Report 3046

nps archaeology

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at Norwich Road, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk

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Prepared for
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Location:	Land off Norwich Road, Caister-on-Sea
District:	Great Yarmouth
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Client:	V C Denton and Sons
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Summary

An archaeological evaluation by NPS Archaeology at Norwich Road, Caister-on-Sea was conducted on behalf of Middleton and George Ltd in advance of proposed development.

The site to be evaluated was located within an area thought to be part of the vicus *or civilian settlement associated with a nearby Roman fort probably established in the early 3rd century.*

The evaluation consisted of six trenches each measuring approximately 1.8m by 30m in plan arrayed across the development area. Archaeological features were recorded in each of these trenches; with features being overlain by soils that varied in depth from c *0.50m to 1.20m.*

The quantity of cultural material recovered from the site suggests considerable activity during the Roman period, and the majority of archaeological remains at the site are considered to be of Roman date. Remains of this period comprised mostly ditches of broad north-south and east-west alignments as well as some pits that included a possible oven or similar type of feature containing burnt material.

Features of possible prehistoric and post-Roman date were also tentatively identified at the site.

Based on the date and nature of the archaeological evidence it seems likely that the site does indeed lie within the vicus *associated with the fort. The intercutting of some ditches at the site suggests that the arrangement of plot boundaries was not static, with some potential for stratified remains to survive.*

The depths of soil present at the site appeared to have helped preserve these remains.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The archaeological evaluation of land off Norwich Road, Caister-on-Sea in Norfolk (Fig. 1) was undertaken to fulfil planning requirements set by Great Yarmouth District Council and an instruction by James Albone of Norfolk Historic Environment Service (NHES). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (NAU/BAU3046NP). The archaeological works were commissioned by Middleton and George Ltd on behalf of V C Denton and Sons who funded it.

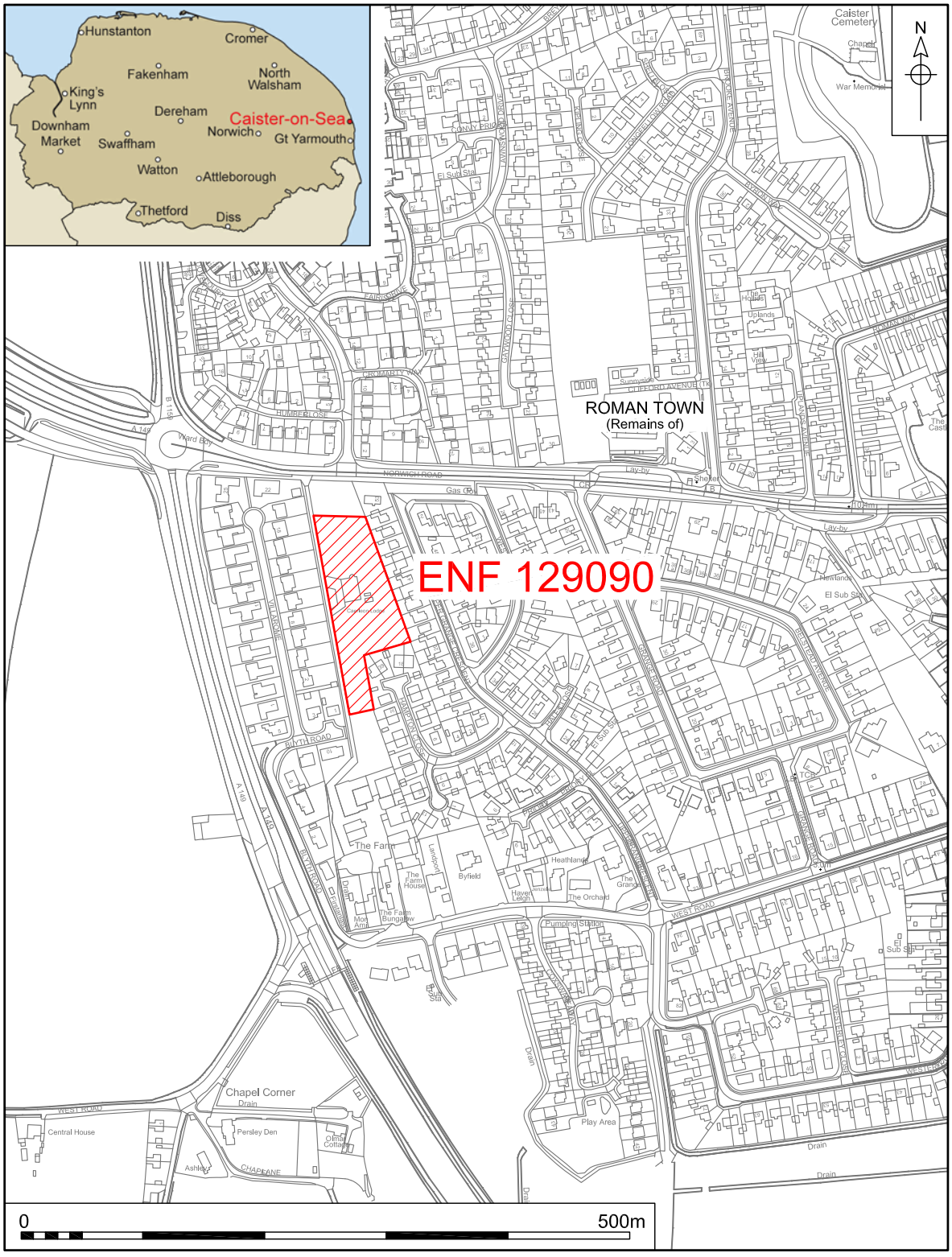

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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:5000

The programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in *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 site lies on a gentle south-facing slope, representing the southern flank of the Isle of Flegg which overlooked a former estuary. The geology consists of Cromer Till and Norwich brickearth overlain by glacial sands (BGS 1991).

The soils here are coverloams (Soil Survey England and Wales 1973) that overlie yellow glacial sands present at the site. Towards the south end of the site clays and silts were also present, presumably resulting from the proximity of the estuary.

The site lies at about *c*.12m OD at its northern end sloping downwards to *c*.7m OD at it southern end.

The site currently lies within the grounds of a bungalow, 'Caerleon Lodge' (Figs 1 and 2), but the tithe map (NRO DN/TA 701) and 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (1885) indicate that the site previously lay within a triangular bock of arable land with a frontage onto Norwich Road at its northern end.

Plate 1. General view of site looking north with Trenches 2 and 3 visible

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A search of entries held on the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) for a diameter of 500m centred on the evaluation site produced a total of 29 records within this area. The most relevant of these records are referred to below along with information from other sources.

The site lies on the southern flanks of the Isle of Flegg and about 250m to the south-west of an important Roman Shore Fort (NHER 8675). The fort was initially established in the early AD 200s as a military supply base or depot, but was later incorporated into the line of coastal defences against barbarian raiders and was known as the Saxon Shore (*Litus Saxonicum*) (Gurney 2005). This fort (or that at Burgh Castle) may have been the establishment known as *Gariannonum* referred to in the document known as the *Notitia Dignitatum* (Gurney 1996).

The shoreline contemporary with the fort is generally thought to have followed the present 3m contour and lay about 300m south of the present site. An east–west 'paved road' is thought to run some 100m to the south (Darling with Gurney 1993).

There have been many excavations in and around the site of the fort and much light has been shed upon the layout and history of the fort and its contemporary surroundings. However, part of the *vicus* to the west of the Shore Fort disappeared under housing without record in 1986, although cropmarks west of the Caister bypass give some hint of the layout (NHER 27513). These cropmarks probably continued into the general area of the site, towards the fort. Two Roman kilns lay nearby, about 200m to the south (NHER 8678) and about 100m to the east (NHER 8679). Cemeteries of Middle Saxon date lay further to the east, just south of the fort (NHER 8675), and further Middle Saxon burials were excavated within the fort itself (NHER 8675).

Although a study has been made of the cropmarks in this area, cropmark evidence is sparse around the fort itself, possibly because of a deep colluvial deposit seen in excavations to the south and east of the fort. This deposit was observed to have buried the Roman land surface to a depth of up to 0.8m (Albone *et al*. 2007, 106). The effect has been to bury the Roman land surface and preclude the formation of cropmarks. However, to the west of the fort, centred on the road towards the western gate, there are cropmarks of the *vicus*. Coin finds in this area date from the late 2nd to late 4th centuries (Albone *et al.* 2007, 106–7).

A recent watching brief carried out to the immediate north of the current site (Penn 2012, NHER 51885) produced a small number of Roman finds from within cut features that included possible pits and ditches.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

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

The Brief required a total of six trenches measuring 1.8m by 30m in plan be set out to examine the area of proposed development, providing a 5% sample of this area (Fig. 2).

Machine excavation was carried out with a hydraulic 360˚ excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket and operated under constant archaeological supervision.

To avoid working near a live electrical cable Trench 2 was machined in two separate halves, leaving the undisturbed cable to run north-south between these two elements of the trench. To establish the nature of an area of archaeology revealed in Trench 4 the position of Trench 5 was moved to conjoin with Trench 4 it at its western end.

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.

From a total of ten environmental samples taken during the course of field work, four were selected for assessment.

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

Temporary benchmarks used during the course of this work were established by GPS. Site conditions were generally good, with the work taking place mainly in fine weather.

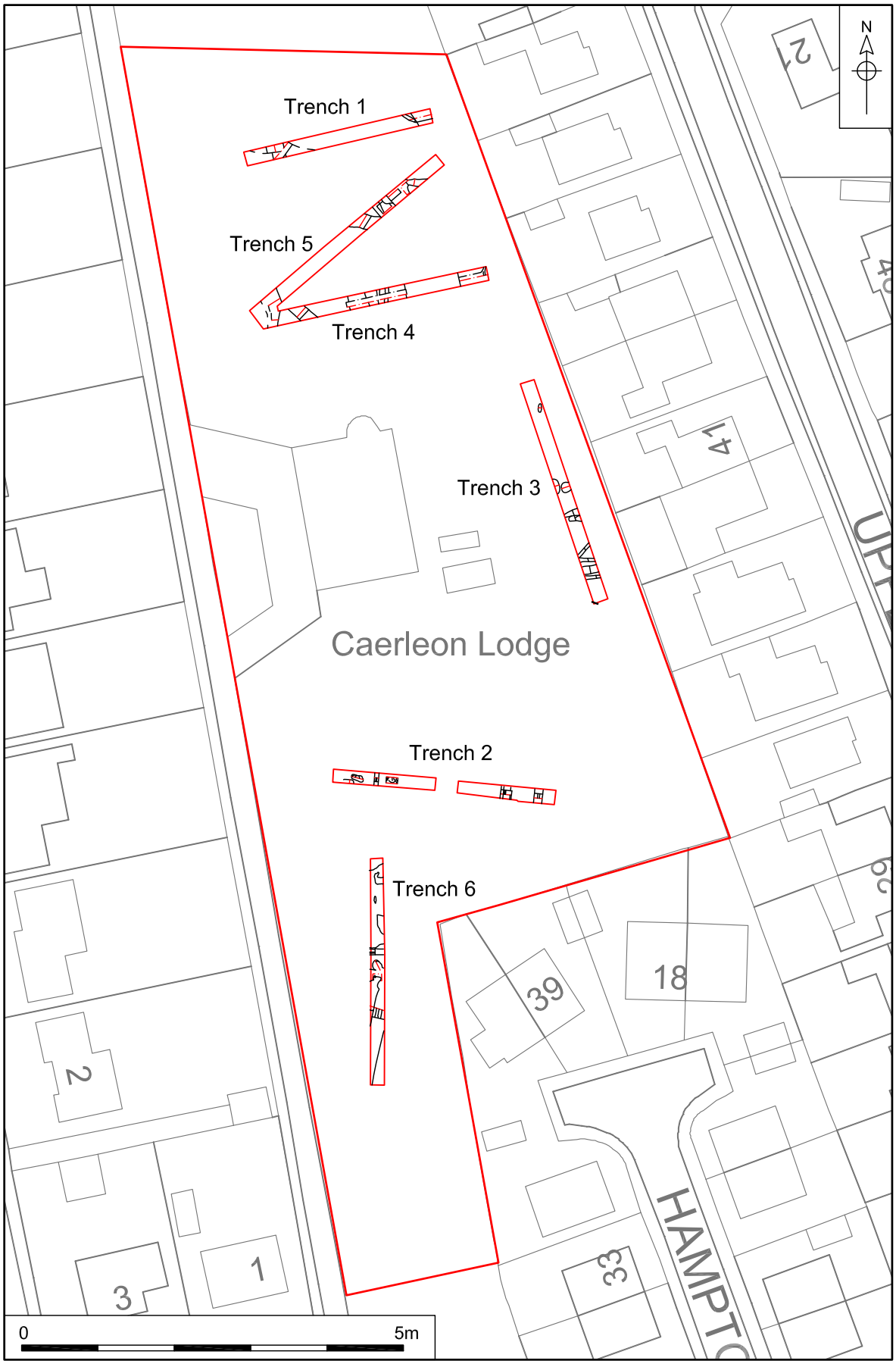

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Figure 2. Location of trenches. Scale 1:750

5.0 RESULTS

The results obtained from each trench are tabulated below along with the relevant plans and sections for each trench.

Trench 1

Figs 2 and 3	
Location	
Orientation	East-West
East end	651453.5 312224.1
West end	651429.1 312218.4
Dimensions	
Length	30.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.63m
Levels	
East top	11.36m OD
West top	11.58mOD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
1	Deposit	Topsoil. A mid to dark brown sand clay silt with frequent flecks of brick, mortar and charcoal.	0.30m (average)	0.00-0.30m
2	Deposit	Mid brown sand clay silt present across the site, characterised as a subsoil. Varies in depth, generally 0.50m.	0.50m-0.60m	0.30-0.80m
3	Deposit	Geological deposits recorded across site, consisting of pale yellow to orange yellow sands, frequently root disturbed with occasional stones in the north grading to an increasing clay or silt content towards the southern end of the evaluated area with a colour change to pale grey also noted.	-	0.80m
19	Cut	Ditch located at west end of trench and aligned approximately north-west to south-east. Quite steep-sided, it measured 1.9m in width with a depth of 0.75m. Though somewhat indistinct in plan it could be seen to cut north-south	0.75m	0.80-1.35m

Trench 1				
		aligned ditch [21].		
20	Deposit	Dark grey brown sand silt fill of ditch [19].	0.75m	0.80-1.35m
21	Cut	This was a north to south aligned ditch at the west end of Trench 1 which was cut by ditch [19]. It measured 1.50m in width with a depth of 0.70m.	0.70m	0.80-1.30m
22	Deposit	Mid brown sand silt fill of ditch [21]	0.70m	0.80-1.30m
23	Cut	Ditch located at the east end of Trench 1. Aligned approximately north-south, it had a slightly stepped profile with a flat base and sides sloping at approximately 45%. It measured 0.50m in depth with a width of 2.10m.	0.50m	0.80-1.30m
24	Deposit	Dark grey brown sand silt fill of ditch [23]	0.50m	0.80-1.30m
25	Cut	Gully present at the east end of Trench 1 adjacent to ditch [23]. Aligned approximately north-west to south-east, this small gully or ditch measured 0.10m in depth with a width of 0.70m. Its sides were gradual and its base concave.	0.10m	0.80-0.90m
26	Deposit	Mid brown sand silt fill of gully [25]	0.10m	0.80-0.90m

Discussion

Located at the north end of the site, Trench 1 contained fewer archaeological features than the other evaluation trenches; perhaps surprising as this trench would seem to lie closest to the focus of known Roman activity identified from previous archaeological work.

The features revealed here consisted of ditches which might be interpreted as boundaries for plots or fields.

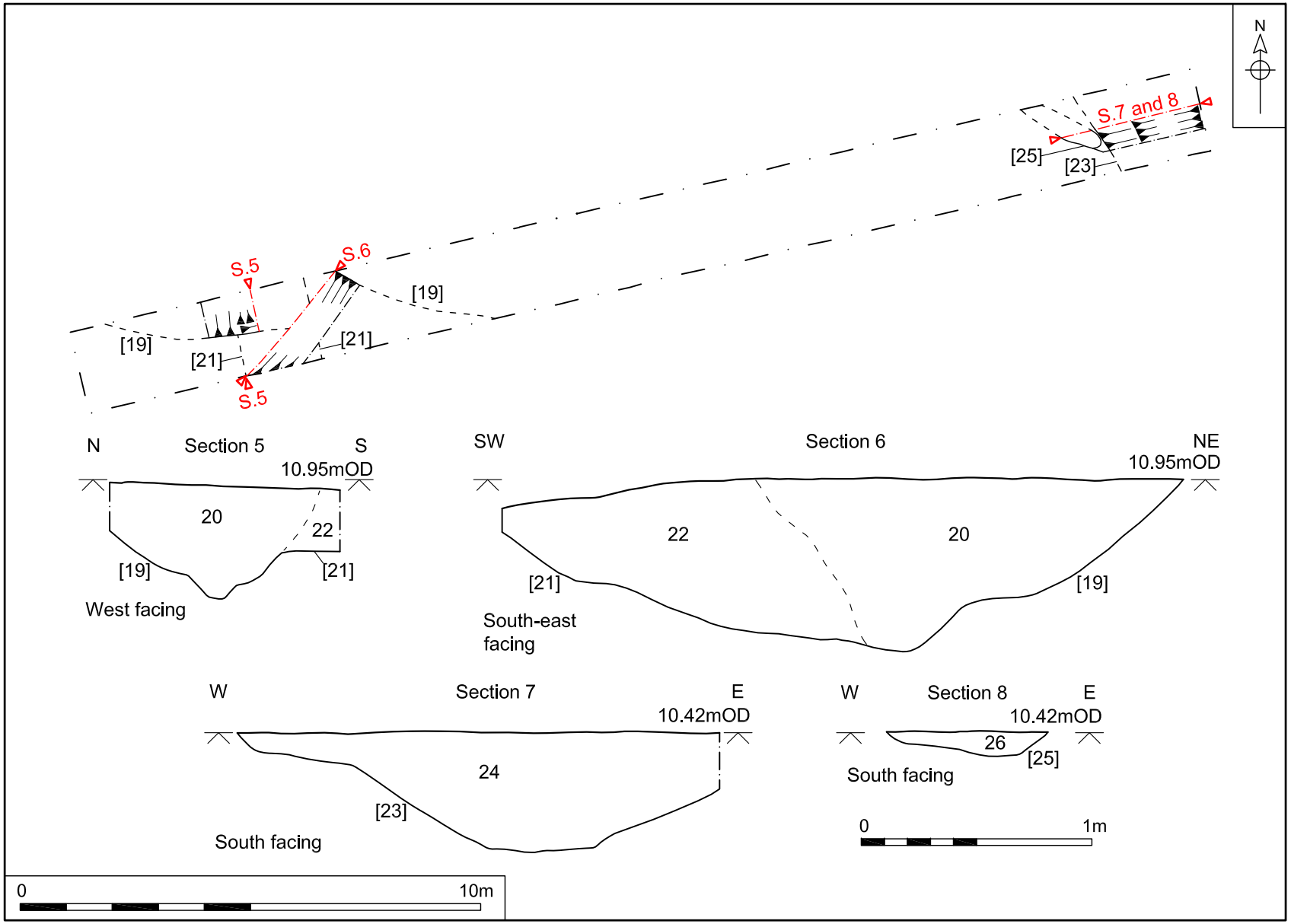

Figure 3. Trench 1, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 2

Figs 2 and 4	
Location	
Orientation	East-West
East end	651470.0 312134.9
West end	651440.8 312137.6
Dimensions	
Length	30.0m
Width	1.80m
Depth	1.02m
Levels	
East top	8.27m OD
South-west top	8.24mOD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
1	Deposit	Topsoil. A mid to dark brown sand clay silt with frequent flecks of brick, mortar and charcoal.	0.30m (average)	0.00-0.30m
2	Deposit	Mid brown sand clay silt present across the site, characterised as a subsoil. Varies in depth, generally 0.50m.	0.50m-0.60m	0.30-0.90m
3	Deposit	Geological deposits recorded across site, consisting of pale yellow to orange yellow sands, frequently root disturbed with occasional stones in the north grading to an increasing clay or silt content towards the southern end of the evaluated area with a colour change to pale grey also noted.	-	0.90m
29	Cut	Pit located at the west end of Trench 2. Possibly oval in plan with a near-vertical profile in the north but otherwise gradually sloping sides to a slightly rounded base. It measured 0.39m in depth with a length of at least 0.80m and width of at least 0.57m. Of note was that this feature contained no finds.	0.57m	0.90-1.47m
30	Deposit	Red brown sand silt primary fill of pit [29] seeming to consist of weathered in geological sands.	0.04m	1.43-1.47m
31	Deposit	Dark brown sand silt fill of pit	0.16m	1.27-1.43m

Trench 2				
		[29]. A possible dump of material into this pit, lacking any notable inclusions.		
32	Deposit	Mid brown sand silt upper fill of pit [29].	0.37m	0.90-0.37m
33	Cut	Oven? This well-defined feature at the west end of Trench 2 was oval in plan with a length of 1.71m and depth of 0.21m. The slope of the sides of this features varied from steep to gradual with the base slightly uneven. The fill of this feature consisted of redeposited material perhaps from some sort of clay-lined structure subjected to heating or burning.	0.21m	0.90-1.11m
34	Deposit	This single fill of feature [33] was a mixed dark brown and black sand silt with moderate charcoal flecks and occasional lenses of burnt clay, these showing degrees of colour change suggesting they were remnants of a heated lining of some sort. Environmental sample <5> was taken from this deposit.	0.21m	0.90-1.11m
35	Cut	Gully or small ditch in the western half of the trench, aligned north-south and measuring 0.52m in width with a depth of 0.16m. Possibly for drainage?	0.16m	0.90-1.06m
36	Deposit	Mid brown sand silt fill of gully [35].	0.16m	0.90-1.06m
37	Cut	Ditch aligned approximately north-south. It was 0.39 deep and 1.11m wide with a slightly stepped profile. It contained two distinct fills with areas of rooted soils along each side. This pit either cut or was cut by pit [40].	0.39m	0.90-1.29m
38	Deposit	Mid to pale brown sand silt fill of ditch [37].	0.35m	0.94-1.29m
39	Deposit	Mid brown sand silt fill of ditch [37].	0.39m	0.90-1.29m
40	Cut	The form of this comparatively small pit was obscured by its coincidence with ditch [37]. It appeared to have quite steep sides with an uneven base. It measured, as could best be discerned, 0.58m in depth and 0.42m in diameter.	0.58m	0.90-1.48m
41	Deposit	Mid brown sand silt fill of pit [40].	0.58m	0.90-1.48m

Trench 2				
61	Deposit	A mid brown sand silt primary fill of pit [40] with sand lenses perhaps caused by rooting.	0.58m	0.90-1.48m
67	Cut	A small ditch in the eastern half of Trench 2, this was aligned approximately north-south and measured 0.35m in depth with a width of 1.50m. Its generally gradually sloping sides broke more steeply along its eastern edge to its rounded base.	0.35m	0.90-1.25m
68	Deposit	Primary fill of ditch [67]. This was a mid yellow brown silt sand with no obvious inclusions. It appeared to consist of weathered in geological sands.	0.26m	0.99-1.25m
69	Deposit	The upper fill of ditch [67]. A mid to dark brown sand silt with sparse small flint pebbles.	0.14m	0.90-1.04m
70	Cut	A ditch aligned approximately north-south at the eastern end of Trench 2. This measured 0.47m in depth with a width of 1.09m. Its moderately steep sides came down to a rounded base. It contained three fills (71), (81) and (82), none of which contained any finds.	0.47m	0.90-1.37m
71	Deposit	The upper fill of ditch [70]. This was a mid to dark brown sand silt with sparse stones.	0.35m	0.90-1.25m
81	Deposit	Primary fill of ditch [70]. A mid to dark orange brown sand silt. This measured up to 0.18m in depth and appeared to consist of weathered in geological sands and silt.	0.18m	1.07-1.25m
82	Deposit	Fill of ditch [70]. A mid to dark brown sand silt, possibly a later backfill once ditch had passed out of use?. Not illustrated.	0.27m	0.90-1.17m

Discussion

Trench 2 was located in the south of the evaluated area. It contained four ditches and two pits, one of which ([33]) contained a fill of material derived from heating or burning perhaps indicating domestic or industrial activity in the vicinity (Sample <5>). It has been tentatively interpreted as an oven.

The ditches appeared to share similar north-south alignments and this might indicate that they belong to broadly the same type and period of activity. The finds recovered from these features suggest a Roman date for this activity.

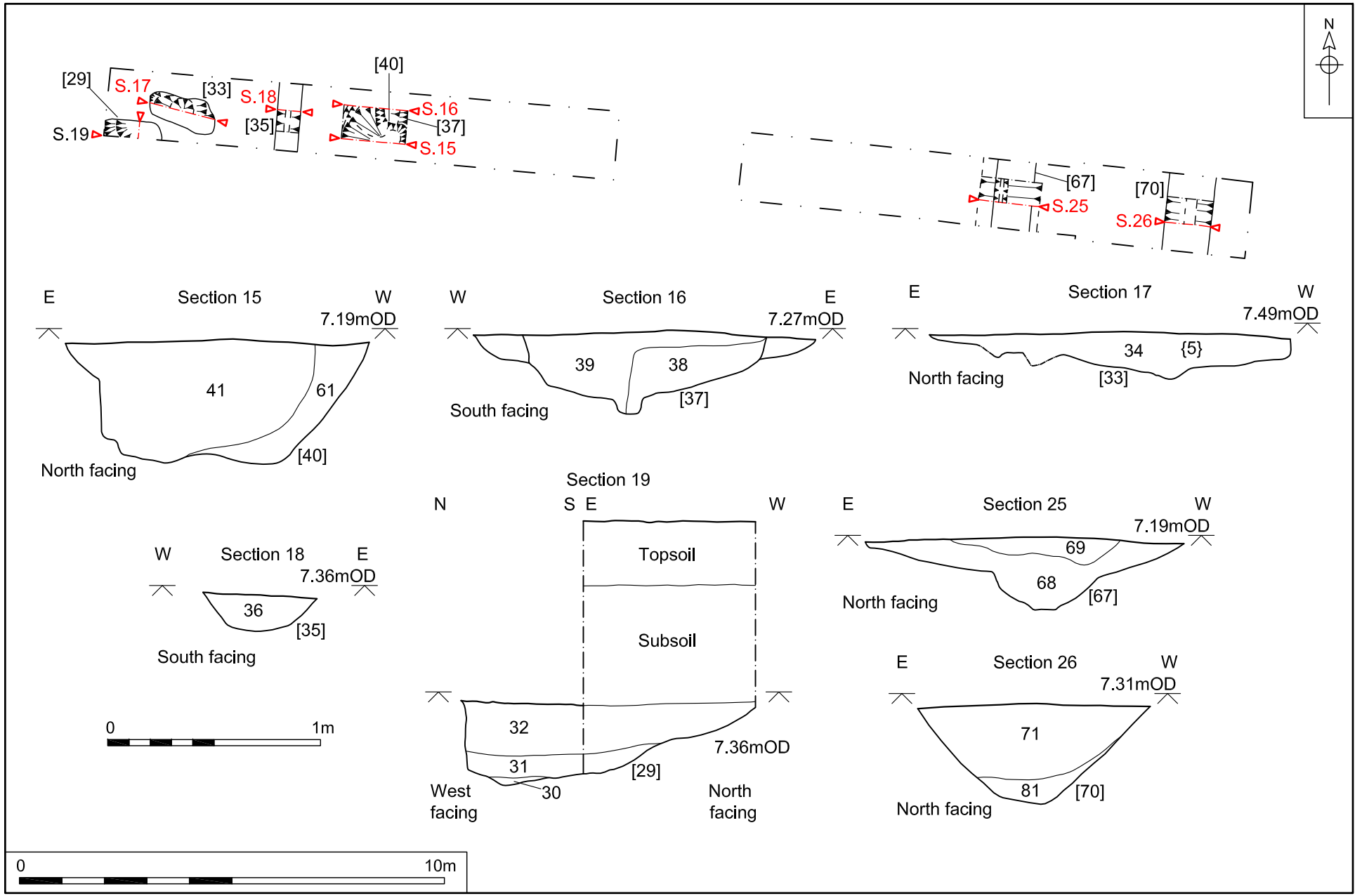

Figure 4. Trench 2, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 3

Figs 2, 5 and 6	
Location	
Orientation	North-South
North end	651465.3 312188.6
South end	651476 8 312159.9
Dimensions	
Length	30.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	1.22m
Levels	
North top	9.93m OD
South top	8.88mOD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
1	Deposit	Topsoil. A mid to dark brown sand clay silt with frequent flecks of brick, mortar and charcoal.	0.30m (average)	0.00-0.30m
2	Deposit	Mid brown sand clay silt present across the site, characterised as a subsoil. Varies in depth, generally 0.50m.	0.50m-0.60m	0.30-0.80m
3	Deposit	Geological deposits recorded across site, consisting of pale yellow to orange yellow sands, frequently root disturbed with occasional stones in the north grading to an increasing clay or silt content towards the southern end of the evaluated area with a colour change to pale grey also noted.	-	0.80m
27	Cut	Pit in the north end of Trench 3. This was elongate oval in plan and aligned approximately north-east to south-west. It measured 0.35m in depth with a length of 1.10m and width of 0.40m. Quite steep sided to a blunt pointed base, it had no discernable function.	0.35m	0.80-1.15m
28	Deposit	The single mid brown silt sand fill of pit [27]. Appears to consist of redeposited sand at its base.	0.35m	0.80-1.15m
42	Cut	A medium-large pit in the centre of the evaluation trench that was	0.40m	0.80-1.20m

Trench 3				
		not fully revealed in plan, though from what could be gauged it was likely to be oval or circular in plan. The sides of this feature sloped at approximately 45% and it had a flat base. This feature measured 0.40m in depth with a revealed length of 2.0m. The excavator suggested this was possibly a prehistoric feature.		
43	Deposit	Pale greyish brown silt sand fill of pit [42]. Rather sterile and weathered in appearance.	0.40m	0.80-1.20m
44	Cut	A pit in the centre of the trench that was circular or sub-circular in plan with steep sides and an uneven base. It measured 0.55m in depth with a length off 1.80m. As with pit [41] this might be a feature of prehistoric date and a small sherd of prehistoric pottery was recovered from its fill (43).	0.55m	0.80-1.35m
45	Deposit	Pale greyish brown silt sand fill of pit [44]	0.55m	0.80-1.35m
46	Cut	A ditch in the southern half of Trench 3 which was aligned approximately east-west and measured 0.70m in depth and 1.05m in width. A slightly weathered look to the profile of these feature probably reflected the soft nature of geological deposits this feature was cut into. Quite steep sided to a concave base, this feature cut ditch [48] and might have been a re-cutting or re-establishment of this earlier feature. Thought to be of Roman date	0.70m	0.80-1.50m
47	Deposit	Weathered in fill of ditch [46] consisting of mid brown sand silt increasingly sandy towards base.	0.70m	0.80-1.50m
48	Cut	A possible ditch terminal adjacent to ditch [47]. Aligned approximately East-West, it measured 0.65m in depth and 0.95m in depth. Gradual sided with a concave base, it had been cut by the later setting out of ditch [47].	0.65m	0.80-1.45m
49	Deposit	Mid brown silt sand; weathered in fill of ditch/terminal [48]	0.65m	0.80-1.45m
50	Cut	Gully or small ditch in southern	0.55m	0.80-1.35m

Trench 3				
		half of Trench 3, this feature measured 0.55m in depth with a width of 0.85m. Aligned north-east to south-west, the southern edge of this feature was steeper than its western counterpart, the base concave.		
51	Deposit	Mid brown sand silt fill of gully [50] with weathered in geological sands towards base of context.	0.55m	0.80-1.35m
52	Cut	A small ditch or gully aligned north-west to south-east, steep sided and flat based. It measured 0.28m in depth and 0.40m in width and was cut to the South by similar feature [54].	0.28m	0.80-1.08m
53	Deposit	Mid brown silt sand fill of ditch [52].	0.28m	0.80-1.08m
54	Cut	A ditch at the South end of Trench 3 that was aligned approximately East-West and measured 0.40m in depth and 0.70m in width. It had a steep sided profile with a concave base and contained two distinct fills (55) and (60).	0.40m	0.80-1.20m
55	Deposit	Mid brown sand silt upper fill of ditch [54].	0.25m	0.80-1.05m
56	Cut	A ditch aligned approximately East-West and parallel to a similar ditch [54]. It measured 0.20m in depth with a width of 0.40m.	0.20m	0.80-1.00m
57	Deposit	Mid to dark brown sand silt fill of ditch [56].	0.20m	0.80-1.00m
58	Deposit	A sub-soil recorded in section and consisting of a pale brown silt sand with occasional small stones. Cut by several of the feature described above.	0.35m	0.80-1.15m
59	Deposit	Sub-soil. Similar to (58)	0.30m	0.80-1.10m
60	Deposit	A pale brown silt sand; the primary fill of ditch [54].	0.20m	1.05-1.25m
105	U/S Finds	Unstratified finds from trench 3	-	-

Discussion

Features within Trench 3 were sealed by a depth of soils that at up to 1.22m were the deepest encountered during the evaluation. Several ditches and pits were present within this trench, which had the highest number of features recorded from a trench at the site.

The ditches revealed in this trench were present at its southern end and appeared to share broadly similar approximate east-west alignments. The relative density and presence of intercutting ditches is thought to infer some longevity and maintenance to and of these features, perhaps for example a significant boundary being re-established over time.

A pair of pits ([42] and [44]) of similar size and form was present in the centre of the evaluation trench and is cautiously suggested as being of prehistoric date. This interpretation is based on

Trench 3

the paler appearance of their fills in respect to features demonstrated to be Roman or post Roman in date, as well as the paucity of finds from them in an area where finds from later periods were plentiful.

Plate 3. Trench 3, excavated ditches [52], [54], [56] looking east, 1m scale

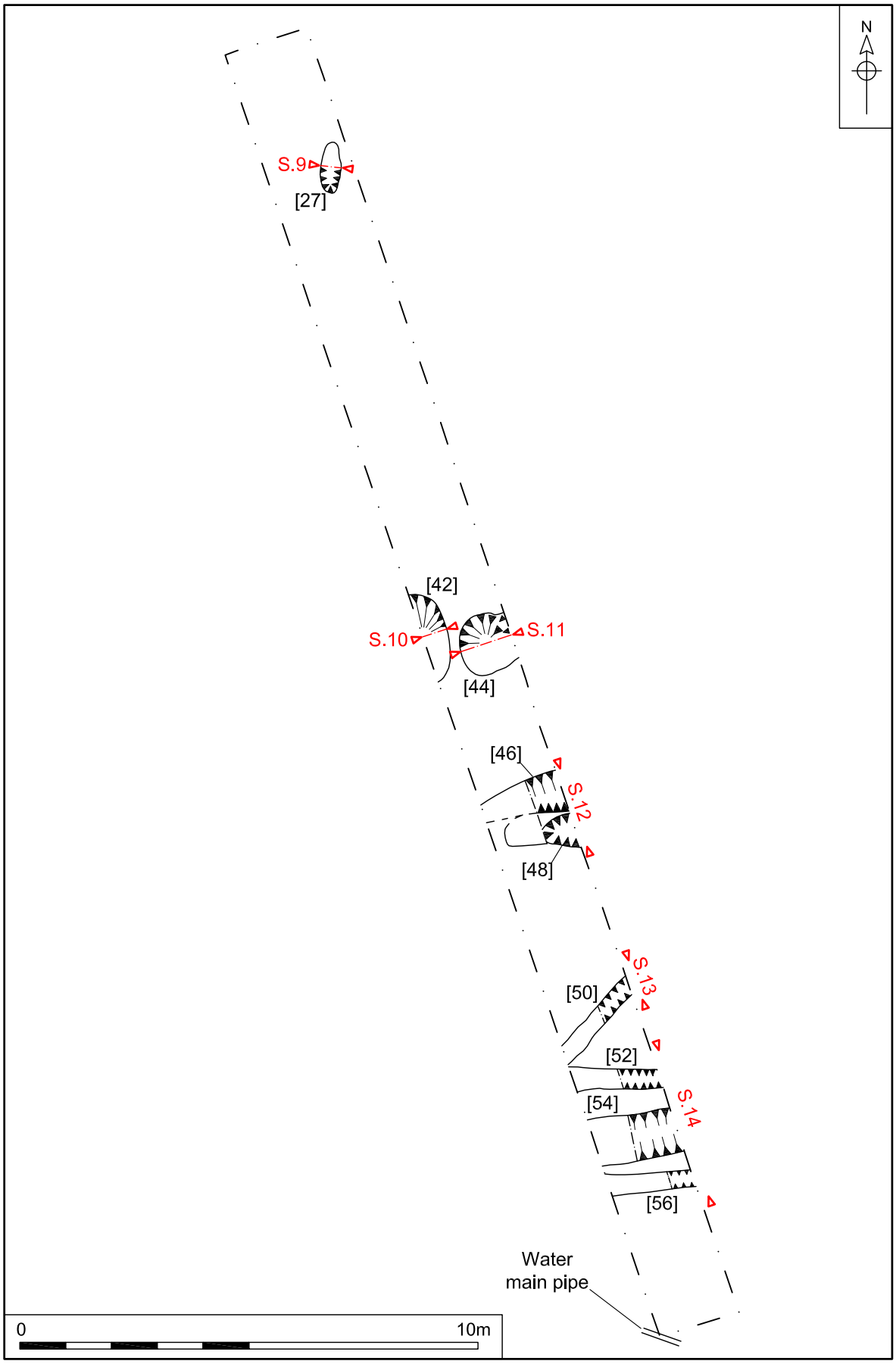

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Figure 5. Trench 3, plan. Scale 1:125

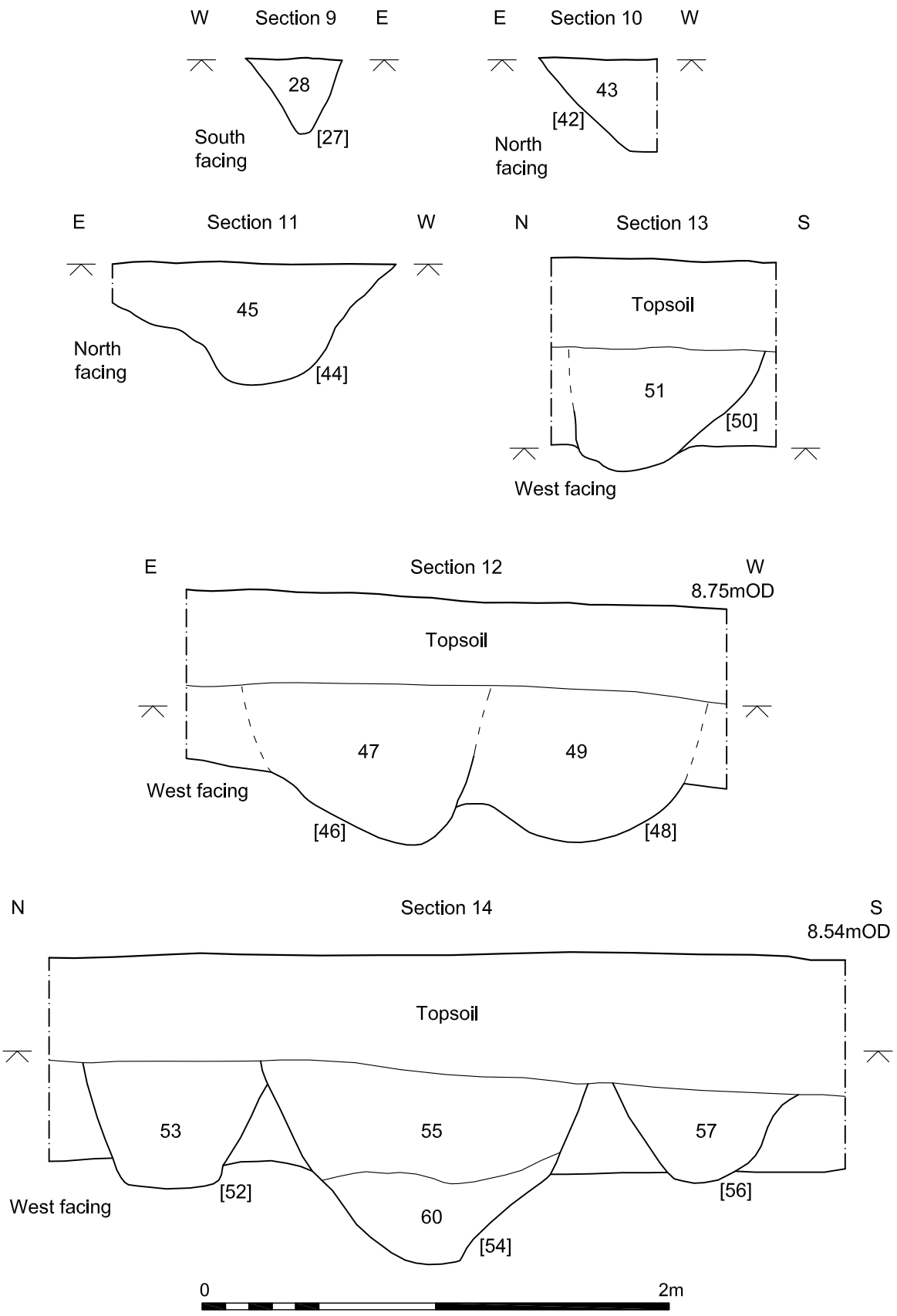

Figure 6. Trench 3, sections. Scale 1:25

Trench 4

Figs 2, 7 and 8	
Location	
Orientation	North-east to South-west
North-east end	651461. 312201.
South-west end	651431. 312195.
Dimensions	
Length	30.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.86m
Levels	
North-east top	10.41m OD
South-west top	10.54m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
1	Deposit	Topsoil. A mid to dark brown sand clay silt with frequent flecks of brick, mortar and charcoal.	0.30m (average)	0.00-0.30m
2	Deposit	Mid brown sand clay silt present across the site, characterised as a subsoil. Varies in depth, generally 0.50m.	0.50m-0.60m	0.30-0.80m
3	Deposit	Geological deposits recorded across site, consisting of pale yellow to orange yellow sands, frequently root disturbed with occasional stones in the north grading to an increasing clay or silt content towards the southern end of the evaluated area with a colour change to pale grey also noted.	-	0.80m
62	Cut	Ditch located at west end of Trenches 4 and 5. Aligned approximately north-south with gradually to moderately sloping sides and concave base. It measured 0.70m in depth with a width of 1.75m.	0.70m	0.80-1.50m
64	Deposit	Mid pale brown sand silt main fill of ditch [62] with very occasional small stones. Hard, compacted deposit.	0.60m	0.90-1.50m
72	Cut	A ditch at the west end of Trench 4 which was also present in Trench 5. This ditch was	0.57	0.80-1.37m

Trench 4				
		aligned approximately north-west to south-east and was steep sided with a flat base. It measured 0.57m in depth and had a width of 1.85m. Contained three fills, (73) (74) (75).		
73	Deposit	Dark grey brown sand silt upper fill of ditch [72]. Contained occasional small stones. One sherd of Roman pot and eight pieces of animal bone were recovered from this deposit.	0.31m	0.80-1.11m
74	Deposit	Mid pale brown sand silt compact fill of ditch [72].	0.30m	0.93-1.23m
75	Deposit	Black silt sand possibly with some organic content. Primary fill of ditch [72], 0.14m in depth.	0.14m	1.23-1.37m
76	Deposit	Dark brown silt sand fill of pit/ditch [77]. Contained some oyster shell and moderate charcoal flecks as well as small lumps of burnt clay or similar material. Interpreted as a single deliberate fill containing some burning debris.	0.45m	0.80-1.25m
77	Cut	As this feature was only partly exposed at the eastern end of Trench 4 it was not possible to discern if this feature was a pit or ditch. Its excavated dimensions were a depth of 0.45m and width of 0.85m with steep sides and a rounded base. This feature could be seen to cut layer (78).	0.45m	0.80-1.25m
78	Deposit	A layer or spread of material at the east end of Trench 4 identified during machining as an area of darker soil containing fragments of tile, pottery and shell. Excavation of this deposit suggested it might be a midden or similar type of dump of silt sand, mottled pale to mid brown with root disturbance. This deposit was present for a length of at least 3.2 m along the trench with a depth of 0.25m. It appeared to have a merged interface with subsoil of geological deposits it overlay and was cut by feature [77].	0.25m	0.80-1.05m
89	Cut	A north-south aligned shallow ditch with gradual sides apart from a steep edge along its	0.16m	0.80-0.96m

Trench 4				
		eastern side. Its base was rounded. It measured 0.16m in depth and 0.60m in width.		
90	Deposit	Dark grey sand silt fill of ditch [89] with rare occurrences of charcoal, oyster shell and occasional small lenses of sand.	0.16m	0.80-0.96m
91	Cut	A small ditch or gully aligned north-east to south-west with moderately sloping sides and flattish base. It measured 0.10m in depth with a width of 0.50m.	0.10m	0.80-0.90m
92	Deposit	Pale mid brown sand silt fill of ditch [91] with occasional sand lenses.	0.10m	0.80-0.90m
93	Cut	Shallow, flat based ditch aligned approximately north-south with steep sides. It measured 0.20m in depth and had a width of 0.67m. Appeared to cut ditch [96] located to its west and was in turn possibly cut by ditch [91] to its east. This ditch contained cross-joining black burnished ware pottery (also from ditch [23] in Trench 1).	0.20m	0.80-1.00m
94	Deposit	Pale brown clay silt, upper fill of ditch [93] with occasional charcoal, oyster shell ceramic building material and small stones. Might be dumped midden material backfilling a redundant ditch. Environmental Sample <9> was taken from this deposit.	0.15m	0.80-0.95m
95	Deposit	Pale yellow silt sand, primary fill of ditch [93]. Considered to represent deliberate backfilling, context with redeposited sands and patches of silt. 0.20m in depth.	0.15m	0.85-1.00m
96	Cut	Wide, shallow ditch aligned approximately north-south. Flat-based shallow cut with very gradually sloping sides, it measured 0.26m in depth with a width of 2.10m. Cut to east by ditch [93].	0.26m	0.80-1.06m
97	Deposit	Mid brown sand silt upper fill of ditch [96] with rare occurrences of charcoal and fragments of ceramic building material.	0.20m	0.80-1.00m
98	Deposit	Pale brown primary fill of ditch [96] consisting of a mixture of redeposited sands with silt	0.25m	0.81-1.06

Trench 4				
		lenses. Has a trampled, mixed appearance. A deliberate infilling of ditch?		
103	U/S Finds	Unstratified finds from Trench 4	-	-

Discussion

A total of six ditches were revealed in Trench 4, along with another feature ([77]) of unclear type - possibly a pit - present at the east end of the trench.

All the ditches appeared to share broadly similar north-south alignments and, as with Trench 3, their proximity, shared alignments and intercutting nature are thought to suggest longevity, shared purpose and maintenance of these particular features. There are clearly differences in size and form between the ditches, but whether this highlights changes of purpose over time or differences of contemporary purpose is not clear.

Ditch [62] (present at the western end of this trench) was also recorded in Trench 5.

Spread of soil [78] at the east end of the trench might be a midden or general spread of dumped material. It contained occupation detritus from the Roman period spanning a range of mid to late 2nd to 4th century AD.

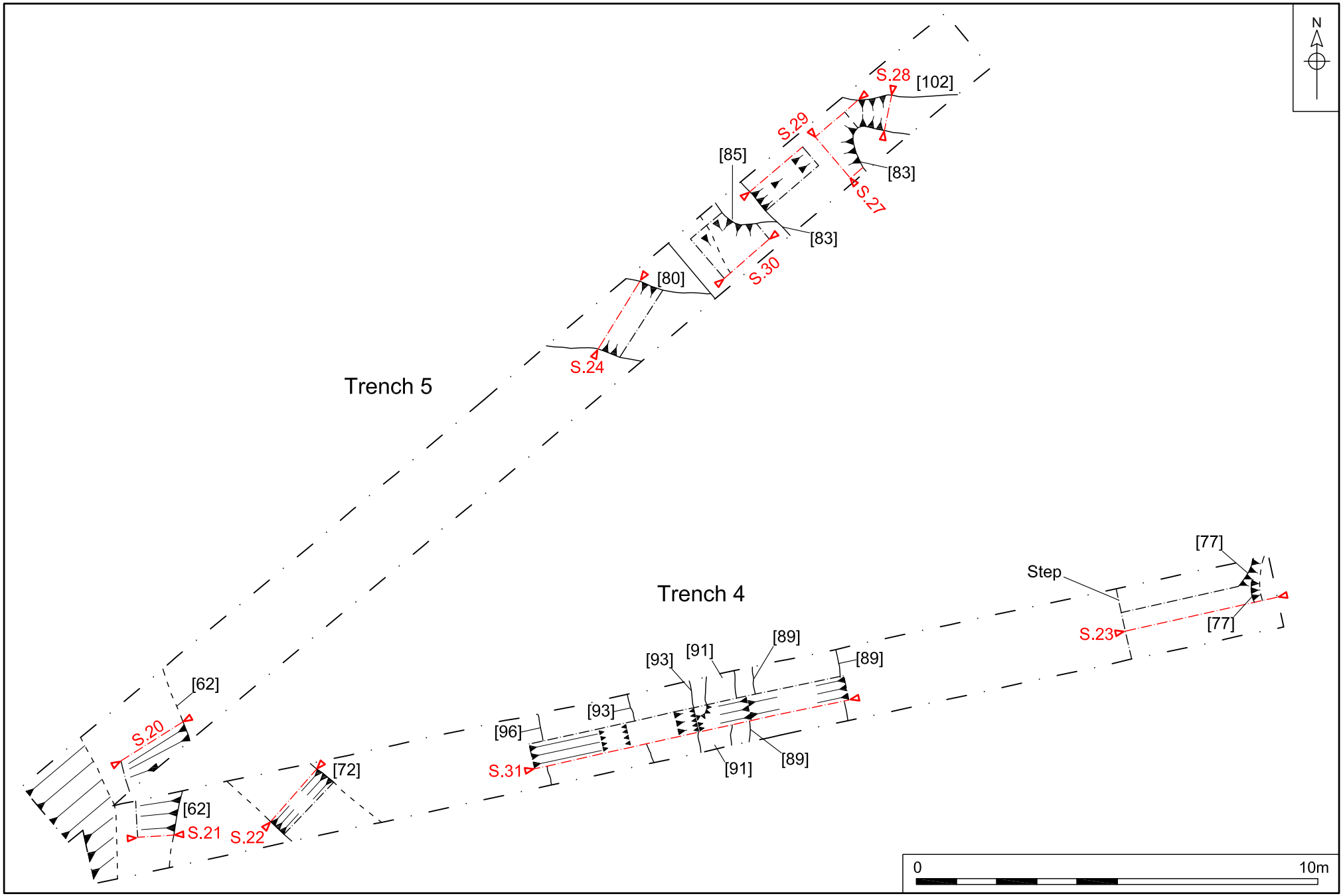

Figure 7. Trenches 4 and 5, plan. Scale 1:125

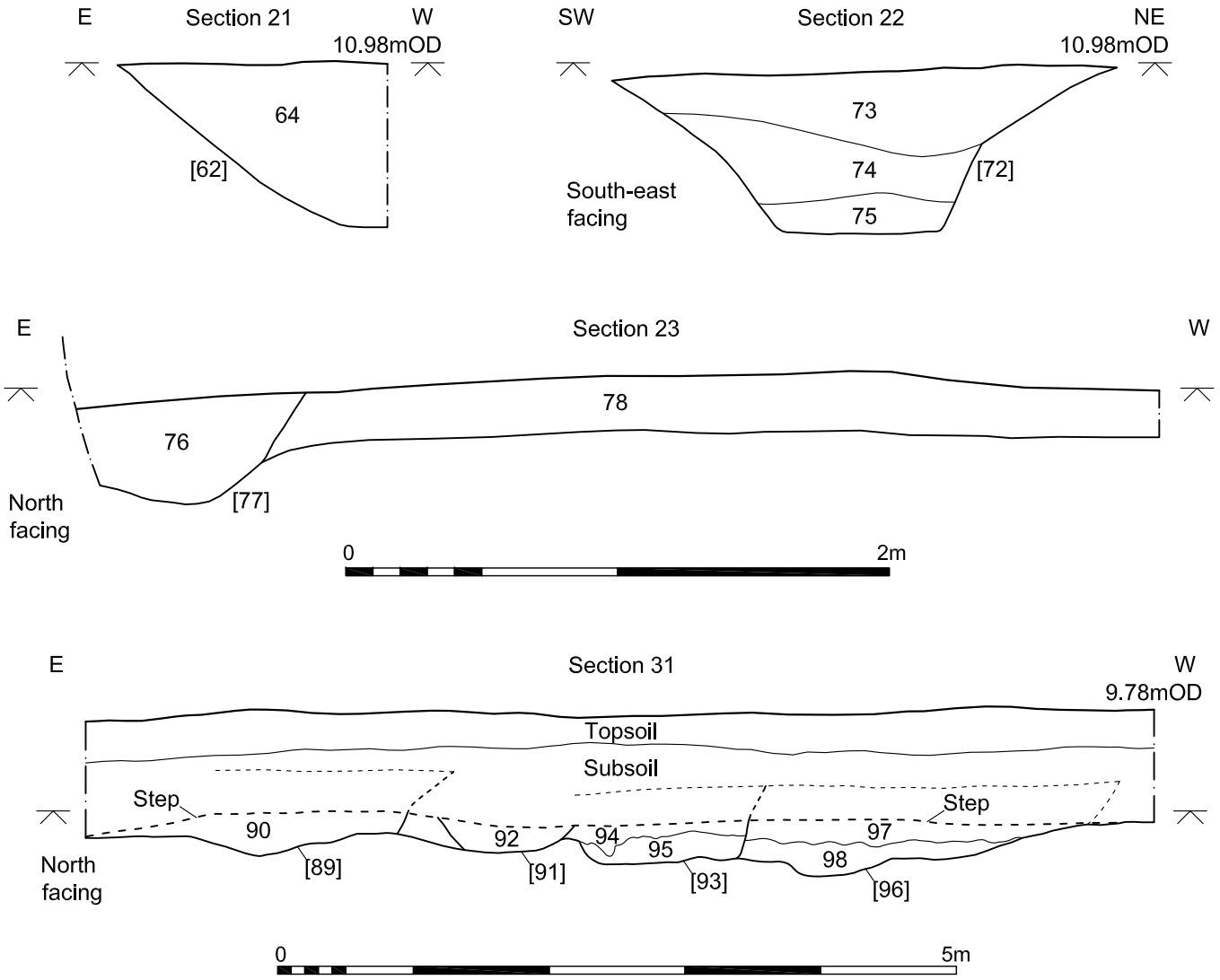

Figure 8. Trench 4, sections. Scale 1:25 and 1:50

Trench 5

Figs 2, 7 and 9	
Location	
Orientation	North-east to South-west
North-east end	651454. 312218.
South-west end	651429. 312197.
Dimensions	
Length	30.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.50m
Levels	
North-east top	11.01m OD
South-west top	10.69m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
1	Deposit	Topsoil. A mid to dark brown sand clay silt with frequent flecks of brick, mortar and charcoal.	0.30m (average)	0.00-0.30m
2	Deposit	Mid brown sand clay silt present across the site, characterised as a subsoil. Varies in depth, generally 0.50m.	0.50m-0.60m	0.30-0.80m
3	Deposit	Geological deposits recorded across site, consisting of pale yellow to orange yellow sands, frequently root disturbed with occasional stones in the north grading to an increasing clay or silt content towards the southern end of the evaluated area with a colour change to pale grey also noted.	-	0.80m
62	Cut	Ditch located at west end of Trenches 4 and 5. Aligned approximately north-south with gradually to moderately sloping sides and concave base. It measured 0.70m in depth with a width of 1.75m.	0.70m	0.80-1.50m
63	Deposit	Dark brown sand silt upper fill of ditch [62] which contained all the finds recovered from this feature.	0.25m	0.80-1.05m

Trench 5				
		Occasional small stones were present. Environmental sample No. 6 was taken from this deposit.		
64	Deposit	Mid pale brown sand silt main fill of ditch [62] with very occasional small stones. Hard, compacted deposit.	0.60m	0.90-1.50m
65	Deposit	A thin spread of material within the larger sequence of deposits in ditch [62], this layer of dark brown sand silt was 0.04m in depth and apparently limited to the northern side of the ditch fill sequence.	0.04m	-
66	Deposit	Primary fill of mid orange–yellow brown silt sand in ditch [62]. With the appearance of dirty geological deposits, this might represent weathered in material at the base of the ditch cut.	0.15m	1.35-1.50m
79	Deposit	Homogenous mid brown sand with small silt content that is the fill of ditch [80]. Contained occasional small stones and charcoal flecks with very few inclusions, possibly a weathered-in deposit.	0.60m	0.80-1.40m
80	Cut	Medium-large ditch aligned approximately north-east to south-west that was not fully excavated – its depth of 0.60m was established by hand augering; it was 2.30m wide. The sides if this feature sloped gradually, perhaps due to it being cut into soft geological sands.	0.60m	0.80-1.40m
82	Deposit	Mid to dark brown sand silt fill of ditch [102] probably representing a single filling in the ditch.	0.27m	0.80-1.07m
83	Cut	Large pit at the east end of Trench 5. The form and dimensions of this feature were not clear as they lay in an area of intercutting features and extended beyond the site limits. It was possibly circular in plan with a width of *c.* 3m and depth of 0.58m. The sides moderately sloped to a flat base. It was cut by pit [99].	0.58m	0.80-1.35m
84	Deposit	Mid brown to dark brown sand silt fill of pit [83]. Mottled appearance.	0.58m	0.80-1.35m
85	Cut	Not clear if this feature is a pit or ditch as it was located within an area of large intercutting features. It appears to have been 0.31m in depth with a width of 3.0m and a	0.31m	0.80-1.11m

Trench 5				
		slightly sloping base. It was possibly cut by feature [87].		
86	Deposit	Light brown silt sand fill of pit [85]. Few inclusions apart from occasional small burnt clay fragments or similar. Homogenous.	0.31m	0.80-1.11m
87	Cut	Cut feature of uncertain type, possibly a pit or ditch, located at the east end of Trench 5. Only partly visible, but appeared to be possibly steep sided with a flat base. The feature measured 0.30m in depth with a width of over 1m.	0.30	0.80-1.10m
88	Deposit	Mid to dark brown sand silt fill of pit [87]. Contained occasional fragments and slightly larger pieces of burnt clay, representing possibly redeposited, dumped oven lining or similar..	0.30m	0.80-1.10m
99	Cut	Pit at east end of Trench 5 that was possibly circular in plan with steep sides and slightly rounded base. It measured 0.65m in depth with a width seen in section only of 1.0m. It cut feature [83] and had a clearly darker fill though was not well enough defined in plan to define its shape.	0.65	0.80-1.45m
100	Deposit	Mottled mid brown silt sand primary fill of pit [99], representing weathered-in material at the base of the pit.	0.27m	0.80-1.07m
101	Deposit	Dark brown sand silt upper fill of pit [99] containing occasional oyster shells and charcoal flecks. Possibly tipped-in material. Environmental sample <8> was taken from this deposit.	0.52m	0.80-1.32m
102	Cut	This ditch at the east end of Trench 5 was well-defined in plan with a north-west to south-east alignment and moderate to steep-sided profile with a rounded base. It measured 0.27m in depth with a width of 0.90m. It was possibly cut by pit [83].	0.27	0.80-1.07m
104	U/S Finds	Unstratified finds from Trench 5	-	-

Discussion

Intercutting features, thought to be pits, were recorded at the east end of Trench 5. They demonstrate activity of Roman or post-Roman date based on the finds recovered. In addition two undated ditches [80] [102] were located close to these features.

Ditch [62] (present at the western end of this trench) was also recorded in Trench 4.

Trench 5

Plate 4. Pits in east end of Trench 5, looking west, 1m scale

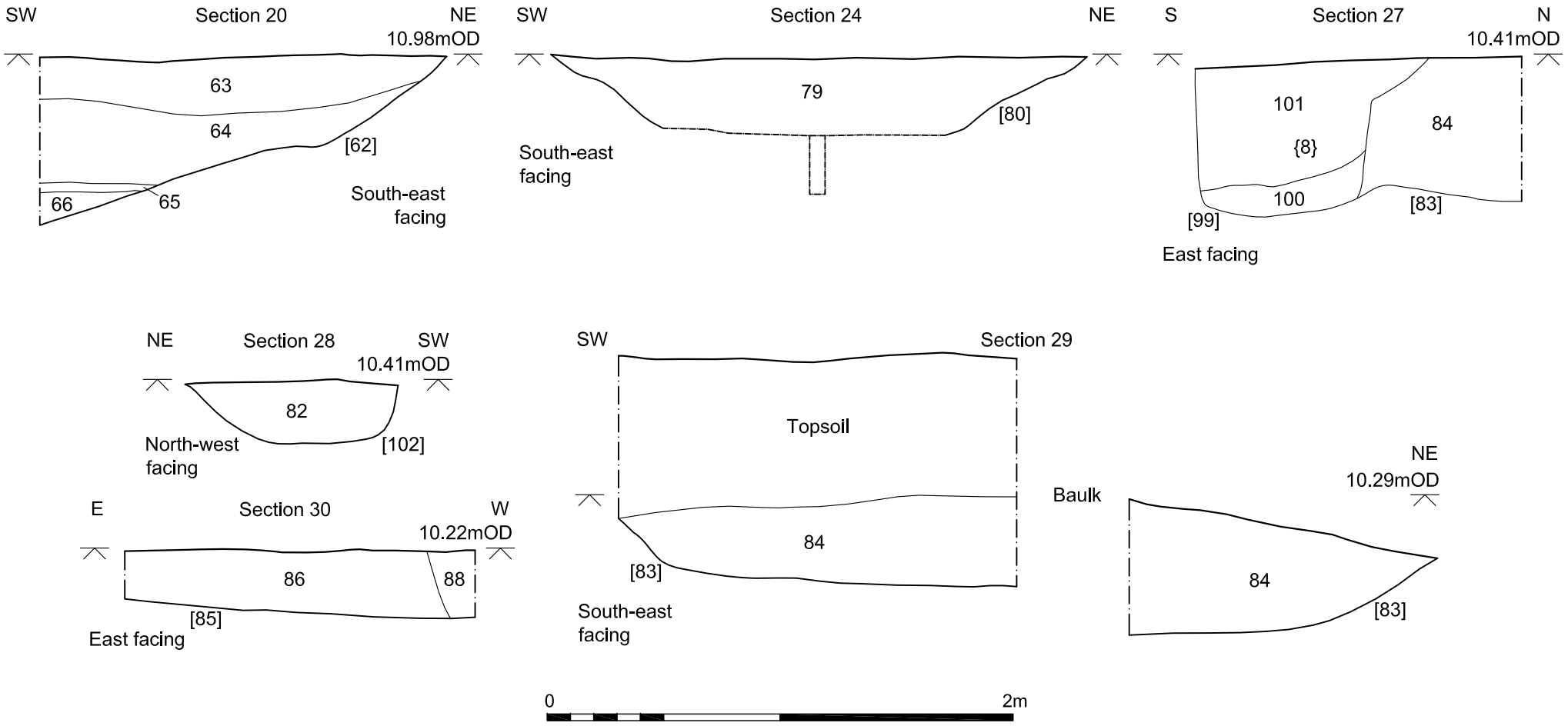

Figure 9. Trench 5, sections. Scale 1:25 and 1:50

Trench 6

Figs 2, 10 and 11	
Location	
Orientation	North-South
North end	651446.7 312126.2
South end	651446.7 312096.1
Dimensions	
Length	30.00m
Width	01.80m
Depth	0.50m
Levels	
North top	7.85m OD
South top	6.86mOD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
1	Deposit	Topsoil. A mid to dark brown sand clay silt with frequent flecks of brick, mortar and charcoal.	0.30m (average)	0.00-0.30m
2	Deposit	Mid brown sand clay silt present across the site, characterised as a subsoil. Varies in depth, generally 0.50m.	0.50m-0.60m	0.30-0.80m
3	Deposit	Geological deposits recorded across site, consisting of pale yellow to orange yellow sands, frequently root disturbed with occasional stones in the north grading to an increasing clay or silt content towards the southern end of the evaluated area with a colour change to pale grey also noted.	-	0.80m
4	Cut	Ditch aligned approximately north-east to south-west at the southern end of Trench 6. It had gradually sloping sides and a rounded base. It measured 0.28m deep and 2m wide. The pottery recovered from this feature was of late 3rd- to 4th-century AD date. It was possibly a boundary/drainage ditch.	0.28m	0.80-1.08m
5	Deposit	Mid grey brown sand silt clay fill of ditch [4] with occasional stones or gravels. Slightly sticky.	0.28m	0.80-1.08m

Trench 6				
6	Cut	A small ditch aligned approximately east-west. It measured 0.13m in depth and 0.80m in width and had moderate to gradually sloping sides and a flattish base.	0.13m	0.80-0.93m
7	Deposit	Mid grey brown clay sand silt fill of ditch [6].	0.13m	0.80-0.93m
8	Cut	A small area of a ditch possibly joining ditch [4]. Only just present within the evaluation trench and disturbed by rooting, it measured 0.15m in depth and 0.64m in width. It had gradual sides to a concave base.	0.15m	0.80-0.95m
9	Deposit	Mid grey brown clay sand silt fill of ditch [8]. Considerable root disturbance to deposit.	0.15m	0.80-0.95m
10	Cut	An area of root-disturbed geology /subsoil 1.25m in length and 0.15m in depth. Contains (11)	0.15m	0.80-0.95m
11	Deposit	Mid grey brown sand clay silt, fill of [10].	0.15m	0.80-0.95m
12	Cut	Limited area of a probable pit just present within the evaluation trench. Its visible extent measured 0.70m in length with a depth of 0.39m. Sides appeared to be gradually sloping and it had a flat base. Appears to cut feature [14].	0.39m	0.80-1.19m
13	Deposit	Mid brown clay sand silt fill of pit [12]. Occasional fragments of CBM present. Considerable root disturbance to context	0.39m	0.80-1.19m
14	Cut	A possible pit or tree throw feature, oval in plan with gradual sides and concave base. It measured 1.45m in length and 0.45m in depth.	0.45m	0.80-1.25m
15	Deposit	Mid brown clay sand silt fill of pit [14]. Mottled with rooting and similar to surrounding geological deposits.	0.45m	0.80-1.25m
16	Deposit	Mid brown and yellow clay silt sand, small area of fill in pit [14].	0.13m	-
17	Deposit	Mid to dark brown clay sand silt. This deposit infilled natural hollows present in the base of the evaluation trench and is probably of geological origin.	0.20m	0.80-1.00m
18	Deposit	Geological sands and clays in the trench	-	0.80m
Discussion				

Trench 6

Located at the south end of the evaluation area Trench 6 revealed a change in the nature of the underlying geology with an increase in clay and silt content revealed here. This change might indicate the proximity of this part of the site to the Roman coastline (Darling and Gurney 1993, 2)

It is possible that some of the ditches here had a drainage purpose as well as acting as possible boundaries.

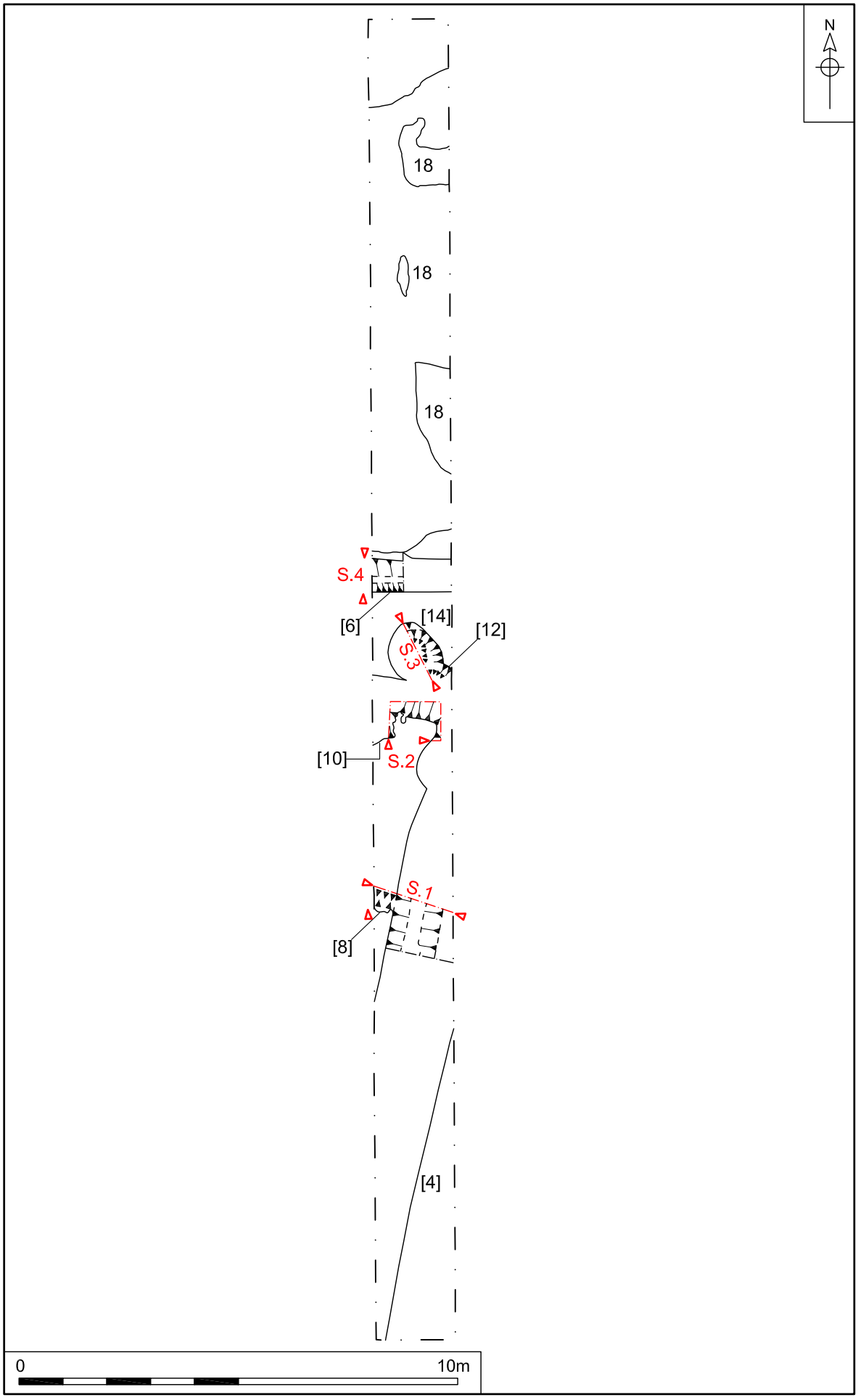

Figure 10. Trench 6, plan. Scale 1:125

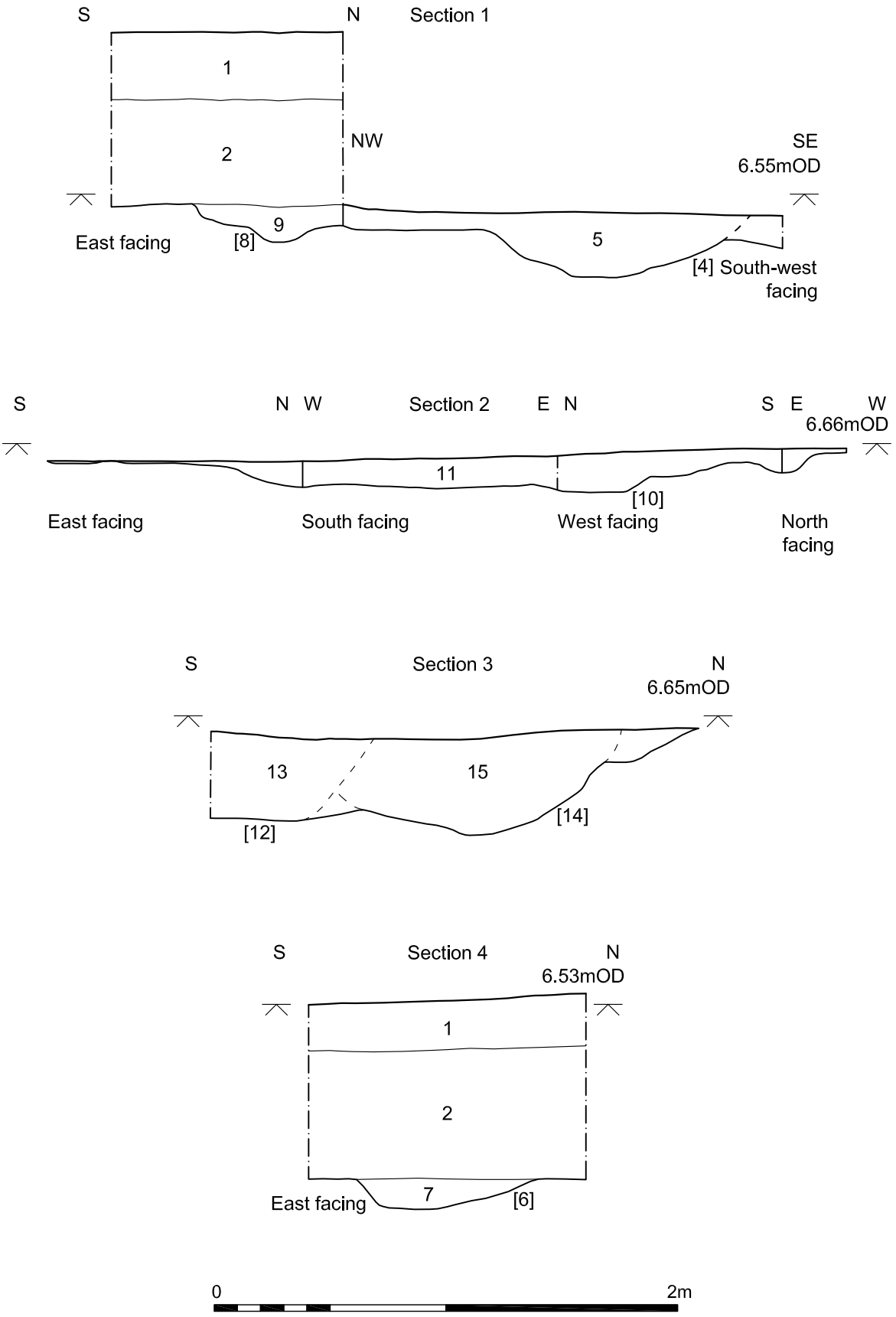

Figure 11. Trench 6, sections. Scale 1:25

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 described below ordered by material.

A list of the finds by listed in context order can be found in Appendix 2a.

6.1 Pottery

by Andrew Peachey

6.1.1 Prehistoric

A single fragment (4g) of abraded prehistoric pottery was contained in pit fill (45). The hand-made, bonfire-fired body sherd was tempered with common, calcined flint (0.5-4mm) and could conceivably have been produced from the Bronze Age to the early Iron Age. Very low quantities of flint-tempered prehistoric pottery were previously recorded during excavations on Norwich Road (Darling 2004, 6) and on the Fort site (Darling and Gurney 1993, 153).

6.1.2 Roman

Excavations recovered a total of 175 sherds (3,884g) of Roman pottery (Appendix 3) in a slightly abraded condition. The assemblage appears to form a chronologically homogenous group that, where diagnostic sherds are sufficient, represents activity that commenced in the mid/late 2nd century AD and continued to the mid/late 3rd century AD. Pottery that could be assigned to this group was primarily recovered from open deposits in a series of ditches including [19], [21], [23], [46], [62], [77], [89], [93], [96], as well as layer (78) (Table 1). In addition to these features, pit [83] contained a pottery group that can be assigned a narrow date in the late 3rd century AD, while ditch [4] and pit [99] can be dated to the late 3rd to 4th centuries AD. These three features may be contemporary with the final decades of activity associated with the bulk of ditches, or may slightly post-date them.

Date	Features	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	R.EVE
Mid-late 2nd C AD	[23]	8	141	0.05
Mid/late 2nd-mid/late 3rd C AD	[21], [77], [78], [89], [93]	49	841	0.92
Late 2nd-mid/late 3rd C AD	[19], [46], [62], [96]	53	927	0.69
Late 3rd C AD	[83]	25	795	0.20
Late 3rd-4th C AD	[4], [99]	10	466	0.22
Roman	11 Pits/Ditches	30	714	0.15
Total	*24 features*	*175*	*3884*	*2.23*

Table 1. Quantification of Roman pottery in dated features

The assemblage contains a diverse range of fabrics (Table 2) including imported Samian ware and amphorae, as well as colour-coated wares, mica-dusted ware, black-burnished ware and other coarse wares and mortaria. The components of the pottery assemblage that defined the chronology include east Gaulish Samian

ware, Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware beakers, sandy grey ware and black-burnished ware dishes, and shell-tempered jars.

6.1.2.1 Methodology

The pottery was quantified by sherd count, weight and R.EVE. Fabrics were examined at x20 magnification and assigned a code according to the system developed for the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998), or according to the type series developed for the fort at Caister-on-Sea (Darling and Gurney 1993, 160-163). Samian forms reference Webster (1996) and where possible other forms have been cross-referenced with those from the Fort assemblage at Caister-on-Sea, henceforth abbreviated to *Caister* (Darling and Gurney 1993, 165-201). All data was entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will be deposited as part of the archive.

6.1.2.2 Fabric Descriptions

LEZ SA2	Lezoux Samian ware 2 (Tomber and Dore 1998, 32)
RHZ SA	Rheinzabern Samian ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 43)
LNV CC	Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 118) tends towards being overfired, pale orange in this assemblage.
RCC	Un-sourced red colour-coated fabric (Darling and Gurney 1993, 161), probably a late Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware fabric
MICA	Mica-dusted ware (Darling and Gurney 1993, 161) possibly manufactured at Colchester
HAD OX	Hadham oxidised ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 151)
CR1	Un-sourced cream ware, tempered with well sorted common medium sand, sparse rounded calcareous grains (<1mm) and sparse iron rich grains (<0.5mm). Probably locally-produced (i.e. Darling and Gurney 1993, 160: CR1) but a Colchester source (Tomber and Dore 1998, 133) cannot be discounted.
BB1	Black-burnished ware 1 (Darling and Gurney 1993, 163; Tomber and Dore 1998, 127)
BB2a	Black-burnished ware 2 (coarse fabric), inclusions are typically 0.5-0.75mm (Tomber and Dore 1998, 131; Darling and Gurney 1993, 163 and 207), probably from an Essex source, probably the Colchester kilns
BB2b	Black-burnished ware 2 (fine fabric) inclusions are typically <0.2mm (Tomber and Dore 1998, 135; Darling and Gurney 1993, 163 and 207), probably from an Essex/Kent source, possibly the Mucking kilns
GRS1	Sandy grey ware. Mid to dark grey throughout. Inclusions comprise common moderately-sorted medium to coarse quartz (generally 0.1-0.5mm, sparse to 1mm), with sparse fine mica, occasional iron rich grains (<0.5mm) and occasional flint (<2.5mm). The ubiquitous type of Romano-British sandy grey ware produced throughout the region.
OXS1	Sandy oxidised wares. As GRS1 but typically pale to mid orange.
ROB SH	Late Roman shell-tempered ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 212), probably manufactured at the Harrold kilns, Bedfordshire
NAR RE1	Nar valley reduced ware 1 (Andrews 1985, 89: RW1; Gurney 1986, 77: RW1). Grey-brown to burnt-orange in colour with a granular fracture. Known to have been produced at East Winch (Peachey forthcoming: fabric NAR RE1) but produced at other centres in the Nar Valley including Pentney and Shouldham
WAT RE1	Wattisfield/Waveney Valley reduced ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 184).

EAA RE East Anglian reduced ware mortaria (Tomber and Dore 1998, 130; Darling and Gurney 1993, 193-4). Dark grey-brown surfaces with a very dark grey/black core. Inclusions comprise common poorly sorted quartz (0.1-0.7mm), sparse fine mica, sparse dark iron rich grains (<0.5mm). Trituration grits are a fairly even mix of common quartz, often poly-crystalline, and un-burnt flint, often rounded, with sparse black iron slag (all 1-3.5mm)

BAT AM2 Baetican (Late) amphorae 2 (Tomber and Dore 1998, 85)

Fabric Type	Sherd Count	Weight (g)	R.EVE
LEZ SA2	3	22	0.00
RHZ SA	3	58	0.05
LNV CC	13	158	0.15
RCC	2	14	0.10
MICA	1	9	0.00
HAD OX	2	21	0.00
CR1	1	9	0.00
BB1	7	133	0.15
BB2a	7	253	0.10
BB2b	1	18	0.05
GRS1	103	2042	1.04
OXS1	6	79	0.00
ROB SH	21	356	0.44
NAR RE1	2	192	0.15
WAT RE1	1	23	0.00
EAA RE	1	269	0.00
BAT AM2	1	228	0.00
Total	*175*	*3884*	*2.23*

Table 2. Quantification of Roman fabric types

6.1.2.3 The Samian Ware

The earliest piece of Samian ware in the assemblage comprises an abraded mould-decorated body sherd of central Gaulish LEZ SA2 from a Dr.37 bowl contained in ditch fill (24). The body sherd exhibits a design that incorporates at least three (partially visible) filled medallions, including one containing a lion/panther figure, represented by a small fragment of head. This style of decorative scheme is typical of mid to late 2nd century AD Lezoux bowls, but is too incomplete to be assigned to a potter or workshop. It is this sherd that provides the ‘early’ date in the assemblage for ditch [23] and excluding it, or accepting that this was a long-loved vessel, would extend the potential chronological span of the feature to the late 3rd century AD, comparable to the bulk of the ditches on the site.

The east Gaulish Samian ware was entirely imported from Rheinzabern, and includes two dishes and a beaker. The dishes, of Dr.31 type, were contained in ditches [19] and [96], and are one of the most common late 2nd-mid 3rd century AD Samian ware form types, including at the fort at Caister-on-Sea (Dickinson 1993, 154). The beaker is a more unusual type, but consistent with the strong presence of East Gaulish Samian in the Fort assemblage from Caister in the 3rd century AD (Dickinson 1993, 155), as well as in the assemblage from previous excavation on Norwich Road (Darling 2004, 7). Represented by a single body

sherd, it is from a Form VSa beaker with 'cut-glass' inscribed decoration (Bird 1993: fig.1) that was not imported until the early 3rd century. The 'cut-glass' decoration depicts curving elongate leaves interspersed with foliage, comparable to examples in the 3rd century 'shipment' dump at New Fresh Wharf, London (Bird 1986, 171: vessels 2.127-8).

6.1.2.4 The Fine Wares

The principle fine ware in the assemblage comprises LNV CC (Table 2), and it is highly likely that the Lower Nene Valley is also the source for RCC. The LNV CC includes fragments of indented beakers that may have arrived from the mid/late 2nd to mid/late 3rd centuries AD, including in ditch [89] a beaker with a plain body (Perrin 1999, 95: vessels 156-7) and in ditch [93] a beaker with scale decoration (Perrin 1999, 95: vessels 160-2). These body sherds probably belonged to funnel-necked beakers, such as that represented by a plain funnel-neck rim sherd in RCC contained in ditch [19]. Funnel rim beakers, including those with scale decoration are relatively common at Caister, including in the Fort assemblage (*Caister* 197) and in 3rd century AD deposits previously recorded on Norwich Road (Darling 2004: fig.89.5). The second type of LNV CC beaker present in the assemblage is a pentice moulded type (Perrin 1999, 95: vessel 176), contained in pit [83] that did not emerge until the later 3rd century AD but may have co-existed with the funnel-neck types. Pentice moulded beakers are present in the Fort assemblage (Caister 199), but are noted for their absence in the previous assemblage from Norwich Road (Darling 2004, 5). The LNV CC also includes, in ditch [4], a plain rim dish with incurving sides (Perrin 1999, 103: vessels 233-4) is common from the late 3rd century AD onwards and is also found in the Fort assemblage (*Caister* 288-9). In addition to the colour-coated wares a single body sherd from an open form in mica-dusted ware (MICA) was contained in ditch [19], while pit [87] contained a body sherd of CR1 with a roulette decorated exterior, possibly from a beaker or flagon.

6.1.2.5 The Coarse Wares

A distinct element of the assemblage is black-burnished ware (BB1, BB2a and BB2b) dishes. The BB1 is limited to cross-joining fragments from a single dish with a plain, incurving rim (Symonds and Wade 1999: type Cam. 40A) contained in ditch [93], while a comparable dish in BB2a was also contained in ditch [23]. Also present in BB2a is a dish with a rounded bead rim (Symonds and Wade 1999: type Cam.37/38B) contained in ditch [19], while the BB2b is limited to a plain rim dish with a groove beneath the rim (Symonds and Wade 1999: type Cam.40B) contained in pit [83]. These dishes are all extensively paralleled in the Fort assemblage (i.e. *Caister* 534-6, 642, 645-6) and are also paralleled in the previous assemblage from Norwich Road (Darling 2004: fig.90.22-23 and 26), but they are particularly notable as their production does not extend beyond the late 3rd century AD.

The sandy grey wares (GRS) are also predominantly limited to dishes, including bead rim dishes in ditches [19] and [77], a plain rim dish in ditch [19], and a bead and flange rim dish in pit [99]. The latter type dish, paralleled at the Fort (*Caister* 570) was not produced prior to the late 3rd century AD and may represent one of the typologically latest sherds in the assemblage, yet still be contemporary with the bulk of the pottery. The GRS also includes a necked jar (*Caister* 387) in ditch [77],

which comprises a relatively generic type of jar made notable by its soot encrusted exterior that indicates its use as a cooking pot.

The remaining coarse wares are entirely comprised of jars. Examples in shell-tempered ware, including jars in ditches [19], [21], [62] and layer (78) typically have an everted bead rim (*Caister* 466-7), while a jar in pit [83] has a plain everted rim comparable to a vessel previously recorded on Norwich Road (Darling 2004: fig.92.65). The only diagnostic vessel imported from the Nar Valley in north-west Norfolk comprised a jar in ditch [19]. The jar has an everted bead rim and is quite thick-walled, with associated but not cross-joining body sherds suggesting it had rusticated decoration. These types of jar are characteristic products of the Nar Valley from the late 2nd century AD onwards (Andrews 1985, 106-7: type 100) and are present in the Fort assemblage (*Caister* 386 and 412).

6.1.2.6 Mortaria

The mortaria in the assemblage are limited to a single base of a reduced grey (EAA RE) mortaria contained in Pit [83], probably dating to the late 3rd century AD. The trituration grits of the base are moderately worn but still protrude from the surface, suggesting the mortaria was broken long before it life-expectancy had expired. Reduced grey mortaria are a characteristic product to East Anglia and atypically, even for the region, are one of the three main mortaria products supplied to the Fort at Caister (Darling and Gurney 1993, 198), while they were also present in lower quantities in the previous assemblage from Norwich Road (Darling 2004, 5).

6.1.2.7 Amphorae

A single body sherd of Baetican amphorae (BAT AM2) was contained in ditch [89]. It probably formed part of a Dressel 20 amphorae used to import olive oil, and also present in the previous assemblage from Norwich Road (Darling 2004, 6).

6.1.3 Pottery Conclusion

The assemblage appears to represent a period of deposition from occupation that commenced in the mid/late 2nd century AD and terminated in the late 3rd century AD. This occupation is largely represented by a range of fine ware beakers, fine and coarse ware dishes, with low quantities of jars, mortaria and amphorae also present. Previous excavations on Norwich Road recorded an assemblage which was mainly deposited in the late 2nd to late 3rd centuries AD (Darling 2004, 3-5). The previous, more extensive assemblage included a broadly similar range of fabrics and forms, notably with a strong presence of east Gaulish Samian ware, Lower Nene Valley colour-coated ware, black-burnished ware and sandy grey ware, with low quantities of mica-dusted ware, Nar valley ware and reduced grey mortaria also present. This pattern of supply also conforms to the sequence of occupation at the Fort at Caister-on-Sea, where the pottery assemblage includes a high degree of parallels and suggests occupation commenced in the late 2nd century AD (Darling and Gurney 1993, 216-8). However, in apparent contrast to the past and recent sites on Norwich Road, the assemblage from the Fort extends through the 4th century AD. Therefore, the abrupt chronology of this assemblage may represent evidence for an area of extra-mural settlement established in conjunction with the Fort but possibly abandoned during deliberate re-organisation in the late 3rd century AD.

6.2 Ceramic Building Material

by Andrew Peachey

Excavations recovered a total of 93 fragments (15,645g) of Romano-British ceramic building material (CBM) in a moderately fragmented and slightly abraded condition (Appendix 4). The CBM was recovered, where pottery was present, from contexts dated to the mid/late 2nd to late 3rd centuries AD, and was notable from including fragments of pedalis brick along roof tile (Table 3).

CBM form type	Fragment Count	Weight (g)
Pedalis brick	19	6547
Tegula roof tile (flanged fragment)	14	2719
Tegula roof tile (flat tile only)	42	4747
Imbrex	13	1439
Miscellaneous	5	193
Total	*93*	*15645*

Table 3. Quantification of Romano-British Ceramic Building Material

It is highly likely these fragments may have formed part of a substantial structure in the near vicinity, but there were no significant concentrations of CBM present in this assemblage. The highest quantity of CBM comprised 24 fragments (4,974g) contained in ditch [19], which is biased by the presence of bulky fragments of pedalis brick.

6.2.1 Methodology

The CBM was quantified by fragment count and weight with fabrics examined at x20 magnification and all data entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will be deposited as part of the archive. Roman CBM forms were identified using the conventions defined by Brodribb (1987).

6.2.1.1 Romano-British CBM Fabrics

The CBM occurred in two locally-produced fabrics, with Fabric 1 accounting for 94.6% of the assemblage by sherd count (94.8% by weight).

Fabric 1 — Typically oxidised orange to orange-red throughout, often with a slightly darker core. Inclusions comprise common poorly-moderately sorted quartz (0.1-0.5mm), sparse red iron rich grains, white clay pellets and flint (0.25-3mm, occasionally to 10mm). Very hard fired with a slightly abrasive feel.

Fabric 2 — Pale yellow to cream-brown throughout. Inclusions comprise sparse quartz, sparse calcareous grains/voids (0.5-3mm) and sparse black iron ore and flint (0.5-5mm). Hard-fired with a slightly abrasive feel

Previous excavation on Norwich Road also recorded CBM that was predominantly in an oxidised sand-tempered fabric, often with red ironstone inclusions, while a cream fabric was also present (Lane and Taylor 2004).

6.2.2 Discussion

The most notable element of the CBM assemblage is the presence of pedalis brick, particularly cross-joining fragments from two incomplete bricks in ditch [19] (20). The other sparse fragments of pedalis brick in the assemblage, contained in ditches [21], [23], [70], [89], pits [27] and [83] were classified by a comparable thickness, but it cannot be discounted they were bessalis or other types of brick.

The bricks from ditch [19] have extant dimensions of 280mm long and 35mm thick. This length is average for pedalis bricks, which were typically not quite square, while the thickness is slightly below average (Brodribb 1987, 36). Sparse fragments of brick of a comparable thickness were also recorded during previous excavations on Norwich Road (Lane and Taylor 2004). Pedalis bricks, named after the Roman *pes* or Roman foot, were commonly used as the base or caps for pilae (Brodribb 1987, 36-7) made of the more common bessalis bricks. Alternative uses for pedalis bricks include to construct hearths or as bonding courses in large walls. The incompleteness of the examples in this assemblage is not unexpected, as relatively few complete pedalis bricks are recorded, typically because they are broken when hypocausts or walls collapse.

The tegula roof tile in the assemblage was relatively unremarkable due to the limited extent of the fragments. Flanged fragments, exhibiting no consistency in profile and entirely in Fabric 1, were contained in ditches [4], [19], [70], [77], [89], pits [42] and [83] with the bulk of the tegula in Fabrics 1 and 2 limited to fragments of flat tile 15-25mm thick. The fragments of imbrex roof tile, typically 15-18mm thick with length-ways ribbing, but were similarly limited in extent. Roman roof tile, both tegula and imbrex, were common in the assemblage from previous excavations on Norwich Road, where it was also concluded that a significant building was located in the vicinity but not on the site (Lane and Taylor 2004).

6.3 Fired Clay

by Andrew Peachey

Excavations recovered a total of 24 fragments (369g) of fired clay, in a highly fragmented and friable condition.

Kiln or pit [33] contained five fragments (145g) of fired clay that had been tempered and appear to have formed part of a single object. The clay has been tempered with sparse, coarse quartz sand and organic material, probably chaff and grass (voids 0.5-1mm, or linear <5mm), with sparse flint and chalk grains (0.5-3mm) also present. The object was fired at a relatively low temperature resulting in reduced exterior surfaces that fade to a dark red-brown core. This group includes two cross-joining fragments that appear to form part of a flat object with a thickness of *c*.25mm, probably a kiln or oven plate.

The remaining fired clay, comprising 18 fragments (207g) in pit [85] and a single fragment (17g) in ditch [62] comprises unaltered, pale orange clay that may have been sun-dried or baked at a very low temperature. No shape, dimensions, surfaces or wear could be discerned suggesting these fragments formed part of the clay lining or packing of a structure, although it cannot be discounted that prior to fragmentation they formed an object such as weight. Previous excavations on Norwich Road recorded daub and briquetage that is not consistent with these fragments, but they also recorded low quantities of fired clay with ‘small stone inclusions’ associated with an oven that may comprise comparable material (Lane and Taylor 2004).

6.4 Flint

by Andrew Peachey

Excavations recovered a total of three fragments (80g) of struck flint comprising a core fragment and two flakes in an un-patinated condition. The struck flint is entirely comprised of mid-dark grey raw flint, and does not include any extant cortex.

Ditch [80] contained a single core fragment (62g). The fragment is from an irregular, multi-platform core used to produce small flakes or possibly blades, similar to prehistoric examples recorded during previous excavations on Norwich Road (Robins 2004) but with an equal lack of any chronologically indicative traits. Ditch [62] contained a further two un-corticated debitage flakes (18g) that have a slightly irregular profile, and would have been produced by a core such as the type from ditch [80]. The core and flakes were all contained as residual material in Roman ditches, but could feasibly have been produced in the Neolithic or Bronze Age periods.

6.5 Metal Finds

by Rebecca Sillwood

6.5.1 Iron

Five iron objects, weighing 220g, were recovered from two deposits; upper fill (63) of ditch [62] and fill (76) in pit or ditch [77].

A single iron item was recovered from ditch fill (63), and may be an L-shaped wall hook of possible Roman date, measuring 95mm in length. These objects are hooks with spiked tangs which were driven into a vertical surface (Manning 1985, 129), although the form and style of these pieces is very similar to medieval hinge pivots. However, it seems unlikely, given the stratigraphy of the context, which seems firmly in the Roman period, that the object is anything other than Roman in date.

Four further iron pieces were recovered; all from pit or ditch fill (76). These pieces are not diagnostic, and may simply be nails which have become encrusted with corrosion and distorted.

6.5.2 Copper Alloy

Three objects of copper alloy were recovered from the site, with one unstratified from spoil (103) from Trench 4 and two from spoil (105) from Trench 3. One of the pieces is a livery button, with a design of interlacing initials. The reverse has the makers name of ‘Firmin and Sons, 153 Strand, London’, which places the piece prior to 1875, which is when the business became a limited company, and post-1770s when the company was occupying 153 Strand in London. It is likely, however, that this button is of 19th-century date.

The second artefact from context (105) is a small undiagnostic sheet of copper alloy, with no defining features whatsoever.

The third object is a coin of Roman date, measuring 19mm in diameter, with rough silvering. The piece is worn and is difficult to decipher.

6.5.3 Lead

A single object of lead was recovered from the site - a steelyard weight, recovered from spoil (104) from Trench 5. The weight is biconical in shape, with the remnants of the iron loop protruding from the upper edge. The object measures roughly 35mm in diameter, and 37mm in height. The weight of the piece is 171g, which may mean that the weight was meant to represent a half libra, or six ounces (164.4g). Steelyard weights were portable weighing apparatus, which incorporated a weight along with a balance. The piece is likely to be Roman in date, due to the finds from the rest of the site, however, these pieces are notoriously hard to date accurately, and are still in use in some parts of the world today.

6.6 Faunal Remains

by Julie Curl

6.6.1 Introduction

An assemblage of bone, weighing 5,225g, was collected during the evaluation (Appendix 5). The assemblage is dominated by butchering waste from main domestic food mammals. Sparse remains of equid, bird and dog were also present.

6.6.2 Methodology

The bone in this assemblage consisted purely of hand-collected bone. All of the bone was identified to species wherever possible using a variety of comparative reference material. Where identification to species was not possible bone was assigned to a group, such as ‘small mammal’ or ‘bird’. The bones were recorded using a modified version of guidelines described in Davis (1992). Measurements (listed in the appendix) were taken where appropriate, generally following Von Den Dreisch (1976). Humerus BT and HTC and metapodial “a” and “b” are recorded as suggested Davis (1992). Tooth wear was recorded following Hillson (1986).

Evidence of butchery was recorded, noting the type of butchering, such as cut, chopped or sawn and location on the bone. A note was also made of any burnt bone. Pathologies were also recorded with the type of injury or disease, the element affected and the location on the bone. Other modifications were also recorded, such as any possible working, working waste or animal gnawing.

Weights and total number of pieces counts were also taken for each context, along with the number of pieces for each individual species present (NISP) and these appear in the appendix. All information was recorded directly into an Excel database for analysis. A catalogue is provided in the appendix giving a summary of all of the faunal remains by context with all other quantifications along with measurements and a tooth record. The full faunal data record is available in the digital archive and has additional counts for species groups and elements present.

6.6.3 Faunal assemblage

6.6.3.1 Quantification, provenance and preservation

A total of 5,225g of faunal remains, consisting of 202 pieces, was recovered from the evaluation. Bone was produced from twenty-two fills. Just over half of the assemblage (by weight) was recovered from ditch fills (52%) and 33% of the bone weight was produced from pit fills, the remaining 15% was distributed between a

gully, spread, pit/ditch fill and unstratified finds. Quantification of the bone by feature number, feature type and by fragment count can be seen in Table 4 and by weight in Table 5.

Feature	Type						Feature Total
	Ditch	Finds	Gully	Pit	Pit/Ditch	Spread	
4	6						6
19	30						30
21	19						19
23	9						9
25			1				1
37	11						11
40				9			9
54	3						3
62	17						17
70	15						15
72	9						9
77					5		5
78						5	5
83				16			16
87				1			1
89	5						5
93	4						4
96	8						8
99				13			13
u/s		16					16
Feature Type Total	**136**	**16**	**1**	**39**	**5**	**5**	**202**

Table 4. Quantification of the faunal assemblage by number of fragments, feature number and feature type

The bone is generally in a good, sound condition. Butchering had occurred throughout, causing some fragmentation, although many reasonably complete elements were seen. One bone showed canid gnawing, which might indicate scavengers or domestic dog food waste. Little wear was evident, suggesting that most of the bone was probably undisturbed and in its original place of deposition. One ovicaprid bone from (76) was dark stained, in contrast to the more usual brown to paler bone in the remainder of the fill, suggesting this darker bone was probably residual.

Feature	Type						Feature Total
	Ditch	Finds	Gully	Pit	Pit/Ditch	Spread	
4	52g						52g
19	849g						849g
21	254g						254g
23	174g						174g

	Type						
25			4g				4g
37	46g						46g
40				70g			70g
54	5g						5g
62	19g						19g
70	665g						665g
72	247g						247g
77					198g		198g
78						104g	104g
83				1077g			1077g
87				37g			37g
89	161g						161g
93	115g						115g
96	113g						113g
99				539g			539g
u/s		496g					496g
Feature Type Total	2700g	496g	4g	1723g	198g	104g	5225g

Table 5. Quantification of the faunal assemblage by weight, feature number and feature type

6.6.3.2 Species range, modifications and discussion

At least six faunal species or groups were identified in this assemblage; in addition, a single neonatal human bone was identified (see 6.7 Human Bone below). The bulk of the faunal assemblage was identified as cattle, along with large mammal fragments, many of which had been butchered, that were probably derived from cattle butchering. Quantification of the bone by species and feature type is presented in Table 6.

Species	**Type**						**Species Total**
	Ditch	Finds	Gully	Pit	Pit/Ditch	Spread	
Bird				1			1
Cattle	36	10		21	2	2	71
Dog	1						1
Equid	5						5
HSR	1						1
Mammal	88	5	1	11	1	2	108
Pig/boar	3	1		1	1		6
Sheep/goat	2			5	1	1	9
Feature Total	**136**	**16**	**1**	**39**	**5**	**5**	**202**

Table 6. Quantification (NISP) of species by feature

The cattle were represented by adult and juvenile animals, suggesting a range of uses and perhaps a yearly cull of excess young stock or weaker animals for meat. Pathologies were noted with the cattle remains. A cattle metatarsal from (20) showed some distortion in the growth of the bone at the distal end that might suggest an animal under some physical strain. Arthritis was noted on a cattle pelvis from (22) and a further example of arthritic changes was seen around a robust proximal metatarsal from (76). Such pathologies would be more commonly found in ageing or working animals and might indicate animals used for traction.

Sheep/goat and pig/boar were seen in fairly low numbers and most elements had been butchered. The latter may be from domestic pigs, but in earlier periods it is quite possible that at least some of the remains come from wild boar. The ovicaprid bones are from adult animals, suggesting a range of uses, including milk and wool. The porcine remains are from both adult and juveniles, these animals have little use other than for meat, so a greater number of juvenile bones is common.

Five pieces of equid bone were seen from the ditch fills (73) and (94). No butchering was seen on any of the equid remains, indicating remains of probable working animals. A single canid bone (a distal ulna) was seen, which is from a small sized breed of dog, although not necessarily a 'toy breed', which may have been a domestic pet or a working dog.

A single piece of bird bone was found in this assemblage, from context (101); the bone is part of a synsacrum, probably from a fowl.

6.6.3.3 Faunal remains - parts recovered and general butchering

Most of the assemblage showed butchering. Fine cuts on extremities were seen from the skinning process. Heavy chops occurred on larger limb bones, scapulae, pelvic bones and vertebrae from dismemberment of the carcasses and further cuts from a knife to these larger bones where meat has been removed. Heavily butchered bones of cattle were seen in (20) and (22), with numerous chops and cuts on a pelvis and humerus in (22). A fine cut was seen on a proximal phalange. A cut and chopped cattle hyoid was noted in (84) which shows use of the tongue for meat. Fragments of cut and chopped ribs were also seen in (84), along with fragments that had been boiled, suggesting use in soups or stews. Further boiled bone was noted in (78) with a fragment from a leg of mutton. Some smashing of larger, robust bones was also evident, a common practice to access the marrow.

6.6.4 Faunal Remains Conclusions

The bone from this excavation is dominated by the primary and secondary butchering waste from the main domestic food stock, along with remains of other working or domestic animals. The assemblage from this evaluation is quite typical of other assemblages of a Roman date, with a dominance of cattle seen from other sites in the area (Curl 2009 and 2011) suggesting these animals provided the bulk of the meat and other by products. The cattle pathologies seen in this assemblage suggest some use as traction animals, with the individuals affected of a larger and more robust stature, perhaps suggesting selection of larger animals for pulling. It is possible that the porcine remains include or consist of wild boar, but given the lack of other wild mammal and bird remains within the assemblage, this is perhaps less likely and such remains might be of domestic stock.

6.7 Human Remains

A single neonatal femur was found in Trench 4, ditch [89], fill (90), alongside faunal remains, shell and ceramic material. The metrical data from this bone puts it well within the range for foetal material (Bass 1995) and suggests that the individual died shortly before, during or after birth. There is no sign of trauma or butchering on the bone.

The discovery of neonatal human bone with general waste is of interest, but not unusual in assemblages of a Roman date. The animal bone assemblage from the Romano-British Settlement at Hacheston, Suffolk (King 2004) produced neonatal human bones. Three human neonates were discovered amongst animal remains in Romano-British pit fills at Ipswich, Suffolk (Curl 2008). A small collection of neonatal bones were seen in a ditch fill with faunal and ceramic waste at Sawston, Cambridgeshire (Curl 2011). Many other Roman sites have yielded such finds and it would appear that it was a relatively common and possibly acceptable practice to dispose of neonatal children without the ritual and ceremony given to older individuals (Scott 1990).

Roman infant burials can occur in cemeteries with adults but also within settlement areas in pits and ditches, under floors or eaves, in enclosures or sometimes in special infant cemeteries (Gurney 1998).

6.7.1 Human Remains Conclusions

The single human neonatal bone from this site might represent a stray find and is not a rarity in assemblages of a Roman date.

7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Plant Macrofossils and Other Plant Remains

by Val Fryer

7.1.1 Introduction and method statement

Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from ditches [62] and [93] (Samples <6> and <9> respectively), from pit [99] (Sample <8>) and from the backfill of a possible oven-type feature (deposit (34), Sample<5>).

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Appendix 6. Nomenclature within the appendix follows Stace (1997). Most plant remains were charred, but a small number of un-charred or possibly de-watered macrofossils were recorded within the assemblage from sample 6. These are denoted within the table by a lower case ‘w’ suffix. Modern roots, seeds and arthropod remains were also present within all four assemblages.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve to be sorted when dry. All artefacts/ecofacts will be retained for further specialist analysis.

7.1.2 Plant Macrofossil Results

Cereal grains/chaff and seeds of common weeds were present at a low to moderate density within all four assemblages. Preservation was variable; the remains within the assemblage from Sample <5> were severely puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures, while macrofossils from the other samples were moderately well preserved.

Oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were recorded, with wheat being predominant. Chaff was scarce, but spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) glume bases were recorded within Sample <5>. Seeds of common weeds were present throughout, with the highest density occurring within sample 5. Taxa noted included corn cockle (*Agrostemma githago*), stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), brome (*Bromus* sp.), dock (*Rumex* sp.) and vetch/vetchling (*Vicia*/*Lathyrus* sp.). Un-charred or de-watered macrofossils, including a sloe (*Prunus spinosa*) fruit stone, bramble (*Rubus* sect. *Glandulosus*) 'pips' and elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) seeds, were noted within the assemblage from Sample <6>. Charcoal/charred wood fragments were present throughout, but other plant macrofossils were scarce. Other remains included black porous and tarry residues, bone fragments, vitreous globules and a possible fragment of worked shale. Small coal fragments (coal 'dust') were also present throughout, but at the time of writing, it was unknown whether these were contemporary with the features from which the samples were taken, or later contaminants.

7.1.3 Plant Macrofossil Conclusions

In summary, the composition of the assemblage from Sample <5> is probably indicative of material derived from burnt cereal processing. As such material was commonly used during the Roman period as fuel within ovens and other similar structures, it is probably not surprising to find these remains within this context. Although plant macrofossils are present within the remaining assemblages, the density of material is generally low. It is, therefore, most likely that these remains are principally derived from scattered or wind dispersed detritus, which was accidentally incorporated within the feature fills.

Although, with the exception of Sample <5>, the current assemblages are a little sparse, they nevertheless clearly illustrate that reasonably well-preserved plant remains are present within the archaeological horizon at Caister. It is of especial note that some features may also include de-watered plant remains, the interpretation of which can often provide very full and accurate details about the local environment and its specific flora. Therefore, if further excavations are planned within the vicus area at Caister, it is strongly recommended that 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

Archaeological trial trench evaluation at Norwich Road, Caister recorded a number of archaeological features, the majority of which appear to be of Roman date. Features of possible prehistoric and post (or sub) Roman date are also thought to be present at the site, though with less archaeological evidence than provided for the Roman activity.

From what was known of the site's location in relation to previous archaeological work in the vicinity it was thought likely the evaluated area lay within the *vicus* of the Roman fort. This inference seems proven by the evaluation's findings. The ceramic evidence suggests that activity at the site was at its most intense from broadly the mid to late 2nd centuries to the mid to late 3rd centuries, with some indication of activity at reduced levels in the late 3rd to 4th centuries. The earlier phase of activity would correspond to what is known of the Roman fort, thought to have been set out in the early 3rd century.

Each one of the evaluation trenches contained archaeological features and while the greatest concentration of features was noted in Trench 3 to the east of the site, several other trenches also contained significant remains. Trenches 1 and 6 at opposing ends of the site (north and south respectively) recorded the lowest numbers of features. While this finding is perhaps less explicable for Trench 1, located closer to the presumed focus of Roman activity broadly to the north and east of the site, for Trench 6 the geology and nature of deposits suggested wetter conditions were previously prevalent, perhaps explaining the lower levels of archaeological activity seen here.

The ceramic assemblage appears to identify a relatively abrupt diminution of activity at the site from the late 3rd century AD, perhaps the result of the *vicus* being altered or abandoned when the fort is rearranged at this time. The slightly abraded condition of the ceramic assemblage is interpreted as the effect of post-depositional disturbance, and thus the potential for some finds to be residual. Despite this, based on the size and nature of the ceramics this finding is not thought to contradict the broad dating assigned to features.

As outlined in the *Archaeological and Historic Background* section of this report, archaeological work in the vicinity of the current site demonstrated a degree of continuity in the occupation of the fort and its immediate hinterland during the Early, Middle and Late Saxon periods. Though no artefactual evidence for these periods was provided by this evaluation, perceived changes to boundaries at the site might suggest post-Roman activity, particularly when considered in the light of Burgh Castle where the cropmarks visible in shallower overlying soils have allowed a better understanding of the associated *vicus*.

The study of cropmarks in the Burgh Castle *vicus* (NHER 49204), a fort which might post-date the foundation of that at Caister identified a trend of large, regular plots becoming smaller and less well organised over a short period of time. Though limited by the available evidence, it is possible a similar pattern might be seen at the current site, with earlier, larger ditches perhaps replaced by smaller, later ditches. The regular north-south and east-west alignments seen at the site can also be considered characteristic of vicus arrangements.

This latter point highlights the potential for the survival of stratified deposits at the site, in particular of intercutting ditches, this survival perhaps resulting from the protective depths of accumulated overburden present.

Though no structural evidence of buildings was revealed by the evaluation, possible oven feature [33] hints that structures in the vicinity would survive, and based on what is now known of the sites archaeological potential, it is likely that any such remains would be well-preserved with the possibility of stratigraphic sequences surviving.

The evaluation appears to demonstrate that:

1 The site lies within the vicus associated with the Roman fort.

2 The archaeological remains are generally well preserved below the site soils/overburden.

3 Though principally Roman in character, more than one period of human activity might be present at the site.

4 Stratigraphic sequences/relationships have survived at the site in association with tightly datable pottery forms.

5 Plant remains have the potential to be well preserved at the site.

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

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Finds were processed by Becky Sillwood and reported on by Julie Curl, Becky Sillwood and Mark Peachy. Val Fryer reported on the environmental samples.

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Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
1	Deposit			Topsoil	Modern	1-6
2	Deposit			Sub-soil	-	1-6
3	Deposit			Natural mottled clay /sand	-	1-5
4	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Roman	6
5	Deposit		4	Mid grey brown loam; fill of ditch [4]	Roman	6
6	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Roman	6
7	Deposit		6	Mid grey brown loam; fill of ditch [6]	Roman	6
8	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Roman	6
9	Deposit		8	Mid grey brown loam; fill of ditch [8]	Roman	6
10	Cut	Bioturbation		Bioturbation	?Modern	6
11	Deposit		10	Mid grey brown loam; bioturbation fill	?Modern	6
12	Cut	Pit		Pit	Roman	6
13	Deposit		12	Mid brown loam; fill of pit [12]	Roman	6
14	Cut	Pit ?		Pit ?	Roman	6
15	Deposit		14	Mid brown loam; fill of pit [14]	Roman	6
16	Deposit		14	Mid brown and yellow loam; fill of pit [14]	Roman	6
17	Deposit			Mid to dark brown loam	Roman	6
18	Deposit			Natural sand	-	6
19	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Roman	1
20	Deposit		19	Dark grey brown sandy silt; fill of ditch [19]	Roman	1
21	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Roman	1
22	Deposit		21	Mid brown sandy silt; fill of ditch [21]	Roman	1
23	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Roman	1
24	Deposit		23	Dark grey brown sandy silt; fill of ditch [23]	Roman	1
25	Cut	Gully		Gully	Roman	1
26	Deposit		25	Mid brown sandy silt; fill of gully [25]	Roman	1
27	Cut	Pit		Pit	Roman	3
28	Deposit		27	Fill of pit [27]	Roman	3
29	Cut	Pit		Pit	Roman	2
30	Deposit		29	Red brown sand silt; fill of pit [29]	Roman	2
31	Deposit		29	Dark brown sand silt; fill of pit [29]	Roman	2
32	Deposit		29	Mid brown sandy silt; fill of pit [29]	Roman	2
33	Cut	Kiln/pit		Kiln/pit	Roman	2
34	Deposit		33	Dark brown and black loam; fill of kiln/pit [33]	Roman	2
35	Cut	Gully		Gully	Roman	2
36	Deposit		35	Mid brown sandy silt; fill of gully [35]	Roman	2
37	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Roman	2

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
38	Deposit		37	Mid to pale brown sandy silt; fill of ditch [37]	Roman	2
39	Deposit		37	Mid brown sandy silt; fill of ditch [37]	Roman	2
40	Cut	Pit		Pit	Roman	2
41	Deposit		40	Mid brown sandy silt; fill of pit [40]	Roman	2
42	Cut	Pit		Pit	?Prehistoric	3
43	Deposit		42	Pale greyish brown silt sand brown sandy silt; fill of pit [42]	?Prehistoric	3
44	Cut	Pit		Pit	?Prehistoric	3
45	Deposit		44	Pale greyish brown silt sand brown sandy silt; fill of pit [44]	?Prehistoric	3
46	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Roman	3
47	Deposit		46	Mid brown sandy silt; fill of ditch [46]	Roman	3
48	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Roman	3
49	Deposit		48	Mid brown silt sand; fill of ditch [48]	Roman	3
50	Cut	Gully		Gully	Roman	3
51	Deposit		50	Mid brown sandy silt; fill of gully [50]	Roman	3
52	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Roman	3
53	Deposit		52	Mid brown silt sand; fill of ditch [52]	Roman	3
54	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Roman	3
55	Deposit		54	Mid brown sandy silt; fill of ditch [54]	Roman	3
56	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Roman	3
57	Deposit		56	Mid to dark brown sandy silt; fill of ditch [56]	Roman	3
58	Deposit			Sub-soil	Uncertain	3
59	Deposit			Sub-soil	Uncertain	3
60	Deposit		54	Pale brown silt sand; fill of ditch [54], lower	Roman	3
61	Deposit		40	Fill of pit [40]	Roman	2
62	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Roman	4,5
63	Deposit		62	Upper fill of ditch [62]	Roman	4,5
64	Deposit		62	Main fill of ditch [62]	Roman	4,5
65	Deposit		62	Lens of dark fill of ditch [62]	Roman	4,5
66	Deposit		62	Lower fill of ditch [62]	Roman	4,5
67	Cut	Ditch		Small ditch	Roman	2
68	Deposit		67	Fill of ditch [67]	Roman	2
69	Deposit		67	Fill of ditch [67]	Roman	2
70	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Roman	2
71	Deposit		70	Fill of ditch [70]	Roman	2
72	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Roman	4
73	Deposit		72	Upper fill of ditch [72]	Roman	4
74	Deposit		72	Middle fill of ditch [72]	Roman	4
75	Deposit		72	Lower fill of ditch [72]	Roman	4
76	Deposit		77	Fill of pit/ditch [77]	Roman	4

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
77	Cut	Pit/ditch		Pit/Ditch	Roman	4
78	Deposit			Layer/spread, cut by [77]?	Roman	4
79	Deposit		80	Fill of ditch [80]	Roman	5
80	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Roman	5
81	Deposit		70	Primary fill of ditch [70]	Roman	2
82	Deposit		70	Fill of ditch [70]	Roman	2
83	Cut	Pit		Pit	Roman	5
84	Deposit		83	Fill of pit [83]	Roman	5
85	Cut	Pit		Pit	Roman	5
86	Deposit		85	Fill of pit [85]	Roman	5
87	Cut	Pit		Pit	Roman	5
88	Deposit		87	Fill of pit [87]	Roman	5
89	Cut	Ditch		N-S Ditch	Roman	4
90	Deposit		89	Fill of ditch [89]	Roman	4
91	Cut	Ditch		NE-SW Ditch	Roman	4
92	Deposit		91	Fill of ditch [91]	Roman	4
93	Cut	Ditch		N-S Ditch	Roman	4
94	Deposit		93	Upper fill of ditch [93]	Roman	4
95	Deposit		93	Lower fill of ditch [93]	Roman	4
96	Cut	Ditch		N-S Ditch	Roman	4
97	Deposit		96	Fill of ditch [96]	Roman	4
98	Deposit		96	Lower fill of ditch [96]	Roman	4
99	Cut	Pit		Pit	Roman	5
100	Deposit		99	Fill of pit [99]	Roman	5
101	Deposit		99	Fill of pit [99]	Roman	5
102	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Roman	5
103	U/S Finds			Unstratified finds from Trench 4	-	4
104	U/S Finds			Unstratified finds from Trench 5	-	5
105	U/S Finds			Unstratified finds from Trench 3	-	3

Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary

Period	Category	Total
?Prehistoric	Pit	2
Roman	Pit	9
	Ditch	21
	Gully	3
	Kiln/pit	1
	Pit/ditch	1

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
5	Animal Bone	6	52g	Unknown	
5	Ceramic Building Material	2	214g	Roman	
5	Pottery	4	132g	Roman	
13	Ceramic Building Material	1	146g	Roman	
20	Animal Bone	30	849g	Unknown	
20	Ceramic Building Material	24	4,974g	Roman	
20	Pottery	27	595g	Roman	
22	Animal Bone	19	254g	Unknown	
22	Ceramic Building Material	3	297g	Roman	
22	Pottery	12	60g	Roman	
24	Animal Bone	9	174g	Unknown	
24	Ceramic Building Material	3	580g	Roman	
24	Pottery	8	141g	Roman	
26	Animal Bone	1	4g	Unknown	
26	Ceramic Building Material	1	8g	Roman	
26	Pottery	1	1g	Roman	
28	Ceramic Building Material	1	433g	Roman	
34	Fired Clay	5	145g	Unknown	Very fragile
39	Animal Bone	11	46g	Unknown	
41	Animal Bone	1	35g	Unknown	
41	Ceramic Building Material	2	46g	Roman	
43	Ceramic Building Material	1	302g	Roman	
45	Pottery	1	4g	Prehistoric	
47	Pottery	1	7g	Roman	
59	Pottery	1	373g	Roman	
60	Animal Bone	3	5g	Unknown	
60	Ceramic Building Material	1	49g	Roman	
60	Pottery	2	18g	Roman	
61	Animal Bone	6	35g	Unknown	
63	Animal Bone	10	109g	Unknown	
63	Ceramic Building Material	4	222g	Roman	

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
63	Fired Clay	1	17g	Unknown	
63	Flint – Struck	2	18g	Prehistoric	
63	Iron	1	58g	Unknown	?Hinge pivot; L95
63	Pottery	24	313g	Roman	
73	Animal Bone	8	247g	Unknown	
73	Pottery	1	3g	Roman	
76	Animal Bone	5	198g	Unknown	
76	Ceramic Building Material	3	542g	Roman	
76	Iron	4	162g	Unknown	Objects
76	Pottery	8	200g	Roman	
78	Animal Bone	4	109g	Unknown	
78	Ceramic Building Material	3	290g	Roman	
78	Pottery	5	97g	Roman	
78	Shell	3	17g	Unknown	Oyster - DISCARDED
79	Ceramic Building Material	1	33g	Roman	
79	Flint – Struck	1	62g	Prehistoric	
79	Pottery	3	20g	Roman	
82	Animal Bone	15	665g	Unknown	
82	Ceramic Building Material	3	574g	Roman	
82	Pottery	3	17g	Roman	
84	Animal Bone	16	1,077g	Unknown	
84	Ceramic Building Material	14	2,698g	Roman	
84	Pottery	25	795g	Roman	
84	Shell	48	812g	Unknown	Oyster - DISCARDED
86	Fired Clay	18	207g	Unknown	Very fragile
86	Pottery	1	7g	Roman	
86	Shell	28	551g	Unknown	Oyster - DISCARDED
88	Animal Bone	1	37g	Unknown	
88	Ceramic Building Material	2	93g	Roman	
88	Pottery	2	15g	Roman	
88	Shell	2	44g	Unknown	Oyster - DISCARDED
90	Animal Bone	5	161g	Unknown	
90	Ceramic Building Material	6	1,036g	Roman	
90	Pottery	10	314g	Roman	

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
90	Shell	2	24g	Unknown	Oyster - DISCARDED
92	Pottery	1	11g	Roman	
94	Animal Bone	4	115g	Unknown	
94	Ceramic Building Material	1	114g	Roman	
94	Pottery	14	170g	Roman	
94	Shell	4	22g	Unknown	Oyster - DISCARDED
97	Animal Bone	8	113g	Unknown	
97	Pottery	9	121g	Roman	
98	Pottery	1	12g	Roman	
101	Animal Bone	13	539g	Unknown	
101	Ceramic Building Material	5	400g	Roman	
101	Pottery	6	334g	Roman	
101	Shell	54	1,010g	Unknown	Oyster - DISCARDED
103	Animal Bone	6	132g	Unknown	
103	Ceramic Building Material	12	2,594g	Roman	
103	Copper-Alloy	1	2g	Roman	Coin; D19
103	Pottery	6	128g	Roman	
104	Animal Bone	8	364g	Unknown	
104	Lead	1	171g	Roman	Steelyard weight
105	Copper-Alloy	1	7g	Post-medieval	Button
105	Copper-Alloy	1	2g	Unknown	Sheet fragment

Appendix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Prehistoric	Flint – Struck	3
Prehistoric	Pottery	1
Roman	Ceramic Building Material	93
Roman	Copper-Alloy	1
Roman	Lead	1
Roman	Pottery	175
Post-medieval	Copper-Alloy	1
Unknown	Animal Bone	189
Unknown	Copper-Alloy	1
Unknown	Fired Clay	24
Unknown	Iron	5
Unknown	Shell	141

Appendix 3: Pottery

Feature	Deposit	Description	Spot Date	*F*	*W*
4	5	Ditch	Late 3rd-4th C AD	*4*	*132*
19	20	Ditch	Late 2nd-mid/late 3rd C AD	*27*	*595*
21	22	Ditch	Mid/late 2nd-4th C AD	*12*	*60*
23	24	Ditch	?M-L2 (+)	*8*	*141*
25	26	Gully	Roman	*1*	*1*
44	45	Pit	?BA-EIA	*1*	*4*
46	47	Ditch	L2-4th C AD	*1*	*7*
54	60	Ditch	Roman	*2*	*18*
59		Subsoil	Roman	*1*	*373*
62	63	Ditch	Late 2nd-mid 3rd C AD	*24*	*313*
70	82	Ditch	Roman	*3*	*17*
72	73	Ditch	Roman	*1*	*3*
77	76	Ditch	Mid 2nd-late 3rd C AD	*8*	*200*
78		Layer	Mid/late 2nd-4th C AD	*5*	*97*
80	79	Ditch	Roman	*3*	*20*
83	84	Pit	Late 3rd C AD	*25*	*795*
85	86	Pit	Roman	*1*	*7*
87	88	Pit	Roman	*2*	*15*
89	90	Ditch	Mid/Late 2nd-early 3rd C AD	*10*	*314*
91	92	Ditch	Roman	*1*	*11*
93	94	Ditch	Mid/late 2nd-late 3rd C AD	*14*	*170*
96	97	Ditch	Roman	*9*	*121*
96	98	Ditch	Late 2nd-mid 3rd C AD	*1*	*12*
99	101	Pit	Late 3rd-4th C AD	*6*	*334*
103		US	2nd-4th C AD	*6*	*128*
TOTALS				*176*	*3888*

Appendix 4: Ceramic Building Material

Feature	Deposit	Description	Spot Date	*F*	*W (g)*
4	5	Ditch	Late 3rd-4th C AD	*2*	*214*
12	13	Pit	\	*1*	*146*
19	20	Ditch	Late 2nd-mid/late 3rd C AD	*24*	*4974*
21	22	Ditch	Mid/late 2nd-4th C AD	*3*	*297*
23	24	Ditch	?M-L2 (+)	*3*	*580*
25	26	Gully	Roman	*1*	*8*
27	28	Pit	\	*1*	*433*
40	41	Pit	\	*2*	*46*
42	43	Pit	\	*1*	*302*
54	60	Ditch	Roman	*1*	*49*
62	63	Ditch	Late 2nd-mid 3rd C AD	*4*	*222*
70	82	Ditch	Roman	*3*	*574*
77	76	Pit/Ditch	Mid 2nd-late 3rd C AD	*3*	*542*
78		Layer	Mid/late 2nd-4th C AD	*3*	*290*
80	79	Ditch	Roman	*1*	*33*
83	84	Pit	Late 3rd C AD	*14*	*2698*
87	88	Pit	Roman	*2*	*93*
89	90	Ditch	Mid/Late 2nd-early 3rd C AD	*6*	*1036*
93	94	Ditch	Mid/late 2nd-late 3rd C AD	*1*	*114*
99	101	Pit	Late 3rd-4th C AD	*5*	*400*
103		US	2nd-4th C AD	*12*	*2594*
				93	*15645*

Appendix 5: Animal Bone

Context	Trench	Feature	Type	Finds date	Ctxt Qty	Wt (g)	Species	NISP	Adult	Juv	Element range	Butchering	Gnaw	R/C/F	Comments
5	6	4	Ditch	Roman	6	52	mammal	6			fragments				
20	1	19	Ditch	Roman	30	849	cattle	15	12	3	scap, pel, ll, t, ul, f	c, ch, sm	1	c	large and robust individuals, gnawed distal humerus
			Ditch	Roman			sheep/goat	1	1		ul	c, ch			tibia
			Ditch	Roman			dog	1	1		ul				small canid ulna - small breed of dog
			Ditch	Roman			mammal	13			v, r, skull	c, ch			
22	1	21	Ditch	Roman	19	254	cattle	5	5		ul, t, f	c, ch			
			Ditch	Roman			mammal	14			fragments				
24	1	23	Ditch	Roman	9	174	cattle	3	2	1	pel, hu, ul	c, ch			heavily chopped pelvis with arthritis, heavily chopped humerus, unfused femur head
			Ditch	Roman			mammal	6			fragments				
26	1	25	Gully	Roman	1	4	mammal	1							
39	2	37	Ditch		11	46	mammal	11							
41	2	40	Pit	Roman	1	35	cattle	1	1		ll	ch			proximal metacarpal
60	3	54	Ditch	Roman	3	5	mammal	3							
61	2	40	Pit		8	35	mammal	8			fragments				pelvic fragment and other fragments, possibly cattle
63	4, 5	62	Ditch	Prehist/Roman	17	19	cattle	2	1	1	ul, f	c, ch			unfused femur, cuboid
			Ditch	Prehist/Roman			sheep/goat	1	1		ll	ch			proximal metatarsal
			Ditch	Prehist/Roman			mammal	14							
73	4	72	Ditch	Roman	9	247	equid	4		1	scap (and frags of)				unfused scapula and fragments of. Pony sized animal
			Ditch	Roman			mammal	5							

Context	Trench	Feature	Type	Finds date	Ctxt Qty	Wt (g)	Species	NISP	Adult	Juv	Element range	Butchering	Gnaw	R/C/F	Comments
76	4	77	Pit/Ditch	Roman	5	198	cattle	2	2		ll, f	c, ch			cut proximal phalange, arthritic changes around the robust proximal metatarsal
			Pit/Ditch	Roman			sheep/goat	1		1	ll	ch			dark stained, probably residual
			Pit/Ditch	Roman			pig/boar	1		1	mand	c			mandible condyle
			Pit/Ditch	Roman			mammal	1			r	ch			
78	4		Spread	Roman	5	104	cattle	2	2		r, scap	c, ch			chopped and c rib, chopped scapula
			Spread	Roman			sheep/goat	1	1		ul	c, ch			boiled humerus
			Spread	Roman			mammal	2							
82	2	70	Ditch	Roman	15	665	cattle	5	5		t, scap, v	c, ch			large and robust scapula, cuts and chops to veretebral body
			Ditch	Roman			pig/boar	2		2	mand, pel	c, ch			mandible with M2 and tusks not fully erupted
			Ditch	Roman			mammal	8			fragments				
84	5	83	Pit	Roman	16	1077	cattle	16	16		scaps, ul, r, hyoid	c, ch			3 scapulas, cut and chopped hyoid, 2 boiled fragments of radius
88	5	87	Pit	Roman	1	37	pig/boar	1	1		ul	ch			humerus
90	4	89	Ditch	Roman	5	161	cattle	3		3	pel, ul, f	c, ch			
			Ditch	Roman			HSR	1		1	ul - femur				NEONATAL femur
			Ditch	Roman			mammal	1				ch			
94	4	93	Ditch	Roman	4	115	equid	1	1		v				
			Ditch	Roman			pig/boar	1		1	mand	c			mandible - M3 erupted, but hardly any wear, DM1 full wear, but not lost
			Ditch	Roman			mammal	2							
97	4	96	Ditch	Roman	8	113	cattle	3	3		ll, ul	c, ch			calc and radius
			Ditch	Roman			mammal	5							

Context	Trench	Feature	Type	Finds date	Ctxt Qty	Wt (g)	Species	NISP	Adult	Juv	Element range	Butchering	Gnaw	R/C/F	Comments
101	5	99	Pit	Roman	13	539	cattle	4	4		mand, f, r, scap	c, ch			high calculus and early periodontal, heavily cut and chopped rib
			Pit	Roman			sheep/goat	5	1		ll, v, pel	c, ch			
			Pit	Roman			bird	1			synsacrum				
			Pit	Roman			mammal	3							
103	4	u/s	Finds	Roman	6	132	cattle	5	5		r, ll, ul	c, ch			
			Finds	Roman			mammal	1							distal metatarsal, chopped and cut rib sections
104	5	u/s	Finds	Roman	10	364	cattle	5	3	2	mandibles	c, ch			two mandibles - 1 with Dp4 in full wear
			Finds	Roman			pig/boar	1		1	mand	ch			mandible, M2 erupted and in low wear, M3 not erupted
			Finds	Roman			mammal	4							

Key: NISP = Number of Individual Species elements Present

Age – a = adult, j = juvenile (older than 1 month), neonatal = less than one month

Butchering = c = cut, ch = chopped, sm = smashed (?for marrow)

Element range: f = foot bones, ll = lower limb, ul = upper limb, pel = pelvis, scap = scapula, t = teeth, r = rib, v = vertebrae,

Mand = mandible; Working = probable working waste or worked bone; Gnaw = gnawed bone. c = canid, r = rodent, f = feline/mustelid; Path = pathology

Appendix 6: Plant Macrofossils

Sample No.	**5**	**6**	**8**	**9**
Context No.	**34**	**63**	**101**	**94**
Feature No.	**33**	**62**	**99**	**93**
Feature type	**?Oven**	**Ditch**	**Pit**	**Ditch**
Cereals				
Avena sp. (grain)	x			
(awn frag.)	x			
Hordeum sp. (grains)	x			
(rachis nodes)	x			
Triticum sp. (grains)	xx	x		
(glume bases)	x	x		
(spikelet bases)	x			
(rachis internodes)	x			
T. spelta L. (glume bases)	x			
Cereal indet. (grains)	x xxfg	x	x	
(detached embryos)	x			
(detached sprout frags.)	x			
Herbs				
Agrostemma githago L.	x			
Anthemis cotula L.	x			
Bromus sp.	xx	xfg		
Chenopodium album L.	x			
Chenopodiaceae indet.	xx		x	
Fabaceae indet.	x			
Fallopia convolvulus (L.)A.Love			xfg	
Small Poaceae indet.	x			
Rumex sp.	xx	x xw		
R. acetosella L.	x			
Sinapis sp.	xcf			
Urtica urens L.		xw		
Vicia/Lathyrus sp.	xx			x
Tree/shrub macrofossils				
Corylus avellana L.		xcf		
Prunus spinosa L.		xw		
Rubus sect. *Glandulosus* Wimmer & Grab		xxw		
Sambucus nigra L.		xw		
Other plant macrofossils				
Charcoal <2mm	xxxx	xxx	xxxx	xxxx
Charcoal >2mm	xxx	x	xx	xxx
Charcoal >5mm	x		x	
Charcoal >10mm	x			
Charred root/stem	x	x		

Waterlogged root/stem		x		
Indet.culm nodes	x			
Indet.seeds	x	x		x
Indet.thorns (*Rosa* type)		xw		
Other remains				
Black porous 'cokey' material	xx	x	x	x
Black tarry material	xx		x	
Bone		xx	x	x xb
Burnt/fired clay	x		x	x
Burnt stone				x
Marine mollusc shell			x	
?Shale fragment			x	
Small coal frags.	x	x	xx	x
Small mammal/amphibian bones	x	x	xpmc	x
Vitreous material			xx	x
Sample volume (litres)	**25ss**	**14**	**25ss**	**14**
Volume of flot (litres)	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**
% flot sorted	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

Key

x = 1–10 specimens xx = 11–50 specimens xxx = 51–100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens

fg = fragment w = un-charred/de-watered cf = compare b = burnt pmc = possible modern contaminant ss = sub-sample