

Report 2719



nps archaeology

Archaeological Evaluation at Land off Old Church Road, Hainford, Norfolk

ENF126399

Prepared for
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draft



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<i>Issue 1</i>		

draft

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Plates

A photograph of each trench is included in the individual trench summary tables which can be found under Section 5.0 Results

Plate 1	Amber bead
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Location:	Land Off Old Church Road, Hainford, Norfolk
District:	Broadland District Council]
Grid Ref.:	TG 2257 1960
HER No.:	ENF 126399
OASIS Ref.:	101319
Client:	Darvel Developments Limited
Dates of Fieldwork:	11 to 19 April 2011

Summary

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was conducted by NPS Archaeology for Darvel Developments Limited ahead of the proposed development of a site of 5.3 hectares at Old Church Road in Hainford, Norfolk as a burial ground.

The trial trench evaluation consisted of 31 trenches each measuring 30m in length and 1.80m in width. Trench locations were in part informed by the results of a geophysical survey of the proposed development site. Eighteen trenches from the total of 31 contained archaeological remains and 13 were archaeologically blank.

A small number of prehistoric artefacts recovered from the site hint at no more than a background level of activity during this period, though several prehistoric findspots are known from the locality.

The most significant remains recorded by the evaluation were of early Roman date (1st-2nd century AD) and comprised a small pit, possibly an oven or dryer in broadly the centre of the site (identified in Trench 18). This feature contained a small assemblage of Roman pottery thought to be locally produced. Part of an amber bead also of early Roman date was recovered as a residual find from the site. The geophysical survey indicated other archaeological features might be present in the vicinity of Trench 18.

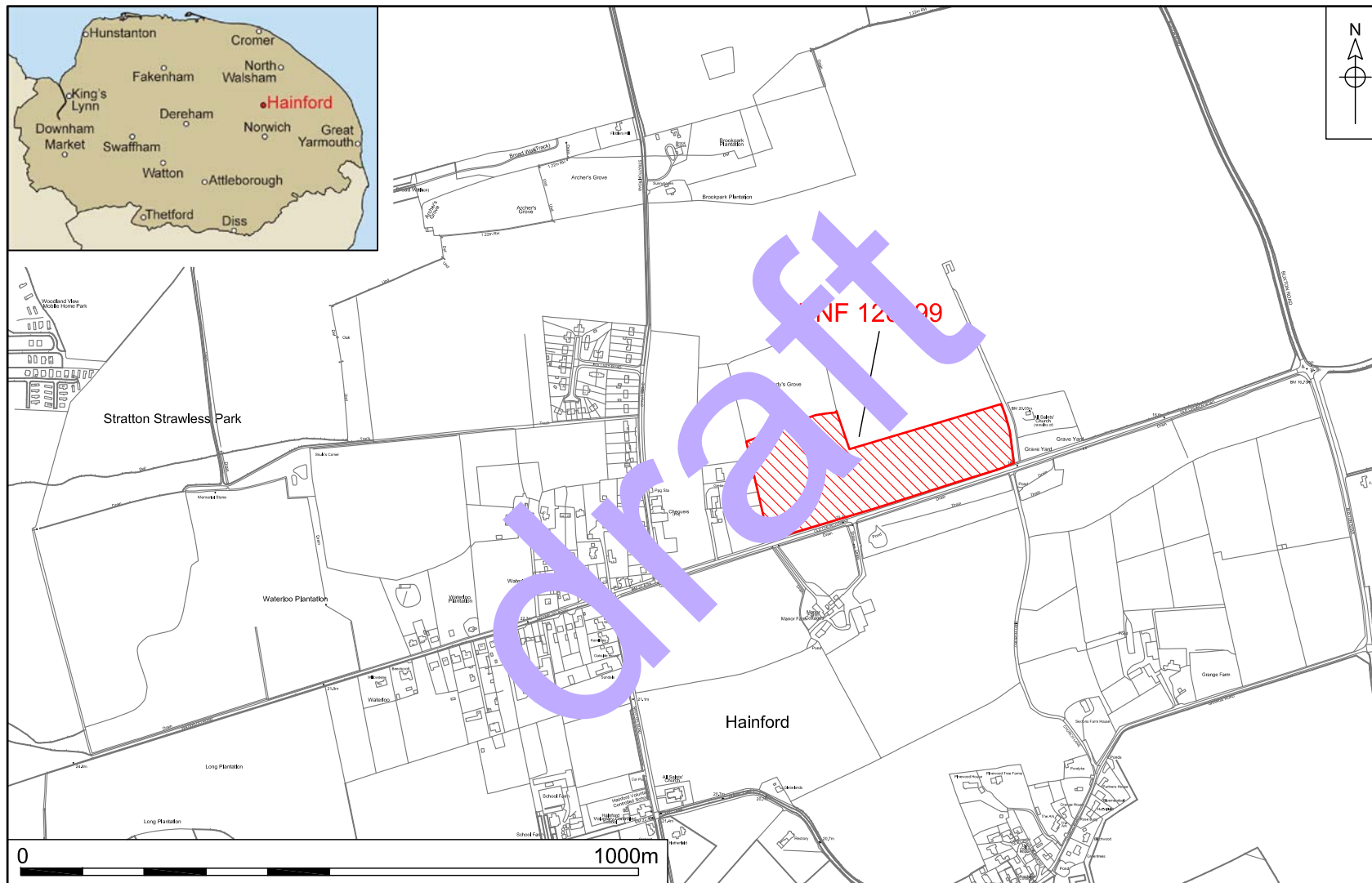
Little evidence of medieval activity was present at the site, though what there was would appear to be focused to the east of the site towards the medieval church of All Saints. Settlement associated with the church is suggested anecdotally to lie to the north-east of this church.

The majority of features recorded at the site were ditches, interpreted as field boundaries, drainage or both. It is thought many of these ditches were broadly post-medieval in date and went out of use following the apparent enclosure of the area in the 18th and 19th centuries.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

A proposal to construct a new burial ground on land off Old Church Road, Hainford, Norfolk (Fig. 1) required a programme of archaeological works to assess the potential effects of the proposals on the archaeological resource.

The proposed development site is positioned in an area with archaeological potential and therefore Norfolk Historic Environment Service (NHES) recommended that a geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was carried out prior to the submission of a Planning Application, in accordance with the principles set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for*



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:10,000

the Historic Environment (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010).

The archaeological work was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition set by Broadland District Council and a Brief issued by NHES (Ref. CNF 43344). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (Ref. NAU/BAU2719DW, Whitmore 2010). This work was commissioned and funded by Darvel Developments Limited.

This programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in. The results will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority about the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The site archive is currently held by NPS Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service (NMAS), following the relevant policies on archiving standards.

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The village of Hainford is some 10km to the north of Norwich. The proposed development site covers an area of c.5.3 ha and is currently under arable cultivation. The site lies at broadly 20m OD and slopes down gently from north to south. The site is bounded to the south by Old Church Road, with the now disused church of All Saints present to the east. To the north of the site and partly sharing its boundary is Lady's Grove, a copse of trees c. 20ha in area (Fig. 2).

Beyond the site to the south of Old Church Road is low lying land with ponds and east-to-west aligned drains, indicating the area is generally damp and perhaps seasonally waterlogged.

The underlying solid geology of the area is Upper Chalk overlain by glacial sands and gravels (British Geological Survey East Anglia Sheet 52N 00 Solid Geology, British Geological Survey East Anglia Sheet 52N 00 Quaternary). Site survey was undertaken using values established by GPS during the setting out of the evaluation trenches.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric

Several find spots where artefacts of prehistoric date have been recovered are present in the vicinity of the site. Within 1km to the north-west of the site flint axes and worked flint of Neolithic date (NHER 7636, 7646, 7647) have been recorded and flint artefacts thought to be of Bronze Age date have also come from a find spot (NHER 7980) to the west of the site.

Roman and Saxon

Numerous metal finds of Roman and Saxon date have been recovered within Hainford Parish and the adjacent parish of Stratton Strawless; the majority of these are from metal detecting surveys and without published provenance. Of particular note are three Borre-style brooches recovered from one findspot (NHER 25010).

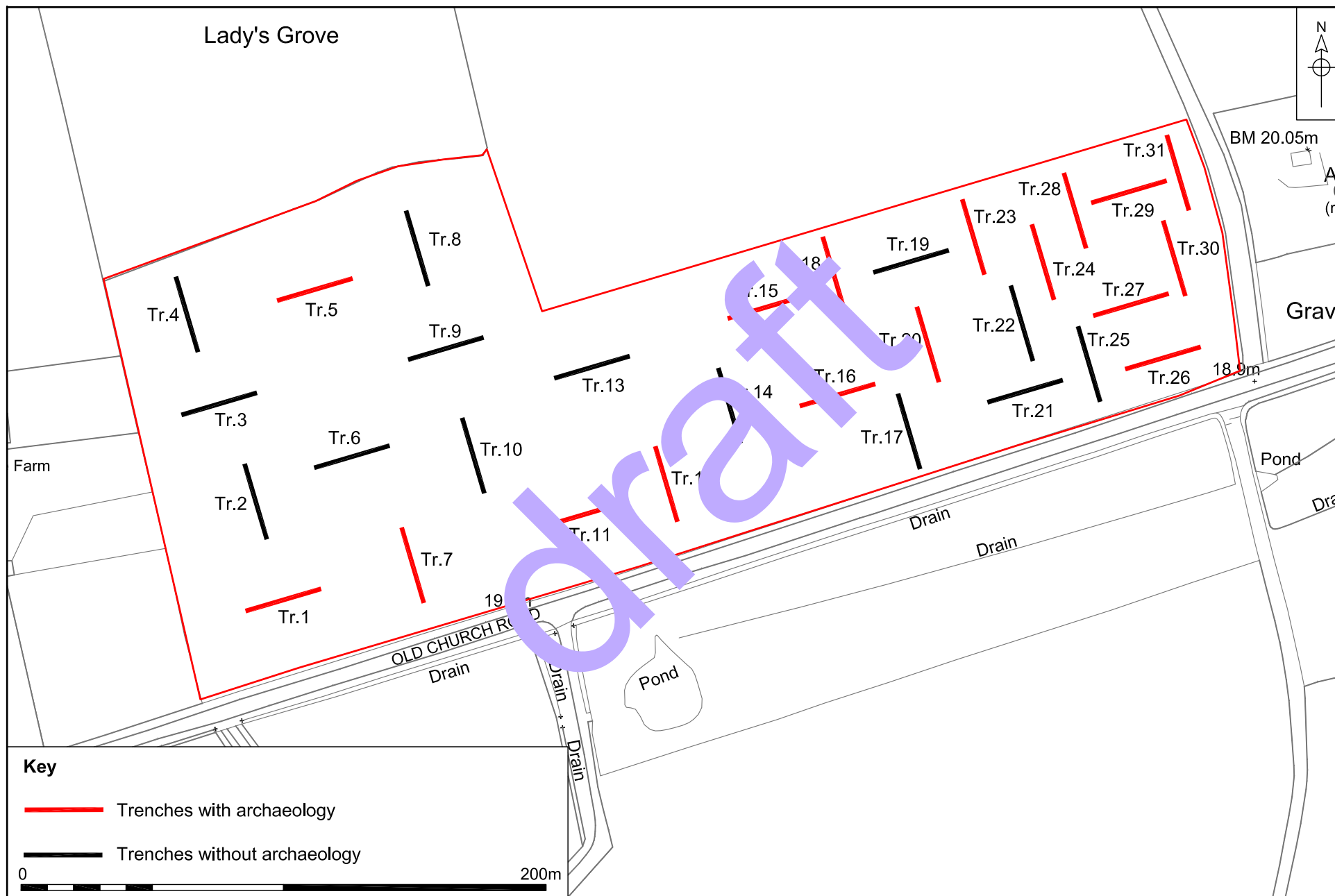


Figure 2. Trench location. Scale 1:2000

Medieval

The earliest documentary record for Hainford is provided by Domesday, which though dating to 1086 refers to the previous ownership of land in the parish under Bishop Stigand, who was the Bishop of the East Anglia from c.1040, and still a significant figure at the time of the Norman conquest in 1066, being depicted on the Bayeux Tapestry at the coronation of Harold.

Domesday makes no mention of a church in Hainford, and the old church of All Saints is probably of medieval date, though possible work of Norman date has been suggested (NHER 8019, E Rose). The church is now ruinous and was partly demolished in the first part of the 19th century and replaced by a new church in a different location in 1840, though the cemetery of the old church is still in use. It is likely that early settlement was focused around the early church.

Post Medieval

Faden's map of 1789 (Barringer 1989) shows the site location and in particular All Saints' church with a series of somewhat indirect roads lying to the south of the church. This situation is dramatically altered with the Parliamentary enclosure of land from the late 1700s, so that Bryant's map of 1805 (Barringer 1998) show this same route as a straightened out boundary with the same alignment as that which survives today as Old Church Road.

A geophysical survey of the site undertaken in March 2011 (Malone 2011) as part of the development proposal revealed a number of linear features and areas of magnetic disturbance in the easternmost part of the site close to the former church (Fig 3). These geophysical anomalies were suggested to represent field and enclosure boundaries related to medieval and earlier settlement.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence or absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

The archaeological brief (Hobbs 2011) required that an initial 3% of the area of the proposed development should be tested by archaeological evaluation, with trenches targeted by the results of the geophysical survey (Malone 2011) to examine anomalies revealed by this work as well as apparently blank areas indicated by the survey (Fig. 3). The brief required that additional evaluation trenches (up to a total of 5% of the development area) might be required if further clarification of archaeological remains was required to inform a planning decision.

As the array of evaluation trenches at the site was informed by the results of the geophysical survey, a greater concentration of trenches was present in the east of the site where more features of likely archaeological interest had been indicated by the survey. Each of the evaluation trenches at the site measured approximately 30m in length with a width of 1.80m. A total of 31 trenches were opened by a hydraulic 360° excavator under constant archaeological supervision.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds, other than those which were obviously modern, were retained for inspection.

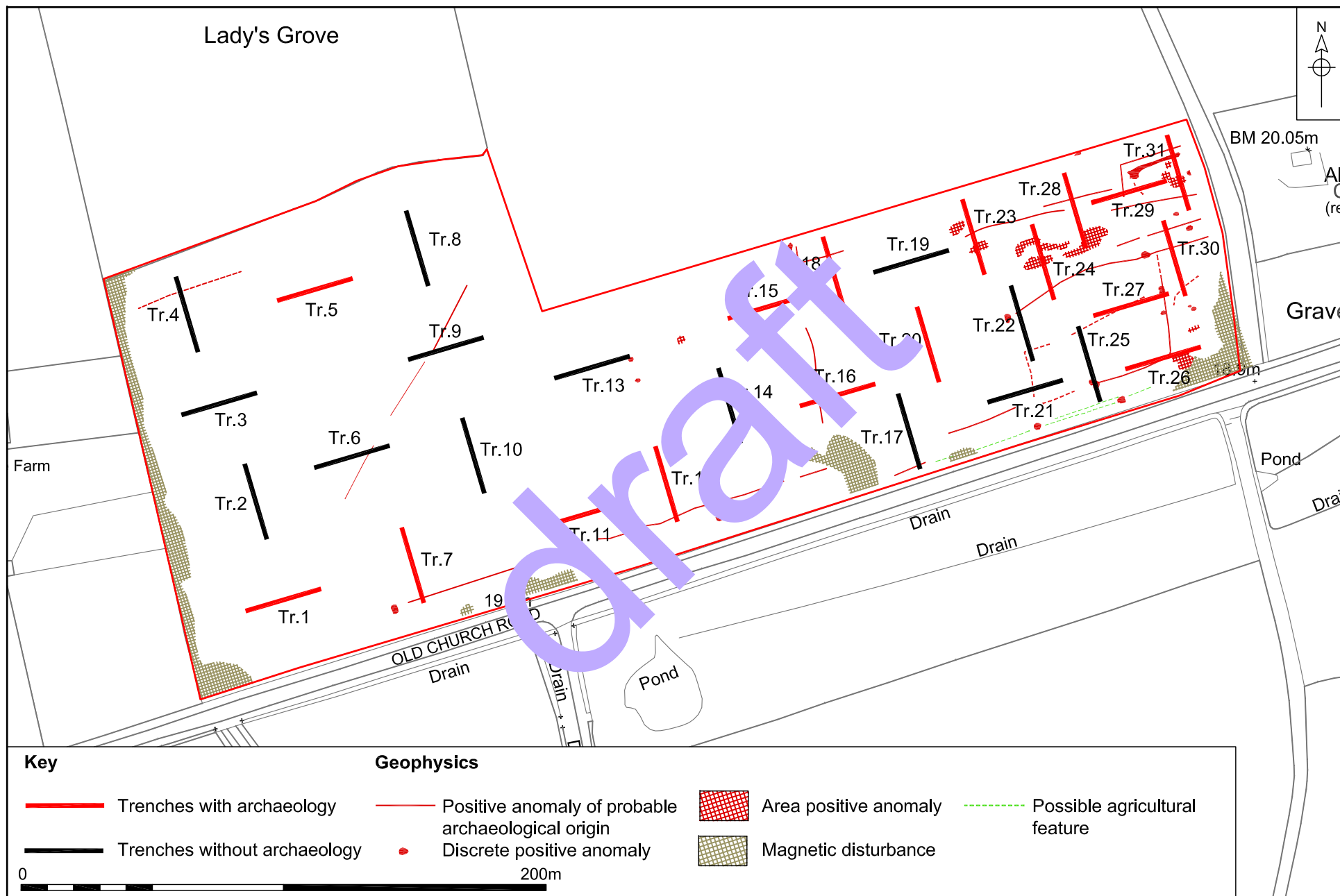


Figure 3. Geophysics plot. Scale 1:2000

Eighteen of the trenches (Trenches 1, 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 20, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31) contained archaeological remains and are described below in section 5.0 Results. The remaining 13 trenches (Trenches 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 17, 19, 21, 22 and 25) did not contain any remains of archaeological interest. Any potential features within these trenches were tested by excavation. These trenches are summarily presented in this report but not illustrated.

Four environmental samples were taken from kiln/dryer [39] of Roman date. The results from the analysis of these samples will be included in the site archive.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NPS Archaeology *pro forma*. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Monochrome and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits where appropriate.

Site conditions were good, with the work taking place in fine weather.

Period resource assessments set out in the document Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties (Glazebrook 1997; Brown and Glazebrook 2000) pose specific research questions for periods ranging from the palaeolithic to the modern period. Existing information indicates that the proposed development site has the potential to contain evidence for archaeological remains of prehistoric through to post-medieval date. The aims of the archaeological work is summarised as follows:

- i. *To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the proposed area.*
- ii. *To determine the extent, condition, nature, quality and date of any archaeological remains occurring within the site and the possible impacts of the proposed development on them.*
- iii. *Ensure that any archaeological features discovered during trial trenching are identified, sampled and recorded and, where it is desirable, recommendations for their preservation in situ are made.*
- iv. *To establish, as far as possible, the extent, character, stratigraphic sequence and date of archaeological features and deposits, and the nature of the activities which occurred at the site during the various periods or phases of its occupation*
- v. *To establish the palaeoenvironmental potential of subsurface deposits by ensuring that any deposits with the potential to yield palaeoenvironmental data are sampled and submitted for assessment to the appropriate specialists.*
- vi. *To explore evidence for social, economic and industrial activity.*
- vii. *To disseminate the archaeological data recovered by the evaluation in the form of a formal report which will provide the basis for decisions regarding further archaeological intervention and mitigation proposals.*

5.0 RESULTS

Trench 1



Trench 1, post excavation, looking west, 1m scale

Figs 2 and 4

Location

Orientation	East-west
East End	TG 622582 319479
West End	TG 622553 319471

Dimensions

Length	30m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.55m

Levels

East End Top	19.72m OD
West End Top	19.76m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Height OD
93	Ditch	Aligned approximately north-west to south-east. This was 0.39m in depth with a width of 0.26m. The base of this ditch was flat to concave with the sides gently sloping, more so along the northern side of the cut.		
94	Ditch fill	Fill of [93]. Mid to dark grey brown sand silt with occasional small stones. Possibly with a small organic content?	0.39m	
95	Ditch	Large ditch aligned approximately north-west to south-east. This measured 0.80m in depth with a width of at least 1.80m. Well defined in plan and section, appeared to run parallel to ditch [93] in this trench. Its base was concave and the sides sloped generally gradual to steep except for an area on the north side of the ditch where it has a very clearly defined double-stepped profile.		
96	Ditch fill	Fill of [95]. Mid grey brown sand silt. One struck flint was recovered.	0.80m	
97	Ditch	Ditch, same as ditch [95]		
98	Ditch fill	Fill of ditch [97], same as ditch fill [96]		

Discussion

This pair of parallel, medium to large ditches in the south-east of the site appeared not to have been recorded by the geophysical survey.

The smaller of these features ([93]) had a dark, possibly humic fill and perhaps represents an overgrown drainage ditch.

Larger ditch [95] is notable for the clearly defined stepped side to its northern edge which might this have resulted from mechanical excavation, either during its original excavation or during later cleaning/recutting of this feature.

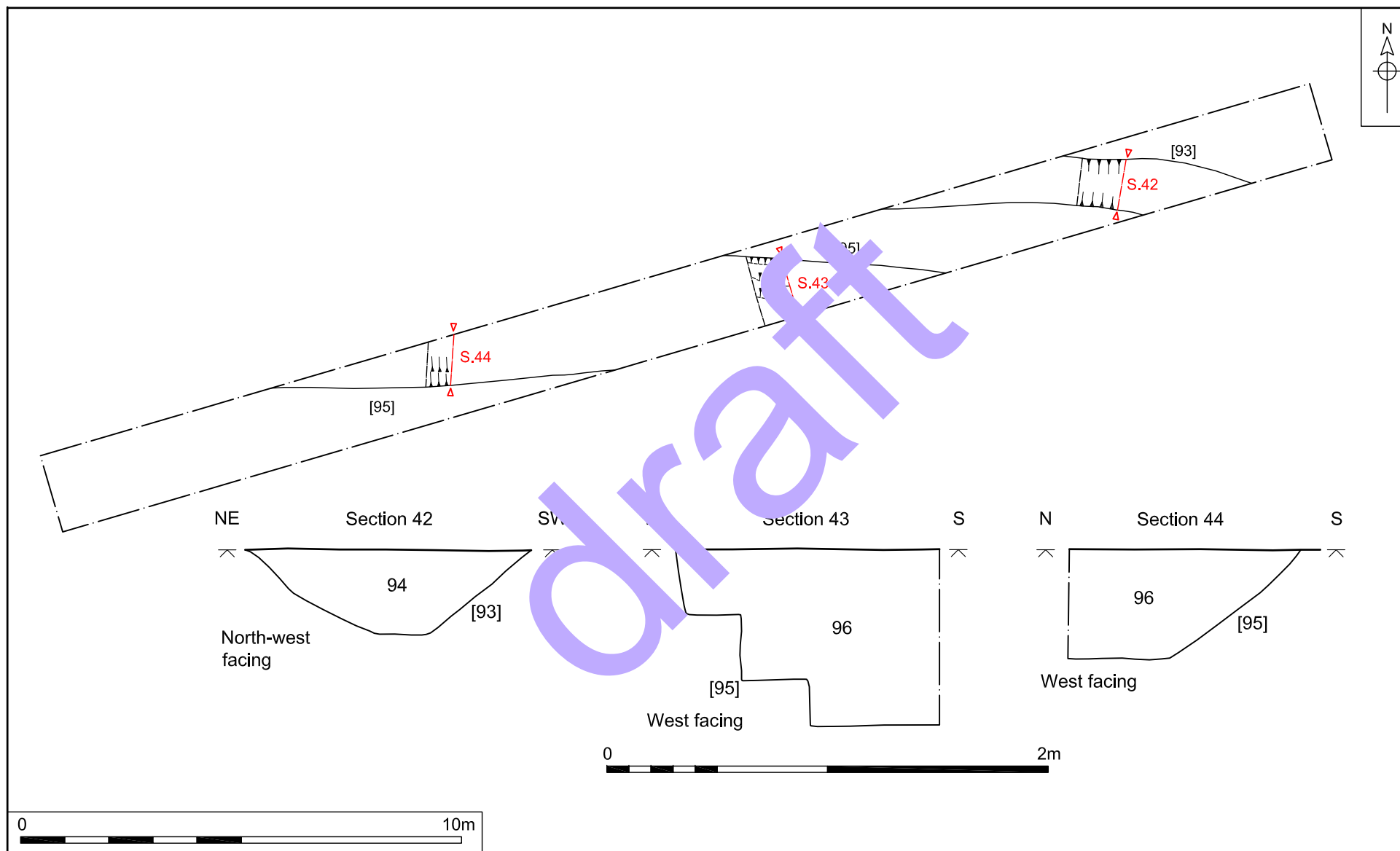


Figure 4. Trench 1, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 2



Trench 2, post excavation, looking west, 1m scale

Fig. 2

Location

Orientation	North-south
North End	TG 622553 319527
South End	TG 622561 319498

Dimensions


Length	30m
Width	1.80m
Depth	

Levels

South End Top	19.81m OD
North End Top	20.22m OD

Discussion

Trench 2 contained no archaeological features. Topsoil measured 0.35m in depth.

Trench 3	
	Fig. 2
	Location
	Orientation East-west
	East End TG 622558 319554
	West End TG 622529 319546
	Dimensions
	Length 30m
	Width 1.80m
	Depth
	Levels
	East End Top 20.47m OD
	West End Top 20.33m OD
<p>Trench 3, post excavation, looking west, 1m scale</p>	
Discussion	
Trench 3 contained no archaeological features. Topsoil measured 0.40m in depth.	

Trench 4



Trench 4, post excavation, looking north, 1m scale.

Figs 2 and 5

Location

Orientation	North-south
North End	TG 622527 319598
South End	TG 622535 319570

Dimensions

Length	30m
Width	1.80m
Depth	

Levels

South End Top	20.57m OD
North End Top	21.00m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Height OD
61	Ditch	Aligned approximately east-west with a concave base and steep sides, it measured 0.40m deep and 0.2m wide.		
62	Ditch fill	Fill of ditch [61]. A mid grey brown sand silt with occasional small stones.	0.40m	
63	Ditch	Aligned approximately east-west with a flat base and steep sides, it measured 0.58m deep and 0.60m wide.		
64	Ditch fill	Fill of [63]. A mid grey brown sand silt with occasional small stones.	0.58m	
65	Ditch	Aligned east-west with a depth of 0.30m and width of 0.90m. Concave base with southern side steeper than northern side.		
66	Ditch fill	Fill of [65]. Mid grey brown sand silt	0.30m	
67	Ditch fill	Fill of [65]. Dark brown black sand silt with occasional small stones and charcoal flecks.	0.25m	

Discussion

This trench contained three ditches all broadly aligned east-west.

The northernmost of these features ([65]) might have been one of those recorded by the geophysical survey.

The similarity of alignments suggests these feature might be broadly similar in date and perhaps represent the subtle recasting of a boundary over time.

These ditches all appear to run parallel to the southern limit of Lady's Grove

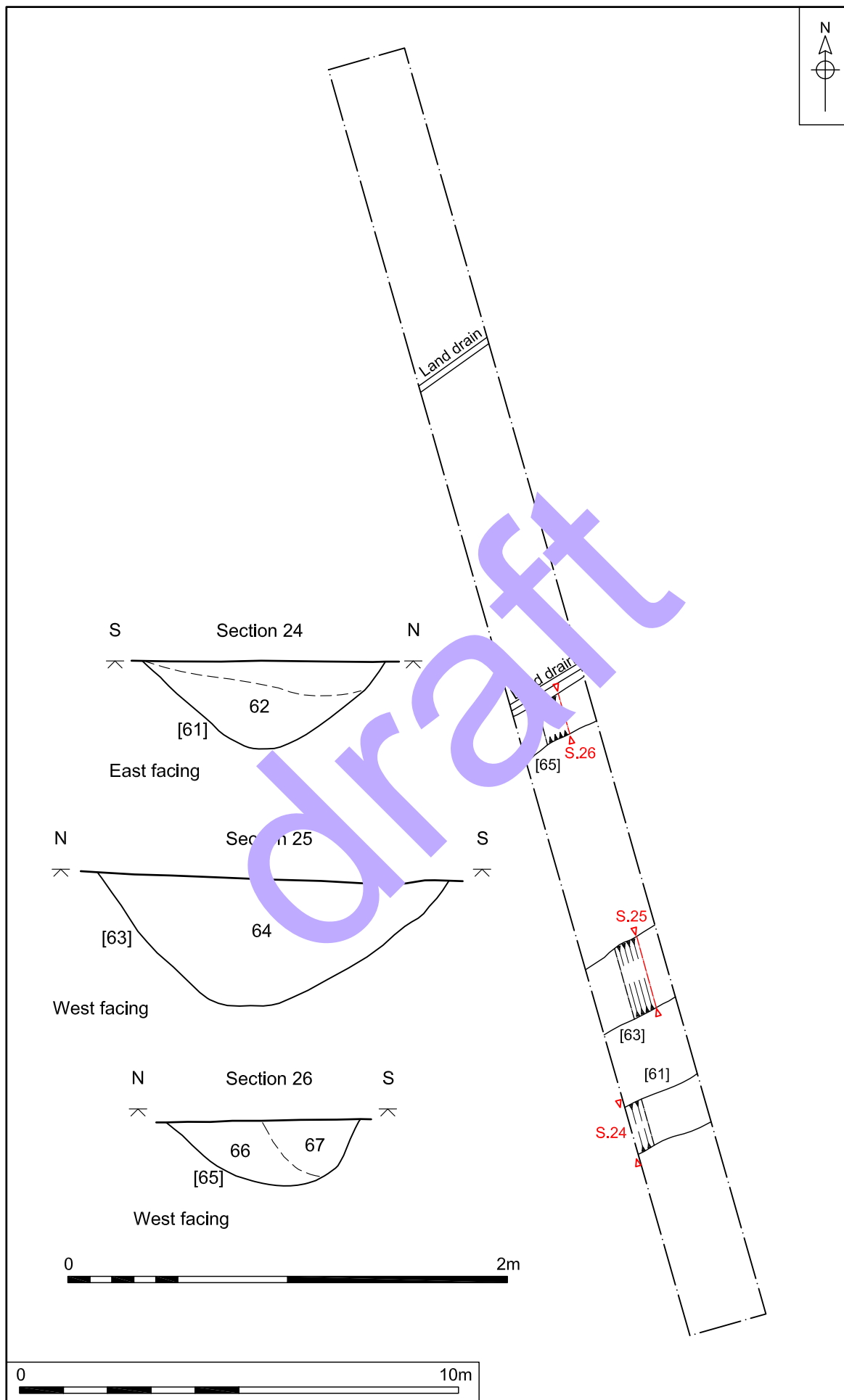


Figure 5. Trench 4, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 5



Trench 5, post excavation, looking east, 1m scale

Figs 2 and 6

Location

Orientation	East-west
East End	TG 622594 319598
West End	TG 622565 319589

Dimensions

Length	30m
Width	1.80m
Depth	

Levels

East End Top	20.87m OD
West End Top	20.91m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Height OD
75	?Ditch	With a depth of 0.20m and a width of 1.05m, this feature could not be discerned on plan and was only seen in section.		
76	?Ditch fill	Fill of [75]. Dark grey brown sand silt.	0.20m	
77	?Ditch	Possibly curvilinear, this measured 0.21m deep, 0.30m wide and 1.0m long. This feature was shallow and not well defined in plan or section. It does not appear if it was archaeological or a natural feature.		
78	?Ditch fill	Fill of [77]. Pale grey brown silt sand with occasional small stones. Mottled in appearance with root disturbance, base of deposit stonier with more stones. Possibly over dug?	0.21m	
79	?Ditch	Same as [77] (segment recorded at west end of feature).		
80	?Ditch fill	Fill of [79]. Equates to [78]		
81	Pit/Post-hole	Circular in plan with a depth of 0.46m and diameter of 1.10m. This feature was well-defined and had near vertical sides and a flat base.		
82	Pit/Post-hole fill	Fill of 81. Dark grey sand silt with occasional small stones and lens of orange silt sand.	0.46m	

Discussion

The linear features in this trench were not overly convincing as archaeological features, being generally shallow and with sterile fills similar to the surrounding geology. Pit/post-hole [81] was evidently a 'real' feature, though provided no indication of possible date or function.

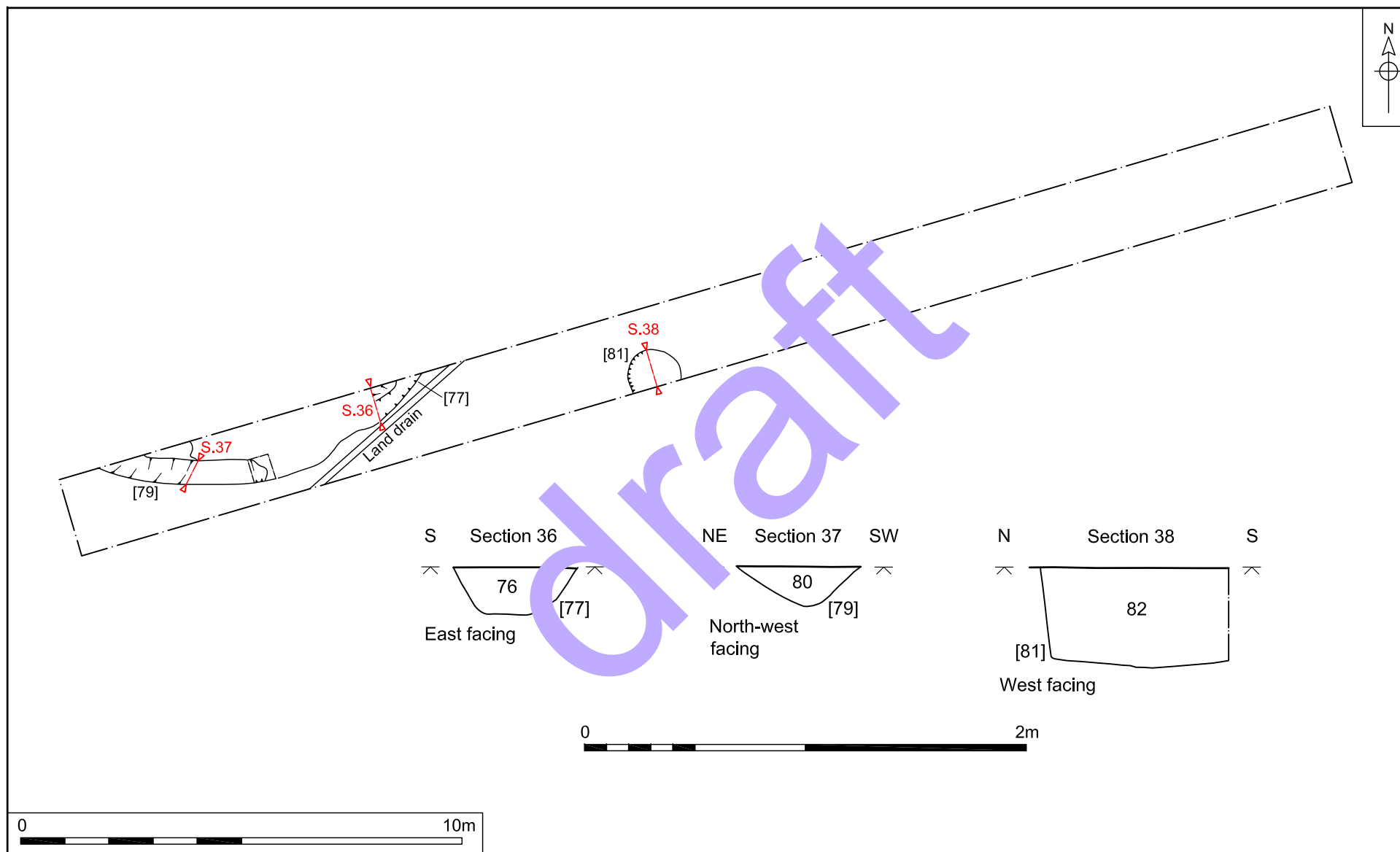


Figure 6. Trench 5, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 6



Trench 6, post excavation, looking east, 1m scale

Fig. 2

Location

Orientation	East-west
East End	TG 622608 319534
West End	TG 622579 319526

Dimensions

Length	30m
Width	1.80m
Depth	


Levels

East End Top	20.29m OD
West End Top	20.15m OD

Discussion

Trench 6 contained no archaeological features

Trench 7



Trench 7, post excavation, looking north, 1m scale

Figs 2 and 7

Location

Orientation

North-south

North End

TG 622613 319503

South End

TG 622621 319474

Dimensions

Length

30m

Width

1.80m

Depth

0.50m

Levels

South End Top

19.52m OD

North End Top

19.70m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Height OD
99	?Pit	Large feature of unclear type measuring long by at least 1.80m wide. Excavated to a depth of 0.70m below machined horizon where it became waterlogged and no further excavation was possible. The sides of the feature sloped very gradually and the depth of 0.70m maintained across the width of the feature (examined by auger).		
100	?Pit fill	Fill of [99]. Mid grey brown sand silt with occasional small stones. The fill has a leached appearance due to its waterlogged condition.	0.70m	
101	?Pit	Same as [99].		
102	?Pit fill	Fill of [101], same as [100]		
103	Pit	?Circular in plan; only partly present within the trench and probably quite truncated. It measured 0.19m deep and 0.1.95m wide with gradually sloping sides and a flat to slightly curved base.		
104	Pit fill	Fill of [103]. Mid to dark grey brown sand silt with occasional small stones.	0.26m	

Discussion

Large feature [99] contained a sterile-looking fill that had a leached appearance presumably because of the proximity of ground water. One possibility is that this feature had once been a pond, with the organic content that would be expected in such a feature having been removed over time by leaching and through flow of groundwater.

Small pit [103] appeared to have been considerably truncated.

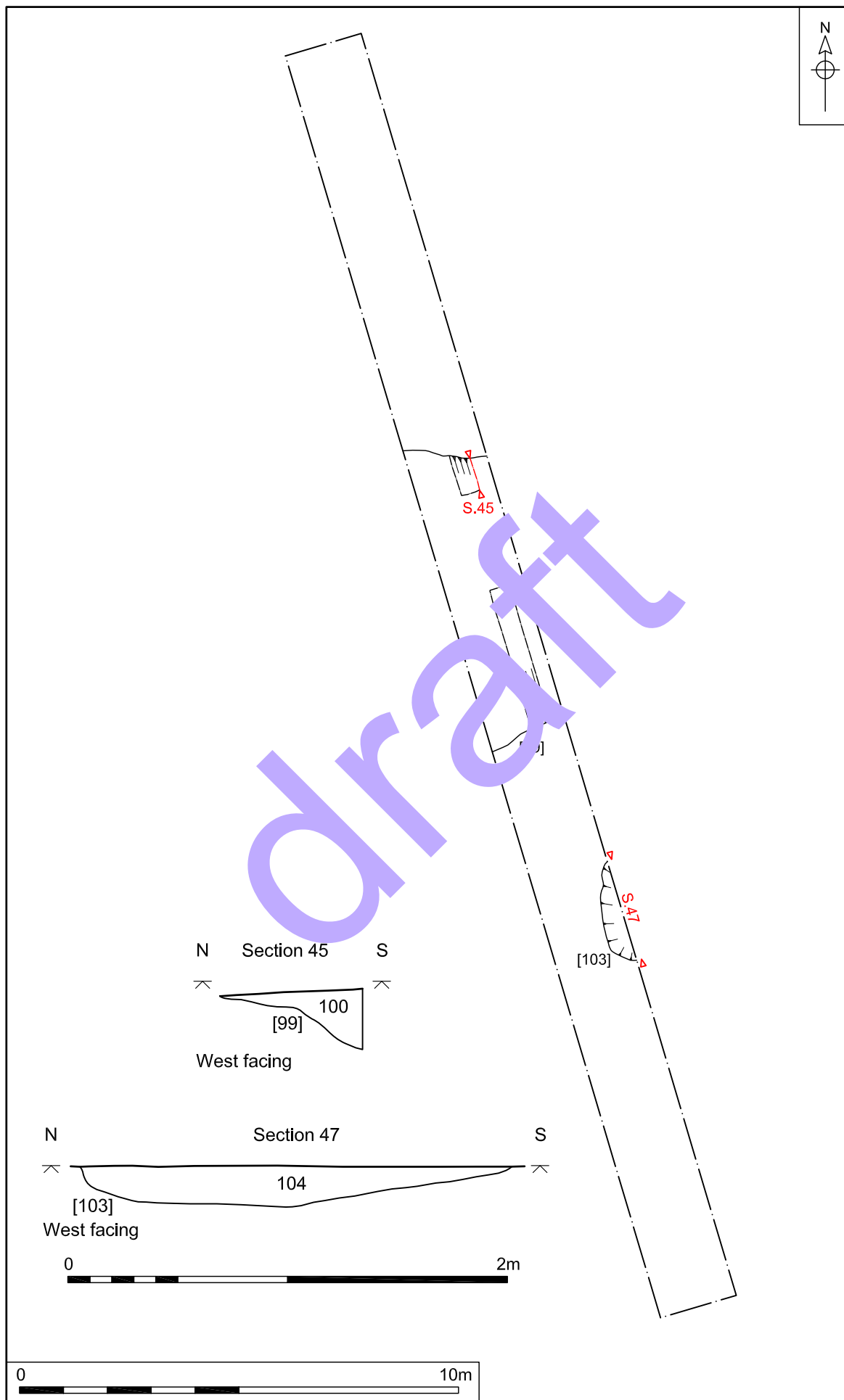



Figure 7. Trench 7, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 8		
	Fig. 2	
	Location	
	Orientation	North-south
	North End	TG 622614 319624
	South End	TG 622623 319595
	Dimensions	
	Length	30m
	Width	1.80m
	Depth	0.40m
	Levels	
	South End Top	20.87m OD
	North End Top	21.05m OD
Discussion		
Trench 8 contained no archaeological features.		

Trench 8, post excavation, looking north, 1m scale

Trench 9



Trench 9, post excavation, looking east, 1m scale

Fig. 2

Location

Orientation	East-west
East End	TG 622644 319575
West End	TG 622615 319567

Dimensions

Length	30m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.35m

Levels

East End Top	20.66m OD
West End Top	20.68m OD

Discussion

Trench 9 contained no archaeological features

Trench 10



Trench 10, post excavation, looking north, 1m scale

Fig. 2

Location

Orientation	North-south
North End	TG 622636 319545
South End	TG 622644 319516

Dimensions

Length	30m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.40m

Levels

South End Top	19.84m OD
North End T	20.39m OD

Discussion

Trench 10 contained no archaeological features

Trench 11



Trench 11, post excavation, looking west, 1m scale

Figs 2 and 8

Location

Orientation	East-west
East End	TG 622696 319512
West End	TG 622667 319503

Dimensions

Length	30m
Width	1.80m
Depth	

Levels

East End Top	19.57m OD
West End Top	19.62m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Height OD
87	Ditch	Aligned approximately north-south, measuring 0.54m deep by 1.10m wide. The base lay just below the limits of observation. The eastern side of ditch profile was interrupted. There was no dating evidence.		
88	Ditch fill	Fill of [87]. Dark grey brown silt sand with moderate small stones and frequent medium flints at the base of the fill.	0.54m	

Discussion

Feature [87] was a possible medium-size boundary ditch with a leached appearance at the base of its fill, perhaps suggesting it had been waterlogged at some point. It might be cautiously suggested that it aligns with the eastern limit of Lady's Grove.

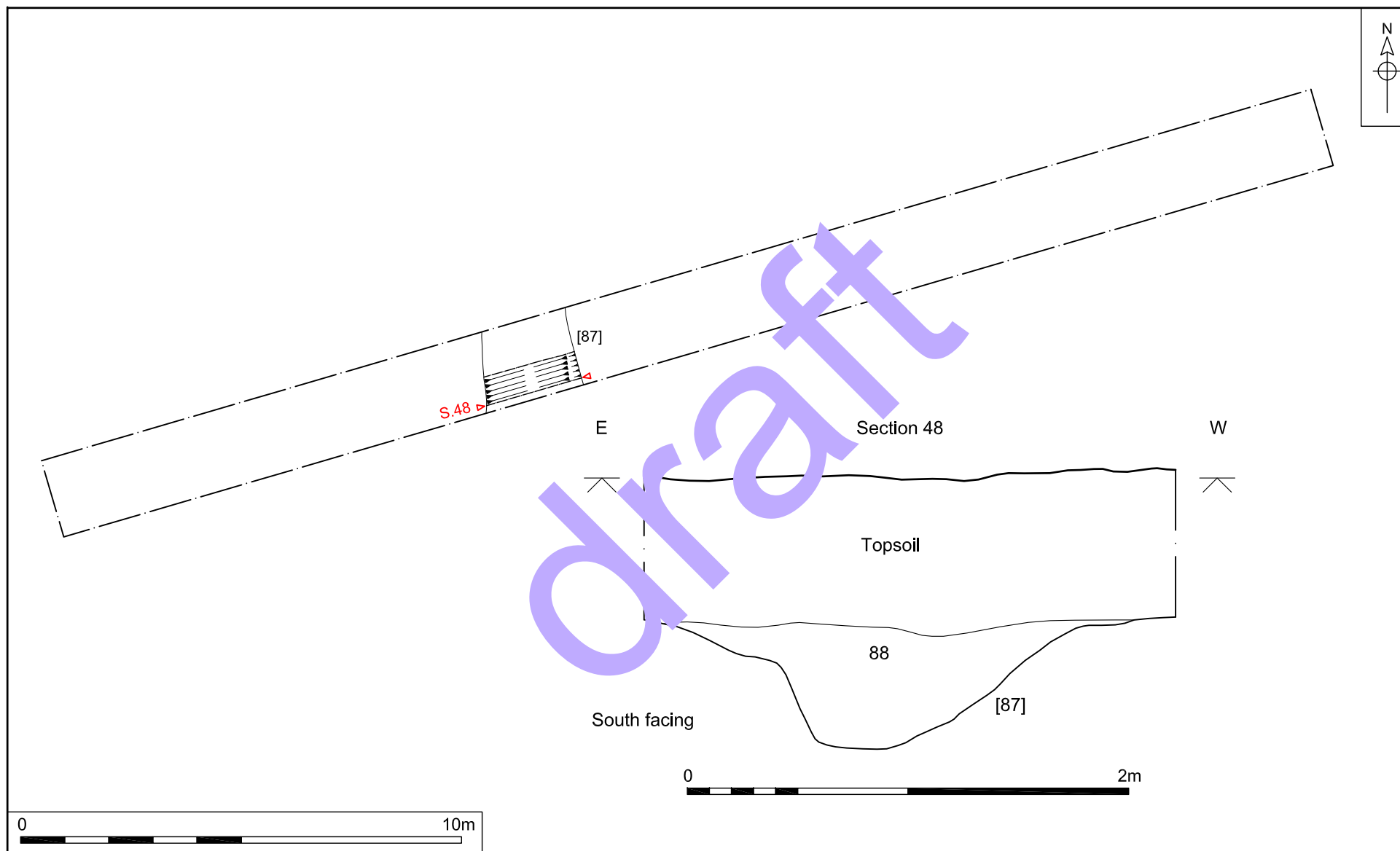


Figure 8. Trench 11, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 12



Trench 12, post excavation, looking south, 1m scale

Fig. 2

Location

Orientation	North-south
North End	TG 622709 319534
South End	TG 622718 319505

Dimensions

Length	30m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.80

Levels

South End Top	19.29m OD
North End Top	20.0m OD

Discussion

Trench 12 contained no archaeological features. It was machined to a depth of 0.55m at its north end and 0.80m at its south end, with the removal of material at the south end comprising 0.35m of topsoil over 0.20m of a pale brown silt sand that sealed a dark grey brown humic soil. This area of dark soils was visible for a distance of 7m at the south end of the trench and appeared to be mixed with areas of medium-sized stones within a matrix of sterile grey silt. It is feasible this area had been affected by waterlogging in the past.

Trench 13



Trench 13, post excavation, looking west, 1m scale

Fig. 2

Location

Orientation	East-west
East End	TG 622700 319568
West End	TG 622671 319560

Dimensions

Length	30m
Width	1.80m
Depth	

Levels

East End Top	20.55m OD
West End Top	20.47m OD

Discussion

Trench 13 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 14

Trench 14, post excavation, looking south, 1m scale

Fig. 2**Location**

Orientation	North-south
North End	TG 622733 319564
South End	TG 622742 319535

Dimensions

Length	30m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.40m

Levels

South End Top	19.80m OD
North End Top	20.50m OD

Discussion

Trench 14 contained no archaeological features.

Trench 15

Trench 15, post excavation, looking east, 1m scale

Figs 2 and 9

Location

Orientation	East-west
East End	TG 622766 319591
West End	TG 622737 319582

Dimensions

Length	30m
Width	1.80m
Depth	

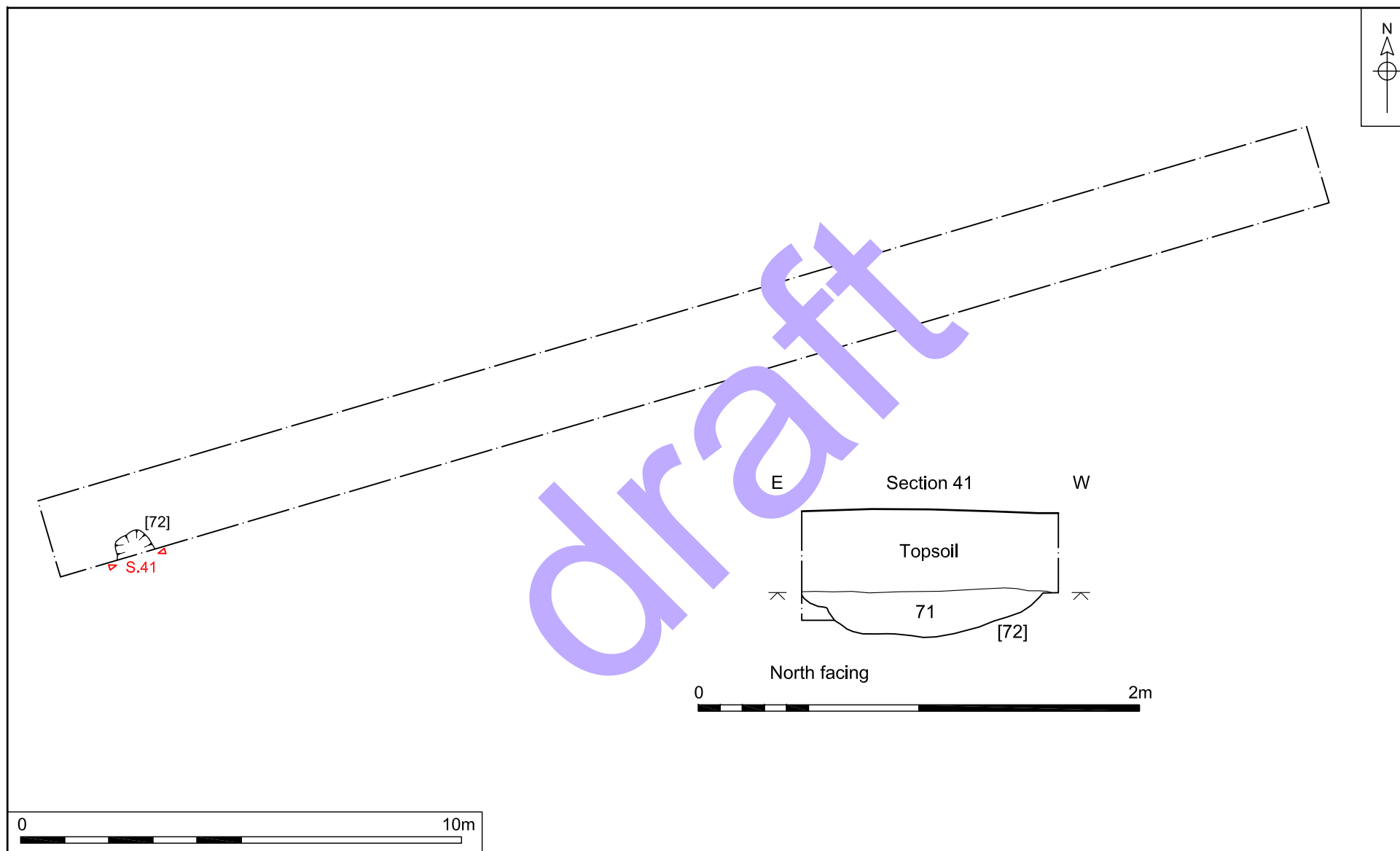
Levels

East End Top	20.93m OD
West End Top	20.83m OD


Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Height OD
71	Pit fill	Fill of [72]. Mid brown silt and clay with a moderate number of charcoal flecks and occasional medium stones. Homogeneous fill, stable for excavation, containing some charcoal flecks.	0.20m	
72	Pit	Shallow, truncated pit at west end of trench possibly sub-circular in plan with a depth of 0.20m, length of 1.10m and width of 0.60m. Quite well-defined as a feature, though appears to be considerably truncated.		

Discussion

Small, possibly sub-circular pit [72] has similar form/appearance to Roman feature [39] located some 40m west in Trench



Trench 16



Trench 16, post excavation, looking east, 1m scale

Figs 2 and 10

Location

Orientation

East-west

East End

TG 622793 319558

West End

TG 622764 319549

Dimensions

Length

30m

Width

1.80m

Depth

Levels

East End Top

20.32m OD

West End Top

20.08m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Height OD
85	Ditch	Aligned approximately north-south with a depth of 0.60m and width of 1.80m. Well-defined in plan and section, the base of this ditch was concave with gently sloping sides.		
86	Ditch fill	Fill of light Dark brown silt sand with occasional medium pebbles. A fragment of amber bead, probable Early Roman date was recovered from this deposit as well as a sherd of post-medieval pottery.	0.60m	

Discussion

Ditch [85] is likely to be a field boundary or drainage ditch. The amber bead found within the fill is thought to be residual. A sherd of post medieval pottery was also recovered from this feature.

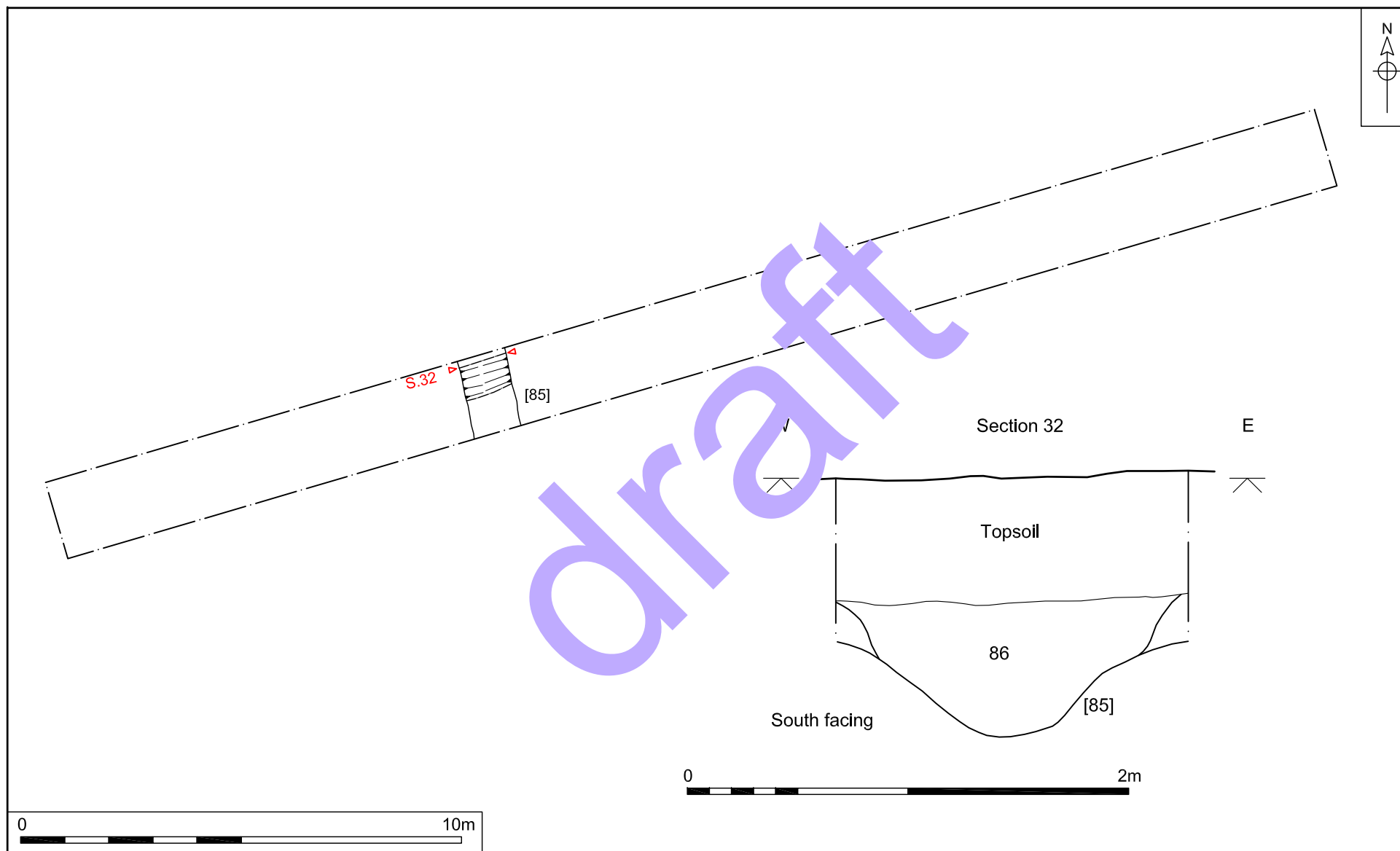


Figure 10. Trench 16, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 17



Trench 17, post excavation, looking south, 1m scale

Fig. 2

Location

Orientation	North-south
North End	TG 622802 319554
South End	TG 622810 319525

Dimensions

Length	30m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.40m - 0.85m

Levels

South End Top	19.32m OD
North End Top	20.10m OD

Discussion

Trench 17 contained no archaeological features. It was machined to a depth of 0.40m at the north end and 0.85m at the south. The topsoil was notably deeper (0.50m) in this trench at its south end, a result of material accumulating at the base of a slight slope.

Trench 18



Trench 18, post excavation, looking north, 1m scale

Figs 2 and 11

Location

Orientation	North-south
North End	TG 62277 319614
South End	TG622782 39585

Dimensions

Length	30m
Width	1.80m
Depth	

Levels

South End Top	20.85m OD
North End Top	21.17m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Height OD
39	?Corn drying oven	This feature was well-defined but irregular in plan, comprising a circular pit-like cut with a smaller, elongate extension to east. It measured a maximum of 0.20m in depth with an east-west length of c.2.2m and appeared to be significantly eroded laterally. The sides of this feature were generally vertical; in the western half these sides appeared to have been created <i>in situ</i> , the sides being slightly eroded and discoloured as a result. Three distinct fills of the feature were identified, and sampled.		
40	Fill of ?corn drying oven	Upper fill of [39]. A black sand silt with a high percentage of burnt material contributing to this colouration. A small quantity of Roman pottery was recovered from this deposit.	0.20m	
41	?Pit	A shallow elongated feature aligned broadly east-west that might be associated with the use of oven [39]. It was 0.07m deep, 1.16m long and 0.50m wide. What remained of the sides suggested they had been very steep.		
42	?Pit fill	Fill of [41]. Mid grey brown sand silt	0.07	
43	Fill of ?corn drying oven	Fill of [39]. A black sand silt with occasional lumps and flecks of charcoal.	0.15m	

Trench 18				
44	Fill of ?corn drying oven	Primary fill of feature [39], lying below deposit [43]. It consisted of a dark brown sand silt with occasional small stones. Twenty-two sherds (0.137kg) of mid 1st- to 2nd-century date were recovered from the base of this deposit.	0.19m	
45	?Ditch	An east-west aligned ditch or similar feature, though somewhat amorphous and indistinct in plan. It measured 0.12m deep by 0.50m wide and was at least 1.80m long. This feature is possibly associated with dryer/oven [39].		
46	?Ditch fill	Fill of [45]. Mid grey brown sand silt with occasional small stones. A single small sherd of medieval pottery was recovered.	0.12m	
47	?Ditch	Linear feature aligned broadly east-west measuring 0.09m deep, 0.50m wide and 1.80m long. This feature was adjacent to feature [45] and possibly forms part of the same feature.		
48	?Ditch fill	Fill of [47]. Pale brown sand silt with occasional small stones.	0.09m	
Discussion				
<p>Trench 18 contained a cluster of features, some of which appear to date to the early Roman period.</p> <p>These features appear to be isolated, with artefacts being present within the features and not recovered from adjacent topsoil, for example.</p>				

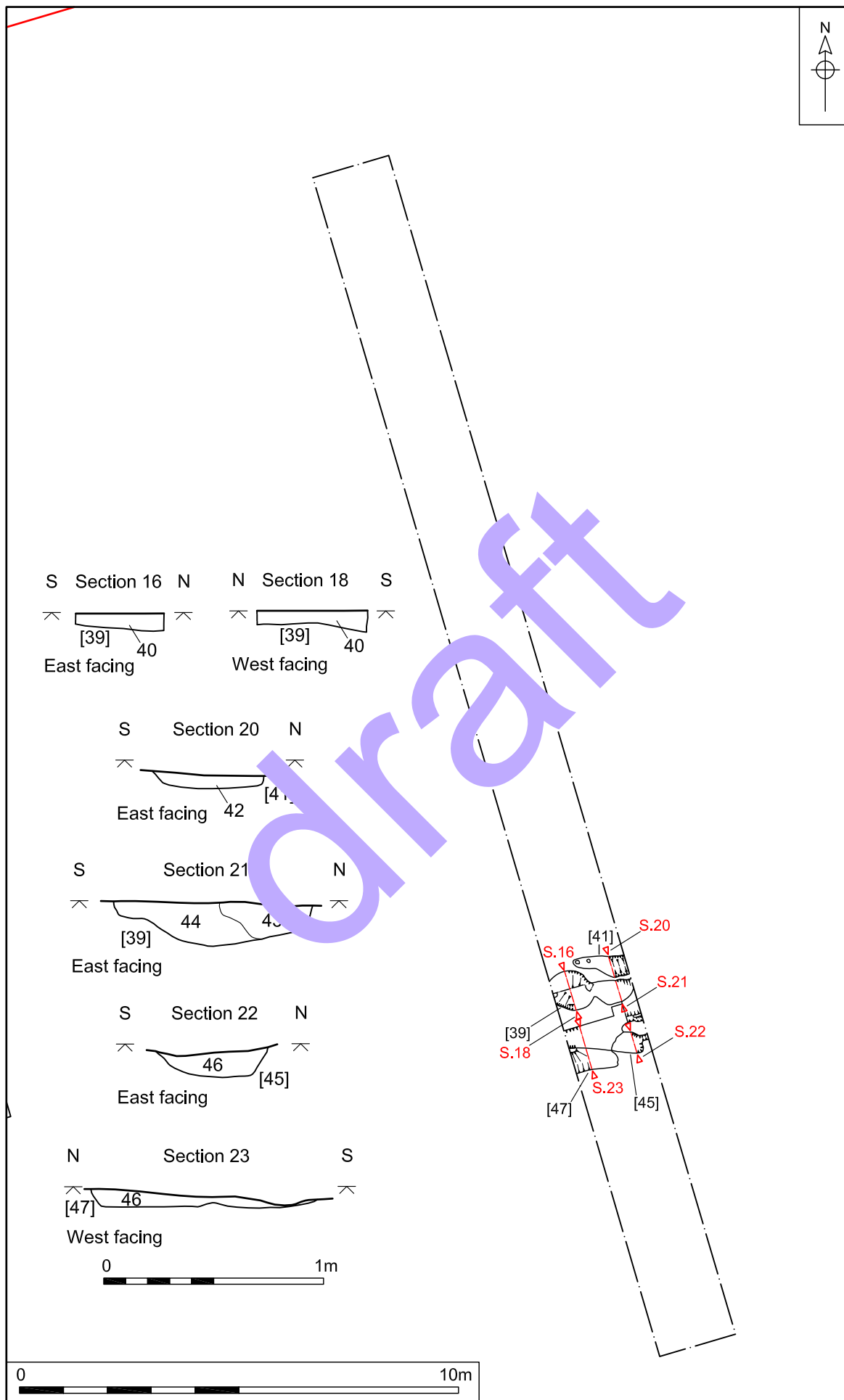


Figure 11. Trench 18, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 19



Trench 19, post excavation, looking west, 1m scale

Fig. 2

Location

Orientation	east-west
East End	622821-319608
West End	622792-319600

Dimensions

Length	30m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.50m

Levels

East End Top	20.67m OD
West End Top	21.08m OD

Discussion

Trench 19 contained no archaeological features. Topsoil 0.3m deep overlay geological deposits of firm orange brown silt sand. Two possible features in this trench were tested by excavation but appeared to be of natural origin.

Trench 20



Trench 20, post excavation, looking north, 1m scale

Figs 2 and 12

Location

Orientation	North-south
North End	TG 622809 319587
South End	TG 622817 319558

Dimensions

Length	30m
Width	1.80m
Depth	

Levels

South End Top	20.15m OD
North End Top	20.74m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Station	Thickness	Height OD
69	?Pit fill	Fill of [70]. Mid brown sand with occasional small and medium stones. Nondescript fill, paler towards base, possibly leached or affected by water?		0.6m	
70	?Pit	The excavated part of [70] measured 0.64m deep, 0.60m wide and was at least 1.8m long. This feature was clear in plan and section but could only be partially examined as it extended beyond the southern edge of the trench.			

Discussion

It is not clear what this feature represents or indication of date.

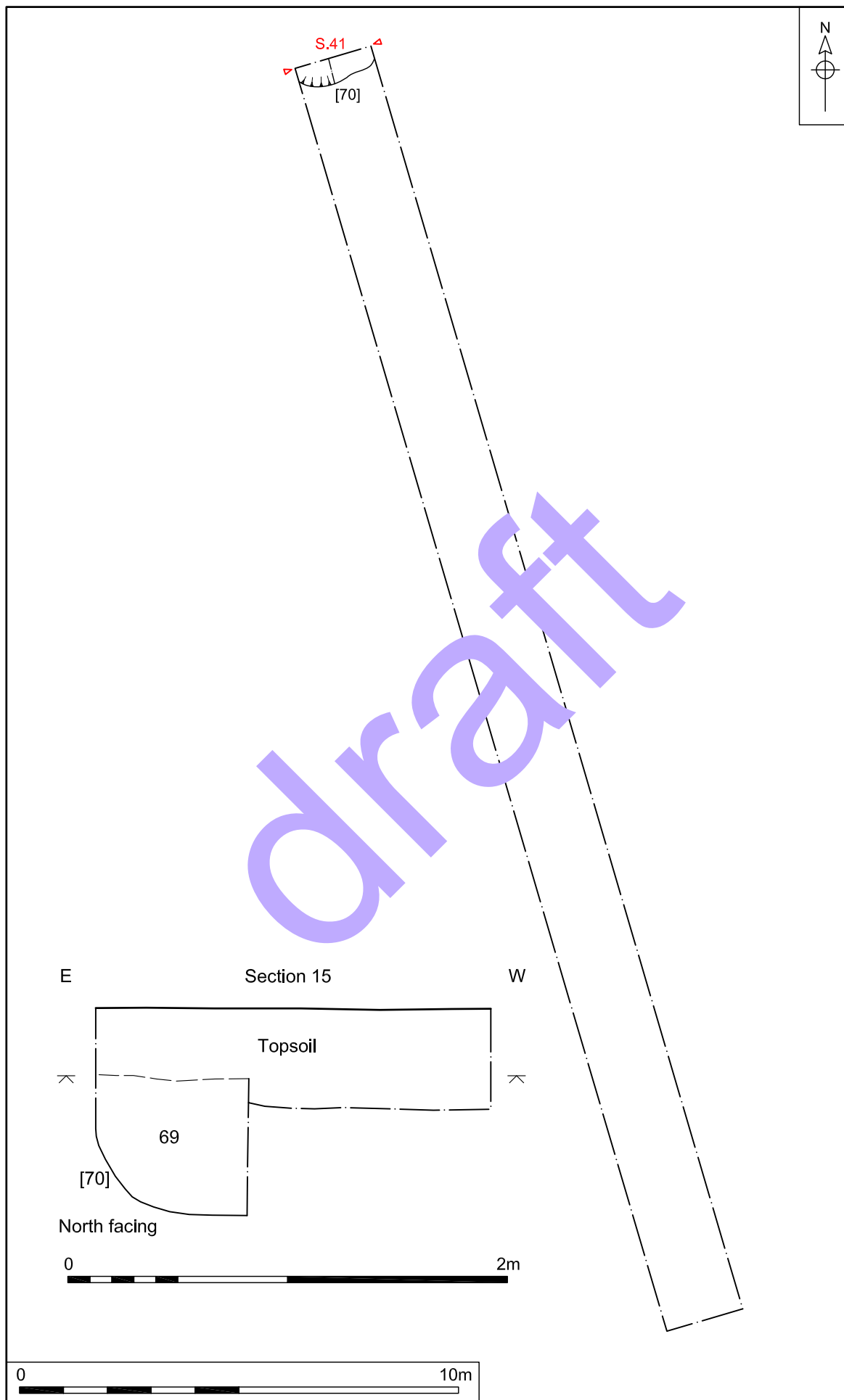


Figure 12. Trench 20, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 21



Trench 21, post excavation, looking west, 1m scale

Fig. 2

Location

Orientation	East-west
East End	TG 622865 319559
West End	TG 622836 319550

Dimensions

Length	30m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.75m

Levels

East End Top	19.43m OD
West End Top	19.42m OD

Discussion

Trench 21 contained no archaeological features. This trench was machined to depths between 0.65m and 0.75m across its length. Geological deposits consisted of patches of levels and sands with areas of pale brown sand and silt.

Trench 22



Trench 22, post excavation, looking south, 1m scale

Fig. 2

Location

Orientation	North-south
North End	TG 622845 319595
South End	TG 622853 319566

Dimensions

Length	30m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.70m

Levels

South End Top	19.82m OD
North End Top	20.18m OD

Discussion

Trench 22 contained no archaeological features. Geological deposits in this trench consisted of patchy gravels with a silty yellow silt. The interface between gravels and silts produced a straight-sided appearance to these deposits, but archaeological testing of these 'features' indicated they were of natural origin.

Trench 23				
No photograph of Trench 23		Figs 2 and 13		
		Location		
		Orientation	North-south	
		North End	TG 622826 319628	
		South End	TG 622835 319599	
		Dimensions		
		Length	30m	
		Width	1.80m	
		Depth	1.0m	
		Levels		
		South End Top	20.17m OD	
		North End Top	21.09m OD	
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Height OD
89	?Natural feature	A large spread of material, possibly a natural feature in filled with weathered-in material; augered to depth of 0.60m.		
90	Fill of ?natural feature	Fill of [89]. Dark grey brown silty clay	0.60m	
91	Natural feature	Shallow natural feature with depth of 0.35m length of 0.5m and width of 1.80m.		
92	Fill of natural feature	Fill of [91]	0.35m	
Discussion				
<p>The spreads of material present in this trench appear to have been identified by the geophysical survey.</p> <p>These spreads seem to have been present over a wide area, also being noted in Trench 28. The origin of this material is not clear, it might be infilling from small-scale quarrying or the infilling over time of natural variations in the underlying topography.</p>				

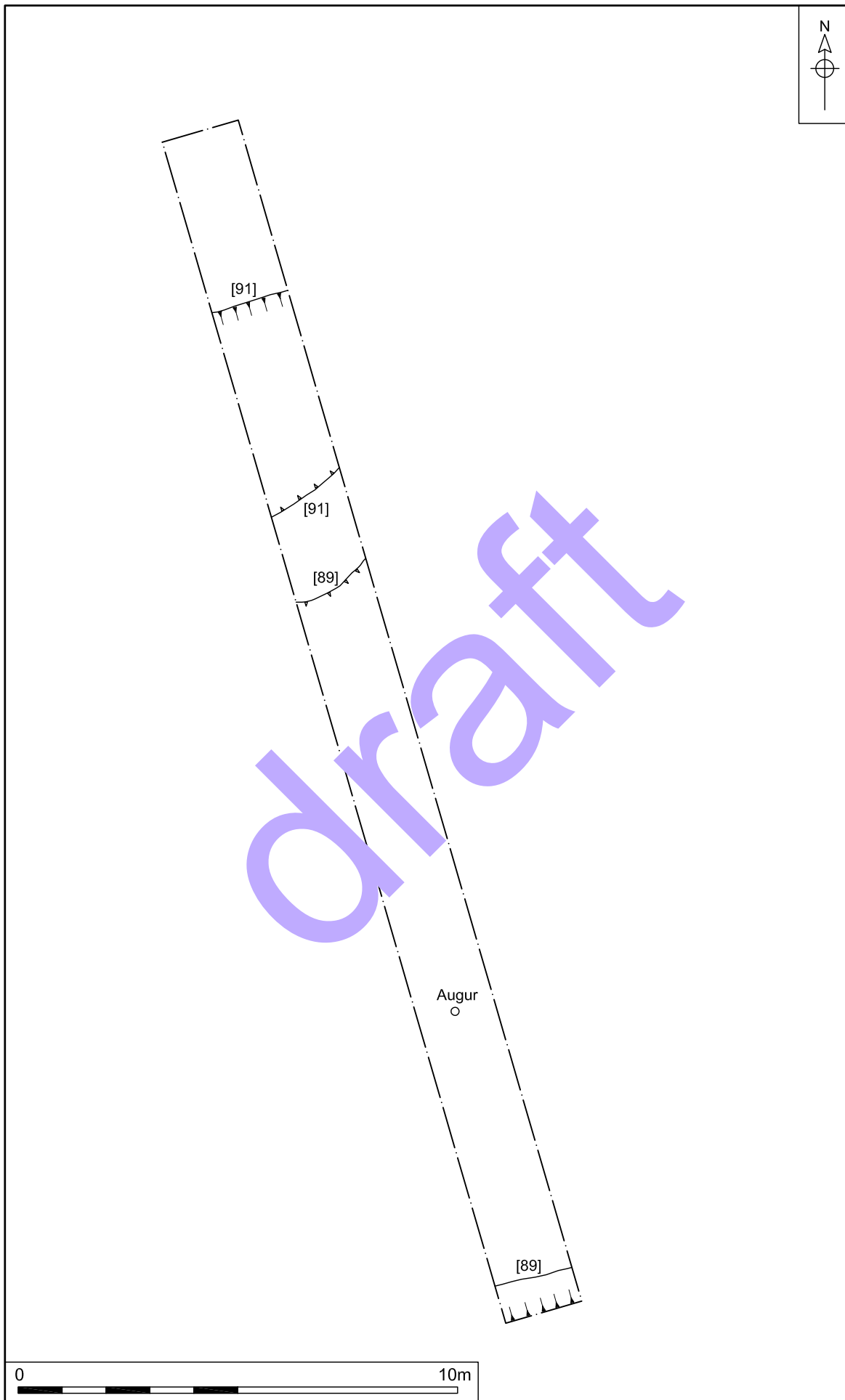


Figure 13. Trench 23, plan. Scale 1:125

Trench 24



Trench 24, post excavation, looking north, 1m scale

Figs 2 and 14

Location

Orientation	North-south
North End	TG 622853 319618
South End	TG 622861 319590

Dimensions

Length	30m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.50m

Levels

South End Top	20.18m OD
North End Top	20.19m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Height OD
36	Ditch	Aligned approximately east-west, 0.70m deep and 1.85m wide. Well-defined in plan and section with slightly irregular sides and shallow V-shaped profile.		
37	Ditch fill	Primary fill of ditch [36]. Mid orange-brown silt sand, weathered material.	0.25m	
38	Ditch fill	Upper part of ditch [36]. A mid brown sand with frequent small flints and occasional charcoal flecks. Three sherds of Early Iron Age pottery were recovered from this deposit.	0.50m	
83	?Quarry pit	This large feature extended beyond the limits of the trench. It measured 10.50m long with a minimum width of 1.80m. A sondage excavated to examine the south edge of this feature demonstrated that it undercut geological deposits. The feature was 1m deep (established by augering).		
84	?Quarry pit fill	Fill of [83]. Mid brown clay sand with frequent small and medium flints and chalk flecks. A small number of finds of 19th century date were recovered from this deposit.		

Discussion

One possible explanation of the large features such as ?quarry pit [83] is that they result from quarrying activity, perhaps to extract sands, gravels or even silt/clays. The material backfilling these features contained occasional chalk fragments, possibly from the deliberate application of chalk during as part of arable cultivation.

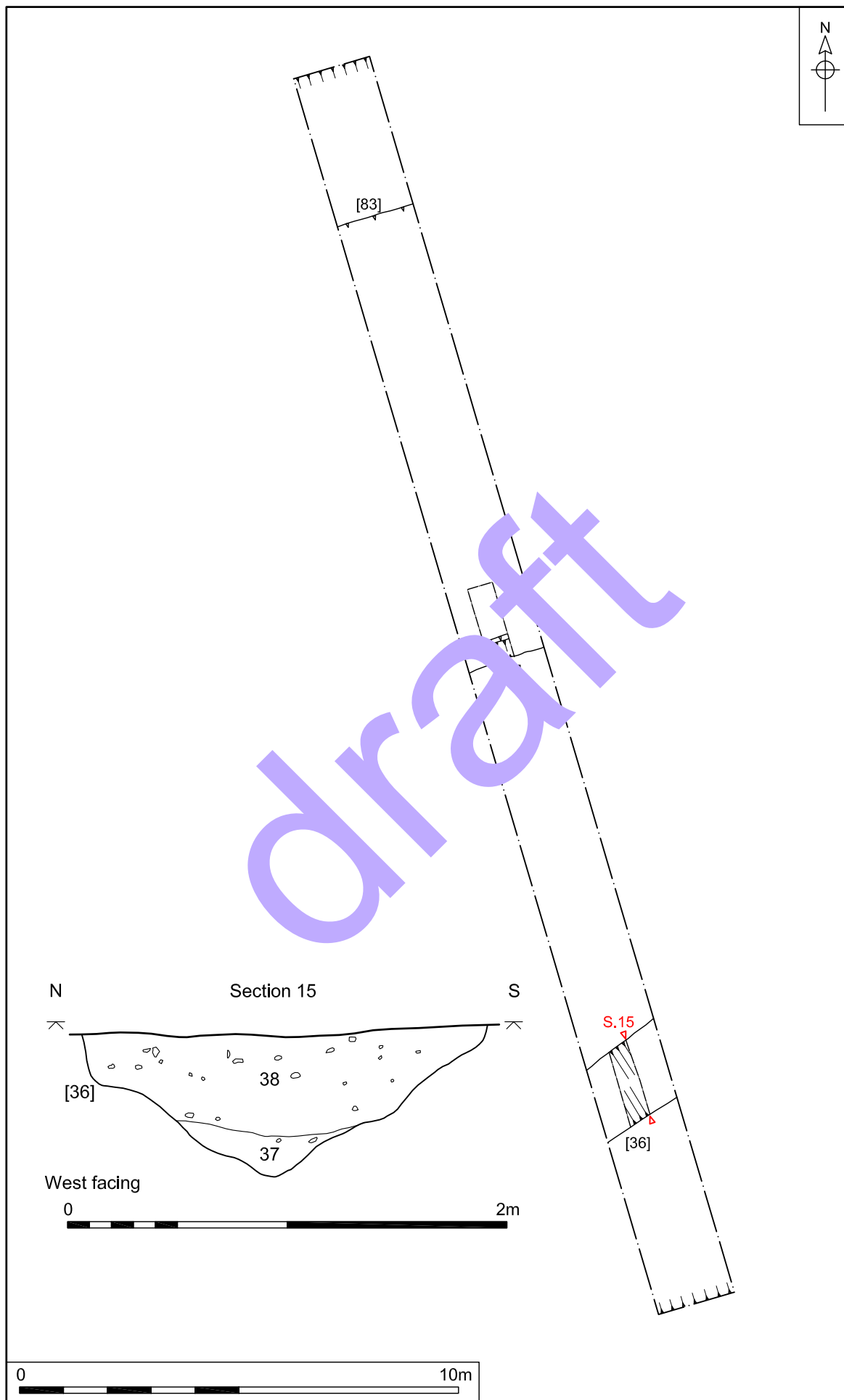


Figure 14. Trench 24, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 25



Trench 25, post excavation, looking south, 1m scale

Fig. 2

Location

Orientation	North-south
North End	TG 622870 319579
South End	TG 622879 319551

Dimensions

Length	30m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.90m


Levels

South End Top	18.91m OD
North End Top	19.85m OD

Discussion

Trench 25 contained no archaeological features. Machined to a depth of 0.90m at its southern end with an increased depth of topsoil here because it lay at the base of a slight slope. Geological deposits at the south end of the site consisted of sterile grey sands possibly affected by water logging.

Trench 26



Trench 26, post excavation, looking west, 1m scale

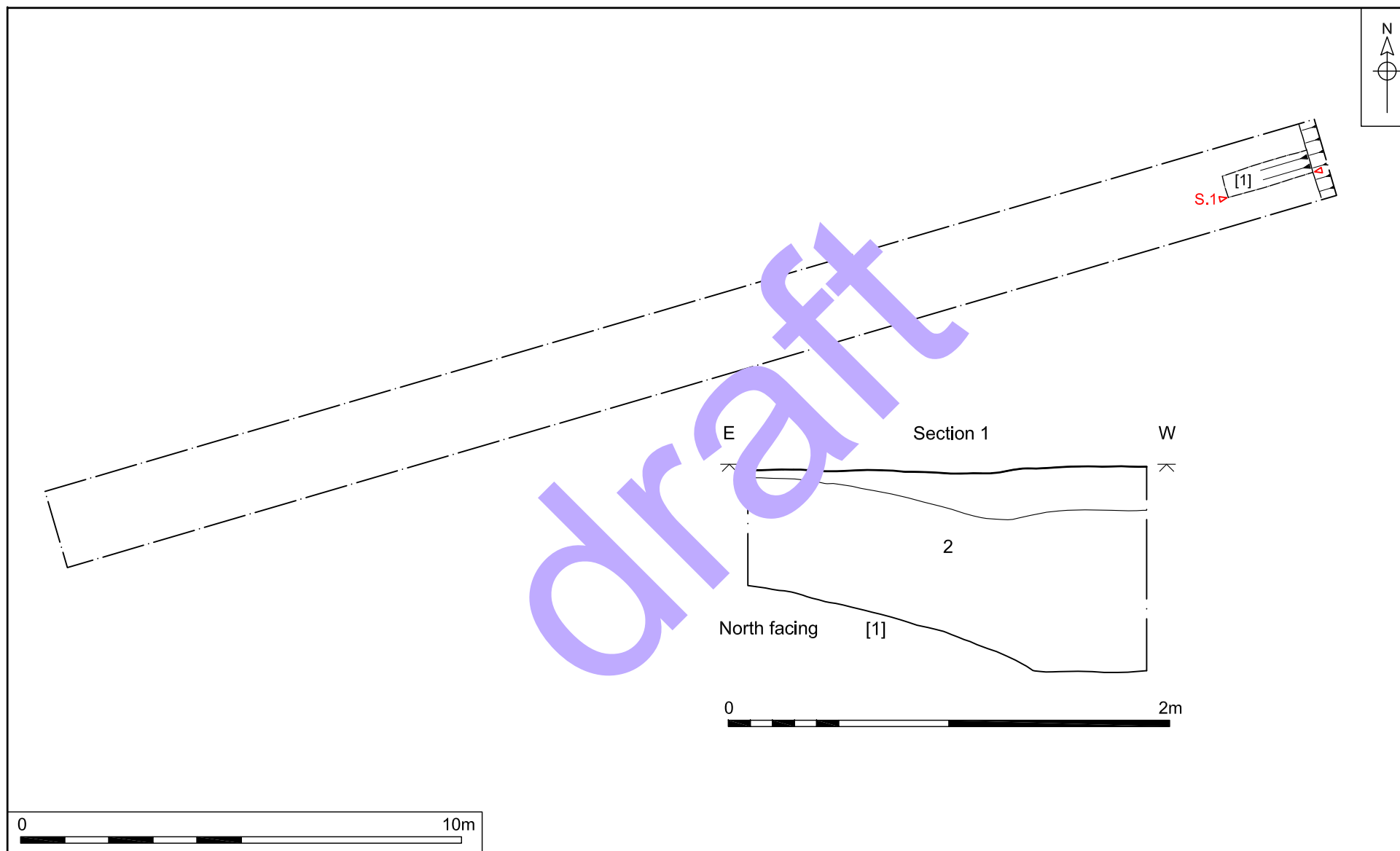
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Height OD
1	Ditch	Medium sized ditch, 1.80m wide and 0.90m deep. Located at the east end of the trench and aligned approximately north-south with a gradually sloping sides and two distinct fills		
2	Ditch fill	Primary fill of [1]. A dark grey-brown sand with occasional small stones, basal fill of ditch. Contained a small quantity of post-medieval ceramic building material and metal working debris.	0.75m	
3	Ditch fill	Upper fill of [1] consisting of mid orange-brown clay sand. Contained a small quantity (0.010kg) of medieval pottery.	0.25m	

Figs 2 and 15

Location	
Orientation	East-west
East End	TG 622917 319572
West End	TG 622888 319563
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.80m
Depth	
Levels	
East End Top	19.22m OD
West End Top	19.17m OD

Discussion

Ditch 1 was identified by geophysical survey, and based on the survey and fieldwork this ditch would appear to form the south-east corner of a field boundary or enclosure



Trench 27				
No photograph of Trench 27		Figs 2 and 16		
		Location		
		Orientation	East-west	
		East End	TG 622905 319592	
		West End	TG 622876 319583	
		Dimensions		
		Length	30m	
		Width	1.80m	
		Depth		
		Levels		
		East End Top	19.92m OD	
		West End Top	19.91m OD	
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Height OD
21	?Ditch	Present at eastern end of trench but could not be fully examined as only partly present in trench. Measured 0.48m deep with a stepped, sloping side recorded.		
22	?Ditch fill	Fill of [21]. A mid orange brown sand, a redeposited geological deposit.	0.48m	
23	?Pit	Possibly a natural feature, shallow gradual sided with depth of 0.30m, length of more than 12m and width of at least 1.8m.		
24	?Pit fill	Fill of [23]. Pale yellow brown sand, this may represent a change in the nature of the geological deposits.	0.30m	
Discussion				
A possible ditch only partially examined was recorded.				

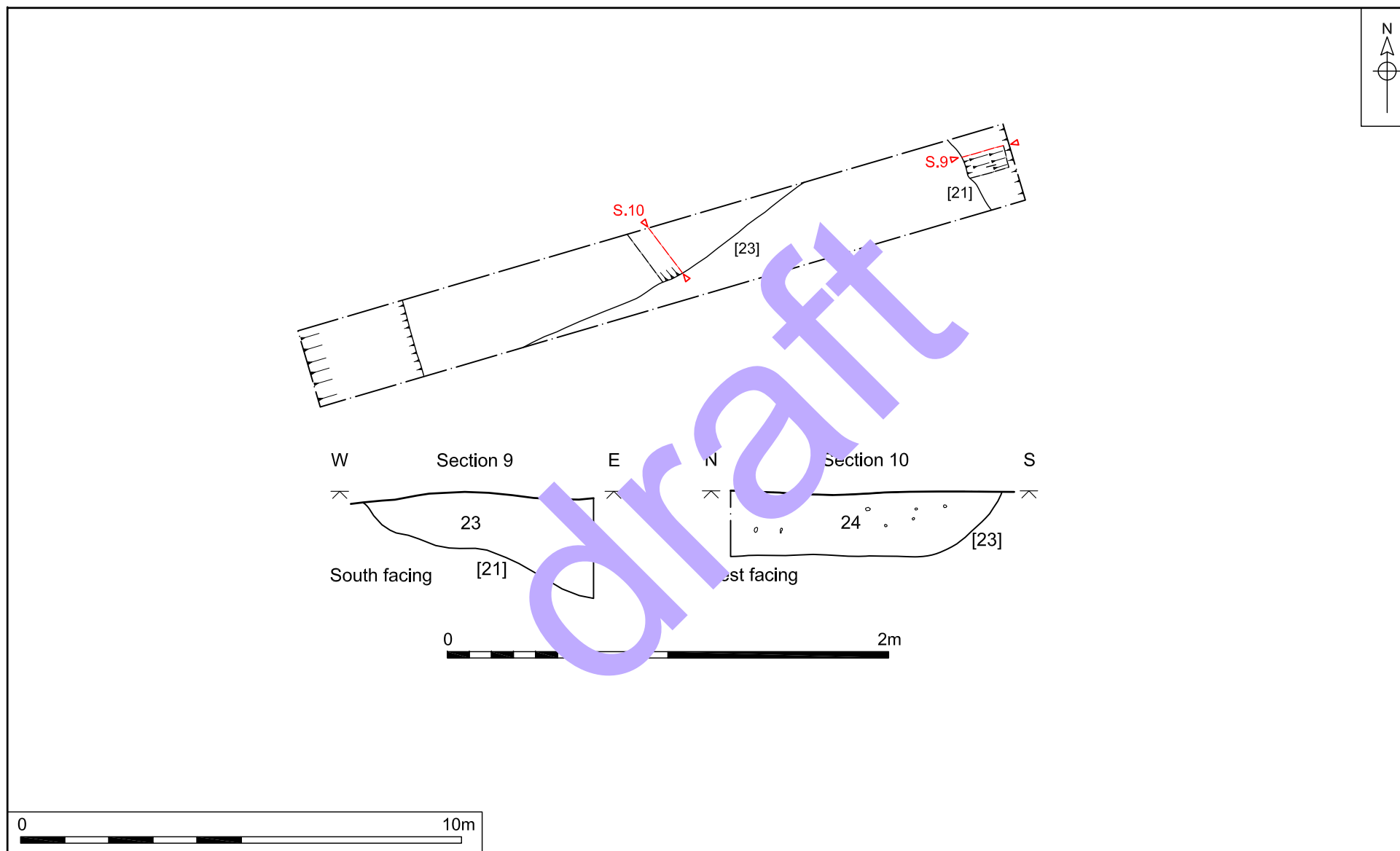



Figure 16. Trench 27, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 28



Trench 28, post excavation, looking north, 1m scale

Figs 2 and 17

Location	
Orientation	North-south
North End	TG 622865 319638
South End	TG 622873 319609
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.80m
Depth	
Levels	
South End Top	20.07m OD
North End Top	20.93m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Height OD
25	Ditch	Small, shallow ditch aligned roughly east-west, 0.22m deep and 0.5m wide with a concave profile and gradually sloping sides.		
26	Ditch fill	Fill of [25]. Mid grey brown sand silt.		
29	Ditch	Aligned roughly east-west, 0.42m deep and 0.80m wide with a steeper profile on the southern edge. It contained two fills.		
30	Ditch fill	Primary fill of [29]. Mid grey brown sand silt, quite damp towards the base with one small sherd of Roman pottery.	0.42m	
31	Ditch fill	Upper fill of [29] consisting of redeposited yellow sand silt.		
32	Pit	Circular pit 0.26m deep with a diameter of 0.70m. Quite steep sided with a flat/shallowly concave base.		
33	Pit fill	Fill of [32]. Pale grey brown sand silt.		
34	?Ditch	A linear feature located at the north end of Trench 28, possibly a shallow ditch although it may equally be of natural origin, it measured 0.16m deep and was 0.80m wide.		
35	?Ditch fill	Fill of [34]. Pale grey brown sand silt, possibly a weathered in deposit.		

Discussion

Three ditches of medium size, two of which ([29] and [34]) might have been ones identified by the geophysical survey. The ditches appear to be field boundaries, and might form part of a system of broadly east-west aligned ditches in the north-east of the site that were also seen in Trenches 23, 28, and 31 and in the geophysical survey results.

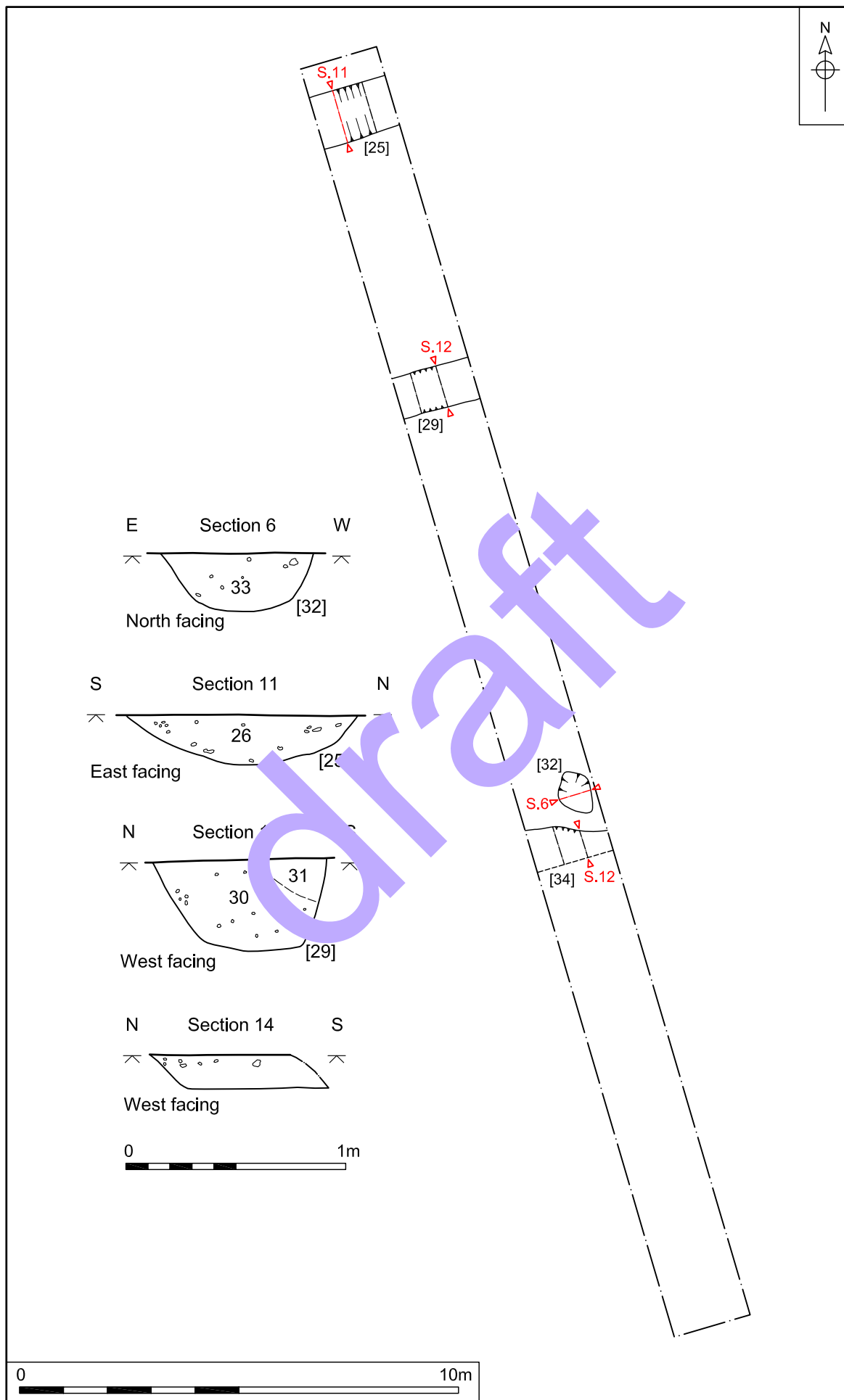



Figure 17. Trench 28, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 29



Figs 2 and 18

Location

Orientation

East-west

East End

TG 622904 319635

West End

TG 622875 319626

Dimensions

Length

30m

Width

1.80m

Depth

Levels

East End Top

20.46m OD

West End

20.42m OD

Trench 29, post excavation, looking east, 1m scale

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Height OD
4	?Pit	Semi-circular in plan, 0.60m long, 0.60m wide and a surface depth of 0.34m. Flat based with sloping sides.		
5	?Pit fill	Fill of [4]. Pale grey brown sand silt with occasional small stones.	0.34m	
6	?Natural feature	Amorphous in plan with uneven base and sides, 0.45m deep, 6.5m long and 1.0m wide.		
7	?Natural feature fill	Fill of [6]. Mid grey brown silt sand.	0.45m	
8	?Ditch	Aligned approximately north-west to south-east; 0.05m deep, 0.28m wide, 0.8m long. Very shallow with a concave base, perhaps slightly truncated. Crisply defined, might be part of a modern drainage scheme.		
9	?Ditch fill	Fill of [8]. Pale grey brown sand silt	0.05m	
10	Deposit	Topsoil	0.35m	
11	Deposit	Subsoil		
12	Deposit	Undisturbed geological		

Discussion

Trench 29 contains what appears to be a pit ([4]) along with two rather nondescript features. No dating evidence recovered from any of these features.

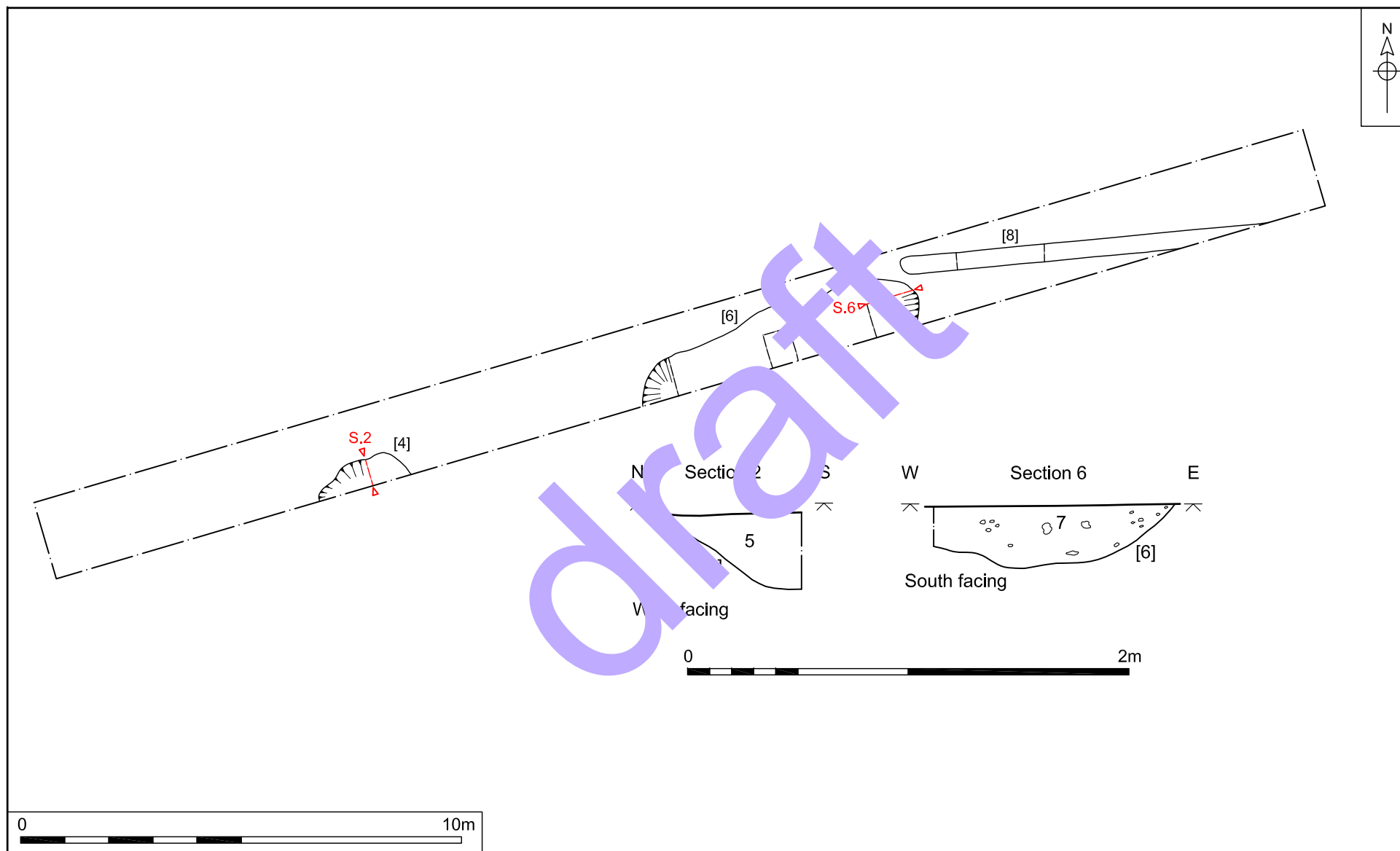


Figure 18. Trench 29, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 30

Trench 30, post excavation, looking north, 1m scale

Figs 2 and 19

Location

Orientation	North-south
North End	TG 622903 319620
South End	TG 622911 319591

Dimensions

Length	30m
Width	1.80m
Depth	

Levels

South End Top	19.81m OD
North End Top	20.30m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Height OD
27	Ditch	Same as [74]		
28	Ditch fill	Fill of [27] (same as [73])		
49	Ditch	Large ditch, 0.84m deep, 0.90m wide, roughly east-west aligned with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. It was slightly skewed along its southern side.		
50	Ditch fill	Fill of [49] Ditch orange brown silt sand with occasional large flints. Homogeneous except for a large lens of orange sand. A small sherd of medieval pottery was retrieved.	0.84m	
51	Pit	Large pit, possibly a quarry feature. Irregular in plan, with a excavated depth of 1.14m. The dimensions visible in the trench were a width of 3.70m and minimum length of 1.80m. Due to the size of this feature a sondage was excavated to sample the deposits.		
52	Pit fill	Primary fill of pit [51], consisting of a dark grey brown silt sand with occasional large flint.	0.64m	
55	Ditch	Aligned roughly east-west, 0.54m deep and 1m wide with quite steep sides. Well-defined and clear in plan and section.		

Trench 30				
56	Ditch fill	Fill of ditch [55]; a dark orange brown silt sand with moderate flints and stones. One sherd of Iron Age pottery and one of Roman date were recovered from this deposit.	0.54m	
68	Pit fill	Secondary fill of pit [51]. Light brown silt sand with clay or silt band at base. Contains occasional medium sized flints and stones.	0.50m	
73	Ditch	Same as [27]. Aligned approximately east-west, this ditch was 0.48m deep and 2.50m wide with gradually sloping sides. This feature appeared to be a ditch dug perhaps as part of another feature as an area of material similar to the fill of this feature was present to the north of this. One suggestion is that this ditch was part of a track or hollow way.		
74	Ditch fill	Fill of [73] (same as [28]). Dark brown silt sand with frequent small stones and occasional charcoal and chalk flecks. Mottled in appearance. Brick of medieval date was recovered from this deposit along with 3.166kg of smithy slag.	0.48m	
Discussion				
<p>Several features were present in this trench. At the northern end was a possible trackway, its southern edge defined by ditch [73]. This feature appeared to have been picked up in the geophysical survey. Also recorded by the survey was ditch [59].</p> <p>The ditches recorded in this trench appear to share a common east-west alignments and are possible field boundaries.</p> <p>Large pit [51] might be evidence of a quarry.</p>				

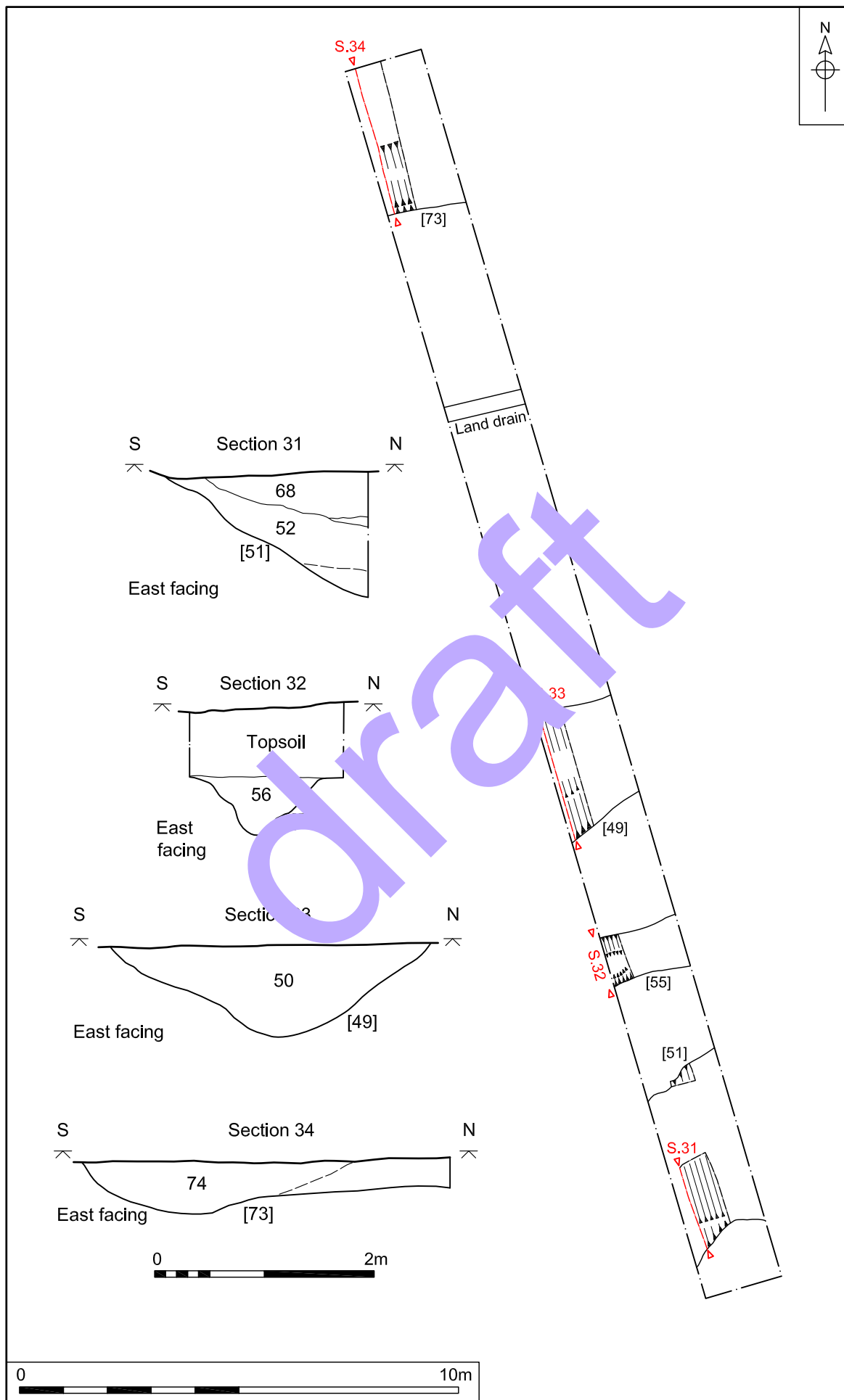


Figure 19. Trench 30, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:50

Trench 31



Trench 31, post excavation, looking north, 1m scale

Figs 2 and 20

Location

Orientation	North-south
North End	TG 622904 319652
South End	TG 622913 319624

Dimensions

Length	30m
Width	1.80m
Depth	

Levels

South End Top	20.22m OD
North End Top	20.38m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Height OD
13	Ditch	Aligned roughly east-west, 0.2m deep and 1.58m wide. Clearly defined in plan and section with a V-shaped profile, shallow along the north side of cut. Similar in form and scale to other ditches recorded within this trench.		
14	Ditch fill	Fill of [13] mid to light brown silt sand with moderate small and medium stones. A cleared sand, cleaner towards the base of the cut perhaps suggesting a period of weathering.	0.72m	
15	Ditch	Aligned approximately east-west, 0.50m deep and 1.70m wide. It was V-shaped in profile with broadly similar shaped sides.		
16	Ditch fill	Fill of [15]. Pale to mid-brown silt sand with occasional small to medium stones.	0.50m	
17	?Post hole	A small feature, 0.20m deep with a diameter of 0.35m.		
18	?Post hole fill	Fill of [17]. A mid brown silt sand with moderate small stones; increasingly sandy towards the base.	0.20m	
19	Ditch	Aligned roughly east-west, 0.70m deep and 1.70m wide. The profile indicated this feature possibly consisted of two ditches; one (smaller) ditch running along the northern edge of the feature and the larger ditch appearing to be slightly flat-bottomed.		

Trench 31				
20	Ditch fill	Fill of [19]. A mid brown silt sand that contained a fragment of post-medieval floor tile and a small quantity of burnt chalk.	0.70m	
57	?Pit fill	Fill of [58]. Mid dark brown sand silt with a moderate orange lens and occasional mortar fragments and small stones. Also contained frequent small flecks of burnt material, possibly a silt or clay. A single piece of metal working debris was recovered from this deposit. The feature appears to have been deliberately backfilled with this material.	0.55m	
58	?Pit	A well defined feature clear in plan and section with near vertical sides and flattish base. Possibly square or rectangular in plan, it was 0.55m deep and appeared to extend westward beyond the limit of excavation with a possible width of 1.46m.		
59	Layer	Topsoil.	0.35m	
60	Layer	Undisturbed geological deposit comprising orange sandy silts with stones.		
Discussion				
<p>A series of ditches aligned broadly east-west which appears to have been identified by the geophysical survey. It is possible some of these features were also recorded further west in Trench 28. These ditches appear similar in form and are thought to represent the maintenance of a boundary overtime.</p> <p>A small ?post hole [17] was undated. It was a flat-based pit that was square or rectangular in plan and well-defined though unfortunately not datable.</p>				

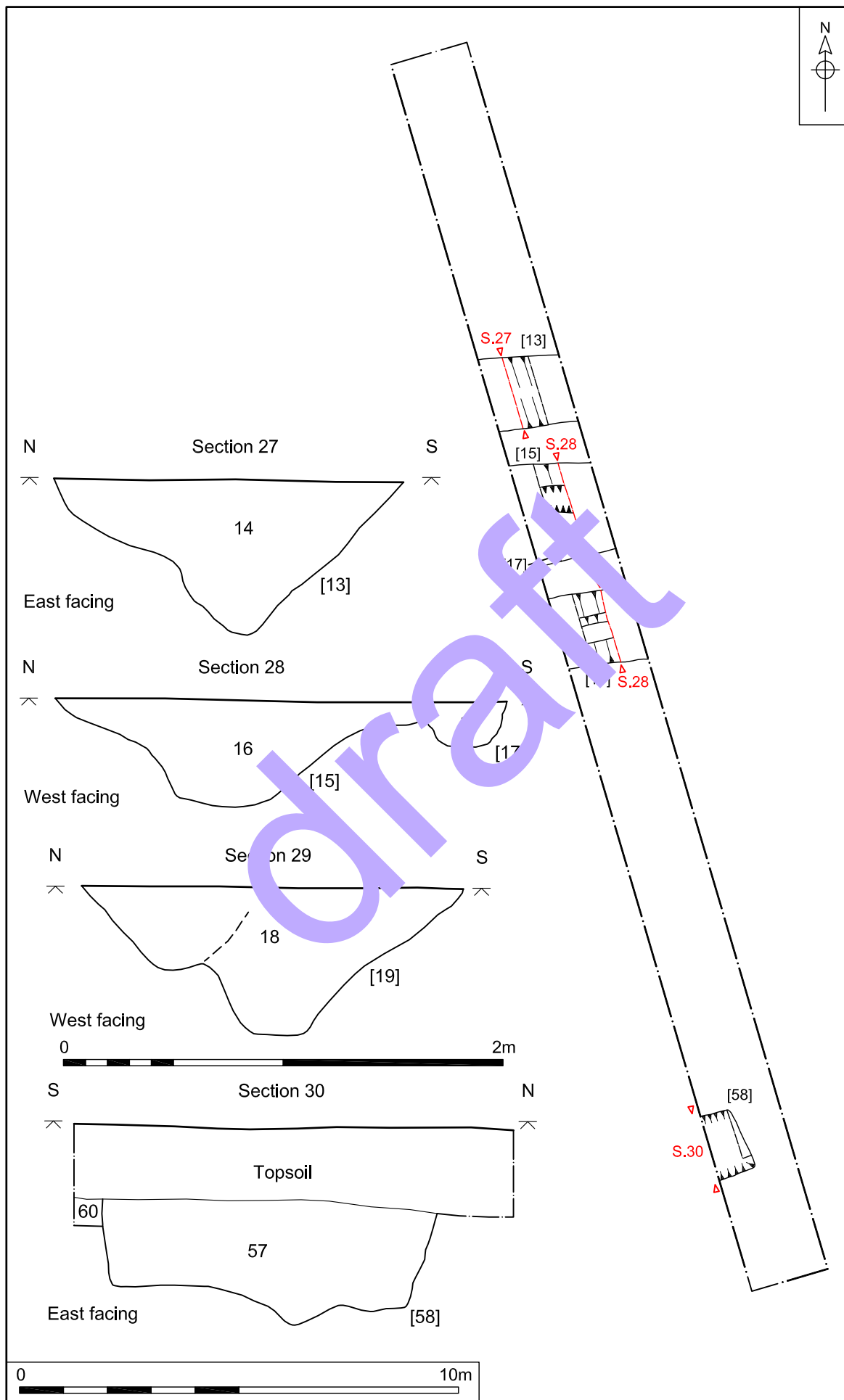


Figure 20. Trench 31, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

6.0 THE FINDS

by Sarah Percival (apart from where indicated otherwise)

6.1 Pottery

6.1.1 Prehistoric

A large sherd from the base of a jar in flint-tempered fabric was found in the fill 38 of feature [36] in Trench 24 (Appendix 3). An additional flint-tempered sherd came from layer 56, the fill of feature [55] in Trench 30. The sherds are most likely of earlier Iron Age date (c.650–300BC).

6.1.2 Roman

(identified by Alice Lyons)

A total of 29 sherds of Romano-British pottery weighing 146g were recovered from four features, including 27 sherds from two fills in possible dryer or oven [39] in Trench 18. Single sherds came from feature [71], Trench 28 and feature [55], Trench 30. The assemblage comprises body sherds of low fired micaceous sandy reduced wares with a single small sherd of Nene Valley colour coat. No rim or base sherds were found but one diagnostic body sherd has an angled shoulder characteristic of an earlier Roman carinated bowl. The presence of the low fired fabrics and the carinated vessel suggests a date in the earlier Roman period, the late mid 1st to early mid 2nd century. The sherds are unprovenanced and are almost certainly locally produced.

6.1.3 Medieval

The small medieval assemblage comprises a total of six sherds weighing 15g. Two joining Grimston-type body sherds with pale-green glaze overlying dark-grey reduced fabric were found in the fill of feature [1], Trench 26. Four unglazed bodysherds were also found, two in feature [1], and single sherds in features [45] and [49], Trench 18.

6.1.4 Post medieval

A sherd of 16th- to 18th-century glazed red earthenware came from the fill of feature [85], Trench 16 and three sherds of 18th- to 20th-century blue and white transfer printed earthenware came from feature [83], Trench 24.

6.2 Ceramic building material

A total of nine pieces of ceramic building material weighing 262g were collected (Appendix 4).

6.2.1 Roman

A fragment of possible Romano-British brick in a fine, silty fabric came from the fill of feature [73], Trench 5.

6.2.2 Post medieval

Single pieces of roof tile in coarse red/orange sandy fabric were found in feature [73], Trench 5 and feature [83], Trench 24. A piece of floor tile in a coarse red,

sandy fabric with sparse quartz inclusions, came from context (20) and a fragment of brick in similar sandy fabric came from the fill of [1], Trench 26.

6.3 Flint

A struck flint flake weighing 3g from feature [95] Trench 1 is of later prehistoric date but is otherwise not closely datable.

6.4 Stone

Two pieces of burnt chalk or clunch weighing 258g came from feature [20], Trench 31. The chalk may represent a redeposited hearth lining or structural material but is not closely datable.

6.5 Amber Bead

(identified by Nina Crummy)

An amber bead with a drilled central perforation and concentric ring decoration to both the upper and lower surfaces was found in the fill of ditch [85], Trench 16. The bead has a diameter of 35mm and is 17mm thick. The central perforation has a diameter of 4mm. Following identification from a photograph of the object, Nina Crummy has tentatively suggested a 1st to 2nd century date for the bead (Plate 1).

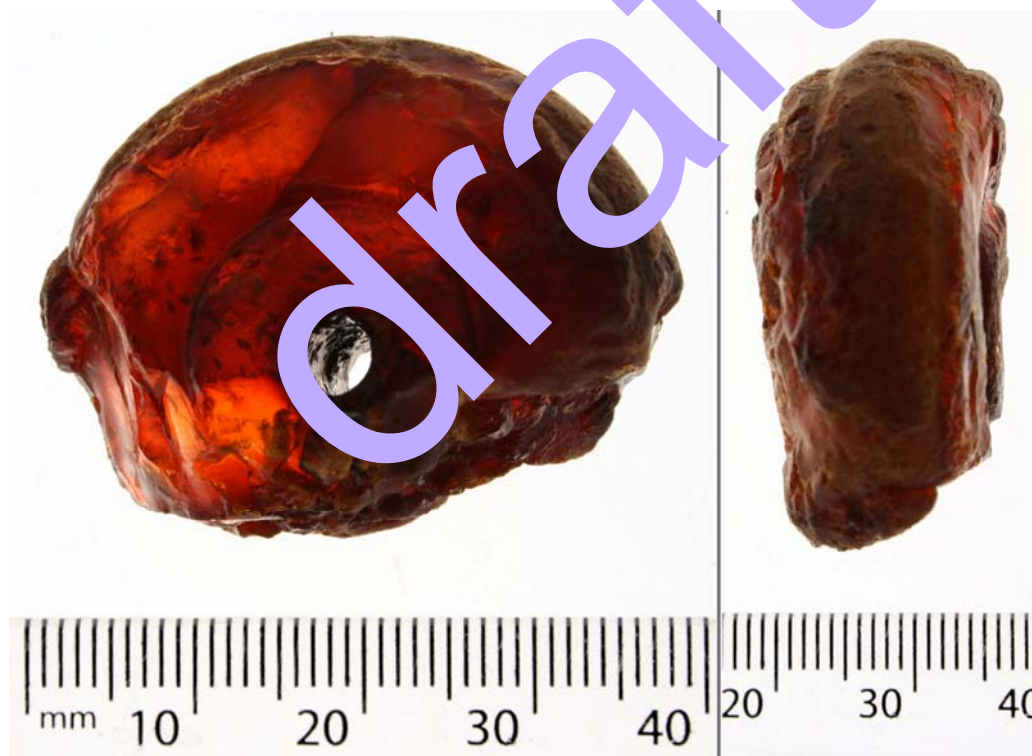


Plate 1. Amber bead

6.6 Iron

Four highly corroded iron objects were found in Trench 31. The pieces are not identifiable.

6.7 Metalworking debris

A total of thirteen pieces of metalworking debris weighing 4,011g was found in four contexts. Smithing slag comprising hammer scale, gravel-sized stones and debris was found in three contexts. Nine pieces came from the fill of feature [73], Trench 5, two pieces from feature [01], Trench 26 and a single piece from feature [58], Trench 31. A large lump of smelting slag was recovered as an unstratified surface find. Slag is not intrinsically datable and a Roman or medieval date is suggested for the metalworking debris.

6.8 Animal Bone

Two small pieces of abraded animal bone were collected. The fragments represent butchered domesticates and are not closely identifiable or datable.

7.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Four samples were taken from context 40, a fill of Roman oven-like feature [39] in Trench 18.

A report on the analysis of these samples will be included in the site archive.

draft

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

Of the 31 trenches excavated at the Old Church Road site, a total of 18 contained archaeological remains with the remaining 13 trenches considered to be archaeologically blank.

The paucity of datable artefacts recovered from the excavated features makes it difficult to assign even broad dates to the majority of the remains recorded during the evaluation, particularly as many of these artefacts are considered likely to be residual finds, i.e. artefacts of an earlier date present within later contexts. Thus ditch 36 in Trench 24, while containing three sherds of Iron Age pottery, is thought unlikely to be of that date. The similarity in alignment of this particular ditch to others with some, albeit limited, evidence for a post-medieval date recorded in Trench 31 might indicate it belongs to this later period.

The majority of archaeological features at the site were ditches, many of which are interpreted as field boundaries which perhaps went out of use following large-scale enclosure in the 18th and 19th centuries. Occurrences of perhaps two or three ditches lying close together and with near identical alignments were seen in a small number of the evaluation trenches, for example trenches 4 and 31. These are thought to indicate the maintenance and re-definition of boundaries over time.

In the south of the site close to Old Church Road, many of these ditches served a dual function of boundary and drainage, the latter purpose inferred from the leached appearance of soils noted in some trenches close to this road, with ground water present in Trench 7. The necessity of drainage across the site was also demonstrated by the presence of ceramic land drains within several of the trenches. It did not prove possible to identify the dates of these ditches with certainty but where artefacts were recovered it indicated that at least some had been infilled during the post-medieval period.

A small quantity of prehistoric pottery recovered from the evaluation trenches is thought to indicate a background level of activity at this time, though the number of these finds is so small as to prevent any meaningful conclusions in respect of the project aims listed in section 2.2 Methodology above.

The most significant archaeological remains identified at the site were of an oven or similar type of feature recorded in Trench 18, located roughly in the centre of the site. Based on pottery recovered from its fill feature [39] can confidently be assigned a Roman date, possibly from the late mid 1st to early mid 2nd century AD. Though this feature appeared to be a somewhat isolated occurrence, shallow pit [72] in Trench 15 has also cautiously been suggested to be possibly of Roman date (though only based on proximity and similarity in form with the dated example).

The most interesting artefact recovered from the site is part of a large amber bead of possible early Roman date. This find supports the pottery evidence that some degree of early Roman activity took place at the site. The significance of these Roman remains is difficult to quantify, but it would seem that apart from Trench 18 little cultural material of this period was recovered from the site, and indeed out of a total of 29 sherds of this period, 27 were recovered from the same, single feature.

This seeming absence of cultural material might suggest activity of this period was perhaps small in scale, tightly defined in area or of a type that left little evidence in the archaeological record. Nonetheless the evidence appears to date from an early stage in the Roman colonisation of Norfolk, possible even the time of the Boudiccan revolt. The geophysical survey located two areas of possibly archaeological features in the vicinity of Trench 18 and it is possible a small area of Roman activity is represented here.

Considering the proximity of a medieval church to the site it is perhaps somewhat surprising so little cultural material of medieval date was recovered during the evaluation. One source of medieval pottery, and indeed other finds types on many 'rural' sites is their incorporation from night soil as part of soil improvement. A possible explanation for the small assemblage of medieval ceramics at the Hainford site might be that little attempt to improve this land was made in the medieval period, when perhaps heathland occupied the higher part of the site. Poorly drained soils identified at the lower end of the site (in Trenches 1, 7, and 17 for example) and also present to the south of Old Church Road, would likewise not favour agricultural use.

The geophysical and evaluation results both indicate that most human activity, represented in the archaeological record almost entirely by ditches, was concentrated to the east of the site closer to the church. Anecdotal evidence from several members of the public who commented to archaeological staff during the fieldwork suggests that any settlement perhaps associated with the church actually lay to the north-east of the church, a conclusion that the evaluation and geophysical work would seem to support by the absence of such settlement in the study area.

The evaluation demonstrated many of the features recorded across the site had been considerably truncated, and whilst this clearly had damaged archaeological remains, it might also be expected to liberate cultural material into the topsoil. The seeming absence of such material at the site would again seem to support the idea that activity during the Roman period was perhaps limited and of low density. This does not preclude activity of similar date being present to the north of the current site.

Recommendations for future work based upon this report will be made by Norfolk Historic Environment Service.

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Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Fill Of	Period	Trench
1	Ditch		Uncertain	26
2	Ditch fill	1	Uncertain	26
3	Ditch fill	1	Uncertain	26
4	?Pit		Uncertain	29
5	?Pit fill	4	Uncertain	29
6	?Natural feature		Uncertain	29
7	?Natural feature fill	6	Uncertain	29
8	?Ditch		Uncertain	29
9	?Ditch fill	8	Uncertain	29
10	Topsoil		Uncertain	29
11	Subsoil		Uncertain	29
12	Geological deposit		Uncertain	29
13	Ditch		Uncertain	31
14	Ditch fill	13	Uncertain	31
15	Ditch		Uncertain	31
16	Ditch fill	15	Uncertain	31
17	?Post-hole		Uncertain	31
18	?Post-hole fill	17	Uncertain	31
19	Ditch		Uncertain	31
20	Ditch fill	19	Uncertain	31
21	?Ditch		Uncertain	27
22	?Ditch fill	21	Uncertain	27
23	?Pit		Uncertain	27
24	?Pit fill	23	Uncertain	27
25	Ditch		Uncertain	28
26	Ditch fill	25	Uncertain	28
27	Ditch (=74)		Uncertain	30
28	Ditch fill (=73)	27	Uncertain	30
29	Ditch		Uncertain	28
30	Ditch fill	29	Uncertain	28
31	Ditch fill	29	Uncertain	28
32	Pit		Uncertain	28
33	Pit fill	32	Uncertain	28
34	?Ditch		Uncertain	28
35	?Ditch fill	34	Uncertain	28
36	Ditch		Uncertain	24
37	Ditch fill	36	Uncertain	24
38	Ditch fill	36	Uncertain	24
39	?Corn drying oven		Roman	18

Context	Category	Fill Of	Period	Trench
40	?Corn drying oven fill	39	Roman	18
41	?Pit		?Roman	18
42	?Pit fill	41	?Roman	18
43	?Corn drying oven fill	39	Roman	18
44	?Corn drying oven fill	39	Roman	18
45	?Ditch		?Roman	18
46	?Ditch fill	45	?Roman	18
47	?Ditch		?Roman	18
48	?Ditch fill	47	?Roman	18
49	Ditch		Uncertain	30
50	Ditch fill	49	Uncertain	30
51	Pit		Uncertain	30
52	Pit fill	51	Uncertain	30
53	Not allocated		-	-
54	Not allocate			-
55	Ditch		Uncertain	30
56	Ditch fill	55	Uncertain	30
57	?Pit fill	58	Uncertain	31
58	?Pit		Uncertain	31
59	Topsoil		Uncertain	31
60	Geological deposit		Uncertain	31
61	Ditch		Uncertain	4
62	Ditch fill	61	Uncertain	4
63	Ditch		Uncertain	4
64	Ditch fill	63	Uncertain	4
65	Ditch		Uncertain	4
66	Ditch fill	65	Uncertain	4
67	Ditch fill	65	Uncertain	4
68	Pit fill	51	Uncertain	30
69	?Pit fill	70	Uncertain	20
70	?Pit		Uncertain	20
71	Pit fill	72	Uncertain	15
72	Pit		Uncertain	15
73	Ditch (=27)		Uncertain	30
74	Ditch fill (=28)	73	Uncertain	30
75	?Ditch		Uncertain	5
76	?Ditch fill	75	Uncertain	5
77	?Ditch		Uncertain	5
78	?Ditch fill	77	Uncertain	5
79	?Ditch (=77)		Uncertain	5
80	?Ditch fill (=78)	79	Uncertain	5
81	Pit/post-hole		Uncertain	5

Context	Category	Fill Of	Period	Trench
82	Pit/post-hole fill	81	Uncertain	5
83	?Quarry pit		Uncertain	24
84	?Quarry pit fill	83	Uncertain	24
85	Ditch		Uncertain	16
86	Ditch fill	85	Uncertain	16
87	Ditch		Uncertain	11
88	Ditch fill	87	Uncertain	11
89	?Natural feature		Uncertain	23
90	?Natural feature fill	89	Uncertain	23
91	Natural feature		Uncertain	23
92	Natural feature fill	91	Uncertain	23
93	Ditch		Uncertain	1
94	Ditch fill	93	Uncertain	1
95	Ditch		Uncertain	1
96	Ditch fill	95	Uncertain	1
97	Ditch		Uncertain	1
98	Ditch fill	97	Uncertain	1
99	?Pit		Uncertain	7
100	?Pit fill		Uncertain	7
101	?Pit		Uncertain	7
102	?Pit fill	101	Uncertain	7
103	Pit		Uncertain	7
104	Pit fill	103	Uncertain	7

Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary

Period	Cut Type	Total
Roman	Oven	1
	Ditch	2
	Pit	1
Uncertain	Ditch	22
	Pit	11
	Pit/Post-hole	1

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
2	Animal Bone	1	4g	Unknown	
2	Ceramic Building Material	1	30g	Post-medieval	Brick. Discarded
2	Metalworking Debris	2	98g	Unknown	
3	Pottery	4	10g	Medieval	
20	Animal Bone	1	2g	Unknown	
20	Ceramic Building Material	1	127g	Post-medieval	Floor tile. Discarded.
20	Iron	4	75g	Unknown	Corroded fragments.
20	Stone	2	258g	Unknown	Burnt chalk/ clunch. Discarded
30	Pottery	1	1g	Roman	
38	Pottery	3	92g	Early Iron Age	
40	Pottery	5	6g	Roman	
44	Pottery	22	137g	Roman	Burnt
46	Pottery	1	4g	Medieval	
50	Pottery	1	1g	Medieval	
56	Pottery	1	9g	Early Iron Age	
56	Pottery	1	2g	Roman	
57	Metalworking Debris	1	50g	Unknown	Smithing slag
74	Ceramic Building Material	5	34g	Post-medieval	Roof tile. Discarded
74	Ceramic Building Material	1	29g	Unknown	Brick. Discarded
74	Metalworking Debris	3,166		Unknown	Smithing slag
84	Ceramic Building Material	1	11g	Post-medieval	Roof tile. Discarded
84	Pottery	3	3g	Modern	
86	Pottery	1	3g	Post-medieval	
86	Stone	1	9g	Late Saxon to Early Roman	Amber bead
96	Flint – Struck	1	3g	Prehistoric	
105	Metalworking Debris	1	697g	Unknown	Smelting slag

Appendix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Prehistoric	Flint – Struck	1
Early Iron Age	Pottery	4
Roman	Pottery	29
	Amber	1
Medieval	Pottery	6
Post-medieval	Ceramic Building Material	8
	Pottery	1
Modern	Pottery	3
Unknown	Animal Bone	2
	Ceramic Building Material	1
	Iron	4
	Metalworking Debris	13
	Stone	2

Appendix 3: Pottery

Context	Fabric	Type	Qty	Weight	Comment	Spotdate	Date
38	F1	B	3	92g	Heavily gritted flat base	Early Iron Age	6th to 3rd BC
56	F1	U	1	9g		Early Iron Age	6th to 3rd BC
30	NVCC	U	1	1g		Roman	Late to mid 1st to mid 2nd
40	SOW	U	4	4g		Roman	Late to mid 1st to mid 2nd
40	SRW	D	1	2g	stabbed decoration	Roman	Late to mid 1st to mid 2nd
44	MSRW	U	22	137g	Burnt	Roman	Late to mid 1st to mid 2nd
56	SRW	U	1	2g		Roman	Late to mid 1st to mid 2nd
3	GRIM	U	2	5g	Green glaze brown trail	Medieval	Late 12th to 14th
3	GRIM ungl.	U	2	5g		Medieval	Late 12th to 14th
46	GRIM ungl.	U	1	4g		Medieval	Late 12th to 14th
50	GRIM ungl.	U	1	1g		Medieval	Late 12th to 14th
86	GRE	U	1	3g		Post-medieval	16th to 18th
84	TPE	U	3	3g		Modern	18th to 20th

Key:

F1 common angular flint;

NVCC Nene Valley Colour Coat; SOW Sandy oxidised ware; SRW Sandy reduced ware; MSRW micaceous sandy reduced ware;

GRIM Grimston-type Ware; GRIM ungl Grimston-type Ware unglazed;

GRE glazed red earthenware

TPE transfer printed earthenware,

Appendix 4: Ceramic Building Material

Context	Fabric	Type	Form	No	Wt/g	Notes	spotdate
2	Red coarse sand sparse quartz inclusions	Brick	LB	1	30	Burnt	Post medieval
20	Red coarse sand sparse quartz inclusions	Floor tile	Floor tile	1	127	Two joining	Post medieval
84	Orange medium sandy fabric	Roof tile	Flat tile	1	11		Post medieval
74	Orange medium sandy fabric	Roof tile	Flat tile	5	94		
74	Fine silty fabric	Brick		1	29		

draft