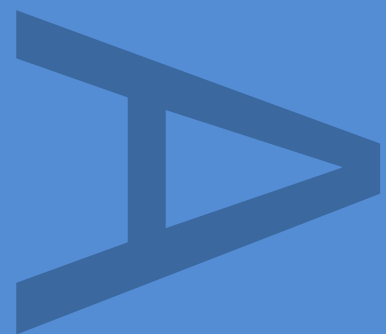


Land at Ellingham Green, Great
Ellingham, Norfolk:
An Archaeological Trial Trench
Evaluation

November 2014




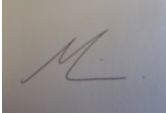
PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY
R11910

LAND AT ELLINGHAM GREEN, GREAT ELLINGHAM, NORFOLK

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

Quality Control

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Land at Ellingham Green, Great Ellingham, Norfolk:

An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

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Planning Reference: 3PL/2014/0683/F

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Site Code: ENF135249

Report No. R11910

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ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of an eight-trench archaeological evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology at Ellingham Green, Great Ellingham, Norfolk (NGR TM 01899741) on the 3rd to the 5th of November 2014. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMS Consulting on behalf of Orbit Homes Ltd. in response to a planning condition attached to residential development. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the site.

The evaluation identified a number of pits, postholes and ditches suggestive of a phase of settlement dating to the Saxon and medieval periods. This activity was mainly focused on the southern half of the site, near to Attleborough Road, however towards the north of the site, a large east to west aligned ditch was uncovered, in a location correlating with previously identified cropmarks. This may represent the beginning of larger scale field system divisions further from the posited core of the settlement.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on Ellingham Green, Great Ellingham, Norfolk (centered on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference TM 01899741) on the 3rd to the 5th November 2014 (Plate 1; Figure 1).
- 1.2 The site is located in the village of Great Ellingham, to the north of the centre of the village. It is bounded to the south by Attleborough Road, to the east by the grounds of Bury Hall, to the west by Hingham road and to the north by agricultural land. The site currently forms the south-west part of a large arable field It has a total area of approximately 4.14ha. The general character of the area is residential and agricultural, with mainly 20th century properties along Attleborough Road and more dispersed similar properties along Hingham Road (Plate 2).To the north the land remains in use as arable fields.
- 1.3 The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Orbit Homes Ltd.
- 1.4 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne of PCA and Suzanne Gailey of CgMs (Morgan-Shelbourne and Gailey 2014) in response to a Brief for archaeological evaluation from James Albone of the Historic Environment Service of Norfolk County Council (HES/NCC) (Albone 2014).
- 1.5 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition and significance of any archaeological remains on the site. In particular, the evaluation was to determine the presence or otherwise of the Roman cemetery.
- 1.6 Eight 30m long trial trenches were excavated and recorded totalling 260m (Plate 3; Figure 2). These identified a number of pits and postholes, as well as a number of ditches. This activity was mainly focused on the southern part of the site (Trenches 6, 7 and to a lesser extent 8), proximate to Attleborough Road. However in the north of the site was a large east to west

running ditch was uncovered, in a location correlating with previously identified cropmarks.

- 1.7 This report describes the results of the evaluation and aims to inform the design of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. The site archive will be deposited at Norfolk County Council Archaeology Store.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.1 The bedrock geology of the proposed development area is the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation. The superficial deposits comprise Lowestoft Formation chalky tills, sands and gravels (British Geological Survey 2014; Website 1). In the trial trenches, the Lowestoft formation deposits (3) were a mid-orange-brown silty sand with common frequent gravel inclusions and occasional pockets of light grey silty sand, present at a fairly uniform depth of 0.42-0.6m below modern ground level. Towards the north of the site area the deposits contained a greater proportion of silt and flint inclusions and were more orange in colour.
- 2.2 Great Ellingham is located in the Brecklands district of Norfolk, lying on a gradual west to east slope, leading down to the floodplain of a tributary of the River Thet to the east. The site is at an elevation of between 50m and 51m above Ordnance Datum (OD), sloping down slightly to the east.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Information for the archaeological background is taken from the Desk-Based Assessment for the study area (Gailey 2013).
- 3.2 The Desk-Based Assessment comprised an examination of evidence from the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER), National Monuments Record, published and unpublished material. The report incorporated the results of a comprehensive map regression exercise in order to review the impacts of the proposed development on archaeological assets.
- 3.3 The Desk-Based Assessment identified the site as having potential for in situ archaeological remains of a local significance dating to the Roman, Medieval and Post Medieval periods Appendix 5).
- 3.4 No evidence of in situ settlement activity dating to the prehistoric periods has been recorded within a 1km radius of the site, although a small number of isolated finds have been recorded during metal detecting, principally a Bronze Age socketed axe found 400 south-west of the site (NHER 57317 TM0197).
- 3.5 A number of potential Bronze Age barrows are recorded from historic map and aerial photographic evidence on Barrow field, located 550m east of the site (NHER 9081 TM027973). If this is a Bronze Age cemetery then associated settlement activity must be located nearby, most likely close to the water channel that flows 400m east of the study site.
- 3.6 A large Romano-British cemetery has been identified to the south of Attleborough Road (NHER 4257 TM01919722). The 1950s excavations to the south-east of the site revealed 5 human burials, while recent excavations at 41 Church Street, 60m to the south-east, uncovered a further 85 burials. This was interpreted as being the north-eastern corner of the cemetery, suggesting the cemetery may not extend into the site area. The settlement that this cemetery served has not been located.
- 3.7 Ellingham is recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086 as a large settlement

comprising 47 households. St James church was originally constructed in the 14th century and is approximately 150m south-east of the site (NHER 4259 TM2039715). The historic settlement at Ellingham would have focused on the church, as confirmed by medieval remains recorded during archaeological investigations on Church Street (NHER 40352 TM184496940).

- 3.8 The Norfolk HER does not record any in-situ settlement activity dating to the Anglo-Saxon period within the vicinity of the site. However, a small number of isolated finds have been recorded in its vicinity.
- 3.9 The area surrounding Ellingham was an agricultural landscape interspersed with farmsteads. The site lies on the edge of the core of medieval settlement, most likely comprising agricultural land within the estate of Bury Hall; a Grade II Listed building to the east of the site.
- 3.10 Cropmarks on the site, representing possible banks or ditches of a Roman, Medieval or Post Medieval date (57408 TM02079756) may be evidence of field boundaries or enclosures associated with the moated site at Bury Hall or Old Hall.
- 3.11 Throughout the post-medieval period, the site continued to lie on the edge of the settlement of Ellingham Magna, most likely within the estate of Bury Hall.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The archaeological evaluation comprised eight trial trenches 30m long and 1.8m wide (468m²).
- 4.2 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 12-ton tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m-wide toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed natural geological deposits where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools.
- 4.3 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.
- 4.4 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded on individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown 2009). Archaeological processes recognised by the deposition of material are signified in this report by round brackets (thus), while events constituting the removal of deposits are referred to here as 'cuts' and signified by square brackets [thus]. The record numbers assigned to cuts and deposits are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. All features and deposits recorded during the evaluation are listed in Appendix 2. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.
- 4.5 Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil and subsoil stripping and throughout the excavation process. Archaeological features and spoil heaps were scanned by metal-detector. Only objects of modern date were found and were not retained for accession.

- 4.6 High-resolution digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits, and were used to keep a record of the excavation process.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Overview

5.1.1 Topsoil (1) and subsoil (2), (4) and (5) were present in all the trenches and sealed the archaeological deposits, the topsoil was uniformly present as a dark grey-brown silty sand, whereas the subsoil varied slightly from a mid to light grey-brown to orange-brown silty sand across the site, due to the changing properties of the superficial geology (Plates 4 and 5; Figure 4). The subsoil contained one sherd of medieval pottery (19g) and two refitting fragments from a probable medieval crucible (3g). Two tile pieces of uncertain date were also recovered.

5.2 Trench 1 (Plate 6; Figure 3)

5.2.1 Trench 1 contained a ditch [41] and a single pit [40].

5.3 Ditch [41] (Plate 7; Figure 4)

5.3.1 Ditch [41] was identified in the centre of the trench, aligned east to west. It had moderate to slight sloping sides at the top, narrowing to steep sides at the base and measured 2.84m wide and 0.96m deep. The ditch contained two fills; an upper deposit (42), consisting of a light greyish-brown silty sand with occasional flint inclusions which was 0.52m in depth and a lower deposit (59), consisting of a light grey brown silty sand with frequent flint inclusions, which was 0.44m in depth.

5.3.2 The deposit contained one sherd of early Saxon pottery and three fragments of burnt clay.

5.4 Pit [40] (Plate 8; Figure 4)

5.4.1 A medieval pit was identified within the northern part of the trench. It was roughly circular in plan, measuring at least 2m long, 1.85m wide and 0.8m deep. The pit contained a single fill (39), consisting of a light-mid greyish-brown silty sand with occasional flint inclusions.

5.4.2 The deposit contained two sherds of pottery; one Saxon and one medieval as well as five pieces of lava stone (90g) and two fragments of animal bone.

5.5 Trench 2

5.5.1 Trench 2 did not contain any archaeological features.

5.6 Trench 3

5.6.1 Trench 3 did not contain any archaeological features.

5.7 Trench 4 (Figure 3)

5.7.1 Trench 4 contained a single pit [26].

5.8 Pit [26] (Plate 9; Figure 4)

5.8.1 Pit [26] was identified within the north-eastern half of the trench. It was roughly circular in plan, measuring 0.47m long, 0.93m wide and 0.26m deep. The pit contained a single fill (58), consisting of a dark greyish-brown silty sand with frequent flint inclusions.

5.8.2 Three cattle bones were recovered from fill (58).

5.9 Trench 5

5.9.1 Trench 5 did not contain any archaeological features. No trace was found of the linear anomaly visible on aerial photographs of this part of the site.

5.10 Trench 6 (Plate 10; Figure 3)

5.10.1 Trench 5 contained three ditches [18], [21] and [24] as well as five pits [10], [11], [19], [22] and [23]. It also contained three postholes [16], [17] and [20]. Additionally a single small spread deposit was also present. There was no trace of the linear cropmark which crosses the east end of the trench.

5.11 Ditch [18]

5.11.1 Ditch [18] was identified in the central part of the trench, aligned north-northeast to south-southwest. It had moderate to steep sides and measured 0.67m wide and 0.34m deep. The ditch contained a single backfill; deposit (47), consisting of a dark greyish-brown silty sand with frequent flint inclusions.

5.11.2 No finds were recovered from this feature

5.12 Ditch [21] (Plate 11; Figure 4)

5.12.1 Ditch [21] was identified in the central part of the trench, aligned northeast to southwest. It had moderate to steep sides and measured 0.51m wide and 0.16m deep. The ditch contained a single fill; deposit (53), consisting of a very dark greyish-brown silty sand with frequent flint inclusions and charcoal flecks.

5.12.2 This ditch cut pit [10] on its south eastern side and posthole [20] on its western edge.

5.12.3 No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.13 Ditch [24] (Plate 12)

5.13.1 Ditch [24] was identified in the central area of the trench, aligned northeast to southwest. It had moderately steep sides and measured 0.24m wide and 0.06m deep. The ditch contained a single fill; deposit (60), consisting of a mid-greyish-brown silty sand with frequent flint inclusions.

5.13.2 The ditch was cut by pit [23] on its southwest side.

5.13.3 No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.14 Pit [10] (Plate 11)

5.14.1 Pit [10] was identified in the central part of the trench. It was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.5m long, 0.48m wide and 0.42m deep. The pit contained two fills; an upper deposit (43), consisting of a dark greyish-brown silty sand with occasional flint inclusions which was 0.11m in depth and a lower deposit (55), consisting of a light greyish-brown silty sand with frequent flint inclusions, which was 0.31m in depth.

5.14.2 The pit cut spread (25) and was in turn cut by ditch [21] along its northwestern edge.

5.14.3 No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.15 Pit [11] (Plate 13; Figure 4)

5.15.1 Pit [11] was identified within the southeastern part of the trench. It was sub-

circular in plan measuring at least 0.68m long, 1.37m wide and 0.28m deep (Plate 13). The pit contained two fills; upper deposit (44), consisting of a dark greyish-brown silty sand with occasional flint inclusions which was 0.15m in depth and a lower deposit (50), consisting of a very dark greyish-brown silty sand with frequent flint inclusions, measuring 0.13m in depth.

5.15.2 A late Saxon Thetford type jar rim (10th-11th century) was recovered from fill (44), along with a fragment of sheep/goat mandibular tooththrow.

5.16 Posthole [19] (Plate 11; Figure 4)

5.16.1 Posthole [19] was identified within the central part of the trench. It was roughly circular in plan, measuring 0.7m long, 0.72m wide and 0.62m deep. The pit contained a single fill; deposit (51), consisting of a very dark greyish-brown silty sand with frequent flint inclusions.

5.16.2 The posthole cut spread (25).

5.16.3 No finds were recovered.

5.17 Posthole [22]

5.17.1 Posthole [22] was identified within the central part of the trench. It was roughly circular in plan, measuring 0.6m long, 0.46m wide and 0.26m deep. The pit contained a single fill; deposit (48), consisting of a dark greyish-brown silty sand with frequent flint inclusions.

5.17.2 No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.18 Posthole [23] (Plate 12)

5.18.1 Posthole [23] was identified within the central part of the trench. It was roughly circular in plan, measuring 0.63m long, 0.64m wide and 0.4m deep. The pit contained a single fill; deposit (49), consisting of a dark greyish-brown silty sand with frequent flint inclusions.

5.18.2 This posthole cut earlier ditch [24] on its southeast edge.

5.19 Posthole [16]

5.19.1 Posthole [16] was identified within the south eastern part of the trench. It

was roughly circular in plan, measuring 0.4m long, 0.32m wide and 0.16m deep. The posthole contained a single fill; deposit (45), consisting of a dark greyish-brown silty sand with occasional flint inclusions.

5.19.2 No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.20 Posthole [17]

5.20.1 Posthole [17] was identified within the south eastern part of the trench. It was roughly circular in plan, measuring 0.3m long, 0.32m wide and 0.06m deep. The posthole contained a single fill; deposit (46), consisting of a dark greyish-brown silty sand with occasional flint inclusions.

5.20.2 No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.21 Posthole [20] (Plate 11; Figure 4)

5.21.1 Posthole [20] was identified within the western part of the trench. It was roughly circular in plan, measuring 0.48m long, 0.32m wide and 0.16m deep. The posthole contained a single fill; deposit (54), consisting of a very dark greyish-brown silty sand with occasional flint inclusions.

5.21.2 The posthole was cut by ditch [21].

5.21.3 No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.22 Spread (25) (Plate 11; Figure 4)

5.22.1 Spread (25) was identified within the central part of the trench, in the vicinity of and in some cases being cut by a small cluster of other archaeological features. It was irregular in plan, measuring at least 1m long, at least 0.6m wide and 0.08m deep. The spread consisted of dark greyish-brown silty sand with frequent flint inclusions. The spread was cut by pit [19] and posthole [20]. This deposit is likely to represent an accumulation deposit resulting from a depression in the ground surface in antiquity which was partially levelled by the spread of material.

5.22.2 No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.23 Trench 7 (Plate 14; Figure 3)

5.23.1 Trench 7 contained a single ditch [15] as well as three pits [6], [7], [9] and [14]. It also contained three postholes [8], [12] and [13]. Additionally a single tree hollow [27] was also present.

5.24 Ditch [15] (Plate 15)

5.24.1 Ditch [15] was identified in the central part of the trench, aligned north-northwest to south-southeast. It had slight to moderately steep sides and measured 1.18m wide and 0.17m deep. The ditch contained a single fill; deposit (35), consisting of a mid-greyish-brown silty sand with occasional flint inclusions.

5.24.2 No finds were recovered.

5.25 Saxon Pit [6]

5.25.1 Pit [6] was identified within the southwest part of the trench. It was roughly circular in plan, measuring 0.9m long, 0.98m wide and 0.26m deep. The pit contained a single fill; deposit (28), consisting of a dark greyish-brown silty sand with occasional flint inclusions.

5.25.2 A single sherd of Saxon pottery (18g) dating 5th-7th century was recovered from fill (28).

5.26 Saxon Pit [7]

5.26.1 Pit [7] was identified within the southwest part of the trench. It was roughly circular in plan, measuring at least 0.5m long, 0.72m wide and 0.15m deep. The pit contained a single fill; deposit (29), consisting of a dark greyish-brown silty sand with occasional flint inclusions.

5.26.2 One sherd of Saxon pottery (4g) dating 10th-11th century was recovered from fill (29).

5.27 Saxon Pit [9] (Plate 16; Figure 4)

5.27.1 Pit [9] was identified within the southwest part of the trench. It was roughly circular in plan, measuring at least 1.68m long, 1.9m wide and 0.24m deep. The pit contained a single fill; deposit (31), consisting of a very dark greyish-

brown silty sand with occasional flint inclusions.

5.27.2 The deposit contained one sherd of Saxon pottery (12g) dating 10th-11th century.

5.28 Pit [14]

5.28.1 Pit [14] was identified within the central part of the trench. It was roughly circular in plan, measuring at 0.66m long, 0.44m wide and 0.16m deep. The pit contained a single fill; deposit (34), consisting of a dark greyish-brown silty sand with occasional flint inclusions.

5.28.2 No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.29 Posthole [8]

5.29.1 Posthole [8] was identified within the western part of the trench. It was roughly circular in plan, measuring 0.42m long, 0.4m wide and 0.14m deep. The posthole contained a single fill; deposit (30), consisting of a mid-greyish-brown silty sand with occasional flint inclusions.

5.29.2 One sherd of local medieval unglazed ware (16g), dating 11th-14th century was recovered from this feature.

5.30 Posthole [12]

5.30.1 Posthole [12] was identified within the central part of the trench. It was roughly circular in plan, measuring 0.35m long, 0.34m wide and 0.13m deep. The posthole contained a single fill; deposit (32), consisting of a dark greyish-brown silty sand with occasional flint inclusions.

5.30.2 No finds were recovered.

5.31 Posthole [13]

5.31.1 Posthole [13] was identified within the central part of the trench. It was roughly circular in plan, measuring 0.35m long, 0.39m wide and 0.16m deep. The posthole contained a single fill; deposit (33), consisting of a dark greyish-brown silty sand with occasional flint inclusions.

5.31.2 No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.32 Tree Hollow [27]

5.32.1 Tree hollow [27] was identified within the north-east part of the trench. It was irregular in plan, measuring at least 2m long, at least 1.9m wide and 0.2m deep. The tree hollow contained a single fill; deposit (36), consisting of a mottled light brownish-grey silty sand with occasional flint inclusions.

5.32.2 No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.33 Trench 8 (Plate 17; Figure 3)

5.33.1 Trench 8 contained two postholes [37] and [38].

5.34 Posthole [37]

5.34.1 Posthole [37] was identified within the central part of the trench. It was roughly circular in plan, measuring 0.3m long, 0.27m wide and 0.12m deep. The posthole contained a single backfill; deposit (56), consisting of a mid-greyish-brown silty sand with occasional flint inclusions.

5.34.2 No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.35 Posthole [38]

5.35.1 Posthole [38] was identified within the central part of the trench. It was roughly circular in plan, measuring 0.35m long, 0.33m wide and 0.16m deep. The posthole contained a single backfill; deposit (57), consisting of a mid greyish-brown silty sand with occasional flint inclusions.

5.35.2 No finds were recovered from this feature.

6 THE FINDS

6.1 The Saxon and Medieval Pottery

By Berni Sudds

Context	Pottery (Norfolk CTS* code)	Sherd count	Weight (g)	Date
2	Local medieval unglazed ware (LMU), sagging base	1	19	11th – 14th century
	Medieval crucible? Simple rim sherd, small rounded form.	1	2	
28	Early Saxon sand-tempered ware	1	18	5th – 7th century
29	Thetford-type ware, diamond notched rouletting	1	4	10th – 11th century
30	Local medieval unglazed ware (LMU), fresh break	1	16	11th – 14th century
31	Thetford-type ware jar, simple everted rim	1	13	10th – 11th century
39	Thetford-type ware? Small body sherd	1	3	10th – 11th century
	Local medieval unglazed ware (LMU)	1	3	11th – 14th century
42	Early Saxon sandstone-tempered ware	1	13	5th – 7th century
44	Thetford-type ware jar rim	1	19	10th – 11th century

Table 1: Catalogue of the post-Roman pottery

*CTS = Ceramic Type Series

6.1.1 The small assemblage of post-Roman pottery dates to the Saxon and medieval period (Table 2). There are two early Saxon sherds. One is

tempered with sandstone, characteristic of the early Saxon period across the region, but it is possible that the sand-tempered sherd could have a longer date range as local, bonfire-fired pottery continued to be made right through the middle Saxon period.

6.1.2 The late Saxon Thetford-type wares include two jar rims, one hollowed and one everted, both of which are typical of the industry, and a diamond-notched rouletted body sherd.

6.1.3 The medieval assemblage is comprised of local medieval unglazed wares with no diagnostic forms, but more unusually and significantly, includes the rim of a possible small, rounded crucible, retrieved from context [2]. No residue is detectable but such crucibles were typically used in metallurgical processing.

6.2 The Animal Bone

By Kevin Rielly

Introduction

6.2.1 A small quantity of bones was recovered (by hand) from a selection of the trenches.

Methodology

6.2.2 The bone was recorded to species/taxonomic category where possible and to size class in the case of unidentifiable bones such as ribs, fragments of longbone shaft and the majority of vertebra fragments. Recording follows the established techniques whereby details of the element, species, bone portion, state of fusion, wear of the dentition, anatomical measurements and taphonomic including natural and anthropogenic modifications to the bone were registered. A concerted effort was undertaken to refit as many bones as possible, noting the actual number of fragments prior to refitting.

Description of faunal assemblage

6.2.3 The site provided a total of 40 hand recovered bones, this reducing to 8 after

refitting. There is a moderate to high level of fragmentation amongst these collections, as clearly show by the reduction in numbers following refitting, while preservation is generally good although all the of bones show some root etching. This small collection derived from four pit fills, one each in trenches 1, 4, 6 and 7 - [40], [26], [11] and [9] respectively. The bone content includes: - fill (39) [40] – a cattle distal humerus and an ovicaprid axis; (58) [26] – 3 cattle bones - a mandible tooththrow fragment, a humerus shaft piece and a proximal radius; (44) [11] – an ovicaprid mandibular tooththrow; and (31) [9] with a cattle astragalus and a cattle-size limb bone piece. These would appear to represent adult individuals (3rd year or older) including the cattle mandible (with adult premolars) with the exception of the ovicaprid mandible which is from a 2nd year animal (fourth deciduous premolar and first adult molar). A single measurement could be taken, from the cattle astragalus in fill (31) pit [9], with a lateral length of 64.8mm.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

- 6.2.4 This is a rather small assemblage tending towards a high level of fragmentation. Yet the bones are relatively well preserved, while the dating evidence, though also rather slight, does suggest a narrow margin of occupation. The greater proportion of the bone assemblage was taken from the southern part of the site. This area will undoubtedly provide additional faunal material, although based on the current quantity; it is perhaps unlikely that additional work will provide more than a moderately sized assemblage – maybe up to a few hundred fragments (estimated figure after refitting). There is also the possibility, given the level of fragmentation, that there may be an undue bias towards the larger species. The information potentially available from gaining a larger collection will obviously depend on the extent of further fieldwork as well as the level of care taken in the recovery procedure. The potential for recovery is clearly highlighted by the good preservation of the bones. Excavation was certainly the main cause of the noted level of fragmentation and it can perhaps be suggested that certain features should be bulk sampled, possibly up to 30 or 50 litres. The resulting washing of the soil should allow better survival of the bone contents. This will also enhance

the potential recovery of smaller species, here including small game and poultry.

6.3 The Charred Plant Macrofossils and Other Remains

By Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

6.3.1 Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossils assemblages were taken from fills within pits [009], [040], [010] and [011] and four were submitted for assessment.

6.3.2 The samples were bulk floated by PCA and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Appendix 4. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred.

Results

6.3.3 Cereal grains and/or seeds of common weeds are present at a low density within all four assemblages. Preservation is generally good, although some seeds are fragmentary and occasional grains are puffed and distorted as a result of combustion at a high temperature.

6.3.4 Wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and barley (*Hordeum* sp.) grains are recorded, with the latter including a single asymmetrical lateral grain of six-row barley (*Hordeum vulgare*). Seeds are scarce, but specimens of stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), small legumes (Fabaceae), grasses (Poaceae) and sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) are noted along with a single flax (*Linum usitatissimum*) seed. Sample 300 (pit [009]) also includes a spike-rush (*Eleocharis* sp.) nutlet and a number of fragments of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell, while sample 302 (pit [010]) contains a hawthorn (*Crataegus* sp.) fruit stone. Charcoal/charred wood fragments are abundant within all for assemblages, but other plant macrofossils are scarce. However, the assemblage from sample 303 (pit [011]) does include a small fragment of

heather (Ericaceae) stem.

- 6.3.5 Bone fragments are present within all four assemblages and are especially common within samples 300 and 301 (pit [040]). Other remains occur less frequently but do include small fragments of burnt or fired clay, splinters of burnt stone and small pieces of coal. The black porous residues are all quite hard and brittle and may either be bi-products of the combustion of coal or modern contaminants. A small number of terrestrial and marsh/freshwater slum mollusc shells are also recorded, but it is unclear whether these are contemporary with the contexts from which the samples were taken, or later contaminants.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

- 6.3.6 In summary, these assemblages are somewhat unusual and it is tentatively suggested that they may be derived from a very specific activity. The high density of charcoal and the presence of pieces of burnt or fired clay and burnt stone may suggest that all four assemblages are principally derived from hearth waste. In addition, bone fragments (many of which are somewhat degraded) are abundant within samples 300 and 301, possibly indicating that these assemblages are derived from an activity which involved heat and the processing/preparation of meat, hide or bone products.
- 6.3.7 Although these assemblages are somewhat limited in composition, they clearly illustrate that well preserved plant remains, which have the potential to provide valuable data about activities conducted on or near the site, are present within the archaeological horizon in this area of Great Ellingham. Therefore, if further interventions are planned, it is strongly recommended that additional plant macrofossil samples of approximately 20 – 40 litres in volume are taken from all dated and well-sealed features recorded during excavation.

7 DISCUSSION

- 7.1 The evaluation identified a concentration of features, including ditches, pits and postholes, in the south of the development area (Trenches 6, 7 and, to some extent, 8), apparently focused along Attleborough Road and extending back from the street frontage for approximately 30-40m. In addition, a separate area of activity, comprising a large pit and a ditch, was recorded in the north of the site (Trench 1).
- 7.2 Datable finds were scarce, comprising small assemblages of Saxon and medieval pottery (each only one to two sherds) in a pit ([11]) at the east end of Trench 6, three pits ([6], [7] and [9]) and a posthole ([8]) at the south-west end of Trench 7, and a pit ([40]) and ditch ([41]) in Trench 1.
- 7.3 The date range of the pottery extends from the early to middle Anglo-Saxon period (the sandstone-tempered sherd in Ditch [41], which is unlikely to be later than 7th-century) to the 'high' medieval period (c. 14th century). The relatively common occurrence of Thetford Ware and local medieval coarsewares, the latter produced from around the 11th century, may indicate a peak in activity around the late Saxon/ Norman period.
- 7.4 The range of features and their apparent spatial distribution is typical of an area of Saxon and medieval settlement focused along the road frontage. Attleborough Road is an old route, present since at least the late 18th century, when the earliest detailed maps of the local landscape were produced (see Gailey 2013, figs. 2 and 3). These early maps of the landscape before enclosure reveal a highly dispersed settlement pattern, with numerous scattered farms and hamlets focused around now-lost greens and commons, and along the roads. The remains present on the site fit in well with this pattern.
- 7.5 Of particular significance is a group of structural remains in the central part of Trench 6, which includes several postholes ([23], [20], [10], [19] and [22]) associated with a surface spread of dark earth ((25)). The narrow ditches recorded in this area, particularly parallel north- to south-aligned Ditches [24] and [18], could be boundaries defining an individual house plot. No dating

evidence was found in association with any of these features but the presence of exclusively Saxon and medieval pottery in the dated features in this part of the site suggests a similar date.

- 7.6 Other postholes were present at the east end of Trench 6 and in Trench 7 (the latter including one associated with a sherd of medieval pottery), suggesting the presence of other structures.
- 7.7 The pottery and animal bone from the site indicates domestic and agricultural activity. However, the possible crucible fragment from the subsoil, and the slightly unusual composition of the environmental assemblages, suggest that other more specialised activities, possibly including metalworking and processing of hides/ bone, may also have been carried out at the site.
- 7.8 The large east-to-west-aligned boundary ditch in Trench 1 ([41]) corresponds with a cropmark ditch and bank visible on aerial photographs of the site (though no bank was observed in the subsoil during stripping, or in the baulk of the trench). The only datable find from the excavated slot was a single sherd of 5th- to 7th-century pottery recovered from the ditch's upper fill. Nevertheless, the presence of a medieval pit in close proximity adds some weight to its identification as a Saxon feature, and to the suggestion of a second focus of Saxon and medieval activity in the northern part of the site.
- 7.9 The central part of the site (Trenches 2, 3, 5 and 4, which contained one undated pit) appears not to contain any archaeological remains.

8 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1 The trial trench evaluation identified an area of Saxon and medieval settlement in the south of the site, focused along Attleborough Road and extending back from the road frontage for approximately 30-40m. A second contemporary focus of activity was found in the north of the site, in Trench 1, and includes the cropmark boundary ditch previously mapped on the site.
- 8.2 These remains are potentially of local to regional archaeological significance. Dispersed rural settlements formed a major component of the Saxon and medieval landscape of East Anglia, but, although well-known from field survey and documentary evidence, have rarely been subject to archaeological excavation using modern methods (Woolhouse forthcoming).
- 8.3 The central part of the site (Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 5) contains no significant archaeological remains.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 9.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank CgMs consulting and Orbit Homes Ltd. for commissioning the work. PCA are also grateful to James Albone of the Historic Environment Service of Norfolk County Council for monitoring the work. Figures accompanying this report were prepared by Jennifer Simonson of PCA's CAD Department. The discussion of the archaeological remains was written by Tom Woolhouse.

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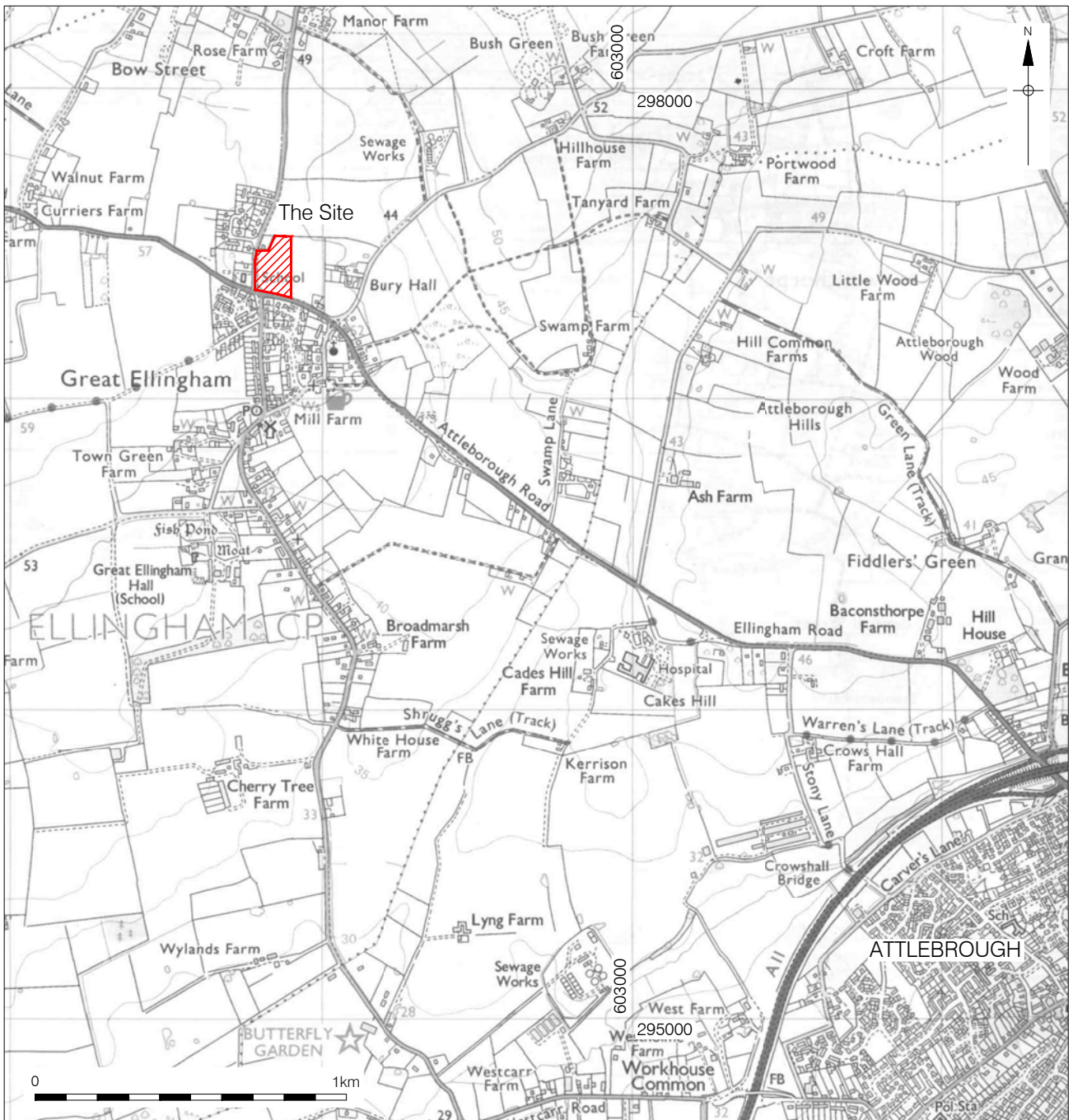
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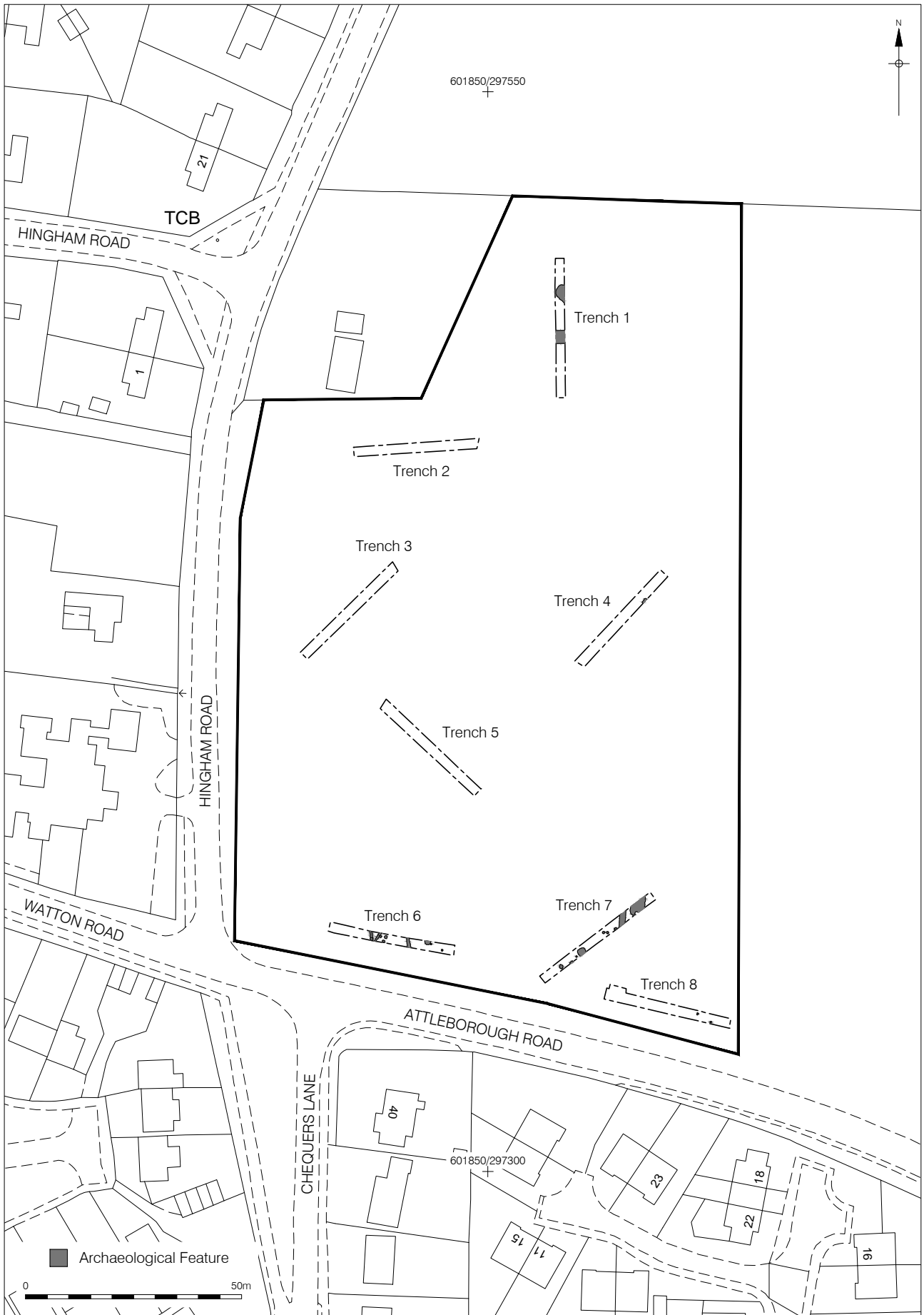
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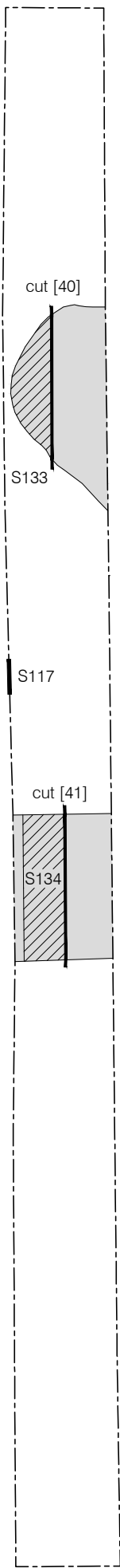



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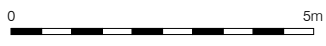
Figure 2
 Trench Location
 1:1,250 at A4



Trench 1

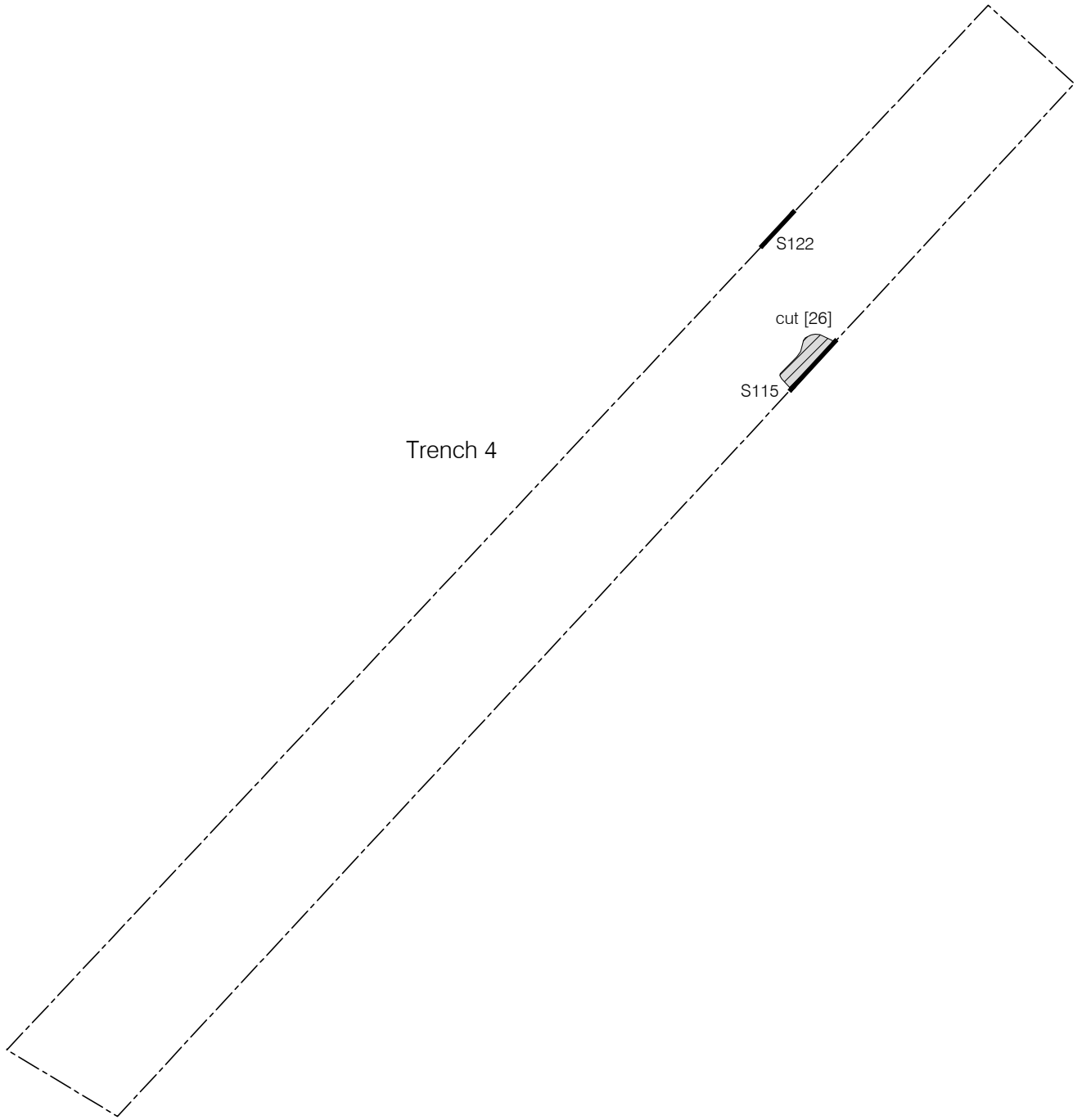


 excavated



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Figure 3
Trench 1 Plan
1:125 at A4



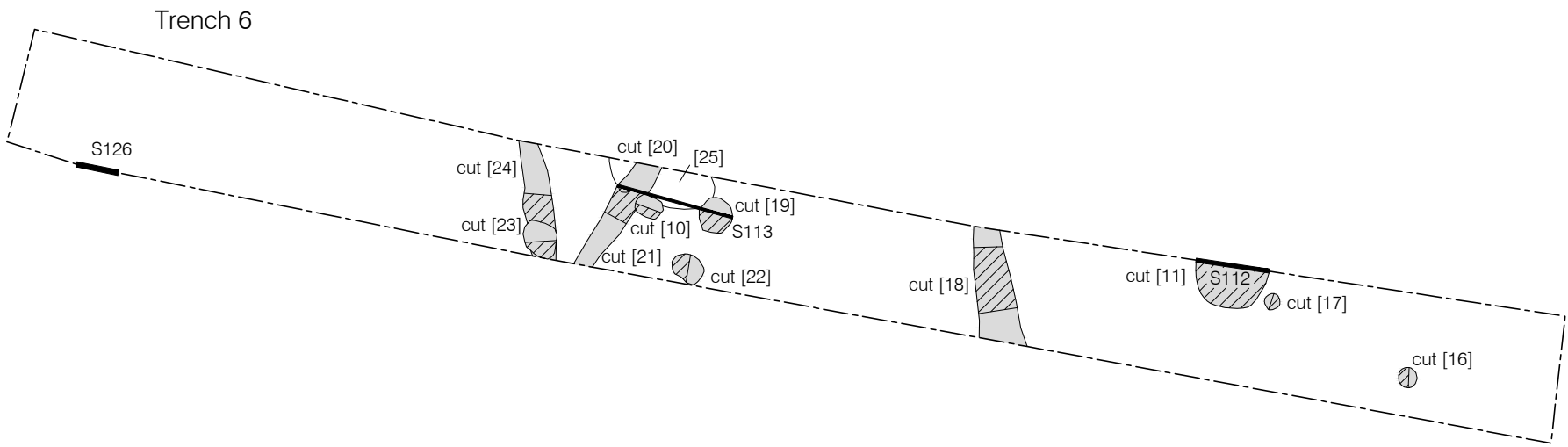
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Figure 4
Trench 4 Plan
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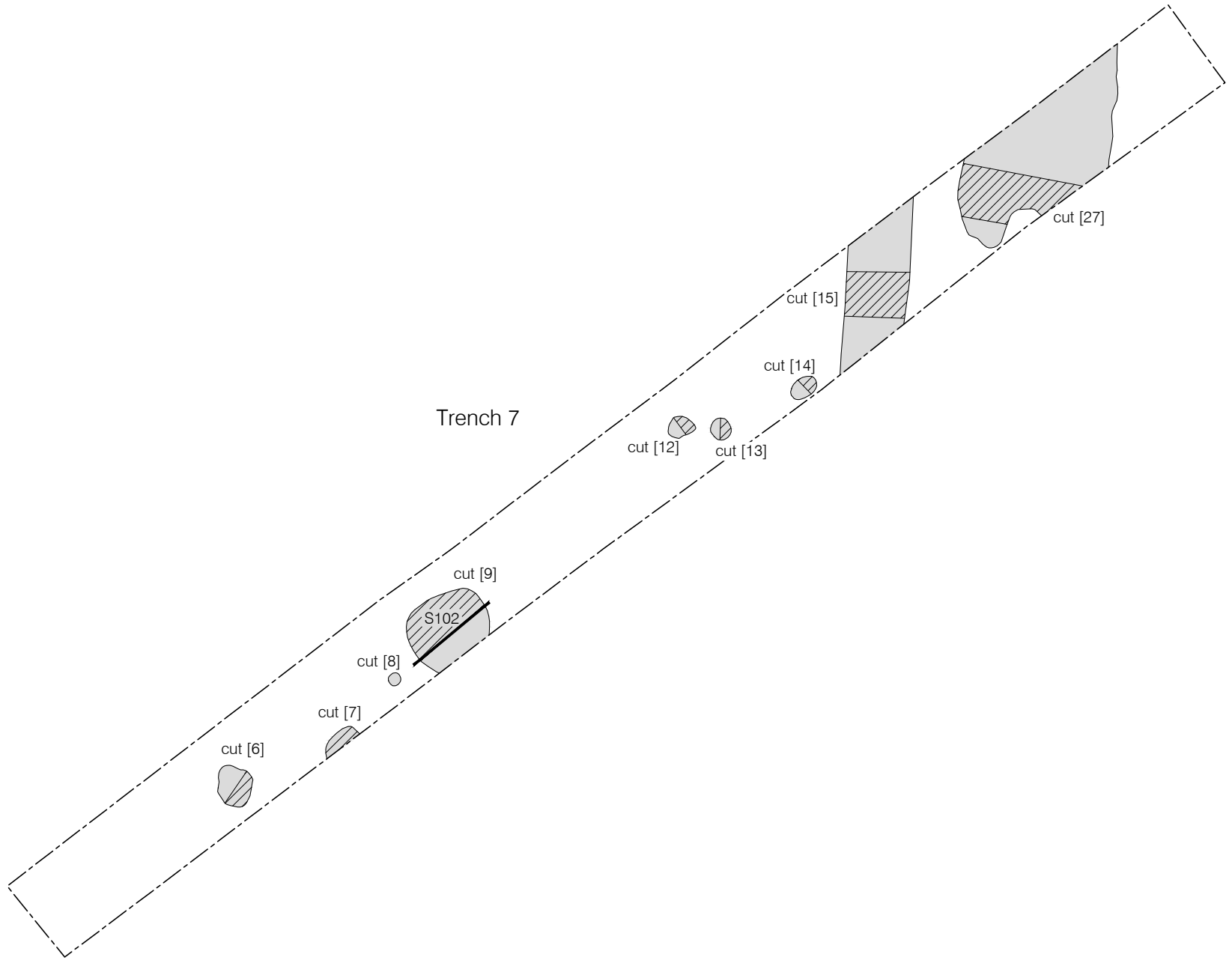


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Figure 5
Trench 6 Plan
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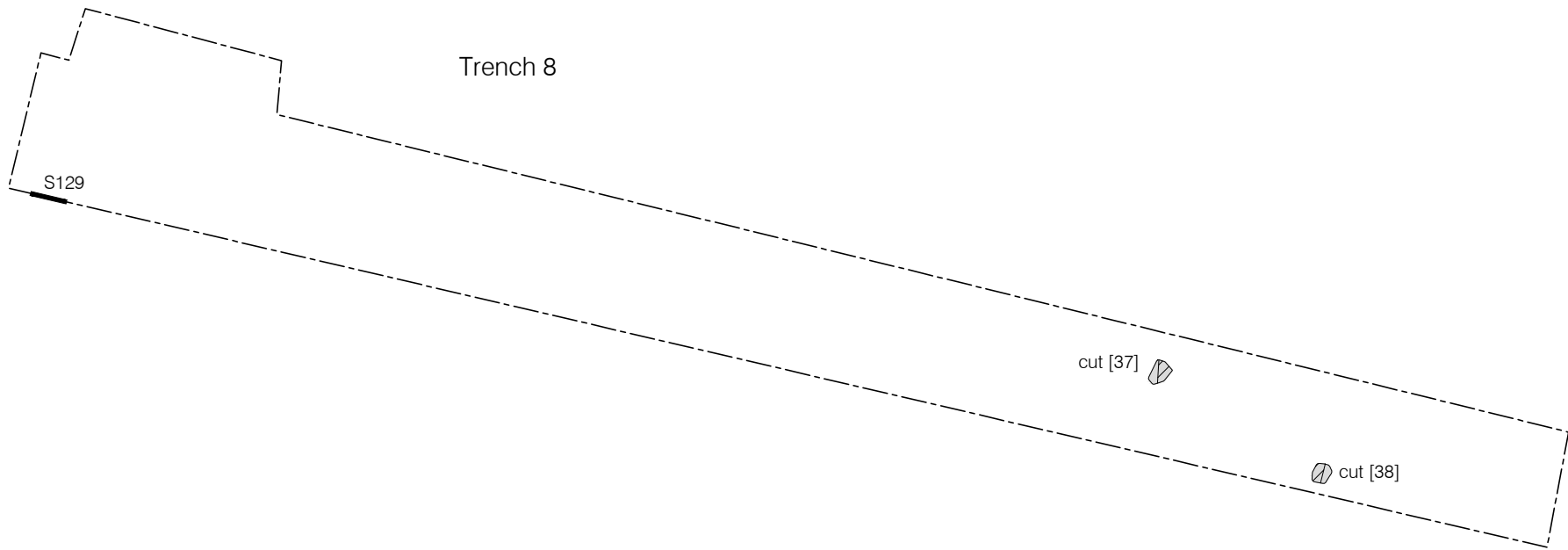
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Figure 6
Trench 7 Plan
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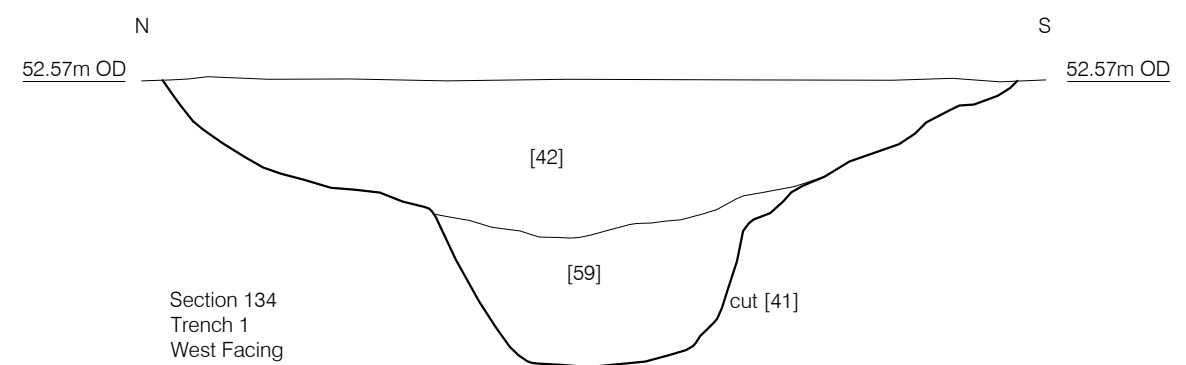
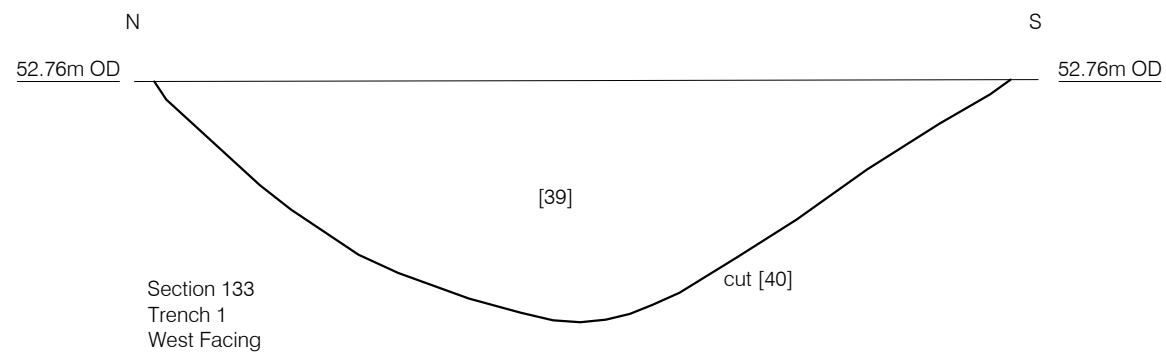
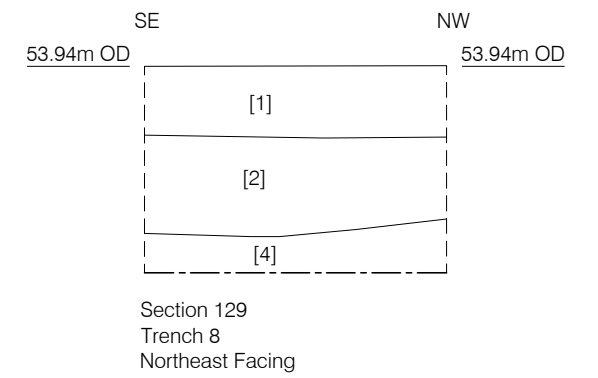
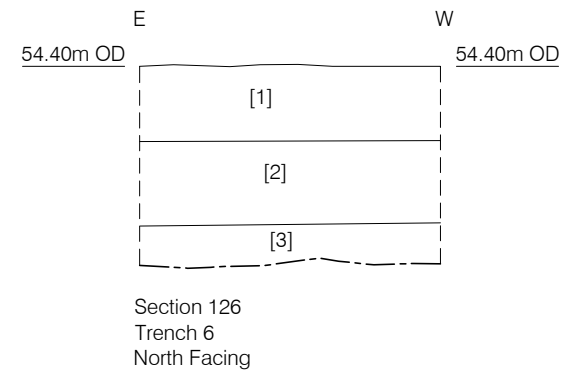
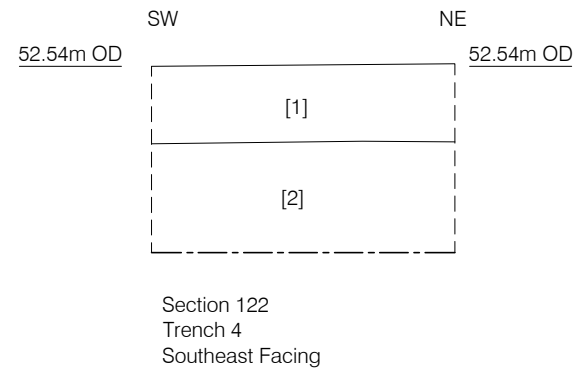
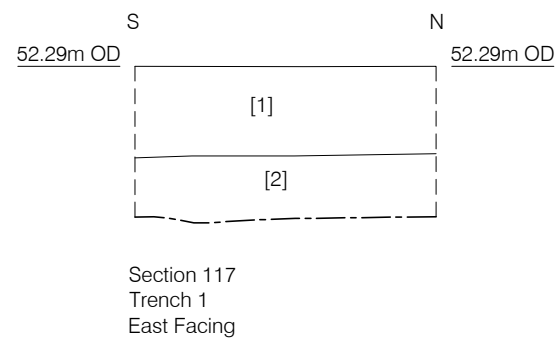
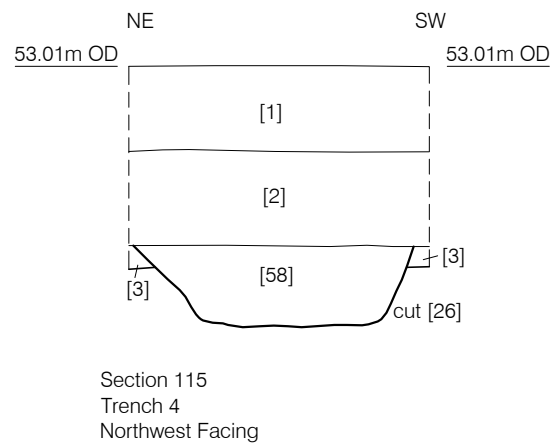
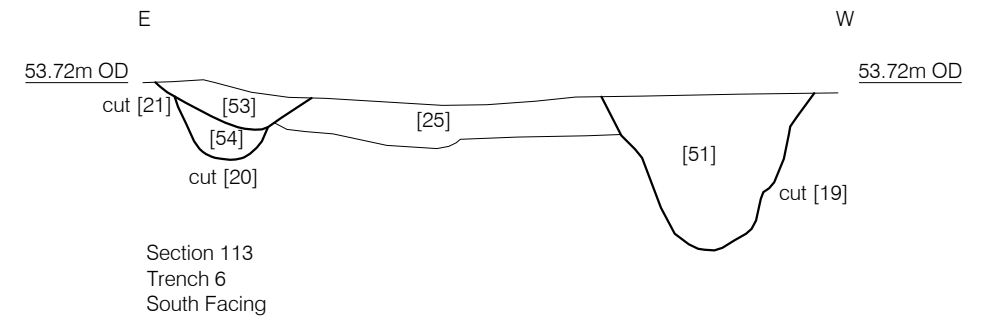
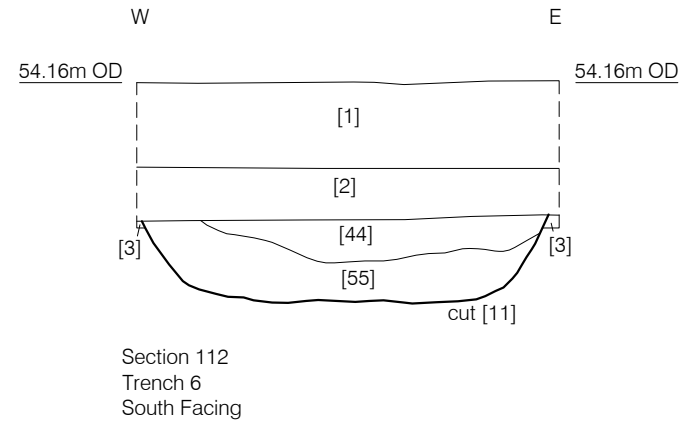
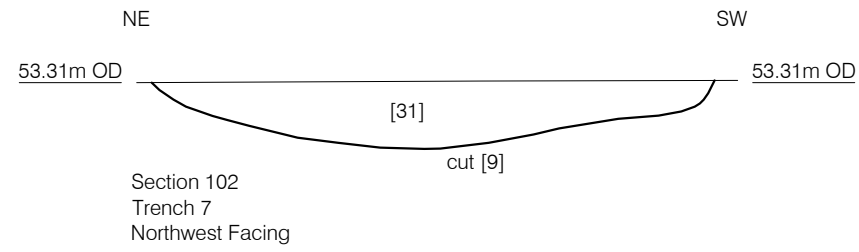


 excavated

0  5m

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Figure 7
Trench 8 Plan
1:125 at A4



11 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 7 Section 127, view south-east



Plate 2: Trench 2 Section 119, view north



Plate 3: Trench 1, view south



Plate 4: Ditch [41], Trench 1 view east

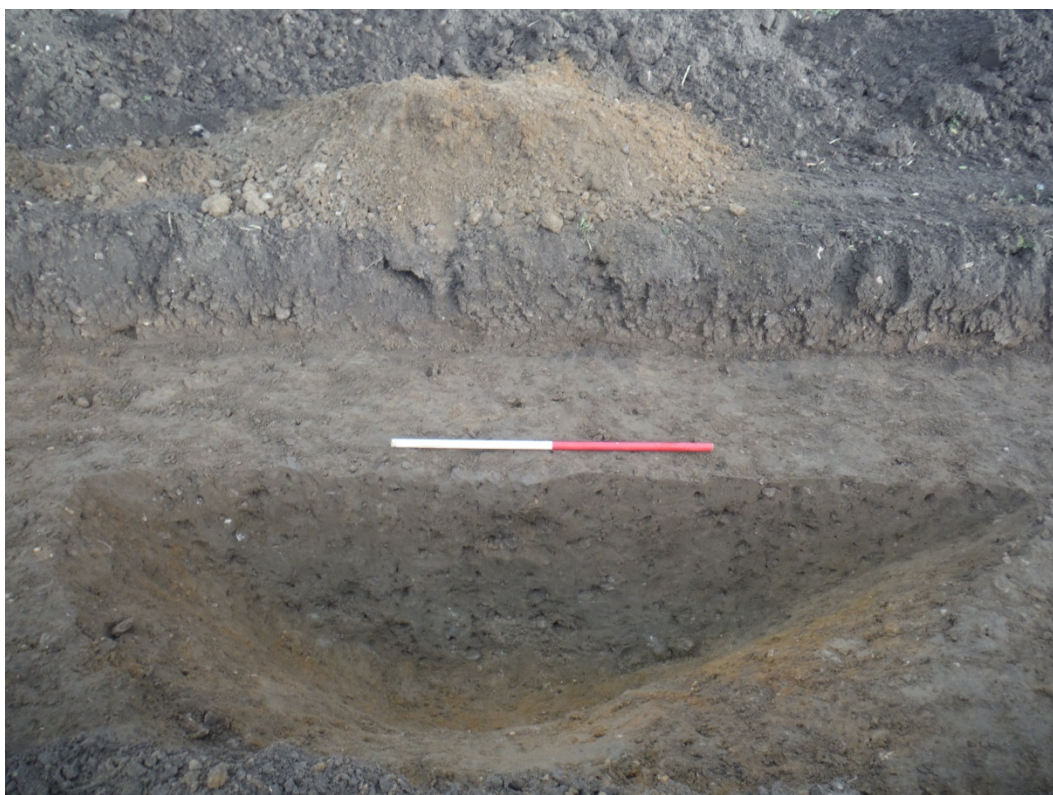


Plate 5: Pit [40], Trench 1 view east



Plate 6: Pit [26], Trench 4 view south-east



Plate 7: Trench 6, view east



Plate 8: Trench 6, Ditch [21], Pit [10] and Postholes [19] and [20] and Spread (25), view north



Plate 9: Trench 6, Posthole [23] with Ditch [24] in foreground, view south



Plate 10: Trench 6, Pit [11], view north



Plate 11: Trench 7, view south-west



Plate 12: Trench 7, Ditch [15], view south-east



Plate 13: Trench 7, Pit [9], view south-east



Plate 14: Trench 8, view south-east

12 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context Number	Trench	Cut	Type	Category	Period	Plan	Section
1	12345678		Layer	Topsoil			
2	12345678		Layer	Subsoil			
3	12345678		Layer	Natural			
4	12345678		Layer	Subsoil			
5	12345678		Layer	Subsoil			
6	7	6	Cut	Pit	Saxon	2	100
7	7	7	Cut	Pit	Saxon	2	101
8	7	8	Cut	Posthole	medieval	2	
9	7	9	Cut	Pit	Saxon	2	102
10	6	10	Cut	Pit	Undated		114
11	6	11	Cut	Pit	Saxon		112
12	7	12	Cut	Posthole	Undated	2	103
13	7	13	Cut	Posthole	Undated	2	104
14	7	14	Cut	Pit	Undated	2	105
15	7	15	Cut	Ditch	Undated	2	106
16	6	16	Cut	Posthole	Undated	2	107
17	6	17	Cut	Posthole	Undated	2	108
18	7	18	Cut	Ditch	Undated	2	109
19	6	19	Cut	Posthole	Undated	2	113
20	6	20	Cut	Posthole	Undated		113
21	6	21	Cut	Ditch	Undated		113
22	6	22	Cut	Posthole	Undated		110
23	6	23	Cut	Posthole	Undated		111
24	6	24	Cut	Ditch	Undated		
25	6	25	Layer	Spread	Undated		113
26	4	26	Cut	Pit	Undated		115
27	7	27	Cut	Treehollow	Undated	2	
28	7	6	Fill	Pit	Saxon	2	100
29	7	7	Fill	Pit	Saxon	2	101
30	7	8	Fill	Posthole	medieval	2	
31	7	9	Fill	Pit	Saxon	2	102
32	7	12	Fill	Posthole	Undated	2	103
33	7	13	Fill	Posthole	Undated	2	104
34	7	14	Fill	Pit	Undated	2	105
35	7	15	Fill	Ditch	Undated	2	106
36	7	27	Fill	Treehollow	Undated	2	
37	8	37	Cut	Posthole	Undated		131
38	8	38	Cut	Posthole	Undated		132
39	1	40	Fill	Pit	medieval	2	133
40	1	40	Cut	Pit	medieval	2	133
41	1	41	Cut	Ditch	Saxon?	1	134
42	1	41	Fill	Ditch	Saxon	1	134

43	6	10	Fill	Posthole	Undated		114
44	6	11	Fill	Pit	Saxon		112
45	6	16	Fill	Posthole	Undated		107
46	6	17	Fill	Posthole	Undated		108
47	6	18	Fill	Ditch	Undated		109
48	6	22	Fill	Posthole	Undated		110
49	6	23	Fill	Posthole	Undated		111
50	6	11	Fill	Pit	Saxon		112
51	6	19	Fill	Posthole	Undated		113
52	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID	VOID
53	6	21	Fill	Ditch	Undated		113
54	6	20	Fill	Posthole	Undated		113
55	6	10	Fill	Posthole	Undated		114
56	8	37	Fill	Posthole	Undated		131
57	8	38	Fill	Posthole	Undated		132
58	4	26	Fill	Pit	Undated		115
59	1	41	Fill	Ditch	Saxon?	1	134
60	6	24	Fill	Ditch	Undated		

13 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

13.1 OASIS ID: preconst1-192736

Project details

Project name	Land at Ellingham Green, Great Ellingham, Norfolk: An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation
Short description of the project	This report describes the results of an eight-trench archaeological evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology at Ellingham Green, Great Ellingham, Norfolk (NGR TM 01899741) on the 3rd to the 5th of November 2014. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Orbit Homes Ltd. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the site. The evaluation identified a number of Saxon and medieval pits and postholes suggestive of a phase of settlement located within the southern part of the site area. A number of ditches were also identified in the southern part of the site area, which may represent the beginning of settlement edge field systems and boundary marking. This activity was mainly focused on the southern part of the site, near to Attleborough Road, however towards the north a large east to west running ditch was uncovered, in a location correlating with previously identified cropmarks. This may represent the beginning of larger scale field system divisions further from the posited area of Saxon and medieval settlement.
Project dates	Start: 03-11-2014 End: 05-11-2014
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	ENF135249 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	DITCH Saxon and Medieval
Monument type	PIT Saxon and Medieval
Monument type	POSTHOLE Saxon and Medieval

Significant Finds ANIMAL BONE Saxon and Medieval

Significant Finds POTTERY Saxon and Medieval

Significant Finds LAVASTONE Saxon and Medieval

Project location

Country England

Site location NORFOLK BRECKLAND GREAT ELLINGHAM Land at Ellingham Green,
Great Ellingham, Norfolk

Postcode NR17 1HY

Study area 4.14 Hectares

Site coordinates TM 0189 9741 52.5366077621 0.977200332708 52 32 11 N 000 58 37 E
Point

Height OD / Min: 0.42m Max: 0.60m
Depth

Project creators

Name of Organisation PCA

Project brief Norfolk County Council
originator

Project design Mark Hinman
originator

Project Mark Hinman
director/manager

Project supervisor Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne

Type of Developer
sponsor/funding
body

Name of Orbit Homes Ltd.
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
recipient

Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"

Digital Archive Norfolk Museum and Archaeology Service
recipient

Digital Media "Database","Images raster / digital
available photography","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"

Paper Archive Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
recipient

Paper Media "Context sheet","Map","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "
available

Entered by Mark Hinman (mhinman@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 11 November 2014

14 APPENDIX 4: ENVIRONMENTAL TABLE

Sample No.	300	301	302	303
Context No.	031	039	043	044
Feature No.	009	040	010	011
Feature type	Pit	Pit	Pit	Pit
Cereals				
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)	x		x	
<i>H. vulgare</i> L. (asymmetrical lateral grain)				x
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)	x		x	
Cereal indet. (grains)		x	x	x
Herbs				
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> L.			x	
Chenopodiaceae indet.			x	
Fabaceae indet.	x		x	x
<i>Linum usitatissimum</i> L.				x
Small Poaceae indet.			x	
Large Poaceae indet.	x			
<i>Rumex acetosella</i> L.			x	
Wetland plants				
<i>Eleocharis</i> sp.	x			
Tree/shrub macrofossils				
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	x			
<i>Crateagus</i> sp.			x	
Other plant macrofossils				
Charcoal <2mm	xxxx	xxx	xxxx	xxx
Charcoal >2mm	xxx	xxx	xxxx	xx
Charcoal >5mm	xx	xx	xxxx	x
Charcoal >10mm			xx	
Charred root/stem				x
Ericaceae indet. (stem)				x
Indet. seeds			x	
Other remains				
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	x		x
Bone	xxxx xb	xxx xb	x	xb
Burnt/fired clay	x	x	x	x
Burnt stone	x		x	
Small coal frags	x	x		
Small mammal/amphibian bone		x		

White mineral concretions			x	
Mollusc shells				
Open country species				
<i>Vallonia</i> sp.		xx		
<i>V. costata</i>	x			
Catholic species				
<i>Trichia hispida</i> group		x		
Marsh/freshwater slum species				
<i>Lymnaea</i> sp.		x		
<i>Succinea</i> sp.		x		
Sample volume (litres)	20	20	20	20
Volume of flot (litres)	0.1	<0.1	0.4	0.2
% flot sorted	100%	100%	25%	50%

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 - 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens
 b = burnt

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