

Report 2014/1212



nps archaeology

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation of Land South of School Road, Ludham, Norfolk

ENF132709



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Location:	School Road, Ludham, Norfolk
District:	North Norfolk
Planning ref.:	Pre-application
Grid Ref.:	TG 3861 1853
HER No.:	ENF132709
OASIS Ref.:	163427
Client:	Alan Irvine
Dates of Fieldwork:	18-22 November 2013

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was conducted for Alan Irvine on behalf of his client ahead of the construction of a residential development south of School Road, Ludham in Norfolk.

Archaeological remains encountered consisted of features associated with the nearby World War II airfield, a number of field boundary ditches with differing alignments (suggesting at least two phases of field system) and a possible Early Saxon sunken-featured building (in the northern part of the site). Other undated settlement remains were found close by, suggesting the presence of a small Early Saxon settlement in this area.

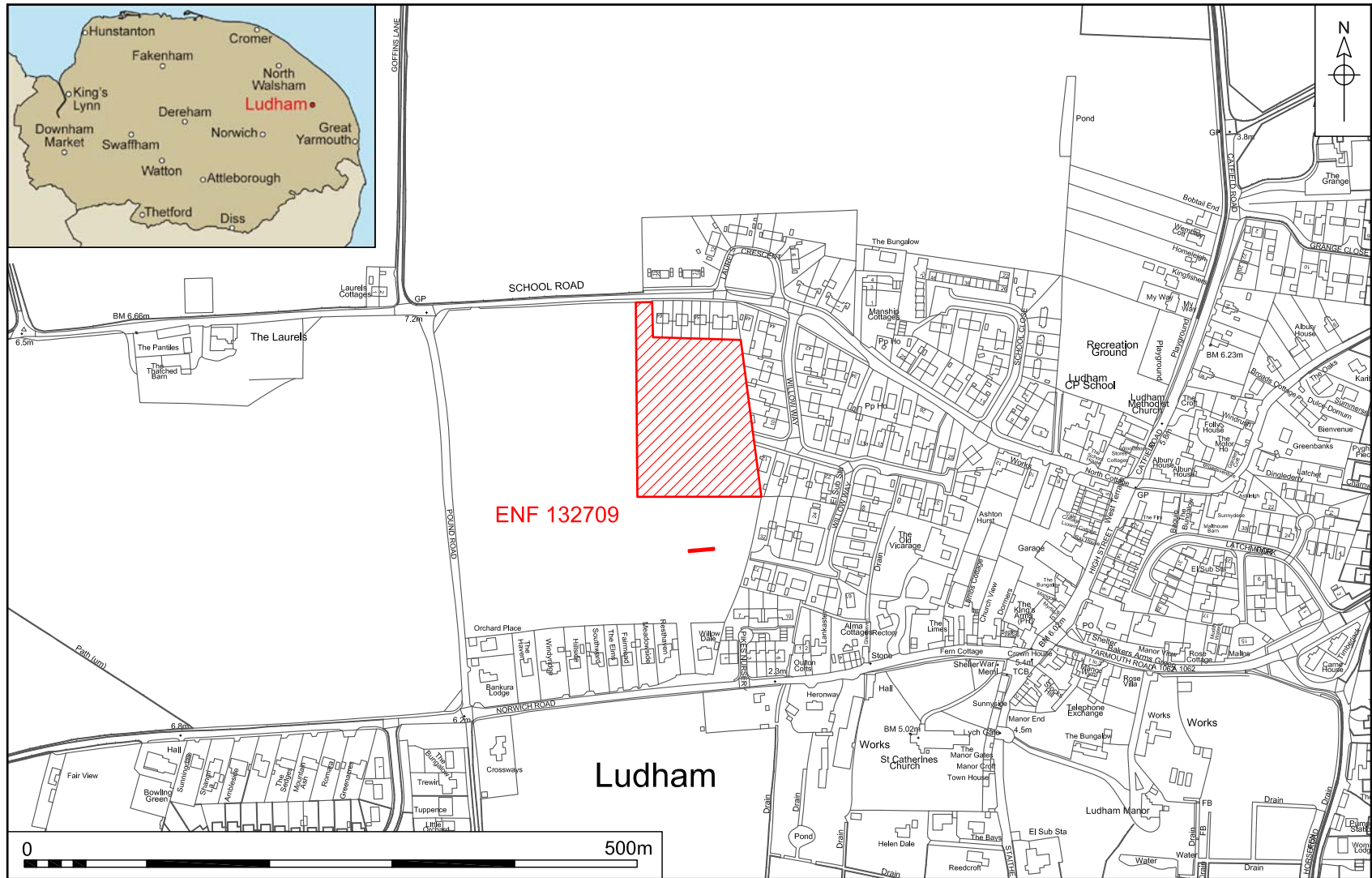
1.0 INTRODUCTION

A proposal to build houses on land south of School Road, Ludham (Fig. 1) required an archaeological evaluation to identify the potential of the archaeological resource at this site and to provide information to allow any adverse effects of the proposed development on heritage assets within the boundary of the development to be mitigate. The proposed development site is located on the periphery of the village of Ludham on its western side. The array of eleven evaluation trenches was designed to provide a 5% sample of the development area that covers approximately 1.2 hectares. An additional trench (Trench 12) positioned on the site of a lagoon was introduced to the scheme at a late date.

This work was undertaken to satisfy North Norfolk District Council's planning requirements. The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (01-04-14-2-1212). This work was commissioned and funded by Alan Irvine on behalf of his client.

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 with the aim that on completion of the project the archive will be deposited with Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service (NMAS), following the relevant policies on archiving standards.



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:5000

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The development area lies upon Quaternary and Neogene Crag Group sands and gravels (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

The site lies on the western edge of the village of Ludham, on a gentle south-facing slope, at an elevation of between 6.0m and 3.0m OD.

Ludham is located 18km northeast of Norwich, 8km east of Wroxham and 1.5km northwest of the River Thurne.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) and historic mapping sources have been consulted during the preparation of this section.

Prehistoric

Cropmarks of four ring ditches - Bronze Age round barrows (NHER 49262) - are visible on aerial photographs. These ring ditches form a small barrow cemetery in a slight southeast facing slope within the northwestern part of the evaluation area.

An archaeological test pit excavated by the Ludham Archive Group in 2012, located some 575m southwest of the evaluation area, produced a prehistoric flint flake (NHER 58509).

Medieval

St Catherine's church (NHER 8457), 320m southeast of the evaluation area, dates from the 14th and 15th centuries and has a late medieval font, rood screen and hammer beam roof.

Womack Water (NHER 13513), 640m southeast of the evaluation area, is a now flooded medieval peat cutting.

Metal detecting in 1983, 990m west of the evaluation area, recovered a medieval lead seal (NHER 18890).

Cropmarks of undated, possibly medieval, field boundaries and trackways (NHER 49232) are visible on aerial photographs 560m north of the evaluation area. Part of a field system is present with curving, S-shaped boundary ditches, indicative of medieval strip fields.

Cropmarks of rectilinear field boundary ditches (NHER 49263) of medieval to post medieval date are visible on aerial photographs within the evaluation area.

Cropmarks of undated and medieval to post-medieval enclosures and field boundaries (NHER 49278) are visible on aerial photographs 480m southwest of the evaluation area. They are of several different phases and it is possible that some of these cropmarks are associated with the medieval Bishop's palace at Ludham Hall.

Metal detecting in 2009, 295m northwest of the evaluation area, recovered two medieval coins (NHER 53791).

Metal detecting in 2009, north of School Road, recovered medieval metal artefacts (NHER 53793).

Metal detecting in 2010, 200m west of the evaluation area, recovered a medieval buckle and a key (NHER 53999).

An archaeological test pit excavated by the Ludham Archive Group in 2012, 575m southwest of the evaluation area, produced medieval pottery (NHER 58509).

Post-medieval

'Bacon's Manor House', 490m southeast of the evaluation area, is an 18th-century two-storey manor house (NHER 8453).

The possible site of a corn windmill (NHER 17526) lies 460m east of the evaluation area and is marked on a sketch map of Ludham as being later replaced by a Baptist chapel.

A circular flint and brick lime kiln (NHER 17527) lies 575m southeast of the evaluation area.

Some 360m southeast of the evaluation area lies the site of Royal Garrett's house, the site of a 17th- and 18th-century L-shaped house that was demolished in the 1960s (NHER 21643).

Two complete post-medieval jugs (NHER 33761) were found during the digging of a soakaway 180m northeast of the evaluation area in the early 1990s.

The property at 1-5 Yarmouth Road, 360m southeast of the evaluation area, is a range of 18th-century and later, whitewashed thatched houses and shops (NHER 44506).

'Church View' (NHER 44508), 295m southeast of the evaluation area is two early 19th-century brick houses knocked through into one.

A type K6 square cast iron telephone box (NHER 44509) with a domed roof lies 330m southeast of the evaluation area.

'The Stores' (NHER 44512) is an early 18th century house and shop 360m east of the evaluation area.

Metal detecting in 2009, north of School Road, recovered post-medieval coins and metal artefacts (NHER 53793).

Metal detecting 200m west of the evaluation area in 2010 recovered a post medieval coin (NHER 53999).

Ludham Primary School (NHER 55244) is a Board School built in 1873. The building has decorative brickwork and buttresses.

There is a defaced milestone (NHER 56636) possibly once marking Norwich 13 miles and Yarmouth 13 miles located 250m southeast of the evaluation area.

The Wesleyan Methodist Chapel (NHER 58030) built in 1867 lies 360m east of the evaluation area.

The former church school was built within Ludham churchyard in 1841. The present church rooms, built in the early 20th century, incorporated the old school building (NHER 58061).

An archaeological test pit excavated by the Ludham Archive Group in 2012, 575m southwest of the evaluation area, produced post-medieval pottery (NHER 58509).

Modern

A World War II domestic or ancillary site (NHER 49297) associated with Ludham airfield (NHER 8456) is visible on aerial photographs covering the evaluation area and the surrounding fields.

A World War II domestic or ancillary site (NHER 49298) associated with Ludham airfield (NHER 8456) is visible on aerial photographs 460m southeast of the evaluation area.

Cartographic

The Ludham Tithe Map (<http://historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/>) of 1842 shows the development area as agricultural fields. There were two field boundaries which may have appeared within the development area, an east to west boundary in the area of Trenches 8 and 9 and a northwest-southeast and southwest-northeast aligned boundary in the area of Trench 12. These ditches are still visible on the 1946 aerial photograph (<http://historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/>) and on this photograph the northern part of the site, fronting onto School Road, is occupied by what appear to be Nissen Huts, perhaps related to Ludham Airfield to the northeast.

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 11 30m-long trenches be excavated, providing a 5% sample of the 1.2ha development area (Fig. 2). One additional 20m long trench was excavated on the site of a proposed drainage lagoon to the south of the residential development (Fig. 2).

Machine excavation was carried out with a 6 ton 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.

Due to the absence of suitable deposits no environmental samples were taken.

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

The trenches were set out by the NPS Land Survey Team using a Leica GPS900, giving a benchmark at each end of the 12 trenches, which were then used to take levels.

The weather was wet, consisting of rain, sleet and hail producing site conditions of heavy mud,

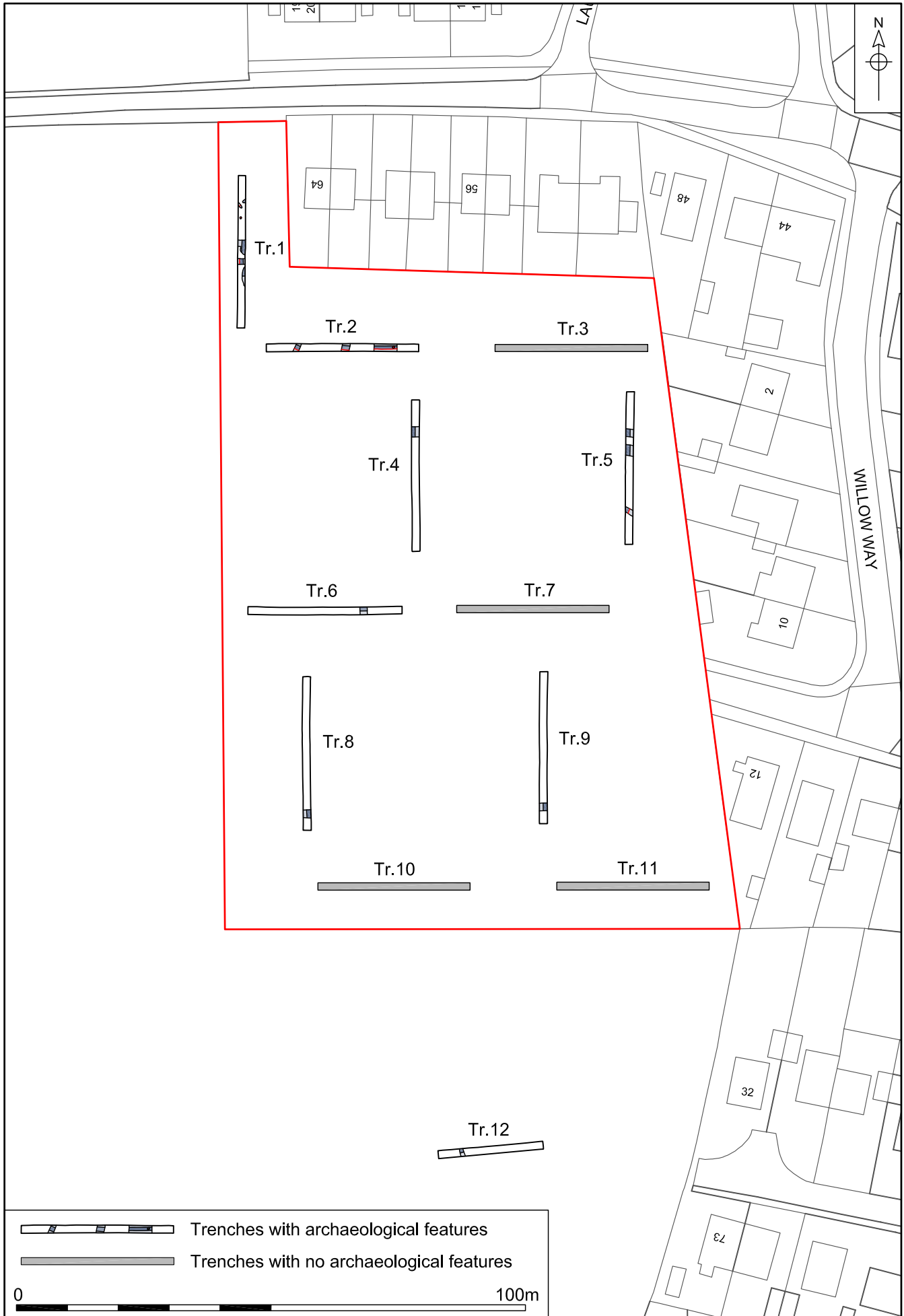



Figure 2. Location of trenches. Scale 1:1000

5.0 RESULTS

Trench 1				
		Figs 2 (location) and 3		
		Location		
		Orientation	North to South	
		North end	638568.162, 318609.805	
		South end	638568.174, 318579.882	
		Dimensions		
		Length	29.94m	
		Width	1.50m	
		Depth	0.70m	
		Levels		
North end top	5.798m OD			
South end top	5.594m OD			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
1	Cut	Pit, irregular in shape, 0.55m wide with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base	0.18m	0.70-0.88m
2	Deposit	Fill of pit [1]. Compacted dark grey silt with tarmac fragments	0.18m	0.70-0.88m
3	Cut	Gully, northwest to southeast aligned, terminates at southeast end. 0.4m wide with gently sloping sides	0.08m	0.70-0.78m
4	Deposit	Fill of gully [3]. Mid brown sandy silt	0.08m	0.70-0.78m
5	Cut	Post-hole, circular, 0.32m in diameter with vertical sides and a rounded base	0.34m	0.70-1.04m
6	Deposit	Fill of post-hole [5]. A mid brown silty sand with sparse small stones	0.34m	0.70-1.04m
7	Cut	Ditch, east to west aligned, 1.2m wide with moderately sloping sides and a rounded base	0.65m	0.70-1.35m
8	Deposit	Fill of ditch [7]. Mid brown sandy silt with sparse small stones	0.65m	0.70-1.35m
9	Cut	Pit, oval, 1.9m wide with steep sides and a rounded base	0.65m	0.70-1.35m
10	Deposit	Fill of pit [9]. Firm pale brown silt with sparse small stones	0.65m	0.70-1.35m
11	Cut	East to west aligned ditch, 1.2m wide with a steeper northern side, suggesting that an associated bank/hedgerow was on that side	0.35m	0.70-1.05m
12	Deposit	Fill of ditch [11]. Mid orangey brown sand with sparse small stones	0.35m	0.70-1.05m

Trench 1				
13	Cut	Pit, heavily truncated by the edge of excavation. 3.8m long, 0.6m wide (visible) with gently sloping sides	0.18m	0.70-0.88m
14	Deposit	Compacted dark grey silt with fragments of tarmac	0.18m	0.70-0.88m
44	Deposit	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown silty sand with moderate flint gravel.	0.50m	0.00-0.50m
45	Deposit	Subsoil. Pale brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel	0.20m	0.50-0.70m
Discussion				
<p>Trench 1 contained six features.</p> <p>The modern features (pits [1] and [13]) were characterised by compacted fills containing tarmac fragments, and are probably associated with the military occupation of this area along the School Road frontage during and after World War II.</p> <p>Pit [9] contained a pottery sherd of probable Iron Age or Early Saxon date, considered not to be residual. As this pit appeared to cut ditch [7], it would appear that this ditch was probably of a similar or earlier date compared to the pit.</p> <p>Ditch [11] is located 2.5m to the south of ditch [7] and appears to be parallel to it.</p> <p>The other features, although undated, indicate occupation activity as they consist of a post-hole, a gully and a ditch.</p>				

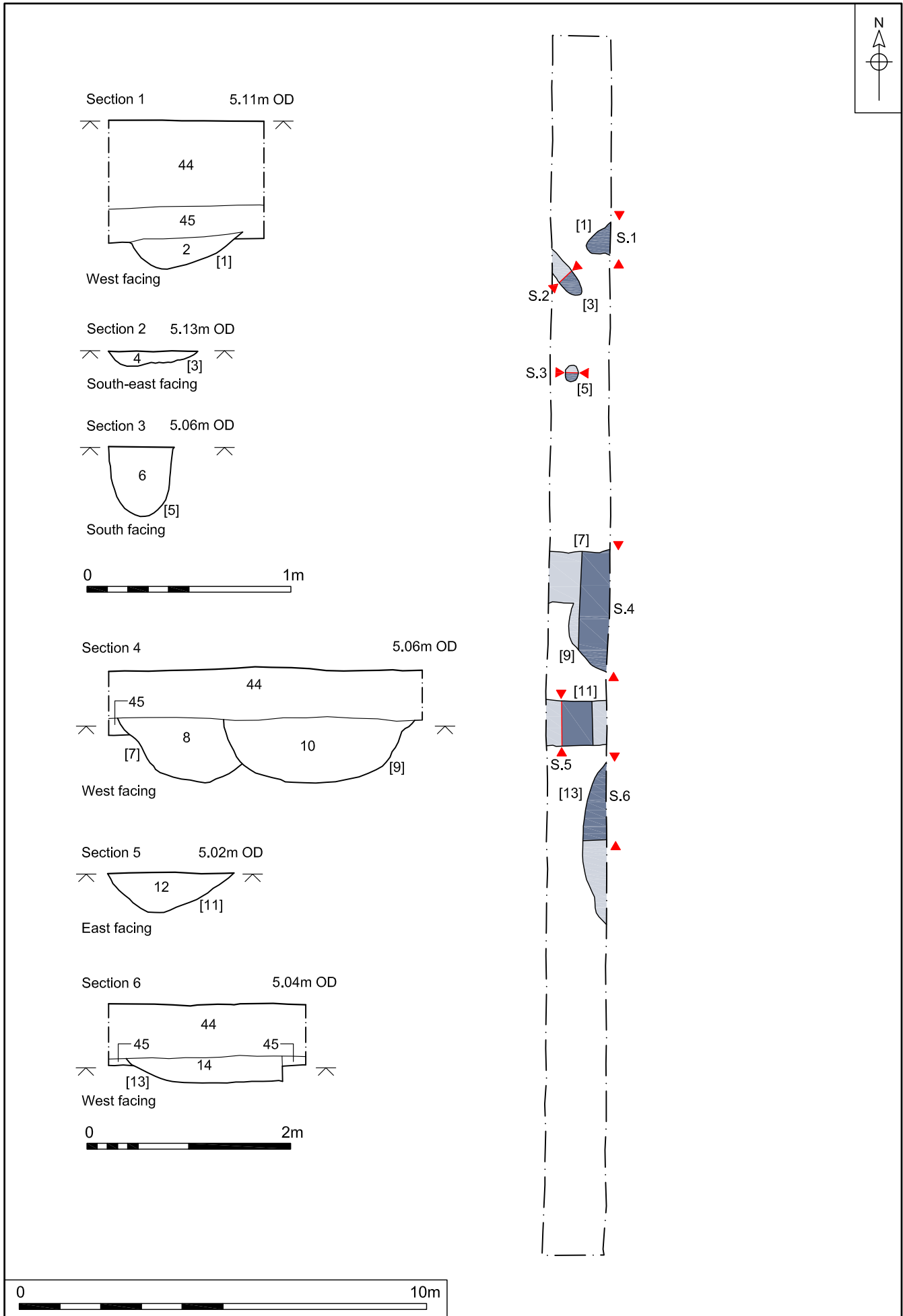


Figure 3. Trench 1, plan and sections. Scale 1:125, 1:50 and 1:25

Trench 2



Figs 2 (location) and 4

Location

Orientation East to west

East end 638603.408, 318576.040

West end 638573.371, 318575.938

Dimensions

Length 29.92m

Width 1.50m

Depth 0.60m

Levels

East end top 4.721m OD

West end top 5.310m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
15	Cut	North-northeast to south-southwest aligned ditch, 1.0m wide with a steeper western side suggesting that an associated bank/hedgerow was on that side	0.30m	0.60-0.90m
16	Deposit	Fill of ditch [15]. Mid orangey brown sand with sparse small stones	0.30m	0.60-0.90m
17	Cut	North-northeast to south-southwest aligned ditch, 1.4m wide with moderately sloping sides	0.35m	0.60-0.95m
18	Deposit	Fill of ditch [17]. Mid orangey brown sand with sparse small stones	0.35m	0.60-0.95m
19	Cut	Possible sunken-featured building (SFB). Flat base and straight, steeply sloping sides, 4.6m long	0.35m	0.60-0.95m
20	Deposit	Fill of possible sunken featured building (SFB) [19]. Mid orangey brown silty sand with sparse small stones	0.35m	0.60-0.95m
21	Cut	Post-hole in base of possible SFB [19]. It was 0.35m in diameter with steep sides and a flat base	0.18m	0.95-1.13m
22	Deposit	Fill of post-hole [21]. Mid brown silty sand	0.18m	0.95-1.13m
44	Deposit	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown silty sand with moderate flint gravel.	0.50m	0.00–0.50m
45	Deposit	Subsoil. Pale brown sandy silt	0.10m	0.50-0.60m

Trench 2

with occasional flint gravel

Discussion

Trench 2 contained two ditches and a feature interpreted as a possible sunken-featured building that contained a post-hole.

Possible sunken featured building [19] contained Early Anglo-Saxon pottery as well as smithing slag and demonstrates Early Anglo-Saxon settlement and small-scale industry on this part of the development site.

The two ditches, [15] and [17], are both undated, but their shared alignment is not the same as that of the modern field boundaries, which would suggest an earlier date for these features.

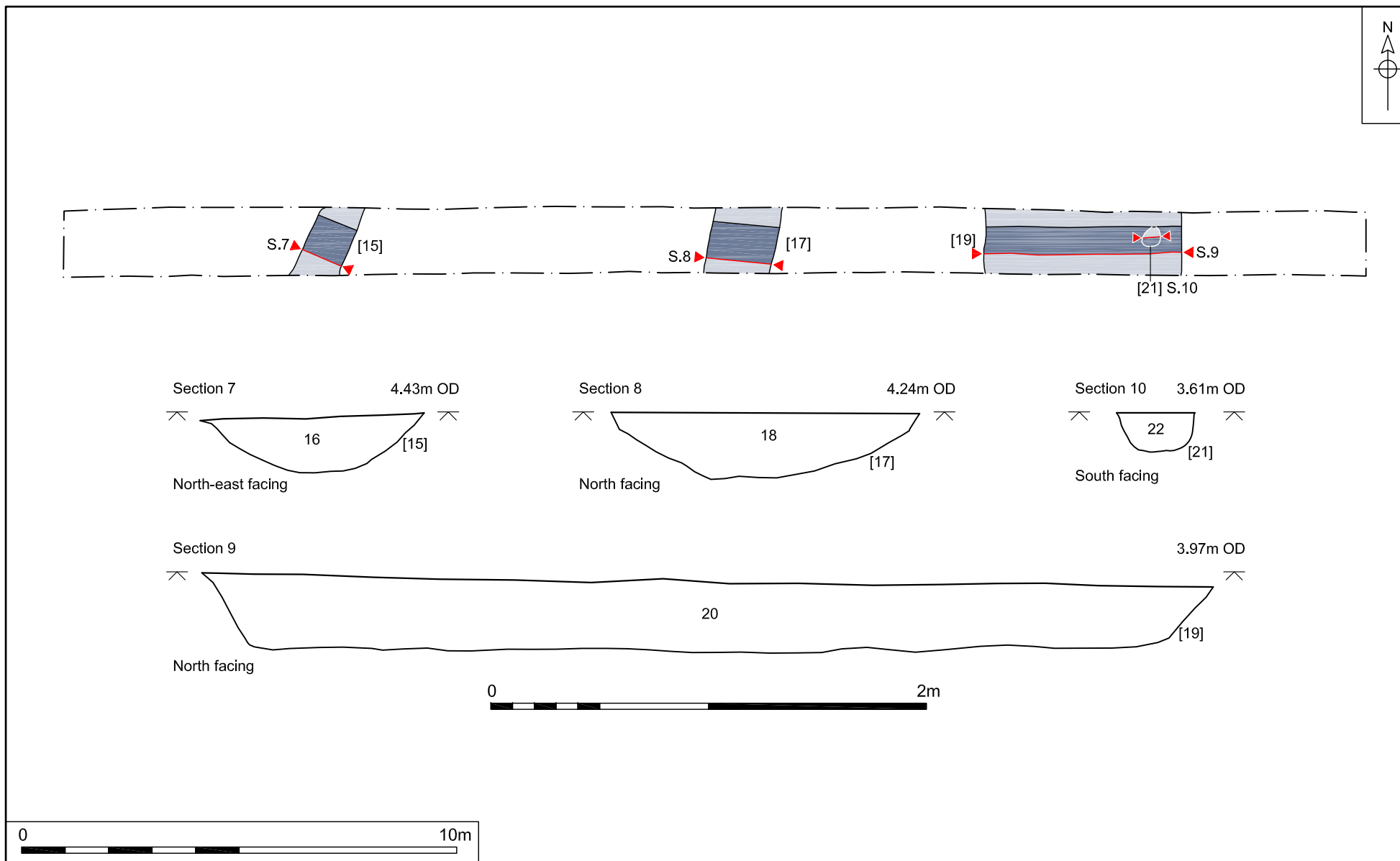


Figure 4. Trench 2, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 3



Fig. 2 (location)

Location

Orientation	East to west
West end	638618.341, 318575.938
East end	c 638648.4, 318576

Dimensions

Length	30.00m
Width	1.50m
Depth	0.70m

Levels

West end top	4.38 m OD
East end top	Unknown

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
44	Deposit	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown silty sand with moderate flint gravel.	0.50m	0.00–0.5m
45	Deposit	Subsoil. Pale brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel	0.20m	0.50-0.70m

Discussion

The east end of Trench 3 could not be surveyed accurately due to tree cover.
No archaeological features or artefacts were present in this trench

Trench 4



Figs 2 (location) and 5

Location

Orientation North to south

North end 638602.834, 318566.097

South end 638602.813, 318536.143

Dimensions

Length 29.77m

Width 1.50m

Depth 0.55m

Levels

North end top 4.67 m OD

South end top 4.393m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
25	Cut	East to west aligned ditch, 0.6m wide.	0.23m	0.55-0.78m
26	Deposit	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel	0.23m	0.55-0.78m
27	Cut	East to west aligned ditch, 1.6m wide	0.70m	0.55-1.25m
28	Deposit	Mid brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel	0.70m	0.55-1.25m
29	Deposit	Upper fill of ditch [27]. Perhaps a later recut. Dark brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel and sparse charcoal	0.42m	0.55-0.97m
44	Deposit	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown silty sand with moderate flint gravel.	0.30m	0.00–0.30m
45	Deposit	Subsoil. Pale brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel	0.25m	0.30-0.55m

Discussion

Trench 4 contained 2 (possibly 3) east to west aligned ditches.

Ditches [25] and [27] are undated, but their pale fills suggest a relatively early date.

Possible recut (29), recorded as an upper fill of ditch [27], contained mammal bone and a fragment of post-medieval peg tile and is considered to be of post-medieval date.

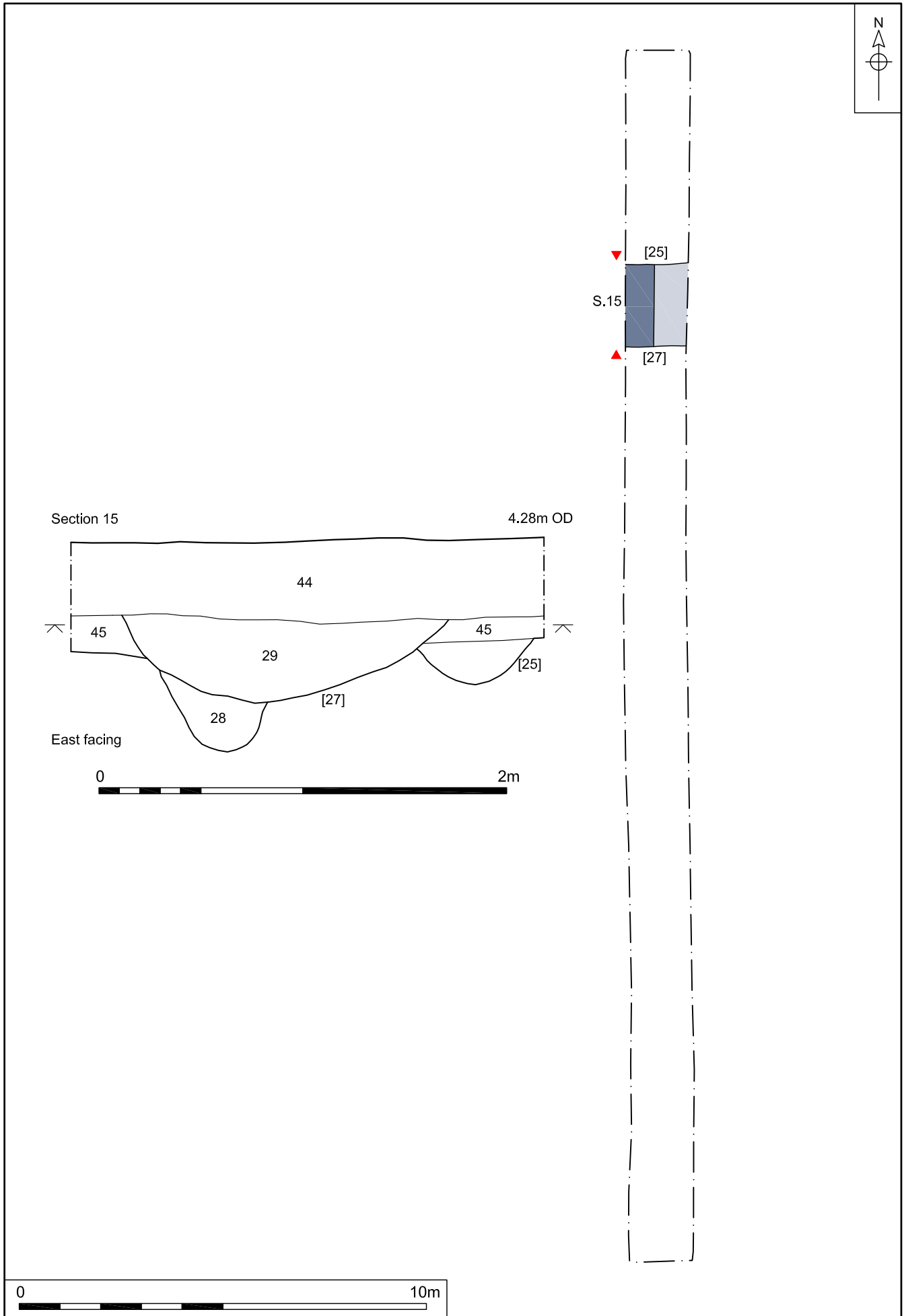


Figure 5. Trench 4, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 5



Figs 2 (location) and 6

Location

Orientation	North to south
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North end	638644.678, 318567.388
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South end	638644.632, 318537.382
-----------	------------------------

Dimensions

Length	29.97m
--------	--------

Width	1.50m
-------	-------

Depth	0.50m
-------	-------

Levels

North end top	3.758m OD
---------------	-----------

South end top	3.443m OD
---------------	-----------

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
30	Cut	East to west aligned ditch. 1.75m wide with a steeper south side, suggesting that an associated bank/hedgerow was on that side	0.70m	0.50-1.20m
31	Deposit	Basal fill of ditch [30]. Pale brown silt	0.25m	0.95-1.20m
32	Deposit	Upper fill of ditch [30]. Mid brown silt with sparse small stones	0.45m	0.50-0.95m
33	Deposit	Fill of ditch [34]. Mid brown silt with sparse small stones	0.25m	0.50-0.75m
34	Cut	East to west aligned ditch, 2.0m wide with a steeper south side suggesting that the bank/hedgerow lay on that side	0.25m	0.50-0.75m
35	Cut	Northwest to southeast aligned ditch, 1.20m wide with shallow sides	0.20m	0.50-0.70m
36	Deposit	Fill of ditch [35]. Mid orangey brown sandy silt with sparse small stones	0.20m	0.50-0.70m
44	Deposit	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown silty sand with moderate flint gravel.	0.40m	0.00-0.4m
45	Deposit	Subsoil. Pale brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel	0.10m	0.00.4-0.5m

Discussion

Trench 5 contained three ditches.

None of the ditches could be dated however ditch [35] was on a northwest-southeast alignment, different to the modern boundaries and hence was probably older than post-medieval in date.

East-west ditches [30] and [34] shared the same orientation as the modern field boundaries and

Trench 5

therefore were probably of no great antiquity.

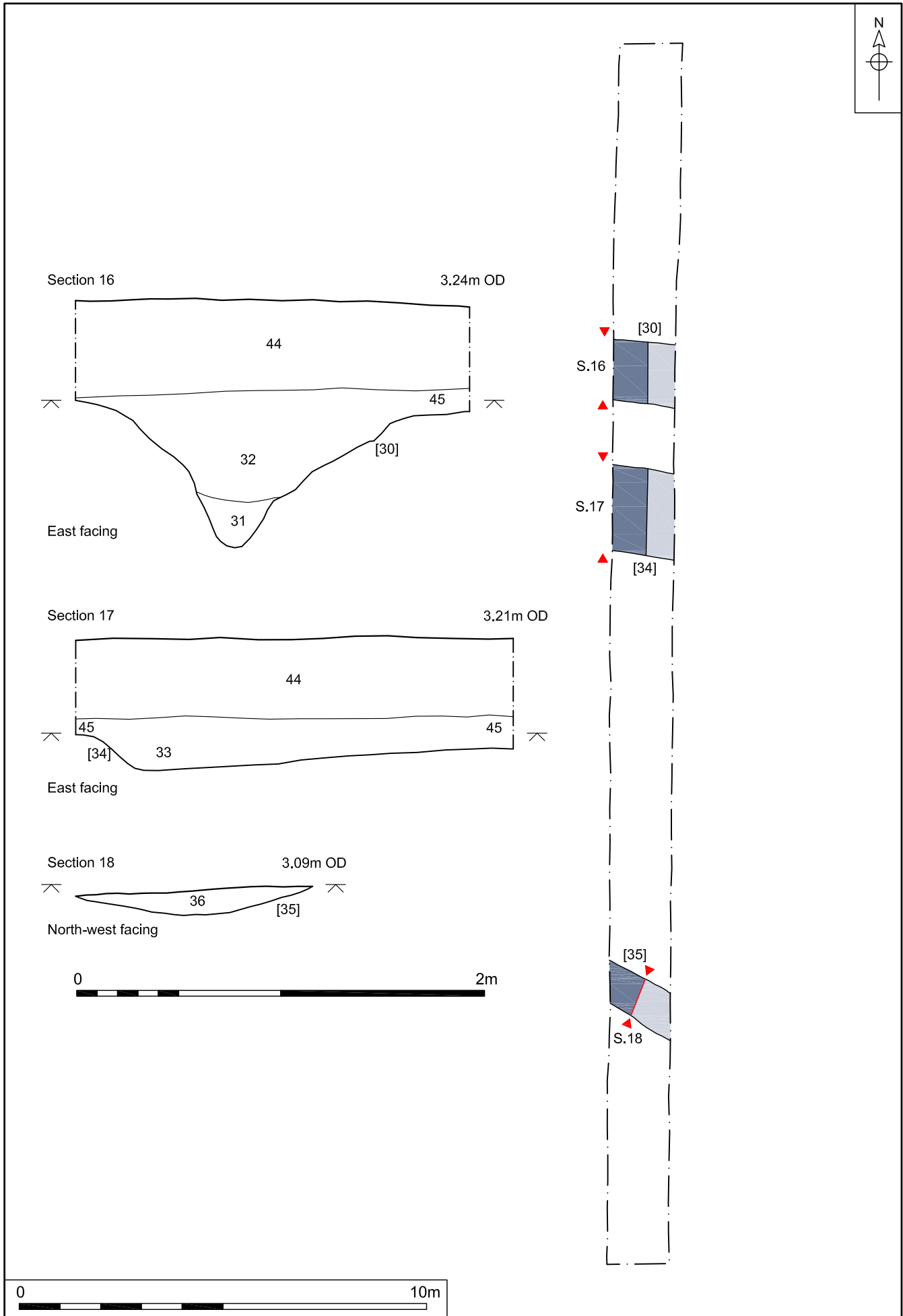


Figure 6. Trench 5, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 6



Figs 2 (location) and 7

Location

Orientation	East to west
East end	638599.628, 318524.372
West end	638569.588, 318524.393

Dimensions

Length	30.27m
Width	1.50m
Depth	0.45m

Levels

East end top	4.309m OD
West end top	4.961m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
23	Cut	North to south aligned ditch, 1.36m wide, west side steeper, suggesting that the bank/hedgerow was on this side	0.35m	0.45-0.80m
24	Deposit	Fill of ditch [23]. Dark brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel and sparse charcoal	0.35m	0.45-0.80m
44	Deposit	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown silty sand with moderate flint gravel.	0.35m	0.00–0.35m
45	Deposit	Subsoil. Pale brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel	0.10m	0.35-0.45m

Discussion

Trench 6 contained a single ditch.

Ditch [23] contained a domestic cat bone but no dating evidence. However, the dark colour of the fill and the shared alignment of the ditch and the modern field boundaries suggest that the ditch is relatively recent in date.

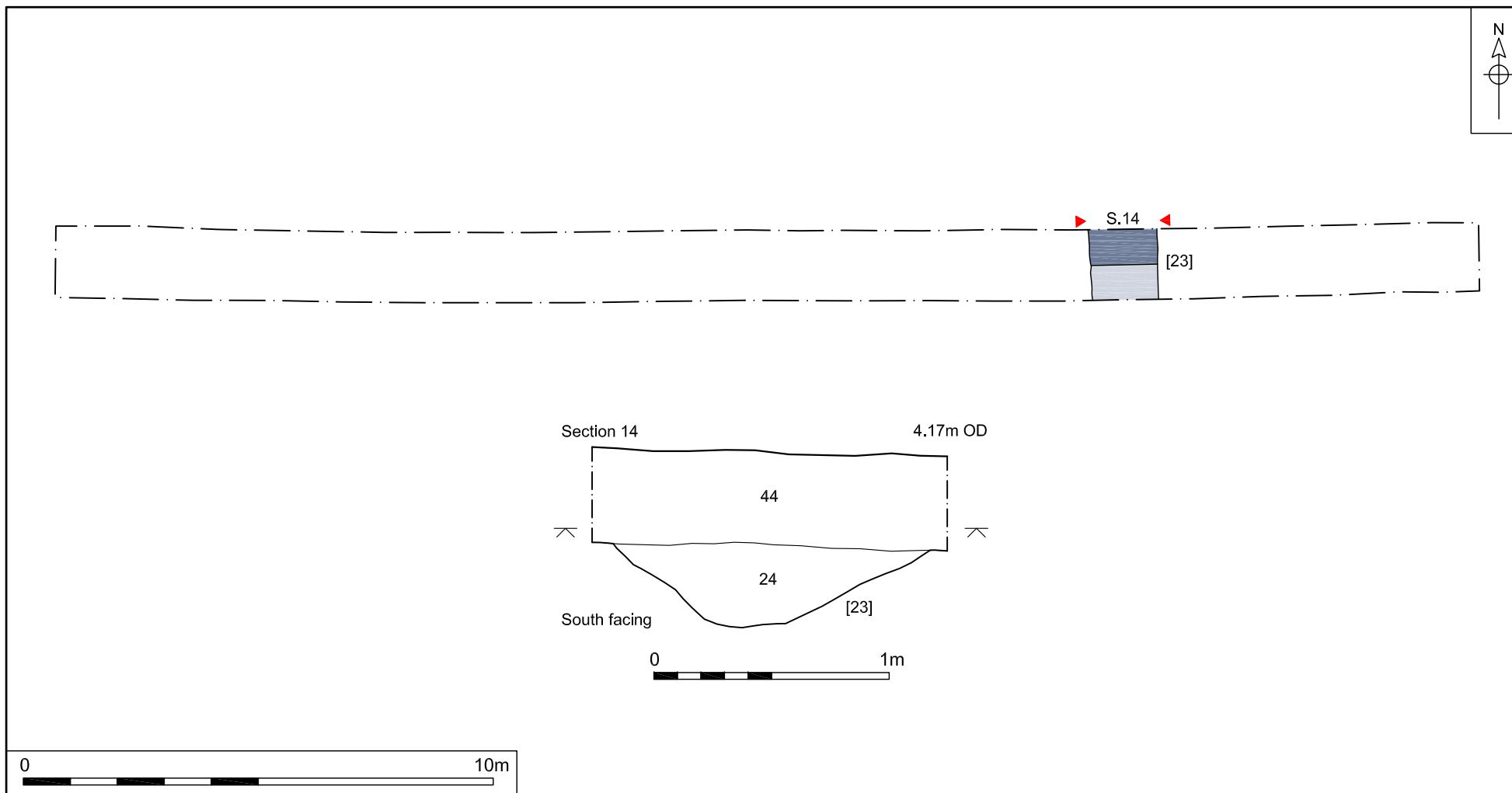




Figure 7. Trench 6, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 7				
		Fig. 2 (location)		
		Location		
		Orientation	East to west	
		East end	638640.776, 318524.698	
		West end	638610.781, 318524.688	
		Dimensions		
		Length	30.00m	
		Width	1.50m	
		Depth	0.45m	
		Levels		
East end top	3.387m OD			
West end top	4.064m OD			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
44	Deposit	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown silty sand with moderate flint gravel.	0.35m	0.00–0.35m
45	deposit	Subsoil. Pale brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel	0.10m	0.35-0.45m
Discussion				
Trench 7 contained no archaeological features or artefacts.				

Trench 8				
	Figs 2 (location) and 8			
	Location			
	Orientation		North to south	
	North end		638581.293, 318511.634	
	South end		638581.271, 318481.577	
	Dimensions			
	Length		30.18m	
	Width		1.50m	
	Depth		0.50m	
	Levels			
North end top		4.545m OD		
South end top		4.293m OD		
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
40	Cut	East to west aligned ditch, 2.2m wide and with a steeper northern slope suggesting that an associated bank/hedgerow lay on that side. This feature is the same ditch as ditch [37] in Trench 9	0.62m	0.50-1.12m
41	Deposit	Dark brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel and sparse charcoal	0.62m	0.50-1.12m
44	Deposit	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown silty sand with moderate flint gravel.	0.40m	0.00–0.40m
45	Deposit	Subsoil. Pale brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel	0.10m	0.40-0.50m
Discussion				
Trench 8 contained a single ditch (the same ditch was recorded in Trench 9).				
The fill of ditch [40] yielded two sherds of pottery, a fragment of 17th-/18th-century pan tile and fragments of iron sheet. The pottery consists of one possibly Early Saxon sherd (which may be associated with the possibly Early Saxon features in Trenches 1 and 2) and a 19th-/20th-century sherd.				
A conversation held on site with local residents revealed that they recalled a hedgerow standing in this area.				

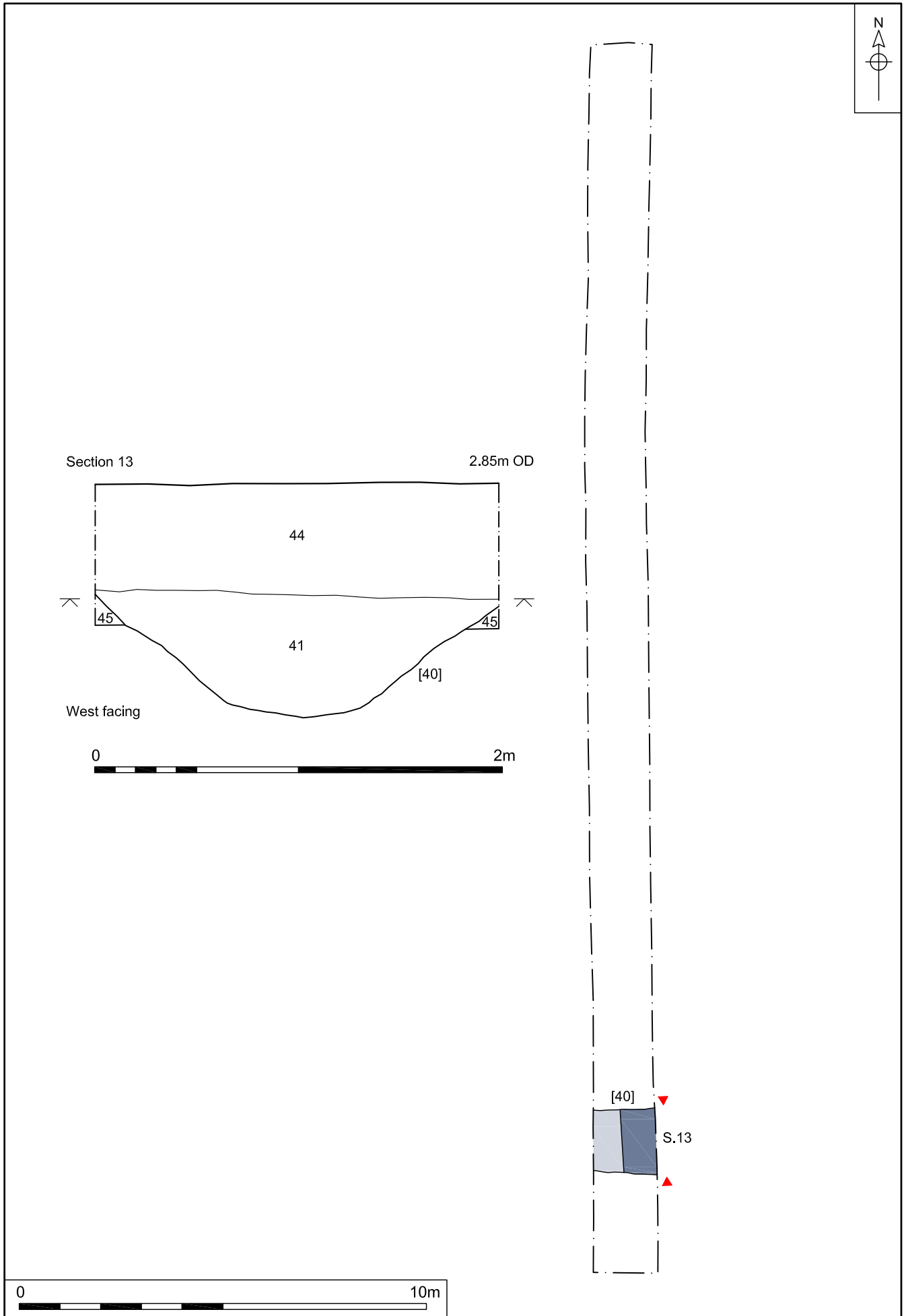



Figure 8. Trench 8, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 9				
	Figs 2 (location) and 9			
	Location			
	Orientation	North to south		
	North end	638627.886, 318512.577		
	South end	638627.872, 318482.559		
	Dimensions			
	Length	29.84m		
	Width	1.50m		
	Depth	0.55m		
	Levels			
North end top	3.599m OD			
South end top	3.323m OD			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
37	Cut	East to west aligned ditch, 1.7m wide with a steeper northern slope, suggesting that the bank/hedgerow was on that side. This ditch is the same as the one recorded as [40] in Trench 8.	0.52m	0.45-0.97m
38	Deposit	Base fill of ditch [37]. Pale yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel	0.52m	0.45-0.97m
39	Deposit	Top fill of ditch [37]. Dark brown silt with sparse charcoal and occasional flint gravel	0.50m	0.45-0.95m
44	Deposit	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown silty sand with moderate flint gravel.	0.40m	0.00–0.40m
45	Deposit	Subsoil. Pale brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel	0.15m	0.40-0.55m
Discussion				
Trench 9 contained a single ditch (the same ditch was recorded in Trench 8).				
The upper fill of ditch [37] yielded a fragment of cattle bone and a sherd of post-medieval pottery.				
A conversation held on site with local residents revealed that they recalled a hedgerow standing in this area.				

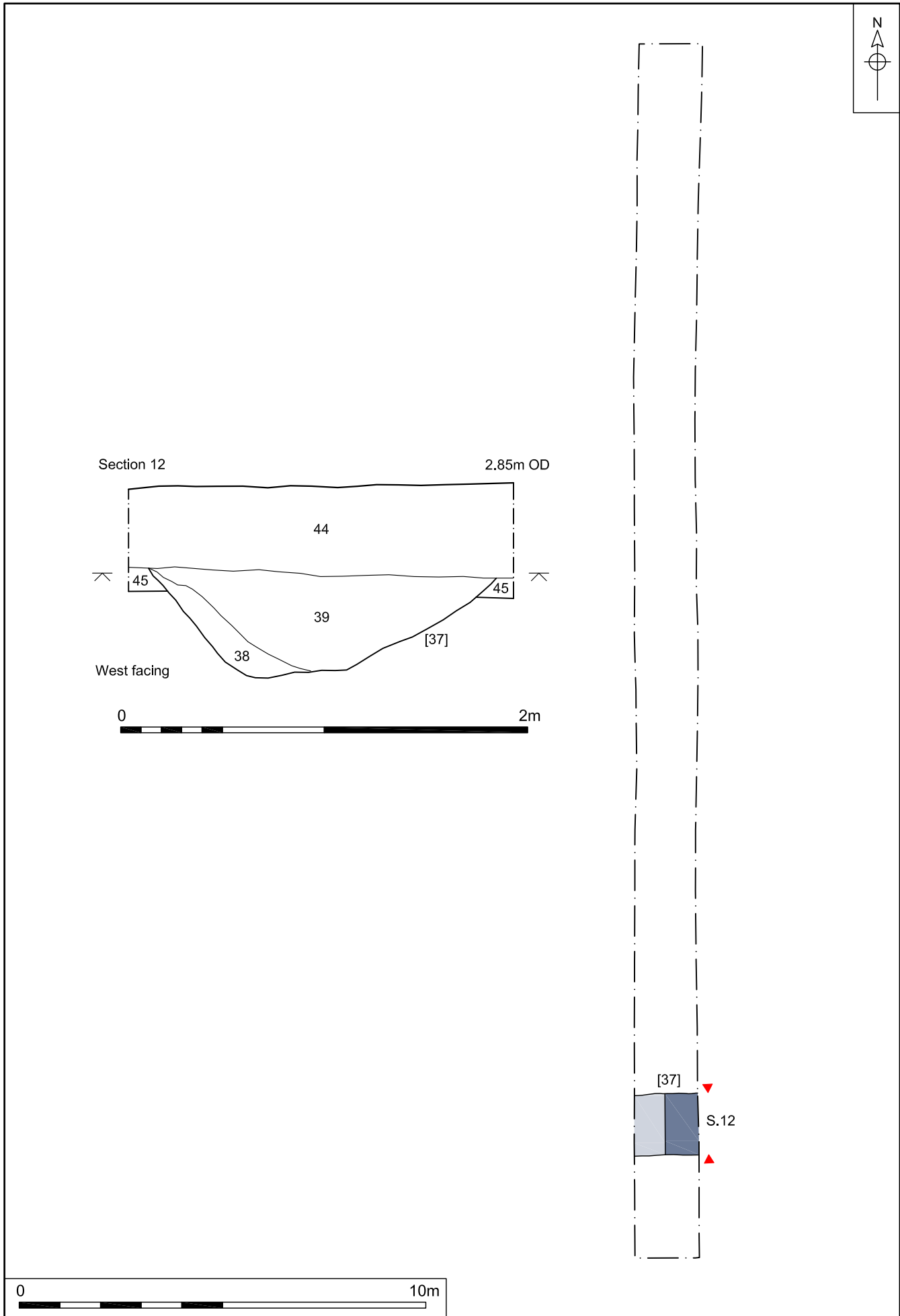




Figure 9. Trench 9, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 10					
		Fig. 2 (location)			
		Location			
		Orientation	East to west		
		East end	638613.534, 318470.216		
		West end	638583.524, 318470.165		
		Dimensions			
		Length	30.00m		
		Width	1.50m		
		Depth	0.55m		
		Levels			
East end top	3.503m OD				
West end top	4.155m OD				
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL	
44	Deposit	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown silty sand with moderate flint gravel.	0.35m	0.00–0.35m	
45	Deposit	Subsoil. Pale brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel	0.20m	0.35-0.2m	
Discussion					
Trench 10 contained no archaeological features or artefacts.					

Trench 11				
	Fig. 2 (location)			
	Location			
	Orientation	East to west		
	East end	638660.407, 318470.228		
	West end	638630.469, 318470.222		
	Dimensions			
	Length	30.00m		
	Width	1.50m		
	Depth	0.50m		
	Levels			
East end top	2.540m OD			
West end top	3.070m OD			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
44	Deposit	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown silty sand with moderate flint gravel.	0.40m	0.00–0.40m
45	Deposit	Subsoil. Pale brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel	0.10m	0.40-0.50m
Discussion				
Trench 11 contained no archaeological features or artefacts.				

Trench 12



Figs 2 (location) and 10

Location

Orientation	East to West
East end	638627.803, 318419.365
West end	638607.214, 318417.487

Dimensions

Length	20.65m
Width	1.50m
Depth	0.45m

Levels

East top	2.785m OD
West top	3.355mOD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
42	Cut	Ditch, north-northwest to south southeast aligned, 0.48m wide with gently sloping sides	0.15m	0.45-0.60m
43	Deposit	Fill of [42]. Mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel and sparse charcoal	0.15m	0.45-0.60m
44	Deposit	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown silty sand with moderate flint gravel.	0.30m	0.00-0.30m
45	Deposit	Subsoil. Pale brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel	0.15m	0.30-0.45m

Discussion

Trench 12 contained a single ditch.

Ditch [42] remained undated but it is on a different alignment to the modern field boundaries and boundaries depicted in the historic mapping. As a result this ditch is considered to be earlier than post-medieval in date.

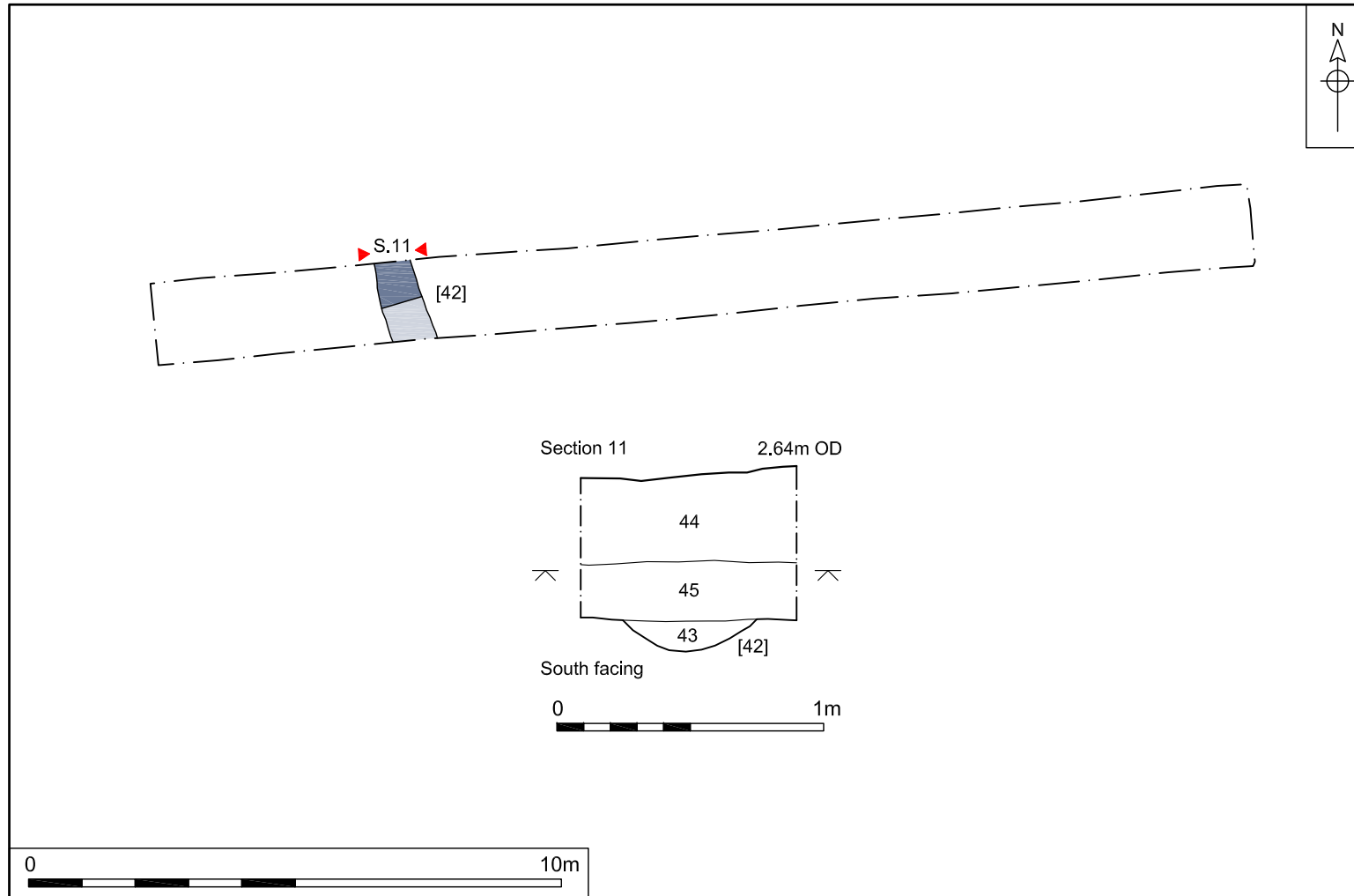


Figure 10. Trench 12, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

6.0 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL

Finds were processed and recorded by count and weight, and information entered on an Excel spreadsheet. Each material type been considered separately and is presented below organised by material.

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

6.1 Pottery

by Sue Anderson

Nine pottery sherds (99g) were recovered from four contexts. The pottery quantification is shown in Table 1.

Context	Fabric	No.	Wt/g	Description	Spotdate
10	UNHM	1	16	body sherd, hard buff fabric, fine sandy matrix with coarse white (burnt?) flint and occasional ferrous inclusions	IA/ESax
20	ESCQ	5	65	micaceous, sparse coarse quartz, rounded base and body sherds, sooted, worn int	ESax
39	GRE	1	6	body, orange glazed both sides	16th-18th c
41	ESMS?	1	6	very abraded ?rim fragment, oxid surfaces	ESax?
41	REFW	1	6	plate rim, blue shell-edged	L.19th-20th c.

Table 1. Pottery catalogue

Key: UNHM – unidentified handmade; ESCQ – Early Saxon coarse quartz; ESMS – Early Saxon medium sandy; GRE – glazed red earthenware; REFW – refined factory-made whiteware

Seven fragments were handmade. One of these, from pit fill (10), was in a burnt flint-tempered fabric which would normally suggest a prehistoric date. The sherd is hard and well-fired, with the overall matrix appearing closer to Early Saxon than Iron Age types, and the flint is sparse. The date is therefore uncertain, but the fact that the flint is calcined makes an Iron Age date more likely.

The five sherds from possible SFB fill (20) are almost certainly of Early Saxon date, and represent a large part of the base and body of a small globular vessel with a rounded base. A heavily abraded fragment of rim from ditch fill (41) may also be of Early Saxon date but is residual in this context.

One body sherd of post-medieval GRE was collected from ditch fill (39), and there was a fragment of a whiteware plate rim of late 19th-/20th-century date from ditch fill (41).

6.2 Ceramic Building Material

by Sue Anderson

Two fragments of post-medieval ceramic building material (CBM) were collected from two contexts. The quantification is shown in Table 2.

Context	Form	Fabric	No.	Wt/g	Description	Spotdate
29	RTP	msmcp	1	26	abraded, surfaces lost	pmed
41	PAN	mscp	1	87	handmade	17-18th c.

Table 2. CBM catalogue

One fragment of post-medieval plain roof tile (RTP) was recovered from ditch fill (29), and a piece of pantile (PAN) came from ditch fill (41). Both were in medium sandy fabrics with mica and/or clay pellets (msmcp/mscp). The pantile was handmade and likely to be early (17th-/18th-century).

6.3 Metalworking Debris

by Rebecca Sillwood

Two fragments of undiagnostic smithing slag were collected from a single deposit.

The fragments of smithing slag, weighing 67g, were recovered from one context, fill (20) of ?SFB [19]. Early Saxon pottery was recovered from the same context and so it seems likely that the evidence for metalworking, albeit small-scale, is also of this date, although clearly of no great intensity or scale.

6.4 Iron

by Rebecca Sillwood

Four pieces of iron were collected from the site, all from the same deposit.

Four fragile, friable, pieces of iron were recovered from ditch fill (41), weighing only 7g in total. The pieces are of very thin sheet, and no purpose can be assigned to them. These are likely to be post-medieval in date, given the presence of post-medieval pottery and ceramic building material from the same context.

6.5 Animal Bone

by Julie Curl

6.5.1 Methodology

The bone in this assemblage consisted of hand-collected remains. All of the bone was identified to species wherever possible using a variety of comparative reference material. Where a complete identification to species was not possible, bone was assigned to a group, such as 'sheep/goat' or 'mammal' whenever possible. The bones were recorded using a modified version of guidelines described in Davis (1992).

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

Weights and total number of pieces counts were also taken for each context, along with the number of pieces for each individual species present (NISP) and these

appear in the appendix. Measurements were taken following Von Den Driesch, 1976. All of the information was input directly into an Excel catalogue. A summary table of the faunal catalogue is in a table in the appendix and the full catalogue is available in the digital archive.

6.5.2 The faunal assemblage

6.5.2.1 Quantification, provenance and preservation

A total of 79g of faunal remains, consisting of seven pieces, was recovered from the evaluation excavations at this site. Remains were produced from three ditch fills, with some found in association with post-medieval ceramics. There is the possibility of residual remains and finds of a mixed date.

Feature Number	Trench number and weight			Feature Total
	4	6	9	
23		4g		4g
27	39g			39g
37			36g	36g
Trench Total	39g	4g	36g	79g

Table 3. Quantification of the faunal assemblage by feature number, trench number and weight

Bone recovered from (24) and (39) are in good condition. The remains from the ditch fill (29) are fragmented, eroded, porous and cracked, which may be attributed to weathering, poor soil conditions for bone preservation, age and disturbance.

Feature No	Trench number and number of elements			Feature Total
	4	6	9	
23		1		1
27	5			5
37			1	1
Trench Total	5	1	1	7

Table 4. Quantification of the faunal assemblage by feature number, trench number and number of elements (fragments)

6.5.2.2 Species range, modifications and discussion

Two species were identified in this assemblage. An adult cat humerus was recovered from the ditch [23] fill (24), no butchering was seen on this upper limb bone. A cattle lower molar was retrieved from the ditch [37], fill (39), the wear on this tooth indicates an adult.

The remains in ditch [27], fill (29) represent limb fragments from a large mammal (cattle/equid sized), but the fragments are in poor condition and damaged, leaving no diagnostic zones for further identification.

Species	Feature No and NISP			Species Total
	23	27	37	
Cattle			1	1
Mammal		5		5
SM - Cat	1			1
Feature Total	1	5	1	7

Table 5. Quantification of the faunal assemblage by feature number, species and species NISP (element count)

The damage to the bone from deposit (29) may have destroyed butchering or other modification evidence and no other butchering was seen in this assemblage.

6.5.3 Faunal Remains Conclusions

This is a very small assemblage that consists of the remains of a main food mammal (cattle) and a probable domestic or feral cat of uncertain date. The food elements in this assemblage have survived in poor quality and erosion may have destroyed any butchering evidence. Full interpretation of the assemblage remains difficult due to the uncertainty of dating and the possibility of residual finds.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

Eight of the twelve trenches contained archaeological evidence with four of the trenches (Trenches 3, 7, 10 and 11) being blank. The northern part of the site, closest to School Road, contains the most significant evidence.

The main area of interest at this site was the possible Early Saxon sunken featured building found in the northern part of the site in Trench 2. The dimensions of this feature, its flat base and the presence of a post-hole, as well as finds of Early Saxon date being found within the feature all strongly suggest that this feature is a typical sunken-featured building. There were other undated settlement remains found in Trench 1 to the north of Trench 2, suggesting a small Early Saxon settlement in this area. The smithing slag found in association with the sunken-featured building demonstrates metal working activity, perhaps on a domestic, small scale here also.

No features associated with the four Bronze Age ring ditches (NHER 49262) that form a small barrow cemetery in the northwestern part of the evaluation area were evident.

A number of field boundary ditches of differing alignments were found, suggesting at least two phases of establishment of field system

Limited remains associated with the World War II airfield were recorded in Trench 1,

Any recommendations for further mitigation work if required, based on the evidence presented in this report, will be made by Norfolk Historic Environment Service.

Acknowledgements

Alan Irvine commissioned and funded the report on behalf of his client.

The author would like to thank Stuart Calow for his help with the fieldwork.

The trenches were located by Adam Harper of NPS Land Survey. and machined by Alec from T.H. Quirk Plant Hire.

The finds were processed, recorded and reported on by Rebecca Sillwood. The pottery and cbm was analysed by Sue Anderson and the animal bone by Julie Curl.

This report was illustrated 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
1	Cut	Pit		Pit	Modern	1
2	Deposit		1	Fill of [1]	Modern	1
3	Cut	Gully		Terminus	Undated	1
4	Deposit		3	Fill of [3]	Undated	1
5	Cut	Post-hole		Post-hole	Undated	1
6	Deposit		5	Fill of [5]	Undated	1
7	Cut	Ditch		East to west aligned ditch	Undated	1
8	Deposit		7	Fill of [7]	Undated	1
9	Cut	Pit		Pit cutting ditch [7]	Iron Age	1
10	Deposit		9	Fill of [9]	Iron Age	1
11	Cut	Ditch		East to west aligned ditch	Undated	1
12	Deposit		11	Fill of [11]	Undated	1
13	Cut	Pit		Pit	Modern	1
14	Deposit		13	Fill of [13]	Modern	1
15	Cut	Ditch		North-northeast to south-southwest aligned ditch	Undated	2
16	Deposit		15	Fill of [15]	Undated	2
17	Cut	Ditch		North-northeast to south-southwest aligned ditch	Undated	2
18	Deposit		17	Fill of [17]	Undated	2
19	Cut	SFB?		Possible sunken featured building	Early Saxon	2
20	Deposit		19	Fill of [19]	Early Saxon	2
21	Cut	Post-hole		post-hole within [19]	Early Saxon	2
22	Deposit		21	Fill of [19]	Early Saxon	2
23	Cut	Ditch		North to south aligned ditch	Undated	6
24	Deposit		23	Fill of [23]	Undated	6
25	Cut	Ditch		East to west aligned ditch	Undated	4
26	Deposit		25	Fill of [25]	Undated	4
27	Cut	Ditch		East to west aligned ditch	Undated	4
28	Deposit		27	Fill of [27]	Undated	4
29	Deposit		27	Possible recut of [27]	Post-medieval	4
30	Cut	Ditch		East to west aligned ditch	Undated	5
31	Deposit		30	Base fill of [30]	Undated	5
32	Deposit		30	Top fill of [30]	Undated	5
33	Deposit		34	Fill of [34]	Undated	5
34	Cut	ditch		East to west aligned ditch	Undated	5
35	Cut	Ditch		northwest to southeast aligned ditch	Undated	5
36	Deposit		35	Fill of [35]	Undated	5
37	Cut	ditch		East to west aligned ditch, same as [40]	Undated	9
38	Deposit		37	Base fill of [37]	Undated	9

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
39	Deposit		37	Top fill of [37]	Post-medieval	9
40	Cut	Ditch		East to west aligned ditch, same as [37]	Undated	8
41	Deposit		40	Fill of [40]	Post-medieval	8
42	Cut	ditch		North-northwest to south-southeast aligned ditch	Undated	12
43	Deposit		42	Fill of [42]	Undated	12
44	Deposit			Topsoil	Undated	1-12
45	Deposit			Subsoil	Undated	1-12

Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary

Period	Category	Total
Iron Age	Ditch	1
Early Saxon	SFB	1
	Post-hole	1
Post-medieval	Ditch	3
Modern	Pit	2
Undated	Ditch	10
	Gully	1
	Post-hole	1

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
10	Pottery	1	16g	Iron Age/Early Saxon	
20	Metalworking Debris	2	67g	Unknown	
20	Pottery	5	65g	Early Saxon	
24	Animal Bone	1	4g	Unknown	
29	Animal Bone	5	39g	Unknown	
29	Ceramic Building Material	1	26g	Post-medieval	Roof tile
39	Animal Bone	1	36g	Unknown	
39	Pottery	1	6g	Post-medieval	16th-18th century
41	Ceramic Building Material	1	87g	Post-medieval	Pan tile; 17th-18th century
41	Iron	4	7g	Unknown	Sheet fragments
41	Pottery	1	6g	Post-medieval	Late 19th-20th century
41	Pottery	1	6g	Early Saxon	?

Appendix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Early Saxon	Pottery	6
Iron Age/Early Saxon	Pottery	1
Post-medieval	Ceramic Building Material	2
	Pottery	2
Unknown	Animal Bone	7
	Iron	4
	Metalworking Debris	2

Appendix 3: OASIS Report Summary

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: norfolka1-163427

Project details

Project name	LUDHAM, LAND SOUTH OF SCHOOL ROAD
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was conducted for Alan Irvine on behalf of his client ahead of the construction of a residential development south of School Road, Ludham in Norfolk. Archaeological remains encountered consisted of features associated with the nearby World War II airfield, a number of field boundary ditches with differing alignments (suggesting at least two phases of field system) and a possible Early Saxon sunken-featured building (in the northern part of the site). Other undated settlement remains were found close by, suggesting the presence of a small Early Saxon settlement in this area.
Project dates	Start: 18-11-2013 End: 22-11-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	ENF132709 - 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	DITCH Iron Age
Monument type	SUNKEN-FEATURED BUILDING Early Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	PIT Modern
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	GULLY Uncertain
Monument type	POST-HOLE Uncertain
Significant Finds	POT Iron Age
Significant Finds	POT Early Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ROOF TILE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Uncertain
Significant Finds	IRON Uncertain
Significant Finds	METAL WORKING DEBRIS Uncertain

Methods & techniques "Sample Trenches"

Development type Rural residential

Prompt National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Position in the planning process Pre-application

Project location

Country England

Site location NORFOLK NORTH NORFOLK LUDHAM LUDHAM, LAND SOUTH OF SCHOOL ROAD- EVALUATION

Study area 1.20 Hectares

Site coordinates TG 3861 1853 52 1 52 42 40 N 001 31 58 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation NPS Archaeology

Project brief originator NPS Archaeology

Project design originator NPS Archaeology

Project director/manager Nigel Page

Project supervisor Steve Hickling

Type of sponsor/funding body Consultant

Name of sponsor/funding body Alan Irvine

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service

Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Industrial","Metal"

Digital Archive recipient NPS Archaeology

Digital Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Industrial","Metal","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","Ceramics","Industrial","Metal","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 of Land South of School Road, Ludham, Norfolk
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