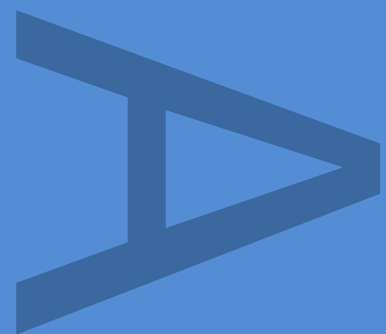


Land adjacent to Roundhouse
Way and Colney Lane,
Cringleford, Norfolk: An
Archaeological Evaluation

April 2016



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LAND ADJACENT TO ROUNDHOUSE WAY AND COLNEY LANE, CRINGLEFORD, NORFOLK

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Control

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	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Jonathan House		April 2016
Graphics Prepared by:	Jennifer Simonson		April 2016
Graphics Checked by:	Josephine Brown	<i>Josephine Brown</i>	April 2016
Project Manager Sign-off:	Shannon Hogan	<i>Shannon Hogan</i>	April 2016

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Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
The Granary
Rectory Farm
Brewery Road
Pampisford
Cambridgeshire
CB22 3EN

Land adjacent to Roundhouse Way and Colney Lane, Cringleford, Norfolk:

An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

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Written and researched by: Jonathan House
Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Project Manager: Shannon Hogan

Commissioning Client: CgMs Consulting

Contractor: Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Central Office
The Granary
Rectory Farm
Brewery Road
Pampisford
Cambridgeshire
CB22 3EN

Tel: 01223 845522

E-mail: mhinman@pre-construct.com

Website: www.pre-construct.com

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ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land between Roundhouse Way and Colney Lane, Cringleford, Norfolk (NGR TG 1899 0670) between the 4th and 8th April 2016. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs in advance of residential redevelopment of the site. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

The evaluation identified settlement remains dating to the Early Iron Age. Several ditches indicating potential enclosures and fields were revealed. Pits were seen across the area possibly in small clusters; a number of the pits contained relatively large assemblages of pottery within dark, charcoal-rich fills indicating proximity to and debris from contemporary occupation. The presence of some fine wares and a regionally rare hematite coated vessel suggests a potential high status element to the site through the pottery assemblage. A single sherd of Neolithic pot from a tree throw may represent an earlier presence on the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at Cantley Lane, Cringleford, Norfolk, NR4 7SF (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TG 1917 0561) between the 4th and 8th April 2016 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting in advance of residential redevelopment of the site.
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Shannon Hogan of PCA (Hogan 2016).
- 1.4 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition and quality of any archaeological remains on the site, to assess the significance of any such remains in a local, regional, or national context, as appropriate, and to assess the potential impact of the development proposals on the site's archaeology.
- 1.5 A total of eight 30m trial trenches were excavated and recorded. Remains of Early Iron Age settlement were revealed consistently across the site.
- 1.6 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 Norwich Castle Museum.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

2.1.1 The bedrock geology of the proposed development area is recorded as chalk, characterised as the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk Formation and Culver Chalk Forma. These sedimentary rock formations were formed approximately 71 to 94 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period. The superficial geology of the area comprises sands and gravels of the Sheringham Cliffs Formation, deposited by seasonal and post glacial meltwaters (www.bgs.ac.uk).

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The development area comprises a small triangular plot of land of approximately 1.0ha and is bordered by Colney Lane to the north, Round House Way to the west and with residential dwellings to the east. The site slopes gently from 27.5m AOD at its southern extremity to 24.8m AOD at the northernmost point.

2.2.2 The development area is located within Cringleford, immediately southwest of Norwich. The site was formerly occupied by Cringleford Church of England First and Middle School but is now vacant.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 General

3.1.1 The archaeological background has been taken from the brief (Albone 2015) and a search of the Norfolk HER (NHER).

3.2 Prehistoric

3.2.1 An evaluation in 2004 of the field to the west of the site revealed prehistoric flint artefacts and undated ditches, pits and postholes (NHER 40940). The flints included a later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age polished flint axe.

3.2.2 Prehistoric features and flint artefacts have been found to the north of the site, on the northern side of the A11 (NHER 36243, 40130, 40136). A possible Bronze Age round barrow is visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs of the fields to the north-west of the site, adjacent to the A47 (NHER 9395).

3.3 Roman

3.3.1 The proposed development area is situated just north of where a Roman cremation burial was discovered in 1930 (NHER 9364). Finds including pottery and oyster shells were found within this field and are thought to be of Roman date and it is likely this material relates to a settlement site in the immediately vicinity. The location of the development area and the field containing Roman finds is immediately adjacent to the projected route of a Roman road leading north-westwards from the Roman town at Caistor St Edmund (Venta Icenorum).

3.4 Anglo-Saxon

3.4.1 Saxon metalwork has been found in Cringleford parish, including a Middle Saxon brooch and a Late Saxon disc brooch and strap end (NHER 31627, 49817).

3.5 Medieval

3.5.1 St. Peter's Church lies to the north-east of the site. The nave and chancel date to the 11th century, with additions in the 13th and 14th centuries (NHER 9369). The site of the medieval manor house is believed to be to the west of

the church (NHER 15914). Medieval pottery and metalwork has also been found in Cringleford.

3.6 Post-Medieval

- 3.6.1 Within the present development site, there are 19th century former school buildings and a school house. Although these have not been designated as heritage assets in their own right, these structures contribute to the significance of the Cringleford Conservation Area.
- 3.6.2 Cringleford Hall was built as a relatively small timber framed house during the 16th or 17th centuries to the south-east of the site (NHER 11610). It had major additions during the 17th and 18th centuries.
- 3.6.3 Cringleford Bridge was built in 1520 and lies to the north-east of the site (NHER 9370). A timber bridge on the site was destroyed by floods in 1519.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Excavation and Sampling

- 4.1.1 A total of 240m of linear trenching was opened using a mechanical excavator. This equates to approximately 5% of the 1.0ha site.
- 4.1.2 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 6-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 and hoe as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools. Overburden deposits were set aside beside each trench and examined visually and with a metal-detector for finds retrieval.
- 4.1.3 Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil and subsoil stripping and throughout the excavation process. Archaeological features and spoilheaps were scanned by metal-detector as they were encountered/ created.
- 4.1.4 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I) by Joanna Taylor and Gary Brown (2009).
- 4.1.5 All features were investigated and recorded in order to properly understand the date and nature of the archaeological remains on the site and to recover sufficient finds assemblages to assess the chronological development and socio-economic character of the site over time.
- 4.1.6 Discrete features were at least 50% excavated. Many of the pits were 100% excavated given the significance of their finds assemblages.

4.2 Recording Methodology

- 4.2.1 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.

- 4.2.2 Section drawings of archaeological features and deposits were drawn at an appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20 or 1:50).
- 4.2.3 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.
- 4.2.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process. Digital and black and white photographs were taken of archaeological features and deposits.
- 4.2.5 Artefacts and ecofacts were collected by hand and assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from the site (ClfA 2001; Walker 1990; Watkinson 1981).

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The trenches are described below in numerical order, with technical data tabulated. Archaeological features and deposits were sealed by the subsoil, unless otherwise stated. Features and deposits are described from west to east or south to north depending on the alignment of the trench.

5.1.2 The evaluation identified remains of Early-Middle Iron Age settlement, located consistently throughout the site.

5.2 Trench 1

5.2.1 Feature [105] was located at the western end of the trench, the feature was interpreted as a tree throw. The feature was oval in plan (>1.4m long x 1.3m wide x 0.22m deep), with steep sides and an uneven base. It contained a single fill (106), a light reddish brown, silty sand. No finds were present within the fill.

5.2.2 A pit was located close to the eastern end of the trench (see Plate 1), Pit [103] appeared to be circular in plan, but extended beyond northern edge of the trench. It measured 1.1m wide and 0.35m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (104), a dark brownish grey, silty sand. The pit contained a large amount of pottery sherds, representing at least nine vessels; the pottery was dated as Early Iron Age.

TRENCH 1	Figure 2-3		Plate 1	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 30m	Level of Natural (m OD): 25.52-25.63		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		W End	E End	
Topsoil	100	0.3	0.25	
Subsoil	101	0.15	0.1	
Natural	102	0.45+	0.35+	
Summary				
Trench 1 was located in the northern corner of the development area, the trench contained two features, a tree throw and a single pit.				

5.3 Trench 2

5.3.1 A large ditch was located centrally within the trench aligned east to west. Ditch [119] was linear in plan with a wide and shallow profile. It measured 4.9m wide and 0.65m deep, and had concave sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (120) of mid greyish brown, silty sand. No finds were recovered from the deposit.

5.3.2 A second ditch [117] was located to the north of Ditch [119], the ditch followed the same east to west alignment. It measured 0.78m wide and 0.27m deep, with steep sides and an uneven base. It contained a single fill (118), of mid greyish brown, silty clay. Two sherds of Early Iron Age pottery were recovered from this feature.

TRENCH 2	Figure 2-3	Plate n/a	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 30m	Level of Natural (m OD): 25.42-25.88	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		N End	S End
Topsoil	100	0.32	0.38
Subsoil	101	0.12	0.16
Natural	102	0.44+	0.54+
Summary			
Trench 2 was located in the northern corner of the development area immediately to the south of Trench 1. The trench contained two ditches.			

5.4 Trench 3

5.4.1 The trench contained three pits, the pits were located at the western end of the trench. Pit [125] was oval in plan with steep sides and a flat base (0.8m long x 0.6m wide x 0.23m deep). It contained a single fill (126) of mid greyish brown, silty sand, and contained no finds. A second pit [121] (see Plates 3 and 4) was located immediately to the east of Pit [125]. Pit [121] was oval in plan with steep sides and a flat base (1.2m long x 1.1m wide x 0.4m deep). It contained a two fills, the basal fill (122) was a dark brownish grey, silty sand, with a high frequency of charcoal flecks; the deposit contained 70 sherds (1639g) of Early Iron Age pottery. The upper fill (134) was a mid greyish

brown, silty sand which contained no finds. The final pit within the trench, Pit [123] was also oval in plan with moderate concave sides and a rounded base (0.9m long x 0.7m wide x 0.22m deep.) It had single fill (124) of mid greyish brown, silty sand, containing 6 sherds (105g) of Early Iron Age pottery.

TRENCH 3	Figure 2-4		Plate 3-4	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 30m	Level of Natural (m OD): 25.89-25.94		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		W End	E End	
Topsoil	100	0.32	0.31	
Subsoil	101	0.23	0.21	
Natural	102	0.55+	0.52+	
Summary				
Trench 3 was located centrally within the development area immediately to the south of Trench 2. The trench contained three pits.				

5.5 Trench 4

5.5.1 Three features were clustered in the central part of the trench. Pit [127] was seen to be cutting a ditch feature (see Plate 2; Section 16; Fig. 7). The pit was oval in plan although partially beyond the eastern edge of the trench, the feature had straight moderate sides and a flat base (>1.5m long x >1.2m wide x 0.42m deep) It contained two fills, the basal fill (129) was a mid brownish yellow, clayey sand. Finds from this deposit included 49 sherds (305g) of Early Iron Age pottery. The upper fill (128) was a mid greyish brown, sandy silt, which also contained pottery of Early Iron Age date (41 sherds, 189g). An unusual pottery type was recovered from Pit [127] the pottery was a fineware vessel (6 sherds; 94g) with a haematite coated/red-finished surface (see Brudenell, this report 6.1.5).

5.5.2 Ditch [143], cut by Pit [127], was not excavated. The ditch measured 0.56m wide, aligned north-west to south-east. It contained a mid yellowish brown, sandy silt fill (144).

5.5.3 The final feature was a small pit [145]. The pit was circular in plan with

shallow concave sides and a rounded base (0.65m wide x 0.14m deep). It had a single fill (146), mid yellowish brown, silty clay. No finds were recovered from the deposit.

TRENCH 4	Figure 2-4	Plate 2	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 30m	Level of Natural (m OD): 25.96-26.39	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		N End	S End
Topsoil	100	0.36	0.35
Subsoil	101	0.11	0.16
Natural	102	0.47+	0.51+
Summary			
Trench 4 was located centrally within the development area immediately to the south of Trench 3. The trench contained three features- a ditch and two pits.			

5.6 Trench 5

- 5.6.1 The trench contained five features four of which were located at the western end of the trench. A Ditch Terminus [135] was excavated at the western end of the trench. The ditch measured 0.35m in width, although it was significantly wider at the ditch terminus (0.8m wide). The feature was shallow measuring 0.08m in depth, aligned north-west to south-east. It contained a single fill (136) of mid yellowish brown, clayey silt. No finds were present within the deposit. A second ditch [137], located immediately to the east of Ditch Terminus [135], measuring 0.78m in width and 0.14m in depth and was aligned north-northeast to south-southwest. It contained a single fill (138) of mid yellowish brown, silty sand. No finds were recovered from the deposit.
- 5.6.2 Pit [139] appeared circular in plan, although extending beyond the northern edge of the trench. The pit had moderate concave sides and a rounded base, measuring 1.7m wide and 0.33m deep. It had a single fill (140) of mid yellowish brown, silty sand. The deposit contained a single sherd of Early Iron pottery. A second pit [141] was located close to Pit [139], it also appeared circular in plan although extending beyond the southern trench edge. The feature had shallow concave sides and a flat base (1.12m wide x 0.24m deep). It contained a single fill (142) a light yellowish brown, silty

sand. No finds were present within the deposit.

- 5.6.3 A large pit [147] was located centrally within the trench, the pit measured 4.9m in width and extended beyond the trench edges. The pit was not excavated, however a sherd of Early Iron Age pottery was recovered from the surface.

TRENCH 5		Figure 2-5		Plate n/a	
Trench Alignment: E-W		Length: 30m		Level of Natural (m OD): 26.34-26.42	
Deposit		Context No.		Average Depth (m)	
				W End	E End
Topsoil		100		0.34	0.34
Subsoil		101		0.21	0.25
Natural		102		0.55+	0.59+
Summary					
Trench 5 was located centrally within the development area immediately to the south of Trench 4. The trench contained five features- two ditches and three pits.					

5.7 Trench 6

- 5.7.1 Ditch [107] was located at the southern end of the trench and aligned north-west to south-east, measuring 0.28m wide and 0.07m deep. It contained a single fill (108) of mid reddish brown, clayey sand. No finds were present within the deposit.
- 5.7.2 To the north of the ditch was a tree throw [109], the feature was amorphous in plan, with irregular sides and an undulating base (0.85m long x 0.75m wide x 0.11m deep). It contained a single fill (110) a light reddish brown, clayey sand. A single sherd of Neolithic pottery was present within the deposit.
- 5.7.3 Ditch Terminus [111] shared the same north-west to south-east alignment as Ditch [107]. The ditch measured 0.62m wide and 0.18m deep with a single fill (112) of mid reddish brown, clayey sand. No finds were present within the deposit. A further Ditch [113] was located to the north following the same north-west to south-east alignment. The ditch contained a single fill (114) of mid greyish brown, silty sand. No finds were present within the deposit.

5.7.4 Close to Ditch [113], on the southern side, was Pit [115]. The pit was oval in plan, with steep concave sides and a rounded base (0.31m long x 0.22m wide x 0.14m deep). It contained a single fill (116) of mid greyish brown, sandy silt. No finds were recovered from the deposit.

TRENCH 6	Figure 2-5		Plate n/a	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 30m	Level of Natural (m OD): 26.61-26.71		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		N End	S End	
Topsoil	100	0.22	0.34	
Subsoil	101	0.13	0.14	
Natural	102	0.35+	0.48+	
Summary				
Trench 6 was located in the southern corner of the development area immediately to the south of Trench 5. The trench contained five features, two ditches, a ditch terminus, a pit and a tree throw.				

5.8 Trench 7

5.8.1 The trench contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits.

TRENCH 7	Figure 2-6		Plate n/a	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 30m	Level of Natural (m OD): 24.82-25.34		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		N End	S End	
Topsoil	100	0.39	0.33	
Subsoil	101	0.1	0.13	
Natural	102	0.49+	0.46+	
Summary				
Trench 7 was located in the eastern corner of the development area to the north of Trench 8. The trench contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits.				

5.9 Trench 8

5.9.1 Pit [130] appeared oval or elongated in plan, extending beyond the southern edge of the trench. The pit had moderate concave sides and a rounded base (1.75m wide x 0.5m deep). It contained a single fill (131) of mid greyish brown, silty sand. No finds were recovered from the deposit.

5.9.2 Ditch [132] aligned north-northeast to south-southwest, measuring 0.9m in width and 0.4m deep. It contained a single fill (133) a light greyish brown, silty sand. No finds were recovered from the deposit.

TRENCH 8	Figure 2-6	Plate n/a	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 30m	Level of Natural (m OD): 25.31-25.73	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		W End	E End
Topsoil	100	0.32	0.4
Subsoil	101	0.12	0.12
Natural	102	0.44+	0.52+
Summary			
Trench 8 was located on the eastern side of the development area to the south of Trench 7. The trench contained a ditch and a pit.			

6 FINDS

6.1 Flints

By Barry Bishop

Introduction

6.1.1 The archaeological excavations at Cringleford resulted in the recovery of small quantities of struck flint, unworked burnt flint and possible stone pounders. The pieces have all been individually catalogued and this includes details of their contextual origins, raw material and condition, and where possible a suggested date of manufacture. This report summarises the information contained in the catalogue and assesses the assemblage's archaeological significance and its potential to contribute to the further understanding of the nature and chronology of activity at the site. All metrical descriptions follow the methodology established by Saville (1980).

Quantification and Distribution

Feature	Context	Decortication flake	Flake	Flake fragment	Prismatic blade	Blade-like flake	Core	Shattered cobble	Retouched implement	Flake from hammerstone / poulder	Total Struck	Stone poulder	Burnt stone (no. >15mm)	Burnt stone (total wt:g)
Pit 103	104	1	6								7		2	57
Ditch 117	118		1		1						2			
Pit 121	122	2	2			1	2		3	1	11	1		
Pit 123	124											1		
Pit 127	128	4	9	3				5	1		22	1	1	23
Pit 127	129	2	9	2			1	3			17		1	51

Table 1: Quantification of Lithic Material from Cringleford

6.1.2 A total of 59 pieces of struck flint, four pieces of unworked burnt stone and three sandstone implements were recovered from an undated ditch and four pits that have been provisionally dated to the later Iron Age (Table 1).

Unworked Burnt Flint

6.1.3 The four fragments of unworked burnt stone comprise two fragments of

sandstone recovered from Pit [103] and two fragments of flint from Pit [127]. All had all been intensively heated to the extent they had heat-fractured and changed colour, the flint having become grey white and the sandstone a black tinged red. They are indicative of hearth use at the site but are otherwise undateable.

Struck flint

- 6.1.4 The struck flint was all made from a fine-grained translucent flint that varies in colour from light brown to dark grey and is frequently mottled with lighter, opaque, inclusions. Remnant cortex is mostly rough but weathered and abraded, and thermal scars are common, indicating that the raw materials consisted of thermally (frost) fractured nodular fragments such as can be found in the local glacial tills.
- 6.1.5 A small number of the struck flints indicate early activity at the site. The most notable of these was recovered from Pit [127] and comprises an obliquely truncated microlith that has bifacial basal retouch and ancillary light retouch accentuating its tip. These are characteristic of 'Honey Hill' type assemblages and appear to represent a Midlands and East Anglian variant of the 'Horsham' industries (e.g. Saville 1981a; 1981b). There are few dates available for industries containing these broad, basally retouched points in Britain, although those that are available all fall within the eighth or very early seventh millennium cal BC (Barton and Roberts 2004). A few other pieces, including a scattering of blades, blade-like flakes and other systematically produced flakes, can be dated to the Mesolithic or Neolithic and are also suggestive of early activity at the site.
- 6.1.6 The majority of pieces, however, are the product of a very simple flake and core industry that is characteristic of later prehistoric industries, particularly those dating to the later second and first millennium BC (Ballin 2002; Herne 1991; Humphrey 2003; Young and Humphrey 1999). The flakes are mostly broad and short and often have wide, markedly obtuse, striking platforms, being comparable to Martingell's 'squat' flakes (1990; 2003). An exclusive use of hard hammer percussors is indicated by the frequency of pronounced bulbs of percussion and visible and sometimes multiple points of percussion.

Many have badly detached due to an inappropriate use of forced or bad striking angles. A high proportion of the flakes have cortex covering over half of the dorsal surfaces and nearly all retain some cortex, indicative of short knapping sequences.

- 6.1.7 Three cores were recovered, two from Pit [121] and the other from Pit [127]. They comprise two minimally worked examples and one elongated nodule that had been worked 'keel' style at both ends. All were casually and opportunistically reduced and display no evidence for either pre-shaping or attempts at rejuvenation. Pit [127] also contained several angular fragments that have mostly fractured along pre-existing thermal flaws and which may represent 'tested' cobbles that disintegrated whilst being worked.
- 6.1.8 The remaining three retouched implements from the site are also typical of later prehistoric industries. Interestingly, all of these were recovered from Pit [121] suggesting that these represent a discarded 'tool-kit'. They comprise two broad flakes that have sporadic steep blunting along parts of their margins and are most comparable to crude scraping type tools, and a large flake with a series of notches or coarse denticulations cut inversely into its distal end.

Implements of other stone

- 6.1.9 Three oval or spherical rounded cobbles were recovered from the pits. Two of these are made from hard siliceous sandstone and have light traces of abrasion around parts of their perimeters, raising the possibility that they may have been used as grinders or pounders, although any such use was not intensive. The other piece comprises a spherical white quartzite cobble that has extensive chattermarking over most of its surface suggesting intensive use as a pounding or crushing implement, although it must have been used 'lightly' as it would probably have disintegrated if struck with any force. One of the flint flakes from Pit [121] also has intensive battering on part of its dorsal surface and appears to have been struck, possibly unintentionally, from a flint hammerstone or pounder.

Discussion and Significance

6.1.10 The flintwork indicates prehistoric activity at the site over a long period, from at least the middle of the Mesolithic. The bulk of it, however, can be dated to the later prehistoric period and was recovered from three pits that have been dated to the Iron Age. Whilst the assemblages from these features include a few earlier and presumably residually deposited pieces, the majority are in a good sharp condition and, although no refits could be made, similarities in the raw materials suggest that the contents of each pit came from a limited number of knapping episodes. These assemblages appear to have been deposited into the pits shortly after they had been manufactured, and therefore provide convincing and closely dateable evidence for Iron Age flintworking. They are of particular interest as, in most cases, Iron Age flintwork was opportunistically produced and casually discarded, resulting in a rarity of securely contexted or closely dated assemblages available for study. Consequently, specific changes in the typological and technological characteristics of struck flint industries through the late second and the first millennia BC are still inadequately documented and remain poorly understood, their further investigation being seen as an Iron Age research priority (Haselgrove et al. 2001, 21; Humphrey 2003; 2007).

Recommendations

6.1.11 The flintwork from the pits provide a welcome addition to the evidence for structured flintworking during the Iron Age that is of enhanced significance in that the assemblages are securely stratified and potentially well-dated. It is therefore recommended that the technological attributes of the assemblages are described in more detail and a report included in any published account of the investigations at the site.

6.2 Prehistoric Pottery

By Matt Brudenell

Introduction

6.2.1 An assemblage comprising 245 sherds (3439g) of handmade prehistoric pottery was recovered from the evaluation, displaying a mean sherd weight (MSW) of 14.4g. The pottery derived from 10 contexts relating to pits and tree-throws in Trenches 1-6. With the exception of one possible Neolithic

sherd from Tree-throw [109], all the material is of Early Iron Age date. Feature assemblages varied in size, but several pits yielded relatively large assemblages which included a mix of 'fresh' unabraded fragments. The ceramics are in a stable condition. Sherd sizes were generally small, as reflected by the MSW, but medium and large-sized sherds (>4cm in size) accounted for 41% of the pottery (by sherd count). This report provides a quantified description of the assemblage with a brief discussion.

Context	Cut	Feature type	Trench	No./Wt. (g) sherds	Fabrics (no./wt (g) sherds)	Date & comment
104	103	Pit	1	73/1167	F2 (4/62), FQ (10/18), FQ1 (23/608), FQ2 (20/282), FQ3 (4/43), Q1 (4/67), QF1 (8/87)	Early Iron Age. Large group, many diagnostic fragments and a minimum of nine vessels.
110	109	Tree-throw	6	1/4	F1 (1/4)	Body sherd. Possibly Neolithic
118	117	Pit	2	2/12	FQ3 (2/12)	Early Iron Age. Includes decorated shoulder sherd.
122	121	Pit	3	70/1639	FQ (5/5), FQ1 (3/113), FQ2 (39/992), FQ3 (17/492), Q1 (2/16), QF1 (4/21)	Early Iron Age. Large group, many diagnostic fragments and a minimum of six vessels.
124	123	Pit	4	6/105	FQ1 (3/54), FQ2 (2/18), FQ3 (1/33)	Early Iron Age. Includes an internally-expanded rim sherds
128	127	Pit	4	49/305	FQ (24/29),	Early Iron Age. Large group, many diagnostic fragments and a minimum of eight vessels.
129				41/189	FQ1(6/46), FQ2 (29/207), FQ3 (19/167), Q1 (3/11), QF1 (9/34)	
140	139	Pit	5	1/6	FQ2 (1/6)	Early Iron Age on grounds of

						fabric
148	147	Pit	5	1/7	FQ1 (1/7)	Early Iron Age on grounds of fabric
Unstrat	-	-	-	1/5	FQ1 (1/5)	Early Iron Age on grounds of fabric
TOTAL	-	-	-	245/3439	-	-

Table 2: Pottery quantification by context

Methodology

6.2.2 All the pottery has been fully recorded following the recommendations laid out by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (2009). After a full inspection of the assemblage, fabric groups were devised on the basis of dominant inclusion types, their density and modal size. Sherds from all contexts were counted, weighed (to the nearest whole gram) and assigned to a fabric group (sherds broken in excavation were refitted and counted as single entities). Sherd type was recorded, along with technology (wheel-made or handmade), evidence for surface treatment, decoration, and the presence of soot and/or residue. Rim and base forms were described using a codified system recorded in the catalogue, and were assigned vessel numbers. Where possible, rim and base diameters were measured, and surviving percentages noted. In cases where a sherd or groups of refitting sherds retained portions of the rim and shoulder, the vessel was also classified using a series devised by the author (Brudenell 2011; 2012), and the class scheme created by John Barrett (1980) for Post Deverel-Rimbury (PDR) ceramics. All pottery was subject to sherd size analysis. Sherds less than 4cm in diameter were classified as 'small' (59%); sherds measuring 4-8cm were classified as 'medium' (34%), and sherds over 8cm in diameter will be classified as 'large' (7%).

Assemblage characteristics

6.2.3 A range of fabrics were recorded in the assemblage, though all are typical of the Early Iron Age in Norfolk (Brudenell 2011; 2012). Flint and sand tempered wares (FQ) dominate, accounting for 91% of the pottery by weight (Table 3). The flint inclusions grade from coarse (FQ1) to fine (FQ3), with most sherds characterised by intermediate sized inclusions of fabric FQ2

(43% of pottery by weight). Sherds with finer inclusions, such as FQ3, Q1 and QF3 are commonly smoothed or burnished, and constitute the fineware component of the assemblage. In total, 32 sherds (686g) are smoothed or burnished. This represents 13% by sherd count or 20% by weight; figures again typical of Early Iron Age assemblages in Eastern England (Brudenell 2012).

Fabric Type	Fabric Group	No./Wt. (g) sherds	% fabric by Wt.	MNV
F1	Flint	1/4	0.1	0
F2	Flint	4/62	1.8	1
FQ	Flint and sand	39/52	1.5	2
FQ1	Flint and sand	37/833	24.2	6
FQ2	Flint and sand	91/1505	43.8	7
FQ3	Flint and sand	43/747	21.7	7
Q1	Sand	9/94	2.7	1
QF1	Sand and rare flint	21/142	4.1	2
TOTAL	-	245/3439	99.9	26

Table 3: Pottery quantification by fabric. MNV= minimum number of vessels calculated as the total number of different rims and bases identified (17 different vessel rims, 9 different bases).

Fabric series:

Flint

F1: Moderate to common coarse flint (2-4mm)

F2: Moderate to common coarse flint (2-4mm)

Flint and sand

FQ1: Moderate to common coarse flint (2-4mm) in a slightly sandy clay matrix

FQ2. Moderate to common medium flint (1-2mm) in a slightly sandy clay matrix

FQ3. Moderate to common fine flint (<1mm) in a slightly sandy clay matrix

FQ: Flint in a slightly sandy clay matrix (sherd too small to classify further)

Sand and flint

QF1. Moderate to common quartz sand and rare to sparse fine to medium flint (<2mm)

Sand

Q1. Moderate to common quartz sand

- 6.2.4 Based on the total number of different rims and bases recovered, the assemblage is estimated to include fragments of at least 26 different vessels. Of these, five are sufficiently intact to assign to form (19 sherds, 786g). The vessels comprise the upper profiles of small and medium sized coarseware jars (rim diameters 15-22cm) derived from Pits [103] and [121]. They include two weekly shouldered jars with upright necks (Form G); one with fingertip impressions of the rim-top, neck and shoulder. The remaining three jars have rounded shoulders (Form F), one with fingertip decoration on the shoulder.
- 6.2.5 In general, decoration is relatively prolific with 25 sherds (453 sherds) adorned in the assemblage. The decorated coarseware are ornamented with fingertip impressions (14 sherds, 330g) applied to the rim, neck and shoulder, whilst grooved horizontal and curvilinear lines adorn the neck and shoulder of some of the burnished finewares (5 sherd, 29g). One fineware vessel – a base from Pit [127] – has a haematite coated/red-finished surface (6 sherds, 94g). Though haematite coated ceramics are regularly encountered in Early Iron Age assemblages in Wessex, parts of the Thames Valley and Kent, they are rare in Eastern England, and extremely rare in Norfolk (to the authors knowledge, there are only two other examples known in the county). This rarity suggests that they are non-local products, and are likely to have been obtained through exchange networks which linked back to southern Britain.

6.2.6 The haematite coated vessel is also important on chronological grounds, as the base has a foot-ring. Foot-ring bases were modelled on Continental prototypes of the sixth century BC and later (Hodson 1962, 142; Barrett 1978, 286-287), and provide a useful chronological peg in the development of the region's Early Iron Age ceramics.

Discussion

6.2.7 With the exception of a possible Neolithic sherd derived from Tree-throw [109], all the prehistoric pottery recovered from the evaluation is of Early Iron Age date (800-350 BC) and belongs to the Decorated ware phase of the PDR ceramic tradition. The overall character of the assemblage, however, and the presence of diagnostic traits such as the foot-ring base indicate that this is a 'late' or 'mature' Decorated ware group. A conservative assessment would place it in the bracket c. 600-350/300 BC, but as some of the rounded vessel forms foreshadow pot profiles more typical of the Middle Iron Age, it seems likely that this group belongs to the fifth or early fourth century BC. Significantly, the county does not yet boast many assemblages of this date (see Brudenell 2011, 19-22 for review), making this a noteworthy group.

6.3 Environmental Remains

By Kate Turner

Introduction

6.3.1 This report summarises the findings from the rapid assessment of flots from five bulk samples taken a series of pits located at an Early Iron Age site on at Cringleford. The aim of this assessment is to determine the environmental potential of these samples and to determine whether any further work need be undertaken.

Methodology

6.3.2 The five samples were scanned using a low-power binocular microscope, in order to quantify any environmental remains such as seeds, charred grains, molluscs, small animal bone and charcoal. These were recorded using a non-linear scale to denote abundance: '1' indicates the occasional occurrence of an ecofact (1-10 items), '2' indicates that it is fairly frequent

(11-30 items), '3' more frequent (31-100 items) and '4' abundant (>100 items). The results of this assessment are shown in Appendix 4.

Results and Discussion

6.3.3 All five flint residues contained abundant fragments of wood charcoal, though none were of a size to allow further identification. Uncharred seeds were also found in low concentrations throughout the sample set; with the exception of low levels of *Ficus Carica* (fig) and *Fraxinus* sp (ash) the assemblage is dominated by flowering plant taxa, notably *Polygonum/Rumex* sp (knotweed/dock/sorrel), *Chenopodium album* (fat-hen), *Carex* sp (sedges) and *Rubus* sp (blackberry). Small amounts of *Sinapis/Brassica* sp (mustard), *Daphne laureola* (spurge-laurel), *Fragaria* sp (strawberry), *Sambucus* sp (elder), *Silene* sp (campion) *Veronica Hederifolia* (ivy-leaved speedwell) and *Viola* sp were also identified, along with individual grains of charred *Hordeum* sp (barley) in samples <1> and <2>. A full list of all the seeds identified can be found in Table 4.

Sample Number	1	2	3	4	5
Uncharred seeds					
<i>Ficus Carica</i>	2	0	0	1	0
<i>Fraxinus</i> sp.	0	0	0	0	2
<i>Brassica</i> sp.	1	0	0	0	0
<i>Carex</i> sp.	0	2	4	1	1
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	3	0	0	0	4
<i>Daphne laureola</i>	0	1	0	0	0
<i>Fragaria</i> sp.	1	0	0	0	0
<i>Polygonum</i> sp.	0	7	3	0	0
<i>Rubus</i> sp.	2	8	3	0	0
<i>Rumex</i> sp.	0	1	0	0	0
<i>Sambucus</i> sp.	0	1	0	0	0
<i>Silene</i> sp.	1	0	0	0	0
<i>Sinapis</i> sp.	7	0	0	0	0
<i>Veronica hederifolia</i>	0	1	0	0	1
<i>Viola</i> sp.	0	0	0	0	4
Charred Grain					
<i>Hordeum</i> sp.	1	1	0	0	0
Too charred to ID	0	1	0	0	0

Other	Seed casings '1'			Seed casings (Ranunculus sp.) '1'	
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Table 4: Identification of charred and uncharred plant remains

6.3.4 A single specimen of *Cecilioides acicula* (agate snail) was recognized in sample <1>, which is likely to be a modern intrusion. Sample <5> also contained one small piece of burnt bone. Low frequencies of coal (fragments <3mm in length) were discovered throughout.

6.3.5 All of the studied samples contained varying amounts of root remains, suggesting the possibility that these sediments may have been disturbed, and therefore that the ecofacts identified may have been subject to post-depositional reworking.

Recommendations

6.3.6 Assessment of these samples has indicated that their environmental potential is limited, and the likelihood of bioturbation high. Any future sampling strategies should take this into consideration, and concentrate on artefact retrieval rather than environmental recovery.

7 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1.1 The archaeological remains uncovered by the evaluation appeared to be largely contemporary in date. The pits contained relatively large assemblages of Early Iron Age pottery and although the ditches yielded limited dating evidence, they are considered to be broadly contemporary, with some evidence for a potentially earlier field system present. A sherd of probable Neolithic pot was present within the fill of a tree throw at the southern end of the site however this isolated sherd may be a residual component. Similarly, flintwork of Mesolithic and Neolithic date was found during fieldwalking and in the evaluation and suggests a degree of transient activity across the site in earlier periods.
- 7.1.2 The main phase of occupation appears to be focused towards the end of the Early Iron Age, with the pottery tentatively suggesting a 5th-early 4th century BC date. The dating of the pottery suggests a well-defined period of occupation. The presence of a number of finewares within the assemblage, including the haematite coated pottery may suggest a possible high status aspect to the site, or at least extensive trade links accessing a wider array of non-local pottery types.
- 7.1.3 The remains appear to be more indicative of settlement or settlement-edge, with no evidence for placed deposits or material within the pits nor ditches. Although the confines of the evaluation trenches are somewhat limited there appears to be a degree of clustering to the pitting which would be consistent with settlement practices of the period. No evidence was seen for structures within any of the trenches.
- 7.1.4 The southern half of the site shows evidence for a north-west, south-east field system whilst the ditches in Trenches 2 and 5 suggest a separate orientation of boundary features. The minimal dating recovered from the ditches and the potential differing alignment could suggest the presence of an earlier, perhaps Bronze Age field system, preceding the Iron Age settlement.
- 7.1.5 Of note are the flint assemblages from three Early Iron Age pits. These

assemblages do contain a few earlier, residually incorporated flints, although the bulk of the material is of a fresh condition and is technologically characteristic of later prehistoric flintworking. This material is significant as flintworking in the Iron Age is considered to have been sporadically undertaken and very casually discarded leaving few assemblages associated with securely dated contexts. The Cringleford flintwork provides a rare example of securely dated Early Iron Age flint knapping evidence, coupled with evidence for other stone tools, such as pounders and/ or grinders.

7.1.6 Prehistoric sites are abundant along the Yare Valley and surrounding landscape (Ashwin and Bates 2000). The site of this evaluation is located on a slight promontory overlooking the River Yare, the course of the river located 0.3km to the north, affording good access to the river and its flood plain. The site is consistent with the distribution of known prehistoric sites in Norfolk and in particular the Yare Valley landscape.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank CgMs for commissioning the work. The author would also like to thank Shannon Hogan for managing the project, Dave Curry for his hard work on site and Jennifer Simonson of PCA's CAD department for preparing the figures.

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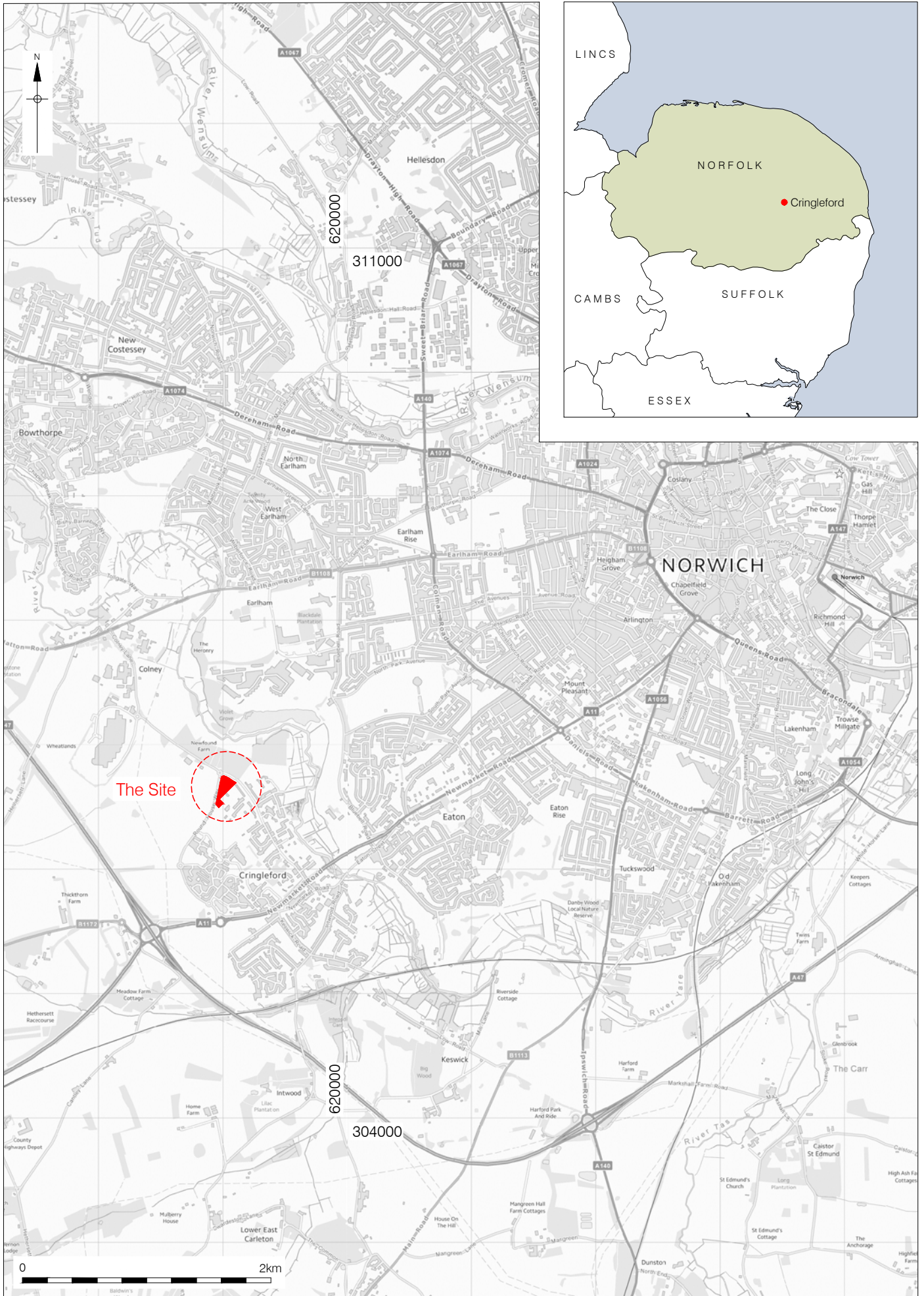
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9.2 Websites

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<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>.



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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:2,000,000 and 1:40,000 at A4

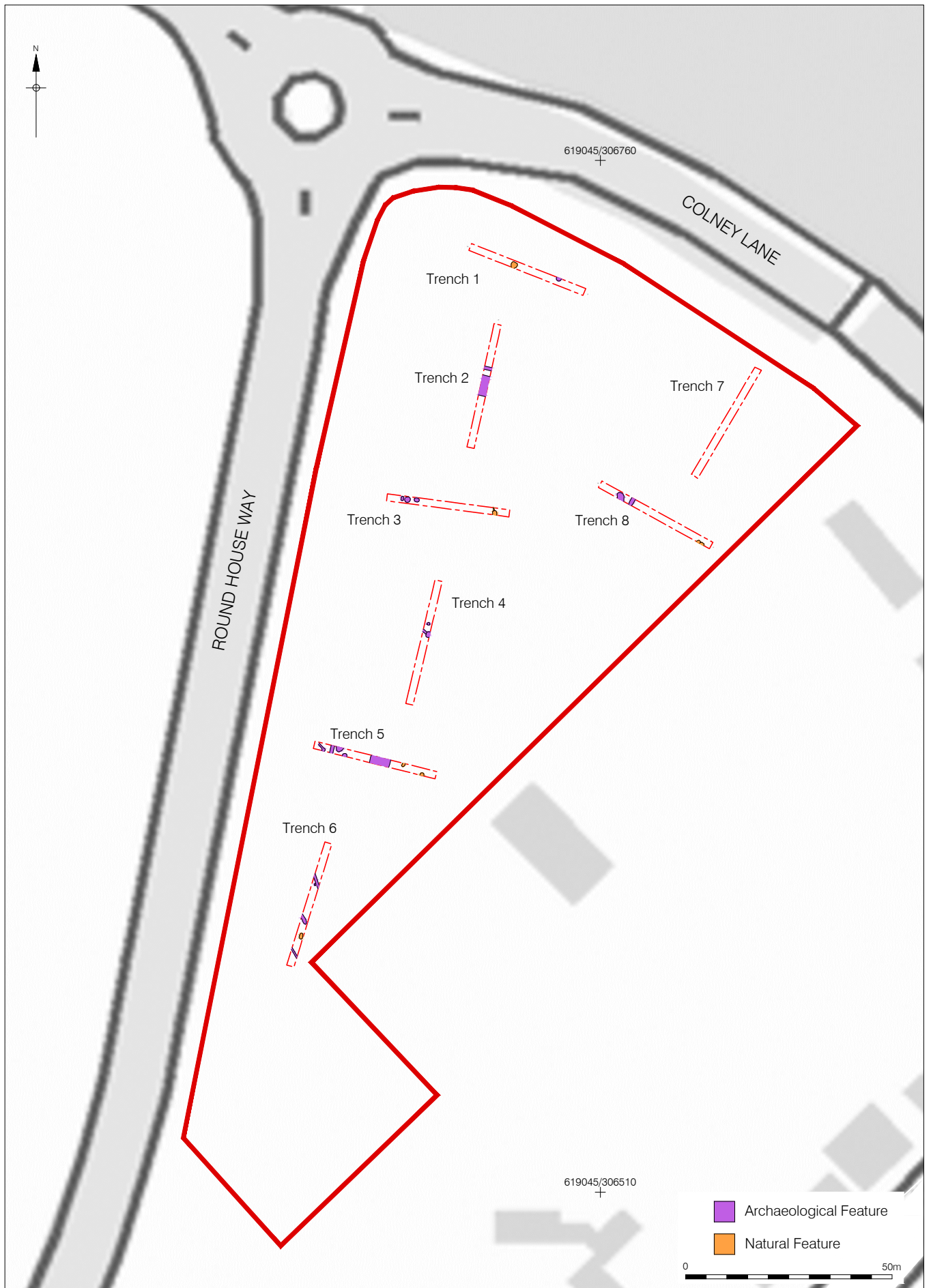


Figure 2
 Trench Location
 1:1,250 at A4

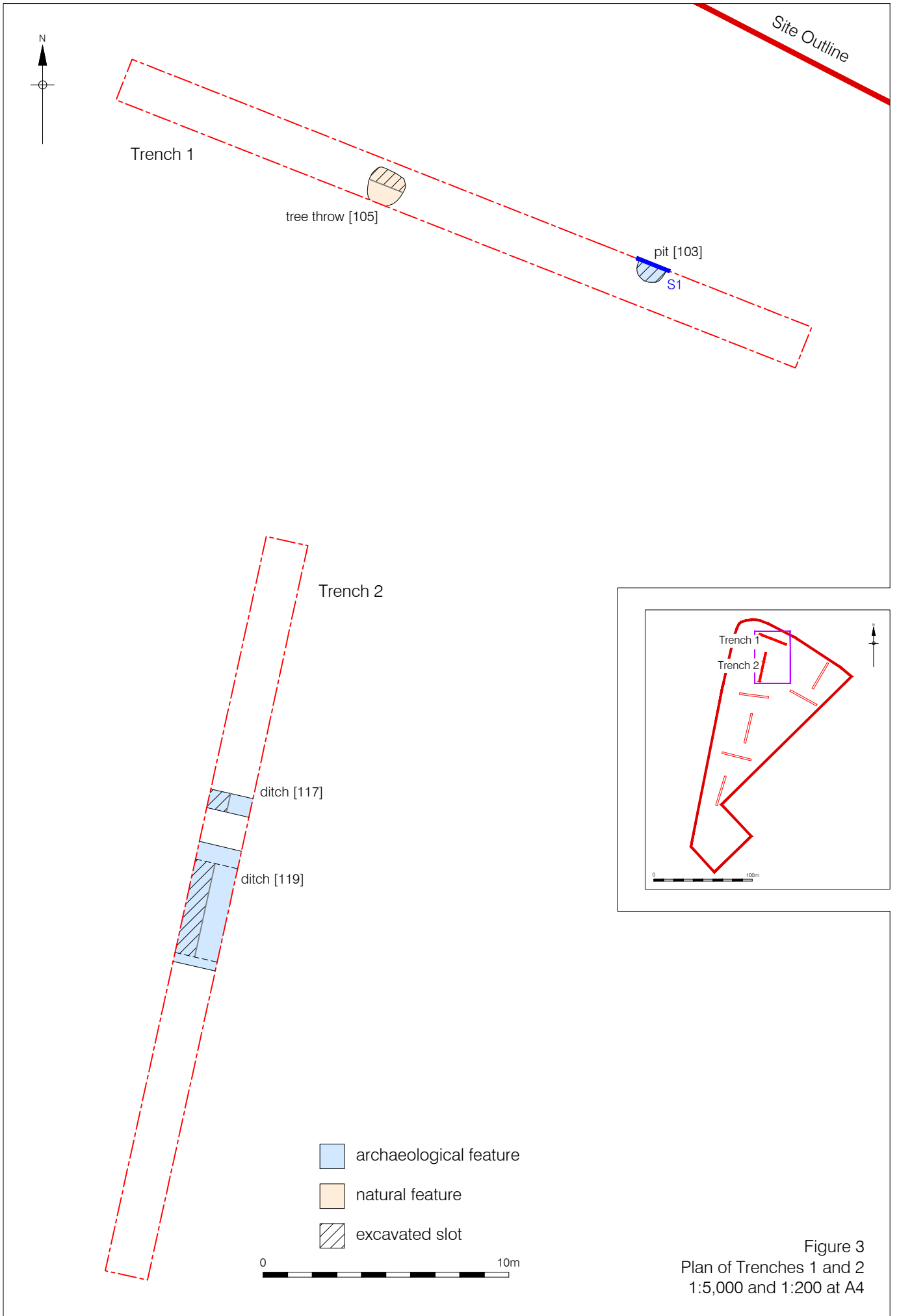
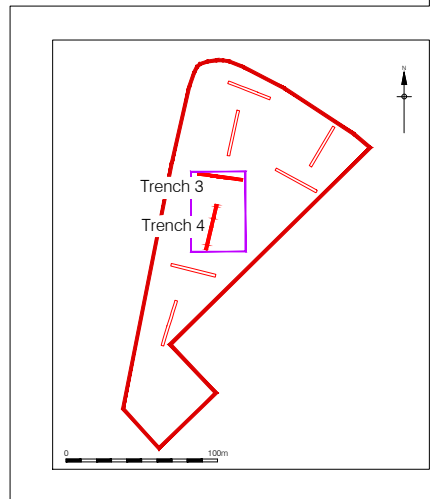
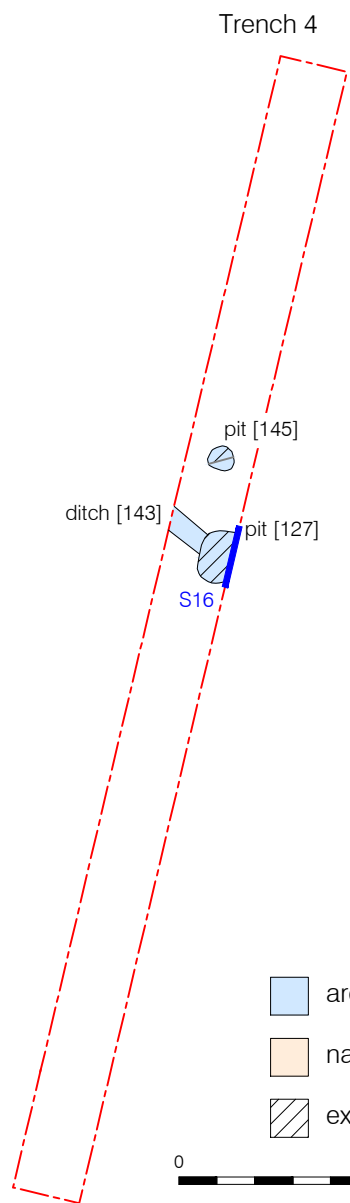
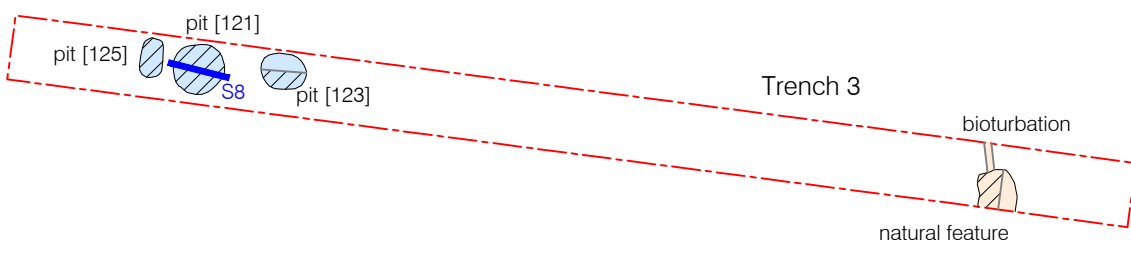


Figure 3
 Plan of Trenches 1 and 2
 1:5,000 and 1:200 at A4






-  archaeological feature
-  natural feature
-  excavated slot



Figure 4
Plan of Trenches 3 and 4
1:5,000 and 1:200 at A4

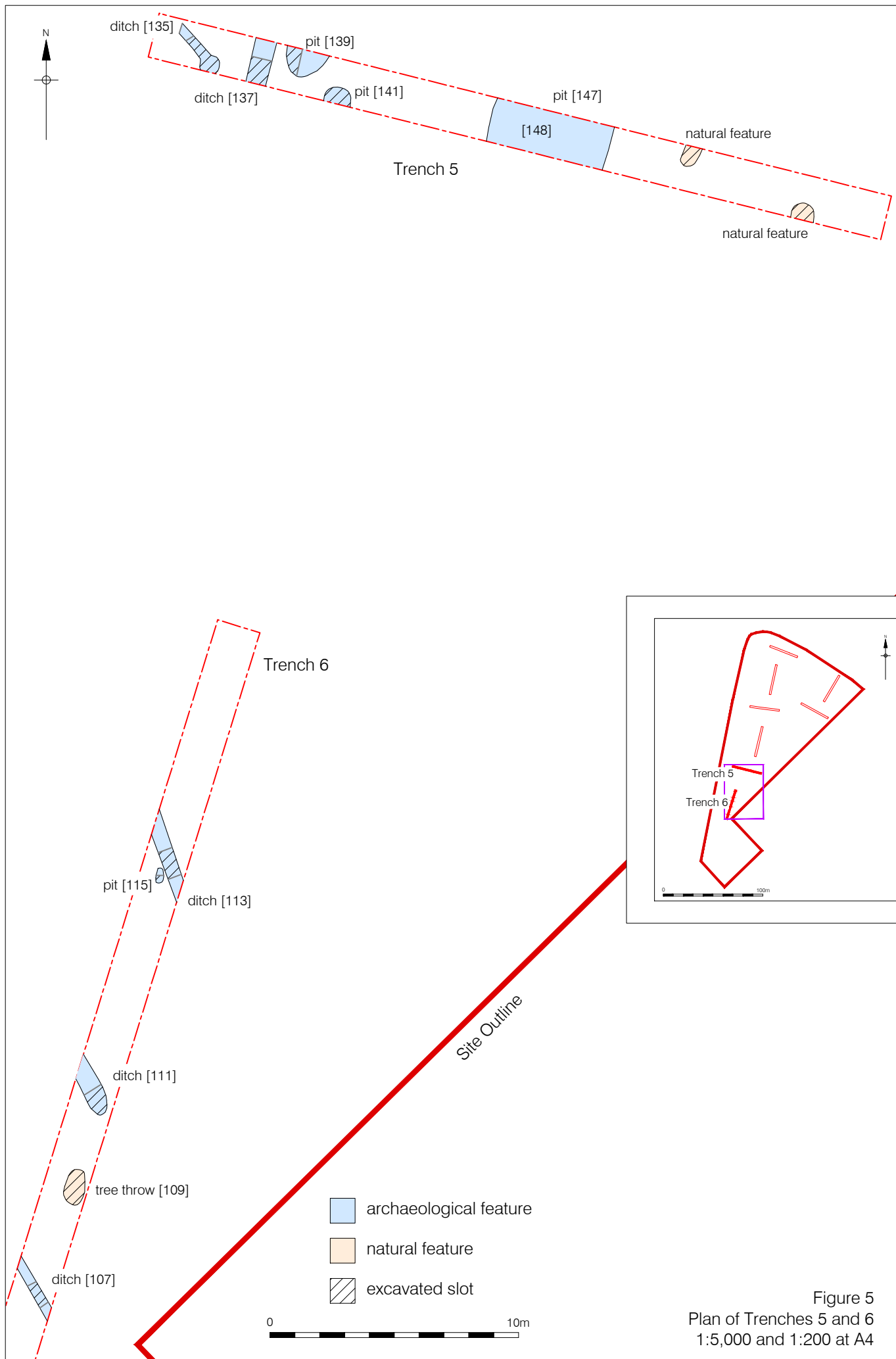
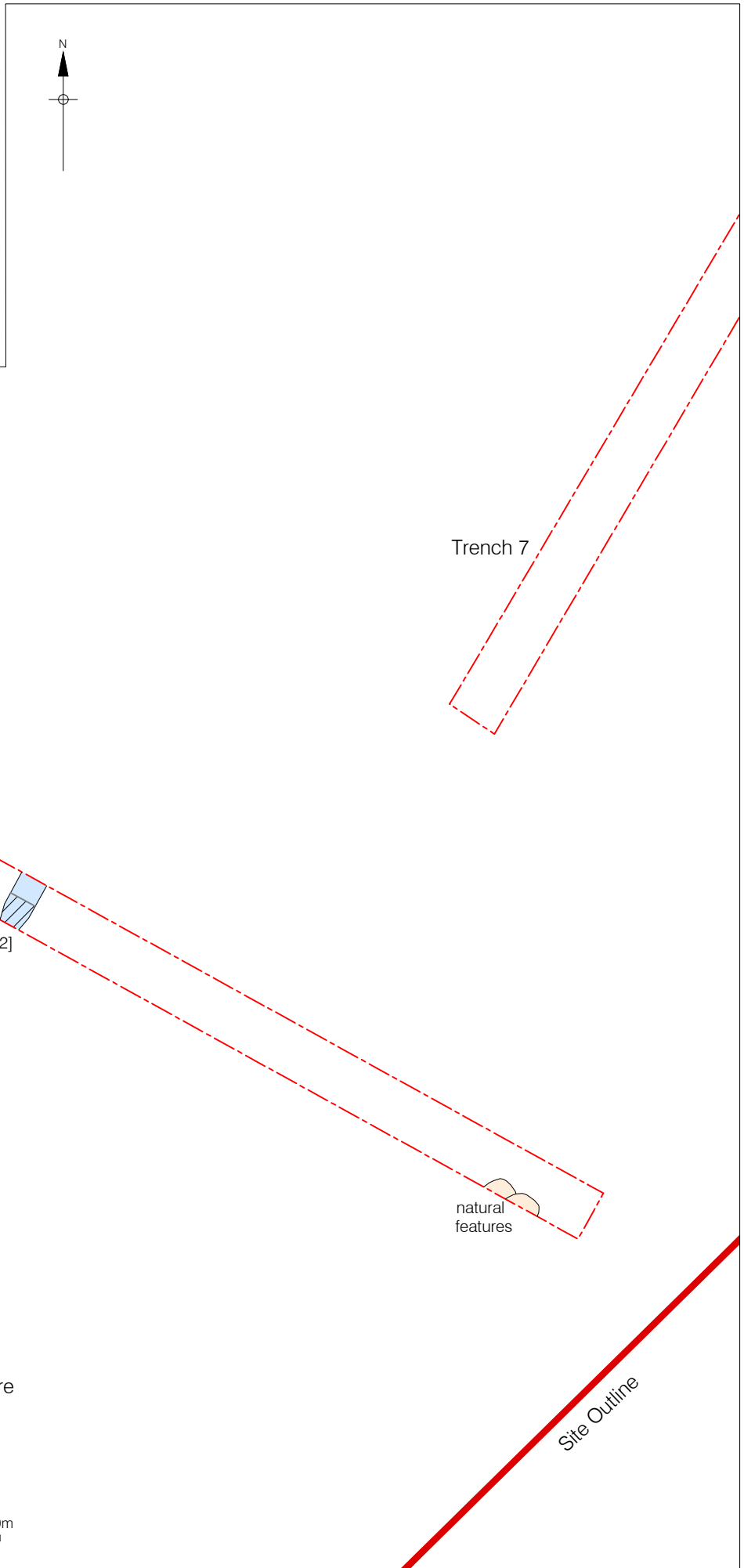
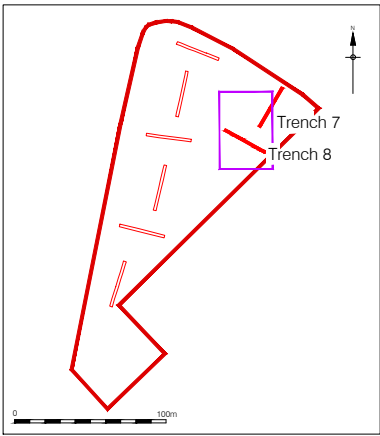



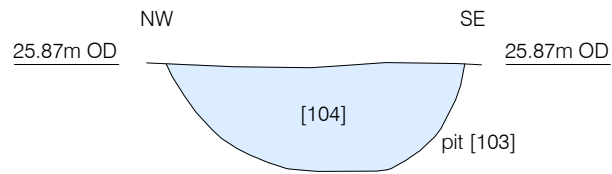


Figure 5
Plan of Trenches 5 and 6
1:5,000 and 1:200 at A4

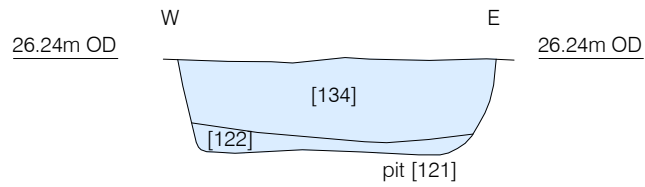


-  archaeological feature
-  natural feature
-  excavated slot

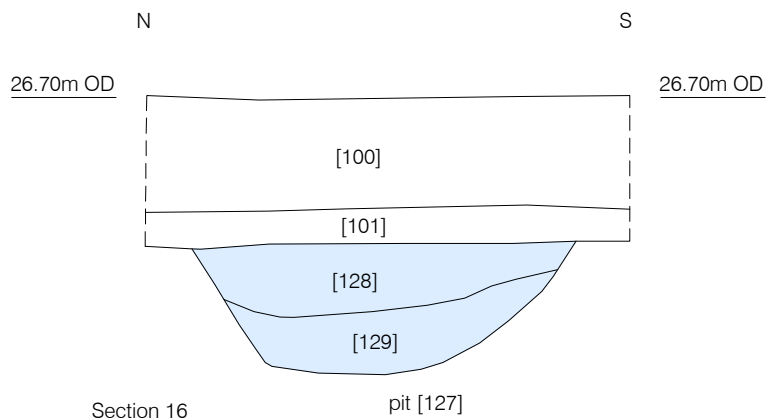




Section 1
Trench 1
Southwest Facing



Section 8
Trench 3
South Facing



Section 16
Trench 4
West Facing



 archaeological feature

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 19/04/16 JS_revision 1

Figure 7
Sections 1, 8 & 16
1:25 at A4

10 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: Pit [103], shot taken from the south



Plate 2: Pit [127], shot taken from the west



Plate 3: Pits [121] (rear) and [125] (foreground), shot taken from the west



Plate 4: Pit [121], shot taken from the south

11 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context Number	Trench	Cut	Type	Category
100	0	0	Layer	Topsoil
101	0	0	Layer	Subsoil
102	0	0	Layer	Natural
103	1	103	Cut	Pit
104	1	103	Fill	Pit
105	1	105	Cut	Treethrow
106	1	105	Fill	Treethrow
107	6	107	Cut	Ditch
108	6	107	Fill	Ditch
109	6	109	Cut	Treethrow
110	6	109	Fill	Treethrow
111	6	111	Cut	Ditch
112	6	111	Fill	Ditch
113	6	113	Cut	Pit
114	6	113	Fill	Pit
115	6	115	Cut	Pit
116	6	115	Fill	Pit
117	2	117	Cut	Ditch
118	2	117	Fill	Ditch
119	2	119	Cut	Ditch
120	2	119	Fill	Ditch
121	3	121	Cut	Pit
122	3	121	Fill	Pit
123	4	123	Cut	Pit
124	4	123	Fill	Pit
125	3	125	Cut	Pit
126	3	125	Fill	Pit
127	4	127	Cut	Pit
128	4	127	Fill	Pit
129	4	127	Fill	Pit
130	8	130	Cut	Pit
131	8	130	Fill	Pit

Context Number	Trench	Cut	Type	Category
132	8	132	Cut	Ditch
133	8	132	Fill	Ditch
134	3	121	Fill	Pit
135	5	135	Cut	Ditch
136	5	135	Fill	Ditch
137	5	137	Cut	Ditch
138	5	137	Fill	Ditch
139	5	139	Cut	Pit
140	5	139	Fill	Pit
141	5	141	Cut	Pit
142	5	141	Fill	Pit
143	4	143	Cut	Ditch
144	4	143	Fill	Ditch
145	4	145	Cut	Pit
146	4	145	Fill	Pit
147	5	147	Cut	Pit
148	5	147	Fill	Pit

12 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-250034

Project details

Project name Land adjacent to Roundhouse Way and Colney Lane, Cringleford, Norfolk

Short description of the project The evaluation identified settlement remains dating to the Early Iron Age. Several ditches indicating potential enclosures and fields were revealed. Pits were seen across the area possibly in small clusters; a number of the pits contained relatively large assemblages of pottery within dark, charcoal-rich fills indicating proximity to and debris from contemporary occupation. The presence of some fine wares and a regionally rare hematite coated vessel suggests a potential high status element to the site through the pottery assemblage. A single sherd of Neolithic pot from a tree throw may represent an earlier presence on the site.

Project dates Start: 04-04-2016 End: 08-04-2016

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes HER 40135 - HER event no.

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Other 13 - Waste ground

Monument type PIT Early Iron Age

Significant Finds CERAMIC Early Iron Age

Methods & techniques "Sample Trenches"

Development type Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Position in the planning process Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country England

Site location NORFOLK SOUTH NORFOLK CRINGLEFORD Land adjacent to Roundhouse Way and Colney Lane, Cringleford, Norfolk: An Archaeological Evaluation

Postcode NR4 7RG

Study area 1.74 Hectares

Site coordinates TG 1901 0669 52.613258386403 1.235376134291 52 36 47 N 001 14 07 E Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 24.82m Max: 26.71m

Project creators

Name of PCA Organisation

Project brief Norfolk County Council originator

Project design PCA Central originator

Project director/manager Shannon Hogan

Project supervisor Jonathan House

Type of Developer sponsor/funding body

Name of CgMs sponsor/funding body

Project archives

Physical Archive Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service recipient

Physical Archive ID ENF140442

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

Digital Archive Norfolk Museum and Archaeology Service
recipient

Digital Archive ID ENF140442

Digital Contents "none"

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

Paper Archive Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
recipient

Paper Archive ID ENF140442

Paper Contents "none"

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

Project bibliography

1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title Land adjacent to Roundhouse Way and Colney Lane, Cringleford,
Norfolk: An Archaeological Evaluation

Author(s)/Editor(s) House, J.

Other bibliographic R12455
details

Date 2016

Issuer or publisher PCA

Place of issue or Pampisford
publication

Description Grey Lit Report

Entered by Jonathan House (jhouse@pre-construct.com)

Entered on 28 April 2016

13 APPENDIX 4

Assessment of flots

Sample number	Context number	Cut	Volume (litres)	Vol (ml)	Flot						
					Charcoal >1mm	Charcoal <1mm (discarded)	Total seeds (uncharred)	Total seeds (charred)	Total grains	Mollusca	Other
1	104	103	10	14	3	3	2	0	1	1 (land)	Coal (2) Roots (3)
2	122	121	20	16	3	4	2	0	1	0	Coal (1) Roots (2)
3	124	123	10	4	3	3	1	0	0	0	Coal (2) Roots (2)
4	128	127	10	7	1	3	1	0	0	0	Coal (1) Roots (1)
5	129	127	20	32	3	3	2	0	0	0	Coal (2) Roots (3) Bone fragment (x1)

Key: 1- Occasional, 2- fairly frequent, 3- frequent, 4- abundant

PCA

PCA SOUTH

UNIT 54
BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE
96 ENDWELL ROAD
BROCKLEY
LONDON SE4 2PD
TEL: 020 7732 3925 / 020 7639 9091
FAX: 020 7639 9588
EMAIL: info@pre-construct.com

PCA NORTH

UNIT 19A
TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK
DURHAM DH6 5PG
TEL: 0191 377 1111
FAX: 0191 377 0101
EMAIL: info.north@pre-construct.com

PCA CENTRAL

THE GRANARY, RECTORY FARM
BREWERY ROAD, PAMPISFORD
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 3EN
TEL: 01223 845 522
FAX: 01223 845 522
EMAIL: info.central@pre-construct.com

PCA WEST

BLOCK 4
CHILCOMB HOUSE
CHILCOMB LANE
WINCHESTER
HAMPSHIRE SO23 8RB
TEL: 01962 849 549
EMAIL: info.west@pre-construct.com

PCA MIDLANDS

17-19 KETTERING RD
LITTLE BOWDEN
MARKET HARBOROUGH
LEICESTERSHIRE LE16 8AN
TEL: 01858 468 333
EMAIL: info.midlands@pre-construct.com

