

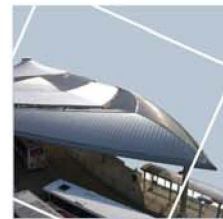
Report 2014/1311



nps archaeology

**Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at the
Former Sperrinks Nursery Site, The Street,
Gazeley, Suffolk**

GAZ027



Prepared for
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Location:	Former Sperrinks Nursery Site, The Street, Gazeley, Suffolk
District:	Forest Heath
Grid Ref.:	TL 7198 6444
Planning Ref.:	Pre-application
HER No.:	GAZ027
OASIS Ref.:	170439
Client:	Hopkins Homes Ltd
Dates of Fieldwork:	13-15 February 2014

Summary

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was carried out for Hopkins Homes Ltd in advance of development at the Former Sperrinks Nursery Site, The Street, Gazeley, Suffolk.

A total of twelve (out of a possible fourteen) evaluation trenches were excavated. A ditch was recorded in three of the trenches and one trench contained a modern spread of material. One of the ditches contained post-medieval tile and these linear features were probably originally field ditches.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

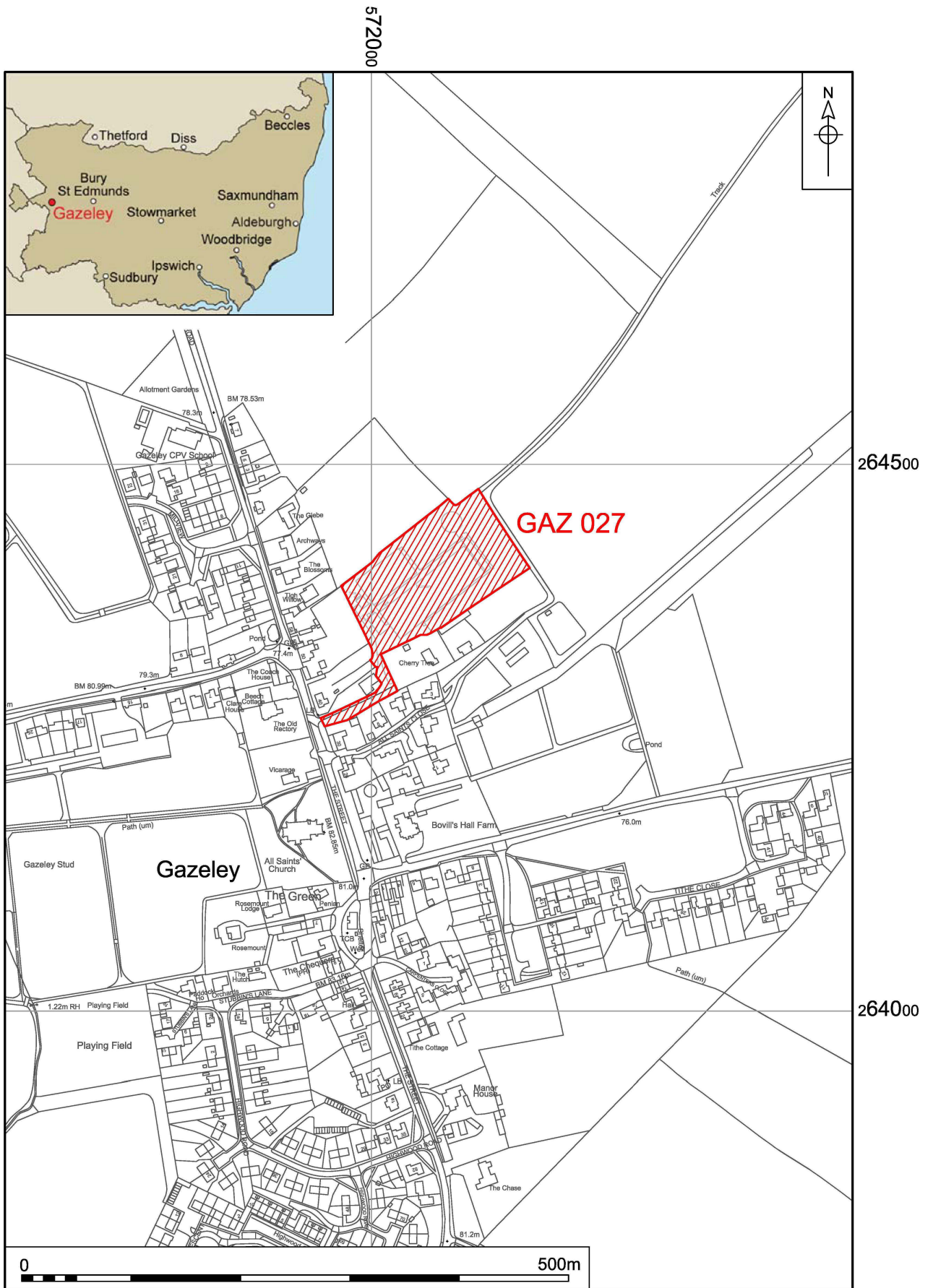
An archaeological evaluation at the site of the former Sperrinks Nursery at The Street, Gazeley, Suffolk (Fig. 1) was undertaken to fulfil planning requirements set by Forest Heath Planning authority and requested by Suffolk Historic Environment Service. The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology. This work was commissioned by and funded by Hopkins Homes Ltd.

There have been no previous archaeological excavations done on this site.

The proposed development site covers c.14,210m² and the area evaluated encompasses approximately 5% of the proposed development area.

This programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority about the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The site archive is currently held by NPS Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with Suffolk 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

2.1 Geology

The underlying geology consists of chalk bedrock made up of Lewes Nodular, Seaford, Newhaven and Culver Formations (BGS 1985). This bedrock is overlain by superficial deposits of chalky till made up of Lowestoft Formation which forms an extensive sheet together with outwash sands and gravels, silts and clays. The till is characterised by its chalk and flint content (BGS 1991).

The topsoil at the site consists of a very dark brown to black silty/sandy loam that has been well cultivated and composted, with few inclusions which tended to be very small in nature. The average depth of this topsoil across the site was c.0.30m.

The subsoil was dark grey/black very organic silty sand with very few inclusions, which were small in size. The average depth of this subsoil across the site was c.0.30m

2.2 Topography

The site itself sits on a very gentle slope, sloping down from the southwest (at c.76.14OD) to the northeast (c.73.34OD). The site was generally well draining despite the very poor and wet conditions during excavation.

The site was bounded to the northeast and northwest by fields. To the southwest and the southeast is housing. The main road through Gazeley runs northwest to southeast parallel to the development site's southwest boundary at a distance of c.75.00m away. The site is accessed off of this road via a narrow track. The parish church lays c.175.00m to the southwest of the development site.

The development site had previously been used as a plant nursery. The site itself was covered with concrete paths, low concrete block walls and concreted-in metal stanchions. Debris including large amounts of glass and weed-suppressant matting littered the site. Pipework for watering plants was still extant within the topsoil in many places.

The site had been levelled down to the natural and built up in places to form building surfaces when the nursery was first established.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Both Historic Environment Record (HER) and National Monument Records (NMR) information for the parish of Gazeley were reviewed. This search returned two records from the NMR and 37 results from the Suffolk HER records.

The majority of these records pertained to listed buildings and findspots around the parish. An archaeological dig was carried out at Pin Farm which identified a Bronze Age barrow.

A number of the finds records also relate to items of Bronze Age significance.

The village of Gazeley itself first seems to have grown up in the Late Saxon period (c.850AD). It is later mentioned that William the Conqueror gave the manor to Richard de Clare.

The 14th-century church of All Saints is founded on a much earlier site. It appears that the medieval and post-medieval village grew up around the church and along the main road now formed by the Street and Mill Road (Goult 1990).

Cartographic sources - the Ordnance Survey First edition of 1882 and Hodskinson's Map of 1783. – were both checked for mapped evidence of earlier activity at the site. These maps show that this land was agricultural during the late 18th and 19th centuries.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

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

The Brief required that a total of 14 trenches be excavated. However due to site conditions and the presence of live services it was possible to open only twelve of these. Trenches 2-12 measured 30.0m x 1.80m and Trenches 1 and 13 measured 15.0m x 1.8m (Fig. 2). Trench 2 was abandoned due to the present of a concrete within it and Trench 14 was located within an access route that needed to be maintained (the trench could not be relocated as services ran along the verge in this area).

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

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were not scanned with a metal-detector due to the large amount of metal ducting and debris on site.

All hand-collected finds other than those which were obviously modern, were retained for inspection.

Environmental samples were not taken as no suitable deposits were encountered.

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.

All bench marks and OD heights were located using a GPS system and all trenches plotted and positioned using the same system.

Large parts of the site were covered by taram netting with areas of concrete paving running across the site. Extensive amounts of broken glass, low concrete walls and various other debris covered the site. The weather was cloudy with constant rain and high winds.

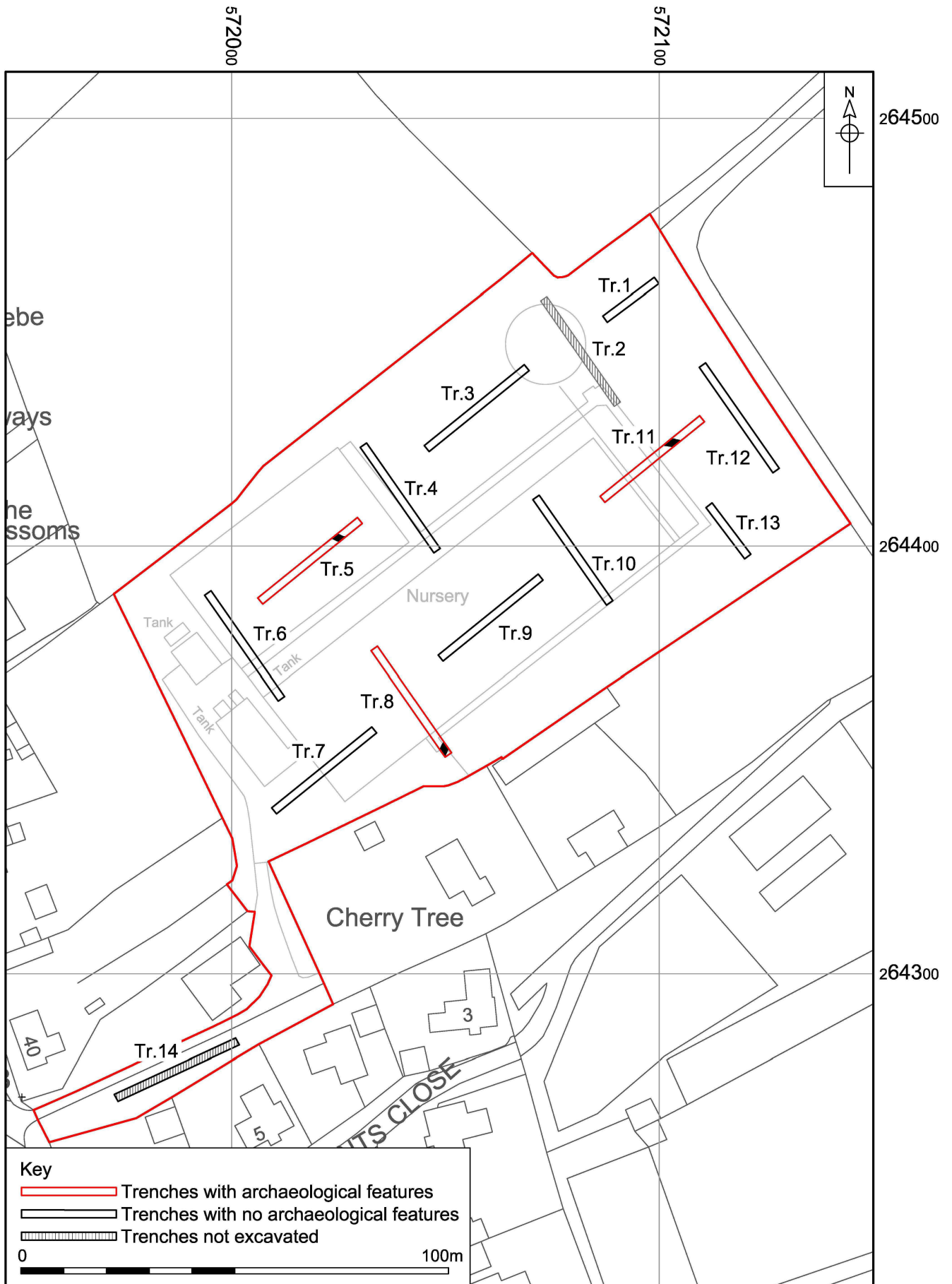



Figure 2. Location of trenches. Scale 1:1250

5.0 RESULTS

Trench 1							
 <p>Plate 1. Trench 1</p>			Fig. 2 (location); Plate 1				
			Location				
			Orientation		Northeast to southwest		
			Northeast end		572099 264462		
			Southwest end		572087 264453		
			Dimensions				
			Length		15.0m		
			Width		1.80m		
			Depth		1.20m		
Levels							
Northeast top		73.34m OD					
Southwest top		73.55m OD					
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL			
01	Deposit	Topsoil. Very dark brown to black silty/sandy loam with few inclusions	0.30m	0.00-0.30m			
02	Deposit	Subsoil. Dark grey/black very organic silty sand with very few inclusions	0.30m	0.30-0.60m			
Discussion							
Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or deposits.							
A single feature was identified but on excavation turned out to be modern and has not been discussed further.							

Trench 2							
<p>No image available</p>			Fig. 2 (location)				
			Location				
			Orientation		Northwest to southeast		
			Dimensions				
			Length		30.00m		
			Width		1.80m		
			Depth		--		
Discussion							
The excavation of Trench 2 was abandoned as a large concrete tank was encountered. No data was recorded							

Trench 3				
No image available		Fig. 2 (location)		
		Location		
		Orientation	Northeast to southwest	
		Northeast end	572067 264438	
		Southwest end	572045 264422	
		Dimensions		
		Length	30.00m	
		Width	1.80m	
		Depth	0.70m	
		Levels		
		Northeast top	74.09m OD	
Southwest top	74.46m OD			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil. Very dark brown to black silty/sandy loam with few inclusions	0.30m	0.00-0.30m
02	Deposit	Subsoil. Dark grey/black very organic silty sand with very few inclusions	0.30m	0.30-0.60m
Discussion				
Trench 3 contained no archaeological features or deposits.				

Trench 4



Plate 2. Trench 4

Fig. 2 (location); Plate 2

Location

Orientation	Northwest to southeast
-------------	------------------------

Northwest end	572030 264423
---------------	---------------

Southeast end	572048 264399
---------------	---------------

Dimensions

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

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

Depth	0.80m
-------	-------

Levels

Northwest top	74.62m OD
---------------	-----------

Southeast top	75.57mOD
---------------	----------

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil. Very dark brown to black silty/sandy loam with few inclusions	0.30m	0.00-0.30m
02	Deposit	Subsoil. Dark grey/black very organic silty sand with very few inclusions	0.30m	0.30-0.60m

Discussion

Trench 4 contained no archaeological features or deposits.

Trench 5				
No image available			Figs 2 (location) and 3	
			Location	
			Orientation	Northeast to southwest
			Northeast end	572030 264406
			Southwest end	572006 264387
			Dimensions	
			Length	30.00m
			Width	1.80m
			Depth	0.80m
			Levels	
			Northeast top	74.79m OD
Southwest top	75.40mOD			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil. Very dark brown to black silty/sandy loam with few inclusions	0.40m	0.00-0.40m
02	Deposit	Subsoil. Dark grey/black very organic silty sand with very few inclusions	0.40m	0.40-0.80m
03	Cut	Single linear ditch running northwest to southeast. It has even, well-sloping sides and a concave base.	0.40m	0.80-1.20m
04	Deposit	This is the single fill of ditch [03] and is a homogeneous fill comprising pale brown sandy silt with infrequent inclusions.	0.40m	0.80-1.20m
Discussion				
Trench 5 contained a single northwest-southeast aligned ditch.				
The ditch is probably a field boundary. It is undated but runs in the same general direction as the ditch recorded in Trench 11. that ditch was dated to the post-medieval period and has a very similar fill.				

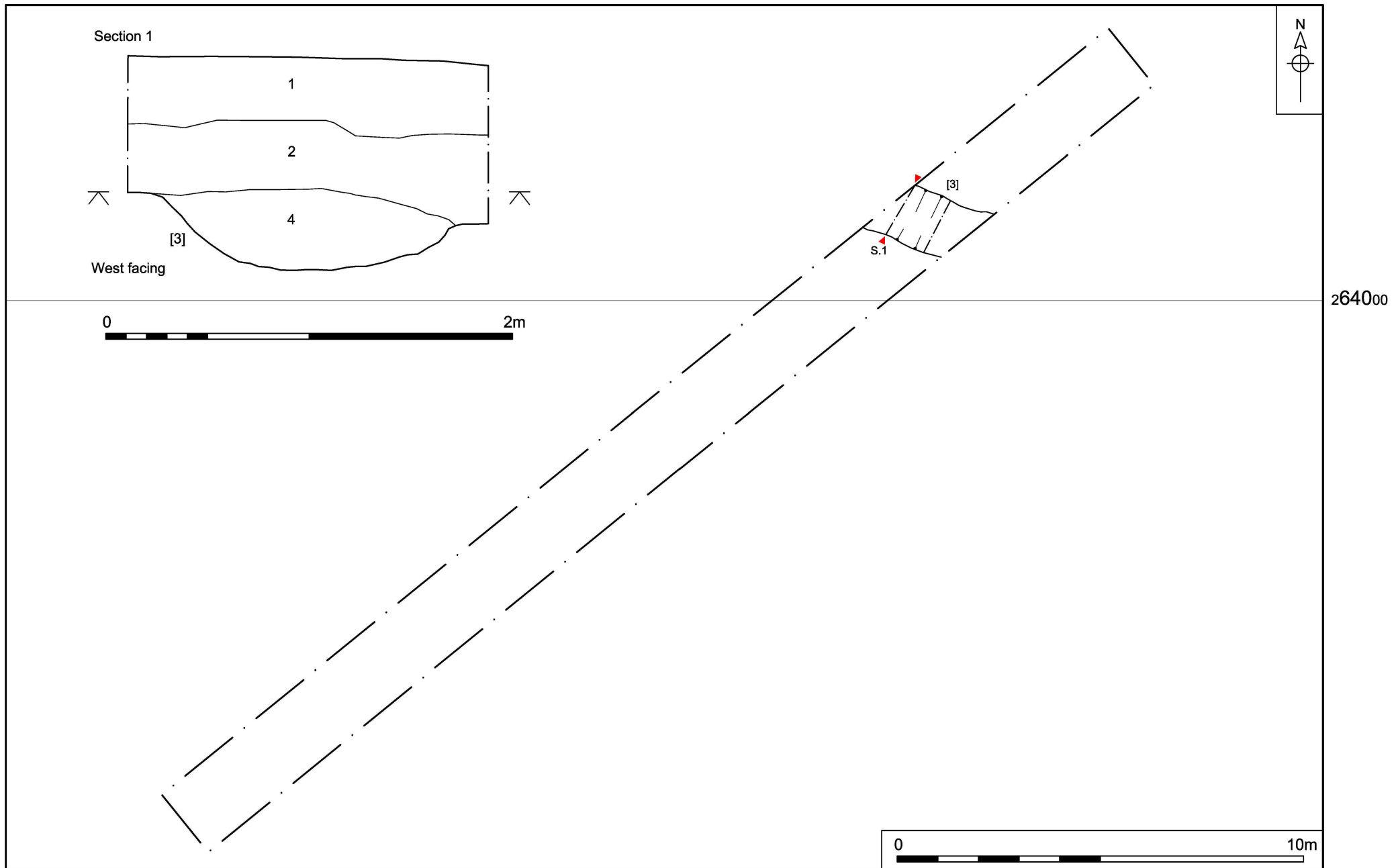


Figure 3. Trench 5, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 6



Plate 3. Trench 6

Fig. 2 (location); Plate 3

Location

Orientation	Northwest to southeast
-------------	------------------------

Northwest end	571994 264389
---------------	---------------

Southeast end	572011 264364
---------------	---------------

Dimensions

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

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

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

Levels

Northwest top	75.36m OD
---------------	-----------

Southeast top	76.12mOD
---------------	----------

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil. Very dark brown to black silty/sandy loam with few inclusions	0.30m	0.00-0.30m
02	Deposit	Subsoil. Dark grey/black very organic silty sand with very few inclusions	0.30m	0.30-0.60m

Discussion

Trench 6 contained no archaeological features or deposits.

Trench 7



Plate 4. Trench 7

Fig. 2 (location); Plate 4

Location

Orientation	Northeast to southwest
-------------	------------------------

Northeast end	572033 264357
---------------	---------------

Southwest end	572009 264338
---------------	---------------

Dimensions

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

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

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

Levels

Northeast top	76.05mOD
---------------	----------

Southwest top	76.14mOD
---------------	----------

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil. Very dark brown to black silty/sandy loam with few inclusions	0.30m	0.00-0.30m
02	Deposit	Subsoil. Dark grey/black very organic silty sand with very few inclusions	0.30m	0.30-0.60m

Discussion

Trench 7 contained no archaeological features or deposits.

Trench 8



Plate 5. Trench 8

Figs 2 (location) and 4; Plate 5

Location

Orientation Northwest to southeast

Northwest end 572033 264376

Southeast end 572049 264351

Dimensions

Length 30.00m

Width 1.80m

Depth 0.50m

Levels

Northwest top 75.88mOD

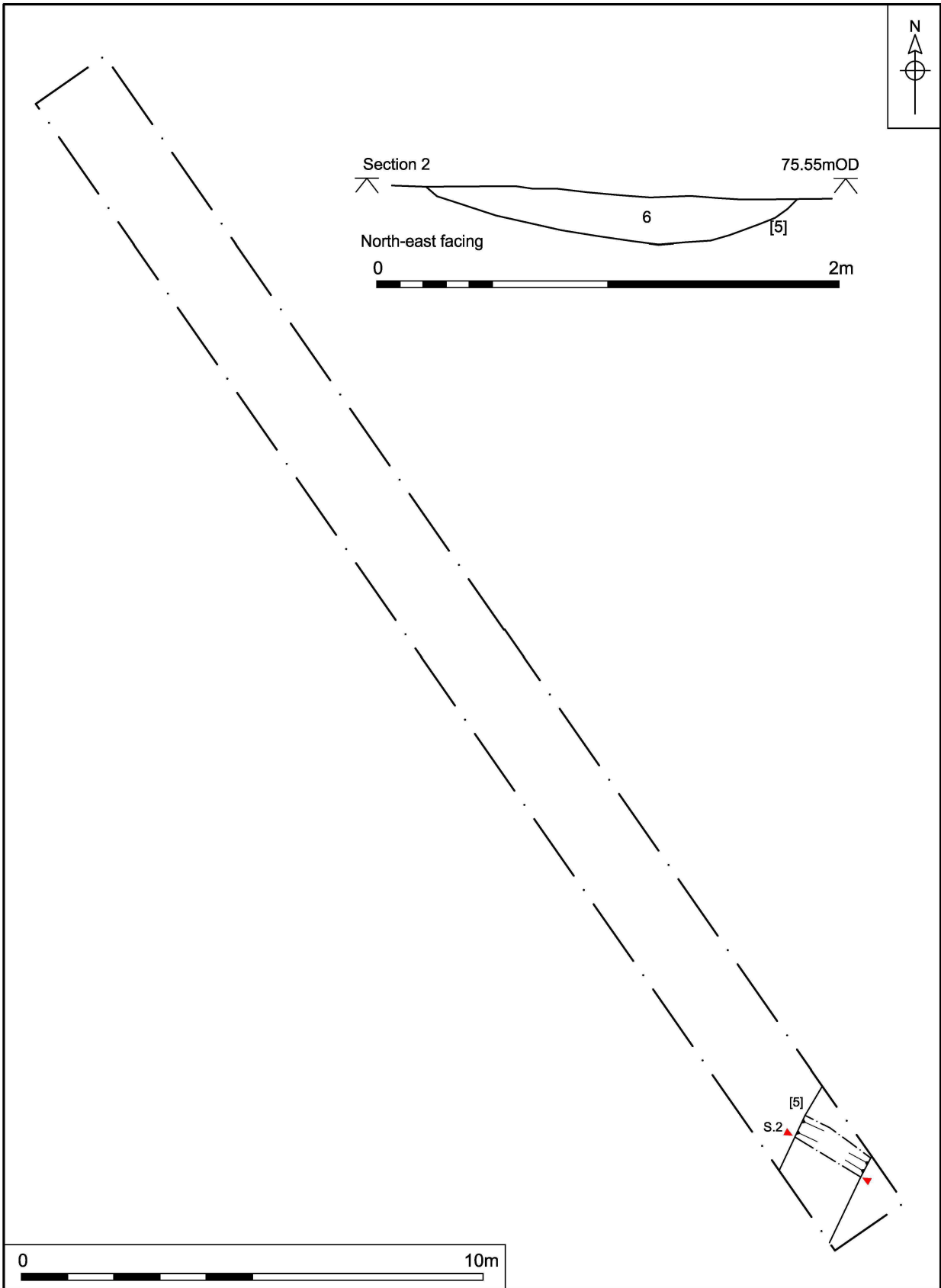
Southeast top 76.20mOD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil. Very dark brown to black silty/sandy loam with few inclusions	0.30m	0.00-0.30m
02	Deposit	Subsoil. Dark grey/black very organic silty sand with very few inclusions	0.30m	0.30-0.60m
05	Cut	Feature with gently sloping, even sides and a shallow concave base - ditch.	0.2m	0.44-0.64m
06	Deposit	Single homogeneous fill of [05] - pale brown sandy silt with infrequent inclusions.	0.2m	0.44-0.64m

Discussion

Trench 8 contained a single feature interpreted as a ditch.

This ditch was probably originally a field boundary ditch which in orientation runs perpendicular to ditches [03] and [08] in Trenches 5 and 11. Its fill is similar in character to the fills of these features but is undated.



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

Trench 9



Plate 6. Trench 9

Fig. 2 (location); Plate 6

Location

Orientation	Northeast to southwest
-------------	------------------------

Northeast end	572072 264392
---------------	---------------

Southwest end	572048 264373
---------------	---------------

Dimensions

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

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

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

Levels

Northeast top	75.35m OD
---------------	-----------

Southwest top	75.79mOD
---------------	----------

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil. Very dark brown to black silty/sandy loam with few inclusions	0.30m	0.00-0.30m
02	Deposit	Subsoil. Dark grey/black very organic silty sand with very few inclusions	0.30m	0.30-0.60m

Discussion

Trench 9 contained no archaeological features or deposits.

Trench 10



Plate 7. Trench 10

Fig. 2 (location); Plate 7

Location

Orientation Northwest to southeast

Northwest end 572071 264411

Southeast end 572088 264386

Dimensions

Length 30.00m

Width 1.80m

Depth 0.40m

Levels

Northwest top 75.09m OD

Southeast top 75.45mOD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil. Very dark brown to black silty/sandy loam with few inclusions	0.20m	0.00-0.20m
02	Deposit	Subsoil. Dark grey/black very organic silty sand with very few inclusions	0.20m	0.20-0.40m
07	Deposit	Redeposited layer of subsoil	0.02m	1.41-1.42m
10	Cut	Sondage cut into 'spread'	0.10m	1.37-1.47m
11	Deposit	Layer of modern fill ('spread')	0.10m	1.37-1.47m

Discussion

Trench 10 contained a spread of material.

This spread was allocated a feature number however on investigation it was evident that the fills were modern spreads occupying what is probably a natural depression in the ground. No further work or assessment of this modern feature was carried out.

Trench 11				
No image available			Figs 2 (location) and 5	
			Location	
			Orientation	Northeast to southwest
			Northeast end	572110 264429
			Southwest end	572086 264410
			Dimensions	
			Length	30.00m
			Width	1.80m
			Depth	0.50m
			Levels	
			Northeast top	74.01m OD
Southwest top	74.99mOD			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil. Very dark brown to black silty/sandy loam with few inclusions	0.30m	0.00-0.30m
02	Deposit	Subsoil. Dark grey/black very organic silty sand with very few inclusions	0.20m	0.30-0.50m
08	Cut	Northwest to southeast ditch. It was steep sided with a rounded base.	0.90m	0.50-1.40m
09	Deposit	Single homogeneous fill of ditch [08] - pale brown sandy silt with infrequent inclusions.	0.90m	0.50-1.40m
Discussion				
Trench 11 contained a single ditch.				
Ditch [08] has been interpreted as probably a field boundary/drainage ditch, similar to ditches [03] and [05]. Fragments of post-medieval tile were recovered from the fill of this ditch. This is the only one of the three ditches sample excavated to return any finds.				

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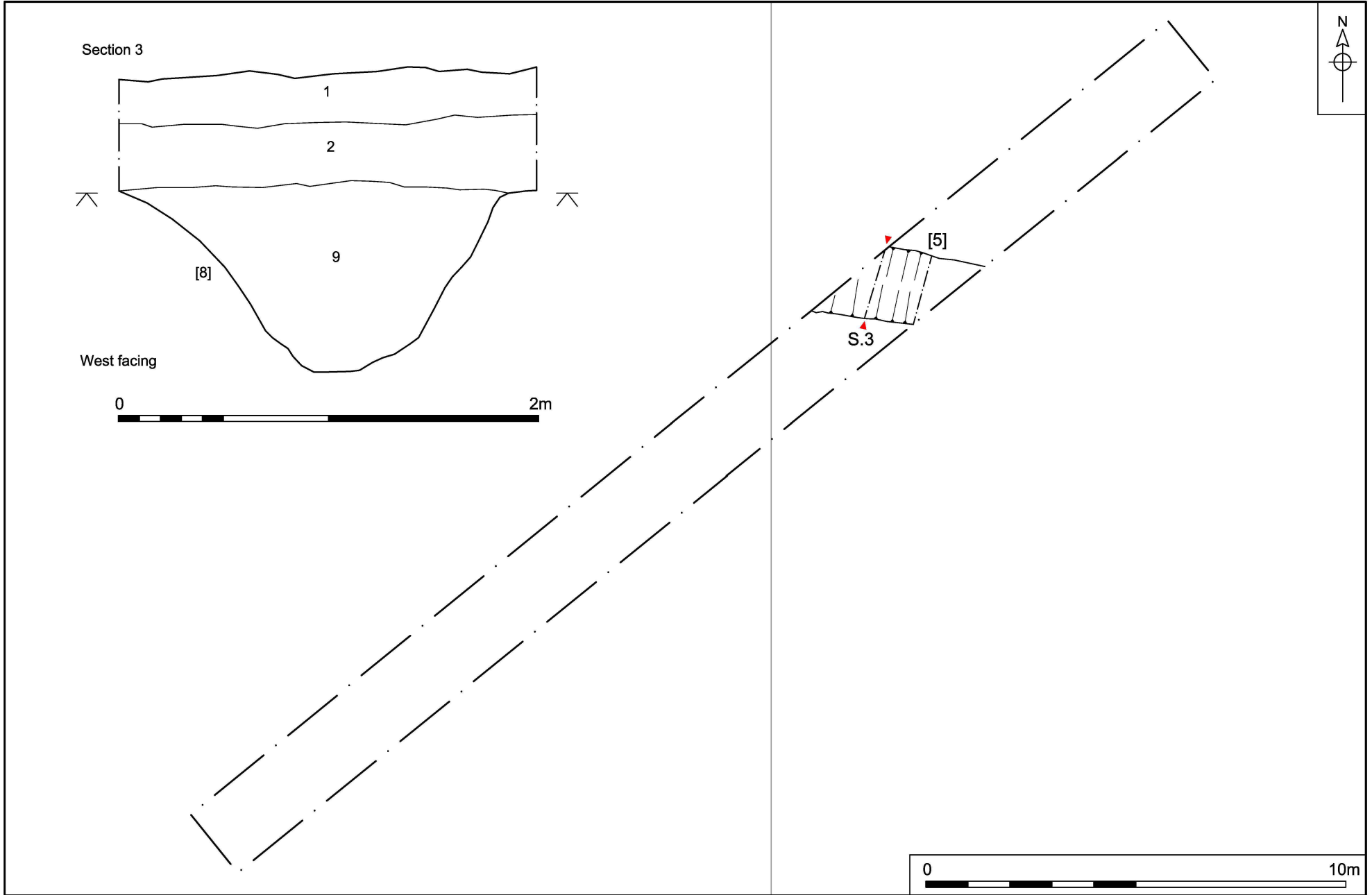


Figure 5. Trench 11, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 12



Plate 8. Trench 12

Fig. 2 (location);Plate 8

Location

Orientation	Northwest to southeast
-------------	------------------------

Northwest end	572110 264442
---------------	---------------

Southeast end	572127 264417
---------------	---------------

Dimensions

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

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

Depth	0.80m
-------	-------

Levels

Northwest top	73.63m OD
---------------	-----------

Southeast top	74.10mOD
---------------	----------

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil. Very dark brown to black silty/sandy loam with few inclusions	0.30m	0.00-0.30m
02	Deposit	Subsoil. Dark grey/black very organic silty sand with very few inclusions	0.30m	0.30-0.60m

Discussion

Trench 12 contained no archaeological features or deposits.

Trench 13



Plate 9. Trench 13

Fig. 2 (location);Plate 9

Location

Orientation Northwest to southeast

Northwest end 572111 264409

Southeast end 572120 264398

Dimensions

Length 15.00m

Width 1.80m

Depth 0.40m

Levels

Northwest top 74.49m OD

Southeast top 74.66mOD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil. Very dark brown to black silty/sandy loam with few inclusions	0.30m	0.00-0.30m
02	Deposit	Subsoil. Dark grey/black very organic silty sand with very few inclusions	0.30m	0.30-0.60m

Discussion

Trench 13 contained no archaeological features or deposits.

6.0 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL

by Rebecca Sillwood

Finds from the site were limited in both number and range.

The finds were processed and recorded by count and weight and information entered onto an Excel spreadsheet. Each material type has 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

A single piece of modern pottery was recovered from modern spread (07) that overlay the natural deposits. The sherd weighs 6g. The piece is a rim sherd of a plate or similar, and is creamware with three blue lines decorating the outer edge. Probably of 20th-century date this sherd is modern and has been discarded after recording.

6.2 Ceramic Building Material

Four pieces of ceramic building material (CBM) were recovered from ditch fill (09), weighing a total of 344g. All of the pieces are fragments of post-medieval roof tile.

Two of the four pieces were of a similar red sandy fabric and weighed 217g. These pieces had varying thicknesses of 14mm and 17mm, and both had traces of a similar mortar on many of their edges, indicating use. These are probably pan tiles of 19th-century date.

Two other pieces weighing 127g were of a different fabric, gault clay, in an off-white fabric with pinkish, poorly mixed pink and off white layers in it. This type of fabric appears in the late medieval through to the post-medieval period, but these pieces are most likely to be of post-medieval date.

The CBM fragments have been discarded after recording.

6.3 Finds Conclusions

Only a very small number of finds were recovered from the evaluation trenches, indicating very little earlier activity on the site. However it is possible that later activity i.e. the levelling of the ground has disturbed anything that was previously present on the site, leaving only post-medieval and modern material.

All of the finds from this site have been fully recorded, and as they are of modern date and of no intrinsic interest or value, they have been discarded.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

It would seem that the proposed development site has always been outside the limit of the settlement of Gazeley. However it should be noted that earlier levelling of the grounds and the development of the former nursery site would have removed most of what archaeological evidence may have been present.

Of the twelve trenches excavated only four (Trenches 5, 8, 10 and 11) contained features. Three trenches (Trenches 5, 8 and 11) each contained a single ditch.

Only ditch [5] in Trench 11 produced any dating evidence – four fragments of 19th-century roof tile. The fills of all three ditches were very similar and those within Trenches 5 and 11 shared the same general orientation and may possibly be contemporaneous.

The feature within Trench 10 on investigation proved to be a spread of modern material.

The very limited archaeological evidence and the evidence gathered from the Suffolk Historic Environment Record and historical sources would seem to support the theory that the site of the proposed development has always been agricultural in nature.

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

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Hopkins Homes Ltd who commissioned and funded the project.

Thanks also to David Moro, Ramon Navas and Antonio Pavez who along with the author carried out the fieldwork. The machine excavation of the site was carried out by Bryn Williams Plant Hire. The find were processed and recorded by Rebecca Silwood

This report was illustrated by David Dobson and edited by Jayne Bown.

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<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 28.02.2013

Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
01				Topsoil	Modern	All
02				Subsoil	--	All
03	Cut	Linear		Ditch	unknown	5
04	Deposit		3			5
05	Cut	Linear		Ditch	unknown	8
06	Deposit		5			8
07	Deposit		10		Modern	10
08	Cut	Linear		Ditch		11
09	Deposit		8		Post-medieval	11
10	Cut	Amorphous		Feature subsequently identified as the fill of a natural hollow (deposit (07))		10
11	Deposit		10			10

Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary

Period	Category	Total
Post-Medieval	Ditch	1

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
07	Pottery	1	6g	Modern	20th century; DISCARDED
09	Ceramic Building Material	4	344g	Post-medieval	Roof tile fragments; DISCARDED

Appendix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Post-medieval	Ceramic Building Material	4
Modern	Pottery	1

Appendix 3: OASIS Report Summary

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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Printable version

OASIS ID: norfolka1-170439

Project details

Project name	Former Sperrinks Nursery, Gazeley
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was carried out for Hopkins Homes Ltd in advance of development at the Former Sperrinks Nursery Site, The Street, Gazeley, Suffolk. A total of twelve (out of a possible fourteen) evaluation trenches were excavated. A ditch was recorded in three of the trenches and one trench contained a modern spread of material. One of the ditches contained post-medieval tile and these linear features were probably originally field ditches.
Project dates	Start: 13-02-2014 End: 15-02-2014
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	GAZ027 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	ROOF TILE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Modern
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	SUFFOLK FOREST HEATH GAZELEY Former Sperrinks Nursery
Study area	14210.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 7198 6444 52.2507733905 0.519701812767 52 15 02 N 000 31 10 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	NPS Archaeology
Project brief originator	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services
Project design originator	NPS Archaeology
Project director/manager	Nigel Page
Project supervisor	Rob Brown
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Hopkins Homes Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive notes	Finds (modern pottery sherd and 19th-century roof tile) not retained
Digital Archive recipient	NPS Archaeology
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images vector", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at the Former Sperrinks Nursery Site, The Street, Gazeley, Suffolk
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Brown, R.
Other bibliographic details	Report 2014/1311
Date	2014
Issuer or publisher	NPS Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Norwich
Description	A4 paper, double-sided, spiral-bound, colour-printed; pdf
Entered by	J Bown (jayne.bown@nps.co.uk)

Entered on 9 April 2014

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Appendix 4: Archaeological Specification

Archaeological evaluation

Written Scheme of Investigation

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Proposals for a residential development on the former Sperrinks Nursery Site, The Street, Gazeley, Suffolk (TL 7198 6444), covering a total area of c.14,210 square metres, require a programme of archaeological evaluation to assess the potential archaeological resource of the site and the likely impacts of the development on that resource.
- 1.2 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared in response to an invitation from Hopkins Homes Ltd. to provide costs and a WSI for undertaking an archaeological evaluation of the site to support the proposals through the planning application system.

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 site. A determination of the state of preservation of any features, deposits and structures is also required.
- 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 evaluation strategy will be undertaken to assess the archaeological potential of the proposed development site. The stages of this strategy may be summarised as follows.
- i. Trial Trenching.* Mechanical and manual excavation will be employed to investigate the presence, condition, character and date of any subsurface archaeological deposits and features occurring within the 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 Suffolk Museums and Archaeology Service.

iii. *Report and Archive.* The report will describe the results of the window sampling and trial trenching with data presented in tabular, graphic and appendix form. Copies of the reports will be submitted to the client and to The Archaeological Service Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council.

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

3.2 Trial Trenching

3.2.1 Trial trenching will be concerned with establishing the condition, character and date of any subsurface archaeological features and deposits present. 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 Eight trenches, 30m x 1.8m, will be excavated within the plot. It is possible that the trench proposed for the access road area will need to be shorter than 30m depending on existing constraints in that part of the site (see Fig. 1 for suggested trench layout).

3.2.3 The trenches will be set out by NPS Archaeology and CAT-scanned prior to excavation. The final location of the trenches may be determined on the basis of surface or below ground obstructions and all Health and Safety considerations. Other considerations such as public access may also be a factor.

3.2.4 Excavation will be by mechanical excavator fitted with a flat toothless ditching or grading bucket until natural ground or archaeological deposits are identified. All archaeological features or deposits will be excavated by hand

3.2.5 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 may need to be locally stepped or shored. The requirement for excavation below 1.2m will be determined following a site review with the Archaeological Service Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council. This will then be agreed and costed separately.

3.2.6 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.

3.2.7 The trenches will be fenced using Netlon high-visibility fencing if required and appropriate warning signage will be displayed.

3.2.8 Spoil from the trenches will not be removed from site but separated into topsoil and subsoil and stored alongside the trench. The trenches will not be backfilled by NPS Archaeology until agreement to do so is given by the Archaeological Service Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council. 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.

- 3.2.9 Exposed surfaces and all archaeological features and deposits will be excavated by hand and screened by metal detector. A Tesoro Laser B3 or a Fisher 1265X metal detector will be utilised to scan excavated spoil and *in situ* horizons with the operator ensuring that it is used in a correct fashion. All artefactual and ecofactual materials will be collected and bagged by context.
- 3.2.10 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).
- 3.2.11 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 Suffolk Historic Environment Record numbering system. Plans will be made at a scale of 1:50, with provision for 1:20 and 1:10 drawings. 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 and colour (35mm film/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.
- 3.2.12 Human remains will be left *in situ* unless otherwise instructed by The Archaeological Service Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council. 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.
- 3.2.13 Soil samples for palaeoenvironmental materials will be collected if suitable sealed and well-dated deposits are encountered. Standard 80 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's pro forma recording system.

3.3 Post-Fieldwork Processes

- 3.3.1 The drawn and written stratigraphic/structural record 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 and Archaeology 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 Archaeological Brief for the site issued by the Archaeological Service Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council, an evaluation report will be prepared.

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

3.4.3 Multiple copies of the report will be produced as appropriate and presented to Hopkins Homes Ltd. and three copies to the Archaeological Service Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council. An HER form will accompany the evaluation report and 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 NPS Archaeology supports the OASIS project. An online record will be initiated immediately prior to the start of fieldwork and completed when the final report is submitted to the Archaeological Service Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council. 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 Suffolk 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 also be integrated with the Suffolk 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 Suffolk Museums and Archaeology 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 and Archaeology 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. Excavation staff will have experience in excavation and experience with NPS Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system 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:

Project Management	
Archaeology Manager	Jayne Bown BA, MIFA
Project Manager	Nigel Page BA AIFA

Project Staff	
Senior Project Officer	Pete Crawley
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 the client and the Archaeological Service Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council.
- 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:
- 5.5.1 *Specialists used by NPS Archaeology*

Specialist	Research Field
Andy Barnett	Metal-detectorist, Numismatic Items
Andy Peachey	Roman Pottery, Fired Clay, worked flint
Becky Sillwood AIFA	Metal finds
David King	Window Glass
Debbie Forkes	Conservation
Fran Green BSc, PhD	Palaeoenvironmental
Jo Mills	Worked Stone Artefacts
John Shepherd	Vessel Glass
Julie Curl	Faunal Remains
Richard Macphail	Micromorphology
Roger Doonan	Non-Ferrous Metalworking
Sarah Bates	Worked Flint
Sarah Percival BA, MIFA	Prehistoric ceramics, general finds
Stephen Heywood	Architectural Stonework
Sue Anderson	Post-Roman Pottery, CBM, human remains
Val Fryer	Macrofossil analysis

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 is an Institute for Archaeologists Registered Archaeological Organisation and fully 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 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 The Archaeological Service Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council 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

- 7.3 A further monitoring opportunity will be provided at the end of the project upon deposition of the integrated archive and finds with the Suffolk Museums and Archaeology Service.
- 7.4 NPS Archaeology operates a Project Management System. Most aspects of this project will be co-ordinated by a Senior Project Officer who is responsible for the successful completion of the project. The Project manager retains responsibility for the delivery of this project. The Archaeology Manager has 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.



Figure 1: Suggested trench locations.