Report 2902

nps archaeology

Archaeological Evaluation at land off Scottow Road, Coltishall, Norfolk

HER 127893

Prepared for

Oak Grove Renewables
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Location:	Land off Scottow Road, Scottow, Norfolk
District:	North Norfolk
Planning ref.:	Pre-application
Grid Ref.:	TG 2652 2434
HER No.:	127893
OASIS Ref.:	115705
Client:	Oak Grove Renewables
Dates of Fieldwork:	8-15 November 2011

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was conducted for Oak Grove Renewables ahead of proposed development of land at Scottow Road, Coltishall, Norfolk.

A total of ten evaluation trenches, each measuring 30m by 1.80m in plan were located within the footprint of the proposed bioenergy plant to examine potential archaeological features identified during a previous geophysical survey.

Archaeological features were recorded in eight of the trenches, with a possible feature in another of the trenches; only one trench was apparently devoid of archaeological remains. The features were mainly ditches and apart from these, the only other features recorded at the site were possible quarry pits or natural features. Few artefacts were recovered from the site with no indication that organic remains might survive in good condition. In many places the ploughsoil was relatively deep, with the earliest features appearing to be somewhat truncated.

The earliest human activity identified at the site might date to the prehistoric period, represented by a small quantity of worked flint of possible Neolithic or Bronze Age date recovered during the evaluation. The earliest features at the site are considered to be of a possible enclosure or rectilinear arrangement of ditches. An Iron Age or Roman date is suggested for this putative enclosure.

A series of broadly north-south and east-west aligned medieval or post-medieval ditches, probably serving as field boundaries, were also present on the site, and at least one of these ditches can be identified on a later map of the area as a boundary for a plot containing a small number of buildings served by a track still existing today.

Further reorganisation of the field boundaries identified by the geophysical survey and trial trenching seemed to have occurred with Parliamentary enclosure from perhaps the late 17th to early 19th century, resulting in the arrangement of fields and hedges apparent today.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The proposed development site north of Coltishall (Fig. 1)is positioned in an area of archaeological potential and therefore Norfolk Historic Environment Service (NHES) recommended that an archaeological evaluation was carried out, in accordance with the principles set out in Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method

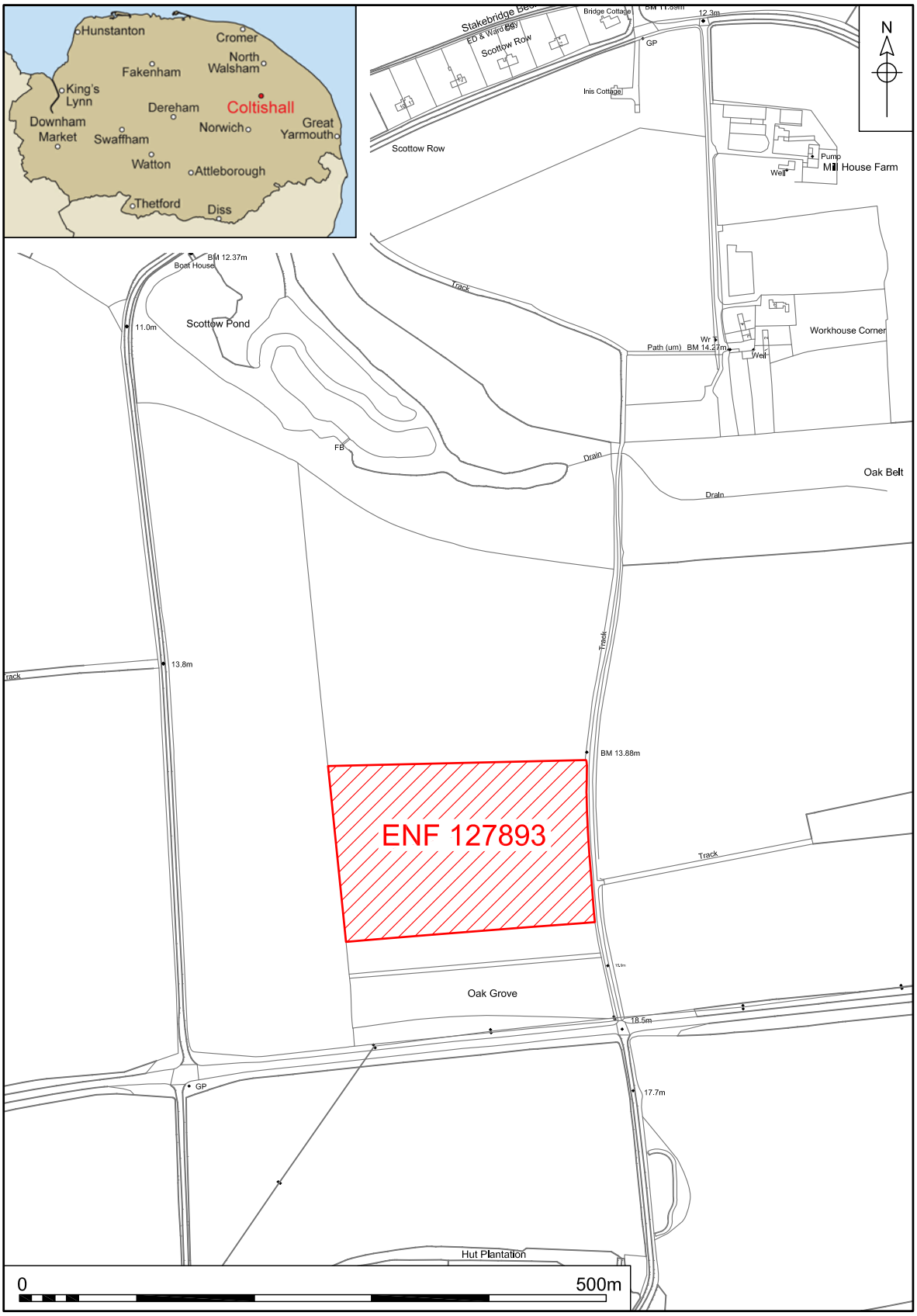

Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:5000

Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (Ref: NAU/BAU2902/DW). This work was funded by Oak Grove Renewables.

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 site lies approximately 15km to the north of Norwich with the nearest substantial settlement being Coltishall some 4km to the south. The small dispersed village of Scottow lies 2km west of the site. The site occupies a single rectangular plot of land approximately three hectares in extent, bounded by a track to the east and arable fields or woodland elsewhere.

The site lies on broadly level though gently undulating ground at about 15m OD, rising to *c*.20m OD to the south-east beyond the site. Though the nearest sizeable river, the River Bure, is 2km to the west, a minor tributary of this river lies 500m to the north of the site.

The underlying geology in this part of Norfolk is Upper Chalk overlain by Glacial sands and gravels (British Geological Survey 1985 and 1991).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The parish of Scottow covers an area of *c*.859 hectares in the north-east of Norfolk. Rural in character, it is located within the ancient land division of the South Erpingham Hundred, the eastern boundary of this hundred in part coinciding with the Scottow parish boundary.

Though no archaeological work has been undertaken within the vicinity of the development site the proposed site is situated in an area where several cropmarks have been identified.

Site NHER 36731 is a possible Bronze Age ring ditch and Roman field system identified from aerial photography. The cropmarks are of a double ring ditch with a smaller single ring ditch to its north-east. Also noted were linear features, possibly part of a Roman field system. The relatively large, double ring ditch has an unusual square 'pit' like anomaly between the ditches (possibly natural). These are probably prehistoric features. The linear features appear to be part of a field system that is widespread in this area, not on alignment with modern boundaries, and possibly Roman in date

Finds of Iron Age pottery (NHER 45407) have come from the northern part of the evaluated field, with thirty four pieces of unabraded Iron Age pottery found during irrigation operations in 2004 at depth of 0.9 to 1.2m (3 to 4 feet).

The site lies approximately 525m to north of an east-west aligned Roman Road. (NHER 2796) which heads westwards to the major Roman industrial site at Brampton (NHERs 1006 and 1124) and the Roman small town at Billingford and the Roman site at Kempstone - this road formed part of the Fen Causeway.

A Parliamentary Enclosure map of the early 19th century identifies the development site to be under the ownership of Thomas Eastridge Durrant of Scottow Hall (NHER 7699) which dates from 1715. The same map also appears to identify three distinct dwellings on the east of the development site with an entrance off the small track which still survives. This plot seems to have been extended by 1885 as shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map and the 1905 Ordnance Survey map shows this it was perhaps occupied by only one building. The extents of the land owned by the hall are shown on Faden's map of 1792 (Barringer).

Geophysical (magnetometer) survey of the development site undertaken in September 2011 (Webb 2011) revealed a number of linear cropmarks, some aligned with the modern field boundaries and some following different alignments (Fig. 2). These may represent a continuation of the possible Roman field systems identified to the north-west of the site. An irregular north-south aligned trackway is also visible, appearing to respect the position of the now demolished building identified above. Significant geophysical anomalies identified to the south of the suggested location of this structure (possibly a farmhouse) may represent the spreading of the demolition rubble from this building onto the surrounding fields.

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.

A total of ten evaluation trenches each 30m by 1.80m in plan were spread across the footprint of the proposed development (an area of *c* 1.8ha) and these trenches were positioned to test potential archaeological remains highlighted by the geophysical survey.

Machine excavation was carried out with an 8 ton hydraulic 360˚ excavator using a toothless ditching bucket 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.

No environmental samples were taken.

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 survey was undertaken with a GPS900 RTK Rover.

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

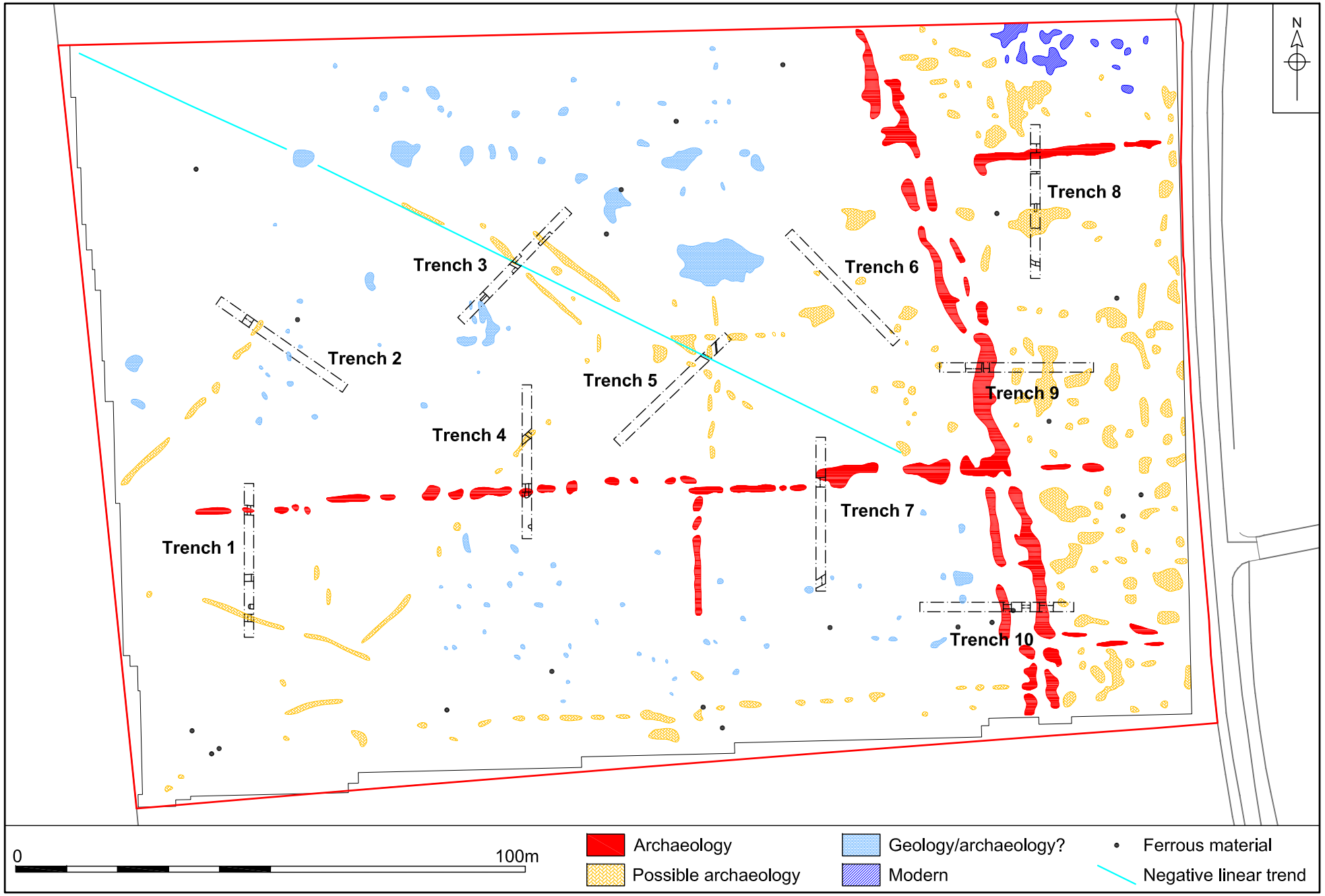

Figure 2. Trench location superimposed over geophysical plot. Scale 1:1000

5.0 RESULTS

Trench 1

Figs 2 and 3	
Location	
Orientation	North to South
North end	626434 324336
South end	62643. 324306
Dimensions	
Length	30.0m
Width	1.80.m
Depth	0.77m
Levels	
North top	16.42m OD
South top	17.01m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
1	Cut	This ditch in the south end of trench appeared in plan to have an east-west alignment, but it was not well defined in plan because its cut was indistinct. It measured 1.25m in width with a depth of 0.22m. Its profile had gradually sloping sides with perhaps a slightly steeper northern edge. Its base was a very shallow concave shape. This ditch is thought to be part of an early enclosure at the west end of the site	0.22m	0.65-0.87m
2	Deposit	This fill of ditch [1] was a pale to mid brown sand silt with occasional small stones. Its leached, weathered and homogenous appearance is thought to indicate some antiquity. A single small sherd of medieval pottery was recovered.	0.22m	0.65-0.87m
3	Cut	A short length of this possible ditch terminus was present in the evaluation trench. Aligned approximately east-west, it was 1m long, 0.90m wide and 0.15m deep. Moderately well defined in plan and	0.15m	0.65-0.80m

Trench 1				
		section, this feature was not identified by the geophysical survey, perhaps due to its shallow nature.		
4	Deposit	Mid brown silt sand fill of ditch [3] that contained occasional lenses of orange sand (redeposited geological material) and small pebbles. Slightly stonier and sandier towards base.	0.15m	0.65-0.80m
5	Cut	Recorded as a possible ditch but not convincing as it contained a geological-looking fill. This feature had even sides and a shallow concave profile It was a maximum of 0.25m deep and 1.40m wide. It was not present on the geophysical plot.	0.25m	0.65-0.90m
6	Deposit	Mid brown sand silt fill of feature [5] which contained lenses of orange and yellow sands with occasional small stones - a rather mixed fill.	0.25m	0.65-0.90m
7	Cut	Ditch [7] cut in the northern end of the trench was well defined in plan and section. Gradually sided with a possible steeper edge along its southern side, its profile suggested to the excavator that it had been recut. It was 1.65m wide and 0.30m deep. This feature appeared on the geophysical survey.	0.30m	0.65-0.95m
8	Deposit	A mid brown sand silt fill of ditch [7] with occasional sand lenses and occasional small stones. Slightly mixed in appearance, it was noticeably darker in colour compared with the fill of ditch [1] (which was thought to be a prehistoric ditch, also present in this trench). There was quite a bit of root and animal disturbance; a small quantity of medieval and post-medieval pottery and a single struck flint of prehistoric dare were recovered from this fill.	0.30m	0.65-0.95m
21	Deposit	Topsoil.	0.40m	0.00-0.40m
22	Deposit	Subsoil. Mid brown sand silt.	0.15m	0.40-0.15m

Trench 1				
23	Deposit	Geological. Pale brown silt sand with sandy patches present at northern end, contains moderate small stones.	-	0.55m

Discussion

Trench 1 was slightly deeper at its southern end. Located at the west end of the site this trench contained ditch [1] thought to be part of an early enclosure and ditch [7] of probable post-medieval date. This same ditch was also revealed in Trenches 4 and 7 of the evaluation, forming a broadly east-west alignment for a field boundary perhaps co-axial with a similar group of ditches recorded on a north-south alignment in Trenches 9 and 10.

Possible ditch terminus [3] and what is thought to be a natural feature ([5]) were also present within this trench.

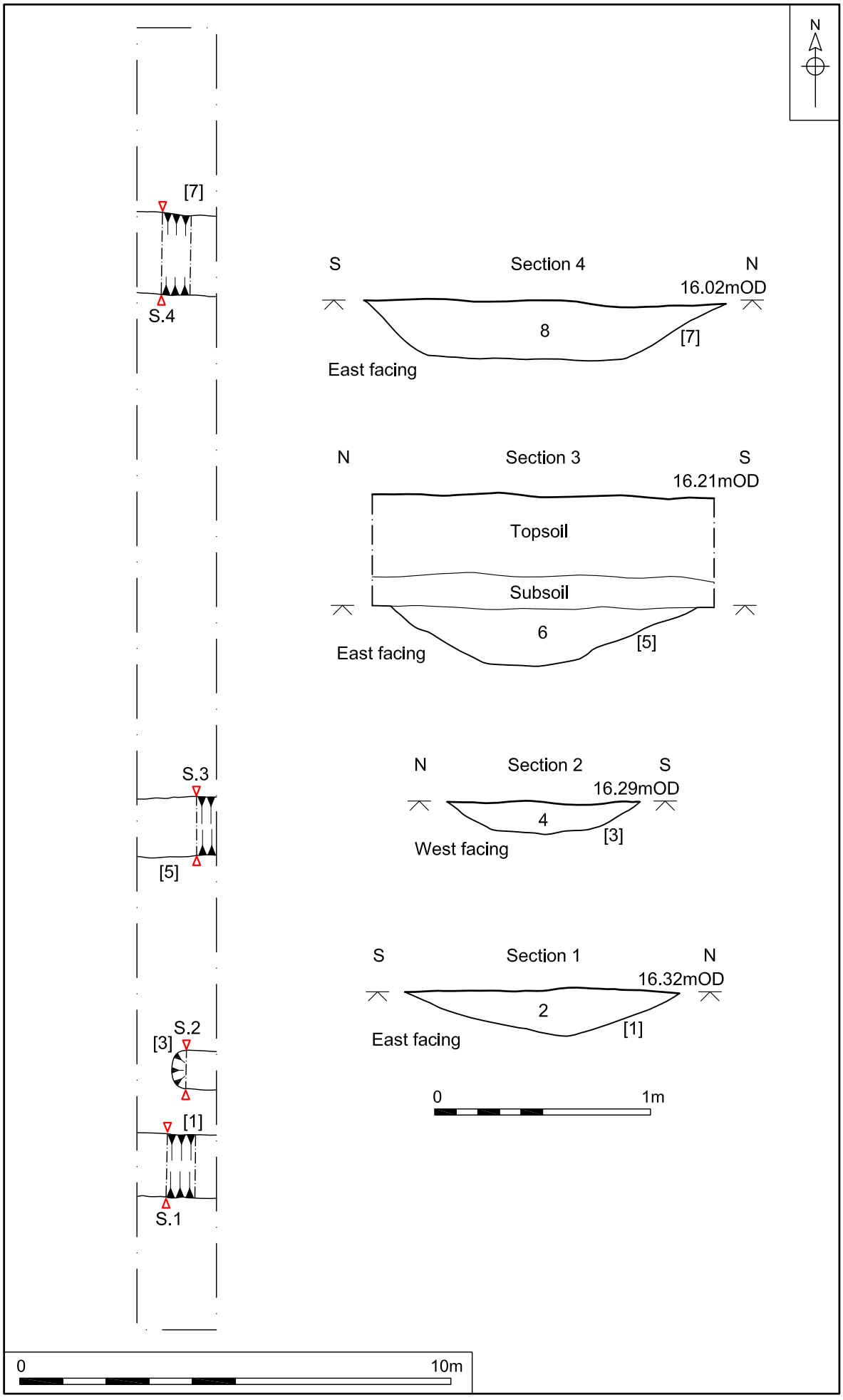

Figure 3. Trench 1, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 2

Figs 2 and 4	
Location	
Orientation	North-west to South-east
North-west end	626428 324370
South-east end	626453 324353
Dimensions	
Length	30.0m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.53m
Levels	
North-west top	15.84m OD
South-east top	16.10m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
9	Cut	Ditch [9] in the north end of the trench was reasonably clear in plan but not as well defined in section. It appeared to have a sharp V-shaped profile and was 1.65m wide and 0.45m deep. However, due to the similarity of the fill to the surrounding geological deposits it may have been over-dug.	0.45m	0.60-1.05m
10	Deposit	The fill of ditch [9] was a pale brown sand silt with occasional charcoal flecks and pebbles. Slightly mottled in appearance, overall it appeared to be leached or weathered. A single struck flint was recovered from its fill.	0.45m	0.60-1.05m
21	Deposit	Topsoil	0.45m	0.00-0.45m
22	Deposit	Subsoil	0.15m	0.45-0.60m
23	Deposit	Geological. Pale brown silt sand with occasional small and medium stones	-	0.60m

Discussion

Trench 2

The single feature [9] recorded in this evaluation trench was identified by the geophysical survey and formed part of the western side of a possible enclosure (Fig. 2).

The base of Trench 2 was broadly level across its whole extent.

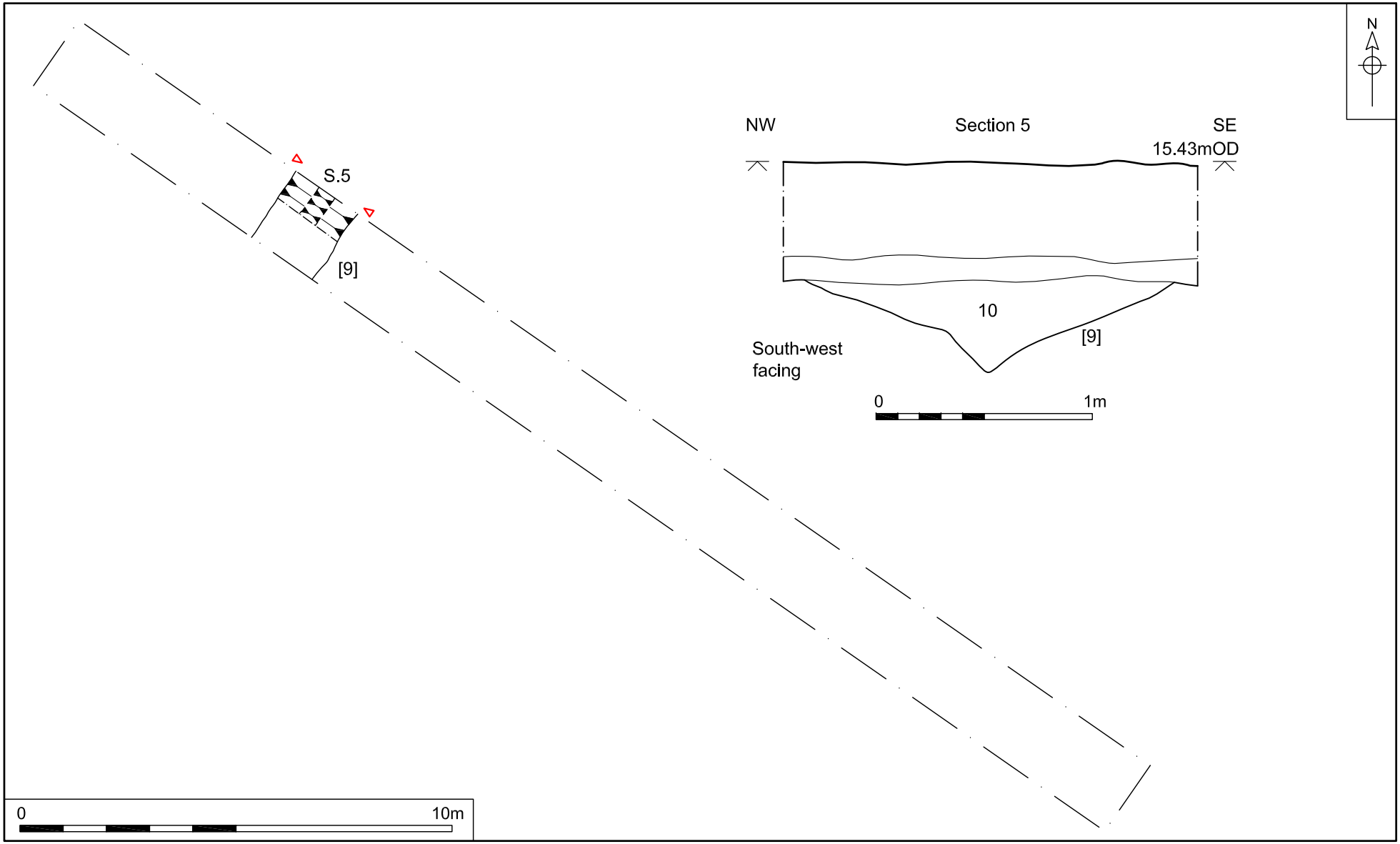

Figure 4. Trench 2, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 3

Figs 2 and 5	
Location	
Orientation	North-east to South-west
North east end	626497 324388
South west end	626476 324367
Dimensions	
Length	30.0m
Width	1.80.m
Depth	1.04m
Levels	
North-east top	15.34m OD
South-west top	15.80m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
17	Deposit	The fill of possible natural feature [18] was a mid brown silt with some fine sand. It was homogeneous in appearance and contained occasional small stones and charcoal flecks.	>0.85m	0.60-1.45m
18	Cut	Possibly circular in plan (but not with any certainty as it extended beyond the limits of the evaluation trench) feature [18] was 7m long and at least 0.85m deep (established by hand auger). Two auger holes in the centre of the feature recorded a slight change in the fill to a pale brown sand and sand silt at a depth of *c.*1.45m from the current ground level. This was the maximum depth achievable by the auger, and it did not appear at this depth that the base of the feature had been encountered. The size and nature of the fill might suggest two possible interpretations for this feature – either that it is a quarry of some type or that it is a natural hollow (for example a solution feature).	>0.85m	0.60-1.45m
21	Deposit	Topsoil	0.45m	0.00-0.45m

Trench 3				
22	Deposit	Subsoil	0.60m	0.45-0.60m
23	Deposit	Geological. Pale brown silt sand with areas of cleaner sand and gravels, particularly to north east of trench	-	0.60m

Discussion

Trench 3 was much deeper at south-western end because of large, possibly natural feature, overlain by up to 1m of sediments. This large feature was identified by the geophysical survey. Two ditches of the enclosure feature were identified by the same survey as running through the centre and northern end of this evaluation trench, but no indication of their presence was identified during the investigation of the trench. It would appear from the geophysical survey that the example that would be located in the centre of the trench was perhaps discontinuous, a break in it coinciding with the trench location, and that the example to the north appeared to terminate close to this location, perhaps becoming increasingly shallow at this point which might explain its perceived absence within the trench.

A modern irrigation drain was also present within this trench.

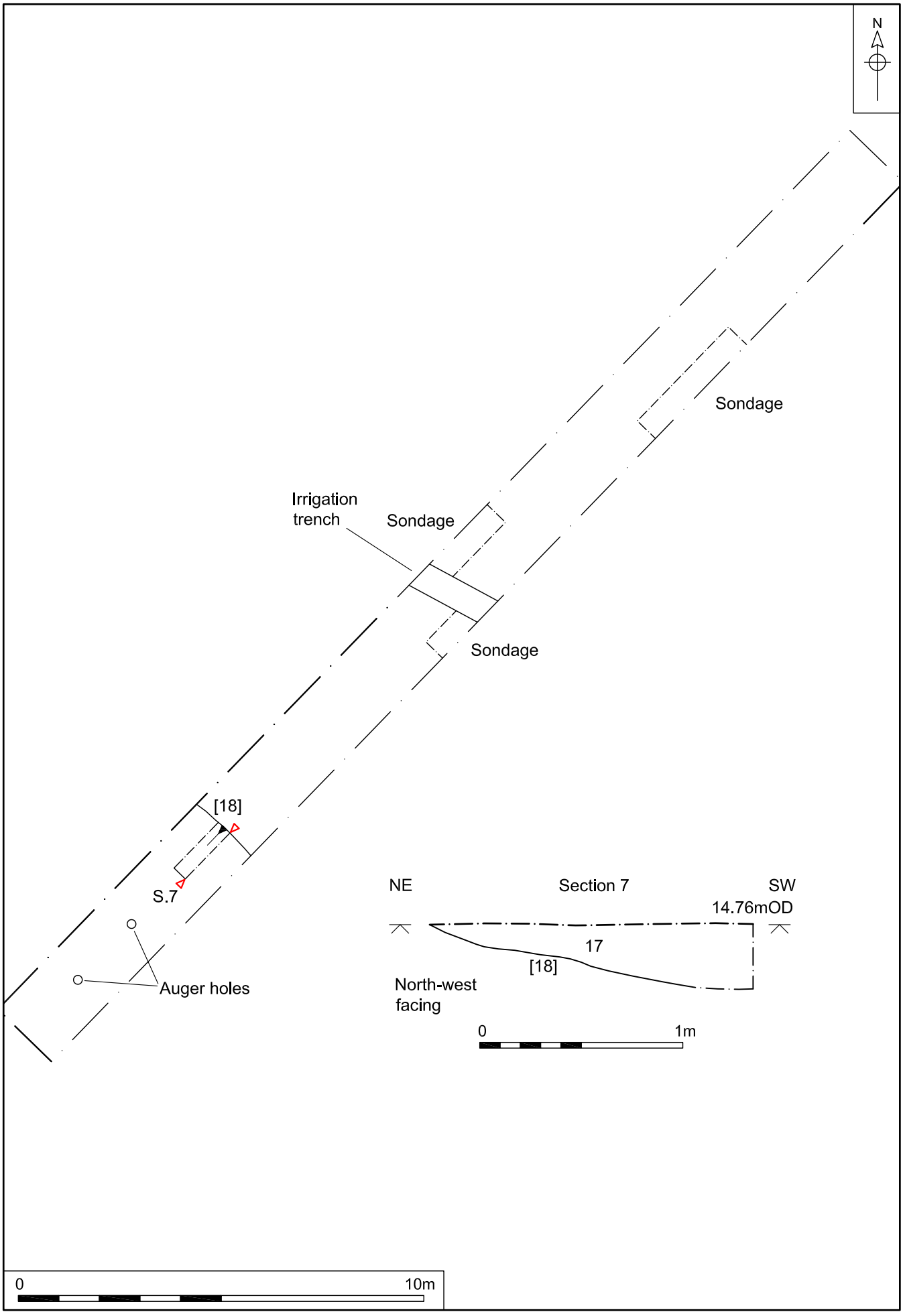

Figure 5. Trench 3, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 4

Figs 2 and 6	
Location	
Orientation	North to South
North end	626489 324354
South end	626489 324324
Dimensions	
Length	30.0m
Width	1.80.m
Depth	0.60m
Levels	
North top	15.91m OD
South top	16.20m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
19	Deposit	Mid to pale brown fill of feature [20]. Frequent amounts of small gravel were present at the base of this context.	0.20m	0.60-0.80m
20	Cut	Feature [20] was small and sub circular with a shallow concave profile. It measured 0.80m in diameter with a depth of 0.20m. This is thought to be a natural feature, perhaps a tree throw.	0.20m	0.60-0.80m
21	Deposit	Topsoil	0.40m	0.00-0.40m
22	Deposit	Subsoil	0.20m	0.40-0.60m
23	Deposit	Geological. Mixed fine orange yellow sands and silts with occasional stones.	-	0.60m
24	Deposit	Mid brown silt sand fill of ditch [25]. This contained occasional small stones and charcoal flecks. Several small circular sand lenses in the deposit are thought to be animal burrows. Compact and apart from the lenses, homogeneous.	0.40m	0.60-1.00m
25	Cut	A well-defined ditch aligned approximately east-west with moderately steeply sloping sides and a slightly uneven base	0.40m	0.60-1.00m

Trench 4				
		(Plate 2). The profile suggested this feature might consist of two features. The southern edge of the ditch appeared to have a slightly steeper profile, and was disturbed by what appeared to be a tree throw. This ditch measured 1.70m wide and 0.40m in depth.		
26	Deposit	A very pale brown silt sand fill of ditch [27]. It contained occasional small stones and sand lenses. Notably pale in colour, the lenses of sand are thought to identify animal burrows. The fill was similar to the surrounding geology through which the ditch was cut.	0.40m	0.60-1.00m
27	Cut	Because of the similarity of its fill with the surrounding geological deposits this ditch appeared not to be well-defined in plan but was reasonably clear in profile. It was aligned approximately north-east to south-west and was seemingly equal-sided with a shallow concave base it measured 1.45m wide and 0.40m deep.	0.40m	0.60-1.00m

Discussion

Both ditches in this trench had been mapped by the geophysical survey, with ditch [25] being part of an east to west aligned post-medieval boundary and ditch [27] part of a probable prehistoric enclosure.

The base of Trench 4 was broadly level.

Plate 2. Trench 4, ditch [25], looking west, 1m scale

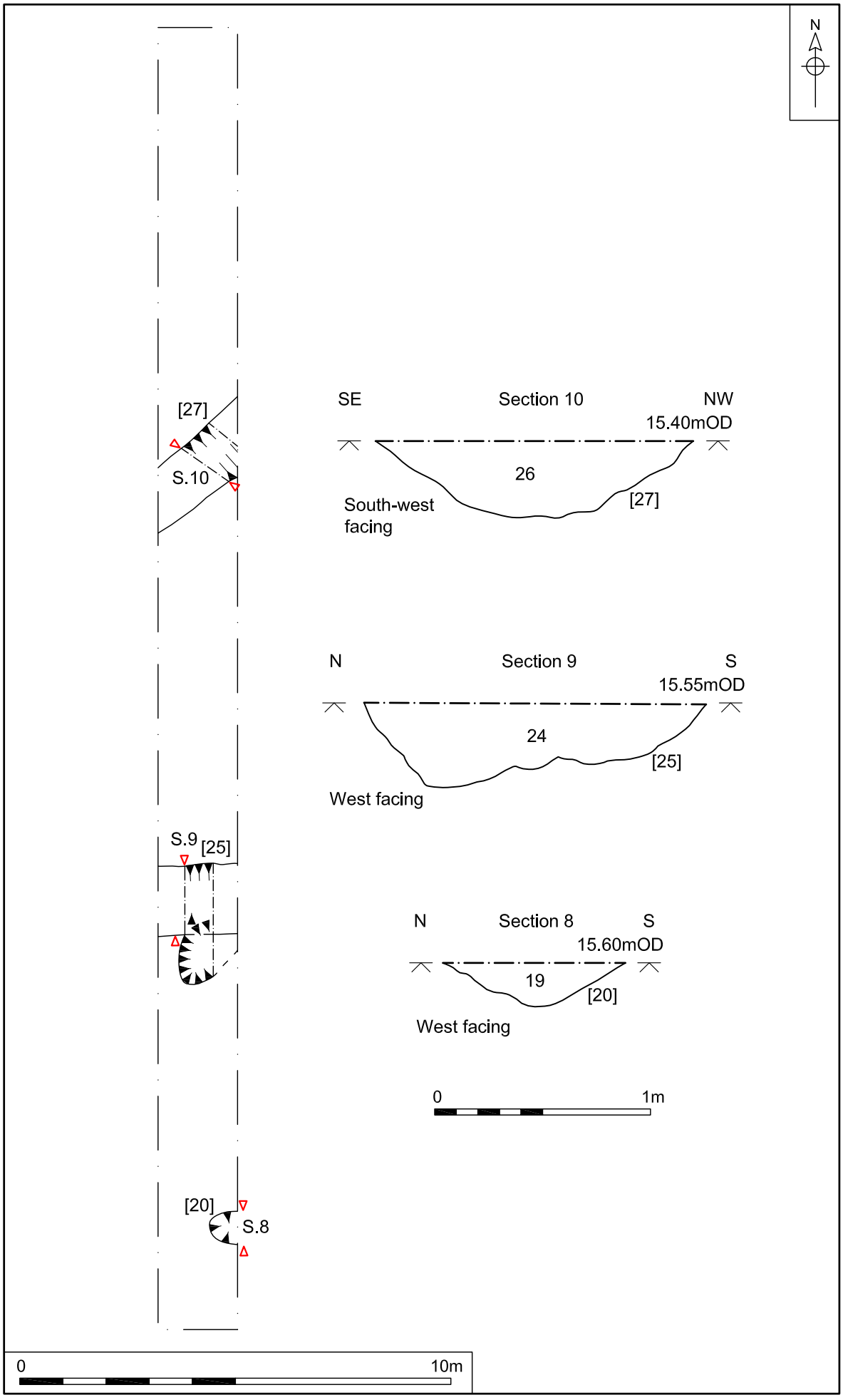

Figure 6. Trench 4, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 5

Figs 2 and 7	
Location	
Orientation	North-east to South-west
North-east end	626533 324368
South-west end	626511 324348
Dimensions	
Length	30.0m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.90m
Levels	
North-east top	14.86m OD
South-west top	15.60mOD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
21	Deposit	Topsoil	0.40m	0.00-0.40m
22	Deposit	Subsoil	0.50m	0.40-0.90m
23	Deposit	Geological. Pale brown sand and silt.		
28	Deposit	Mid to dark brown silt sand with occasional charcoal flecks. Primary fill of ditch [29]	0.10m	0.90-1.0m
29	Cut	A seemingly small ditch well defined in plan and either mostly truncated away or infilled with a deposit indistinguishable in section from the material through which this feature was cut. It measured 0.40m in width with a depth of 0.10m	0.10m	0.90-1.0m

Discussion

Single feature ditch [29] in Trench 5 is not thought to be of any great antiquity.

The trench was deeper in the vicinity of ditch [29].

It is possibly the very intermittent line of anomalies identified by the geophysical survey might relate to this particular feature.

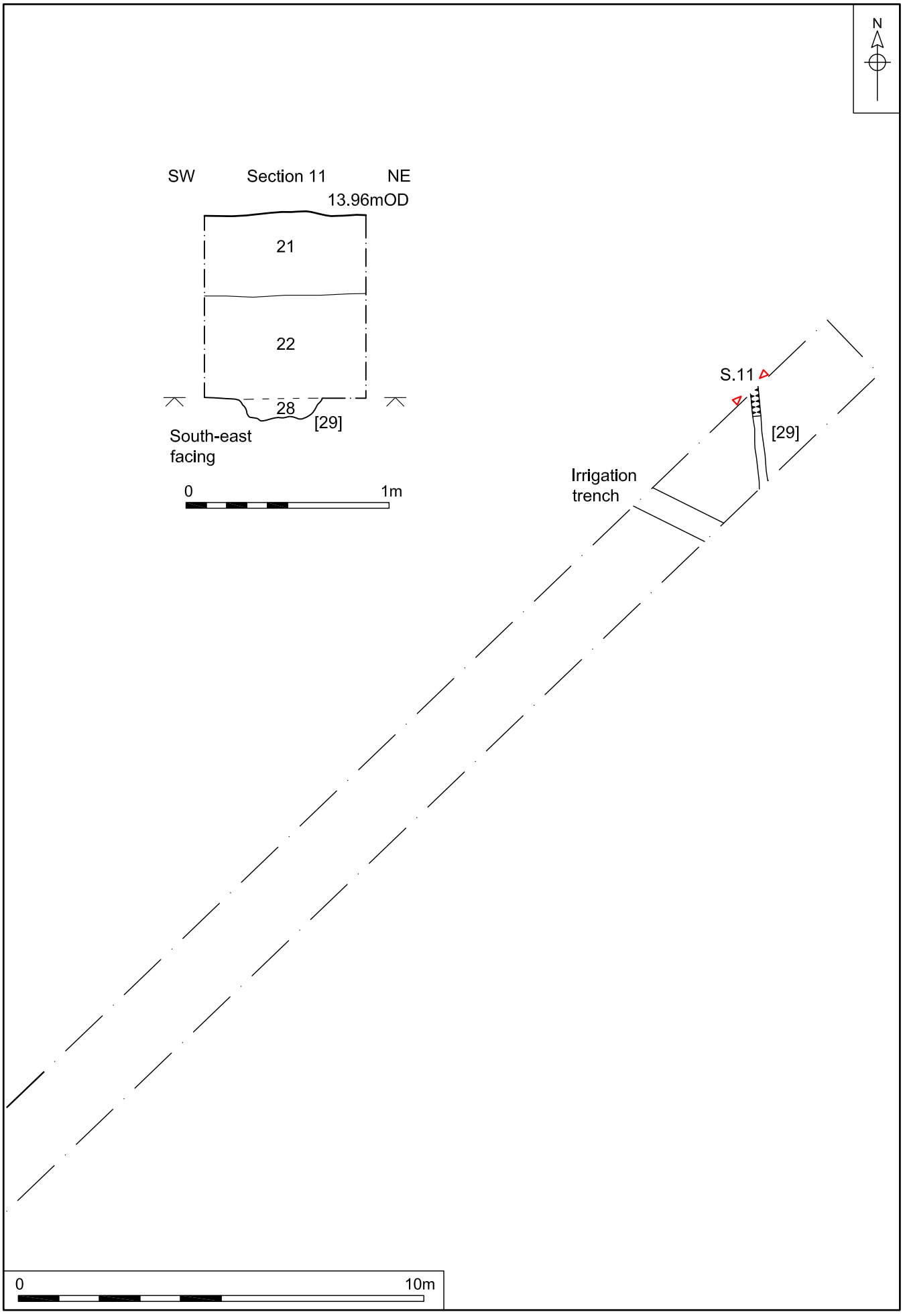

Figure 7. Trench 5, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 6

Fig. 2

Location	
Orientation	North-west to South-east
North-west end	626540 324384
South-east end	626561 324362
Dimensions	
Length	30.0m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.70m
Levels	
North-west top	14.62m OD
South-east top	14.73m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
21	Deposit	Topsoil	0.40m	0.00-0.40m
22	Deposit	Subsoil	0.30m	0.40-0.70m
23	Deposit	Geological. Pale brown sand silt with patches of sand and some indication of root disturbance	-	0.70m

Discussion

No archaeological features were identified within this trench.

Trench 7

Figs 2 and 8	
Location	
Orientation	North to South
North end	626546 324344
South end	626546 324314
Dimensions	
Length	30.0m
Width	1.80.m
Depth	To 0.65m
Levels	
North top	14.97m OD
South top	15.38m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
21	Deposit	Topsoil	0.40	0.00-0.40m
22	Deposit	Subsoil	0.20	0.40-0.60m
23	Deposit	Geological. Pale brown mottled silt with sand patches and occasional stones		
30	Deposit	Pale brown silt sand fill of ditch [31] with sand lenses and occasional small stones which seemed to have a slight concentration along the north side of the feature.	0.35m	0.60-0.95m
31	Cut	East-west aligned ditch [31] was well defined in plan and profile. It had evenly sloping sides (though possibly slightly more gradual along the southern edge). The base was uneven with tree rooting on the southern side. The ditch was 1.80mwide and 0.35m deep. Its profile seemed to indicate it was possibly a double ditch.	0.35m	0.60-0.95m

Discussion

Ditch [31] formed part of an east-west post-medieval ditch alignment identified in the geophysical survey.

Trench 7 was slightly deeper at its southern end.

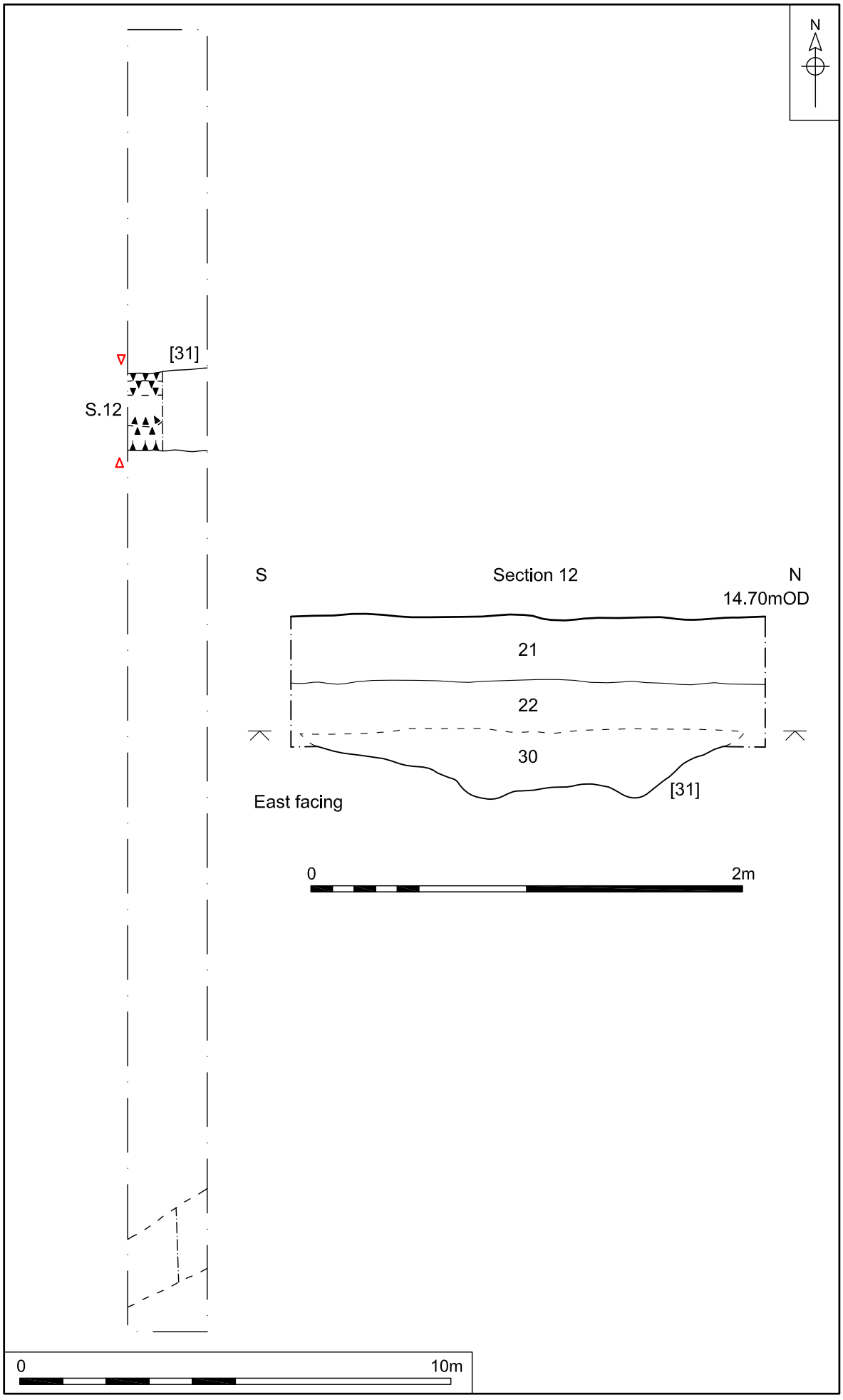

Figure 8. Trench 7, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 8

Figs 2 and 9	
Location	
Orientation	North to South
North end	626588 324405
South end	626588 324375
Dimensions	
Length	30.0m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.60m
Levels	
North top	13.91m OD
South top	14.35m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
21	Deposit	Topsoil	0.35m	0.00-0.35m
22	Deposit	Subsoil	0.20m	0.35-0.55m
23	Deposit	Geological. Variable sediments with pale yellow brown sand and silt patches and an area of dirty white silt at the north end of the trench.	-	0.55m
32	Deposit	The fill of ditch [33] was a pale brown sand silt with occasional small and medium sized stones and very occasional charcoal flecks. A very compact deposit that was difficult to excavate. Some very slight changes were seen in the deposit with slightly more stones in the upper part of the fill. A single piece of pamment floor tile of post-medieval date was recovered from this deposit.	0.60m	0.55-1.15m
33	Cut	Ditch [33] measured 1.75m wide and 0.60m deep. It was aligned broadly east-west with moderately steeply sloping sides and some indication on the northern edge of a stepped profile. The base was well-defined in plan and section and came to a blunted point.	0.60	0.55-1.15m

Trench 8				
34	Deposit	The fill of ditch [35] was a very pale yellow brown silt sand with occasional small stones.	0.20m	0.55-0.80m
35	Cut	Shallow ditch [35] was aligned approximately north-west to south-east and located at the southern end of the evaluation trench. Moderately well-defined in plan and section. It was 0.95m wide and 0.20m deep with gradually sloping sides and a shallow concave base. Its fill [34] was similar to the surrounding geological deposits and leached in appearance. This feature did not appear on the geophysical survey. It has been tentatively assigned a prehistoric date as it appears to follow a similar alignment to that of a prehistoric enclosure at the west of the site.	0.20m	0.55-0.80m
36	Deposit	Mid brown sand silt fill of [37]. This deposit was homogenous with occasional charcoal flecks and small stones. A single fragment of burnt flint and a small quantity of medieval pottery were recovered from this deposit.	1.70m+	0.55-2.20m+
37	Cut	Feature [37] was large and possibly circular in plan (Plate 3). The feature measured *c*.4.75m in diameter and was examined by hand auger which indicated it was a minimum of 1.70m deep. This large feature is thought to be a natural feature of some sort, possible a solution feature with the artefacts it contains being residual finds recovered from the upper part of the feature's fill - perhaps resulting from plough or animal/root disturbance. Alternatively it could be a quarry of some sort.	1.70m+	0.55-2.20m+
38	Deposit	Fill of feature [39]. Pale brown silt containing very few small stones as inclusions. It had a mottled appearance with worm and root disturbance and was very similar to the surrounding	0.15m	0.55-0.65m

Trench 8				
		geological deposits.		
39	Cut	Feature [39] was 0.70m deep and 0.15m wide and was shallow, though well-defined, with gradually sloping sides and a flat base. This feature has been interpreted as a ditch but appears to run along a distinctive boundary between different geological sediments and might in fact be some sort of geological feature.	0.15m	0.55-0.65m

Discussion

Ditch [33] (part of a probable post medieval field boundary) and feature [37] were both identified by the geophysical survey, with features [35] and [39] not being identified by the survey.

Trench 8 was deeper at its southern end where large feature [37] was present.

In the vicinity of this trench it was noted that there were several fragments of brick, tile and coal all of probable late post-medieval date in the ploughsoil.

Plate 3. Trench 8, feature [37], looking north-west, 2m and 1m scales

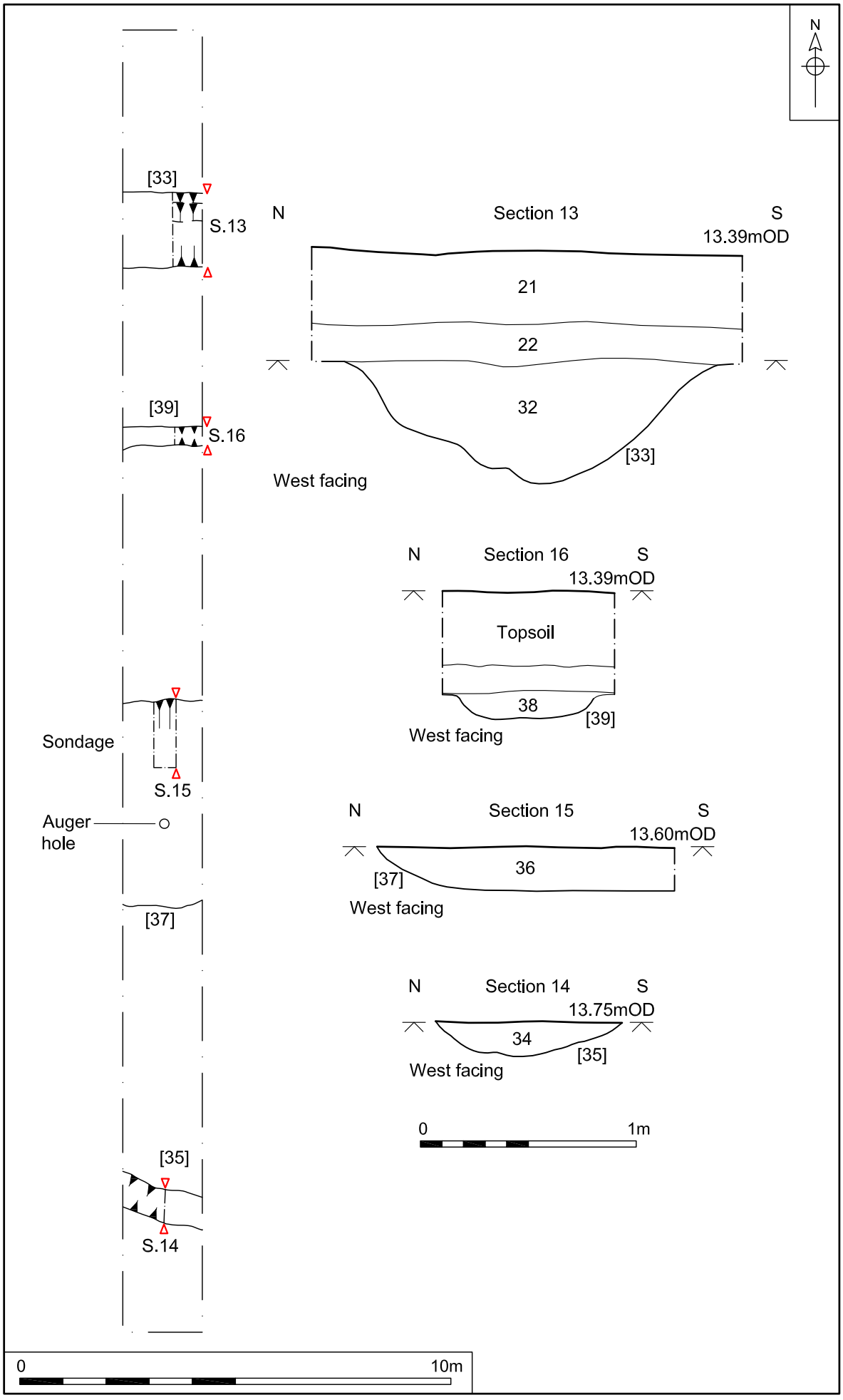

Figure 9. Trench 8, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 9

Figs 2 and 10	
Location	
Orientation	East to West
West end	626570 324357
East end	626600 324358
Dimensions	
Length	30.0m
Width	1.80.m
Depth	0.75m
Levels	
West top	14.76m OD
East top	14.41m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
11	Cut	Ditch [11] was aligned broadly north to south and was located on the west side of Trench 9. Well-defined in plan and section, it measured 1.26m wide and was 0.60m deep. It had steep, equally sloping sides and a pointed base. This ditch was identified by the geophysical survey.	0.60m	0.55-1.15m
12	Deposit	Fill of ditch [11] consisting of mid brown firm sand silt with occasional small pebbles. A single sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery and a small quantity of degraded bone was recovered from this deposit.	0.60m	0.55-1.15m
13	Cut	Ditch [13] was relatively deep and aligned north-south with steep sides and flat base. It measured 1.10m wide by 0.75m deep. Ditch [13] was cut along its western side by ditch [15] which was similar in form and alignment.	0.75m	0.55-1.30m

Trench 9				
14	Deposit	The fill of ditch [13] was a compact pale brown to mid brown sand silt with occasional small stones.	0.75m	0.55-1.30m
15	Cut	Ditch [15] was aligned north-south and was 2.24m wide and 0.50m deep. It was steep-sided with a flat base and its western edge was relatively shallow before breaking more abruptly to its base. It might be a later re-cutting of ditch [13].	0.50m	0.55-1.05m
16	Deposit	The fill of ditch [15] was a compact pale to mid brown sand silt which contained occasional small to medium pebbles and.	0.50m	0.55-1.05m
21	Deposit	Topsoil	0.35m	0.00-0.35m
22	Deposit	Subsoil	0.20m	0.35-0.55m
23	Deposit	Geological. Pale brown silt clay with occasional patches of gravels.	-	0.55m
Discussion				
The three ditches recorded in Trench 9 had been identified by the geophysical survey, though interpreted as a single feature. The intercutting nature of two of these features might suggest the re-establishment of a field boundary or similar over a period of time.				

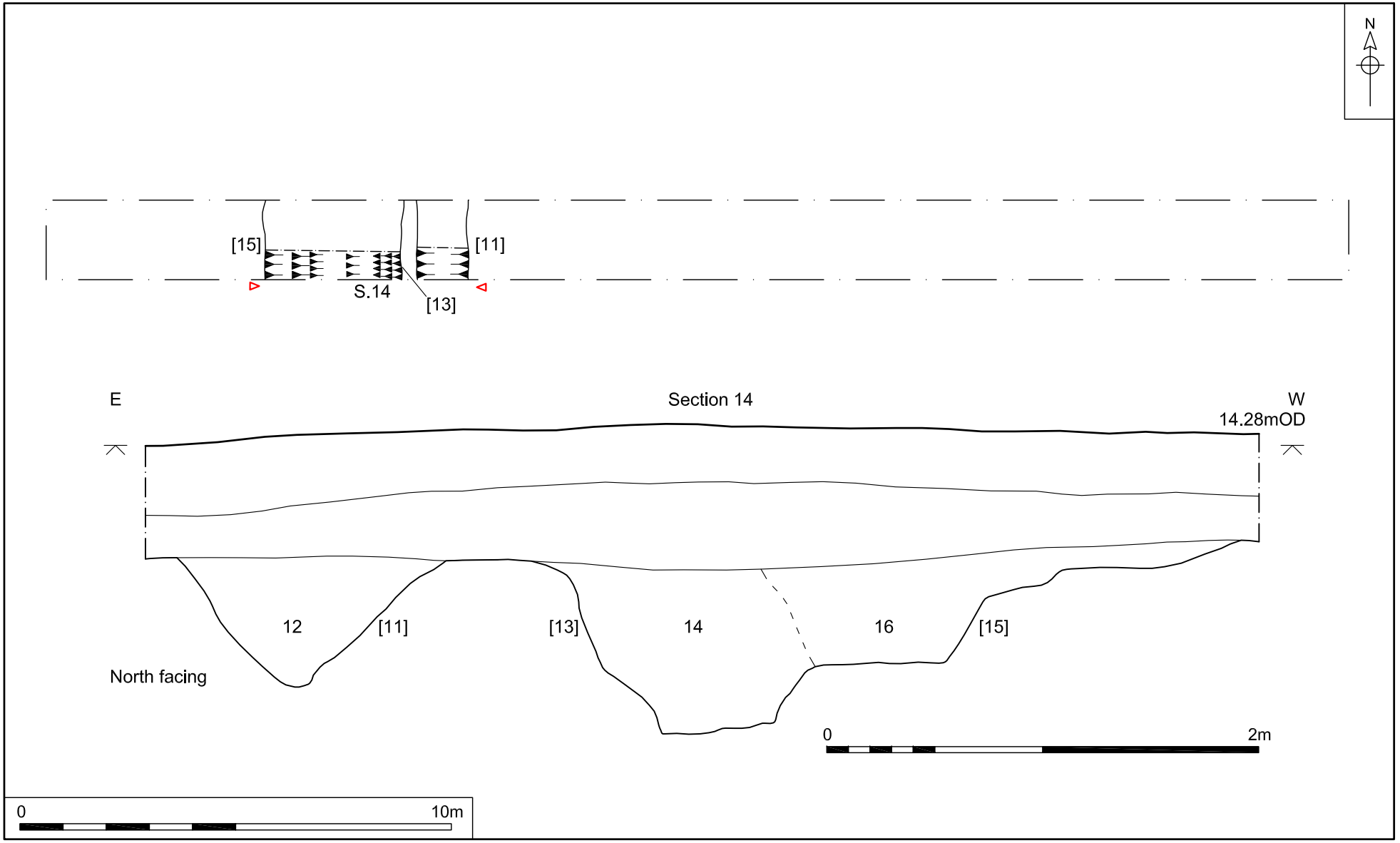

Figure 10. Trench 9, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 10

Figs 2 and 11	
Location	
Orientation	East to West
West end	626566. 324310
East end	626596. 324310
Dimensions	
Length	30.0m
Width	1.80.m
Depth	0.60m
Levels	
North west top	15.34m OD
South east top	15.33m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
21	Deposit	Topsoil	0.30m	0.00-0.30m
22	Deposit	Subsoil	0.20m	0.30-0.50m
23	Deposit	Geological. Pale brown silt sand with patches of yellow sand and gravels.	-	0.50m
40	Cut	Medium/large ditch [40] was located at the western end of Trench 10. It was aligned north-south and measured 1.50m wide by 0.50m deep. It was well-defined in plan and section; the sides were moderately steeply sloping and it had a concave base.	0.50m	0.50-1.00m
41	Deposit	Forming the upper fill of ditch [40], fill [41] was a mid brown sand silt with occasional medium stones.	0.38m	0.50-0.88m
42	Deposit	The primary fill of ditch [40] consisted of mid yellow sand with occasional small silt lenses. Fill [42] has been interpreted as a weathered-in deposit.	0.12m	0.88-1.0m

Trench 10				
43	Cut	Feature [43] was aligned north-south and was heavily disturbed by roots. It measured 1.60m in width and 0.15m in depth Feature [43] was very shallow with gradually sloping sides and has been interpreted as a possible ditch or remnants of a hedge line.	0.15m	0.50-0.65m
44	Deposit	The fill of feature [43] was a mid brown sand silt that contained occasional lenses of yellow clay sand.	0.15m	0.50-0.65m
45	Cut	Feature [45] was a north-south aligned, well-defined ditch located in the eastern half of Trench 10. It was 2.90m wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.46m (it could not be excavated further due to its depth and the proximity of the trench sides). The ditch appeared to have moderately steeply sloping sides which broke more steeply towards the base.	0.50m+	0.50-1.00m+
46	Deposit	Fill [46] of ditch [45] was a compact mid brown sand silt with occasional small pebbles. It was the secondary filling of ditch [45].	0.50m+	0.50-1.00m+
47	Deposit	Fill [47] (the primary fill of ditch [45]) consisted of a yellow sand with occasional silt lenses. It has been interpreted as having formed by weathering in of the geological deposits through which this feature was cut.	0.12m	0.50-1.00m+
Discussion				
Trench 10 contained three well-defined ditches ([40], [43] and [45]. These features been identified by the geophysical survey though as two rather than three distinct features. These ditches are part of a group of ditches aligned north-south of probable post-medieval date.				

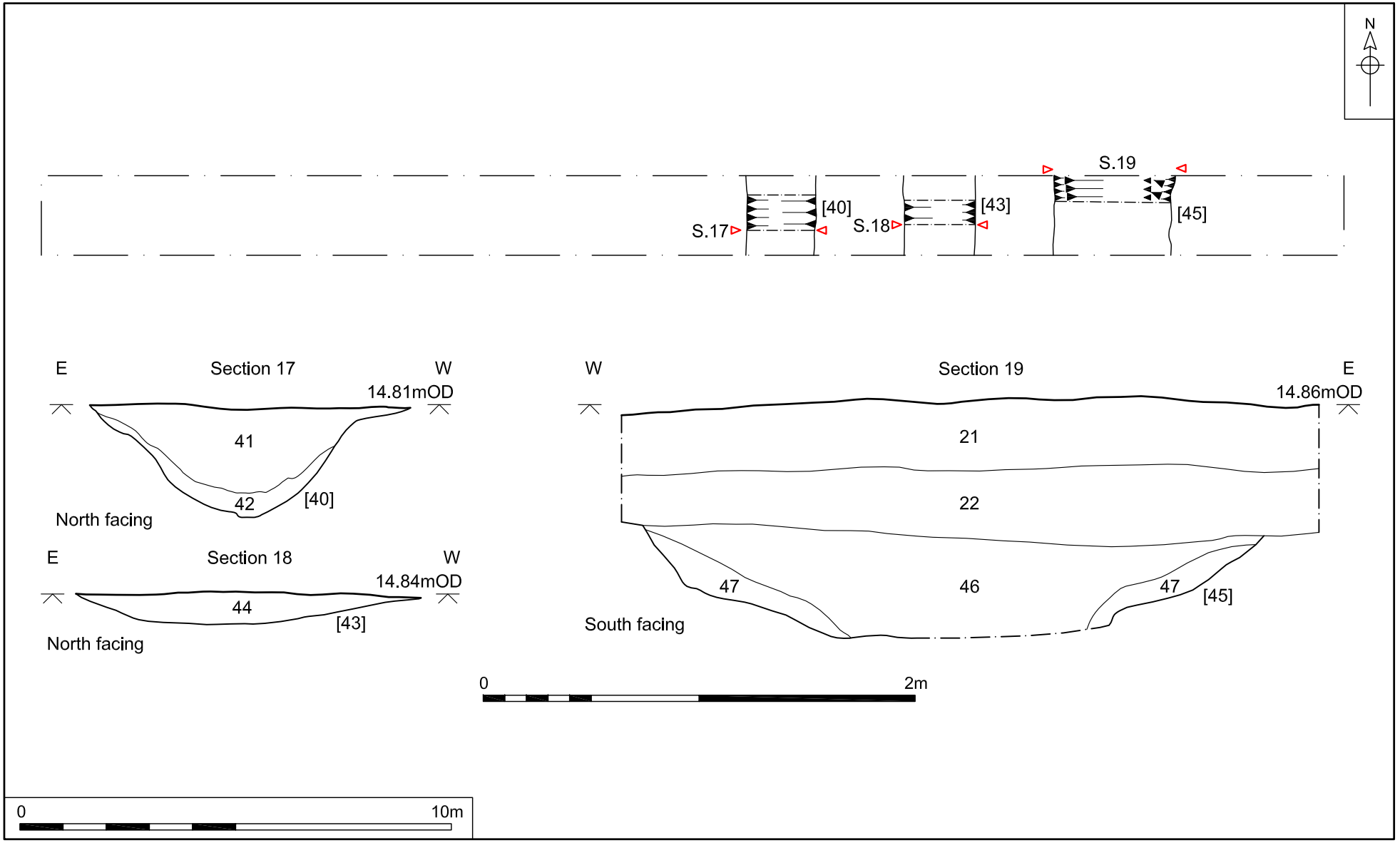

Figure 11. Trench 10, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

6.0 FINDS

All finds were processed and recorded by count and weight, and an Excel spreadsheet was produced outlining broad dating. Each material type has been considered separately and is included below organised by material and then by date within each category. Appendix 2a lists finds in context number order.

6.1 Pottery

by Sue Anderson

Ten sherds of pottery weighing 44g were collected from six contexts (Appendix 3). Table 1 shows the quantification by context.

Context	Fabric	No.	Wt/g	Description	Spotdate
2	LMU	1	1	body sherd, sooted	11th-14th c.
8	LMU	1	6	body sherd, abraded, sooted	11th-14th c.
8	GRE	1	2	orange glazed both sides	16th-18th c.
12	THET	2	7	body sherds, 1 vessel	10th-11th c.
12	EMW/LMU	1	4	base frag, sooted, abraded	11th-14th c.
36	LMU	1	2	body sherd	11th-14th c.
36	SCAR	1	13	handle or 'arm' from face jug, green glazed	M/L.12th-E.13th c
46	LMU	2	9	thickened everted rim and neck of jar	13th c.

Table 1. Pottery catalogue

Key: THET – Thetford-type ware; EMW – early medieval ware; LMU – local medieval unglazed; SCAR – Scarborough Ware; GRE – glazed red earthenware

This small group includes pottery ranging in date from the Late Saxon to the post-medieval periods, although the majority of fragments are body sherds and not closely datable within their periods. The pottery types are typical of local wares (Jennings 1981), with the exception of one sherd of Scarborough Ware. The latter is relatively common at sites along the east coast of England and is found frequently in Norwich. Only two forms were identifiable; a green glazed face jug (recognisable from the remains of incised lines from the 'hand') and a jar with a developed rim (cf. Jennings 1981, fig.15 no. 302).

Ditch fill [12] contained pottery which suggests that it may have been filled in the 11th century. Ditch fills [2] and [46] and hollow fill [36] are likely to be of medieval date, whilst ditch fill [8] contained a small sherd of post-medieval date and residual medieval pottery.

6.2 Ceramic Building Material

by Lucy Talbot

The fill of post medieval ditch [33] produced a single corner fragment of ridge tile, weighing 252g. In a medium sandy, orange fabric and with occasional coarse inclusions of quartz and ferrous pellets, the fragment dates from the 18th to 19th centuries.

6.3 Flint

by Andrew Peachey

A total of two flakes (20g) of struck flint were contained in ditches [7] (fill [8]) and [9] (fill [10]). Both flakes comprised hard-hammer struck, un-corticated debitage flakes with a broad, squat profile that had been removed from a multi-directional core. These characteristics suggest that the flakes are the products of late Neolithic to early Bronze Age flint reduction technology.

6.4 Faunal Remains

by Julia E. Cussans

A total of nine animal bone fragments were recorded from a single context, ditch [11] (fill [12]). Originally these had been documented as six fragments but due to the extremely friable nature of the bone, fragmentation had increased when the bones were received by the author. Bone preservation was extremely poor with much of the bone surface having been lost and many fresh breaks attesting to the brittle nature of the bone.

Only a single fragment could be positively identified, this was a horse (*Equus* sp.) left tibia shaft fragment; the bone surface on the posterior of the shaft had been sufficiently well preserved for identification. The remainder of the bone fragments were recorded as large terrestrial mammal (horse/cattle-sized), but there is a good chance that they all in fact came from the same horse tibia. The largest of these pieces did appear to fit with the identified tibia fragment, but the bone edges were so eroded that this could not be ascertained with 100% confidence.

Where the bone surface was preserved no butchery marks were observed, any cut marks in other areas would have been totally obliterated due to the bone surface loss. As the epiphyseal ends of the tibia were not present they could not be used to assess the animal's age, however the size and appearance of the bone was indicative of an adult animal. No pathologies were observed but again any signs of disease or injury may have been obscured by the poor bone surface preservation.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

The evaluation at land off Scottow Road, Coltishall recorded archaeological features in a total of eight of the ten trenches with a possible feature in a further one of these, with only Trench 6 being devoid of archaeological remains. The findings of the archaeological fieldwork appears to correlate closely with the results of the geophysical survey - a low number of possible features not shown on the geophysical plot were subsequently revealed and recorded by the evaluation.

Overall few artefacts were recovered from the site, and some degree of truncation, presumably as a result of ploughing or other agricultural activity, appeared to have affected some features. Anecdotally the land had been used mainly for livestock and perhaps only recently has been under the plough. The depth of soil referred to as plough soil in this report therefore might actually identify a woodland soil or one generated by livestock husbandry.

The earliest conclusive evidence of human activity at the site is provided by the recovery of a very small quantity of struck flint of probable late prehistoric date (6000BC to 1500BC). The activity identified by these artefacts might have been contemporary with possible barrows located to the south-east of the site identified from aerial photographs. Barrows are monuments often located on watersheds and perhaps helped define territorial boundaries.

The earliest archaeological features recorded at the site are considered to be a number of ditches located in the south-west of the development site which in plan form a possible rectilinear enclosure or arrangement of field boundaries as part of a co-axial field system. Unfortunately no artefactual evidence was recovered to help date the age of this feature, with the small quantity of pottery recovered from fills of this ditch considered to be residual. Thus any attempt to date this feature is based on its form. The possible enclosure identified at Scottow has measurements of *c.*55m width and *c.*80m length with a broad north-east to south-west alignment. A possible second ditch was identified by the geophysical survey aligned approximately north-west to south-east at the north-east of the putative enclosure

Rectilinear arrangements of features of Middle to Late Iron Age date (*c.*400-50BC) have been identified at Laurel Farm in the Yare Valley (Bishop and Proctor 2011, 70) and a similarly dated system of field boundaries were also recorded on the Norwich Southern Bypass site at the Valley Belt, Trowse (Ashwin and Bates 2000, 159). A pattern of Iron Age boundaries identified in the Waveney Valley were aligned broadly north-south and ran from the valley as far as the watershed, some 15km away. This co-axial pattern was cut obliquely by a Roman road. The pattern is not uniquely Iron Age; it might be considered to be generally prehistoric and seems to ignore topographic variations indicating the linear features might belong to a planned system rather than piecemeal or *ad hoc* development (Williamson 1994, 24-25). It is possible a similar pattern might exist in the vicinity of the Scottow site, with the Roman road to the south of the site following a different alignment to the potential enclosure revealed by the evaluation - with this putative enclosure on a markedly different alignment to later post medieval field boundaries. It is perhaps significant to note that this particular set of ditches would seem to be a somewhat unique occurrence of features on this alignment, with only one further ditch ([35]) in Trench 8 perhaps associated with this phase of activity based on its alignment.

Some limited artefactual evidence was provided for Late Saxon and medieval activity at the site, including the occurrence of imported Scarborough Ware but overall this evidence consisted of little more than a few small sherds of pottery.

The most clearly identifiable phase of activity at the site appears to date to the post-medieval period when a series of ditches/field boundaries are thought to have been set out. While it can be speculated that these developed from medieval or even earlier antecedents, this could not be demonstrated. The field boundaries

considered to form part of this post-medieval arrangement are listed below (Table 2)

Trench Number	Context Number
Trench 1	[7]
Trench 4	[25]
Trench 7	[31]
Trench 8	[33]
Trench 9	[11] [13] [15]
Trench 10	[40] [43] [45]

Table 2. Post-medieval ditch contexts

Some of these ditches, in particular the north-south alignment in the west of the site can be seen on the 1905 Ordnance Survey map, their earlier presence attested by the enclosure and tithe maps referred to in Section 3.0 *Archaeological and Historic Background* in this report. The fragment of tile recovered from ditch [33] and the presence of pieces of brick and other debris noted in the north-east portion of the site presumably originate from the demolition of buildings visible on the 1905 OS map, and it is likely the remains of these building survive to some degree sub surface, though probably damaged by ploughing.

Two large features [18] and [37] revealed in Trenches 3 and 8 respectively could not be confirmed as anthropogenic or natural in origin. Solution features are known anecdotally to be present in adjacent fields, while it is possible that the sands and gravels might have been quarried at the site, for example to maintain the track to the dwellings in the north-east of the site. Equally some of the silt sediments could have been extracted for example for the purpose of brick making. It is possible that some of the anomalies identified by the geophysical survey are of a similar nature. It is interesting to note that there appears to be a concentration of such anomalies to the east of the post-medieval ditch line formed by contexts [11] [13] [15] in Trench 9 and [40] [43] [45] in Trench 10, perhaps identifying some type of sub surface activity within what is thought to be a post-medieval field division; such activity perhaps associated with the small cluster of building referred to previously. A further possibility is that these anomalies identify tree throws, perhaps indicating a more densely wooded part of the site.

Recommendations for further mitigation work (if required based on the evidence presented in this report) will be made by Norfolk Historic Environment Service.

Acknowledgements

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The site was excavated by Mick Boyle and Rob Brown with the author. Site machining was by Peter George of Bryn Williams Ltd. Site survey was Sandrine Whitmore. The project was managed for NPS Archaeology by David Whitmore.

The site was monitored by James Albone of NHES and Sarah Howard of NHES provided the site event number and HER search. The finds were processed by Lucy Talbot and recorded by Rebecca Sillwood. The flint was reported on by Andrew Peachey, the pottery by Sue Anderson, faunal remains by Julia E. Cussans and ceramic building material by Lucy Talbot.

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

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Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
1	Cut			East -west ditch	Late Prehistoric	1
2	Deposit		1	Fill of [1]		1
3	Cut			Ditch terminus?	Unknown	1
4	Deposit		3	Fill of [3]		1
5	Cut			East -west ditch	Late Prehistoric	1
6	Deposit		5	Fill of [5]		1
7	Cut			East -west ditch	Post-medieval	1
8	Deposit		7	Fill of [7]		1
9	Cut			Ditch		2
10	Deposit		9	Fill of [9]		2
11	Cut			North-south ditch	Post-medieval	9
12	Deposit		11	Fill of 11		9
13	Cut			North-south ditch	Post-medieval	9
14	Deposit		13	Fill of [13]		9
15	Cut			Possible recut of [13]	Post-medieval	9
16	Deposit		15	Fill of [15]		9
17	Deposit		18	Fill of [18]		3
18	Cut			Geological hollow?	Unknown	3
19	Deposit		20	Fill of [20]		4
20	Cut			Possible natural feature	Unknown	4
21	Deposit			Topsoil		All
22	Deposit			Sub soil		All
23	Deposit			Geological		All
24	Deposit		25	Fill of [25]		4
25	Cut			Ditch, possibly double	Post-medieval	4
26	Deposit		27	Fill of 27		4
27	Cut			Ditch, part of enclosure	Late Prehistoric	4
28	Deposit		29	Fill [29]		5
29	Cut			Ditch-gully, north west -south east		5
30	Deposit		31	Fill [31]		7
31	Cut			Post medieval ditch?	Post-medieval	7
32	Deposit		33	Fill of [33]		8
33	Cut			Post medieval ditch	Post-medieval	8
34	Deposit		35	Fill of [35]		8
35	Cut			Early ditch?	Unknown	8
36	Deposit		37	Fill of [37]		8
37	Cut			Hollow, solution feature?	Unknown	8
38	Deposit		39	Fill of [39]		8
39	Cut			Ditch?	Unknown	8

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
40	Cut			North-south ditch	Post-medieval	10
41	Deposit		40	Fill of [40]		10
42	Deposit		40	Fill of [40]		10
43	Cut			Shallow ditch	Post-medieval	10
44	Deposit		43	Fill of [43]		10
45	Cut			North-south ditch	Post-medieval	10
46	Deposit		45	Fill of [45]		10
47	Deposit		45	Fill of [45]		10

Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary

Period	Feature	Total
Prehistoric	Ditch	3
Post-medieval	Ditch	10
Uncertain	Ditch	5
	Natural feature	3

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
2	Pottery	1	1g	Medieval	LMU; 11th-14th century
8	Pottery	1	6g	Medieval	LMU; 11th-14th century
8	Pottery	1	2g	Post-medieval	GRE; 16th-18th century
8	Flint – Struck	1	10g	Prehistoric	Late Neo/EBA
10	Flint – Struck	1	10g	Prehistoric	Late Neo/EBA
12	Animal Bone	9	69g	Unknown	
12	Pottery	2	7g	Late Saxon	THET; 10th-11th century
12	Pottery	1	4g	Medieval	EMW/LMU; 11th-14th century
32	Ceramic Building Material	1	253g	Post-medieval	Ridge tile; 18th-19th century
36	Flint – Burnt	1	10g	Prehistoric	DISCARDED
36	Pottery	2	15g	Medieval	LMU; SCAR; 11th-14th century
46	Pottery	2	9g	Medieval	LMU; 13th century

Appendix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Prehistoric	Flint – Burnt	1
	Flint – Struck	2
Late Saxon	Pottery	2
Medieval	Pottery	7
Post-medieval	Ceramic Building Material	1
	Pottery	1
Unknown	Animal Bone	9

Appendix 3: Pottery

Context	Spot Date	Total	Wt (g)	SS		EMS 1		EMS 2		GRIM		SCAR		PMRE	
2	11th-12th/13th	1	1			1	1								
8	17th-18th	2	8					1	6					1	2
12	mid 12th-14th	3	9	1	3					2	6				
36	13th-mid 14th	2	17			1	4					1	13		
46	11th-13th	2	9					2	9						
		10	**44**	**1**	**3**	**2**	**5**	**3**	**15**	**2**	**6**	**1**	**13**	**1**	**2**