

**LAND AT GREEN LANE EAST,
RACKHEATH, NORFOLK**

**A PROGRAMME OF
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATORY
TRENCHING**

**LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
BROADLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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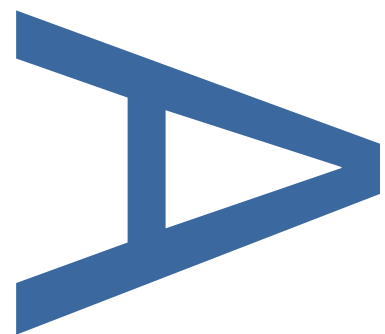
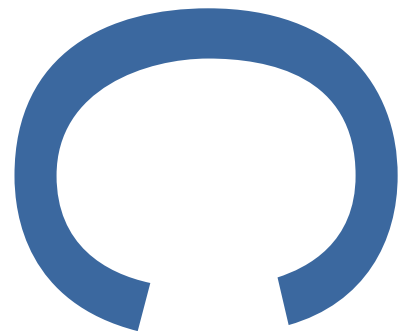
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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

LAND SOUTH OF GREEN LANE EAST, RACKHEATH, NORFOLK

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

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ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of a programme of archaeological mitigatory trenching undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology on Land at Green Lane East (NGR TL TG 28516 12276) from the 1st April 2019 to 10th April 2019. The archaeological work was commissioned by Lanpro prior to proposed construction works associated with residential development. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

A total of twenty-four no. 50m by 1.80m trenches were arrayed in order to give a 3% sample of the 7.8-hectare site and were positioned to target the probable natural anomalies and ferrous spikes identified by the geophysical survey.

The mitigatory trenching identified four steep sided ditches in Trenches 13, 15, 22 and 23, all undated, except for one ([113]) located in Trench 15, but all perhaps likely to be of later Post-medieval date. Ditch [113] contained a small struck flint, thought highly likely to be residual due to the orientation of the ditch, parallel with Green Lane East.

Historic maps do not depict previous field boundaries in the investigated area and it is likely that these ditches represented drainage or earlier field boundary features. As there was no evidence of maintenance or erosion this suggested they were short-lived features.

There were four undated pits within Trenches 6, 13, 16 and 20 which may have had an agricultural origin due to the absence of cultural items recovered. Their form also suggested that a possible natural origin could not be discounted.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A programme of archaeological mitigatory trenching was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on Land at Green Lane East, Rackheath, Norfolk, NR13 6QJ (centred on NGR TL TG 28516 12276) from 1st April 2019 to 10th April 2019 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by Paul Gajos of Lanpro in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to a residential development of the site, (Planning Reference: 20160395). This was in order to inform the need for further archaeological mitigation of the proposed development area (PDA). The work was undertaken in line with National Planning Policy Framework 2018, Section 16 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment'.
- 1.3 The archaeological mitigatory trenching was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Paul Gajos of Lanpro (Gajos 2019) in response to a Brief (Ref-CNF45963) prepared by Norfolk Historic Environment Service (NHES).
- 1.4 The aim of the of archaeological mitigatory trenching 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 if further mitigation would be necessary.
- 1.5 A total of 24 mitigatory trenches totalling 1.2 km of trenches were excavated and recorded (Figure 2).
- 1.6 This report describes the results of the of archaeological mitigatory trenching which was part of a scheme of mitigation undertaken on the site prior to its development. The site archive will be deposited at Norfolk Museum Service (NWHCM 2019.185).

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

2.2 The British Geological Survey (BGS) 1:50,000 records the solid geology of the study site as Crag Group sands and gravel. Superficial deposits in the South-eastern part of the site are recorded as Happisburgh Glacigenic Formation Diamicton with Sheringham Cliffs Formation Sand and gravel across the remainder of the site.

2.3 A desk-based assessment undertaken in 2015 (Trimble 2015), indicated that the site lay firmly within the bounds of the former Mousehold Heath, although it is not known when the heathland developed.

2.4 Topography

2.5 The proposed development site is located in New Rackheath in the civil parish of Rackheath, approximately 1.5km south of Rackheath village. The area of the proposed development comprises an approximately rectangular area of 7.8 hectares, which lies within the southern angle of the junction between Green Lane East and Norwich Road, Rackheath (Gajos 2019).

2.6 The site lies in a flat area which gently slopes to the south approximately 23m above sea level.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The following section was compiled from the Written Scheme of Investigation, (Gajos 2019) supplemented by a search of the NHER (Enquiry 19_03_17).

3.2 Previous Work

3.3 A geophysical survey had previously been undertaken at the site (Davies 2019). The survey identified three types of geophysical anomaly:- disturbance, ferrous and natural. No archaeological features were identified and in particular there was no indication of the 'entrenchment' (NHER 9688) marked on the 16th century mapping of the heath, or a further recorded cropmark (NHER 51935) which are recorded on the NHER within the bounds of the site. The geophysical survey indicated that potential for modern ploughing was visible across the western part of the site, whilst natural magnetic variations were mapped across the east, these were perhaps related to a former watercourse.

3.4 A desk-based assessment was undertaken in 2015 (Trimble 2015).

3.5 The Norwich Northern Distributor Route (NDR) lay approximately 100m to the west of the site and was subject to several phases of archaeological work. Initially fieldwalking was undertaken between 2006 and 2007 (Morgan and Hoggett 2008) followed by a geophysical survey in 2013, which identified a number of anomalies consistent with ferrous objects in the topsoil, and a number of anomalies thought to be geological (Harrison 2013). NDR area, Field 63, was located closest to the site (NHER 49752) and NDR area Field 61 a short distance further to the north west (NHER 49751).

3.6 Early Prehistoric

3.6.1 There appears to be little of Palaeolithic date in the vicinity of the site, although an Upper Palaeolithic flake was found from the top of the natural silt during an archaeological evaluation just beyond the 500m study area to the north. This perhaps indicated a background presence of this period in the vicinity (NHER 54173).

3.6.2 Early prehistoric activity is largely evidenced through find spots recorded on the

NHER, for example a Mesolithic flint tranchet axehead was found in the garden of a property in Rackheath (NHER 8147) to the north of the site. Further finds include a polished stone axe head, found approximately 540m to the south west (NHER 8153), and a stone axe hammer approximately 540m to the north east (NHER 8171) of the site. Several worked and burnt prehistoric flints were found as part of multi-period finds scatters in NDR Field 63 to the west of the site (NHER 49752) and at NHER 50502.

3.7 Later Prehistoric to Roman

- 3.8 A desk-based assessment was undertaken in 2015 (Trimble 2015), which indicated that the site lay firmly within the bounds of the former Mousehold Heath. Cropmark evidence appears to show occupation concentrated on the edges of the heath to the south and north, although the dating of the features is not certain. However, the heath is not barren of evidence and there are a number of cropmark features which lie relatively close to the site, although these are more isolated and fragmentary in character than the complexes further afield on the areas fringing the heath (Gajos 2019).
- 3.9 Two such undated linear ditch features recorded from cropmark evidence, thought to be Iron Age to Roman date, were recorded at (NHER 51930 and NHER 51923). A further cropmark of a possible ring ditch located approximately 130m north east of the site may represent the remains of a Bronze Age barrow, but could also be a later Post-medieval feature, such as a windmill base (NHER 51924).
- 3.10 Although the evidence for prehistoric remains in the areas surrounding the site is not particularly strong it does suggest a long history of occupation from the Mesolithic through to the Early Iron Age. The lack of dated features is likely due to the unsuitability of this former heathland environment, which only saw a low level of exploitation during all periods. Although tentatively suggested, a model for settlement of the area might take the form of a persistent, if not intensive, occupation from post-glacial times through to late prehistory on areas of what was to become the later heath (Gajos 2019).

- 3.11 Some evidence for exploitation of the heath in the Prehistoric period was found immediately north of the site (ENF144766). Here several charcoal-filled pits, dated by C14 dating to the Middle Iron Age, were observed during an archaeological evaluation (Reid and Crawley, 2018).
- 3.12 Find spots from around the site also attest to activity of this date. A Middle Bronze Age spearhead (NHER 49751) was found to the north west of the site as part of a multi-period find scatter. Other finds of a similar date found further from the site include a late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrow head (NHER 36254).
- 3.13 The origins and mechanisms by which Mousehold Heath developed are not well understood, but the lack of Roman material in the area is all the more striking considering the amount of fieldwalking and metal detecting undertaken in the area. Throughout the later prehistoric period into the Roman period the area was not conducive to intensive land use and was used primarily for grazing with the settlement located further afield (Gajos 2019).
- 3.14 Anglo Saxon to medieval**
- 3.14.1 Of three Domesday entries for the settlement of Rackheath, the main entry relates to the larger village of Rackheath Magna which was located approximately 400m north-east of All Saints Church (the church is 1.3km north of modern Rackheath). The Domesday survey lists 27 heads of households comprising villagers, smallholders and free men, and had 5 men's ploughs and 7 acres of meadow. A second entry related to Rackheath Parva and a third to an unnamed strip of land, but details of those are not recounted here (Domesday Online).
- 3.14.2 The landscape history of the site is relatively clear for the early medieval, medieval and post medieval periods. The development site was now located in an area of heathland with the settlements of the parish located towards the north end of the parish (Gajos 2019).
- 3.14.3 The medieval road, Ranworth Way laying on the south side of the site and depicted on a map of 1585, comprised a major landscape feature, which formed

the parish boundary between Great and Little Plumstead, Rackheath, Sprowston and Thorpe St Andrew is recorded on the NHER. Excavation for a gas pipe in 1979 also revealed evidence for the parish boundary ditch, or roadside ditch (NHER 8166).

3.14.4 From within the site itself evidence of former occupation is slight, comprised a cropmark of possible archaeological origin close to a raised area of the site along the boundary with Green Lane East (NHER 51935). The lack of clear edges of the cropmark could also suggest that it had a natural origin. There is tentative evidence for a ditch and bank within the site that might be part of an 'entrenchment' of the heath depicted on sixteenth century maps (NHER 9688).

3.14.5 Aside from those on the site itself (NHER 9688 and NHER 51935), there are several undated cropmarks recorded within the study area which are thought likely to be of medieval to Post-medieval date (NHER 51936, NHER 51924, NHER 51934).

3.14.6 Within the wider parish there are several find spots of this date. An earlier coin of William I was found near Rackheath Hall to the north west (NHER 8172) and field walking to the west of the site produced one possible sherd of medieval pottery (NHER 49751).

3.14.7 An important local historical event was recorded close to the site, whereby, during the Peasants Revolt in 1381, a large gathering of Norfolk rebels assembled at the northern end of Mousehold Heath at Rackheath and proclaimed their leader Geoffrey Litster, 'King of the Commons', before marching on to defeat at North Walsham.

3.15 Post-medieval to modern

3.15.1 Immediately to the north of the site was Rackheath Park (NHER 30518), an area of land which had become by the late 16th century part of the estate owned by the Pettus family (of Rackheath Hall). It had passed to the Stracey family by the 18th century. At this time, following the c. 1801 Parliamentary Enclosure of Rackheath, the park was extended to the south taking in the segment of former Mousehold Heath which lay immediately beyond Salhouse Road. NHER 53082

indicates that the site was located within and at the northern limit of Mousehold heath as it appeared on Fadens' map of Norwich 1797.

- 3.15.2 The Grade II listed Rackheath Hall to the north west of the site was probably built, in 1777 although it could have been built as late as 1852-4 (NHER 8172). It replaced a 16th or 17th century hall, destroyed by fire, owned by Sir John Pettus, MP and Mayor for Norwich, who was knighted by Elizabeth I.
- 3.16 To the north and north west, in 1943, agricultural land between Rackheath Magna and Rackheath Parva (NHER 8170) was turned over to a new role as an airfield for the use of the United States Army Air Forces Eighth Air Force due to the need for long concrete runways for the larger and heavier B24s.
- 3.17 Post-medieval gravel quarries have been recorded at NHER 61652.
- 3.18 Post-medieval finds, found as part of find-scatters, are located around the study area. NHER 45426 records Post-medieval objects, including a 15th-16th century coin weight, found during metal detecting in 2006. Similarly dated finds were logged at NHER 49752. A further find-scatter, NHER 50502, produced a lead trade weight of James I or II, a post medieval cloth seal and a large quantity of 18th century and later metal objects.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 General

- 4.1.1 The archaeological mitigatory trenching consisted of twenty-four no. 50m by 1.80m trenches, which were arrayed in order to give a 3% sample of the 7.8-hectare site, and which were positioned to target the probable natural anomalies identified through geophysical survey.

4.2 Excavation methodology

- 4.2.1 The trenches were excavated using a 14 ton 360° tracked mechanical excavator (Plate 57). Topsoil and other overburden of low archaeological value was removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed natural geo-logical deposits where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded.
- 4.2.2 Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as appropriate and all further excavation was under-taken manually using hand tools.

4.3 Recording and Finds Recovery

- 4.3.1 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.
- 4.3.2 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]. Where more than one slot was excavated through an individual feature, each intervention was assigned additional numbers for the cutting event and for the deposits it contained (these deposits within cut features being referred to here as 'fills'). The record numbers assigned to cuts, deposits and groups are entirely arbitrary

and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. All features and deposits excavated during the archaeological mitigatory trenching are listed in Appendix 1. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.

4.3.3 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 periodically. Only objects of modern date were found and were not retained for accession.

4.3.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits, also used to keep a record of the excavation process. In addition, monochrome photographs were taken of significant features.

4.4 Sampling Strategy

4.4.1 Discrete features were half-sectioned, photographed and recorded by a cross-section scaled drawing at an appropriate scale (either 1:10 or 1:20).

4.4.2 Linear features within the trenches were investigated by means of a centrally spaced slot and recorded by GPS and noted on the relevant context sheets.

4.5 Environmental Sampling

4.5.1 The site contained no deposits suitable for environmental sampling.

5 QUANTIFICATION OF ARCHIVE

5.1 Paper Archive

Context register sheets	2
Context sheets	23
Plan registers	0
Plans at 1:50	0
Plans at 1:20	0
Plans at 1:10	0
Plans at 1:5	0
Section register sheets	2
Sections at 1:10 & 1:20	33
Trench record sheets	24
Photo register sheets	3
Small finds register sheets	0
Environmental register sheets	0

5.2 Digital Archive

Digital photos	75
GPS survey files	3
Digital plans	1
GIS project	0
Access database	1

5.3 Physical Archive

Struck flint	1
Burnt flint	0
Pottery	0g
Ceramic building material (CBM)	0
Glass	0
Briquetage	0
Small Finds	0
Slag	0
Animal bone	0
Shell	0
Environmental bulk samples	0
Environmental bulk samples (10 litre buckets)	0
Monolith samples	0
Other samples (specify)	0
Black and white films	0
Colour slides	0

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS BY TRENCH

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The trenches are described below in numerical order, with technical data tabulated (Appendix 2 and 3). Archaeological features were sealed by the topsoil and cut the subsoil, unless otherwise stated. The principal result of the fieldwork was the identification of several possible ditches and pits, the full extents of which could not be defined within the excavated area. Datable artefactual material was limited to a single flint waste flake.

6.2 Trench 1-5

6.2.1 Trenches 1 to 5 contained no archaeological features.

6.3 Trench 6

6.3.1 Trench 6 contained an undated pit [105] which contained no finds.

6.3.2 Pit [105] had an oval shape in plan and was located towards the south western end of Trench 6. The pit measured 0.80m north east to south west by 0.70m north west to south east. Pit [105] was 0.20m deep with regular concave sides, a concave base and a gradual break of slope at the base. The pit was steeper on its north side. Although the edges of the pit were good, suggesting that it was a cut feature, the form and steeper northern side could also suggest a natural origin. If, on balance, a genuine archaeological feature, it may have been associated with agricultural practice, although this remains unclear. The fill (104) was a dark brown clayey sand which had built up through natural infilling, the higher clay content perhaps indicating this had occurred through alluvial action.

6.4 Trench 7-12

6.4.1 Trenches 7-12 contained no archaeological features. A probable tree-throw of natural origin was located in Trench 7. Description of it is not reproduced here.

6.5 Trench 13

6.5.1 Trench 13 contained a NE-SW orientated undated ditch [109] and undated pit [111]

6.5.2 Ditch [109] was observed to orientate in a North East to South West direction and ran across the trench for at least 1.80m. The ditch was 1.30m wide and 0.30m deep with regular concave sides and base. There was a non-perceptible break of slope at the base of the feature. The mid greyish brown sandy clay fill (108) was of natural origin with the higher clay content perhaps indicating this had infilled through alluvial action. Although the fill had a natural appearance, the quality of the edges of this ditch suggested that it was a genuine archaeological feature. The ditch does not appear in Trench 12 to the north east and may represent localised drainage.

6.5.3 Pit [111] had an oval shape in plan and was located towards the north western end of Trench 13, partly extending beyond the limits of the trench. The pit measured 2.00m north west to south east by 0.60m north east to south west. Pit [111] was 0.45m deep with convex and steep visible side, a concave base and a gradual break of slope at the base. The slightly irregular appearance of the visible side could indicate the possibility the pit had a natural origin. If, on balance, a genuine archaeological feature it may represent a feature associated with agricultural practice, although this remains unclear. The fill (110) was a mid orangey brown sandy clay which had built up through natural infilling, the higher clay content perhaps indicating this had occurred through alluvial action.

6.6 Trench 14

6.6.1 Trench 14 contained no archaeological features

6.7 Trench 15

6.7.1 Trench 15 contained a ditch [113].

6.7.2 Ditch [113] was observed to orientate in a North West to South East direction and ran across the trench for at least 1.80m. It was located at the far northern end of the trench, parallel to Green Lane East, beyond the site. The ditch was 1.50m wide and 0.40m deep with regular slightly convex sides and a concave base. There was a non-perceptible break of slope at the base of the feature. The mid orangey brown sandy clay fill (112) was of natural origin, with the higher clay content perhaps indicating this had occurred through alluvial action. Although the fill had a natural appearance, the quality of the edges of this ditch

suggested that it was a genuine archaeological feature. The ditch does not appear in Trench 11 to the north west, although despite this probably represented a field boundary at the edge of the field.

- 6.7.3 A single flint waste flake was recovered from the fill of ditch [113], it was considered highly likely to be residual due to the strong parallel orientation of ditch [113] with the road Green Lane East.

6.8 Trench 16

- 6.8.1 Trench 16 contained an undated pit [119].

- 6.8.2 Pit [119] had a sub-circular shape in plan and was located towards the centre of Trench 16, partly extending beyond the limits of the trench. The pit measured 2.50m north east to south west by 0.60m north west to south east. Pit [119] was 0.20m deep with concave sides and base. It had a non-perceptible break of slope at the base. The shallow form of this feature despite its reasonably regular sides could indicate the possibility the pit had a natural origin. If, on balance, a genuine archaeological feature it may have been associated with agricultural practice, although this remains unclear. The fill (118) was Light brownish grey sandy silt which had built up through natural infilling.

6.9 Trenches 17-19

- 6.9.1 Trenches 17-19 contained no archaeological features.

6.10 Trench 20

- 6.10.1 Trench 20 contained an undated pit [121].

- 6.10.2 Pit [121] had a sub-oval shape in plan and was located towards the south western end of Trench 20, partly extending beyond the limits of the trench. The pit measured 2.40m north east to south west by 1.10m north west to south east. Pit [119] was 0.20m deep with concave sides and base. It had a non-perceptible break of slope at the base. The shallow form of this feature despite its reasonably regular sides could indicate the possibility the pit had a natural origin. If, on balance, a genuine archaeological feature, it may have been associated with agricultural practice, although this remains unclear. The fill (120) was a mid orangey brown sandy clay which had built up through natural

infilling.

6.11 Trench 21

6.11.1 Trench 21 contained no archaeological features

6.12 Trench 22

6.12.1 Trench 13 contained the southern terminus of an undated N-S orientated ditch [114]

6.12.2 Ditch [114] was observed to orientate in a North East to South West direction and was at least 3m long. It was located at the far northern end of the trench and had a southern terminus within the confines of the ditch. The ditch was 2.00m long and 1.30m wide and 0.40m deep with steep sides and a slightly sloping base. There was a very gradual break of slope at the base of the feature. The light brownish grey silt fills were noticeably composed of an unusual pure silt indicating naturally silting possibly through a slow natural build-up. Three fills (115), (116) and (117) were recorded, divided by slight changes of hue, but the unusual pattern of these deposits as seen in section, and the high silt content, perhaps indicates an unusual deposition or post-deposition processes. Could this deposit have been subject to repeated flooding? Although the fill had a natural appearance, the quality of the edges of this ditch on balance suggested that it was a genuine archaeological feature, however the possibility of a natural origin remains. The ditch, if genuine, probably represented a short segment of localised drainage ditch.

6.13 Trench 23

6.13.1 Trench 23 contained the eastern terminus end of an E-W orientated ditch [122]. No finds were recovered from the slot investigating the feature.

6.13.2 Ditch [122] was observed to orientate in a North East to South West direction and was at least 2m long. It was located at the far northern end of the trench. The ditch was 1.00m wide and 0.40m deep with regular convex sides and a concave base. There was a very gradual break of slope at the base of the feature. The mid brownish grey sandy silt fill (121) was the result of natural infilling. Although the fill had a natural appearance, the quality of the edges of

this ditch on balance suggested that it was a genuine archaeological feature and probably represented a short segment of drainage ditch or boundary.

6.14 Trench 24

6.14.1 Trench 24 contained no archaeological features

7 THE FINDS

7.1 Flint

Barry Bishop

- 7.1.1 A well struck flake of translucent brown flint with a remnant patch of thin and weathered but rough cortex on its distal. It has a finely trimmed, c. 1mm deep striking platform, a diffuse bulb of percussion and a feathered distal termination. It has two main dorsal flake scars, both coming from the same direction as the flake was detached. It measures 20mm long by 20mm wide and is 3mm thick. It is not closely dateable but it is well struck and most reminiscent of Mesolithic or Neolithic industries.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 Prehistoric

8.1.1 The archaeological mitigatory trenching recovered no direct evidence of prehistoric activity on this site, although a single flint waste flake was recovered from ditch [113] in Trench 15. The flint had a form reminiscent of Mesolithic and Neolithic industries and was highly likely to be residual. Its presence does, however, confirm the 'background noise' of the area, where low-intensity activity of an earlier prehistoric date has been recorded on the NHER, often as find-spots. For example, a few hundred metres to the south east of the site a Mesolithic or later quartzite mace-head was recorded at NHER 8169.

8.2 Roman

8.2.1 No indications of Roman activity were discerned during the archaeological mitigatory trenching which is in keeping with the historical background of the site as recorded on the NHER, which shows a remarkable lack of Roman remains.

8.3 Medieval

8.3.1 No indication of medieval activity was discovered in the archaeological mitigatory trenching area.

8.4 Post-Medieval

8.4.1 The features uncovered during the archaeological mitigatory trenching were likely to have been post-medieval in date, although generally no artefactual evidence was recovered to indicate this. This assessment is perhaps confirmed by the orientation of the ditches, in Trench 15, where ditch [113] had the same alignment as Green Lane East, and ditch [109] in Trench 13, which was orientated on a right angle to the present field-system. If they are Post-medieval, they would appear to have gone out of use prior to the date of the Tithe Map (mid-19th-century), which presents the field in the form it takes today. It is possible that the features themselves (including [114] and [122]), if not remnants of field boundaries served as segments of localised drainage which may have been distributed around the site in respect to the natural topography of the landscape, as a result short in length. This short form of ditch may have

been linked with historical assarting of the heathland. Several other undated and irregular pits ([111], [119], [121] and [105]), if genuine pits, may have been linked with agriculture practice of a broadly similar date.

9 CONCLUSIONS

- 9.1.1 The results of the archaeological mitigatory trenching indicate that the land was largely unaffected by any forms of human occupation or exploitation in keeping with what is known of the historical character of the wider Rackheath area, as recorded on the NHER.
- 9.1.2 The lack of later medieval and Post-medieval evidence (aside low-intensity ditches and pits) is in keeping with the main centre of medieval Rackheath, being located some distance from the site (Rackheath Magna and Rackheath Parva NHER 8170). The land probably remained as unproductive heathland up to the Post-medieval period, where it was turned over to arable.
- 9.1.3 The results of the current site are generally comparable to the nearby archaeological investigations, such as that undertaken to the north, Land at Green Lane Road West (Reid and Crawley 2018).

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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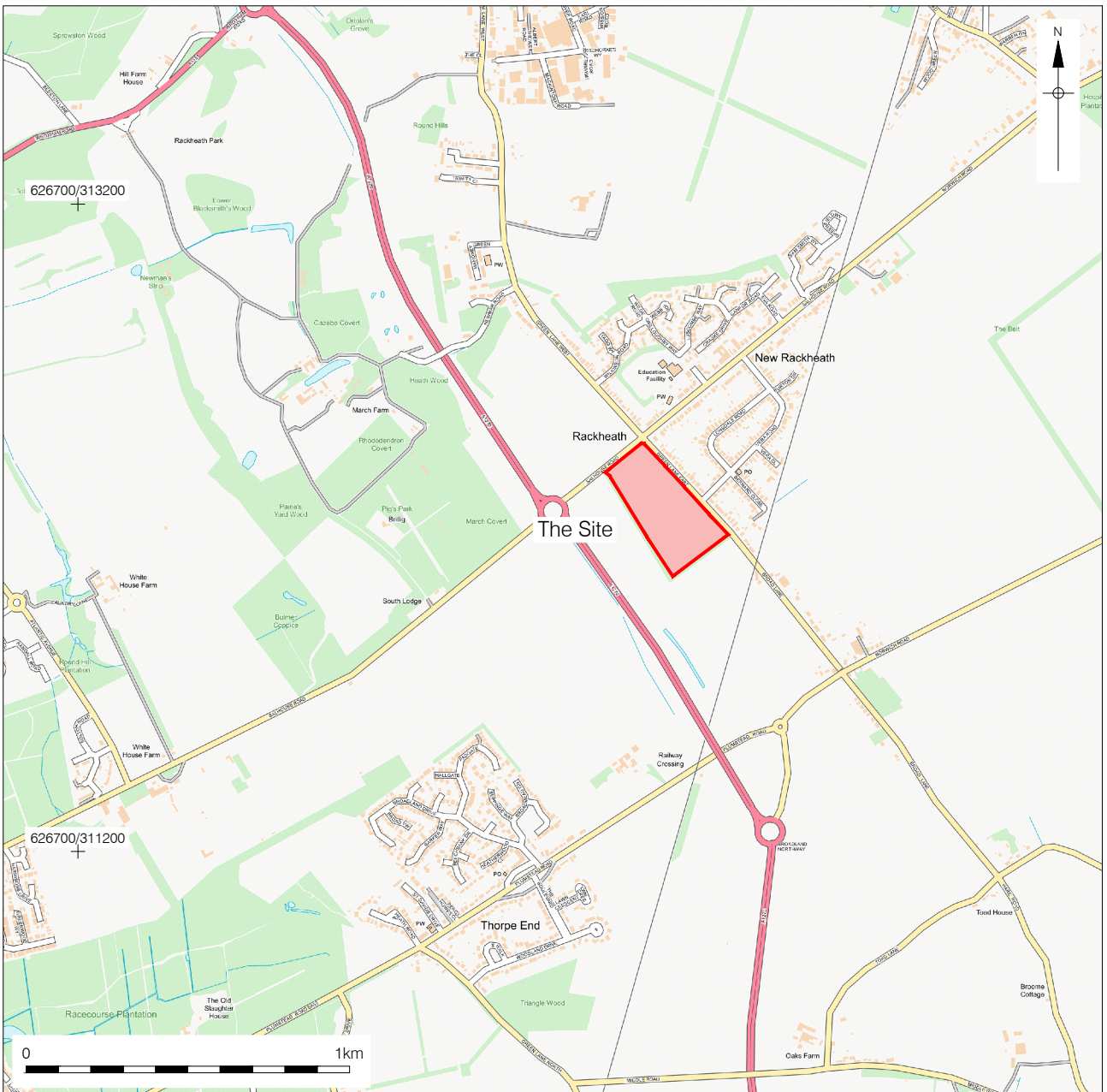
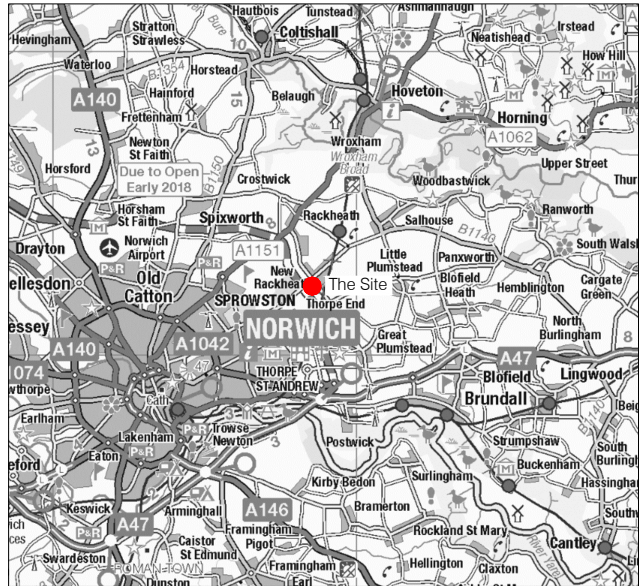
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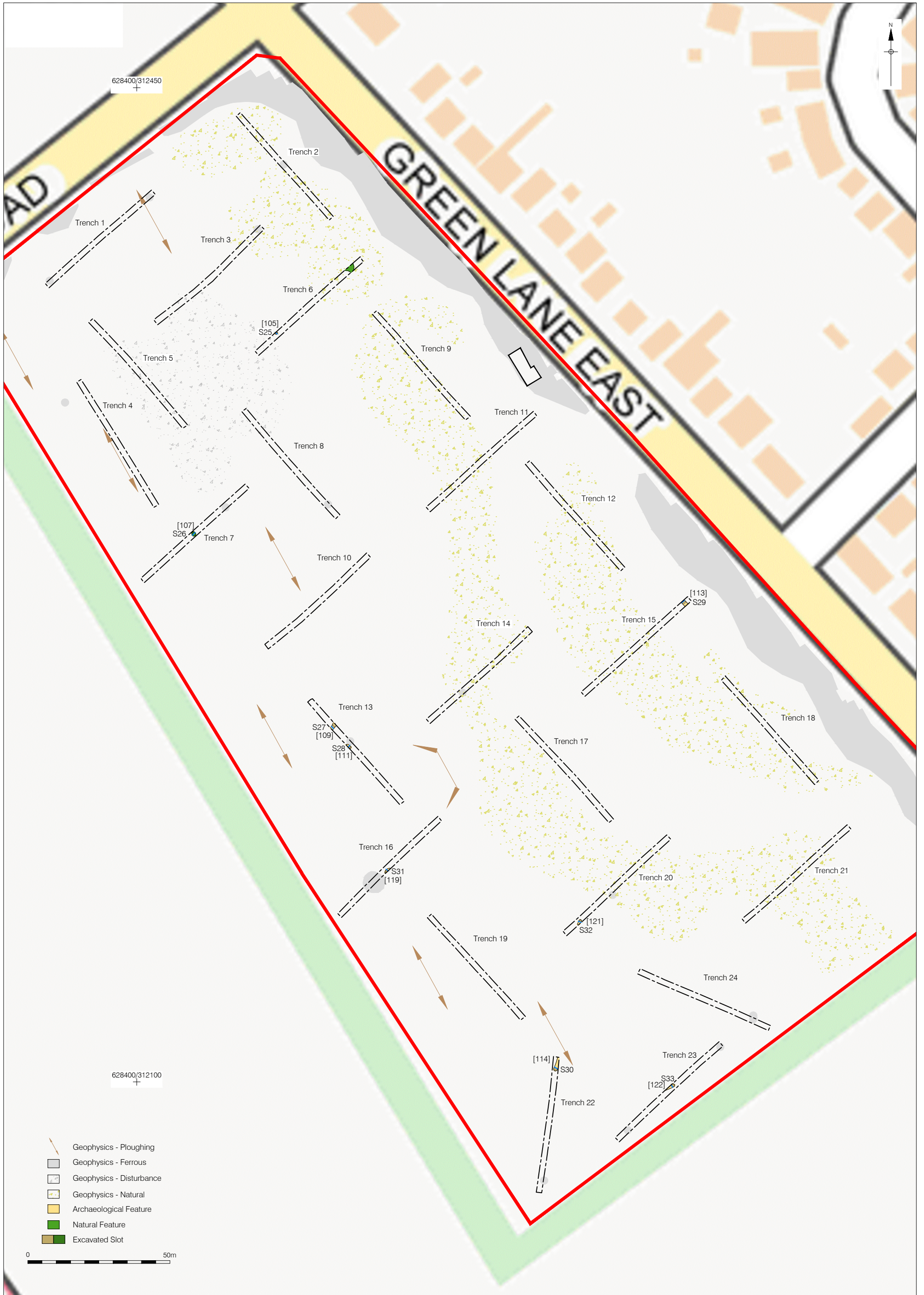
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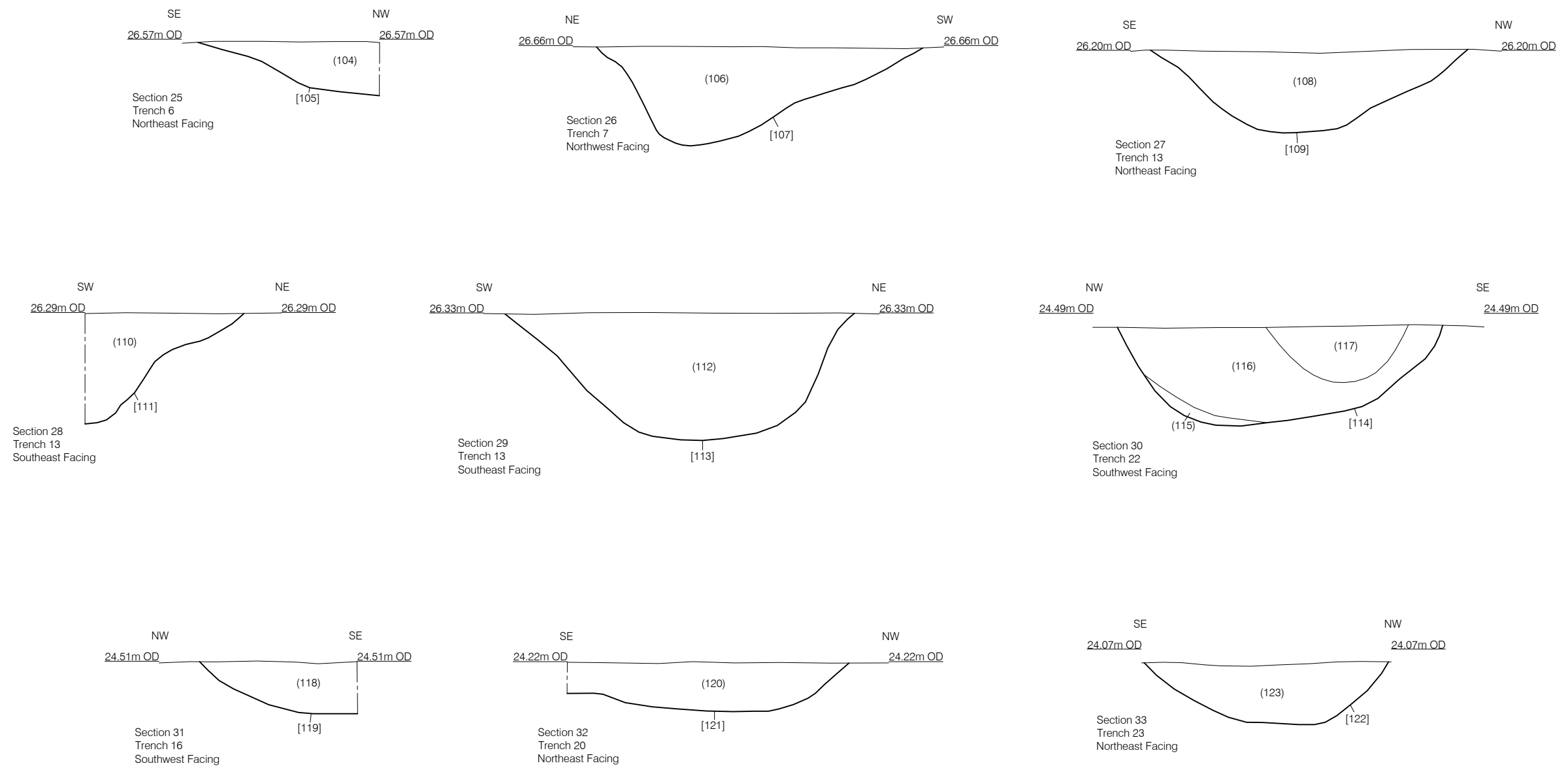
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13 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: Southeast facing section of Trench 1



Plate 2: Northeast view of Trench 1.



Plate 3 Southwest facing section of Trench 2



Plate 4 Northwest view of Trench 2



Plate 5 Northwest facing section of Trench 3



Plate 6 Southwest view of Trench 3



Plate 7 Southwest facing section of Trench 4



Plate 8 Northwest view of Trench 4



Plate 9 Southwest facing section of Trench 5



Plate 10 Southeast view of Trench 5



Plate 11 Southeast facing section of Trench 6



Plate 12 Southwest view of Trench 6



Plate 13 Southwest view Pit [105], Trench 6



Plate 14 Southeast facing section of Trench 7



Plate 15 Southwest view of Trench 7



Plate 16 Southeast view of treethrow [107], Trench 7



Plate 17 Southwest facing section of Trench 8



Plate 18 Southeast view of Trench 8



Plate 19 Northeast facing section of Trench 9



Plate 20 Southeast view of Trench 9



Plate 21 Southeast facing section of Trench 10



Plate 22 Northeast view of Trench 10



Plate 23 Northwest facing section of Trench 11



Plate 24 Southwest view of Trench 11



Plate 25 Southeast facing section of Trench 12



Plate 26 Southeast view of Trench 12



Plate 27 Southwest facing section of Trench 13



Plate 28 Southeast view of Trench 13



Plate 29 Southwest view of ditch [109], Trench 13



Plate 30 Southeast facing section of Trench 14



Plate 31 Northeast facing view of Trench 14



Plate 32 Northwest facing section of Trench 15



Plate 33 Southwest view of Trench 15



Plate 34 Northwest view of ditch [113], Trench 15



Plate 35 Northwest facing section of Trench 16



Plate 36 Southwest view of Trench 16



Plate 37 Northeast view of pit [119], Trench 16



Plate 38 Southwest facing section of Trench 17



Plate 39 Southeast view of Trench 17



Plate 40 Southeast facing section of Trench 18



Plate 41 Northwest view of Trench 18



Plate 42 Southwest facing section of Trench 19



Plate 43 Southeast view of Trench 19



Plate 44 Southeast facing section of Trench 20



Plate 45 Southeast view of Trench 20



Plate 46 Southwest view of pit [121], Trench 20



Plate 47 Southeast facing section of Trench 21



Plate 48 Northeast view of Trench 21



Plate 49 East facing section of Trench 22



Plate 50 South view of Trench 22



Plate 51 Northeast view of ditch [114], Trench 22



Plate 52 Southeast facing section of Trench 23



Plate 53 Northeast view of Trench 23



Plate 54 East view of Ditch [122], Trench 23



Plate 55 Southwest facing section of Trench 24



Plate 56 Southwest facing section of Trench 24



Plate 57 14-ton 360 Machining within Trench 6

14 APPENDIX 2: TRENCH TABLE

TRENCH 1	Figures 3		Plate 1 and 2	
Trench Alignment: SW-NE	Length: 50m	Level of Natural (m OD):		
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)		
		SW End	NE End	
Turf Layer	(100)	0.1m	0.1m	
Topsoil	(101)	0.3m	0.3m	
Subsoil	(103)	0.4m	0.4m	
Natural	(102)	0.5m	0.5m	
Summary				
Trench 1 was located close to the north-western boundary of the site.				
The trench contained no archaeological features				

TRENCH 2	Figures 3		Plate 3 and 4	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 50M	Level of Natural (m OD):		
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)		
		NW End	SE End	
Turf Layer	(100)	0.1m	0.1m	
Topsoil	(101)	0.3m	0.3m	
Subsoil	(103)	0.4m	0.4m	
Natural	(102)	0.5m	0.5m	
Summary				
Trench 2 was located in the north-west of the site.				
There were no archaeological features present				

TRENCH 3	Figures 3		Plate 5 and 6	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 50M	Level of Natural (m OD):		
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)		
		NE End	SW End	
Turf Layer	(100)	0.1m	0.1m	
Topsoil	(101)	0.4m	0.4m	
Subsoil	(103)	0.5m	0.5m	
Natural	(102)	0.5m	0.5m	
Summary				

Trench 3 was located in the north-west of the site.
There were no archaeological features present

TRENCH 4	Figures 3		Plate 7 and 8	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 50M	Level of Natural (m OD):		
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)		
		NW End	SE End	
Turf Layer	(100)	0.1m	0.1m	
Topsoil	(101)	0.3m	0.3m	
Subsoil	(103)	0.4m	0.4m	
Natural	(102)	0.5m	0.5m	
Summary				
Trench 4 was located in the north-west of the site. There were no archaeological features present				

TRENCH 5	Figures 3		Plate 9 and 10	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 50M	Level of Natural (m OD):		
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)		
		NW End	SE End	
Turf Layer	(100)	0.1m	0.1m	
Topsoil	(101)	0.3m	0.3m	
Subsoil	(103)	0.4m	0.4m	
Natural	(102)	0.5m	0.5m	
Summary				
Trench 5 was located in the north-west of the site. There were no archaeological features present				

TRENCH 6	Figures 3		Plate 11, 12 and 13	
Trench Alignment: SW-NE	Length: 50M	Level of Natural (m OD):		
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)		
		SW End	NE End	
Turf Layer	(100)	0.1m	0.1m	
Topsoil	(101)	0.3m	0.3m	

Subsoil	(103)	0.4m	0.4m
Natural	(102)	0.5m	0.5m
Summary			
Trench 6 was located in the north-west of the site. It contained an undated pit [105] likely to be Post-medieval in date.			

TRENCH 7	Figures 3		Plate 14, 15 and 16	
Trench Alignment: SW-NE	Length: 50M	Level of Natural (m OD):		
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)		
		SW End	NE End	
Turf Layer	(100)	0.1m	0.1m	
Topsoil	(101)	0.3m	0.3m	
Subsoil	(103)	0.4m	0.4m	
Natural	(102)	0.5m	0.5m	
Summary				
Trench 7 was located in the north-west of the site. It contained one undated treethrow [107].				

TRENCH 8	Figures 3		Plate 17 and 18	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 50M	Level of Natural (m OD):		
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)		
		NW End	SE End	
Turf Layer	(100)	0.1m	0.1m	
Topsoil	(101)	0.3m	0.3m	
Subsoil	(103)	0.4m	0.4m	
Natural	(102)	0.5m	0.5m	
Summary				
Trench 8 was located in the north-west of the site. There were no archaeological features present				

TRENCH 9	Figures 3		Plate 19 and 20	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 50M	Level of Natural (m OD):		
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)		

		NW End	SE End
Turf Layer	(100)	0.1m	0.1m
Topsoil	(101)	0.3m	0.3m
Subsoil	(103)	0.4m	0.4m
Natural	(102)	0.5m	0.5m
Summary			
Trench 9 was located in the north-west of the site. There were no archaeological features present			

TRENCH 10	Figures 3	Plate 21 and 22	
Trench Alignment: SW-NE	Length: 50M	Level of Natural (m OD):	
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)	
		SW End	NE End
Turf Layer	(100)	0.1m	0.1m
Topsoil	(101)	0.3m	0.3m
Subsoil	(103)	0.4m	0.4m
Natural	(102)	0.5m	0.5m
Summary			
Trench 10 was located in the north-west of the site. There were no archaeological features present			

TRENCH 11	Figures 3	Plate 23 and 24	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 50M	Level of Natural (m OD):	
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Turf Layer	(100)	0.1m	0.1m
Topsoil	(101)	0.3m	0.3m
Subsoil	(103)	0.4m	0.4m
Natural	(102)	0.5m	0.5m
Summary			
Trench 11 was located in the centre of the site. There were no archaeological features present			

TRENCH 12	Figures 3		Plate 25 and 26	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 50M	Level of Natural (m OD):		
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)		
		NE End	SW End	
Turf Layer	(100)	0.1m	0.1m	
Topsoil	(101)	0.3m	0.3m	
Subsoil	(103)	0.4m	0.4m	
Natural	(102)	0.5m	0.5m	
Summary				
Trench 12 was located in the north-west of the site.				
There were no archaeological features present				

TRENCH 13	Figures 3		Plate 27, 28 and 29	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 50M	Level of Natural (m OD):		
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)		
		NW End	SE End	
Turf Layer	(100)	0.1m	0.1m	
Topsoil	(101)	0.3m	0.3m	
Subsoil	(103)	0.4m	0.4m	
Natural	(102)	0.5m	0.5m	
Summary				
Trench 13 was located in the centre of the site.				
There was an undated boundary ditch [109] and an undated pit [111] present in the trench.				

TRENCH 14	Figures 3		Plate 30 and 31	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 50M	Level of Natural (m OD):		
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)		
		NE End	SW End	
Turf Layer	(100)	0.1m	0.1m	
Topsoil	(101)	0.3m	0.3m	
Subsoil	(103)	0.4m	0.4m	
Natural	(102)	0.5m	0.5m	
Summary				

Trench 14 was located in centre of the site.
There were no archaeological features present

TRENCH 15	Figures 3		Plate 32, 33 and 34	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 50M	Level of Natural (m OD):		
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)		
		NE End	SW End	
Turf Layer	(100)	0.1m	0.1m	
Topsoil	(101)	0.3m	0.3m	
Subsoil	(103)	0.4m	0.4m	
Natural	(102)	0.5m	0.5m	
Summary				
Trench 15 was located in the centre of the site. There was an undated boundary ditch [113] from which a flint waste flake was recovered (probably residual)				

TRENCH 16	Figures 3		Plate 35, 36 and 37	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 50M	Level of Natural (m OD):		
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)		
		NE End	SW End	
Turf Layer	(100)	0.1m	0.1m	
Topsoil	(101)	0.3m	0.3m	
Subsoil	(103)	0.4m	0.4m	
Natural	(102)	0.5m	0.5m	
Summary				
Trench 16 was located in the south-east of the site. There was an undated pit [119] present in the trench.				

TRENCH 17	Figures 3		Plate 38 and 39	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 50M	Level of Natural (m OD):		
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)		

		NE End	SW End
Turf Layer	(100)	0.1m	0.1m
Topsoil	(101)	0.3m	0.3m
Subsoil	(103)	0.4m	0.4m
Natural	(102)	0.5m	0.5m
Summary			
Trench 17 was located in the south-east of the site.			
There were no archaeological features present			

TRENCH 18	Figures 3		Plate 40 and 41	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 50M	Level of Natural (m OD):		
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)		
		NW End	SE End	
Turf Layer	(100)	0.1m	0.1m	
Topsoil	(101)	0.3m	0.3m	
Subsoil	(103)	0.4m	0.4m	
Natural	(102)	0.5m	0.5m	
Summary				
Trench 18 was located in the south-east of the site.				
There were no archaeological features present				

TRENCH 19	Figures 3		Plate 42 and 43	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 50M	Level of Natural (m OD):		
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)		
		NE End	SW End	
Turf Layer	(100)	0.1m	0.1m	
Topsoil	(101)	0.3m	0.3m	
Subsoil	(103)	0.4m	0.4m	
Natural	(102)	0.5m	0.5m	
Summary				
Trench 19 was located in the south east of the site.				
There were no archaeological features present				

TRENCH 20	Figures 3		Plate 44, 45 and 46	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 50M	Level of Natural (m OD):		
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)		
		NE End	SW End	
Turf Layer	(100)	0.1m	0.1m	
Topsoil	(101)	0.3m	0.3m	
Subsoil	(103)	0.4m	0.4m	
Natural	(102)	0.5m	0.5m	
Summary				
Trench 20 was located in the south-east of the site. There was one undated pit [121] present in the trench.				

TRENCH 21	Figures 3		Plate 47 and 48	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 50M	Level of Natural (m OD):		
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)		
		NE End	SW End	
Turf Layer	(100)	0.1m	0.1m	
Topsoil	(101)	0.3m	0.3m	
Subsoil	(103)	0.4m	0.4m	
Natural	(102)	0.5m	0.5m	
Summary				
Trench 21 was located in the south-east of the site. There were no archaeological features present				

TRENCH 22	Figures 3		Plate 49, 50 and 51	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 50M	Level of Natural (m OD):		
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)		
		N End	S End	
Turf Layer	(100)	0.1m	0.1m	

Topsoil	(101)	0.3m	0.3m
Subsoil	(103)	0.4m	0.4m
Natural	(102)	0.5m	0.5m
Summary			
Trench 22 was located in the south east of the site.			
There was the southern terminus of one undated ditch [114] present in the trench			

TRENCH 23	Figures 3		Plate 52, 53 and 54	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 50M	Level of Natural (m OD):		
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)		
		NE End	SW End	
Turf Layer	(100)	0.1m	0.1m	
Topsoil	(101)	0.3m	0.3m	
Subsoil	(103)	0.4m	0.4m	
Natural	(102)	0.5m	0.5m	
Summary				
Trench 23 was located in the south-east of the site.				
There was the north-eastern terminus end of a boundary ditch [122] present in the ditch.				

TRENCH 24	Figures 3		Plate 55 and 56	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 50M	Level of Natural (m OD):		
Deposit	Context No.	Maximum Depth (m)		
		NW End	SE End	
Turf Layer	(100)	0.1m	0.1m	
Topsoil	(101)	0.3m	0.3m	
Subsoil	(103)	0.4m	0.4m	
Natural	(102)	0.5m	0.5m	
Summary				
Trench 24 was located in the south-east of the site.				
There were no archaeological features present				

14.1

APPENDIX 3: CONTEXT TABLE

Context	Type	Cut	Category	Trench	Length	Width	Depth	Description
100	Deposit	0	Turf	-	-	-	0.1	Dark greyish brown silty sand
101	Deposit	0	topsoil	-	-	-	0.2	Mid greyish brown sandy silt
102	Deposit	0	Subsoil	-	-	-	0.2	Mid reddish yellow stony sand
103	Deposit	0	Natural	-	-	-	0.2	Light brownish grey sandy silt
104	Fill	105	Pit	6	0.8	0.7	0.2	Dark brown clayey sand
105	Cut	105	Pit	6	0.8	0.7	0.2	Oval shaped, gently slope sided pit
106	Fill	107	Treethrow	7	1.44	1.3	0.39	Light grey orangey brown silty sand
107	Cut	107	Treethrow	7	1.44	1.3	0.39	Irregular circular moderately slope sided
108	Fill	109	Ditch	13	1.8	1.3	0.3	Mid greyish brown sandy clay
109	Cut	109	Ditch	13	1.8	1.3	0.3	Steep sided concave based linear
110	Fill	111	Pit	13	2.0	0.6	0.45	Mid orangey brown sandy clay
111	Cut	111	Pit	13	2.0	0.6	0.45	Oval shaped steep sided concave -based pit
112	Fill	113	Ditch	15	1.8	1.5	0.4	mid orangey brown sandy clay
113	Cut	113	Ditch	15	1.8	1.5	0.4	Steep sided concave based linear
114	Cut	114	Ditch	22	3	1.3	0.4	Steep/moderately slope sided concave based
115	Fill	114	Ditch	22	3	0.5	0.1	Light reddish grey silt
116	Fill	114	Ditch	22	3	1.3	0.4	Light brownish grey silt
117	Fill	114	Ditch	22	3	0.5	0.3	Light brownish grey silt
118	Fill	119	Pit	16	2.5	0.6	0.2	Light brownish grey sandy silt
119	Cut	119	Pit	16	2.5	0.6	0.2	Gently slope sided circular pit
120	Fill	121	Pit	20	2.4	1.1	0.2	Mid orangey brown sandy clay
121	Cut	121	Pit	20	2.4	1.1	0.2	Gently slope sided concave-based pit
122	Cut	123	Ditch	23	2.0	1.0	0.2	Moderately slope sided concave based ditch
123	Fill	123	Ditch	23	2.0	1.0	0.2	Mid brownish grey sandy silt

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Project details

Project name	Land South of Green Lane East, Rackheath, Norfolk
Short description of the project	A programme of archaeological mitigatory trenching undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology on Land at Green Lane East (NGR TL TG 28516 12276) from the 1st April 2019 to 10th April 2019. The archaeological work was commissioned by Lanpro prior to proposed construction works associated with residential development. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. A total of twenty-four no. 50m by 1.80m trenches were arrayed in order to give a 5% sample of the 7.8 hectare site. The mitigatory trenching identified four steep sided ditches in Trenches 13, 15, 22 and 23 all undated, except for one ([113]) located in Trench 15, but all perhaps likely to be of later Post-medieval date. Ditch [113] contained a small struck flint, thought highly likely to be residual due to the orientation of the ditch, which aligned to Green Lane East. Historic maps show no indication of field boundaries in the investigated area and it is likely that these ditches represented irrigation features. As there was no evidence of maintenance or erosion this suggested they were short-lived features. There were four irregular undated pits within Trenches 6, 13, 16 and 20 which may have had a horticultural/agricultural origin due to the absence of cultural items recovered from them.
Project dates	Start: 01-04-2019 End: 10-04-2019
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	ENF 145917 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m
Monument type	DITCHES Uncertain
Monument type	PITS Uncertain
Significant Finds	WORKED FLINT Early Prehistoric
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate

Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK BROADLAND RACKHEATH Land South of Green Lane East, Rackheath, Norfolk
Postcode	NR13 6QJ
Study area	7.8 Hectares
Site coordinates	TG 28516 12276 52.659452470286 1.379411601401 52 39 34 N 001 22 45 E Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 24m Max: 25m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	PCA Central
Project brief originator	Norfolk Historic Environment Service
Project design originator	Lanpro Services
Project director/manager	Peter Crawley
Project supervisor	Gary Reid
Type of sponsor/funding body	Lovell Partnerships Limited

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Norwich Museum
Physical Contents	"Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	Norwich Museum
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Norwich Museum
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Plan","Report"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at Green Lane East, Rackheath, Norfolk: A Programme of Archaeological Mitigatory Trenching
Author(s)/Editor (s)	Reid, G
Other bibliographic details	R13656
Date	2019
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct
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Entered by	Peter Crawley (PCrawley@pre-construct.com)
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