

**Land at Eagle Road, Erpingham  
Norfolk, NR11 7QY**

**Archaeological evaluation**



**W  
Mr Alan Irvine**

**Planning Ref: Pre-planning  
HER: ENF138301**

**July 2015**

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Client: Mr Alan Irvine  
Location: Land at Eagle Road, Erpingham, Norfolk, NR11 7QY  
District: North Norfolk  
Planning Reference: Pre-planning  
Grid Reference: TG 1920 3183  
HER No.: ENF138301  
OASIS ID: norfolka1-216052  
Dates of Fieldwork: 30 June 2 July 2015

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## **Summary**

*NPS Archaeology was commissioned by Alan Irvine, on behalf of his client, to carry out an archaeological evaluation ahead of development of a plot of land south of Eagle Road, Erpingham, Norfolk (TG 1920 3183).*

*The evaluation consisted of five trenches, four of which contained buried archaeological remains. These included four gullies of probable Late Saxon date, a pit of possible Neolithic date, and a number of pits of uncertain date.*

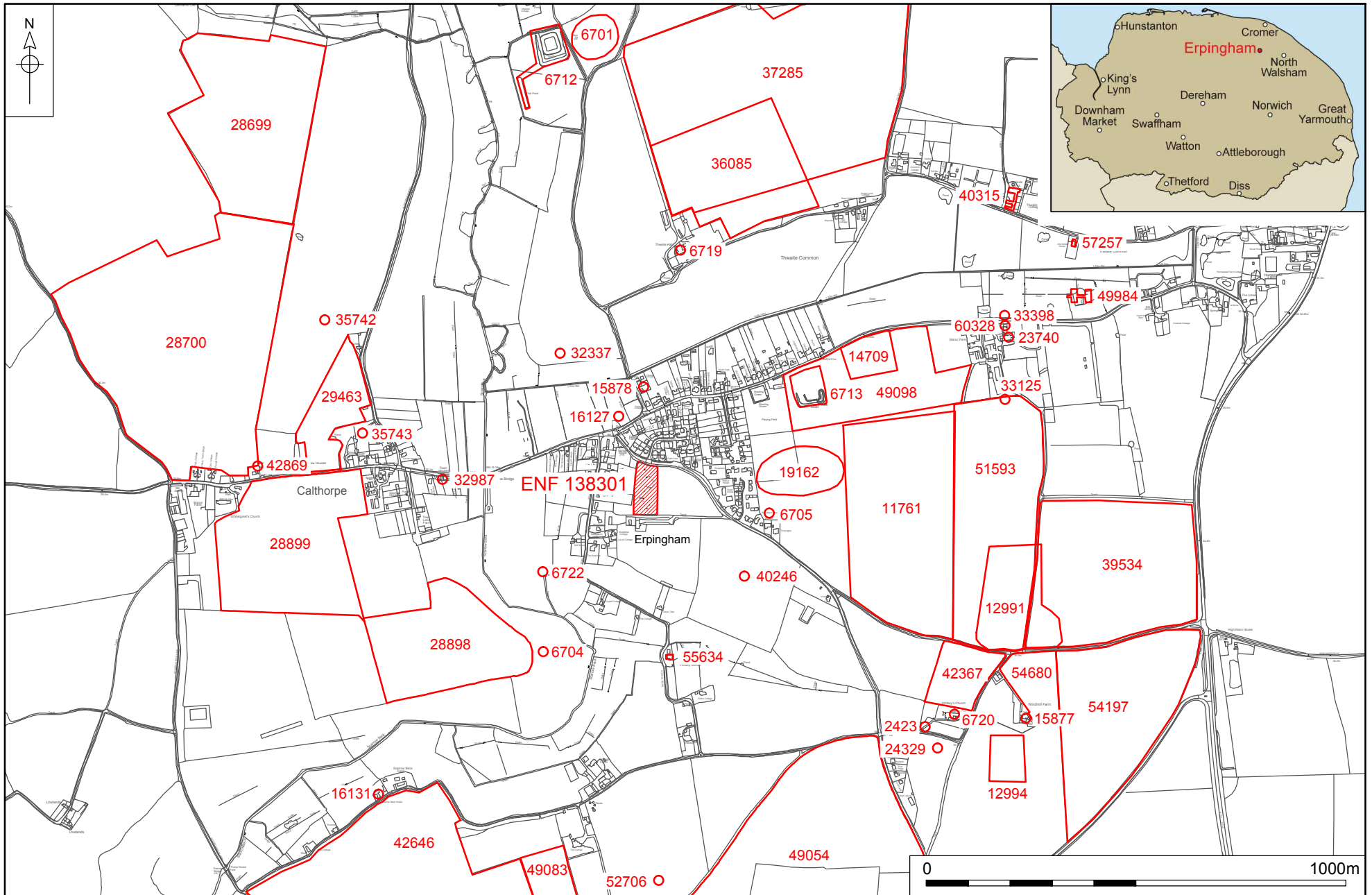
*The probable Late Saxon gullies included three on parallel east west alignments and one on a north south alignment, suggesting they were parts of a structured land division.*

*A small pit containing a large amount of fire-cracked and -shattered stones and a worked flint of possible Early Neolithic date was recorded. There was no evidence around the pit to suggest that the stones had resulted from an in situ fire, and it is likely therefore that they were deposited into the pit from elsewhere. Prehistoric burnt mounds have been recorded to the west of the village close to Scarrow Beck, so it is possible that the burnt stones in this evaluation are the result of comparable processes or from a similar mound in the vicinity of the site.*

*The undated pits, one of which contained the bones of a juvenile pig, may have been associated with former farm buildings, which occupied the southwest corner of the site until the later 19th century.*

Figure 1

- p NPS Archaeology was commissioned by Alan Irvine, on behalf of his client to carry out an archaeological evaluation of a potential development site at Eagle Road, Erpingham, Norfolk (TG 1920 3183).
- r The rectangular parcel of land for development lies on the south side of Eagle Road towards the south edge of the modern village and encompasses an area of c. 6500m<sup>2</sup>.
- s Little previous archaeological work has been undertaken in this part of Erpingham, and prior to the start of the evaluation there was scant information regarding the archaeological potential of the development site.
- t The archaeological evaluation consisted of five trenches arranged to provide a 5% sample of the development site.
  
- u The current work was undertaken to provide pre-planning information and was agreed in consultation with Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (no archaeological brief was set). The work was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by NPS Archaeology (01-04-16-2-1067/Bown 2015).
- v 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).
- y The results of the 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 1:12,500

## W

The site is underlain by deep deposits of sand and gravel of the Wroxham Crag Formation, formed around 2 million years ago in the Quaternary period. This is covered by superficial deposits of brickearth, made up of clay, silt and sand which are largely wind-blown deposits (British Geological Society 2015a)

There has been no geotechnical testing of the site, but borehole data available from the British Geological Survey shows depths of up to 0.75m of topsoil overlying 3.50m of brickearth along Eagle Road at TG 1937 3172 (British Geological Survey 2015b).

- po The topsoil (001) at the development site was loose, well worked silty loam, with frequent small stones and shattered flints. This deposit covered the entire site and is not discussed in *Results* below.
  
- pp The development site encompasses an area of 6500m<sup>2</sup> and occupies the west third of a field on the south side of Eagle Road. The site is at a general height of c. 22.50m above Ordnance datum (OD), although the field rises to the east.
- pr At the time of the evaluation, the site was under cultivation for biofuel; it had been ploughed and ridged, and crops were standing to 0.50m high in defined rows across the entire field.
- ps The site is bounded on its west side by the rear of properties fronting School Road, on its north and east sides by Eagle Road, and on its south side by a tree-lined access track to a farm.



**W**

**W**

- pt** 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 site at Eagle Road, NHER record data was purchased from Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service for a 1km radius from the centre of the site. This returned records of Listed Buildings, monuments and archaeological find spots providing evidence of activity spanning the prehistoric modern periods.
- pu** Historic maps of Erpingham were viewed at online sources (Norfolk County Council 2015; Old Maps 2015), which provided information on the layout and changes to the site and its environs from the mid-19th century.
- pv** A reference table listing dates for historical periods described in this report is provided in Appendix 5.

**W**

Figure 1

- py** The NHER contains 50 records of known archaeological and historical sites within 1km of the site. The NHER data that are most relevant to the current work are referenced and summarised below, along with details of any previous archaeological work in the vicinity. All of the NHER records are summarised in Tables 1-4.
- p** The information presented that is sourced from Norfolk Historic Environment Record remains copyright of Norfolk Historic Environment Service/Norfolk County Council.

**Prehistoric**

- p** Five records of prehistoric date are recorded by the NHER, although numerous records of multi-period and undated sites also contain prehistoric material.

<b>NHER number</b>	<b>Site name</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Summary description</b>
MNF29463		Prehistoric	Two prehistoric burnt mounds were recorded and pottery of Middle Saxon post-medieval date was recovered during field walking.
MNF44129		Iron Age	An Iron Age toggle recovered by metal detecting in 2004.
MNF6701		Bronze Age	Two Bronze Age perforated stone axe hammers found close to Somerton Wood in 1947 and 1951.
MNF6704		Early Neolithic Late Bronze Age	A Neolithic flint flaked axe head and flint flakes, along with a Bronze Age copper-alloy rapier recovered in 1968.
MNF6705		Beaker	A Beaker arrowhead recovered from a ploughed field in 1971.

Table 1. NHER prehistoric sites

- ro The majority of the records of prehistoric date are of artefacts recovered during episodes of field walking and metal detecting, activities that have been fairly extensive in the area. The presence of burnt mounds (MNF29463) recorded to the west of the site near to Scarrow Beck is interesting, given the recovery of heat-fractured stones by the current evaluation (see Trench 3).

### **Anglo-Saxon and medieval**

- rp There are 16 records of Anglo-Saxon or medieval date recorded by the NHER.

<b>NHER number</b>	<b>Site name</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Summary description</b>
MNF12994		Medieval	A cropmark on aerial photographs may be a medieval moat. Although there is no surface evidence for the moat or any buildings, the field is known locally as the probable site of a deserted medieval village.
MNF14709		Medieval	The site of a medieval moat that survives as an earthwork and is visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs. It may have been the site of a manor house that was subsequently replaced by another moated site (NHER 6713) nearby.
MNF24231		Middle Saxon	A sherd of Middle Saxon pottery recovered during field walking in 1987.
MNF24329		Middle Saxon Medieval	A fragment of Middle Saxon pottery and a medieval strap end buckle, recovered during field walking and metal detecting in 1988.
MNF32337		Medieval	A medieval coin recovered by metal detecting in the 1990s.
MNF32987		Medieval	A medieval Scottish coin found during building works in the 1990s.
MNF33125		Medieval	A medieval buckle recovered in the 1990s.
MNF33398		Medieval post-medieval	A medieval jetton, a medieval harness mount and a post-medieval coin weight recovered during separate phases of metal detecting between 1998 and 2009.
MNF39910		Medieval	A medieval coin from metal detecting in 2000.
MNF39911		Medieval	A medieval ampulla recovered by metal detecting in 2000.
MNF54197		Medieval post-medieval	A medieval coin and a post-medieval token recovered by metal detecting in 2005.
MNF54867		Medieval post-medieval	A medieval or post-medieval fishpond, which according to Erpingham House records used to stock the Serpentine in Hyde Park, London.
MNF57012	Find spot	Medieval post-medieval	Medieval and post-medieval metal objects recovered by metal detecting in 2006.
MNF6712		Medieval	The earthworks of a medieval moat, fishponds, a leat and other features survive on the site of Somerton Hall.
MNF6713		Medieval	Remains of a moat, a flint and tile bastion and retaining wall are probably part of the hall built by Sir Thomas Erpingham c. 1400.
MNF6720	St Mary's church	Medieval post-medieval	The parish church, which contains 13th-15th-century elements. The church may be built on an earlier church, and Middle-Late Saxon pottery has been recovered from the churchyard.

Table 2. NHER Anglo-Saxon and medieval sites

- rr** The sites recorded include several that appear to have been associated with the early establishment and development of Erpingham, including the site of the original 15th-century hall (MNF6713) and other possible medieval moated sites (MNF6712, MNF12994 and MNF14709), and the parish church (MNF6720).
- rs** The majority of the records relate to the recovery of Anglo-Saxon and medieval artefacts during many episodes of field walking and metal detecting in the area. Many of the multi-period records also contain Anglo-Saxon and/or medieval material.

***Post-medieval and modern***

- rt** Twelve sites of post-medieval and modern date are recorded by the NHER within 1km of the site.

<b>NHER number</b>	<b>Site name</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Summary description</b>
MNF15877		Post-medieval	The site of an early 19th-century windmill that was last used in the mid-20th century.
MNF15878	Thwaite Common Mill	Post-medieval	The site of an early 19th-century windmill.
MNF16131	Scarrow Beck House	Post-medieval	A brick house constructed in the 17th century, but much altered during the 19th century. A Grade II Listed Building.
MNF23740	Erpingham House	Post-medieval	Early 18th century brick house, with 19th-century alterations. A Grade II Listed Building.
MNF42869		Post-medieval	The site of a post-medieval saw pit, shown on early OS mapping.
MNF43781	Walpole Barns	Post-medieval	A group of 18th- and 19th-century barns and farm buildings now converted for residential and industrial use.
MNF60328	The Brewhouse	Post-medieval?	The Brewhouse at Erpingham House, no details available.
MNF61996	Erpingham Voluntary Controlled Primary School	Post-medieval modern	A school built by the Marquis of Lothian in 1862 and extended in 1874. The school closed in 1952/3.
MNF63625	The Old School and The Old School House	Post-medieval modern	The National School and attached teacher's house was built in 1835; it closed in 1934 and is now converted for residential use.
MNF6719	Thwaite Hall	Post-medieval	Constructed during the 16th or 17th century with alterations and extensions carried out in the 18th and 19th century. A Grade II Listed Building.
MNF6722		Post-medieval modern	The site of a post-medieval watermill which had been demolished by the 1970s.
MNF16127		Modern	A WWII Home Guard pillbox.

Table 3. NHER post-medieval and modern sites

- ru** All of the 12 NHER records of the post-medieval and later periods are for buildings or structures that have shaped the development of the modern village and landscape. The buildings range from the Grade II Listed Buildings of Thwaite Hall (MNF6719), Erpingham House (MNF23740) and Scarrow Beck House

(MNF16131), to agricultural buildings, such as the sites of former windmills (MNF15877 and MNF15878) and a former watermill (MNF6722), to two schools built during the 19th century (MNF61996 and MNF63625).

**Multi-period or undated**

- rv There are 17 multi-period or undated sites recorded by the NHER, the largest group of records within the 1km study area.

NHER number	Site name	Period	Summary description
MNF11761		Undated	A possible field system, made up of rectangular enclosures, along with a trackway and a possible building, has been recorded from cropmarks visible on aerial photographs. The cropmarks are undated. A mixed assemblage of multi-period artefacts have been recovered from the site, including worked prehistoric flints, Roman coins, a Late Saxon harness mount, medieval and post-medieval coins and metalwork.
MNF12991		Undated	Three rectangular enclosures visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs. Two of the enclosures contain cropmarks that have been tentatively interpreted as possible timber buildings. The cropmarks are undated, but a Late Saxon date for the timber buildings has been suggested. Metal detecting on the site recovered Neolithic flints, Late Saxon pottery, a Late Saxon box mount and a medieval seal.
MNF19162		Multi-period	A small number of Roman and medieval coins found by metal detecting.
MNF28699		Multi-period	Pottery ranging in date from the Roman to post-medieval periods, an Early Saxon girdle hanger and medieval and post-medieval metalwork recovered by field walking and metal detecting in the 1990s.
MNF28700		Multi-period	Cropmarks of a series of rectangular enclosures visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs. The enclosures are probably medieval and post-medieval and a fairly large assemblage of medieval and post-medieval pottery and metal objects has been recovered from the site by field walking and metal detecting. The field walking recovered a large assemblage of Roman pottery that suggests that there may also have been a Roman settlement on the site. Two prehistoric flint flakes have also been recovered from the site.
MNF28898		Multi-period	Sherds of pottery fragments from the Late Saxon post-medieval periods recovered by field walking in the 1990s.
MNF28899		Multi-period	Cropmarks of a double-ditched enclosure and other linear features, probable field boundaries, are visible on aerial photographs. The cropmarks are undated, but a large assemblage of medieval and post-medieval pottery and metal objects recovered by field walking and metal detecting suggests they

NHER number	Site name	Period	Summary description
			are probably medieval and post-medieval in date. Prehistoric flints and Roman pottery have also been recovered from the site.
MNF40302		Multi-period	Early Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead and a sherd of Roman pottery recovered by metal detecting in 2001
MNF41424		Multi-period	Prehistoric flint flakes, an Iron Age horse harness fitting, Roman coins, a brooch and a pin, Late Saxon stirrup strap mounts and medieval and post-medieval metal finds recovered by metal detecting between 2001 and 2006.
MNF42367		Multi-period	A Roman brooch and a medieval coin recovered by metal detecting in 2003.
MNF43189		Multi-period	A Roman coin and medieval and post-medieval coins and metalwork recovered by metal detecting in 2002.
MNF47386		Multi-period	A Late Bronze Age socketed axe head and medieval and post-medieval metal objects recovered by metal detecting in 2005.
MNF54196		Multi-period	Roman, Middle Saxon, medieval and post-medieval coins, and other metal objects, including a Roman brooch recovered by metal detecting in 2005 and 2006.
MNF54223		Multi-period	A Roman coin and medieval metal objects including a seal matrix recovered by metal detecting in 2006.
MNF54224		Multi-period	A prehistoric flint flake and a small group of medieval and post-medieval metal objects, including a medieval buckle and dagger recovered by metal detecting in 2006.
MNF54680		Multi-period	Two late prehistoric flints, three pieces of medieval pottery and medieval and post-medieval metal objects recovered during metal detecting in 2006.
MNF57798		Multi-period	A Mesolithic flint blade, a Middle Bronze Age palstave and medieval and post-medieval metal objects recovered by metal detecting between 2009 and 2011.

Table 4. NHER multi-period or undated sites

- ry The multi-period and undated sites are discussed together here as for the most part they are made up of the same two types of evidence: cropmarks recorded from aerial photograph mapping and/or finds recovered by the widespread field walking and metal detecting that has taken place in the area from the 1980s.
- r The sites identified as cropmarks from aerial photographs include enclosures, field boundaries and trackways of former field systems (MNF11761, MNF28700 and MNF28899) that are thought to be of likely medieval and post-medieval date, and a possible Anglo-Saxon settlement consisting of timber buildings set within enclosures (MNF12991).
- r All of the cropmark sites and the fields they lie within have been subject to field walking and metal detecting, and all have produced multi-period artefact

assemblages containing prehistoric flint tools and flakes and pottery, and metalwork of Roman, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval date.

- so** The majority of the multi-period and undated sites consist of records of episodic field walking and metal detecting, activities which have recovered a large amount of artefacts of all periods from the later prehistoric to modern.
- sp** As well as the possible Anglo-Saxon settlement site identified from aerial photographs (MNF12991), a possible Roman settlement in the area of the medieval and post-medieval cropmarks (MNF28700) is suggested from artefact assemblages recovered by field surface surveys.
- sr** None of the NHER records appear to have identified any precise focus or period-specific activity close to the evaluation site, but they do reflect the make-up of the small artefact assemblage recovered by the current work.
  
- ss** A review of maps for the development site from the 19th century onwards revealed that until the later 19th century the southwest corner of the site was occupied by a yard and outbuildings of a small farm.
- st** The early 19th-century Erpingham Enclosure Map records that the farm and the land encompassing the current site was owned by Richard Fish, who held much of the property on the east side of Parsonage Road (now School Road), which was not sub-divided as it is today (Norfolk County Council 2015). The map shows that the farm was reached via the existing track that runs into the site from School Road. The farm is shown with a house to the west accompanied by a separate yard to the east surrounded on its west, north and east sides by further buildings. The north and east buildings and the yard were inside the boundary of the current development site, but outside the evaluation trench locations.
- su** The farm and its surroundings was also shown, little changed, on the Erpingham parish Tithe Map of c. 1839 (Norfolk County Council 2015), but it had been removed by the time the Ordnance Survey First Edition map was published in 1886, when only a single building remained on the street front (Old Maps 2015).
- sv** All three of the 19th-century maps covering the area of the development site depict a field boundary running east west across the centre of the site, which survived until after World War Two as can be seen on an aerial photograph of 1946 (Norfolk County Council 2015). Later Ordnance Survey maps show that it was removed at some time between 1957 and 1971, when the existing large field was created from amalgamation of the two smaller land parcels either side of the boundary (Old Maps 2015).

Figure 2

- sy** Methodology for the evaluation followed the agreed WSI (01-04-16-2-1067/Bown 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).
- s** 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.
- s** The evaluation 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.
- to** The agreed WSI required that 5% of the site was sampled through the excavation of five trenches, covering a total of 252m<sup>2</sup>. The trenches were located according to the agreed plan and located in relation to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.
- tp** 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.
- tr** Machine excavation was carried out by a 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.
- ts** All surfaces revealed by machine were hand-cleaned where required and all archaeological deposits were excavated by hand. Upon completion of the work all trenches were backfilled by machine.
- tt** 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.
- tu** All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NPS Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and 35mm monochrome negatives and digital photographs were taken of all relevant archaeological features and deposits where appropriate.
- tv** The temporary benchmark used during the course of this work was transferred from an Ordnance Survey benchmark with a value of 20.98m OD, located on the wall of a building at Eagle Farm to the northeast of the site.
- ty** Site conditions were good and the work took place in very hot and dry weather.

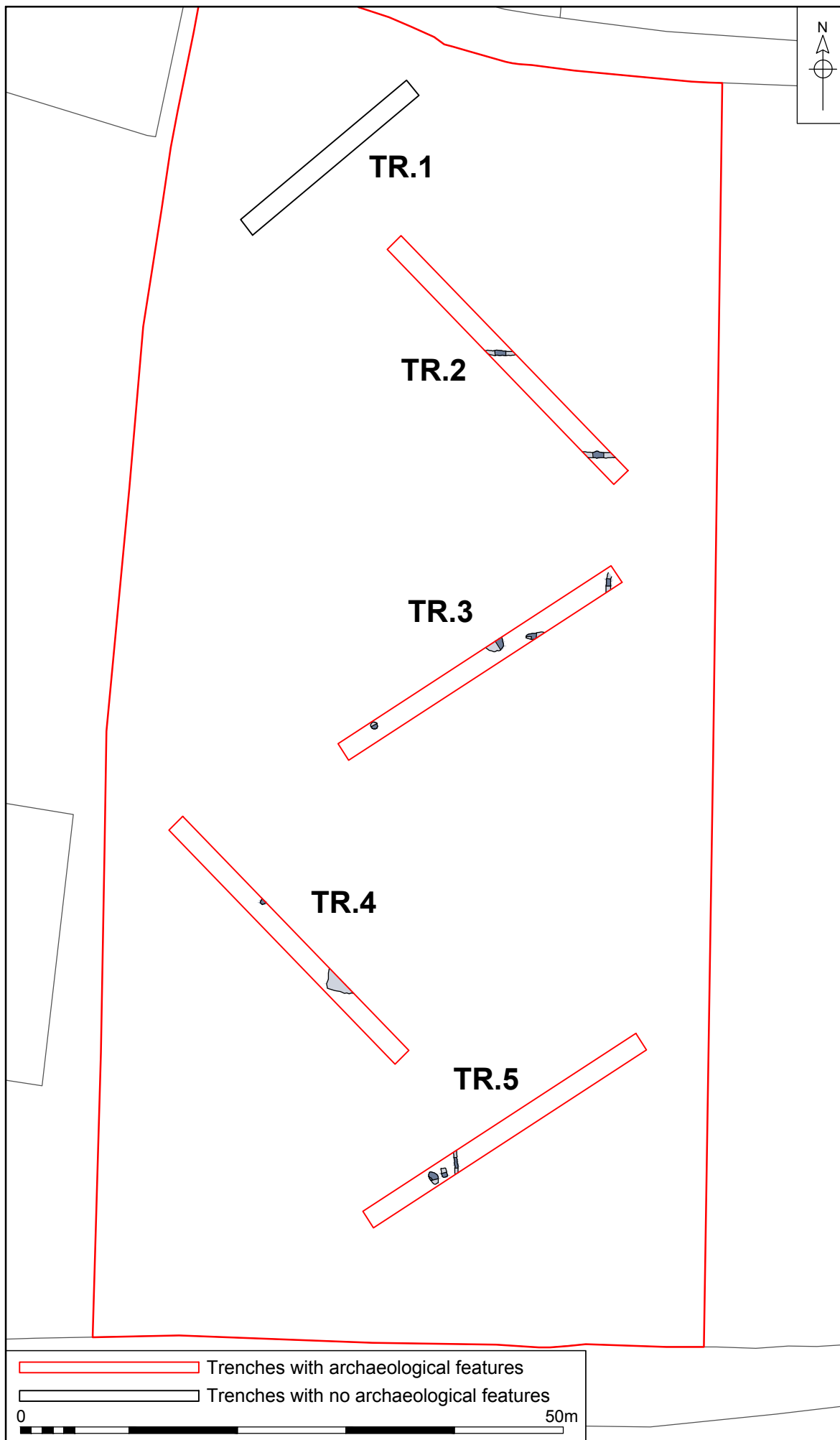



Figure 2. Location of trenches. Scale 1:500



- t All site work was undertaken with respect to Health and Safety provision. Hard hats, high-visibility vests and steel toe-capped boots were worn by all staff at all times.
  
- t 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.
  
- uo 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 norfolka1-216052 (Appendix 6), and this report will uploaded to the OASIS database.

- up Five trenches were excavated on a systematic grid pattern across the proposed development site.

Trench 1				
		<b>Figure 2; Plate 1</b>		
		<b>Location</b>		
		Orientation	Northeast southwest	
		Northeast end	619145 331841	
		Southwest end	619122 331822	
		<b>Dimensions</b>		
		Length	20.00m	
		Width	1.80m	
		Depth	0.80m	
		<b>Levels</b>		
Northeast top	23.10m OD			
Southwest top	22.60m OD			
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description and Interpretation</b>	<b>Thickness</b>	<b>Depth BGL</b>
001	Topsoil	Light silty loam topsoil, well worked and containing frequent small stones and fractured flints. This deposit was present in all trenches, but is not discussed further.	Up to 0.75m	
<b>Discussion</b>				
There were no archaeological features or deposits in Trench 1.				

## Trench 2



Plate 2 General northwest view of Trench 2

### Figures 2 and 3; Plates 2 and 3

#### Location

Orientation Northwest southeast

Northwest end 619143 331826

Southeast end 619164 331805

#### Dimensions

Length 30.00m

Width 1.80m

Depth 0.75m

#### Levels

Northwest top 22.94m OD

Southeast top 24.24m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth
002	Cut	E W gully running across the trench		0.13m
003	Deposit	Fill of gully 002	0.13m	
004	Cut	E W gully running across the trench		0.12m
005	Deposit	Fill of gully 004	0.12m	

#### Discussion

Two parallel shallow gullies **002 004** were recorded in Trench 2. Both were aligned east west and both extended beyond the sides of the trench.

Gully **002** was 0.40m wide x 0.13m deep and had a steep north side and a gentler south side leading to a rounded base. It was filled with a single fill **003** of pale grey/brown silty sand, which contained a small assemblage of 10th 11th-century pottery.

Gully **004** was 8.00m to the south of **002** and measured 0.45m wide x 0.12m deep. It had a reasonably steep north side and a gentler south side leading to a rounded base. It was filled with a single fill **005** of pale grey/brown silty sand, similar to that filling gully **002**. Fill **005** contained no artefacts in the excavated section.

The similarities between the shape, fills and alignment of the two gullies suggests that they may have been associated and it is reasonable to suggest that they were part of a system of gullies, which were potentially land divisions, laid out in the 10th 11th century.

**Trench 2**



Plate 3. Gully **002** in Trench 2

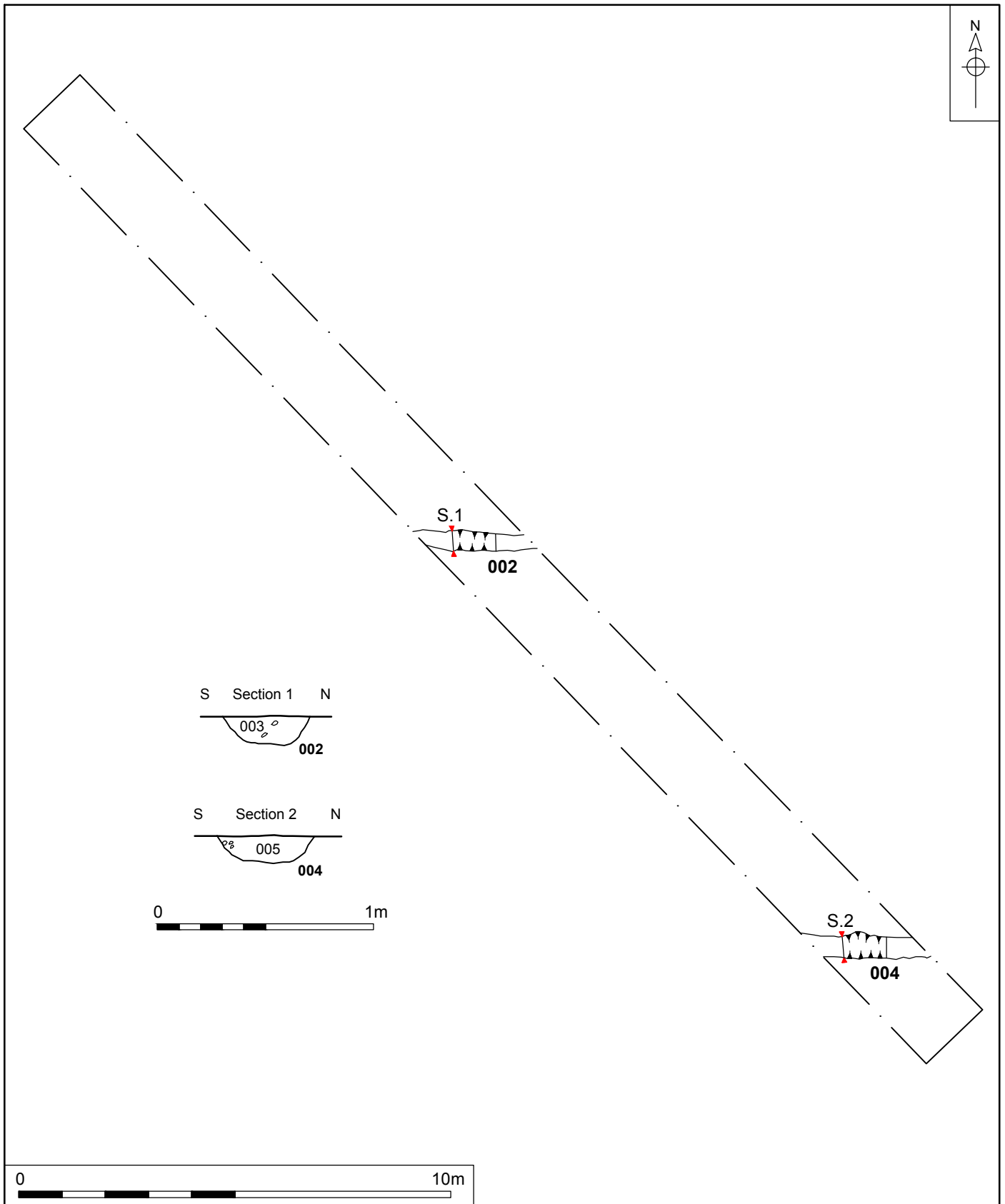


Figure 3. Trench 2, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

## Trench 3



Plate 4. General southwest view of Trench 3

**Figures 2 and 4; Plates 4, 5, 6 and 7**

### Location

Orientation Northeast southwest

Northeast end 619164 331796

Southwest end 619138 331779

### Dimensions

Length 30.00m

Width 1.80m

Depth 0.60m

### Levels

Northeast top 23.76m OD

Southwest top 22.97m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
<b>010</b>	Cut	N-S gully running across the trench		0.14m
<b>011</b>	Deposit	Fill of gully <b>010</b>	0.14m	
<b>012</b>	Cut	Terminus of N-S gully running part of the way across the trench		0.30m
<b>013</b>	Deposit	Fill of gully <b>012</b>	0.30m	
<b>014</b>	Cut	Pit		0.35m
<b>015</b>	Deposit	Fill of pit <b>014</b>	0.35m	
<b>016</b>	Cut	Pit		0.15m
<b>017</b>	Deposit	Fill of pit <b>016</b>	0.15m	

### Discussion

A shallow north south gully **010** ran across part of the northeast end of Trench 3. The exposed part of the gully measured 0.40m wide x 0.14m deep. The sides were gently sloping to a rounded base. It was filled by a single fill of pale grey/brown silty sand **011**, which in the excavated section contained no artefacts or dating evidence. The similarity of this gully to the east west gullies **002** and **004** in Trench 1 suggest it may have been part of the same system of gullies.

A possible terminus of an east west gully or small ditch **012** extended c. 1.50m into the southeast side of the trench. It was 0.50m wide x 0.30m deep and the southwest, terminus, end of the feature sloped gently to a generally flat base, but the two sides were steep. The single fill was pale grey/brown silty sand **013**, which contained a single sherd of very abraded Roman pottery. This feature was deeper than gully **010** or gullies **002** and **004** in Trench 2, but its alignment and the comparable nature of its fill suggests that it could have formed a part of the same system of gullies.

Five metres southwest of **012** was a pit **014** that extended 1.00m into the northwest edge of the trench. The exposed part of the pit was 1.70m wide x 0.35m deep with gently sloping sides leading to a relatively flat base. It was filled by a single fill of mid-grey/brown silty sand, which contained no artefacts or dating evidence.

### Trench 3

At the southwest end of Trench 3, a small pit **018** measured 0.70m in diameter x 0.15m deep. The pit had steep, almost vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill mostly made-up of fire-cracked stone and charcoal **017**, which produced a single piece of struck flint of possible Early Neolithic date. The fill appeared to have been residue from a quite intense fire, but there was no apparent discolouring around the edges of the pit to suggest that the fire had been set in the pit, so it is presumed that the stones were deposited here from a fire site elsewhere.



Plate 5. Gully terminus **012** in Trench 3



Plate 6. Pit **014** in Trench 3

**Trench 3**



Plate 7. Pit **016** in Trench 3



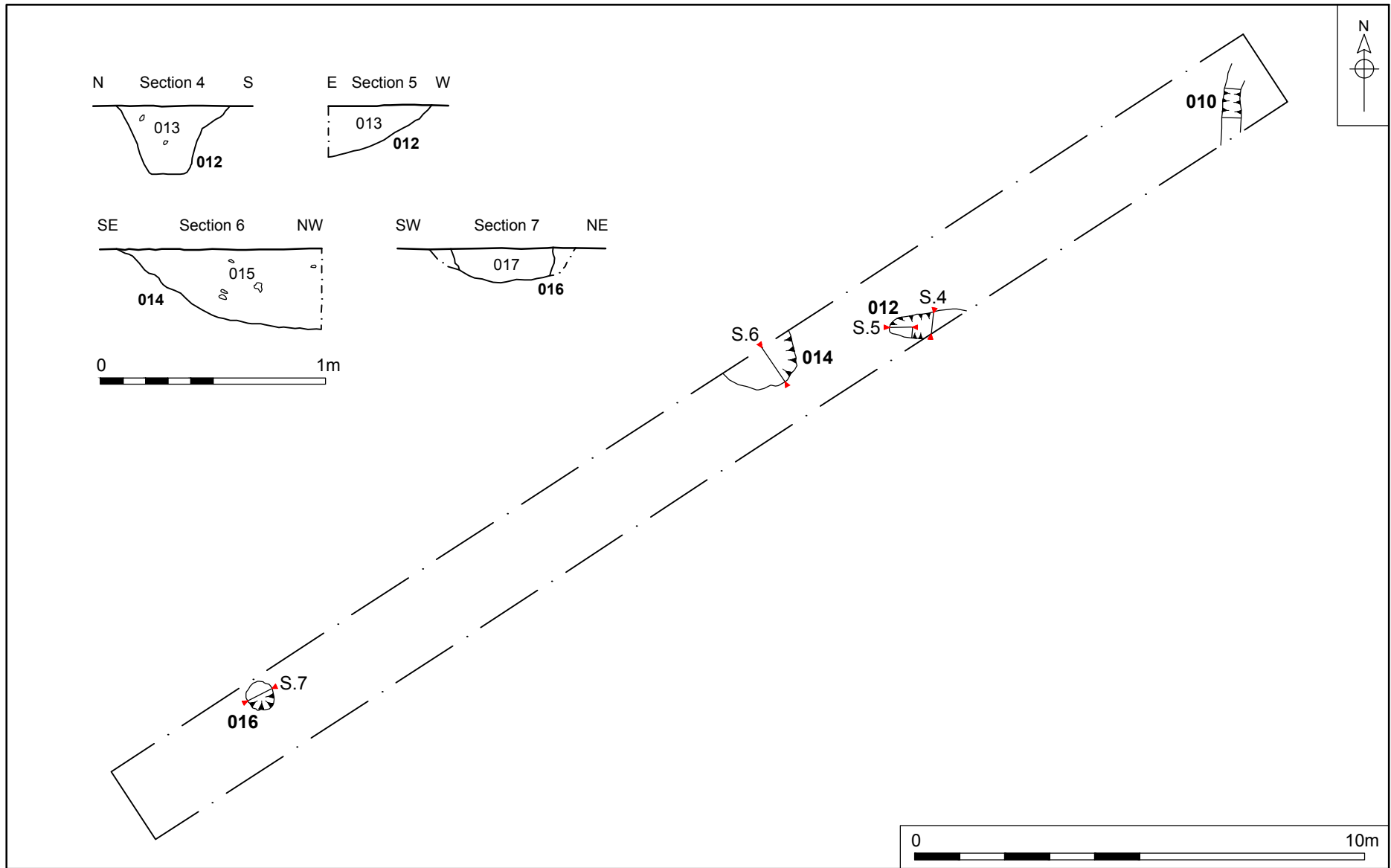


Figure 4. Trench 3, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

## Trench 4



Plate 8. General northwest view of Trench 4

**Figures 2 and 5; Plates 8 and 9**

### Location

Orientation Northwest southeast

Northwest end 619123 331773

Southeast end 619144 331751

### Dimensions

Length 30.00m

Width 1.80m

Depth 0.70m

### Levels

Northwest top 22.40m OD

Southeast top 23.19m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
<b>006</b>	Cut	Pit or area of modern disturbance		Over 1.50m
<b>007</b>	Deposit	Fill of <b>006</b>	Over 1.50m	
<b>008</b>	Cut	Pit		0.20m
<b>009</b>	Deposit	Fill of pit <b>008</b>	0.20m	

### Discussion

An area of possible modern disturbance consisting of part of a pit **006** extending 1.50m in to the northeast side of Trench 4 was recorded towards the southeast end. It was filled with a single fill **007** of brown silty clay, which contained fragments of modern brick (not collected) throughout the exposed depth, c. 1.50m. There was no indication what the pit/disturbance was for, although its proximity to the former farm buildings recorded on the Erpingham Enclosure Map and parish Tithe Map, just inside the southwest edge of the development site, suggests the possibility that it may have been associated with the working of the farm, or perhaps even the demolition/disposal of the buildings.

Towards the northwest end of Trench 4, a small pit **008** extended 0.40m into the trench. It was shallow, 0.20m deep, and had gently sloping sides and a slightly uneven, but rounded base. The pit was filled by a single fill of brown silty clay **009**, which contained a small number of bones from a pig less than two-months old. There were no signs of butchering on the bones, but young pigs could be cooked whole, so the pig may not have required any significant butchering, if indeed it was eaten. No dating evidence was recovered from pit **008**, but its position towards the south of the site may suggest that the pig burial it contained originated from the former farm that lay within the southwest edge of the development site.

**Trench 4**



Plate 9. Pit **008** in Trench 4

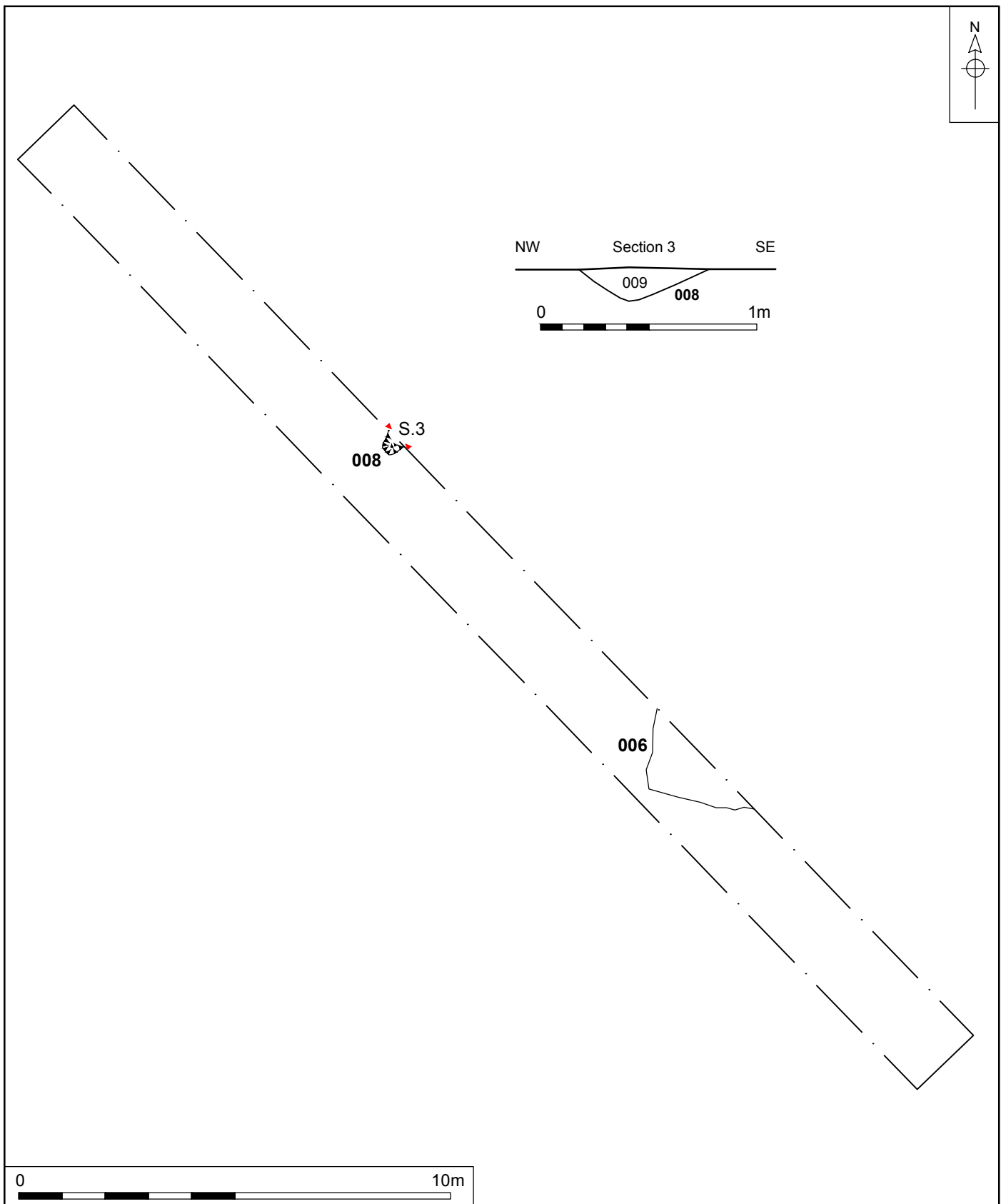


Figure 5. Trench 4, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

## Trench 5



Plate 10. General southwest view of Trench 5

### Figures 2 and 6; Plates 10, 11 and 12

#### Location

Orientation Northeast southwest

Northeast end 619166 331753

Southwest end 619141 331736

#### Dimensions

Length 30.00m

Width 1.80m

Depth 0.75m

#### Levels

Northeast top 24.10m OD

Southwest top 23.23m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
018	Cut	Modern gully/plough scar		0.06m
019	Deposit	Fill of gully/plough scar <b>018</b>	0.06m	
020	Cut	Pit		0.20m
021	Deposit	Fill of pit <b>020</b>	0.20mm	
022	Cut	Pit		0.20m
023	Deposit	Fill of pit <b>022</b>	0.20mm	

#### Discussion

Two small pits **020** **022** were recorded near to the southwest end of Trench 5. Pit **020** was ovoid and measured 0.80m x 0.50m and up to 0.20m deep. It had a steep south side and a more gently sloping north side leading to a flat base. The pit was filled by a single fill of dark brown silty clay **021**.

One metre southwest of **020**, pit **022** was oval and measured 1.00m x 0.75m x up to 0.20m deep. Like pit **020**, pit **022** had a steep north side and a more gently sloping south side leading to a flat base. The pit was filled by a single fill of dark brown silty clay **022**. The similarities between the features and their fills suggest that they may have been associated, either in use or in date, but neither contained any artefacts or dating evidence, so these aspects remain unknown.

To the north of the pits, a shallow, irregular east west linear feature **018** ran across the full width of the trench and beyond both sides. It was up to 0.50m wide x 0.08m deep and contained a single fill of brown silty clay **019**, which produced fragments of 19th- or 20th-century pottery and a fragment of roof tile. The irregular nature of the feature suggests that it may not have been deliberately dug, but it may have been caused by agricultural deep ploughing, or ripping.

The proximity of Trench 5 to the positions of the former farm buildings shown on the Erpingham Enclosure and Tithe Maps suggests that the pits may well have been associated with activity on the farm and are consequently likely to be 19th-century in date.

**Trench 5**



Plate 11. Pit **020** in Trench 5



Plate 12. Pit **022** in Trench 5

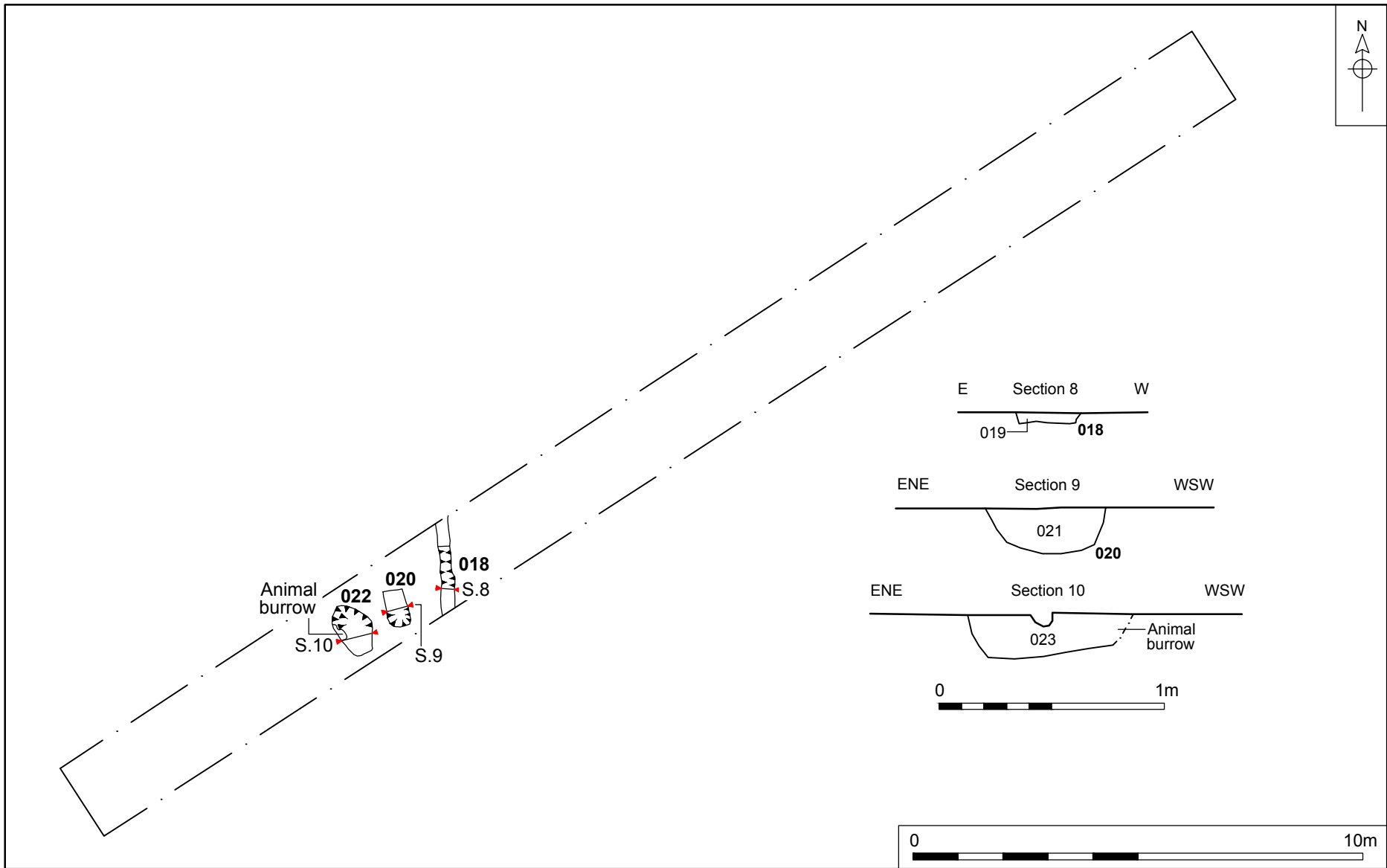


Figure 6. Trench 5, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS

- 52 The archaeological materials were washed, dried, marked and bagged and were recorded by count and weight. Data was entered onto an Excel spreadsheet, which forms part of the project archive. A discussion of each material type is given below. Appendix 2a comprises a list of all archaeological materials found by the evaluation in context number order.

### Ceramics

#### *Roman pottery*

- 53 A single sherd (3g) of Roman pottery was found in gully fill **013**. The piece is a highly abraded body sherd of sandy grey ware, the ubiquitous reduced coarse ware produced throughout the Roman period in the region. Kilns producing this type of fabric have been recorded at Upper Sheringham (Howlett 1960) and Hevingham, c. 11km to the north and south of Erpingham respectively, though other local production in domestic kilns is nearly certain.

#### *Post-Roman pottery*

- 54 Nine sherds of post-Roman pottery (93g) were recovered from two contexts. A summary catalogue by context is included as Appendix 3 and the full catalogue is available as an Access database in the project archive.
- 55 Seven sherds (78g) of Thetford-type ware (THET) were recovered from gully fill **003**. They comprised four sherds of a thick-walled vessel, two smaller body sherds, and a medium jar rim of type 5 (Anderson 2004), all showing signs of abrasion. The fabric was relatively coarse in comparison with Thetford wares from Norwich and Thetford, and was more like the fabrics of the known rural production sites at Grimston and Langhale, Kirstead. Comparison of the Erpingham sherds with samples from both these kiln sites suggests that the former may have been made at another source, although they were closest to the Grimston Thetford ware examples. Similar 'local' Thetford-type fabrics have been identified at Itteringham (Anderson 2009).
- 56 Two sherds were recovered from gully fill **019**, both probably 19th- or early 20th-century refined whitewares (REFW). One was undecorated and the other was a fragment of a flatware base with blue transfer-print willow pattern decoration internally and a maker's mark (a hand-painted C) on the underside.

#### *Tile*

- 57 One fragment (101g) of pan tile was collected from gully fill 019 and is listed in the catalogue in Appendix 4. It is in a fine sandy fabric with moderate ferrous and sparse micaceous inclusions. The fragment has a roughly cut corner and it is of post-medieval date, 17th-century or later.

### Worked flint

- 58 A single piece (2g) of worked flint was found in pit fill **017**. The piece is a broad, thin debitage flake with a pronounced bulb of percussion, suggesting that it was removed by hard-hammer percussion.



- u** The ridges exhibited on the remnant of the striking platform and the limited dorsal scars suggest that this may represent the trimming or preparation of the platform of a blade-producing core, probably earlier Neolithic, although based on such limited evidence it is possible that the flake could date to either the Neolithic period or the Early Bronze Age.
- vo** A single context, pit fill **007**, produced faunal remains. The assemblage consists of seven pieces weighing a total of 57g.
- vp** The remains all belong to a juvenile pig and consist of two femurs, the unfused head of one femur and four pelvic fragments. All of the bones are in good condition, but the bones are very porous and unfused, suggesting an age for the piglet of less than two-months old. There is no butchering evidence on any of the remains.
- vr** The lack of butchering might suggest that the animal was not used for food. However, young pigs are often cooked whole and in such cases little or no butchering is required to remove meat from the bone.
- vs** The archaeological finds from the evaluation at Erpingham point to some activity during more than one period in the vicinity of the development site. However, the assemblage is very small and cannot be used as evidence of widespread or intensive activity or events at this point.
- vt** Possibly the only *in situ* material is the Late Saxon pottery, which was recovered from gully **002**. Only seven sherds were found, but they are in crisp, non-abraded condition, and are not likely to have travelled far from their point of deposition, unlike the single small, highly worn Roman piece.
- vu** The other material includes the undiagnostic sherd of Roman pottery, a possible Early Neolithic flint, a post-medieval roof tile fragment, and two pieces of relatively modern pottery. Animal bone was also recovered, although this cannot be dated.

- vv** The evaluation by NPS Archaeology at Eagle Road, Erpingham revealed a small number of buried archaeological features distributed across four of the five trenches excavated. The features displayed some pattern in their distribution, with four gullies **002, 004, 010, 012** recorded towards the centre of the site in Trenches 2 and 3, and a number of undated pits recorded in Trenches 4 and 5 towards the south end of the site.
- vy** Two of the gullies **002 012** produced dating evidence, with 10th 11th-century pottery recovered from **002** and a sherd of Roman pottery from gully **012**. Even though only two of the gullies produced datable pottery, the similarities between their forms, alignments and fills suggests they were parts of the same system of land division, which was probably laid out in the 10th 11th century. As the gullies were only recorded in Trenches 2 and 3 in the centre of the site, that system may have been small and localised.
- v** The shallowness of the gullies suggests that there may have been some truncation by later ploughing across the site. The gullies may represent the survival of the bases only of once-deeper features.
- v** The burnt stone and possible Early Neolithic flint in pit **016** in Trench 3 do not appear to have been the result of an *in situ* fire and were therefore deposited from elsewhere. Prehistoric burnt mounds are known to the west of the village close to Scarrow Beck, so it is possible that one, or more, were also present within the vicinity of the site if contemporary conditions were favourable.
- yo** The undated pits recorded towards the south end of the development site in Trenches 4 and 5 could obviously date from any historical period, but their positions close to the former farm yard and buildings that occupied the southwest corner of the site suggest that they may likely be associated with the farm and of post-medieval and/or modern date.
- yp** 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 Mr Alan Irvine for commissioning the archaeological evaluation.

Staff of the NHER are thanked for data provision and project monitoring.

For NPS Archaeology, the fieldwork was conducted by Nigel Page. Sue Anderson reported on the post-Roman pottery and the brick and tile. Julie Curl reported on the animal bone. Andrew Peachey reported on the Roman pottery and worked flint. Rebecca Sillwood compiled the archaeological finds report and conclusions. Louise Weetman processed the finds.

The project was overseen by Jayne Bown.

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
001	Deposit			Light silty loam topsoil, well worked and containing frequent small stones and fractured flints.	Modern	All
002	Cut	Gully		Aligned east west, 0.40m wide x 0.13m deep.	10th 11th century	2
003	Deposit		002	Pale grey/brown silty sandy clay, containing occasional small stones and shattered flint and Late Saxon pottery.	10th 11th century	2
004	Cut	Gully		Aligned east west, 0.45m wide x 0.13m deep.	10th 11th century?	2
005	Deposit		004	Pale grey/brown silty sandy clay, containing occasional small stones and shattered flint.	10th 11th century?	2
006	Cut	Pit/modern disturbance		Straight-sided cut, at least 1.50m deep, appeared to be machine dug pit or modern disturbance.	Modern	4
007	Deposit		006	Brown silty clay, containing occasional large flint stones and brick fragments.	Modern	4
008	Cut	Pit		Small, possible circular pit, c. 0.50m diameter x 0.20m deep.	Modern?	4
009	Deposit		008	Brown silty clay, containing occasional small fragments of shattered flint and animal bones.	Modern?	4
010	Cut	Gully		Aligned east west, 0.40m wide x 0.14m deep.	10th 11th century?	3
011	Deposit		010	Pale grey/brown silty sand, containing occasional small stones and shattered flint.	10th 11th century?	3
012	Cut	Gully		Terminus of a north south aligned gully, 0.50m wide x 0.30m deep.	10th 11th century	3
013	Deposit		012	Pale grey/brown silty sand, containing occasional small stones and shattered flint and one sherd of Roman pottery.	10th 11th century	3
014	Cut	Pit		Large pit partially exposed in the trench, 1.75m x 1.00m and 0.30m deep.	Undated	3
015	Deposit		014	Mid-grey/brown silty sandy clay containing very occasional small stones and fragments of shattered flint.	Undated	3
016	Cut	Pit		Small, 0.75m diameter x 0.15m deep pit.	Neolithic?	3

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
017	Deposit		016	Dark grey black silty clay containing a large amount of heat shattered stones and charcoal.	Neolithic?	3
018	Cut	Gully/Plough scar		Shallow and irregular linear feature running across the width of the trench.	Modern	5
019	Deposit		018	Dark brown silty clay	Modern	5
020	Cut	Pit		Ovoid pit, measuring 0.80m x 0.50m and up to 0.20m deep	Modern?	5
021	Deposit		020	Dark brown silty clay, containing frequent small stones and fragments of shattered flint.	Modern?	5
022	Cut	Pit		Ovoid pit, measuring 1.00m x 0.75m and up to 0.20m deep	Modern?	5
023	Deposit		022	Brown silty clay, containing frequent small stones and fragments of shattered flint.	Modern?	5

### Appendix 1b: Feature Summary

Period	Category	Total
Neolithic	Pit	1
Late Saxon	Gully	4
Modern	Gully/plough scar	1
Undated	Pit	4

## Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
3	Pottery	7	78g	Late Saxon	10th 11th century
9	Animal bone	7	57g	Unknown	
13	Pottery	1	3g	Roman	
17	Worked flint	1	2g	Early Neolithic	
19	Brick/Tile	1	101g	Post-medieval	Roof tile
19	Pottery	2	15g	Post-medieval	19th-early 20th century

## Appendix 2b: Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Early Neolithic	Worked flint	1
Roman	Pottery	1
Late Saxon	Pottery	7
Post-medieval	Tile	1
	Pottery	2

## Appendix 3: Post-Roman Pottery Catalogue

Context	Fabric	Form	Rim	No	Wt/g	MNV	Spot date
03	THET			4	57	1	10th 11th century
03	THET			2	3	2	10th 11th century
03	THET	AB	5	1	18	1	10th 11th century
19	REFW			1	2	1	19th 20th century
19	REFW	PL?		1	13	1	19th 20th century

## Appendix 4: Tile Catalogue

Context	Fabric	Form	No	Wt/g	Comments	Date
19	fsfe	PAN	1	101	Sparse mica. Roughly cut corner	post-medieval

## Appendix 5: 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
Anglo-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 6: 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: norfolka1-216052**

#### Project details

Project name	Land south of Eagle Road, Erpingham
Short description of the project	NPS Archaeology was commissioned by Alan Irvine, on behalf of his client, to carry out an archaeological evaluation ahead of development of a plot of land south of Eagle Road, Erpingham, Norfolk (TG 1920 3183). The evaluation consisted of five trenches, four of which contained buried archaeological remains. These included four gullies of probable Late Saxon date, a pit of possible Neolithic date, and a number of pits of uncertain date. The probable Late Saxon gullies included three on parallel east-west alignments and one on a north-south alignment, suggesting they were parts of a structured land division. A small pit containing a large amount of fire-cracked and -shattered stones and a worked flint of possible Early Neolithic date was recorded. There was no evidence around the pit to suggest that the stones had resulted from an in situ fire, and it is likely therefore that they were deposited into the pit from elsewhere. Prehistoric burnt mounds have been recorded to the west of the village close to Scarrow Beck, so it is possible that the burnt stones in this evaluation are the result of comparable processes or from a similar mound in the vicinity of the site. The undated pits, one of which contained the bones of a juvenile pig, may have been associated with former farm buildings, which occupied the southwest corner of the site until the later 19th century.
Project dates	Start: 30-06-2015 End: 02-07-2015
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	138301 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	GULLY Modern
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	GULLY Early Medieval
Monument type	PIT Neolithic
Significant Finds	CERAMIC Early Medieval
Significant Finds	CERAMIC Post Medieval

Significant Finds	CERAMIC Roman
Significant Finds	FLINT Neolithic
Methods & techniques	"Sample 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 ERPINGHAM Land south of Eagle Road, Erpingham, Norfolk
Postcode	NR11 7QY
Study area	252.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TG 1920 3183 52.8388394004 1.25495571572 52 50 19 N 001 15 17 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 22.50m Max: 22.50m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	NPS Archaeology
Project brief originator	None
Project design originator	None
Project director/manager	Nigel Page
Project supervisor	NPS Archaeology

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Norfolk Museums Service
Physical Contents	"Animal Bones","Ceramics"
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","Miscellaneous Material","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Title Land at Eagle Road, Erpingham, Norfolk, NR11 7QY. Archaeological evaluation  
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Other bibliographic details 2015/1067  
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Place of issue or publication Norwich

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Entered on 23 July 2015

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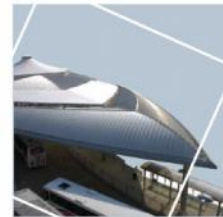
## **Appendix 7: Archaeological Specification**

01-04-16-2-1067



**Archaeological Evaluation  
Eagle Road, Erpingham, Norfolk  
Written Scheme of Investigation (version 3)**

**Prepared for**  
Alan Irvine



NPS Archaeology

June 2015



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

Location	Eagle Road, Erpingham, Norfolk
District	North Norfolk
Client	Alan Irvine

<b>REVIEW CHECKLIST</b>		
Completed by	Jayne Bown	25/06/2015
Reviewed by	Niall Oakey	25/06/2015
<i>Version 1</i>		
Revised by	Jayne Bown	29/06/2015
<i>Version 2</i>		
Revised by	Jayne Bown	29/06/2015
<i>Version 3</i>		

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01-04-16-2-1067

NPS Archaeology

# Archaeological Evaluation

## Written Scheme of Investigation

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Proposals for residential development of approximately 0.6ha of land south of Eagle Road, Erpingham in Norfolk (TG 1920 3183). Pre-application advice was sought from Norfolk Historic Environment Service (NHES). The archaeological works were defined by Kelly Powell of NHES (email correspondence 27 April 2015) who specified that trial trench evaluation was required.
- 1.2 Alan Irvine on behalf of his client 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 NHES.
- 1.3 The development area (hereafter “the Site”) is located on the south side of Eagle Road in Erpingham, to the south of the main village.
- 1.4 No known heritage assets are recorded within the Site and none are located within 150m. The closest are a World War Two pillbox to the north (NHER 16127), the site of a post-medieval windmill (NHER 15878) also to the north and a Beaker arrowhead (NHER 6702) found in 1971 to the southeast. St Mary’s Church NHER 6720 lies away from the village to its southeast and St Margaret’s Church, Calthorpe, is located to the west, in a similarly isolated position.
- 1.5 No previous archaeological investigation has taken place on the Site or in its immediate vicinity.
- 1.6 The absence of existing information on the archaeological potential of the Site makes it difficult to identify how archaeological evaluation of the Site will address regional archaeological research objectives. However the results may inform research questions for archaeology in the east of England

### 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:
  - i. *To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the Site.*
  - 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 Site. The stages of this strategy may be summarised as follows.

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

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

*iii. Report and Archive.* The report will describe the results of the trial trenching with data presented in tabular, graphic and appendix form. Copies of the reports will be submitted to the client and to 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 Five trenches, four measuring 30m x 1.8m and one measuring 20m x 1.8m will be excavated to provide a 4% sample of the archaeological potential of the Site (see Figure 1).

3.2.3 No plan of the proposed development is available so 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 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 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 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 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 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 Historic England 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* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014). 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 Copies of the report will be produced as required and presented to Alan Irvine for his client and to NHES (pdf). One unbound copy and a pdf version of the approved report will be supplied to NHES. 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 record will include uploading a pdf version of the final report.
- 3.4.5 A single integrated archive for all elements of the work will be prepared according to the recommendations set out in *Environmental standards for the permanent storage of excavated material from archaeological sites* (UKIC, Conservation Guidelines 3, 1984) and *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (Walker 1990), and in accordance with the Norfolk Museums Service's own requirements for archive preparation, storage and conservation.
- 3.4.6 The archive will be fully indexed and cross-referenced. It will also be integrated with the Norfolk Museums Service's Project accession number and the Norfolk Historic Environment Record numbering system. Deposition of the archive and finds (by prior agreement with the landowners) will take place within six months of the completion of the

final report and confirmed in writing to the Norfolk Museums Service (NMS). A full listing of archive contents and finds boxes will accompany the deposition of the archive and finds. If NMS are not making new archive accessions and there is no confirmation of when new archives will be accepted, NPS Archaeology reserve the right to make alternative arrangements,

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

## 4. Timetable

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

## 5. Staffing

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

<b>Project Management</b>	
Archaeology Manager	Jayne Bown <i>MCIfA</i>
Project Manager	Niall Oakey <i>MCIfA</i>
<b>Project Staff</b>	
Project Officer	Nigel Page <i>MCIfA</i>
Finds Officer	Becky Sillwood <i>ACIfA</i>
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 NHES.
- 5.5 The analysis of artefactual and ecofactual materials will be undertaken by NPS Archaeology staff or nominated external specialists. Nominated NPS Archaeology and external specialists and their areas of expertise are as follows:

### 5.5.1 Specialists used NPS Archaeology

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

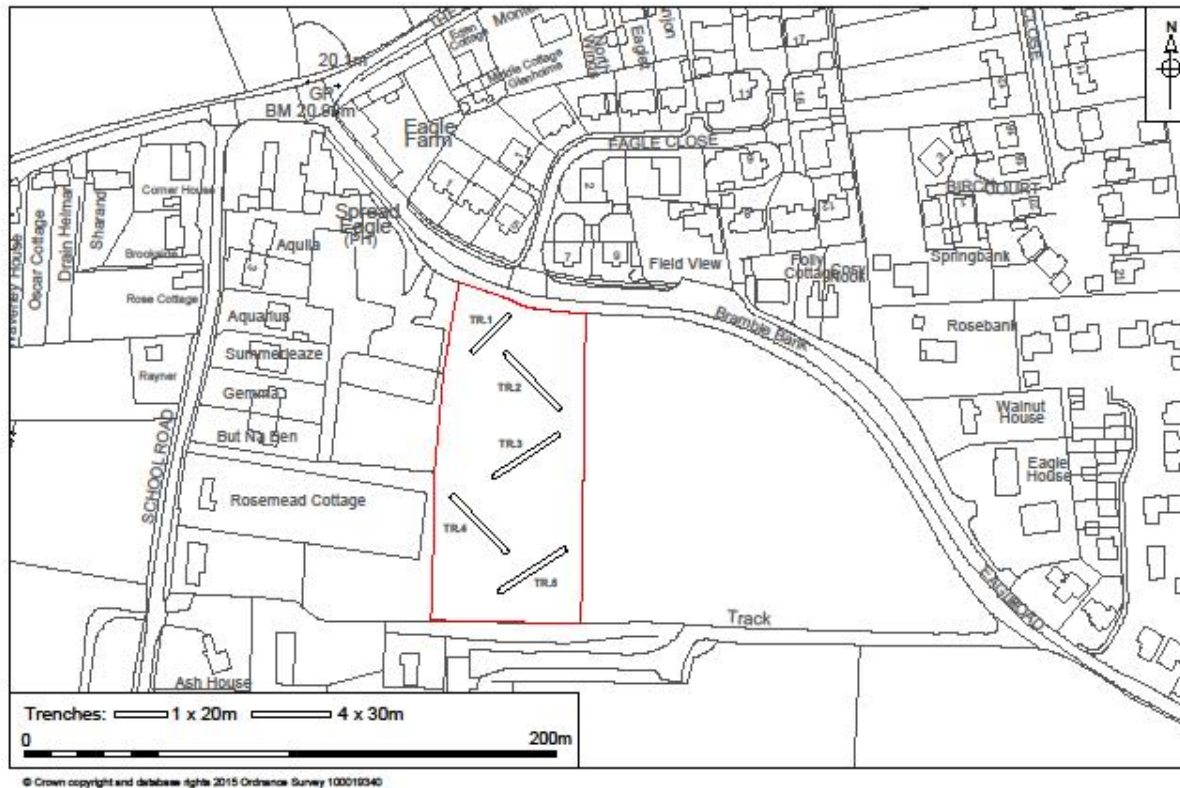
## 9. Insurance

- 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.





01-04-16-2-1067 Land at Eagle Road, Erpingham. Archaeological trench layout v2.  
Scale 1:2000 at A4

Fig. 1: Proposed Trench Locations