilde Street, Beck Row, Suffolk (hereafter 'the site', Figure 1, National Grid Reference centre 570087 278081).
- 1.1.2. The development comprises the demolition of an existing bungalow, stables and associated structures and the construction of 39 no. dwellings with an area of open space, associated landscaping, access and engineering works. A planning application has been made to Forest Heath District Council ('henceforth' the LPA, ref. DC/17/1107/FUL), and Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service Conservation Team (hereafter 'SCCAS') recommended that planning permission should be granted subject to conditions relating to archaeological investigation and post-excavation assessment and reporting.
- 1.1.3. A SCCAS brief (dated 1 March 2017, Appendix 1) stipulated that archaeological investigations should comprise trial trench evaluation of a 5% sample of the site, with the proviso that further work following the evaluation might be required, depending on the evaluation's results.
- 1.1.4. This document comprises the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for trial trench evaluation required by the brief. The WSI outlines the work required to satisfy this requirement, and provides the performance specification against which the standards and results of the work may be measured. It does not deal with any archaeological mitigation works which the evaluation may suggest be undertaken. Any such works would be the subject of a separate WSI.
- 1.1.5. The WSI has been prepared in accordance with Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Manager's Guide* (Historic England 2015), SCCAS/CT's *Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Elm Farm, Wilde Street, Beck Row*, SCCAS/CT's *Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* (updated March 2017), *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (EAA Occasional Paper 14, 2003) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Commissioning Work or Providing Consultancy Advice on Archaeology and the Historic Environment* (CIfA 2014).

## 2. LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1.1. The application site comprises a parcel of land with an area of 1.28 hectares located to the south-east of Wilde Street, Beck Row. The land is associated with Elm Farm. The site is

located to the north-eastern boundary of the village, on a plot of land between the edge of the village and a relatively new housing development known as 'The Paddocks'.

- 2.1.2. The site is an agricultural field, in which sits a single dwelling and four associated outbuildings, which are currently occupied. The site is roughly triangular with relatively flat, slightly undulating topography. It lies at c. 4.80m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) with a shallow depression of c. 4.11m aOD at the southern boundary, south-east of the existing stable. The north-eastern boundary is bounded by mature hedging and trees, and along the remaining boundary there are intermittent trees. None of the trees on the site are subject to a Tree Preservation Order. The site is bounded to the north-west by Wilde Street, and relatively recent residential development with associated gardens to the south and north-east.
- 2.1.3. British Geological Survey mapping indicates that the underlying solid geology of the application site is the Grey Chalk formed in the Cretaceous period in warm shallow 'Chalk' shelf seas with little sediment input from land. The surface (or drift) geology within the site comprises Quaternary 1<sup>st</sup> River Terrace deposits of riverine sand and gravel detrital material laid in channels (British Geological Survey 2017). The soils are described as freely draining Breckland soils (Soilscapes 2017).

### **3. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 3.1.1. At the time of writing this document no archaeological desk-based assessment for the site was available. Therefore, the following brief summary is based on the information collated from a rapid survey of the records available through Heritage Gateway for an area within 500m radius from the site, and the information provided in the brief (cf. 10.1.10).
- 3.1.2. There are no designated heritage assets within the site, and the nearest one, a Grade II Listed building at 52 The Street, Beck Row lies c. 780m south-west from the site.
- 3.1.3. The site lies within the core of the historic settlement of Beck Row, recorded on the County Historic Environment Record as MNL 675. Medieval features were found during recent archaeological investigations c. 250m to the south (MNL 705).
- 3.1.4. Archaeological monitoring at the site of the former Elmcroft Caravan Park, c. 430m to the south-west of the site (MNL 525), recorded a scatter of isolated features cut into an undulating landscape of natural chalk subsoil underlying mid yellow sands. Three undated ditches may represent field systems or property boundaries related to the layout of Holmsey Green. A large pit may have been a sand or chalk extraction pit, but was undated.
- 3.1.5. A long crude Neolithic or Early Bronze Age flint knife was found 'opposite Rose and Crown, Beck Row', c. 130m to the west of the site (MSF11729).

- 3.1.6. Further north in the same field, a metal detector survey undertaken in 2005 uncovered a butt-end of a bronze axe with the beginning of side flanges and casting seam - probably from a palstave, i.e. Middle to Late Bronze Age (MNL 571).
- 3.1.7. There is, therefore, a potential for encountering medieval, and possibly earlier, occupation deposits within the site.

## **4. SCOPE OF WORK AND SEQUENCE**

- 4.1.1. The scope of archaeological work detailed in this WSI comprises evaluation trial trenching and reporting.
- 4.1.2. The aim is that by the end of the programme of archaeological work detailed in this WSI sufficient knowledge has been generated to determine whether archaeological remains exist on the site, and if so whether these warrant further archaeological investigation in advance of construction.
- 4.1.3. Eleven archaeological evaluation trenches, each measuring 30m x 1.8m, and in total comprising a 5% sample of the site, will be excavated by an experienced and suitably qualified Archaeological Contractor. Each will be of a sufficient depth to adequately determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains, their nature and extent, significance and state of preservation. The proposed locations of these trenches are shown on Figure 1. The locations may be subject to change should site inspection reveal the need to avoid live service runs and/or connections, etc.

## **5. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 5.1.1. The scope of archaeological work detailed in this WSI comprises archaeological evaluation by trial trenching and reporting of the results. An essential purpose of such works is to seek to establish evidence from which the extent, date, phasing, character, function, status and significance of a site may start to be determined. This assessment is then used to determine the requirement, if any, for further archaeological work.
- 5.1.2. It is recognised that, in the event that archaeological remains of national significance are encountered, there will be a presumption in favour of their avoidance by design. Localised archaeological excavation, based upon a sound research design, is often considered to be an appropriate form of mitigation for archaeological remains of lesser significance. Where a general archaeological potential is identified but cannot be accurately determined, monitoring under archaeological supervision and control is often an appropriate mitigation strategy.

5.1.3. The objectives of the work are to:

- establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains;
- to help characterise, if possible, the archaeological sequence down to undisturbed (natural) deposits;
- identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation;
- evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits;
- establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence;
- provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost; and
- assess the nature and extent of any existing disturbance on the site.

5.1.4. Specific aims are to identify settlement evidence of medieval, and possibly earlier, date.

5.1.5. The results of the work will be placed with acknowledged research aims and objectives as articulated in:

- *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 1. Resource Assessment* (Glazebrook 1997);
- *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties: 2. Research Agenda and Strategy* (Brown and Glazebrook 2000);
- *Regional Research Framework for the Eastern Region* (Medlycott and Brown 2008);
- *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011).

## 6. METHODOLOGY

6.1.1. The Archaeological Contractor will operate in accordance with:

- Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Manager's Guide* (Historic England 2015);
- SCCAS's *Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation at Elm Farm, Wilde Street, Beck Row* 2017;

- SCCAS's *Requirements for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation* (updated March 2017);
  - Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Commissioning Work or Providing Consultancy Advice on Archaeology and the Historic Environment* (CIfA 2014);
  - Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2014); and
  - *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (EAA Occasional Paper 14, 2003).
- 6.1.2. Prior to works commencing copies of the Archaeological Contractor's Public and Professional Indemnity and Employers Liability certificates will be circulated by PCA Heritage as appropriate.
- 6.1.3. Prior to works commencing the Archaeological Contractor will prepare and submit a Risk Assessment and Method Statement (RAMS) for the works covered by this WSI to PCA Heritage for onward circulation and approvals. The final version of RAMS will be submitted by PCA Heritage to SCCAS before works commence. The document will also make note of staff and specialists to be used, and state who will undertake the metal detecting for the project.
- 6.1.4. A site accession number, general site code and event number will be obtained from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER) by the Archaeological Contractor prior to archaeological work commencing. The site code will be referenced on all relevant site and post-excavation *pro forma*.
- 6.1.5. Prior to the works commencing the Archaeological Contractor will initiate an OASIS record of the work (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigation) and ensure that the results are submitted to OASIS at the time their final and approved report is submitted by PCA Heritage to SCCAS.
- 6.1.6. The suggested locations of the archaeological evaluation trenches are shown on Figure 1. Their precise locations are to be agreed on site and may be determined by taking into consideration the position of services and obstructions, and other logistical matters.
- 6.1.7. The Archaeological Contractor will require the Client to:
- provide unimpeded access to the site and all areas within the site that the Archaeological Contractor requires to undertake their works effectively;
  - provide the Archaeological Contractor with all information they hold on known contaminated ground risks, and measures to mitigate the risks stemming from encountering contaminated ground;

- provide the Archaeological Contractor with all available service location information they hold in advance of fieldwork commencing;
- gain any non-archaeological certification/approvals that may be required before works commence (i.e. party wall agreements, etc.);
- dewater excavation areas if required;
- maintain a safe site with safe access routes from compound to the working areas; and
- provide other temporary works as may be required to undertake safely the works specified.

## **6.2. Ecological constraints**

6.2.1. An ecological survey has identified the potential for common lizards to be present within the site. To mitigate the ecological risks, the Archaeological Contractor will set out the trenches and label them clearly so that controlled strimming can be undertaken by a third party. Once the strimming is completed, the turf within each trench footprint will be scraped using a toothed bucket. The process will be monitored by the appointed Ecologist. The archaeological excavation will commence only when the scraping is completed to the Ecologist's satisfaction. No vehicles will be allowed to enter the area of untrimmed grass at any point, as this can result in death or injury of common lizards.

## **6.3. Excavation**

6.3.1. All trenches will be excavated by a 360° mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. The machining will be conducted under close archaeological supervision and will remove modern overburden in spits of no more than 100mm to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever is encountered first.

6.3.2. Metal detector searches will take place at all stages of the evaluation. The metal detectorist will be a named, experienced metal detector user (references either to their contributions to the PAS database or to other published archaeological projects they have worked on will be available on request). Metal detecting will be carried out before trenches are stripped, at regular spits within the trenches, and on spoil once trenches have been opened. Metal detectors should not be set to discriminate against iron and finds should be located by GPS.

6.3.3. All features, structures and deposits between levels where archaeological soils are first exposed and naturally-formed soils will be hand or sample excavated.

6.3.4. *In situ* horizons will be scanned by metal detector and all artefactual material will be collected and bagged by context. The feature/deposit sampling strategy will be sufficient to determine the date, nature and degree of their survival, and normally will comprise:

- discrete features (pits and postholes) 50%

- linear features 20%
- structures 100%
- post-trenches/slots 100%
- buried soils 50%
- post-medieval and modern features 50%
- backfilled quarries 10%

- 6.3.5. All elements of pre-existing buildings, surfaces or features will be cleaned and recorded in the normal manner, using a single-context recording system. These will not be removed without the consent of PCA Heritage and SCCAS.
- 6.3.6. Should features or deposits that appear to be worthy of *in situ* preservation be encountered, excavation will be managed in such a way as to avoid disturbance of them pending agreement with SCCAS and the Client of a strategy for their long-term protection.
- 6.3.7. All archaeological remains will be planned and levelled to Ordnance Datum. Pro-forma recording forms based on a single-context recording system will be used throughout. The recording forms will be supplemented with section/plan drawings at scales of 1:10, 1:20, 1:50 and 1:100 as appropriate. Deposits, structures or features to be left in situ will be recorded as found. All excavated features/deposits will be referenced to the Ordnance Survey datum.
- 6.3.8. A full photographic record will be completed using high-resolution digital images. A written record will be kept of each shot and copies submitted with the final archive for storage.
- 6.3.9. Each evaluation trench will be recorded in written and photographic form even if no archaeological deposits are identified.
- 6.3.10. Each evaluation trench will be surveyed and tied to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.
- 6.3.11. It is not thought likely that human remains will be present on the site. However, should human remains be discovered the Archaeological Contractor will contact PCA Heritage immediately. No further excavation will take place until removal becomes necessary, and will only be carried out in accordance with all appropriate Environmental Health regulations and only after a Ministry of Justice license has been obtained. Excavation may be required where the remains are under imminent threat or dating/preservation information is required for costing purposes. Any excavation, removal and analysis of human remains that is required will be regarded as a variation of the contract between the Client and Archaeological Contractor.

- 6.3.12. The Archaeological Contractor will satisfy themselves in advance of works commencing that their evaluation trenching will avoid any damage or disturbance to service installations, local infrastructure, flora or fauna which might arise as a result of the works.
- 6.3.13. Where appropriate, provision will be made for the sampling of deposits for the analysis of palaeoenvironmental remains and for the scientific dating of deposits, artefacts or geofacts.
- 6.3.14. Any finds of gold and silver will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner according to the procedures set out in the 1996 Treasure Act (and amendments). Where removal cannot be undertaken on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft. PCA Heritage will inform SCCAS and the Portable Antiquities Scheme's Finds Liaison Officer of such discoveries as soon as is reasonably practical.
- 6.3.15. Excavation areas will not be backfilled until agreement to do so is given by SCCAS. The Archaeological Contractor will backfill the trenches using compacted trench arisings.

## **7. ACCESS AND SAFETY**

- 7.1.1. In advance of works commencing, the Archaeological Contractor will submit a Health and Safety Risk Assessment and Method Statement (RAMS) to PCA Heritage for onwards circulation and approvals, and will operate in accordance with all health and safety procedures and legislation.
- 7.1.2. Where contaminants are present in the surface or sub-surface deposits at the site, appropriate measures will be taken by the Archaeological Contractor to ensure that the health and safety of staff that may come into contact with contaminants. In the event of contaminated soil being encountered, the archaeological contractor is to inform PCA Heritage immediately. In case of encountering contaminated soil, it may be necessary for the Archaeological Contractor to revise their Risk Assessment.
- 7.1.3. If contaminated material is present in the surface or sub-surface deposits at the site appropriate measures will be taken by the Archaeological Contractor to ensure the health and safety of staff and visitors. Measures may include adaptation of the agreed WSI, after consultation with PCA Heritage.
- 7.1.4. The Archaeological Contractor will provide written evidence to PCA Heritage, in advance of works commencing, that they hold adequate insurance covering employers and public liability and professional indemnity.
- 7.1.5. Reasonable access to the site will be granted to SCCAS and representatives of the LPA who wish to be satisfied, through site inspections, that the archaeological works are being conducted to proper professional standards and in accordance with the agreements made.



## 8. RECORDING SYSTEMS

- 8.1.1. The recording systems adopted during the investigations will be fully compatible with those used most widely elsewhere in Suffolk. Where there is any doubt as to the appropriate recording technique the Museum of London recording manual will be used.
- 8.1.2. The site archive will be organised to be compatible with other archaeological archives produced in Suffolk and in accordance with SCCAS Archive Guidelines (SCCAS 2014). Individual descriptions of all exposed and excavated archaeological features and deposits will be entered onto *pro forma* recording sheets which include the same fields as found on the recording sheets of the Museum of London. Sample recording sheets, sample registers, findings recording sheets, accession catalogues, and the photography record cards will follow the Museum of London equivalents.
- 8.1.3. A site location plan indicating site north and based on the current Ordnance Survey 1:1250 map (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO) will be prepared. This will be supplemented by a location plan drawn at an appropriate scale to show the location of the areas investigated in relation to the OS grid. The location of the OS benchmarks used and the site TBM will also be indicated.
- 8.1.4. Continuous sections of deposit sequences in each trench will be drawn. Half-sections of individual layers or features exposed within the trenches will be drawn as appropriate.
- 8.1.5. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans and sections.
- 8.1.6. A 'Harris Matrix' stratification diagram will be used to record stratigraphic relationships.
- 8.1.7. A photographic record of the investigations will be prepared. This will comprise digital colour images which illustrate in detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted. A written record will be kept of each shot and copies submitted with the final archive for storage.

## 9. TREATMENT OF FINDS AND SAMPLES

- 9.1.1. All finds will be treated in a proper manner and will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidelines set out in the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation's Conservation Guidelines No.2 and be adequate to perform the function of a final archive in a suitable local museum store. All metal objects will be 'x'-rayed and then selected for conservation. Such policies will also be confirmed by the recipient museum.

- 9.1.2. All identified finds and artefacts will be retained, although certain classes of building material or modern pottery may be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is retained. However, no finds will be discarded without the prior approval of PCA Heritage and SCCAS.
- 9.1.3. Arrangements will be in place to cover all necessary processing, conservation, and specialist analysis and storage of finds and samples.
- 9.1.4. Bulk samples (of minimum 40 litres volume, or 100% of the context if smaller) will be taken by the excavator and in consultation with the project's environmental specialist where practicable, in order to recover micro- and macro-botanical environmental remains. The broad aim of such sampling is to recover evidence relating to the past environment and agricultural economy of the site, and how these changed over time under both natural and anthropogenic influence. In all instances sampling procedures will follow the guidelines published in *Environmental Archaeology* (Historic England 2011).

## 10. REPORTS AND ARCHIVES

- 10.1.1. The archive will be maintained by the Archaeological Contractor until the recipient organisation receives it. The integrity of the site archive will be maintained, and the finds and records will be available for public consultation. The finds from archaeological excavations provide an immensely valuable research archive, but the bulk of the material is of little or no financial worth. The owners of any finds will donate these, together with the rest of the archive, to Suffolk County Archaeological Store in accordance with SCCAS Archive Guidelines (SCCAS 2014). Alternative arrangements for the curation of the archive would require prior written approval from SCCAS. In the unlikely event that artefacts of significant monetary value which are not subject to the Treasure Act are found separate ownership arrangements may be negotiated. Appropriate guidance set out in the Museum and Galleries Commission's *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections* (1992) and the Society of Museum Archaeologist's draft *Selection and Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections* (1992) will be followed in all circumstances.
- 10.1.2. If any finds are not to be donated to the appropriate museum, arrangements will be made for a comprehensive record to be made of all relevant materials (including detailed drawings, photographs and descriptions of individual finds). The record will then constitute the archaeological archive.
- 10.1.3. The minimum acceptable standard for the site archive is defined in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment *The MoRPHE Project Manager's Guide* (Historic England 2015). It will include all materials recovered (or the comprehensive records of such materials as referred to above) and all written, drawn, and photographic records relating directly to the investigations. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed, and internally consistent before transfer the appropriate museum. It will also contain a site matrix, a site summary and brief

written observations on the artefactual and environmental data. The Archaeological Contractor will retain joint copyright of the site archive under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act of 1988, excepting that the Archaeological Contractor hereby provides an exclusive license to the Client and PCA Heritage for the use of the archive in all matters directly relating to the project.

- 10.1.4. United Kingdom Institute for Conservation guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage (1990) will be followed. Arrangements for the curation of the site archive will be agreed in writing with the appropriate museum and details of such arrangements will be copied to SCCAS.
- 10.1.5. Pursuant to these agreements the archive will be presented to the museum's archive officer or relevant curator within 12 months of the completion of fieldwork (unless alternative arrangements have been agreed in writing with SCCAS).
- 10.1.6. The archive will comprise all documentary, photographic, digital and material records, and any finds and ecofacts. Appropriate documentation ensuring the agreed transfer of title of artefacts from the landowner to the recipient organisation will be prepared by the Archaeological Contractor.
- 10.1.7. The archive will be maintained by the Archaeological Contractor until the recipient organisation receives it. The Archaeological Contractor will ensure that any necessary conservation work on the artefact archive is undertaken to ensure the long-term stability of the artefacts and their availability for future study. Allowance will be made for the long-term archive storage costs incurred by the recipient organisation.
- 10.1.8. The Archaeological Contractor will be responsible for the security of any excavated materials/records relating to the archaeological investigations until submission of the archive.
- 10.1.9. Notwithstanding the details included above, all fieldwork and results will be fully recorded and a report prepared no later than four weeks after the completion of the evaluation fieldwork.
- 10.1.10. Before the report is produced, the Archaeological Contractor will undertake a full search of SHER datasets within 500m-radius from the site to inform the archaeological and historical background of the site and its environs.
- 10.1.11. The evaluation report will include, as a minimum:
  - a non-technical summary;
  - a table of contents;
  - index table, with spot-dates, of all context numbers;

- index table of small finds, bulk finds and samples;
- an introduction including a list of all staff members involved in the project;
- summary geological, archaeological and historical background details for the site;
- a statement of the aims and objectives of the project;
- a statement of the methodology of the excavation and an assessment of the same;
- plans and sections at an appropriate scale cross-referenced with the written description;
- appropriate maps and photographs;
- a discussion of the location, extent, date, nature, condition, quality and significance of any archaeological deposits identified during the work;
- all finds and environmental specialist assessment reports;
- a bibliography of sources consulted;
- an index to the project archive and statement on its location/proposed repository; and
- a copy of the OASIS form.

10.1.12. PCA Heritage will circulate a draft of the report to the Client and SCCAS for approvals. Once approved, PCA Heritage will ensure that a PDF copy of the report (and hard copies if required) are supplied to SCCAS for the attention of the Archaeological Advisor, on the understanding that this will become a public document after an appropriate period of time (generally not exceeding six months). The PDF file and a hard copy will be deposited with SHER, and a digital copy will be forwarded to the Local Planning Authority. An HER form will accompany the evaluation report and will include a reference to the archive and the intended place of archive deposition. Shapefiles of the final trench location will also be submitted to the HER.

10.1.13. If significant remains are recorded during the evaluation, it may be necessary to undertake a full programme of post-excavation analysis and publication, in accordance with the guidelines contained in Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (Historic England 2015). This would be treated as a variation of the contract between the Archaeological Contractor and the Client.

10.1.14. Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report must be prepared for the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*. This summary should be included in the project report, or submitted to *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of*



*Archaeology and History* by the end of the calendar year in which the work takes place, whichever is the sooner.

## **11. MONITORING, PROGRAMMING AND OTHER MATTERS**

- 11.1.1. PCA Heritage will give SCCAS no less than ten working days' written notice of the commencement of the work. The duration of the site work will be determined by the archaeological complexity of the site and local factors such as access, logistics and ground obstructions, but is currently expected to be 4 days.
- 11.1.2. Health and safety policies will be those of the Archaeological Contractor and will be in accordance with all statutory regulations.
- 11.1.3. The archaeological works will be inspected and monitored regularly by PCA Heritage on behalf of the Client, and by SCCAS who will act on behalf of the LPA. PCA Heritage's representative will be Andy Shelley, a PCA Heritage Director.
- 11.1.4. PCA Heritage, on behalf of the Client, will manage all matters pertaining to publicity arising from the archaeological work, and for any public education/outreach opportunities that may arise.

## **12. REFERENCES AND ONLINE RESOURCES**

- British Geological Survey (2017) Geology of Britain,  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> accessed on 30 June 2017
- Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. (eds) (2000) *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties 2: research agenda and strategy*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper No.8
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014) *Standard and Guidance for Commissioning Work or Providing Consultancy Advice on Archaeology and the Historic Environment*
- Historic England (2011) *Environmental Archaeology*
- Historic England (2015) *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Manager's Guide*
- Medlycott, M. and Brown, N. (eds) (2008) *Revised Research Framework for the Eastern Region*, East Anglian Archaeology

SCCAS Conservation Team (2014) *Archaeological Archives in Suffolk: Guidelines for preparation and deposition*,

[https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/assets/suffolk.gov.uk/Libraries%20and%20Culture/Archaeology/2014-06-01\\_ArchiveGuidelines2014.pdf](https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/assets/suffolk.gov.uk/Libraries%20and%20Culture/Archaeology/2014-06-01_ArchiveGuidelines2014.pdf) accessed on 30 June 2017

Soilscapes (2017) <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/index.cfm> accessed on 30 June 2017

## APPENDIX 1 SCCAS BRIEF

Resource Management  
Bury Resource Centre  
Hollow Road  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk  
IP32 7AY

## Brief for a Trenched Archaeological Evaluation

AT

Elm Farm, Wilde Street,  
Beck Row

**PLANNING AUTHORITY:** Forest Heath District Council

**PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:** TBC

**HER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:** To be arranged with the Suffolk HER Officer (archaeology.her@suffolk.gov.uk)

**GRID REFERENCE:** TL 701 781

**DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:** Housing

**AREA:** 1.2ha

**THIS BRIEF ISSUED BY:** Rachael Abraham  
Senior Archaeological Officer  
Conservation Team  
Tel. : 01284 741232  
E-mail: Rachael.abraham@suffolk.gov.uk

**Date:** 1 March 2017

### Summary

- 1.1 The Local Planning Authority will be advised that planning permission should be granted subject to conditions relating to archaeological investigation and post-excavation assessment and reporting.
- 1.2 This brief stipulates the minimum requirements for the archaeological investigation, and should be used in conjunction with the Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service Conservation Team's (SCCAS/CT) Requirements for Archaeological Evaluation 2012 Ver 1.3. These should be used to form the basis of the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).



- 1.3 The archaeological contractor, commissioned by the applicant, must submit a copy of their WSI to SCCAS/CT for scrutiny, before seeking approval from the LPA.
- 1.4 Following acceptance by SCCAS/CT, it is the commissioning body's responsibility to submit the WSI to the LPA for formal approval. No fieldwork should be undertaken on site without the written approval of the LPA. The WSI, however, is not a sufficient basis for the discharge of a planning condition relating to archaeological investigation. Only the full implementation of the scheme, both completion of fieldwork and reporting (including the need for any further work following this evaluation), will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that a condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.
- 1.5 The WSI should be approved before costs are agreed with the commissioning client, in line with Institute for Archaeologists' guidance. Failure to do so could result in additional and unanticipated costs.
- 1.6 The WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the brief will be adequately met. If the approved WSI is not carried through in its entirety (unless a variation is agreed by SCCAS/CT), the evaluation report may be rejected.
- 1.7 Decisions on the need for any further archaeological investigation (e.g. excavation) will be made by SCCAS/CT, in a further brief, based on the results presented in the evaluation report. Any further investigation must be the subject of a further WSI, submitted to SCCAS/CT for scrutiny and formally approved by the LPA.

### **Archaeological Background**

- 2.1 The proposed development lies within the historic settlement core of Beck Row, recorded on the County Historic Environment Record as MNL 675, and medieval features were found during recent archaeological investigations to the south (MNL 705). As a result, there is high potential for encountering medieval, and possibly earlier, occupation deposits at this location.

### **Planning Background**

- 3.1 The proposed works will cause ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 3.2 The Planning Authority will be advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins in accordance with paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework, to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets (that might be present at this location) before they are damaged or destroyed.

### **Fieldwork Requirements for Archaeological Investigation**

- 4.1 A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area to enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified.

4.2 Trial Trenching is required to:

- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

4.3 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area, which is 600m<sup>2</sup>. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method, using, where possible, a systematic grid array. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in c. 330m of trenching at 1.80m in width.

4.4 A scale plan showing the proposed location of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before fieldwork begins.

4.5 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the evaluation by a named, experienced metal detector user, including reference either to their contributions to the PAS database or to other published archaeological projects they have worked on. Metal detecting should be carried out before trenches are stripped, with trench bases and spoil scanned once trenches have been opened.

### **Arrangements for Archaeological Investigation**

5.1 The composition of the archaeological contractor's staff must be detailed and agreed by SCCAS/CT, including any subcontractors/specialists. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.

5.2 All arrangements for the evaluation of the site, the timing of the work and access to the site, are to be defined and negotiated by the archaeological contractor with the commissioning body.

5.3 The project manager must also carry out a risk assessment and ensure that all potential risks are minimised, before commencing the fieldwork. The responsibility for identifying any constraints on fieldwork (e.g. designated status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites and other ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor.

5.4 The archaeological contractor will give SCCAS ten working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site. The contractor should update SCCAS on the nature of archaeological remains during the site works, particularly to arrange any visits by SCCAS that may be necessary. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to agreed locations and techniques in the WSI.

## Reporting and Archival Requirements

- 6.1 The project manager must consult the Suffolk HER Officer to obtain an event number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on all documentation relating to the work.
- 6.2 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared and must be adequate to perform the function of a final archive for deposition in the Archaeological Service's Store or in a suitable museum in Suffolk.
- 6.3 It is expected that the landowner will deposit the full site archive, and transfer title to, the Archaeological Service or the designated Suffolk museum, and this should be agreed before the fieldwork commences. The intended depository should be stated in the WSI, for approval.
- 6.4 The project manager should consult the intended archive depository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation (including the digital archive), and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.
- 6.5 A report on the fieldwork and archive must be provided. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance. The results should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the Suffolk HER, and an HER search should be commissioned. In any instances where it is felt that an HER search is unnecessary, this must be discussed and agreed with the relevant Case Officer. **ANY REPORTS WHICH DO NOT INCLUDE AN UP TO DATE HER SEARCH WILL NOT BE APPROVED. ALL REPORTS MUST CLEARLY DISPLAY THE INVOICE NUMBER FOR THE HER SEARCH, OTHERWISE THEY WILL BE RETURNED.**
- 6.6 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given, although the final decision lies with SCCAS/CT. No further site work should be embarked upon until the evaluation results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 6.7 Following approval of the report by SCCAS/CT, a single copy of the report should be presented to the Suffolk HER as well as a digital copy of the approved report.
- 6.8 All parts of the OASIS online form <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be completed and a copy must be included in the final report and also with the site archive. A digital copy of the report should be uploaded to the OASIS website.
- 6.9 Where positive results are drawn from a project, a summary report must be prepared for the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*.
- 6.10 This brief remains valid for 12 months. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the brief may need to be revised and re-issued to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy and techniques.

## Standards and Guidance

Further detailed requirements are to be found in our Requirements for Trenched Archaeological Evaluation 2012 Ver 1.3.

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

The Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2008) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report

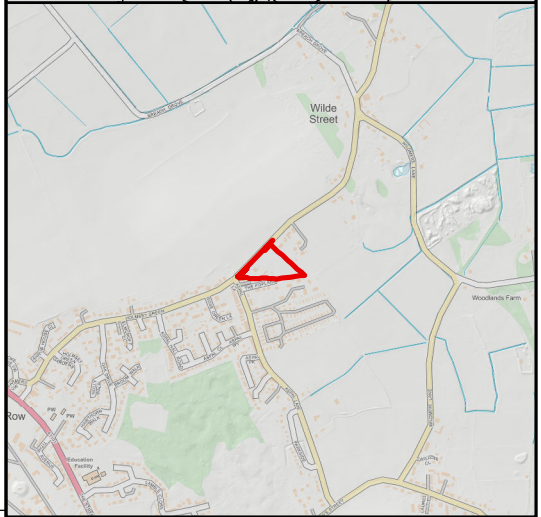
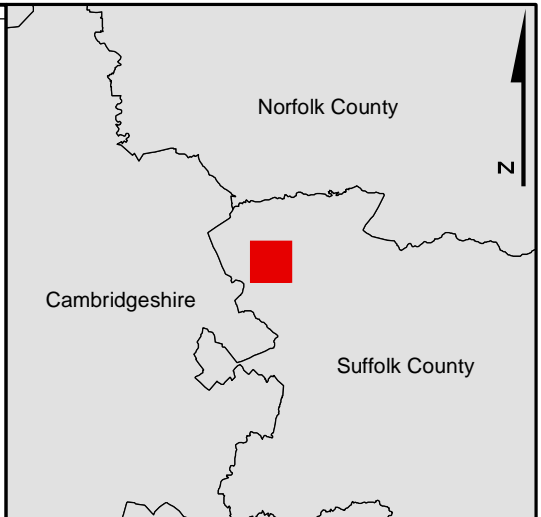
## Notes

There are a number of archaeological contractors that regularly undertake work in the County and SCCAS will provide advice on request. SCCAS/CT does not give advice on the costs of archaeological projects. The Institute for Archaeologists maintains a list of registered archaeological contractors (<http://www.archaeologists.net> or 0118 378 6446).

The Historic Environment Records Data available on the Heritage Gateway and Suffolk Heritage Explorer is **NOT** suitable to be used for planning purposes and will not be accepted in lieu of a full HER search.

**This brief remains valid for one year. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the brief may need to be revised and re-issued to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy and techniques.**





- Site
- Proposed trenches
- Existing buildings
- Overhead lines
- Possible water main location

0 5 10 20 30 40 Metres

Notes:  
Do not scale from this drawing.  
Do not set out from this drawing.  
All dimension are in metres.

Revision:	Description of revision:	Rev. by:	Rev. date:	Checked:
2	SCCAS comments	JG	20/07/17	JG

## PCA HERITAGE

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Tel : 020 3793 4236 Mobile: 07795 608034  
Email: [andy.shelley@pcaheritage.co.uk](mailto:andy.shelley@pcaheritage.co.uk)

Project name and number:  
**ElmFarm, Wilde Street  
Beck Row, Suffolk  
PCAH 10043**

Drawing title and number:  
**Site location and trench layout  
Drawing 10043/001**

Status:	Revision:	Scale:	Date:	Drawn by:	Checked by:
I	2	1:750 at A3	20/07/17	JG	AS

Contains Ordnance Survey data ©Crown copyright and database right 2017  
Contains Survey Open Data ©Environment Agency copyright and database right 2017  
Based on Ingleton Wood drawing no. 31429-IW-XX-XX-DR-A-2000 rev. P11

Document Path: E:\Projects\Beck Row, Elm Farm\Analysis\GIS\Beck Row.mxd



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