

# nps archaeology

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Report 2015/1341

**Priory Crescent, Binham,  
Norfolk, NR21 0DB**

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**Archaeological Evaluation**

**Prepared for:  
Broadland Housing Group**

**Planning Ref: N/A**

**HER: ENF136679**

**April 2016**

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Client: Broadland Housing Group  
Location: Priory Crescent, Binham, Norfolk  
District: North Norfolk  
Planning Ref.: N/A (pre-planning)  
Grid Ref.: TF 9819 3940  
HER No.: ENF136679  
OASIS Ref.: norfolka1-208180  
Dates of Fieldwork: 23–26 March 2015

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## **Summary**

*NPS Archaeology was commissioned by Broadland Housing Group to carry out an archaeological evaluation requested by Norfolk Historic Environment Service, ahead of a plan to develop an area of land to the south of Binham, Norfolk for residential purposes (TF 9819 3940).*

*Eight trenches were excavated, six of which contained archaeological evidence of past human activity. With few exceptions, the archaeological features were shallow remnants of their original forms.*

*One undated grave was identified and five undated field boundary ditches were recorded. The grave was situated away from other archaeological features, and was not excavated. It cannot be stated that the ditches are contemporary or related to one another, but it is feasible that they describe small land parcels that take their alignment from Walsingham Road.*

*Eight pits were excavated. One contained residual prehistoric worked flint and another contained modern materials. The other features did not produce any artefacts and could not be dated. The pits are broadly interpreted as quarry pits for extracting clay.*

*Artefacts recovered by metal-detecting from unstratified locations around the evaluation site consisted of personal possessions, coins and weights, which collectively indicate limited medieval and post-medieval activity on or near the site.*

## INTRODUCTION

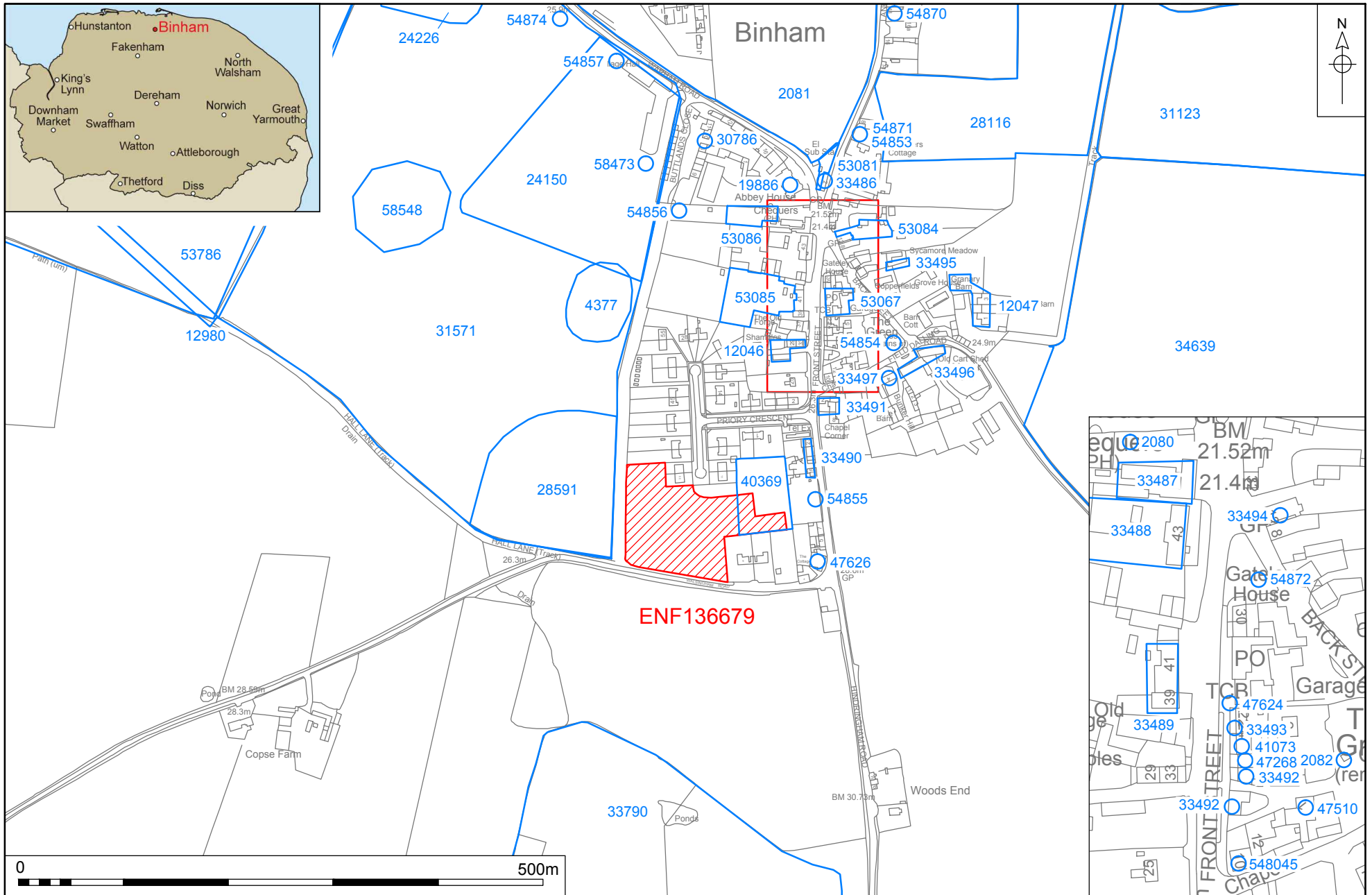
Figure 1

### Project Background

- 1 NPS Archaeology was commissioned and funded by Broadland Housing Group to carry out an archaeological evaluation ahead of a plan to develop an area of land to the south of Binham, Norfolk (TF 9819 3940) for housing.
- 2 The archaeological evaluation consisted of eight trenches, each measuring 30.00m x 1.60m to provide a c. 5% sample of the development area.
- 3 The evaluation site is situated on the south edge of the modern village of Binham and is believed to have been agricultural land until impinged by late 20th-century development.
- 4 There is evidence for historical activity in the parish of Binham from the Neolithic period onwards, and settlement in the Bronze Age is suggested. A Roman villa and field system have been located and a large scatter of Roman pottery has been found c. 200m to the northwest of the evaluation site. Anglo-Saxon pottery and other artefacts, some of high status, have been found throughout the parish, indicating the probability of a manorial residence nearby. In the 12th century Binham Priory was founded, and the precinct is c. 400m to the northeast of the evaluation site. Numbers 19, 21 and 23 Front Street, which date from the 17th century are Grade II listed, as is the early 19th-century The Cottage at the junction of Front Street and Walsingham Street.
- 5 An archaeological evaluation took place on part of the Priory Crescent development immediately to the east of the current site in 2004. No archaeological features or finds were identified.

### Planning Background

- 6 The current work was undertaken as a pre-planning application archaeological evaluation, specified in a Generic Brief for Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching issued by Norfolk Historic Environment Service (24/9/2012/Hamilton 2012). The work was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by NPS Archaeology (01-04-15-2-1341/Oakey 2015) (Appendix 5).
- 7 The programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area, following guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012).
- 8 The results of the trial trench evaluation will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority about the future treatment of any archaeological remains found.



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Figure 1. Site location with NHER data. Scale 1:5000. Inset at 1:2000

## **GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **Geology**

- 9 The underlying solid bedrock geology in the area of the evaluation is a sedimentary Chalk Formation, formed approximately 71–94 million years ago in the Cretaceous period in an environment dominated by warm seas. These rocks were formed in shallow chalk shelf seas with little sediment input from land. They often consist of a calcareous ooze of the microscopic remains of plankton, especially the disc shaped calcite plates or coccoliths that make up the spherical coccolithophores (British Geological Survey 2015).
- 10 The superficial deposits overlying the chalk bedrock are clay, silt, sand and gravel of the Sheringham Cliffs Formation, formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary period. These deposits were formed in cold periods with Ice Age glaciers scouring the landscape and depositing moraines of till with outwash sand and gravel deposits from seasonal and post-glacial meltwaters. The resulting lithology is varied, in composition, colour and consistency, and can contain gravel-rich, or laminated sand layers (British Geological Survey 2015).
- 11 The topsoil at the evaluation site consisted of dark brownish sandy silt with occasional–frequent flint gravel inclusions. The subsoil consisted of mid-brown–yellowish grey silty sand with frequent medium–small-sized flint inclusions.

### **Topography**

- 12 The area of the development site extends to c. 1.00ha. It is situated in level cultivated land, in the vicinity of other arable fields and housing developments, at an elevation of between 28.70m and 29.33m OD.
- 13 The site is located on the south side of the modern village. It is bounded to the north by Priory Crescent, to the south and east by Walsingham Road and the boundaries of properties thereon, and to the west by a public footpath alongside a hedgerow. The south and west boundaries remain as they were illustrated on the Enclosure map of the area (Norfolk County Council 2015). The remaining boundaries to the site are formed by housing developments of the later 20th century.



## ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### Sources

- 14 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 proposed development site, NHER record data was purchased from Norfolk Historic Environment Service for a 500m radius of Grid Reference TF 9819 3940. This exercise returned 58 individual records, including scheduled monuments, other monuments, spot finds and buildings, containing evidence of historical activity spanning the prehistoric–medieval periods.
- 15 The Norfolk *Mapping Browser* was consulted to examine any available early maps of the area, including 19th-century editions of the Ordnance Survey maps, and 1946 and 1988 aerial photographs (Norfolk County Council 2015).
- 16 A reference table listing dates for historical periods described in this report is provided in Appendix 3.

### HER data

Figure 1

- 17 The NHER data that are most relevant to the current work are referenced and summarised below, along with details of previous archaeological work in the vicinity. The information presented that is sourced from Norfolk Historic Environment Record remains copyright of Norfolk Historic Environment Service/Norfolk County Council.

### *Prehistoric evidence*

- 18 The quantity and nature of prehistoric evidence in the environs of the evaluation site suggests occupation in the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age. The crop-mark of a possible ring ditch is visible on aerial photographs (NHER 60620). It is likely that this is the remains of a ploughed and levelled Bronze Age barrow. A Neolithic axe-head (NHER 28591), a Late Neolithic barbed and tanged arrowhead (NHER 53786) prehistoric flints (NHER 28116), and an Iron Age ring (NHER 31123), have all been recovered from the surface of fields in the locality.

### *Roman evidence*

- 19 Substantial evidence for Roman settlement is recorded in the area. A possible Roman villa and a ditched field system (NHER 31571) was excavated by the Norfolk Archaeological Unit in 1998, and many Roman-period finds were recovered as well as prehistoric flint flakes, and medieval and post-medieval metalwork. This site is related to scatters of Roman finds recorded by NHER 4377 (pottery fragments), NHER 24150 (coins, pottery and tile fragments), NHER 24226 (coin), NHER 28591 (brooch and coin), NHER 2080 (coin), NHER 28116 (pottery fragments), NHER 25995 (metal finds including a dolphin brooch), and NHER 31123 (coin and hair pin). These sites have also yielded archaeological finds of other periods.
- 20 A possible Roman road (NHER 2087) is visible as an earthwork and on aerial photographs.
- 21 Roman pottery was recovered from test pitting (NHER 53086, NHER 53081, NHER 53084, NHER 53085, NHER 54852, NHER 54854, NHER 54856, NHER 54857,

NHER 54873, NHER 54874) in 2009–10 by the Higher Education Field Academies. In addition, artefacts of Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval date were also recovered.

### ***Anglo-Saxon evidence***

- 22 Finds recovered from a location recorded by NHER 53786 are indicative of an Early Saxon cemetery. Metal-detecting in recent years has highlighted Anglo-Saxon occupation in the nearby area, through finds of Early Saxon brooches and a sleeve clasp, a Middle Saxon pin, and a Late Saxon buckle, earring, finger-ring and strap-end.

### ***Medieval evidence***

- 23 Binham Priory was founded in the early 12th century, and is an important example of the almost complete survival of a monastic precinct (NHER 2081). The cloisters and gatehouse are in ruins, but the church, which is still in use as a parish church, is upstanding. The buildings date mostly from the 13th and 14th centuries. Earthworks of other buildings survive within the precinct, including possible guest accommodation and agricultural buildings. A complex water management system has also survived, including the remains of fishponds. An archaeological evaluation to determine the location of the lost west precinct wall located the line of the inner face of the medieval wall along with evidence for structures situated against the wall.
- 24 In 2009, an evaluation revealed two graves pre-dating the 12th-century north aisle of the Priory. It is believed that these graves may have belonged to an earlier church, possibly of Anglo-Saxon date (NHER2081).
- 25 A medieval stone cross, believed to have been erected by the monks of Binham Priory, is located within the study area where a fair and market were held from the medieval period until the early 1950s (NHER 2082).
- 26 Metal-detecting in the area has returned a number of medieval objects, including a coin and a lead spindle whorl with applied lettering (NHER 34639).

### ***Post-medieval evidence***

- 27 Twenty-two post-medieval buildings are recorded by NHER within a 500m radius of the evaluation site. The majority of them are constructed of 17th-century brick and reused stonework, most likely from Binham Priory.
- 28 Test pits excavated by the Higher Education Field Academies in 2009 and 2010 recovered post-medieval pottery in numerous locations in the village (NHER 53067, 54870, 54871, 54872, 54853, 54855).
- 29 Post-medieval artefacts, such as a weight and a book fitting (NHER 34639), have also been recorded alongside finds of earlier date described above.
- 30 A probable post-medieval field system is represented by remains of earthworks (NHER 33790). Sub-rectangular banks mark the outlines of small fields, and a longer earthwork feature is probably the line of a former trackway.
- 31 Three NHER entries relating to the 20th century are located close to the evaluation site: a pillbox from World War Two (NHER 30786), a type-K6 telephone box (NHER 47624) designed in 1935, and the crash site of an American F1-11 fighter jet from 1990 (NHER 58548).

## **Previous archaeological investigations**

- 32** An archaeological evaluation took place in 2004, as part of the Priory Crescent housing development, immediately to the east of the current site. No archaeological features were identified and no finds were recovered.

## **METHODOLOGY**

### **General**

- 33 Methodology for the evaluation followed the agreed WSI (01-04-15-2-1341/ Oakey 2015). Archaeological procedures conformed to guidelines issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a) and the evaluation was conducted within the context of the relevant regional archaeological framework (Medlycott 2011).

### **Objectives**

- 34 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.
- 35 The archaeological project aimed to provide appropriate and adequate data to permit informed decisions regarding any requirement for future archaeological mitigation work, and to make the results of the work accessible.

### **Methods**

- 36 Eight trenches, each measuring 30.00m x 1.80m, were excavated to provide a 5% sample of the archaeological potential of the proposed development site.
- 37 Surveying was carried out by NPS Land Survey, which established temporary benchmarks for use during the evaluation located at either end of every trench. Trenches were situated according to the agreed pre-application plan and located in relation to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Surface elevations were recorded between 28.70m and 29.33m OD
- 38 Prior to mechanical excavation each trench location was scanned with a CAT to check for buried services. The areas to be stripped of topsoil were examined for surface features and for archaeological artefacts prior to any excavation.
- 39 Machine excavation was carried out by a wheeled JCB-type hydraulic 360° excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. All mechanical excavation was constantly and directly monitored by a suitably experienced archaeologist. Machining was halted at the first identifiable archaeological deposits or natural geology.
- 40 All trench surfaces revealed by machine were hand-cleaned and any archaeological deposits were excavated by hand. Upon completion of the work all trenches were backfilled by machine.
- 41 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds, other than those that were evidently modern, were retained for examination.
- 42 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NPS Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Monochrome 35mm negatives and digital photographs were taken of all relevant archaeological features and deposits where appropriate.
- 43 Site conditions were good and the work took place in fine weather.

- 44 All site work was undertaken with respect to Health and Safety provision. High-visibility vests and steel toe-capped boots were worn by all staff at all times. Hard hats were worn whilst plant was operating.

### **Archive**

- 45 The site archive is currently held at the offices of NPS Archaeology. Upon completion of the project, the documentary archive will be prepared and indexed following guidelines obtained from the relevant Museum and relevant national guidelines (ClfA 2014b). The archive, consisting of all paper elements created during recording of the archaeological site, including digital material, will be deposited with Norfolk Museums Service.
- 46 A summary form of the results of this project has been completed for Online Access to the Index of archaeological Investigations (OASIS) under the reference norfolka1-208180 (Appendix 4), and this report will be uploaded to the OASIS database.

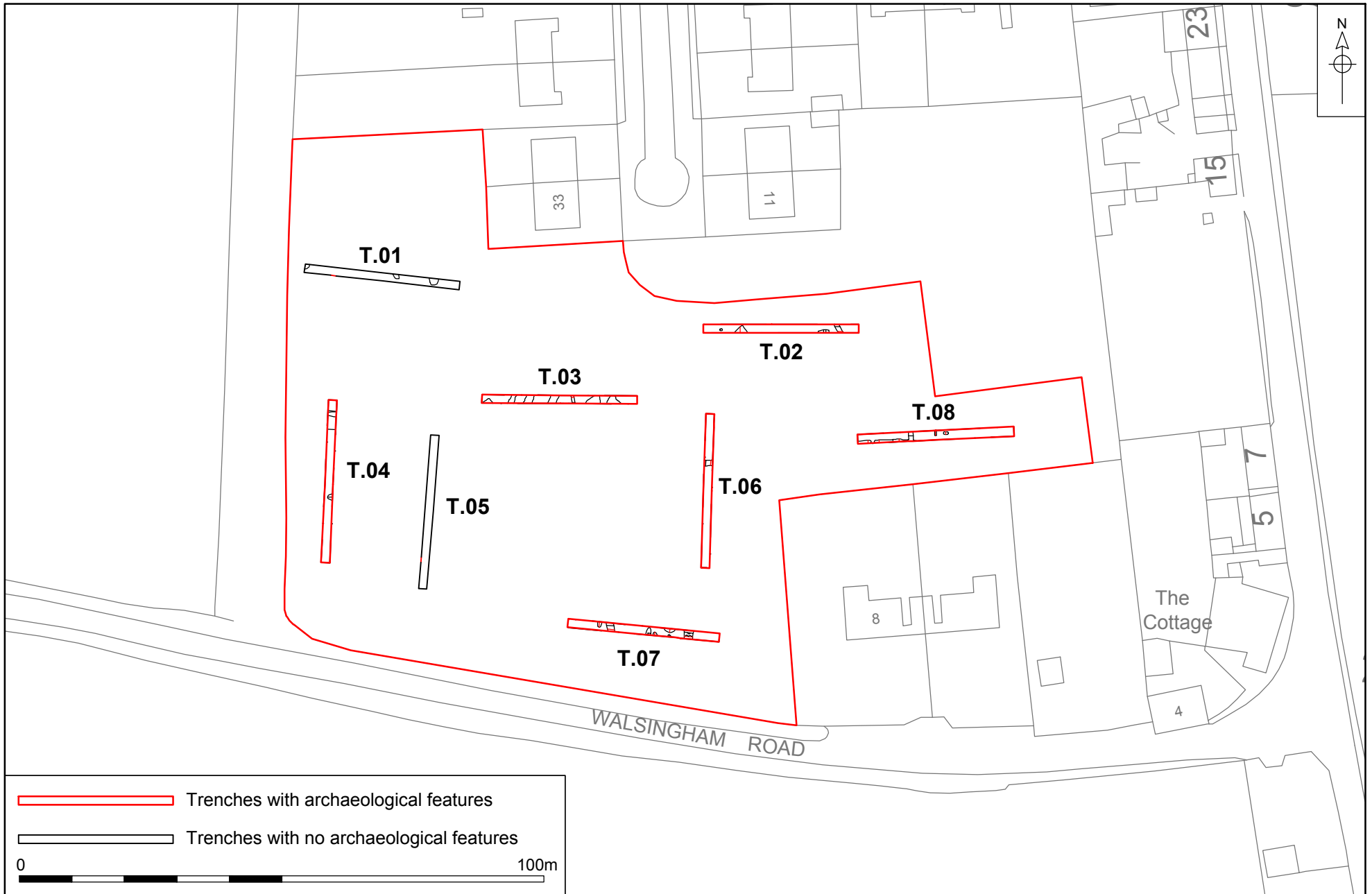



Figure 2. Location of trenches. Scale 1:1000

## RESULTS

Figure 2

- 47 Archaeological features and deposits were recorded in six of the eight trenches excavated.
- 48 The results for each trench are tabulated below in numerical order. A photograph of each trench accompanies the trench description with additional images of features where appropriate. Plans and sections are provided where features are present.
- 49 The topsoil across the site consisted of dark brownish sandy silt, with occasional–frequent flint gravel inclusions, and measured 0.34–0.62m deep. The subsoil consisted of mid-brown/yellowish grey silty sand, with frequent medium–small-sized flint inclusions, and measured 0.23–0.60m deep.

Trench 1				
		<b>Figures 2, 3</b>		
		<b>Location</b>		
		Orientation	East–west	
		East end	598172.01 339429.53	
		West end	598142.91 339432.779	
		<b>Dimensions</b>		
		Length	30.00m	
		Width	1.60m	
		Depth	0.82m	
		<b>Levels</b>		
East top	28.85 OD			
West top	28.70 OD			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit.	Topsoil.	0.52m	0.00–0.52m
02	Deposit.	Subsoil.	0.30m	0.52–0.82m
46	Deposit.	Natural geology.	--	0.82m+
Discussion				
Trench 1 was devoid of archaeological features and deposits.				

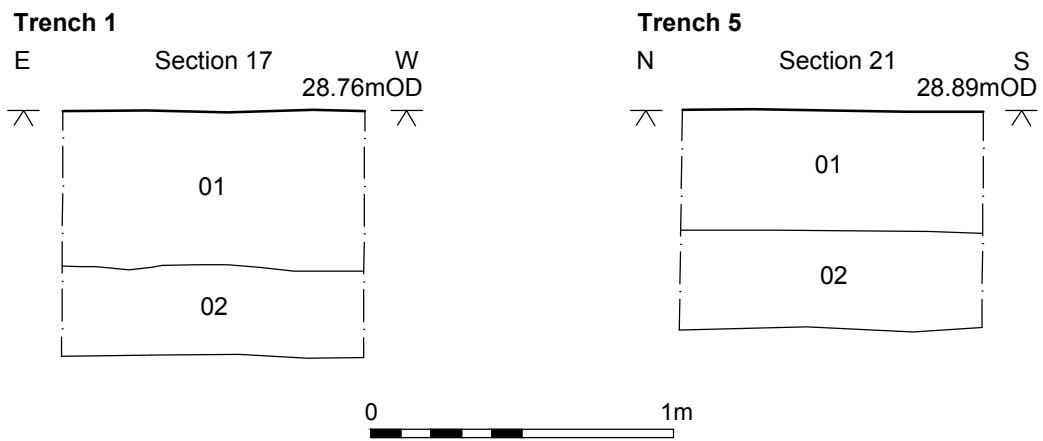



Figure 3. Trench 1 and Trench 5, sections. Scale 1:25



<b>Trench 2</b>				
		<b>Figures 2, 4; Plates 1, 2, 3</b>		
		<b>Location</b>		
		Orientation	East–west	
		East end	598248.112 339421.298	
		West end	598218.329 339421.324	
		<b>Dimensions</b>		
		Length	30.00m	
		Width	1.60m	
		Depth	1.22m	
		<b>Levels</b>		
East top	29.09m OD			
West top	29.12m OD			
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description and Interpretation</b>	<b>Thickness</b>	<b>Depth BGL</b>
<b>01</b>	Deposit.	Topsoil.	0.40/0.62m	0.00–0.62m
<b>02</b>	Deposit.	Subsoil.	0.30/0.60m	0.62–1.22m
<b>36</b>	Cut.	Northwest–southeast orientated ditch. Field boundary ditch.	0.18m	0.80-0.98m
<b>37</b>	Deposit.	Fill of ditch <b>36</b> . Mid-orangeish brown sandy silt with small sparse flint inclusions.	0.18m	0.80-0.98m
<b>38</b>	Cut.	Pit. Rectangular with partially rounded corners. Feature extends beyond the limits of the trench. Deep cut with almost vertical edges. Possible quarry pit for obtaining clay.	0.79m	0.80-1.59m
<b>39</b>	Deposit.	Primary fill of pit <b>38</b> . Dark brownish grey silty sand.	0.11m	0.80-0.91m
<b>40</b>	Deposit.	Secondary fill of pit <b>38</b> . Bright brown clayey silt.	0.05m	0.91-0.96m
<b>41</b>	Deposit.	Tertiary fill of pit <b>38</b> . Dark brownish grey silty sand.	0.63m	0.96-1.59m
<b>42</b>	Cut.	Pit. Rectangular in shape. Extends beyond the limits of the trench. Modern pit associated with building of houses in the vicinity. Contains plastics.	0.33m	0.80–1.13m
<b>43</b>	Deposit.	Fill of pit <b>42</b> . Dark grey modern fill. Contains building materials such as plastics.	0.33m	0.80–1.13m

## Trench 2

46	Deposit.	Natural geology.	--	1.22m+
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### Discussion

Trench 2 contained three archaeological features.

Ditch **36** was orientated northwest–southeast. The ditch did not contain any artefacts and could not be dated. It cannot be linked with any of the other ditches recorded by the evaluation. It was interpreted as a field boundary ditch.

Pit **38** did not contain any artefacts that could assist in its dating. The feature extended beyond the limits of the trench, but in plan it showed a rectangular shape with partially rounded corners. The edges were almost vertical and the base was almost flat. The feature was cut through an area where the natural geology was composed of clay, whereas most of the area around comprised sand and gravel. The pit was thus interpreted as a quarry pit for obtaining clay.

Feature **42** was a modern pit. It contained obviously modern artefacts such as plastics. It was interpreted as a pit for mixing building materials during construction of the houses located to the north of the trench.

Two post-medieval buckles and a thimble were found by metal detector in spoil from machining the trench **47**.



Plate 1. Trench 2. Ditch **36**, facing south



**Trench 2**



Plate 2. Trench 2. Pit 38, facing south



Plate 3. Trench 2. Pit 42, facing east

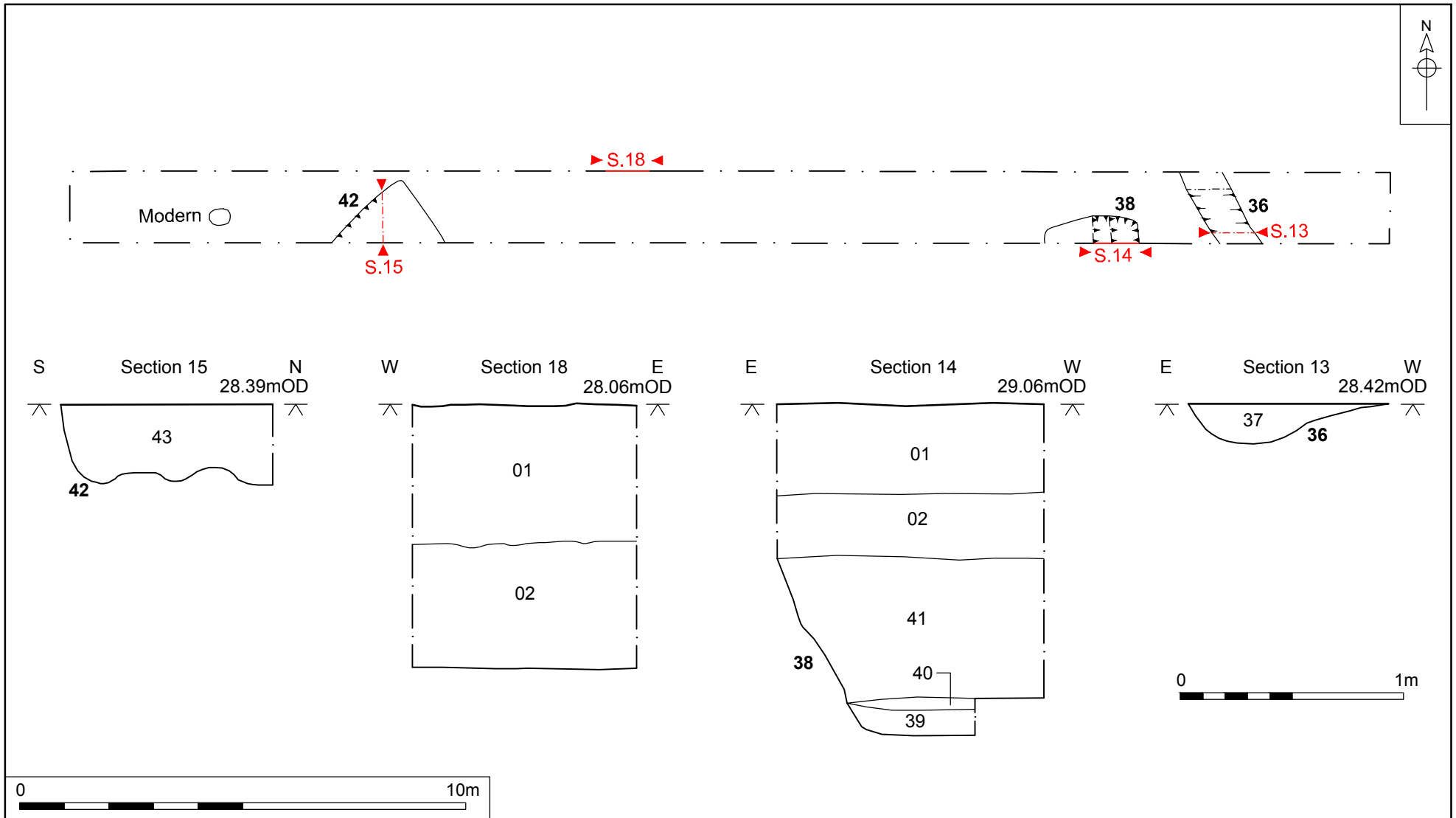


Figure 4. Trench 2, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

### Trench 3



#### Figures 2, 5; Plate 4

##### Location

Orientation	East–west
East end	598176.307 339407.908
West end	598203.977 339407.744

##### Dimensions

Length	30.00m
Width	1.60m
Depth	0.64m

##### Levels

East top	28.87m OD
West top	29.06m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit.	Topsoil.	0.34m	0.00–0.34m
02	Deposit.	Subsoil	0.30m	0.34–0.64m
44	Cut.	North–south orientated field boundary ditch.	0.12m	0.64–0.76m
45	Deposit.	Fill of ditch 44. Greyish brown sandy silt, with occasional flint inclusions.	0.12m	0.64–0.76m
46	Deposit.	Natural geology.	--	0.64m+

#### Discussion

Trench 3 contained a ditch and other features interpreted as natural features (not excavated).

Ditch 44 was an undated north–south ditch, which contained a single fill 45. It was not possible to date the ditch as no artefacts were recovered from it or associated with it and it has no other distinctive characteristics. The ditch did not appear in any of the other trenches, and has been interpreted as a field boundary ditch.

The other features were observed in Trench 3. However, upon excavation they were revealed to be natural, geological features and were not recorded further.

The superficial geology at the evaluation site was predominantly of gravelly sand with occasional silty clay patches, but was very inconsistent. The colour of the geological deposits varied from red to yellow, although some natural features contained greyish deposits. The presence of the greyish deposits made it necessary for them to be investigated to confirm their natural origin. This exercise made it justifiable to not excavate near-identical deposits elsewhere, such as in Trench 1.

A medieval copper-alloy buckle plate was found by metal detector in the trench spoil 47.



**Trench 3**



Plate 4. Trench 3. Ditch 44, facing northwest

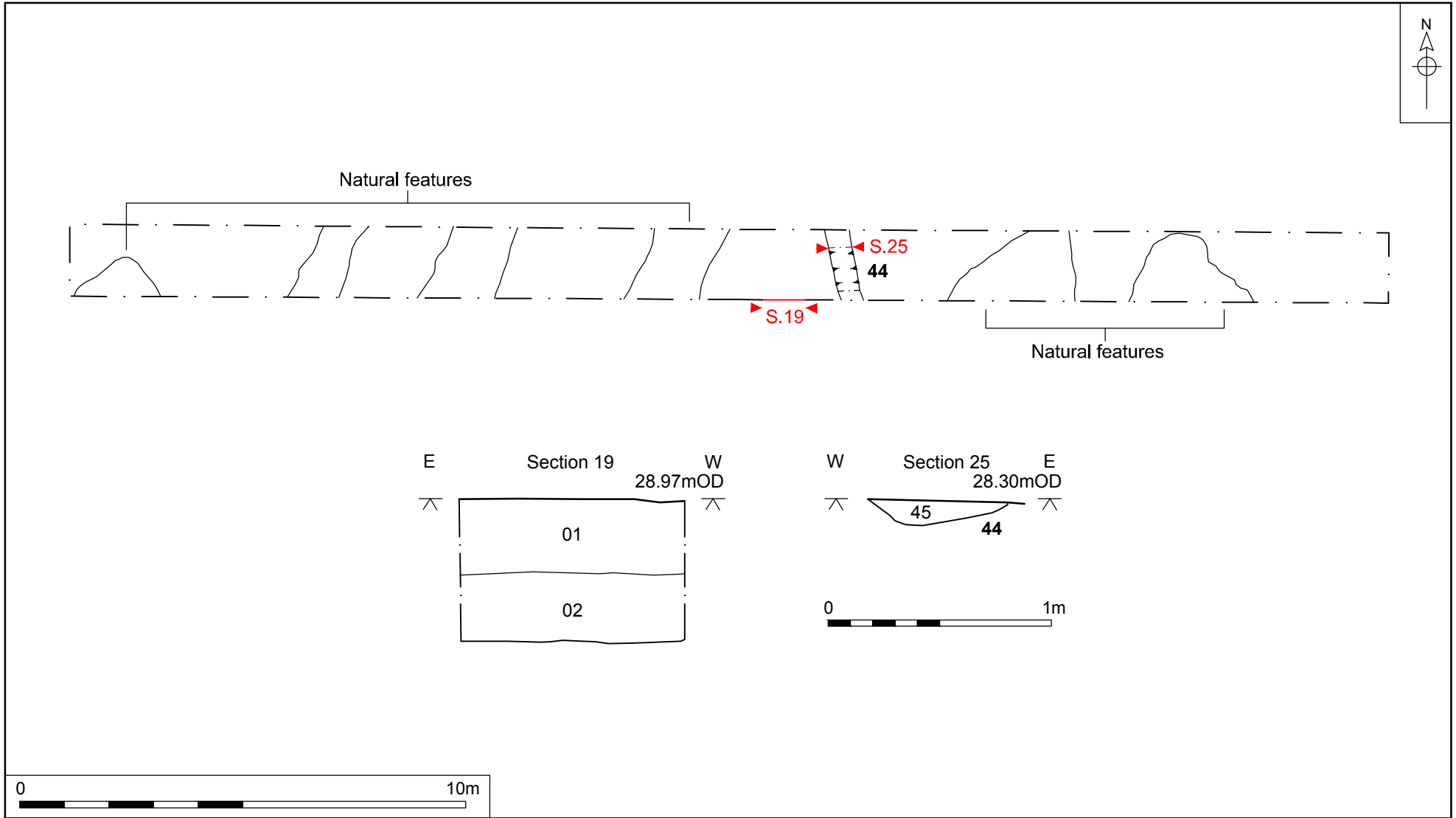


Figure 5. Trench 3, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

## Trench 4



**Figures 2, 6; Plate 5, 6**

### Location

Orientation North–south

North end 598147.804 339406.412

South end 598146.462 339376.741

### Dimensions

Length 30.00m

Width 1.60m

Depth 0.87m

### Levels

North top 28.97m OD

South top 29.00m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit.	Topsoil.	0.45m	0.00–0.45m
02	Deposit.	Subsoil.	0.42m	0.45–0.87m
03	Skeleton.	Human bones contained by grave 04. The remains of the bones of a hand were identified.	--	0.87m+
04	Cut.	Grave cut. West–east orientation.	--	0.87m+
05	Deposit.	Fill of grave 04.	--	0.87m+
46	Deposit.	Natural geology.	--	0.87m+

### Discussion

Grave 04. During machine-excavation of Trench 4, an undated human burial was identified within subsoil 02. Some degraded bones 03 of a human hand were recorded, but were left *in situ*. The cut of the grave 04 extended beyond the limits of the trench. This area was cleaned by hand and recorded at this level. The grave was not excavated, but the position of the human remains helped suggest a west–east orientation.

The area around the grave and spoil from machining the trench were comprehensively searched by metal-detector, but no metal finds were located. Once the inhumation was recorded it was covered with a plastic sheet and backfilled to preserve the grave for future potential interventions.



**Trench 4**



Plate 5. Trench 4. Grave cut **04** and human remains **03**



Plate 6. Trench 4. Detail of grave cut **04** and human remains **03**

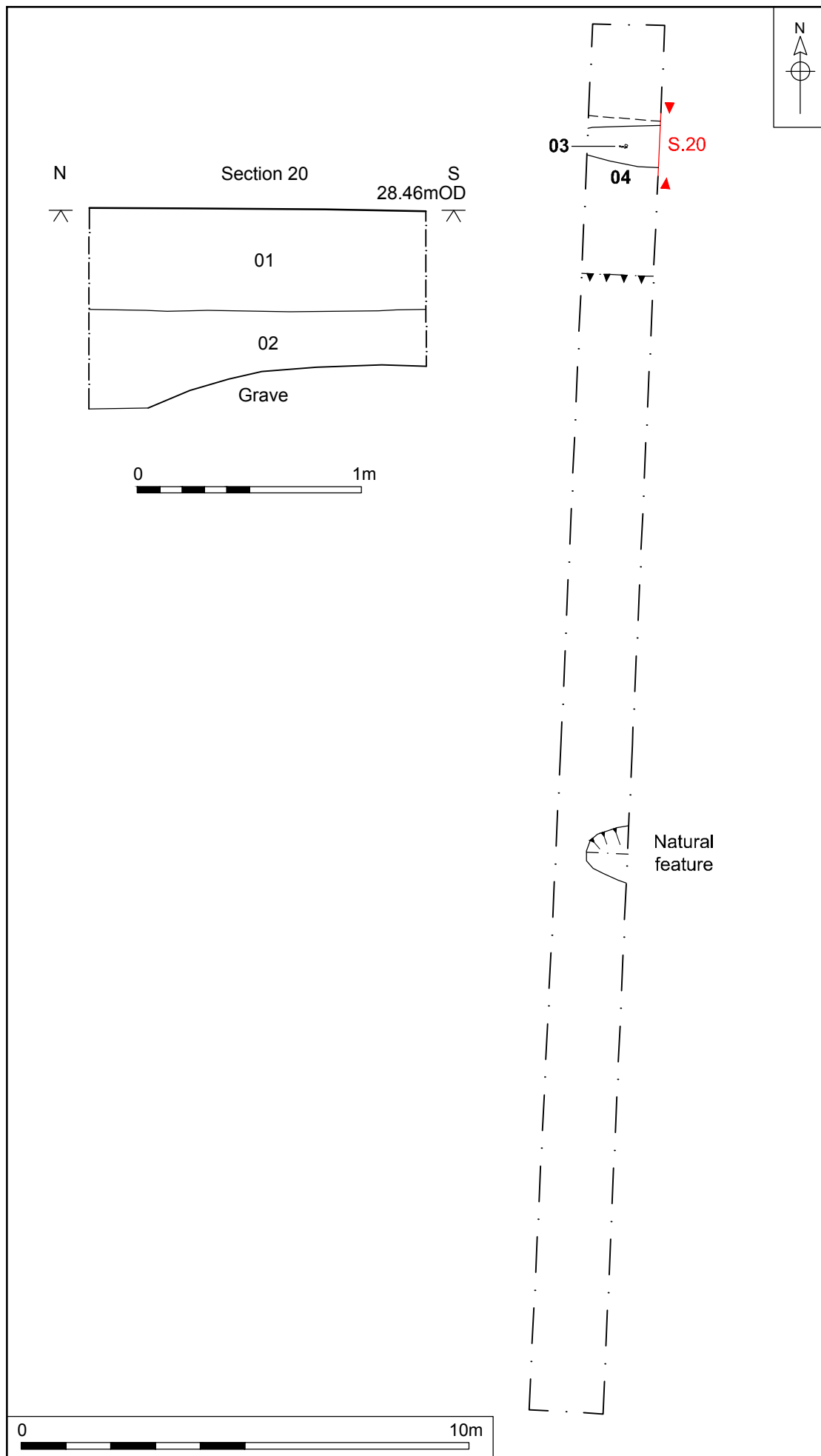


Figure 6. Trench 4, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

## Trench 5



### Figures 2, 3

#### Location

Orientation	North–south
North end	598167.37 339401.04
South end	598165.047 339372.22

#### Dimensions

Length	30.00m
Width	1.60m
Depth	0.72m

#### Levels

North top	28.82m OD
South top	29.01m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
01	Deposit	Topsoil.	0.40m	0.00–0.40m
02	Deposit	Subsoil.	0.32m	0.40–0.72m
46	Deposit	Natural geology.	--	0.72m+

#### Discussion

Trench 5 was devoid of archaeological features and deposits.

Metal-detecting spoil **47** from the trench recovered an illegible (possibly Georgian) coin and a post-medieval musket ball.

## Trench 6



### Figures 2, 7; Plate 7

#### Location

Orientation North–south

Northt end 598219.782 339405.054

South end 598218.832 339373.705

#### Dimensions

Length 30.00m

Width 1.60m

Depth 0.60m

#### Levels

North top 28.97m OD

South top 29.19m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
<b>01</b>	Deposit.	Topsoil.	0.36m	0.00–0.36m
<b>02</b>	Deposit.	Subsoil.	0.24m	0.36–0.60m
<b>34</b>	Cut.	East–west orientated field boundary ditch.	0.15m	0.60–0.75m
<b>35</b>	Deposit.	Fill of ditch <b>34</b> . Mid reddish brown clayey silt.	0.15m	0.60–0.75m
<b>46</b>	Deposit.	Natural geology.	--	0.60m+

#### Discussion

Trench 6 contained undated east–west orientated ditch **34**. The ditch contained one fill **35**. No artefacts were recovered from the feature or from metal detecting spoil **47** from machining the trench. The ditch was also identified in Trench 8, located in the east of the development site, but it was not present in Trenches 4 or 5 to the west.

Ditch **34** has been interpreted as a field boundary ditch.



**Trench 6**



Plate 7. Trench 6. Ditch **34**, facing east

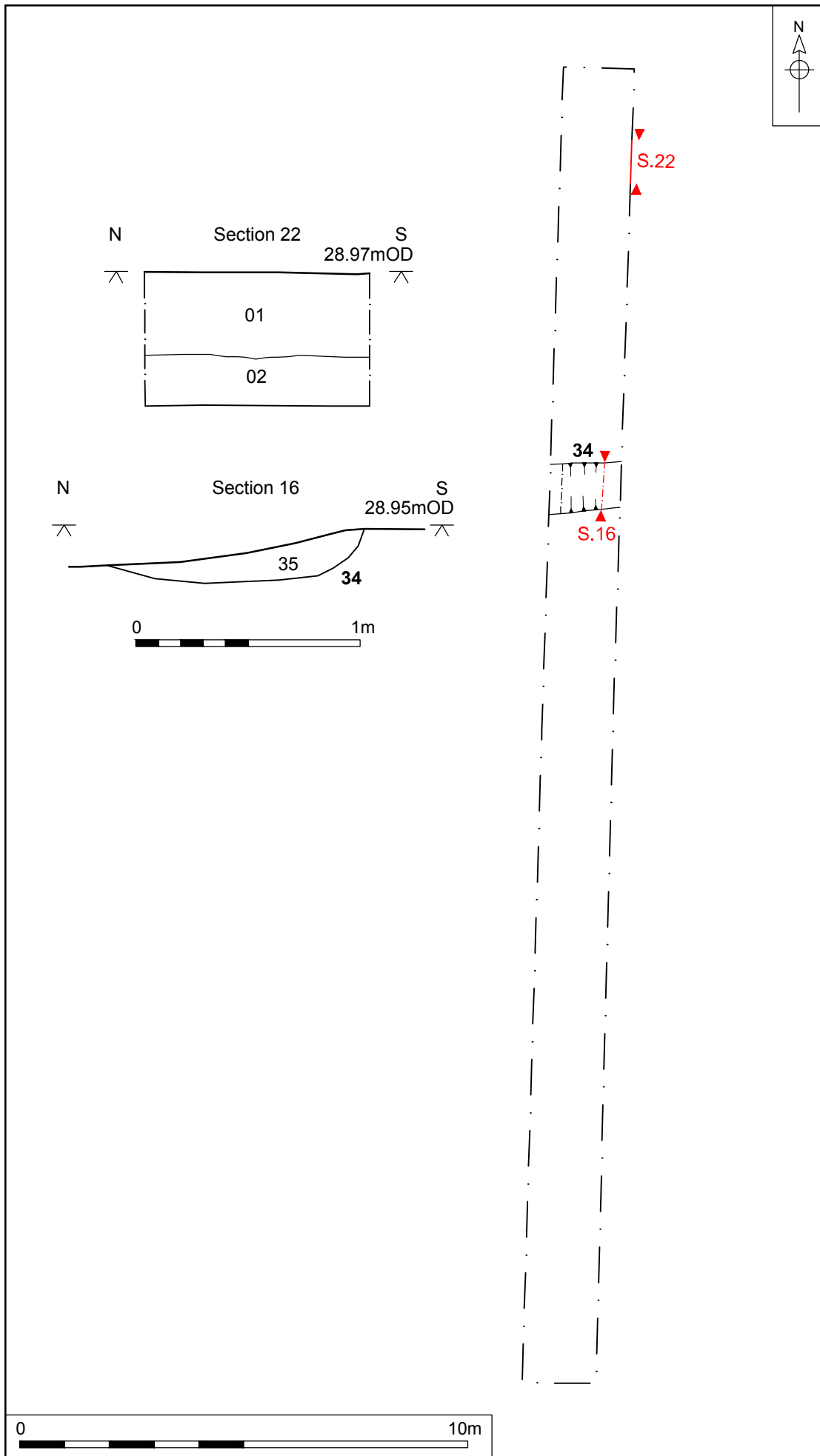



Figure 7. Trench 6, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

<b>Trench 7</b>				
	<b>Figures 2, 8; Plates 8, 9</b>			
	<b>Location</b>			
	Orientation	East–west		
	East end	598221.533 339362.435		
	West end	598193.821 339365.069		
	<b>Dimensions</b>			
	Length	30.00m		
	Width	1.60m		
	Depth	0.60m		
	<b>Levels</b>			
East top	29.22m OD			
West top	29.33m OD			
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description and Interpretation</b>	<b>Thickness</b>	<b>Depth BGL</b>
<b>01</b>	Deposit.	Topsoil.	0.37m	0.00–0.37m
<b>02</b>	Deposit.	Subsoil.	0.23m	0.37–0.60m
<b>22</b>	Cut.	Pit or possible natural feature. Irregular-shaped feature could be created by geological action.	0.35m	0.60–0.95m
<b>23</b>	Deposit.	Fill of pit <b>22</b> . Natural greyish silty sand. Contained two worked flints in the top of the deposit that may not be from the feature.	0.35m	0.60–0.95m
<b>24</b>	Cut.	Sub-circular pit.	0.13m	0.60–0.73 m
<b>25</b>	Deposit.	Light yellowish grey silty sand fill of pit <b>24</b> .	0.13m	0.60–0.73 m
<b>26</b>	Cut.	Oval-shaped pit. Possible natural feature.	0.25m	0.60–0.85m
<b>27</b>	Deposit.	Light yellowish grey silty sand fill of pit <b>26</b> .	0.25m	0.60–0.85m
<b>28</b>	Cut.	North–south orientated field boundary ditch. Re-cut of ditch <b>32</b> .	0.14m	0.60–0.74 m
<b>29</b>	Deposit.	Fill of ditch <b>28</b> . Dark yellowish/greyish brown sandy silt.	0.14m	0.60–0.74 m
<b>30</b>	Cut.	Pit or ditch terminus.	0.12m	0.60–0.72 m
<b>31</b>	Deposit.	Fill of pit/ditch <b>30</b> . Greyish brown sandy silt.	0.12m	0.60–0.72 m



Trench 7				
32	Cut.	North–south orientated field boundary ditch.	0.19m	0.60-0.79m
33	Deposit.	Fill of ditch 32. Dark yellowish/greyish brown sandy silt.	0.19m	0.60-0.79m
46	Deposit.	Natural geology.	--	0.60m+

#### Discussion

Trench 7 contained four pits and two ditches. There were also two natural features that were examined but not assigned context records.

Pit **22** contained two worked flints, that suggest a prehistoric date, but the pit is very irregular and the fills appeared natural in composition. It is possible that **22** is an altered natural feature or else a natural feature that contained residual materials. In either case, the flints provide evidence for some prehistoric activity in the nearby area.

Pit **30** extended beyond the limits of the trench, and from the available outline and form it was not possible to ascertain for certain whether it was a pit or the terminus of a ditch on a north–south orientation.

Pits **24** and **26** were medium-sized features, which could be interpreted as quarry pits for extracting clay.

Ditch **32** was aligned north–south and could not be dated. Ditch **32** was cut by ditch **28**, which was parallel and on the same orientation as ditch **32**, hence it has been interpreted as a re-cut of **32**. This ditch did not appear in any of the other trenches and has been interpreted as a field boundary.

A number of metal objects were found from metal detecting the spoil **47** from Trench 7: a silver medieval long-cross coin, two medieval or later lead weights, a post-medieval button and thimble, and two illegible post-medieval coins.



Plate 8. Trench 7. Pit or ditch terminus **30**, facing east



**Trench 7**



Plate 9. Trench 7. Ditches **28, 32**, facing south

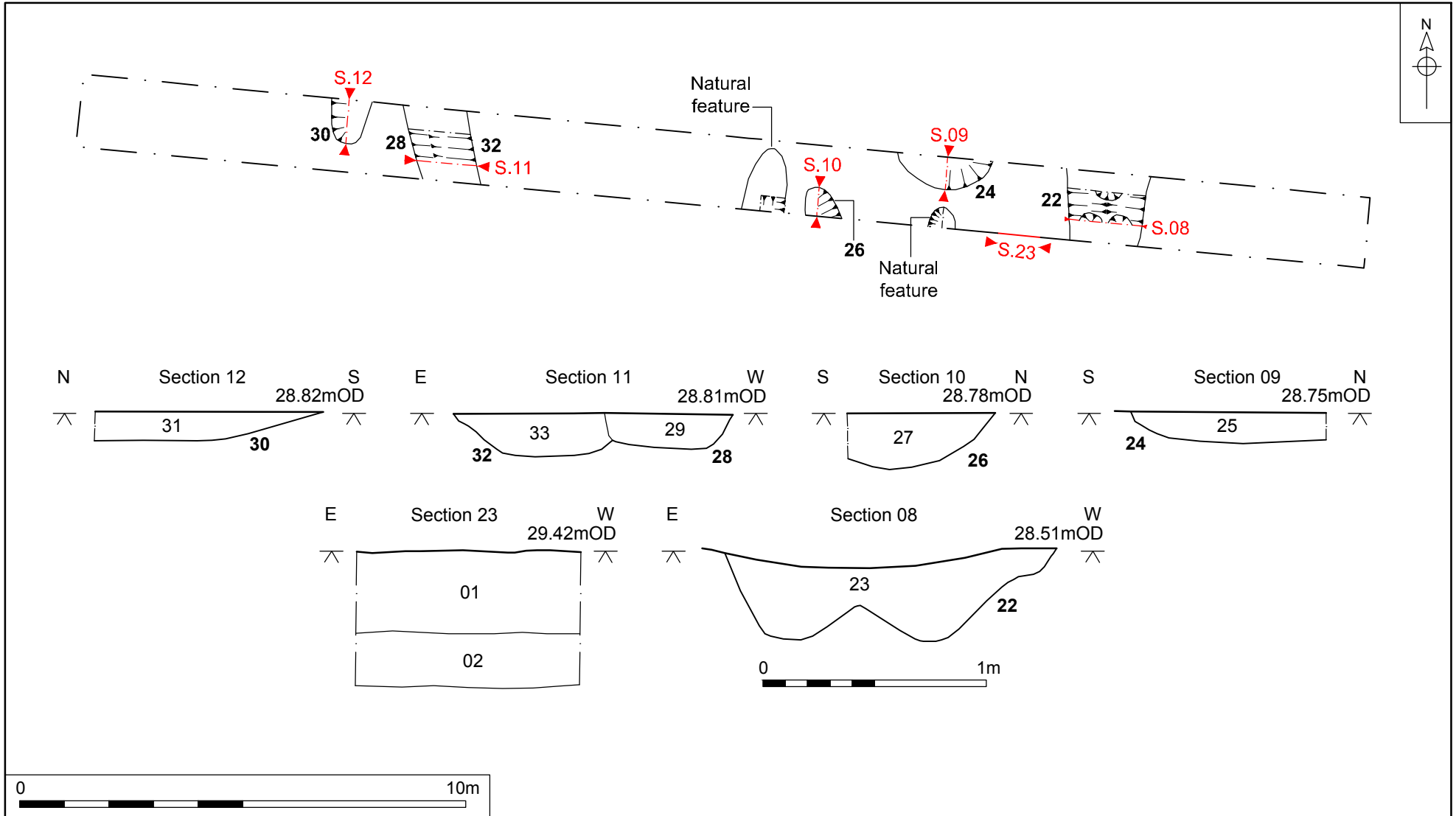



Figure 8. Trench 7, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

<b>Trench 8</b>				
		<b>Figures 2, 9; Plates 10, 11</b>		
		<b>Location</b>		
		Orientation	East–west	
		East end	598277.729 339401.71	
		West end	598248.533 339400.252	
		<b>Dimensions</b>		
		Length	30.00m	
		Width	1.60m	
		Depth	0.82m	
		<b>Levels</b>		
East top	29.02m OD			
West top	29.05m OD			
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description and Interpretation</b>	<b>Thickness</b>	<b>Depth BGL</b>
<b>01</b>	Deposit.	Topsoil.	0.45m	0.00–0.45m
<b>02</b>	Deposit.	Subsoil.	0.37m	0.45–0.82m
<b>06</b>	Cut.	East–west orientated ditch. Possible terminus.	0.09m	0.82–0.91m
<b>07</b>	Deposit.	Light brown sandy fill of ditch <b>06</b> .	0.09m	0.82–0.91m
<b>08</b>	Cut.	East–west orientated ditch. Possible terminus. Same as <b>06</b> .	0.09m	0.82–0.91m
<b>09</b>	Deposit.	Light brown sandy fill of ditch <b>08</b> . Same as <b>07</b> .	0.09m	0.82–0.91m
<b>10</b>	Cut.	East–west orientated ditch.	0.20m	0.82–1.02m
<b>11</b>	Deposit.	Light brown sandy fill of ditch <b>10</b> .	0.20m	0.82–1.02m
<b>12</b>	Cut.	East–west orientated ditch.	0.25m	0.82–1.07m
<b>13</b>	Deposit.	Light brown sandy fill of ditch <b>12</b> .	0.25m	0.82–1.07m
<b>14</b>	Cut.	North–south orientated ditch.	0.20m	0.82–1.02m
<b>15</b>	Deposit.	Mid-brown sandy fill of ditch <b>14</b> .	0.20m	0.82–1.02m
<b>16</b>	Cut.	North–south orientated ditch.	0.10m	0.82–0.92m
<b>17</b>	Deposit.	Mid brown sandy fill of ditch <b>16</b> .	0.10m	0.82–0.92m
<b>18</b>	Cut.	Oval-shaped pit.	0.10m	0.82–0.92m
<b>19</b>	Deposit.	Mid-brown sandy fill of pit <b>18</b> .	0.10m	0.82–0.92m
<b>20</b>	Cut.	Oval-shaped pit.	0.25m	0.82–1.07m
<b>21</b>	Deposit.	Mid-brown sandy fill of pit <b>20</b> .	0.25m	0.82–1.07m



## Trench 8

46	Deposit.	Natural geology.	--	0.82m+
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### Discussion

Trench 8 contained two ditches and two pits.

A ditch orientated east–west was sample-excavated by four sections **06, 08, 10, 12**. A narrow break in the ditch measured 0.60m, defined by two opposing termini **06, 08**. These sections were very shallow, so it may be the case that the ditch was 'lost' in this area and that the 'termini' were actually elements of the surviving base of the feature in the surface of the natural geology. No artefacts were associated with any of the sections excavated in the ditch, and it has not been possible to assign a date to the feature. It was interpreted as a field boundary ditch.

Ditch **16**, on a north–south orientation, was situated perpendicular to the east–west ditch described above, and intersected it at segment **12**, where **16** was recorded as **14**. North-south ditch **14** cut ditch **12**. No artefacts were found from the excavation of ditch **14/16** hence it is undated. It was interpreted as an element of a ditched field boundary system.

Pits **18** and **20** in the east part of the trench did not produce any artefacts and cannot be dated. They have been interpreted as small quarry pits for clay extraction.

A post-medieval copper-alloy brooch and buckle, and a 1970s Italian 200 lire coin were found by metal detecting trench spoil **47**.



Plate 10. Trench 8. Ditch **06**, facing west

**Trench 8**



Plate 11. Trench 8. Pit **20**, facing east

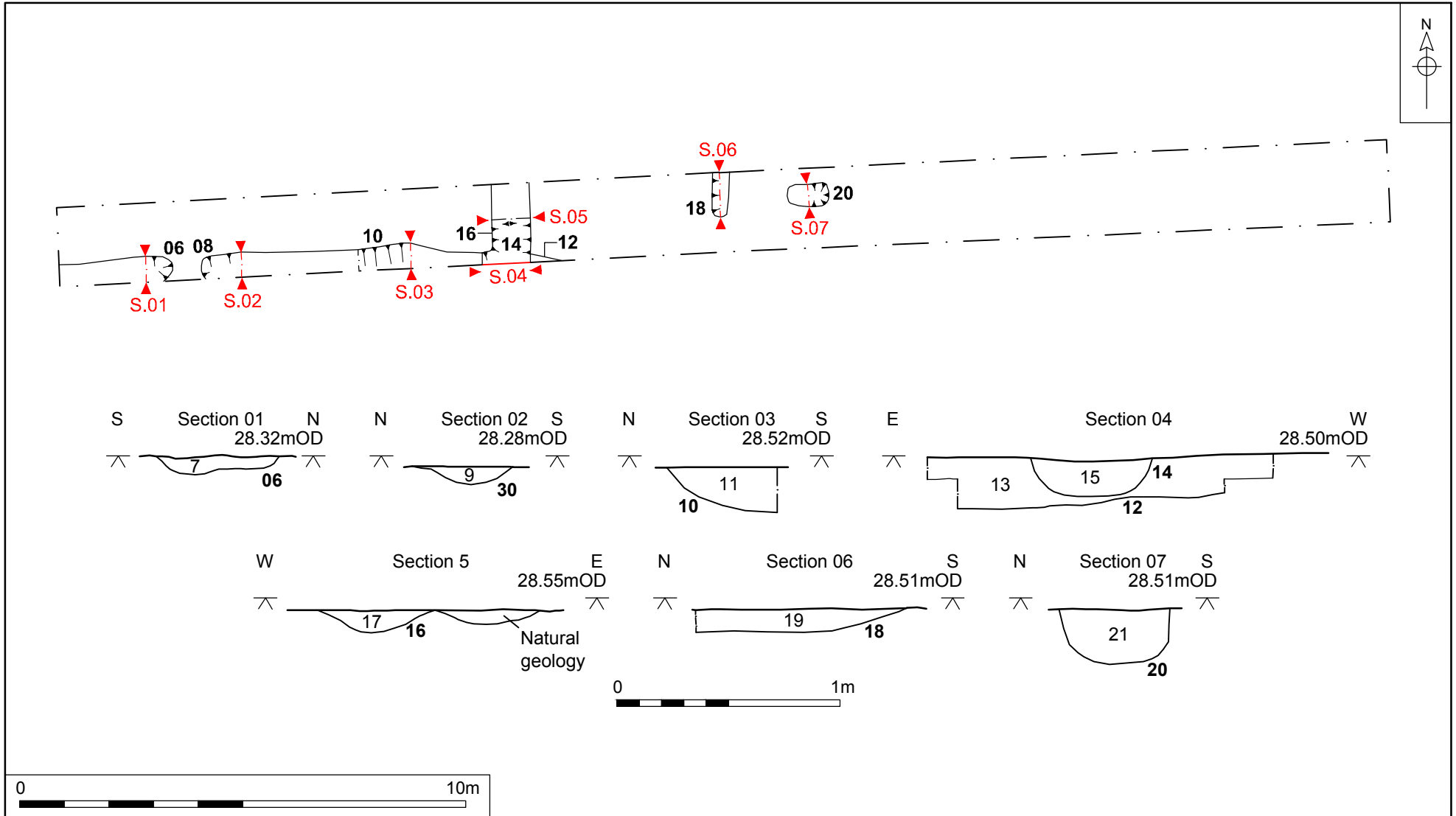


Figure 9. Trench 8, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS

- 50 Finds from eth evaluation were processed and recorded by count and weight, and a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet was compiled. Each category was considered separately and is presented below by material. A list of finds by context is given in Appendix 2a.

### Metal finds

#### *Introduction*

- 51 Sixteen metal finds were recovered by the evaluation, all by metal detector from spoil from machining the trenches, context **47**. The finds are located by Trench in Appendix 2a. Twelve objects are of copper alloy, three of lead, and one of silver.

#### *Copper alloy*

- 52 Four coins were recovered by the evaluation, the only legible example being a 200 Italian lire coin dated 1978 from Trench 8. The other pieces are all post-medieval and comprise a penny and two halfpennies, possibly Georgian (due to their size), and therefore of 18th–19th-century date (Trenches 5 and 7 respectively).
- 53 Three post-medieval buckles were recovered from machining spoil in Trenches 2 (two) and 8 (one). One is rectangular with a central strap bar, and measures 22mm x 19mm. The second is also rectangular, but has an offset strap bar and measures 36mm x 29mm. The third buckle is a vesicle-shaped (pointed oval) piece and measures 22mm x 14.5mm. A buckle plate, missing its buckle frame, was also found. This piece is rounded at the terminal end with an *in situ* rivet in the centre, and measures 28mm x 16.5mm. Two further rivets are present close to the rectangular slot where the pin would have rested. This plate is likely to be medieval in date.
- 54 Two thimbles were found, both of similar type, being short, stubby, examples from Trenches 2 and 7. One has a slightly lipped base, the other is straight, and both had a plain border at the base. Both were slightly domed, and both are squashed and distorted. These are both likely to date to the first half of the 18th century (Read 1995, 192-3).
- 55 A possible brooch was found in spoil from Trench 8, and consists of an oval copper-alloy collet with a red ?glass inset. The collet is raised, with a corded border and scalloped edges, and the glass is smooth and rounded. The reverse is concave, and has a flat piece of copper alloy covering the back of the glass. This object measures 16.5mm x 14.5mm. No pin or catch is visible on the reverse of this piece, so it may not be a brooch, but rather a pendant or other decorative fitting. It seems likely that this object is of possibly 19th-century, date.
- 56 A flat discoidal button with a scalloped edge, perhaps in the form of petals, was recovered from Trench 7 spoil. The button is likely to be of 17th-century date, and is similar to examples illustrated in Read (2005, 66).

#### *Lead*

- 57 Two weights were found in spoil heaps from Trench 7; one is cylindrical and the other discoidal. The cylindrical example weighs 86g, which is a little over 3oz. The discoidal piece weighs 47g (1.66oz.). Both examples have a central hole and were

very crudely made. The weights may be medieval–post-medieval in date, but cannot be dated more closely.

- 58 A single musket ball shot was found from Trench 5, measuring c. 14.5mm in diameter, although it is not a perfect sphere, but rather more an oval shape. It is post-medieval in date.

### **Silver**

- 59 A single incomplete medieval coin was recovered from spoil from Trench 7, a long-cross coin dating to 1247–79.

### **Flint**

- 60 Two worked flint flakes, weighing 5g, were recovered from pit fill **23** (Trench 7). One piece is a primary flake in dark grey raw material; the second is a tertiary flake in light grey flint.

### **Finds conclusions**

- 61 The finds from the evaluation are predominantly from unstratified contexts, and consist almost exclusively of metalwork recovered by metal detector from spoil heaps produced by machining the trenches. Only two prehistoric flint flakes were found in a feature, and these are considered to be residual. The metalwork comprises medieval and post-medieval material, as well some modern pieces. None of the material recovered is particularly unique or unusual, and consists of small personal possessions, coins and weights, which would indicate human activity on or near the evaluation site in the past. The material is scattered, with no significant concentration, other than perhaps in Trench 7 close to the modern street frontage.



## DISCUSSION

- 62 Eight evaluation trenches were excavated by NPS Archaeology at Priory Crescent, Binham, Norfolk, six of which contained archaeological evidence. Undated pits and ditches were identified, particularly in the east of the site. To the west, part of an undated inhumation was recorded, but this was isolated in an area in which no other archaeological evidence was found.
- 63 The work recorded five ditches, interpreted as field boundaries, of uncertain date. The ditches follow broadly north–south and east–west alignments; together they *may* represent a coherent division of the land, but it is far from certain that they are all contemporary. One east–west ditch identified in Trenches 6 and 8 can be seen (as a boundary) in an aerial photograph of 1946, but there is no east–west division of the plot visible on any of the available 19th-century maps (Enclosure, Tithe, Ordnance Survey First Edition) (Norfolk County Council 2015). One of the north–south ditches cut the apparently late east–west ditch, and is therefore also potentially of relatively recent date. The other ditches could theoretically be of any date, perhaps significantly earlier features that were long extinct by the time of 19th-century cartography.
- 64 Eight pits were excavated in Trenches 2, 7 and 8. Only two of the features contained any artefacts, one of which was dated as modern and filled with building materials and plastic, probably from work associated with adjacent residential developments. The second feature produced two flint flakes, which of themselves may be taken as indicative of prehistoric activity nearby, but interpretation of the pit is problematic: the feature appears to be of natural origin and as such the provenance of the flint flakes is dubious.
- 65 Aside from one example that was a different shape to the rest of the pits (sharp and deep sides and an almost flat base) the pits were comparatively shallow with moderate sloping sides and are interpreted as quarry pits for obtaining clay.
- 66 Part of a grave containing a human burial was found in Trench 4. The feature was found isolated from any other archaeological features and the grave could readily be seen to cut the subsoil. The partially articulated bones from a hand were exposed during machining and their position within the grave cut suggested a west–east orientation of the skeleton i.e. following typical Christian burial practices. However, as the burial was not excavated and the grave cut continued beyond the limit of excavation, this cannot be stated unequivocally. No finds were associated with the inhumation and it could not be dated, but it is reasonable to state that it is of some antiquity. It does not appear to be associated with either of the recorded sites immediately to the west, i.e. multi-period finds scatter NHER 28591 or possible Roman villa and field system NHER 31571.
- 67 Artefacts recovered by metal-detecting from unstratified locations around the evaluation site consisted of personal possessions, coins and weights, which collectively indicate limited medieval and post-medieval activity on or near the site.
- 68 Recommendations for mitigation work (if required based on the evidence presented in this report) will be made by Norfolk Historic Environment Service.

## ***Acknowledgements***

NPS Archaeology would like to thank the following.

The project was funded and commissioned by Broadland Housing Group.

Machining of the trenches was undertaken by Bryn Williams Civil Engineering Ltd.

Site surveying was by Steve Howes of NPS Land Survey.

The evaluation was monitored on behalf of Norfolk Historic Environment Service by James Albone.

Excavation was undertaken by Tom Baxter Campbell, Steve Hunt and the author.

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

The draft text was checked by Liz Govier.

The plans and sections were digitised by Holly Payne.

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

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## Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
01	Deposit			Topsoil	Modern	All
02	Deposit			Subsoil	Uncertain	All
03	HSR		4	Articulated skeleton?	Uncertain	4
04	Cut	Grave		Grave	Uncertain	4
05	Deposit		4	Grave fill	Uncertain	4
06	Cut	Ditch		Terminus of ditch E-W	Uncertain	8
07	Deposit		6	Ditch terminus fill	Uncertain	8
08	Cut	Ditch		Terminus of ditch <b>10</b> E-W	Uncertain	8
09	Deposit		8	Ditch terminus fill	Uncertain	8
10	Cut	Ditch		Ditch E-W	Uncertain	8
11	Deposit		10	Ditch fill	Uncertain	8
12	Cut	Ditch		Ditch E-W	Uncertain	8
13	Deposit		12	Ditch fill	Uncertain	8
14	Cut	Ditch		Ditch N-S	Uncertain	8
15	Deposit		14	Ditch fill	Uncertain	8
16	Cut	Ditch		Ditch N-S	Uncertain	8
17	Deposit		16	Ditch fill	Uncertain	8
18	Cut	Ditch		Terminus of ditch	Uncertain	8
19	Deposit		18	Ditch terminus fill	Uncertain	8
20	Cut	Pit		Sub-rectangular pit	Uncertain	8
21	Deposit		20	Fill of pit	Uncertain	8
22	Cut	Feature		Natural feature	Uncertain	7
23	Deposit		22	Natural feature fill	Uncertain	7
24	Cut	Pit		Rounded pit	Uncertain	7
25	Deposit		25	Pit fill	Uncertain	7
26	Cut	Pit		?Oval pit	Uncertain	7
27	Deposit		26	Pit fill	Uncertain	7
28	Cut	Ditch		Ditch N-S	Uncertain	7
29	Deposit		28	Ditch fill	Uncertain	7
30	Cut	Pit/ditch		Pit or ditch terminus	Uncertain	7
31	Deposit		28	Pit or ditch terminus fill	Uncertain	7
32	Cut	Ditch		Ditch N-S	Uncertain	7
33	Deposit		32	Ditch fill	Uncertain	7
34	Cut	Ditch		Ditch E-W	Uncertain	6
35	Deposit		34	Ditch fill	Uncertain	6
36	Cut	Ditch		Ditch NW-SE	Uncertain	2
37	Deposit		36	Ditch fill	Uncertain	2
38	Cut	Pit		Sub-rectangular pit	Uncertain	2
39	Deposit		38	Primary fill of pit <b>38</b>	Uncertain	2
40	Deposit		38	Secondary fill of pit 38	Uncertain	2
41	Deposit		38	Upper fill of pit <b>38</b>	Uncertain	2

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
42	Cut			Modern pit	Modern	2
43	Deposit		42	Pit fill	Modern	2
44	Cut	Gully		Gully N-S	Uncertain	3
45	Deposit		44	Gully fill	Uncertain	3
46	Deposit			Natural	--	1-8
47	U/S ploughsoil finds			Metal-detecting finds from trench machining spoil	--	1-8

### Appendix 1b: Feature Summary

Period	Category	Total
Modern	Pit	1
Uncertain	Pit	6
	Ditch	5
	Grave	1

## Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Trench	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
23	T7	Flint – worked	2	5.3g	Prehistoric	
47	T2, T7	Copper alloy	2	6.1g	Post-medieval	Thimbles
47	T2 (2no.), T8 (1no.)	Copper alloy	3	19.6g	Post-medieval	Buckles
47	T3	Copper alloy	1	2.8g	Medieval	Buckle plate
47	T7	Copper alloy	1	2.3g	Post-medieval	Button
47	T8	Copper alloy	1	2.0g	Post-medieval	?Brooch
47	T8	Copper alloy	1	5.2g	Modern	Coin; Italian, 200 lire, 1978
47	T5 (1no.), T7 (2no.)	Copper alloy	3	17.4g	Post-medieval	Coins; illegible
47	T7	Lead	1	86.0g	Med./post-med.	Weight; cylindrical
47	T7	Lead	1	47.0g	Med./post-med.	Weight; circular
47	T5	Lead	1	14.0g	Post-medieval	Musket ball
47	T7	Silver	1	0.8g	Medieval	Coin

## Appendix 2b: Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Prehistoric	Flint – worked	2
Medieval	Copper alloy	1
	Silver	1
Med./post-med.	Lead	2
Post-medieval	Copper alloy	10
	Lead	1
Modern	Copper alloy	1

### Appendix 3: Historical Periods

Period	Date From	Date To
Prehistoric	-500,000	42
Early Prehistoric	-500,000	-4,001
Palaeolithic	-500,000	-10,001
Lower Palaeolithic	-500,000	-150,001
Middle Palaeolithic	-150,001	-40,001
Upper Palaeolithic	-40,000	-10,001
Mesolithic	-10,000	-4,001
Early Mesolithic	-10,000	-7,001
Late Mesolithic	-7,000	-4,001
Late Prehistoric	-4,000	42
Neolithic	-4,000	-2,351
Early Neolithic	-4,000	-3,001
Middle Neolithic	-3,500	-2,701
Late Neolithic	-3,000	-2,351
Bronze Age	-2,350	-701
Early Bronze Age	-2,350	-1,501
Beaker	-2,300	-1,700
Middle Bronze Age	-1,600	-1,001
Late Bronze Age	-1,000	-701
Iron Age	-800	42
Early Iron Age	-800	-401
Middle Iron Age	-400	-101
Late Iron Age	-100	42
Roman	42	409
Post-Roman	410	1900
Saxon	410	1065
Early Saxon	410	650
Middle Saxon	651	850
Late Saxon	851	1065
Medieval	1066	1539
Post-medieval	1540	1900
Modern	1900	2050
World War One	1914	1918
World War Two	1939	1945
Cold War	1945	1992
Unknown	--	--

after *English Heritage Periods List*, recommended by Forum on Information Standards in Heritage available at: <http://www.fish-forum.info/inscript.htm>

**Appendix 4: OASIS Report Summary**



# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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**OASIS ID: norfolka1-208180**

## Project details

Project name	Priory Crescent, Binham
Short description of the project	NPS Archaeology was commissioned by Broadland Housing Group to carry out an archaeological evaluation requested by Norfolk Historic Environment Service, ahead of a plan to develop an area of land to the south of Binham, Norfolk for residential purposes (TF 9819 3940). Eight trenches were excavated, six of which contained archaeological evidence of past human activity. With few exceptions, the archaeological features were shallow remnants of their original forms. One undated grave was identified and five undated field boundary ditches were recorded. The grave was situated away from other archaeological features, and was not excavated. It cannot be stated that the ditches are contemporary or related to one another, but it is feasible that they describe small land parcels that take their alignment from Walsingham Road. Eight pits were excavated. One contained residual prehistoric worked flint and another contained modern materials. The other features did not produce any artefacts and could not be dated. The pits are broadly interpreted as quarry pits for extracting clay. Artefacts recovered by metal-detecting from unstratified locations around the evaluation site consisted of personal possessions, coins and weights, which collectively indicate limited medieval and post-medieval activity on or near the site.
Project dates	Start: 23-03-2015 End: 26-03-2015
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	136679 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	PIT Modern
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Monument type	GRAVE Uncertain
Significant Finds	WORKED FLINT Late Prehistoric
Significant Finds	METAL FINDS Medieval
Significant Finds	METAL FINDS Post Medieval

Significant Finds	METAL FINDS Modern
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Not recorded
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK NORTH NORFOLK BINHAM Priory Crescent, Binham, Norfolk
Postcode	NR21 0DB
Study area	1.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TF 9819 3940 52.9149906862 0.948055292625 52 54 53 N 000 56 53 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 28.70m Max: 29.30m

### 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	"Metal","Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient	NPS Archaeology
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Spreadsheets","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums Service
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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## **Appendix 5: Archaeological Specification**

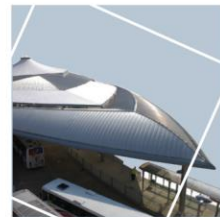
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nps archaeology

**Archaeological Evaluation  
Priory Crescent, Binham, Norfolk  
Written Scheme of Investigation**

**Prepared for**  
Broadland Housing Group  
NCFC, The Jarrold Stand  
Carrow Road  
Norwich  
Norfolk  
NR1 1HU



NPS Archaeology

March 2015



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Location	Priory Crescent, Binham, Norfolk
District	North Norfolk
Planning reference	n/a
Grid reference	TF 983 395
Client	Broadland Housing Group

<b>REVIEW CHECKLIST</b>		
Completed by	Niall Oakey	11/03/15
Reviewed by	David Adams	11/03/15
<i>Issue 1</i>		

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# Archaeological Evaluation

## Written Scheme of Investigation

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Broadland Housing Group propose to develop an area of land to the south of Binham, Norfolk (TF 983 395) for housing. Pre-application advice was sought from Norfolk Historic Environment Services (NHES) and a programme of archaeological evaluation was proposed. NHES issued a generic brief for evaluation by trial trenching.
- 1.2 Broadland Housing Group 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).
- 1.3 The development site (hereafter “the Site”) is bounded to the north by Priory Crescent, to the south and east by Walsingham Road and the boundaries of properties thereon, and to the west by a public footpath alongside a hedge. The southern and western boundaries remain as they were at Enclosure, whilst the other boundaries are formed by housing developments of later 20<sup>th</sup>-century date.
- 1.4 Existing evidence for activity in the parish of Binham extends from the Neolithic onwards. The quantity of evidence suggests settlement in the Neolithic and Bronze Ages, whilst a Roman villa and field system have also been located. A large scatter of Roman pottery has been found in the plough soil c.200m to the north-west of the Site. Saxon pottery and other artefacts, some of high status, have been found throughout the parish indicating the probability of a manorial residence nearby. In the 12<sup>th</sup> century Binham Priory was founded and the precinct is c.400m to the north-east of the Site. The Site is at the southern extremity of the modern village and has been laid out to fields until late 20<sup>th</sup>-century development has impinged on its extremities. “The Cottage” at the junction of Front Street and Walsingham Street is early 19<sup>th</sup>-century in date and listed at Grade II, as are 19, 21 and 23 Front Street, which date from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, a second storey being added in 1800. An evaluation took place in 2004 of part of the Priory Crescent development immediately to the east of the Site. No archaeological features or finds were made.<sup>1</sup> NHES request that the results of an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching are submitted in support of a planning application, in accordance with *National Planning Policy Framework* para 128.
- 1.5 Archaeological evaluation of the site will address regional archaeological research objectives relating to rural settlement of different periods in East Anglia. Evidence relating to settlement distribution and development, and related agricultural regimes in the prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Medieval and later periods may be present on the site.

### 2. Aims

- 2.1 The Programme of Archaeological Work requested by NHES 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:

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<sup>1</sup> Peachey, M. 2004 *Archaeological Evaluation on land at Priory Crescent, Binham, Norfolk*. Archaeological Project Services Report No 86/04 (unpublished).

- i. *To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the proposed development area.*
- ii. *To determine the extent, condition, nature, quality and date of any archaeological remains occurring within the Site and the possible impacts of the proposed development on them.*
- iii. *Ensure that any archaeological features discovered during trial trenching are identified, sampled and recorded and, where it is desirable, recommendations for their preservation in situ are made.*
- iv. *To establish, as far as possible, the extent, character, stratigraphic sequence and date of archaeological features and deposits, and the nature of the activities which occurred at the Site during the various periods or phases of its occupation*
- v. *To establish the palaeoenvironmental potential of subsurface deposits by ensuring that any deposits with the potential to yield palaeoenvironmental data are sampled and submitted for assessment to the appropriate specialists.*
- vi. *To 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 four-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 NHES.

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* (Chartered 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 Eight trenches measuring 30m x 1.8m will be excavated to provide a c.5% sample of the Site, the trenches located in the position of ground disturbance from the planned development (see figure).
- 3.2.3 The trenches have been arrayed across the Site to provide comprehensive coverage and concentrated in areas where the new buildings will be located. The trenches avoid a public footpath which runs north/south along the western edge of the Site and the final locations of some trenches 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 geological 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 to a maximum depth of 1.2m below the present ground surface in line with Health and Safety legislation for trenches with unsupported sides. If further depth of excavation is required, the trench sides may need to be locally stepped or shored. The requirement for and the scope of works below 1.2m will be determined by NHES 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 The trenches 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 NHES. This backfilling will not attempt consolidation or compaction over and above that possible with a mechanical excavator. Full surface reinstatement will not be attempted, but all trenches will be left in a safe condition.
- 3.2.9 Exposed surfaces and all archaeological features and deposits will be excavated by hand and screened by metal detector. 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 All archaeological deposits, features and layers will be assigned individual context numbers and recorded on standardised forms employing the NPS Archaeology's pro forma recording system. The records will include full written, graphic and photographic elements with site and context numbering compatible with the 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 photographic record in black and white and digital will be maintained of all archaeological deposits, layers and features to record their characteristic and relationships. Photographs will also be taken to record the progress of the evaluation.

- 3.2.12 Human remains will be left *in situ* unless otherwise instructed by NHES. 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 (NMS).
- 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 entered on a spreadsheet 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.
- 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 the client, and three copies to NHES. An HER (Historic Environment Record) form will accompany the evaluation report and will include a reference to the archive and the intended place of

archive deposition. The report will be submitted within eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork.

- 3.4.4 An online OASIS record will be initiated immediately prior to the start of fieldwork and completed when the final report is submitted to NHES. This 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 NMS'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 NMS'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 after completion of the final report and confirmed in writing to the 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 major periods of adverse weather conditions.
- 4.2 It is estimated that the fieldwork will take a week with a team of two archaeologists, dependent on archaeological remains present.

## 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 Project Manager will assume responsibility for all aspects of the project including finance, logistics, standards, health and safety, and liaison with the client and curators. The Project Officer will have substantial experience in trench evaluation and post-excavation analysis.
- 5.2 Other members of staff involved in the project will be an Experienced Excavator and Finds Co-ordinator staff. Experienced Excavator staff will have experience in excavation and experience with NPS Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system or similar systems. The Project Officer and/or Experienced Excavator staff will be experienced metal detector users.
- 5.3 NPS Archaeology staff associated with the project will be as follows:

<b>Project Management</b>	
Project Manager	Niall Oakey MA BA

<b>Project Staff</b>	
Project Officer	John Ames
Finds Officer	Becky Sillwood

Experienced Excavators	To be nominated
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- 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 by NPS Archaeology*

<b>Specialist</b>	<b>Research Field</b>
Andy Barnett	Metal-detectorist, Numismatic Items
Sarah Bates	Worked Flint
Fran Green	Palaeo-environmental Analysis
Julie Curl	Faunal Remains
Sue Anderson	Post-Roman Pottery, Ceramic Building Material
Debbie Forkes	Conservation
Val Fryer	Macrofossil analysis
Andrew Peachey	Prehistoric and Roman Pottery

## 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 fully endorses the *Code of Practice* and the *Code of Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. All staff employed or subcontracted by NPS Archaeology will be employed in line with The Chartered 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 NMS.
- 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:

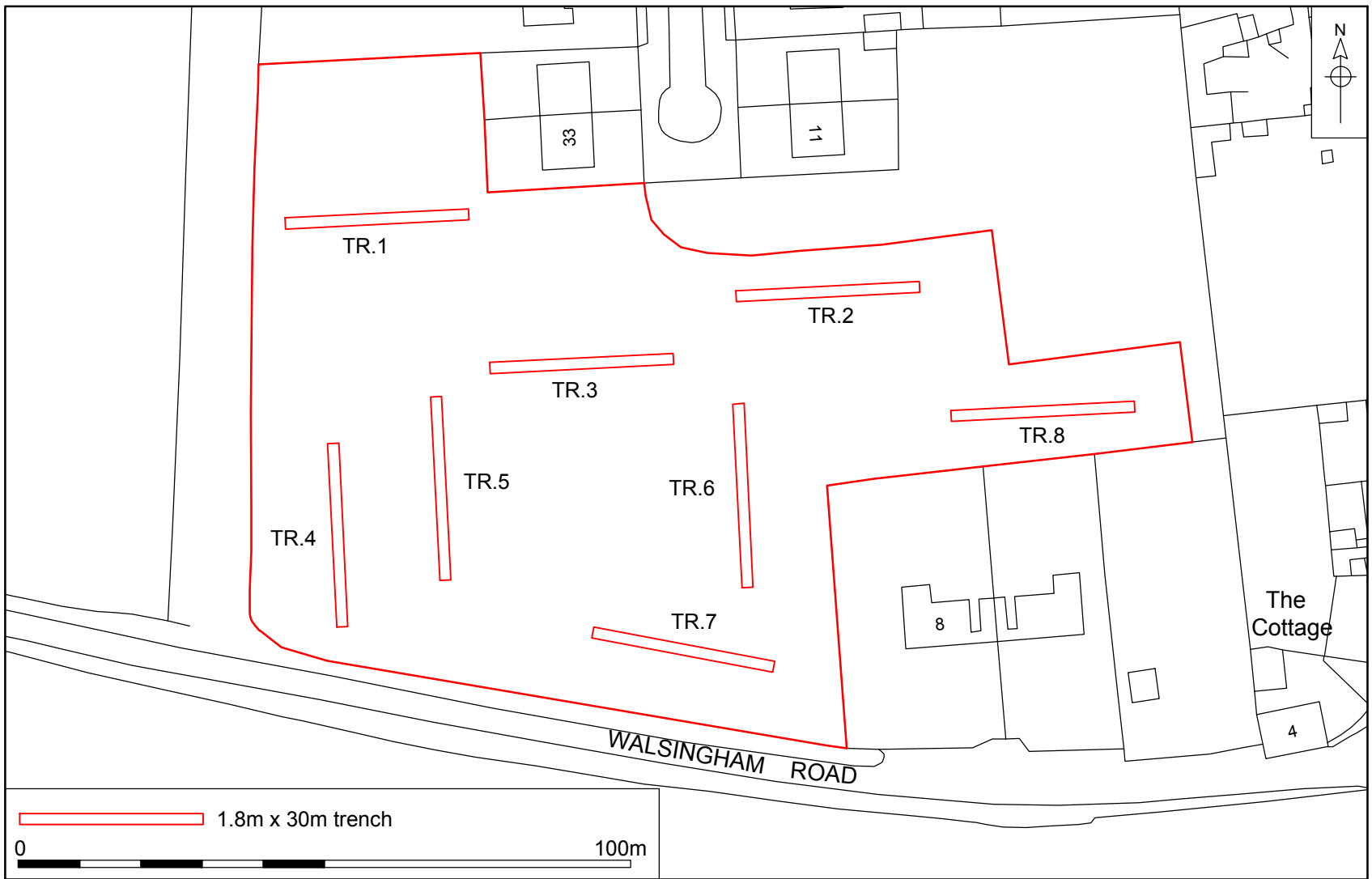
Employers Liability

£ 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.

**Figure**



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01-04-15-2-1341 Priors Crescent, Binham. Location of archaeological trenches. Scale 1:1000 at A4