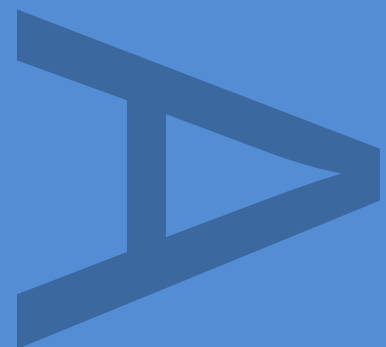


**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH  
EVALUATION ON LAND  
ADJACENT TO 1 & 2 PARK  
GARDEN, WEST ROW, SUFFOLK**

**PLANNING AUTHORITY:  
FOREST HEATH DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**JANUARY 2014**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

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# **ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF LAND ADJACENT TO 1 & 2 PARK GARDEN, WEST ROW, SUFFOLK IP28 8QG**

**Site Code:** MNL709

**Central NGR:** TL 67381 75554

**Local Planning Authority:** Forest Heath District Council

**Planning Reference:** F/2013/0329/OUT

**Report No.** R11600

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**January 2014**

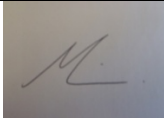
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# LAND ADJACENT TO 1 & 2 PARK GARDEN, WEST ROW, SUFFOLK

## AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

### Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Project Number	K3366
Report Number	11600

	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Jonathon House		April 2014
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Graphics Checked by:	Josephine Brown	<i>Josephine Brown</i>	April 2014
Project Manager Sign-off:	Mark Hinman		April 2014

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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## **ABSTRACT**

*An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land adjacent to 1 and 2 Park Garden, West Row, Suffolk, NGR TL 67381 75554, in advance of proposed residential development. The evaluation consisted of 6 trial trenches located within the proposed development area. The evaluation showed evidence for large-scale past soil movements taking place across the field, with associated large quarry pits. Sparse finds date this activity to the post-medieval period; no evidence for earlier archaeological remains was present. These results are of low archaeological significance.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document details the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land adjacent to 1 & 2 Park Garden, West Row, Suffolk (Figure 1). The work was commissioned by Mr B. Toombs and was undertaken to assess the archaeological implications and potential impacts of the proposed construction of seven new detached dwellings on the site (Planning Reference: F/2013/0329/OUT).

1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological trial trench evaluation within the proposed development area (Hinman 2013) was prepared in response to a request for an archaeological evaluation by Matthew Brudenell of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service's Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT) and as a consequence of a planning condition attached to the consent. The condition reads:

*'No development shall take place within the area indicated [the whole site] until the implementation of a programme of archaeological work has been secured, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority'.*

The condition also states that:

*'An archaeological evaluation will be required to establish the potential of the site and decisions on the need for any further investigation (excavation before any groundworks commence and/or monitoring during groundworks) will be made on the basis of the results of the evaluation'.*

- 1.3 West Row lies to the west of Mildenhall and south of the Mildenhall air base and the small hamlet of Thistley Green. The site at West Row is situated a short distance to the south-west of Friday Street, a northerly continuation of Church Road (the principal historic thoroughfare through West Row), and to the south of a modern residential development at Park Gardens (NGR TL 67381 75554). The site is presently a green- field site and comprises the eastern two thirds, totalling 0.55 hectares in area, of a large, sub-square former agricultural field. The northern and eastern boundaries of the site are shared with the back gardens of properties fronting Friday Street and Park Gardens, while the western and southern site boundaries are field divisions.

#### **Geology and Topography**

- 1.4 The topography of the site and surrounding area is broadly flat. In the wider landscape, the ground falls away gradually to the west towards the fen-edge, and south towards the flood plain of the River Lark, situated some 800m south of the site. The underlying bedrock is mapped as Late Cretaceous Zig Zag Chalk (British Geological Survey).

#### **Archaeological Background**

- 1.5 The development site lies in an area of particular archaeological potential, located toward the fen-edge and on the south-facing slopes of the Lark river valley, in a topographic setting which is known to have been highly favourable to early occupation. A number of prehistoric finds have been recorded in close proximity to the proposed development. These include finds of prehistoric artefacts comprising assemblages of Bronze Age pottery, flint-work and metal-working debris (Suffolk Historic Environment Record (HER) Nos. MNL 012, 172 and 187) near to Beck Row and a Mesolithic implement found to the north-west of the site at Haylands Drove (National Monuments Record (NMR) ref. TL67, NE79).

- 1.6 Evidence of Roman settlement activity in the general area is represented by a small Roman building with a hypocaust excavated in 1932 at West Row (NMR ref. 67, NE1). To the south-west of the site, a *Durobrivian* ware vase and a pewter hoard of three dishes, two saucers and four bowls (NMR ref. TL67, 28) were ploughed up in 1869. North of the site, a series of 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century Roman features were excavated during an investigation at the Old Police House, Beeches Road (HER MNL 193), while further evidence of Roman activity, including 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century features, was unearthed during an evaluation at West Row Primary School (HER MNL 637).
- 1.7 Post-medieval features have been recorded at sites along Beeches Road, including Nos. 34-36 (HER MNL 614), No. 41 Beeches Road (HER MNL 593), and the former depot site, Beeches Road (HER MNL 538), while archaeological works to the rear of 93-97 Friday Street (HER MNL 624) uncovered a pit containing earlier (residual) artefacts.
- 1.8 As the development lies immediately adjacent to the historic core of West Row (HER MNL 679), there is also potential for encountering features of medieval date. Accordingly, the development area has potential for archaeological remains from the prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods.
- 1.9 Historically, the site appears to have remained undeveloped, indicating good conditions for archaeological preservation should any remains be present, although ploughing and other aspects of agricultural land-use are likely to have caused some ground disturbance.



## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

- 2.1 Six trial trenches (Trenches 1-6) measuring 30m in length by 1.8m in width were excavated across the site (Figure 2). The ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a wheeled JCB backhoe loader. A toothless ditching bucket was used to excavate the trenches. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed natural geology (chalk) where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded.
- 2.2 OD heights and trench locations were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit. Archaeological or significant natural features were hand-drawn on permatrace at a scale of 1:20. The sequence of deposits in each trench was recorded using PCA's pro-forma recording sheets. Monochrome and colour digital photographs were taken of the trenches, archaeological features and sample sections; general site shots were also taken. The trenches were scanned visually for finds and with a metal-detector during machining and spoil heaps were checked.

### **3 RESULTS**

3.1 The trenches are presented below in numerical order. The trenches measured 1.8m in width and 30m in length. Overburden deposits are average measurements unless otherwise stated.

#### **Trench 1**

3.2 The trench ran on a north to south alignment, located in the south-east corner of the development area (Figure 3). The overburden deposits within the trench consisted of topsoil which measured 0.31m deep, and a subsoil measuring 0.15m deep.

3.3 The southern half of the trench contained a large feature [106] with very gently-sloping sides. The feature measured approximately 15m within the trench, extending beyond the southern limit of excavation, although a machine-excavated slot at the end of the trench seemed to suggest the base of the feature rising again towards the south. The maximum depth of the feature was 0.60m. The feature contained a single homogenous backfill (105), a light brownish-grey silty sand; no dating material was present in the deposit. Feature [106] is likely to have been a large quarry pit.

3.4 In the northern half of the trench, a natural tree throw was investigated [104]. The feature measured 1.56m in width and 0.32m in depth. It contained a single mid reddish-brown silty sand fill (103); no finds were present.

#### **Trench 2**

3.5 Trench 2 was located directly north of Trench 1, on the eastern side of the development area, and was on an east to west alignment. The trench contained topsoil and subsoil, measuring 0.37m and 0.14m deep, respectively.

- 3.6 A possible linear was excavated at the east end of the trench. However, this was geological in origin. The trench contained no significant archaeological features or deposits.

### **Trench 3**

- 3.7 The trench was located within the south-west corner of the development area. It contained topsoil measuring 0.42m deep, and subsoil 0.45m deep at the east end of the trench, becoming shallower (0.19m deep) to the west. The greater depth of deposit at the eastern end of the trench may relate to the same quarry pitting seen within the southern half of Trench 1, although no discernible 'cut' was visible in Trench 3.

- 3.8 A rectangular pit was located within the western half of the trench, Pit [108] (Plate 1). The pit continued beyond the southern limit of the trench; the visible part of the feature measured 1.13m in width and 0.37m in depth. The feature contained a single fill (107), a dark brownish-grey sandy silt. The only finds in the fill were fragments of animal bone.

### **Trench 4**

- 3.9 Trench 4 was positioned on a north to south alignment and was located on the western side of the development area. The overburden deposits comprised 0.44m of topsoil; the trench also contained a subsoil deposit which was thicker at the northern end of the trench, measuring 0.49m, thinning to 0.3m at the southern end.
- 3.10 A ditch [110] was investigated at the southern end of the trench (Plate 2). The ditch ran on a NNE-SSW alignment close to the alignment of the trench. The trench was extended by 2m to the east to aid in the identification of the feature, and to enable a full width slot to be

excavated across the ditch (see Section 3, Fig. 3). The ditch measured 1.48m in width and 0.39m in depth; the length of the ditch seen within the trench measured 8m. The ditch had a wide flat base, and contained a single backfill (109), a dark reddish-brown silty sand. The fill contained animal bone and a single small sherd of post-medieval black ware.

### **Trench 5**

- 3.11 Trench 5 was located in the north-west corner of the development area. The topsoil within the trench measured 0.35m in depth; the subsoil measured 0.16m.
- 3.12 The western half of Trench 5 showed evidence for a large quarry pit [112], measuring 14m across and extending beyond the western limit of the trench. The pit contained a single backfill, although the feature was not bottomed. The fill (111) was a dark reddish-brown sandy silt containing fragments of brick and animal bone. No other features were present within the trench.

### **Trench 6**

- 3.13 Trench 6 was located in the north-east corner of the development area. The trench had a topsoil deposit measuring 0.35m. No discernible subsoil deposit was present within the trench.
- 3.14 The trench contained no significant archaeological features or deposits. Modern plough scars were noted at the northern end of the trench, running on a north to south alignment.

### **Finds Summary**

- 3.15 Finds were sparse across the site in general, and the only chronologically-diagnostic finds were post-medieval in date. A total of 734g of animal bone was recovered from features across the site. A

single potsherd was recovered from Ditch [110]; this is a piece of post-medieval blackware (3g). Pit [112] contained 4 fragmentary pieces of brick and tile with no extant dimensions and a total weight of 293g.

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 Despite the clear archaeological potential of this part of West Row, no archaeological evidence was found on this site, either relating to the medieval settlement or to earlier periods of past activity. The development area may have been in use during the medieval period; however, this activity is likely to have been of a non-intrusive nature. The absence of medieval finds within the topsoil and subsoil deposits suggest that the land was not cultivated during the period, as no evidence associated with the practice of 'manuring' or soil improvement was apparent.
- 4.2 Evidence was seen throughout the trenches for large-scale past soil movements having occurred within the field, with variable and substantial soil depths, as well as the direct evidence for large quarry pits in two of the trial trenches. The finds suggest an early post-medieval date for the start of this activity. The purpose of the widespread groundworks across the site is unclear. However, the activity may relate to quarrying for the extraction of chalk, or possible marl pits. The infilling of these features and the depth of subsoil deposits across the site suggests that soil had been imported into the site. It is likely these groundworks occurred prior to the site being turned over to tree plantation.
- 4.3 A boundary running through the development area can be seen in the 1903 OS map for West Row ([oldmaps.co.uk](http://oldmaps.co.uk), online) this boundary appears to be associated with the tree plantation. The boundary runs on a similar NNE-SSW alignment to Ditch [110], the ditch is likely to represent the remains of the former boundary.
- 4.4 The remaining features seen within the site are likely to be contemporary with the early post-medieval quarrying. The tree throw

seen within Trench 1 remains undated but is not of archaeological significance.

- 4.5 It is possible that the widespread groundworks may have removed medieval or earlier remains. However the lack of residual medieval finds, and the absence of remains in parts of the site that appeared relatively undisturbed, suggest that the site was not in immediate close proximity to the settlement, until the later expansion of the modern village.

## **5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

PCA would like to thank the client, Mr B Toombs, and Dr Matthew Brudenell for monitoring the project on behalf of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service. Thanks to Jennifer Simonson of the PCA CAD Department for preparing the figures. The fieldwork was carried out by Jonathan House and Mary-Anne Slater.



## 6 REFERENCES

British Geological Survey. 2014. *Geology of Britain viewer*. [Online]  
Available at: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> date  
accessed: 13/01/14

Old-Maps.co.uk. 2010. *Old Maps – The online repository*. [Online]  
Available at: <http://www.old-maps.co.uk/index.html> date accessed:  
23/01/14

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context	Cut	Type	Trench	Comments	Finds
100	-	Topsoil	-	Layer, Soil Deposit	-
101		Subsoil	-	Layer, Soil Deposit	-
102	-	Natural	-	Natural Geology	-
103	-	Fill	1	Fill of Pit [104]	-
104	-	Cut	1	Cut of Pit	-
105	-	Fill	1	Fill of Pit [106]	-
106	-	Cut	1	Cut of Pit	-
107		Fill	3	Fill of Pit [108]	Faunal 147g
108		Cut	3	Cut of Pit	-
109		Fill	4	Fill of Ditch [110]	Faunal 320g, Pot 3g
110		Cut	4	Cut of Ditch	-
111		Fill	5	Fill of Pit [112]	Faunal 267g, C.B.M 293g
112		Cut	5	Cut of Pit	-

## APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

**OASIS ID: preconst1-168549**

### Project details

Project name	LAND ADJACENT TO 1 and 2 PARK GARDEN, WEST ROW, SUFFOLK
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was carried out at West Row, Suffolk. The evaluation consisted of 6 trial trenches located within the proposed development area. The evaluation showed evidence for large scale soil movements taking place across the field with possibly associated quarrying activity. Sparse finds recovered from the site dated the activity as post medieval; no evidence for earlier archaeological remains was present within the evaluation.
Project dates	Start: 06-01-2014 End: 07-01-2014
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	MNL709 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	F/2012/0329/OUT - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m
Monument type	QUARRY PIT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

### Project location

Country England

Site location	SUFFOLK FOREST HEATH MILDENHALL LAND ADJACENT TO 1 and 2 PARK GARDEN, WEST ROW, SUFFOLK
Postcode	IP28 8QG
Study area	5439.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 67381 75554 52 0 52 21 07 N 000 27 28 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 4.00m Max: 6.00m

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### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Project brief originator	Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Officer
Project design originator	Mark Hinman
Project director/manager	Mark Hinman
Project supervisor	Jonathan House
Type of sponsor/funding body	Mr B Toombs
Type of sponsor/funding body	Private Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr B Toombs

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### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council
Digital Archive ID	MNL709
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive	Suffolk County Council

recipient

Paper Archive ID MNL709

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

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**Project  
bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF LAND ADJACENT TO 1  
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Author(s)/Editor(s) Jonathan House

Date 2014

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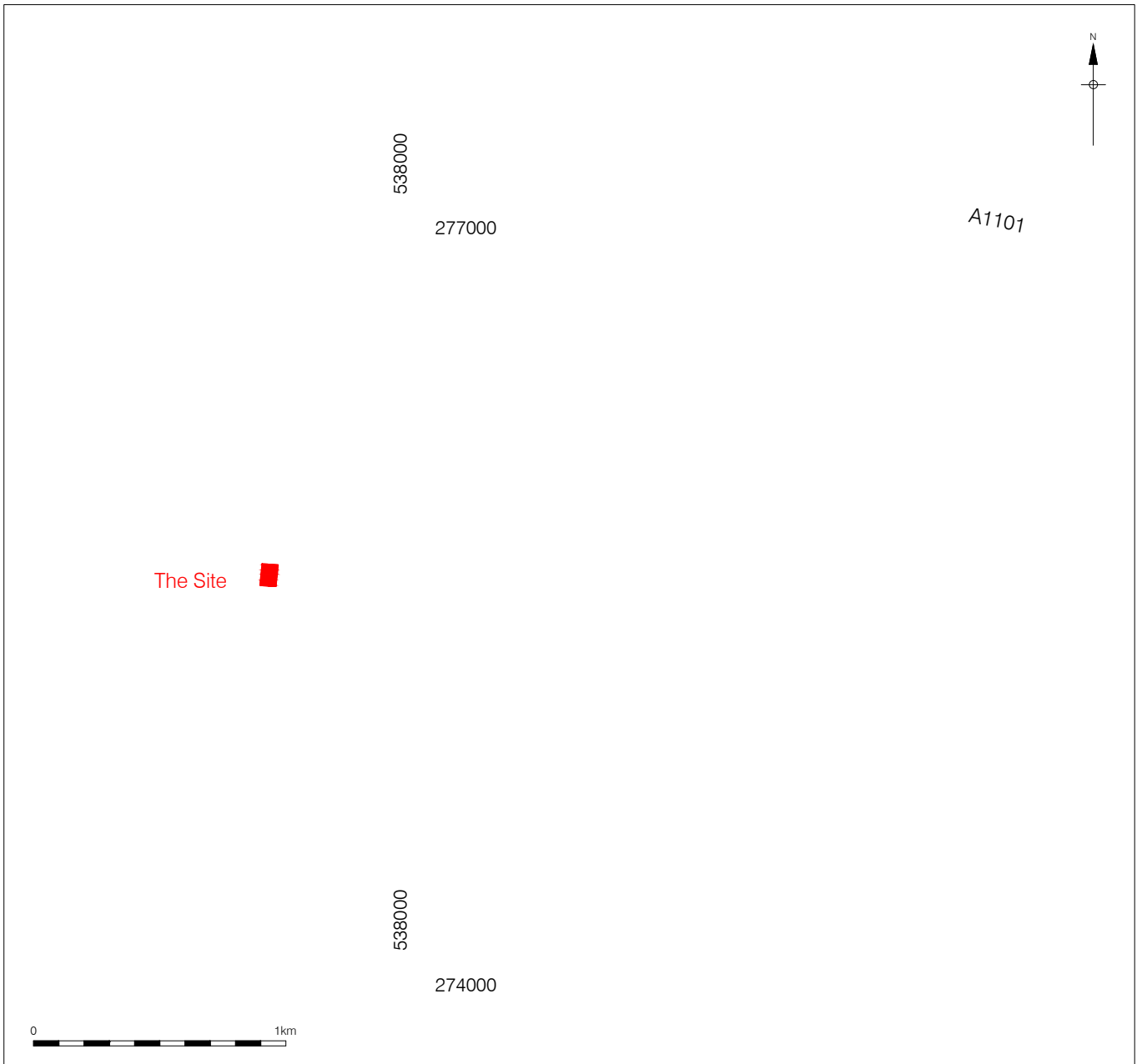
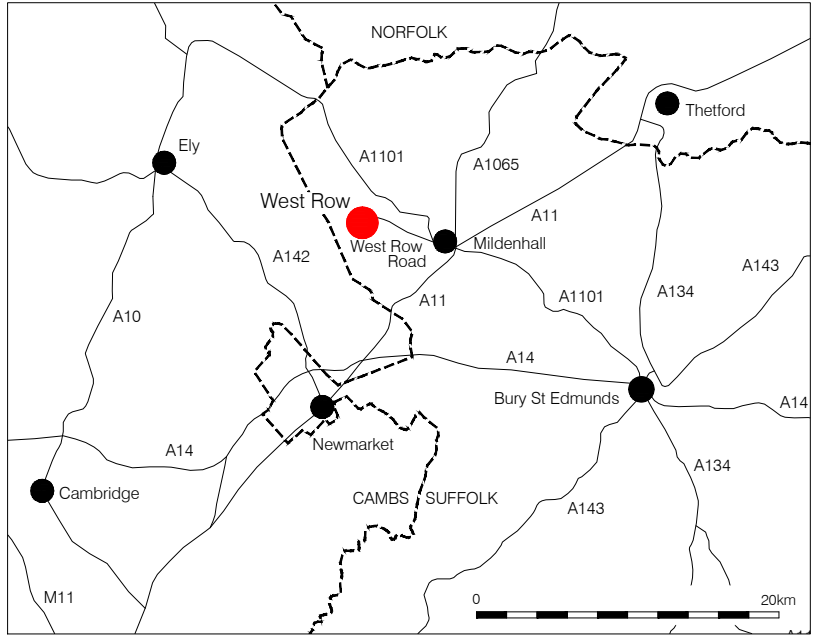
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Description 18 page grey literature report

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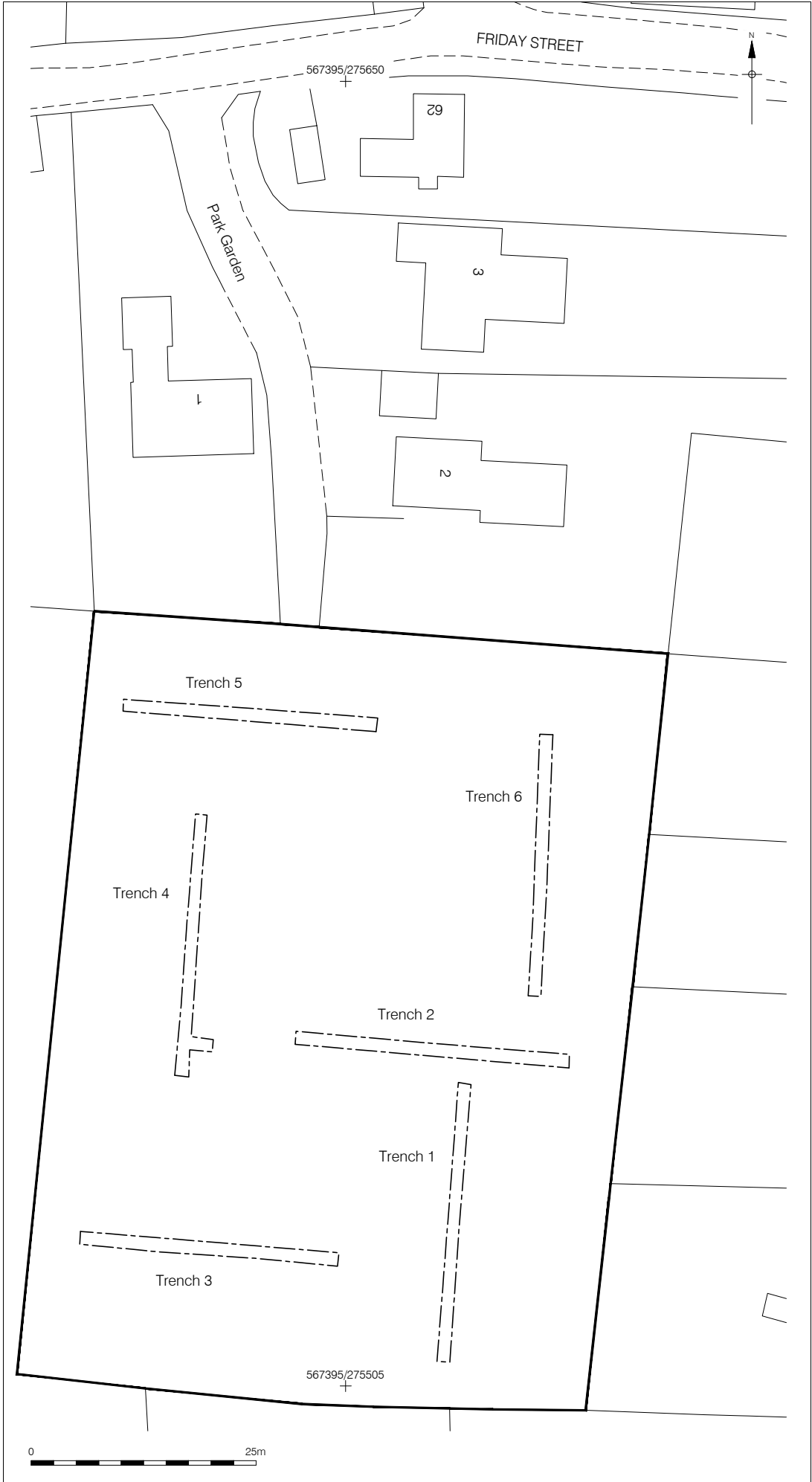


Figure 2  
 Trench Locations  
 1:625 at A4

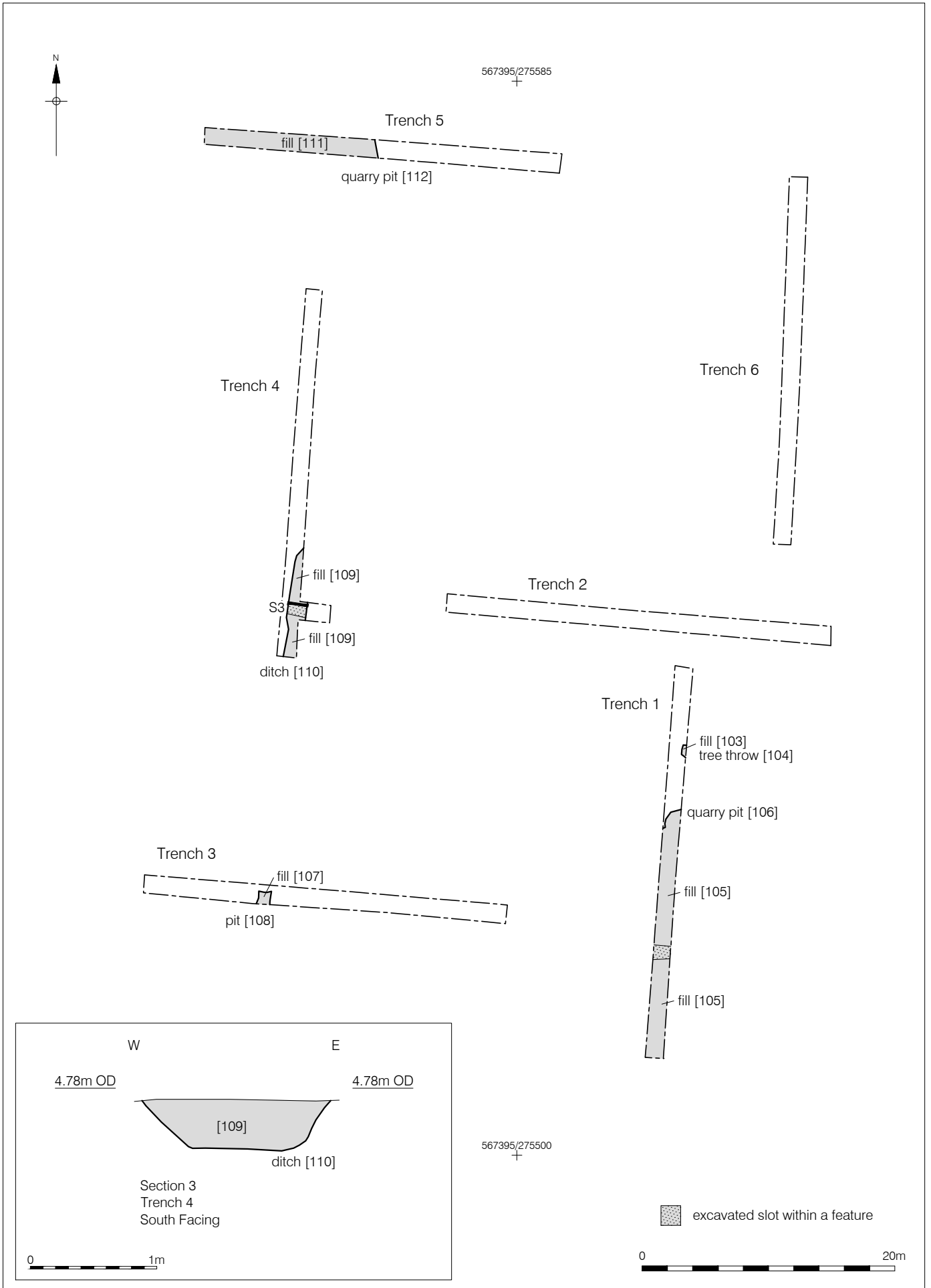


Figure 3  
Trench Plans and Section 3  
Trench Plans - 1:400; Section 3 - 1:40 at A4



## APPENDIX 4: PLATES



Plate 1: Pit [108], north-facing section (Trench 3)



Plate 2: Ditch [110], view north (Trench 4)

# PCA

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