

Report 2960



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**Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation, at
Lingwood Primary School, Station Road,
Lingwood, Norfolk**

ENF128543



Prepared for
NPS South East Ltd
Nautilus House
10 Central Avenue
St Andrews Business Park
Norwich
Norfolk
NR7 0HR

Lilly Hodges BSc, PlfA

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www.nps.co.uk

PROJECT CHECKLIST		
Project Manager	Nigel Page	
Draft Completed	Lilly Hodges	30/03/2012
Graphics Completed	David Dobson	02/04/2012
Edit Completed	Jayne Bown	05/04/2012
Signed Off	David Whitmore	05/04/2012
Revision	Jayne Bown	10/04/2012
Signed Off	Jayne Bown	10/04/2012
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NPS Archaeology

Scandic House
85 Mountergate
Norwich
NR1 1PY

T 01603 756150

F 01603 756190

E jayne.bown@nps.co.uk

www.nau.org.uk

BAU 2960

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Location:	Station Road, Lingwood, Norfolk
District:	Broadland
Grid Ref.:	TG 3643 0818
Planning Ref.:	Pre-application
HER No.:	ENF128543
OASIS Ref.:	122765r
Client:	NPS South East Ltd
Dates of Fieldwork:	20-22 February 2012

Summary

An archaeological trial trench evaluation was conducted for NPS South East Ltd ahead of the proposed construction of a new primary school at Station Road Lingwood in Norfolk.

Six trenches were opened and all apart from Trench 2 contained archaeological evidence. Part of a rectangular enclosure (and possibly a second) that had been previously identified during geophysical survey of the area was examined in the eastern half of the site. The limited finds evidence suggests a medieval date for the enclosure as does the environmental evidence gathered from a deposit of hearth waste.

It is clear that archaeological features at this site are well protected beneath a relatively deep overburden of topsoil and subsoil that reached over 0.90m in places.

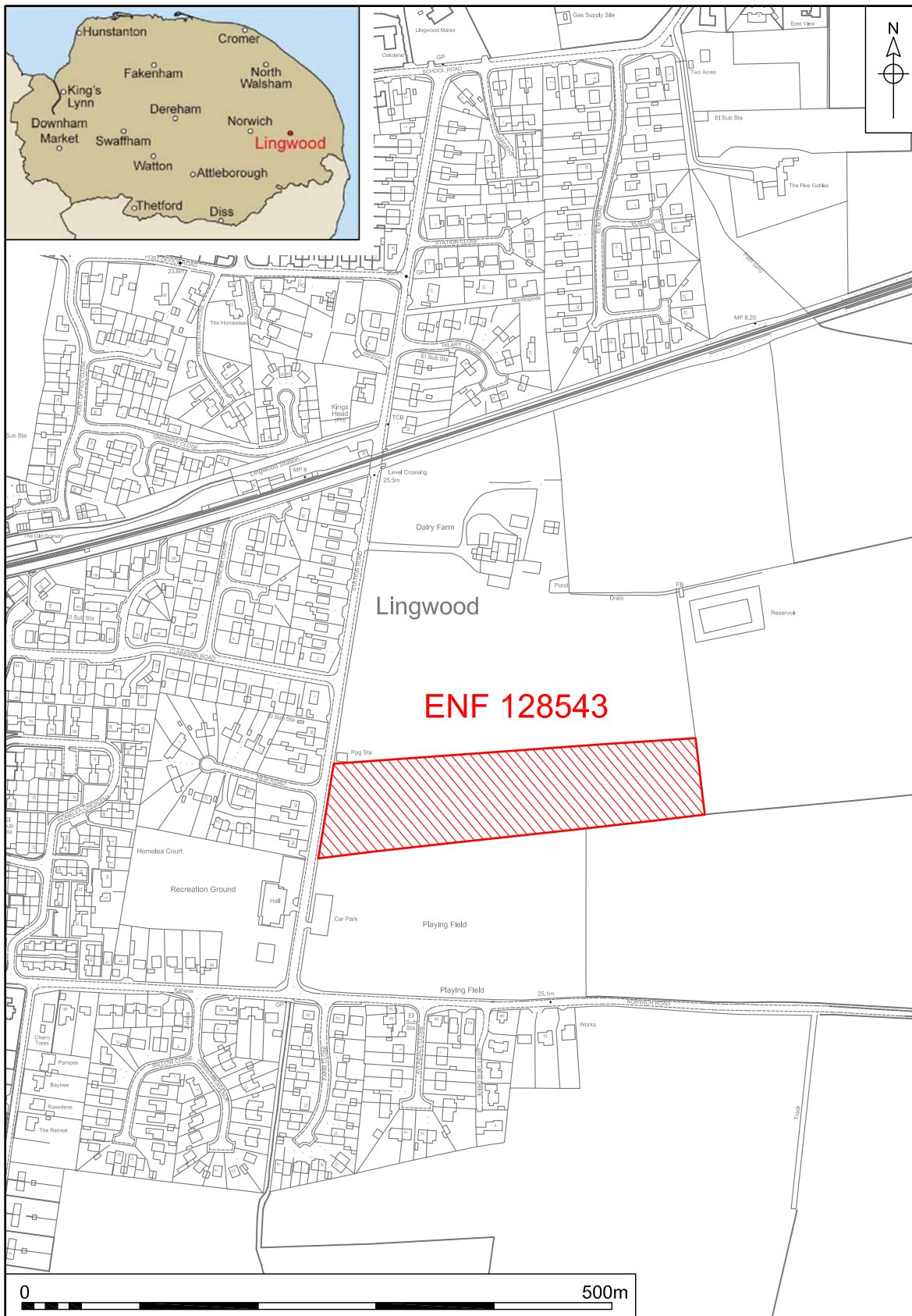
1.0 INTRODUCTION

A six trench evaluation was carried out to investigate the archaeological potential of the proposed site of the new Lingwood Primary School building on Station Road (opposite New Road) in Lingwood, Norfolk (Fig. 1).

This work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (Ref. NAU/BAU2960/DW). It was commissioned and funded by NPS South East Ltd.

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 *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010) and the *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012). 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 Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service (NMAS), following the relevant policies on archiving standards.



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:5000

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The bedrock of the area is crag - sand and gravel formed up to 5 million years ago in the Quaternary and Neogene periods.

The superficial geology is Lowestoft formation - chalky till with outwash sands and gravels, silts and clays; the till is characterised by its chalk and flint content. These deposits formed up to 2 million years ago also in the Quaternary Period (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

The topsoil across the site consisted of a greyish mid – dark brown sandy silt. Subsoil was more evident towards the east of the site further away from Station

Road. The natural deposits across the site were sand which varied from pale yellow to bright orange in colour. Some clay was evident in at the east of the investigated area in Trench 5. Flint was evident in the natural deposits across the site.

The proposed development site is located in a long narrow field set out to pasture and bounded on all sides by hedges with intermittent trees. Station Road runs north–south along the western edge with the field entrance opposite New Road (Fig. 1). To the south-west of the site is a recreation ground and to the west is a housing estate; the remaining surrounding land consists of farmland. The field is flat varying in height from 24.89mOD at the west to 24.67m OD at the east.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A search of entries in the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) for a 1km radius around the development site produced records showing the potential for Iron Age – Roman settlement to the east of the site.

Site MNF55613 is of crop marks indicating field boundaries of a posited Iron Age to Roman date. A large scatter of finds (MNF29175) including an Iron Age brooch and Roman coins and seals indicate settlement. To the north of site MNF29175 and to the north-east of the development site are other finds scatters (MNF18299) with large numbers of Iron Age and Roman coins, also indicative of Iron Age - Roman settlement. Additional finds from these periods include a Roman coin (MNF43461) found to the south-east of the site. A Roman coin used as an Early Saxon pendant and medieval coins (MNF43333) were recovered from north-east of the development site.

Further to the south-east of the site finds of a medieval date have been recovered including MNF23789 (a medieval coin and mount) and MNF33128 (a medieval coin and buckle). These records indicated that there is a good potential for finds and features of a similar date within the area of the proposed development.

Geophysical survey of the field in which the evaluation trial trenches were located along with an area of the field to the north, was undertaken in 2011. This survey produced evidence of a probable square enclosure with a possible internal division, the possibility of settlement activity and the hint of a second enclosure to the east (Archaeological Services (WYAS) 2011). The location of the trial trenches was determined by these features in order to sample them.

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.

In discussion with Norfolk Historic Environment Service it was agreed that a 3% of the development area should be evaluated by trial trenching. Therefore six trenches were excavated, three of which measured c.40m x c.1.8m and three measured c.20m x c.1.8m (Fig. 2).

Machine excavation was carried out with a wheeled JCB-type excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket and operated under constant archaeological supervision.

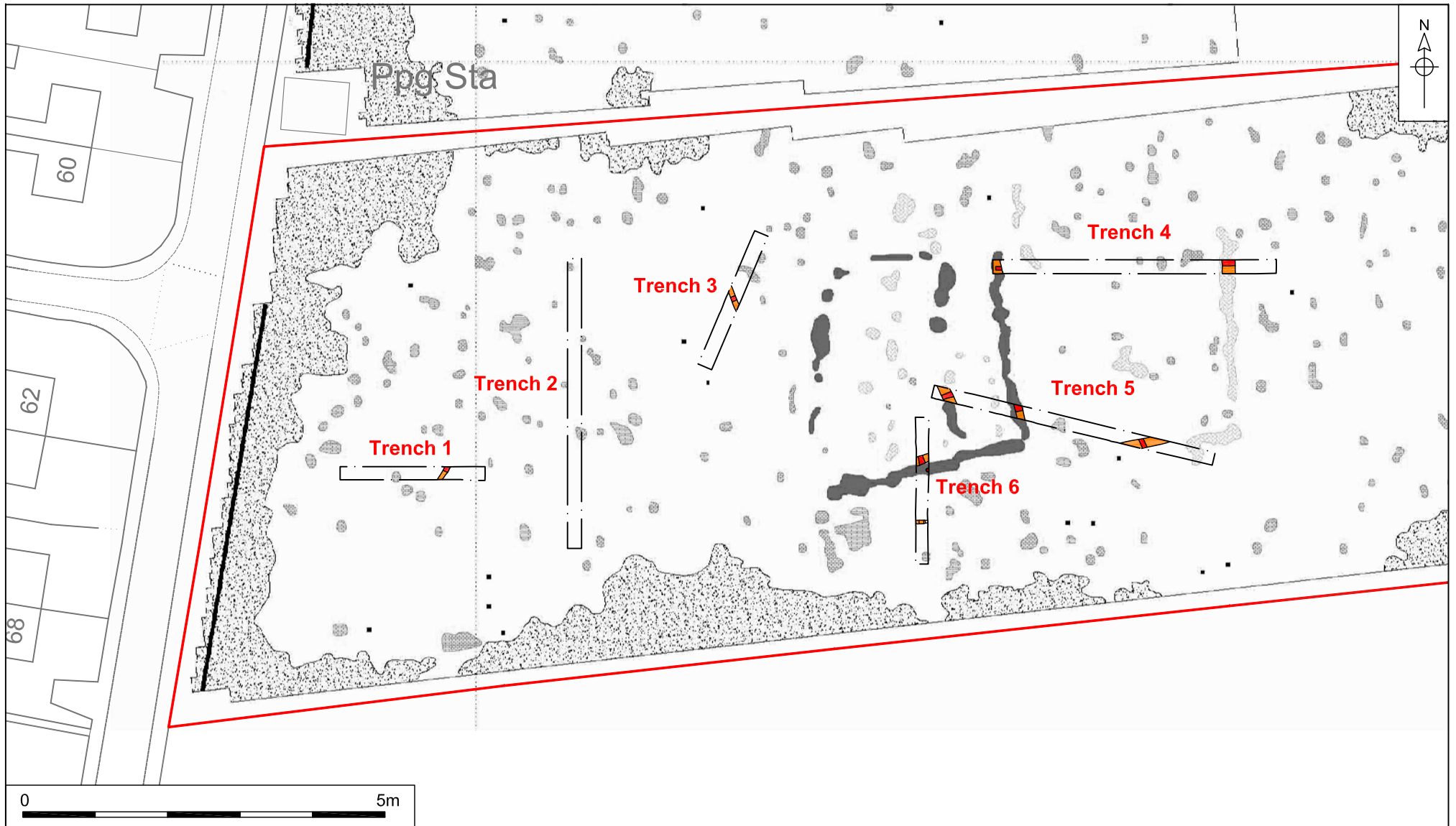
Hand-collected finds other than those which were obviously modern, were retained for inspection.

Environmental samples were taken from ditch [13] fill [14].

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 benchmarks used during the course of this work were taken from the ends of each trench placed during surveying.

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



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Figure 2. Location of trenches (geophysics results in greyscale). Scale 1:750

5.0 RESULTS

Trench 1				
 <p>Plate 1. Trench 1 facing west</p>		Figs 2 and 3		
		Location		
		Orientation	East to west	
		East end	636401.219, 308143.153	
		West end	636381.198, 308143.169	
		Dimensions		
		Length	20.0m	
		Width	1.80m	
		Depth	0.36m	
		Levels		
East top	24.832m OD			
West top	24.889mOD			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
-	Deposit	Topsoil. Greyish mid brown sandy silt, soft–friable, moderate–occasional flint/ stone.	0.29m	0.00-0.29m
-	Deposit	Subsoil. Friable pale orange brown silty sand (slight clayey).	0.07m	0.29-0.36m
-	Deposit	Natural deposit. Mid–pale orange sand with pale yellow patches, occasional flint/stones.	-	0.36m+
06	Cut	Ditch. Linear in plan with a slightly sloped concave profile and measuring c.0.84m wide.	0.35m	0.36-0.71m
07	Deposit	Single fill of linear feature - a friable pale grey very slightly silty sand with a yellow sand hue. Moderately compact with few stones.	0.35m	0.36-0.71m
Discussion				
This trench contains a single linear feature with one fill.				
This ditch is either a boundary or drainage ditch of unknown date.				

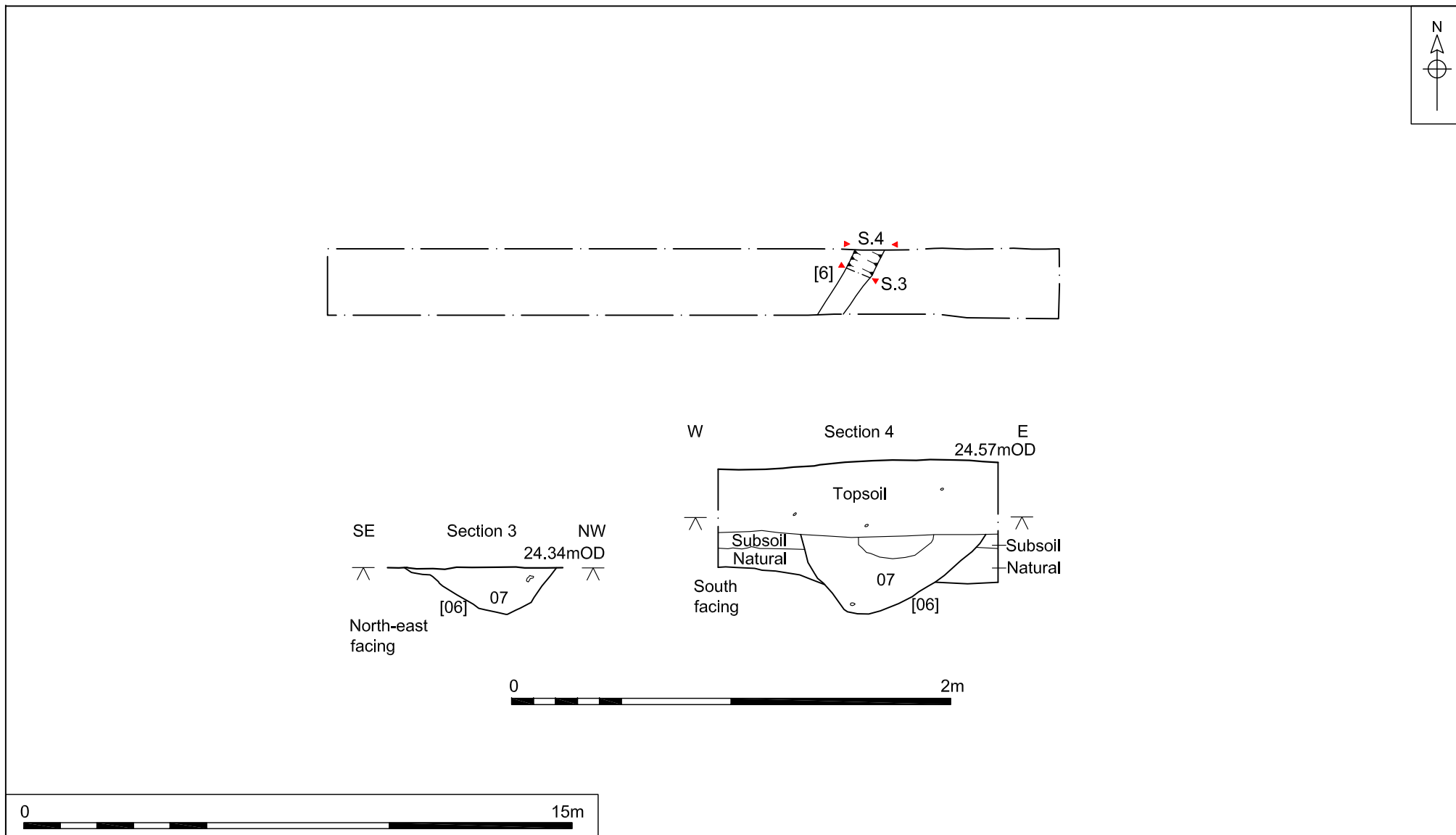


Figure 3. Trench 1, plan and sections. Scale 1:150 and 1:25

Trench 2



Plate 2. Trench 2 facing north

Fig. 2

Location

Orientation North to south

North end 636413.504, 308172.797

South end 636413.508, 308132.786

Dimensions

Length 40.0m

Width 1.80m

Depth 0.30–0.35m

Levels


North top 24.710m OD

South top 24.923m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
-	Deposit	Topsoil. Greyish mid brown sandy silt, soft–friable, moderate–occasional flint/stone.	0.30-0.35m	0.00-0.35m
-	Deposit	Natural. Grey yellow fine sand with mineralised/ iron pan patches. Occasional east–west plough scars.	-	0.35m+

Discussion

This trench contained no features or deposits of archaeological interest.

Trench 3						
 <p>Plate 3. Trench 3 facing east, gully [21] (detail)</p>			Figs 2 and 4			
			Location			
			Orientation	North-east to south-west		
			North-east end	636439.327 308176.325		
			South-west end	636431.520 308157.897		
			Dimensions			
			Length	20.0m		
			Width	1.80m		
			Depth	0.50–0.60m		
			Levels			
North-east top	24.645m OD					
South-west top	24.616mOD					
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL		
-	Deposit	Topsoil. Medium–loose dark brown sandy silt with few stones.	0.45m	0.00-0.45m		
-	Deposit	Subsoil. Orange white silty sand.	0.15m	0.45-0.60m		
-	Deposit	Natural. Orange sand.	-	0.60m+		
21	Cut	Gully. Very shallow gully, linear in plan, orientated north-west to south-east measuring c.0.70m wide. Contains single fill [22].	0.10m	0.60-0.70m		
22	Cut	Fill of Gully [21]. Orange brown silty sand.	0.10m	0.60-0.70m		
Discussion						
This trench contained a single linear feature - a shallow gully with a single fill.						
No finds were recovered and the feature is of unknown date.						

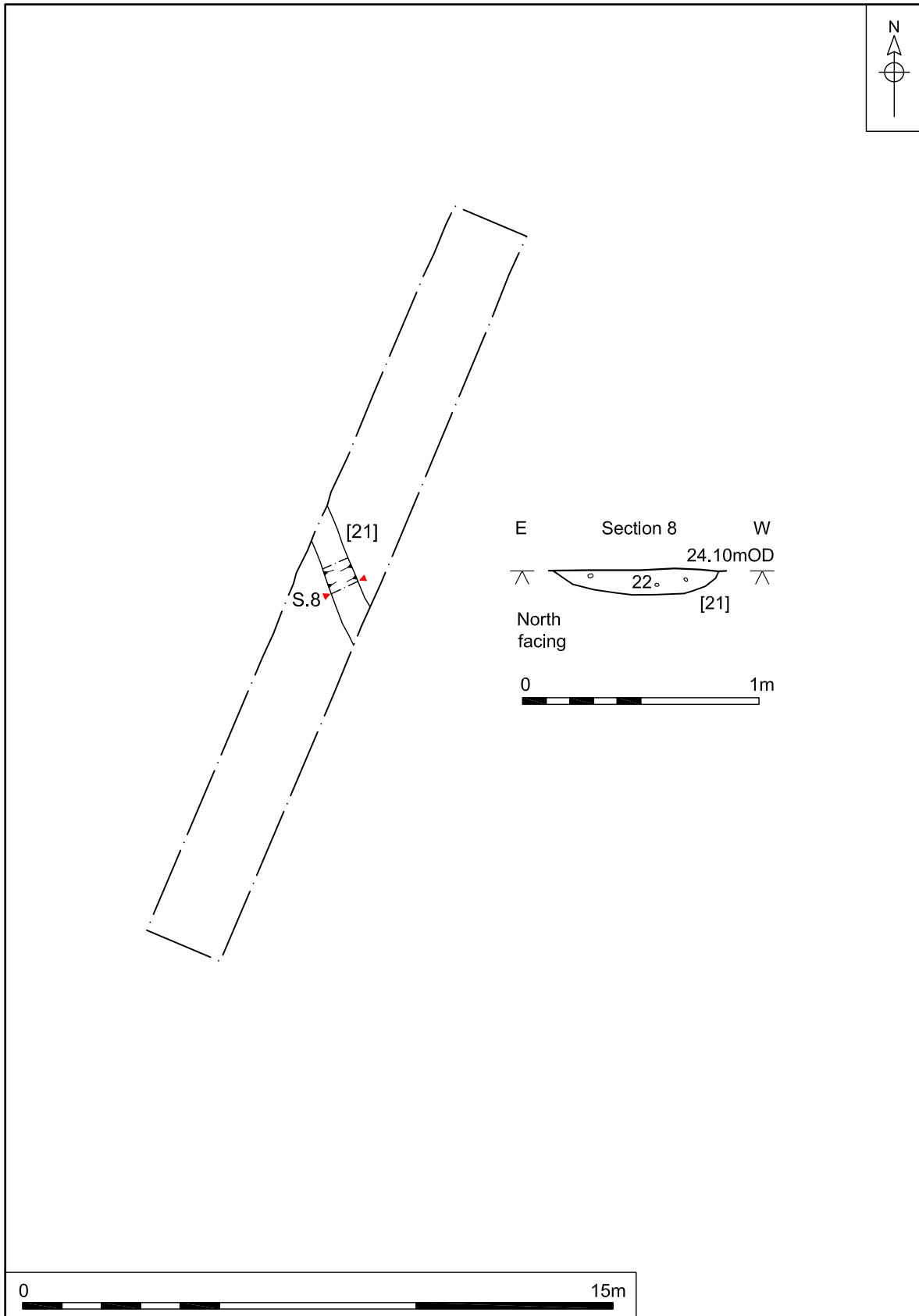


Figure 4. Trench 3, plan and section. Scale 1:150 and 1:25

Trench 4



Plate 4. Trench 4 facing west

Figs 2 and 5

Location

Orientation East to West

East end 636510.840, 308171.780

West end 636470.853, 308171.769

Dimensions

Length 40.0m

Width 1.80m

Depth 0.57–0.65m

Levels

East top 24.670m OD

West top 24.703mOD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
-	Deposit	Topsoil. Dark grey brown sandy silt with few small–medium stones and few charcoal flecks.	0.30m	0.00-0.30m
-	Deposit	Subsoil. Pale grey orange sandy silt with few stones and iron pan flecks.	0.30m	0.30-0.65m
-	Deposit	Natural. Bright orange sand.	-	0.65m+
01	Cut	Ditch. Linear in plan with a concave profile. Orientated north-north-west to south-south-east, c.0.70m wide. Contains fill [02]. Located at the western extremity of the trench hence the full width was not seen.	0.41m	0.65-1.06m
02	Deposit	Fill of ditch [01]. Mid orange grey slightly sandy silt. Very compact.	0.41m	0.65-1.06m
03	Cut	Ditch. Linear in plan with a concave wide V-shaped profile. Orientated north-south with a width of c.1.93m. Contains fills [04] and [05].	0.75m	0.65-1.40m
04	Deposit	Primary fill of ditch [03], pale grey orange sandy silt with manganese flecks and few stones. Deposited on the western edge of the feature.	0.25m	0.65-0.90m

Trench 4				
05	Deposit	Secondary fill of ditch [03], mid orange grey sandy silt with moderate amounts of small-medium flint. This deposit contained one fragment of late medieval to post-medieval pottery and two pieces of fired clay.	0.75m	0.65-1.40m
Discussion				
<p>Trench 4 contained two ditches ([01] and [03]) orientated on broadly the same axis.</p> <p>Ditch [01] forms part of a rectangular enclosure ditch (which includes ditch [11] in Trench 5 and ditch [13] in Trench 6). Pottery found in upper fill [5] suggests a late medieval or early post-medieval date for this feature.</p>				

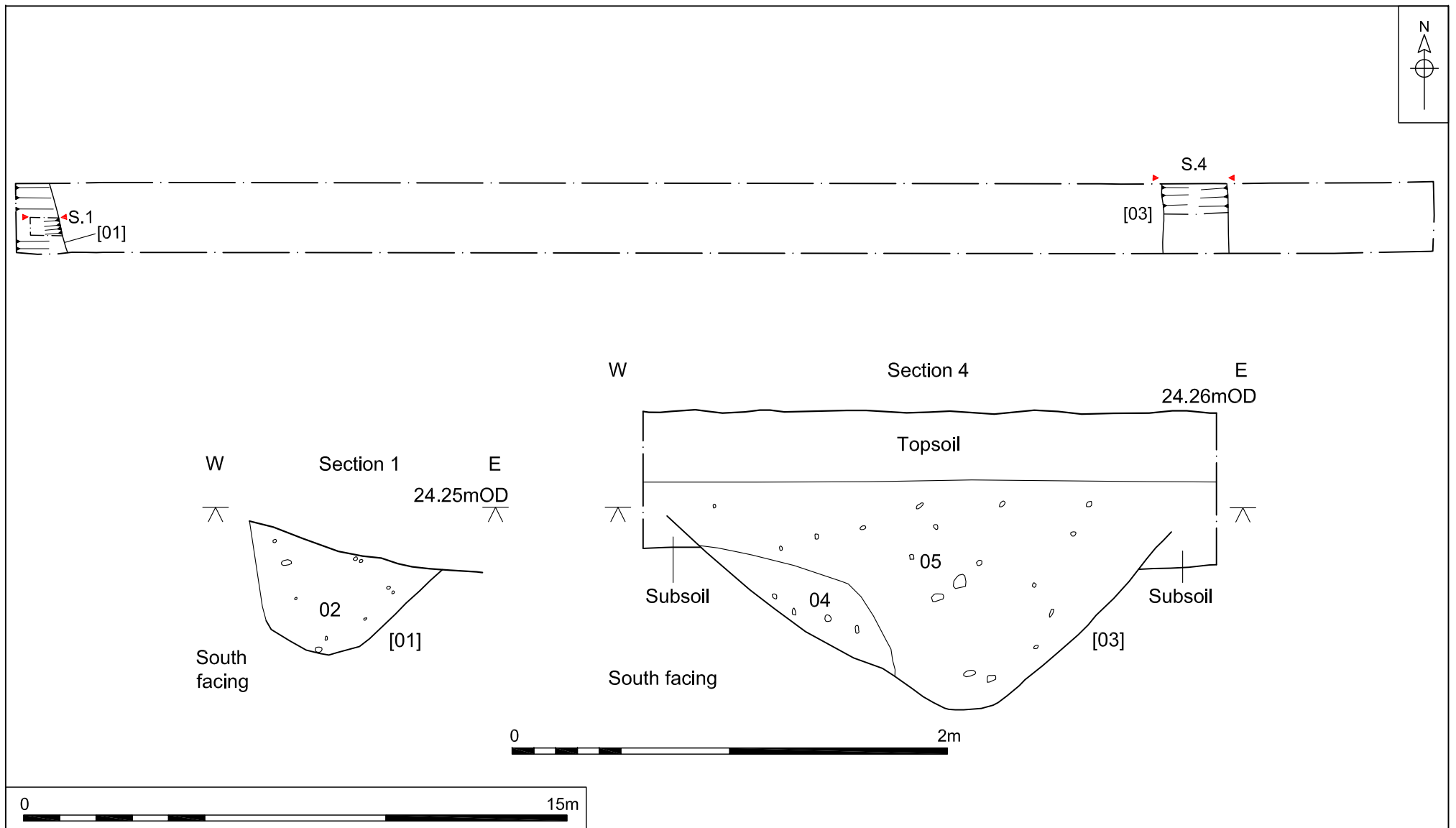


Figure 5. Trench 4, plan and sections. Scale 1:150 and 1:25

Trench 5



Plate 5. Trench 5 facing south-east

Figs 2 and 6

Location

Orientation North-west to south-east

North-west end 636463.016, 308154.500

South-east end 636501.908, 308145.139

Dimensions

Length 40.0m

Width 1.80m

Depth 0.70m

Levels

North-west top 24.700m OD

South-east top 24.712m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
-	Deposit	Topsoil. Medium-loose dark brown sandy silt with few stones.	0.30m	0.00-0.30m
-	Deposit	Subsoil. Medium-firm orange brown silty sand with few stones.	0.30m	0.30-0.70m
-	Deposit	Natural. Orange sandy clay and orange clay.	-	0.70m+
08	Cut	Ditch. Linear in plan with a wide uneven rounded profile. Orientated north-west to south-east with a width of 1.35m. Ditch 8 contained two fills – [09] and [10]	0.35m	0.70-1.05m
09	Deposit	Primary fill of ditch [08]. Mid grey silty sand with charcoal flecks and few small stones.	0.19m	0.86-1.05m
10	Deposit	Secondary fill of ditch [08]. Mid yellow brown clayey sand and few-occasional small-medium stones.	0.16m	0.70-0.86m
11	Cut	Ditch. Linear in plan. Contains fill [12]	0.40m	0.70-1.10m

Trench 5				
12	Deposit	Fill of ditch [11]. Pale brown orange clayey sand. Several small-medium stones/flint. This fill contained a single fragment of medieval pottery.	0.40m	0.70-1.10m
17	Cut	Ditch. Contains fill [18]	0.29m	0.70-0.99m
18	Deposit	Fill of ditch [17]. Very firm pale orange brown clayey sand. Few small stones.	0.29m	0.70-0.99m
Discussion				
<p>Trench 5 contained three ditches ([08], [11] and [17]).</p> <p>Ditch [11] forms part of the southern arm of an enclosure ditch (along with ditch [01] in Trench 4 and ditch [13] in Trench 6 and contained a sherd of medieval pottery.</p> <p>Ditch [08] appears to share the same broadly north-south alignment as ditch [11] and ditch [17] is perpendicular to this arrangement.</p>				

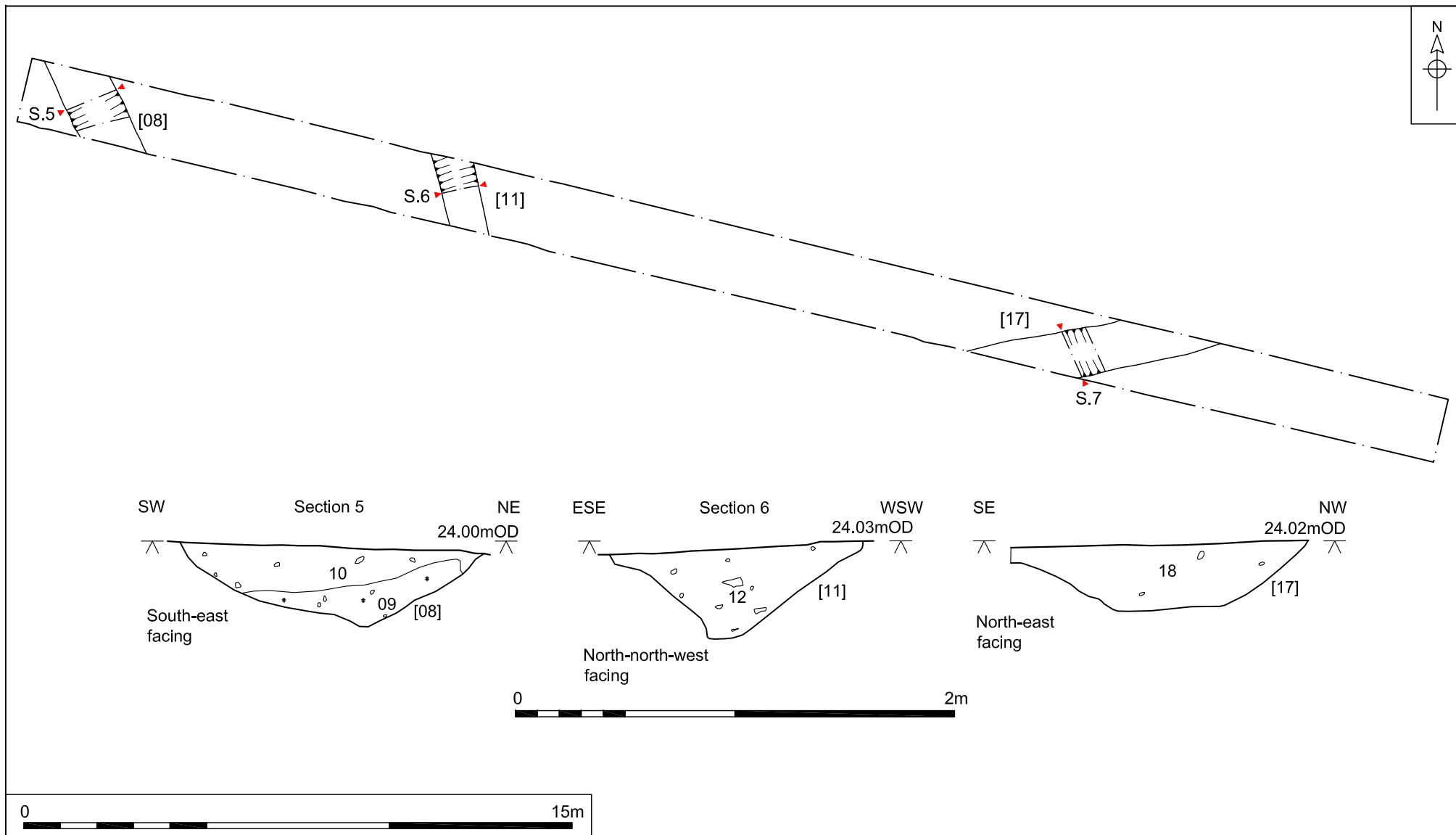


Figure 6. Trench 5, plan and sections. Scale 1:150 and 1:25

Trench 6



Plate 6 Trench 6 facing south

Figs 2 and 7

Location

Orientation North to South

North end 636461.473, 308150.888

South end 636461.484, 308130.893

Dimensions

Length 20.0m

Width 1.80m

Depth 0.91m

Levels

North-east top 24.777m OD

South-west top 24.841m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
-	Deposit	Topsoil. Medium - loose dark brown sandy silt with few stones.	0.35m	0.00-0.35m
-	Deposit	Subsoil. Pale grey mid-pale brown clayey silt, friable yet slightly sticky.	0.36m	0.35-0.71m
-	Deposit	Primary subsoil. Grey yellow slightly silty sand, friable and dryer than the layer above.	0.20m	0.71-0.91m
-	Deposit	Natural. Pale yellow and orange sand.	-	0.91m+
13	Cut	Ditch. Linear in plan with wide gently sloping profile. Orientated east-north-east to west-south-west, measuring c.1.1m wide. Contains fill [14].	0.32m	0.91-1.23m
14	Deposit	Fill of ditch [13]. Mid-pale grey brown firm-moderately compact slightly clayey sandy silt with several flint/stones.	0.32m	0.91-1.23m
15	Cut	Post-hole. Sub-circular in plan with a U-shaped profile and a flattish base. Contains fill [16].	0.31m	0.91-1.22m
16	Deposit	Fill of post-hole [15]. Moderate-firm pale grey brown silty sand with few-several stones.	0.31m	0.91-1.22m
19	Cut	Gully. Linear in plan with a flattish concave profile. Orientated east-west with a width of 0.49m. Contains fill [19].	0.10m	0.91-1.01m

Trench 6				
20	Deposit	Fill of Gully [19]. Firm pale orange grey brown sandy silt with very few small stones.	0.10m	0.91-1.01m
Discussion				
<p>Trench 6 contained ditch [13], post-hole [15] and gully [19]</p> <p>Ditch [13] forms part of the same enclosure as ditch [11] in Trench 5 and ditch [01] in Trench 4. An environmental sample (Sample <1>) taken from the fill of ditch [13] and produced low-density hearth waste which included heather, used as fuel in the medieval period.</p>				

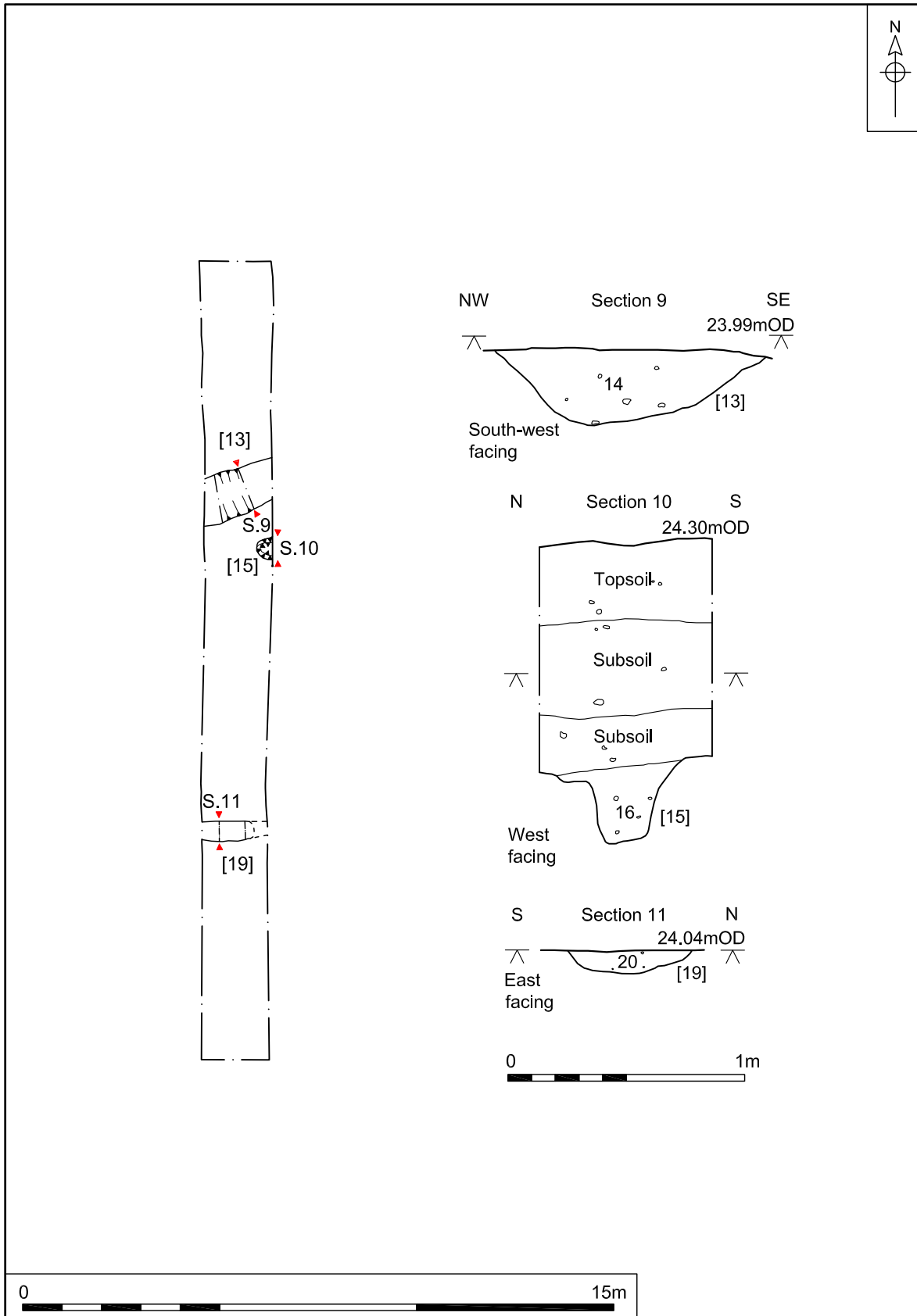


Figure 7. Trench 6, plan and sections.
Scale 1:150 and 1:25

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 thence chronologically. A full list of all finds by context can be found in Appendix 2a.

6.1 Pottery

by Lucy Talbot

Two sherds of pottery weighing 27g were collected from two contexts (ditch fill [05] in Trench 4 and ditch fill [09] in Trench 5). The assemblage was recorded by count and weight and fabrics and forms identified (Jennings 1981).

6.1.1 Medieval

The fill of ditch [08] produced a single undiagnostic body sherd of probable local medieval unglazed ware (LMU), weighing 7g from deposit [09]. LMU pottery was produced during the 11th to 14th-centuries. The sherd is a base fragment with a sooted exterior suggesting it is likely to be from a cooking pot. The fabric is slightly sandy, with a reduced exterior and oxidised interior and occasional quartz and crushed flint inclusions.

6.1.2 Late medieval to post-medieval

A single sherd of mid-15th- to late 16th-century late medieval transitional ware (LMT), weighing 20g, was recovered from deposit [05], the primary fill of ditch [03]. The sherd is a base fragment of an undiagnostic hollow ware vessel. The fabric is compact and hard fired, with brownish–grey margins and a pale brown core. Course inclusions of quartz and red minerals are visible in the fabric, whilst occasional mica flecks are present on both external surfaces.

6.2 Fired Clay

by Lucy Talbot

Two pieces of formless fired clay, weighing 11g, were recovered from deposit [05] (the primary fill of ditch [03]). Orange to greyish brown in colour, both fragments are in a fine silty fabric with red mineral and mica inclusions and sparse voids.

Collected from a context producing a single sherd of 15th- to 16th-century pottery, it is possible these two pieces are of a similar late medieval to post-medieval date.

7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Plant Macrofossils

by Val Fryer

7.1.1 Introduction and method statement

A single sample (Sample <1>) for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblage was taken from fill [14] within ditch [13].

The sample was processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flot was scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed below in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred.

The non-floating residue was collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and will be sorted when dry. Any artefacts/ecofacts will be retained for further specialist analysis.

7.1.2 Results

Although small (<0.1 litres in volume), the flot does contain a moderate density of charred plant macrofossils, with fragments of heather (*Ericaceae*) stem being predominant. A single, poorly preserved barley (*Hordeum* sp.) grain is also recorded along with seeds of dock (*Rumex* sp.), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*) and vetch/vetchling (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.). Other remains are scarce, although small pieces of burnt or fired clay are present at a low density.

7.1.3 Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, although the present assemblage is small and somewhat limited in composition, it would appear most likely that the remains are derived from a very low density deposit of hearth or oven waste. Heather was greatly favoured as a fuel throughout the medieval period as it ignited easily and maintained an even, high temperature throughout combustion.

As well-preserved plant remains are clearly present within the archaeological horizon in this area of Lingwood, it is strongly recommended that, if further interventions are planned, additional plant macrofossil samples of approximately 20 – 40 litres in volume are taken from all dated and well-sealed contexts recorded during excavation.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

It is clear that archaeological features at this site are preserved well beneath a relatively deep overburden of topsoil and subsoil that reached over 0.91m in places.

Ditches [01] (in Trench 4), [11] (in Trench 5) and [13] (in Trench 6) form parts of two sides of a rectangular enclosure that was identified during the earlier geophysical evaluation of the site. Ditches [01] and [11] are both part of the eastern side of the enclosure whilst ditch [13] forms part of the southern side. Whilst these features are likely to be of the same date, finds evidence – a single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from deposit [12] in ditch [11]. Environmental data recovered from ditch [13] provides evidence of medieval hearth waste indicating that this feature was being utilised (even if only as a repository for waste material) during this period.

Settlement evidence, tentatively inferred from the geophysical results (ASWYAS 2011, 4) was less evident. Just a single post-hole ([10] was recorded adjacent to enclosure ditch [13] and finds evidence was generally very sparse.

Ditch [03] in Trench 4 contained a fragment of late medieval to post-medieval pottery. Ditch [03] lies in relatively close proximity to ditch [01] (c.30m away) and they are almost parallel. It could be suggested that ditch [03] was created to form

another (?later) enclosure to the west of the one formed by ditches [01], [11] and [13].

Gullies [19] and [21] although undated possibly provided part of a drainage system for 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

The author would like to thank those listed below for their contribution to this project.

The project was funded and commissioned by NPS South East Ltd.

Excavation was undertaken by David Adams, Stuart Calow and the author.

Machining of the trenches was undertaken by Barry Clifton of GB Digger Hire.

The evaluation was monitored on behalf of Norfolk Historic Environment Service by James Albone.

The finds were washed, recorded and reported on by Lucy Talbot.

The environmental sample was processed and reported on by Val Fryer.

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

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Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
01	Cut	Ditch		N-S ditch	Med	4
02	Deposit		1	Fill of ditch [01]	Med	4
03	Cut	Ditch		N-S ditch	?Med	4
04	Deposit		3	Primary fill of ditch [03]	?Med	4
05	Deposit		3	Fill of ditch [03]	?Med	4
06	Cut	Ditch		Small ditch	Uncertain	1
07	Deposit		6	Fill of ditch [06]	Uncertain	1
08	Cut	Ditch		NW-SE ditch	Uncertain	5
09	Deposit		8	Primary fill of ditch [08]	Uncertain	5
10	Deposit		8	Fill of ditch [08]	Uncertain	5
11	Cut	Ditch		N-S ditch	Med	5
12	Deposit		11	Fill of ditch [11]	Med	5
13	Cut	Ditch		E-W ditch	Med	6
14	Deposit		13	Fill of ditch [13]	Med	6
15	Cut	Post-hole		Post-hole	?Med	6
16	Deposit		15	Fill of post-hole [15]	?Med	6
17	Cut	Ditch		NE - SW ditch	Uncertain	5
18	Deposit		17	Fill of ditch [17]	Uncertain	5
19	Cut	Gully		Shallow E-W gully	Uncertain	6
20	Deposit		19	Fill of gully [19]	Uncertain	6
21	Cut	Gully		Shallow gully	Uncertain	3
22	Deposit		21	Fill of gully [21]	Uncertain	3

Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary

Period	Feature	Total
Medieval	Ditch	3
?Medieval	Ditch	1
	Post-hole	1
Uncertain	Ditch	3
	Gully	2

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period
05	Pottery	1	20g	Med./Post-Med.
05	Fired Clay	2	11g	Unknown
09	Pottery	1	7g	Medieval

Appendix 2b: Oasis Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Medieval	Pottery	1
Med./Post-Med.	Pottery	1
Unknown	Fired Clay	2