

2015/1257b



**Land at Middle Farm, Wretham, Norfolk:
Archaeological Evaluation**

ENF 135761



V

Banham Poultry Ltd
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March 2015

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Client: Banham Poultry Ltd
Location: Middle Farm, Wretham, Norfolk.
District: Breckland.
Planning Ref.: 2007/1606/F
Grid Ref.: TL 9138 8967
HER No.: ENF 135761
OASIS Ref.: norfolka1-157673
Dates of Fieldwork: 23 25 February 2015

Summary

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was conducted by NPS Archaeology for Banham Poultry Ltd, ahead of a planning application to develop new poultry facilities at Middle Farm, Wretham, Norfolk (TL 9138 8967).

Fourteen evaluation trenches were excavated across the area of the proposed development, of which five trenches contained features tested by archaeological excavation.

Trench 10 revealed two pits of probable prehistoric date. One pit contained a dark fill with burnt flint, the other pit a collection of worked flints including a horseshoe scraper. Both groups of finds are probably late prehistoric in date, with the worked flints most likely dating to the Late Neolithic Early Bronze Age.

Trench 9 revealed one small pit and a larger irregular pit containing reddened sand, thought likely to be archaeological in origin, but possibly geological. A further pit at the west end of the trench is likely to be a natural hollow, such as a tree-throw.

Three trenches, Trench 1, Trench 8, and Trench 12, each recorded single features considered to be of natural origin.

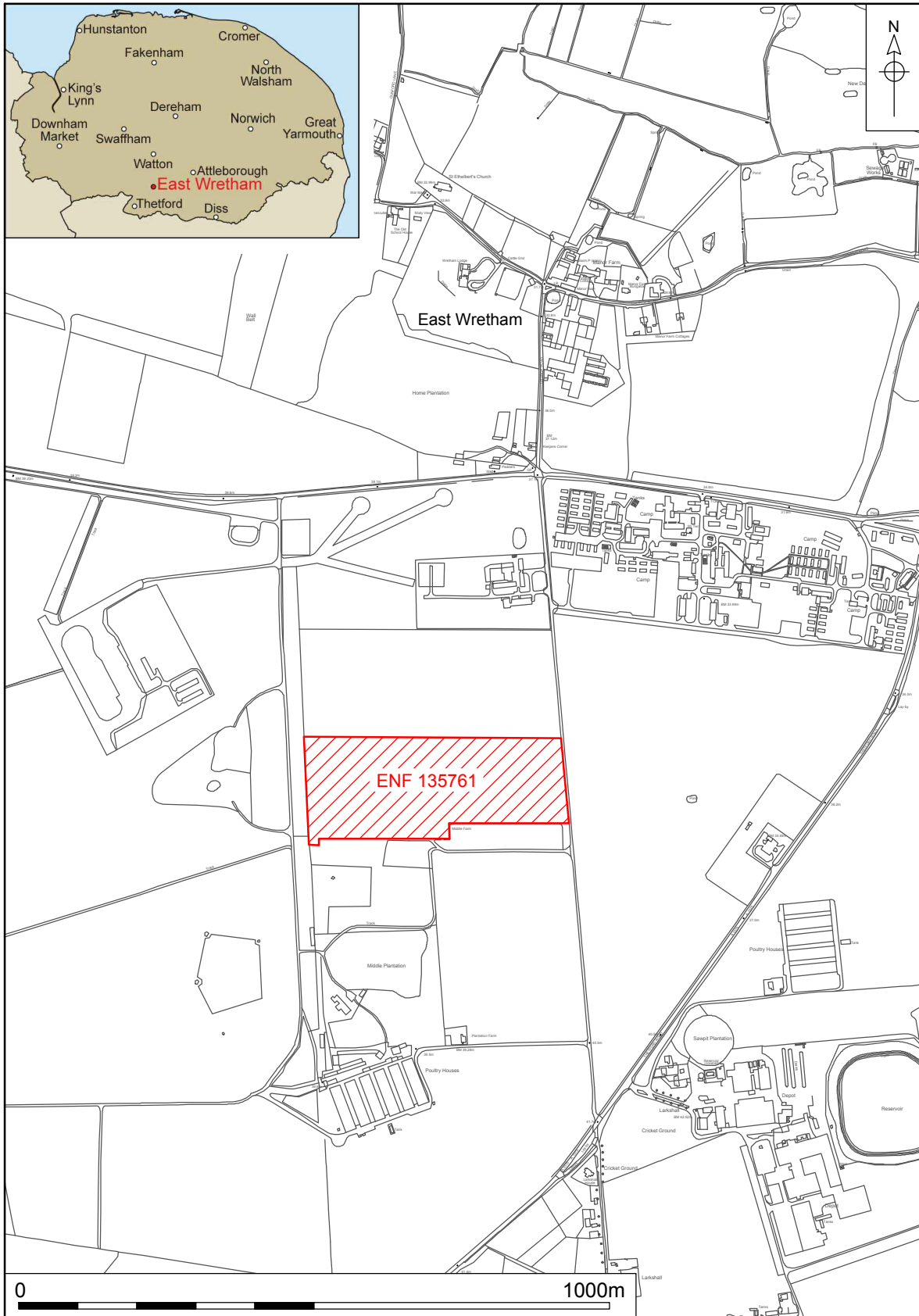
This report supersedes interim report 2015/1257a (Crawley 2015).

Figure 1

- t NPS Archaeology was commissioned by Banham Poultry Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching at Middle Farm, Wretham, Norfolk. An extension to poultry processing infrastructure required a programme of archaeological works to evaluate the effects of the development proposals on the potential archaeological resource at the site, and to determine the extent of any archaeological deposits present. The current site is c. 1.50ha in extent and is located on the north side of Middle Farm, close to the B1075, to the north of the village of Wretham.
- u The work was undertaken to fulfil planning requirements set by Breckland District Council (2007/1606/F) and a Generic Brief for Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching issued by Norfolk Historic Environment Service (24/9/2012/Hamilton 2012). The work was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by NPS Archaeology (01-04-15-2-1257/Brown 2015).
- v This programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area, following 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.
- x The site archive is currently held at the offices of NPS Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with Norfolk Museums Service following relevant policies on archiving standards (ClfA 2014a).



Plate 1. The evaluation site, looking southwest



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

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- The underlying geology in the area of the development is Seaford Chalk Formation, a sedimentary bedrock that formed c. 84–89 million years ago in the Cretaceous period in an environment previously dominated by warm chalk seas (British Geological Survey 2015). The superficial geology for the area of the site is not recorded by the British Geological Survey. Nearby, however, are Quaternary period wind-blown Cover Sands, and Lodge Farm Silt and Clay Member and other glacial moraine deposits (British Geological Survey 2015).

The development site is relatively level: a height of 35.05m OD was recorded at the east side of the site, and a height of 37.64m at the west side. The river Thet is c. 3.00km to the east and south of the site.

The site had reportedly been used for onion and carrot crops in the past, but more recently for poultry, housed in six long barns which were now demolished. The barns were built on concrete bases and contained asbestos, which was cleared professionally before the archaeological evaluation began. The ground was tested for contaminants.

In the vicinity of the poultry barns, and directly below the concrete bases, there was typically a 0.20m-thick layer of sand and gravel **03** that had been used as preparation/levelling prior to construction.

Away from the foundation footprints of the demolished barns, topsoil was characteristically 0.40m deep. It consisted of loose and well-drained mid-greyish brown silty sand with moderate amounts of flint **04**. The topsoil was thinner in the areas where the poultry barns had been constructed.

- t s** Subsoil **05** was present across the site, varying in depth between 0.25m and 0.50m. It consisted of mid- to light yellowish brown silty sand with occasional small flints, although in certain areas it contained more flint.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 11 The primary source for archaeological evidence in the county of Norfolk is the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER), which details archaeological discoveries and sites of historical interest. In order to characterise the likely archaeological potential of the proposed development site, NHER record data was purchased from Norfolk Historic Environment Service for a 1.00km square search area centred on TL 9138 8967. This exercise returned 24 individual records, including monuments, spot finds and buildings, providing evidence of historical activity spanning the prehistoric–post-medieval periods.
- 12 *An Historical Atlas of Norfolk* (Ashwin and Davison 2005) was also consulted for this Section to place the evaluation site in a broader historical context. A reference table listing dates for the historical periods referred to is provided in Appendix 5.
- 13 The NHER data considered most relevant to the current project are referenced and summarised below, along with details of previous archaeological work in the vicinity. The information presented that is sourced from Norfolk Historic Environment Record remains copyright of Norfolk Historic Environment Service/Norfolk County Council.

Prehistoric

- 14 Well-drained, light soils were especially sought out in the later prehistoric periods: ‘the lighter soils, particularly in Breckland, were much favoured during this later Mesolithic period’ (Wymer 2005), and numerous finds of this date are recorded at Hockham Mere to the southwest (Wymer 2005). Less activity is recorded for the Neolithic period (Ashwin 2005a, 2005b), and this tends to cluster around sites further to the south and west, such as at Grime’s Graves and the fen-edge.
- 15 To the southwest of the site, beyond the 1.00km NHER search area, but worthy of mention nonetheless, is the East Harling Drove Road (NHER 5435) (Norfolk Historic Environment Service 2015a). Elements of this route, which was in use until the post-medieval period, are thought to be a prehistoric trackway. The remains are fragmentary and partly under modern roads. The route is crossed by the Peddars Way Roman road at Roudham Heath and appears to have been a focus for prehistoric activity.
- 16 One of the most significant NHER records, located to the southwest, is NHER 5971. This refers to a substantial amount of prehistoric worked flints from the area of East Wretham Heath. Many of the flints were Mesolithic in date, with a particular concentration observed at Langmere. A single Mesolithic worked flint was also recovered from Ringmere. The worked flint assemblage included scrapers, cores, and microliths, amongst many blades. The geological features Ringmere and Langmere may have acted as sources of water, attracting transient prehistoric communities, although their presence in the landscape may have been attractive for other, cultural reasons.
- 17 Areas of dumped burnt flint were also recorded as part of NHER 5971. Burnt flint mound sites in the UK date overwhelmingly to the Bronze Age and are almost always located close to sources of water (Crowson 2004).
- 18 The majority of NHER records in the search area, particularly to the west of the evaluation site, are derived from an archaeological field collection project in the

Ministry of Defence Stanford Training Area (STANTA). A group of undatable prehistoric flint implements was recovered immediately to the west of the current site (NHER 35602), and Neolithic/Bronze Age flints have also been found to the west (NHER 35885).

- 19 Neolithic worked flints are recorded at NHER 35600, and Neolithic or Bronze Age flint flakes, cores, and scrapers were found to the south of the current site (NHER 35884). A pottery sherd and six worked flints were found as part of NHER 35883. To the west of the current site, Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flint flakes were recorded at NHER 36267. Other prehistoric flint flakes were also found to the west of the evaluation site at NHER 37231.
- 20 There are very few single find spots in the NHER database for the search area. One such was the find of a Bronze Age chisel, which was located south of Middle Farm (NHER 5979).
- 21 Sherds of Iron Age pottery were recorded as part of the large collection NHER 5971 to the southwest of the development site, but nothing else of this period was recorded within the 1.00km NHER search area.

Roman

- 22 In the wider environment, the Peddars Way Roman road (NHER 1289) traverses the parish of Wretham to the northeast of the evaluation site, beyond the 1.00km search area. This route often provided a focus for activity in the Roman period.
- 23 Very little of specifically Roman date has been found within the NHER 1.00km search area. Sherds of Roman pottery were found during the STANTA field survey, largely to the west of the site. Two sherds of possible Roman date were also found at NHER 37231, and Roman pottery was logged at NHER 35602, NHER 35600, and NHER 37231.
- 24 NHER 5983 records a single pottery sherd of possible Roman date, present a long distance to the south of the site, beyond Thetford Road.

Anglo-Saxon–medieval

- 25 It is thought that the name Wretham may derive from the Old English meaning 'homestead where crosswort [a medical plant] is grown' (Norfolk Historic Environment Service 2015b).
- 26 To the southwest, beyond the 1.00km NHER search area, one of two possible sites for the battle of Ringmere Heath (AD 1010) between the Danes and the Saxons, is located (Norfolk Historic Environment Service 2015c). The Battle was recorded as *Hringmaraheior*, or Hringmere-huo in Old English. The alternative site is Rymer Point in Suffolk, known as Ringmere in early sources.
- 27 Following the Norman conquest of England, the economy of Wretham was recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086. Wretham was recorded as a land holding of Ralph of Tosny, and resources noted include woodland and various types of livestock such as sheep (Norfolk Historic Environment Service 2015b).
- 28 Very little specifically of medieval date has been found around the evaluation site. Sherds of medieval pottery were found by the STANTA field survey, mostly to the west of the site. Medieval pottery was found at NHER 35602, NHER 35885, and

NHER 35600. The largest quantity of medieval pottery was collected from fields 150m to the northwest of the site (NHER 35886), where sherds of Late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery were all recovered.

- u One historic building of the medieval period is located within the NHER search area, St Ethelbert's church, East Wretham (NHER 9019). The church is originally of 12th-century date, but was rebuilt in 1865, and has little relevance to the evaluation site.

O

- vs The most relevant NHER record for the current work is that of East Wretham Airfield, within which the archaeological evaluation is located (NHER 5742). It was one of many airfields speedily constructed and pressed into service early in 1940. Initially a satellite station for RAF Honington, it was the base for a Czech squadron flying Wellington bombers on raids over Europe. In 1942, it was united under RAF Mildenhall as an outlying station, initially with Wellingtons, these superseded by Lancaster bombers in 1943.
- vt The USAAF took control of the base from October 1943 until the end of hostilities. The 359th USAAF Fighter Group flew P-47 D Thunderbolts and later P-51 Mustangs on escort duties out of Wretham, undertaking strafing and dive-bombing operations, with involvement as air support for the D-Day landings and the Battle of the Bulge towards the end of the Second World War.
- vu A group of four pillboxes was recorded by the STANTA field survey, dotted around a copse of trees to the southwest of the site, NHER 35828, NHER 35827, NHER 35826, NHER 35829. These are generally Type 22 pillboxes and were probably deployed in abundance to defend the airfield.
- vv After the war, the air station became a Polish resettlement camp, designed to house Polish refugees of the European conflict. Subsequent to this, in the 1950s the area was partly returned to agricultural use, although some of the original wartime huts still survive as part of the modern military training base just north of the evaluation site.
- vx Other recorded post-medieval sites consist of the Grade II listed Wretham Lodge (NHER 46156), which dates to the early 19th century, and the late 18th century Manor Farmhouse (NHER 46526), both of which are located north of Illington Road. A school, built in 1865 and now converted to a private house, is also recorded within the 1.00km NHER search area (NHER 55617). An extensive area of parkland connected with Wretham Hall lay to the north (NHER 56270). It was created in the early 19th century by removing existing roads, and incorporating the ruins of St Lawrence's church as a feature. Plantations around the edges of the park were used to enclose it. A kitchen garden and stabling area was demolished during the Second World War as part of the park was incorporated into a battle training area.

Figure 2

- v- Methodology for the evaluation followed the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation (01-04-15-2-1257/Brown 2015). Archaeological procedures conformed to guidelines issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014b) and the evaluation was conducted within the context of the relevant regional archaeological framework (Medlycott 2011).
- v The objective of the 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.
- v Approximately 2.5% of the development area was sample excavated by 14 evaluation trenches. The trenches were 30m long x 1.80m wide and laid out prior to the start of the work to a plan designed by NPS Archaeology and agreed by the archaeological monitor at Norfolk Historic Environment Service (NHES).
- v Operatives and sub-contractors of Banham Poultry Ltd were present on the site during the evaluation, undertaking site preparation measures including clearing and burning scrub, trees, and bushes, and crushing concrete removed from the bases of the demolished poultry barns.
- v Machine excavation of the evaluation trenches was carried out initially on 23 February 2015 by a wheeled JCB-type excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. On 24 February a tracked machine with a toothless ditching bucket was made available. All mechanical excavation was constantly and directly monitored by a suitably experienced archaeologist. Machining was halted at the first identifiable archaeological deposits or natural geology.



Plate 2. Machining, looking north

- xs** Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. Only two worked flints were found incidentally whilst metal-detecting.
- xt** Environmental samples were taken from the fills of pits **09** and **11**.
- xu** All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NPS Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Monochrome and colour digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits where appropriate.
- xv** A contour survey of the site undertaken by Banham Poultry Ltd provided accurate levels at either end of the trenches (see tables in *Results*), and also provided temporary benchmarks that were used to establish heights above sea level for the archaeological and natural features identified during the evaluation. .
- xx** Site conditions were good and the work took place in fine, warm weather.

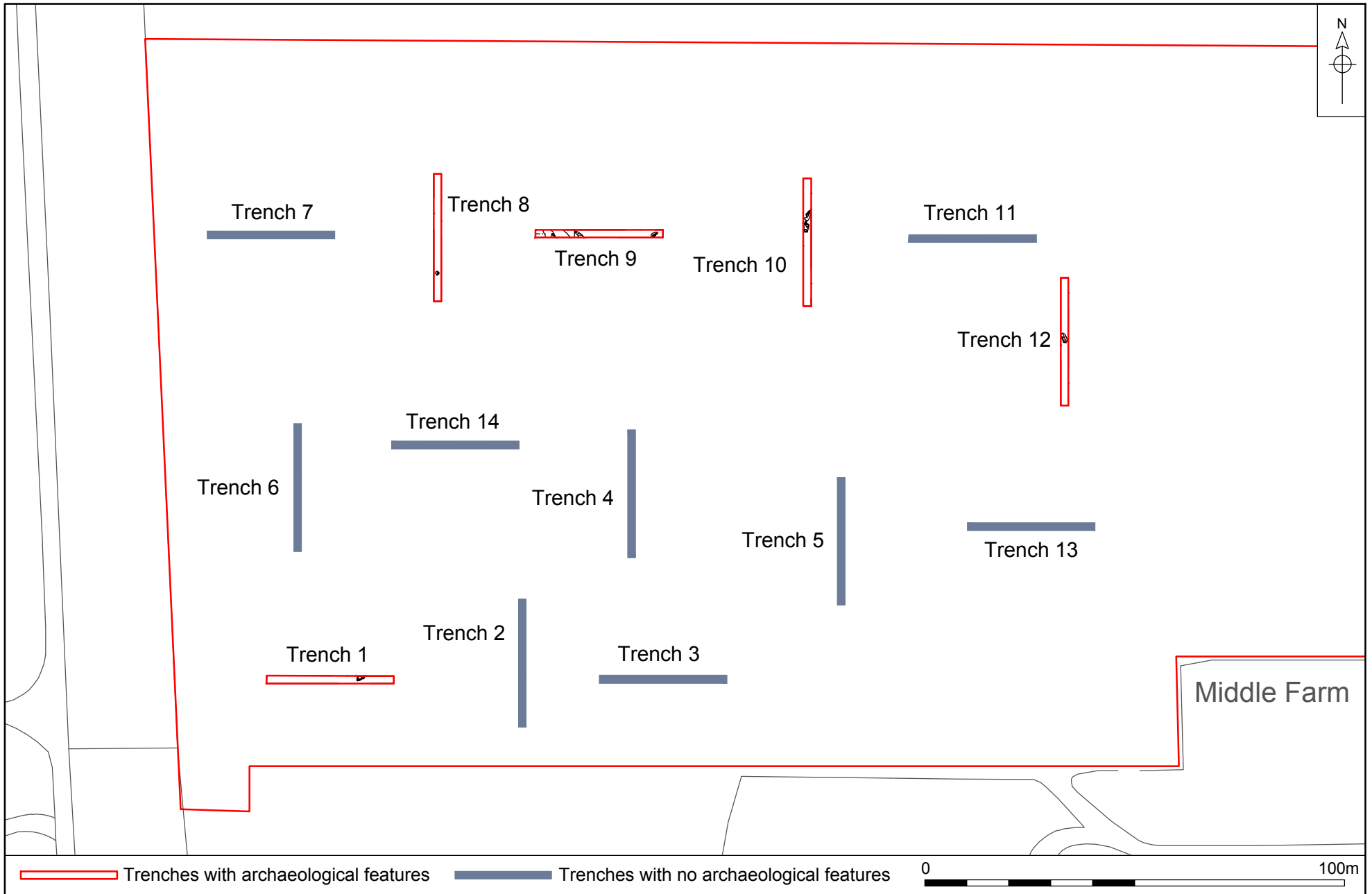



Figure 2. Location of trenches. Scale 1:1250

- x- Fourteen trenches were excavated. The results of each trench are presented in tabular form below.

Trench 1				
		Figures 2, 3; Plate 3		
		Location		
		Orientation	East west	
		East end	591303 289559	
		West end	591334 289559	
		Dimensions		
		Length	30.00m	
		Width	1.80m	
		Depth	0.75m	
		Levels		
East top	37.46m OD			
West top	37.06m OD			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Cut	Pit of natural origin.	0.75m	0.75m-1.50m
02	Deposit	Fill of 01 .	0.75m	0.75m-1.50m
03	Deposit	Made ground. Redeposited orange brown silty sand.	0.20m	0.00-0.20m
04	Deposit	Topsoil. Mid-greyish brown silty sand.	0.30m	0.20-0.50m
05	Deposit	Subsoil. Light yellowish brown silty sand.	0.25m	0.50-0.75m
06	Deposit	Natural geology. Mottled sand, gravel and chalky sand.	Unknown	0.75m-
Discussion				
<p>Trench 1 contained a single pit 01, considered to be of either geological or other natural origin, such as a tree-throw hole or animal burrow. No finds were recovered. The pit had irregular sides and base and extended 1.80m east west x 1.20m north south. The fill 02 of the feature was mid-greyish brown silty sand, which had accumulated naturally. The feature appeared to extend beyond the north limit of the evaluation trench.</p>				

Trench 1



Plate 3. Trench 1, natural feature **01**, looking north

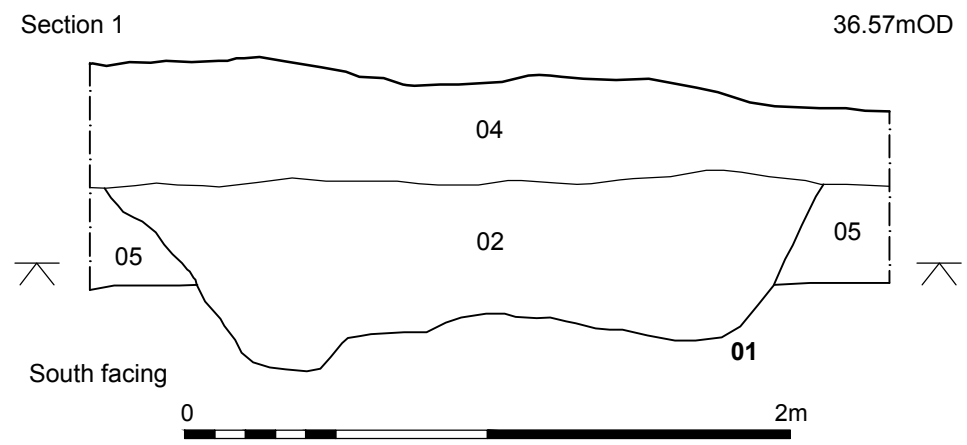
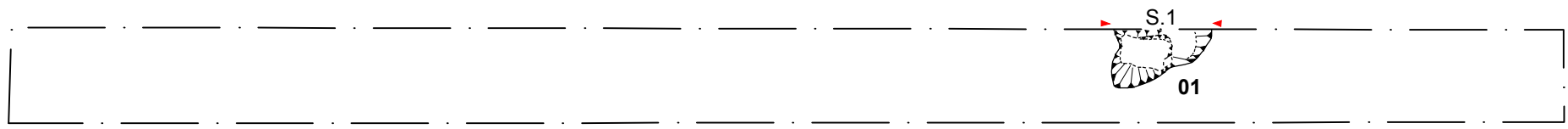
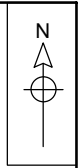


Figure 3. Trench 1, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 2



Figure 2

Location

Orientation	North south
North end	591364 289577
South end	591364 289547

Dimensions

Length	30.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.50m

Levels

North top	36.83m OD
South top	37.08m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
03	Deposit	Made ground. Redeposited orange brown silty sand.	0.10m	0.00-0.10m
04	Deposit	Topsoil. Mid-greyish brown silty sand.	0.40m	0.10-0.50m
06	Deposit	Natural geology. Mottled sand, gravel and chalky sand.	Unknown	0.50m-

Discussion

No archaeological features were identified and no finds were recovered from Trench 2.

Trench 3



Figure 2

Location

Orientation	East west
East end	591382 289559
West end	591412 289559

Dimensions

Length	30.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.35m

Levels

East top	36.67m OD
West top	36.90m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
03	Deposit	Made ground. Redeposited orange brown silty sand.	0.15m	0.00-0.15m
04	Deposit	Topsoil. Mid-greyish brown silty sand.	0.20m	0.20-0.35m
06	Deposit	Natural geology. Mottled sand, gravel and chalky sand.	Unknown	0.35m-

Discussion

No archaeological features were identified and no finds were recovered from Trench 3.

Trench 4



Figure 2

Location

Orientation	North south
North end	591389 289617
South end	591389 289588

Dimensions

Length	30.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.35m

Levels

North top	36.52m OD
South top	36.67m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
03	Deposit	Made ground. Redeposited orange brown silty sand.	0.15m	0.00-0.15m
04	Deposit	Topsoil. Mid-greyish brown silty sand.	0.35m	0.20-0.50m
06	Deposit	Natural geology. Mottled sand, gravel and chalky sand.	Unknown	0.50m-

Discussion

No archaeological features were identified and no finds were recovered from Trench 4.

Trench 5



Figure 2

Location

Orientation	North south
North end	591439 289607
South end	591438 289576

Dimensions

Length	30.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.70m

Levels

North top	36.02m OD
South top	36.18m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
03	Deposit	Made ground. Redeposited orange brown silty sand. Here it includes segments of concrete.	0.10m	0.00-0.10m
04	Deposit	Topsoil. Mid-greyish brown silty sand.	0.35m	0.10-0.45m
05	Deposit	Subsoil. Light yellowish brown silty sand.	0.25m	0.45-0.70m
06	Deposit	Natural geology. Mottled sand, gravel and chalky sand.	Unknown	0.70m-

Discussion

No archaeological features were identified and no finds were recovered from Trench 5.

Trench 6



Figure 2

Location

Orientation	North south
North end	591311 289619
South end	591311 289589

Dimensions

Length	30.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.70m

Levels

North top	37.62m OD
South top	37.40m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
03	Deposit	Made ground. Redeposited orange brown silty sand.	0.10m	0.00-0.10m
04	Deposit	Topsoil. Mid-greyish brown silty sand.	0.30m	0.10-0.40m
05	Deposit	Subsoil. Light yellowish brown silty sand.	0.40m	0.40-0.70m
06	Deposit	Natural geology. Mottled sand, gravel and chalky sand.	Unknown	0.70m-

Discussion

No archaeological features were identified and no finds were recovered from Trench 6.

Trench 7



Figure 2

Location

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

East end	591319 289663
----------	---------------

West end	591290 289663
----------	---------------

Dimensions

Length	30.00m
--------	--------

Width	1.80m
-------	-------

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

Levels

East top	36.96m OD
----------	-----------

West top	37.37m OD
----------	-----------

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
04	Deposit	Topsoil. Mid-greyish brown silty sand.	0.40m	0.00-0.40m
05	Deposit	Subsoil. Light yellowish brown silty sand.	0.60m	0.40-1.00m
06	Deposit	Natural geology. Mottled sand, gravel and chalky sand.	Unknown	1.00m-

Discussion

No archaeological features were identified and no finds were recovered from Trench 7.

Trench 8



Figures 2, 4; Plate 4

Location

Orientation	North south
-------------	-------------

North end	591344 289678
-----------	---------------

South end	591344 289648
-----------	---------------

Dimensions

Length	30.00m
--------	--------

Width	1.80m
-------	-------

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

Levels

North top	36.70m OD
-----------	-----------

South top	36.49m OD
-----------	-----------

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
04	Deposit	Topsoil. Mid-greyish brown silty sand.	0.40m	0.00-0.40m
05	Deposit	Subsoil. Light yellowish brown silty sand.	0.60m	0.40-1.00m
06	Deposit	Natural geology. Mottled sand, gravel and chalky sand.	Unknown	1.00m-
07	Cut	Small pit of natural origin	0.12	1.00-1.12m
08	Deposit	Fill of 07.	0.12	1.00-1.12m

Discussion

A small pit **07** considered to be of geological or otherwise natural origin was located at the south end of Trench 8. It was 0.12m deep and extended 0.82m east west x 0.74m north south. The sides were gently sloping and the base concave. No finds were recovered from its fill or during the machining of the trench. Fill **08** consisted of light greyish brown silty sand of geological origin.

Trench 8



Plate 4. Trench 8, natural feature 07, looking west

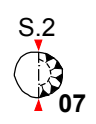
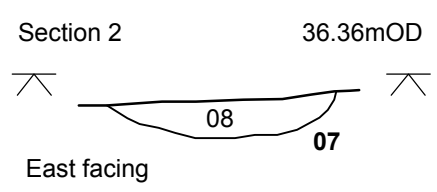
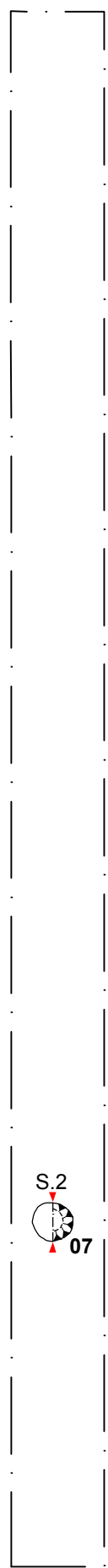


Figure 4. Trench 8, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 9



Figures 2, 5; Plates 5, 6, 7

Location

Orientation East west

East end 591397 289664

West end 591367 289663

Dimensions

Length 30.00m

Width 1.80m

Depth 1.00m

Levels

East top 35.90m OD

West top 36.56m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
04	Deposit	Topsoil. Mid-greyish brown silty sand.	0.40m	0.00-0.40m
05	Deposit	Subsoil. Light yellowish brown silty sand.	0.60m	0.40-1.00m
06	Deposit	Natural geology. Mottled sand, gravel and chalky sand.	Unknown	1.00m-
13	Cut	Pit.	0.40	1.00-1.40m
14	Deposit	Fill of 13.	0.40	1.00-1.40m
15	Cut	Irregular pit.	0.50m	1.00-1.50m
16	Deposit	Fill of 15.	0.50m	1.00-1.50m
17	Cut	Irregular pit of likely natural origin.	0.50m	1.00-1.50m
18	Deposit	Fill of 17.	0.50m	1.00-1.50m
19	Deposit	Fill of 17.	0.50m	1.00-1.50m

Discussion

Three features were investigated by excavation in Trench 9. These are discussed from east west.

At the east end of Trench 9 there was a small pit **13**. It extended 1.25m x 0.70m. It had generally even sides and a roughly flat base, giving it a U-shaped profile. Its single fill **14** was composed of mid- to dark greyish brown silty sand, which had most likely built-up by natural silting, although the pit itself was probably of human origin.

Trench 9



Plate 5. Trench 9, pit **13**, looking northwest

Towards the centre of the trench there was a large pit **15**, which could be of geological/natural origin, although its regular form in plan might suggest it was anthropogenic. This feature measured at least 2.50m long x 0.50m deep. The sides were gradual and the base roughly concave. Its fill **16** was dark reddish brown silty sand, this colour perhaps the result of being heated, although geological mineralisation is perhaps a more likely cause.



Plate 6. Trench 9, pit **15**, looking south

Trench 9

At the west end of Trench 9 there was an extensive irregular pit or hollow **17** of probable geological or natural origin. It measured at least 4.84m east west x 1.80m north south. The sides were gradually sloping and the base (where observed) was flat. The feature contained two fills. The primary fill **18** was light yellowish orange silty sand, which had probably accumulated naturally. The secondary fill **19** was dark brown silty sand, and was also likely to be of geological origin. Each of the fills was devoid of finds or inclusions.



Plate 7. Trench 9, feature **17**, looking southwest

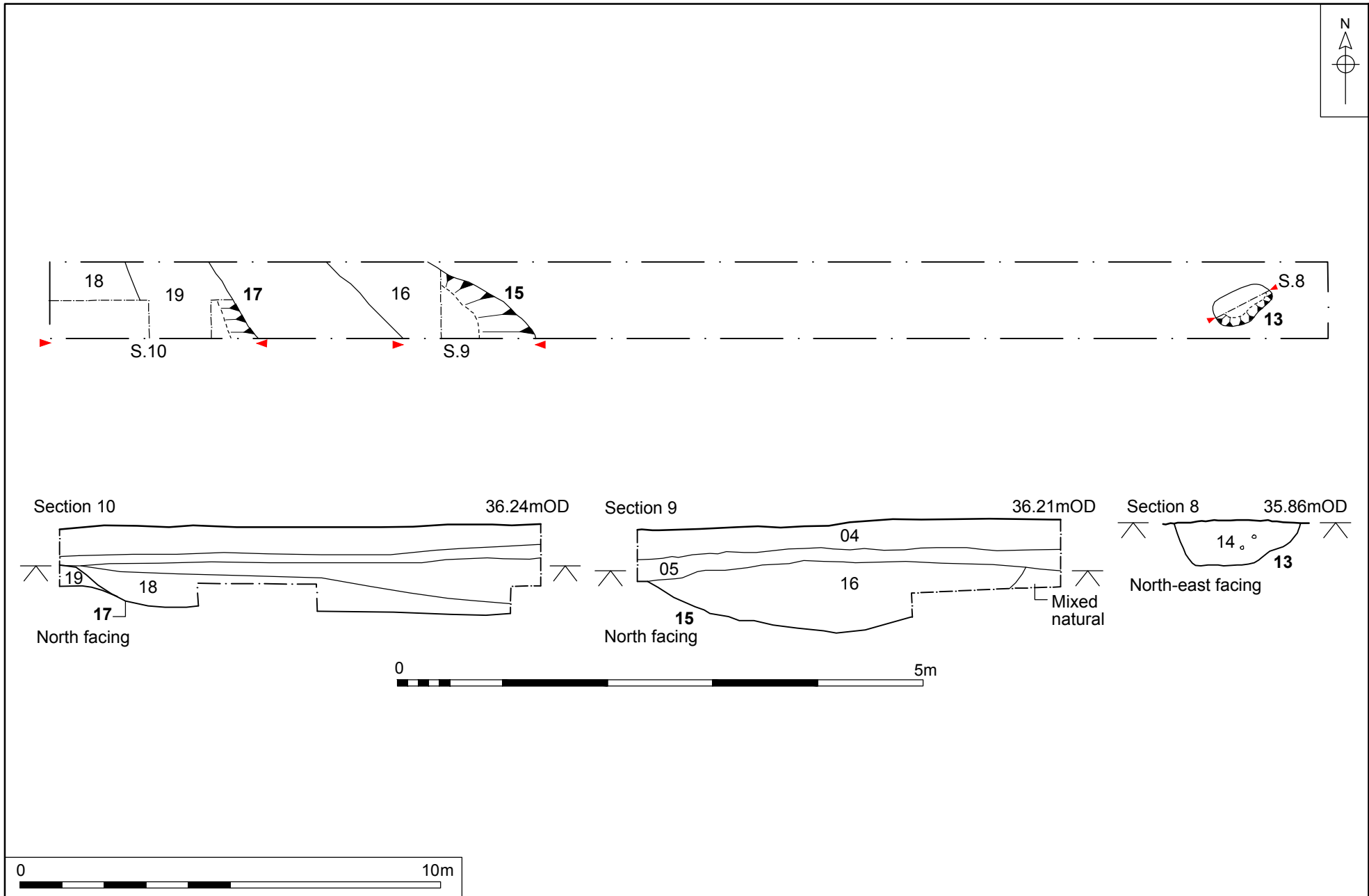



Figure 5. Trench 9, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:50

Trench 10				
		Figures 2, 6; Plates 8, 9		
		Location		
		Orientation	North south	
		North end	591431 289676	
		South end	591431 289646	
		Dimensions		
		Length	30.00m	
		Width	1.80m	
		Depth	0.60m	
		Levels		
North top	35.72m OD			
South top	35.84m OD			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
04	Deposit	Topsoil. Mid-greyish brown silty sand.	0.40m	0.00-0.40m
05	Deposit	Subsoil. Light yellowish brown silty sand.	0.20m	0.40-0.60m
06	Deposit	Natural geology. Mottled sand, gravel and chalky sand.	Unknown	0.60m-
09	Cut	Pit.	0.55m	0.60-1.15m
10	Deposit	Fill of 09 .	0.55m	0.60-1.15m
11	Cut	Pit.	0.27m	0.60-0.87m
12	Deposit	Fill of 11 .	0.27m	0.60-0.87m
Discussion				
<p>There were two irregular pits in Trench 10. These are described from north south.</p> <p>The feature to the north, pit 09, was truncated by pit 11 on its south side. Pit 09 was curved in plan and extended 3.46m northeast southwest and most likely extended beyond either side of the evaluation trench. The sides were gradual and steeper in places, and without seeing its full extent, the feature could be of either geological or archaeological origin. Its maximum recorded depth was 0.55m. The fill 12 of feature 09 was dark greyish brown silty sand, which contained several worked flints of probable Late Neolithic Early Bronze Age date. The deposit may have accumulated through a combination of human and natural events. Analysis of the soil post-excavation indicated that it was of diverse origin, possibly derived from scattered refuse that was accidentally incorporated in the feature.</p>				

Trench 10



Plate 8. Trench 10, pit **09**, looking southwest

Pit **11** was approximately rectangular in plan. It extended 1.95m north south x at least 1.30m east west. The maximum recorded depth of the feature was 0.27m. The sides and base were irregular, indicating that this feature may have had a geological origin. It was perhaps subsequently used for some aspect of human activity, as it contained a largely deliberately deposited fill. This fill, **12**, consisted of very dark greyish brown silty sand, which probably represented deliberate deposition. The absence of heat-affected geological deposits around the edges of the feature suggests that burnt flints found within it were not heated *in situ*. Analysis of the soil post-excavation indicated that it may have derived from a single episode of burning, in this case (for reasons described) in close proximity to, rather than within the feature.



Plate 9. Trench 10, pit **11**, looking southeast

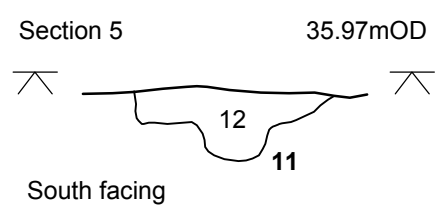
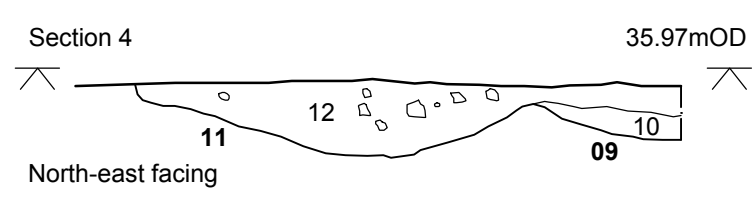
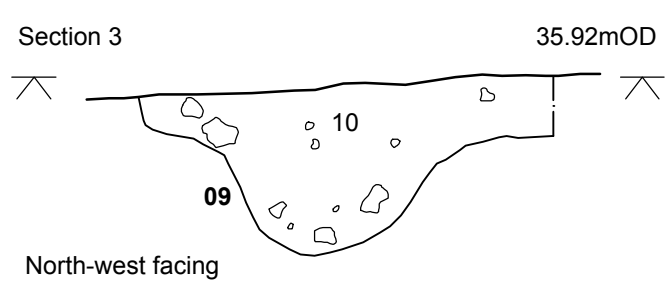
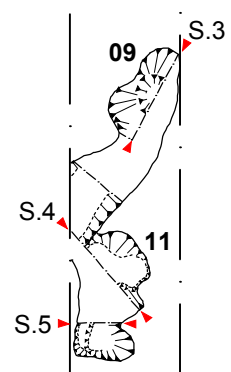


Figure 6. Trench 10, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 11



Figure 2

Location

Orientation	East west
East end	591485 289662
West end	591455 289662

Dimensions

Length	30.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.80m

Levels

East top	35.42m OD
West top	35.58m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
04	Deposit	Topsoil. Mid-greyish brown silty sand.	0.40m	0.00-0.40m
05	Deposit	Subsoil. Light yellowish brown silty sand.	0.40m	0.40-0.80m
06	Deposit	Natural geology. Mottled sand, gravel and chalky sand.	Unknown	0.80m-

Discussion

No archaeological features were identified and no finds were recovered from Trench 11.

Trench 12



Figures 2, 7; Plate 10

Location

Orientation	North south
North end	591491 289653
South end	591491 289623

Dimensions

Length	30.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.85m

Levels

North top	35.59m OD
South top	35.57m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
04	Deposit	Topsoil. Mid-greyish brown silty sand.	0.40m	0.00-0.40m
05	Deposit	Subsoil. Light yellowish brown silty sand.	0.45m	0.40-0.85m
06	Deposit	Natural geology. Mottled sand, gravel and chalky sand.	Unknown	0.85m-
20	Cut	Pit of natural origin.	0.55m	0.85m-1.40m
21	Deposit	Fill of 20.	0.55m	0.85m-1.40m

Discussion

A single pit **20** of likely geological origin was situated towards the centre of Trench 12. The feature was undercut on the west side, indicative perhaps of a geological ice wedge. The feature measured 2.10m north south x 1.10m east west. The sides were steeply sloping, considerably undercut on the west side, and the base was concave. The maximum depth of the feature was 0.55m. Its single fill **21** was composed of sterile dark grey sandy silt, which had built-up through natural accumulation.

Trench 12



Plate 10. Trench 12, natural feature **20**, looking northeast

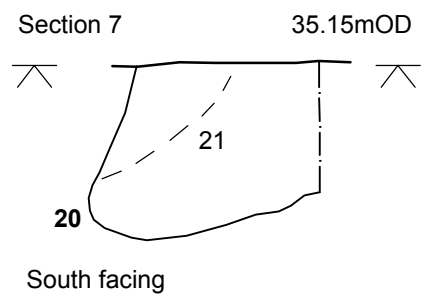
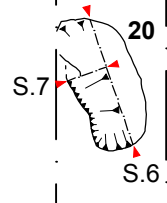
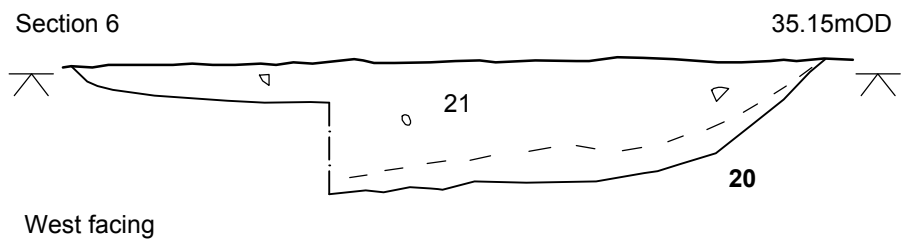
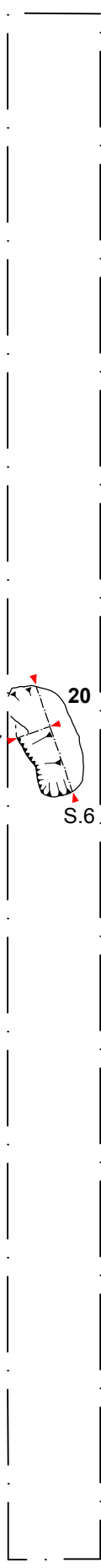


Figure 7. Trench 12, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 13



Figure 2

Location

Orientation	East west
East end	591498 289595
West end	591468 289594

Dimensions

Length	30.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.70m

Levels

East top	35.72m OD
West top	36.15m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
04	Deposit	Topsoil. Mid-greyish brown silty sand.	0.40m	0.00-0.40m
05	Deposit	Subsoil. Light yellowish brown silty sand.	0.30m	0.40-0.70m
06	Deposit	Natural geology. Mottled sand, gravel and chalky sand.	Unknown	0.70m-

Discussion

No archaeological features were identified and no finds were recovered from Trench 13.

Trench 14



Figure 2

Location

Orientation East west

East end 591363 289614

West end 591333 289614

Dimensions

Length 30.00m

Width 1.80m

Depth 0.80m

Levels

East top 36.62m OD

West top 36.74m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
03	Deposit	Made ground. Redeposited orange brown silty sand.	0.25m	0.00-0.25m
04	Deposit	Topsoil. Mid-greyish brown silty sand.	0.20m	0.25-0.45m
05	Deposit	Subsoil. Light yellowish brown silty sand.	0.35m	0.45-0.80m
06	Deposit	Natural geology. Mottled sand, gravel and chalky sand.	Unknown	0.80m-

Discussion

No archaeological features were identified and no finds were recovered from Trench 14.

V

- x All finds were processed and recorded by count and weight, and a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet was produced outlining broad dating. Each category was considered separately and is included below, organised by material. Appendix 2a contains a full list of all finds by context.

- x The evaluation recovered 14 pieces of flint in a well-preserved, sharp condition, including cores and scrapers (Table 1). The presence of contrasting techniques of core reduction, utilising rotated blade and keeled cores, combined with the morphology of the scrapers and debitage flakes, suggests a possible date for the assemblage in the later Neolithic. However, part of the assemblage was recovered from topsoil and subsoil layers, and therefore may have accumulated through prehistory.

Implement Type	Frequency	Weight
Core	2	112
Scrapers	2	35
Debitage	10	82
<i>Total</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>229</i>

Table 1: Quantification of worked flint

- x The flint work was manufactured using very good quality dark grey near black flint, typically with a chipped, thin, off-white pale brown cortex suggesting it was sourced from local surface gravels. However, the keeled core exhibits a thicker white cortex indicative of flint sourced from the primary chalk deposits that underlie central Norfolk and Breckland.

- x A significant proportion of the assemblage, nine pieces (134g), was collected from curved pit **09**, including a core, a horseshoe scraper and debitage. The core was manufactured on a pebble, which was trimmed and rotated to utilise three striking platforms at approximate right angles, possibly for the production of blades or small flakes. In contrast, the core from subsoil **05** is keeled with small flakes removed from around both sides, creating a discoidal profile. Both cores had clearly been reduced to a point where they were no longer viable and exhausted.

- s The mixing of core reduction techniques is supported by the flake morphology of the horseshoe scraper and debitage in curved pit **09**. The scraper and two flakes have a sub-rectangular or slightly irregular profile and were removed with a hard hammer. They exhibit neither the squat profile nor force (bulb of percussion/shatter) associated with flakes typical of Late Neolithic Early Bronze Age assemblages, and are associated with five blade-like debitage flakes that are comparable to examples from topsoil **02** and pit **11**. The remaining scraper, from topsoil **02**, was also manufactured on a blade-like flake.

- t The combination of the retention of blade-based technology with the production and utilisation of flake cores, in particular keeled variants, suggests that if the assemblage is homogeneous, notably including the worked flint from curved pit **09**, then it would be consistent with a later Neolithic date. However, this is based on limited evidence, and some comparable flake technology is evident in large earlier

Neolithic assemblages and only recognised in association with more diagnostic prevailing technological traits.

V

- u Twenty-three pieces of burnt flint were recovered from two contexts, weighing 326g in total. The burnt flint was recovered from curved pit **09** and pit **11**. These fragments provide little further information and have been discarded.

V

Introduction and method statement

- v Evaluation excavations at Wretham, undertaken by NPS Archaeology, recorded a limited number of features of probable prehistoric date. Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from curved pit **09** and pit **11**, and two were submitted for assessment.
- x 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 below in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (2010). All plant remains were charred. Modern chaff and seeds were also recorded.
- The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and will be sorted when dry. Any artefacts/ecofacts will be retained for further specialist analysis.

Results

- Charcoal/charred wood fragments are present in both assemblages, being particularly common in the sample from pit **11** (fill **12**). Although much of the material is coated with fine silt particles, the remains are generally well-preserved, possibly indicating that most were incorporated into the feature fills very soon after combustion. Other plant macrofossils are exceedingly scarce, but the assemblage from pit **11** does include a single fragment of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell. Both assemblages contain fragments of black porous material, some of which are probable residues of the combustion of organic material at very high temperatures, whilst others appear to be mineral concretions.

Environmental evidence conclusions and recommendations for further work

- In summary, both assemblages are broadly similar in composition, but whilst the remains from pit **11** are possibly indicative of a single episode of burning (which may have occurred in the pit or very close by), it would appear that the material from feature **09** is more diverse in origin, possibly being derived from scattered refuse accidentally incorporated in the feature fill.
- Although the current assemblages are very limited in composition, they clearly illustrate that well-preserved plant remains are present within the archaeological horizon in this area of Wretham. Therefore, if further interventions are planned, it is recommended that additional plant macrofossil samples of approximately 40 litres in volume are taken from all well-sealed contexts recorded during excavation. Analysis of any samples taken may provide valuable material with which to date contexts that otherwise appear to contain little that is intrinsically datable.

CONCLUSIONS

- 59 Several probable prehistoric features were excavated at the evaluation site, a result perhaps not surprising considering the considerable amount of prehistoric worked flint found in the vicinity of Middle Farm by the STANTA archaeological survey.
- 60 Although the Mesolithic period seems particularly well represented in the local archaeological record, the two pits **09** and **11** on the north side of the site in Trench 10 dated to the Neolithic–Bronze Age. The burnt flint fill of pit **09** is suggestive of the type of activity represented by monuments known in archaeological literature as burnt mounds, which tend to date to the Bronze Age (although it is not considered that a burnt mound is present on the evaluation site). Areas of burnt flint are recorded at site NHER 5971, and the Bronze Age chisel find (NHER 5979) indicates a Bronze Age presence in the wider area of the site.
- 61 The absence of pottery and other indicators of domestic life from the evaluation may suggest that rather than being close to any settlement, the pits, which could be utilised natural features, are probably linked with more remote activities. The undated pits **13**, **15** in Trench 9 may potentially also be associated with any such activity, as they are situated within the same general extent of the site.
- 62 The four probable natural features on the site, **01**, **07**, **17**, **20** have a variety of possible natural origins. Pits **01**, **07** seem likely to have been caused by large tree- or plant-root holes, pit **17** appears to be a wider natural hollow, and pit **20** is perhaps of geological origin such as an ice wedge.
- 63 Although the NHER entry 5742 that details the Second World War airfield is of historical importance, a close examination of a 1946 aerial photograph, which reveals features such as the pillboxes to the southwest and the resettlement camp to the northeast, shows simply a ploughed field with no features where the site is located (Norfolk County Council 2015). The current archaeological evaluation appears to have confirmed this, recovering no evidence of Middle Farm’s wartime heritage.
- 64 Recommendations for mitigation work (if required based on the evidence presented in this report) will be made by Norfolk Historic Environment Service.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Bob Waterson of Banham Poultry Ltd for appointing NPS Archaeology to the project and for his help and interest towards its completion.

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This report was illustrated by David Dobson and edited by Andrew Crowson.

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Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
01	Cut	Natural pit		Irregular cut-possibly tree root	Unknown	Trench 1
02	Deposit		01	Fill of 01	Unknown	Trench 1
03	Deposit			Redeposited sand layer	Unknown	Trench 1
04	Deposit			Topsoil	Unknown	Whole site
05	Deposit			Subsoil	Unknown	Whole site
06	Deposit			Natural	Unknown	Trench 1
07	Cut	Natural pit		Small. Probably natural feature	Unknown	Trench 8
08	Deposit		07	Fill of 07	Unknown	Trench 8
09	Cut	Pit		Curved pit	Unknown	Trench 10
10	Deposit		09	Fill of 09	Unknown	Trench 10
11	Cut	Pit		Small irregular pit with burnt flint	Prehistoric	Trench 10
12	Deposit		11	Fill of 11	Prehistoric	Trench 10
13	Cut	Pit		Small pit	Prehistoric	Trench 9
14	Deposit		13	Fill of 13	Prehistoric	Trench 9
15	Cut	Irregular feature		Linear feature	Unknown	Trench 9
16	Deposit		15	Fill of 15	Unknown	Trench 9
17	Cut	Natural feature		Feature west end of trench	Unknown	Trench 9
18	Deposit		17	Lower fill of 17	Unknown	Trench 9
19	Deposit		17	Upper fill of 17	Unknown	Trench 9
20	Cut			Pit. Probably natural origin	Unknown	Trench 12
21	Deposit		20	Fill of 20	Unknown	Trench 12

Appendix 1b: Feature Summary

Period	Category	Total
Unknown	Geological/natural feature	4
	Pit	2
Prehistoric	Pit	2

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
4	Flint Worked	2	22g	Unknown	
5	Flint Worked	1	71g	Unknown	
10	Flint Burnt	1	5g	Unknown	Discarded
10	Flint Worked	9	134g	Unknown	
12	Flint Burnt	22	321g	Unknown	Discarded
12	Flint Worked	2	2g	Unknown	

Appendix 2b: Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Unknown	Flint Burnt	23
	Flint Worked	14

Appendix 3 Flint Catalogue

L	S e g	Description	Spot Date	Worked Flint		Find/type	No.	Wgt (g)	Patinated	Retouched	Colour	Size (mm)				
				F	W							Cortex	I?	L	W	D
		Topsoil		2	2	Side Scraper	1	17	\	yes	near black	chipped, pale brown, thin	\	50	25	10
						Tertiary flakes (slightly irregular, <50mm)	1	5	\	\	near black	chipped, pale brown, thin	\	\	\	\
		Subsoil		1	7	Core	1	71	\	na	near black	white chalky	\	65	50	30
10		Curvilinear Feature 9		9	1 3 4	Core	1	41	\	na	near black	chipped, pale brown, thin	\	34	40	30
						Horseshoe scraper	1	18	\	yes	near black	\	\	50	40	10
						Tertiary flakes (slightly irregular, <50mm)	1	19	\	\	near black	chipped, pale brown, thin	\	\	\	\
						Uncorticated flakes (slightly irregular, 50-75mm)	1	37	\	\	dark grey	\	\	\	\	\
						Uncorticated flakes (blade-like, <50mm)	5	19	\	\	dark grey	\	\	\	\	\
12		Pit 11		2	2	Uncorticated flakes (blade-like, <50mm)	2	2	\	\	dark grey	\	\	\	\	\
				14	2 2 9		1 4	229								

Appendix 4: Environmental Evidence

Context No.	10	12	
Feature No.	9	11	
Charcoal <2mm	xx	xxxx	
Charcoal >2mm	xx	xxxx	
Charcoal >5mm	x	x	
Charcoal >10mm			x
Charred root/stem	x		
Corylus avellana L.		x	
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	x	
Bone		x	
Sample volume (litres)	20	20	
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	0.1	
% flot sorted	100%	100%	

Key to Table:

x = 1 – 10 specimens

xx = 11 – 50 specimens

xxxx = 100+ specimens

Appendix 5: Historical Periods

Period	Date From	Date To
Prehistoric	-500,000	42
Early Prehistoric	-500,000	-4,001
Palaeolithic	-500,000	-10,001
Lower Palaeolithic	-500,000	-150,001
Middle Palaeolithic	-150,001	-40,001
Upper Palaeolithic	-40,000	-10,001
Mesolithic	-10,000	-4,001
Early Mesolithic	-10,000	-7,001
Late Mesolithic	-7,000	-4,001
Late Prehistoric	-4,000	42
Neolithic	-4,000	-2,351
Early Neolithic	-4,000	-3,001
Middle Neolithic	-3,500	-2,701
Late Neolithic	-3,000	-2,351
Bronze Age	-2,350	-701
Early Bronze Age	-2,350	-1,501
Beaker	-2,300	-1,700
Middle Bronze Age	-1,600	-1,001
Late Bronze Age	-1,000	-701
Iron Age	-800	42
Early Iron Age	-800	-401
Middle Iron Age	-400	-101
Late Iron Age	-100	42
Roman	42	409
Post Roman	410	1900
Saxon	410	1065
Early Saxon	410	650
Middle Saxon	651	850
Late Saxon	851	1065
Medieval	1066	1539
Post-medieval	1540	1900
Modern	1900	2050
World War One	1914	1918
World War Two	1939	1945
Cold War	1945	1992
Unknown	--	--

after English Heritage Periods List, recommended by Forum on Information Standards in Heritage available at: <http://www.fish-forum.info/inscript.htm>

Appendix 6: OASIS Report Summary

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: norfolka1-157673

Project details

Project name	MIDDLE FARM, WRETHAM, NORFOLK
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was conducted by NPS Archaeology for Banham Poultry Ltd, ahead of a planning application to develop new poultry facilities at Middle Farm, Wretham, Norfolk (TL 9138 8967). Fourteen evaluation trenches were excavated across the area of the proposed development, of which five trenches contained features tested by archaeological excavation. Trench 10 revealed two pits of probable prehistoric date. One pit contained a dark fill with burnt flint, the other pit a collection of worked flints including a horseshoe scraper. Both groups of finds are probably late prehistoric in date, with the worked flints most likely dating to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. Trench 9 revealed one small pit and a larger irregular pit containing reddened sand, thought likely to be archaeological in origin, but possibly geological. A further pit at the west end of the trench is likely to be a natural hollow such as a tree throw. Three trenches, Trench 1, Trench 8, and Trench 12, each recorded single features considered to be of natural origin.
Project dates	Start: 23/02/2015 End: 25/02/2015
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	135761 -HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Late Prehistoric
Monument type	NATURAL FEATURE Uncertain
Significant Finds	FLINT Uncertain
Significant Finds	BURNT FLINT Uncertain
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Farm infrastructure (e.g. barns, grain stores, equipment stores, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework -NPPF
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK BRECKLAND WRETHAM MIDDLE FARM, WRETHAM, NORFOLK
Study area	1.50 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 9138 8967 52.4709155755 0.81797086745 52 28 15 N 000 49 04 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 35.05m Max: 37.64m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	NPS Archaeology
Project brief originator	Norfolk Historic Environment Service
Project design originator	NPS Archaeology
Project director/manager	Peter Eric Craley
Project supervisor	NPS Archaeology

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums Service
Physical Contents	Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	NPS Archaeology
Digital Contents	Other'
Digital Media available	Images raster / digital photography;'Spreadsheets;'Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums Service
Paper Contents	Other'
Paper Media available	Context sheet;'Photograph;'Plan;'Report;'Section'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at Middle Farm, Wretham, Norfolk: Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Craley, P.
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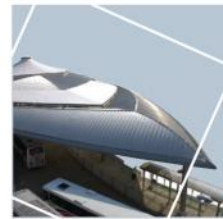
01-04-15-2-1257



Archaeological Evaluation of Land at Middle Farm, Wretham, Norfolk

Written Scheme of Investigation

Prepared for
Banham Group Ltd
Station Road
Attleborough
Norfolk
NR17 2AT



NPS Archaeology

January 2015



www.nps.co.uk

Location	Middle Farm, Wretham, Norfolk
District	Breckland
Grid Reference	TL 9138 8967
Planning Ref	2007/1606/F
Client	Banham Poultry Group

DOCUMENT CHECKLIST		
Completed by	Rob Brown	01/12/2014
Reviewed by	Jayne Bown	09/12/2014
Revised by	Jayne Bown	16/01/2015

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NPS Archaeology

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Written Scheme of Investigation

1. Introduction

- 1.1 A proposal to extend the poultry farm at Middle Farm, Wretham (TL 9138 8967) requires a programme of archaeological works to evaluate and mitigate the affects of the proposals on the archaeological resource across both sites.
- 1.2 The programme of works stipulated by Norfolk Historic Environment Service comprises archaeological evaluation (trial trenching) of the Middle Farm site.
- 1.3 In order to comply with that requirement Banham Group Ltd. has requested that NPS Archaeology provide costs and this project design for undertaking an appropriate programme of archaeological works to fulfil the requirements set out in the *Generic Brief for Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching* and the *Generic Brief for the Monitoring of Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control* issued by Norfolk Historic Environment Service.
- 1.4 Subsequent (mitigation) works may be required based on the evaluation results. Any further archaeological works on the site will be determined by Norfolk Historic Environment Service and subject to separate Archaeological Briefs and project designs.

2. Aims

- 2.1 The Programme of Archaeological Work is required to recover, by archaeological evaluation, information relating to the extent, date, phasing, character, function, status and significance of the archaeological resource across the Middle Farm site and to record any archaeological remains exposed during the works at Sawpit Farm.
- 2.2 The aims of the archaeological work may therefore be summarised as follows:
- i. *To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the proposed area.*
 - ii. *To determine the extent, condition, nature, quality and date of any archaeological remains occurring within the site and the possible impacts of the proposed development on them.*
 - iii. *Ensure that any archaeological features discovered during trial trenching are identified, sampled and recorded and, where it is desirable, recommendations for their preservation in situ are made.*
 - iv. *To establish, as far as possible, the extent, character, stratigraphic sequence and date of archaeological features and deposits, and the nature of the activities which occurred at the site during the various periods or phases of its occupation*
 - v. *To establish the palaeoenvironmental potential of subsurface deposits by ensuring that any deposits with the potential to yield palaeoenvironmental data are sampled and submitted for assessment to the appropriate specialists.*
 - vi. *To explore evidence for social, economic and industrial activity.*
 - vii. *To disseminate the archaeological data recovered by the evaluation in the form of a formal report which will provide the basis for decisions regarding further archaeological intervention and mitigation proposals.*

3. Method Statement

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 A three-stage strategy will be undertaken to assess the archaeological potential of the Middle Farm site. The stages of this strategy may be summarised as follows.

- i. Trial Trenching.* Machine and manual excavation will be employed to investigate the presence, condition, character and date of any subsurface archaeological deposits and features occurring within the Middle Farm site. Any archaeological features identified will be cleaned and sample excavated to determine function, form and relative date.
- ii. Post-fieldwork Processes.* The drawn and written stratigraphic/structural record will be cross-referenced and analysed to provide a synthesis of the results of the work. The cleaning and cataloguing of any artefactual and ecofactual materials recovered will be carried out throughout the duration of the fieldwork. The finds will be cleaned, marked and packaged in accordance with the archive requirements of the Norfolk Museums Service.
- iii. Report and Archive.* The report will describe the results of the trial trenching with data presented in tabular, graphic and appendix form. Copies of the reports will be submitted to the client and to Norfolk Historic Environment Service.

3.1.2 The procedures and methodology for each of the stages outlined above are described in detail below.

3.2 Trial Trenching at Middle Farm

3.2.1 Trial trenching will be concerned with establishing the condition, character and date of any subsurface archaeological features and deposits present at the Middle Farm site. Guidelines set out in the documents *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Field Evaluation* (Institute for Archaeologists 2008) and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) will be followed.

3.2.2 The evaluation will consist of fourteen trenches, each measuring 30m x 1.8m, giving an approximate 2.5% sample area of the site. The final location of each trench will be determined by surface or below ground obstructions and all Health and Safety considerations. The trenches will be set out by NPS Archaeology and CAT-scanned prior to excavation.

3.2.3 Excavation will be by mechanical excavator using a toothless grading bucket in 100mm spits until natural ground or archaeological deposits are identified.

3.2.4 Initial excavation will be undertaken to the top of any undisturbed archaeological deposits or the surface of the underlying natural deposits, whichever is the highest. If neither is encountered it may be necessary to excavate to a maximum depth of 1.2m below the present ground surface in line with Health and Safety legislation for trenches with unsupported sides. If further excavation below 1.2m is required the trench sides will need to be shored. The requirement for and the scope of works below 1.2m will be determined by Norfolk Historic Environment Service and agreed and costed separately.

3.2.5 If the deposits within the trenches are thought to extend too deep to evaluate safely or below the likely level of any development impacts a hand auger may be used to retrieve information about the nature of the lower deposits.

3.2.6 Spoil from the trenches will not be removed from site. The trenches will not be backfilled by NPS Archaeology until agreement to do so is given by Norfolk Historic Environment Service. This backfilling will not attempt consolidation or compaction

over and above that possible with a mechanical excavator. Full surface reinstatement will not be attempted, but all trenches will be left in a safe condition.

- 3.2.7 Exposed surfaces and all archaeological features and deposits will be excavated by hand and screened by metal detector. All artefactual and ecofactual materials will be collected and bagged by context.
- 3.2.8 Detailed strategies for levels of sampling of buried soils, structures, pits, post-holes and ditches will be determined on site. Allowance will be made for total recovery where appropriate; percentage sampling will apply in areas where complex stratified deposits are encountered. Buried soils will be sampled by sieving to determine artefact densities. In general, the feature/deposit sampling strategy will be employed throughout the evaluation in accordance with the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).
- 3.2.9 All archaeological deposits, features and layers will be assigned individual context numbers and recorded on standardised forms employing the NPS Archaeology's pro forma recording system. The records will include full written, graphic and photographic elements with site and context numbering compatible with the Norfolk Historic Environment Record numbering system. Plans will be made using single context recording at a scale of 1:50, with provision for 1:20 and 1:10 drawings. These will be used to produce a matrix of the stratigraphic sequence on site. Sections will be recorded at scales of 1:10 and 1:20 depending on the detail considered necessary. A photographic record in black and white (35mm) and colour (digital) will be maintained of all archaeological deposits, layers and features to record their characteristic and relationships. Photographs will also be taken to record the progress of the evaluation.
- 3.2.10 Human remains will be left *in situ* unless otherwise instructed by Norfolk Historic Environment Service. If any human remains or burials are encountered which must be removed an application for a Licence For the Removal of Human Remains will be made in compliance with the 1857 and 1981 Burial Acts and within all relevant Ministry of Justice guidelines. Backfilling of features containing human remains will be done manually to ensure that the remains are appropriately protected from any damage or disturbance.
- 3.2.11 Soil samples for palaeoenvironmental materials will be collected if suitable sealed and well-dated deposits are encountered. Standard 10 litre bulk soil samples, column or monolith samples and Kubiena tins will be collected from such deposits as appropriate, in consultation with the English Heritage Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science and other consultant environmentalists. In all instances, sampling procedures will follow the guidelines set out in the document *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (English Heritage 2002). Full written, graphic and photographic sample records will be made using NPS Archaeology *pro forma*.

3.3 Post-Fieldwork Processes

- 3.3.1 The drawn and written stratigraphic/structural record from the fieldwork will be cross-referenced and analysed to provide a synthesis of the results of the work.
- 3.3.2 The cleaning and cataloguing of any artefactual materials recovered will be undertaken on completion of the trial trenching. All retained materials will be cleaned, marked and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the Norfolk Museums Service.
- 3.3.3 Post-fieldwork analyses will start upon completion of the finds processing and will involve the identification and description of the artefactual materials recovered by the relevant specialists. In general, the following strategies will be employed in the analysis of the artefactual materials recovered:
- *Pottery*. Analysed to determine date and tabulated by context unit.

- *Worked flint*. Sorted and tabulated by context unit.
- *Metal artefacts*. Assessed for dating and significance, catalogued by context unit and where necessary conserved within four weeks of completion of fieldwork, in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- *Faunal Remains*. Sorted and tabulated by context unit. Assessed for the potential for further analysis and for sieving for the recovery of smaller bird and fish bones.
- *Environmental Samples*. Processed and assessed for content and significance.
- Other categories of artefactual materials will be analysed in a similar fashion.

3.3.4 All finds work will follow the procedures set out in the document *Standards and Guidelines for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (Institute for Archaeologists 2001). Finds data will be stored on a database to aid analysis and report preparation.

3.4 Report and Archive

3.4.1 In line with the requirements for the site issued by Norfolk Historic Environment Service a report on the evaluation fieldwork will be prepared. The report will present the stratigraphic, structural, artefactual and environmental evidence and analyses, and a synthesis of the results of the fieldwork.

3.4.2 The report will present data in tabular, graphic and appendix form. A list of archive components generated by the works will also be included in the reports. Copyright of the report will be retained by NPS Archaeology.

3.4.3 Multiple copies of the report will be produced as appropriate and presented to Banham Group Ltd. and Norfolk Historic Environment Service. The evaluation report will include a reference to the archive and the intended place of archive deposition. The report will be submitted within eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork.

3.4.4 An online OASIS record will be initiated immediately prior to the start of fieldwork and completed when the final report is submitted to Norfolk Historic Environment Service. This will include a pdf version of the final report.

3.4.5 A single integrated archive for all elements of the work will be prepared according to the recommendations set out in *Environmental standards for the permanent storage of excavated material from archaeological sites* (UKIC, Conservation Guidelines 3, 1984) and *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (Walker 1990), and in accordance with the Norfolk Museums Service's own requirements for archive preparation, storage and conservation.

3.4.6 The archive will be fully indexed and cross-referenced and will be integrated with the Norfolk Museums Service's Project accession number and the Norfolk Historic Environment Record numbering system. Deposition of the archive and finds (by prior agreement with the landowners) will take place within six months of the completion of the final report and confirmed in writing to the Norfolk Museums Service. A full listing of archive contents and finds boxes will accompany the deposition of the archive and finds.

3.4.7 All archaeological materials, excepting those covered by the *Treasure Act, 1996*, will remain the property of the landowners. NPS Archaeology will seek to reach a formal agreement with the landowners for the donation of the finds to the Norfolk Museums Service.

4. Timetable

4.1 The timetable for fieldwork assumes that there are no major delays to the work programme caused by vandalism, repeated plant breakdown, restricted access, programme changes by the Client or major periods of adverse weather conditions.

5. Staffing

- 5.1 The project will be co-ordinated by a Senior Project Officer who will be dedicated to the project throughout its duration. The Project Manager will assume responsibility for all aspects of the project including finance, logistics, standards, health and safety, and liaison with the client and curators. The Project Officer will have substantial experience in archaeological evaluation and post-excavation analysis.
- 5.2 Other members of staff involved in the project will be the Experienced Excavators and Finds Co-ordinator staff. Experienced Excavator staff will have experience in excavation and experience with NPS Archaeology's *pro forma* or similar systems. The Project Officer and/or Experienced Excavator staff will be experienced metal detector users.
- 5.3 NPS Archaeology staff associated with the project will be as follows:

Senior Management	
Archaeology Manager	Jayne Bown
Project Manager	David Adams

Project Staff	
Project Officer	Rob Brown
Finds Co-ordinator	Becky Sillwood
Experienced Excavators	To be nominated

- 5.4 NPS Archaeology reserves the right, because of its developing work programme, to change its nominated personnel at any time. This will be in consultation with Banham Group Ltd. and Norfolk Historic Environment Service.
- 5.5 The analysis of artefactual and ecofactual materials will be undertaken by NPS Archaeology staff or nominated external specialists. Nominated NPS Archaeology and external specialists and their areas of expertise are as follows:

Specialist	Research Field
Andy Barnett	Metal-detectorist, Numismatic Items
Sarah Bates	Worked Flint
Andy Peachey	Prehistoric pottery, flint, fired clay
Sarah Percival	Prehistoric and Saxon Pottery
Fran Green	General Environmental
Julie Curl	Faunal Remains
Sue Anderson	Post-Roman Pottery, Ceramic Building Material
Debbie Forkes	Conservation
Val Fryer	Macrofossil analysis
David King	Window Glass

6. General Conditions

- 6.1 NPS Archaeology will not commence work until a written order or signed agreement is received from the Client. Where the commission is received through an Agent, the Agent is deemed to be authorised to act on behalf of the Client. NPS Archaeology reserve the right to recover unpaid fees for the service provided from the Agent where it is found that this authority is contested by said Client.
- 6.2 NPS Archaeology would expect information on any services crossing the site to be provided by the client.
- 6.3 A 7.4 hour working day is normally operated by NPS Archaeology, although their agents may work outside these hours.
- 6.4 NPS Archaeology would expect the client to arrange suitable access to the site for its staff, plant and welfare facilities on the agreed start date.

- 6.5 NPS Archaeology would expect any information concerning the presence of TPOs and/or, protected flora and fauna on the site to be provided by the client prior to the commencement of works and accept no liability if this information is not disclosed. No excavation will take place within 8m or canopy width (whichever is the greater) of any trees within or bordering the site.
- 6.6 NPS Archaeology shall not be held responsible for any delay or failure in meeting agreed deadlines resulting from circumstances beyond its reasonable control. Such circumstances would include without limitation; long periods of adverse weather conditions, flooding, repeated vandalism, ground contamination, delays in the development programme, unsafe buildings, conflicts between the archaeological excavation method and the protection of flora and fauna on the site, disease restrictions, and unexploded ordnance.
- 6.7 Whether or not CDM regulations apply to this work, NPS Archaeology would expect the client to provide information on the nature, extent and level of any soil contamination present. Should unanticipated contaminated ground be encountered during the trial trenching, excavation will cease until an assessment of risks to health has been undertaken and on-site control measures implemented. NPS Archaeology will not be liable for any costs related to the collection and analysis of soils or other assessment methods, on-site control measures, and the removal of contaminated soil or other materials from site.
- 6.8 Should any disease restrictions be implemented for the area during the evaluation, fieldwork will cease and staff redeployed until they are lifted. NPS Archaeology will not be liable for any costs related to on-site disease control measures and for any additional costs incurred to complete the fieldwork after the restrictions have been removed.
- 6.9 NPS Archaeology will not accept responsibility for any tree surgery, removal of undergrowth, shrubbery or hedges or reinstatement of gardens. NPS Archaeology will endeavour to restrict the levels of disturbance of to a minimum but wishes to bring to the attention of the client that the works will necessarily alter the appearance of any landscaped gardens.

7. Quality Standards

- 7.1 NPS Archaeology endorses the *Code of Practice* and the *Code of Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*. All staff employed or subcontracted by NPS Archaeology will be employed in line with The Institute for Archaeologists *Code of Practice*.
- 7.2 NPS Archaeology operates under a recognised Quality Management System and is accredited with BS EN ISO 9001:2008, the International Standard Model for Quality Assurance.
- 7.3 The guidelines set out in the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) will be adhered to. Provision will be made for monitoring the work by Norfolk Historic Environment Service in accordance with the procedures outlined in the document *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991). Monitoring opportunities for each phase of the project are suggested as follows:
- during trial trenching
 - during post-fieldwork analysis
 - upon completion of the archive
 - upon receipt of the evaluation report
- 7.4 A further monitoring opportunity will be provided at the end of the project upon deposition of the integrated archive and finds with the Norfolk Museums Service.

7.5 NPS Archaeology operates a Project Management System. Most aspects of this project will be co-ordinated by a Project Officer who is responsible for the successful completion of the fieldwork and reporting. The Project Officer's performance is monitored by the Project Manager, who retains responsibility for the delivery of this project. The Archaeology Manager's have the responsibility for all of NPS Archaeology's work and ensures the maintenance of quality standards within the organisation.

8. Health and Safety

8.1 NPS Archaeology will ensure that all work is carried out in accordance with NPS Property Consultants Limited's Health and Safety Policy, to standards defined in *the Health and Safety at Work, etc Act, 1974* and *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations, 1992*, and in accordance with the health and safety manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology* (SCAUM 2007).

8.2 A risk assessment will be prepared for the fieldwork. All staff will be briefed on the contents of the risk assessment and required to read it. Protective clothing and equipment will be issued and used as required.

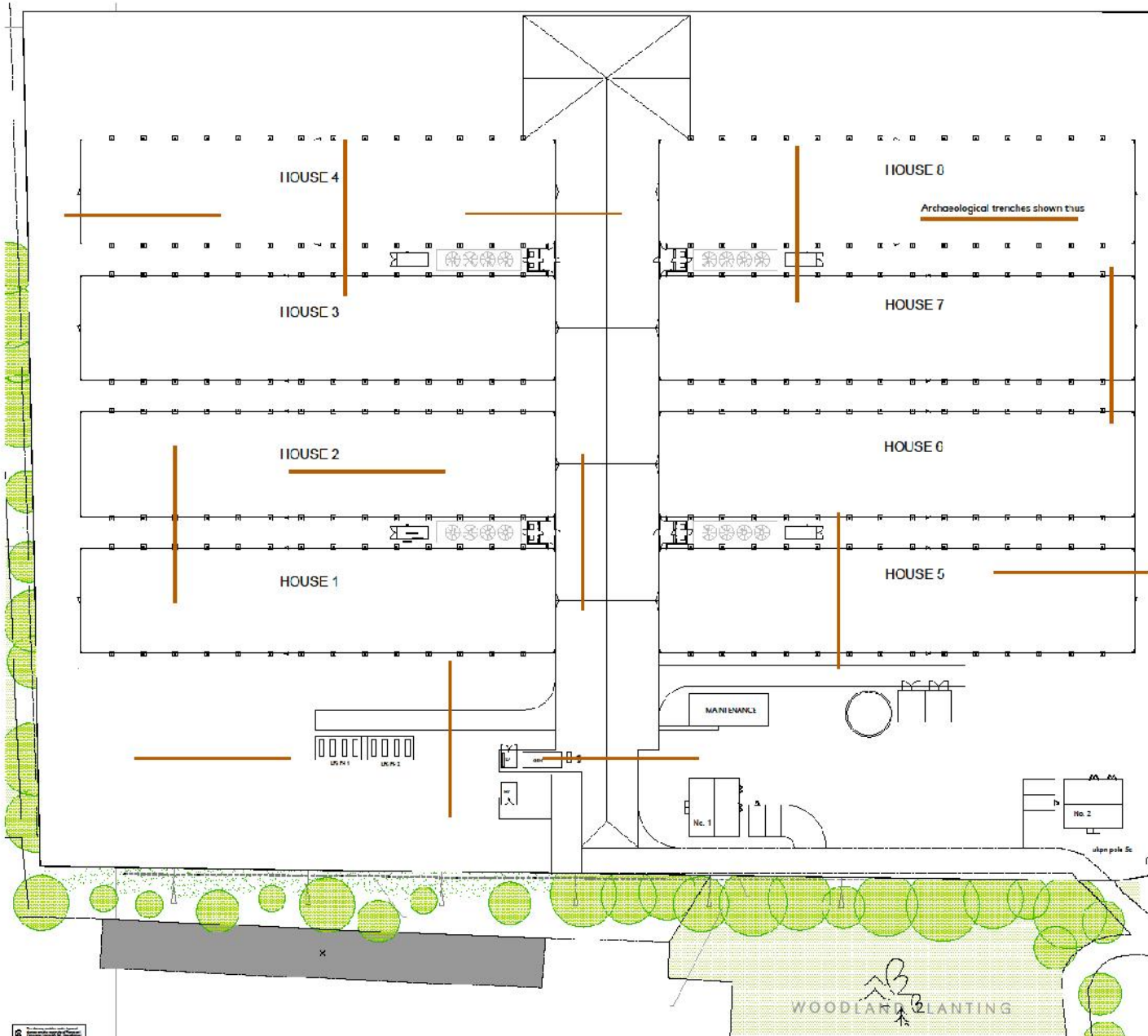
8.3 NPS Archaeology will provide copies of NPS Property Consultants Limited's Health and Safety policy on request.

9. Insurance

9.1 NPS Archaeology's Insurance Cover is:

Employers Liability	£5,000,000
Public Liability	£50,000,000
Professional Indemnity	£5,000,000

9.2 Full details of NPS Archaeology's Insurance cover will be supplied on request.



Archaeological trenches shown thus

NOTE: This drawing for indicative purposes only, to be read in conjunction with Project Design for Archaeological Watching Brief prepared by NTS Archaeology

Rev	Date	Child	Description
0	24/12/14	NPG	Final Issue

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civil - engineering - environmental - surveying

Client
BANHAM POULTRY

Project
**MIDDLE FARM
EAST WRETHAM
THETFORD, NORFOLK**

Drawing Title
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRENCH
LAYOUT PLAN**

Scale	UNDO	Date	Dec 2014	Drawn by	NPG
Drawing No.	16216/A/053	Rev	0		