Archaeological Monitoring at York Hall Farm, Moulton St Mary, Norfolk.



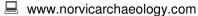
Prepared for Mr.P.D.Wright

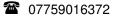
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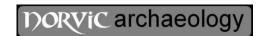


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Archaeological Monitoring at York Hall Farm, Moulton St. Mary, Norfolk.

Location: York Hall Farm

Parish: Beighton

Grid Ref: TG 3946 0645 **NHES Event No:** ENF125374

Date of fieldwork: 26th October & 9th November 2010;

18th, 20th & 21st of January 2011

1.0 Introduction

Norvic Archaeology was commissioned by Philip.D.Wright to undertake archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the construction of two extensions to an existing poultry shed at York Hall Farm, Moulton St Mary, near Acle, Norfolk. The farm site is located within a complex of Iron Age to Roman period field systems and enclosure cropmarks.

This programme of archaeological work was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition (Planning application Nos. 20100680 & 20100681) set by Broadland District Council and in accordance with a brief issued by the Historic Environment Service (HES Ref: CNF42892). The aim of the works was to preserve by record the presence/absence, date, nature, and extent of any buried archaeological remains and features. This report presents a brief description of the methodology followed, the results and the archaeological interpretation of the results.

On completion of the project, the site archive will be offered for long term deposition with Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service, following the relevant policy on archiving standards.

2.0 Summary of Results

The monitoring work successfully characterised the form and preservation of several linear features previously identified as cropmarks believed to be associated with a Romano-British landscape, many of which are surprisingly shallow. The vast majority of features appeared to be sterile of cultural artefacts and cannot be dated with any confidence.

Two general classes of feature types were recognised divided by the general character of their fills. The majority of linear features are suspected to be of Romano-British date or later whereas all of the pits encountered, and two ditches sharing a similar profile on a similar axis, contained well leached, finer clay-silts with traces of charcoal suggestive of a more archaic, possibly prehistoric character.

A modest assemblage of worked flint collected during the project indicates a general background of minor prehistoric activity which is likely to date from the Late Neolithic to Bronze Age, although a few examples of recycled or scavenged flint may originally pre-date this activity. A small fragment of a well made thin blade with pressure flaking along both its dorsal and ventral edges may have been part of finely crafted early Neolithic tool such as a knife or sickle blade.

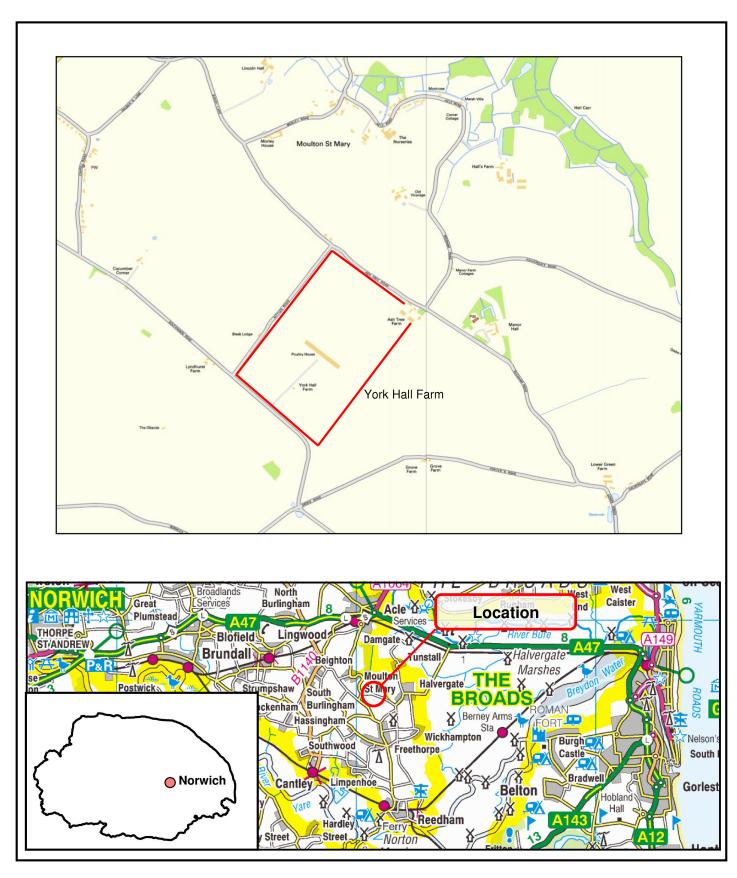


Figure 1: General Site Location (not to scale).



3.0 Geology and Topography (Figure 1)

York Hall Farm is located less than 1km to the south of Moulton St.Mary c.2.5km from western edge of the Norfolk Broads, on the southern extension of the *Rich Loam District*, a zone of exceptionally fertile soils formed in wind-blown loess overlying a variety of undulating glacial deposits. The land also benefits from a good balance of nutrient and water holding soils, yet is well drained and tractable. In consequence this zone of land, bordered in the area of the site by the remnants of the great estuary and peatlands of the Broadland and the peat filled valley of the river Yare, was one of the most densely settled regions in medieval England (Williamson in Ashwin & Davidson 8, 2005). Numerous cropmarks in the area also attest to a well organised and settled pre-medieval agrarian and pastoral landscape.

The majority of the site is located on a plateau of deep Pleistocene Crag deposits of sand and gravels with bands of silts and clays. Superficial deposits comprise mainly of Lowestoft Formation tills, together with outwash sands and gravels, silts and clays. The southern end of the farm site consists of Happisburgh Glacigenic formation sands and gravels with sand and laminated silts and clays. (British Geological Survey – Geology of Britain Viewer at a scale of 1:50 000 (http://.maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer google/googleviewer.html).

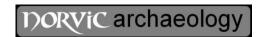
Subsurface geological deposits encountered during the works comprised of a range of banded sands and clay-silts with a deep sequence of glaciofluvial sand formations revealed to a depth of c. 3m in the area of the two large secondary sump trenches (see Plate 4).

4.0 Brief Archaeological and Historical Background

Beighton is a village and small parish, situated north of Cantley and south of Acle. Its name is first recorded as *Begetuna* in 1086 and is derived from the Old English for the farmstead of a woman called Beage or of a man called Baegae/a (Mills 32, 1988). Beighton now also incorporates the parish of Moulton St Mary, also mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. A parish summary of the large amount of information held for the Beighton parish on Norfolk's Historic Environment can be viewed on the Norfolk Heritage Explorer website (www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk). The parish has generated over 60 records which give evidence of human occupation and activity for most periods in the form of find scatters, cropmarks, listed buildings and excavated sites.

The following information has been sourced from the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER). Sites of particular relevance or interest recorded by the Historic Environment Record which fall in relative close proximity to the development site are described below. Of specific relevance to the monitoring works are the extensive cropmarks covering the location of the site (NHER 6096) and a circular cropmark in close proximity to the trenching works on the western side of the poultry farm (NHER 11866) – see figure 2.

NHER 6096: The cropmarks of an extensive Roman agricultural landscape, consisting of a series of parallel trackways, enclosures and fields covering almost four square km are visible on aerial photographs within the parishes of Beighton and Cantley. Metal detecting of fields in this area during 2001 collected a Roman terret and a possible medieval spindle whorl. A possible Roman villa site has been identified approximately 1 km to the north (NHER 21762) and another villa or settlement approximately 300m to the southwest (NHER 10270). It seems likely that this landscape represents a planned Roman agricultural estate associated with one or both of these potentially high status settlement sites. S. Massey of the National Mapping Project has provided a provisional interpretive analysis of these features (dated June 2007) which is presented here (reference numbers are maintained here but refer to sources presented on the full NHER data record);



The site appears to consist of at least two, possibly more, field systems. One of which appears to link up with the trackways and enclosures. These are likely to be medieval in date. The second field system which is on a different orientation, appears to define a series of small square fields, these may be Roman in date.

Much of the site appears to conform to one phase of overall planning or layout, although there is evidence more than one phase in places. It is probable that the features located near to the Norwich Road are associated with the possibly pre-Roman settlement and fields associated NHER 12070. A potentially earlier enclosure and associated fields at has been recorded separately under NHER 49615(see below). Given the complexity of the site and the limitations of aerial photograph evidence for establishing definite chronological sequence, only limited attempts will be made to interpret the various phases of this site. This site, along with NHER 10270 and NHER 21762, require additional interpretative work, which is beyond the current scope of the NMP project, and additional fieldwork to fully understand this exceptional Roman landscape.

The trackways are all aligned broadly northwest to southeast and are generally 4-8m wide and spaced at intervals ranging from 80m to 120m apart. A total of sixteen roughly parallel trackways can be identified throughout the system. The southernmost trackway adjoins the settlement or villa site to the southwest (NHER 10270). Running in-between these trackways are a series of perpendicular ditched boundaries forming agricultural fields and paddocks. These vary in size from 50m to 120m wide. In addition to the fields a number of well-defined enclosures are visible conjoined to the main trackways, particularly in the area of the modern Southwood Road. The clearest of these is located at [2] and measures 55m by 35m (S4, S15). Another enclosure, or possibly pair of enclosures, is located [3]. One measures 45m by 30-40m and a second possible enclosure, measuring 40m by at least 30m, is also visible. To the immediate east of this is another enclosure, [5], measuring 70m by 50m. All of these enclosures are sub-rectangular in shape and have ditches 1.5-4m wide. Other conjoined enclosures may have existed in areas where the cropmark response and oblique aerial photograph coverage is patchier. It is worth noting that almost none of this site was visible on the vertical aerial photographs and therefore the extent of the site reflects the extent of the oblique aerial photographs available. It is possible that it is even more extensive than the mapping suggests.

At the south-eastern end of the site a number of the trackways converge and funnel into a group of conjoined curvilinear and sub-rectangular enclosures, centred on [6]. This would appear to have been defined for the management and corralling of stock. There is definite evidence of more than one phase of enclosures and boundaries in this area. Any boundaries seemingly post-medieval in date have been omitted from the mapping.

A large group of post-medieval boundaries overlying the Roman fields, were not mapped. These correspond with the field layout marked on the 1839 Beighton Tithe map.

Some aspects of the seemingly Roman landscape, in particular those to the east of the site, appear to match up with or are parallel to boundaries also marked on the Tithe map. This would potentially indicate the some major aspects of the Roman landscape persisted into the post-medieval period and even to the modern day. The alignment of the Southwood Road clearly mirrors that of the parallel system of tracks to the north and south and it is feasible that the route itself developed from a trackway that continued in use.

NHER 49615: The cropmarks of an enclosure and associated boundaries of probable Iron Age date are visible on aerial photographs of Lyndhurst Farm. The enclosure appears to be overlain by a system of trackways and fields that are assumed to be Roman in date (NHER 6096). A similar shaped enclosure (NHER 49645) appears to have also been overlain by a Roman enclosure, possibly a villa or temple complex (NHER 21762) approximately 1km to the north. The enclosure is rectangular with rounded corners, measures 60m by 53m and is centred on TG 3901 0642. An entrance may be visible within the southern enclosure ditch as a possible break in the ditch was apparent on one set of cropmarks. A series of trackways appear to run to the enclosure from the southeast. To the west of the enclosure are a series of conjoined enclosed areas, possibly defining associated fields or paddocks. The morphology and plan of this enclosure would suggest an Iron Age to Roman date.

NHER 11866: Cropmarks of a possible ring ditch have been identified at this location, however the archaeological origin of this feature is not certain and a recent review of the site by the NMP project has suggested that it may be the result of an underlying geological feature or recent agricultural activity.

NHER 49616: The cropmarks of a double concentric ring ditch, probably relating to a Bronze Age round barrow, are visible on aerial photographs to the north of Grove Road, Southwood, the site is centred on TG 3960 0605. This monument appears to have been deliberately incorporated into a planned Roman landscape (NHER 6096) and has probably been used as a marker in the laying out of the trackway system. The ring ditch is polygonal in shape and measures 18.5m by 16 external ditch and 14m by 12m internally.



NHER 49657: The site of a possible **World War II structure** of uncertain function may be visible on aerial photographs to the north of Bleak House. The site is centred on TG 3916 0673. Nothing remains of the actual structure other than a square cleared or surfaced area, 9m across, within which a circular mark, 7.5m in diameter. This may mark the position of a former military structure that had been removed by 1945.

Other selected NHER entries in close proximity to York Hall Farm

NHER 6097: Faden's map of 1797 marks the area to the south-east of the former sand pit on York Hall Farm as the **site of a post mill**.

NHER 32758: A common hexagonal type 22 **pillbox of World War II** date, located on an overgrown bank beside the road here close to the north-west corner of the large filed containing York Hall Farm.

NHER 10271: Find Spot; Ploughing in fields c. 500m to the south-west of York Hall Farm during 1960 unearthed the upper stone of a rotary quern, pottery sherds and metal working debris - all Roman in date.

NHER 49645: The **cropmarks of a roughly sub-rectangular enclosure, trackway and fields** of probable Iron Age date are visible c.1km to the north-west of here on aerial photographs south-east of Beighton village. The enclosure appears to be overlain by a Roman enclosure, possibly a villa or temple complex (NHER 21762). A similar shaped enclosure (see NHER 49615) appears to have also been overlain by a system of trackways and fields that are assumed to be Roman in date just to the west of the site.

NHER 10394: The moated site of **Moulton Old Hall**, marked on the 1836 OS map c.300m to the east of Ash Tree Farm. Nothing remains of the building, but the moats still exist, partly water filled.

NHER 10393: **St Mary's Church**, **Moulton St Mary**. Located c.250m to the east of Ash Tree Farm. The building dates from the 13th century, mainly of flint construction with stone dressings and additions from the 14th century onwards, including significant rebuilding in the mid-16th century. Unusually, the church is set in a walled elliptical shaped churchyard. The interior is full of interest, with 14th century wall paintings and a 13th century font.

NHER 24805: **Find Spot**; Metal detecting in 1988 recovered an assortment of metal objects, including a Roman coin and two post medieval thimbles from a field on the southern periphery of Moulton St Mary c. 350m to the north-west of Ash Tree Farm.

NHER 51861: Find Spot; Metal detecting on open fields north of Manor Hall Farm (c.300m to the east of Ash Tree Farm) in 2008 and 2009 recovered finds ranging in date from the Neolithic through to the post-medieval period. Notable finds include an unusual Early Saxon brooch and a Roman statuette of Mars.

NHER 12986: located c. 700m to the south of the site are the **cropmarks of multi-period enclosures and trackways** are visible on aerial photographs to the east of Southwood Hall, some of which may originally have formed part of an extensive Roman landscape (NHER 6096), potentially continuing in use into the medieval to post-medieval period. This is also said to be the location of the Southwood deserted medieval settlement.



Brief Cartographic Summary

Aerial photographs from the 1988 aerial survey of Norfolk commissioned by Norfolk County Council show the field now forming the area of York Hall Farm essentially as a single large rectangular arable field, with a minor division in crop in the southern third and the complex of Ash Tree Farm located in the north-east corner.

Aerial photographs produced by the Royal Air Force National Air Survey of 1945-6 show several previous field divisions on a generally north-west to south-east axis which are near identical to those depicted on the first edition OS plan of the 1880s.

The field boundaries of the mid 1800s Enclosure plan show a similar arrangement of fields in the northern half of York Hall Farm. The southern half is recorded as a single large area with the existing rectangular copse of trees in its south-east corner marked as the site of a 'Sand Pit'. The Tithe map of 1839 shows a broadly similar division of fields with the southern half divided into an east and west field, the sand pit is also marked.

5.0 Methodology (Figure 2)

The objective of the programme of archaeological works was to record any archaeological evidence revealed during groundworks associated with the construction of both an east and west extension to an existing poultry shed. Trenching carried out by the groundwork team made use of a 17-ton, 360° tracked machine with a ditching bucket.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector (Minelab XTerra 705). All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern. All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Norvic Archaeology *pro forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and digital images were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

Due to the nature of the project no levels were taken during the course of the work. Ground surface height in the monitored areas is estimated to range from c.14.5 to 15m OD.

Site conditions were generally cold but good, although persistent rain made recording and camera work difficult on the first day during the monitoring of foundation trenches for the eastern extension.



Plate 2: Eastern extension, foundation works (looking east) [0.5m Scale]



Archaeological Monitoring of the foundation trenches and post-pits

Initial preparation for the footprint of each building and its concrete pad comprised of mechanically stripping c. 150mm of topsoil. A rubble mat was then laid down prior to the commencement of archaeological monitoring. The excavation of the foundation trench (0.6m wide) and the excavation of each 1.4m by 0.9m post-pit through the rubble mat was monitored, with limited investigations made of any archaeological features or deposits encountered.

Archaeological Monitoring of drainage runs and sump trenches

The creation of two new poultry units, with significantly large surface areas of roofing, required additional drainage to cope with both normal rainfall and extreme rainfall conditions. New drainage runs with primary sumps were excavated for both units along with a sluice system connected to an overflow drainage run leading to a large secondary sump trench. The majority of these works were monitored, although excavation of the initial drainage run and primary sump trench for the eastern extension and the large secondary sump for the western sump trench were unfortunately excavated without due invitation to monitor the works.

The primary sump trenches measured c.4m by 6m and the secondary sump trenches measured 8m by 20m. The secondary sump trenches were excavated to a final depth greater than 3m and received a base infill of imported concrete rubble.



Plate 3: Western drainage trench (looking north-east)



Plate 4: Western Secondary Sump Trench @3m depth (looking east)



6.0 Results (Appendix 1)

The results are summarised here by area with additional context descriptions available in Appendix 1.

Subsoil

The subsoil comprised of a well homogenised mid-yellowish-brown, sandy-clay to sandy-loam of varying depth. This soil was well mixed and represents a recently ploughed soil horizon varying between 0.20m to c. 0.6m but averaging c.0.35m.

Sub-surface geology

Deeper deposits revealed during the reduction of the natural ranged from firm orange sands with patches of sandy-clay and clay-silts to softer orange and yellow sands mottled by clay-silt bands. The deep reduction of the secondary sump trenches revealed that fine, soft yellow banded sands predominated to an observed depth of c. 3m.

Eastern Extension (Figures 3 &4)

The surface of natural sands and clay-silts were exposed within the confines of the majority of Post Trenches along the southern, east-to-west foundation trench (ES1 to ES16). The subsoil was deeper to the north and no features were encountered in the northern set of Post Trenches.

Three features were able to be partly investigated and recorded:

ES2: A feature of uncertain character was revealed which appeared to be generally linear in form but may have represented more than one feature ([01]). The deposits were no greater than 0.20m deep and were generally pale-brown, well leached and homogenised (02); although a discrete patch of charcoal flecks was noted in the north-east corner of the Post Trench. A collection of flints was recovered from the deposit, which includes a small number of burnt fragments, two flakes, a chip and a small core which may have been recycled as a hammerstone. A single small piece of burnt clay was also collected.

This Post Trench fell in close proximity to the expected alignment of a north-east to south-west linear cropmark, it was also sited in close proximity to the junction of this feature and another linear feature.

NB: Post Trench ES3 appeared to be in an area of deeper subsoil, perhaps indicative of a deep feature, such as the second linear cropmark which may form a trackway with that running through the area of ES2.

ES8: The western edge of a linear ditch ([03]) was investigated via a keyhole slot which established the depth to be c. 0.25m, although it is possible that this was only a secondary fill, with further deposits below. The investigated fill was a mid-yellowish-brown sandy-loam from which no finds were collected (04). This feature aligns very well with a linear cropmark running on a north-east to south-west axis.

ES11: The well defined rounded corner of a probable pit up to 0.3m deep was excavated ([05]). It contained a soft, pale-brownish-grey silty-sand devoid of finds (06). The leached appearance of the fill suggests a deposit of some antiquity.



Eastern Drainage Run (Figure 5)

As well as a few shallow and sporadic plough scars, two features were identified below the subsoil, within the trench excavated for the Eastern Drainage run.

- A small oval pit was investigated which proved to be well defined ([53]). This feature
 contained a fine, pale-grey clay-silt with moderate inclusions of mineralised charcoal
 flecks and pieces (54). Some charcoal pieces were up to 1cm² and appeared to be of a
 slow grown wood, such as oak.
- which proved to have a near vertical southerly edge and a well sloping northerly edge ([43]). It measured 0.49m in depth and contained a primary fill of fine, dark-grey clay silt (44) below a mid-greyish-brown clay-silt (52). NB: The profile of this feature was similar to ditch [33] identified in the Western Drainage trench.

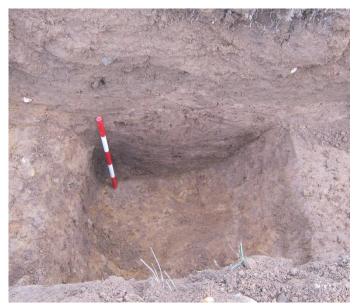


Plate 5: Ditch [43] located in the Eastern Drainage Trench (looking north-west) [0.5m Scale]

Eastern Secondary Sump Trench (Figure 6)

Three features were identified and investigated following the reduction of topsoil and subsoil.

- A small oval pit was recorded which, although shallow, was relatively well defined ([11]).
 It contained a well leached pale-grey clay-silt (12).
- A larger oval pit was recorded ([15]) which truncated the end of a pre-existing amorphous feature interpreted as an archaic tree-throw ([13]). No finds were recovered from either feature, although the character of their fills was shown to be markedly different. The fill of the tree-throw was mottled and patchy (14) while the pit-fill was a more homogenised, leached pale-brownish-grey fine, sandy-silt (16).

Western Extension (Figure 7)

The surface of natural sands and clay-silts were exposed within the confines of the majority of Post Trenches, the subsoil being shallower than that of the eastern extension area. Only a single feature was identified, in Post-Trench WS3, although this was sterile and amorphous in character and thought to represent the base of a tree-throw ([07]).

Western Primary Sump Trench (Figure 9)

A single feature was revealed below the subsoil during machine reduction of the trench. It was investigated further by hand and proved to be part of a curvilinear ditch or gully ([09]).



The feature survived to a maximum depth of 0.32m deep, shallowing out to the west, where it was unclear if it terminated or was simply lost to horizontal plough disturbance.

Western Drainage Run (Figures 8, 9 & 10)

A large number of features were encountered following the removal of the subsoil here, several of which can be attributed to linear cropmarks which run at near juxtaposition to the alignment of the trench (Figure 8).

Eight features have been interpreted as ditches, with two oval pits and one deeper pit. Aside from one all the ditches were on a similar alignment.

'Ditch cluster' (Figure 9)

A series of fairly parallel ditches with similar profiles were recorded close to the north-eastern end of the drainage trench, which match well with plotted cropmarks ([18], [22], [24], [26] & [28]). These features contained similar deposits of mid-brownish-grey clay-sand. Ditch [18] showed slight stepping along its northerly edge which may be evidence for some form of recut. No finds were recovered from any of these features aside from a piece of fractured granite from the fill of ditch [26].

A few meters to the north of Ditch [18] was a further ditch of similar profile and character but on a north-east to south-west alignment. This ditch appears to match the orientation of a cropmark plotted to its east that dog-legs to form a corner

Other ditches (Figure 10)

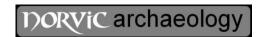
Two further ditches were encountered which cannot be so easily attributed to previously recognised cropmarks:

Ditch [31] again shares a similar profile and character to those described above; it aligns

Plate 6: Ditch 'cluster' post-ex located in Western Drainage Trench, with [18] in foreground. (looking south-west) [0.5m Scale]

fairly closely to a previously recognised cropmark, although also aligns well with a field boundary depicted on the Aerial Photographs of 1945-6.

Ditch [33] demonstrated a markedly different profile and deposit sequence. It had a well sloping profile with a steep southern edge and contained deposits of a more leached appearance. Its primary fill consisted of dense, pale-grey silty-clay with occasional flecks of charcoal (34), this lay below a soft, mid-grey clay-silt with a slightly higher frequency of charcoal flecks (35). The final deposit comprised of a fairly sterile firm, pale-brownish-grey clay-silt (36).



Pits (Figure 10)

Pit [37] was 0.46m deep and well-defined; this feature must either represent a D-shaped pit or perhaps the terminus of linear feature. It contained a primary fill of dense, dark-grey clay-silt (38), below a layer or lens of soft, pale-yellow sand (39). The final fill was dense, midgreyish-brown clay-silt (40).

Two sub-circular pits were excavated, ([41] & [55]) which both contained pale, brownish-grey clay-silts.

Western Secondary Sump Trench

The spoil generated from the stripping of the subsoil was searched by eye and metaldetector. A small number of prehistoric flints were among the finds recovered.

7.0 Finds Analysis (Appendix 2)

Flint

Introduction

A total of 24 flints, including 7 pieces of burnt flint were collected during the monitoring work. Each piece was examined by eye and with the aid of a hand lens (x6 magnification) before being catalogued according to a basic typology using standard lithic terminology where possible. Detailed comments on the flint analysis are included in Appendix 4.

Raw materials

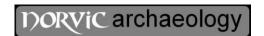
In general, the assemblage is made from fine-grained semi-translucent black and mottled opaque grey flint (with a yellow hue when viewed through a strong white light) with moderate interclasts and flaws. Cortex includes unweathered chalky and more abraded examples along with one example of a thin skinned iron rich cortex on a flake from a gravel pebble. The size of many of the struck pieces suggests that the availability of raw materials was limited to either erratic pebbles/nodules or thermally fractured flakes from the same parent source. The collection source is likely to be local from glacial till deposits in the vicinity of the site.

Condition

The condition of the assemblage is good, with only a few examples in slightly abraded condition, indicating that they have not experienced extensive post-depositional damage. This may also indicate that they have been recovered close to where they were originally discarded/buried.

General description

This assemblage is small and contains no complete specialised tools or overtly diagnostic pieces. The assemblage primarily consists of utilised flakes with two examples of utilised rejuvenation flakes. Minor retouch may be present on a few pieces but wear at these sites makes this difficult to determine in some cases.



Discussion

The assemblage suggests a fairly ad-hoc utilisation of flakes and recycled materials. Both hard and soft hammer techniques are present. No classic decortication flakes were collected. A possible Mesolithic to early Neolithic bladelet core appears to have been reused as hammer stone and it is also appears that the two rejuvenation flakes may have been reused following discard. The small fragment of a well made thin blade with pressure flaking along both its dorsal and ventral edges may have been part of finely crafted early Neolithic tool such as a knife or sickle blade.

Although one or two pieces can be considered to be of late Mesolithic to Neolithic date, in general the assemblage appears to indicate ad-hoc flint use including examples of either scavenging or recycling of typologically earlier discarded pieces. Such activity is generally typical of later Neolithic to Bronze Age activity.

ES2 02 ES2 02 ES2 02	Flake Blade-like fla	1	66 5 5	Fill of uncertain feature [01] Fill of uncertain feature [01]
ES2 02	Blade-like fla	•		Fill of uncertain feature
ES2 02	Blade-like fla	•		
		ke 1	5	[01]
		ke 1	5	<u> </u>
	0-44		5	Fill of uncertain feature
			07	[01]
ES2 02	Core	1	27	Fill of uncertain feature
ES2 02	Chip	1	<1	[01] Fill of uncertain feature
L32 02	Chip	'	< 1	[01]
WD 20	Fragment	1	6	Fill of Ditch [17]
WD 42	3	1	15	Fill of Pit [41]
	Fragments	•	. •	5
WD 42		je 1	<1	Fill of Pit [41]
SSW 47	Flake	1	11	RF
SSW 47	Utilised Flake	1	6	RF
SSW 47	Utilised Flake	e 1	6	RF
ED 48		1	109	RF
ED 48		1	1	RF
00144 40	blade fragme			5-5
SSW 49		1	2	RF
WD 50		ke 1	30	RF
WD 50		1	23	RF
WD 50 WD 50		1	6 8	RF RF
WD 50 WD 51	Fragment Burnt fragme	nts 2	8	RF
WD 51	Bladelike flak		2	RF
.,,,		otal 24	338	



Metal Objects

A small number of metal objects were collected during the course of the monitoring, none of which can be attributed to the fills of archaeological features. The majority were collected from the subsoil and include two post-medieval buttons and objects of modern date.

Context No.	Feature No.	SSD	Material	Object	Object Date	Feature Period				
45	•	WN	Cu-Al	?catch	Post-medieval+	-				
Slightly S-shap	Slightly S-shaped object with a transverse pivot hole. 2g, 24mm L, 3.5mm W, 2-4mm T.									
46	-	SSE	Cu-Al	Button	L.Post-medieval	-				
	A complete, copper-alloy cast discoidal button with relatively large soldered suspension loop with a bent shank on the reverse. Has a flat face with border groove but no other detail survives. Livery style button. 2g. 16mm diameter									
46	-	SSE	Cu-Al	Button	Post-medieval	-				
shape formed 18th century d	of two parts, the	main hollow 1mm diamete	body and a	circular plug on t kness to main b						
46	-	SSE	alloy	Fragment	Unknown	-				
Small fragmen	t with a moulded	groove. <1g	, 13mm leng	th, 10mm width,	3mm thickness.					
47	47 - SSW Cu-Al ?Clipper Modern -									
Fragment of flat plate with flat comb like teeth. Possible fragment of animal clipper blade. 1g, 26mm L, 16mm W, 1mm T.										
51	-	WD	Lead	Sheet	Unknown	-				
Fragment of le	ad sheet with a	rounded edge	e. 23g, -2mm	thickness, 46m	m max. length, 37ı	mm max. width.				

Pottery, by Alice Lyons

Two pottery sherds were collected during the machine excavation of the northern east-towest foundation trench for the western extension. Both were recovered from the subsoil; the body sherd close to WN12 and the rim sherd close to WN16.

The Roman/med pot fragment is very severely abraded and has lost all its original surfaces. Although a possible Roman ware the 'sandwich' nature of the micaceous fabric - grey with orange surfaces, is more typical of a medieval production.

The other sherd is a dense sandy oxidised fabric with several grey (stone) and white (limestone) inclusions. It has a dense red mat slip over the exterior. The fragment has some moulding similar to a rim but has very little curvature so would have to belong to a gigantic vessel. The ware marks on the moulded edge are more consistent with a base, perhaps from a very large plate or similar. Although visually similar to Samian, the fabric and form may indicate a post-medieval date.

Context	Form	No	Wt/g	Sherd date range	Comments
57	-	1	2	?Roman/Medieval	Body
57	?large plate	1	1	?Post-medieval	Rim



Fired Clay

A single piece of weakly fired sandy-clay was collected, along with several prehistoric flints, from the fill of feature [01].

Context No.	Feature No.	SSD	Material	Object	Object Date	Feature Period		
02	[01]	ES2	Fired Clay	Fired Clay	?prehistoric-	-		
A fragment of sandy-clay, weakly fired. Resembles a base sherd with two fairly smooth outer surfaces. Poss.								
an abraded fra	gment from a la	rger clay obje	ect. Weighs 7	g.	-			

Stone

A large fragment of micro-granite was collected from the fill of ditch [26]. This medium-grained (1-5mm grain diameter) igneous rock is of non-local stone. It may be a glacial erratic sourced from as far away as Cumbria (such as Thekeld Microgranite) or Scotland (ref: AHDS database: Southampton University 'Stone in Archaeology' – accessed March 2011).

The stone exhibits a smooth, manganese stained surface with two opposing more freshly fractured surfaces. This damage may be the result of frost fracture but it also possible that the material has been selected and purposefully broken.

Context No.	Feature No.	SSD	Material	Object	Object Date	Feature Period		
27	[26]	WD	Stone	Fragment	-	-		
A fragment of Max L 158mm, max W 86mm T 17-36mm. Weighs 973g.								

8.0 Conclusions

The vast majority of features appeared to be sterile of cultural artefacts and cannot be dated with any confidence. Two general classes of deposit types were recognised which can be used to divide the features into those that contained a fairly homogenised brownish-grey clay-sands/clay-silts (see image A below) and those that contained well leached greyer, finer clay-silts (see images B & C below).

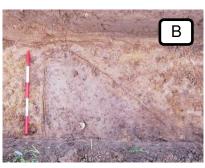
Illustrative Examples of Features

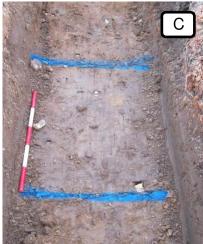
A: Ditch [17] pre-ex. [1x1m scale]

B: Pit [37] pre-ex [1x1m scale]

C: Ditch [33] pre-ex [1x1m scale]









The leached clay-silts appear to indicate a different history of deposition/accumulation. The matrix was much finer and denser with a higher frequency of manganese particles. A few features of this type also contained traces of charcoal. The general appearance of these features is suggestive of a more archaic, possibly prehistoric character. These features include all of the pits encountered and two ditches of a similar profile on a similar axis, one in the eastern drainage trench and one in the western.

The overall flint assemblage indicates a general background of minor prehistoric activity which is likely to date from the Late Neolithic to Bronze Age, although a few examples of recycled or scavenged flint may originally pre-date this activity. The enigmatic feature encountered by Post Trench ES1 contained the most convincing evidence of non-residual or intrusive finds in the form of small number of worked and burnt flints. However, the nature of the feature which contained them remains uncertain and it is possible that some intercutting of features may have taken place here.

The monitoring work has successfully characterised the form and preservation of some of the linear features previously identified as cropmarks, many of which are surprisingly shallow; as well as identifying a small number of discrete features and additional linear features. Although the lack of good dating evidence and Romano-British cultural material may simply be the result of this relatively small sample (of what is an extensive landscape of cropmarks) it also supports the interpretation of this landscape as a mainly agricultural or pastoral zone of fields and paddocks located away from focused domestic settlement sites, such as the possible villa identified c.1km to the north (NHER 21762) and another villa or settlement approximately 300m to the southwest (NHER 10270).

9.0 Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Philip.D.Wright who commissioned Norvic Archaeology to carry out this work. Thanks are also due Chris Connop and Neil Ray of Connop & Son Ltd. for their assistance and cooperation on site. All stages of the monitoring and post-excavation analysis work were carried out by the author. NHER and cropmark data was supplied by the Historic Environment Service.

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Appendix 1: Context Summary

EN: Eastern extension – northerly e-w trench, no. denotes post-pit trench
ES: Eastern extension – southerly e-w trench, no. denotes post-pit trench
WN: Western extension – northerly e-w trench, no. denotes post-pit trench
WS: Eastern extension – northerly e-w trench, no. denotes post-pit trench

PSW: Primary Sump Trench – West SSW: Secondary Sump Trench – West PSE: Primary Sump Trench – East SSE: Secondary Sump Trench - East WD: Western sump drainage run ED: Eastern sump drainage run

Context	Category	?Fill of	Brief Physical Description	SSD	Interpretation	Period
01	Cut		Flat based feature of uncertain form	ES2	Feature	?Prehistoric
02	Deposit	[01]	Friable,pale-brown silty-sand (mid-grey patch on surface with occ. charcoal)	ES2		?Prehistoric
03	Cut		Linear, concave, well sloping edge of a linear feature, 0.26m deep.	ES8	?Ditch	Uncertain
04	Deposit	[03]	Friable, mid-yellowish-brown, v.sandy loam.	ES8		Uncertain
05	Cut		Rounded corner of a feature, 0.30m deep	ES11	?Pit	Uncertain
06	Deposit	[05]	Soft, pale-brownish-grey, silty-sand.	ES11		Uncertain
07	Cut		Amorphous shallow feature, uneven base, 0.18m deep	WS3	?Tree-throw	Uncertain
08	Deposit	[07]	Friable, mid-brownish-grey, sandy loam	WS3		Uncertain
09	Cut		Linear (slightly curvilinear), concave profile 0.32m deep, 0.90m wide.	PSW	?Ditch	Uncertain
10	Deposit	[09]	Friable, mid-brownish-grey clay-silt	PSW		Uncertain
11	Cut		Shallow concave profile 0.14m deep	SSE	Pit	Uncertain
12	Deposit	[11]	Soft, pale-grey, fine clay-silt	SSE		Uncertain
13	Cut		'Pear shaped' shallow natural feature, 0.2m deep, 2m Length, 1.2m Width	SSE	?Tree-throw	Uncertain
14	Deposit	[13]	Soft, pale orangey-brown (patches of pale grey), freq. manganese flecks	SSE		Uncertain
15	Cut		Oval, with wide U-shaped profile, steep sides. 0.40m deep, 1.35m L, 1.03m W.	SSE	Pit	Uncertain
16	Deposit	[15]	Soft, pale-brownish-grey, fine sandy-silt, freq. manganese flecks	SSE		Uncertain
17	Cut		Linear, wide U-shaped profile, steep sided, 0.32m deep, 0.8m width	WD	Ditch	Uncertain
18	Cut		Linear, v.wide U-shaped profile, 0.4m deep, 1.3m width	WD	Ditch	Uncertain
19	Deposit	[18]	Soft, mid-brown clay-sand	WD		Uncertain
20	Deposit	[17]	Soft, mid-brown clay-sand 0.14m deep	WD	Secondary Fill	Uncertain
21	Deposit	[17]	Firm, mid-greyish-brown, sand/silty-clay mix 0.20m deep	WD	Primary Fill	Uncertain
22	Cut		Linear, U-shaped profiled, 0.3m deep, 0.45m width.	WD	Ditch	Uncertain



Context	Category	?Fill of	Brief Physical Description	SSD	Interpretation	Period
23	Deposit	[22]	Soft, mid-brown clay-sand	WD		Uncertain
24	Cut		Linear, U-shaped profile, 0.17m deep, 0.32m wide	WD	?Ditch	Uncertain
25	Deposit	[24]	Soft, mid-brown clay-sand	WD		Uncertain
26	Cut		Shallow, wide U-shaped linear, 0.25m deep, 0.8m wide	WD	Ditch	Uncertain
27	Deposit	[26]	Soft, mid-brown clay-sand	WD		Uncertain
28	Cut		Linear, wide U-shaped profile, 0.45m deep, 0.95m wide	WD	Ditch	Uncertain
29	Deposit	[28]	Firm, mid-greyish –brown, sand/silty clay mix, 0.15m deep	WD	Primary Fill	Uncertain
30	Deposit	[28]	Soft, mid-brown, clay-sand, 0.30m deep	WD	Secondary Fill	Uncertain
31	Cut		Linear, concave profile, 0;25m deep, 0.75m wide	WD	Ditch	Uncertain
32	Deposit	[31]	V.soft, mid-brown, clay-sand, rare charcoal flecks	WD		Uncertain
33	Cut		Linear, sloping profile (step s.edge) , 0.34m deep, 0.8m wide	WD	?Ditch	Uncertain
34	Deposit	[33]	Friable (firm with depth), pale-grey silty-clay, occ. charcoal flecks, freq. manganese. flecks, 0.2m deep	WD	Primary Fill	Uncertain
35	Deposit	[33]	Soft, mid-grey, fine clay-silt, mod. charcoal flecks, occ. manganese flecks, 0.09m deep	WD	Secondary Fill	Uncertain
36	Deposit	[33]	Firm, pale-brownish-grey, fine clay-silt, 0.10m deep	WD	Tertiary Fill	Uncertain
37	Cut		Slightly curved ?pit/terminus. V-shaped profile, 0.46m deep, 0.72m wide	WD	?Ditch Terminus/Pit	Uncertain
38	Deposit	[37]	Firm, dark-grey, dense clay-silt (fine), occ. small stones, 0.2m deep	WD	Primary Fill	Uncertain
39	Deposit	[37]	V.soft, pale-yellow sand, sterile, 0.08m deep	WD	Secondary Fill	Uncertain
40	Deposit	[37]	Firm, mid-greyish-brown, dense clay-silt (fine), occ. stones, 0.2m deep	WD	Tertiary Fill	Uncertain
41	Cut		Sub-circular, concave profile with steep, concave, smooth sides, 0.28m deep, c.0.70m length, 0.65m wide	WD	Pit	Uncertain
42	Deposit	[41]	Soft, pale-brownish-grey clay-silt, occ. manganese flecks and stones.	WD		Uncertain
43	Cut		Linear, V-shaped profile with a steep southern edge and well sloping northern edge, 0.49m deep	ED	Ditch	Uncertain
44	Deposit	[43]	Soft, dark-grey v.fine clay-silt, occ. stones, 0.15m deep	ED	Primary Fill	Uncertain
45	Recorded Finds		Cu Alloy object from subsoil close to WN60m west along WN10	WN		Uncertain
46	Recorded Finds		Metal detected finds from SSE	SSE		Uncertain
47	Recorded Finds		Finds from spoil of SSW	SSW		Uncertain



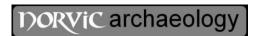
Context	Category	?Fill of	Brief Physical Description		Interpretation	Period
48	Recorded Finds		Flints from subsoil of ED	ED		Uncertain
49	Recorded Finds		Flint from base of subsoil within WD (0.25m n. of SSW	SSW		Uncertain
50	Recorded Finds		Finds from within WD 35m north of SSW	WD		Uncertain
51	Recorded Finds		Finds from WD spoil	WD		Uncertain
52	Deposit	[43]	Friable, mid-greyish-brown, clay-silt, mod. manganese, occ. stones, 0.34m deep	ED	Secondary Fill	Uncertain
53	Cut		Oval pit aligned n-s, U-shaped profile, 0.2m deep	ED	Pit	Uncertain
54	Deposit	[53]	V.friable, pale-grey, fine clay-silt, freq. manganese flecks, mod. mineralised charcoal (pieces/flecks), occ. stones	ED		Uncertain
55	Cut		Sub-circular, shallow concave, 0.23m deep	WD	Pit	Uncertain
56	Deposit	[55]	Soft, pale-brownish-grey, clay-silt, occ. stones, oc. Manganese flecks	WD		Uncertain
57	RF		Pottery frags x2 collected from subsoil during excavation of the northern e-w foundation trench of the western extension.	WN		Uncertain

Appendix 1b: OASIS feature summary table

Period	Feature type	Quantity
	Ditch	11
Unknown	Pit	7
Offictiowif	Uncertain	1
	Tree-throw	2

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (g)	Comment
02	Fired clay	1	7	
02	Flint	4	38	
02	Burnt flint	4	66	
20	Flint	1	6	
27	Stone – microgranite	1	973	Broken erratic fragment
42	Flint	1	1	
42	Burnt flint	1	15	
45	Copper-alloy object	1	2	?catch
46	Copper-alloy object	1	2	Button
46	Copper-alloy object	1	1	Button
46	Lead alloy	1	1	Fragment
47	Copper-alloy	1	1	?clipper blade
47	Flint	3	23	
48	Flint	2	110	
49	Flint	1	2	
50	Flint	4	57	
51	Lead	1	23	Sheet fragment
51	Flint	1	2	
51	Burnt flint	2	8	
57	Pottery	2	3	



Appendix 2b: NHER finds summary table

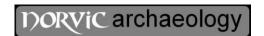
Period	Material	Quantity
Unknown	Stone – microgranite	1
	Lead	2
	Pottery	1
Prehistoric (500000BC to 42AD)	Flint	24
Post-medieval (1540 to 1900AD)	Button	2
	Copper-alloy ?catch	1
	Pottery	1
Modern (1900 to 2050 AD)	?clipper blade	1

Appendix 3: Archive summary table

Factual Type	Quantity
Site diary	1
Field note sheets	1
Permatrace drawing sheets	11
Drawing sheet register	1
Context register sheets	2
Context Sheets	49
Photo Index	1
Digital Images	90

Appendix 4: Flint Assessment

SSD	Context	Туре	Qty	Weight (g)	Context Type	
ES2	02	Burnt fragments	4	66	Fill of uncertain feature [01]	
Burnt to	varying deg	rees, from being redo	dened and attainin	g a sugary textu	re, to being fully calcined and	
	fire crazed.	One piece resembles	a chunk of shatte	red flint and and	ther is a piece of struck flint.	
ES2	02	Flake	1	5	Fill of uncertain feature [01]	
Hinge fr	acture.					
ES2	02	Blade-like flake	1	5	Fill of uncertain feature [01]	
Soft har	nmer. Neat,	off a platform, crested	d, ?crush damage	to part of distal	end. Sharp.	
ES2	02	Core	1	27	Fill of uncertain feature [01]	
					rushing? May have formed part	
					htly rolled. Poss. a worked out	
bladelet	core reusec	as a hammerstone;	as some crushing	post-dates the r	emoval scars.	
ES2	02	Chip	1	<1	Fill of uncertain feature [01]	
Small ch	nip, possibly	generated from modi	fication of an exist	ting tool/utilised	flake as evidenced by signs of	
neat ret	ouch along o	ne broken edge.				
WD	20	Fragment	1	6	Fill of Ditch [17]	
Hard sh	atter fragme	nt. Irregular shaped, i	fresh and sharp. P	oss. evidence o	f bulbar scar and platform.	
WD	42	Burnt Fragment	1	15	Fill of Pit [41]	
Slightly reddened and cracked.						
WD	42	Micro-debitage	1	<1	Fill of Pit [41]	
Snappe	d distal end	of a small blade-like f	lake.			
SSW	47	Flake	1	11	RF	
Shatter/incidental flake or ? poss. thermal product, retouched/tested perhaps as discarded trial for scraper						
SSW	47	Utilised Flake	1	6	RF	
Fairly irregular flake, cortex remaining in places. One edge shows concave wear from smoothing/ scraping						
an object. Small remnant of platform shows bulbar scar and some small platform preparation scars.						
SSW	47	Utilised Flake	1	6	RF	
Fairly hard hammer struck off an existing platform. Proximal part of a much longer, fairly broad flake. One						
edge utilised as a simple scraper and possibly also the broken edge.						



SSD	Context	Туре	Qty	Weight (g)	Context Type			
ED	48	Core	1	109	RF			
	Nodule fragment utilised as a simple core following hard blow to create a platform. Fine grained grey to							
	honey coloured to black with a chalky cortex. Three successful blade-like flake removals along one edge -							
	single platform removal and one area of failed removal/testing.							
ED	48	?retouched	1	1	RF			
		blade fragment						
		at, slightly crested blac			es of both edges.			
		nife, fresh, sharp, dar	k grey to honey co	oloured flint.				
SSW	49	Flake	1	2	RF			
		ig one edge of this thi	n wedge shaped f	lake. Thermal pr	oduct with possible wear along			
one edg								
WD	50	?Utilised Flake	1	30	RF			
					sible flake core which produced			
		, also minor wear pre	sent poss. along i	ı				
WD	50	Flake	1	23	RF			
					Appears to be a rejuvenation			
	•	•	harp but poss. dis	guising some ev	idence of utilised wear. Reddish			
	oloured flint.		4	0	DE			
WD	50	Flake	111 111 1	6	RF			
	Incidental or thermal proximal flake from a pebble, thin iron rich cortex skin. Minor retouch and rough wear from use has resulted in a broken edge							
WD	50	- V	1	8	RF			
		Fragment	fue consent and a	•				
Snapped medial section of a thick shatter fragment, wear and fairly invasive retouch along one edge. Sharp.								
WD	51	Burnt fragments	2	8	RF			
Two small pieces of burnt flint fully calcined and heavily fire crazed.								
WD	51	Bladelike flake	1	2	RF			
Sharp, fresh, no bulb - either broken fragment of large flake or more likely a thermal product. Trace of								
cortex skin on one edge, reddish honey grey fabric.								
	Total 24 338							

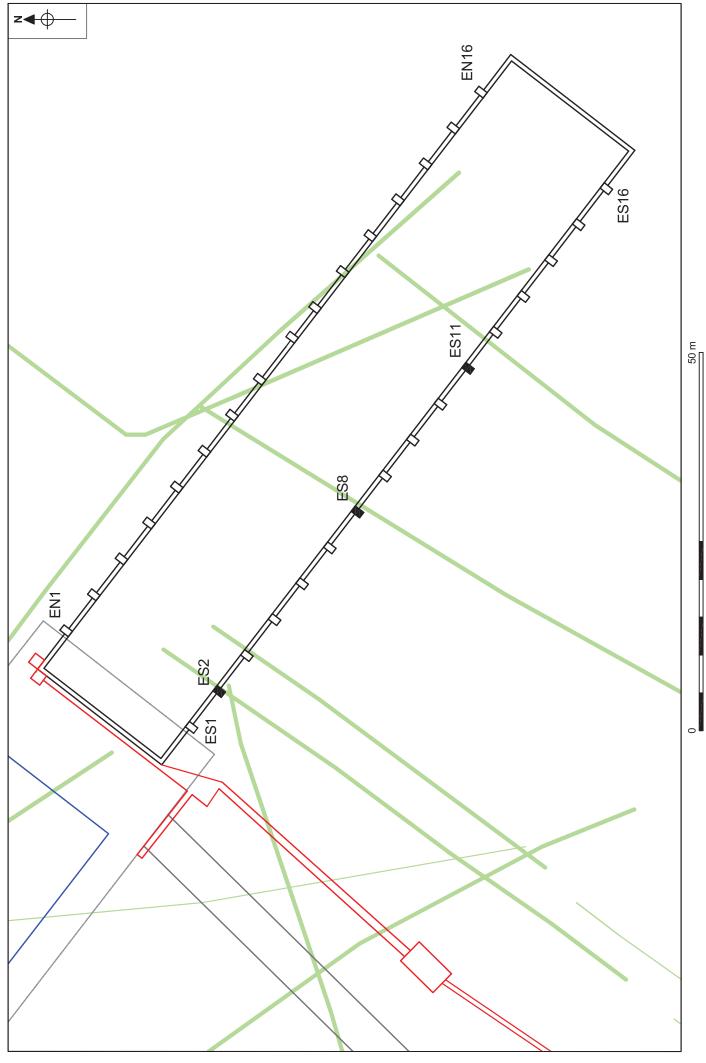
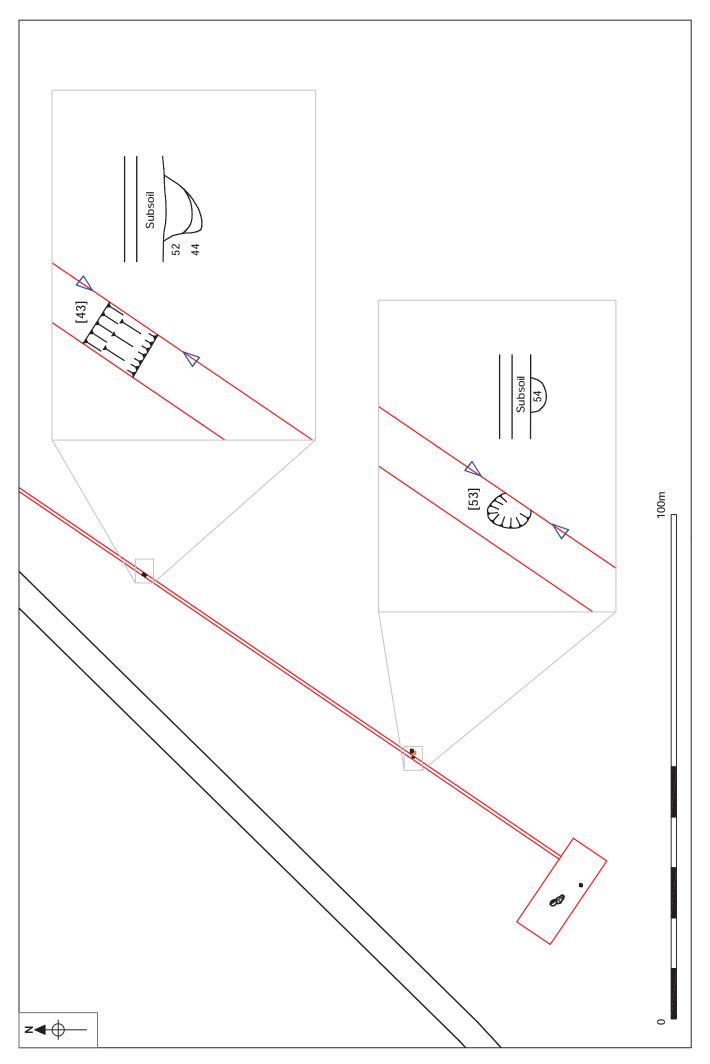
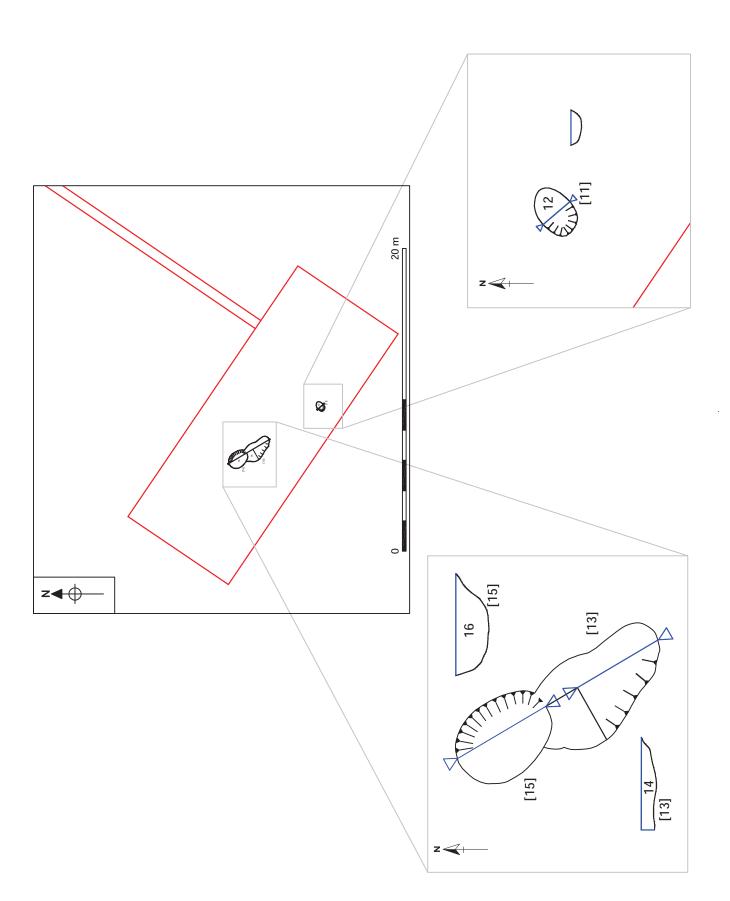


Figure 3. Site plan of Eastern Extension with cropmarks. Scale 1:500

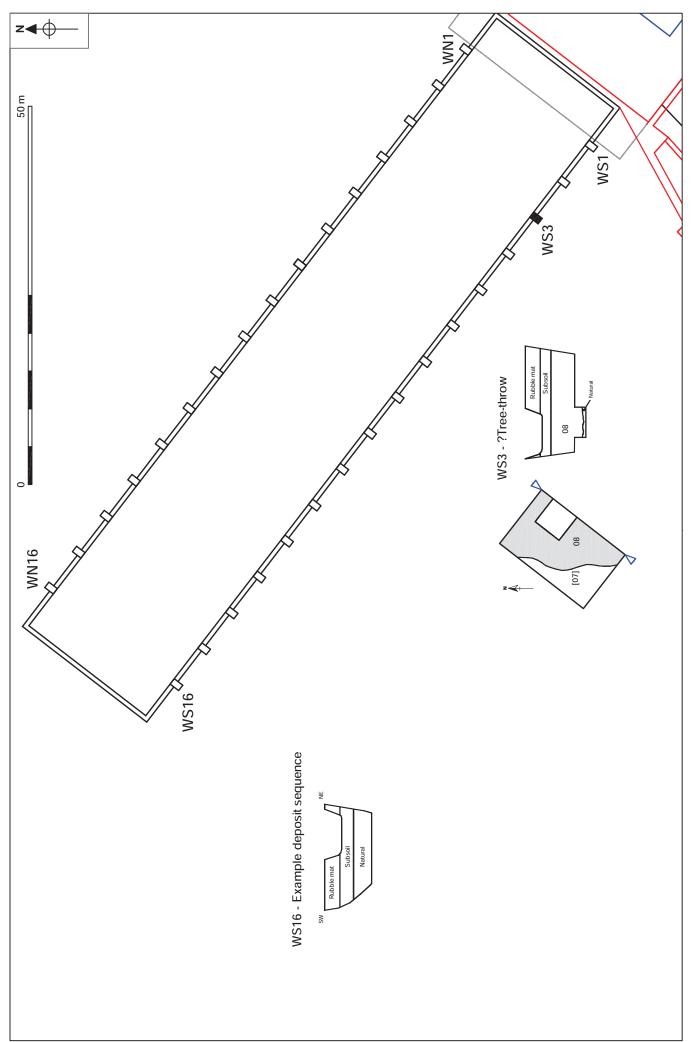
Magnified Post Trenches & accompanying sections at Scale 1:50

Figure 4. Site plan of Eastern Extension. Scale 1:500





27



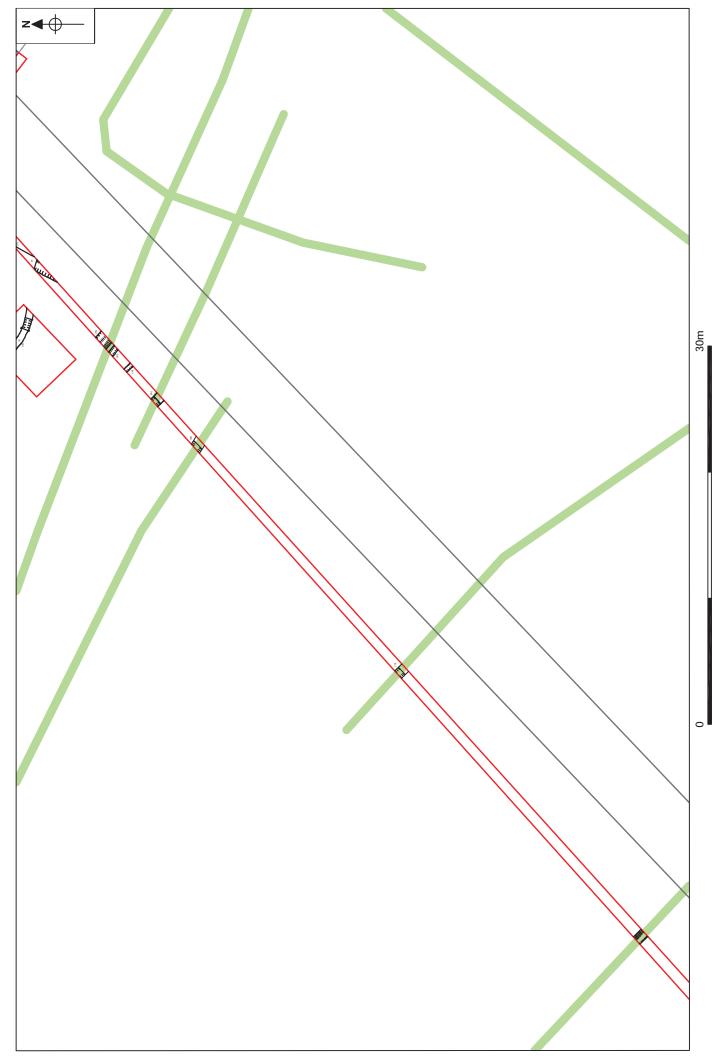


Figure 8. Site plan of Western Drainage Run (cropmark plots adjusted within a tolerance of between 2m to 7m to align with investigated features) Scale 1:300

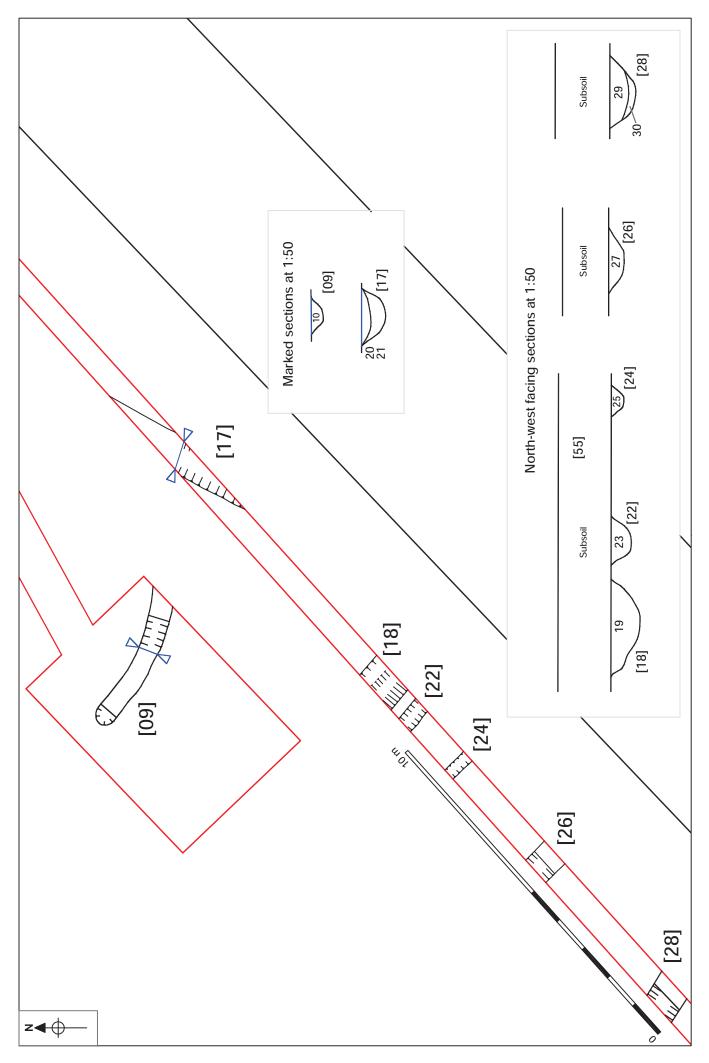


Figure 9. Site plan. North-eastern end of Western Drainage Run plus Primary Sump Trench. Scale 1:100

Figure 10. Site plan, Southern part of West Drainage Run. Scale 1:400