

Report 2014/1071

nps archaeology



Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at Land off The Street, Easton, Suffolk

HER: ETN 018

Prepared for
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February 2015



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01-04-15-2-1071

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Location: Land off the Street, Easton, Suffolk
District: Suffolk Coastal
Grid Ref.: TM 2870 5844
HER No.: ETN 018
OASIS Ref.: 176429
Client: Hopkins Homes Ltd
Dates of Fieldwork: 8-14 April 2014

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was conducted by NPS Archaeology for Hopkins Homes Ltd ahead of proposed redevelopment of land off The Street, Easton, Suffolk. The land is currently in agricultural use.

A total of 10 trenches, nine of which measured 30.00m by 1.80m and one 10.00m by 1.80m were arrayed across the site. Some of the trenches were located to target possible archaeological remains identified by previous geophysical survey.

Archaeological evidence was present in seven of the evaluation trenches with three considered blank. The earliest evidence for human activity at the site was provided by small assemblages of pottery and worked flints, their presence suggesting activity in the late prehistoric period. No features of this broad period were identified.

The most significant archaeological result was the identification of two areas of Roman activity, in Trenches 7 and 10 to the east of Easton Primary School, both of which contained probable structural features. In Trench 7, a possible post-built structure and a pit with in situ burning were present. In Trench 10, a layer of 'dark earth' or midden material sealed a clay and flint feature thought to have a structural function. Ceramic artefacts date this activity to the earlier Roman period. Small quantities of other artefacts, including a coin, suggest activity continued into the mid 4th century AD. These features seemed relatively well preserved below the plough soil, with faunal remains such as sheep and cattle bones surviving in good condition.

Five, mostly undated, ditches were identified, the alignments of which did not appear to conform to present field boundaries; this is taken to infer at least a pre-19th-century enclosure date for their use. To the east of the site, a considerable depth of colluvial materials in the valley of a relict river course potentially masked any archaeological features, although the dearth of cultural materials recovered from trenches here might suggest only limited activity at best.

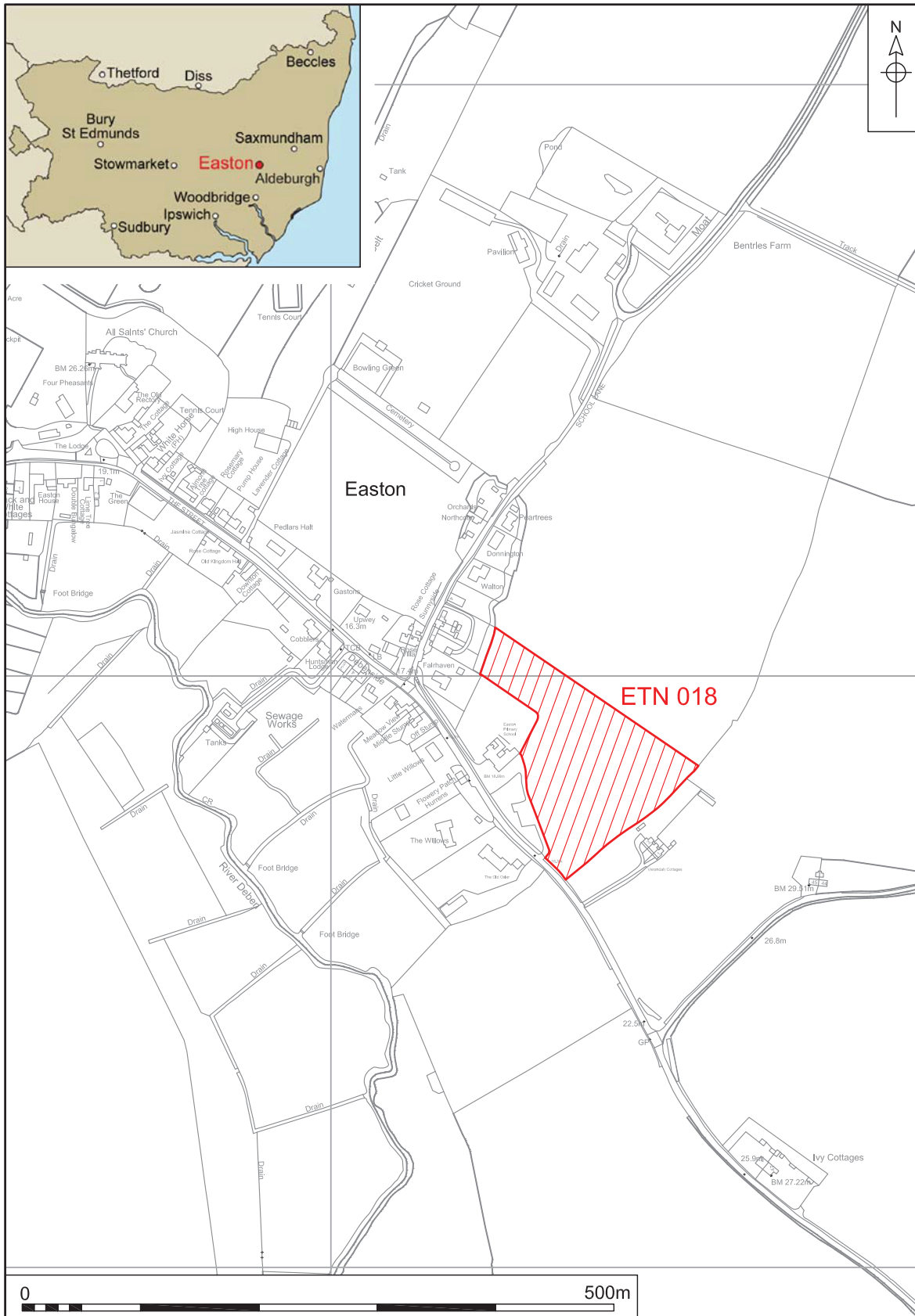
1.0 INTRODUCTION

Proposals for new residential development on land off The Street, Easton in Suffolk required a programme of archaeological evaluation to assess the potential archaeological resource of the site and the likely impacts of development on that resource (Figure 1). The requirement was set by the Archaeological Service Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council who recommended to the Local Planning Authority that an archaeological evaluation was required to determine the archaeological potential of the site and the likely impacts of the scheme on that potential. The archaeological works included geophysical survey of the site in advance of the current evaluation (Figure 11 in Appendix 8) (Harrison 2014).

NPS Archaeology was commissioned and funded by Hopkins Homes Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological works to fulfil the requirements. The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (Page 2014).

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

The site archive is currently held by NPS Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), following the relevant policies on archiving standards.



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:5000

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site is located in the village of Easton, Suffolk. The underlying geology of this area comprises Crag Group sands, sedimentary bedrock formed in the Quaternary and Neogene Periods. Superficial deposits are of clay, silts, sands and gravels. Across the site, a change in the nature of the underlying geological deposits was apparent, with clays and silts in Trench 9 at the northwest of the site, while to south and east of this trench sands and gravels were present.

The site occupies a broadly south-facing slope of the valley of the River Deben, which flows 250m to the southwest of the site. A minor relict tributary of the Deben would also seem to lie to the east of the site.

The site covers an area of approximately 1.60ha and is bounded to the west by Easton Primary School, by The Street to the southwest and to the south by Verandah Cottages. Residential properties occupy the northwest perimeter with open farmland to the north and northeast of the proposed development area. The highest modern ground level of 27.13m OD was recorded at Trench 9 in the northwest of the site, and the lowest level of 17.25m OD at Trench 1 in the southeast of the site.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A search of the Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER) undertaken by James Rolfe (SCCAS) retrieved information on interventions, monuments, listed buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments occurring within a radius of 500m centred on NGR TM 2870 5844.

Monuments and events retrieved by the search are listed in Table 1 and sites are shown on Figure 2.

Record	Description
ETN 004	Bentries Farm, moated Scheduled Monument.
ETN 005	The White House; Easton Mansion; Easton Park, a medieval manor house rebuilt in the post-medieval period, site marked on OS 1:25,000.
ETN 006	Single ring ditch, c.35m diameter, of unknown date.
ETN 007	Medieval church recorded in the Domesday Survey. A church is recorded at Easton (in the vill of Martley) with 12 acres, valued 2s in Domesday.
ETN 013	Rear of The Old Nursery, The Street, evaluation trenching prior to development revealed a single post-medieval ditch.
ETN 014	Easton gas works shown on 1905 6-inch map. Nothing visible in 1978.
ETN 017	Easton historic settlement core, indicative area of the historic settlement core of Easton defined from historic maps, the locations of listed buildings and artefact scatters.
ETN Misc	Model Farm (Undated). Two pot sherds (unwashed - date?) from trench running ESE towards road, Model Farm (Easton?).
LRM 001	Letheringham Hall or Old Hall Moat, occupied, isolated, square, beside River Deben and parish boundary. Site of the Manor of Letheringham, held from the time of Domesday down to the C14 by the Boville family.
LRM 005	Church and churchyard, site of, said to lie in the meadow opposite Letheringham Mill. Mentioned in will of 1378, still standing in 1631, probably demolished in late C17, burials found in C19 and 1963. Site visit and excavation 1987 to part clean and record 4 inhumations uncovered by the collapse of a tree in the 'Great Wind' of October 1987.
LRM 006	Letheringham Water Mill, listed as derelict in 1964-5 (post-medieval) on River Deben. 1970: Ipswich Ware pottery sherds (Saxon) found on river bank near water mill where cattle had trampled the bank down while drinking.
LRM 009	Post-medieval bridge shown on Hodkinson's map of 1783 crossing the River Deben at Easton.
LRM 018	Outline record: Dovecote.

Table 1 SHER monuments and events in 500m radius

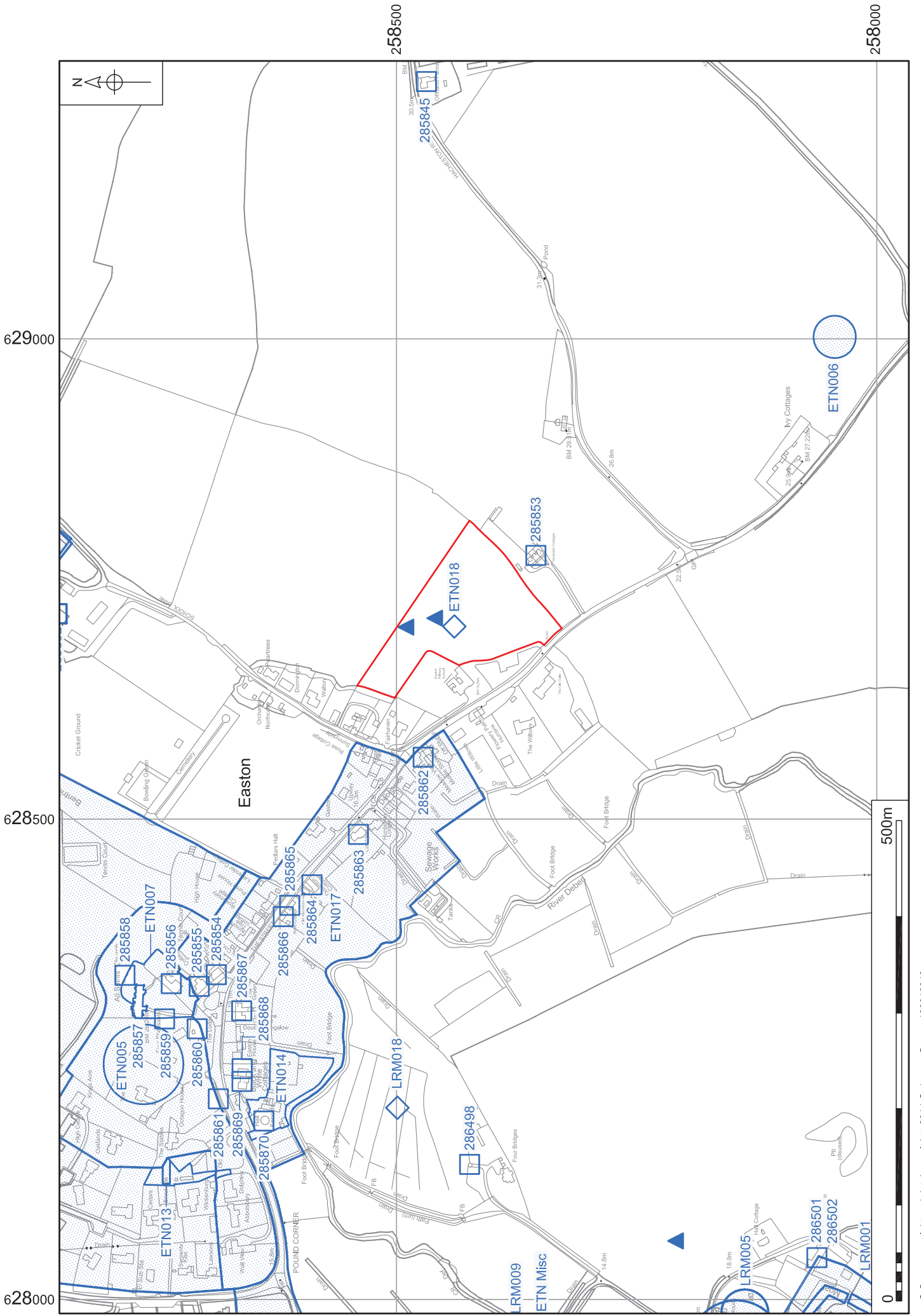


Figure 2. SHER sites within the vicinity of the site. Scale 1:5000

In addition, a total of 24 listed buildings are present within the search area, the majority being located to the west of the evaluation site. A small number of finds have also been recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme within the search area.

The topographic setting of the site in relation to the nature of likely past activity is discussed in the conclusions section of this report. No known heritage assets are documented in the area of the evaluation site and little information is provided by records within the area covered by the search. The only other archaeological investigation within the search area comprised an evaluation (ETN 013) to the rear of the Old Nursery, The Street where a single post-medieval ditch was recorded.

Based on the available information, the earliest evidence of human activity in the search area dates to the Middle Saxon period with finds of Ipswich Ware pottery from Letheringham Water Mill (LRM 006). References to the presence of a church in Domesday (ETN 007) indicates probable Late Saxon settlement in the vicinity. Medieval occupation can be more clearly demonstrated with a church and moated sites of this date located within the search area. One moated site, Bentries Farm (ETN 004) is a Scheduled Monument.

The geophysical survey of the site “has not identified any obvious anomalies of archaeological potential within the PDA (Proposed Development Area). Anomalies have been identified which are due to localised variations in the prevailing diamicton, sand and gravel superficial deposits and to modern agricultural activity. Three low magnitude linear anomalies have been ascribed some archaeological potential, perhaps indicating soil-filled ditches, but an agricultural origin is thought more likely.” (Figure 11 in Appendix 8), (Harrison 2014).

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of the evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence or absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area. A total of ten evaluation trenches, nine measuring 30.00m by 1.80m and one (Trench 1) measuring 10.00m by 1.80m were arrayed across the site (Figure 3). Trenches 4 and 8 targeted potential archaeological features identified by geophysical survey. The evaluation trenches equated to a 3.5% sample of the proposed development area (c.14,500ha).

Machine excavation was carried out by a 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 that were obviously modern, were retained for inspection.

Two environmental samples were taken from datable contexts.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NPS Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Monochrome and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits where appropriate. Site survey work was carried out by GPS.

Site conditions were good, the work taking place in fine weather.



Plate 1. Looking across site from Trench 8 to southwest

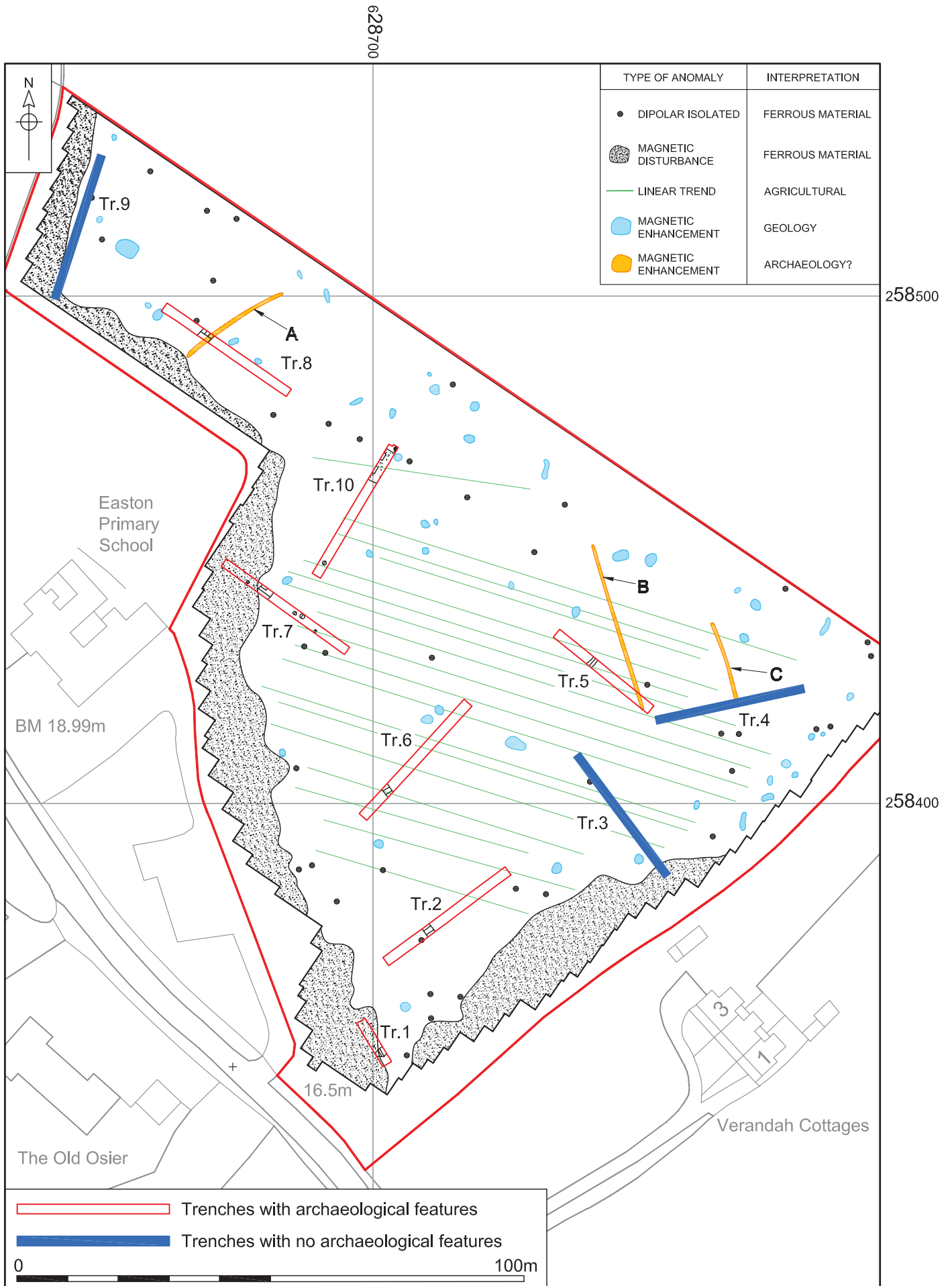

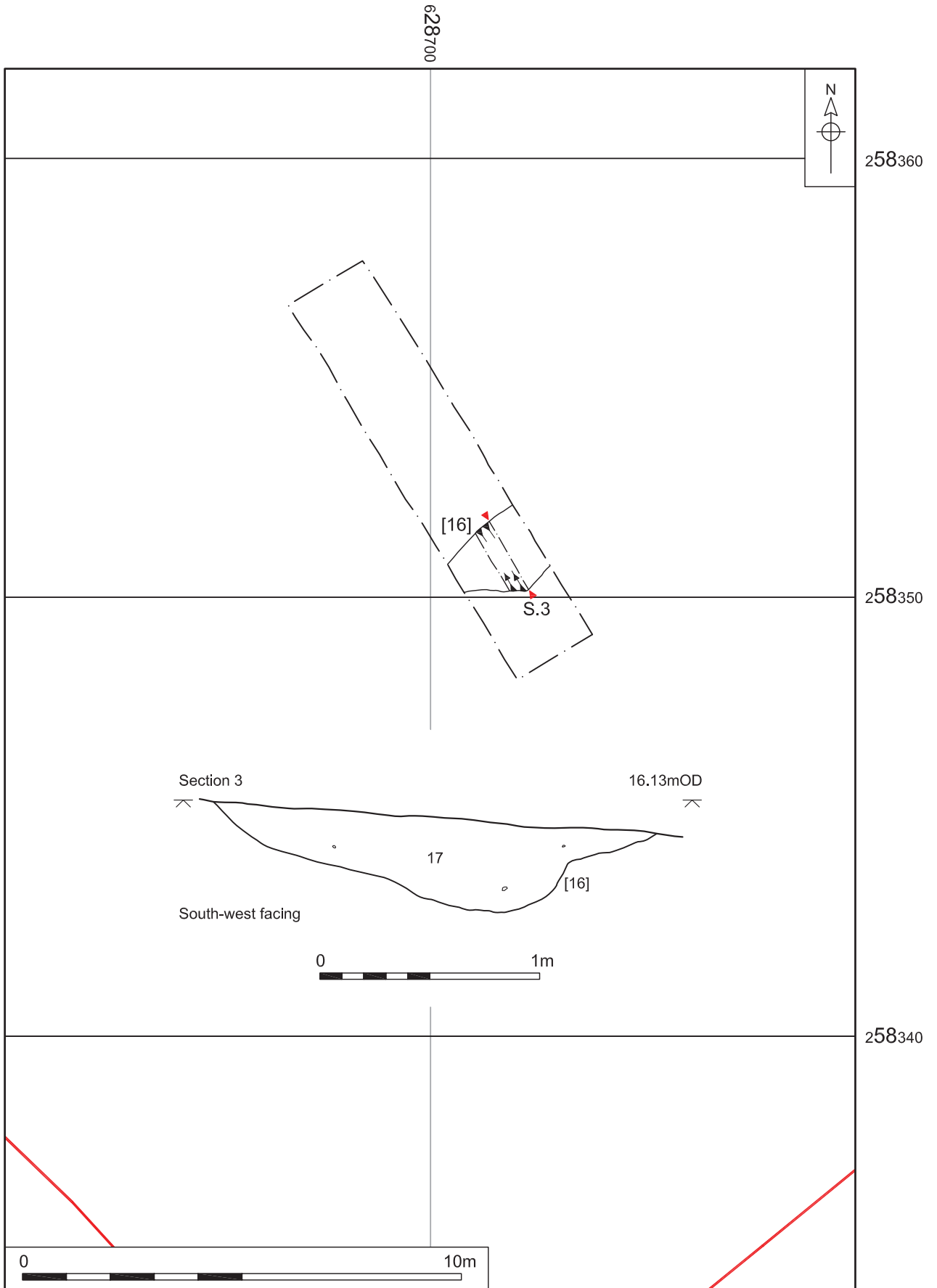


Figure 3. Location of trenches and results of geophysical survey. Scale 1:1000

5.0 RESULTS

Trench 1				
		Figures 3, 4; Plate 2		
		Location		
		Orientation	Northwest to southeast	
		Northwest end	628697, 258357	
		Southeast end	628702, 258348	
		Dimensions		
		Length	10.00m	
		Width	1.80m	
		Depth	1.20m	
		Levels		
Northwest top	17.25m OD			
Southeast top	17.76m OD			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth OD
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.40m	17.76m OD
02	Deposit	Subsoil	0.80m	17.36m OD
03	Deposit	Natural	-	16.66m OD
16	Cut	Ditch	0.40m	16.30m OD
17	Deposit	Fill of ditch [16]	0.40m	16.30m OD
Discussion				
<p>Measuring only 10.00m long, evaluation Trench 1 was the shortest of the trenches excavated and was located in the east of the site. Situated at the base of a slope, the depth of colluvial material (here considered to be subsoil) meant that machining stopped at 1.20m with natural deposits of pale fine sand only just revealed towards the west end of the trench, higher up-slope.</p> <p>A single archaeological feature, ditch [16], was identified at the east end of the trench, which appeared to have been sealed by colluvium. The ditch was 2.00m wide and 0.40m deep with gradually sloping sides and a rounded base. Its only fill [17] consisted of dark grey-brown silt that contained moderate amounts of small stones and occasional charcoal flecks. A small quantity of pottery (2 sherds/7g) dated to the Roman period was recovered from context [17].</p>				



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

Trench 2



Plate 3. Trench 2 looking northeast with 1m scale

Figures 3, 5; Plate 3

Location

Orientation Northeast to southwest

Northeast end 628726, 258386

Southwest end 628701, 258368

Dimensions

Length 30.00m

Width 1.80m

Depth 1.20m

Levels

Northeast top 18.65m OD

Southwest top 18.31m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth OD
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.35m	18.65m OD
02	Deposit	Subsoil	0.85m	17.80m OD
03	Deposit	Natural	-	17.47m OD
18	Cut	Ditch	0.40m	17.23m OD
19	Deposit	Fill of ditch [18]	0.40m	

Discussion

Trench 2 revealed a considerable depth of soils, perhaps of colluvial origin, in this area of the site. The combined depth of topsoil and colluvium was approximately 1.20m, corresponding to the limit of machining depth.

Areas of natural sands and gravels were exposed in places along the trench where they coincided with the maximum machining depth.

The only archaeological feature identified was an undated ditch, aligned approximately northwest to southeast. The ditch [18] was 1.65m wide and 0.40m deep. The sides of the feature were steeper to the east than to the west and its base was curved. Its sole fill [19] was dark grey-brown silt sand containing rare flint gravel.

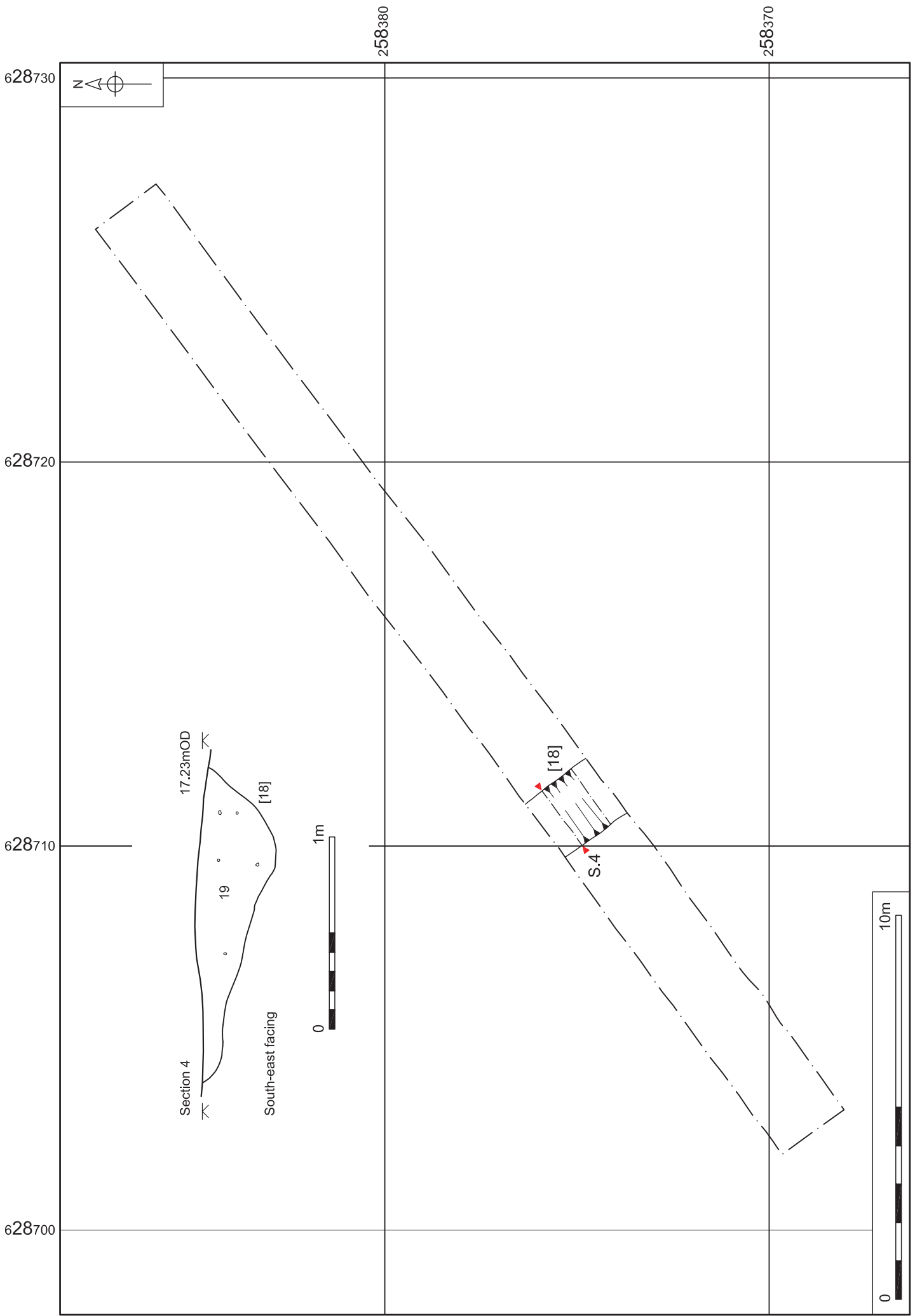


Figure 5. Trench 2, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 3



Plate 4. Trench 3 looking southeast with 1m scale

Figure 3; Plates 4, 5

Location

Orientation Northwest to southeast

Northwest end 628740, 258409

Southeast end 628758, 258385

Dimensions

Length 30.00m

Width 1.80m

Depth 1.20m

Levels

Northwest top 20.10m OD

Southeast top 17.95m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth OD
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.38m	20.10m OD
02	Deposit	Subsoil	0.80m	19.70m OD
03	Deposit	Natural	-	18.90m OD

Discussion

Trench 3 sloped down markedly from northwest to southeast with deeper colluvial deposits at the southeast end, to a depth of at least 1.20m (Plate 5), which masked natural deposits.

Natural deposits consisting of sands and gravels were exposed towards the northwest end of the trench where the general ground level rose.

No archaeological features or deposits were observed in the trench.

Trench 3



Plate 5. Trench 3 looking southwest at soil profile with 1m scale

Trench 4



Plate 6. Trench 4 looking northeast with 1m scale

Figure 3; Plate 6

Location

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

East end	628785, 258422
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West end	628755, 258416
----------	----------------

Dimensions

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

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

Depth	0.96m
-------	-------

Levels

East top	19.42m OD
----------	-----------

	20.06m OD
--	-----------

West top	
----------	--

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth OD
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.30m	20.06m OD
02	Deposit	Subsoil	0.66m	19.86m OD
03	Deposit	Natural	-	19.26m OD

Discussion

Trench 4 sloped down slightly from west to east. Although this trench targeted a possible archaeological feature that had been identified by geophysical survey, no archaeological remains were present.

A well-defined area of coarse sorted gravels in the trench is believed to be the result of modern activity.

No archaeological features or deposits were observed in the trench.

Trench 5



Plate 7. Trench 5 looking southeast with 1m scale

Figures 3, 6; Plate 7

Location

Orientation Northwest to southeast

Northwest end 628712,258447

Southeast end 628739,258433

Dimensions

Length 30.00m

Width 1.80m

Depth 0.71m

Levels

Northwest top 20.06m OD

Southeast top 20.06m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth OD
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.35m	20.06m OD
02	Deposit	Subsoil	0.20m	19.71m OD
03	Deposit	Natural	-	19.51m OD
22	Cut	Shallow ditch	0.10m	19.03m OD
23	Deposit	Fill of [22]	0.10m	19.03m OD

Discussion

Trench 5 sloped down from northwest to southeast, but without the considerable depth of deposits recorded in Trenches 1-4.

One archaeological feature was identified, an undated, shallow ditch [22] aligned approximately east to west. The ditch was 0.10m deep and 1.10m wide. Its sides sloped gradually and its base was flat. The fill [23] of this feature consisted of pale grey-brown silt sand with occasional small stones and gravels and was interpreted as weathered-in natural soil. No dating evidence was recovered from its excavation. A linear geophysical anomaly aligned broadly north west to south east (shown as 'B' on Figure 3, this report) identified by the geophysical survey was targeted by this trench. This anomaly was not seen in Trench 5 and it might therefore not have represented an archaeological feature.

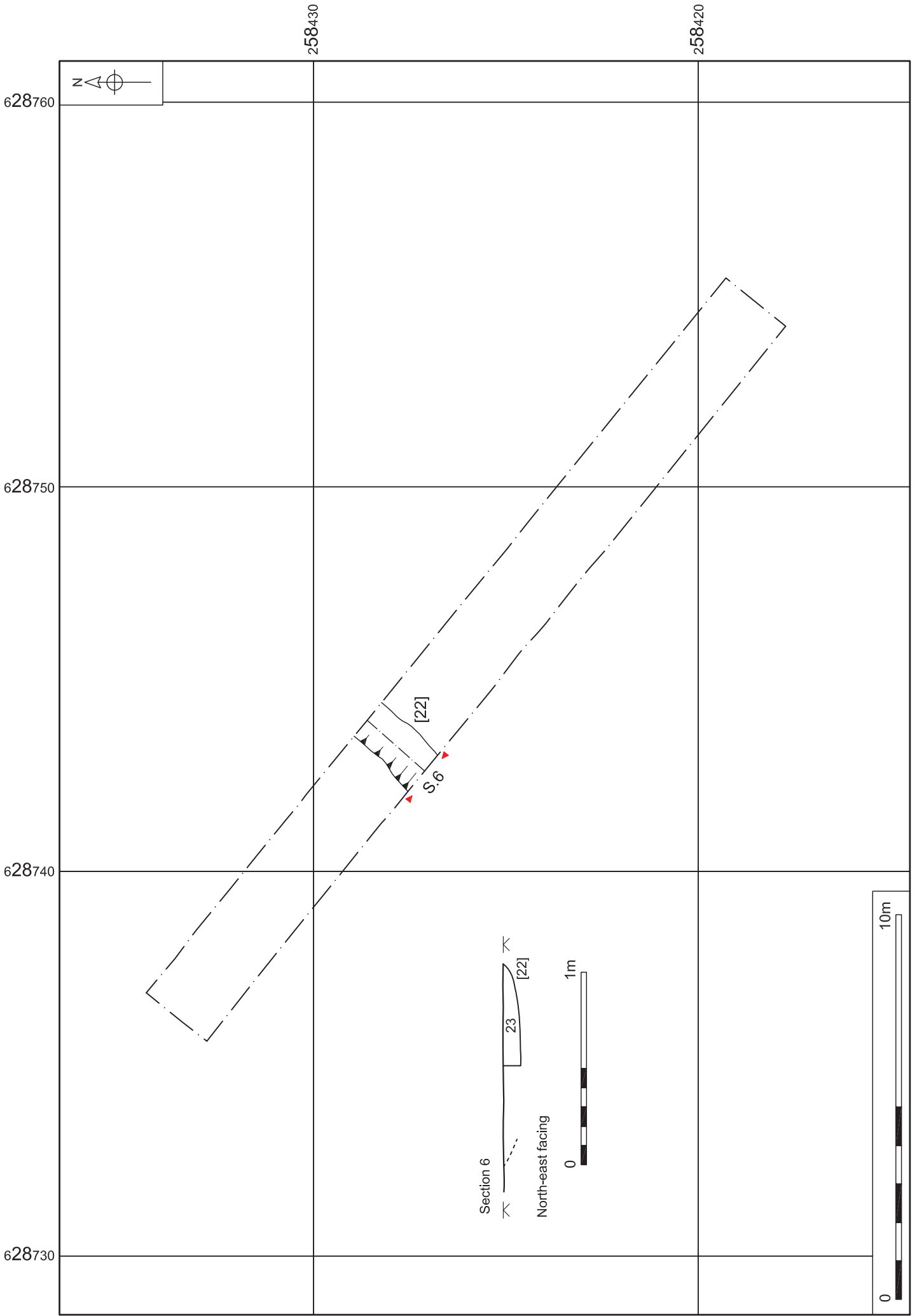


Figure 6. Trench 5, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 6



Plate 8. Trench 6 looking southwest with 1m scale

Figures 3, 7; Plate 8

Location

Orientation Northeast to southwest

Northeast end 628718, 258419

Southwest end 628698, 258397

Dimensions

Length 30.00m

Width 1.80m

Depth 0.52m

Levels

Northeast top 21.54m OD

Southwest top 20.44m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth OD
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.30m	21.54m OD
02	Deposit	Subsoil	0.20m	21.24m OD
03	Deposit	Natural	-	21.02m OD
20	Cut	Ditch	0.40m	20.92m OD
21	Deposit	Fill of ditch [20]	0.25m	20.92m OD
31	Deposit	Fill of [20]	0.30m	20.92m OD

Discussion

Evaluation Trench 6 contained an undated ditch [20] aligned approximately northwest to southeast.

Ditch [20] was 0.40m deep and 1.80m wide with gradually sloping sides and a shallow, rounded base. It contained two fills [21] and [31].

The primary deposit [31] consisted of orange-brown silt sand with occasional flints and gravels; it is interpreted as weathered natural soils infilling the base of the ditch. Fill [31] was overlain by grey-black sand silt [21] that contained sparse charcoal flecks, seemingly concentrated in the centre of the fill. No finds were recovered from either context.

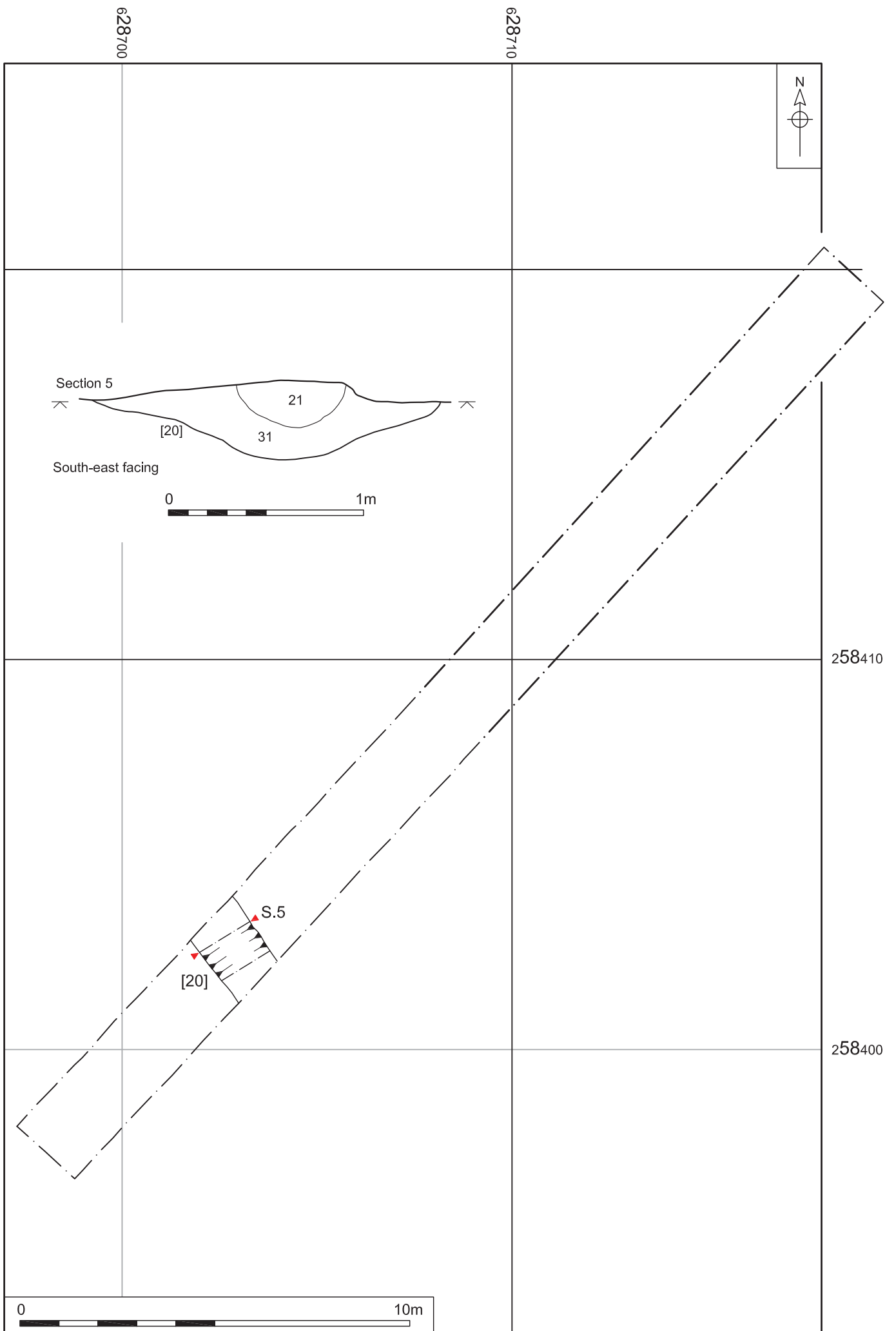


Figure 7. Trench 6, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 7



Plate 9. Trench 7 looking southeast with 1m scale

Figures 3, 8; Plates 9, 10

Location

Orientation Northwest to southeast

Northwest end 628670, 258447

Southeast end 628694, 258429

Dimensions

Length 30.00m

Width 1.80m

Depth 0.86m

Levels

Northwest top 22.53m OD

Southeast top 23.56m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth OD
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.30m	23.56m OD
02	Deposit	Subsoil	0.20m	23.26m OD
03	Deposit	Natural	-	22.92m OD
24	Deposit	Upper fill of [26]	0.44m	22.90m OD
25	Deposit	Primary fill of [26]	0.22m	22.78m OD
26	Cut	Pit?	0.68m	22.70m OD
27	Deposit	Fill of [28]	0.20m	22.75m OD
28	Cut	Small pit or post-hole	0.20m	22.75m OD
29	Deposit	Fill of [30]	0.51m	22.32m OD
30	Cut	Small pit or post-hole	0.51m	22.32m OD
32	Deposit	Fill of [33]	0.52m	21.96m OD
33	Cut	Post-hole	0.52m	21.96m OD
35	Deposit	Fill of [36]	0.28m	22.33m OD
36	Cut	Post-hole	0.28m	22.33m OD

Discussion

A number of archaeological features - a pit and four post-holes or small pits - were recorded in Trench 7.

Situated in the approximate centre of the trench, pit [26] extended beyond the sides of the excavation and was 3.00m wide and 0.68m deep. Its sides were gradually sloping and its base was uneven. The primary fill [25] of this feature was pale brown sand with a small silt content containing occasional small stones. Interpreted as weathered material infilling the feature's base. A small quantity of pottery of Early Iron Age (1 sherd/3g) and Roman date (5 sherds/18g) was recovered from this context. The upper boundary of the deposit

Trench 7

in the centre of the feature retained a clear indication of having been heated *in situ*, with a well-defined circular area of burning having coloured the deposit orange and red. Overlying this material was an upper fill [24] of mid grey-brown silt sand that contained moderate small and medium stones with occasional chalk and charcoal flecks. Artefacts retrieved from this fill were predominantly Roman in date, but also included two sherds of Early Bronze Age pottery (42g). Lava fragments (2/17g) of likely Roman date were also present. Environmental Sample <2> taken from context [24] produced small quantities of cereal grains, hazel nutshell fragments and burnt bone.

To the west of pit [26], a small circular feature [36] with a diameter of 0.58m and a depth of 0.28m was located. Its profile was gradually sloping with a rounded base. The fill [35] of this feature was mixed silt sand containing lenses of a pale grey silt clay material. These lenses suggest purposeful infilling of the feature, which is interpreted as a post-hole, with some of the deposit perhaps acting as packing within the hole.

Lying to the east of pit [26], feature [28] is also interpreted as a post-hole. Circular in plan with gradually sloping sides and a curved base, it had a diameter of 0.70m and was 0.20m deep. Its fill [27] of mid brown silt sand contained occasional small stones, a lens of burnt clay or soil and also lenses of silt clay material similar to those seen in feature [36]. Struck flint (1 piece, 7g) of prehistoric date and a single pottery sherd (2g) of Early Iron Age date was recovered from [27].



Plate 10. Trench 7 pit/post-hole [30] looking northwest with 1m scale

What appeared to be a larger post-setting [30] (Plate 10) with a diameter of 0.90m was also identified in the east part of the trench. Measuring 0.51m deep, its sides were steep and its base had a pronounced pointed profile. The fill [29] of the feature consisted of dark brown silt sands with occasional small stones

Trench 7

and moderate small sand lenses. The fill was darker in the centre with areas of sandier material around the sides of the cut, an appearance giving the impression of a post-pipe. Ceramic building material (2 pieces, 24g) and pottery of Roman date (6 sherds, 38g) was recovered from context [29].

Further east, at the end of the trench, another feature interpreted as a post-hole was recorded. This feature [33] was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.50m and was 0.52m deep. The sides of the feature were steep and its base was flat. The fill [32] of [33] was mid brown silt sand with occasional small stones. Similar to feature [30], what appeared to be a darker central area—perhaps signifying a post-pipe—was visible when feature [33] was excavated. A single sherd of pottery (7g) of Early Iron Age date was recovered from the fill.

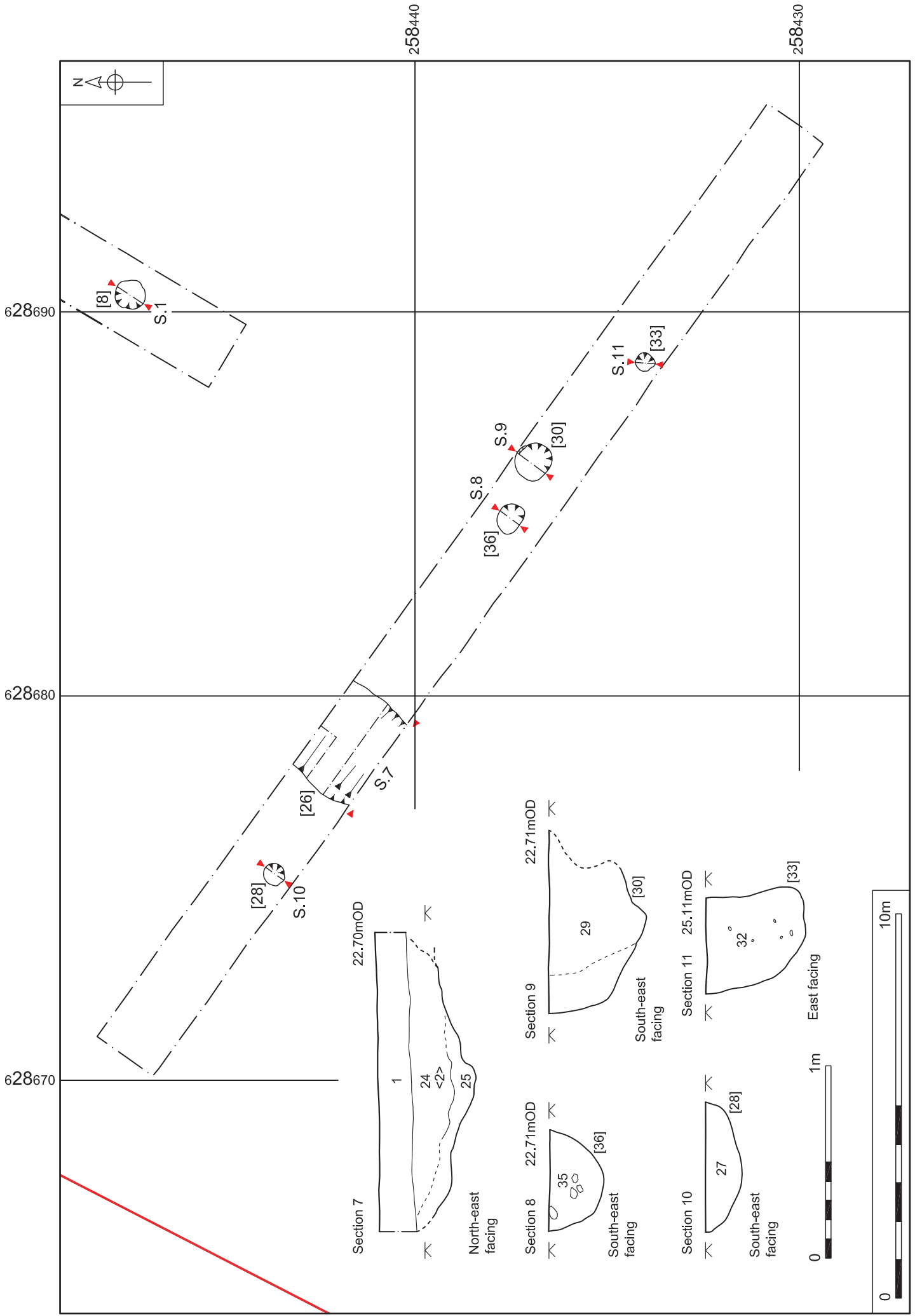


Figure 8. Trench 7, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 8



Plate 11. Trench 8 looking southeast with 1m scale

Figures 3, 9; Plate 11

Location

Orientation Northwest to southeast

Northwest end 628683, 258480

Southeast end 628658, 258497

Dimensions

Length 30.00m

Width 1.80m

Depth 0.00m

Levels

Northwest top 25.30m OD

Southeast top 26.17m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth OD
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.30m	26.17m OD
02	Deposit	Subsoil	0.20m	25.87m OD
03	Deposit	Natural	-	25.67m OD
12	Deposit	Finds from cleaning over ditch [15]	-	-
13	Deposit	Upper fill of ditch [15]	0.45m	24.80m OD
14	Deposit	Lower fill of ditch [15]	0.30m	24.70m OD
15	Cut	Ditch aligned north-south	0.50m	24.80m OD

Discussion

Evaluation Trench 8 was located on higher ground to the northwest of the site. It contained a single archaeological feature, a ditch.

Ditch [15] was aligned approximately northeast to southwest and targeted a result from the geophysical survey. The ditch was 0.50m deep and 2.70m wide. Its sides were gradual before breaking more steeply to a curved base. Primary context [14] consisted of pale yellow brown sand with occasional small stones. This deposit, heavily rooted, is interpreted as weathered natural sands infilling the ditch. Overlying this deposit was a further fill [13] of mid brown silt sand containing occasional small stones and charcoal flecks. A small quantity of animal bone (3 pieces, 114g) and pottery of Early Iron Age (2 sherds, 7g) and single pottery sherd (4g) of Roman date was recovered from deposit [13].

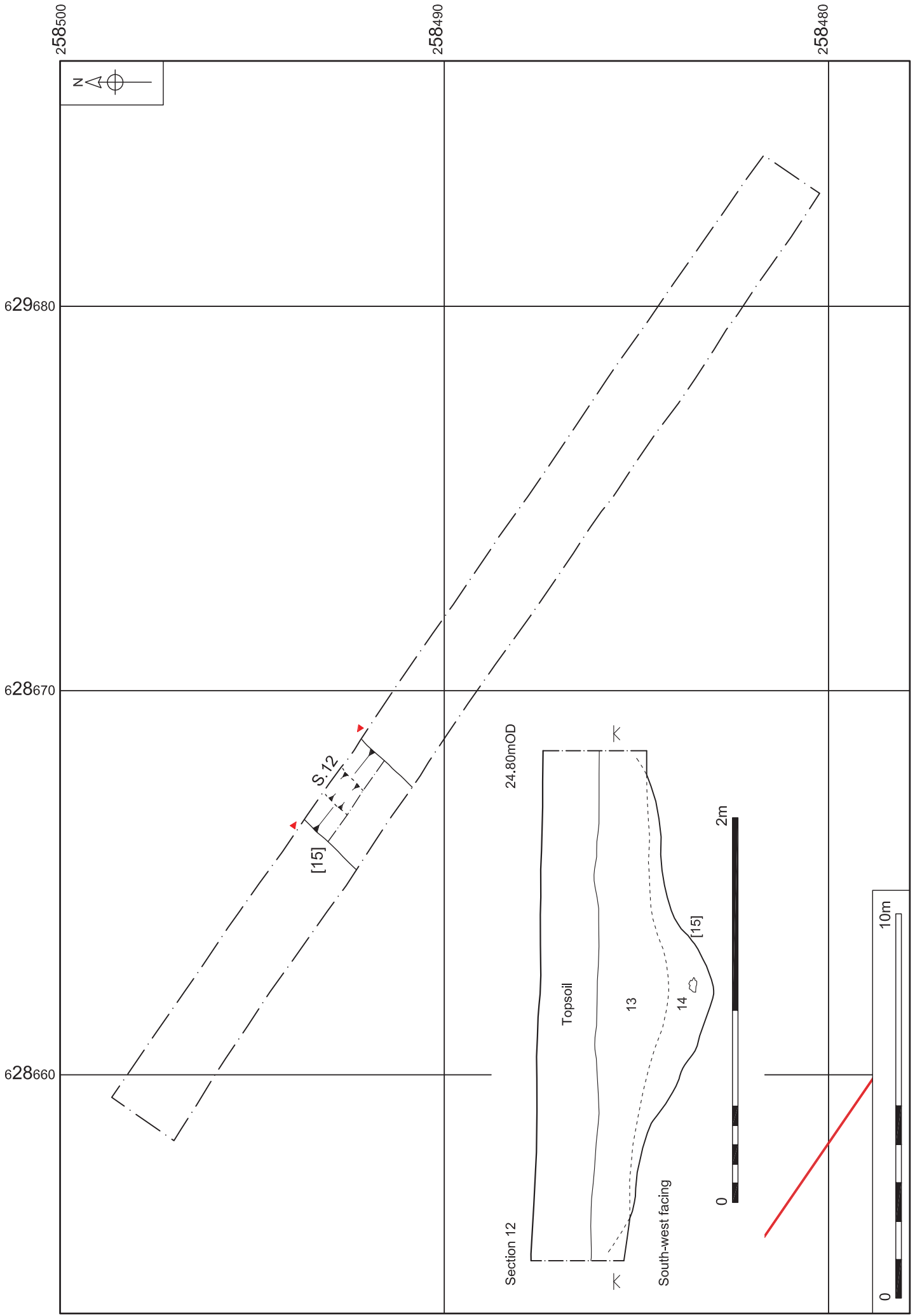


Figure 9. Trench 8, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 9



Plate 12. Trench 9 looking north with 1m scale

Figure 3; Plate 12

Location

Orientation Northeast to southwest

Northeast end 628646, 258527

Southwest end 628637, 258499

Dimensions

Length 30.00m

Width 1.80m

Depth 0.48m

Levels

Northeast top 27.13m OD

Southwest top 25.72m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth OD
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.38m	26.75m OD
02	Deposit	Subsoil	0.10m	26.37m OD
03	Deposit	Natural	-	26.27m OD

Discussion

No archaeological features were revealed in evaluation Trench 9.

Located at the highest point of the site, in the northwest corner, the natural geology in the excavation was different from the other evaluation trenches, and consisted of firm silt clay.

Trench 10



Plate 13. Trench 10 looking southwest with 1m scale and deposit [04] in foreground

Figures 3, 10; Plates 13, 14, 15

Location

Orientation Northeast to southwest

Northeast end 628704,258470

Southwest end 628688,258444

Dimensions

Length 30.00m

Width 1.80m

Depth 0.61m

Levels

Northeast top 24.72m OD

Southwest top 23.39m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth OD
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.40m	24.72m OD
02	Deposit	Subsoil	0.20m	24.32m OD
03	Deposit	Natural	-	24.12m OD
04	Deposit	Dark earth or midden material	0.40m	24.14m OD
05	Deposit	Structural feature?	0.10m	24.04m OD
06	Deposit	Finds from Sondage 1 ([04])	-	-
07	Deposit	Finds from Sondage 2 ([04])	-	-
08	Cut	Pit	0.25m OD	22.71m OD
09	Deposit	Fill of [08]	0.25m OD	22.71m OD
10	Deposit	Metal-detected finds	-	-
11	Deposit	Metal-detected finds	-	-
34	U/S Finds	Unstratified finds	-	-

Discussion

Located on higher ground to the north of the site, Trench 10 contained significant archaeological features and deposits. These features consisted of probable structural remains and what might be an associated layer of midden or 'dark earth' material.

The structural remains [05] were formed by an irregularly shaped patch of mixed grey green-yellow clays and silts with occasional moderately-sized flint cobbles (Plate 14). Measuring 40mm deep, 1.10m long and 0.70m wide, this shallow feature was sealed by deposit [04] and interpreted as a pad or perhaps setting for some form of structure, the majority of which appears to lie outside and probably to the immediate northeast of the trench. There was no discernable construction cut for the feature.

Trench 10



Plate 14. Trench 10 looking northeast at structure [05] with 1m scale

Overlying feature [05], a layer of dark brown silt sand [04] that was 0.40m deep extended for 8.30m from the north end of the trench (Plate 15). This deposit was examined by the excavation of two sondages that established the depth of the deposit, revealed feature [05] and recovered dating evidence.



Plate 15. Trench 10 looking northwest at profile of deposit [04] with 1m scale

The upper horizon of deposit [04] was clearly defined, due to ploughing, although its lower limit onto the underlying natural sands was less distinct. The southern limit of the deposit was reasonably discrete in plan. It contained

Trench 10

occasional small to medium stones and charcoal flecks. Late 1st-century AD pottery (35 sherds, 737g), lava (1 piece, 37g) and Roman building materials (2 pieces, 127g) were recovered from deposit [04] and a coin of mid 4th-century AD date was found in the vicinity of feature [05]. Bones of sheep and cattle were also present. Environmental Sample <1> from deposit [04] recovered small numbers of cereal grains and hazel nutshells with high counts of small charcoal flecks as well as some fragments of burnt bone and fired clay.

At the south end of the trench, a small circular pit [8] was 0.25m deep and 0.70m in diameter. It had gradually sloping sides to a curved base. Its fill [09] was dark to pale brown silt sand with occasional stones. A single piece of cattle bone (31g) and pottery of Early Iron Age (1 sherd, 9g) and Roman (1 sherd, 3g) date was recovered from the deposit.

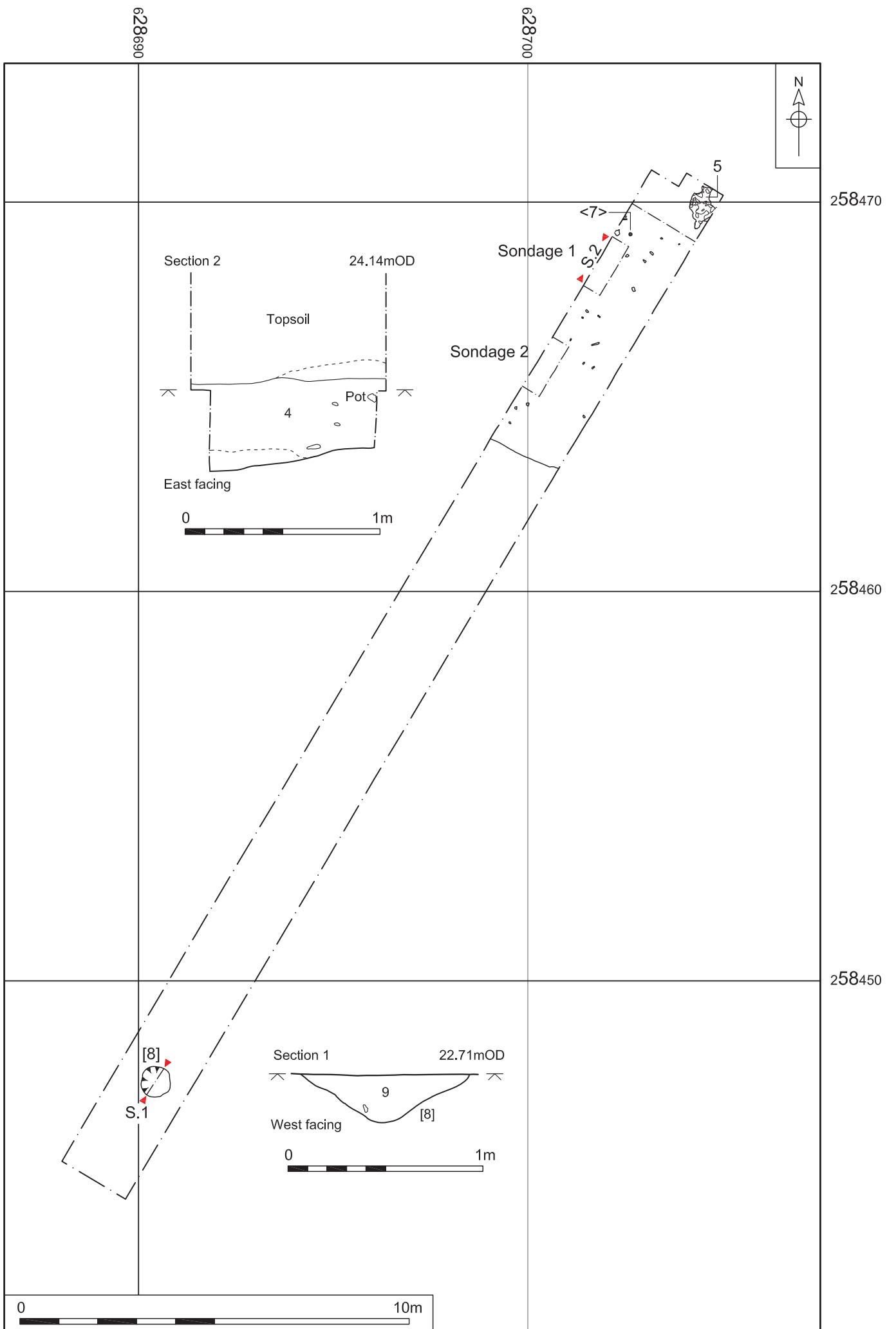


Figure 10. Trench 10, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

6.0 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL

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

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

6.1 Pottery

by Andrew Peachey

6.1.1 Introduction

The evaluation excavations recovered a total of 124 sherds (2,427g) of pottery in a slightly abraded condition (Appendix 3). The ceramics are predominantly of Roman date with occasional prehistoric and medieval sherds also present (Table 2).

Pottery date	Sherd count	Weight (g)	R.EVE
Prehistoric	7	68	0.00
Roman	116	2166	1.62
Medieval	1	13	0.00
<i>Total</i>	<i>124</i>	<i>2427</i>	<i>1.62</i>

Table 2. Quantification of pottery by date

The bulk of the pottery, almost entirely Roman types, was recovered from a single dark earth or midden layer (Table 3) that contained coarse ware and mortaria forms indicative of a date in the second half of the 1st century AD. Small amounts of Roman pottery derived from ditches and pits, while late Roman ceramics, including an abraded samian ware mortarium, were present as unstratified finds.

Feature type	Sherd count	Weight (g)	R.EVE
Dark earth/midden layer [04]	73	1860	1.25
Ditch features	7	48	0.05
Pit/post-hole features	37	283	0.10
Unstratified layer [34]	7	236	0.22
<i>Total</i>	<i>124</i>	<i>2427</i>	<i>1.62</i>

Table 3. Quantification of pottery in feature types

6.1.2 Methodology

The pottery was quantified by sherd count, weight (g) and R.EVE in accordance with the guidelines of the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1995) and the Study Group for Roman Pottery. All data has been entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that forms part of the site archive. Fabrics were analysed at x20 magnification, with fabric codes and descriptions (for Roman examples) cross-referenced, where possible, to the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998) or appropriate regional kiln groups; local or indistinguishable coarse wares were assigned an alpha-numeric code and are fully described in the report. The pottery fabrics are described below and quantified in Table 4. Samian ware forms reference Webster (1996), and, to avoid repetition,

references to the large assemblage from Hacheston (Arthur and Plouviez 2004) have been abbreviated to *Hac.* (*italicised* in the text).

6.1.3 Fabric descriptions

6.1.3.1 Prehistoric (hand-made)

- GQ1 Grog-tempered ware [EBA]. Orange exterior surfaces fading to very dark grey interior surfaces, with inclusions of sparse grog [0.5-3mm] and sparse quartz [<0.5mm]. A relatively soft fabric with a powdery finish.
- F1 Flint-tempered ware [E-MIA]. Dark grey-brown to black with inclusions of moderately sorted common calcined flint [0.25-1.5mm, occasionally larger].

6.1.3.2 Roman

- LEZ SA2 Lezoux samian ware 2 (Tomber and Dore 1998, 32).
- TRI SA Trier samian ware (Tomber and Dore 1998, 41).
- COL CC2 Colchester (late) colour-coated ware 2 (Tomber and Dore 1998, 132).
- GRS1 Sandy grey ware 1. Mid-dark grey with inclusions of moderately sorted, common quartz (0.1-0.25mm), sparse dark grey/black iron-rich grains (0.1-0.5mm, occasionally larger) and sparse fine mica. A hard fabric with a slightly abrasive to smooth feel. Probably produced locally with kilns known at Hacheston (Arthur and Plouviez 2004, 161) and elsewhere in east Suffolk including Wherstead and Snape.
- GRS2 Sandy grey ware 2. Mid-dark grey with inclusions of moderately sorted, common quartz (0.1-0.25mm) and common fine mica. A hard fabric with a slightly abrasive to smooth feel. Probably produced locally with kilns known at Hacheston (Arthur and Plouviez 2004, 161), although the Wattisfield-region kilns in central-north Suffolk are also a possibility.
- OXS1 Sandy oxidised ware. Pale orange-brown to mid orange surfaces fading to a mid grey/orange core, with inclusions of sparse-common, moderately sorted quartz (0.2-0.5mm), occasional rounded white chalk (0.25-1mm), fine mica, and red/black iron-rich grains (<0.5mm). A hard fabric with slightly abrasive surfaces. A similar fabric has been record in a kiln at Snape (Peachey 2013, 63: OX1), although other local sources are likely.
- EAA RE [M] East Anglian reduced ware mortaria (Tomber and Dore 1998, 130). A dark grey fabric with slightly lighter margins with inclusions of moderately sorted, common quartz (0.1-0.25mm) and common fine mica. Trituration grits comprise a well sorted but sparse mix of sub-angular quartzite, flint and black ironstone (2-4mm). Reduced mortaria are a characteristic East Anglian phenomenon (Darling and Gurney 1993, 193), with possible production at Hacheston (Arthur and Plouviez 2004, 185-6), as well as Homersfield and Pakenham and kilns in Norfolk and Essex.
- EAA OX [M] East Anglian oxidised ware mortaria. Pale orange surfaces fading to a red core, with inclusions of moderately sorted common quartz and sparse black/red iron-rich grains [both 0.1-0.5mm]. Trituration grits of dense sub-rounded/angular quartzite and black/red ironstone (1.5-3mm). Similar form types were produced in the Wattisfield-region kilns (Maynard *et al.* 1935, 194) and other mortaria at Homersfield, Pakenham and West Stow, though this fabric is more consistent with those produced in east Suffolk, possibly including Hacheston, where there is limited evidence for mortaria production (i.e. Arthur and Plouviez 2004, 180-1).

6.1.3.3 Medieval

- MCW Medieval oxidised coarse ware, internal lead glaze (13th-15th C). Orange surfaces over a mid grey core, with inclusions of moderately sorted, common quartz (0.1-0.5mm) and sparse dark grey/red inclusions that leach slightly into the matrix (0.1-

0.5mm, colour depends whether in surfaces or core), a hard fabric with a slightly pimply, abrasive feel.

Fabric	Sherd count	Weight (g)	R.EVE
Prehistoric			
GQ1	1	36	0.00
F1	6	32	0.00
Roman			
LEZ SA2	1	23	0.00
TRI SA	1	70	0.00
COL CC2	1	3	0.10
GRS1	93	1691	1.07
GRS2	8	293	0.30
OXS1	9	83	0.05
EAA RE [M]	1	42	0.00
EAA OX [M]	2	141	0.10
Medieval			
MCW	1	13	0.00
<i>Total</i>	<i>124</i>	<i>2427</i>	<i>1.62</i>

Table 4. Quantification of fabric types

6.1.4 Prehistoric pottery

The earliest example in the assemblage is a single sherd (36g) of Early Bronze Age pottery contained in fill [24] of Roman pit [26]. The sherd is thick-walled (c. 15mm) and decorated with fingernail impressions pushed laterally into the body, typical of Rusticated Beaker vessels of the period in East Anglia, including at Saxmundham (Peachey 2012: fig.9) and Sutton Hoo (Longworth and Kinnes 1980: fig.21) to the south.

The prehistoric ceramic assemblage also includes six sherds (32g) of pottery in fabric F1, which contains relatively well-sorted calcined-flint temper. This type of fabric is characteristic of the Early Iron Age in the region, including sites such as Framlingham (Martin 1993, 60), with the use of calcined-flint temper declining but not totally discontinuing as it was superseded by sand temper in the Middle Iron Age. Fabric F1 is limited to body sherds, including one potentially *in situ* sherd (7g), a slightly angular vessel-shoulder from post-hole [33] (fill [32]), that suggests a date in the Early Iron Age is more probable. Further, non-diagnostic F1 body sherds were present as residual material in Roman pits [08] and [26] and ditch [15].

6.1.5 Roman pottery

A total of 73 sherds (1,860g) of pottery was recovered from dark earth/midden layer [04], including Sondages 1 ([06]) and 2 ([07]). This group includes a single medieval body sherd that has been deemed intrusive, but otherwise possesses a very homogeneous early Roman character. The group is dominated by GRS1, with few sherds of GRS2, OXS1, EAA RE [M] and EAA OX [M] also present. These may all be categorised as products of local kilns in east Suffolk, potentially from Hacheston c. 2km to the east, although kilns may have been widespread throughout the locality. When the similarities in fabric of the assemblage are considered together with the high incidence of reduced sherds and the low

numbers of oxidised and burnt sherds, it is possible that they may derive from a kiln nearby. Given the absence of wasters in the assemblage, however, this interpretation is not considered likely.

The GRS1 vessels include bowl-jars with plain cordons (*Hac.22*), a necked jar (*Hac.29*) and a butt beaker with a down-turned bead rim (*Hac.17*). The latter vessel appears to be a specialist product of a kiln at Snape (Peachey 2013: fig.36.22), and collectively these vessels are indicative of types produced in the second half of the 1st century AD, with consistent mid grey firing and burnished exterior surfaces suggesting a date towards the final decades of this period. This chronology is supported by a further bowl-jar in GRS2 (*Hac.30A/B*) and a cordoned bowl in OXS1 (*Hac.19D*).

However; the presence of early Roman mortaria marks this deposit out as intrinsically interesting. Many mortaria fabrics are typical to specific/regional production centres, though the examples here are characteristic of the widespread and localised production sites in East Anglia, particularly those in east Suffolk. The example in EAA OX [M] has an upright bead with a groove on top, a horizontal pointed flange and a grooved slight carination under the flange (Plates 16-17), comparable to an early Roman mortarium at Burgh (Martin 1988, 58-9: fig.31.330). The mortarium has dense sub-rounded/angular quartzite and black/red ironstone (1.5-3mm) trituration grits (Plate 18), in contrast with the mortarium in EAA RE [M] that has sparse sub-angular quartzite, flint and black ironstone (2-4mm) trituration grits (Plate 19). Both vessels are moderately worn with a noticeable proportion of grits removed. The suite of inclusions in the fabrics and trituration grits of the mortaria appear broadly similar to those in the locally produced coarse wares, possibly Hacheston, although mortaria production in east Suffolk (including reduced East Anglian variants) is poorly understood and may have included kilns in the Homersfield and Wattisfield area, Pakenham, or coastal locations such as Caister-on-Sea and Brancaster in Norfolk.

Whatever the source, it appears that dark earth/midden layer [04] probably represents a significant rubbish deposit from nearby domestic activity. Utilitarian consumption here was supplied by relatively local pottery kilns towards the end of the late 1st century AD, potentially continuing into the early 2nd century AD.



Plate 16. Profile of EAA OX [M] mortarium from dark earth/midden layer [4]



Plate 17. Rim detail of EAA OX [M] mortarium from dark earth/midden layer [4]



Plate 18. Trituration grits of EAA OX [M] mortarium from dark earth/midden layer [4]



Plate 19. Trituration grits of EAA RE [M] mortarium from dark earth/midden layer [4]

The Roman pottery, predominantly GRS1 and OXS1, from the remaining pit and ditch features – notably 27 sherds (224g) found in pit [26] – appears broadly contemporary with that from dark earth/midden layer [04]. Pit [26]/fill [24] also contained a single sherd from a COL CC2 bag-shaped beaker with a cornice rim and clay-pellet roughcast decoration, typical of a type produced from the early 2nd to late 2nd/early 3rd centuries AD (Symonds and Wade 1999: type Cam.391A/B). The limited incidence of fine ware (manufactured in the region of the site at Colchester), supports the likelihood that activity on the site was strictly domestic in character, with the remaining GRS1 and OXS1 appearing to derive from jars or cooking pots. There were no further diagnostic sherds.

The unstratified [34] Roman pottery from Trench 10 includes vessel types of varying date, though significantly later than the pottery from stratified features. The GRS1 and GRS2 vessels, indistinguishable by fabric from the early Roman sherds, consist of a jar, lid and dishes, with the latter including a bead-and-flanged variant (Hac.44) produced from the late 3rd century AD onwards. The unstratified pottery also includes part of a partially burnt central Gaulish samian ware (LEZ SA2) dish, probably Dr.18/31 or Dr.31, and the heavily worn base of an east Gaulish samian ware (TRI SA) mortarium, probably Dr.45. These finds suggest that Roman occupation may have been more extensive in the vicinity.

6.1.6 Medieval pottery

A single body sherd (13g) of medieval coarse ware with an internal lead glaze (MCW) was recovered from Sondage 1 ([06]) into dark earth/midden layer [04], and is probably intrusive/disturbed. This fabric was produced between the 13th and 15th centuries, with kilns known at Hollesley and Dunwich to the east and Ipswich to the south, although the mineralogical similarities with the Roman pottery suggest other, unidentified local sources are possible.

6.2 Ceramic Building Material

by Andrew Peachey

6.2.1 Introduction

The evaluation excavations recovered eight fragments (428g) of Roman ceramic building material (CBM), including box flue tile (Appendix 4). The CBM was generally in a fragmented, highly abraded condition.

The CBM was quantified by fragment count and weight with fabrics examined at x20 magnification and all data was entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will be deposited as part of the archive.

6.2.2 Commentary

The Roman CBM was manufactured in two similar fabrics, both oxidised orange with surfaces slightly paler than the core. Fabric 1 has inclusions of poorly sorted common quartz (0.25-0.5mm) with sparse dark red iron-rich grains (<1mm). Fabric 2 has the addition of common rounded chalk grains (0.5-2mm).

Fill [24] of pit [26] contained two joining fragments (160g) of Fabric 1 box flue tile, while miscellaneous Fabric 1 fragments were contained in dark earth/midden layer [4] and pit/post-hole [30]. The box flue tile had two keying marks on one side, arranged in an x-shape, but no traces of burning or plaster. A single fragment (102g) of Fabric 2, recovered from unstratified context [34], was >35mm thick, suggesting it may have formed part of a *bessalis* brick or related type. A further small fragment of Fabric 2 was recovered from dark earth/midden layer [4]. The low quantities of Roman CBM are not consistent with the presence of a structure with a significant CBM roof or other component, but Roman brick and tile may have been utilised for numerous small-scale domestic purposes such as in hearths, ovens or working surfaces.

6.3 Metal Finds

by Rebecca Sillwood

6.3.1 Copper alloy

A single Roman coin (1g) was recovered from dark earth or midden deposit [04]. The coin is a nummus (AE1-AE4) of the House of Constantine, probably belonging to Constans (AD 337-350). The obverse inscription carries the letters CONSTAN... and the reverse (VICTOR)IAE DD AVGG Q NN. The obverse depicts the bust of the Emperor wearing a diadem and the reverse depicts two victories holding wreaths. There is a little loss to the edges of the coin, but the details are fairly clear and fine. This coin dates to AD 343-348, see examples on the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) (www.finds.org) database for parallels, (refs. SUR-D2EBD2, ESS-E938F6).

6.3.2 Lead

An unstratified fragment of lead (14g) was recovered from context [34] in Trench 10. The piece is a curved edge from a possible object, but its exact purpose is unknown. Some pitting to one surface may be decoration, although this is not certain.

6.3.3 Iron

Three fragments and objects of iron were recovered from two unstratified contexts. Unstratified finds [34] from Trench 10 comprised two undiagnostic iron rods (87g). One unstratified [10] probable horseshoe nail (2g) of medieval date was found. This small nail consisted of a T-shaped head and measured 27.4mm in length.

6.4 Flint

by Andrew Peachey

6.4.1 Introduction

The evaluation excavations recovered six pieces (71g) of struck flint, including blades and scrapers (Table 5) (Appendix 5). The struck flint was not patinated and occurred as residual material in features of Roman date. The implements are consistent with technology of the earlier Neolithic period.

Flint Type	No.	Wt. [g]
Blade	2	15
Side scraper	1	37
End scraper	1	11
Debitage	2	8
Total	6	71

Table 5. Quantification of flint

6.4.2 Methodology

The flint was quantified by fragment count and weight (g), and data, including flake type or implement type, patination, colour and condition was entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that will be deposited as part of the project archive.

The term 'cortex' refers to the natural weathered exterior surface of a piece of flint, and the term 'patination' to the colouration of a flaked surface exposed by human or natural agency. In considering flakes, dorsal cortex is categorised after Andrefsky (2005, 104 and 115), with 'primary flake' referring to pieces with cortex covering 100% of the dorsal face, 'secondary flake' to 50-99% coverage, 'tertiary flake' to 1-49% and 'un-corticated' to those with no dorsal cortex. A 'blade' is defined as an elongated flake that is at least twice as long as it is wide, often exhibiting parallel dorsal flake scars (a feature that can assist in identification of broken blades that, by definition, have an indeterminate length/width ratio). Terms used to describe implement and core types follow the system adopted by Healy (1988, 48-9).

6.4.3 Raw material

The raw flint in the assemblage varies from mid to dark grey with, where present, a chalky white cortex that suggests the flint may have been sourced from local clay deposits rather than gravels.

6.4.4 Discussion of struck flint

Earlier Neolithic flint technology was based upon repeat production of blades from carefully exploited cores, and the blades from dark earth/midden layer [4] and pit [28] are typical of examples produced by this method. Both blades were removed

using a soft hammer and are 45-50mm long, with that from [4] exhibiting traces of wear on one lateral edge. A side scraper made from a secondary flake (from unstratified context [34]) was also probably produced using this technique. An end scraper from dark earth/midden layer [4] was manufactured on a very thin uncorticated flake, which has suffered later damage. Pit [30] also contained soft-hammer struck flakes as debitage, and the characteristics of this small group are consistent with earlier Neolithic activity.

6.5 Animal Bone

by Julie Curl

6.5.1 Methodology

The bone 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'. The bones were recorded using a modified version of guidelines described in Davis (1992).

Butchery marks were recorded, noting the type of butchering such as cut, chopped or sawn and location of marks. A note was also made of burnt bone. Pathologies were 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. Measurements were not taken from material in this assemblage as there were no sufficiently complete elements available.

Weights and total number of pieces counts were taken for each context, along with the number of pieces for each individual species present (NISP), and these appear in Appendix 6. All data was recorded in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. A summary table of the faunal catalogue can be found in Appendix 6 and the full catalogue is available in the digital archive.

6.5.2 The faunal assemblage

A total of 748g of faunal remains, consisting of 32 pieces, was recovered from the evaluation excavations (Appendix 6). Remains were collected from six contexts, including possible midden/dark earth deposit [04] and Sondages 1 and 2 cut through this (contexts [06] and [07] respectively), ditch fill [13] and pit fills [09] and [24]. Most fills were associated with Roman or prehistoric ceramics, although Sondage 1 produced pottery of medieval to post-medieval date. Quantification of the assemblage by context and finds date is summarised by fragment count in Table 6 and by weight in Table 7.

The assemblage is generally in good condition, although quite fragmented throughout from butchering. The exception to this is context [15] where there is more erosion and cracking than on pieces from other fills, suggesting some weathering prior to burial. One fragment of bone in Sondage 1, context [06] and two fragments in Sondage 2, context [07] showed canid gnawing, with more extensive gnawing (at the proximal and distal ends of the bone) on a cattle metacarpal from [07].

Context	Spot date and quantity		Context total
	Roman	Med/Post-med	
04	9		9
06		7	7
07	7		7
09	1		1
13	2		2
24	6		6
Spot date total	25	7	32

Table 6. Quantification of the faunal assemblage by context, finds date and fragment count

Context	Spot date and weight (g)		Context total
	Roman	Med/Post-med	
04	137		137
06		133	133
07	224		224
09	31		31
13	114		114
24	109		109
Spot date total	615	133	748

Table 7. Quantification of the faunal assemblage by context, finds date and weight

6.5.3 Species range, modifications and discussion

Context	Species and NISP						Context total
	Cattle	Deer - Red	Equid	Mammal	Pig/boar	Sheep/goat [†]	
04	7					2	9
06	4			2	1		7
07	1	1	1	4			7
09	1						1
13	2						2
24	1			5			6
Species total	16	1	1	11	1	2	32

Table 8. Quantification of the faunal assemblage by context, species and NISP

A least five species are present in the assemblage. In addition, there is canid gnawing evident on some of the bone, attesting to the presence of dog/wolf at the

site. The species present represent predominantly domestic animals, but also include wild species. Table 8 quantifies the assemblage by context, species and NISP (species fragment count).

Cattle is the most common species and is found in all contexts. All of the bone was from adult animals and all of it was butchered. The elements present showed a range of cuts, with marks to upper and lower limb elements, scapula and ribs. Evidence for skinning was observed on a robust metacarpal with cuts on the front proximal part of the shaft. A proximal phalange from possible pit [26]/fill [24] bore knife cuts.

Pathology was noted on the cattle bone in the form of slight arthritis on a proximal phalange, which is likely to have caused some discomfort and may have occurred from use as a traction animal.

Sheep/goat and pig/boar were both recorded from isolated fills with butchered meat-bearing upper limb bones. Equid was also seen in one fill, with a chopped and cut metacarpal in Sondage 2 ([07]); this bone is from a small and delicate equid, suggesting it might be a mule/donkey.

A red-deer antler tine was collected from Sondage 2 ([07]). The antler is chopped at the base and small chops are also evident at the tip of the tine, indicating the antler's use for working or craft purposes.

6.5.4 Animal bone conclusions

This is a small assemblage that is of mixed origin. Whilst the bulk of the elements is from secondary butchering and food waste, there is some primary butchering and skinning waste present and, with the antler, working waste. The assemblage would perhaps suggest that processing, along with working or craft activities and meat consumption were carried out in close proximity and that waste of different types was disposed of together.

The gnaw marks recorded suggest that canids were present too, although their bones were not recovered. The gnawing may be from scavenger activity or from meat waste given to domestic dogs. Gnawing on skinning waste has been seen at many archaeological sites and might suggest primary waste was likely to be readily available for scavenging or selected for dog use.

6.6 Stone

by Rebecca Sillwood

Four fragments of stone were recovered from three contexts at the site.

Three of the pieces were formless fragments of lava (54g) and have not been retained. The lava was recovered from dark earth or midden material [04] and from the upper fill [24] of pit [26]. These fragments may have been pieces of quernstones of Roman date, although they did not retain any surfaces or distinctive features.

One piece (96g), probably a glacial erratic, was cracked and possibly burned. This was found in Sondage 1 [06] dug through dark earth/midden material [04]. The piece has been discarded.

6.7 Finds Conclusions

The finds recovered from the evaluation trenches are predominantly of the Roman period, with hints of earlier activity, and minor later intrusion.

The prehistoric material includes flint with Early Neolithic technological traits and pottery of Early Bronze Age and Early Iron Age date.

Almost all of the features excavated contained Roman material; even where a piece of medieval pottery was found it was in association with a homogeneous assemblage of Roman pottery, and was regarded as intrusive.

Only two features contained exclusively prehistoric material: pit or post-hole [28] (Early Neolithic and Early Iron Age) and post-hole [33] (Early Iron Age).

7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Charred Plant and Macrofossils Remains

by Val Fryer,

7.1.1 Introduction and method statement

The evaluation excavations recorded a deposit or midden layer of likely early Roman (late-first century) date (context [04]) and a pit [26] of possible Roman date (fill [24]), which contained residual materials including Roman pottery and worked flint. Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from both features and two were submitted for assessment.

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are tabulated in Appendix 7. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots, seeds and chaff were also recorded.

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

7.1.2 Results

Cereal grains, seeds and nutshell fragments are present at a low density within both assemblages. Preservation is poor to moderate, with a number of the grains (particularly those from Sample <1>) being severely puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at extremely high temperatures.

Barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains are recorded, with wheat occurring marginally more frequently. Of the wheat grains, most are of a robust, elongated 'drop' form typical of spelt (*T. spelta*). Cereal chaff is entirely absent from the assemblages. Individual seeds of common segetal weeds, namely brome (*Bromus* sp.), a small legume (Fabaceae), black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*) and a large grass (Poaceae), are also recorded, and fragments of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell are present in both samples.

Fragments of charcoal/charred wood are present in both assemblages. Many pieces display signs of quite severe thermal damage in the form of 'puffing' (i.e. disrupted grain) and, in addition, some fragments are fringed with tarry droplets, providing further evidence that combustion almost certainly occurred at very high temperatures. Other remains include black porous and tarry residues (again suggestive of the high temperature combustion of organic remains), bone fragments (some of which are burnt/calced) and small pellets of burnt or fired clay. The assemblage from Sample <2> also includes a small number of highly abraded shells of common terrestrial molluscs indicative of an open grassland habitat.

7.1.3 Charred plant and macrofossils conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, although the current assemblages are small and somewhat limited in composition, they are clearly derived from activities that employed extremely high temperatures of combustion. Whether these activities were domestic or industrial in nature is currently unclear, but the presence of small fragments of calcined bone may indicate that the former is more likely. Although the assemblage from Sample <2> is undated, the occurrence of elongated wheat grains of possible spelt type almost certainly suggests that at least some of the macrofossils are of later prehistoric or Roman date, as spelt production had largely ceased in eastern England by the Saxon period.

As these assemblages clearly indicate that plant macrofossils are preserved within the archaeological horizon at Easton, it is strongly recommended that if further interventions are planned in the immediate area, additional samples of approximately 40 litres in volume are taken from all well-sealed and dated contexts recorded during excavation.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

The archaeological evaluation at The Street, Easton, Suffolk identified two areas of significant Roman remains, in Trenches 7 and 10. Another five trenches (1, 2, 5, 6 and 8) contained less informative and generally undated remains with the remaining three trenches (3, 4 and 9) being blank. A small number of late prehistoric artefacts from the site hint at activity dating to this period.

The site setting at Easton, on a south-facing slope not far from a watercourse, would seem well suited to prehistoric activity, and indeed a general background of late prehistoric activity seems to have been identified by the evaluation. Worked flint and pottery was recovered from several features, though much, if not all of this material, is thought by the excavator to be residual. Nonetheless, the occurrence of Early Bronze Age Rusticated Beaker and Early Iron Age pottery at the site attests to some degree of activity, without an identified focus, occurring at the site over a broad timespan.

In Trench 7, a pit with a burnt or charred horizon towards its base contained an informative collection of Roman artefacts, including building material, pottery and lava (possibly from a quern). A small number of well defined post-holes in the same trench might represent a post-built structure thought likely to be Roman in date

A deposit in Trench 10, described as a dark earth or midden [04] is confidently ascribed a 1st- to early 2nd-century AD date based on ceramic evidence. Faunal remains also survived in this deposit (as well as in other features across the site). The dark earth/midden appeared to seal structural remains [05] with these perhaps representing a foundation.

It is probable that occupation at this site in the Roman period would to some degree have been directly influenced by the Roman small town of Hacheston, the site at Easton lying as it does within c. 2km of this town. Excavations at Hacheston (Blagg, Plouviez and Tester 2004) suggest occupation at this small town before the Roman conquest of AD43, with pottery manufacture amongst a number of crafts identified from the archaeological record of the town. Archaeological evidence suggests the town continued as a manufacturing and market centre until a marked decline towards the end of the 4th century AD.

Located in the immediate hinterland of this small town, the Romano-British occupants of the Easton site might have been engaged in generating agricultural surplus for the market at Hacheston or supplying its population in perhaps some other manner. Some indication of trade might be seen in the occurrence at the Easton site of pottery possibly manufactured at Hacheston. Based on the findings of the current evaluation, activity in this period seems to have been an early Roman event, with little evidence of activity beyond the early 3rd century AD at the site. A coin of mid 4th-century AD date from the same trench might though indicate later activity. The pottery is characterised as being of domestic character and so consistent perhaps with material derived from a farmstead.

There is currently insufficient information to suggest to what extent activity at the site and the Roman small town at Hacheston might have been inter-reliant or dependent, but it is evident they overlapped chronologically and some sort of interaction between the two might reasonably be expected.

Based on what is currently understood, archaeological remains at the site appear to have the potential to address research themes such as agricultural consumption and production and rural settlements and landscapes in the Roman period, topics highlighted in Medlycott 2011 as research objectives for the Roman period. The Roman Rural Settlement Project coordinated by Reading University highlights the relative dearth of Roman sites explored in Suffolk. The project provides themes that might be thought applicable to the Easton site, such as the consideration of the relationship of rural to urban areas and the nature of rural industry.

There is no artefact evidence from the evaluation to suggest activity in the Roman period had either a Late Iron Age precursor, or that Roman activity was subsequently followed by Saxon activity. The causes behind the apparent peak of activity in the Roman period and its subsequent demise might also usefully be considered a topic suitable for future study.

Other features at the site consisted of ditches. These are mostly undated, though based on limited dating evidence some might cautiously be suggested as being Roman. Whilst it was not possible to robustly assign these features to any particular period, it was noted the ditches did not seem to align with current field and boundary arrangements, perhaps suggesting at least a pre-enclosure (early 19th-century) date. The paucity of post-Roman remains would seem to suggest that settlement at the site did not continue beyond the 4th century AD.

Further work as part of a mitigation strategy could attempt to define areas of archaeology recorded in Trenches 7 and 10, which, based on current understanding seem to represent relatively discrete areas of archaeological remains.

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

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was undertaken by David Moro and the author.

The site was monitored by Rachael Monk of Suffolk Historic Environment Service and a site reference and HER search carried out by James Rolfe also of Suffolk Historic Environment Service.

Finds from the evaluation were processed, recorded and reported on by Rebecca Sillwood. The pottery, CBM and flint were analysed by Andrew Peachey and the animal bone by Julie Curl.

The project was managed by Nigel Page on behalf of NPS Archaeology.

Plant machinery was operated by Holmes Plant Ltd.

Daniel Watts of Hopkins Homes Ltd instructed NPS Archaeology and arranged access to the site. The landowner, Mr Hammond, was of great assistance during the course of the fieldwork.

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

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Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Period	Trench
01	Deposit	Topsoil	Modern	1-10
02	Deposit	Subsoil	Unknown	1-10
03	Deposit	Natural	Unknown	1-10
04	Deposit	Dark earth or midden material	Roman	10
05	Deposit	Structural feature?	Roman	10
06	Deposit	Finds from Sondage 1 (deposit [04])	Roman	10
07	Deposit	Finds from Sondage 2 (deposit [04])	Roman	10
08	Cut	Pit	Roman	10
09	Deposit	Fill of [08]	Roman	10
10	Deposit	Metal-detected finds	-	10
11	Deposit	Metal-detected finds	-	10
12	Deposit	Finds from cleaning over ditch [15]	-	8
13	Deposit	Upper fill of ditch [15]	Roman to post-medieval	8
14	Deposit	Lower fill of ditch [15]	Roman to post-medieval	8
15	Cut	Ditch aligned north-south	Roman to post-medieval	8
16	Cut	Ditch	Roman?	1
17	Deposit	Fill of ditch [16]	Roman?	1
18	Cut	Ditch	Roman to post-medieval	2
19	Deposit	Fill of ditch [18]	Roman to post-medieval	2
20	Cut	Ditch	Roman to post-medieval	6
21	Deposit	Fill of ditch [20]	Roman to post-medieval	6
22	Cut	Shallow ditch	Roman to post-medieval	5
23	Deposit	Fill of [22]	Roman to post-medieval	5
24	Deposit	Upper fill of [26]	Roman	7
25	Deposit	Primary fill of [26]	Roman	7
26	Cut	Pit?	Roman	7
27	Deposit	Fill of [28]	Roman	7
28	Cut	Small pit or post-hole	Roman	7
29	Deposit	Fill of [30]	Roman	7
30	Cut	Small pit or post-hole	Roman	7
31	Deposit	Fill of [20]	Roman to post-medieval	6
32	Deposit	Fill of [33]	Roman	7
33	Cut	Post-hole	Roman	7
34	U/S Finds	Unstratified finds	-	10
35	Deposit	Fill of [36]	Roman	7
36	Cut	Post-hole	Roman	7

Appendix 1b Feature Summary

Period	Category	Total
Roman	Pit	1
	Pit?	1
	Pit/post-hole	2
	Post-hole	2
Roman?	Ditch	1
Uncertain	Ditch	3

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
04	Animal Bone	9	137g	Unknown	Cattle and sheep/goat
04	Ceramic Building Material	2	127g	Roman	
04	Copper-Alloy	1	1g	Roman	Coin; House of Constantine; OBV: CONSTAN.. REV: ..IAE DD AVGG Q NN..; AD 343-348
04	Flint – Struck	2	19g	Early Neolithic	
04	Pottery	35	737g	Roman	Late 1st century
04	Stone	1	37g	Roman	Lava fragment; formless; DISCARDED
06	Animal Bone	7	133g	Unknown	Cattle, pig/boar and mammal
06	Pottery	1	13g	Medieval	
06	Pottery	31	921g	Roman	
06	Stone	1	96g	Unknown	Burnt and cracked; DISCARDED
07	Animal Bone	7	224g	Unknown	Cattle, equid, red deer and mammal
07	Ceramic Building Material	1	15g	Roman	
07	Pottery	7	202g	Roman	
09	Animal Bone	1	31g	Unknown	Cattle only
09	Pottery	1	9g	Early Iron Age	
09	Pottery	1	3g	Roman	
10	Iron	1	2g	Medieval	Nail; ?horseshoe
12	Pottery	2	30g	Roman	
13	Animal Bone	3	114g	Unknown	Cattle only
13	Pottery	2	7g	Early Iron Age	
13	Pottery	1	4g	Roman	
17	Pottery	2	7g	Roman	
24	Animal Bone	5	109g	Unknown	Cattle and mammal
24	Ceramic Building Material	2	160g	Roman	
24	Pottery	2	42g	Early Bronze Age	
24	Pottery	19	161g	Roman	
24	Stone	2	17g	Roman	Lava fragments; formless; DISCARDED
25	Pottery	1	3g	Early Iron Age	
25	Pottery	5	18g	Roman	
27	Flint – Struck	1	7g	Early Neolithic	
27	Pottery	1	2g	Early Iron Age	
29	Ceramic Building Material	2	24g	Roman	
29	Flint – Struck	2	8g	Early Neolithic	
29	Pottery	6	38g	Roman	

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
32	Pottery	1	7g	Early Iron Age	
34	Ceramic Building Material	1	102g	Roman	
34	Flint – Struck	1	37g	Early Neolithic	
34	Iron	2	87g	Unknown	Fragments
34	Lead	1	14g	Unknown	Fragment
34	Pottery	7	236g	Roman	

Appendix 2b: Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Early Neolithic	Flint – Struck	6
Early Bronze Age	Pottery	2
Early Iron Age	Pottery	6
Roman	Ceramic Building Material	8
	Copper-Alloy	1
	Pottery	116
	Stone	3
Medieval	Iron	1
	Pottery	1
Unknown	Animal Bone	32
	Iron	2
	Lead	1
	Stone	1

Appendix 3: Pottery Catalogue

Ctxt	Description	Spot Date	Total Pottery		GQ1		F1		GRS1		GRS2		OXS1		COL CC2		LEZ SA2		TRI SA		EAA RE [M]		EAA OX [M]		MCW			
			No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt
04	Dark earth or midden material	Mid-late C1 AD	35	737					32	629	2	66									1	42						
06	Findings - sondage 1 (deposit [04])	Mid-late C1 AD (with 1 sherd C13-15)	31	921				24	694	4	161		2	53												1	13	
07	Findings - sondage 2 (deposit [04])	Mid C1-C2 AD	7	202				5	61														2	141				
09	Pit	Roman	2	12			1	9	1	3																		
12	Findings from cleaning over ditch [15]	Roman	2	30				2	30																			
13	Upper ditch fill	Roman	3	11			2	7	1	4																		
17	Fill of ditch	Roman	2	7									2	7														
24	Upper fill of pit	Early C2-early C3 AD	21	203	1	36	1	6	17	156			1	2	1	3												
25	Primary fill of pit	Roman	6	21			1	3	4	16			1	2														
27	Fill of pit	Roman	1	2									1	2														
29	Fill of pit/posthole	Roman	6	38					4	21			2	17														
32	Fill of post-hole	E-MIA	1	7			1	7																				
34	Unstratified finds Trench 10	Late C3-C4 AD	7	236				3	77	2	66						1	23	1	70								
			124	2427	1	36	6	32	93	1691	8	293	9	83	1	3	1	23	1	70	1	42	2	141	1	13		

Appendix 4: CBM Catalogue

Context	Description	Spot Date	Total CBM		Fabric 1		Fabric 1		Fabric 2		Comment
			No.	Wt.	Box flue tile		Misc		Misc		
					No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	No.	Wt.	
04	Dark earth or midden material	Roman	2	127g			2	127			?tegula/box flue tile
07	Sondage 2 (deposit [04])	Unknown	1	15g					1	15	
24	Upper fill of pit	Roman	2	160g	2	160					cross-joining, 22mm thick with two keying marks in an x-shape on one side [incomplete]
29	Fill of pit/post-hole	Unknown	2	24g			2	24			
34	Unstratified finds from Trench 10	Unknown	1	102g					1	102	>35mm thick, possibly <i>bessal/s</i> brick
			8	428g	2	160	4	151	2	117	

Appendix 5: Flint Catalogue

Context	Description	POT Spot Date	No.	Wt.	Find/type	No.	Wt.	Patinated	Retouched	Colour	Cortex	I?	Size [mm]			Comment
													L	W	D	
04	dark earth or midden material	RB	2	19	blade	1	8			mid grey	white chalky		50	15	5	traces of wear on one lateral edge
					end scraper	1	11		yes	dark grey		50	35	5	fine abrupt retouch to distal end of thin un- corticated flake, however much of end truncated by damage, possibly through use	
27	pit/post-hole	RB	1	7	blade	1	7	slightly dulled		mid grey			45	15	5	soft-hammer struck with parallel dorsal scars
29	pit/post-hole	RB	2	8	tertiary flakes (slightly irregular, <50mm)	2	8			dark grey	white chalky					soft-hammer struck
34	unstratified finds from Trench 10	-	1	37	side scraper	1	37		yes	very dark grey [near black]	white chalky		65	30	10	abrupt retouch to one lateral edge, with opposing edge steeply truncated, of elongate secondary flake with blade-like dorsal scars, possibly EN but date uncertain
			6	71		6	71									

Appendix 6: Animal Bone Catalogue

Ctxt	FNo	Type	Ctxt Qty	Wt [g]	Species	NISP	Age - Adults	Element range	Butchering	Work	Skin	Path	Comments
04	04	Midden/ dark earth	9	137	Cattle	7	7	ul, r, ll	cut/chop				ulna, metatarsal shaft frag, rib frags
04	04	Midden/ dark earth			Sheep/goat	2	2	ul	cut/chop				radius and tibia
06	04	Sondage through [04]	7	133	Cattle	4	4	r, scap	cut/chop				chopped/cut rib sections - c.110mm, scapula blade frag
06	04	Sondage through [04]			Pig/boar	1	1	ul	cut/chop				radius
06	04	Sondage through [04]			Mammal	2	2	ul	cut/chop				
07	04	Sondage through [04]	7	224	Cattle	1	1	ll	cut/chop				metacarpal, robust - cuts on front prox half and gnawed at both ends
07	04	Sondage through [04]			Equid	1	1	ll	cut/chop				metacarpal, small, delicate, butchered and gnawed
07	04	Sondage through [04]			Mammal	4							
07	04	Sondage through [04]			Deer - Red	1	1	antler	cut/chop	1			antler tine, chopped at base and at tip of tine - antler working/waste
09	08	Pit	1	31	Cattle	1	1	scap	chopped				articular end
13	15	Ditch	2	114	Cattle	2	2	ul	chopped				humerus, very worn and weathered
24	26	Pit?	6	109	Cattle	1	1	f	cut		1	1	pph, cuts from skinning and some gnawing, slight arthritis
24	26	Pit?			Mammal	5							

Key: NISP: Number of Individual Species elements Present

Element range: ul = upper limb, ll = lower limb, r = rib, scap = scapula

Appendix 7: Charred Plant and Macrofossils Remains

Sample No.	1	2
Context No.	04	24
Feature type	Deposit	Pit
Date	LR	?
Cereals		
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains)		x
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)		x
Cereal indet. (grains)	x	x
Herbs		
<i>Bromus</i> sp.	xcfg	
Fabaceae indet.	x	
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> (L.) A.Love		x
Large Poaceae indet.	x	
Tree/shrub macrofossils		
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	x	x
Other plant macrofossils		
Charcoal <2mm	xxxx	xxx
Charcoal >2mm	xxx	xx
Charcoal >5mm	x	x
Charred root/stem	x	
Other remains		
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	x
Black tarry material	x	x
Bone	xx xb	xx xb
Burnt/fired clay	xx	x
Small coal frags.	x	x
Small mammal/amphibian bone	x	
Vitreous material	x	
Mollusc shells		
Open country species		
<i>Helicella itala</i>		x
<i>Vallonia</i> sp.		x
Sample volume (litres)	20	20
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%

Key to Table

x = 1–10 specimens xx = 11–50 specimens xxx = 51–100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens
 cf = compare fg = fragment b = burnt LR = Late Roman

Appendix 8: Figure 11. Processed Greyscale Magnetometer Data

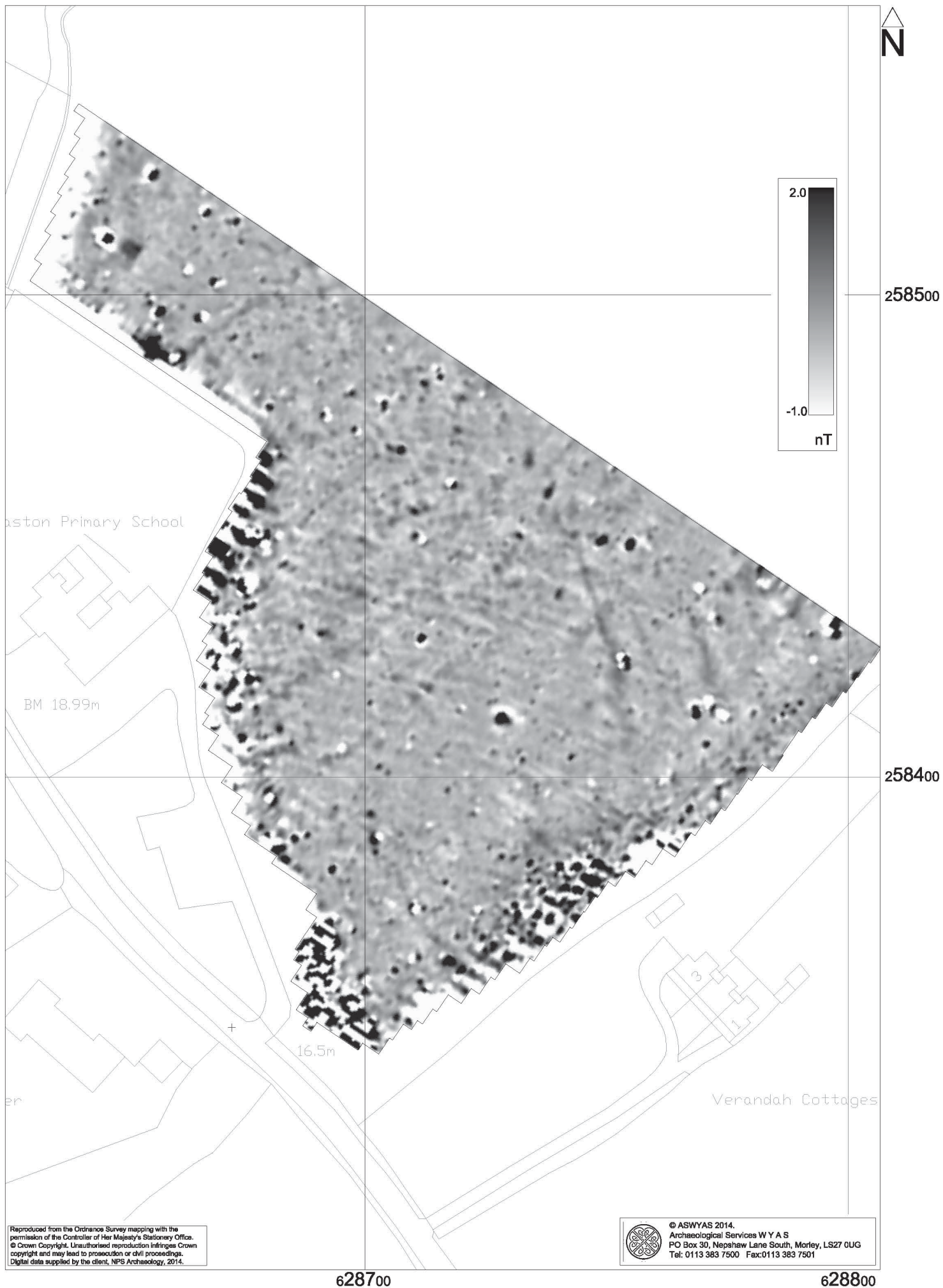


Fig. 3. Processed greyscale magnetometer data (1:1000 @ A4)

0 25m