

Report 3025



nps archaeology

## Archaeological Evaluation on Land South of Home Farm, Watlington, Norfolk

ENF128614



**Prepared for**  
Frimstone Ltd  
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Main Road  
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BAU3025

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Location:	Land South of Home Farm, Watlington
District:	King's Lynn and West Norfolk
Planning ref.:	C/2/2011/2038 Tottenhill
Grid Ref.:	TF 6200 1940
HER No.:	ENF 128757
OASIS Ref.:	125034
Client:	Frimstone Ltd.
Dates of Fieldwork:	15-19 March 2012

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## **Summary**

*An archaeological evaluation was conducted for Frimstone Ltd prior to a proposed extension of Watlington Quarry. The land is currently in use for arable farming.*

*There were a limited number of archaeological features revealed in the 24 trenches that were opened, arrayed across the proposed extraction area and haul road route. These included a large undated ditch on the western side of the area (which was observed in Trenches 10, 15 and 21) and three other smaller probable field boundaries in Trenches 2, 12 and 22.*

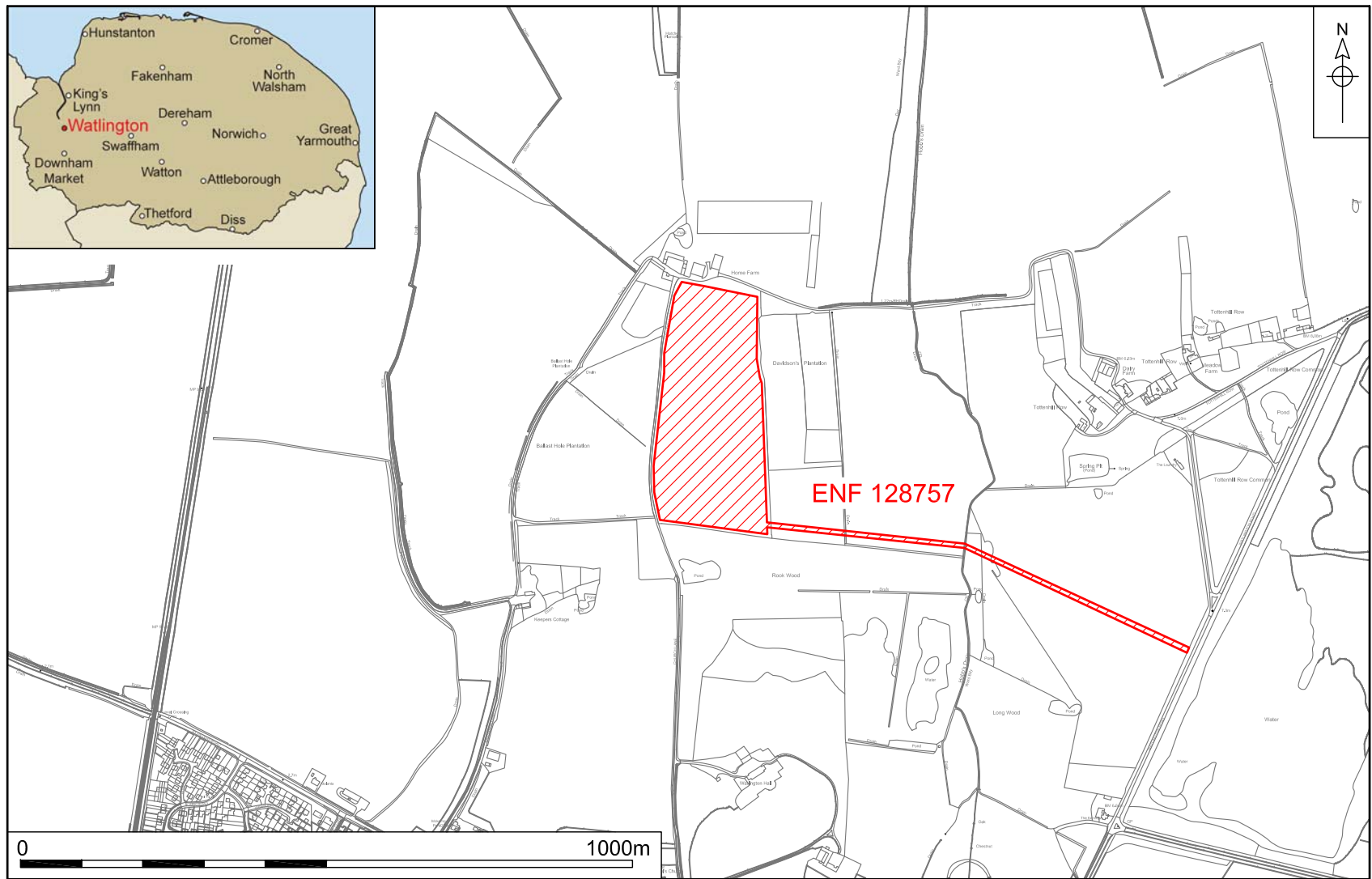
*The boundary in Trench 22 may have been a dried stream bed which appeared to enclose an area of land close to Home Farm on the Tithe map of 1840. The large ditch was probably a drainage feature of relatively recent date and the field boundaries were essentially part of the post-medieval field system in existence prior to the creation of larger fields which became popular from the 19th century to the present day.*

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The area earmarked for development was c.9 hectares in size and was located to the north of Watlington village on the west side of the existing quarry (Fig. 1). The previously excavated '60 Acre Field' and other associated dense concentrations of archaeological remains (NHER 39458) are situated around 1km to the south of the present site. The majority of the trenches (18) were excavated across an open field immediately south of Home Farm and six others were excavated along the proposed haul road, linking the field with Watlington Road to the east.

This work was undertaken in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (Ref. NAU/BAU3025/DW) and with the agreement of Ken Hamilton of Norfolk Historic Environment Service (NHES). The site lay within the district of King's Lynn and West Norfolk District Council. The planning authority is Norfolk County Council and the project was undertaken within the scope of a long-standing aggregate extraction permission. This stipulated that an extension to quarrying activities would require evaluation of the archaeological resource in any new areas. The work was commissioned and funded by Frimstone 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*



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

*Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010), superseded by *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.

## **2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

The underlying solid geology at the site consists of Kimmeridge Clay Formation Mudstone - a sedimentary bedrock which formed around 146 to 154 million years ago in the Jurassic Period. The upper superficial deposits are known as Tottenhill Gravel Member which formed up to 2,000,000 years ago in the Quaternary Period during Ice Age conditions. In the vicinity of Trenches 4 and 5 (along the western half of the haul road (Fig. 2) the superficial geology is described as tidal flat deposits of clay and silt which were formed in a shoreline environment also up to 2,000,000 years ago in the Quaternary Period. The natural deposits located in these trenches were markedly different from those in the rest of the trenches (Open Geoscience 2012).

The topsoil across on the site consisted of a loose mid brown sandy silt with moderate to frequent amounts of flint and the natural substratum was on the whole an orange sandy gravel.

The River Great Ouse is situated just over 1km to the west of the site, the River Nar is around 1km to the north and the fields under investigation lay at an average height of 5.0m OD. The site was reasonably flat and well drained due to the gravelly nature of the ground and there are considerable amounts of drains noted on the (Norfolk Mapping Browser 2012) around the area.

## **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

A search was undertaken of records held by the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) and the most relevant entries are reproduced below. Many of the results gathered in the area were produced by the Fenland Survey of 1986. The results can be divided between single find spots and more extensive sites.

### **Findspots**

In the same field as the present site a prehistoric flint flake and a piece of medieval pottery were recovered by the Fenland Survey in 1986, and in more recent days, metal detecting in 2008 found a post-medieval sword quillion collar (MNF23598). Sherds of medieval pottery (MNF 23054) were found to the north-west of the site in a field west of Hatchet Plantation and north of Home Farm. Also to the north of the site, fieldwalking by the Fenland Survey in 1986 recovered a small number of medieval pottery sherds at the border of the parishes of Tottenhill and Watlington. To the north-east of the site during metal detecting in 2009 medieval and post-medieval metal objects (MNF 23599) were recovered. Also to the north-east of the site medieval sherds (MNF23201) were found during the Fenland Survey. To the west of the site entry MNF23599 refers to fieldwalking in 1987, which recovered medieval pottery sherds and observed some areas of gravel thought to represent

a roddon. Also situated to the west of the site MNF23054 refers to finds of medieval pottery. Further to the west of the site the Fenland survey in 1986 also recovered fragments of medieval pottery at MNF23038. Prehistoric worked flints were found at MNF23600 through fieldwalking in 1987, and in the same year produced fragments of medieval pottery (MNF23607). Just to the south there were more sherds of medieval pottery found at MNF23601 in 1986. Field walking and metal detecting just to the south of the site found a Roman brooch and coin and medieval coins, brooches, a buckle and a belt mount plus fragments of medieval roof tile and further sherds of medieval pot (MNF25341). Record MNF29697, also to the south, represents an assemblage of Roman, medieval and post-medieval objects.

### **Sites**

To the north of the present site a group of seven probable salterns of likely medieval date were located at MNF56461. They are represented by soilmarks and earthworks and are located on the edge of the former estuary and fen, now reclaimed land. A little further to the north-east, record MNF56479 refers to field boundaries of medieval and post-medieval date also seen as a combination of earthworks and soilmarks.

Close by on the western side of Home Farm the East Anglian railway line once ran through the area. It was originally known as the Lynn and Ely railway and was opened in 1847.

There was an 18th-century park (Watlington Park) to the south of the site (MNF31972), which by 1869 was surrounded by tree plantations with associated lodges. South of this park, the earthworks of further possible park features and earlier medieval features were visible on aerial photographs (MNF56480). Also to the south was a scatter of prehistoric worked flints, burnt mounds, pot and oyster shells which were probably indicative of prehistoric occupation and activity. These were in the same general area as a possible ring ditch (MNF23238).

To the west of Watlington Road there was the cropmark of a possible trackway thought to be medieval/post-medieval in date in spite of its proximity to the large '60 Acre Field' archaeological site to the south (NHER 39458) which is predominantly of the prehistoric to Roman periods. Other elements of this settlement, also seen as cropmarks, were recorded as MNF56504. To the east of the site are the probable remains of ditches and enclosures of likely prehistoric to Roman date (MNF56495) observed as cropmarks on aerial photographs to the north of Gravel Pit Plantation, Tottenhill.

South of the site there were other cropmarks (MNF17786) representing enclosures and field boundaries which were examined as part of an evaluation prior to quarrying (NHER 39457).

South-east of the site, evaluation in 2003 (MNF42908) in advance of gravel extraction revealed evidence for Roman and Saxon activity in this area. A curvilinear ditch was excavated and found to contain evidence of 1st- to 3rd-century AD date. Other ditches and gullies appeared to form elements of a field system. There was also evidence of metalworking of possible Saxon date.



## 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 2% sample of the proposed mineral extraction area and haul road was evaluated by trial trenching (24 trenches). In areas where significant archaeological remains were encountered an allowance for the excavation of further trenches was made to test areas of archaeological potential identified in the original trenches. Once the trenches had been opened, Norfolk Historic Environment Service considered that the results obtained from the initial 2% were sufficient.

Machine excavation was carried out with a 21 tonne hydraulic 360° excavator equipped with a 2.0m wide toothless ditching bucket and operated under constant archaeological supervision. Plant and operators were supplied by Frimstone Ltd.



Plate 1. Machining looking south west

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. There were no significant metal detected finds although the process did unearth one struck flint.

Environmental samples were not taken due to lack of suitable deposits.

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.

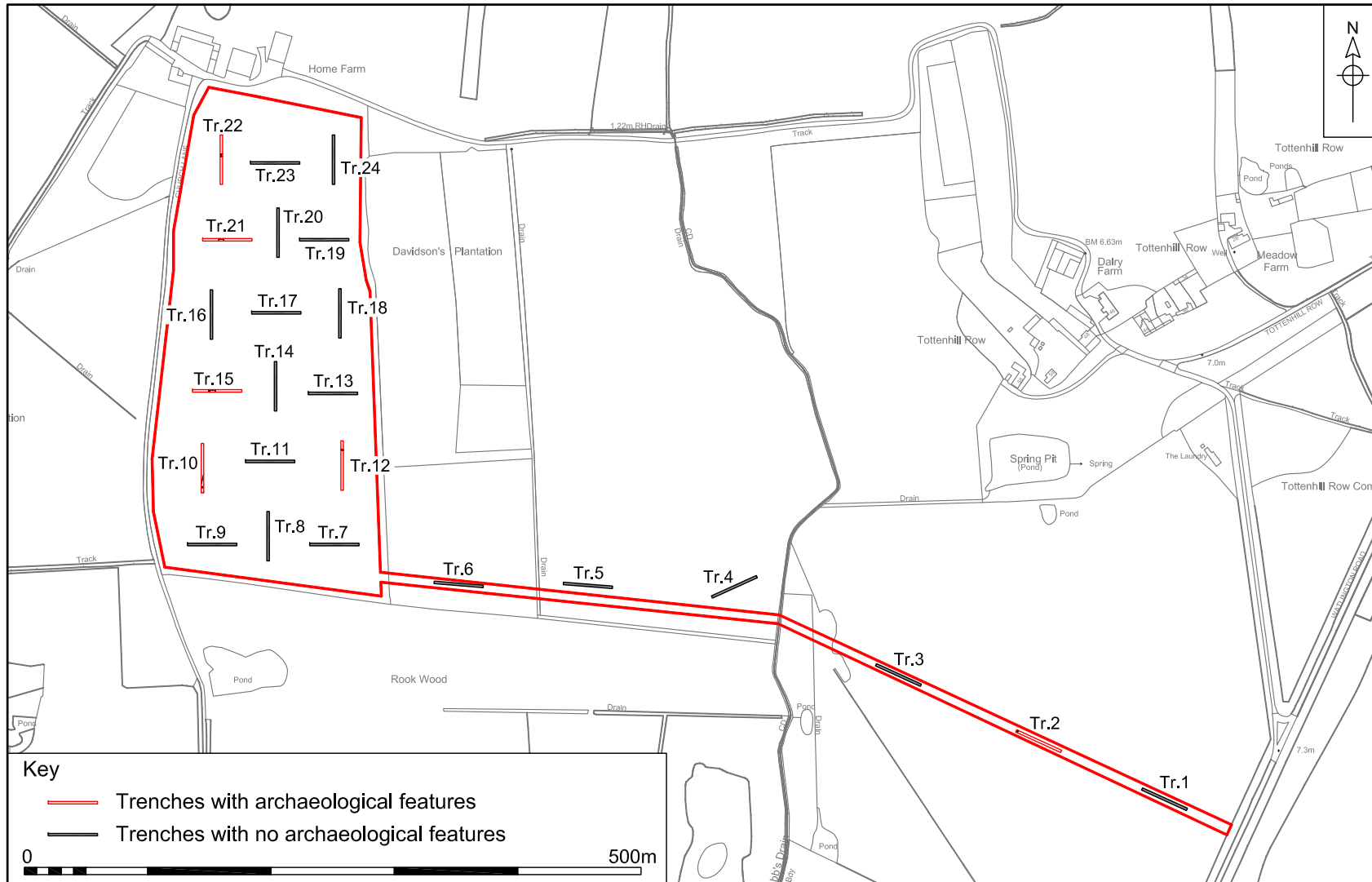
Each of the trenches was surveyed using a GPS900 RTK Rover device, which also supplied accurate Ordnance Datum heights at either end of the trench. These levels were used throughout the fieldwork. Due to the presence of larger trees which affected the strength of GPS signal whilst laying out, Trenches 4 and 5 were

located just north of the haul road, slightly further north than their original proposed position.

Site conditions were good, with the work taking place in fine and unseasonably warm weather, although there was often a morning mist in the first couple of hours of the day.



Plate 2. Site shot, looking south



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Figure 2. Trench location. Scale 1:5000

## 5.0 RESULTS


Trench 1				
		<b>Fig. 2; Plate 3</b>		
		<b>Location</b>		
		Orientation	South-east to north-west	
		South-east end	562930 311587	
		North-west end	562916 311603	
		<b>Dimensions</b>		
		Length	40.00m	
		Width	2.00m	
		Depth	0.50m	
		<b>Levels</b>		
South-east top	6.96m OD			
North-west top	6.83m OD			
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description and Interpretation</b>	<b>Thickness</b>	<b>Depth BGL</b>
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.50m	0.00-0.50m
02	Deposit	Natural	-	0.50m
<b>Discussion</b>				
There were no archaeological features or finds recovered from this trench.				

Plate 3. Trench 1, looking east

## Trench 2



Plate 4. Trench 2, looking east

### Figs 2 and 3; Plates 4 and 5

#### Location

Orientation	South-east to north-west
-------------	--------------------------

South-east end	562851 311634
----------------	---------------

North-west end	562814 311650
----------------	---------------

#### Dimensions

Length	40.00m
--------	--------

Width	2.00m
-------	-------

Depth	0.45m
-------	-------

#### Levels

South-east top	6.67m OD
----------------	----------

North-west top	6.77m OD
----------------	----------

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.45m	0.00-0.45m
02	Deposit	Natural	-	0.45m
05	Cut	Ditch	0.30m	0.45-0.75m
06	Deposit	Fill of [05]	0.30m	0.45-0.75m

#### Discussion

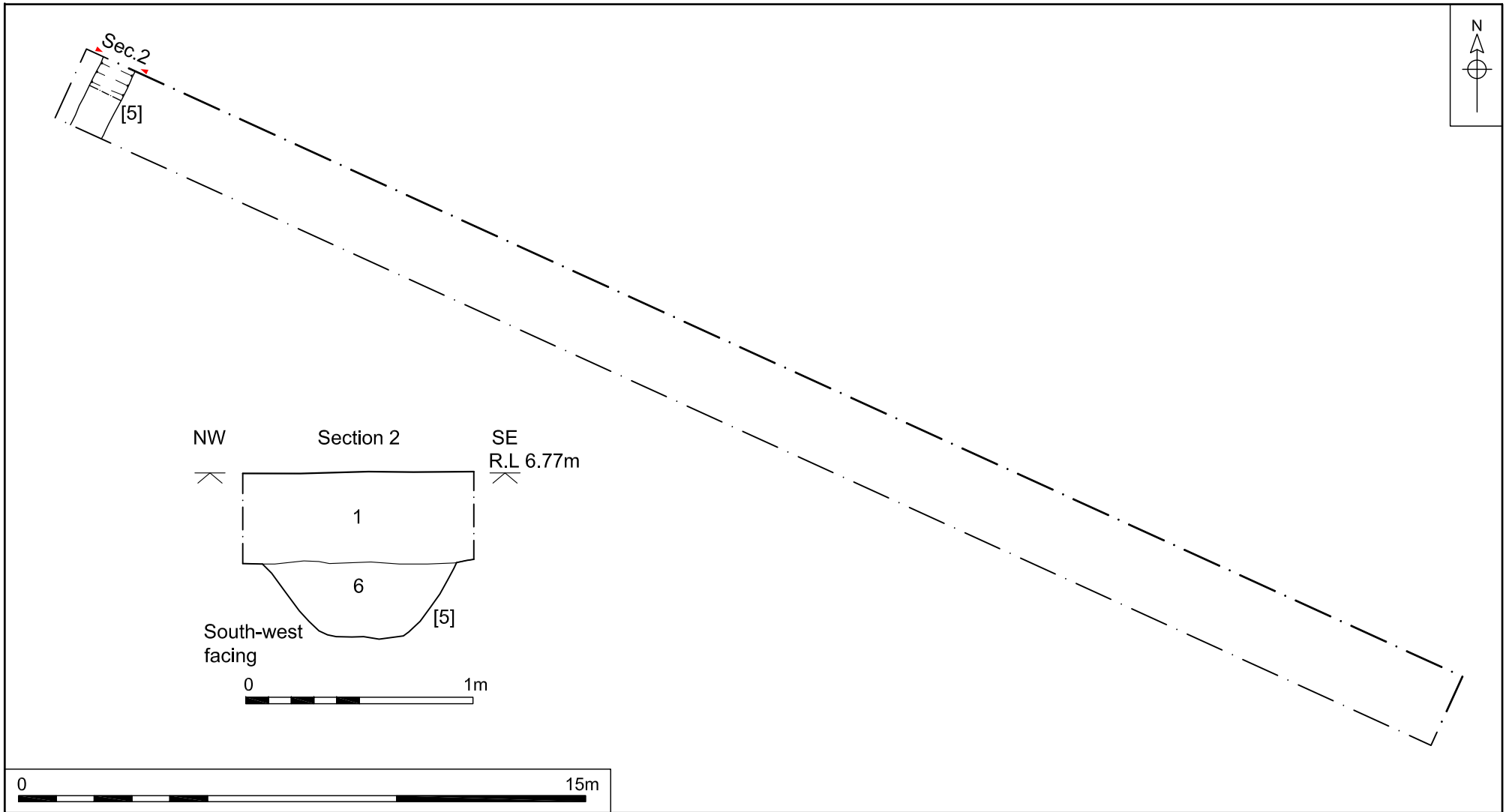
There was a single ditch ([5]) located within Trench 2.

Ditch [5] was at least 2.0m in length, 0.80m across and was 0.30m deep. The fill ([6]) was a mid brown sandy silt which had probably built up through natural silting. The ditch was orientated north-east to south-west.

**Trench 2**



Plate 5. Trench 2 ditch [5], looking north



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Figure 3. Trench 2, plan and section. Scale 1:150 and 1:25

## Trench 3



Plate 6. Trench 3, looking east

### Fig. 2; Plate 6

#### Location

Orientation	South-east to north-west
-------------	--------------------------

South-east end	562737 311687
----------------	---------------

North-west end	562701 311704
----------------	---------------

#### Dimensions

Length	40.00m
--------	--------

Width	2.00m
-------	-------

Depth	0.45m
-------	-------

#### Levels

South-east top	5.65m OD
----------------	----------

North-west top	4.86m OD
----------------	----------

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.45m	0.00-0.45m
02	Deposit	Natural	-	0.45m

#### Discussion

There were no archaeological features or finds recovered from this trench.



## Trench 4



Plate 7. Trench 4, looking north-east

### Fig. 2; Plate 7

#### Location

Orientation	North-east to south-west
-------------	--------------------------

North-east end	562605 311743
----------------	---------------

South-west end	562565 311747
----------------	---------------

#### Dimensions

Length	40.00m
--------	--------

Width	2.00m
-------	-------

Depth	1.00m
-------	-------

#### Levels

North-east top	1.97m OD
----------------	----------

South-west top	1.47m OD
----------------	----------

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
02	Deposit	Natural	-	1.00m
21	Deposit	Silty clay	0.60m	0.00-0.60m
22	Deposit	Proto-peat	0.40m	0.60-1.00m

#### Discussion

There were no archaeological features or finds recovered from this trench.

The natural deposits encountered appear to have been formed in a wet environment.

## Trench 5



Plate 8. Trench 5, looking east

### Fig. 2; Plate 8

#### Location

Orientation	East to west
-------------	--------------

East end	562487 311756
----------	---------------

West end	562447 311760
----------	---------------

#### Dimensions

Length	40.00m
--------	--------

Width	2.00m
-------	-------

Depth	1.20m
-------	-------

#### Levels

East top	1.60m OD
----------	----------

West top	2.30m OD
----------	----------

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
02	Deposit	Natural	-	1.20m
21	Deposit	Silty clay	0.90m	0.00-0.90m
22	Deposit	Proto-peat	0.30m	0.90-1.20m

#### Discussion

There were no archaeological features or finds recovered from this trench.

The natural deposits encountered appear to have been formed in a wet environment.

## Trench 6



Plate 9. Trench 6, looking east

### Fig. 2; Plate 9

#### Location

Orientation	East to west
East end	562382 311767
West end	562342 311771

#### Dimensions

Length	40.00m
Width	2.00m
Depth	0.45m

#### Levels

East top	2.75m OD
West top	3.67m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.45m	0.00-0.45m
02	Deposit	Natural	-	0.45m

#### Discussion

There were no archaeological features or finds recovered from this trench.

## Trench 7



Plate 10. Trench 7, looking east

### Fig. 2; Plate 10

#### Location

Orientation	East to west
-------------	--------------

East end	562281 311801
----------	---------------

West end	562241 311801
----------	---------------

#### Dimensions

Length	40.00m
--------	--------

Width	2.00m
-------	-------

Depth	0.45m
-------	-------

#### Levels

East top	4.76m OD
----------	----------

West top	5.49m OD
----------	----------

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.45m	0.00-0.45m
02	Deposit	Natural	-	0.45m

#### Discussion

There were no archaeological features or finds recovered from this trench.

## Trench 8



Plate 11. Trench 8, looking south

### Fig. 2; Plate 11

#### Location

Orientation North to south

North end 562208 311828

South end 562208 311788

#### Dimensions

Length 40.00m

Width 2.00m

Depth 0.40m

#### Levels

North top 5.81m OD

South top 5.64m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.40m	0.00-0.40m
02	Deposit	Natural	Unknown	0.40m

#### Discussion

There were no archaeological features or finds recovered from this trench.

## Trench 9



Plate 12. Trench 9, looking west

### Fig. 2; Plate 12

#### Location

Orientation	East to west
-------------	--------------

East end	562182 311801
----------	---------------

West end	562142 311801
----------	---------------

#### Dimensions

Length	40.00m
--------	--------

Width	2.00m
-------	-------

Depth	0.45m
-------	-------

#### Levels

East top	5.67m OD
----------	----------

West top	5.01m OD
----------	----------

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.45m	0.00-0.45m
02	Deposit	Natural	-	0.45m

#### Discussion

There were no archaeological features or finds recovered from this trench.

## Trench 10



Plate 13. Trench 10, looking south

**Figs 2 and 4; Plates 13 and 14**

### Location

Orientation	North to south
North end	562155 311883
South end	562155 311843

### Dimensions

Length	40.00m
Width	2.00m
Depth	0.40m

### Levels

North top	5.05m OD
South top	5.30m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.40m	0.00-0.40m
02	Deposit	Natural	-	0.40m
12	Cut	Ditch	1.00m	0.40-1.40m
13	Deposit	Primary fill of [12]	0.10m	0.40-1.10m
14	Deposit	Secondary fill of [12]	0.30m	0.60-1.40m
15	Deposit	Fill of [12]	0.80m	0.60-1.40m

### Discussion

There was a single large ditch ([12]) located within Trench 10.

Ditch [12] was observed to be aligned slightly off-angle from a north to south axis and was seen to run through most of the southern end of the trench (Fig. 4). It was at least 20.0m in length and was around 3.0m wide, although the full width was not observed within the limits of the trench. The depth was 1.0m and the base was roughly flat. The sides were regular and sloped at around 45° from a vertical axis. There were three deliberately dumped deposits within the feature (Plate 14). The earliest deposit was a dark grey sandy silt ([13]) which had no major inclusions. It was 0.12m thick. The second deposit consisted of a loose orangey brown fine and coarse sand mixture ([14]) that was 0.30m thick. The rest of the ditch contained a 0.80m-thick mid grey sandy silt ([15]) with frequent occurrences of gravel.

The ditch was probably a drainage ditch and a single fragment of post-medieval ceramic building material was found within it.

**Trench 10**



Plate 14. Trench 10 ditch [12], looking south



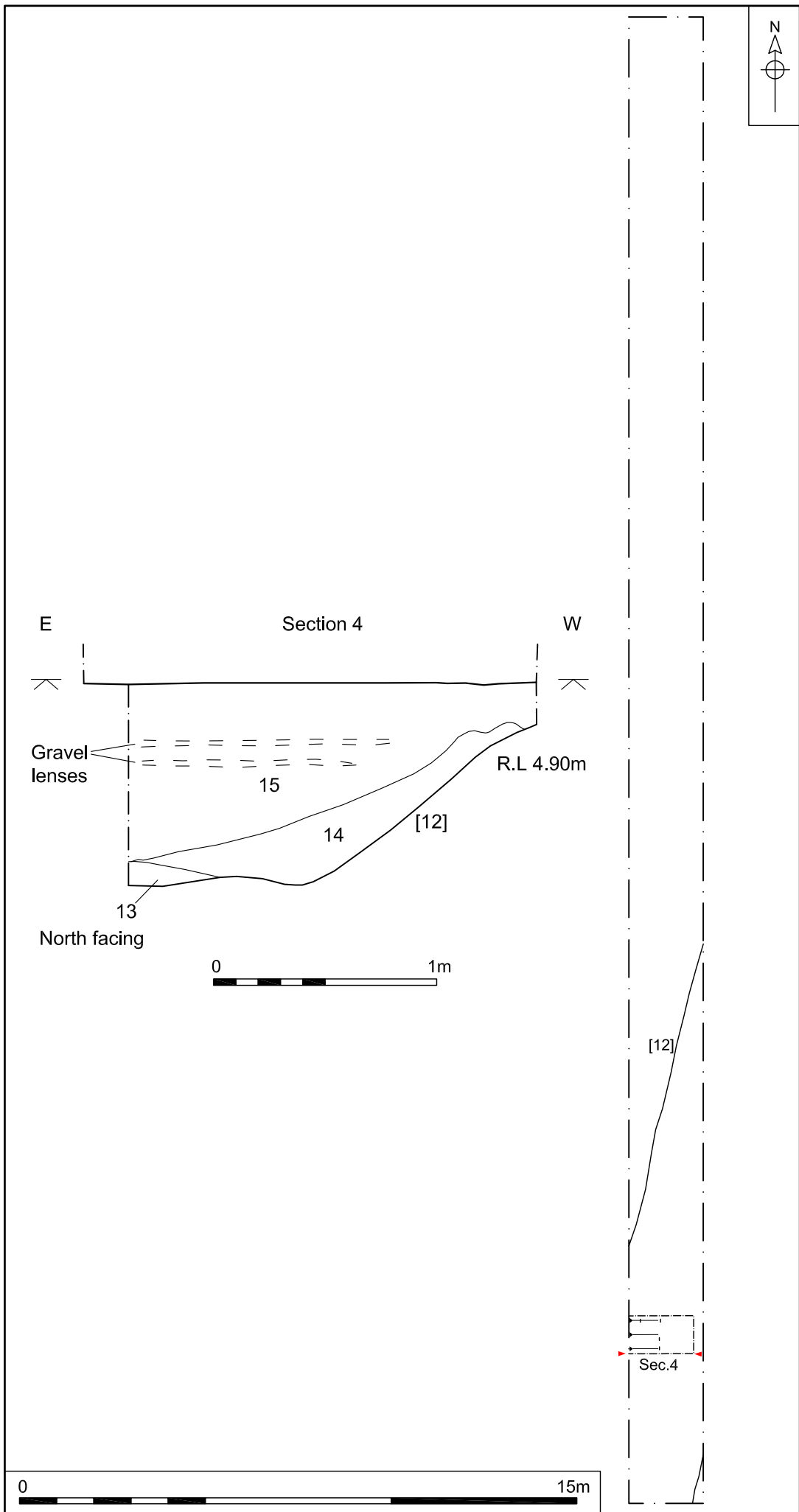


Figure 4. Trench 10, plan and section. Scale 1:150 and 1:25

## Trench 11



Plate 15. Trench 11, looking east

### Fig. 2; Plate 15

#### Location

Orientation	East to west
-------------	--------------

East end	562229 311869
----------	---------------

West end	562189 311869
----------	---------------

#### Dimensions

Length	40.00m
--------	--------

Width	2.00m
-------	-------

Depth	0.45m
-------	-------

#### Levels

East top	5.73m OD
----------	----------

West top	5.74m OD
----------	----------

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.45m	0.00-0.45m
02	Deposit	Natural	-	0.45m

#### Discussion

There were no archaeological features or finds recovered from this trench.

## Trench 12



Plate 16. Trench 12, looking south

**Figs 2 and 5; Plate 16 and 17**

### Location

Orientation North to south

North end 562268 311885

South end 562268 311846

### Dimensions

Length 40.00m

Width 2.00m

Depth 0.40m

### Levels

North top 5.49m OD

South top 5.20m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.40m	0.00-0.40m
02	Deposit	Natural	-	0.40m
03	Cut	Ditch	0.30m	0.40-0.70m
04	Deposit	Fill of [03]	0.30m	0.40-0.70m

### Discussion

There was a single ditch ([3]) located within Trench 12.

The ditch was orientated east to west, was at least 2.0m long and appeared to have a slight curve at its western end. It was 0.80m wide and 0.30m deep. The base was roughly flat and the sides evenly sloped at 0.45m from the vertical axis. The fill ([4]) consisted of a mid brown sandy silt which had probably built up through natural silting.

**Trench 12**



Plate 17. Trench 12, ditch [3], looking east

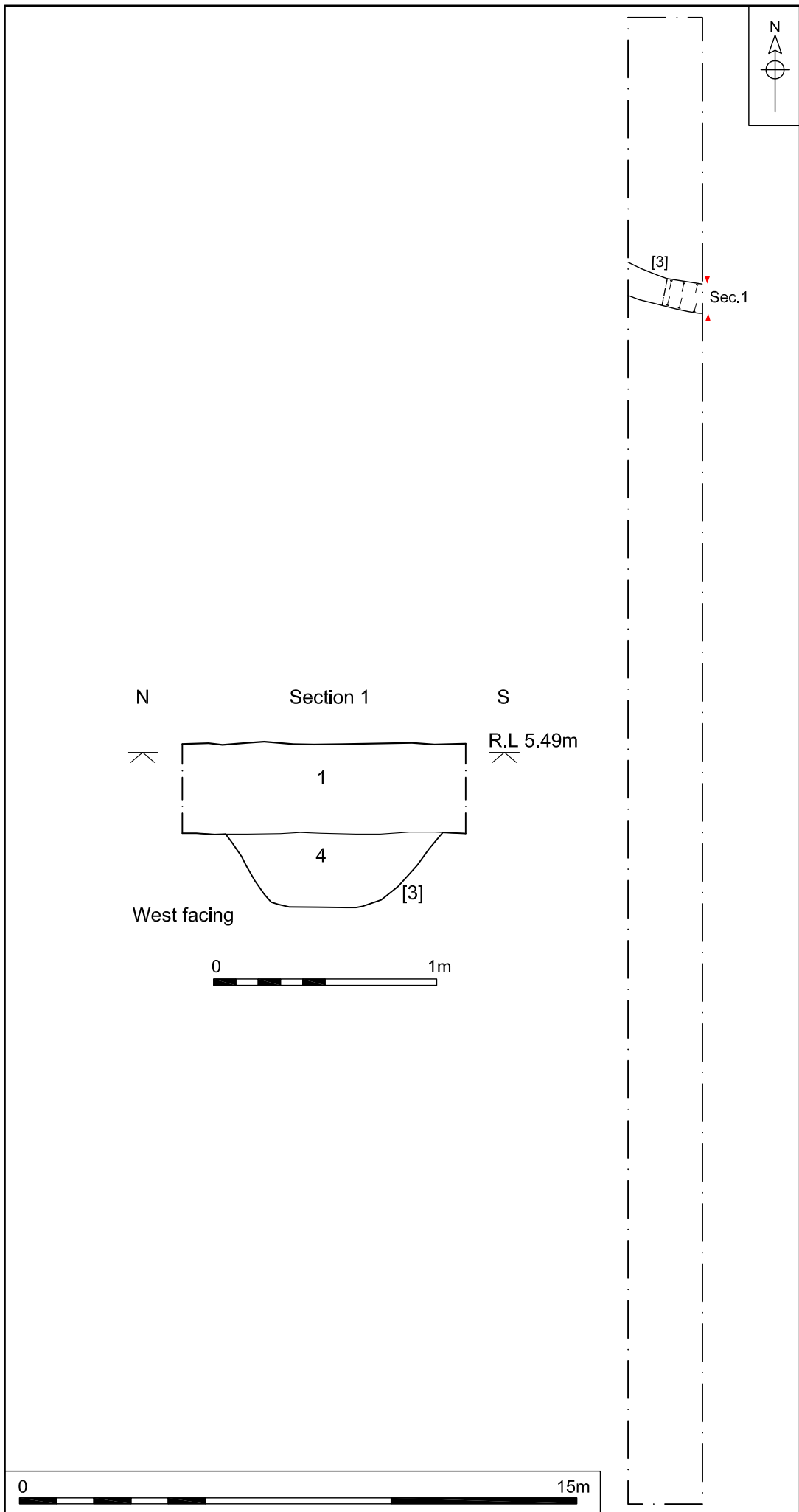


Figure 5. Trench 12, plan and section. Scale 1:150 and 1:25

## Trench 13



Plate 18. Trench 13, looking east

### Fig. 2; Plate 18

#### Location

Orientation	East to west
-------------	--------------

East end	562280 311924
----------	---------------

West end	562240 311924
----------	---------------

#### Dimensions

Length	40.00m
--------	--------

Width	2.00m
-------	-------

Depth	0.40m
-------	-------

#### Levels

East top	5.46m OD
----------	----------

West top	5.73m OD
----------	----------

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.40m	0.00-0.40m
02	Deposit	Natural	-	0.40m

#### Discussion

There were no archaeological features or finds recovered from this trench.

## Trench 14



Plate 19. Trench 14, looking north

### Fig. 2; Plate 19

#### Location

Orientation	North to south
North end	562214 311949
South end	562214 311909

#### Dimensions

Length	40.00m
Width	2.00m
Depth	0.45m

#### Levels

North top	5.81m OD
South top	5.75m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.45m	0.00-0.45m
02	Deposit	Natural	-	0.45m

#### Discussion

There were no archaeological features or finds recovered from this trench.

## Trench 15



Plate 20. Trench 15, looking west

**Figures 2 and 6; Plate 20 and 21**

### Location

Orientation East to west

East end 562187 311926

West end 562147 311926

### Dimensions

Length 40.00m

Width 2.00m

Depth 0.35m

### Levels

East top 5.81m OD

West top 5.10m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.35m	0.00-0.35m
02	Deposit	Natural		0.35m
07	Cut	Ditch	1.00m	0.35-1.35m
08	Deposit	Primary fill of ditch [08]	0.40m	0.35-1.35m
09	Deposit	Fill of ditch [08]	0.60m	0.35-1.35m
10	Cut	Gully	0.30m	0.35-0.65m
11	Deposit	Fill of gully [10]	0.30m	0.35-0.65m

### Discussion

There was a single large ditch ([7]) and gully ([10]) located within Trench 15; both features were orientated north to south (Plate 21).

Ditch ([7]) was 4.70m wide and at least 2.0m long and 1.0m deep. The sides were slightly irregular and shallower on the eastern side. The lowest fill ([8]) was loose 'dirty' sandy gravel. It was 0.40m thick and filled the base of the ditch. The second fill ([9]) was a loose mid greyish brown matrix which held frequent gravel. Each of the fills appeared to have been deliberately dumped within the ditch. The ditch appeared to be truncated by gully [10] on its eastern side.

Gully [10] was 0.30m deep and was at least 2.0m long. The width was 0.90m and the sides and base were concave. Its fill ([11]) was a dark greyish brown matrix containing frequent amounts of gravel.



## Trench 15



Plate 21. Trench 15, ditch [10] and gully [7], looking north-west

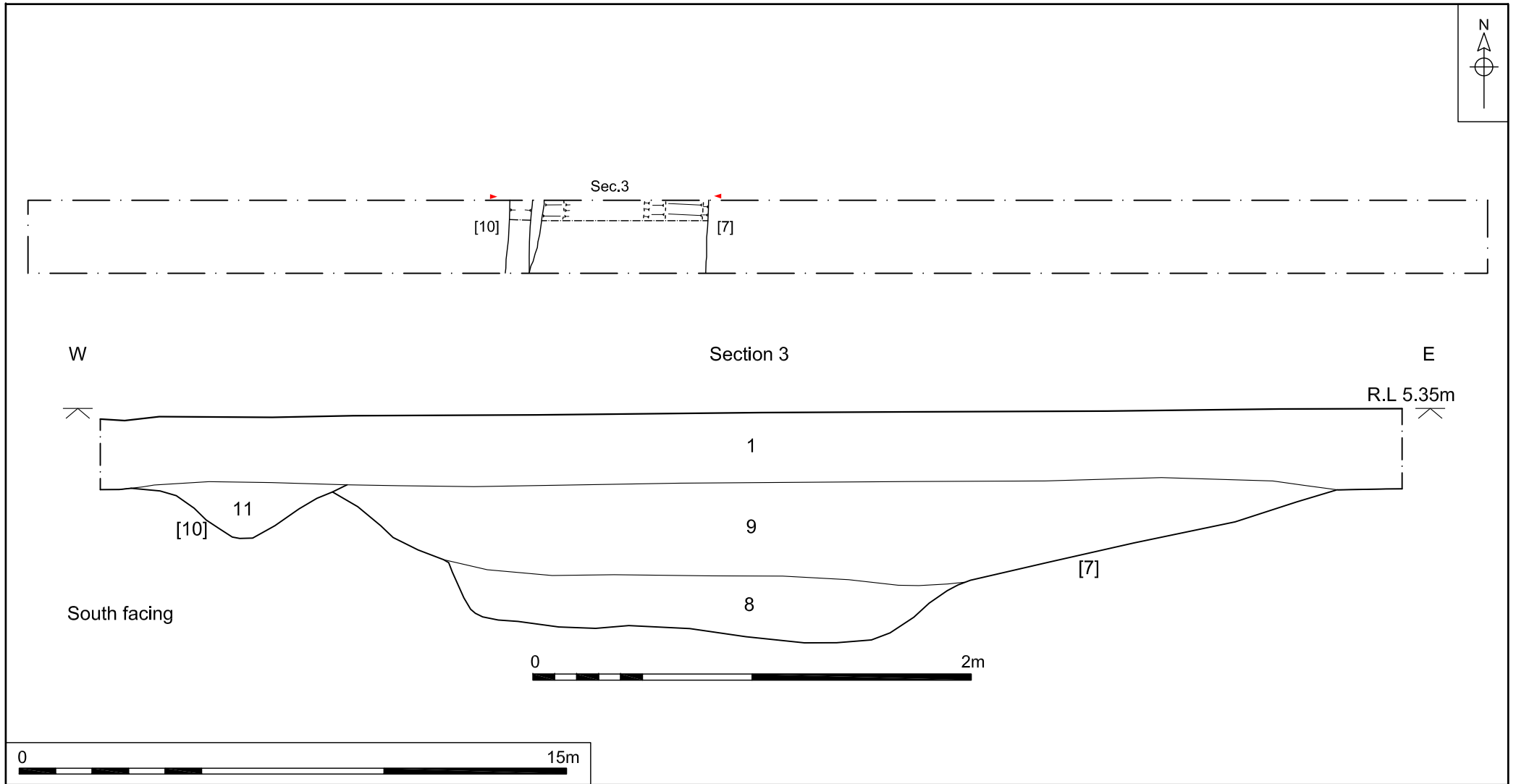


Figure 6. Trench 15, plan and section. Scale 1:150 and 1:25

## Trench 16



Plate 22. Trench 16, looking north

### Fig. 2; Plate 22

#### Location

Orientation	North to south
North end	562162 311007
South end	562162 311968

#### Dimensions

Length	40.00m
Width	2.00m
Depth	0.45m

#### Levels

North top	5.24m OD
South top	5.60m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.45m	0.00-0.45m
02	Deposit	Natural	-	0.45m

#### Discussion

There were no archaeological features or finds recovered from this trench.

## Trench 17



Plate 23. Trench 17, looking south

### Fig. 2; Plate 23

#### Location

Orientation	East to west
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East end	562234 311989
----------	---------------

West end	562194 311989
----------	---------------

#### Dimensions

Length	40.00m
--------	--------

Width	2.00m
-------	-------

Depth	0.40m
-------	-------

#### Levels

East top	5.70m OD
----------	----------

West top	5.89m OD
----------	----------

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.40m	0.00-0.40m
02	Deposit	Natural	-	0.40m

#### Discussion

There were no archaeological features or finds recovered from this trench.

## Trench 18



Plate 24. Trench 18, looking south

### Fig. 2; Plate 24

#### Location

Orientation	North to south
North end	562166 311009
South end	562266 311969

#### Dimensions

Length	40.00m
Width	2.00m
Depth	0.45m

#### Levels

North top	5.52m OD
South top	5.55m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.45m	0.00-0.45m
02	Deposit	Natural	-	0.45m

#### Discussion

There were no archaeological features or finds recovered from this trench.

## Trench 19



Plate 25. Trench 19, looking east

**Fig. 2; Plate 25**

### Location

Orientation East to west

East end 562273 312048

West end 562233 312048

### Dimensions

Length 40.00m

Width 2.00m

Depth 0.45m

### Levels

East top 5.25m OD

West top 5.59m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.45m	0.00-0.45m
02	Deposit	Natural	-	0.45m

### Discussion

There were no archaeological features or finds recovered from this trench.

## Trench 20



Plate 26. Trench 20, looking south

### Fig. 2; Plate 26

#### Location

Orientation	North to South
North end	562216 312074
South end	562216 312034

#### Dimensions

Length	40.00m
Width	2.00m
Depth	0.40m

#### Levels

North top	5.62m OD
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South top	5.75m OD
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Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.40m	0.00-0.40m
02	Deposit	Natural	-	0.40m

#### Discussion

There were no archaeological features or finds recovered from this trench.

## Trench 21



Plate 27. Trench 21, looking south

**Figs 2 and 7; Plate 27 and 28**

### Location

Orientation East to west

East end 562194 312048

West end 562155 312048

### Dimensions

Length 40.00m

Width 2.00m

Depth 0.45m

### Levels

East top 5.95m OD

West top 5.02m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.45m	0.00-0.45m
02	Deposit	Natural	-	0.45m
18	Cut	Ditch	0.80m	0.45-1.25m
19	Deposit	Fill of [18]	0.30m	0.45-1.25m
20	Deposit	Fill of [18]	0.50m	0.45-1.25m

### Discussion

There was a single large ditch ([18]) located within this trench.

Ditch [18] was 4.0m across and at least 2.0m long. The sides were gently sloping and reasonably regular. The earliest fill on the western side of the ditch was composed of a loose orangey brown sand ([19]). The rest of the ditch contained a loose mid greyish brown sandy silt ([20]) which contained a reasonable amount of gravel and a thick lens of soft yellow sand at the centre. Each of the fills was deliberately dumped.



**Trench 21**



Plate 28. Trench 21 ditch [18], looking north-west

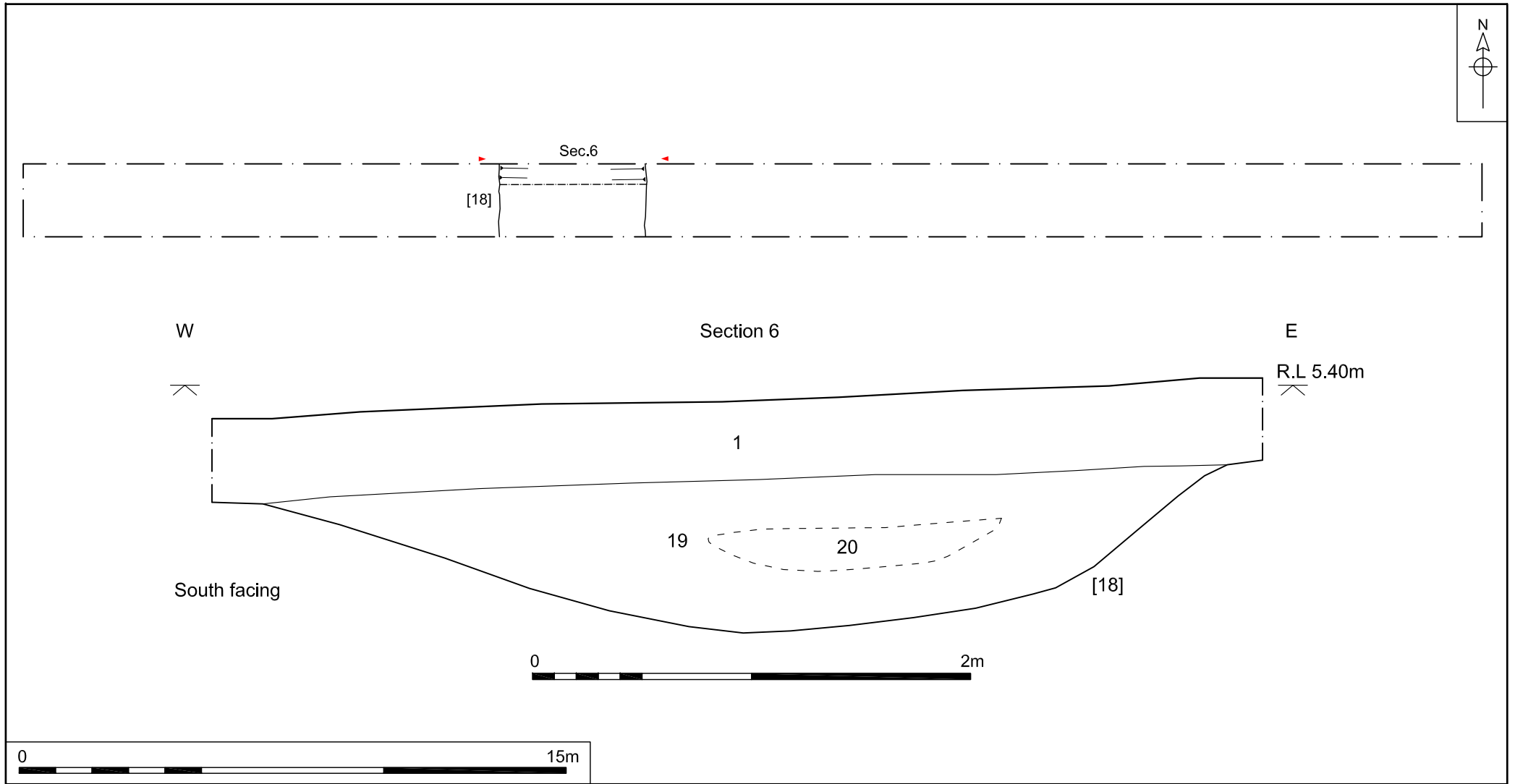


Figure 7. Trench 21, plan and section. Scale 1:150 and 1:25

## Trench 22



Plate 29. Trench 22, looking south

**Figs 2 and 8; Plate 29 and 30**

### Location

Orientation	North to south
North end	562194 312048
South end	562155 312048

### Dimensions

Length	40.00m
Width	2.00m
Depth	0.40m

### Levels

North top	5.47m OD
South top	5.09m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.40	0.00-0.40m
02	Deposit	Natural	-	0.40m
16	Cut	Ditch	0.70m	0.40–1.10m
17	Deposit	Fill of [16]	0.70m	0.40–1.10m

### Discussion

There was a single shallow ditch ([16]) situated within Trench 22.

Ditch [16] was orientated east to west and was 2.0m across and at least 2.0m in length. The depth was 0.30m. The fill ([17]) was composed of a loose dark brown sandy silt which had probably built up slowly through natural processes.

**Trench 22**



Plate 30. Trench 22 ditch [16], looking west

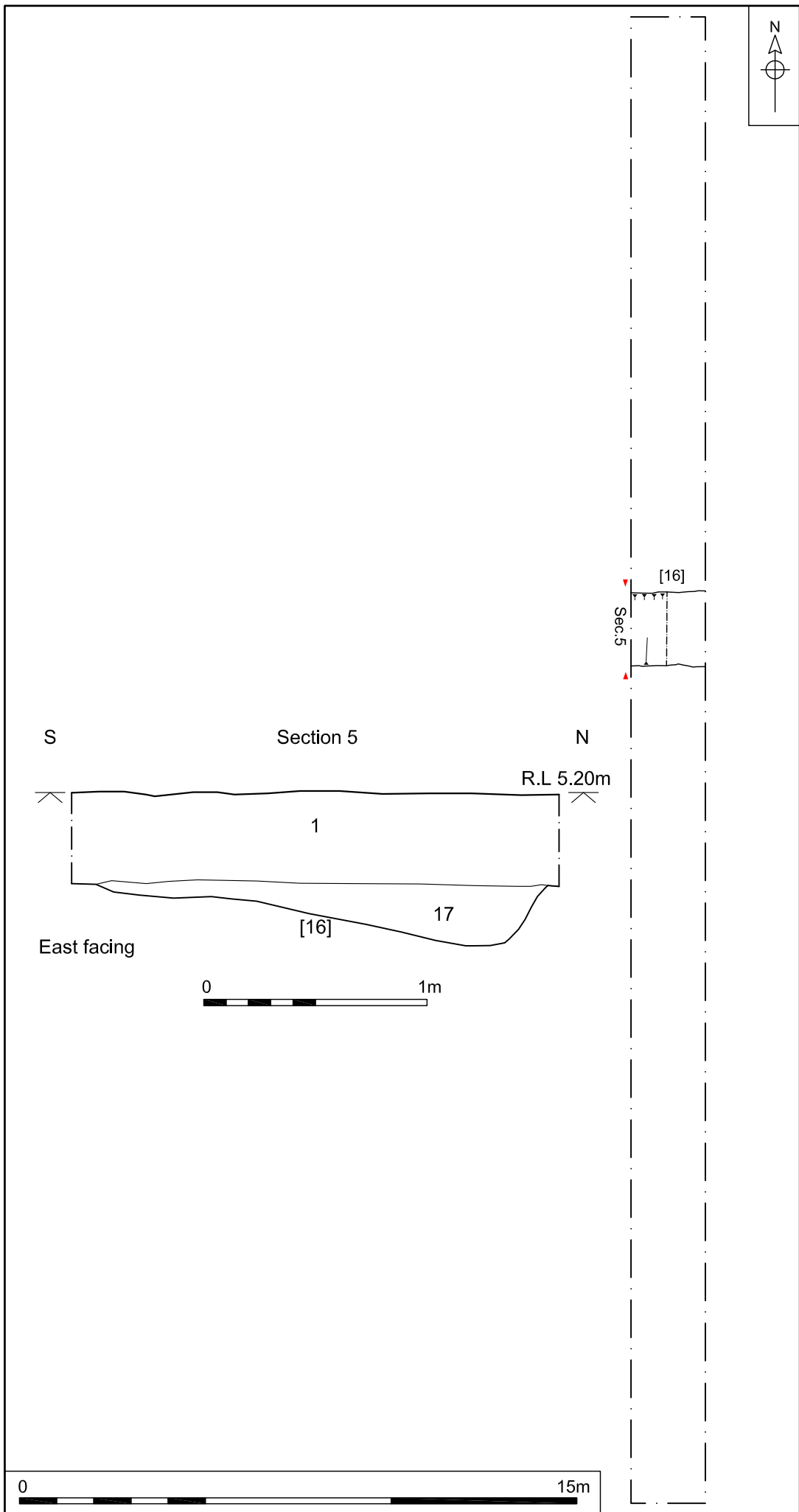


Figure 8. Trench 22, plan and section. Scale 1:150 and 1:25

## Trench 23



Plate 31. Trench 23, looking west

### Fig 2; Plate 31

#### Location

Orientation	East to west
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East end	562234 312110
----------	---------------

West end	562194 312110
----------	---------------

#### Dimensions

Length	40.00m
--------	--------

Width	2.00m
-------	-------

Depth	0.45m
-------	-------

#### Levels

East top	5.34m OD
----------	----------

West top	5.77m OD
----------	----------

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.45m	0.00-0.45m
02	Deposit	Natural	-	0.45m

#### Discussion

There were no archaeological features or finds recovered from this trench.

## Trench 24



Plate 32. Trench 24, looking north

### Fig 2; Plate 32

#### Location

Orientation	North to south
North end	562261 312133
South end	562261 312133

#### Dimensions

Length	40.00m
Width	2.00m
Depth	0.40m

#### Levels

North top	5.18m OD
South top	5.19m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.40m	0.00-0.40m
02	Deposit	Natural	-	0.40m

#### Discussion

There were no archaeological features or finds recovered from this trench.

## **6.0 FINDS**

by Rebecca Sillwood

The 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. A list of finds in context order can be found in Appendix 2a.

### **6.1 Ceramic Building Material**

A single fragment of probable roof tile weighing 6g was recovered from ditch fill [15]; the piece has only one finished surface present, and is of pinkish-orange sandy fabric.

The piece is post-medieval in date.

### **6.2 Flint**

A single fragment of worked flint was recovered from topsoil [01]. The piece is a blade-like tertiary flake with limited abrupt bi-facial retouch to the convex lateral edge.

The flint can be classified as a side scraper, but may have functioned as either a hand tool or been hafted as part of a composite implement. The piece is likely to be Neolithic in date.



## 7.0 CONCLUSIONS

The recovery of just two artefacts from 24 trenches given that six of the trenches contained archaeological features is surprising. The worked flint is a typical find from such a reasonably large area and indicates simply that there was some activity in the vicinity in the Neolithic period.

The project only revealed a sparse collection of archaeological features. These included a large ditch running north to south across the site, which was observed in Trenches 10, 15 and 21 and three separate, probable field boundary ditches observed in Trenches 2, 12 and 22.

Large ditch ([12]=[07]=[18]) had been deliberately backfilled and the appearance of the fills indicated that it was of reasonably recent date. The badly abraded fragment of ceramic building material found within the feature in Trench 10 may have been residual, but suggests that the feature is at least post-medieval if not much later. An examination of the aerial photographs from 1946 and 1985 (E-map explorer 2012) proved negative and there is no record of the feature on historic Ordnance Survey maps of the area. The landowner, Edward Pope suggested that there had been some disturbance/excavation which 'lined up with the south-western corner of the field' within living memory, although few further details could be added. The ditch may have acted as a type of large 'French drain' deliberately backfilled with sandy material to aid the movement of water through the field, instead of a large open ditch which would require continual maintenance in such sandy and loose soil.

Little can be said about gully [10] except that it was later in date than the large ditch, although it's proximity to it suggested that it may be related in function.

The three undated ditches in Trenches 2, 12 and 22 across the site are almost certainly the same redundant ditches that are visible on the 1840 tithe map of the area (E-map explorer 2012). Ditch [5] in Trench 2 appears to be the ditch visible between fields numbered 105 and 106 on the south-eastern edge of the tithe map. Similarly, ditch [3] observed running east to west within Trench 12 in the main field is probably that shown on the same tithe map dividing fields labelled as 121 and 122.

The feature interpreted as a ditch in this report may in fact be the sinuous stream/open drain shown wending its way across field 121. It appears to be in slightly the wrong position, although tithe maps can be less accurate than more recently surveyed maps. By the 1905 Ordnance Survey map all of these boundaries had become redundant, reflecting the drive to combine fields into larger units in keeping with the agricultural revolution that culminated in the late 19th century and strongly practiced in East Anglia.

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 Matt of Frimstone Ltd for his careful machining of the trenches and the landowner Edward Pope for his interest in the project and help towards completing it. Fieldwork was undertaken by the author. Thanks to Sandrine Whitmore of NPS for surveying the trenches.

The finds were processed, recorded and reported on by Rebecca Sillwood, with help from Andrew Peachey regarding the flint.

The report was illustrated by David Dobson after initial digitising by the author. David Dobson produced the report which was edited by Jayne Bown.

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## Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period
1	Deposit			Topsoil	Unknown
2	Deposit			Natural	Unknown
3	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Post-medieval
4	Deposit			Fill of [3]	Post-medieval
5	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Post-medieval
6	Deposit		5	Fill of [5]	Post-medieval
7	Cut	Ditch		Large Ditch	Post-medieval
8	Deposit		7	Fill of [7]	Post-medieval
9	Deposit		7	Fill of [7]	Post-medieval
10	Cut	Gully		Gully	Post-medieval
11	Deposit		10	Fill of [10]	Post-medieval
12	Cut	Ditch		Large Ditch	Post-medieval
13	Deposit		12	Fill of [12]	Post-medieval
14	Deposit		12	Fill of [12]	Post-medieval
15	Deposit		12	Fill of [12]	Post-medieval
16	Cut	Ditch		Ditch (shallow)	Post-medieval
17	Deposit		16	Fill of [16]	Post-medieval
18	Cut	Ditch		Large Ditch	Post-medieval
19	Deposit		18	Fill of [18]	Post-medieval
20	Deposit		18	Fill of [18]	Post-medieval

## Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary

Period	Category	Total
Post-medieval	Ditch	4
	Gully	1

## Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
1	Flint – Struck	1	7g	Neolithic	
15	Ceramic Building Material	1	6g	Post-medieval	Roof tile fragment

## Appendix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Neolithic	Flint – Struck	1
Post-medieval	Ceramic Building Material	1