Report 2103/1135

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nps archaeology

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at Newfound Farm, Cringleford, Norfolk

ENF131288

Prepared for
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Contents

Figures

Plates

Tables

Location:	Newfound Farm, Colney Lane, Cringleford, Norfolk
District:	South Norfolk
Grid Ref.:	TG 1850 0650
Planning Ref.:	Pre-planning
HER No.:	ENF 131288
OASIS Ref.:	151245
Client:	Barratt David Wilson Homes
Dates of Fieldwork:	4-12 April 2013

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was conducted for Barratt David Wilson Homes, to inform on the potential impact of a proposed planning application by Barratt Strategic to create a new housing development in Cringleford, on the southern edge of Norwich. The current project followed from a fieldwalking and metal detector survey and geophysical survey (both undertaken in 2011).

Seven trenches were machine excavated in order to target specific anomalies observed on the geophysical plot and also to sample the nature of the archaeological resource present on the proposed site.

The only trenches to contain archaeology of some significance were located in the northern part of the proposed development area (Trenches 4, 5 and 6) Trench 5 was perhaps the most interesting, with evidence of possible 16th-/17th-century kiln present. This activity appeared to be for the manufacture of tile and brick. Trench 4 contained an 18th- to 20th-century cobble surface on the edge of a probable large extraction pit or pond. Trench 6 contained two undated ditches and several undated pits, which may have been smaller sand extraction pits. A small undated pit and early 20th-century bottle dump were recorded in Trench 2, two pits of recent date in Trench 3 and larger extraction pits in Trench 1. Trench 7 was devoid of features, deposits or finds of archaeological interest.

Much of the evidence recorded at the site was probably connected with activities associated with Newfound Farm and its land.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The site was situated within the parish of Cringleford, close to the southern edge of the city of Norwich. The evaluation was to be undertaken as part of pre-planning works following a proposal by Barratt Strategic to South Norfolk District Council for a large new residential development. The site is around 30 hectares in size.

This work was undertaken to fulfil planning requirements set by South Norfolk District Council (Pre-planning). The project was undertaken by NPS Archaeology in-line with guidance issued by Norfolk Historic Environment Service (NHES) and following the specific brief for the works as prepared by CgMs (Gajos/03/2013). This work was commissioned by CgMs and funded by Barratt David Wilson Homes.

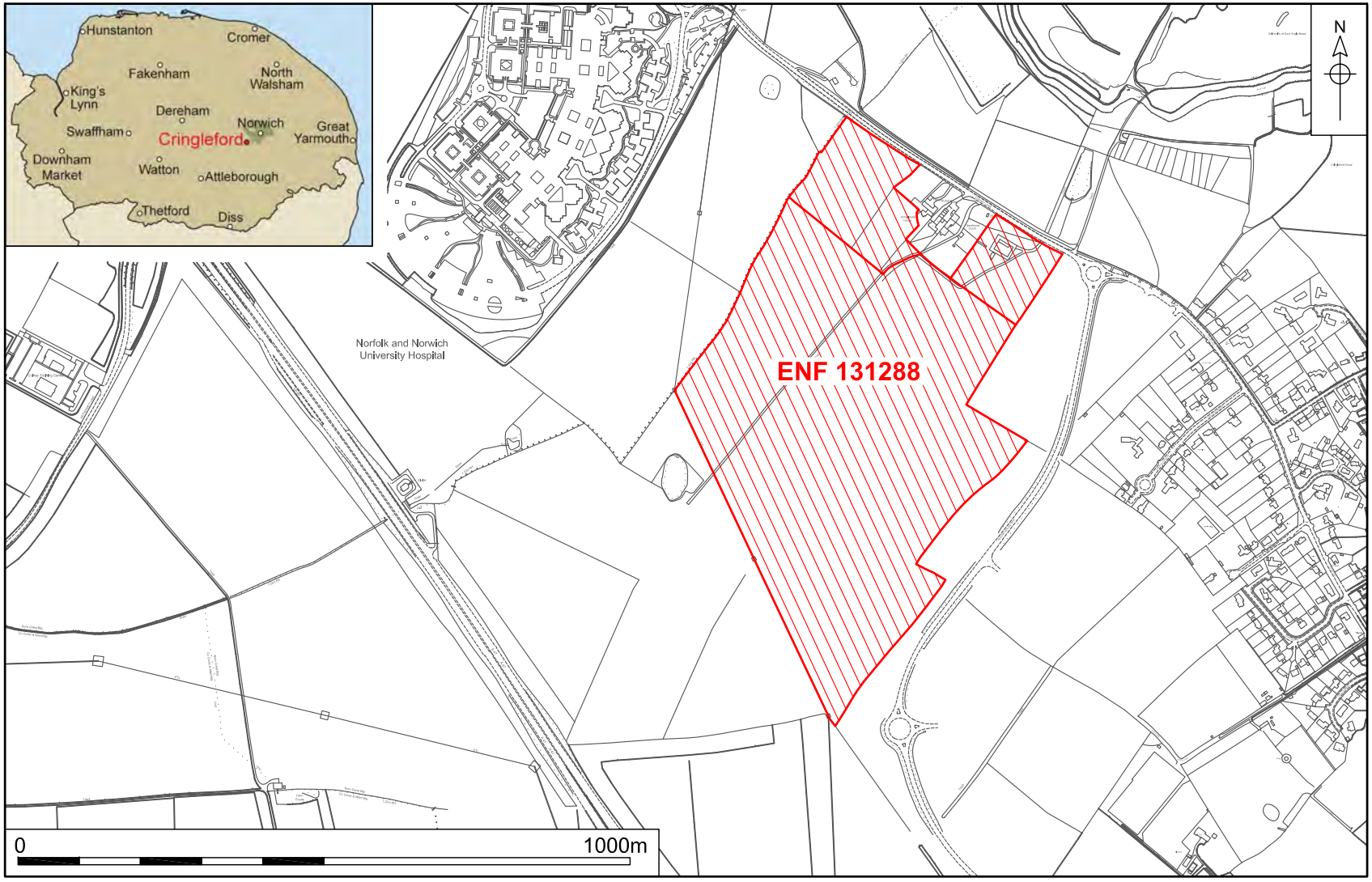

Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:10,000

This project follows previous works including a Desk Based Assessment (Gajos 2011), a fieldwalking and metal detector survey (Barnett 2011), and a geophysical investigation of the development area (Masters 2011). NHES required that trial trench evaluation be undertaken to fully assess the nature of the geophysical survey to inform on any future planning application.

This programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in *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 is situated amongst very gently undulating slopes, largely on land currently given over to arable farming, although two smaller enclosed areas at the north end of the site (where Trenches 5 and 6 were situated) had been left as pasture. Overall the site slopes from 30m AOD in the south, to 15m AOD in the north. It is bounded on its north side by Colney Lane where Newfound Farm lies at the north end of the site and the River Yare is located a further 300m to the north (Gajos 2010). The western side of the site follows the route of an overhead power cable.

The underlying geology is one of Solid Chalk bedrock which was formed approximately 71 to 94 million years ago in the Cretaceous period in an environment of warm chalk seas (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html).

The upper geology of the site appears to straddle two different zones. The eastern part of the site lies within an area of Lowestoft Formation sand and gravel and the north-western and southern parts are within an area referred to as Happisburgh Glacigenic Formation sand and gravel. Each of the deposits were formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period, in an environment dominated by ice age conditions (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/ home.htm).

As noted in the Desk Based Assessment it is known that clay deposits are present within the site that are nor currently recorded on the geological mapping (Gajos 2010). This clay was used in the manufacture of pottery in the vicinity of Newfound Farm.

The specific site topsoil consisted of dark greyish brown sandy silt which on average had a depth of 0.40m. Subsoil was recorded in Trenches 1, 2 and 6; this deposit probably formed due to topographic factors and ploughing. It varied in depth between 0.10m and 0.30m.

The natural substratum consisting of ‘bright’ orange sand and gravel (often more sandy in character) appeared to be reasonably similar across the five most northerly of trenches (Trenches 2-6) with a little variation. Trench 4 contained yellowish/orange clayey sand; Trench 7 contained what was recorded as cream

and yellow sand with gravel patches - some of the deposit had been influenced by chalky material. There were patches of chalk-derived material interspersed with yellow sand in Trench 1.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The archaeological resource for the area of Newfound Farm has been comprehensively examined in a Desk-Based Assessment produced by CgMs (Gajos 2010). A summary of the information contained in that survey is presented below NB: the study area examined in the Desk Based Assessment was slightly larger than the subsequent development site.

The Desk Based Assessment (Gajos 2010) indicates that there are four NHER records within the study site. Sixty-seven records are located within 500m of the study area and a further 25 records are located between 500m and 1000m of the study area. It appears that many of these entries relate to metal detector and fieldwalking finds which may represent casual loss rather than a centre of activity or an occupation site (Barnett 2011).

The following NHER entries are located within the study area

- NHER9403 in the centre of the site records a concentration of 19th-century pottery including Staffordshire combware and salt glaze found in 1975 in an area known as Potter's Close. The ceramics had possibly been dumped in an old clay pit
- NHER 40970 on the south-east side of the site records a post-medieval coin weight found during metal detecting in 2004
- NHER 41106 defines the field on the north-western perimeter of the site where a medieval jetton was found during metal detecting in late 2004
- NHER 42812 refers to a rectangular area on the north side of the development site just behind Colney Lane where a Late Saxon Borre style brooch and one post-medieval coin were found in 2005.

Prehistoric

Twenty -four NHER records of prehistoric sites have been noted within a 500m radius of the study site, although they mostly represent flint scatters and artefacts found during fieldwalking. There are a number of cropmark enclosures and possible ring ditches identified from aerial photography and documentary evidence.

Roman

The proposed development site is located within a landscape that was the focus for much activity in the Roman period due to the proximity of *Venta Icenorum* (a sizeable Roman town) just 5km to the south-east. Inevitably there are numerous finds of Roman date in the vicinity. A reasonably large amount of Roman coins (NHER 9366, NHER9368, NHER9396, NHER16229, NHER16230, NHER 32333, NHER40536, NHER41086, NHER41099 and NHER44080) and small quantities of pottery (NHER28277, NHER39823 and NHER44080) were recovered from within 1km of the study site, largely as a result of metal detecting and fieldwalking surveys. Immediately to the north of the development site, NHER41099 refers to a concentration of finds consisting of three Roman coins and a Roman finger ring.

Saxon

One findspot of this date is located within the development area; a Late Saxon brooch (NHER42812) in the northern half of the site.

Five other records of Saxon material are located within 1km of the development site. These comprise a Late Saxon bridle cheek piece (NHER14272 to the south-west of the site), Middle Saxon coin (NHER16229), a Late Saxon strap end (NHER49817), and two brooches (NHER9332). Again these finds appear to be 'stray finds', found during metal detector surveys and they do not appear to be associated with any contemporary features or pottery.

Medieval

There is just one medieval record within the development area (medieval jetton NHER41106) located within the rectangular field that forms the north-western part of the site.

There are 16 other records of medieval finds from within 1km of the development site, 13 of which are located within 500m. However, it is considered that the majority of these finds are likely to be derived by casual loss or manuring of fields and are more representative of a high level of agricultural activity in the area than remains of settlement.

Post-medieval and Modern

Three sites of post-medieval date are located within the proposed development area and are findspots of post-medieval coins and a coin weight found by metal detector (NHER41106, NHER42812 and NHER40970).

There are 35 records of post-medieval finds from within 1km of the study site. Several of the records relate to pottery manufacture and clay pits - the very good quality of the clay in the area resulted in some of it being exported to Holland (NHER9404 records a clay pit just outside the site's northern boundary).

Site NHER9406 located to the west of the site represents three pottery kilns which were identified in 1976 from a scatter of kiln debris and lead-glazed pottery wasters subsequently confirmed by geophysical survey and augering. This is positioned close to clay pit NHER9407.

Undated

Several undated cropmark sites are located within 1km of the development site.

Previous fieldwork

There have been two pieces of archaeological fieldwork undertaken on the site for CgMs on behalf of their clients Barratt David Wilson Homes. These comprise a fieldwalking and metal detector survey (Barnett 2011) and a geophysical survey (Masters 2011).

The finds recovered during the fieldwalking and metal detector survey were predominantly of post-medieval and modern date with the majority being recovered from the northern half of the survey area.

A small concentration of flint was recovered close to the north-western boundary of the site perhaps suggesting activity in the prehistoric period. Single sherds of Roman and Middle Saxon pottery hint at the possibility of some form of presence

in the vicinity of the development site during these periods. The two sherds of medieval pottery and piece of brick may be evidence of manuring although one might expect more substantial evidence if this were the case (Barnett 2011)

The geophysical survey identified several potential kiln sites within the development site (concentrated within the northern and eastern parts of the site) along with the possible site of a drying field in the extreme north of the development site and a possible clay extraction pit in the southern part. Documentary evidence would suggest these remains may date as early as the late 16th century but are more likely to be of 17th-century date (Gajos 2011 and Masters 2011).

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 that a total of 400m of trial trenching be undertaken to fully sample the archaeological resource (Fig. 2). This was split up into seven trenches of varying lengths (1 x 100m (Trench 7), 1 x 75m (Trench 5), 4 x 50m (Trenches 1, 2, 3, 6) and 1 x 25m (Trench 4)). The trenches were targeted on anomalies observed on the geophysical plot.

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

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds other than those which were obviously modern, were retained for inspection.

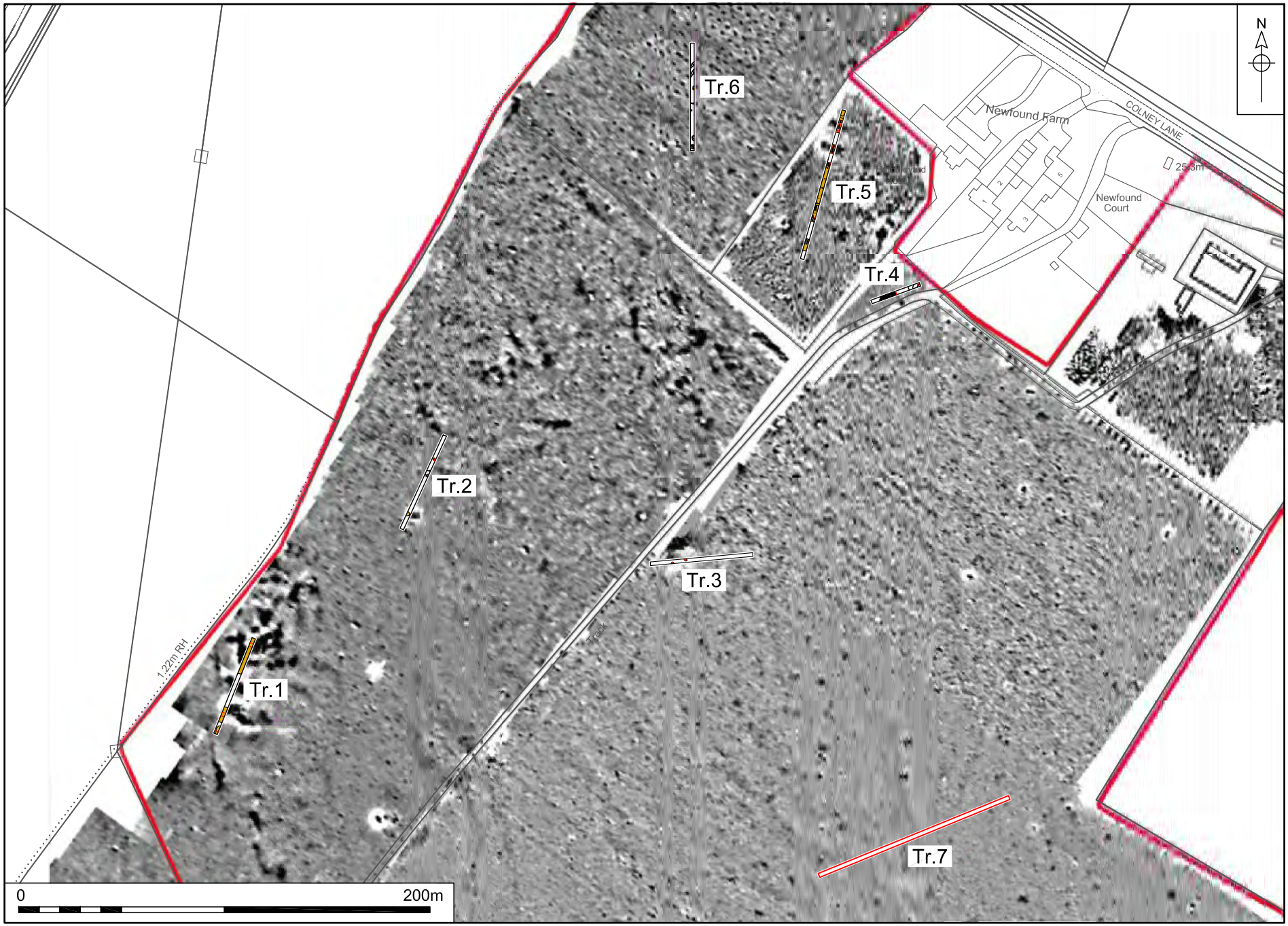

Figure 2. Location of trenches. Scale 1:2500

Environmental samples were not taken as no deposits or features considered suitable for sampling were encountered.

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

The trenches were set out using a Leica GPS900RTK Rover which supplied datum heights for each end of every trench. These temporary benchmarks were used during the course of this work to supply any further levels necessary.

Site conditions were good, with the work taking place in generally clear, often sunny though very cold conditions.

Plate 1. Machining on site, looking east

5.0 RESULTS

Trench 1

Plate 2. Trench 1, looking north

Figs 2 and 3; Plates 2-5	
Location	
Orientation	North to south
North end	618357 306637
South end	618338 306590
Dimensions	
Length	50.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.70m (maximum)
Levels	
North top	15.86m OD
South top	15.83m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
67	Deposit	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown sandy silt	40.00m	0.00-40.00m
68	Deposit	Subsoil. Mid brown sandy silt	30.00m	0.40-70.00m
69	Deposit	Natural. Yellow sand with chalky patches	--	0.70m+
70	Cut	Pit	0.70m	0.70-1.40m
71	Deposit	Fill of [70]	0.70m	0.70-1.40m
72	Cut	Pit	0.90m	0.70-1.60m
73	Deposit	Fill of [72]	0.90m	0.70-1.60m
74	Cut	Pit	0.95m	0.70-1.65m
75	Deposit	Fill of [74]	0.95m	0.70-1.65m

Discussion

Trench 1 was situated in the south-west corner of the site. It was orientated on an approximately north-south axis and three large probable extraction pits were observed ([70], [72], [74]). Permission was granted by Norfolk Historic Environment Service (NHES) to mechanically excavate sondages within the three features due to their size and likely sterile nature. They are discussed from south to north below. Pits [70] and [72] were sealed by subsoil, whereas [74] appeared to cut through it. There were no finds recovered Trench 1.

Pit [70] was at least 4.30m by 1.80m in size and extended beyond the southern, western and eastern limits of the trench. It had a depth of 0.90m. The sides were not observed and the base

was roughly flat. The single fill was mid brown gravelly and silty sand, which may have been deliberately deposited into the feature.

Plate 3. Trench 1, pit [70], looking north

Pit [72] was larger, and measured 7.84m by at least 1.80m. It extended beyond the limits of the trench to the west and the east, and was 0.70m deep. The sides were not observed and the base was roughly flat. The single homogenous fill consisted of reddened brown slightly silty sand. The red hue may have been due to the sand being heat affected through an industrial process, before being deliberately dumped into the pit.

Plate 4. Trench 1, pit [72], looking west

Pit [74] was the largest feature explored in this trench. It measured at least 18.50m by 1.80m and extended beyond the northern, eastern and western sides of the trench. The recorded depth

Trench 1

was 0.95m. Part of the northern side of the pit was observed on the section, and it was seen to be irregular and slightly stepped. The base was roughly flat. The single fill had a slight red hue and there were occasional large and steep tip lines of lighter and siltier material. The reddened quality of the deposit was similar to the fill of pit [72].

Plate 5. Trench 1, pit [74], looking west

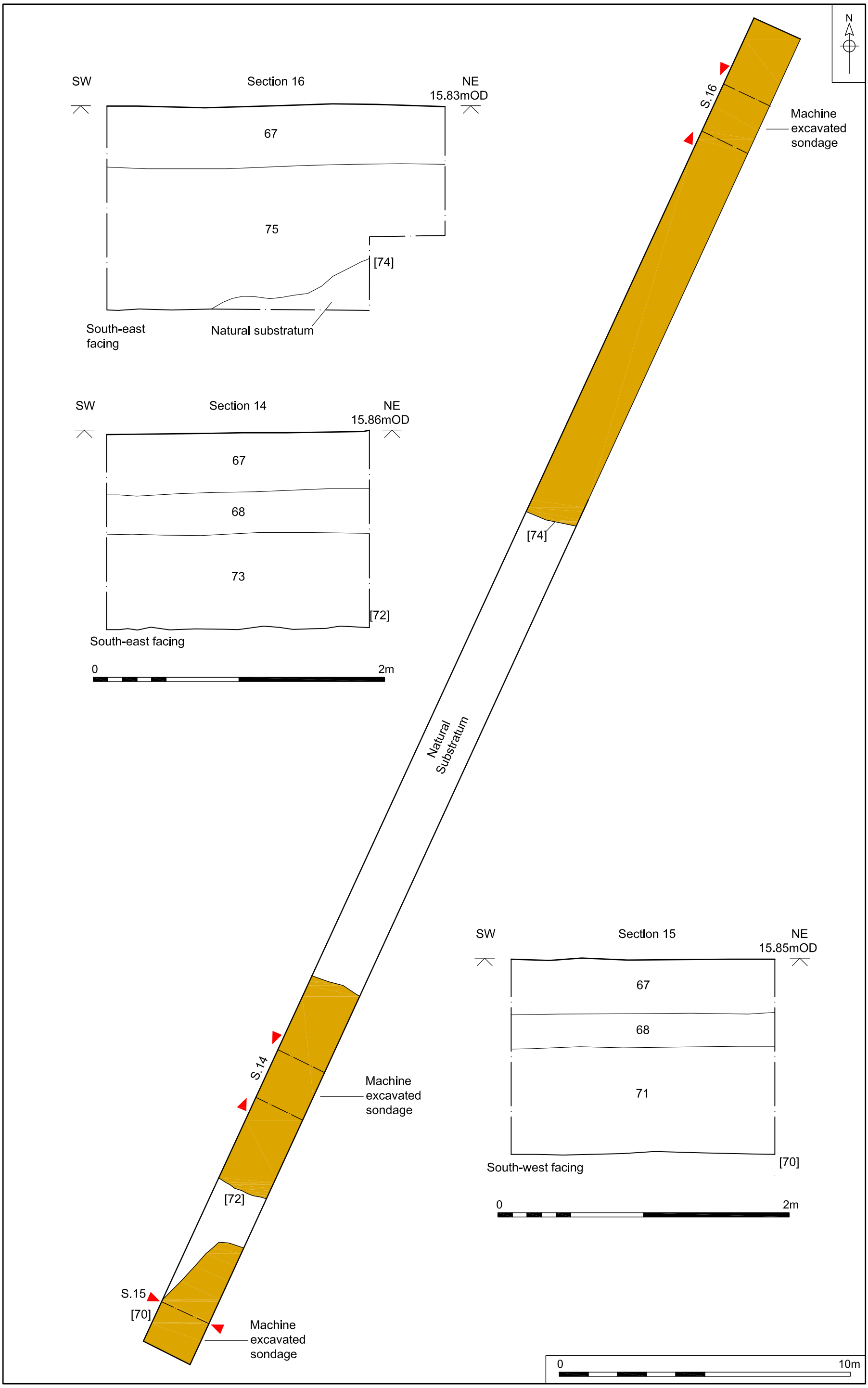

Figure 3. Trench 1, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 2

Plate 6. Trench 2, looking south

Figs 2 and 4; Plates 6-8	
Location	
Orientation	North to south
North end	618450 306735
South end	618429 306690
Dimensions	
Length	50.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.70m (average)
Levels	
North top	18.80m OD
South top	16.99m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
47	Deposit	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown sandy silt	0.46m	0.00-0.46m
48	Deposit	Subsoil. Light brown sandy silt	0.24m	0.46-0.70m
49	Deposit	Natural. 'Bright' yellow sand	--	0.70m+
50	Cut	Pit	0.22m	0.70-0.92m
51	Deposit	Fill of [50]	0.22m	0.70-0.92m
52	Cut	Pit	0.60m	0.70-1.34m
53	Deposit	Fill of [52]	0.60m	0.70-1.34m

Discussion

Trench 2 was located on the western side of the site. Two small pits ([50] and [52]) were seen within the trench. A modern bottle dump was noted at the southern end of the trench but was not investigated. This feature correlates with an anomaly recorded during the geophysics survey.

Pit [50] had an oval shape in plan and measured 0.86m by 0.78m. It was 0.22m deep and had evenly sloping sides and a flat base. The single fill ([51]) consisted of naturally occurring light brown silty sand.

The most southerly of the two pits ([52]) measured 1.40m by at least 0.83m and extended beyond the eastern edge of the trench. The depth was 0.54m. The sides were steep and regular and the base was roughly flat. The single fill ([53]) was composed of slightly mottled mid and light brown silty sand which may have developed through natural silting.

A single struck flint was recovered from topsoil [47] in this trench.

Trench 2

Plate 7. Trench 2, pit [50], looking north

Plate 8. Trench 2, pit [52], looking south

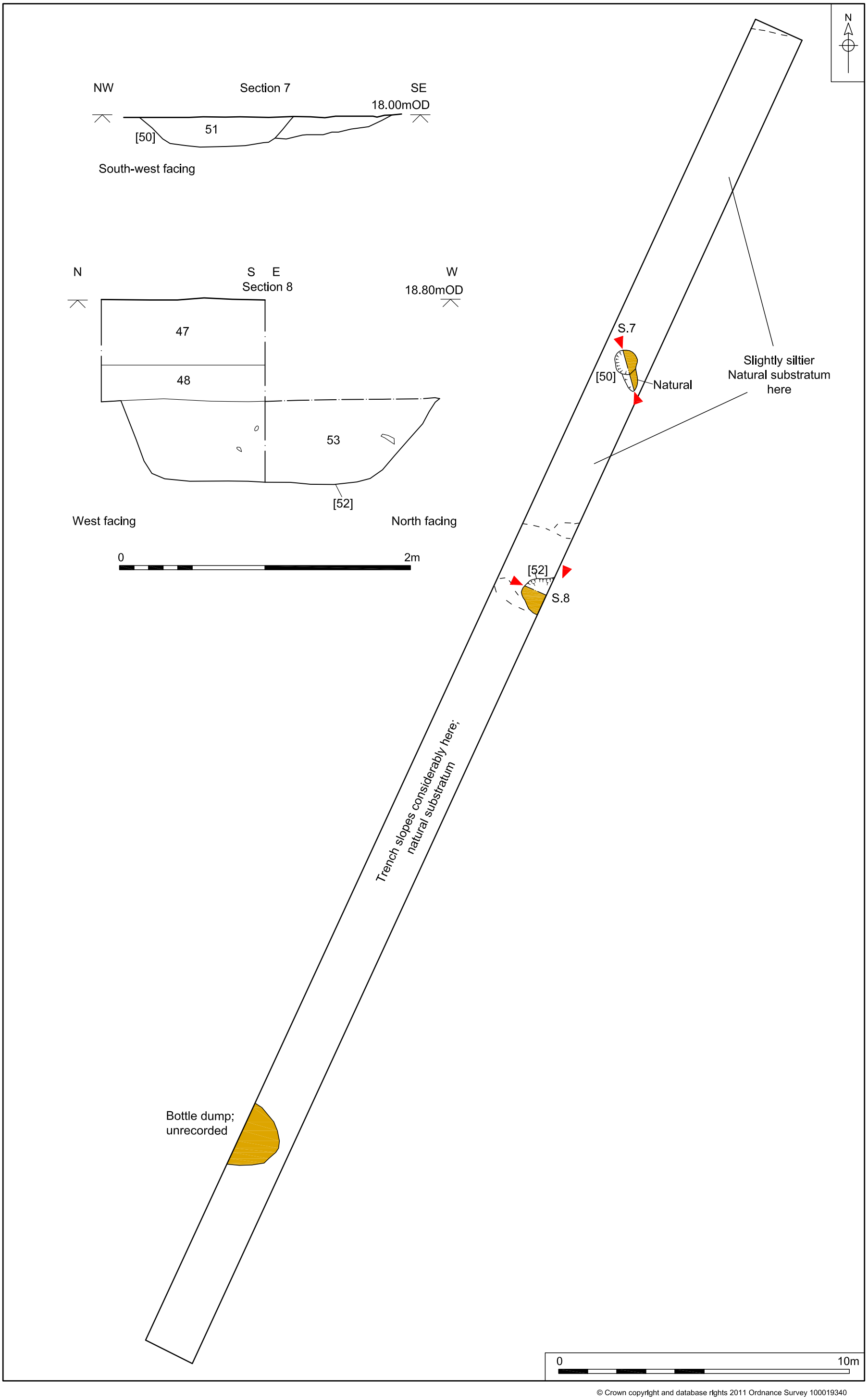

Figure 4. Trench 2, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 3

Plate 9. Trench 3, looking east

Figs 2 and 5; Plate 9	
Location	
Orientation	East to west
East end	618599 306677
West end	618550 306673
Dimensions	
Length	50.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.45m
Levels	
East top	21.27m OD
West top	22.02m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
41	Deposit	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown sandy silt	0.45m	0.00-0.45m
42	Deposit	Natural. Orange sand and gravel	--	0.45m+
43	Cut	Pit	0.30m	0.45-0.75m
44	Deposit	Fill of [43]	0.30m	0.45-0.75m
45	Cut	Pit	0.30m	0.45-0.75m
46	Deposit	Fill of [45]	0.30m	0.45-0.75m

Discussion

Trench 3 was situated at the centre of the site. Two relatively recent pits ([43] and [45]) were found within the trench. These features correlate with features recorded during the geophysical survey. Due to their modern date, the pits were only partly excavated and recorded (with agreement from NHES). The finds from each pit were not retained but were observed on site by representatives of NHES and CgMs and thereafter discarded. The finds suggest that each of the pits were of 20th-century date, and they had probably been dug to take dumps of waste material.

Oval pit [43] measured 1.31m by at least 0.74m and was observed to extend beyond the southern limit of the trench. Part of the feature was excavated indicating that it had a depth of 0.30m. The base and sides appeared to be rounded. The single fill was composed of mid brown gritty silty sand which contained frequent amounts of white pottery, corroded metal and bottle fragments.

Pit [45] had an oval shape in plan. It measured 1.57m by 0.99m and was located within the limits of the trench. Enough of the feature was excavated to indicate that the depth was 0.30m. The base and sides appeared to be rounded. The single fill was composed of mid brown gritty silty sand which contained frequent amounts of white pottery and corroded metal.

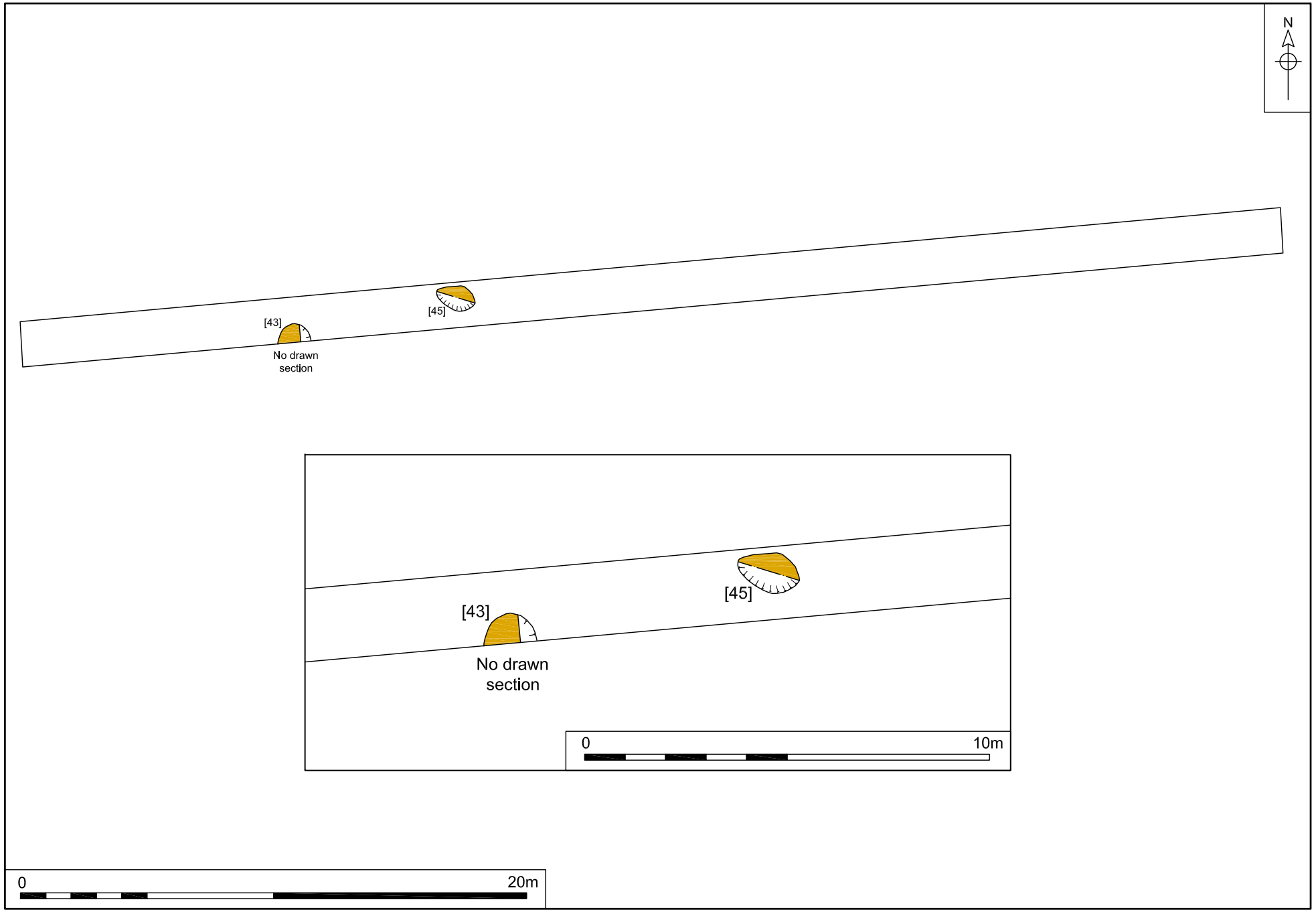

Figure 5. Trench 3, plan. Scale 1:200, inset 1:125

Trench 4

Plate 10. Trench 4, looking south-west

Figures 2 and 6; Plates 10 and 11	
Location	
Orientation	North-east to south-west
North-east end	618657 306800
South-west end	618681 306809
Dimensions	
Length	25.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	1.20m (maximum) 0.60m (average)
Levels	
North-east top	22.86m OD
South-west top	22.10m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
31	Deposit	Natural. Yellowish orange clayey sand	--	0.60m+
32	Structure	Cobble surface	0.10m	0.60-0.70m
33	Deposit	Humic layer	0.05m	0.55-0.60m
34	Deposit	Mixed natural silt	0.20m	0.30-0.50m
35	Deposit	Gritty brown dumping	0.50m	0.00-0.50m
36	Deposit	Yellowish brown clay	0.50m	0.00-0.50m
37	Deposit	Gritty clayey silt	0.50m	0.00-0.50m
38	Deposit	Gritty grey sandy silt with frequent mortar fragments	0.50m	0.00-0.50m
39	Deposit	Brown clay	0.50m	0.00-0.50m
40	Deposit	Greyish sandy gravel	0.50m	0.00-0.50m
76	Deposit	Lowest deposit within sondage	0.20m	0.60-0.70m

Discussion

Trench 4 was located at the northern edge of the site, immediately south of Newfound Farm. The trench was dominated by a large hollow/pit which became deeper towards the north end, and all of the deposits removed by machine were relatively modern dumps within it. This feature appeared as a fairly large anomaly on the geophysical survey. Depths given for deposits [34]-[40] are averages as they all sloped significantly. Of most interest archaeologically was cobble surface [32], constructed directly onto the natural substratum at the edge of the hollow/pit. This was observed towards the southern end of the trench. An almost complete modern (19th-/20th-century) frogged brick was found within the surface at the south-western end. This brick may

serve to date the surface but also could have been pushed into it as a mend/patch. The quality of the surface suggested that it might be of late 19th-century date.

Cobbled surface [32] had a visible extent of 8.83m south-west to north-east and was at least as wide as the trench (1.80m across). The surface may have extended further to the north-east; it was obscured by layer [33] and the water table at this point. The average size of the flints incorporated into the surface was 60mm across and these were generally more rounded and finished as cobbles. The larger flints were rougher and often more nodular and natural in form. These flints were on average up to 200mm across and occasionally reached a size of 400mm/500mm across. The cobble surface appeared to be roughly 0.10m thick and was constructed directly into the natural substratum. A gritty sand was seen to be interspersed between the cobbles. Many corroded iron nails were recovered from the surface, within deposit [33]. The nails were examined subsequently and identified as probably 20th-century in date.

Plate 11. Trench 4, surface [32], looking south-west

The surface was in turn sealed by thin (0.05m) slightly humic silt [33] which appeared to have developed naturally, probably due to the impermeable nature of the surface below and the tendency of the feature to gather water.

The next deposit in the sequence ([34]) was located at the southern end of the trench. It was formed of 'dirty' mixed silty and sandy clay which contained occasional charcoal flecks It extended for 5.00m and had a depth of 0.20m. It partly extended over cobble surface [32] at the southern end. It was laid flat unlike many of the other deposits within the trench. A similar layer of disturbed, possibly re-deposited, natural ([76]) was observed within the sondage at the northern end of the trench.

There were a series of six thick dumps of material sloping downwards into the large hollow/pit encountered in the trench, which due to their reasonably late date are summarily discussed. The deposits were machine excavated and recorded in section. The earliest ([35]) consisted of a thick layer of gritty brown silty sand which contained occasional bricks and other fragments of refuse. Below it ([36]) was composed of yellowish brown silty clay which contained very occasional flecks of charcoal. The next layer in the sequence was gritty greyish brown clayey silt [37]. A further layer ([38]) was composed of looser gritty grey silty sand which contained frequent flecks and small fragments of light grey sandy mortar. The most modern of the layers ([39]) was mid brown silty clay, which contained very recently dumped items including occasional fragments of black plastic and modern breeze block.

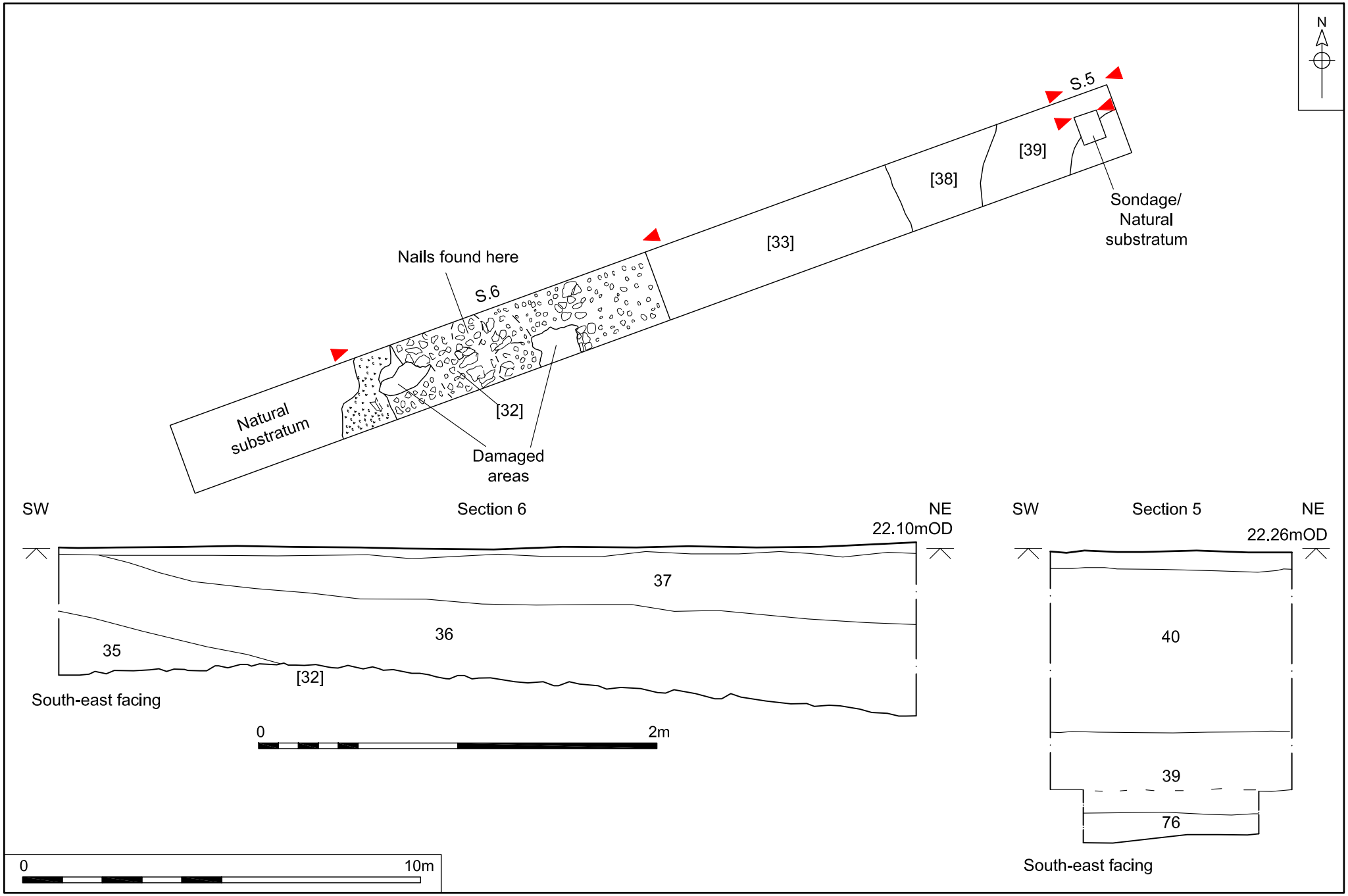

Figure 6. Trench 4, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 5

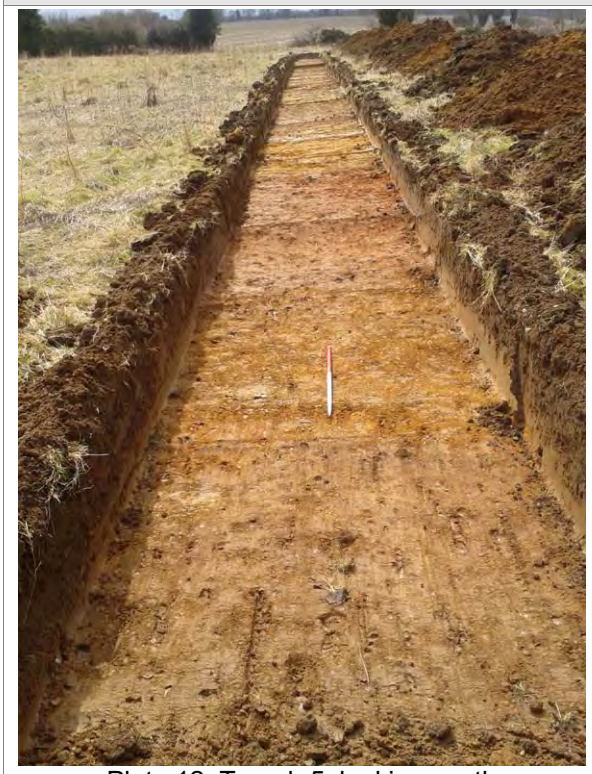

Plate 12. Trench 5, looking south

Figures 2, 7 and 8; Plates 12-18	
Location	
Orientation	North to south
North end	618624 306821
South end	618644 306893
Dimensions	
Length	75.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.50m
Levels	
North-east top	25.09m OD
South	21.00m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown sandy silt	0.50m	0.00-0.50m
02	Deposit	Natural. Orange sand and gravel	--	0.50m+
03	Cut	Large pit	1.11m	0.50-1.61m
04	Deposit	Tile dump	1.11m	0.50-1.61m
05	Deposit	Fill of [3]	1.11m	0.50-1.61m
06	Deposit	Fill of [3]	1.11m	0.50-1.61m
07	Deposit	Fill of [3]	1.11m	0.50-1.61m
08	Cut	Large pit	0.63m	0.50-1.13m
09	Structure	Brick Structure	0.63m	0.50-1.13m
10	Deposit	Fill of [8]	0.63m	0.50-1.13m
11	Deposit	Fill of [8]	0.63m	0.50-1.13m
12	Deposit	Fill of [8]	0.63m	0.50-1.13m
13	Cut	Pit/construction cut	0.28m	0.50-0.78m
14	Deposit	Fill of [13]	0.28m	0.50-0.78m
15	Structure	Brick Structure	0.28m	0.50-0.78m
16	Cut	Pit	0.94m	0.50m-1.44m
17	Deposit	Fill of [16]	0.94m	0.50m-1.44m

Trench 5				
18	Cut	Pit	0.51m	0.50-1.01m
19	Deposit	Fill of [18]	0.51m	0.50-1.01m
20	Deposit	Fill of [18]	0.51m	0.50-1.01m
21	Deposit	Fill of [23]	0.20m	0.50m-0.70m
22	Deposit	Fill of [23]	0.20m	0.50m-0.70m
23	Cut	Pit	0.20m	0.50m-0.70m
24	Cut	Construction cut for [25]	0.20m	0.50m-0.70m
25	Structure	Brick and clay structure	0.20m	0.50m-0.70m
26	Cut	Construction cut for [27]	0.20m	0.50m-0.70m
27	Structure	Brick and clay structure	0.20m	0.50m-0.70m
28	Cut	Pit	0.84m	0.50m-1.34m
29	Deposit	Fill of [23]	0.84m	0.50m-1.34m
30	Deposit	Fill of [23]	0.84m	0.50m-1.34m
77	Deposit	Fill of [25]	0.20m	0.50m-0.70m
78	Deposit	Fill of [27]	0.20m	0.50m-0.70m

Discussion

Trench 5 was situated at the north end of the site and contained several features which were possibly connected with the manufacturing of brick and tile. The strong signals that appeared on the geophysical survey were demonstrated to be pit fills and the structure in the base of a pit. It is interesting to note that the kiln walls that were excavated didn't have a strong signal.

The features are discussed from north to south as they were revealed within the trench.

Plate 13. Trench 5, pit [03], looking south-west

Trench 5

Large pit ([03]) was situated at the north end of the trench. It measured at least 11.10m north to south and at least 1.80m east to west, and was observed to extend beyond the northern, western and eastern limits of the trench. It was 1.11m deep. The base was not observed due to its depth and was ascertained through the use of an auger. Only the top of the sides were observed. Tile layer [04] was left *in situ* with permission from NHES and this allowed for a small sondage at the northern end.

The tile was examined and had a 16th- to 18th-century date range. There were four fills recorded within the pit. The lowest ([05]), which appeared to be situated at the base of the feature was a mixed and mottled 'dirty' yellow sand which contained occasional small and moderate sized brick fragments. It was specifically 0.36m thick. The second lowest ([06]) was 0.50m thick at its thickest point and consisted of mid grey clayey silty sand which contained occasional brick fragments. The third layer ([04]) within the pit was a layer of broken tiles (held within a matrix of grey silty clay). The tile dump sloped downwards from south to north and was presumably thicker at the southern end. The tiles were on average around 50mm across. The last layer ([07]) within the pit consisted of a brown sandy clay which contained occasional brick and tile fragments. It was 0.39m thick. These deposits appeared to have been deliberately dumped.

Plate 14. Trench 5, pit [08], looking west

Pit [08] was situated a short distance further south of pit [03]. It measured 4.50m long, was at least 1.80m wide, extending beyond the eastern and western limits of the trench. The pit was 0.63m deep, though the base was not observed. The upper edges of the pit were bumpy and irregular. A brick and clay structure ([09]) was constructed within the pit, probably at its base. Many of the bricks within the structure appeared to be already fragmentary rather than being damaged after the structure was built. Where there were complete bricks they appeared to have dimensions of 230mm x 110mm x 48mm, though this was not always obvious. They were bonded into patches of solid reddened clay, which probably gained its colour from the affects of heat. An integral gully was observed at the northern end of the structure, which was probably shaped into the natural substratum and then consolidated with brick and firm reddened clay. The natural beneath was not observed.

There were three fills within the pit. The lowest ([10]) was 0.16m thick and was confined to the gully at the northern end. It consisted of reddish brown sandy clay which contained occasional small flints and small brick fragments. The next layer in the sequence ([11]) was 0.61m thick light yellowish brown slightly sandy clay which contained occasional charcoal flecks, brick and tile fragments. Layer [11] contained 15th- to 16th-century pottery. Uppermost layer [12] was reddish

brown sandy clay which contained frequent fragments of tile and brick, some of which were burnt. It had a maximum thickness of 0.37m. All of the deposits had been deliberately deposited.

Pit/construction cut [13] was located several metres to the south of pit [08]. It was 2.41m across and at least 1.80m wide and extended beyond the eastern and western limits of excavation. It was 0.28m deep and truncated on the eastern side by pit [16] and it in turn truncated pit [18]. The position of structure [15] at the centre of the two visible edges of [13] did suggest that the cut may have been dug for the purpose of construction. However fill [14] appeared to have been deposited within the cut prior to the construction. Layer [14] was formed of mid grey sandy silt which was reasonably clean of inclusions. It filled the entire cut. The roughly circular structure was 1.00m across and was composed of a mixture of brick and fired clay. Again the bricks appeared to be fragmentary in nature. A whole brick where it could be found had the dimensions of 230mm x 110mm x 50mm. The structure was only one course thick and sat at the top of the pit. A brick recovered from structure [15] was identified as 17th-century in date.

Plate 15. Trench 5, structure [15], looking west

Pit [16] extended at least 1.82m south to north by 0.45m east to west. Its southern extent was difficult to ascertain and it was observed to extend beyond the eastern limit of excavation. Part of the feature was excavated, although due to the confined area, the base had to be determined by auger - the full depth was 0.94m. The sides were almost vertical and regular. The fill ([17]) consisted of a friable mid brown silty sand which had probably been deliberately deposited into the feature. There was 16th- to 18th-century pottery recovered from the fill.

Pit [18] was heavily truncated by pits [13] and [16] and was only observed in section. It extended at least 1.0m by 0.40m and contained two fills ([19] and [20]). Fill [19] consisted of light brown silty sand which contained occasional brick fragments and fill [20] was re-deposited yellowish brown silty clay. The end of a clay pipe with a date range of 1680-1700 was recovered from pit fill [19].

In the central portions of the trench there was a large pit/area of pitting. It extended at least 20m north to south by at least 1.80m east to west, where it extended beyond the eastern and western limits of excavation. The base of the feature was ascertained through the use of an auger (with permission of NHES). The edges and base were therefore not visible. The base varied in depth between 1.30m and 0.40m, and this variation may indicate that there was more than one pit present. For the purposes of the present evaluation however a single cut number was allocated ([23]). Two distinct fills were observed. Fill [21] consisted of mid greyish brown sandy clay which contained occasional brick fragments and fill [22] was mid yellowish brown sandy clay which

contained occasional charcoal flecks. At the southern end the feature was truncated by pit [24].

Construction cut [24] extended 2.66m north to south and at least 1.80m east to west. The base and edges of the pit were largely unobservable due to the presence of structural elements. The feature partly had an oval shape in plan at its northern end and became more rectangular in plan where the structure was located. A shallow slot was excavated in order to reveal more of the structure within the pit. Structure [25] was formed of largely broken brick held in reddened, firm clay (some of the clay was yellowish brown) with frequent charcoal flecks. The fill ([77]) of the pit above the structure consisted of a mid grey clayey silt which contained moderate charcoal flecks. Pottery was recovered from the structure which gave a 16th- to 18th-century date range.

Plate 16. Trench 5, structure [25], looking west

Plate 17. Trench 5, structure [27], looking south

Trench 5

Construction cut [26] was 5.75m long and at least 1.80m wide. It had an unknown depth, but at least 0.20m depth was excavated down to reveal parts of structure [27]. Therefore the edges and base of the feature were not observed. The structure took the form of a wall running roughly east-west. Only one course was observed at present and it was composed of whole and fragmentary bricks held in a firm reddish clay bond. The outer edges of the wall were also sealed by red clay. There was no clear bonding pattern to the structure. On the north side were several bricks which represented either collapse of the structure or some form of infilling. They appeared to be well bonded with clay so may have been structural and were left *in situ*. Fill [78] of the pit, above the structure, consisted of mid grey clayey silt which contained moderate to frequent charcoal flecks. The charcoal flecks were concentrated at the northern edge of the feature. A brick recovered from structure [27] was 16th- to 17th-century in date.

Large pit [28] was situated at the southern end of the trench. It extended 6.33m north to south and at least 1.80m east to west. It was 0.84m deep. The northern edge was almost vertical and regular and the base was extremely uneven, with undulating firm natural clay. There were two fill; the lowest of the two ([30]) consisted of greyish brown sandy clay which contained occasional flints and the upper ([29]) was composed of firm creamy light brown sandy clay with small flints and occasional charcoal fleck. There was 18th-century pottery recovered from fill [29] along with animal bone derived from food waste.

Plate 18. Trench 5, pit [28], looking west

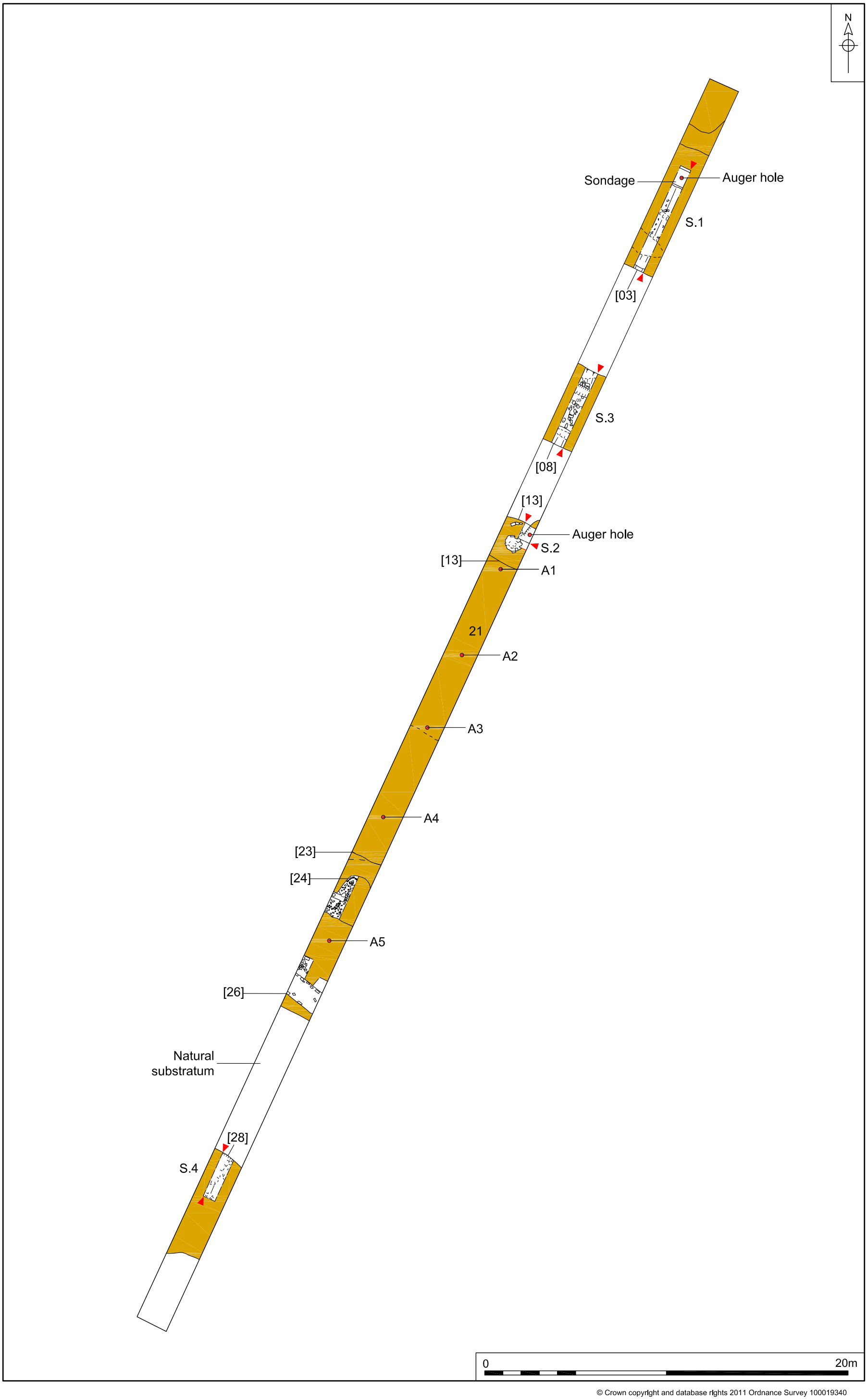

Figure 7. Trench 5, plan. Scale 1:200

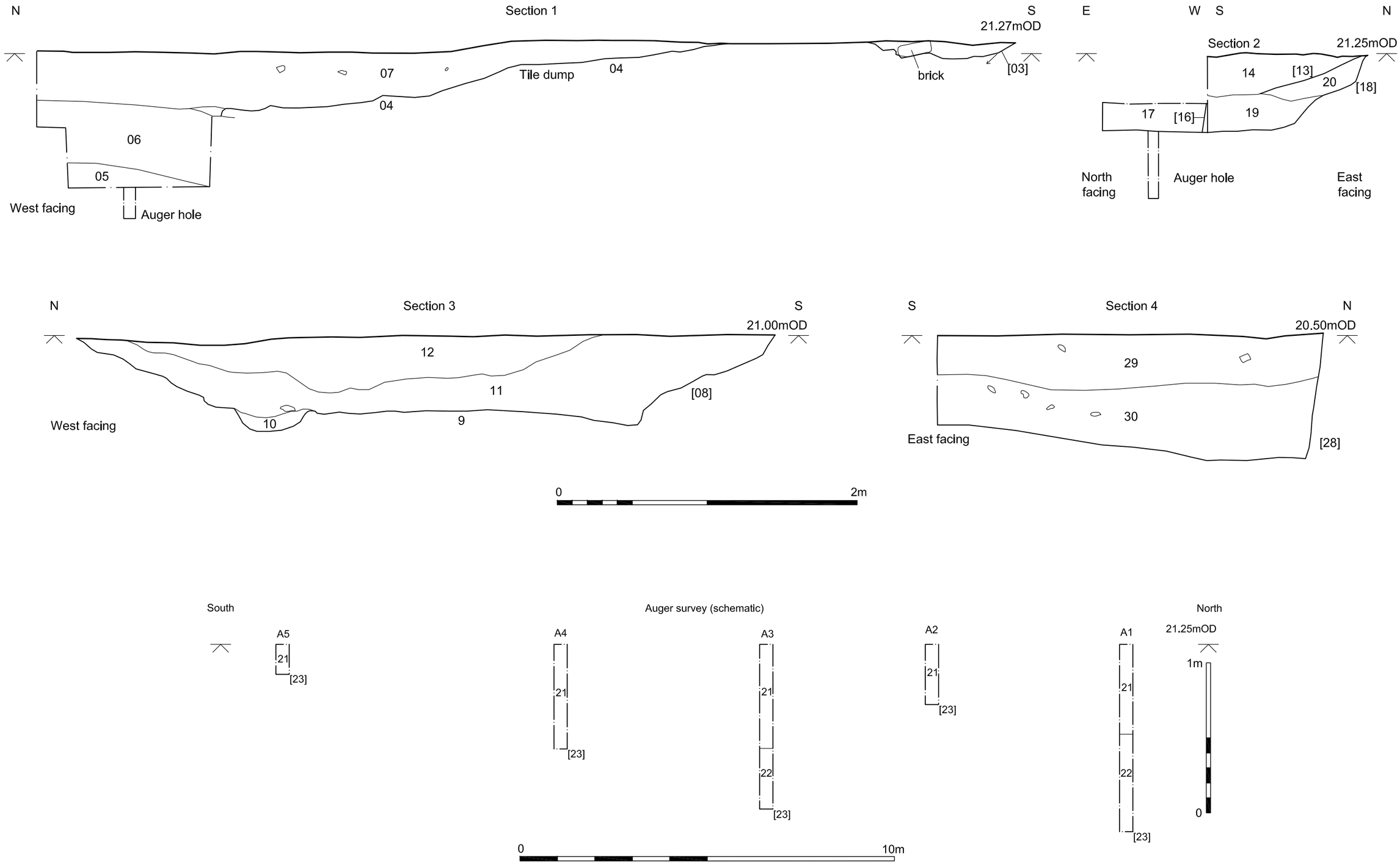

Figure 8. Trench 5, sections. Scale 1:25. Auger survey horizontal scale 1:100, vertical scale 1:25

Trench 6

Plate 19. Trench 6, looking south

Figures 2 and 9; Plates 19-24	
Location	
Orientation	North to south
North end	618570 306926
South end	618570 306874
Dimensions	
Length	50.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.60m
Levels	
North top	20.54m OD
South top	20.33m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
54	Deposit	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown sandy silt	0.40m	0.00-0.40m
55	Deposit	Subsoil. Mid brown silty sand	0.20m	0.40-0.60m
56	Deposit	Natural. Loose yellow sand	--	0.60m +
57	Cut	Ditch	0.18m	0.60-0.78m
58	Deposit	Fill of [57]	0.18m	0.60-0.78m
59	Cut	Ditch	0.32m	0.60-0.92m
60	Deposit	Fill of [59]	0.32m	0.60-0.92m
61	Cut	Pit	0.50m	0.60m-1.10m
62	Deposit	Fill of [61]	0.50m	0.60m-1.10m
63	Cut	Pit	1.80m	0.60m-2.40m
64	Deposit	Fill of [63]	1.80m	0.60m-2.40m
65	Cut	Pit	0.83m	0.60m-1.43m
66	Deposit	Fill of [65]	0.83m	0.60m-1.43m

Discussion

Trench 6 was located in the north-west corner of the site. There were two ditches and three pits located in the trench, discussed below from north to south.

The ‘pock-mark’ features apparent in the field at the north of the area where Trench 6 was located appear to represent pits. The ditches are too slight to have been recorded on the

Trench 6

geophysical plan with confidence, although there are faint linear traces visible.

Ditch [57] appeared to be orientated north-east to south-west. It was at least 3.00m long, 1.50m wide and 0.18m deep with gently sloping edges and a roughly flat base. Single ditch fill [58] was mid brown silty sand which may have been deposited through natural processes.

Plate 20. Trench 6, ditch [57], looking south-west

Plate 21. Trench 6, ditch [59], looking south-west

Similar ditch [59] was situated around 1.50m to the south. It was 3.00m long and had a width of 1.20m and like ditch [57] was orientated north-east to south-west, although on a slightly different alignment. The sides were slightly irregular although the general angle of slope was at 30º from the horizontal axis. The base of the ditch was rounded and the depth was 0.32m. Single ditch fill

Trench 6

[60] was mid brown silty sand which had probably developed through natural build-up.

Around four metres to the south was small oval pit [61]. It partly extended beyond the eastern limit of excavation (it was at least 0.57m wide) and was 1.56m in length. The sides and base were rounded and there was no discernable break of slope at the base. The depth was 0.50m. Single pit fill [62] consisted of mid brown sandy silt which may have been the result of slow accumulation, though this was difficult to ascertain.

Plate 22. Trench 6, pit [61], looking east

Plate 23. Trench 6, pit [63], looking south

Pit [63] lay a further 20m to the south of pit [61] and was also oval shaped. It measured 2.43m long north to south and at least 1.0m wide east to west. It was observed to extend beyond the eastern limit of the trench. The sides were steep and regular and due to the confines of the

Trench 6

trench the base of the feature was examined through the use of an auger. The final depth was 1.80m. Single homogeneous fill [64] comprised of dark brown silty sand. The darker colour of this fill may indicate that it was a deliberate backfill, rather than natural build-up.

The last pit in Trench 6 (pit [65]) was a short distance to the south of pit [63] with a similar size and shape. It measured 2.07m north-south by at least 1.53m east- west and it was 0.82m deep. The sides were regular and sloped at *c*.45º towards the top, becoming steep and almost vertical towards the base which sloped slightly. The pit had a single fill ([66]) which consisted of dark brown silty sand which had probably been deliberately backfilled. A single small struck flint was found within this pit although it was probably residual as there were faint traces of crushed brick at the top of the fill (although this could have been intrusive).

Plate 24. Trench 6, pit [65], looking south

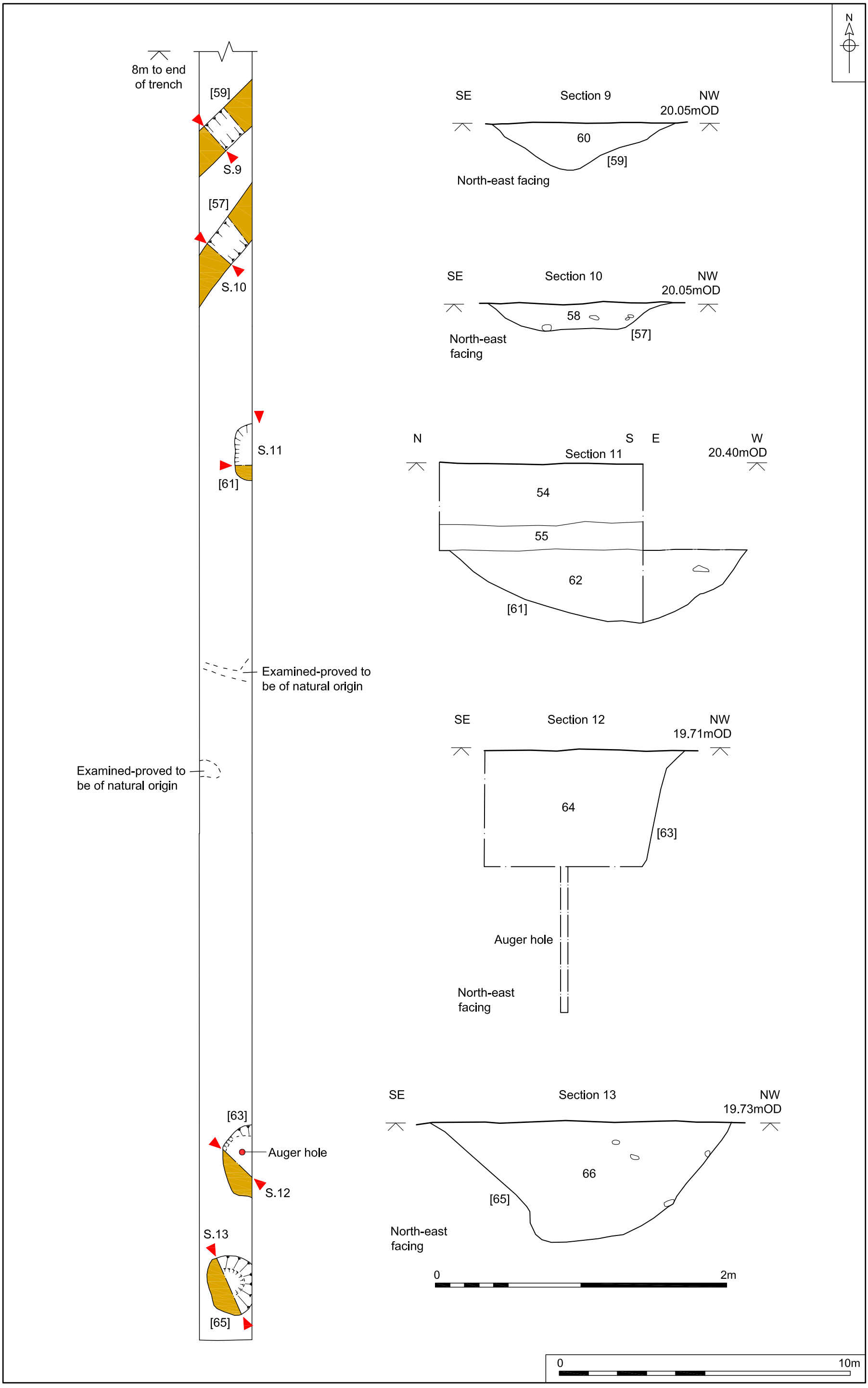

Figure 9. Trench 6, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 7

Plate 25. Trench 7, looking north-east

Figure 2 (location); Plate 25	
Location	
Orientation	North-east to south-west
North-east end	618724 306559
South-west end	618632 306521
Dimensions	
Length	100.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.45m
Levels	
North-east top	25.09m OD
South-west top	23.66m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
79	Deposit	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown silty sand	0.45m	0.00-0.45m
80	Deposit	Natural. Yellow sand and gravel and cream coloured sand.	Unknown	0.45m-

Discussion

Trench 7 was located on the eastern side of the site.

Faint linear features are apparent on the geophysical survey although nothing was present within the trench indicating that these marks have a probable geological source.

There were no archaeological features, deposits or finds present.

6.0 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL

Finds were processed and recorded by count and weight, and information entered onto an Excel spreadsheet including broad dating. Each material type has been considered separately and is included below organised by material. A list of all finds in context number order can be found in Appendix 2a.

6.1 Pottery

by Sue Anderson

6.1.1 Introduction

Fourteen sherds of pottery (317g) were recovered from six contexts, all within Trench 5. Table 1 provides quantification by fabric. A summary catalogue is included in Appendix 3.

Description	Fabric	Code	No	Wt/g	Eve	MNV
Local medieval unglazed	LMU	3.23	1	9	0.04	1
Late medieval and transitional	LMT	5.10	1	11		1
Midland Purple	MIDP	5.21	1	45	0.15	1
Glazed red earthenware	GRE	6.12	9	177	0.22	7
Tin glazed earthenwares	TGE	6.30	1	4	0.04	1
Post-medieval slipwares	PMSW	6.40	1	71		1
Totals			**14**	**317**	**0.45**	**12**

Table 1. Pottery quantification by fabric

The assemblage is dominated by post-medieval material which spans the 16th to 18th centuries. One sherd of residual medieval pottery is also present.

6.1.2 Methodology

Quantification was carried out using sherd count, weight and estimated vessel equivalent (eve). The minimum number of vessels (MNV) within each context was also recorded, but cross-fitting was not attempted unless particularly distinctive vessels were observed in more than one context. A full quantification by fabric, context and feature is available in archive. All fabric codes were assigned from the author's post-Roman fabric series, which includes East Anglian and Midlands fabrics, as well as imported wares. Post-medieval wares were identified following Jennings (1981). Form terminology for medieval pottery is based on MPRG (1998). Recording uses a system of letters for fabric codes together with number codes for ease of sorting in database format. The results were input directly onto an MS Access database.

6.1.3 Pottery by period

One abraded fragment of an LMU bowl rim measuring *c.*300mm in diameter was recovered from pit fill [29], in association with later pottery.

Two sherds may be of late medieval date. A body fragment of unglazed red earthenware from pit fill [11] was reduced on the surfaces and in the core, and contained common white quartz sand. The fabric was similar to a jar rim from structure [25], which was in a harder fired reduced fabric with superficial similarity

to Midlands Purple wares. It is possible that both were locally made and were overfired examples of glazed red earthenwares of post-medieval date. The jar rim was glazed internally and had traces of another vessel adhering to the rim. Although not exhibiting any signs of deformation, it is possible that the vessel could be a waster.

Sherds of glazed red earthenwares were the most frequently occurring pottery type in this group. There were two rims, a jar fragment with internal orange glaze from tile dump [04] and three pieces of a brown-glazed jar from pit fill [17]. The other sherds were fragments of body or base with internal orange or brown glaze.

A fragment of rim from a tin-glazed earthenware plate was found in pit fill [29]. It had a hand-painted blue border design. The form is an English type of 18th-century date.

A base fragment of a slipware vessel was found in brick structure [15]. The internal surface is decorated with a concentric slip line and radiating slip lines and dots. The fabric is similar to some of the tile from the site, containing white and red clay pellets and occasional mica. There is no evidence that this fragment was a waster, but the similarity of the fabric to the locally produced tiles is interesting. Clay pellets are a frequent component of clays in East Anglia and their presence may be coincidental, but the fabric of this vessel is unlike other provenanced slipwares from the region.

6.1.4 Pottery by context

A summary of the pottery by feature is provided in Table 2.

Feature	Context	Identifier	Fabrics	Spotdate
	04	Tile dump	GRE	16th-18th c
	15	Brick structure	GRE, PMSW	17th c
	25	Brick structure	MIDP(?), GRE	16th-18th c
08	11	Pit fill	LMT(?)	15th-16th c?
16	17	Pit fill	GRE	16th-18th c
28	29	Pit fill	LMU, GRE, TGE	18th c

Table 2. Pottery types present by context

Most of this assemblage was recovered from pit fills or in association with brick structures. Spotdating suggests that all contexts containing pottery were post-medieval.

6.1.5 Discussion

This small group spans the medieval to post-medieval periods, although the bulk of the sherds are probably of 16th– to 18th-century date. The forms of the vessels are all typical of their fabrics. Three sherds may provide tentative evidence for local production, due to the similarity of their fabrics to the local roof tiles and the possible overfiring of one vessel.

The possible kiln discovered on the site is more likely to be related to the production of ceramic building materials however.

6.2 Ceramic Building Material

by Sue Anderson

Thirty-five fragments of ceramic building material weighing 19,777g were collected from ten contexts, nine in Trench 5 and one in Trench 4. The assemblage was quantified (count and weight) by fabric and form. Fabrics were identified on the basis of macroscopic appearance and main inclusions. A full catalogue is included in Appendix 4. Table 3 shows the quantification by fabric and form.

Fabric	Code	RTP	RID	FT?	LB
fine sandy with clay pellets	fscp	2			
medium sandy with flint	msf				13
msf with ferrous inclusions	msffe				2
msf with grog	msfg				1
medium sandy with grog and ferrous inclusions	msgfe	13	1	1	1
modern compressed fabrics	comp				1
Totals		**15**	**1**	**1**	**18**

Table 3. CBM by fabric and form

One fragment of a modern compressed brick in a white fabric with orange surfaces was found in Trench 4 surface [32]. The brick had surface damage, and the brickmaker's mark within the frog was poorly preserved. The legible parts read 'NO…. / EVE GREEN / …E BR…' The brick measured 220 x 105 x 68mm.

Fifteen fragments were post-medieval plain roof tile (RTP). The pieces were probably all peg tiles, but only four pieces had evidence for peg holes, all circular. Two fragments from a single tile measured 165mm wide and 14mm thick. Most of the tiles were in a similar fabric, containing sparse to moderate ferrous and common red grog inclusions. This was similar to the fabric used for a number of the bricks, but the roof tiles did not contain the large pieces of flint or quartz pebbles present in the bricks (see below). One fragment of probable ridge tile (RID) in the same fabric (19mm thick) was also recovered. Two fragments of plain roof tile in a finer fabric with red and white clay pellets were similar to a fragment of slipware pottery recovered from the site.

A fragment of possible floor tile (FT?) from structure (15) was 23mm thick and unglazed. The edge had been crudely cut to form a curve prior to firing. One side was broken so it is uncertain whether the whole piece was shaped in this way to form a circular tile, or whether this was a rounded corner from a larger tile. The function of the fragment is uncertain, but it may have been deliberately shaped for a specific purpose at the kiln site, for example to act as a closure for a flue. It showed no signs of sooting or heat damage, however.

Eighteen fragments of red brick representing fifteen late bricks (LB) were recovered from pit fills and as samples of structures. The four different fabrics are probably a result of different batches using slightly different mixes of clay and the overall range of inclusions suggest that all were made at the same production site. Thirteen bricks were measurable in one or more dimensions (Table 4).

Context	Fabric	Length	Width	Thickness
06	msfg			44
07	msf		106	53
09	msf	209+	110	48
11	msf		113	50
11	msgfe		97	47
11	msf		105+	47
11	msf		116	46
14	msffe	221+	116	48
15	msf		106	58
25	msf		108	53
27	msf	226	109	48-57
27	msf	213+	100+	52
29	msf			46

Table 4. Brick dimensions

With the exception of one brick from structure [15] and possibly one from structure [27], most of these bricks fall into a range of sizes which is typical of the 16th/17th centuries. The brick from [27] was thicker on one side than the other, and this does not seem to have been intentional (i.e. the brick was not a voussoir), suggesting that the thicker brick from [58] could also belong within the suggested date range.

Some of the bricks were affected by heat. A fragment from pit fill [06] was completely reduced, although the grog contained within it was still red. The sample from structure [09] had a reduced and vitrified stretcher. A fragment from structure [15] was almost completely reduced with partial vitrification and cracking on the upper surface. A near-complete brick from structure [27] showed signs of erosion on one stretcher face and was smoke-blackened over most of the other surfaces.

The bricks and tiles from this site were generally in similar fabrics. None of the fragments was badly distorted or markedly overfired, and even the reduced and vitrified examples would have been acceptable for use in construction at the time. However the presence of kilns on the site and the incorporation of these bricks into several of the structures may be evidence for the manufacture of bricks and possibly roof tiles at the site (and perhaps pottery – see 6.1 Pottery). The large number of tiles present on the site within some of the pits suggests disposal of unwanted or damaged batches.

In the 16th and 17th centuries, brick kilns were often built close to the construction site for which building materials were required. For example, a number of kilns are known in the woodlands surrounding Blickling Hall (R. Lucas, pers. comm.). A brick kiln was excavated at Gedding Hall in Suffolk (Anderson and Tester 2003) and is assumed to have supplied the builders of this later 15th- or early 16th-century structure. The bricks there were in a range of sizes, some of which are comparable with the Cringleford assemblage. A sample of bricks from a clamp kiln excavated at Reedham was also suggested to belong to the 16th century (Anderson 2012) and the kiln may have been constructed to provide bricks to build Park Hall, Reedham, which was built in 1577.

6.3 Clay Pipe

by Rebecca Sillwood

A single fragment of clay tobacco pipe was recovered from pit fill [19] in Trench 5.

The piece consists of an almost complete bowl (missing some of the rim) with part of the stem. The bowl is forward leaning, and quite straight with a tiny amount of rouletting visible close to the rim. The heel or spur is only slightly proud of the stem and bowl base, and is oval in shape. There are no other features on the piece, no makers mark or other decoration, in fact, this pipe is very white and smooth with little wear; it may never have been used.

The piece is a late 17th-century type (*c.*1680-1700) similar to an example found in the Wells estuary in north Norfolk (Atkin 1985, fig. 4, no. 52).

6.4 Metal Finds

by Rebecca Sillwood

Forty-seven pieces of iron (739g) were recovered from the site, and two small fragments of copper alloy (1g). All of these pieces came from modern humic layer [33] in Trench 4.

Iron

The ironwork includes a large amount (46 elements in total) of nails, bolts and screws, and a conglomerate object which has screws sticking out of it and charcoal and mineralised wood attached. This object is clearly modern but not really diagnostic.

It is possible that this small cache of ironwork is the remains of a bonfire, and is probably of mid 20th-century date at the earliest. The pieces have all since been discarded.

Copper Alloy

The small copper alloy fragments are small curved pieces which are undiagnostic.

The pieces have been discarded.

6.5 Metalworking Debris

by Rebecca Sillwood

A single piece of highly vitrified slag (14g) was recovered from pit fill [29] in Trench 5.

The piece is not diagnostic and is not datable.

6.6 Flint

by Rebecca Sillwood

Two worked flints (61g) were recovered from the site.

A primary debitage flake (60g) in dark grey raw material was recovered from topsoil [47] in Trench 2.

A tertiary flake (1g) was found in pit fill [66] in Trench 6.

6.7 Animal Bone

by Rebecca Sillwood

Eleven fragments of animal bone (159g) were recovered from pit fill [29] in Trench 5.

The bones show no obvious signs of butchery, but are probably from cattle, and so it seems likely that these were the remains of food waste.

6.8 Finds Discussion

The finds evidence from trial trench evaluation at Newfound Farm, Cringleford indicates occupation over a tight time frame i.e. in the 16th-18th century. Furthermore it bears out the historical and archaeological evidence for kilns being located in the area and although very little evidence for the pottery making industry was recovered there was evidence for brick and/or tile making.

Almost all of the finds came from post-medieval features recorded in Trench 5, where most of the kiln evidence originated, although there was a small amount of activity noted in Trenches 2, 4 and 6. The only significantly early activity consisted of probable prehistoric worked flints found in topsoil and a pit fill in Trenches 2 and 6; the only finds evidence from those trenches. There was a very small amount of pottery (one sherd of medieval and two sherds of late medieval to early post-medieval) recovered from the site, but these were always found in association with later pottery or brick and tile and are likely to be residual.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

The trenches are discussed below in trench number order (Trenches 2, 3 and 7 are treated summarily together).

Trench 1

Trench 1 was targeted on an area of large anomalies observed on the geophysical plot, situated in the south west corner of the site. Three large pits were investigated. They had probably begun life as quarry/extraction pits, before they had been backfilled with (in case of two pits) reddened sand which is a by-product of brick making.

The factory sub-inspector in 1873 for Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex reported for another site that 'that the brickyard workers were, A most barbarous, semi-civilised, ignorant set. Men and boys look like Red Indians, the sand used in brick making being burnt red, with which their bodies are covered, working bareheaded, barefooted, with exposed breasts, and wild looks' (Hearne 2011, 31). The fact that the pits do not intercut suggests that they were excavated in a controlled manner, probably as the kiln owners searched for better quality material to use and were aware of the location of previously dug pits.

Trenches 2, 3 and 7

Trenches, 2, 3 and 7 contained remains considered to be of less significance than Trenches 1, 4, 5 and 6.

Trench 2 contained an early 20th-century refuse pit at its southern end and two undated small pits at the northern end of which little further can be said; they could be of any date and are more likely, due to their sterile fills, to be medieval or earlier in date. The feature appeared on the geophysical survey as a bright anomaly at the southern end of the trench.

Trench 3 contained two modern, shallow refuse pits, which were probably excavated and backfilled during the 20th century. These shallow pits did not appear on the geophysical survey however a large anomaly at the west end of the trench appeared to have been caused by a patch of dumped gravel of modern date, alongside an electricity cable trench.

Trench 7 was entirely devoid of archaeological remains, and this suggests that the linear anomalies observed on the geophysical plot were, of geological or natural derivation.

Trench 4

This trench contained a series of reasonably modern dumps sloping downwards towards the north-east, presumably into a large pit/hollow which was far wider than the trench itself. Cobbled surface [32] was laid directly onto the natural substratum at the edge of the feature and continued partly down its side. It was impossible to ascertain the date of the surface, although it was probably of 18th-/19th-century date although it could be earlier if the deposits from above regularly cleaned off. A frogged brick was removed from the surface which may have been part of a mend, though it could also suggest a late 19th or 20th century date for the surface. This large pit probably represents a clay extraction pit, which may have been linked with the pottery and brick manufacture in the area. There are often large pits

labelled as ‘ponds’ on early Ordnance Survey maps situated behind farms which started life as clay extraction pits. Other quarry pits and clay pits are known in the area; a possible former clay pit is located at NHER9407, to the north-west. At the centre of the site a large amount of pottery is thought to have been dumped into an old clay pit (NHER9403). The cobble surface was possibly constructed in order to easily access this pit, allowing carts to get closer. It is known that clay from Newfound Farm was of such good quality that it was exported to Holland and the name of the farm itself derives from the discovery of the clay source in the vicinity. Although the large hollow does not appear on the Tithe map of 1842, this does not necessarily mean it did not exist, however it probably does suggest that it was not created until after this date. On the 1882 Ordnance Survey map (and subsequent maps) there is a pond depicted roughly in the correct part of the site for the pit and may have been a remnant of a larger pit.

Trench 5

The archaeological features observed within Trench 5 were perhaps of most significance. The features were almost certainly associated with kiln activity, although as they were limited by the confines of the trench they could not be categorically identified in every case. The similarity of the un-examined features recorded on the geophysical plot compared to those targeted by Trench 5 suggests that there is a series of kilns and other associated post-medieval features in the area immediately south west of Newfound Farm. These features could be of different dates, although they are more likely to be contemporary within a complex. Many of the examined bricks appear to suggest that the activity is 16th-/17th-century in date, with some of the backfilling of the pits taking place in the 18th century, possibly following the redundancy of the kilns.

Pit [03] was essentially a large clay/brickearth extraction pit which had been backfilled with various materials including a thick layer of broken tiles; the greater thickness of the tile layer [04] to the south appeared to show that they were being dumped from that direction i.e. the same side as the kiln was located. Rather than being wasters (they had none of the signs of being highly vitrified) they may simply be the disposal of a pile of tiles broken through transit or for other reasons. Pits [28] and [13] also represented large areas of extraction. Brick structure [09] (within pit [08]) could represent the foundation of a kiln, although it is more likely to represent a ‘washing pit’, or other similar type of feature where clay could have been tempered and rested. Hearne (2011, 22) notes that ‘In the spring the clay was tempered by being put into shallow pits, known in Norfolk as “washing pits”, soaked with water to break down the lumps, and turned with spades. At night sacks were used to cover the clay to keep it moist’. The gully at the north end may be connected with this working of the clay.

The fact that the structure was built from partial, already broken bricks suggests that it less likely to be a kiln structure, which would have needed to be of stronger and superior quality construction.

Roughly circular structure [15] appeared to form the base course of a structure, and although this could not be established during the present work it could have represented part of a smaller kiln or be a type of post-pad for a stack or other temporary structure. The presence of charcoal in the immediate vicinity of the structure does indicate that burning took place. The small rectangular area of clay and brick ([25]) along with the evidence of burning does suggest that it was part of

kiln structure and it may have been connected with wall [27] to the south. Wall [27] was almost certainly part of a larger kiln. There was regularity to its structure not present in the other remains, although little at the present time can be said about its size and form. There was no evidence of chambers, stoke holes and other diagnostic elements apparent during the present work.

The absence of any coal fragments (which are usually common on post-medieval sites) strongly suggests that any kilns in the vicinity were wood, rather than coal; a profusion of charcoal flecks were observed in many of the features and fills. Hearne (2011, 47) notes that 'By the second half of the 17th century coal was being used for firing bricks in the coal-mining districts of England) though it seems that here, away from coal fields, wood remained the preferred fuel source.

It is known that permanent brickyards were established around the county from the 17th century onwards, and that farmers maintained many smaller yards with single kilns for seasonal use and with relatively small outputs. Brickmaking was an important industry in East Anglia and according to mid 19th-century records, Norfolk was ranked fourth amongst the thirty-six English counties with 114 brickyards (Lucas 2005).

The absence of pottery wasters, compared with the amount of slightly burnt bricks recovered from the trench (though not wasters) suggest that the kiln activity here was for the production of bricks and probably tiles rather than ceramics. Pottery kilns are recorded on the Norfolk HER in the vicinity. One was identified at NHER9406 in 1976, evidenced by a scatter of kiln debris, lead-glazed pottery wasters and tiles; finds recovered during fieldwalking (NHER14272) may point to the presence of another kiln. Site NHER9406 also refers to three possible kilns identified in 1976 by geophysical survey and augering. This probably points to various types of suitable clays and brickearths being present around the site.

The use of wood (see above) and the fact that the kilns do not appear on any of the early mapping of the area indicates that these kilns were relatively early in date, although not ultimately of long duration, as the complex appears to have become redundant at an early date. Often kiln complexes remain in operation until the late 19th/early 20th century and the early decline of this kiln site may mean that remains may be less adulterated by later works than normally the case. The exporting of clay may have been more lucrative for the industry Newfound Farm than production. It is not inconceivable to imagine that the bricks produced in the kiln were used in the rebuilding of Cringleford after a large fire in the 16th century. At this time there was probably a market for these locally-made bricks, which may have come to an end once reconstruction was complete. Cringleford's website describes the effects of the conflagration 'Later in the year (1519) Cringleford was almost totally destroyed by fire, only the Church and the priest's house are supposed to have survived because they were built of stone. Even Cringleford Hall was reported to be damaged in the fire, although it stood well away from the other houses in the village, which were along the main street from the bridge to the village green' (http://www.cringleford.com/history/history.shtm).

Trench 6

The two undated ditches ([57] and [59]) are too slight to have been recorded on the geophysical plan with confidence, although there are faint linear traces visible. The edges of these features were reasonably regular and distinct and the absence

of post-medieval inclusions in their fills could suggest that they were already backfilled by this period.

Pits [61], [63] and [65] become more interesting when their positions are noted and compared to anomalies recorded on the geophysical plot. They appear to be three of a series of pits spread across the central part of this north-western field. The regular edges and depth of these pits could indicate that they were dug for the extraction of sand and gravel. A small flint found within the fill of [65] was probably residual as there was a faint trace of crushed brick at the top of the fill. This might indicate that the expanse of similar anomalies observed on the geophysical plan were a series of planned and controlled extraction pits. They may have been a way of testing the sub-surface geological deposits across the field prior to any larger scale extraction. Prior to the trial trench evaluation it was thought that this area was possibly a 'drying field' though no evidence to support this hypothesis was recorded during the evaluation.

Comments on the Geophysical Survey Results

The larger anomalies recorded during the geophysics survey and tested by trenching correlate with sub-surface features. It is reasonable to assume that untested anomalies that appear that appear elsewhere on the site similar in form to those tested in Trenches 2, 3 and 5 could represent kiln structures or modern interventions.

It is interesting to note that the structure recorded in the middle of Trench 5 did not appear on the geophysical survey. This may be due in some part to the sands and gravels that form the underlying geological deposits in the area which can produce unreliable results.

Similar features to those examined in Trench 1 could well be present to the south and east as comparable anomalies can be seen to continue (on the geophysics plot) in a band southwards and eastwards.

No features corresponding to the faint linear features tested in Trench 7 were apparent in the trench and it is likely that they represent geological phenomena.

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

Acknowledgements

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The finds were processed, recorded and reported on by Rebecca Sillwood, with the pottery and ceramic building material analysed by Sue Anderson. This report was illustrated and produced by David Dobson and edited by Jayne Bown.

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Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
01	Deposit			Topsoil	-	5
02	Deposit			Natural	-	5
03	Cut	Pit		Large Pit	Post-medieval	5
04	Deposit			Tile dump	Post-medieval	5
05	Deposit		3	Fill of [3]	Post-medieval	5
06	Deposit		3	Fill of [3]	Post-medieval	5
07	Deposit		3	Fill of [3]	Post-medieval	5
08	Cut	Pit		Large Pit	Post-medieval	5
09	Masonry			Brick Structure	Post-medieval	5
10	Deposit		8	Fill of [8]	Post-medieval	5
11	Deposit		8	Fill of [8]	Post-medieval	5
12	Deposit		8	Fill of [8]	Post-medieval	5
13	Cut	Pit/construction		Pit/construction cut	Post-medieval	5
14	Deposit		13	Fill of [13]	Post-medieval	5
15	Masonry			Brick Structure	Post-medieval	5
16	Cut	Pit		Pit	Post-medieval	5
17	Deposit		16	Fill of [16]	Post-medieval	5
18	Cut	Pit		Pit	Post-medieval	5
19	Deposit		18	Fill of [18]	Post-medieval	5
20	Deposit		18	Fill of [18]	Post-medieval	5
21	Deposit		23	Fill of [23]	Post-medieval	5
22	Deposit		23	Fill of [23]	Post-medieval	5
23	Cut	Pit		Probable Pit	Post-medieval	5
24	Cut	Construction cut		Construction cut	Post-medieval	5
25	Masonry			Brick and clay structure	Post-medieval	5
26	Cut	Construction cut		Construction cut	Post-medieval	5
27	Masonry			Brick and clay structure	Post-medieval	5
28	Cut	Pit		Pit	Post-medieval	5
29	Deposit		28	Fill of [28]	Post-medieval	5
30	Deposit		28	Fill of [28]	Post-medieval	5
31	Deposit			Natural	--	4
32	Masonry			hardstanding' surface	Post-medieval	4
33	Deposit			humic layer	Post-medieval	4
34	Deposit			mixed natural/silt	Post-medieval	4
35	Deposit			gritty brown dumping	Post-medieval	4
36	Deposit			yellowish brown clay	Post-medieval	4
37	Deposit			gritty clayey silt	Post-medieval	4
38	Deposit			gritty grey sandy silt and mortar	Post-medieval	4
39	Deposit			brown clay	Post-medieval	4
40	Deposit			greyish sandy gravel	Post-medieval	4

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
41	Deposit			Topsoil	-	3
42	Deposit			Natural	-	3
43	Cut	Pit		Pit	20th Century	3
44	Deposit		43	Fill of [43]	20th Century	3
45	Cut	Pit		Pit	20th Century	3
46	Deposit		45	Fill of [45]	20th Century	3
47	Deposit			Topsoil	-	2
48	Deposit			Subsoil	-	2
49	Deposit			Natural	-	2
50	Cut	Pit		Small pit	Undated	2
51	Deposit		50	Fill of [50]	Undated	2
52	Cut	Pit		Pit	Undated	2
53	Deposit		52	Fill of [52]	Undated	2
54	Deposit			Topsoil	-	6
55	Deposit			Subsoil	-	6
56	Deposit			Natural	-	6
57	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Undated	6
58	Deposit		57	Fill of [57]	Undated	6
59	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Undated	6
60	Deposit		59	Fill of [59]	Undated	6
61	Cut	Pit		Pit	Post-medieval?	6
62	Deposit		61	Fill of [61]	Post-medieval?	6
63	Cut	Pit		Pit	Post-medieval?	6
64	Deposit		63	Fill of [63]	Post-medieval?	6
65	Cut	Pit		Pit	Post-medieval?	6
66	Deposit		65	Fill of [65]	Post-medieval?	6
67	Deposit			Topsoil	-	1
68	Deposit			Subsoil	-	1
69	Deposit			Natural	-	1
70	Cut	Pit		Pit	Post-medieval?	1
71	Deposit		70	Fill of [70]	Post-medieval?	1
72	Cut	Pit		Pit	Post-medieval?	1
73	Deposit		72	Fill of [72]	Post-medieval?	1
74	Cut	Pit		Pit	Post-medieval?	1
75	Deposit		74	Fill of [74]	Post-medieval?	1
76	Deposit			Layer observed in Trench 4	Post-medieval	4
77	Deposit			Fill of [25]	Post-medieval	5
78	Deposit			Fill of [27]	Post-medieval	5
79	Deposit			Topsoil	-	7
80	Deposit			Natural	-	7

Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary

Period	Category	Total
Post-medieval	Pits	12
	Construction cuts	3
	Structures	3
	Cobble surface	1
Modern	Pits	2
Undated	Ditches	2
	Pits	2

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
04	Pottery	1	24g	Post-medieval	16th-18th century
06	Ceramic Building Material	1	274g	Post-medieval	Brick fragment
07	Ceramic Building Material	1	938g	Post-medieval	Brick fragment
07	Ceramic Building Material	9	1,580g	Post-medieval	Roof tile fragments
09	Ceramic Building Material	1	1,682g	Post-medieval	Brick fragment
11	Ceramic Building Material	4	4,389g	Post-medieval	Brick fragments
11	Ceramic Building Material	1	141g	Post-medieval	Roof tile fragment
11	Pottery	1	11g	Med/post-med	15th-16th century
14	Ceramic Building Material	2	2,015g	Post-medieval	Brick fragments
15	Ceramic Building Material	1	1,392g	Post-medieval	Brick fragment
15	Ceramic Building Material	1	152g	Post-medieval	Floor tile; shaped
15	Pottery	3	79g	Post-medieval	16th-19th century
17	Pottery	3	53g	Post-medieval	16th-18th century
19	Clay Pipe	1	14g	Post-medieval	Bowl; c. 1680-1700
25	Ceramic Building Material	2	527g	Post-medieval	Brick fragments
25	Ceramic Building Material	4	596g	Post-medieval	Roof tile fragments
25	Pottery	1	45g	Med/post-med	Late 14th-16th century
25	Pottery	2	48g	Post-medieval	16th-18th century
27	Ceramic Building Material	3	1,496g	Post-medieval	Brick fragments
27	Ceramic Building Material	1	2,346g	Post-medieval	Brick; almost complete
29	Animal Bone	11	159g	Unknown	
29	Ceramic Building Material	1	241g	Post-medieval	Brick fragment
29	Ceramic Building Material	2	71g	Post-medieval	Roof tile fragments
29	Metalworking Debris	1	14g	Unknown	
29	Pottery	1	9g	Medieval	11th-14th century
29	Pottery	2	48g	Post-medieval	16th-18th century
32	Ceramic Building Material	1	1,937g	Modern	Brick; almost complete
33	Copper-Alloy	2	1g	Modern	Fragments; DISCARDED
33	Iron	1	216g	Modern	Object with screws sticking out; DISCARDED
33	Iron	3	86g	Modern	Bolts; DISCARDED
33	Iron	43	437g	Modern	Nails and possibly screws; DISCARDED
47	Flint – Struck	1	60g	Prehistoric	
66	Flint – Struck	1	1g	Prehistoric	

Appendix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Prehistoric	Flint – Struck	2
Medieval	Pottery	1
Med/post-med	Pottery	2
Post-medieval	Ceramic Building Material	34
	Clay Pipe	1
	Pottery	11
Modern	Ceramic Building Material	1
	Copper-Alloy	2
	Iron	47
Unknown	Animal Bone	11
	Metalworking Debris	1

Appendix 3: Pottery Catalogue

Context	Fabric	Form	Rim	No	Wt/g	Fabric date range
04	GRE	jar	flaring	1	24	16th-18th c.
11	LMT			1	11	15th-16th c.
15	GRE			2	8	16th-18th c.
15	PMSW			1	71	17th-19th c.
17	GRE	jar	bead	3	53	16th-18th c.
25	GRE			2	48	16th-18th c.
25	MIDP	jar	collared	1	45	L.14th-16th c.
29	LMU	bowl	triangular	1	9	11th-14th c.
29	GRE			1	44	16th-18th c.
29	TGE	plate	everted	1	4	16th-18th c.

Appendix 4: Ceramic Building Material Catalogue

Context	Fabric	Form	No	Wt	Abr	L	W	T	Mortar	Peg	Glaze	Notes	Date
06	msfg	LB	1	274				44				reduced but grog still red	pmed
07	msf	LB	1	938	+		106	53					pmed
07	msgfe	RTP	2	444			165	14				=1 tile, coarse red grog, occ Fe	pmed
07	msgfe	RTP	6	952						3 x R			pmed
07	fscp	RTP	1	184						1 x R		occ fine calc	pmed
09	msf	LB	1	1682		209+	110	48				stretcher blue, vit	pmed
11	msf	LB	1	1340			113	50				some grog & fe	pmed
11	msgfe	LB	1	677	+		97	47				some flint, but no large rounded pieces	pmed
11	msf	LB	1	814	+		105+	47				some fe	pmed
11	msf	LB	1	1558			116	46					pmed
11	msgfe	RTP	1	141									pmed
14	msffe	LB	2	2015		221+	116	48				=1 brick, common Fe, some grog, reduced surfaces	pmed
15	msf	LB	1	1392			106	58				common Fe, some grog, reduced surfaces, vit on top	pmed
15	msgfe	FT?	1	152				23				shaped frag, edge cut to rough curve before firing	pmed
25	msf	LB	1	482	+		108	53					pmed
25	msf	LB	1	45	+								pmed
25	msgfe	RTP	1	107	+							orange	pmed
25	msgfe	RTP	2	167								slightly overfired, dark red	pmed
25	msgfe	RID	1	322				19					pmed
27	msf	LB	1	2346		226	109	48-57				some erosion on one stretcher, blackened surfaces	pmed
27	msf	LB	3	1496		213+	100+	52				=1 brick	pmed

Context	Fabric	Form	No	Wt	Abr	L	W	T	Mortar	Peg	Glaze	Notes	Date
29	msf	LB	1	241	++			46				some grog	pmed
29	msgfe	RTP	1	55									pmed
29	fscp	RTP	1	16	+								pmed
32	comp	LB	1	1937		220	105	68	cem			white coarse comp, pale orange surfaces, frog stamped NO… / EVE GREEN / ….E BR…	19-20

Appendix 5: OASIS Report Summary

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

List of Projects | Manage Projects | Search Projects | New project | Change your details | HER coverage | Change country | Log out

Printable version

OASIS ID: norfolka1-151245

Project details

Project name	Newfound Farm, Cringleford
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was conducted for Barratt David Wilson Homes, as part of pre-planning, prior to a planning application by Barratt Strategic to create a new housing development in Cringleford, on the southern edge of Norwich. The current project followed from a fieldwalking and metal detector survey (undertaken in 2011). Seven trenches were machine excavated in order to target specific anomalies observed on the geophysical plot and also to sample the nature of the archaeological resource present on the proposed site. The trenches that contained evidence considered to be the most significant were located in the northern part of the proposed development area (Trenches 4, 5 and 6) Trench 5 was perhaps the most interesting and important, with evidence of possible 16th-/17th-century kiln activity present. This appeared to be for the manufacture of tile and brick. Trench 4 contained an 18th- to 20th-century cobble surface on the edge of a probable large extraction pit or pond. Trench 6 contained two undated ditches and several undated pits, which may have been smaller sand extraction pits. A small undated pit and early 20th-century bottle dump were recorded in Trench 2, two pits of recent date in Trench 3 and larger extraction pits in Trench 1. (Trench 7 was devoid of features, deposits or finds of archaeological interest. Much of the evidence recorded at the site was probably connected with activities associated with Newfound Farm and its land.
Project dates	Start: 04-04-2013 End: 12-04-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ENF131288 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	FOUNDATION Post Medieval
Monument type	COBBLED SURFACE Post Medieval
Monument type	STRUCTURE Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Modern
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain

Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Significant Finds	STRUCK FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Uncertain
Significant Finds	METAL WORKING DEBRIS Uncertain
Methods & techniques	"'Sample Trenches'","'Targeted Trenches'"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK SOUTH NORFOLK CRINGLEFORD Newfound Farm
Study area	30.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TG 1850 0650 52 1 52 36 42 N 001 13 39 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	NPS Archaeology
Project brief originator	Norfolk Historic Environment Service
Project design originator	NPS Archaeology
Project director/manager	david whitmore
Project supervisor	Peter Crawley
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Barrat David Wilson Homes

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Industrial","Metal","Worked bone","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	NPS Archaeology
Digital Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics","Industrial","Metal","Worked bone","Worked stone/lithics","other"

Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Spreadsheets","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service
Paper Contents	"Animal Bones","Industrial","Metal","Worked bone","Worked stone/lithics","other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at Newfound Farm, Cringleford, Norfolk
Author(s)/Editor (s)	Crawley, P.
Other bibliographic details	Report 2013/1135
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	NPS Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Norwich
Description	A4 and A3, double-sided, colour-printed, spiral-bound; pdf

Entered by	Jayne Bown (jayne.bown@nps.co.uk)
Entered on	23 May 2013

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