

Report 2699



nps archaeology

Archaeological Evaluation of Land South of the Dog Inn, Holt Road, Horsford, Norfolk

HER 126529



Prepared for
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Location:	Land south of the Dog Inn, Holt Road, Horsford, Norfolk
District:	Broadland
Grid Ref.:	TG 1941 1561
HER No.:	ENF 126529
OASIS Ref.:	105412
Client:	Youngs Homes, Norwich
Dates of Fieldwork:	5–9 May 2011

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was conducted for Youngs Homes ahead of the proposed construction of six houses on land south of the Dog Inn at Horsford, Norfolk in May 2011.

The work revealed a series of earlier property or field boundaries on the eastern side of the site.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Four 30m by 1.8m trenches were opened by NPS Archaeology in a one-acre field adjacent to the Dog Inn at Horsford, Norfolk, in May 2011, to assess the value of this land to the archaeological and historic record prior to the construction of six dwellings on the property.

The archaeological work was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition set by Broadland District Council (Ref. 20101894) and a Brief issued by Norfolk's Heritage Environment Service (Ref. CNF43267). It was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (Ref. NPS/BAU2699/NP) and was commissioned and funded by Youngs Homes.

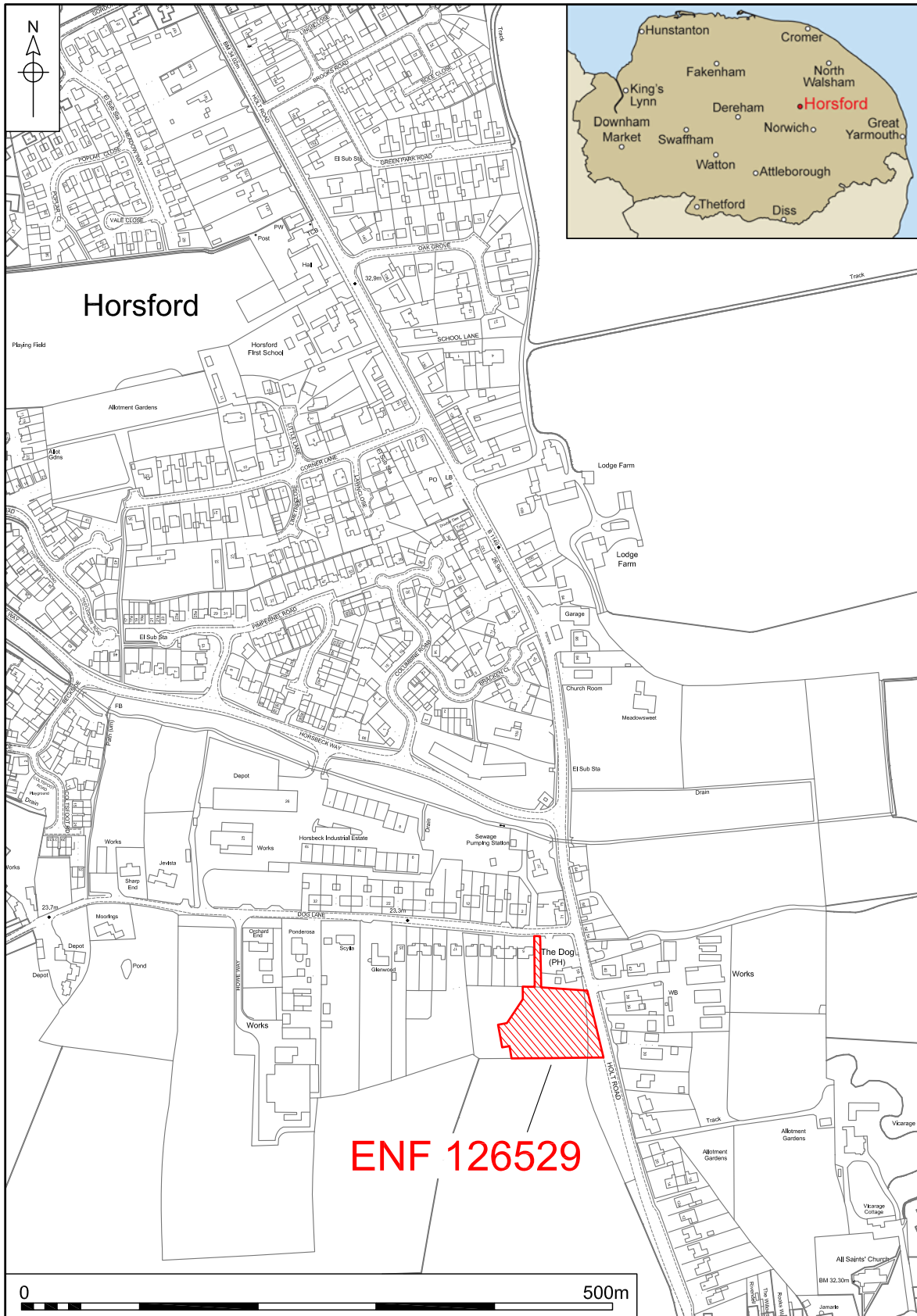
The programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010). 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 solid geology in this area is Upper Chalk, overlain by a drift geology of glacial sands and gravels (www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/). At the time of excavation there had been little rain for several weeks and the topsoil and subsoil on the site were dry. Both were sandy deposits which are likely to drain well.

A stream or small river runs approx. 130m to the north of the site. The site itself covers less than half a hectare and is at an elevation of approximately 26m OD.



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:5000

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies adjacent to cropmarks identified on aerial photographs thought to be of Iron Age to Roman date. These cropmarks were highlighted in the project brief and were the reason for the planning requirement being imposed. The Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) was checked for evidence of heritage assets of relevance in the surrounding area. Details of the most significant records are given here:

The Dog Inn (NHER 11528) dates from the early 17th century and is a Grade II listed property. The NHER states that the Inn is marked on Bryant's 1826 map of Norfolk (Barringer (1998), on the 1841 Tithe Map of Horsford (Wright) and on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (where it is labelled Spotted Dog). It is not labelled as such on Faden's 1797 map of Norfolk (Barringer 1989) but could have been a private residence at that time.

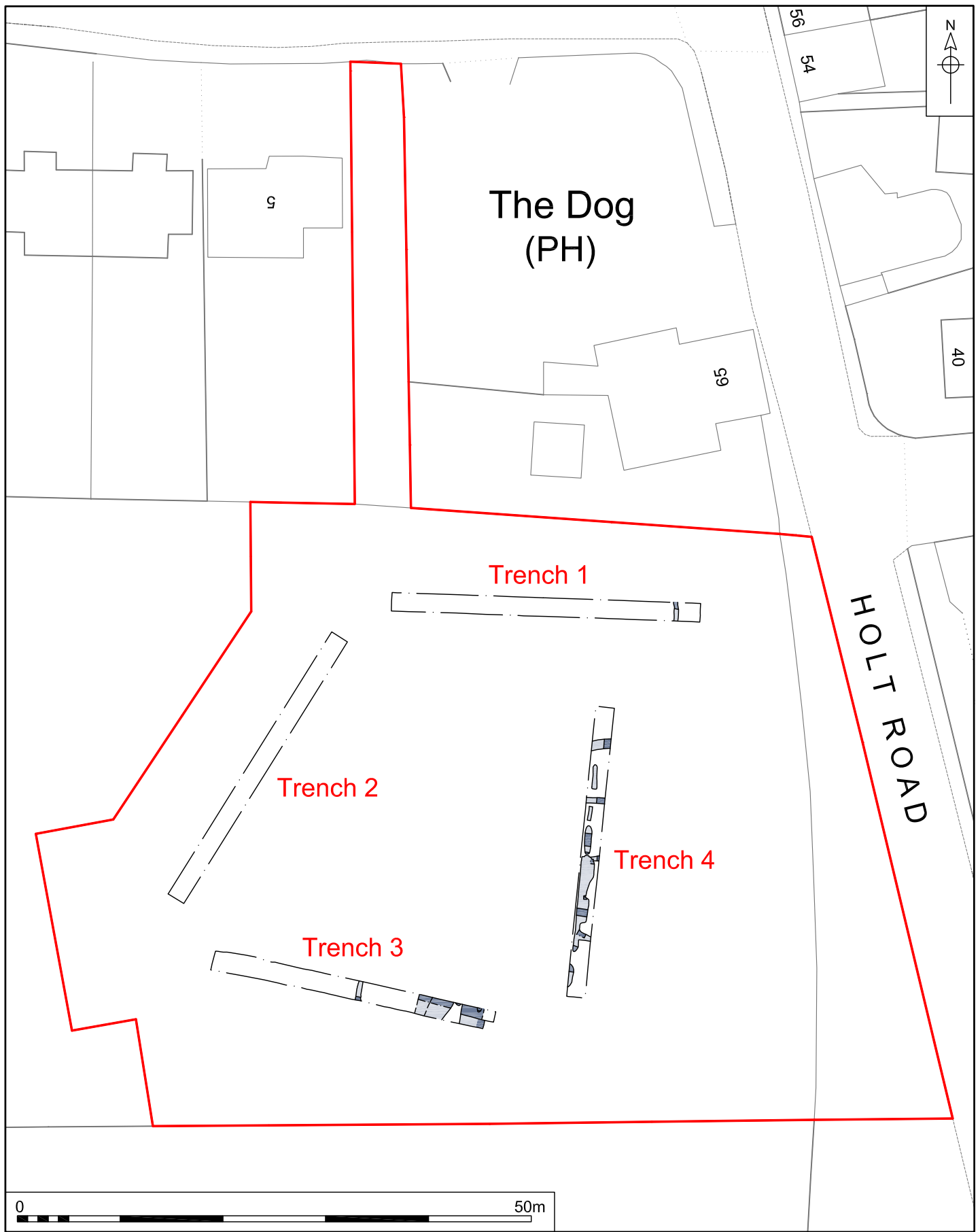
To the south of the site is an area of cropmarks of possible Iron Age to Roman date (NHER 53239). The primary cropmark is linear and thought to represent a former hollow way or road, which ran south-west to north-east between Drayton Lane and what used to be a bend in the Holt Road. To the north-west of the hollow way are rectilinear enclosures, and within and to the south of these are several pits or geological features, around 2m in diameter. Metal detecting to the south-west of these cropmarks has produced a Roman coin and four post-medieval objects (NHER 28271). Further linear and curvilinear ditches are visible as cropmarks to the south (NHER 53240) and it is possible that these comprise part of an Iron Age to Roman field system, although their alignment is also consistent with medieval to post-medieval field boundaries depicted on the Tithe Map of 1841. A Neolithic axehead was found 100m south-east of the development site in 1971 (NHER 7771) and another 250m to the north-west in 1977 (NHER 13053). The latter is of slightly dubious origin as soil from elsewhere had been deposited in the field from whence it came, but if that soil was from quite nearby then this could still be used as an indicator of prehistoric activity in the general area. Smaller prehistoric flint tools have been noted in a field 800m-1km south-west of the development site, where cropmarks are also visible and have been interpreted from their layout as of probable Iron Age to Roman date (NHER 18126).

A kilometre to the east of the development site lies the site of Horsford Castle (NHER 8001), a Norman motte and bailey which was occupied from the 11th or 12th century until the early 1430s. To the north-west of the castle is the site of a large post-medieval park which may have had medieval origins (NHER 40139), and further medieval to post-medieval features and boundaries have been noted in the wider landscape (NHERs 29480, 53205-8, 53211).

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 Brief required four 30m by 1.8m trenches to be opened within the site (Fig. 2). Machine excavation was carried out with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision.



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Figure 2. Trenches location. Scale 1:500

No environmental samples were taken as no suitable deposits were encountered.

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.

The temporary benchmark used during the course of this work was transferred from an Ordnance Survey spot height in Dog Lane with a value of 23.3m OD.

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

5.0 RESULTS

Trench 1

Trench 1 was opened directly behind the Dog Inn, in the north-east corner of the site (Plate 1) and was orientated east-west.



Plate 1. Trench 1, looking west

The only feature of archaeological interest was narrow ditch [4] running north-south across the east end of the trench (Fig. 3). In section, it appeared to be roughly 0.28-0.33m deep (Section 1) and filled with dark brown fine sandy silt (5). There was no discernable difference between this deposit and topsoil (1).

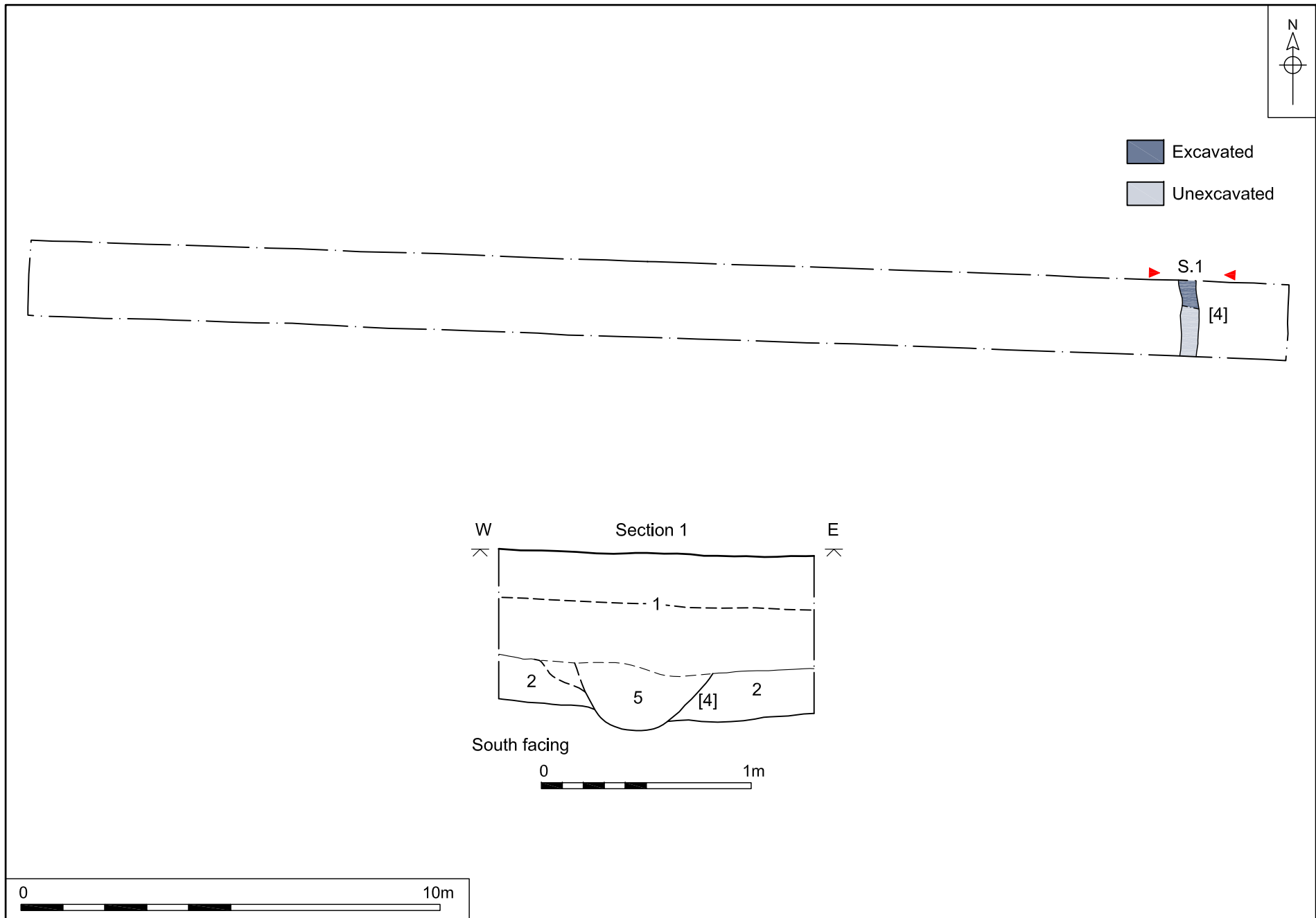


Figure 3. Trench 1, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

A fragment of clay tobacco pipe retrieved from topsoil in the baulk just above feature [4] may provide a rough date for this ditch/ditch fill. It was interpreted as a former field (or property) boundary and thought to be post-medieval.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was opened along the western side of the site and oriented north-north-east to south-south-west (Plate 2).

No archaeological features or deposits were identified in this trench.



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking north-east

Trench 3

Trench 3 was orientated east-west and located on the south side of the site (Fig. 4, Plate 3).

Three ditches were recorded in this trench, all orientated in a north-south direction. The first of these, ditch [10], was 0.6m wide by approx 0.3m deep (Fig. 4, Section 3). It contained a mid-brown soft silty sand (11) but produced no dating evidence. The second and third ditches lay adjacent to each other at the east end of the trench and were much wider and deeper. Ditch [14] (Plate 4), the westernmost of these two features, was only partially excavated due to its size. It was just over 2m wide, more than 0.5m deep, and contained a soft, dark grey-brown silty sand (15)

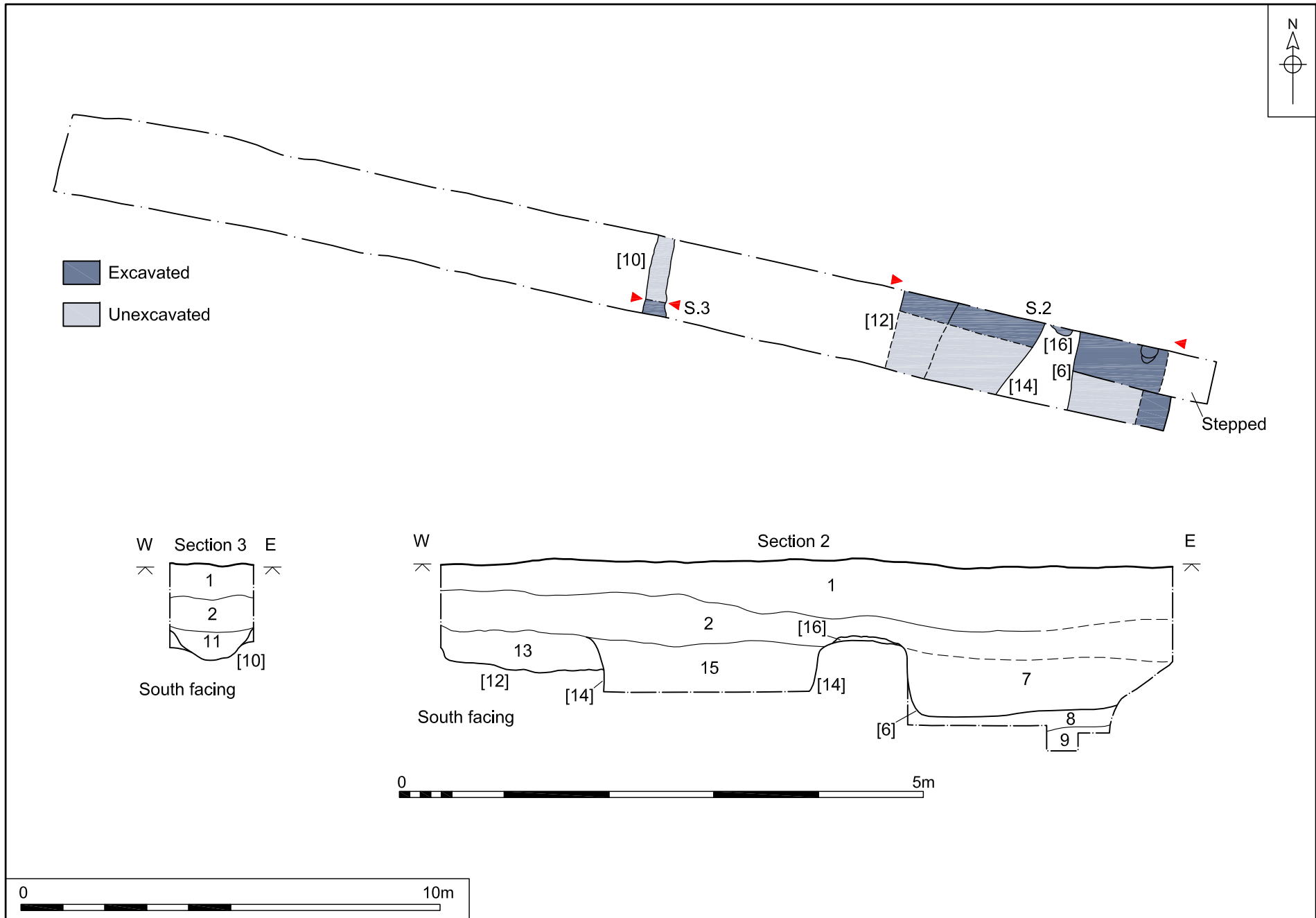


Figure 4. Trench 3, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:50

(Fig. 4, Section 2). This fill produced medieval pottery and post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM). The ditch may have been a recut of an earlier feature ([12]) which contained a light orange silty sand (13) similar to but darker than the natural deposits. It is possible that there was a hedgerow alongside ditch [14] and the mottled silt deposit (13) was produced by root activity associated with this feature.



Plate 3. Trench 3, looking east

Ditch [6] at the east end of Trench 3 was at least 2.5m wide (its full width was not exposed) and 0.7m deep (Plate 5). Its fill (7) was a dark, blackish-brown silty sand and contained post-medieval CBM and clay tobacco pipe. A layer of bright yellow sand at its base that was initially thought to be natural was found to contain a fragment of post-medieval ceramic building material and overlay a layer of mid-brownish-grey silty sand (9) which did not appear to be a natural deposit. The trench was already more than 1.2m deep at this point in this area so this deposit was not excavated any further (Fig. 4 Section 2). The artefact from context (9) was subsequently identified as natural concretion so it is possible that this deposit was, after all, a natural layer from which the colour had been leached by soil processes; alternatively it may be that the ditch was much deeper than it initially appeared.

On the 'ridge' between ditches [14] and [6] (which was approx. 0.85m wide) was a thin deposit of mortar or building rubble (16) (Plate 5, foreground) but this did not appear to be structural.



Plate 4. Trench 3, ditch [12], looking north-east



Plate 5. Trench 3, ditch [6], looking north-east

Trench 4

Trench 4 was located on the east side of the development site orientated in a north-south direction (Fig. 5, Plate 6). A number of features were exposed within the trench which proved to be the most archaeologically interesting area.

Four narrow ditches running east-west and spaced roughly 5-7m apart were identified in this trench, along with long north-south linear feature [21] that ran almost its entire length. Two of the east-west ditches ([17] and [19]) crossed the entire width of the trench, but the second two ([31] and [25]) appeared to stop where they met north-south ditch [21], suggesting that they post-dated that feature, if only by a short time.

Ditch [17], at the north end of the trench was 1.5m wide by 0.58m deep and had a v-shaped profile, with its northern side sloping more steeply than its southern one (Fig. 5 Section 4). The fill of the ditch (18) was a very fine, soft, mid-brown sandy silt containing very few small stones. In section, it could be seen to cut subsoil deposit (2).



Plate 6. Trench 4, looking north

Ditch [19] was 0.75m to 1m wide by 0.34m deep with a flat bottom and steeply sloping sides (Fig. 5 Section 5, Plate 7). The fill (20) of this ditch was a fine but firmly compacted dark brown silt, containing a few small stones. There were small

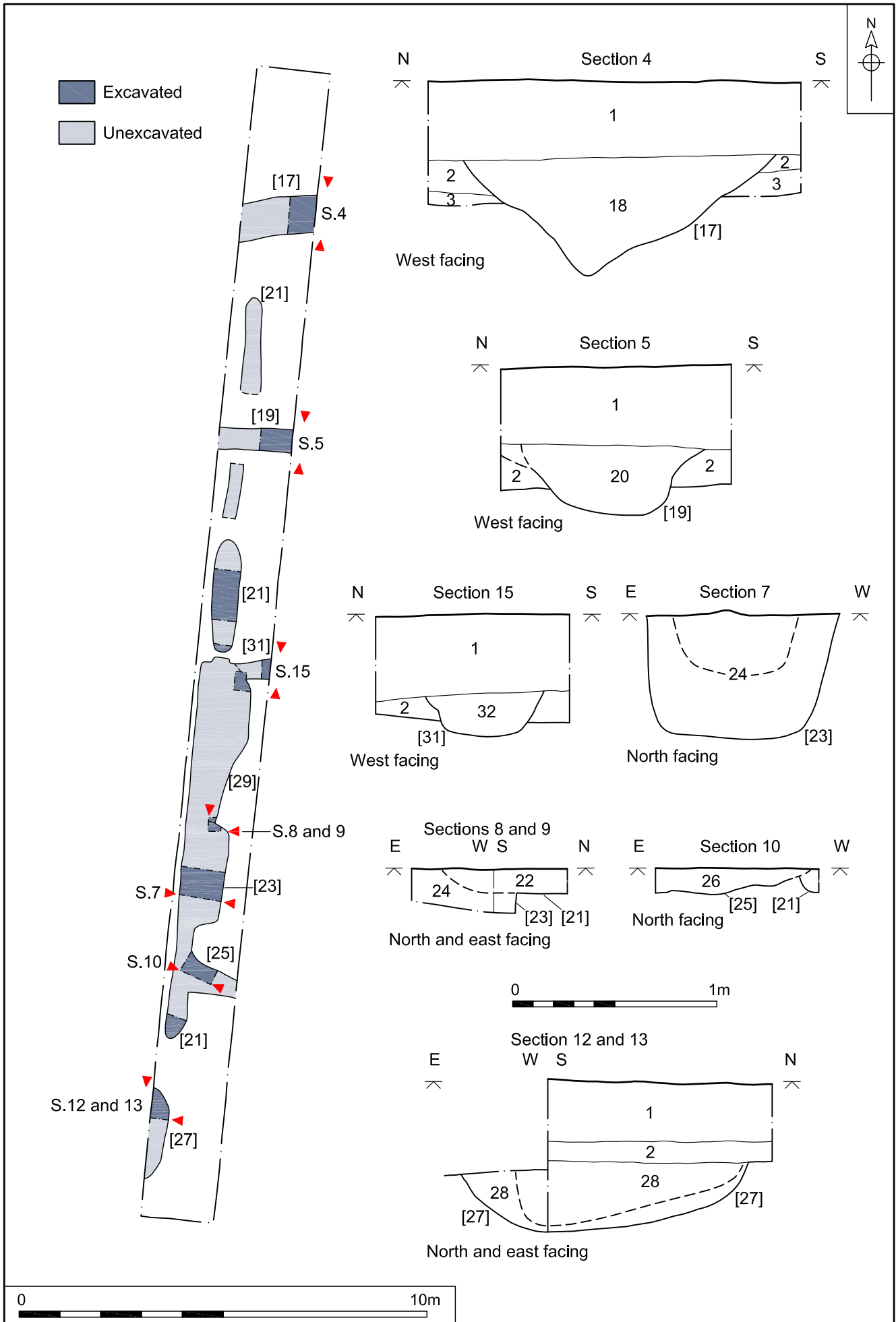


Figure 5. Trench 4, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

flecks of red brick or other ceramic building material at its interface with the topsoil. At the edge of the trench this ditch could also be seen to cut subsoil (2).



Plate 7. Trench 4, ditch [19], looking east

Ditch [31] (Fig. 5 Section 15, Plate 8) did not cross the trench completely but disappeared into large amorphous pit [29] and did not emerge on its western side. The ditch measured 0.50-0.57m wide by 0.20-0.22m deep with a flattish-bottomed profile similar to that of ditch [19]. It was filled with a fine, dark brown silt (32). The relationship between ditch [31] and pit or tree throw [29] could not be conclusively determined but it is thought that the ditch was either truncated by the pit or stopped at the edge of it. In the section at the edge of the trench the ditch appeared to cut the subsoil (2), but this was a less well-defined layer at this end of the trench and may have been root-disturbed 'natural' deposit (3) rather than true subsoil.

Ditch [25] was a shallow feature measuring 0.12-0.15m deep, with an uneven base (Fig. 5 Section 10) and like ditch [25] it did not appear to the west of the group of features aligned on the same axis as Trench 4 itself. Ditch [25] appeared to end where it met ditch [21] and may have very slightly cut this feature but this may just have been the result of disturbance. On balance it seems likely that ditch [21] existed prior to ditch [25].



Plate 8. Trench 4, ditch [31] with pit [29] in foreground, looking east



Plate 9. Trench 4, ditch [21], looking north

Ditch [21] was not completely continuous along the length of the trench but appeared as short lengths (Fig. 5 Sections 8, 9 and 10, Plate 9) which were thought to be a result of variations in depth rather than indicating a number of separate features. The ditch measured 0.5m wide by up to 0.16m deep and was filled with a mid to dark brown, fine, soft, sandy silt containing occasional stones. Towards the south end of the trench, the ditch became deeper however the relationship between this feature and the two large, deep pits [23] and [29] was not clear. It was thought that these features might represent tree throws along the line of a boundary represented by ditch [21]. The pits were roughly rectangular in shape and had squarish corners and the only find from them was a single fragment of pottery on or close to the surface of each.



Plate 10. Trench 4, pit [23], looking south

Pit [23] was 0.95m wide by 2.6m long and approximately 0.6m deep (Fig. 5, Plate 10). It was filled with deposit (24), a dark brownish-grey, fine sandy silt with occasional stones. Its relationship to ditch [21], which appeared on either side of it, was not clear however there was an area of lighter, stonier fill, 0.3m deep by 0.6m wide, visible in section at the top of the pit which may indicate that ditch [21] cut through it (Fig. 5 Section 7) but this variation in fill was both subtle, more centrally placed, and deeper than any other parts of ditch [21] so this is unlikely. A second slot through pit [23] did also suggest that ditch [21] may have cut the pit (Fig. 9 Sections 8 and 9), but, again, there was just a subtle difference in the fill and the relationship could not be determined with any certainty. If [21] did cut [23] then a fragment of medieval pottery from the upper part of fill (24) could perhaps be attributed to the ditch rather than the pit.

Pit [29] was not fully excavated but was at least 0.3m deep with steep sides similar to those observed in pit [23] (Plate 8 foreground). A fragment of medieval pottery was recovered from the surface of the pit.

A third elongated feature, pit [27] (Fig. 9 Sections 12 and 13, Plate 11) appeared to continue the line of ditch [21] beyond its southern limit and was thought to be a tree throw. This pit was sealed beneath the subsoil and cut the natural. It produced no finds or datable material. Its fill (28) was a dark brown, soft, spongy silt with patches of compacted orange sand or silt.



Plate 11. Trench 4, pit [27], looking west

Two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from Trench 4 as unstratified finds.

6.0 THE FINDS

6.1 Pottery

by Sue Anderson

Six sherds of pottery weighing 57g were collected from five contexts. A summary catalogue by context is included as Appendix 3. All pottery was medieval coarseware of local type, the majority categorised as 'LMU' (the typical Norwich local medieval unglazed). This pottery fabric has a broad date range of 11th-14th century. One sherd from ditch fill (22) was recorded as MCW1, comparable with other assemblages in North Norfolk (Anderson forthcoming). One bowl rim was present in pit fill (24) and was similar to a Norwich example (Jennings 1981, no.259), a thickened everted developed form of 13th/14th-century date. The other sherds were undiagnostic body and base fragments. Most sherds had signs of sooting and were probably from cooking vessels.

This assemblage suggests medieval activity on the site, but is too small for further interpretation.

6.2 Ceramic building material

by Sue Anderson

Fourteen fragments (621g) of ceramic building material (CBM) were collected from five contexts. Table 1 shows the quantities by fabric and form, and a catalogue by context is included as Appendix 4.

Fabric description	Code	RT	PAN	LB	FB?	QFT?
Fine sandy, few other inclusions	fs	1	1			
Fine sandy with clay pellets	fscp	2				
Fine sandy with sparse coarse rounded quartz	fscq	1				
Fine sandy with grog	fsg		1			
Medium sandy	ms	3				
Medium sandy with grog	msg	2		1		
Medium sandy poorly mixed clays	msx					1
White fine sandy with chalk	wfc				1	
<i>Totals</i>		9	2	1	1	1

Table 1. Ceramic building material quantities by fabric and form

The majority of fragments were pieces of roofing tile – plain flat tiles (RT) and pantiles (PAN). All were fully oxidised and likely to be of post-medieval date. Two fragments of plain tiles had circular peg holes. One fragment of late brick (LB) was present but all surfaces were lost. A possible fragment of quarry floor tile (QFT) in a poorly mixed red and white fabric was found, but again the surfaces were lost and identification is uncertain. An abraded fragment in a pale buff fabric was likely to be an 18th/19th-century floor brick (FB).

With the exception of ditch fill (15) which contained an abraded sherd of LMU, none of the contexts contained post-medieval CBM in association with medieval pottery.

6.3 Clay Pipe

by Rebecca Sillwood

Three fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered from the site, and all came from the fills of ditches in association with post-medieval CBM. Two of the pieces are undiagnostic stem fragments (from (7) and (20)) and one is part of a bowl (from (5)), with notched decoration around the rim. This piece is possibly of 17th-century date.

6.4 Flint

by Rebecca Sillwood

A single flint flake was recovered from the fill of ditch [19]; this was found in association with post-medieval CBM and is likely to be residual in this context.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

Although the linear features recorded in Trenches 1, 3 and 4 cannot be related to each other they all share the same general orientation i.e. roughly north-south and east-west.

Ditch [4] in Trench 1 may represent the remains of the property boundary shown on the Tithe Map of this area to the south of the Dog Inn. The fill of ditch [4], deposit (5) contained a pipe bowl which has been dated tentatively to the 17th century, along with fragments of post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM), clearly indicating that the ditch is of post-medieval date.

The ditches in Trench 4 do not correspond with any features identified on maps of this area but may provide evidence of roadside properties along this stretch of the Holt Road in the medieval period.

It seems most likely that the east side of the site was divided into small roadside properties (or perhaps strip fields) during the late medieval to early post-medieval period but that these land divisions had disappeared probably prior to 1800 and certainly before the Tithe map was produced in 1841.

East-west aligned ditch [19] contained post-medieval material and it is likely that ditch [17] which also crossed the line of boundary ditch [21] was of a similar date. Ditches [21], [25] and [31] may be medieval features and certainly seem to be contemporary with one another. Whether pits [23] and [29] are also contemporary with these features or are earlier is unclear; they may be earlier pits of medieval date. There is also a slight possibility that despite their squarish shape these (along with pit [27]) are tree throws along the line of boundary [21]. One medieval potsherd was recovered from the fill of each pit, but the one from the fill of pit [31] was lying on the surface and the one from [23] was not particularly deep. Hence it is possible that if ditch [21] did cut through these features, the pottery was actually from its ditch fill (22). Alternatively if these features were tree throws and contemporary with or post-dated the ditch, the pottery could have been transferred by root activity from the ditch to the pits.

The large, deep ditches at the eastern end of Trench 3 do not appear further north in Trench 1, or elsewhere on the site and so must terminate at some point between here and the other trenches. Ditch [14] appears to share the same north-north-east to south-south-west orientation with the western boundary of the field to the south of this one however it is difficult to be certain given only a 2m length of ditch has been exposed. Both ditches contained post-medieval CBM within their fills and appear to be post-medieval field boundaries. As they are immediately adjacent to one another, they could perhaps represent a double ditched boundary.

The presence of a prehistoric flint flake in ditch fill (20), although not thought to indicate that this was a prehistoric feature does suggest that there may have been prehistoric activity in the near vicinity.

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

Acknowledgements

Thanks are expressed to Youngs Homes who commissioned and funded the work. Fieldwork was carried out by Suzie Westall, Nigel Page, Michelle Bull and Lilly Hodges.

The finds were processed by Lucy Talbot and recorded by Rebecca Sillwood; pottery and CBM were reported on by Sue Anderson, clay pipe and flint by Rebecca Sillwood.

The report was edited by Jayne Bown and produced and illustrated by David Dobson.

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Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Trench
1	Deposit			Topsoil	all
2	Deposit			Subsoil	all
3	Deposit			Natural	all
4	Cut	Ditch		Narrow shallow ditch - possible boundary	1
5	Deposit		4	Fill of ditch [4]	1
6	Cut	Ditch		Large field boundary at E end of trench	3
7	Deposit		6	Dark, upper fill of [6]	3
8	Deposit		6	Yellow sand beneath (7)	3
9	Deposit		6	Grey silt beneath (8)	3
10	Cut	Ditch		Possible hedgerow	3
11	Deposit		10	Fill of [10]	3
12	Cut	Ditch		Possible hedgerow	3
13	Deposit		12	Fill of [11]	3
14	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	3
15	Deposit		14	Fill of [14]	3
16	Deposit			Patch of mortar	3
17	Cut	Ditch		E-W ditch at north end of trench	4
18	Deposit		17	Fill of [17]	4
19	Cut	Ditch		E-W ditch	4
20	Deposit		19	Fill of [19]	4
21	Cut	Ditch		N-S ditch	4
22	Deposit		21	Fill of [21]	4
23	Cut	Pit		Probable tree throw	4
24	Deposit		23	Fill of [23]	4
25	Cut	Pit		E-W ditch	4
26	Deposit		25	Fill of [25]	4
27	Cut	Pit		Pit/tree throw at south end of trench	4
28	Deposit		27	Fill of [27]	4
29	Cut	Pit		Probable tree throw to north of [23]	4
30	Deposit		29	Fill of [29]	4
31	Cut	Ditch		Narrow ditch running into [29]	4
32	Deposit		31	Fill of [31]	4
33	U/S Finds			Unstratified finds	

Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary

Period	Feature	Quantity
Medieval	Ditch	1
	Pit	2
Post-medieval	Ditch	4
Unknown	Ditch	4
	Pit	2

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
5	Ceramic Building Material	1	8g	Post-medieval	
5	Clay Pipe	1	4g	Post-medieval	Bowl fragment
7	Ceramic Building Material	2	46g	Post-medieval	
7	Clay Pipe	1	3g	Post-medieval	Stem
7	Shell	1	23g	Unknown	Oyster - DISCARDED
8	Ceramic Building Material	1	26g	Post-medieval	
9	Stone	2	13g	Unknown	NATURAL CONCRETION - DISCARDED
15	Ceramic Building Material	7	466g	Post-medieval	
15	Pottery	1	3g	Medieval	11th - 14th century
20	Ceramic Building Material	3	75g	Post-medieval	
20	Clay Pipe	1	1g	Post-medieval	Stem
20	Flint – Struck	1	8g	Prehistoric	
22	Pottery	1	2g	Medieval	12th - 14th century
24	Pottery	1	38g	Medieval	13th - 14th century
30	Pottery	1	12g	Medieval	11th - 14th century
33	Pottery	2	3g	Medieval	11th - 14th century

Appendix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Prehistoric	Flint – Struck	1
Medieval	Pottery	6
Post-medieval	Ceramic Building Material	14
Post-medieval	Clay Pipe	3
Unknown	Shell	1
Unknown	Stone	2

Appendix 3: Pottery catalogue

Context	Fabric	Form	Rim	No	Wt/g	Spot date
15	LMU			1	3	11th-14th
22	MCW1			1	2	12th-14th
24	LMU	bowl	thickened everted	1	38	13th-14th
30	LMU			1	12	11th-14th
33	LMU			2	3	11th-14th

Appendix 4: Ceramic building material catalogue

Context	Fabric	Form	No.	Wt/g	abr	Peg	Comments	Date
5	ms	RT	1	9	+	R		p-med
7	ms	RT	2	47	+			p-med
8	fscp	RT	1	27	+			p-med
15	fscq	RT	1	114				p-med
15	msg	RT	2	82				p-med
15	fsg	PAN	1	121	+			p-med
15	fs	PAN	1	66				p-med
15	msx	QFT?	1	16			no surfaces	p-med
15	wfc	FB?	1	63	+			p-med
20	msg	LB	1	26	+		no surfaces	p-med
20	fs	RT	1	17		R		p-med
20	fscp	RT	1	33				p-med