

SUFFOLK ARCHAEOLOGY

• A HISTORY OF EXPERTISE •

Land at Thickthorn Roundabout Hethersett, Norfolk

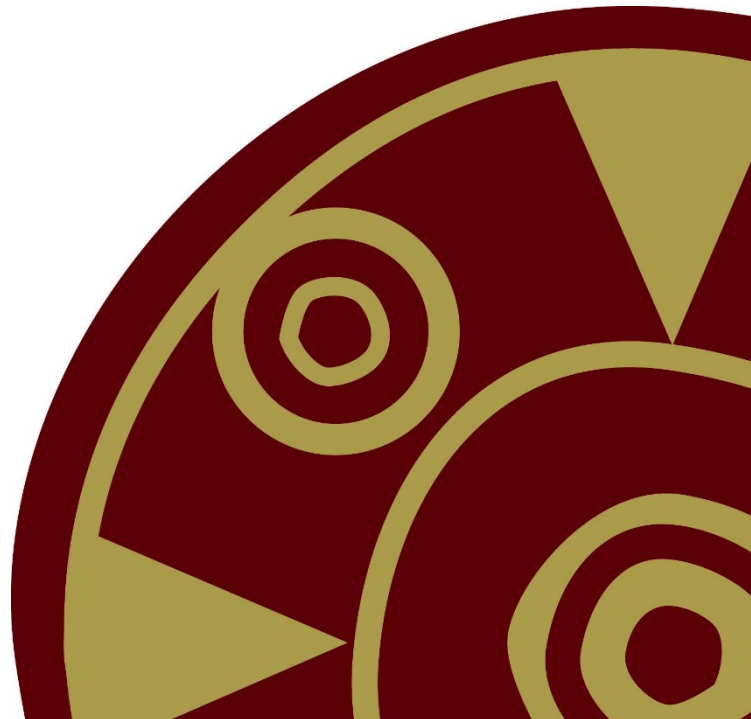
Client:

McDonald's Restaurants Ltd

Date:

March 2017

ENF 141756
Archaeological Evaluation Report
SACIC Report No. 2017_023
Author: Martin Cuthbert
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Land at Thickthorn Roundabout, Hethersett ENF 141756

Archaeological Evaluation Report

SACIC Report No. 2017_023

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Illustrator: Gemma Bowen

Editor: John Craven BA (Hons)

Report Date: March 2017

HER Information

Site Code: ENF 141756

Site Name: Land at Thickthorn Roundabout, Hethersett, Norfolk

Report Number 2017_023

Planning Application No: 2016/0662

Date of Fieldwork: 6th & 7th March 2017

Grid Reference: TG 1828 0554

Oasis Reference: Suffolka1-276852

Curatorial Officer: Xenia Paula Kyriakou (NCCHEs)

Project Officer: Martin Cuthbert

Client/Funding Body: McDonald's Restaurants Ltd

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:

<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of Suffolk Archaeology CIC. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk Archaeology CIC cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Prepared By: Martin Cuthbert
Date: March 2017
Approved By: John Craven
Position: Project Manager
Date: 20/03/2017
Signed:

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Summary

In March 2017, a trial trench evaluation was undertaken on a piece of land near to Thickthorn Roundabout, Hethersett, Norfolk, prior to the construction of a new McDonald's restaurant. Four trenches were excavated within the footprint of the proposed development and targeted the cropmarks of an undated field system.

The evaluation trenches revealed six ditches and a gully that aligned with these cropmarks. However all of the ditches were undated and the sterile nature of the fills suggest they form part of a field system set away from settlement activity. The ditches do not align with late post-medieval field system boundaries identified on historic mapping and so they may represent an earlier pattern of smaller medieval fields. While these ditches may be contemporary with the area of Bronze Age and Iron Age activity known to the west they do not align with those previously seen and the lack of finds suggests the site lies outside of the area of prehistoric occupation.

Drawing Conventions

Plans

- Limit of Excavation - - - - -
- Features _____
- Break of Slope
.....
- Features - Conjectured - - - - -
- Natural Features
.....
- Sondages/Machine Strip - - - - -
- Intrusion/Truncation - - - - -
- Illustrated Section S.14 _____
- Cut Number 0008
- Archaeological Features

Sections

- Limit of Excavation - - - - -
- Cut _____
- Modern Cut _____
- Cut - Conjectured - - - - -
- Deposit Horizon _____
- Deposit Horizon - Conjectured - - - - -
- Intrusion/Truncation - - - - -
- Top of Natural _____
- Top Surface _____
- Break in Section - - - - -
- Cut Number 0008
- Deposit Number 0007
- Ordnance Datum $\frac{18.45m}{\times}$ OD

1. Introduction

In March 2017 Suffolk Archaeology CIC (SACIC) carried out an archaeological evaluation on a piece of land at Thickthorn Roundabout, Hethersett, Norfolk. The project was commissioned by McDonald's Restaurants Ltd and undertaken according to a Brief (dated 31/01/2017) produced by the Archaeological Advisor (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Xenia Paula Kyriakou of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCCHES), and then addressed by a SACIC Written Scheme of Investigation (Craven 2016; Appendix 2).

This evaluation was required under the terms of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF), as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site. The relevant planning application reference is 2016/0662. The proposed development consists of a new McDonald's restaurant with associated access and car parking.

The site is situated in rural countryside between the villages of Hethersett and Cringleford, centred on NGR TG 1828 0554. (Fig. 1). The immediate area has been greatly affected in the late 20th century, by the construction of the A47 and A11 dual carriageways and the Thickthorn services and Park and Ride complex. The site is a 0.5-hectare parcel of derelict land adjacent to the roundabout junctions of these two roads, the B1172 Norwich Road (formerly the A11) and the access slip road to the A47.

2. Geology and topography

The site geology consists of superficial deposits of Sheringham Cliffs Formation sand and gravel to the north and chalk till of the Lowestoft Formation to the south. These overlie chalk bedrock of the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk Formation, Culver Chalk Formation and Portsdown Chalk Formation (British Geological Survey website).

The site is largely covered by grass scrub, with dense gorse bushes to east and south. A short length of modern bank, blocking vehicle access from the roundabout, lies along the western side of the plot and a set of overhead powerlines cross the centre of the site from north to south.

Ground-levels are broadly flat, at c.32m above Ordnance Datum. There is a significant artificial escarpment, descending c.2-3m to the adjacent roads, along the south-west, southern and eastern edges.

3. Archaeology and historical background

The NCCHEs Brief states that the area is of potential interest as *'cropmarks of undated field system ditches have been recorded extending into the proposed development site. Previous archaeological excavations at the adjacent Park and Ride site revealed features of Bronze Age and Iron Age date and artefacts spanning the prehistoric to medieval periods have been recorded in the surrounding area.'*

The search of the Norfolk HER includes 102 entries within 1km of the site, and includes a wide range of monuments and findspots dating from the Palaeolithic to modern periods. In particular, it shows that the site lies almost wholly within record MNF9396, which is described as an *'undated enclosure or field system visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs taken in 1973. Prehistoric flint artefacts, an Iron Age coin, a Roman coin, medieval pottery sherds and a post medieval seal have also been found on the site.'* Plots of the cropmarks on the Norfolk National Mapping Programme (NMP) show two probable ditches crossing the eastern and southern parts of the site.

Neolithic flint artefacts are recorded 150m to the south on the route of the A11 (MNF22828). The programs of evaluation and excavation fieldwork 70m to the west on the Park and Ride site are recorded as MNF43554 and the grey literature report (Watkins 2006) summarises the results as follows *'A range of discrete and linear features were excavated during this work and a reasonable quantity of artefacts recovered. This evidence was mainly of prehistoric date and suggests occupation of the surrounding area during several periods... Activity during the Neolithic and Bronze Age was represented by a large assemblage of worked flint recovered from topsoil and subsoil contexts and a small number of pits containing pottery of this date. More substantial evidence for early to middle Iron Age activity was also recovered. Ditches, possibly representing enclosures and trackway fragments, could be tentatively dated to the Iron Age, demonstrating a developed and organised landscape in the vicinity of the site by this time. A small number of Iron Age pits were also identified. A large number of poorly dated or undated pits and postholes were also identified. While many were of potentially prehistoric date, these showed little spatial patterning and could not be related to any specific phase of activity.'*

Historic mapping and photography viewable on the Norfolk County Council Map Explorer website (mid-19th century tithe map, aerial photos of 1946 and 1988) and 20th century Ordnance Survey mapping shows the development of the area since the 19th century. Until 1965 the site is depicted as forming the north-western part of a large

arable field, to the south of the Norwich Road, with the western part possibly just straddling the boundary with an adjacent field. By 1988 the modern A11 has been constructed, with the Norwich Road being diverted around the south of the site to meet it at a roundabout junction, and an aerial photo suggests the site was in use as a yard or compound. By 1994 the A47 has been constructed, the roundabout enlarged, and the east and south sides of the modern site defined. The roundabout to the west, which defines the western edge of the site, was built post 1994.

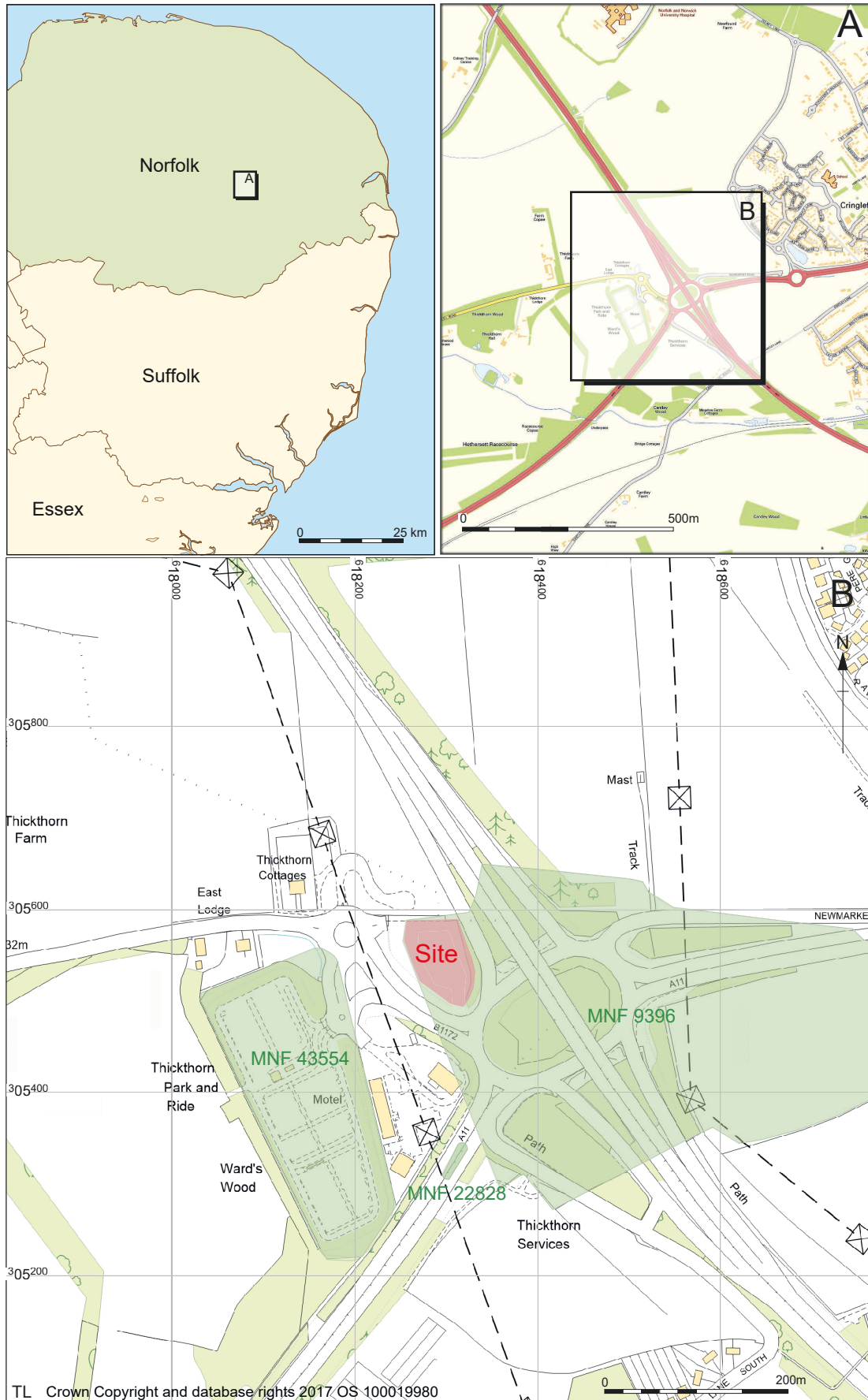


Figure 1. Location of site with HER entries as mentioned in text

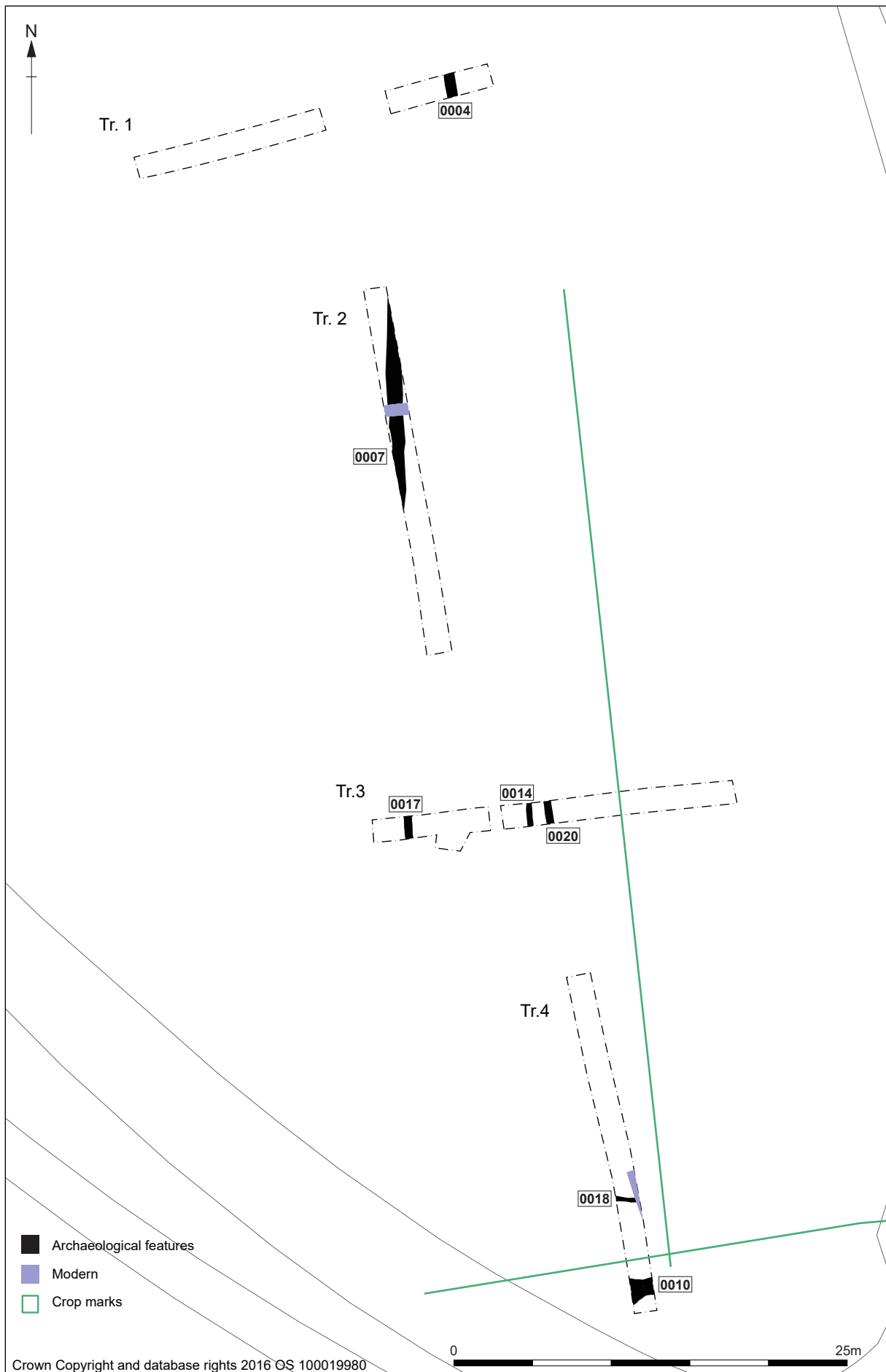


Figure 2. Trench plan

4. Methodology

Four trenches were excavated across the development area and were placed to sample the development footprint and target the cropmarks of an undated field system (Fig. 2). Trench locations were marked out using an RTK GPS system.

The trenches were opened using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, working under archaeological supervision. Due to onsite constraints Trench 4 was moved c.7m west of its proposed location and a small central portion of Trenches 1 and 3 were not excavated due to the discovery of underground services.

Topsoil followed by the subsoil (where present) was removed, exposing the superficial geological layers of the site. The spoil heaps were visually scanned and metal detected for the presence of archaeological artefacts, but none were recovered.

Following excavation, the trenches were cleaned sufficiently to determine if archaeological remains were present. Basic trench information was recorded on pro-forma sheets and a photographic record was compiled. Trench positions, excavated sections and all levels were recorded by RTK GPS. Measured profiles were hand drawn at a scale of 1:20 and planning was carried out manually from known reference points.

Site data has been added onto an MS Access database and recorded using the County Event code ENF141756. An OASIS form has been completed for the project (Reference no. suffolka1-276852 – Appendix 3) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database. (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>).

The archive is currently located at SACIC's office in Needham Market, but will be transferred to the Norfolk Museums Service, upon approval of the report.

5. Results

5.1 Introduction

Trenches 1, 2 & 3 measured 23m in length and Trench 4 was 21m. The soil profile within Trench 1 consisted of topsoil (0001) of loose, dark brown silt, 0.25m thick overlying a modern made ground deposit (0006) of compacted dark brown silt with occasional flint, brick and coal inclusions that in turn overlay the natural strata of orange sand and gravel (0003). The soil profile for trenches 2-4 consisted of topsoil, 0.20-0.40m thick, overlying the subsoil (0006) of mid orange-brown silt and sand, 0.20m-0.35m thick, that in turn overlay the natural strata.

This section provides a summary of the results of the evaluation. A full breakdown of context descriptions and dimensions are present in Appendix 1 of this report whilst plans and sections are displayed on Figures 2-6.

5.2 Trench results

Trench 1

Ditch 0004

Ditch 0004 was located 2.2m from the eastern end of the trench, orientated N-S (Pl. 1; Fig. 3). The ditch measured 0.77m wide with a gradual-sided profile (0.35m deep) breaking to a concave base. The ditch contained a single fill, 0005, of soft mid brown-grey silty sand. No archaeological finds were recovered from the fill.



Plate 1. Ditch 0004 within Trench 1, looking south, 0.5m scale

Trench 2

Ditch 0007

Ditch 0007 was located 0.5m from the northern end of the trench, orientated N-S (Pl. 2; Fig. 4). The ditch measured 1m wide with a gradual-sided profile (0.21m deep) breaking to a concave base. The ditch contained a single fill, 0008, of soft mid brown-grey silty sand. The length of the ditch was 100% excavated in search of dateable finds but none were recovered.



Plate 2. Ditch 0007 within Trench 2, looking north, 0.5m scale

Trench 3

Ditch 0017

Ditch 0017 was located 2m from the western end of the trench, orientated N-S (Pl. 3; Fig. 5). The ditch measured 0.55m wide with a gradual-sided profile (0.20m deep) breaking to a concave base. The ditch contained a single fill, 0016, of soft mid brown-grey silty sand. No archaeological finds were recovered from the fill.



Plate 3. Ditch 0017 within Trench 3, looking north, 0.5m scale

Ditch 0020

Ditch 0020 was located 11m from the eastern end of the trench, orientated N-S (Pl. 4; Fig. 5). The ditch measured 0.54m wide with a gradual-sided profile (0.21m deep) breaking to a concave base. The ditch contained a single fill, 0021, of soft mid brown-grey silty sand. No archaeological finds were recovered from the fill.



Plate 4. Ditch 0020 within Trench 3, looking north, 0.5m scale

Ditch 0014

Ditch 0014 was located 13m from the eastern end of the trench, orientated N-S (Pl. 5; Fig. 5). The ditch measured 0.40m wide with a gradual-sided profile (0.20m deep) breaking to a concave base. The ditch contained a single fill, 0015, of soft mid brown-grey silty sand. No archaeological finds were recovered from the fill.



Plate 5. Ditch 0014 within Trench 3, looking north, 0.5m scale

Trench 4

Ditch 0010

Ditch 0010 was located 0.60m from the southern end of the trench, orientated E-W (Pl. 6; Fig. 6). The ditch measured 1.70m wide at its western end, narrowing to 1m wide on its eastern side. The ditch had a very gradual-sided profile (0.32m deep) breaking to a flat base. The ditch contained a single fill, 0011, of soft mid brown-yellow silty sand. No archaeological finds were recovered from the fill.



Plate 6. Ditch 0010 within Trench 4, looking west, 1m scale

Gully 0018

Gully 0018 was located 7m from the southern end of the trench, orientated E-W (Pl. 7; Fig. 6). The gully measured 0.40m wide with a steep-sided profile (0.10m deep) breaking to a concave base. The gully contained a single fill, 0019, of soft mid brown-yellow silty sand. No archaeological finds were recovered from the fill.



Plate 7. Gully 0018 within Trench 4, looking east, 0.5m scale

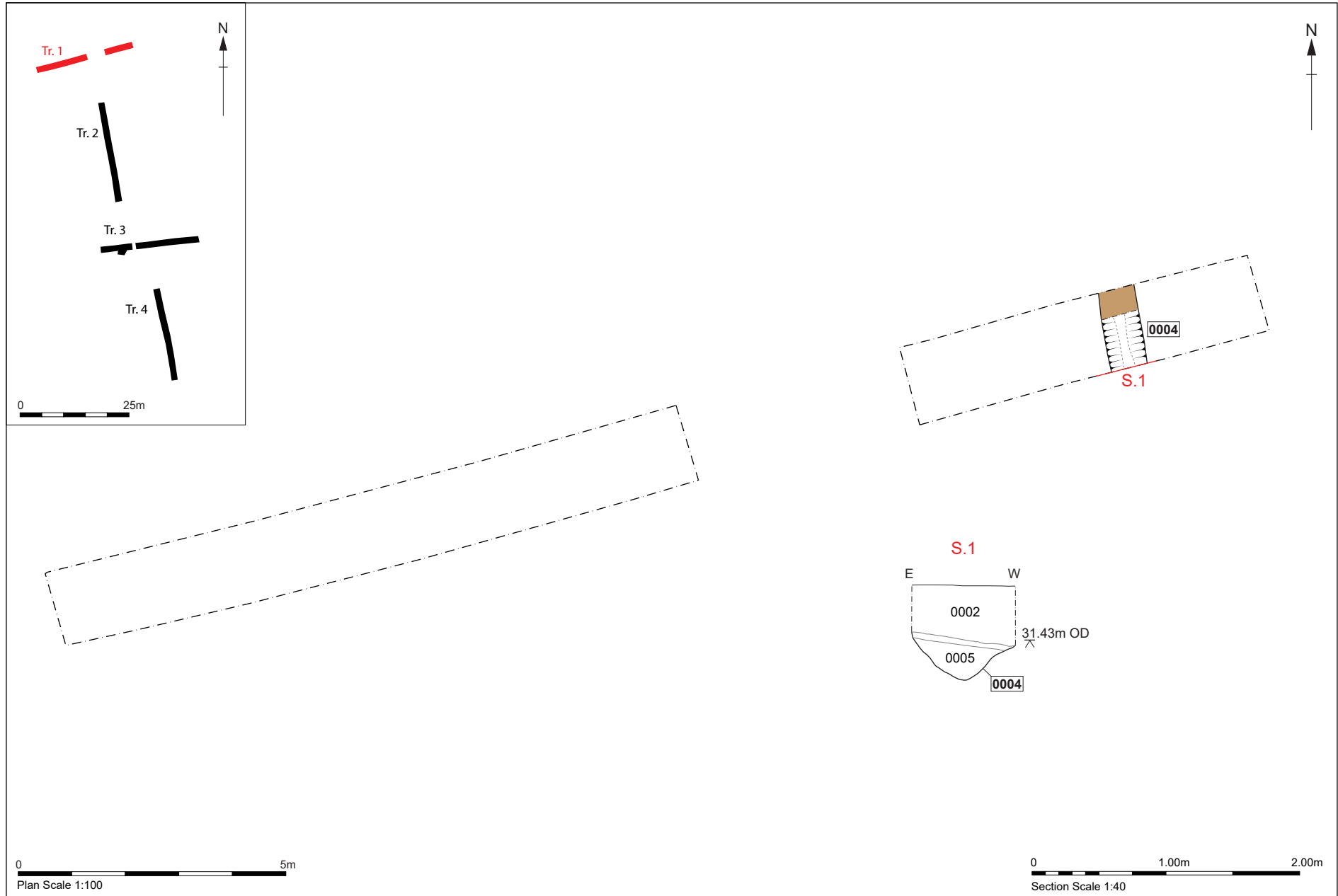


Figure 3. Trench 1, plan and section

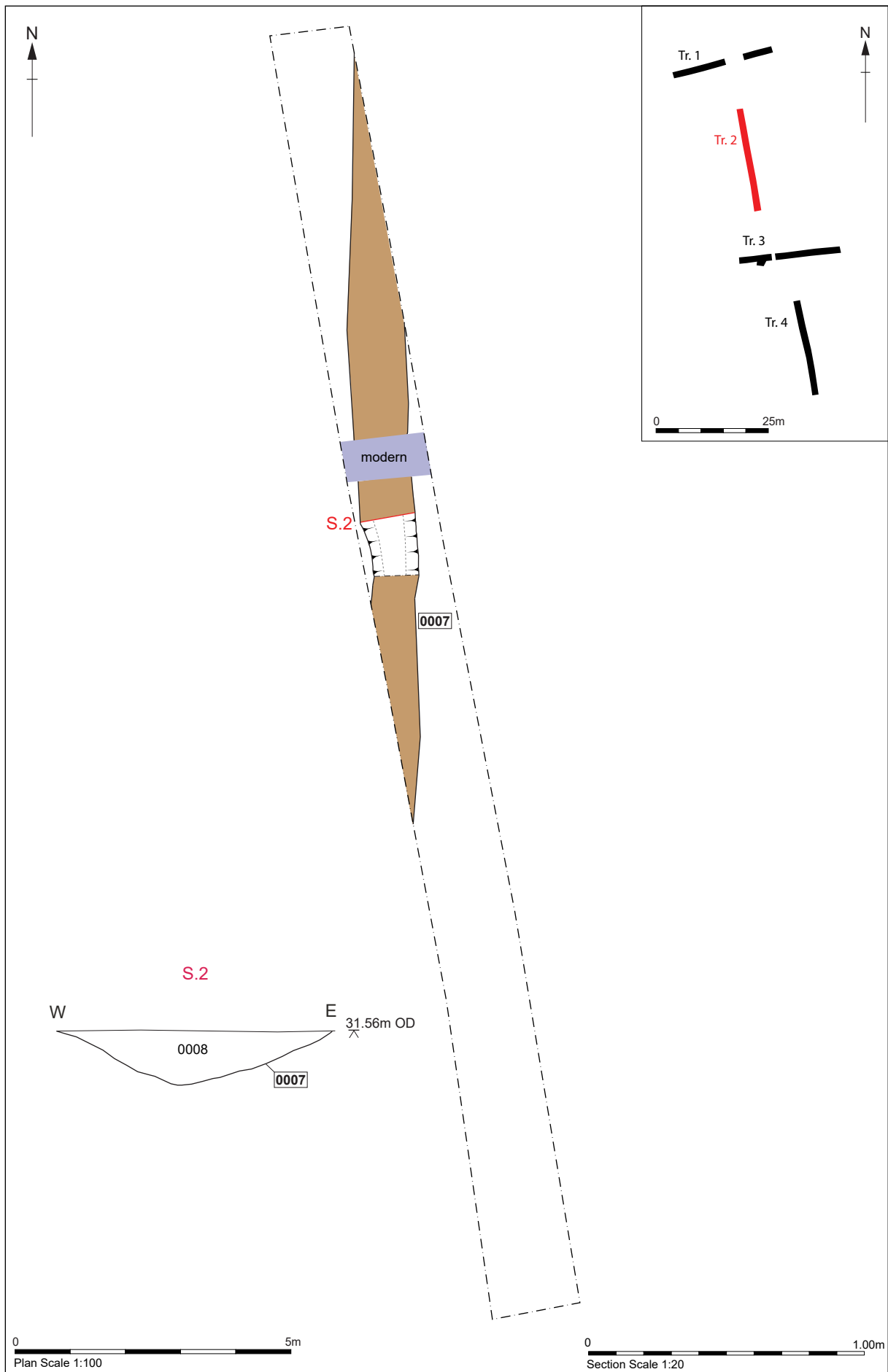


Figure 4. Trench 2, plan and section

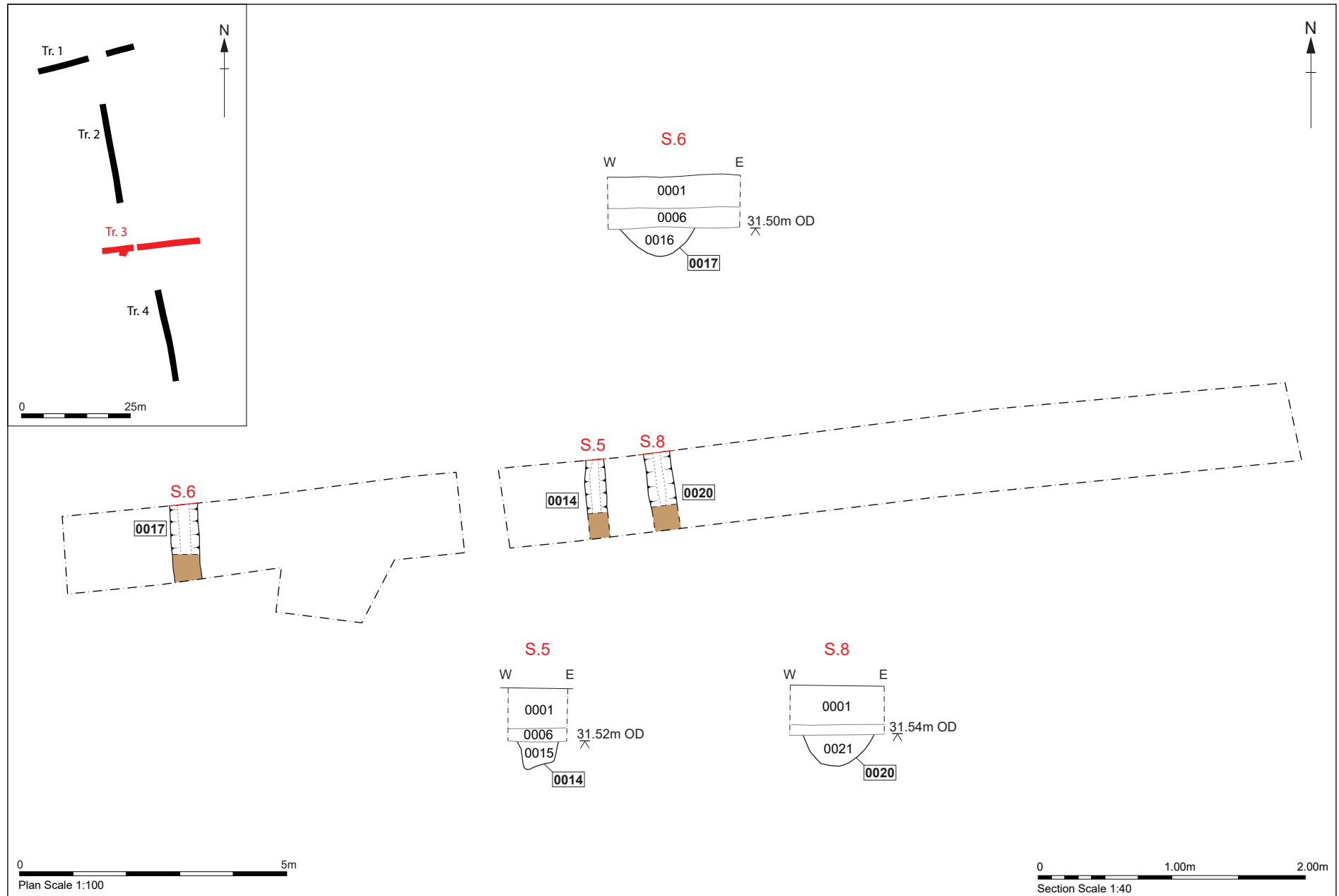


Figure 5. Trench 3, plan and sections

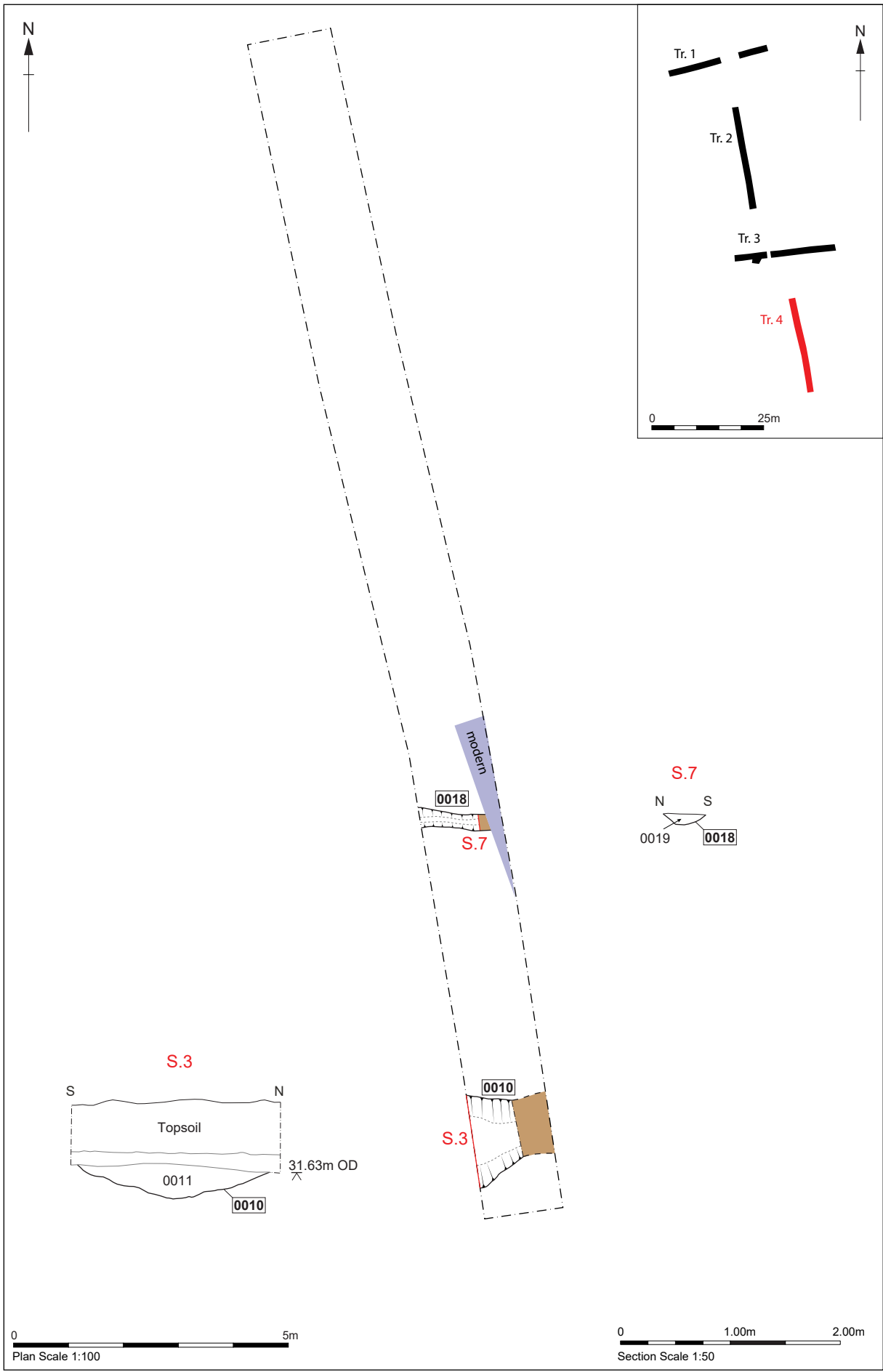


Figure 6. Trench 4, plan and sections

6. Discussion

Trench 1 was located in close proximity to the original route of the Norwich Road (A11). A made ground deposit, most likely relating to modern development works, was identified within Trench 1 whilst the natural soil profile existed within trenches 2-4.

The trenches were located to target cropmarks of an undated field system. A single north-south orientated cropmark passed through the centre of the development site and an east-west orientated cropmark was identified at the south. The archaeological features identified in the four trenches align with these cropmarks. Ditches 0004 in Trench 1, ditch 0007 within Trench 2 and ditch 0017 within Trench 3 tentatively align and could be the same feature.

All of the ditches were undated and the sterile nature of the fills suggest they form part of a field system set away from settlement activity. The ditches do not align with late post-medieval field system boundaries identified on historic mapping and so they may represent an earlier pattern of smaller medieval fields. While these ditches may be contemporary with the area of Bronze Age and Iron Age activity known to the west (MNF43554, Watkins 2006) they do not align with those previously seen and the lack of finds suggests the site lies outside of the area of prehistoric occupation.

7. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The evaluation has defined the character of the heritage assets which are present at the development site. The archaeological features comprised five ditches and a gully of possible medieval or earlier date.

The heritage assets are of local significance and there is a medium potential for the presence of similar features across the development site.

The evaluation took place in dry weather conditions. Full co-operation was received from the contractors and a high degree of confidence is attached to the results of the evaluation. The final decision on further work rests with NCCHEs.

8. Archive deposition

The project archive consisting of all paper and digital records is to be deposited with the Norfolk Museums Service. Until deposition, the archive will be held by Suffolk Archaeology CIC at its office and stores in Needham Market, Suffolk.

9. Acknowledgements

The evaluation was commissioned by McDonald's Restaurants Ltd. The project was monitored by Xenia Paula Kyriakou (NCCHEs) on behalf of the local planning authority.

The project was managed by John Craven BA (Hons). Fieldwork was carried out by Martin Cuthbert BA (Hons) ACIfA, Nigel Byram & Aimee McManus. The report was prepared by Martin Cuthbert and the report illustrations were created by Gemma Bowen. The report was edited by John Craven.

10. Bibliography

Craven, J., 2017, *Land at Thickthorn Roundabout, Hethersett, Norfolk - Written Scheme of Investigation for Trenched Evaluation*, Suffolk Archaeology CIC

Kyriakou, X., 2017, *Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation at Land at Thickthorn Roundabout, Hethersett, Norfolk, NCCHEs*

Watkins, P., 2006, *An Archaeological Strip and Record Excavation at Cringleford Park and Ride, Norwich*. Norfolk Archaeological Unit Report No. 1077.

Websites

British Geological Survey

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

Norfolk Map Explorer

<http://historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/mapexplorer>

Appendix 1. Context List

Context Number	Feature Number	Trench	Feature Type	Category	Description	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Over	Under	Percent Excavated
0001			Topsoil	Layer	Dark loose silty soil, inclusions of small-medium stones, some larger pieces of brick.					0002, 0006		
0002			Made Ground	Layer	Dark silty loose soil, similar to topsoil. Inclusions of medium-large stones. Mostly present in Trench 1. Horizon made diffuse by this context.					0003	0001	
0003			Natural	Layer	Brownish yellow sand with gravel and small stones. Loose compaction and grainy texture.						0002, 0006	
0004	0004	1	Ditch	Cut	Linear feature aligned roughly North-South, concave profile with moderate size and concave base.	Same as ditch in Trench 2.		0.77	0.35		0005	
0005	0004	1	Ditch	Fill	Mid-dark grey/yellow sandy silt, loose-moderate compaction, occasional small erratics, rooting and worms.	Same as ditch in Trench 2.		0.77	0.35	0004		
0006			Subsoil	Layer	Brown-orange layer of loose silty soil. Inclusions of small-medium stones. Horizon of this layer clearer in Trench 2, but not differentiable in Trench 1.					0013, 0003	0001	
0007	0007	2	Ditch	Cut	Linear feature aligned roughly South Southwest to North Northeast, gentle sloped edges to concave base.	Same as ditch in Trench 1.		1	0.21		0008	
0008	0007	2	Ditch	Fill	Mid-dark grey/yellow sandy silt, loose-moderate compaction,	Same as ditch in Trench 1.		1	0.21	0007		

Context Number	Feature Number	Trench	Feature Type	Category	Description	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Over	Under	Percent Excavated
					occasional small erratics, rooting and worms.							
0009	0009	3	Pit/Tree Throw	Cut	Cut of tree hole - irregular in section and root runs in base. In plan is quite circular but irregular once excavated.	Tree hole.	1.1	1.1	0.13		0012	50
0010	0010	4	?	Cut	Wide linear-like feature narrowing to the East, West-East alignment, very gentle sloped sides and largely flat base.	Possible linear, but could be natural, i.e. tree throw.		1.7	0.32		0011	
0011	0010	4	?	Fill	Mid-dark yellowy-brown silty sand, moderately loose, occasional small-mid erratics, rooting and worms.	Possible linear, but could be natural, i.e. tree throw.		1.7	0.32	0010		
0012	0009	3	Tree hole	Fill	Charcoal deposit within burnt tree hole. Charcoal and fired clay with occasional fire cracked flint nodules only around edges of cut. No finds.	Charcoal - probably burning of root system of tree.		0.3	0.09	0009	0013	50
0013	0009	3	Tree hole	Fill	Mid-dark brown silty clay - moderately compacted backfill of rotten tree stump pipe. Frequent charcoal and burnt flint. No finds.	Fill of tree stump pipe once burnt away?		0.55	0.13	0012	0006	50
0014	0014	3	Ditch	Cut	Linear with a North-South alignment. Profile is concave, bowl shaped with gradually receding edges to the base.	Possible ditch or gully used for drainage or farming land separation. No dateable finds.		0.4	0.2		0015	
0015	0014	3	Ditch	Fill	Fill with a mid-brown loose sand with inclusions of stones, small to medium in size. Yellow-orange sand base. Horizon is clear from the subsoil. Solitary fill.	Possible ditch or gully used for drainage or farming land separation. No dateable finds.		0.4	0.2	0014		

Context Number	Feature Number	Trench	Feature Type	Category	Description	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Over	Under	Percent Excavated
0016	0017	3	Ditch	Fill	Mid brown-orange soft silty clay with occasional sub-angular flints. No finds, single fill.	Same as ditches in Trench 1 & 2.		0.55	0.2	0017		
0017	0017	3	Ditch	Cut	Linear aligned North-South at Western end of Trench 3. Gradually sloping sides approximately 45 degrees to a sharp 'U' shaped base.	Same as ditches in Trench 1 & 2.		0.55	0.2		0016	
0018	0018	4	Gully	Cut	Narrow linear running East-West. Simple concave profile with moderately steep sides.	Simple narrow gully, no dating.		0.4	0.1		0019	
0019	0018	4	Gully	Fill	Mid yellow-brown sandy silt, moderately compact, occasional large erratics, rooting.	Simple narrow gully, no dating.		0.4	0.1	0018		
0020	0020	3	Ditch	Cut	Linear with North-South alignment. Concave bowl-shaped profile with gradual sloping edges to the base.	Possible ditch or gully used as a means to separate sections of farmland or for drainage. No dateable finds.		0.54	0.21		0021	
0021	0020	3	Ditch	Fill	Mid-brown loose sand with small-medium inclusions of stones. Horizon is clear compared to the subsoil. Solitary fill.	Possible ditch or gully used as a means to separate sections of farmland or for drainage. No dateable finds.		0.54	0.21	0020		

Appendix 2. Written Scheme of Investigation



Land at Thickthorn Roundabout Hethersett, Norfolk

Client:

McDonald's Restaurants Ltd

Date:

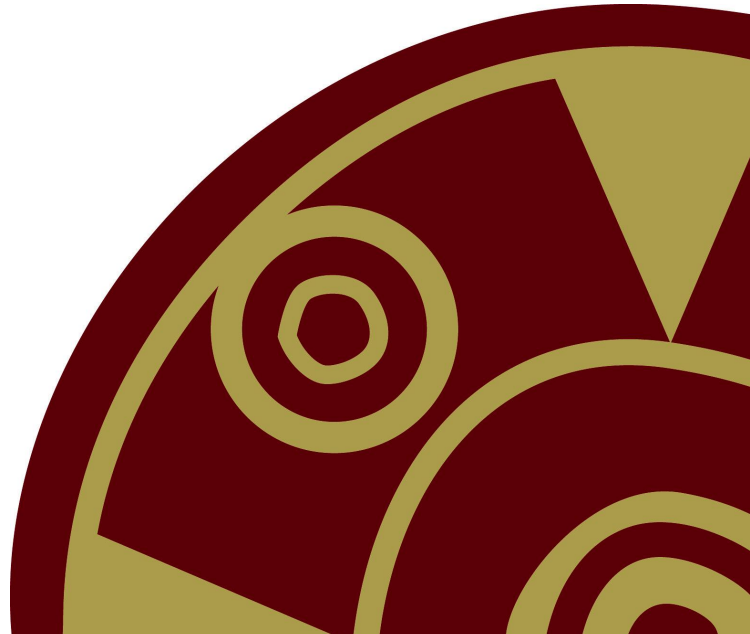
February 2017

ENF 141756

Written Scheme of Investigation and Risk Assessment –
Archaeological Evaluation

Author: John Craven

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Appendices

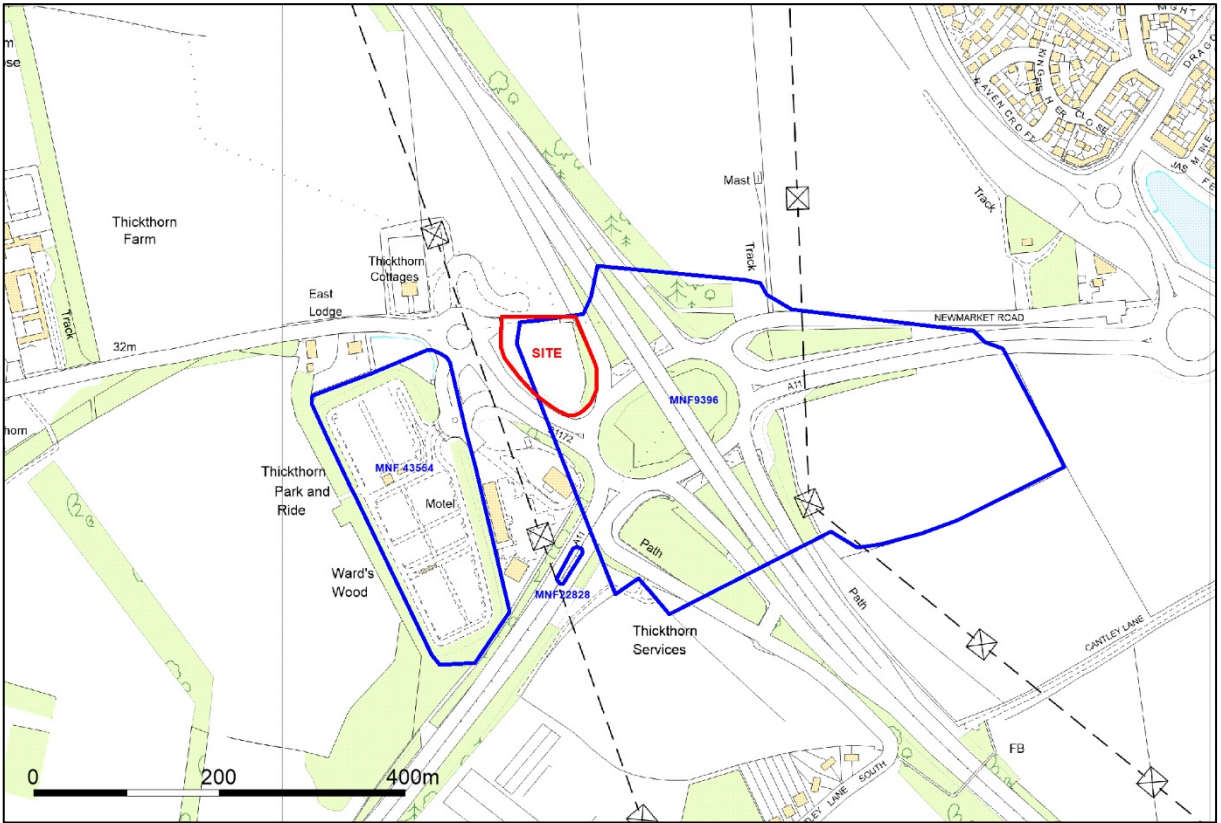
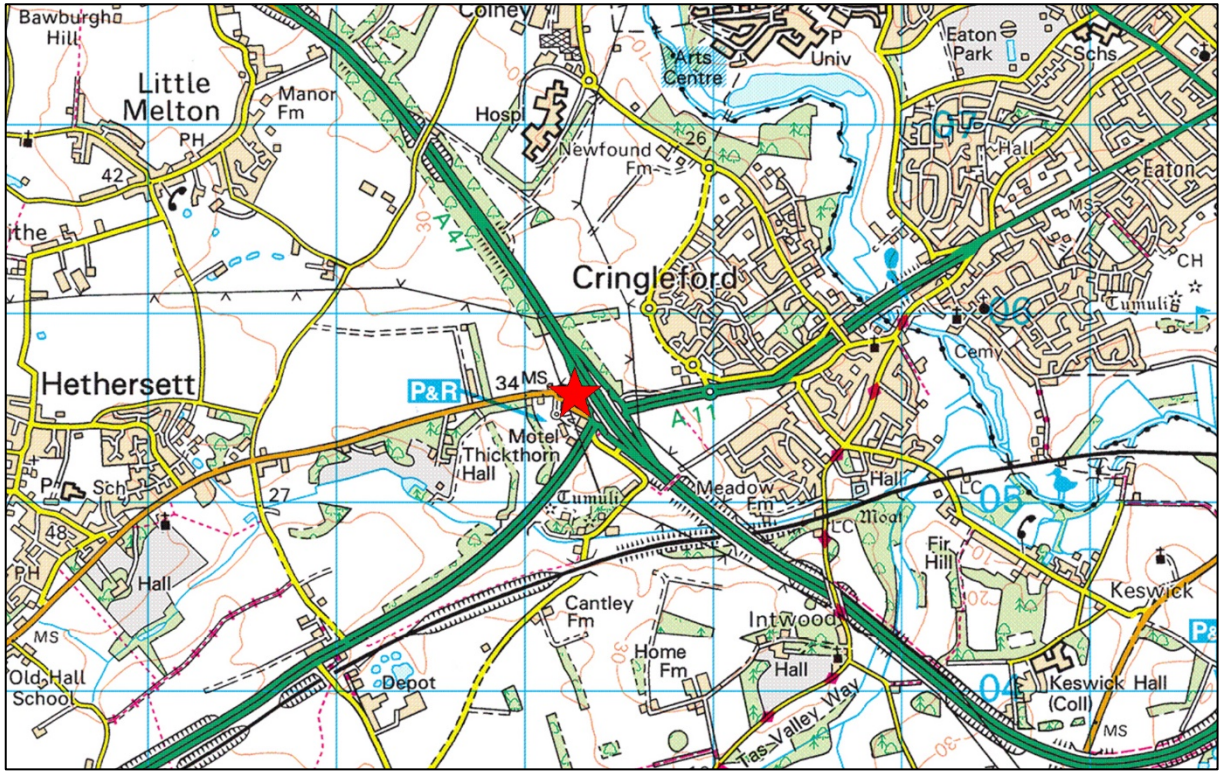
- Appendix 1. Health and safety
- Appendix 2. Key Staff – Selected in-house CV summaries
- Appendix 3. External specialists commonly used by SACIC

Project details

Planning Application No:	2016/0662
Curatorial Officer:	Xenia Paula Kyriakou (Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service)
Grid Reference:	TG 1828 0554
Area:	c.0.6ha
HER Event No:	ENF141756
Oasis Reference:	276852
Project Start date	Proposed 6 th March 2017
Project Duration:	c. 2 days
Client/Funding Body:	McDonald's Restaurants Ltd
SACIC Project Manager	John Craven
SACIC Project Officer:	TBC

1. Introduction

- A program of archaeological evaluation is required to assess the site of a proposed McDonalds restaurant for heritage assets by a condition on planning application 2016/0662, in accordance with paragraph 128 of the National Planning Policy Framework. The site lies on a plot of vacant land at the Thickthorn junction of the A47, Hethersett, Norfolk (Fig. 1).
- The proposed development will involve significant ground disturbance and this could have a detrimental impact upon any archaeological deposits that exist. The evaluation is therefore needed to establish the extent and significance of the sites heritage assets and the likely impact of development upon them.
- The work required is detailed in a Brief (dated 31/01/2017), produced by the archaeological adviser to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Xenia Paula Kyriakou of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCCHEs).
- Suffolk Archaeology (SACIC) has been contracted to carry out the project. This document details how the requirements of the Brief will be met, and has been submitted to NCCHEs for approval on behalf of the LPA. It provides the basis for measurable standards and will be adhered to in full, unless otherwise agreed with NCCHEs.
- It should be noted that the evaluation is only a first stage in a potential program of works and that this Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) covers this trenched evaluation only. Any further stages of archaeological work that are required in relation to the proposed development will be specified by NCCHEs, will require new documentation (Brief and WSI) and estimate of costs. Such works could have considerable time and cost implications for the development and the client is advised to consult with NCCHEs as to their obligations following receipt of the evaluation report.



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Figure 1. Location map

2. The Site

- The site is situated in rural countryside between the villages of Hethersett and Cringleford, the latter now forming the south-western edge of the suburban spread of Norwich. The immediate area has been greatly affected in the late 20th century, by the construction of the A47 and A11 dual carriageways and the Thickthorn services and Park and Ride complex.
- The site is a parcel of derelict land adjacent to the roundabout junctions of these two roads, the B1172 Norwich Road (formerly the A11) and the access slip road to the A47. Ground-levels are broadly flat, at c.32m above Ordnance Datum, but it is unclear exactly how much of this is due to residual natural topography and how much to 20th century landscaping. There is a significant artificial escarpment, descending c.2-3m to the adjacent roads, along the south-west, southern and eastern edges.
- The site geology consists of superficial deposits of Sheringham Cliffs Formation sand and gravel to the north and chalk till of the Lowestoft Formation to the south. These overlie chalk bedrock of the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk Formation, Culver Chalk Formation and Portsdown Chalk Formation (British Geological Survey website).
- The site is largely covered by grass scrub, with dense gorse bushes to east and south. A short length of modern bank, blocking vehicle access from the roundabout, lies along the western side of the plot and a set of overhead powerlines cross the centre of the site from north to south.

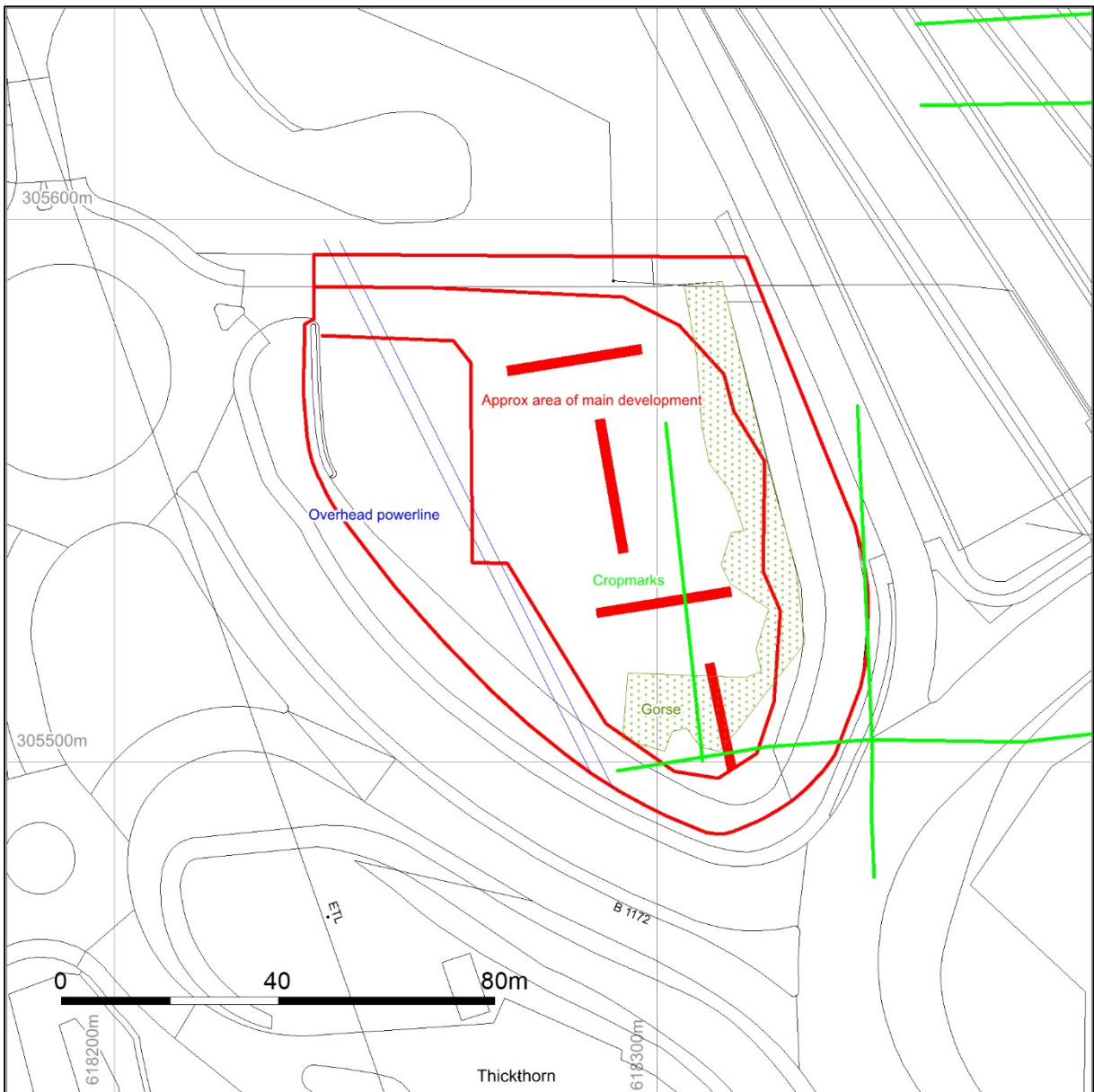
3. Archaeological and historical background

- The NCCHEs Brief states that the area is of potential interest as *‘cropmarks of undated field system ditches have been recorded extending into the proposed development site. Previous archaeological excavations at the adjacent Park and Ride site revealed features of Bronze Age and Iron Age date and artefacts spanning the prehistoric to medieval periods have been recorded in the surrounding area.’*
- The search of the Norfolk HER includes 102 entries within 1km of the site, and includes a wide range of monuments and findspots dating from the Palaeolithic to modern periods. In particular it shows that the site lies almost wholly within record MNF9396, which is described as an *‘undated enclosure or field system...visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs taken in 1973. Prehistoric flint artefacts, an Iron Age coin, a Roman coin, medieval pottery sherds and a post medieval seal have also been found on the site.’* Plots of the cropmarks on the Norfolk National Mapping Programme (NMP) show two probable ditches crossing the eastern and southern parts of the site.
- Neolithic flint artefacts are recorded 150m to the south on the route of the A11 (MNF22828). The programs of evaluation and excavation fieldwork 70m to the west on the Park and Ride site are recorded as MNF43554 and the grey literature report (Watkins 2006) summarises the results as follows *‘A range of discrete and linear features were excavated during this work and a reasonable quantity of artefacts recovered. This evidence was mainly of prehistoric date and suggests occupation of the surrounding area during several periods... Activity during the Neolithic and Bronze Age was represented by a large assemblage of worked flint recovered from topsoil and subsoil contexts and a small number of pits containing pottery of this date. More substantial evidence for early to middle Iron Age activity was also recovered. Ditches, possibly representing enclosures and trackway fragments, could be tentatively dated to the Iron Age, demonstrating a developed and organised landscape in the vicinity of the site by this time. A small number of Iron Age pits were also identified. A large number of poorly dated or undated pits and postholes were also identified. While many were of potentially prehistoric date, these showed little spatial patterning and could not be related to any specific phase of activity.’*

- Historic mapping and photography viewable on the Norfolk County Council Map Explorer website (mid-19th century tithe map, aerial photos of 1946 and 1988) and 20th century Ordnance Survey mapping shows the development of the area since the 19th century. Until 1965 the site is depicted as forming the north-western part of a large arable field, to the south of the Norwich Road, with the western part possibly just straddling the boundary with an adjacent field. By 1988 the modern A11 has been constructed, with the Norwich Road being diverted round the south of the site to meet it at a roundabout junction, and an aerial photo suggests the site was in use as a yard or compound. By 1994 the A47 has been constructed, the roundabout enlarged, and the east and south sides of the modern site defined. The roundabout to the west, which defines the western edge of the site, was built post 1994.

4. Project Objectives

- The aim of the evaluation is to accurately quantify the quality and extent of the sites archaeological resource so that an assessment of the developments impact upon heritage assets can be made.
- The evaluation will:
 - Establish whether any archaeological deposits exist in the application area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*.
 - Identify the date, approximate form and function of any archaeological deposits within the application area.
 - Establish the extent, depth and quality of preservation of any archaeological deposits within the application area.
 - Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses and whether masking alluvial or colluvial deposits are present.
 - Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
 - Assess the potential of the site to address research aims defined in the Regional Research Framework for the Eastern Counties (Brown and Glazebrook 2000, Medlycott 2011).
 - Provide sufficient information for NCCHEs to construct an archaeological conservation strategy dealing with preservation or the further recording of archaeological deposits.
 - Provide sufficient information for the client to establish time and cost implications for the development regarding the application areas heritage assets.



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Figure 2. Proposed trench plan

5. Archaeological method statement

5.1. Management

- The project will be managed by SACIC Project Manager John Craven in accordance with the following local, regional and national standards and guidance:
 - *Management of Research in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE, Historic England 2015).
 - *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (EAA Occasional Papers 14).
 - *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014).
- NCHES will be given five days notice of the commencement of the fieldwork and arrangements made for NCHES visits to enable the works to be monitored effectively.
- Full details of project staff, including sub-contractors and specialists are given in section 6 below.

5.2. Project preparation

- An event number has been obtained from the Norfolk HER Officer and will be included on all future project documentation.
- A search of the Norfolk Historic Environment Record, for a 1km radius centered on the site, has been obtained from the Norfolk HER Officer, and will be used to inform this WSI, fieldwork and the final report.
- An OASIS online record has been initiated and key fields in details, location and creator forms completed.
- A pre-site inspection and Risk Assessment for the project has been completed.

5.3. Fieldwork

- The archaeological fieldwork will be carried out by members of SACIC led by a

Project Officer (TBC). The fieldwork team will be drawn from a pool of suitable staff at SACIC and will include an experienced metal detectorist/excavator.

- The project Brief requires the application area to be evaluated through the placement of four trenches, totalling 95m in length, across the site. The proposed trench plan (Fig. 2) targets the development area and the known cropmarks whilst avoiding overhead powerlines and the densest areas of gorse.
- The trench locations will be marked out using an RTK GPS system. If necessary minor modifications to the trench plan may be made onsite to respect any previously unknown buried services, areas of disturbance/contamination or other obstacles.
- The trenches will be excavated using a machine equipped with a back-acting arm and toothless ditching bucket (measuring at least 1.6m wide), under the supervision of an archaeologist. This will involve the removal of an estimated 0.3m-1m of topsoil and any underlying subsoils, until the first visible archaeological surface or geological natural surface is reached.
- Spoilheaps will be created adjacent to each trench and topsoil and subsoil will be kept separate if required. Spoilheaps will be examined and metal-detected for archaeological material.
- The trench sides, base and archaeological surfaces will be cleaned by hand as necessary to identify archaeological deposits and artefacts and allow decisions to be made on the method of further investigation by the Project Officer. Further use of the machine, i.e. to investigate thick sequences of deposits by excavation of test pits etc, may be undertaken as necessary after consultation with NCCHEs.
- There will be a presumption that a minimum of disturbance will be caused whilst achieving adequate evaluation of the site, i.e. establishing the period, depth and nature of archaeological deposits. Typically 50% of discrete features such as pits and 1m slots across linear features will be sampled by hand excavation, although in some instances 100% may be removed, with the aim of establishing date and function. All identified features will be investigated by excavation unless otherwise agreed with NCCHEs. Significant archaeological features such as solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or postholes will be preserved intact if possible.

- Sieving of deposits using a 10mm mesh will be undertaken if they clearly appear to be occupation deposits or structurally related. Other deposits may be sieved at the judgement of the excavation team or if directed by NCCHEs.
- Any fabricated surface (floors, yards etc) will be fully exposed and cleaned.
- Metal detector searches will take place throughout the excavation by an experienced SACIC metal-detectorist.
- The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits across the site will be recorded.
- An overall site plan showing trench locations, feature positions, sections and levels will be made using an RTK GPS or Total Station Theodolite. Individual detailed trench or feature plans etc will be recorded by hand at 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate to complexity. All excavated sections will be recorded at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20, also as appropriate to complexity. All such drawings will be in pencil on A3 pro forma gridded permatrace sheets. All levels will refer to Ordnance Datum. Section and plan drawing registers will be maintained.
- All trenches, archaeological features and deposits will be recorded using standard pro forma SACIC registers and recording sheets and numbering systems.
- A photographic record, consisting of high resolution digital images and black and white film, will be made throughout the evaluation. A number board displaying site code and, if appropriate, context number and a metric scale will be clearly visible in all photographs. A photographic register will be maintained.
- All pre-modern finds will be kept and no discard policy will be considered until all the finds have been processed and assessed. Finds on site will be treated following appropriate guidelines (Watkinson & Neal 2001) and a conservator will be available for on-site consultation as required.
- All finds will be brought back to the SACIC finds department at the end of each day for processing, quantifying, packing and, where necessary, preliminary conservation. Finds will be processed and receive an initial assessment during the fieldwork phase and this information will be fed back to site to inform the on-site evaluation methodology.
- Environmental sampling of archaeological contexts will, where possible, be carried

out to assess the site for palaeoenvironmental remains and will follow appropriate guidance (Campbell *et al* 2011). In order to obtain palaeoenvironmental evidence, bulk soil samples (of at least 40 litres each, or 100% of the context) will be taken using a combination of judgement and systematic sampling from selected archaeological features or natural environmental deposits, particularly those which are both datable and interpretable. All environmental samples will be retained until an appropriate specialist has assessed their potential for palaeoenvironmental remains. Decisions will be made on the need for further analysis following these assessments.

- If necessary, for example if waterlogged peat deposits are encountered, then advice will be sought from the Historic England Science Advisor for the East of England on the need for specialist environmental techniques such as coring or column sampling.
- If human remains are encountered guidelines from the Ministry of Justice will be followed and the Coroner and NCHES informed. Human remains will be treated at all stages with care and respect, and will be dealt with in accordance with the law and the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857. NCHES will be consulted to determine the subsequent work required but it is expected that the evaluation will attempt to establish the extent, depth and date of burials whilst leaving remains *in situ*. If human remains are to be lifted, for instance if analysis is required to fully evaluate the site, then a Ministry of Justice license for their removal will be obtained in advance. In such cases appropriate guidance, such as McKinley & Roberts 1993, Brickley & McKinley 2004 etc. will be consulted. On completion of full recording and analysis, the remains, where appropriate, will be reburied or kept as part of the project archive.
- In the event of unexpected or significant deposits being encountered on site, the client and NCHES will be informed. Such circumstances may necessitate changes to the Brief and hence evaluation methodology, in which case a new archaeological quotation will have to be agreed with the client, to allow for the recording of said unexpected deposits. If an evaluation is aborted, i.e. because unexpected deposits have made development unviable, then all exposed archaeological features will be recorded as usual prior to backfilling and a report produced.

- Trenches will not be backfilled without the prior approval of NCCHEs. Trenches will be backfilled, subsoil first then topsoil, and compacted to ground-level, unless otherwise specified by the client. Original ground surfaces will not be reinstated but will be left as neat as practicable.

5.4. Post-excavation

- The post-excavation finds work will be managed by the SACIC Finds Team Manager, Richenda Goffin, with the overall post-excavation managed by John Craven. Specialist finds staff, whether internal SACIC personnel or external specialists, are experienced in local and regional types and periods for their field.
- All finds will be processed and marked (HER site code and context number) following ICON guidelines and the requirements of the Norfolk HER. For the duration of the project all finds will be stored according to their material requirements in the SACIC store at Needham Market, Suffolk. Metal finds will be stored in accordance with ICON guidelines, *initially recorded and assessed for significance* before dispatch to a conservation laboratory within 4 weeks of the end of the evaluation. All pre-modern silver, copper alloy and ferrous metal artefacts and coins will be x-rayed if necessary for identification. Sensitive finds will be conserved if necessary and deposited in bags/boxes suitable for long term storage to ICON standards. All coins will be identified to a standard acceptable to normal numismatic research.
- All on-site derived site data will be entered onto a digital (Microsoft Access) SACIC database.
- Bulk finds will be fully quantified and the subsequent data will be added to the digital site database. Finds quantification will fully cover weights and numbers of finds by context and will include a clear statement for specialists on the degree of apparent residuality observed.
- Assessment reports for all categories of collected bulk finds will be prepared in-house or commissioned as necessary and will meet appropriate regional or national standards. Specialist reports will include sufficient detail and tabulation by context of data to allow assessment of potential for analysis and will include non-technical summaries.

- Representative portions of bulk soil samples from archaeological features will be processed by wet sieving and flotation in-house in order to recover any environmental material which will be assessed by external specialists. The assessment will include a clear statement of potential for further analysis either on the remaining sample material or in future fieldwork.
- All hand drawn site plans and sections will be scanned.
- All raw data from GPS or TST surveys will be uploaded to the project folder, suitably labelled and kept as part of the project archive.
- Selected plan drawings will then be digitised as appropriate for combination with the results of digital site survey to produce a full site plan, compatible with MapInfo GIS software.
- All hand-drawn sections will be digitised using autocad software.

5.5. Report

- A full written report on the fieldwork will be produced, consistent with the principles of MoRPHE (Historic England 2015), to a scale commensurate with the archaeological results. The report will contain a description of the project background, location plans, evaluation methodology, a period by period description of results, finds assessments and a full inventory of finds and contexts. The report will also include scale plans, sections drawings, illustrations and photographic plates as required.
- The objective account of the archaeological evidence will be clearly separated from an interpretation of the results, which will include a discussion of the results in relation to relevant known sites in the region that are recorded in the Suffolk HER and other readily available documentary or cartographic sources.
- The report will include a statement as to the value, significance and potential of the site and its significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework for the East of England (Brown and Glazebrook, 2000, Medlycott 2011). This will include an assessment of potential research aims that could be addressed by the site evidence.

- The report will contain sufficient information to stand as an archive report should further work not be required.
- The report may include SACIC's opinion as to the necessity for further archaeological work to mitigate the impact of the sites development. The final decision as to whether any recommendations for further work will be made however lies solely with NCCHEs and the LPA.
- The report will include a summary in the established format for inclusion in the annual '*Archaeology in Norfolk*' section of Norfolk Archaeology, the journal of the Norfolk & Norwich Archaeological Society.
- A copy of this Written Scheme of investigation will be included as an appendix in the report.
- The report will include a copy of the completed project OASIS form as an appendix.
- An unbound draft copy of the report will be submitted to NCCHEs for approval within 4 to 6 weeks of completion of fieldwork.

5.6. Project archive

- On approval of the report a printed and bound copy will be lodged with the Norfolk HER. A digital .pdf file will also be supplied, together with a digital and fully georeferenced vector plan showing the application area and trench locations, compatible with MapInfo software.
- The online OASIS form for the project will be completed and a .pdf version of the report uploaded to the OASIS website for online publication by the Archaeological Data Service. A paper copy of the form will be included in the project archive.
- A second bound copy of the report will be included with the project archive.
- A digital .pdf copy of the approved report will be supplied to the client, together with our final invoice for outstanding fees. Printed and bound copies will be supplied to the client on request.
- The project archive, consisting of the complete artefactual assemblage, and all paper and digital records, will be held in the SACIC Archaeological Store at

Needham until deposition, within 6 months of completion of fieldwork, with the Norfolk Museums Service. The project archive will be consistent with MoRPHE (Historic England 2015) and ICON guidelines.

- A form transferring ownership of the archive to the receiving depository as appropriate, will be completed and included in the project archive.
- If the client, on completion of the project, does not agree to deposit the archive with, and transfer ownership to the receiving depository, they will be expected to either nominate another suitable depository approved by NCCHEs or provide as necessary for additional recording of the finds archive (such as photography and illustration) and analysis. A duplicate copy of the written archive in such circumstances would be deposited with the Norfolk HER.
- Exceptions from the deposition of the archive described above include:
 - Objects that qualify as Treasure, as detailed by the Treasure Act 1996. The client will be informed as soon as possible of any such objects are discovered/identified and the find will be reported to NCCHEs and the Norfolk Finds Liaison Officer and hence the Coroner within 14 days of discovery or identification. Treasure objects will immediately be moved to secure storage at SACIC and appropriate security measures will be taken on site if required. Any material which is eventually declared as Treasure by a Coroners Inquest will, if not acquired by a museum, be returned to the client and/or landowner. Employees of SACIC, or volunteers etc present on site, will not eligible for any share of a treasure reward.
 - Other items of monetary value in which the landowner or client has expressed an interest. In these circumstances individual arrangements as to the curation and ownership of specific items will be negotiated.
 - Human skeletal remains. The client/landowner by law will have no claim to ownership of human remains and any such will be stored by SACIC, in accordance with a Ministry of Justice licence, until a decision is reached upon their long term future, i.e. reburial or permanent storage.

5.8. Bibliography

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- Brown, N and Glazebrook, J. (Eds), 2000, *Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. Research Agenda and Strategy*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper No. 8.
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- Historic England, 2015, *Management of Research in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)*.
- Gurney, D., 2003, *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper No 14.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation*.
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- Medlycott, M. (Ed), 2011, *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A revised framework for the East of England*. EAA Occasional Paper 24.
- Watkins, P., 2006, *An Archaeological Strip and Record Excavation at Cringleford Park and Ride, Norwich*. Norfolk Archaeological Unit Report No. 1077.
- Watkinson, D. and Neal, V., 2001, *First Aid for Finds*. Third Edition, revised. Rescue/UKIC Archaeology Section, London.

Websites

British Geological Survey

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

Norfolk Map Explorer

<http://historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/mapexplorer>

6. Project Staffing

6.1. Management

SACIC Managing Director	Dr Rhodri Gardner
SACIC Project Manager	John Craven
SACIC Finds Manager	Richenda Goffin
SACIC Outreach Officer	Alex Fisher

6.2. Fieldwork

The fieldwork team will be derived from the following pool of SACIC staff and other temporary project assistants. Summary CV's of key staff are included in Appendix 2.

Name	Job Title	First Aid	Other skills/qualifications
Robert Brooks	Project Officer	Yes	Surveyor
Simon Cass	Project Officer	Yes	Surveyor
Catherine Douglas	Project Officer	Yes	
Linzi Everett	Project Officer	Yes	
Martin Cuthbert	Project Officer	Yes	
Jezz Meredith	Project Officer	Yes	
Simon Picard	Assistant PO	Yes	Surveyor
Tim Schofield	Project Officer	Yes	Surveyor/Geophysics
Mark Sommers	Project Officer	Yes	
Preston Boyles	Supervisor	Yes	
Rebecca Smart	Project Assistant	Yes	
Nigel Byram	Project Assistant		
Tim Carter	Project Assistant	Yes	Metal detectorist
Rhiannon Gardiner	Project Assistant		
Nathan Griggs	Project Assistant		
Steve Hunt	Project Assistant		Metal detectorist
Romy McIntosh	Project Assistant		
Rui Oliveira	Project Assistant		
Ed Palka	Project Assistant		
John Phillips	Project Assisstant		Metal detectorist
Rui Santo	Project Assistant		
Filipe Santos	Project Assistant		
Eddie Taylor	Project Assistant		
Joy Fuller	Trainee Project Assistant		
Aimee McManus	Trainee Project Assistant		

6.3. Post-excavation and report production

The production of the site report and submission of the project archive will be carried out by the fieldwork Project Officer. The post-excavation finds analysis will be managed by Richenda Goffin. The following SACIC specialist staff will contribute to the report as required.

Graphics and illustration	Ellie Cox, Gemma Bowen
Post Roman pottery and CBM	Richenda Goffin
Roman Pottery	Dr Ioannis Smyrniaios
Environmental sample processing/assessment	Anna West
Finds quantification/assessment	Dr Ruth Beveridge, Matt Thompson
Finds Processing	Jonathan Van Jennians
Data entry	George Gorringe
Archive management	Dr Ruth Beveridge

SACIC also uses a range of external consultants for post-excavation analysis who will be sub-contracted as required. The most commonly used of these are listed below. A fuller list is included in Appendix 3.

Sue Anderson	Human skeletal remains	Freelance
Sarah Bates	Lithics	Freelance
Julie Curl	Animal bone	Freelance
Anna Doherty	Prehistoric pottery	Archaeology South-East
Val Fryer	Plant macrofossils	Freelance
SUERC	Radiocarbon dating	Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre
Donna Wreathall	Illustration	SCCAS

Appendix 3. OASIS form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

OASIS ID: suffolka1-276852

Project details

Project name	Land at Thickthorn Roundabout, Hethersett
Short description of the project	In March 2017, a trial trench evaluation was undertaken on a piece of land near to Thickthorn Roundabout, Hethersett, Norfolk, prior to the construction of a new McDonald's restaurant. Four trenches were excavated within the footprint of the proposed development targeting cropmarks of an undated field system. The evaluation trenches revealed six ditches and a gully that align with these cropmarks, however all of the ditches were undated and the sterile nature of the fills suggest they form part of a field system set away from settlement activity. The ditches do not align with field system boundaries identified on early mapping and may represent field boundaries of the prehistoric or roman periods.
Project dates	Start: 06-03-2017 End: 07-03-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2017_023 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	ENF141756 - HER event no.
Any associated project reference codes	2016/0662 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches", "Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Rural commercial
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
---------	---------

Site location	NORFOLK SOUTH NORFOLK HETHERSETT Land at Thickthorn Roundabout, Hethersett
Postcode	NR9 3AU
Study area	0.5 Hectares
Site coordinates	TG 1828 0554 52.603231085462 1.223851668657 52 36 11 N 001 13 25 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 31.4m Max: 31.8m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Suffolk Archaeology CIC
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Suffolk Archaeology CIC
Project director/manager	John Craven
Project supervisor	Martin Cuthbert
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	McDonald's Restaurants Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	Norfolk HER
Digital Archive recipient	Norfolk HER
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Norfolk HER
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at Thickthorn Roundabout Hethersett, Norfolk Cuthbert, M.

Author(s)/Editor
(s)

Other
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