Report 2015/1326

nps archaeology

Chalk Lane, Narborough, Norfolk: Archaeological Evaluation

ENF 135844

Prepared for

Blubird Land & Planning

on behalf of Gooderstone Property Company

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Location:	Chalk Lane Extension, Narborough, Norfolk
District:	North Norfolk
Grid Ref.:	TF 7490 1220
Planning Ref.:	Pre-application
HER No.:	ENF 135844
OASIS Ref.:	201179
Client:	Blubird Land & Planning Ltd
Dates of Fieldwork:	6–15 January 2015

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was conducted by NPS Archaeology in January 2015 for Blubird Land & Planning Ltd on behalf of Gooderstone Property Company ahead of a planning application for residential development at Chalk Lane, Narborough, Norfolk.

Fifteen evaluation trial trenches, each measuring 30m x1.80m, were excavated across the site. Of these, twelve recorded archaeological features and deposits.

The trenches located in the central area of the site revealed evidence of probable low-level prehistoric activity. Unstratified burnt and worked flint was recovered, as well as some material from pits and post-holes. Other, undated pits and post-holes might potentially date to the later prehistoric period.

Several ditches interpreted as relict field boundaries and drainage ditches were recorded by the evaluation. These are considered to be of broadly medieval or post-medieval date. An east–west field boundary ditch identified across four of the trenches is depicted on the local Tithe map of 1840. North–south ditches can also be identified on the Tithe map, and undated ditches on separate alignments may coincide with field arrangements recorded by post–Second World War aerial photography.

INTRODUCTION

Figure 1

1 A proposed extension of new housing on the west side of Chalk Lane, Narborough, Norfolk (TF 7490 1220), required a programme of archaeological works to support it through the planning process.

2 NPS Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a programme of archaeological works by Jamie Bird of Blubird Land & Planning Ltd on behalf of Gooderstone Property Company. The work was undertaken to fulfil a Generic Brief for Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching issued by Norfolk Historic Environment Service (Hamilton 2012). James Albone at Norfolk Historic Environment Service discussed the archaeological requirement and specified the number and length of the trenches to be excavated. The ensuing work was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by NPS Archaeology (01-04-15-2-1236, Crawley 2015).

3 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.

4 The site archive is currently held at the offices of NPS Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with Norfolk Museums Service following relevant policies on archiving standards (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014).

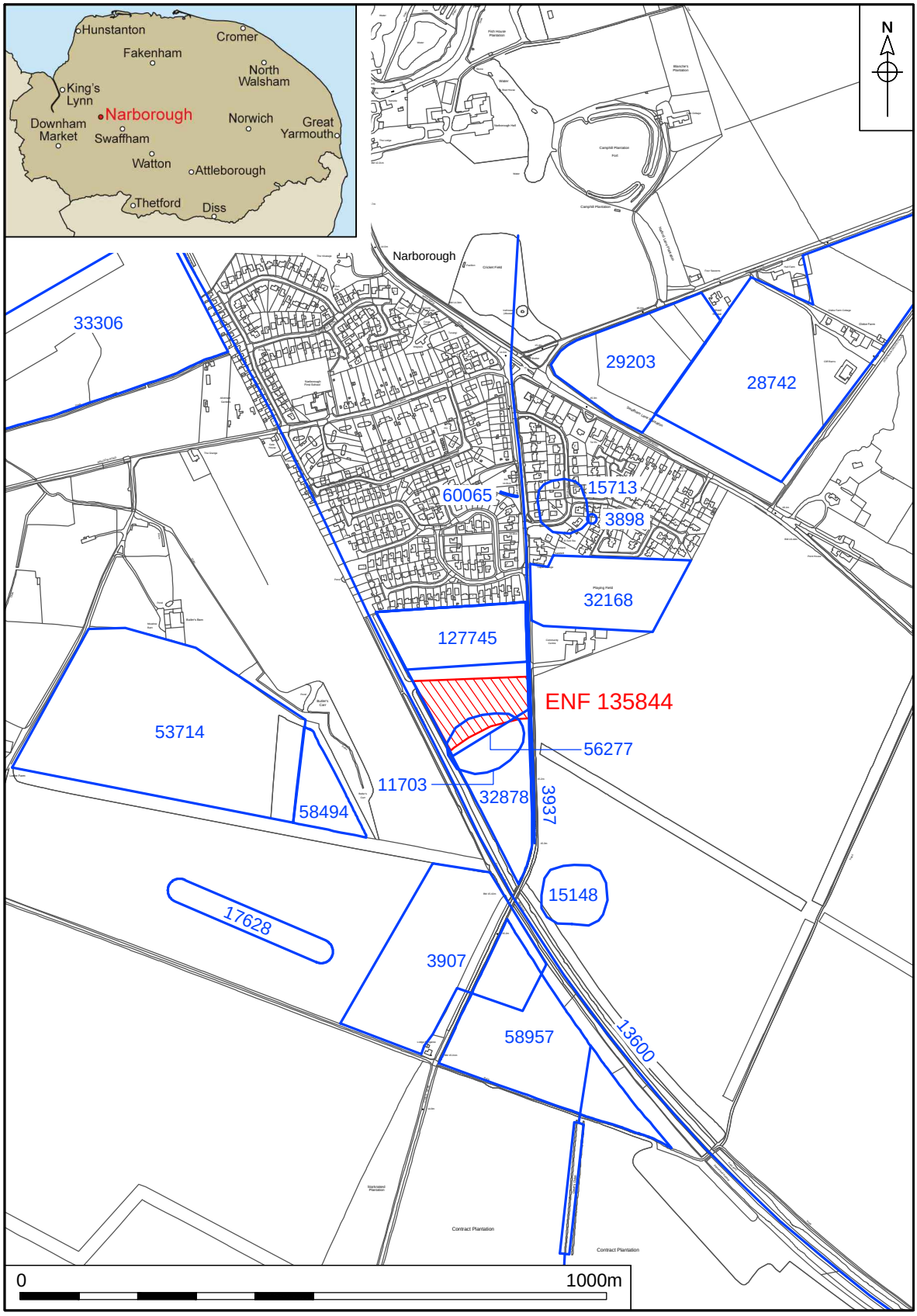

Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:10,000

GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

5 The solid geology of the area around Chalk Lane comprises Cretaceous Upper Chalk (West Melbury marly chalk and zigzag chalk formations) (BGS 2015) overlain by unrecorded ('undivided') pre-Quaternary superficial deposits (BGS 1991). This area of 'west Norfolk lowlands' consists of poor, acidic soils formed in Cretaceous sands, low-lying waterlogged peat and small patches of clay (Williamson 2005).

6 The topsoil at the evaluation site consisted of dark brown silty sand, measuring between 0.25m and 0.50m deep. The underlying subsoil was greyish brown silty sand, measuring between 0.10m and 0.30m deep over most of the investigated area. On the west side of the area, the subsoil was almost non-existent.

7 The site is located to the south of Narborough, on land between 12.00m and 15.00m OD that slopes gently down towards the river Nar to the northwest (Ames 2011).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Figure 1

8 The primary source for archaeological evidence in the county of Norfolk is the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER), which details archaeological discoveries and sites of historical interest. In order to characterise the likely archaeological potential of the development area, NHER record data was purchased from Norfolk Historic Environment Service for a 500m radius of TF 7490 1212. This exercise produced 19 individual records containing evidence of historical activity spanning the prehistoric–post-medieval periods. References in the following text with the prefix NHER are cited from Norfolk Historic Environment Record; all NHER data are copyright of Norfolk Historic Environment Service/Norfolk County Council.

9 Many tracts of arable land around the evaluation site have been subject to intensive metal-detector searches in the past. These searches have provided numerous records, often of multi-period finds scatters. The nearest and most relevant of records in relation to the evaluation are mentioned below, broadly presented in period order.

10 Several find spots of prehistoric material in the search area are recorded by the NHER. A small Neolithic polished and re-chipped flint axe-head was found 380m to the northeast of the evaluation site (NHER 3898), and a possible Bronze Age ring-ditch is visible on aerial photographs *c*. 50m to the south (NHER 11703). Approximately 400m to the northeast, a Bronze Age barbed and tanged flint arrowhead was found on a field surface (NHER 15713).

11 Metal-detector surveys (NHER 32878) of the triangular-shaped field containing the current evaluation have produced metal and other finds of several periods including prehistoric, Roman and medieval. Objects found include Neolithic and Bronze Age flints, a possible Bronze Age tanged chisel, Roman and Early Saxon brooches (which may indicate a Saxon cemetery), two medieval coins and medieval, post-medieval and undatable metal finds.

12 Neolithic and Bronze Age worked flints, Roman coins and pottery, and medieval metal objects have also been recovered 230m to the northeast (NHER 32168).

13 Neolithic worked flints, Iron Age pottery, a Roman brooch, a Saxon stirrup mount and brooches, and medieval pottery and coins are amongst objects found 850m northwest of the evaluation site (NHER 33306). Prehistoric worked flints, a Bronze Age copper alloy axe-head, and Iron Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, medieval, and post-medieval finds including coins have also been recovered from an area 850m northeast of the evaluation (NHER 28742).

14 The site of a possible Roman temple and villa is recorded *c*. 300m south of the evaluation (NHER 3907). Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and medieval objects including pottery, brooches, buckles and rings have also been recovered from this location.

15 From the mid-20th century onwards, large numbers of objects, recovered as individual finds or as a result of metal-detector survey, have been collected from the field to the west of the evaluation site (NHER 3932). These finds include more than 70 Roman coins, a Roman pin and brooch, Iron Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, and medieval pottery fragments, and a fine late 14th–early 15th-century decorated copper-alloy belt chape. A seal matrix and other Late Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman,

medieval, post-medieval, and undated metal finds have also been recovered from the site.

16 Roman, medieval, and post-medieval finds have been recorded 300m to the southeast of the evaluation site (NHER 15148). Finds here include Roman coins and brooches, Roman and medieval pottery, post-medieval jettons, and medieval dress accessories. Further Roman, medieval, and post-medieval artefacts were recorded from an area *c*. 440m southwest of the evaluation (NHER 17628). Finds here include a Roman brooch, medieval and post-medieval dress accessories, and a copper-alloy ring.

17 Roman and medieval coins, tile, and pottery, and two post-medieval jettons have been collected 650m to the northeast (NHER 29203). A Roman brooch, medieval and post-medieval dress accessories, and post-medieval bells and a lead cloth seal were recovered *c*. 300m west of the current site (NHER 58494). Roman flue tile fragments, Roman and medieval coins, a Roman brooch, medieval pottery, and a ring or Late Saxon spindle whorl were collected *c*. 600m south of the evaluation (NHER 58957).

18 The Devil's Dyke, or Bichamditch, is a large linear earthwork that runs for approximately 11.00km between the river Nar at Narborough (at the Iron Age fort) and a tributary of the river Wissey at Beachamwell (NHER 3937). Often cited as being of Early Saxon date, this is unproven, and the feature could date from the Iron Age. It is located in the east of the current evaluation site. Two trial trenches were positioned on the conjectured line of this feature by earlier evaluation in 2012, but although north–south aligned undated features were recorded by both trenches, they did not identify remains of the Bichamditch (Ames 2012).

19 A scatter of Late Saxon and medieval finds is recorded 550m west of the evaluation site (NHER 53714). A Late Saxon coin and a medieval coin, a medieval jetton, and a medieval strap end were found.

20 The route of the King's Lynn–Dereham railway line (NHER 13600) flanks the west side of the evaluation area. The railway from King's Lynn reached Narborough in 1846 and Dereham in 1848, closing in 1968, except for sand trains from the quarries at Middleton.

21 A geophysical (magnetometer) survey of a site 100m north of the current evaluation identified numerous linear magnetic anomalies, some of which were interpreted as field divisions, and a group of curved anomalies that were interpreted as a multiple ditch system of possible prehistoric date (Harrison 2011). Based on the results of the geophysical survey, 14 evaluation trenches were subsequently excavated, targeting some of the anomalies (Ames 2011). The evaluation recorded unstratified worked flint of Late Neolithic–Early Bronze Age date (NHER 127745). A possible buried soil of Early Iron Age date was also identified, containing human skeletal remains and pottery. Early Saxon pottery was recovered from a possible pit or sunken featured building.

METHODOLOGY

22 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.

23 A total of 15 trial trenches was excavated, each measuring 30.00m x 1.80m. This provided a 5% sample of the proposed development area, as discussed with J. Albone of Norfolk Historic Environment Service.

24 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision by a hydraulic 360˚ excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket.

25 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.

26 Six environmental samples were taken from a range of feature types, including ditches, pits and a post-hole.

27 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.

28 The temporary benchmarks used during the course of the work were taken from points located by NPS Land Survey at either end of each trench.

29 Site conditions were good and the work took place in cold winter weather.

RESULTS

Figure 2

30 Archaeological features and deposits were recorded in 12 of the 15 trenches (Trenches 2, 4–11, 13–15). Topsoil across the site was dark brown silty sand, varying from 0.25m to 0.50m deep. Where it was present, the underlying subsoil was greyish brown silty sand, measuring 0.10–0.30m deep over most of the site; it was absent in trenches in the southwest (Trenches 6, 12, 14). The absence of subsoil at these points might be explained by agricultural activities, or perhaps by construction work associated with the 19th-century railway line.

31 Flint-filled modern land drains, regularly *c*. 0.20m wide x 0.10m deep, were found across the site, recorded in Trenches 1, 2, 5, 9, 12, 14.

Plate 1. Modern land drains in Trench 12.

32 The results of the evaluation are tabulated below in Trench number order. A photograph of each Trench accompanies a written description, and additional images of features are presented where appropriate. Plans and sections are provided where archaeological features were present.

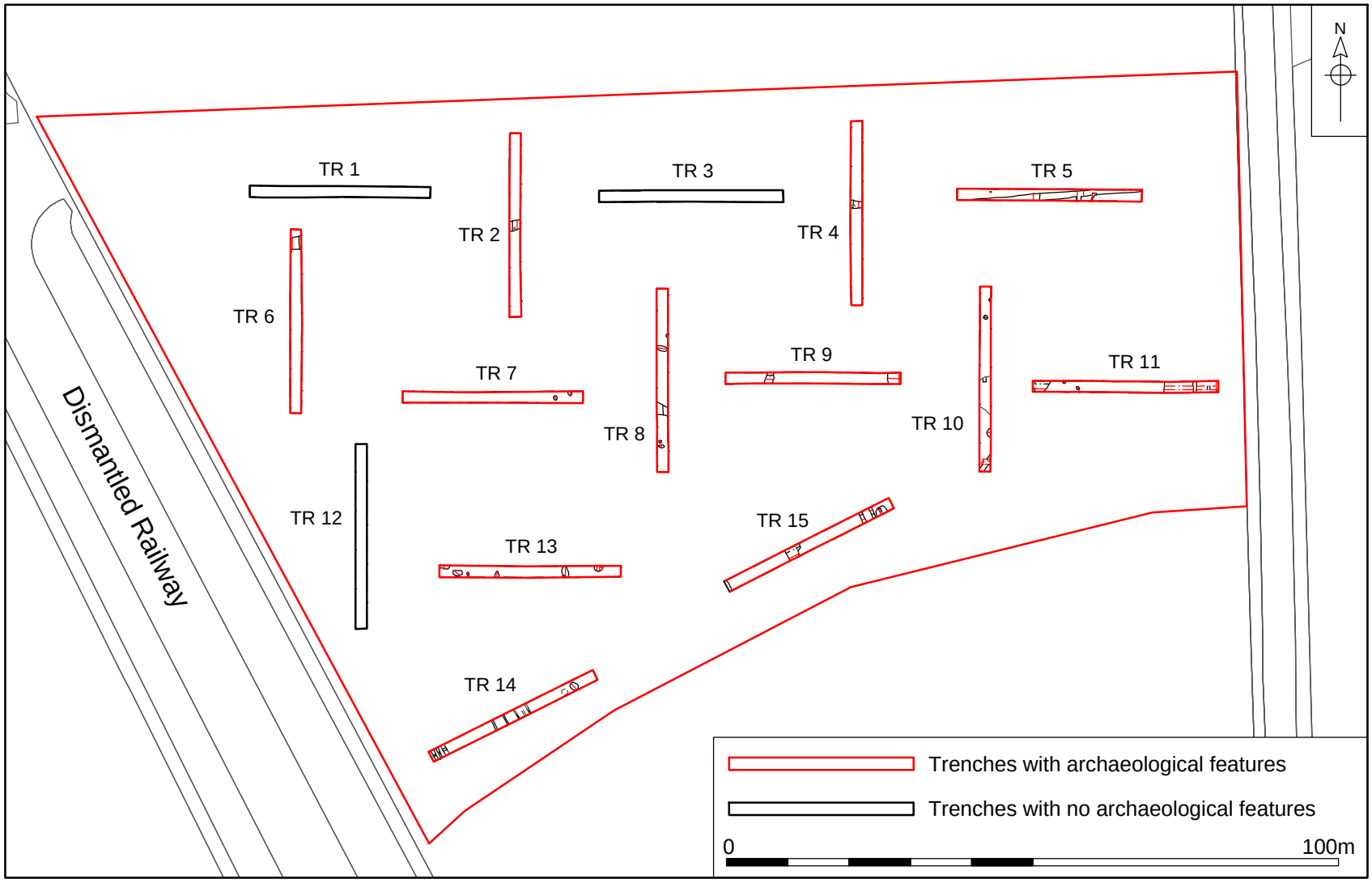

Figure 2. Location of trenches. Scale 1:1000

Trench 1

Plate 2. Trench 1, looking west.

Figure 2; Plate 2	
Location	
Orientation	East–west
East end	574870, 312172
West end	574839, 312172
Dimensions	
Length	30.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.57m
Levels	
East top	13.01m OD
West top	12.75m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand.	0.33m	0.00-0.33m
02	Subsoil	Greyish brown silty sand.	0.0.24m	0.33-0.57m
100	Natural geology	Natural geology.	-	0.57m

Discussion

Trench 1 did not contain any archaeological features or deposits, although modern land drains were observed.

A worked flint was recovered from the subsoil **02** during machining,

Trench 2

Plate 3. Trench 2, looking south.

Figures 2, 3; Plates 3, 4	
Location	
Orientation	North–south
North end	574883, 312181
South end	574883, 312151
Dimensions	
Length	30.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.46m
Levels	
North top	13.29m OD
South top	13.18m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand.	0.36m	0.00-0.36m
02	Subsoil	Greyish brown silty sand.	0.10m	0.36-0.46m
21	Ditch	East–west aligned. Same ditch as **03**, **05**, **09**, **19**, **23**.	0.36m	0.46-0.82m
22	Fill of ditch **21**	Mid-greyish brown silty sand.	0.36m	0.46-0.82m
100	Natural geology	Natural geology.	-	0.46m

Discussion

Ditch **21** was aligned east–west across the approximate mid-point of Trench 2, and measured 1.80m wide x 0.36m deep. It contained a single fill **22** consisting of mid-greyish brown silty sand. No datable finds were recovered from the feature, which was also recorded in Trenches 4, 5, 6. The ditch has been interpreted as a field boundary ditch, the line of which is recorded on the local Tithe map of 1840.

Modern land drains were also observed.

Trench 2

Plate 4. Trench 2, ditch **21**, looking east.

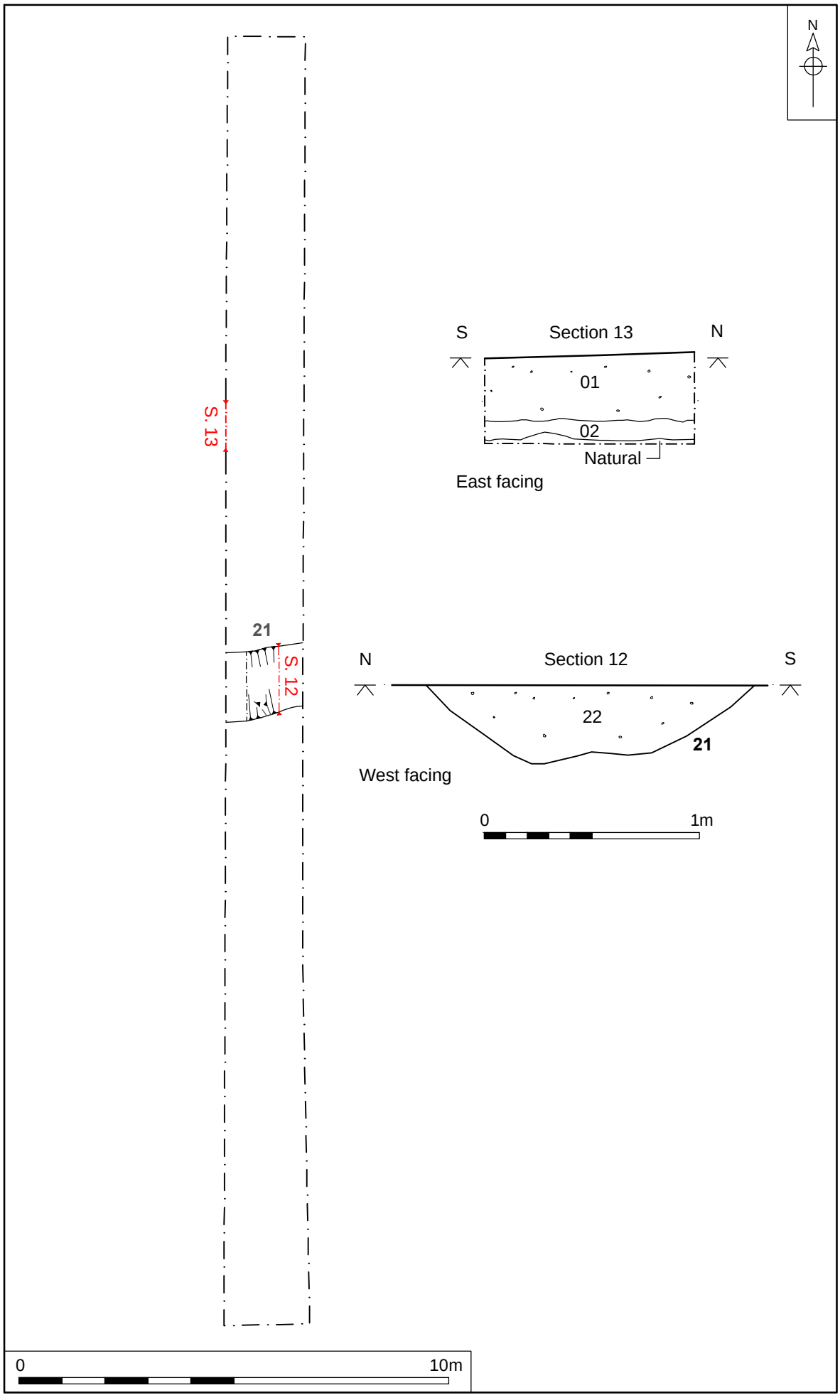

Figure 3. Trench 2, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 3

Plate 5. Trench 3, looking west.

Figure 2; Plate 5	
Location	
Orientation	East–west
East end	574927, 312171
West end	574896, 312171
Dimensions	
Length	30.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.54m
Levels	
East top	13.76m OD
West top	13.37m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand.	0.39m	0.00-0.39m
02	Subsoil	Greyish brown silty sand.	0.15m	0.39-0.54m
100	Natural geology	Natural geology.	-	0.54m

Discussion

No archaeological features or deposits were recorded in Trench 3.

Trench 4

Plate 6. Trench 4, looking south.

Figures 2, 4; Plates 6, 7	
Location	
Orientation	North–south
North end	574939, 312183
South end	574938, 312153
Dimensions	
Length	30.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.65m
Levels	
North top	13.96m OD
South top	13.83m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand.	0.31m	0.00-0.31m
02	Subsoil	Greyish brown silty sand.	0.34m	0.31-0.65m
19	Ditch	East–west aligned. Same as **03**, **05**, **09**, **21**, **23**.	0.28m	0.65-0.93m
20	Fill of **19**	Mid-greyish brown silty sand.	0.28m	0.65-0.93m
100	Natural geology	Natural geology.	-	0.65m

Discussion

Ditch **19** was aligned east–west across the centre of Trench 4, and measured 1.00m wide x 0.28m deep. It contained a single fill **20** consisting of mid-greyish brown silty sand. No datable finds were recovered from the feature.

This ditch was also recorded in Trenches 2, 5, 6. It has been interpreted as a field boundary ditch, which can be identified on the 1840 Tithe map for the local area.

Worked flint was found in the topsoil **01** during the machining works.

Trench 4

Plate 7. Trench 4, ditch **19**, looking east.

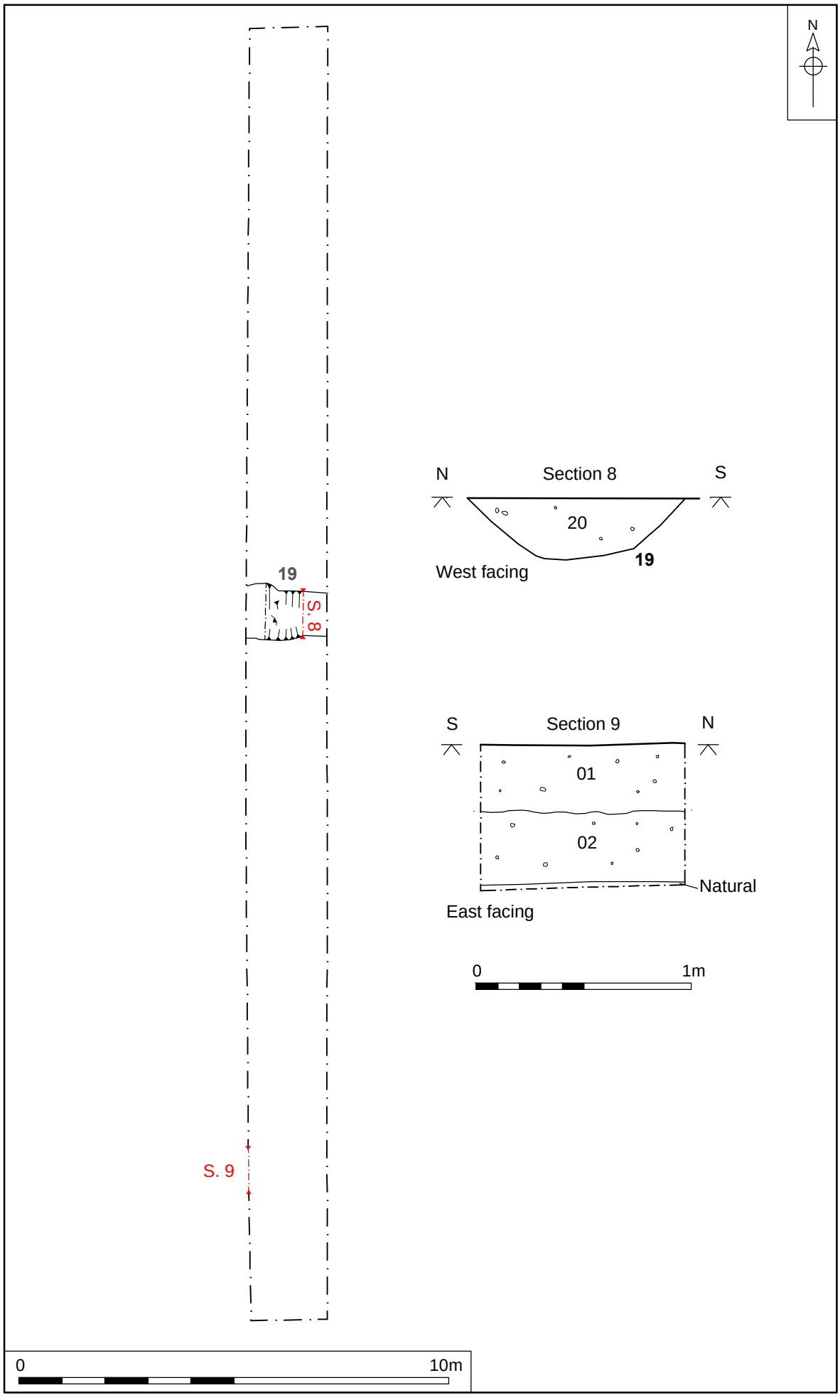

Figure 4. Trench 4, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 5

Plate 8. Trench 5, looking west.

Figures 2, 5; Plates 8, 9, 10, 11	
Location	
Orientation	East–west
East end	574985, 312171
West end	574955, 312171
Dimensions	
Length	30.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.53m
Levels	
East top	14.88m OD
West top	14.13m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand.	0.25-0.30m	0.00-0.27m
02	Subsoil	Greyish brown silty sand.	0.26-0.30m	0.27-0.53m
03	Ditch	East–west aligned. Contains **04**, **97**, **98**, **99**. Same as **05**, **09**, **19**, **21**, **23**.	0.36m	0.53-0.89m
04	Fill of **03**	Third fill of **03**. Mid-greyish brown silty sand.	0.36m	0.53-0.89m
05	Ditch	East–west aligned. Same ditch as **03**, **09**, **19**, **21**, **23**.	0.28m	0.53-0.81m
06	Fill of **05**	Mid-greyish brown silty sand.	0.28m	0.53-0.81m
07	Gully/ditch	North–south aligned.	0.50m	0.53-1.03m
08	Fill of **07**	Mid-dark orangey brown silty sand. Occasional small/medium flint inclusions.	0.50m	0.53-1.03m
09	Ditch	East–west aligned. Same ditch as **03**, **05**, **19**, **21**, **23**.	0.27m	0.53-0.80m
10	Fill of **09**	Mid-greyish brown silty sand.	0.27m	0.53-0.80m
11	Post-hole	Circular (0.45m) post-hole.	0.25m	0.53-0.78m
12	Fill of **11**	Mid-orangey brown silty sand, with occasional flint gravel and chalk flecks inclusions.	0.25m	0.53-0.78m

Trench 5				
13	Post-hole	Possible post-hole.	0.15m	0.53-0.068m
14	Fill of **13**	Mid-dark brown sandy silt. Occasional flint gravel, chalk and charcoal inclusions.	0.15m	0.53-0.68m
15	Post-hole	Possible post-hole.	0.12m	0.53-0.65m
16	Fill of **15**	Mid-light orangey brown silty sand with occasional small/medium flint inclusions.	0.12m	0.53-0.65m
17	Post-hole	Possible post-hole, extends beyond limits of the trench so overall shape not recorded.	0.35m	0.53-0.88m
18	Fill of **17**	Mid-dark orangey brown silty sand, with blackish mottling and occasional small flint inclusions.	0.35m	0.53-0.88m
97	Fill of **03**	Fourth fill of **03**. Light yellowish brown silty sand. Rare flint gravel inclusions.	0.10m	0.53-0.63m
98	Fill of **03**	Second fill of **03**. Mid-orangey brown silty sand with occasional flint inclusions.	0.35m	0.53-0.88m
99	Fill of **03**	First fill of **03**. Orangey brown silty sand with frequent small/medium flint inclusions.	0.10m	0.53-0.63m
100	Natural geology	Natural geology.	-	0.53m

Discussion

Eight features were recorded in Trench 5, and modern land drains were also observed.

Ditches 03=05=09, 07

Ditch **03** was aligned east–west and the position of the trench fell almost directly over it. The ditch thus stretched across nearly the full 30m-length of the excavation, and measured 1.00m wide x 0.36m deep. This ditch was the same feature excavated as **05** and **09** (in Trench 5), and the same as ditches **21**, **19**, **23** recorded in Trenches: 2, 4, 6 respectively. It has been interpreted as a field boundary ditch that is shown on the Tithe map of 1840 for this area. Fill **97** contained two possible medieval or post-medieval artefacts, an iron staple and a fragment of pottery. No other datable artefacts were recovered from the ditch.

Ditch **07** was aligned north–south, but as it extended beyond the limits of Trench 5, it was not possible to see its complete shape. The relationship between **07** and **05** was unclear, although ditch **05** was recorded as cutting **07**.

Trench 5

Plate 9. Trench 5, ditch **03**, looking west.

Post-holes 11, 13, 15, 17

Post-holes **11**, **15**, **17** were situated in a north–south line close to ditch **09**. The relationship between **09** and **11** was unclear. As **17** extended beyond the trench edge it was not possible to ascertain whether this particular feature was a post-hole or, possibly, the terminus of a ditch.

The three post-holes could be part of a fence line associated with the east–west ditch **03=05=09**, and possibly with north–south ditch **07**. Post-hole **13** is an isolated feature that might be modern.

Plate 10. Trench 5, ditches **05**, **07**, looking north.

Trench 5

Plate 11. Trench 5, post-holes **15**, **17**, looking east.

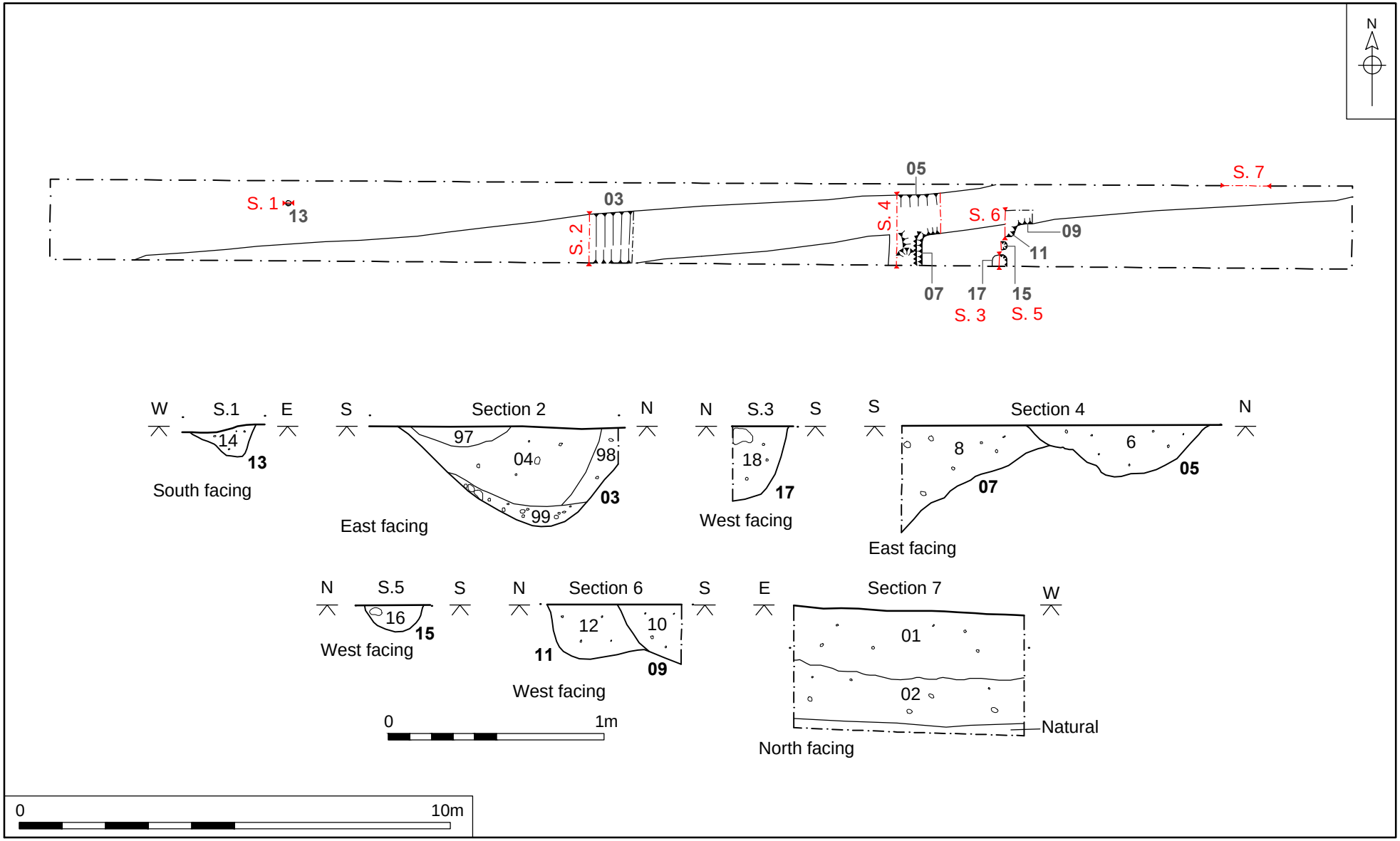

Figure 5. Trench 5, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 6

Plate 12. Trench 6, looking north.

Figures 2, 6; Plates 12, 13	
Location	
Orientation	North–south
North end	574847, 312166
South end	574847, 312135
Dimensions	
Length	30.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.35m
Levels	
North top	12.79m OD
South top	12.59m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand.	0.25-0.35m	0.00-0.25m
02	Subsoil	Greyish brown silty sand.	0.00-0.10m	0.25-0.35m
23	Ditch	East–west aligned. Same ditch as **03**, **05**, **09**, **19, 21**.	0.27m	0.35-0.62m
24	Fill of **23**	Mid-greyish brown silty sand.	0.27m	0.35-0.62m
100	Natural geology	Natural geology.	-	0.35m

Discussion

Ditch **23** was identified at the north end of evaluation Trench 6. It was aligned east–west and measured 1.85m wide x 0.27m deep. It contained a single fill **24** consisting of mid-greyish brown silty sand. No datable finds were recovered from the feature.

Other elements of this ditch were recorded in Trenches 2, 4, 5. It has been interpreted as a field boundary ditch that is depicted on the 1840 Tithe map for this area.

Trench 6

Plate 13. Trench 6, ditch **23**, looking east.

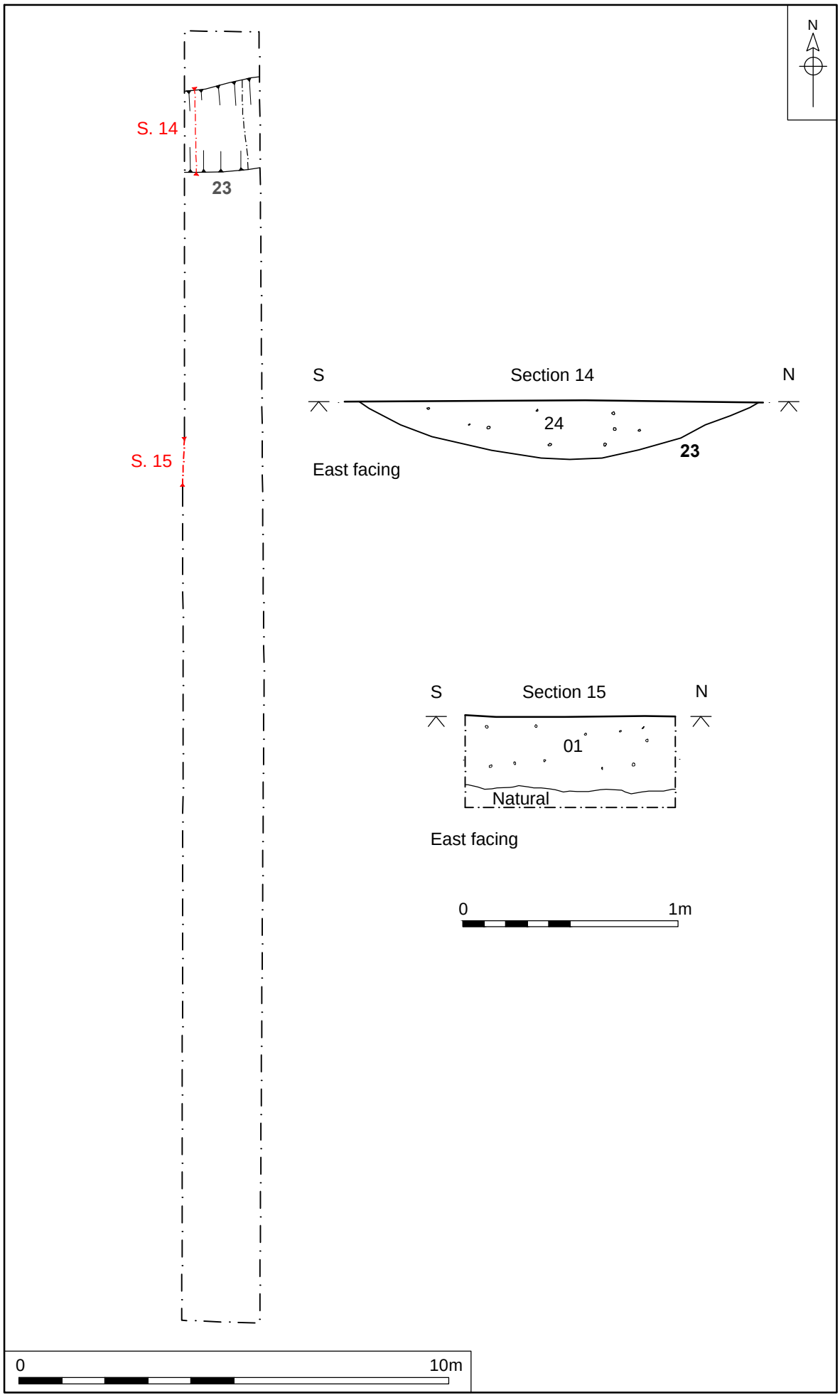

Figure 6. Trench 6, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 7

Plate 14. Trench 7, looking east.

Figures 2, 7; Plates 14, 15	
Location	
Orientation	East–west
East end	574894, 312138
West end	574864, 312138
Dimensions	
Length	30.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.53m
Levels	
East top	13.33m OD
West top	13.03m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand.	0.30m	0.00-0.30m
02	Subsoil	Greyish brown silty sand.	0.23m	0.30-0.53m
25	Post-hole/pit	Post-hole 0.61m wide.	0.30m	0.53-0.83m
26	Fill of **25**	Mid-light yellowish brown silty sand.	0.30m	0.53-0.83m
27	Post-hole	Post-hole 0.59m wide.	0.48m	0.53-1.01m
28	Fill of **27**	Mid-light yellowish brown silty sand. Burnt flint, struck flint.	0.48m	0.53-1.01m
100	Natural geology	Natural geology.	-	0.53m

Discussion

Two features were recorded close together at the east end of Trench 7: a post-hole or small pit **25** and post-hole **27**.

Post-hole/pit **25** contained deposit **26**, mid-light yellowish brown silty sand. No finds were recovered from the feature.

Post-hole **27** contained one deposit **28**, mid-light yellowish brown silty sand. Finds of burnt flint and struck flint from fill **28** suggest a possible prehistoric date for the feature.

Trench 7

Plate 15. Trench 7, post-hole **27**, facing west.

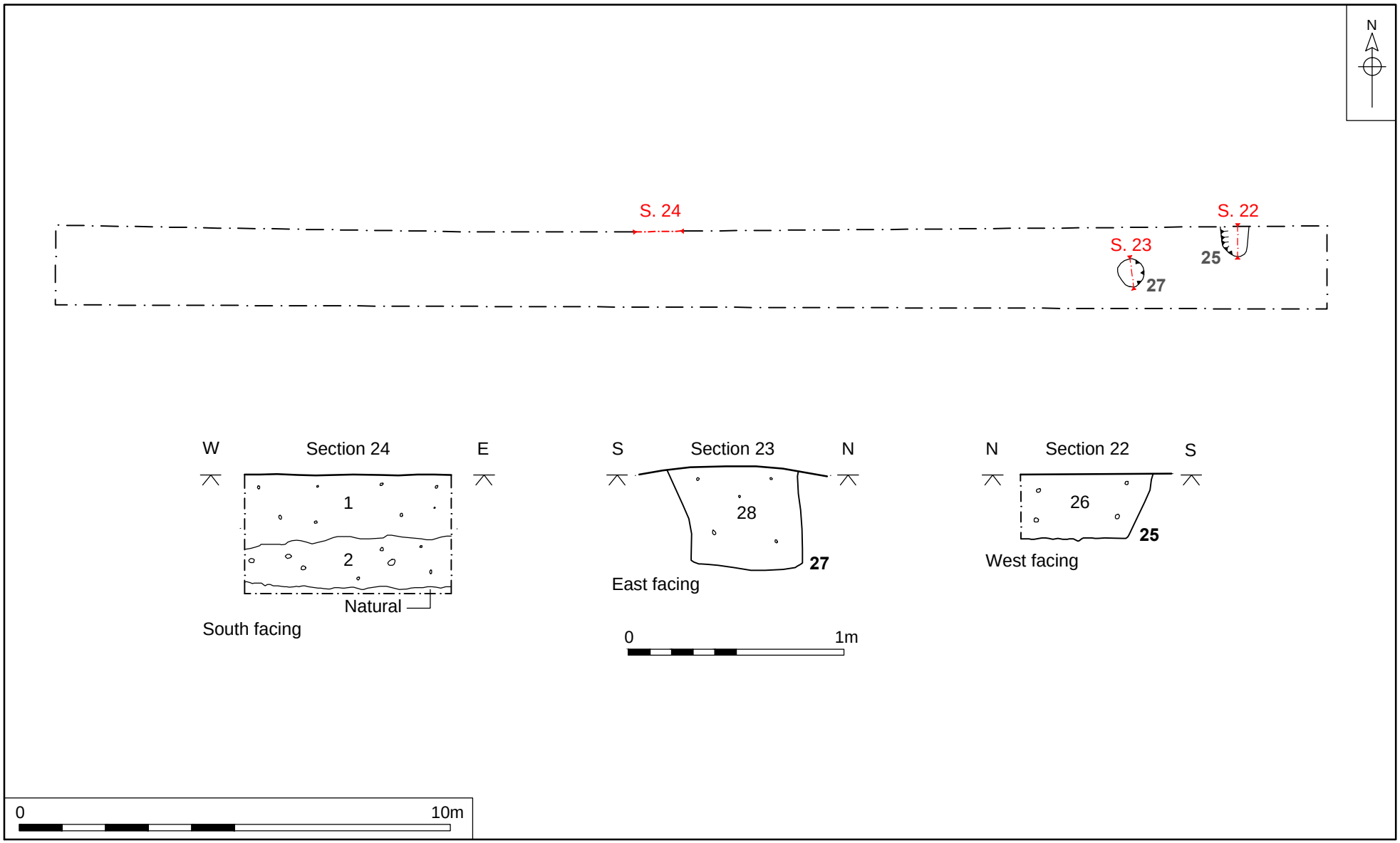

Figure 7. Trench 7, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 8

Plate 16. Trench 8, looking south.

Figures 2, 8; Plates 16, 17, 18	
Location	
Orientation	North–south
North end	574907, 312156
South end	574907, 312126
Dimensions	
Length	30.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.50m
Levels	
North top	13.41m OD
South top	13.51m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand.	0.30m	0.00-0.30m
02	Subsoil	Greyish brown silty sand.	0.20m	0.30-0.50m
67	Pit	Sub-circular feature extends beyond the limits of the trench.	0.25m	0.50-0.75m
68	Fill of **67**	Mid-yellowish brown silty sand with flint pebbles inclusions.	0.25m	0.50-0.75m
69	Pit	Oval pit 1.11m wide.	0.32m	0.50-0.82m
70	Fill of **69**	Dark greyish/yellowish brown silty sand, with occasional small flint inclusions.	0.32m	0.50-0.82m
71	Ditch	East–west aligned.	0.30m	0.50-0.80m
72	Fill of **71**	Mid-yellowish brown silty sand.	0.30m	0.50-0.80m
73	Post-hole	Possible post-hole or pit 0.75m wide.	0.54m	0.50-1.04m
74	Fill of **73**	Dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional small/medium size flint inclusions.	0.54m	0.50-1.04m
75	Post-hole	Circular, 0.40m wide.	0.26m	0.50-0.76m
76	Fill of **75**	Dark greyish silty sand with occasional gravel flint.	0.26m	0.50-0.76m
100	Natural geology	Natural geology.	-	0.50m

Trench 8

Discussion

Five features were recorded in Trench 8.

The fill **68** of pit **67** contained a single pottery sherd (11g) of uncertain Middle–Late Iron Age or Anglo-Saxon in date. The excavation of pit **69** provided no dating evidence. Features **67** and **69** were located in close proximity at the north end of Trench 8, and it is possible that were of similar (if currently unknown) date.

Plate 17. Trench 8, pit **69**, looking south.

Ditch **71** crossed the southern part of Trench 8 on a broadly northwest–southeast alignment. It contained fill **72**, mid-yellowish brown silty sand. This feature was not identified in any other evaluation trenches, nor was it aligned to either the main east–west ditch to the north, or the north–south ditches to the east. No artefacts were recovered from the feature, neither was it possible to relate the ditch stratigraphically to other features. At present, ditch **71** is undated.

Trench 8

Plate 18. Trench 8, ditch **71**, looking south.

Post-holes **73**, **75** at the south end of Trench 8 contained no finds and are undated, and there is no indication of any structure that they might have formed part of.

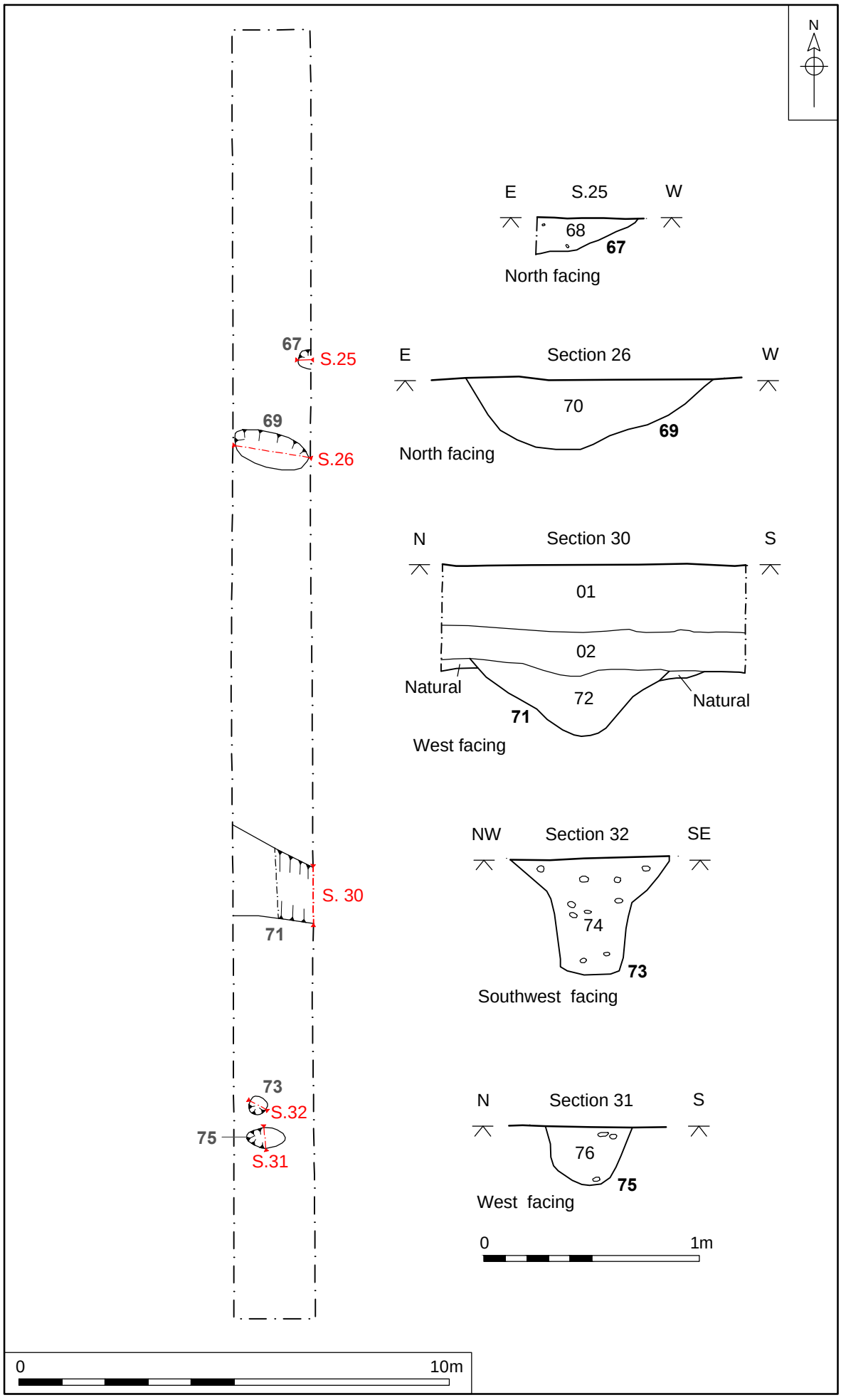

Figure 8. Trench 8, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 9

Plate 19. Trench 9, looking west.

Figures 2, 9; Plates 19, 20	
Location	
Orientation	East–west
East end	574947, 312141
West end	574917, 312141
Dimensions	
Length	30.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.82m
Levels	
East top	13.92m OD
West top	13.51m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand.	0.52m	0.00-0.52m
02	Subsoil	Greyish brown silty sand.	0.30m	0.52-0.82m
63	Pit	Unknown shape, it extends beyond the limits of the trench.	0.60m	0.82-1.42m
64	Fill of **63**	Light greyish/yellowish brown silty sand with occasional medium/small flint inclusions.	0.60m	0.82-1.42m
65	Ditch	Northeast–southwest aligned.	0.38m	0.82-1.20m
66	Fill of **65**	Dark yellowish brown silty sand with occasional medium flint inclusions.	0.38m	0.82-1.20m
100	Natural geology	Natural geology.	-	0.82m
101	Unstratified	Unstratified find. Modern brick associated with modern land drains.	-	-

Discussion

Pit **63**, at the east end of Trench 9, contained deposit **64**, light greyish/yellowish brown silty sand with occasional medium–small flint inclusions. No finds were recovered from the feature.

Ditch **65** was aligned northeast–southwest towards the south end of the excavation. It contained a single deposit **66**, dark yellowish brown silty sand with occasional medium flint inclusions. This is provisionally interpreted as a field boundary ditch, though it was not identified in any of the other evaluation trenches and its main purpose may be for drainage. No finds were recovered from the feature and it is undated. Modern land drains were observed nearby.

Trench 9

Plate 20. Trench 9, ditch **65**, looking north.

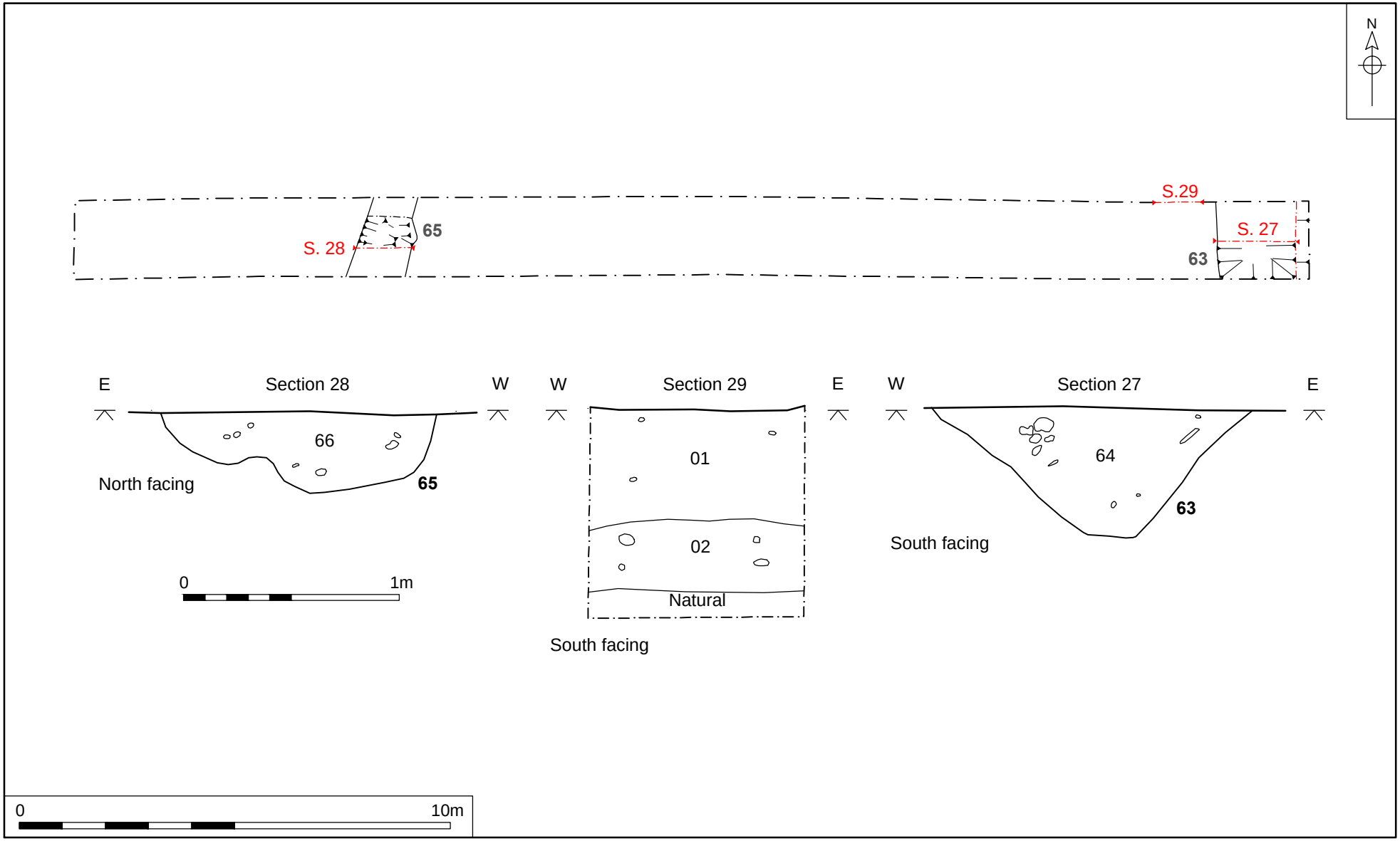

Figure 9. Trench 9, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 10

Plate 21. Trench 10, looking north.

Figures 2, 10; Plates 21, 22	
Location	
Orientation	North–south
North end	574960, 312156
South end	574960, 312126
Dimensions	
Length	30.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.74m
Levels	
North top	14.17m OD
South top	14.12m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand.	0.40m	0.00-0.40m
02	Subsoil	Greyish brown silty sand.	0.34m	0.40-0.74m
47	Ditch	Northeast–southwest aligned. Same ditch as **29**.	0.18m	0.74-0.92m
48	Fill of 47	Mid-yellowish brown silty sand with occasional small flint inclusions.	0.18m	0.74-0.92m
49	Pit	Sub-circular in plan.	0.30m	0.74-1.04m
50	Fill of 49	Light yellowish brown silty sand with occasional large–medium–small flint inclusions.	0.30m	0.74-1.04m
59	Natural feature	Natural feature, tested, no archaeological results.	-	-
60	Natural feature	Natural feature, tested, no archaeological results.	-	-
61	Pit	Sub-oval in plan. It extends beyond the limits of the trench to the east.	0.22m	0.74-0.96m
62	Fill of 61	Mid-light yellowish brown silty sand with dark greyish black patches and occasional small angular flint inclusions.	0.22m	0.74-0.96m
100	Natural geology	Natural geology.	-	0.74m

Trench 10

Discussion

Ditch **47** was aligned northeast-southwest at the south limit of Trench 10. It is almost certainly the same ditch as **29**, recorded in evaluation Trench 11. It is interpreted as an undated field boundary ditch, with no finds recovered from either of the excavated sections in the two trenches.

Pit **49** at the south end of Trench 10 was sub-circular in plan and extended beyond the limits of the trench to the east. It contained deposit **50**, light yellowish brown silty sand with occasional large/medium/small flint inclusions.

Pit **61** was a sub-oval feature at the north end of Trench 10 that extended beyond the edge of the trench to the east. It contained one deposit **62**, mid-light yellowish brown silty sand with dark greyish black patches and occasional small angular flint inclusions.

No artefacts were found in either of the two pits, so their interpretation as prehistoric features is at best tentative. This interpretation is based on the nature of fills in the pits bearing distinct similarities in composition, colour and consistency, to prehistoric features excavated elsewhere on the evaluation site.

Plate 22. Trench 10, pit **49**, looking south.

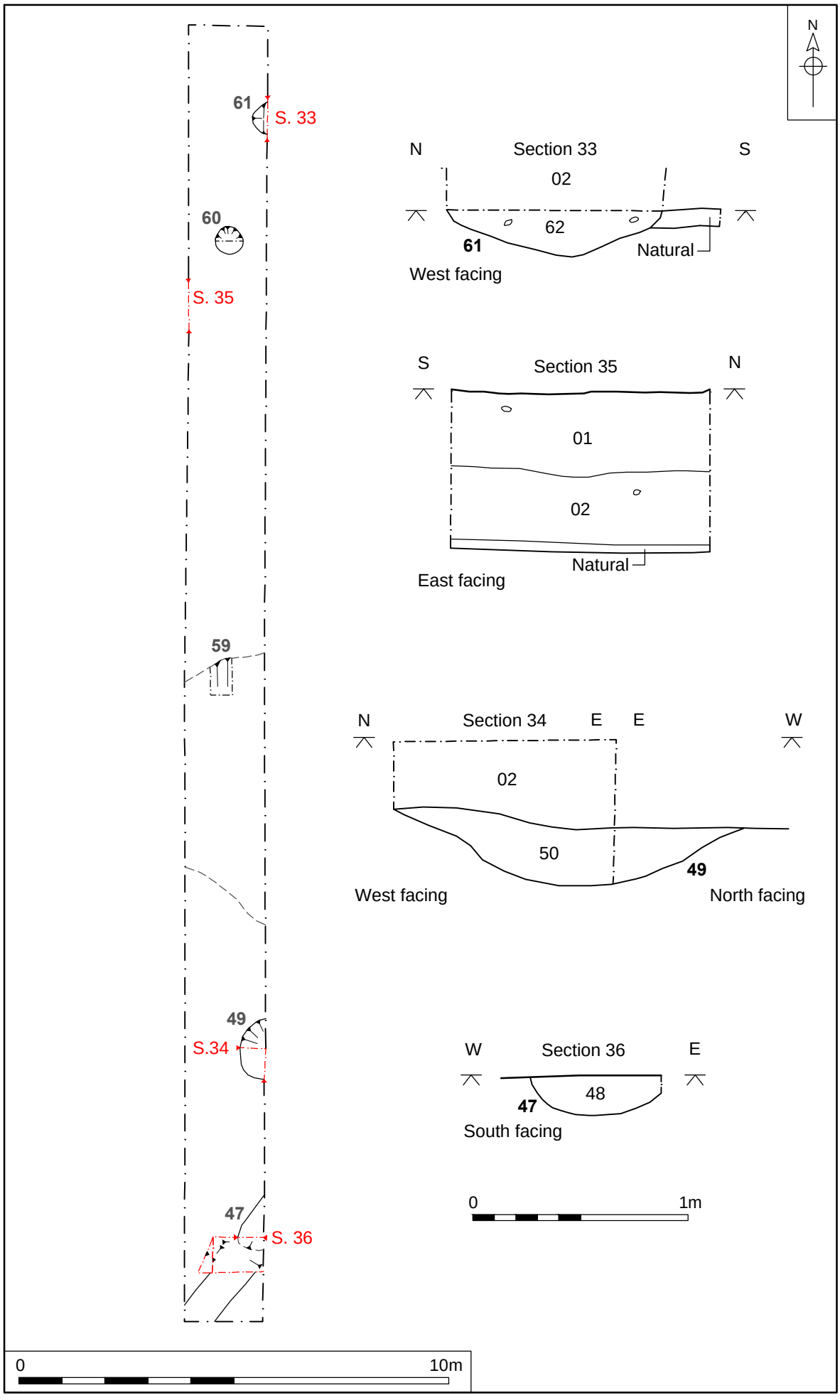

Figure 10. Trench 10, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 11

Plate 23. Trench 11, looking east.

Figures 2, 11; Plates 23, 24, 25	
Location	
Orientation	East–west
East end	574997, 312140
West end	574967, 312140
Dimensions	
Length	30.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.42 m
Levels	
East top	15.15m OD
West top	14.27m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand.	0.42m	0.00-0.42m
02	Subsoil	Greyish brown silty sand.	0.00-0.10m	0.32-0.42m
29	Ditch	Northeast–southwest aligned.	0.42m	0.42-0.84m
30	Fill of **29**	Mid-greyish brown silty sand. Frequent medium/small flint inclusions.	0.42m	0.42-0.84m
31	Pit	Circular/oval.	0.31m	0.42-0.73m
32	Fill of **31**	Light yellowish brown silty sand, with occasional medium flint inclusions.	0.31m	0.42-0.73m
33	Pit	Oval pit.	0.23m	0.42-0.65m
34	Fill of **33**	Light yellowish brown silty sand, occasional medium size flint inclusions.	0.23m	0.42-0.65m
35	Ditch	North–south aligned.	1.20m	0.42-1.62m
36	Fill of **35**	Main fill in ditch **35**. Mid-orangey brown silty sand. Frequent small/medium size flint inclusions.	1.20m	0.42-1.62m
37	Ditch	North–south aligned. Secondary dich in ditch **35**. Cuts **36** and **46.**	0.63m	0.42-1.05m

Trench 11				
38	Fill or **37**	Mid-greyish brown silty sand. Occasional small size flint inclusions.	0.63m	0.42-1.05m
39	Ditch	North–south aligned.	0.53m	0.42-0.95m
40	Fill of **39**	Mid-orangey brown silty sand. Frequent small/medium flint inclusions.	0.53m	0.42-0.95m
41	Ditch	North–south aligned.	0.53m	0.42-0.95m
42	Fill of **41**	Main fill in ditch **41**. Light yellowish brown silty sand, with occasional small flint inclusions.	0.53m	0.42-0.95m
43	Ditch	North–south aligned.	0.23m	0.42-0.65m
44	Fill of **41**	Top fill in **41** ditch. Mid-greyish brown silty sand.	0.23m	0.42-0.65m
45	Fill of **43**	Mid-dark greyish brown silty sand, with occasional small flint inclusions	0.23m	0.42-0.65m
46	Fill of **35**	Small fill on the top of the ditch **35**. Mid-greyish brown silty sand, with occasional small/medium flint inclusions.	0.20m	0.42-0.62m
100	Natural geology	Natural geology.	-	0.42m

Discussion

Trench 11 contained eight features. An unstratified Roman coin and worked flint were collected from the trench.

Plate 24. Trench 11, pit **33**, looking south.

Trench 11

Two pits of comparable size and with identical fills were situated close to one another at the west end of Trench 11. Pit **31** was a circular/oval feature filled by a single deposit **32**. Pit **33** was an oval feature filled by a single deposit **34**.

Ditches 29, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43

Ditch **29** was isolated at the east end of the trench, was aligned northeast-southwest and contained fill **30**. The remaining ditches were all in close attendance at the east end of the trench, aligned north–south and contained single fills: **35**/**36**, **37**/**38**, **39**/**40**, **41**/**42**, **43**/**44**.

The north–south aligned ditches were orientated with Chalk Lane to the east of the evaluation site. Ditch **37** appeared to be a later, considerably smaller re-cutting of ditch **35**, which was a substantial feature. For safety reasons, the base of the ditch could not be exposed within the confines of the evaluation trench. Hand-augering indicated ditch **35** was 1.20m deep. No dating evidence was recovered from the feature. A medieval bar mount, possibly dated to the 13th–14th century was recovered from fill **38** of ditch **37** The ditches are considered to be features of medieval or post-medieval date.

Ditch **37**, or perhaps one of either ditches **39** or **41** to the east, may correspond to a ditch aligned to Chalk Lane recorded by the evaluation of the field to the north of the current site (Ames 2011). The ditch profiles and sizes are comparable and the ditch identified previously contained a sherd of Grimston ware pottery dated to the 13th–14th century, a date paralleled by the bar mount found in ditch **37**.

Plate 25. Trench 11, ditches **35**, **37**, looking south.

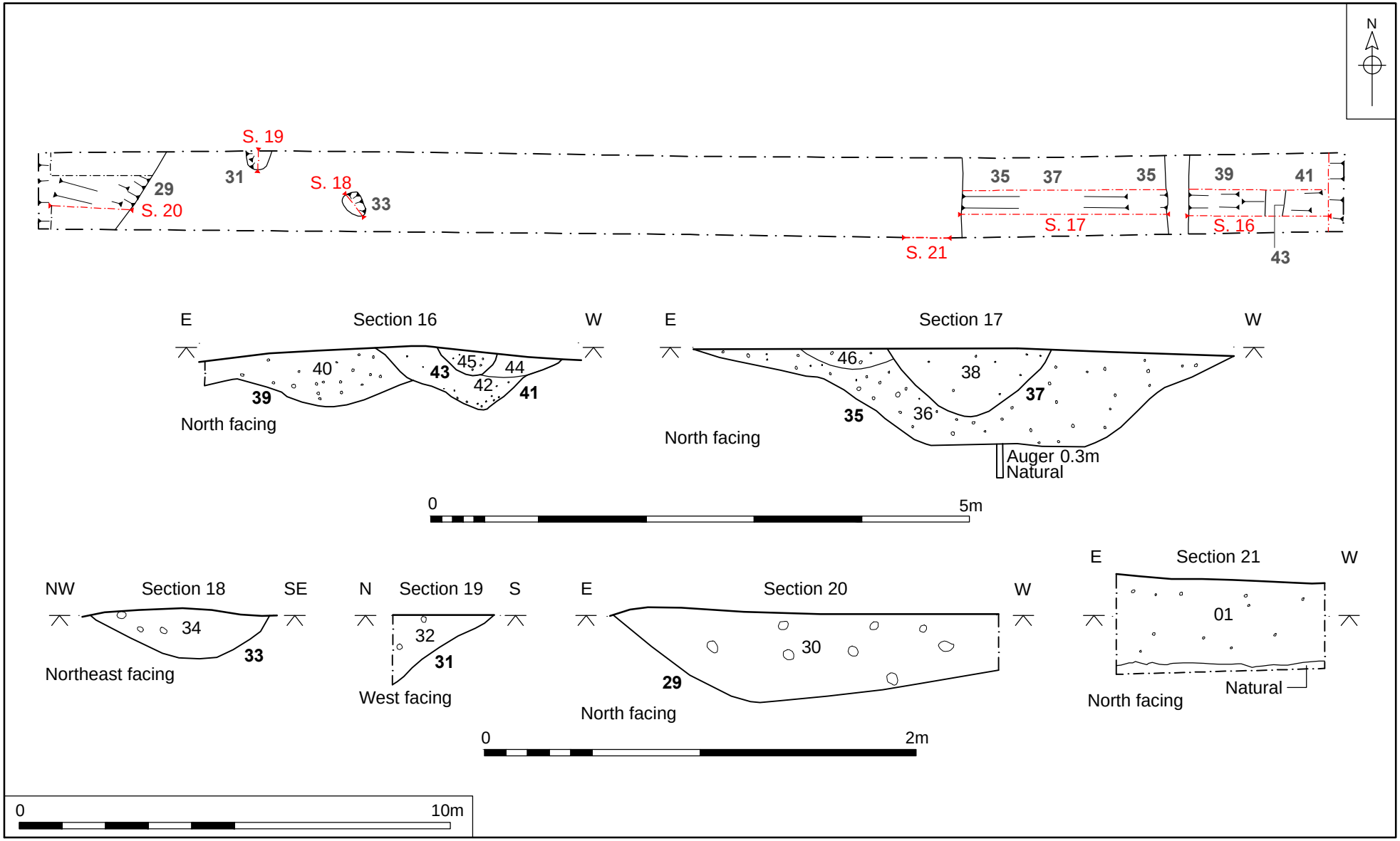

Figure 11. Trench 11, plan and sections. Scale 1:125, 1:50 and 1:25

Trench 12

Plate 26. Trench 12, looking south.

Figures 2; Plate 1, 26	
Location	
Orientation	North–south
North end	574858, 312131
South end	574858, 312101
Dimensions	
Length	30.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.42m
Levels	
North top	12.93m OD
South top	12.59m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand.	0.42m	0.00-0.42m
02	Subsoil	Greyish brown silty sand.	0.00-0.05m	0.37-0.42m
100	Natural geology	Natural geology.	-	0.42m

Discussion

No archaeological features or deposits were recorded in Trench 12.

Modern land drains were observed (see Plate 1).

Trench 13

Plate 27. Trench 13, looking west.

Figures 2, 12; Plates 27, 28, 29, 30, 31	
Location	
Orientation	East–west
East end	574901, 312110
West end	574870, 312110
Dimensions	
Length	30.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.54m
Levels	
East top	13.53m OD
West top	13.16m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand.	0.35/0.44m	0.00-0.44m
02	Subsoil	Greyish brown silty sand.	0.10m	0.44-0.54m
77	Pit	Sub-oval in plan.	0.34m	0.54-0.88m
78	Fill of **77**	Dark yellowish brown sand. Occasional flint inclusions.	0.34m	0.54-0.88m
79	Pit	Oval/irregular.	0.28m	0.54-0.82m
80	Fill of **79**	Dark yellowish brown sand. Occasional flint gravel inclusions. Struck flint.	0.28m	0.54-0.82m
81	Pit	Oval in plan.	0.40m	0.54-0.94m
82	Fill of **81**	Dark yellowish brown sand. Occasional flint gravel inclusions.	0.40m	0.54-0.94m
83	Pit	Sub-oval in plan.	0.36m	0.54-0.90m
84	Fill of **83**	Dark yellowish brown silty sand. Frequent small/medium flint inclusions. Struck flint found.	0.36m	0.54-0.90m
85	Pit	Sub-oval in plan.	0.24m	0.54-0.78m
86	Fill of **85**	Greyish/ yellowish brown silty sand. Frequent small/medium flint inclusions.	0.24m	0.54-0.78m
87	Post-hole	Circular, 0.37m diameter.	0.30m	0.54-0.84m

Trench 13				
88	Fill of **87**	Dark greyish/ mid-yellowish brown silty sand. Occasional flint gravel inclusions.	0.30m	0.54-0.84m
89	Pit	Sub-circular in plan, = **95**.	0.20m	0.54-0.74m
90	Fill of **89**	Dark greyish brown silty sand. Frequent medium/small flint inclusions.	0.20m	0.54-0.74m
95	Pit	Sub-oval in plan, = **89**.	0.20m	0.54-0.74m
96	Fill of **95**	Dark greyish brown silty sand. Frequent medium/small flint inclusions.	0.20m	0.54-0.74m
100	Natural geology	Natural geology.	-	0.54m

Discussion

Eight features, including six pits and one post-hole, were recorded at intervals along the length of Trench 13.

Pits 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 89=95

Pits **77**, **81**, **83**, **85**, **95** were all sub-oval in plan and contained single fills. The only artefact recovered from these features was a single worked flint (2g) from pit **83** fill **84**.

Pit **79** was an irregular oval in plan and was filled by deposit **80**. A single worked flint (15g) was recovered from **80**.

Pit **89** was sub-circular in plan and was filled by deposit **90**. It was also recorded as **95**.

Plate 28. Trench 13, pit **77**, looking east.

Trench 13

Plate 29. Trench 13, pit **79**, looking west.

Plate 30. Trench 13, pit **81**, looking west.

Trench 13

Plate 31. Trench 13, pit **89**, looking east.

Post-hole **87** was a circular feature measuring 0.37m in diameter.

Though only two of the features in Trench 13 contained prehistoric artefacts, similarities in the form and fills of these features might suggest that this is a broadly contemporary group of possibly prehistoric remains.

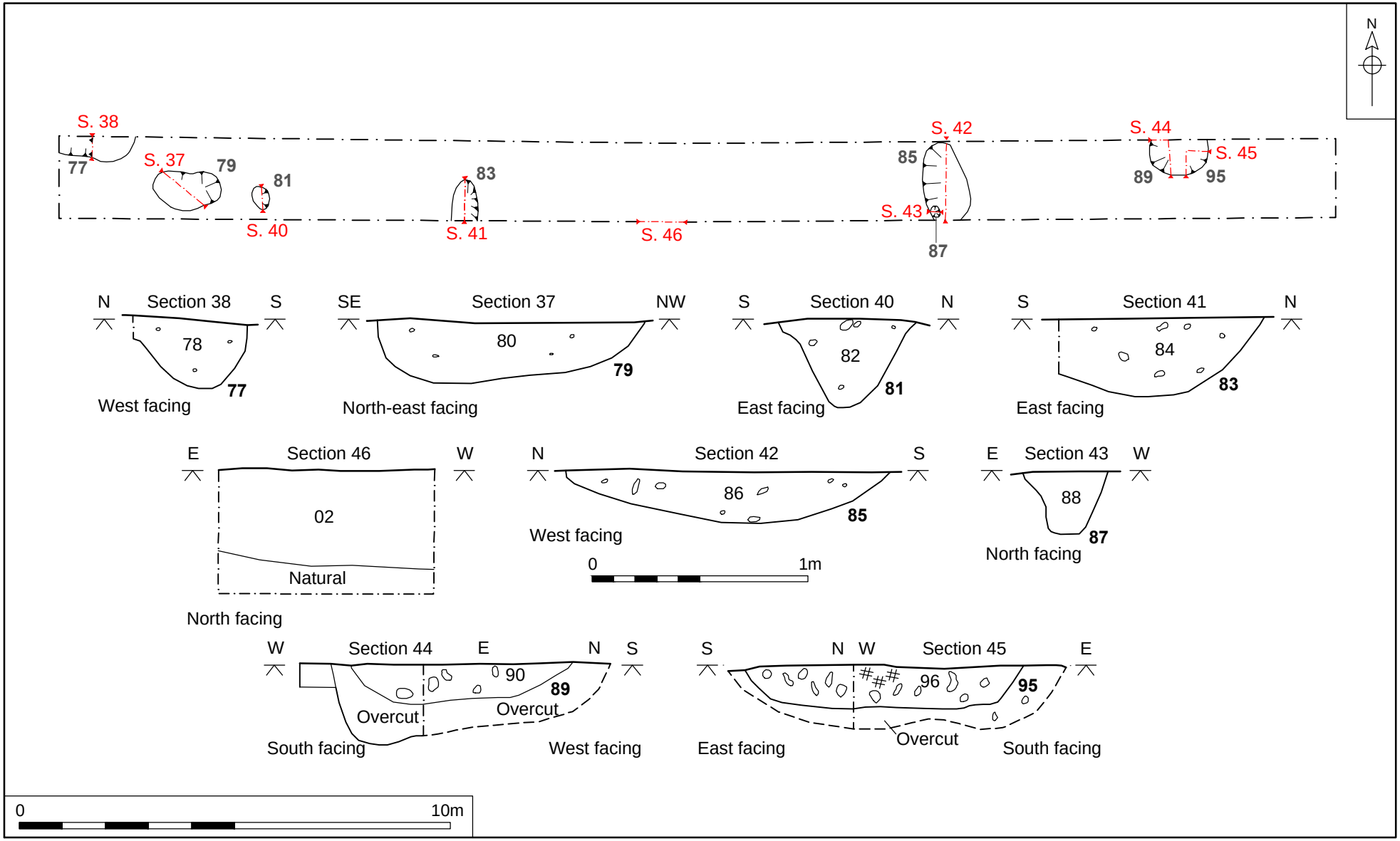

Figure 12. Trench 13, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 14

Plate 32. Trench 14, looking west.

Figures 2, 13; Plates 32, 33	
Location	
Orientation	Northeast–southwest
Northeast end	574896, 312093
Southwest end	574869, 312079
Dimensions	
Length	30.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.40m
Levels	
Northeast top	13.60m OD
Southwest top	12.81m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand.	0.00m	0.00-0.00m
02	Subsoil	Greyish brown silty sand.	0.00m	0.00-0.40m
91	Pit	Oval in plan.	0.38m	0.40-0.78m
92	Fill of **91**	Mid-yellowish brown sand/silty sand. Occasional flint gravel.	0.38m	0.40-0.78m
100	Natural geology	Natural geology.	-	0.40m

Discussion

Pit **91** was located at the northeast end of Trench 14. It was oval in plan and filled by a single deposit **92**. No finds were recovered from the feature.

Modern land drains were observed at the centre of the trench and at the southwest end.

Trench 14

Plate 33. Trench 14, pit **91**, looking west.

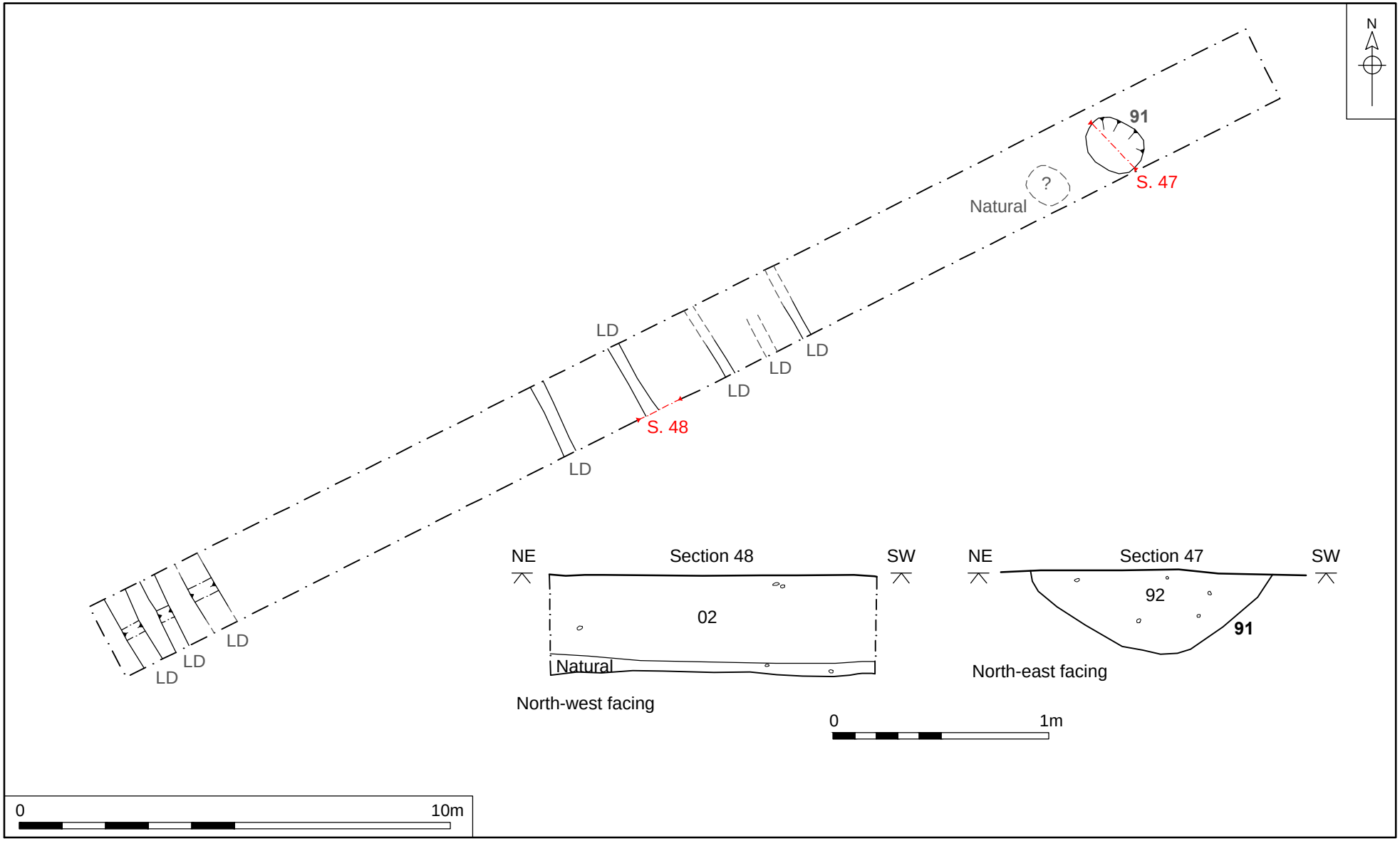

Figure 13. Trench 14, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 15

Plate 34. Trench 15, looking west.

Figures 2, 14; Plates 34, 35, 36	
Location	
Orientation	Northeast–southwest
Northeast end	574944, 312121
Southwest end	574917, 312107
Dimensions	
Length	30.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.40m
Levels	
Northeast top	13.93m OD
Southwest top	13.71m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand.	0.30m	0.00-0.30m
02	Subsoil	Greyish brown silty sand.	0.10m	0.30-0.40m
51	Pit	Sub-oval in plan.	0.43m	0.40-0.83m
52	Fill of **51**	Dark/yellowish brown silty sand. Frequent small/medium flint inclusions.	0.43m	0.40-0.83m
53	Post-hole	Circular, 0.64m in diameter.	0.84m	0.40-1.24m
54	Fill of **53**	Greyish black silty sand. Occasional small/medium flint inclusions.	0.84m	0.40-1.24m
55	Ditch	North–south aligned.	0.16m	0.40-0.56m
56	Fill of **55**	Dark yellowish brown silty sand. Rare flint gravel inclusions.	0.16m	0.40-0.56m
57	Ditch	North–south aligned.	0.19m	0.40-0.59m
58	Fill of **57**	Dark yellowish brown silty sand. Occasional flint gravel.	0.19m	0.40-0.59m
93	Ditch	North–south aligned.	0.28m	0.40-0.68m
94	Fill of **93**	Yellowish/greyish brown silty sand. Frequent small–medium–large flint inclusions.	0.28m	0.40-0.68m
100	Natural geology	Natural geology.	-	0.40m

Trench 15

Discussion

Five features were recorded in Trench 15.

Pit **51** at the northeast end of Trench 15 was sub-oval in plan, and contained a single fill **52**. A small quantity of burnt flint (62g) and worked flint (2/19g) was recovered from fill **52**.

Post-hole **53** was cut into pit **51**. It was circular, 0.64m in diameter, and filled by a single deposit **54**. The fill contained 30g of burnt flint and a single worked flint (2g).

This limited evidence tentatively suggests a prehistoric date for the features **51** and **53**.

Plate 35. Trench 15, pit **51** and post-hole **53**, looking west.

Ditches 55, 57, 93

Three ditches were similarly aligned north–south and each contained a single fill: **55**/**56**, **57**/**58**, **93**/**94**. The former two were situated close to one another and 55 lay adjacent to pit 51 at the northeast end of Trench 15. Ditch 91 was positioned a little over 10.00m to the southwest.

The three ditches were not identified in any of the other evaluation trenches. They are interpreted as former field boundary ditches. The paucity of finds recovered from the features, with only a small quantity of burnt flint (4/37g) coming from **56**, does not provide useful information for their provisional dating.

Trench 15

Plate 36. Trench 15, ditch **93**, looking south.

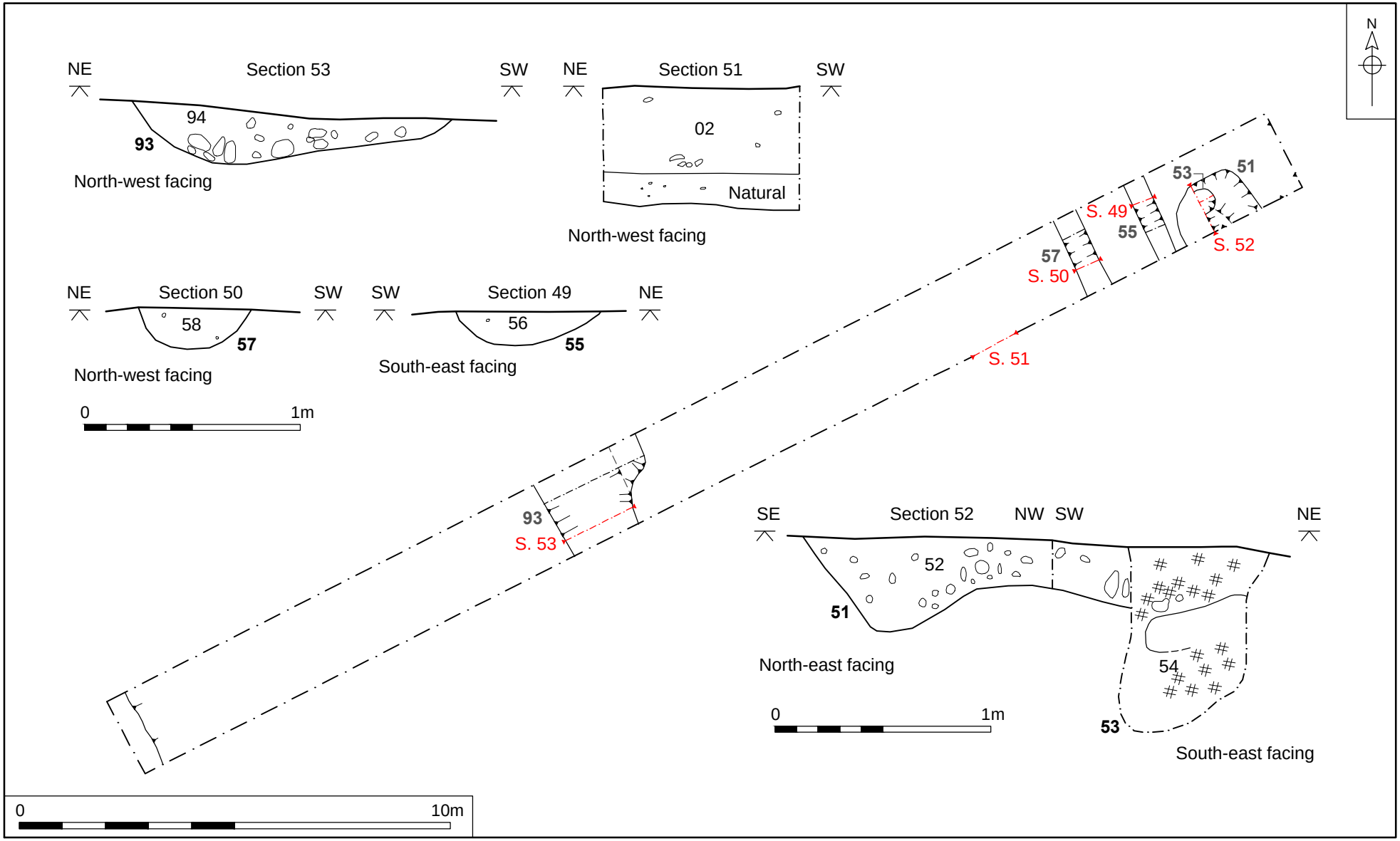

Figure 14. Trench 15, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS

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.

Prehistoric pottery

by Andrew Peachey

34 Pit **67** contained a single sherd (11g) of prehistoric pottery. The piece is a handmade, plain body sherd in a dark grey-brown fabric tempered with poorly sorted, medium-coarse quartz sand. This type of fabric was typically produced in the Middle–Late Iron Age in the region. However, this is a conclusion based on very limited evidence, and similar fabrics were also produced in the Early–Middle Saxon periods.

Post-medieval pottery

by Rebecca Sillwood

35 Three fragments of post-medieval pottery, weighing 15g, were recovered from ditch fill **04** and unstratified from the topsoil of Trenches 8 **103** and 13 **102**.

36 The most diagnostic piece is part of the base of a vessel of glazed red earthenware **103**, the ubiquitous utilitarian tableware of the post-medieval period. The piece is glazed brown on both interior and exterior surfaces, and is decorated with incised bands. This type of pottery dates to between the 16th and 18th centuries. It is likely that the remaining two pieces are of similar earthenware; although their fabrics are almost identical to the glazed example, neither has any glaze remaining. Both pieces are body sherds and are quite abraded, which could imply that the glaze has simply worn off.

Ceramic building material

by Rebecca Sillwood

37 Two pieces of post-medieval ceramic building material were recovered from the evaluation. Both were fragments of brick.

38 The largest fragment (322g) was from a modern land drain **101**, and is a pale pinkish-orange piece, with only small areas of finished edges on two surfaces, the rest is rough and worn. No complete dimensions can be measured. Mortar is present on one surface and is coarse, white and sandy.

39 The second fragment of brick (47g) is much more coarsely made and includes vegetable tempering. No surfaces are present on this piece, which is a dark reddish-orange. The brick was found unstratified from Trench 9 **114**.

Metalwork

by Rebecca Sillwood

41 Four items of copper alloy, two of lead and one of iron were recovered from two different ditches. Probable date ranges include Roman, medieval, and post-medieval.

Copper alloy

42 The dateable copper alloy includes a Roman coin recovered unstratified from Trench 11 **104**, and a medieval bar mount recovered from ditch fill **38** in Trench 11. The coin measures 12–13mm in diameter and the head of an Emperor can just be discerned. The bar mount is D-sectioned, with two rivets, one at either end of the bar. The piece measures 16mm long x 5mm wide. Many similar objects have been recorded, and tend to be 13th–14th century in date (Egan & Pritchard, 2008, 209–15, fig. 133, nos. 1136-8).

43 Two further pieces of copper alloy were recovered. One, a waste fragment that was unstratified **109**, has been discarded. The other is a small unidentified object consisting of an irregularly shaped piece with a central perforation **108**.

Lead

44 A post-medieval button was recovered unstratified from Trench 6 **107**. The button is well preserved and highly decorated. The piece consists of a flat discoidal button with an integral incomplete shank on the reverse, where a rough casting line is also visible. The decoration is in raised moulded relief with a central cross motif within a border, with cross hatching on the border, pellets all the way along the cross, and with four larger pellets around the cross. The button measures 29mm in diameter. A similar example is recorded by Read (2005, no. 248), although the central decoration is a flower, rather than a cross. The lead button is likely to be 17th century in date.

45 An undiagnostic fragment was also found unstratified in Trench 8 **109**; this has been discarded.

Iron

46 A probable post-medieval or modern U-shaped staple was recovered from ditch fill **04** in Trench 5.

Metalwork conclusions

47 Much of the metalwork from Narborough was unstratified, and therefore of unknown provenance. The assemblage appears to include multiple periods from Roman–medieval and later. The only pieces that originated from stratified contexts were the medieval bar mount and the staple, from Trench 11 and Trench 5 respectively. These pieces could help to date the ditches in which they were found, although alone they provide only scant evidence.

Flint

by Andrew Peachey

Worked flint

48 The evaluation recovered 14 pieces (145g) of worked flint. The condition of the flint varied from well-preserved to slightly patinated and rolled, in part reflecting the unstratified context of a proportion of the collection. The assemblage contained a mix of technological traits, including the blade-based technology of the Mesolithic

and earlier Neolithic, and hard-hammer struck scrapers and debitage of the later Neolithic–Early Bronze Age (Table 1).

Implement Type	Frequency	Weight
Mesolithic–earlier Neolithic		
Core	1	61
Bladelet	3	1
Blade	1	2
Scraper	1	5
Debitage	3	12
Later Neolithic–Early Bronze Age		
Scraper	2	24
Debitage	3	30
Total	***14***	***145***

Table 1. Quantification of worked flint.

49 The pieces with Mesolithic–earlier Neolithic technological affinities are united by being manufactured in a mid-grey flint that, where extant, has a white chalky cortex of medium thickness, suggesting a degree of selection in the procurement of raw materials. The manufacture of blades is confirmed by the presence of a rolled blade core found unstratified (Trench 4), with a single striking platform with removals all around. The core is probably exhausted, but clearly continued to produce very small blades or bladelets, of the type contained in post-hole **27**. A larger blade was also found in post-hole **53**, but it had been snapped. A possibly snapped blade or un-corticated flake was also recovered from pit **83**, and this had been removed from a prepared (abraded) striking platform. A single small end scraper from the subsoil (Trench 4) was manufactured on a soft-hammer flake with parallel dorsal scars similar to those on blade cores. The presence of bladelets and snapped blades is consistent with Mesolithic flint technology, which also included limited scrapers such as the example in the Narborough assemblage. Without any microliths or comparable diagnostic pieces, however, it is not possible to differentiate this technology from that which continued into the earlier Neolithic period.

50 The remaining worked flint is comprised of broad-squat flakes removed with a hard hammer, consistent with those produced in the later Neolithic–Early Bronze Age. Those in pit **80** and the topsoil (Trench 7) have been modified to form end and side scrapers respectively, with each exhibiting abrupt retouch that extends around a convex edge. Further debitage flakes were collected from pit **51** and the topsoil (Trench 9), and exhibit the partially smashed bulbs of percussion and irregular terminations typical of the decline in skill evident in this period.

Burnt flint

51 Fourteen pieces of burnt flint weighing 135g were recovered from four contexts on the evaluation site—post-hole fills **28**, **54**, pit fill **52** and ditch fill **56** in Trenches 7 and 15 respectively—three of which also produced worked flint. The burnt flint may be evidence for use of heated stone in warming liquids, creating the distinctive cracked and crazed appearance in the flint. No further information can be gained from these pieces; they may relate to prehistoric activity, although this cannot be verified, and they have been discarded.

ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

52 As good practice to support the dating and interpretation of individual features and the site as a whole, a total of six samples were taken during the course of the evaluation for environmental assessment of a variety of contexts. Bulk soil samples were taken from ditches **03**/**04**, **35**/**36**, **39**/**40**, post-hole **53**/**54**, and pits **69**/**70**, **89**/**90**. Of these, **04** produced one sherd of post-medieval pottery and an iron staple, and **54** produced one worked flint and four fragments of burnt flint, whilst the remaining contexts yielded no datable material at all. Considering the general absence and/or weakness of dating evidence available, the potential usefulness of the environmental samples to add worthwhile information to interpretations of the site is diminished. For this reason, none of the samples have been processed for assessment at this time, but they remain available should they be deemed valuable at a subsequent date.

CONCLUSIONS

53 The evaluation by NPS Archaeology at Chalk Lane recorded relatively low numbers of artefacts. The evaluation also indicated that truncation, probably due to agricultural activity, had impacted all the archaeological features at the site to varying degrees.

54 In comparison to the evaluation carried out to the north of the current site (Ames 2011), there were fewer records of pottery of prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon date from the current work. There was some suggestion of prehistoric activity at the site provided by finds of worked flints, and the burnt flint recovered might also date to the prehistoric period. The perceived low level of prehistoric activity might be more significant if some of the undated features, which comprise the majority of features excavated, prove to be of prehistoric date. Though the current evaluation lay close to the 2011 work by Ames, there was no indication of ditches continuing across both sites. This might be explained both by the distance separating the two sites, and that ditches on the two sites seem to have differed in their broad overall alignments. Their purpose was perhaps similar though, defining land divisions and providing drainage on water retentive soils.

Prehistoric evidence

55 The central area of the evaluation site, corresponding to Trenches 7, 8, 9, 10, 13 and 15, recorded a dense concentration of pits and post-holes.

56 Worked and burnt flints were recovered by the evaluation, but most of these artefacts derived from unstratified contexts. The assemblage contained a mix of technological traits, including the blade-based technology of the Mesolithic and earlier Neolithic, and hard-hammer struck scrapers and debitage of the later Neolithic–Early Bronze Age.

57 Worked flints were recovered from features **79** and **83** in Trench 13, and from features **51**, **53** in Trench 15. Burnt flint was recorded in features **51**, **53** and **55** in Trench 15, and in feature **27** in Trench 7.

58 Trench 8 pit **67** contained prehistoric pottery, possibly of Middle–Late Iron Age date, but this conclusion is based on very limited evidence and similar fabrics were produced in the Early–Middle Saxon periods.

59 Several of the pits and post-holes in the central area of the site lacked any artefacts: post-hole **25** in Trench 7, post-hole **73** and pit **75** in Trench 8, pit **63** in Trench 9, pits **49** and **61** in Trench 10, pits **77**, **81**, **85**, **89**=**95** in Trench 13, and pit **91** in Trench 14. This lack of diagnostic materials makes their dating problematic. Similarities between the fills, the character and the form of the undated features and the dated examples might suggest that the undated examples belong to the prehistoric period, but at best this is recognised as a very tentative interpretation.

60 Due to their nature, interpreting the function of pits and post-holes at the site is difficult. The post-holes were isolated and it was not possible to see a pattern to suggest their use as part of a structure.

Roman evidence

61 The only evidence of a Roman-period presence at the evaluation site was an unstratified coin recovered during metal-detecting of the topsoil in Trench 11.

Medieval and post medieval evidence

Figures 15, 16

62 Several ditches, interpreted as possible medieval and post-medieval field boundary ditches, were recorded by the evaluation.

63 An east–west ditch was recorded in Trenches 2, 4, 5, 6. The location and alignment of this ditch corresponds with that of a field boundary depicted on the Tithe map of 1840 for this area (Norfolk County Council 2015). The only excavated segment that provided dating evidence was **03**/**04** in Trench 5, where a fragment of pottery and a staple were recovered, with both objects likely to be of post-medieval date.

64 In Trench 11 at the east of the site, ditches **35**, **37**, **39**, **41** and **43** were aligned north–south. These features lay close to and followed the same orientation as Chalk Lane to the east, and they are interpreted as a succession of field boundary ditches dug to re-establish and maintain the same boundary over time. To judge from the Tithe map, the ditches appear to be the east boundary of the field that is marked on its north edge by the east–west ditch described above. The roadside boundary, as shown by the Tithe map, is formed by an unusual double-ditched division, which may go some way to explaining the tight sequence of ditch features in Trench 11. Evidence of both the east–west and north–south field boundaries can be detected on aerial photography from 1988 (Norfolk County Council 2015).

65 Dating the north–south ditches is problematic, with only fill **38** of ditch **37** producing any artefactual evidence, a medieval bar mount possibly dated to the 13th–14th century. As none of the other ditches contained any artefacts, dating them is at best tentative. However, it is suggested that they may be broadly medieval–post-medieval, an interpretation based on the limited dating evidence and similarities of forms, proportions and fills.

Undated features

66 Six ditches were recorded in the central part of the site, to which it is difficult to assign a clear period or function. The only possible dating evidence was burnt flint from one, but an interpretation of this as prehistoric is insecure.

67 Undated ditch **47** in Trench 10 was identified in Trench 11 as **29**, but no dating evidence was found associated with it either. The ditch was orientated northeast–southwest, off the typical cardinal alignments seen in other linear boundary-type features at the site.

68 An undated northwest–southeast ditch **71** was recorded in Trench 8, and an undatable northeast-southwest ditch **65** was recorded in Trench 9. There is no evidence to postulate a relationship between these ditches and those in Trenches 10 and 11, or for a grid of ditches on a secondary plan to the main north–south and east–west axes.

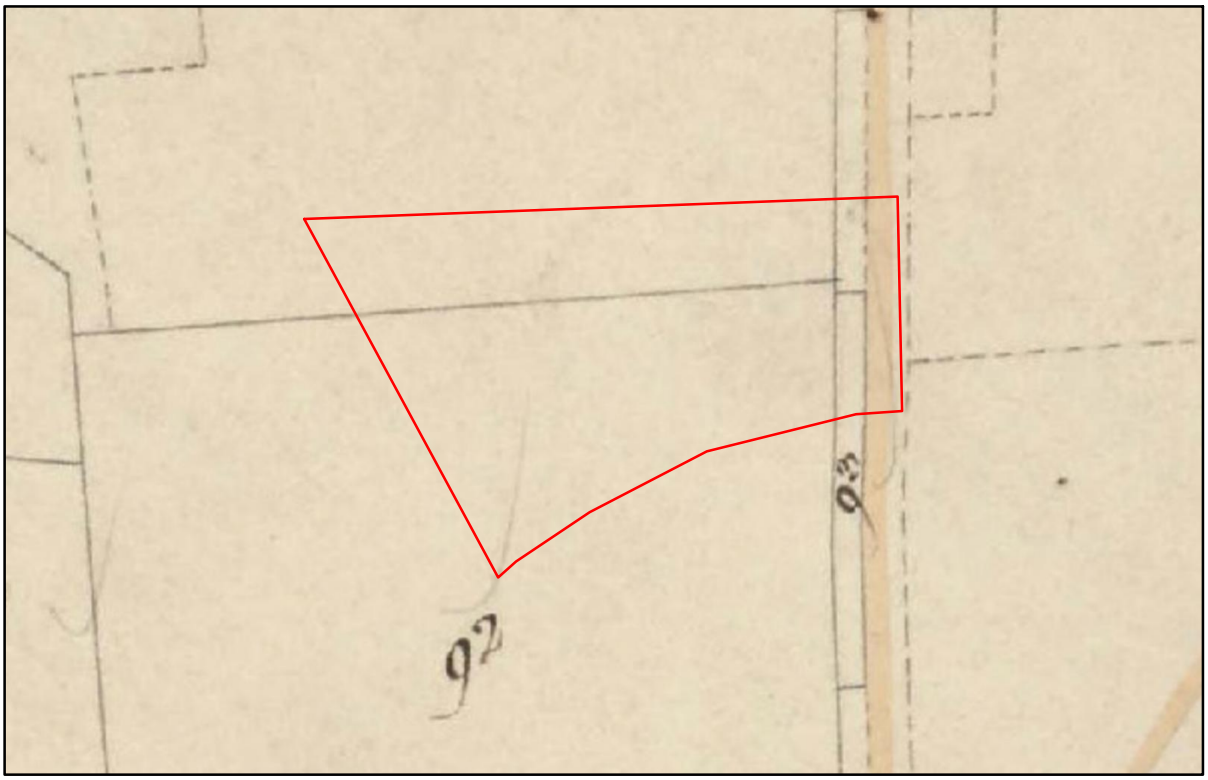

Figure 15. Tithe map, 1840

Figure 16. Aerial photograph, 1988

69 In Trench 15, three parallel north–south ditches **55**, **57** and **93** were recorded. No evidence of these ditches was seen in any other of the trenches. Only burnt flint was found in **55**, with nothing from the other features, and therefore none of these could be assigned to a definite period.

70 Precise interpretation of the ditches discussed above is problematic. An aerial photograph of 1946 was consulted in order to identify potential crop marks relating to these features, but none were visible (Norfolk County Council 2015). Interestingly, however, the image does show that contemporary tillage patterns were structured at right angles to the northwest-southeast line of the King's Lynn–Dereham railway line—rather than respecting the alignment of Chalk Lane as the boundaries on the Tithe map were oriented—and this may be significant in understanding at least some of the undatable ditches.

71 All of the undated ditches revealed by the evaluation perhaps served a dual purpose, namely defining land divisions and providing drainage. Modern land drains seen in the evaluation demonstrate the continuing need for drainage at the site.

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Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period
1	Deposit			Topsoil	Unknown
2	Deposit			Subsoil	Unknown
3	Cut	Ditch		Contains: (4), (97), (98) and (99). E/W	?Post-medieval
4	Deposit		3	Main (third) fill in ditch [3]	?Post-medieval
5	Cut	Ditch		E/W orientation. Same as: [03], [09], [19], [21], [23]	Unknown
6	Deposit		5	Mid-greyish brown silty sand.	Unknown
7	Cut	Ditch		N/S orientation	Unknown
8	Deposit		7	Mid-dark orangey brown silty sand.	Unknown
9	Cut	Ditch		E/W orientation. Same as: [03], [05], [19], [21], [23]	Unknown
10	Deposit		9	Mid-greyish brown silty sand.	Unknown
11	Cut	Ditch		Circular	Unknown
12	Deposit		11	Mid-orangey brown silty sand	Unknown
13	Cut	Post-hole		Circular/ oval	Unknown
14	Deposit		13	Mid-dark brown sandy silt	Unknown
15	Cut	Post-hole		Circular	Unknown
16	Deposit		15	Mid-light orangey brown silty sand	Unknown
17	Cut	Post-hole		Circular	Unknown
18	Deposit		17	Mid-dark orangey brown silty sand.	Unknown
19	Cut	Ditch		E/W orientation. Same as: [03], [05], [09], [21], [23]	Unknown
20	Deposit		19	Mid-greyish brown silty sand.	Unknown
21	Cut	Ditch		E/W orientation. Same as: [03], [05], [09], [19], [23]	Unknown
22	Deposit		21	Mid-greyish brown silty sand.	Unknown
23	Cut	Ditch		E/W orientation. Same as: [03], [05], [09], [19], [21]	Unknown
24	Deposit		23	Mid-greyish brown silty sand.	Unknown
25	Cut	Post-hole		Sub-circular	Unknown
26	Deposit		25	Mid-light yellowish brown silty sand	Unknown
27	Cut	Post-hole		Sub-circular	?Prehistoric
28	Deposit		27	Mid-light yellowish brown silty sand	?Prehistoric
29	Cut	Ditch		NE/SW orientation	Unknown
30	Deposit		29	Mid-greyish brown silty sand	Unknown
31	Cut	Pit		Sub-circular	Unknown
32	Deposit		31	Light yellowish brown silty sand	Unknown
33	Cut	Pit		Oval	Unknown
34	Deposit		33	Light yellowish brown silty sand	Unknown
35	Cut	Ditch		N/S orientation	Unknown

36	Deposit		35	Main fill in ditch [35]	Unknown
37	Cut	Ditch		Secondary ditch cuts (36)	?Medieval
38	Deposit		37	N/S orientation. Mid-greyish brown silty sand.	?Medieval
39	Cut	Ditch		N/S orientation ditch.	Unknown
40	Deposit		39	Mid-orangey brown silty sand	Unknown
41	Cut	Ditch		N/S orientation	Unknown
42	Deposit		41	First deposit in ditch [41]	Unknown
43	Cut	Ditch		Secondary ditch cutting (42)	Unknown
44	Deposit		41	Second (top) fill in ditch [41]	Unknown
45	Deposit		43	Mid-dark greyish brown silty sand	Unknown
46	Deposit		35	Second (top) fill in ditch [35]	Unknown
47	Cut	Ditch		NE/SW orientation	Unknown
48	Deposit		47	Mid-yellowish brown silty sand	Unknown
49	Cut	Pit		Sub-circular	Unknown
50	Deposit		49	Light yellowish brown silty sand	Unknown
51	Cut	Pit		Oval?	?Prehistoric
52	Deposit		51	Darkish/yellowish brown silty sand	?Prehistoric
53	Cut	Post-hole		Circular	?Prehistoric
54	Deposit		53	Greyish black silty sand	?Prehistoric
55	Cut	Ditch		N/S orientation	Unknown
56	Deposit		55	Darkish/yellowish brown silty sand	Unknown
57	Cut	Ditch		N/S orientation	Unknown
58	Deposit		57	Darkish/yellowish brown silty sand	Unknown
59	Cut			Natural/geological feature.	Unknown
60	Cut			Natural/geological feature.	Unknown
61	Cut	Pit		Oval?	Unknown
62	Deposit		61	Mid-light yellowish brown silty sand	Unknown
63	Cut	Pit		Unknown, Extends beyond the trench	Unknown
64	Deposit		63	Light greyish/yellowish brown silty sand	Unknown
65	Cut	Ditch		NE/SW orientation	Unknown
66	Deposit		65	Dark yellowish brown silty sand	Unknown
67	Cut	Pit		Sub-circular	?Prehistoric
68	Deposit		67	Mid-yellowish brown silty sand	?Prehistoric
69	Cut	Pit		Sub-oval	Unknown
70	Deposit		69	Dark greyish/yellowish brown silty sand	Unknown
71	Cut	Ditch		E/W orientation	Unknown
72	Deposit		71	Mid-yellowish brown silty sand	Unknown
73	Cut	Post-hole		Circular	Unknown
74	Deposit		73	Dark greyish brown silty sand	Unknown
75	Cut	Pit		Post-hole	Unknown
76	Deposit		75	Dark greyish brown silty sand	Unknown

77	Cut	Pit		Sub-oval	Unknown
78	Deposit		77	Dark yellowish brown silty sand	Unknown
79	Cut	Pit		Oval, irregular	?Prehistoric
80	Deposit		79	Dark yellowish brown silty sand	?Prehistoric
81	Cut	Pit		Oval	Unknown
82	Deposit		81	Dark yellowish brown silty sand	Unknown
83	Cut	Pit		Sub-oval	?Prehistoric
84	Deposit		83	Dark yellowish brown silty sand	?Prehistoric
85	Cut	Pit		Sub-oval	Unknown
86	Deposit		85	Greyish/ yellowish brown silty sand	Unknown
87	Cut	Post-hole		Circular	Unknown
88	Deposit		87	Dark greyish/ mid-yellowish brown silty sand	Unknown
89	Cut	Pit		Sub-oval. Same as [95]	Unknown
90	Deposit		89	Dark greyish brown silty sand	Unknown
91	Cut	Pit		Oval	Unknown
92	Deposit		91	Mid-yellowish brown silty sand	Unknown
93	Cut	Ditch		N/S orientation	Unknown
94	Deposit		93	Yellowish/greyish brown silty sand	Unknown
95	Cut	Pit		Sub-oval. Same as [89]	Unknown
96	Deposit		95	Dark greyish brown silty sand	Unknown
97	Deposit		3	Forth deposit in ditch [03]	?Post-medieval
98	Deposit		3	Second deposit in ditch [03]	?Post-medieval
99	Deposit		3	First deposit in ditch [03]	?Post-medieval
100	Deposit			Natural geology. All trenches.	Unknown
101	U/S Finds			Find in a modern drain.	Unknown
102	U/S Finds			Find in topsoil. T13	Unknown
103	U/S Finds			Find in topsoil. T8	Unknown
104	U/S Finds			Find in topsoil. T11	Unknown
105	U/S Finds			Find in subsoil. T4	Unknown
106	U/S Finds			Find unstratified. T9	Unknown
107	U/S Finds			Find unstratified. T6	Unknown
108	U/S Finds			Find in topsoil. T8.	Unknown
109	U/S Finds			Find in topsoil. T8	Unknown
110	U/S Finds			Find in topsoil. T11	Unknown
111	U/S Finds			Find unstratified. T1	Unknown

112	U/S Finds			Find unstratified. T4	Unknown
113	U/S Finds			Find in topsoil. T9	Unknown
114	U/S Finds			Find in topsoil. T9	Unknown
115	U/S Finds			Find in topsoil. T7	Unknown

Appendix 1b: Feature Summary

Period	Category	Total
?Prehistoric	Pit Post-hole	4 2
?Medieval	Ditch	1
?Post-medieval	Ditch	1
Unknown	Pit Post-hole Ditch	10 6 17

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
4	Iron	1	14g	Post-medieval	Staple; U-shaped
4	Pottery	1	2g	Post-medieval	
28	Flint – Burnt	1	6g	Unknown	DISCARDED
28	Flint – Worked	3	1g	Prehistoric	
38	Copper Alloy	1	1g	Medieval	Bar mount
52	Flint – Burnt	5	62g	Unknown	DISCARDED
52	Flint – Worked	2	19g	Prehistoric	
54	Flint – Burnt	4	30g	Unknown	DISCARDED
54	Flint – Worked	1	2g	Prehistoric	
56	Flint – Burnt	4	37g	Unknown	DISCARDED
68	Pottery	1	11g	Middle/Late Iron Age	?or Saxon
80	Flint – Worked	1	15g	Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age	
84	Flint – Worked	1	2g	Mesolithic/Early Neolithic	
101	Ceramic Building Material	1	322g	Prehistoric	
102	Pottery	1	3g	Post-medieval	
103	Pottery	1	10g	Post-medieval	
104	Copper Alloy	1	1g	Roman	Coin
105	Flint – Worked	1	15g	Early Neolithic	
106	Flint – Worked	1	8g	Prehistoric	
107	Lead	1	19g	Post-medieval	Button

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
108	Copper Alloy	1	1g	Med./Post-Med.	Unid
109	Copper Alloy	1	1g	Unknown	Waste fragment; DISCARDED
109	Lead	1	1g	Unknown	Undiagnostic fragment; DISCARDED
110	Flint – Worked	1	2g	Prehistoric	
111	Flint – Worked	1	49g	Prehistoric	
112	Flint – Worked	1	61g	Prehistoric	
113	Flint – Worked	1	11g	Prehistoric	
114	Ceramic Building Material	1	47g	Post-medieval	
115	Flint – Worked	1	9g	Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age	

Appendix 2b: Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Prehistoric	Ceramic Building Material	1
	Flint – Struck	11
Mesolithic/Early Neolithic	Flint – Struck	1
Early Neolithic	Flint – Struck	1
Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age	Flint – Struck	2
Middle/Late Iron Age	Pottery	1
Roman	Copper-Alloy	1
Medieval	Copper-Alloy	1
Medieval/post-medieval	Copper-Alloy	1
Post-medieval	Ceramic Building Material	1
	Iron	1
	Lead	1
	Pottery	3
Unknown	Copper-Alloy	1
	Flint – Burnt	14
	Lead	1

Appendix 3: Flint Catalogue

Context	Description	No.	Wt.	Find/type	No.	Wgt (g)	Patinated	Retouched	Colour	Cortex	I?	Size (mm)			Comment
												L	W	D	
28	Post-hole	3	1	Bladelets (<20mm)	3	1	slight white	\	mid-grey	\	\	\	\	\	10-20mm in length with parallel dorsal scars, probably Meso
52	Pit	2	19	Tertiary flakes (slightly irregular, <50mm)	2	19	\	\	dark grey	white	\	\	\	\	hard hammer struck
54	Post-hole	1	2	Blade	1	2	\	\	mid-grey	\	\	?	17	5	snapped
80	Pit	1	15	End Scraper	1	15	\	yes	dark grey	thin grey-brown	\	30	45	10	abrupt retouch around broad distal end of squat, harh hammer struck flake, LN-EBA
84	Pit	1	2	Uncorticated flakes (blade-like, <50mm)	1	2	\	\	mid-grey	\	\	\	\	\	struck from prepared platform, Meso-EN

Context	Description	No.	Wt.	Find/type	No.	Wgt (g)	Patinated	Retouched	Colour	Cortex	I?	Size (mm)			Comment
												L	W	D	
105	Subsoil T4	1	15	End Scraper	1	15	\	yes	mid-grey	\	\	35	30	10	abrupt retouch to distal end, and blunted lateral edges, of uncorticated, soft-hammer struck flake with blade-like dorsal scars, probably EN
106	Unstratified T9	1	8	Tertiary flakes (blade-like, <50mm)	1	8	slight white	\	mid-grey	white	\	\	\	\	soft hammer struck
110	Find in topsoil T11	1	2	Tertiary flakes (blade-like, <50mm)	1	2	\	\	mid-grey	white	\	\	\	\	soft hammer struck
112	Unstratified T4	1	61	Core	1	61	\	na	mid-grey	white	\	45	35	35	Type A1: single platform blade/bladelet core with flakes removed all around, probably exhausted quite heavily rolled.
113	Topsoil T9	1	11	Uncorticated flakes (broad-squat, <50mm)	1	11	\	\	mid-grey	\	\	\	\	\	hard hammer struck with partially smashed bulb

Context	Description	No.	Wt.	Find/type	No.	Wgt (g)	Patinated	Retouched	Colour	Cortex	I?	Size (mm)			Comment
												L	W	D	
115	Topsoil T7	1	9	Side Scraper	1	9	\	yes	dark grey	\	\	40	40	7	abrupt retouch around the one convex distal edge of a hard hammer struck flake, probably LN-EBA
					14	**145**									

Appendix 4: OASIS Report Summary

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

List of Projects | Manage Projects | Search Projects | New project | Change your details | HER coverage | Change country | Log out

Printable version

OASIS ID: norfolka1-201179

Project details

Project name	Chalk Lane Extension, Narborough, Evaluation
Short description of the project	Trial Trench Evaluation. An archaeological evaluation was conducted by NPS Archaeology in January 2015 for Blubird Land and Planning Ltd on behalf of Gooderstone Property Company ahead of a planning application for residential development at Chalk Lane, Narborough, Norfolk. Fifteen evaluation trial trenches, each measuring 30m x1.80m, were excavated across the site. Of these, twelve recorded archaeological features and deposits. The trenches located in the central area of the site revealed evidence of probable low-level prehistoric activity. Unstratified burnt and worked flint was recovered, as well as some material from pits and post-holes. Other, undated pits and post-holes might potentially date to the later prehistoric period. Several ditches interpreted as relict field boundaries and drainage ditches were recorded by the evaluation. These are considered to be of broadly medieval or post-medieval date. An east-west field boundary ditch identified across four of the trenches is depicted on the local Tithe map of 1840. North-south ditches can also be identified on the Tithe map, and undated ditches on separate alignments may coincide with field arrangements recorded by post-Second World War aerial photography.
Project dates	Start: 06-01-2015 End: 15-01-2015
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	135844 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Monument type	DITCH Late Prehistoric
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	PIT Late Prehistoric
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	POST-HOLE Late Prehistoric
Monument type	POST-HOLE Uncertain
Significant Finds	FLINT Late Prehistoric

Significant Finds	METAL FINDS Uncertain
Significant Finds	METAL FINDS Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BURNT FLINT Uncertain
Significant Finds	CERAMIC Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	METAL FINDS Roman
Significant Finds	METAL FINDS Medieval
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Housing estate
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK BRECKLAND NARBOROUGH Chalk Lane Extension, Narborough
Study area	0 Hectares
Site coordinates	TF 7490 1220 52.6788248341 0.587484301927 52 40 43 N 000 35 14 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 12.00m Max: 15.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	NPS Archaeology
Project brief originator	Norfolk Historic Environment Service
Project design originator	NPS Archaeology
Project director/manager	David Moro
Project supervisor	NPS Archaeology

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums Service
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Metal","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	NPS Archaeology
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"
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Paper Contents	"other"
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Paper Media available

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Appendix 5: Archaeological Specification

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nps archaeology

Archaeological Evaluation
Extension at Chalk Lane, Narborough, Norfolk
Written Scheme of Investigation

Prepared for
Jamie Bird
Blubird Land & Planning Ltd
(on behalf of , Gooderstone Property Company)

NPS Archaeology

January 2015

www.nps.co.uk

Location	Chalk Lane, Narborough, Norfolk
District	Breckland
Planning reference	
Grid reference	TF 7490 1220
Client	Blubird Land & Planning Ltd

REVIEW CHECKLIST		
Completed by	Pete Crawley	05/01/2015
Reviewed by	Jayne Bown	05/01/2015
Issue 1		

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Archaeological evaluation
Written Scheme of Investigation

1. Introduction

1.1 Proposals for an extension of new housing at Chalk Lane, Narborough, Norfolk (TF 7490 1220) require a programme of archaeological works to support it through the planning process.

1.2 The proposed site is located on the west side of Chalk Lane, Narborough, to the south of the village. The northern third of the field had previously been evaluated and is currently subject to archaeological excavation. The area is high in archaeological potential and it is thought that the Devils' Dyke runs through close to the site a short distance to the east where it also bears the name Bichamditch (NHER 3937). Two evaluation trenches were excavated in 2012 to examine the nature of a bank previously thought to be a continuation of the devil's dyke (NHER 3937), although that fieldwork suggested that the bank belonged to a medieval feature. The northern part of the field in question has previously been subjected to Magnetometer survey in 2011 (NHER 56277) in advance of proposed housing development. There were several results including three parallel curvilinear probable ditches which may have been linked with Devil's Dyke and a large trapezoidal enclosure. Fourteen trial trenches were excavated in advance of proposed development. Evidence for prehistoric, Iron Age, Early Saxon, and medieval activity was recovered (NHER 56277). NHER 11703 represents a possible Bronze Age ring ditch which is visible on 1974 aerial photographs located at the southern extremity of the proposed site. The route of the Lynn and Dereham Railway 1846 to 1848 (later Great Eastern) NHER13600 lay on the western edge of the field in question.

1.3 Jamie Bird of Blubird land and Planning Ltd 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. James Albone at Norfolk Historic Environment Service has discussed the archaeological requirement and has specified the number and length of the trenches to be excavated.

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 the proposed development area and whether the northern part of the site has been subject to prior archaeological investigation.

ii. To determine the extent, condition, nature, quality and date of any archaeological remains occurring within the site and the possible impacts of the proposed development on them.

iii. *Ensure that any archaeological features discovered during trial trenching are identified, sampled and recorded and, where it is desirable, recommendations for their preservation in situ are made.*
iv. *To establish, as far as possible, the extent, character, stratigraphic sequence and date of archaeological features and deposits, and the nature of the activities which occurred at the site during the various periods or phases of its occupation*
v. *To establish the palaeoenvironmental potential of subsurface deposits by ensuring that any deposits with the potential to yield palaeoenvironmental data are sampled and submitted for assessment to the appropriate specialists.*
vi. *To explore evidence for social, economic and industrial activity.*
vii. *To disseminate the archaeological data recovered by the evaluation in the form of a report which will provide a basis for any decisions regarding further archaeological intervention and mitigation proposals should they be 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 window sampling and trial trenching with data presented in tabular, graphic and appendix form. Copies of the reports will be submitted to the client and to 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 Fifteen trenches, measuring 30m x 1.8m will be excavated to provide a 5% sample of the archaeological potential of the proposed development site (see Figure 1).

3.2.3 The trenches have been arrayed across the site to provide comprehensive coverage, although 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 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 or shored. 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 If human remains are 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 all relevant Ministry of Justice guidelines. Backfilling of features containing human remains will be done manually to ensure that the remains are appropriately protected from any damage or disturbance.

3.2.13 Soil samples for palaeoenvironmental materials will be collected if suitable sealed and well-dated deposits are encountered. Standard 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 a similar fashion.

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

3.4 Report and Archive

3.4.1 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. It is likely that the synthesis will be undertaken in reference to relevant research agendas identified by Medlycott (2011)

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 NPS 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.

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 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 5 days with a team of four 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:

Project Management	
Archaeology Manager	Jayne Bown

Project Staff	
Assistant Project Officer	David Moro
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*

Specialist	***Research Field***
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
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 Project 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.