

Report 2015/1296



nps archaeology

**Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at  
St Martha's Catholic Primary School, Field Lane,  
Kings Lynn, Norfolk**

ENF 135845



**Prepared for**

LSI Architects  
The Old Drill Hall  
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March 2015

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<i>Issue 1</i>		

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01-04-15-2-1296

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Location:	St Martha's Catholic Primary School, Field Lane, King's Lynn, Norfolk
District:	Kings Lynn and West Norfolk
Planning Authority	Norfolk County Council
Grid Ref.:	TF 6415 2091
Planning Ref.:	Y/2/2014/2014
Client:	LSI Architects, Norwich, on behalf of client
OASIS No.:	197357
Dates of Fieldwork:	18–23 December 2014

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### **Summary**

*An archaeological evaluation was conducted by NPS Archaeology on behalf of LSI Architects ahead of proposed development at St Martha's Catholic Primary School, Field Lane, King's Lynn. Four trial trenches, each measuring 30.00m x 1.80m, were positioned across the site.*

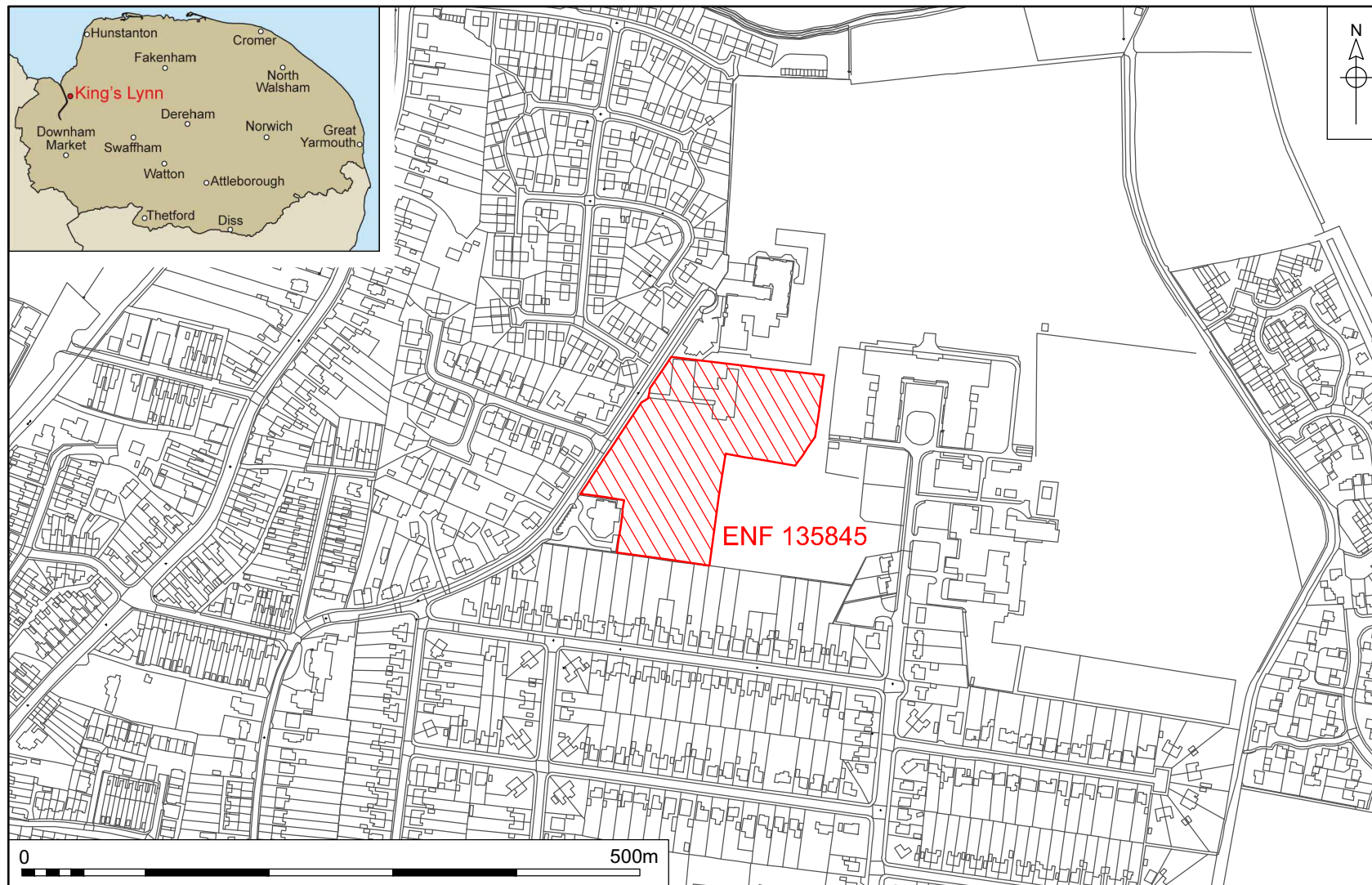
*There was potential that the nearby post-medieval cemetery on Wootton Road extended into the site of St Martha's Catholic Primary School. Finds of Anglo-Saxon date have also been made in the cemetery area. However, the trial trenches revealed that the cemetery did not extend southeast into the school site.*

*No archaeological features or deposits of any significance were discovered. A modern service trench was located in two of the trenches, which produced five fragments of post-medieval ceramic building material and a clay pipe fragment.*

## INTRODUCTION

### Figure 1

- 1 Proposals to construct new school buildings, a pond, a car park and play areas at St Martha's Catholic Primary School, Field Lane, Kings Lynn, Norfolk required a programme of archaeological works to support it through the planning process.
- 2 The proposed development site is located on the east side of Field Lane in the Gaywood area of King's Lynn. A 17th-century cemetery (Norfolk Historic Environment Record 18627), from which a number of human skeletal remains have been unearthed in gardens, is located to the north and west of the proposed development site. Anglo-Saxon finds of a brooch and a buckle have been made in the area of the cemetery.
- 3 NPS Archaeology was commissioned by LSI Architects on behalf of their client to conduct an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching. The work was undertaken to fulfil planning requirements set by Norfolk County Council planning authority (planning ref. Y/2/2014/2014) and a Brief issued by Norfolk Historic Environment Service (Hamilton 2012). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NPS Archaeology (Bown 2014). The archaeological project was funded by the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia.
- 4 The programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area, following guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012). The aim of the work was to confirm whether any heritage assets of potential archaeological interest (specifically buried remains including human remains) existed at the site, and whether their significance would be affected by the proposed development (Powell 2014). The results of the evaluation will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority about the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 5 The site archive is currently held by NPS Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with Norfolk Museums Service following relevant policies on archiving standards.



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:5000

## **GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 6 The development area, currently a school playing field, is situated on the east edge of a residential zone of the Gaywood area of King's Lynn. The site occupies a slight west–east slope with an elevation of c. 10.76m OD at its west boundary rising to c. 11.50m OD in the east.
- 7 The dominant watercourse in the area is the river Great Ouse situated c. 3.00km to the west. The nearest waterway to the site is the Gaywood River, a tributary of the Ouse, c. 430m to the northwest.
- 8 The underlying solid geology at the site is termed Mintlyn Member–Sand. This is a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 134–146 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period when the local environment was dominated by shallow seas (BGS 2015). These rocks were formed with mainly siliciclastic sediments (comprising of fragments or clasts of silicate minerals) and deposited as mud, silt, sand and gravel.
- 9 There is no record of superficial geological deposits in the specific area of the development, but surrounding deposits are predominantly of Raised Beach Deposits – Gravel (BGS 2015). These superficial deposits formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period in shoreline environments with sediments deposited in beaches and barrier islands.
- 10 The topsoil at the site was a mid–dark brown sand silt containing sparse quantities of small flint pebbles. The depth of the topsoil varied from c. 0.20m in Trench 1 in the west to c. 0.50m in Trench 3 in the northeast.
- 11 The subsoil was greyish, sometimes orange–brown silt sand with occasional patches of iron-rich mineralisation and rare flint pebble inclusions. The deposits were an average depth of 0.38m.
- 12 Lower subsoil, with a depth of 0.63–0.67m was recorded in three of the trenches. The composition of the deposits varied widely, reflecting the natural geology of which they were partially composed. Orange and dark orange iron-rich streaks and stains were a feature of the deposits.



## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **Sources**

- 13 The primary source for archaeological evidence in Norfolk is the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER), which details archaeological discoveries and sites of historical interest in the county.
- 14 In order to characterise the likely archaeological potential of the development area, NHER record data was purchased from Norfolk Historic Environment Service for a 500m radius of TF 6415 2091. This exercise returned 94 individual records. The most relevant NHER data are referenced and summarised below, along with details of previous archaeological work in the vicinity. The information presented in the Sections following that is sourced from NHER remains the copyright of Norfolk Historic Environment Service/Norfolk County Council.
- 15 The proposed development is located to the south and east of the known extent of an historical cemetery, believed to date from the 17th century due to the find of a wine bottle of this date in association with human skeletal remains. More recent discoveries of a rare Middle Saxon brooch and a Late Saxon buckle indicates Anglo-Saxon activity on the same site, and perhaps even the possibility of a cemetery of that general date.
- 16 The proposed development site is also located close to an area where a large quantity of Middle Saxon pottery has previously been recorded, indicating a significant settlement of this period. Archaeological work undertaken to the north of the current evaluation site in 2002 has indicated the presence of features of unknown date in the area (Powell 2014).
- 17 Surface collections from gardens at 137 and 139 Wootton Road (c. 400m northwest of the school) between 2009 and 2014, and test pits excavated in 2010 and 2012, have recovered a large quantity of finds dating from the Roman–post-medieval periods (NHER 52930). These included a late prehistoric flint flake, Roman, Middle Saxon, Late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery, Roman tile fragments, medieval roof tiles, post-medieval brick and undated slag, clay daub and animal bone. A particularly high concentration of Middle Saxon pottery was recorded along with a Middle Saxon iron knife and a Middle/Late Saxon antler comb plate.

### **Prehistoric**

- 18 In 1949, a Neolithic polished grey flint axe was found during ploughing at the Old Wash (NHER 5491). The axe was located c. 730m northwest of St Martha's Catholic Primary School.
- 19 A deposit of prehistoric burnt flint 0.30m deep x 0.60m thick—"part of a massive spread just below topsoil"—was seen in a pipe trench in 1970, c. 540m northeast of the school (NHER 11982).

### **Roman**

- 20 Two Roman coins have been found in gardens nearby. In 1949, a coin of Maxentius was found on the north side of Gayton Road, c. 290m southwest of St

Martha's (NHER 5519). A Bronze Byzantine 40 Numma piece coin of Heraclius or Heraclius Constantine, minted at Constantinople AD 612-616, was dug up in a garden c. 420m southwest of the school in 1979 (NHER 15750).

### **Anglo-Saxon**

- 21 Two fragments of an iron spearhead—the shaft and lower portion of the blade, and the top of the blade—deemed to be early Anglo-Saxon in date, were found in a garden c. 380m northwest of the primary school (NHER 14673).

### **Post-medieval**

- 22 In 1973, a scatter of iron bloom, indicative of a metal-working site, and post-medieval pottery, was found c. 420m southeast of St Martha's school on Baldwin's Road (NHER 8594). The metal-working debris was found just below the surface in a garden with 18th-century pottery and clay pipe stems both above and below it.
- 23 The gardens of 118–120 Wootton Road, c. 300m west of St Martha's, produced a considerable quantity of human bone and other finds over a number of years (NHER 18627). Several post-medieval burials were found at this site, which may be part of the 17th-century cemetery known c. 211m northwest of the school (NHER 5544). The discovery of numerous human skeletons in 1953, one of which was reported to be on top of a 17th-century wine bottle, was the first indication that a cemetery might be present at the location. Since that time, other human remains have turned up, together with a Middle Saxon brooch, a Late Saxon buckle, a fragment of medieval pottery and some possible iron coffin clamps that are tentatively dated to the 17th century.

## **METHODOLOGY**

### Figure 2

- 24 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.
- 25 The Brief required that four trenches, measuring 30.00m x 1.80m, were to be excavated to sample the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.
- 26 The trenches were arrayed across the site to test the sub-surface remains. Final trench locations were determined on the basis of surface or below-ground obstructions and Health and Safety considerations. The trench locations were CAT-scanned prior to excavation.
- 27 Machine excavation by a hydraulic 360° excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket was carried out under constant archaeological supervision.
- 28 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.
- 29 Due to a lack of suitable deposits environmental samples were not taken.
- 30 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 was undertaken with a GPS900 RTK Rover.
- 31 Site conditions were good, and the fieldwork took place in fine weather.

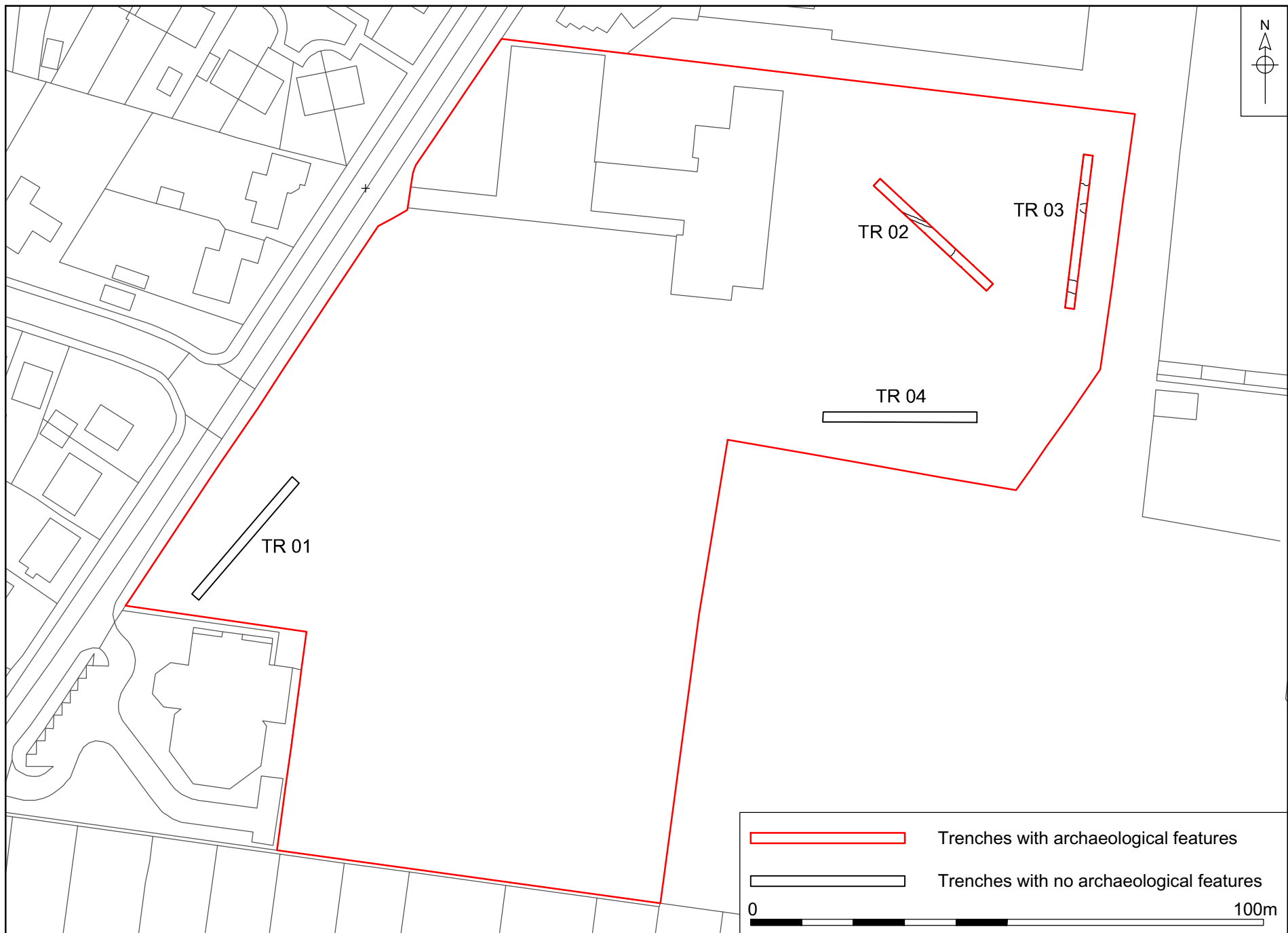



Figure 2. Location of trenches. Scale 1:1000

## RESULTS

- 32 The results of the evaluation are presented in tables below in trench number order. Natural geology was exposed in all of the trenches. It is described in Trench 4 as 15.

Trench 1							
			<b>Fig. 2</b>				
			<b>Location</b>				
			Orientation		Northeast–southwest		
			<b>Dimensions</b>				
			Length		30.00m		
			Width		1.80m		
			Depth		1.07m		
<b>Levels</b>							
Northeast top		10.95m OD					
Southwest top		10.67m OD					
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL			
16	Deposit	Mid-grey brown silt sand. Topsoil.	0.20m	0.00-0.20m			
17	Deposit	Mid-grey brown silt sand, quite firm with rare flint pebbles. Subsoil.	0.43m	0.20-0.63m			
18	Deposit	Cream sandy silt with rare flint pebbles and a dark reddish brown sand silt with frequent flint pebbles. Lower transitional subsoil.	0.63m	0.63-1.07m			
Discussion							
The soils exposed in Trench 1 undulated over uneven natural geology. The trench did not contain any archaeological features or deposits.							

## Trench 2



### Figs 2, 3

#### Location

Orientation Northwest–southeast

#### Dimensions

Length 30.00m

Width 1.80m

Depth 0.90m

#### Levels

Northwest top 11.50m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Cut	Service trench. Very steep/vertical sides. Not bottomed due to depth and obvious modern date. Northwest–southeast orientation.	>1.20m	0.00-1.20m (Not fully Excavated)
02	Deposit	Greyish brown silt clay with lenses of yellow clay. Upper backfill of <b>01</b> .	1.10m	0.00-1.09m
03	Deposit	Yellow clay. Secondary backfill of <b>01</b> .	0.04m	0.99-1.11m
04	Deposit	Dark greyish black sandy silt. Lower backfill of <b>01</b> .	>0.11m	1.02-1.20m
22	Deposit	Mid-brown silt sand. Topsoil.	0.34m	0.00-0.34m
23	Deposit	Mid- slightly orange brown silt sand. Patches of darker orange brown iron rich mineralisation. Subsoil.	0.34m	0.34-0.67m
24	Deposit	Pale to mid-grey brown clay silt with dark orange brown iron rich streaks and stains. Lower subsoil.	0.67m	0.67m-0.90m

### Discussion

No archaeological features or deposits were recorded in Trench 2, apart from a modern service trench **01**, which was also excavated in Trench 2 as **05**.

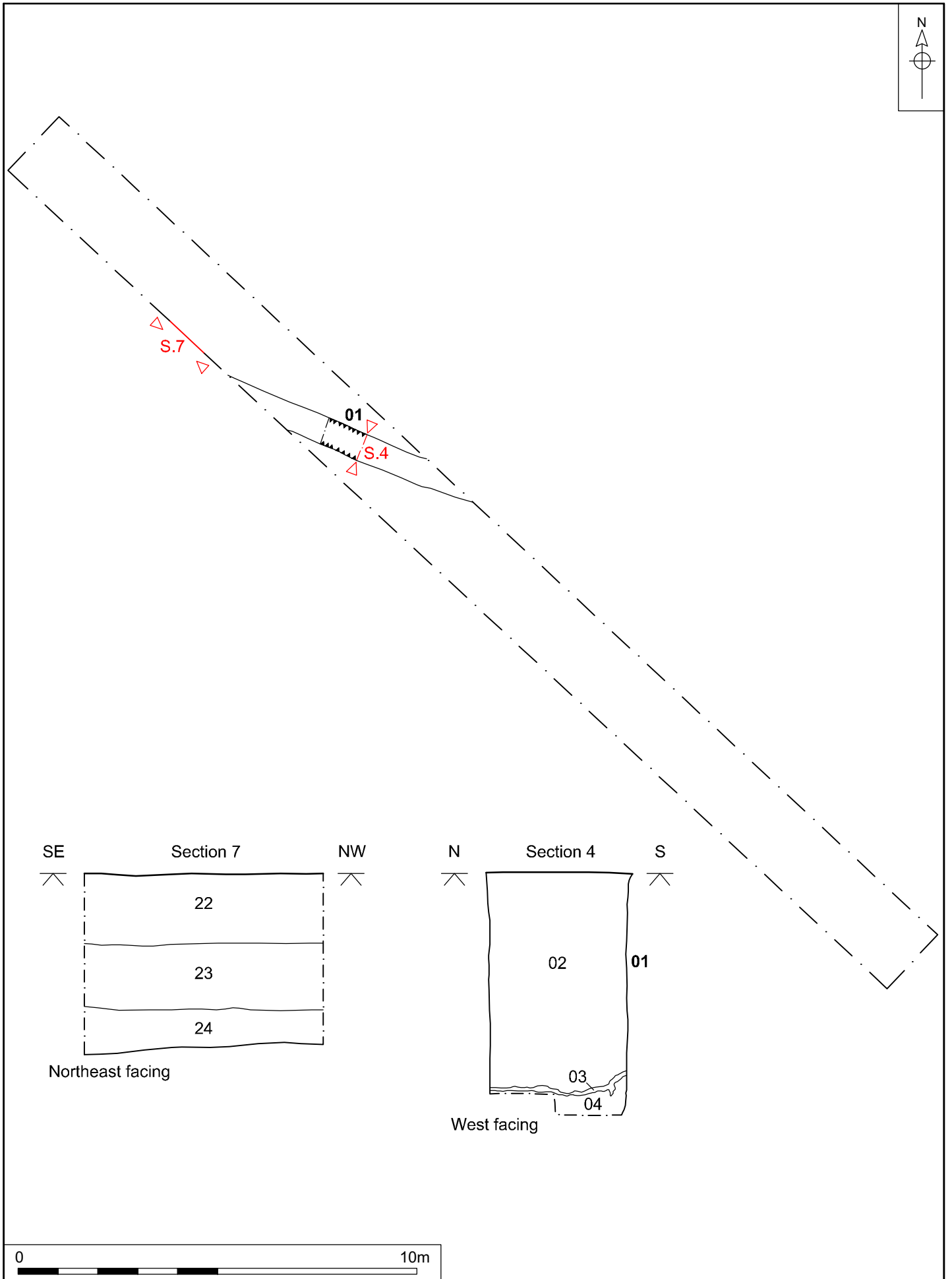


Figure 3. Trench 2, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

### Trench 3



#### Figs 2, 4

#### Location

Orientation North–south

#### Dimensions

Length 30.00m

Width 1.80m

Depth 0.85m

#### Levels

North top 11.42m OD

South top 11.72m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
05	Cut	Service trench. Not bottomed due to depth and obvious modern date. Northwest–southeast orientation.	>0.60m	0.00m-0.60m (Not fully excavated)
06	Deposit	Mid-brown sand silt with occasional flint pebble. Final backfill deposit of <b>05</b> .	0.30m	0.00-0.30m
07	Deposit	Orange sand and gravel. Backfill of <b>05</b> .	0.06m	0.00-0.33m
08	Deposit	Mid-brown sand silt with occasional flint pebbles. Backfill of <b>05</b> .	0.04m	0.00-0.34m
09	Deposit	Orange sand and gravel. Backfill of <b>05</b> .	0.14m	0.00-0.40m
10	Deposit	Blue grey clay with chalk inclusions. Backfill of <b>05</b> .	0.14m	0.00-0.51m
11	Deposit	Orange sand and gravel. Backfill of <b>05</b> .	>0.30m	0.24-0.60m
12	Deposit	Pale grey brown sand with occasional flint pebbles. Backfill of <b>05</b> .	0.20m	0.00-0.24m
19	Deposit	Mid-brown sand silt. Topsoil.	0.50m	0.00-0.50m
20	Deposit	Pale grey brown silt sand with streaks of dark orange brown iron-rich mineralisation. Occasional flint pebbles. Subsoil.	0.50m	0.50-0.67m
21	Deposit	Iron-rich yellow and orange sands with darker orange streaks of iron mineralisation. Lower subsoil.	0.67m	0.67m-0.85m

#### Discussion

No archaeological features or deposits were recorded in Trench 3, apart from modern service trench **05**, which is the same feature as **01** in Trench 2.



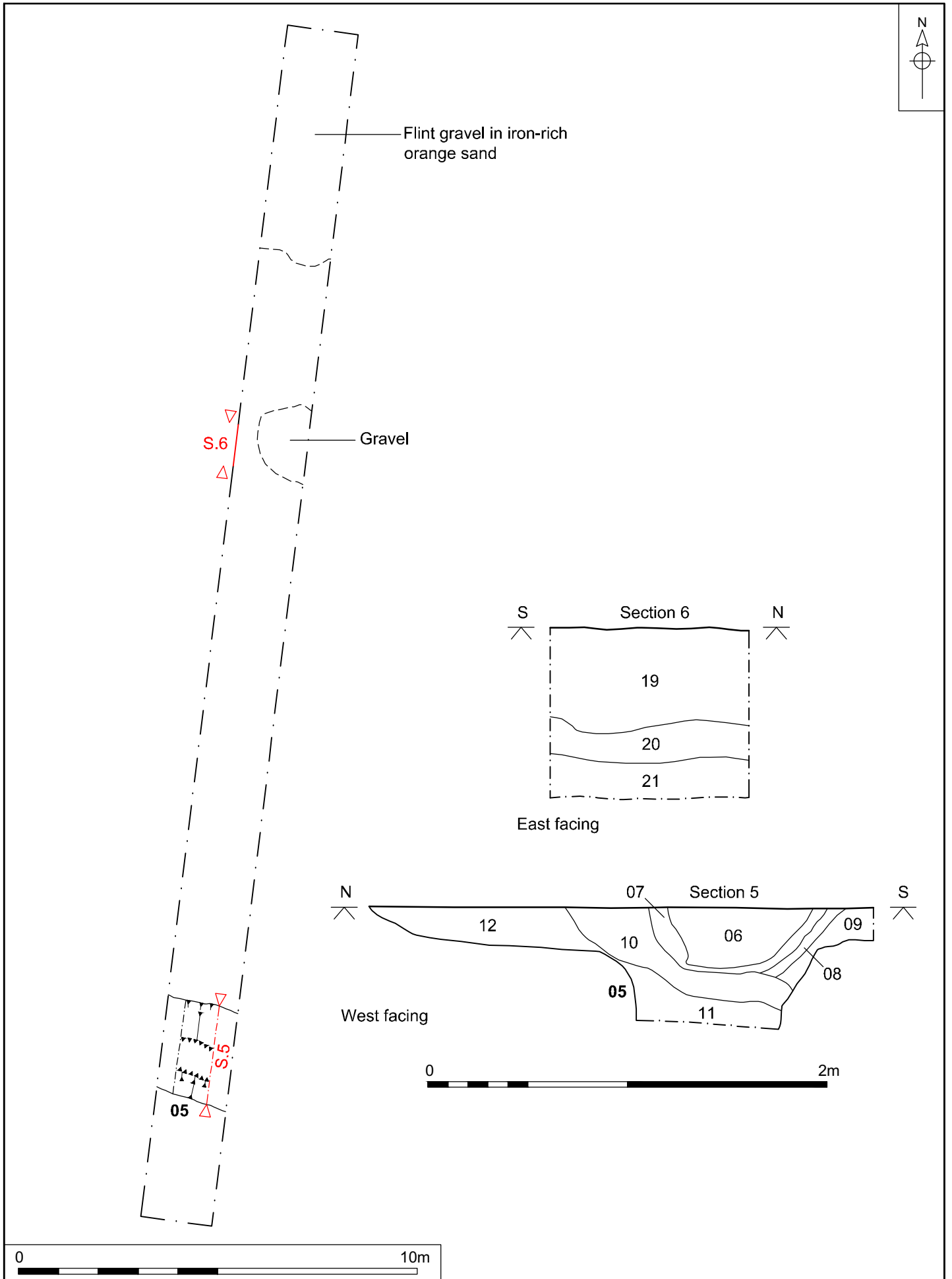


Figure 4. Trench 3, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

## Trench 4



**Fig. 2**

### Location

Orientation East–west

### Dimensions

Length 30.00m

Width 1.80m

Depth 0.78m

### Levels

East top 12.28m OD

West top 12.04m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
13	Deposit	Mid–dark brown sandy silt. Topsoil.	0.54m (max)	0.00-0.54m
14	Deposit	Mid-grey brown silt sand, quite firm with rare flint pebbles. Subsoil.	0.25m (max)	0.40-0.68m
15	Deposit	Bright orange sometimes yellow clay sand. Occasional flint pebbles. Natural geology.	0.09m (max)	0.65-0.78m

### Discussion

The soils exposed in Trench 1 undulated over uneven natural geology. The trench did not contain any archaeological features or deposits.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS

By Rebecca Sillwood

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

### Ceramic building material

- 34 Five fragments of ceramic building material were recovered from two deposits on the site, weighing 846g in total.
- 35 Three small abraded fragments of post-medieval roof tile (13g) were recovered from the fill **02** of modern service trench **01**. They are of hard orange and pinkish-orange sandy fabric and have been discarded.
- 36 The fill **06** of modern service trench **05** produced a much abraded fragment of post-medieval brick (27g), in a purplish-pink fabric with no remaining surfaces. A larger piece of modern frogged brick (806g) was also recovered from **06**. This brick is more complete, and has many of its surfaces, only the length is incomplete. Recorded dimensions are: 115mm wide x 67mm thick. The fabric is coarse pink with cream streaks. Both of these pieces have been discarded.

### Clay pipe

- 37 A small fragment (2g) of undecorated, non-diagnostic clay tobacco pipe stem was found in the fill **06** of modern service trench **05**. The piece cannot be more closely dated than post-medieval, and has been discarded.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

- 38** The archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by NPS Archaeology at St Martha's Catholic Primary School, Field Lane, Kings Lynn, established that no archaeological features or deposits of any note were present.
- 39** The evaluation trenches revealed that the post-medieval (and possibly Anglo-Saxon) cemetery located c. 211m to the northwest of the site did not extend into the St Martha's school development site.
- 40** A service trench aligned northwest–southeast, possibly installed in the recent past by Anglian Water Services Ltd, was identified and recorded in Trenches 2 and 3. A small quantity of late post-medieval and modern finds recovered from the evidently recent fills of the service trench confirmed the modern date of the feature.
- 41** Recommendations for mitigation work (if required based on the evidence presented in this report) will be made by Norfolk Historic Environment Service.

## **Acknowledgements**

The authors would like to thank LSI Architects for commissioning and funding the archaeological work. Thanks are also given to St Martha's Catholic Primary School for their assistance. The project was funded by the Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia.

The site was managed by Jayne Bown for NPS Archaeology, and the project was monitored by Kelly Powell on behalf of NHER, who also supplied historic environment data.

Site surveying was undertaken by Sandrine Whitmore of NPS Land Survey and mechanical excavation was by Bryn Williams Civil Engineering Ltd.

Thanks to Nigel Byram and David Moro whom, along with principal author Michael Boyle, carried out the fieldwork.

The finds were processed, recorded and reported on by Rebecca Sillwood.

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

## **Bibliography and Sources**

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## Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
01	Cut	MST	-	Modern service trench (MST)	Modern	2
02	Deposit	-	1	Backfill of service trench	Modern	2
03	Deposit	-	1	Backfill of service trench	Modern	2
04	Deposit	-	1	Backfill of service trench	Modern	2
05	Cut	MST	-	Modern service trench	Modern	3
06	Deposit	-	5	Backfill of service trench	Modern	3
07	Deposit	-	5	Backfill of service trench	Modern	3
08	Deposit	-	5	Backfill of service trench	Modern	3
09	Deposit	-	5	Backfill of service trench	Modern	3
10	Deposit	-	5	Backfill of service trench	Modern	3
11	Deposit	-	5	Backfill of service trench	Modern	3
12	Deposit	-	5	Backfill of service trench	Modern	3
13	Deposit	-	-	Topsoil	-	4
14	Deposit	-	-	Subsoil	-	4
15	Deposit	-	-	Natural geology	-	4
16	Deposit	-	-	Topsoil	-	1
17	Deposit	-	-	Subsoil	-	1
18	Deposit	-	-	Lower subsoil	-	1
19	Deposit	-	-	Topsoil	-	3
20	Deposit	-	-	Subsoil	-	3
21	Deposit	-	-	Lower subsoil	-	3
22	Deposit	-	-	Topsoil	-	2
23	Deposit	-	-	Subsoil	-	2
24	Deposit	-	-	Lower subsoil	-	2

## Appendix 1b: Feature Summary

Period	Category	Total
Modern	Trench	1

## Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
02	Ceramic Building Material	3	13g	Post-medieval	Roof tile fragments; DISCARDED
06	Ceramic Building Material	1	27g	Post-medieval	Brick fragment; DISCARDED
06	Ceramic Building Material	1	806g	Modern	Brick fragment; DISCARDED
06	Clay Pipe	1	2g	Post-medieval	Stem fragment; DISCARDED

## Appendix 2b: Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Post-medieval	Ceramic Building Material	4
	Clay Pipe	1
Modern	Ceramic Building Material	1

**Appendix 3: OASIS Report Summary**



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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: norfolka1-197357**

### Project details

Project name	St. Martha's Primary School - King's Lynn
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation was conducted by NPS Archaeology on behalf of LSI Architects ahead of proposed development at St Martha's Catholic Primary School, Field Lane, King's Lynn. Four trial trenches, each measuring 30.00m x 1.80m, were positioned across the site. There was potential that the nearby post-medieval cemetery on Wootton Road extended into the site of St Martha's Catholic Primary School. Finds of Anglo-Saxon date have also been made in the cemetery area. However, the trial trenches revealed that the cemetery did not extend southeast into the school site. No archaeological features or deposits of any significance were discovered. A modern service trench was located in two of the trenches, which produced five fragments of post-medieval ceramic building material and a clay pipe fragment.
Project dates	Start: 18-12-2014 End: 23-12-2014
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	135845 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	TRENCH Modern
Significant Finds	CERAMIC Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Large/ medium scale extensions to existing structures (e.g. church, school, hospitals, law courts, etc.)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK KINGS LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK KINGS LYNN St. Martha's Primary School, King's Lynn

Study area 0 Hectares  
 Site coordinates TF 6415 2091 52.7604381671 0.432960873384 52 45 37 N 000 25 58 E Point  
 Height OD / Depth Min: 10.76m Max: 11.50m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation NPS Archaeology  
 Project brief originator Norfolk Historic Environment Service  
 Project design originator NPS Archaeology  
 Project director/manager Michael J Boyle  
 Project supervisor NPS Archaeology

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No  
 Digital Archive recipient NPS Archaeology  
 Digital Contents "other"  
 Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Spreadsheets", "Text"  
 Paper Archive recipient Norfolk Museums Service  
 Paper Contents "other"  
 Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
 Title Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation at St. Martha's Catholic Primary School, Field Lane, King's Lynn, Norfolk  
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Boyle, M. and Govier, E.  
 Other bibliographic details 2015/1296  
 Date 2015  
 Issuer or publisher NPS Archaeology  
 Place of issue or publication Norwich  
 Entered by A. Crowson (andrew.crowson@nps.co.uk)  
 Entered on 3 March 2015

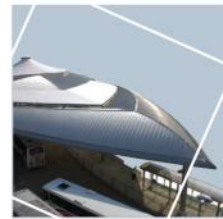
## **Appendix 4: Archaeological Specification**

01-04-15-2-1296



nps archaeology

**Archaeological Evaluation  
St Martha's Catholic Primary School,  
Field Lane, King's Lynn, PE30 4AY  
Written Scheme of Investigation**



**Prepared for**  
LSI Architects  
for St Martha's Catholic Primary School

NPS Archaeology

December 2014



[www.nps.co.uk](http://www.nps.co.uk)

Location	St Martha's Catholic Primary School, Field Lane, King's Lynn, Norfolk
District	King's Lynn and West Norfolk
Planning reference	Y/2/2014/2014
NHES reference	CNF45934_1
Grid reference	TF 642 209
Client	c/o LSI Architects

<b>REVIEW CHECKLIST</b>		
Completed by	Jayne Bown	16/12/2014
Reviewed by	David Adams	17/12/2014
<i>Issue 1</i>		
Revised by	Jayne Bown	17/12/2014
<i>Issue 2</i>		

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01-04-15-2-1296

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# Archaeological evaluation

## Written Scheme of Investigation

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Proposals to extend the school buildings and enhance the educational facilities at St Martha's Catholic Primary School at Field Lane, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 4AY (TF 642 209) require a programme of archaeological works to support it through the planning process. The proposed development comprises new school buildings, a pond, a car park and play areas.
- 1.2 The proposed development site is located on the eastern side of Field Lane in the Gaywood area of King's Lynn. A 17th-century cemetery (Norfolk Historic Environment Record site 18627), now thought to be possibly of Anglo Saxon date, due to the finding of a Saxon brooch and buckle plus human skeletal remains, is located to the north and west of the proposed development site
- 1.3 Daniel Pedley of LSI Architects has requested that NPS Archaeology produce a fee quote and this Written Scheme of Investigation for a programme of archaeological evaluation to satisfy the requirements of Norfolk Historic Environment Service (NHES).
- 1.4 The archaeological works are based on the Generic Brief for Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching issued by Norfolk Historic Environment Service (NHES) compiled by Ken Hamilton 24/9/2012. Kelly Powell of Norfolk Historic Environment Service has identified the requirement to define the archaeological potential of the site with the local planning authority.

### 2. Aims

- 2.1 The Programme of Archaeological Work requested by Norfolk Historic Environment Service 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 parts of the proposed development 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 disseminate the archaeological data recovered by the evaluation in the form of a report which will provide a basis for any decisions regarding further archaeological intervention and mitigation proposals necessary.*

### **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.* Machine and manual excavation will be employed to investigate the presence, condition, character and date of any subsurface archaeological deposits and features occurring within the site. Any archaeological features identified will be cleaned and sample excavated to determine function, form and relative date.

*ii Post-fieldwork Processes.* The drawn and written stratigraphic/structural record will be cross-referenced and analysed to provide a synthesis of the results of the work. The cleaning and cataloguing of any artefactual and ecofactual materials recovered will be carried out throughout the duration of the fieldwork. The finds will be cleaned, marked and packaged in accordance with the archive requirements of the Norfolk Museums Service.

*iii. Report and Archive.* The report will describe the results of the trial trenching with data presented in tabular, graphic and appendix form. Copies of the reports will be submitted to the client and to Norfolk Historic Environment Service.

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

#### **3.2 Trial Trenching**

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 1994, revised 2001 and 2008) and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003) will be followed.

3.2.2 Four trenches, measuring 30m x 1.8m will be excavated to sample the archaeological potential of the proposed development area (see figure).

3.2.3 The trenches have been arrayed across the site to test the sub-surface remains. Final trench locations may be determined on the basis of surface or below ground obstructions and Health and Safety considerations.

3.2.3 The trenches will be set out by NPS Archaeology and CAT-scanned prior to excavation.

3.2.4 Excavation will be undertaken by mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket in 100mm spits until natural ground or archaeological deposits are identified.

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 deeper. This may be 1.2-1.5m below the present ground surface. If deep excavation is required, the trench sides may need to be locally stepped. The requirement for and the scope of works below safe working depths will be determined by Norfolk Historic Environment Service and agreed and costed as a contingency.

- 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 Areas of deep excavation will be fenced using Netlon high-visibility fencing and appropriate warning signage will be displayed.
- 3.2.8 Spoil from the trenches will not be removed from site. The trenches will not be backfilled by NPS Archaeology until agreement to do so is given by Norfolk Historic Environment Service. This backfilling will not attempt consolidation or compaction over and above that possible with a mechanical excavator. Full surface reinstatement will not be attempted, but all trenches will be left in a safe and tidy condition.
- 3.2.9 Exposed surfaces and all archaeological features and deposits will be excavated by hand and screened by metal detector. The 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 Archaeological deposits, features and layers will be assigned individual context numbers and recorded on standardised forms employing the NPS Archaeology's pro forma recording system. The records will include full written, graphic and photographic elements with site and context numbering compatible with the Norfolk Historic Environment Record numbering system. Plans will be made 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 monochrome 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 Should human remains be encountered they will be left *in situ* unless otherwise instructed by Norfolk Historic Environment Service. If any human remains or burials are encountered which must be removed an application for a Licence For the Removal of Human Remains will be made in compliance with the 1857 and 1981 Burial Acts and within 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 10 litre bulk soil samples, column or monolith samples and Kubiena tins will be collected from such deposits as appropriate, in consultation with the English Heritage Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science and other consultant environmentalists. In all instances, sampling procedures will follow the guidelines set out in the document *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (English Heritage 2002). Full written, graphic and photographic sample records will be made using NPS Archaeology'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 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 an appropriate 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 An evaluation report will be prepared that presents the stratigraphic, structural, artefactual and environmental evidence and analyses, and a synthesis of the results of the trial trenching. The synthesis will be undertaken with reference to relevant research agendas identified by Medlycott (2011) if feasible.
- 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 LSI Architects for their client. Three bound copies and a digital version will be supplied to Norfolk Historic Environment Service. The report will be submitted within eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork. An interim statement will be produced, if required, to provide information an early date to allow NHES to take an informed view of the impact of the scheme on sub-surface deposit and archaeological remains if presents.
- 3.4.4 An online OASIS record will be initiated immediately prior to the start of fieldwork and completed when the final report is submitted to Norfolk Historic Environment Service. This record will include uploading a pdf version of the final report.
- 3.4.5 A single integrated archive for all elements of the work will be prepared according to the recommendations set out in *Environmental standards for the permanent storage of excavated material from archaeological sites* (UKIC, Conservation Guidelines 3, 1984) and *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (Walker 1990), and in accordance with the Norfolk Museums Service's own requirements for archive preparation, storage and conservation.
- 3.4.6 The archive will be fully indexed and cross-referenced It will also be integrated with the Norfolk Museums Service's Project accession number and the Norfolk Historic Environment Record numbering system. Deposition of the archive and finds (by prior agreement with the landowners) will take place within six months of the completion of the final report and confirmed in writing to the Norfolk Museums Service (NMS). A full listing of archive contents and finds boxes will accompany the deposition of the archive and finds. If NMS are not making new archive accessions and there is no confirmation of

when new archives will be accepted, NPS Archaeology reserve the right to make alternative arrangements,

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

## 4. Timetable

- 4.1 The timetable for fieldwork assumes that there are no major delays to the work programme caused by vandalism, repeated plant breakdown, restricted access, programme changes by the client or periods of adverse weather conditions.
- 4.2 It is estimated that the fieldwork will take up to two days with a team of three archaeologists.

## 5. Staffing

- 5.1 The project will be co-ordinated by a Project Officer who will be dedicated to the project throughout its duration. The Archaeology 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 large area trench evaluation and post-excavation analysis.
- 5.2 Other members of staff involved in the project will be the Experienced Excavators and Finds Co-ordinator staff. Experienced Excavator staff will have experience in excavation and experience with NPS Archaeology's *pro forma* 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:

<b>Project Management</b>	
Archaeology Manager	Jayne Bown

<b>Project Staff</b>	
Project Officer	Mick Boyle
Finds Officer	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 Norfolk Historic Environment Service
- 5.5. The analysis of artefactual and ecofactual materials will be undertaken by NPS Archaeology staff or nominated external specialists. Nominated NPS Archaeology and external specialists and their areas of expertise are as follows:

### 5.5.1 Specialists used NPS Archaeology

<b>Specialist</b>	<b>Research Field</b>
Sue Anderson	Post-Roman Pottery, CBM, human remains
Andy Barnett	Metal-detectorist, Numismatic Items
Sarah Bates	Worked Flint
Julie Curl	Faunal Remains
Debbie Forkes	Conservation
Val Fryer	Macrofossil analysis
Frances Green	Palaeoenvironmental

David King	Window Glass
Andy Peachey	Prehistoric and Roman Pottery, Fired Clay, worked flint

## 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 landscapes and especially 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 Norfolk Historic Environment Service in accordance with the procedures outlined in the document *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991). Monitoring opportunities for each phase of the project are suggested as follows:

- during Trial Trenching
- during Post-Fieldwork Analysis
- upon completion of the archive
- upon receipt of the Evaluation Report

7.3 A further monitoring opportunity will be provided at the end of the project upon deposition of the integrated archive and finds with the Norfolk Museums Service.

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

## **8. Health and Safety**

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

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

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

## **9. Insurance**

9.1 NPS Archaeology's Insurance Cover is:

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

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



01-04-15-2-1296 St Martha's Primary School. Location of archaeological trenches. Scale 1:1000 at A4

Fig. 1 Proposed Trench Locations