

2020/103637

**Land off Crown Lane,
Little Fransham, Norfolk**

Informative Trial Trenching



Prepared for: Mr J Mallon

OASIS Ref: norfolka1-377172

Grid Ref: TF 9051 1206

Planning Ref: 3PL/2018/0996/O

NMS No.: NWHCM 2020.21

NCCES Ref: CNF48427

HER: ENF147319

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Client:	Mr J Mallon
Location:	Land off Crown Lane, Little Fransham, Norfolk
District:	Breckland
Planning Reference:	3PL/2018/0996/O
Grid Reference:	TF 9051 1206
HER No.:	ENF147319
OASIS ID:	norfolka1-386174
Dates of Fieldwork:	20th-24th January 2020

Summary

In January 2020 NPS Archaeology carried out informative trial trenching on land off Crown Lane, Little Fransham, Norfolk. These archaeological works were carried out to fulfil planning conditions in advance of proposed residential development. The brief was set by the Norfolk County Council Environment Service with the fieldwork and reporting funded by Mr J Mallon.

All eight trenches measured 30.00m x 1.80m. The site is currently farmland adjacent to Crown Road near its junction with the A47.

Fieldwork was hampered by inclement weather, but evidence of a medieval field system, denoted by ditched field boundaries, was recorded in all but one trial trench. One ditch contained pottery of 11th to 12th century date, cautiously suggesting a medieval date.

Interventions could not be made into large features at the west end of two flooded trenches. Both features were infilled with similar deposits, considered consistent with deposition in wet condition. One feature is interpreted as the southern edge of a pond, and based on its location and alignment the other may identify a common edge boundary, although this cannot be confirmed.

Aside from these features, the only other indication of human activity was a small piece of medieval pottery found in a heavily truncated ditch or hedgeline.

The paucity of material culture recovered by the trial trenching along with absence of structural features or any other indications of human activity across any period suggests the site has not been occupied or settled in the past and has perhaps always been of broadly agricultural use.

INTRODUCTION

Project Background

- 1 NPS Archaeology was commissioned and funded by Mr Mallon to carry out informative trial trenching at Land off Crown Lane, Little Fransham, Norfolk.
- 2 The trial trenching comprised of seven trenches measuring 30.00m x 1.80m.
- 3 This program of work was conducted by NPS Archaeology to comply with planning conditions set by Norfolk County Council Environment Service (NCCES) ahead of the proposed construction of five dwellings and associated works at the site.
- 4 The development site lies partly within an area subject to systematic archaeological surface collection survey (field walking) and documentary research (Rogerson 1995). This fieldwork was part of a parish-wide archaeological survey using both surface collection and extremely detailed documentary research. It was considered likely that a small settlement site of medieval date lay within or close to the application area.

Planning Background

- 5 The current work was undertaken to fulfil planning requirements for residential development at the site are subject to a condition (Condition 13 on 3PL/2018/0664/O) for a Programme of Archaeological Mitigatory Work in accordance with paragraphs 188 and 199 of *National Planning Policy Framework* 2019.
- 6 The NCCES brief (CNF48427) provides an outline of the full Programme of Archaeological Mitigatory Works (PoAW) to commence with trial trenching, the results of which will be used to define the scope and extent of any further archaeological mitigatory work (e.g. excavation or monitoring). Further work will be required if features of importance are found and these cannot be preserved *in situ*.
- 7 The programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the, following guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2019).
- 8 The recipients of this report will be the client, NCCES and the Local District Authority.

GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

Geology

- 9 The underlying bedrock in this part of Norfolk is Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk Formation and Culver Chalk Formation (undifferentiated) - Chalk. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 72 to 94 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period and a local environment previously dominated by warm chalk seas (BGS 2020).
- 10 The superficial deposits comprise Lowestoft Formation - Diamicton formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period with a local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions. These sedimentary deposits are glacial in origin. They can form a wide range of deposits associated with glacial and interglacial periods during the Quaternary (BGS 2020).
- 11 Topsoil at the site was c 0.30-0.45m thick and was a dark greyish-brown sand-silt with occasional flint inclusions. Subsoil was mid-orangey brown silty sand which varied in thickness across the site from absence in the south-east end of Trench 4 to 0.25m in Trench 7. Geological sediments at the site varied from a pale yellow to a mid-brown sandy clay with frequent flint outcrops.

Topography

- 12 Little Fransham is a small village in the parish of Fransham, broadly central within the county of Norfolk. The village straddles the A47, a major road of the county. The site is located at c. 75m OD on the boulder clay plateau and covers an area of c. 0.47h. The nearest modern water source is a small tributary of the River Wissey approximately 1km to the south-west.
- 13 The site is currently farmland, most recently used for livestock. Bounded to the north by the A47 forming part of a larger field, the site has a very slight incline down from south to north. A now infilled pond in the north-east of the site suggests the presence of underlying water-retaining clays and silts, as to do other ponds in the vicinity with the possibility some were used as clay sources for brick manufacture (see Post-medieval and Modern section in HER Data, this report).
- 14 The height of geology at the site varied from 69.72m OD at the north-west of Trench 2 to 71.53m at the south-east end of Trench 6.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Sources

- 15 The primary source for archaeological evidence in Norfolk is the Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Record (HER), which details archaeological discoveries and sites of historical interest in the county. In order to characterise the likely archaeological potential of the proposed development site, HER record data was purchased from NCCES for a radius of 1km from Grid Ref: TF 9051-1206. This exercise returned a total of 126 individual records, providing evidence of historical activity spanning the prehistoric to post-medieval periods.
- 16 A large proportion of these sites have been identified due to extensive field walking and documentary survey of the parish (Rogerson 1995).
- 17 Fransham probably derives from an Old English personal name 'Fram', or from 'fraemde', meaning 'strange', and the suffix 'ham' as a place of early settlement. The main centre of settlement (NHER 20587) in the Early Saxon period was in the centre of the parish, close to the former parish boundary between Great and Little Fransham.
- 18 A reference table listing dates for historical periods described in this report is provided in Appendix 3.

HER data

Fig.1

The HER data that are most relevant to the current work are referenced and summarised below in broad chronological detail.

Prehistoric

- 19 Evidence of prehistoric activity is widespread across the parish with concentrations of prehistoric flint boilers found at several sites. North of the site prehistoric pot boilers and a burnt mound were found in 1947 (NHER 7288), while others were located during field walks (NHER 20830, 20831, 20829 23088, 25556, 25565, 28886, 21631). Struck flints have also been recorded south-east of the site (NHER 25569).
- 20 Field walking suggests site NHER 20508 was probably occupied by small settlements in both the Iron Age and Early Saxon periods. Prehistoric flint implements, including a Mesolithic flint blade and a Neolithic flint axehead have also been recovered from the same site.

Roman

- 21 The search returned sites with evidence of Roman settlement, with site NHER 23082 also continuing as NHER 23897 and NHER 24763. Here, field walking has recovered pottery of Roman date, as was also the case at NHER 25566 (in field to south of site).
- 22 Site NHER 24767 also appears to be the location of Roman settlement 500m east of the site, the settlement site continuing under NHER 24765 and NHER 24766.

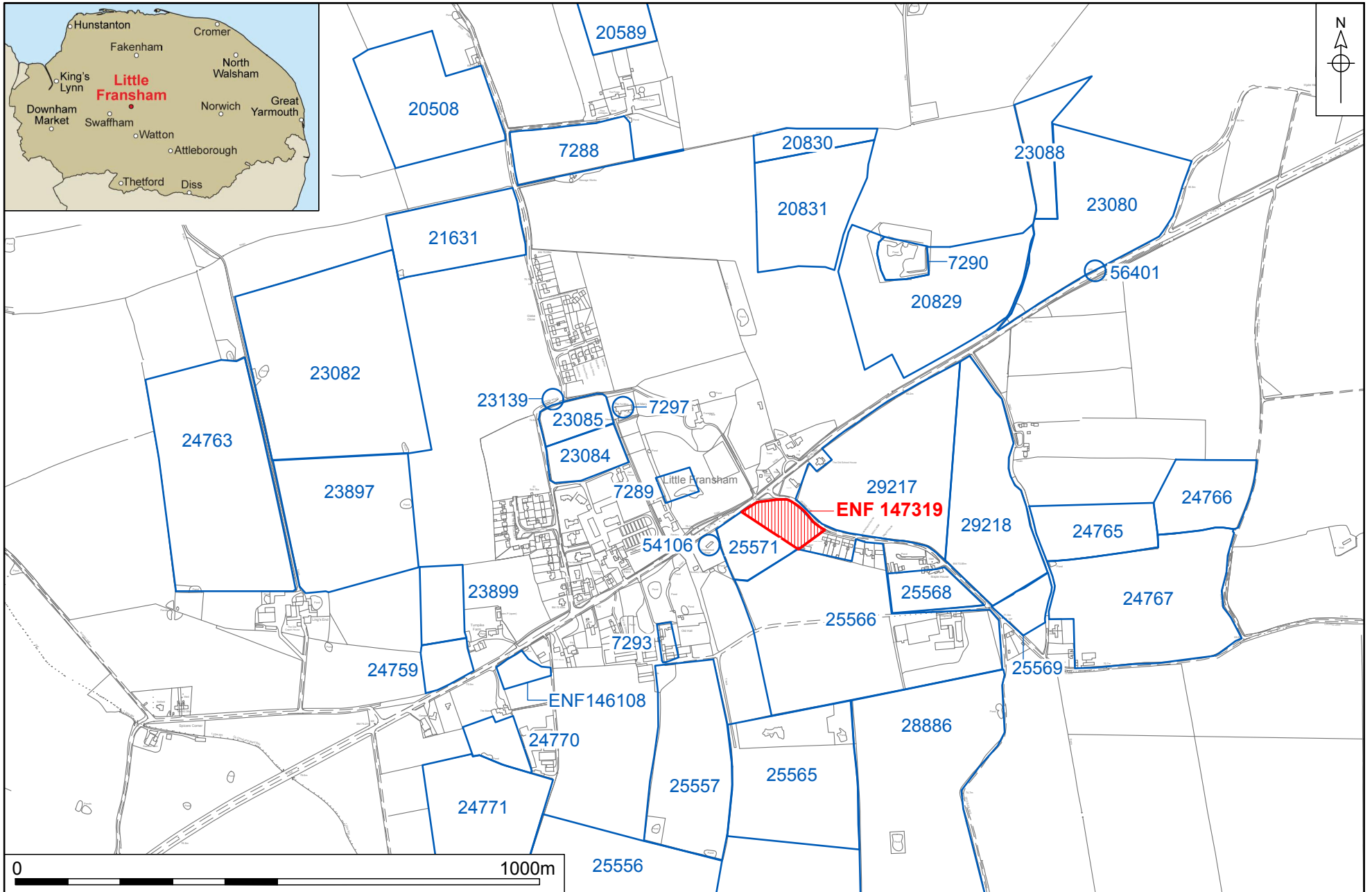


Figure 1. Site location with HER data. Scale 1:10,000

Saxon and Medieval

- 23 Due to the intensity of field walking in the parish Fransham, this period provides a large number of sites recovered by the NHER search.
- 24 Field walking suggests NHER 23080 was the site of Late Saxon pottery kilns, producing Thetford ware during the late 10th and 11th centuries, and as such defines a rare occurrence of Late Saxon pottery production in a rural area. A windmill is also recorded on this site in 15th century documents.
- 25 Site NHER 24767 is Late Saxon settlement occupied in the 11th and 12th centuries before being abandoned, a medieval settlement subsequently developing on the site in the late 12th or early 13th century.
- 26 A medieval period settlement site NHER 20589 on the edge of a common here is first recorded in an early 15th century document. Iron slag of unknown date found during field walking suggests this site may have been used for iron working. A medieval quern, and medieval and post medieval pottery and building materials were also found during field walking. Other examples of medieval common edge settlement include sites at: NHER 24770, NHER 23903 with other settlements at NHER 25571, NHER 29217, NHER 29218 and NHER 25568.
- 27 Further sites NHER 23899 and NHER 24759 also appear to be small medieval settlements.
- 28 St Mary's Church (NHER 7297) is a medieval parish church containing reused Norman masonry but dating mainly from the early 14th century. The church contains a square font dating to about 1200. Middle Saxon pottery has been found in the churchyard, as well as medieval floor tiles. Late Saxon settlement (NHER 23084 and NHER 23085) developed around the church in the 9th and 10th centuries, this settlement continuing under NHER 23085.
- 29 Manorial complexes are identified at the probable medieval manor of Wilcocks (NHER 24771) first recorded in the mid-14th century. Amongst other buildings, 15th-century accounts record the presence here of a barn and dovecote.
- 30 At NHER 7289 a moat is depicted on 19th-century maps. Documentary research indicates the moat had once enclosed a medieval rectory and still contained a building in 1804, the dwelling and associated outbuildings to the south being demolished by 1807.
- 31 The medieval moated site of Kirkham's manor house NHER 7290 was probably occupied from the 12th to the 15th centuries. The moat is now dry and a length of medieval flint and brick wall is still visible above ground.

Post-medieval and Modern

- 32 Little Fransham Old Hall (NHER 7293) is a 16th century brick house, with 17th and 18th century alterations. The house has a moulded brick pediment with a panel bearing the arms of Elizabeth I, who is reputed to have stayed here.
- 33 Several in-filled ponds identified during a geophysical survey in 2012 (NHER 58191) have been interpreted as possible clay extraction pits dug to provide raw material to the post-medieval brick kiln (NHER 36525) located to the north-west of this site and a post-medieval brick kilns has been recorded at NHER 25557, revealed during a field walking survey.

- 34 Gingerbread Cottage NHER 54106 appears externally to be a 19th century flint and brick house with modern rebuilding and an extension to the rear. However, the internal cross wall is oak timber framed on the first floor and several chamfered beams in the ceiling of the ground floor suggests it was constructed in the 17th century.
- 35 A 19th century milestone (NHER 56401) marks Swaffham 6 miles and Dereham 6 miles and site NHER 23139 identifies a World War Two pillbox, used as a Home Guard post.

Other Archaeological Works and Cartographic Evidence.

- 36 Recent work at Land off Main Road, Little Fransham, some 600m to the west of the current site provided little evidence of medieval occupation, but did reveal the presence of a large ditch, interpreted as a common edge boundary of perhaps medieval date (Adams 2019). The line of this feature appeared broadly parallel to the modern A47 road at this location.
- 37 Both the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey and a tithe map of early 19th century date (NCC Mapping Browser accessed 20.02.2020) show a similar configuration of fields with the current site present within a single land parcel, the southern edge of which corresponds to the site boundary with residential terrace houses in the south-east of the site.
- 38 The only feature of note in both these maps is a pond shown in the north of the site. This same pond is visible in aerial photographs of 1946, but appears to have been infilled by 1988 when another aerial survey was carried out (NCC Mapping Browser accessed 20.02.2020)

METHODOLOGY

General

- 39 The methodology for the archaeological trial trenching followed the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI, Adams 2020), where the mitigation strategy for the works is presented in full.
- 40 Archaeological procedures conformed to the Standards For Development-Led Archaeological Projects in Norfolk (Robertson et al. 2018) and the guidelines issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a). The trial trenching was conducted within the context of the regional archaeological framework (Medlycott 2011).

Objectives

- 41 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.
- 42 The archaeological project aimed to provide appropriate and adequate data to permit informed decisions regarding any requirement for future archaeological mitigation work at Crown Lane, Little Fransham, and to make the results of the work accessible.

Methods

- 43 The Brief required approximately 5% of the proposed development area to be sampled. Trenches were situated according to the agreed plan provide in the NCCES brief and located in relation to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.
- 44 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.
- 45 Machine excavation was carried out by a wheeled JCB-type 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.
- 46 All trench surfaces revealed by machine were hand-cleaned and any archaeological deposits were excavated by hand where possible. On completion of the work all trenches were backfilled by machine.
- 47 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. All retained finds were identified by context number to a specific deposit and were processed and recorded in line with relevant guidelines for archaeological finds (ClfA 2014b).
- 48 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NPS Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. A site survey was carried out by NPS using a Leica GS16 GPS. Digital photographs were taken of all relevant archaeological features and deposits where appropriate.
- 49 Site conditions were poor due to the sustained rainfall in the days leading up to the trial trenching combined with the poor drainage of the underlying geology. Trenches 2, 3, 4 and 5 immediately flooded once they had been machined to the natural geology.
- 50 Features in trenches 3, 4 and 5 were recorded in plan but could not be excavated. It was apparent that these features were part of a field system that was also evident in trenches 2, 6 and 7 and so interventions were made in these features only. This amendment to the methodology was discussed with and approved by the NCCES monitor upon inspection.
- 51 A contingency for additional trenching to provide further clarification about the form, extent or significance of any heritage assets encountered was stipulated in the WSI but not required.
- 52 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.

Archive

- 53 The site archive is currently held at the offices of NPS Archaeology. On completion of the project, the documentary archive will be prepared and indexed following guidelines obtained from the relevant museum and national guidelines (ClfA 2014c). The archive, consisting of all paper elements created during recording of the archaeological site, including digital material, will be deposited with Norfolk Museums Service.

- 54 Subject to written consent and donation by the landowner, all archaeological finds recovered by the current work will be deposited with Norfolk Museums Service.
- 55 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 norfolka1-386174 (Appendix 4), and this report will be uploaded to the OASIS database.
- 56 The contents of the site archive is summarised in Table 1.

Item	No.
Contexts	23
Files/paper record sheets	31
Plan and section sheets	5
Digital Images	37
Finds	Pottery sherds x6

Table 1. Site archive quantification

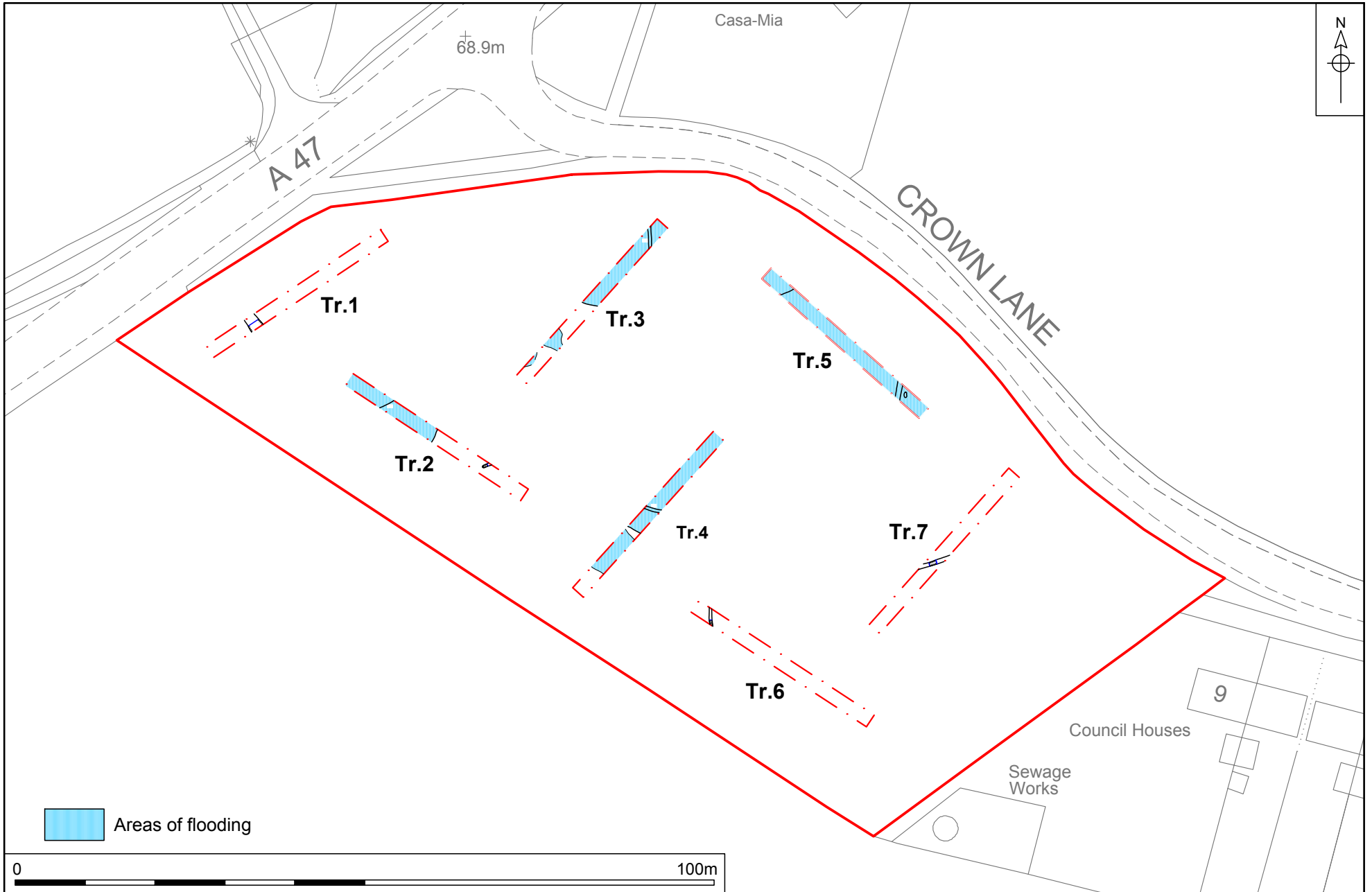



Figure 2. Location of trenches. Scale 1:7500

RESULTS

Trench 1				
		Figure 2,3;		
		Location		
		Orientation	South-west - north-east	
		Dimensions		
		Length	30.00m	
		Width	1.80m	
		Depth	0.5m	
		Levels		
		SW top	69.84m OD	
		NE top	69.7m3 OD	
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	
001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.30m	
002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.20m	
003	Deposit	Natural geology	n/a	
004	Cut	Linear feature	0.10m	
005	Deposit	Fill of [004]	0.10m	
Discussion				
<p>A linear feature ran across the south-west end of the trench [004]. It was aligned approximately east – west and was too shallow to confirm if it is was a heavily-truncated ditch or a hedge-line.</p> <p>The fill of this feature (005) contained a small sherd of Grimston-type or possible Ely ware (1g) pottery.</p>				

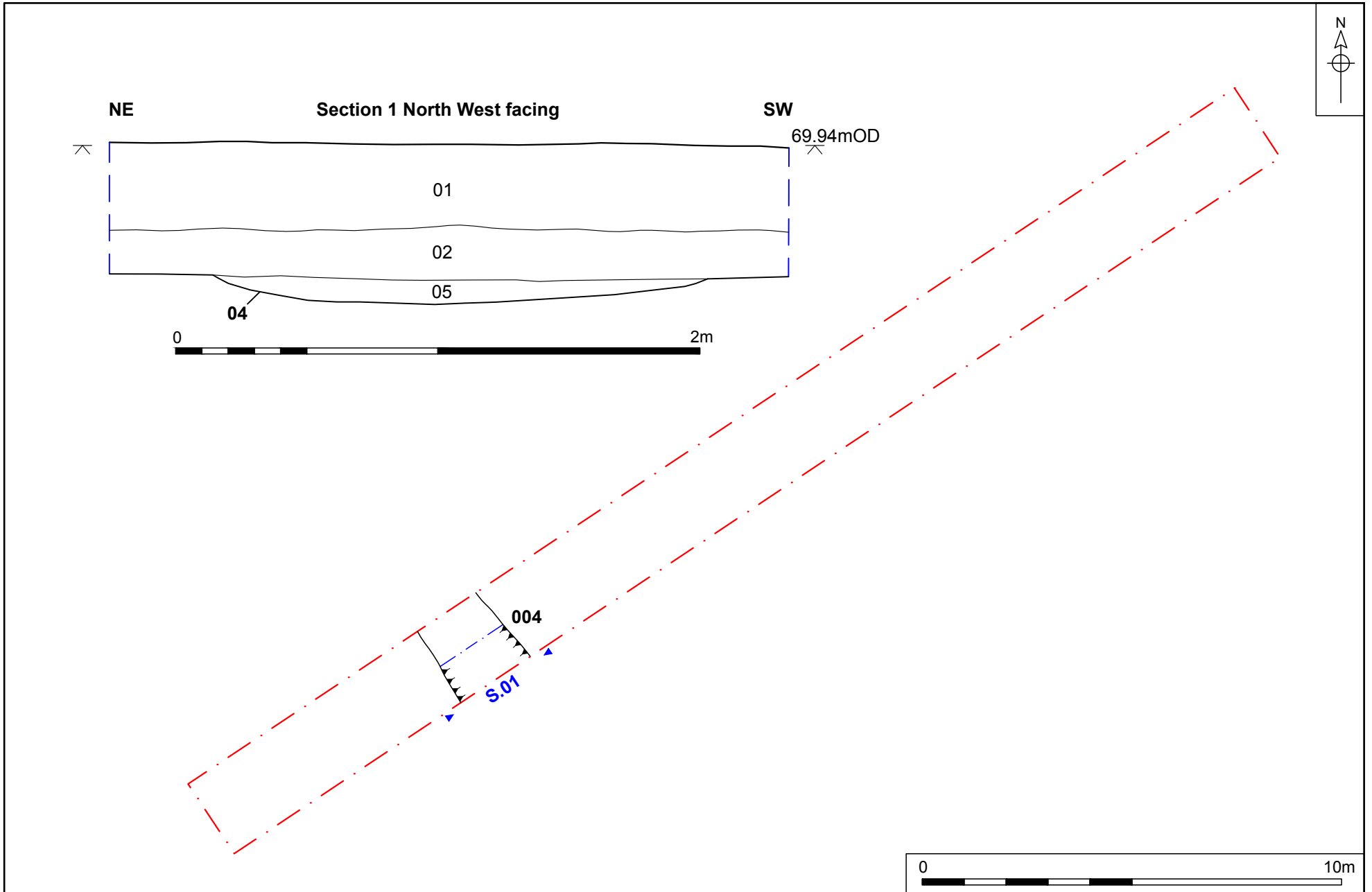



Figure 3. Trench 1, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:20

Trench 2					
		Figures 2, 4; Plates 1 & 2			
		Location			
		Orientation	North-west - south-east		
		Dimensions			
		Length	30.00m		
		Width	1.80m		
		Depth	0.45m		
		Levels			
		North-west top		69.72m OD	
		South-east top		70.56m OD	
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness		
001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.30m		
002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.15m		
003	Deposit	Natural geology	N/A		
006	Cut	Ditch terminal	0.08m		
007	Deposit	Fill of [006]	0.08m		
014	Cut	Pond	N/A		
015	Deposit	Fill of [014]	N/A		
Discussion					
<p>At the south-east end of Trench 2 was the terminus of a small ditch aligned approximately east-west [006]. This feature was 0.30m wide and 0.08m deep with moderate sides and a concave base. Its fill of mid grey-brown silty-sand contained no dating evidence (007).</p> <p>The north-west end of the trench contained a large feature [014] with a silty, pale grey fill mottled with mineralisation (015). This end of the trench immediately flooded when machined to the depth of natural geology. Based on its location and appearance, this feature has been interpreted as the edge of a pond, visible on the first edition Ordnance Survey map and a 1946 aerial photograph of the area.</p>					

Trench 2



Plate 1. Trench 2, Ditch 006 looking north-west 0.2m scale



Plate 2. Trench 2, flooding

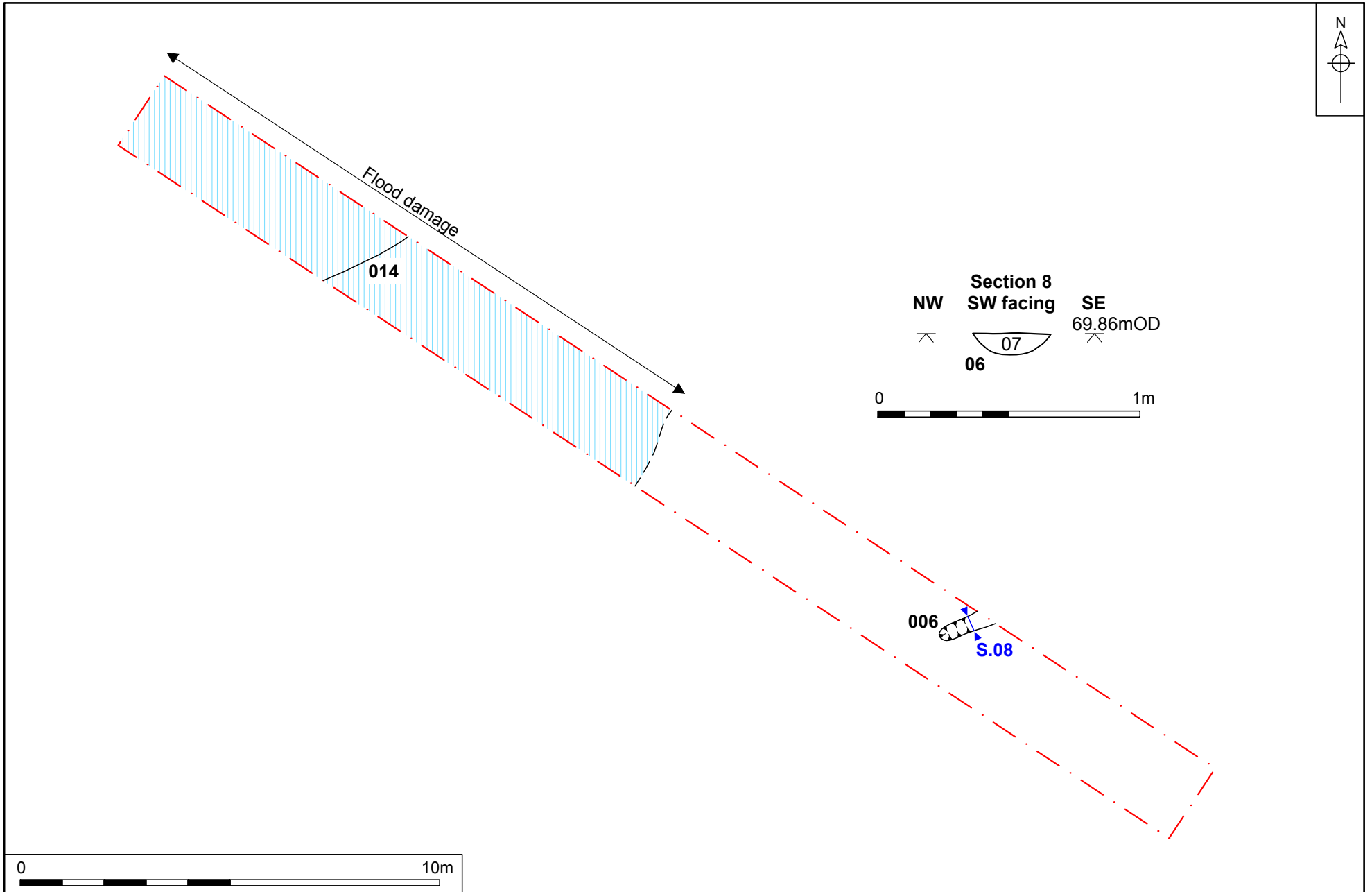




Figure 4. Trench 2, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:20

Trench 3				
		Figures 2, 5; Plate 3		
		Location		
		Orientation	North-east – south-west	
		Dimensions		
		Length	30.00m	
		Width	1.80m	
		Depth	0.60m	
		Levels		
North-east top		69.8m OD		
South-west top		70.07m OD		
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	
001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.30m	
002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.20m	
003	Deposit	Natural geology	n/a	
016	Cut	Ditch approximately aligned north - south	Not excavated	
017	Deposit	Fill of 016	Not excavated	
Discussion				
<p>At the north-east end of Trench 3 a small ditch [016], aligned north-south was revealed. This end of the trench immediately flooded, making any intervention impossible.</p> <p>This ditch did not appear in any other trenches, but was of similar in size and filled with a similar material to others that formed the field system visible across the site.</p>				
				
<p>Plate 3. Trench 3, flood damage</p>				

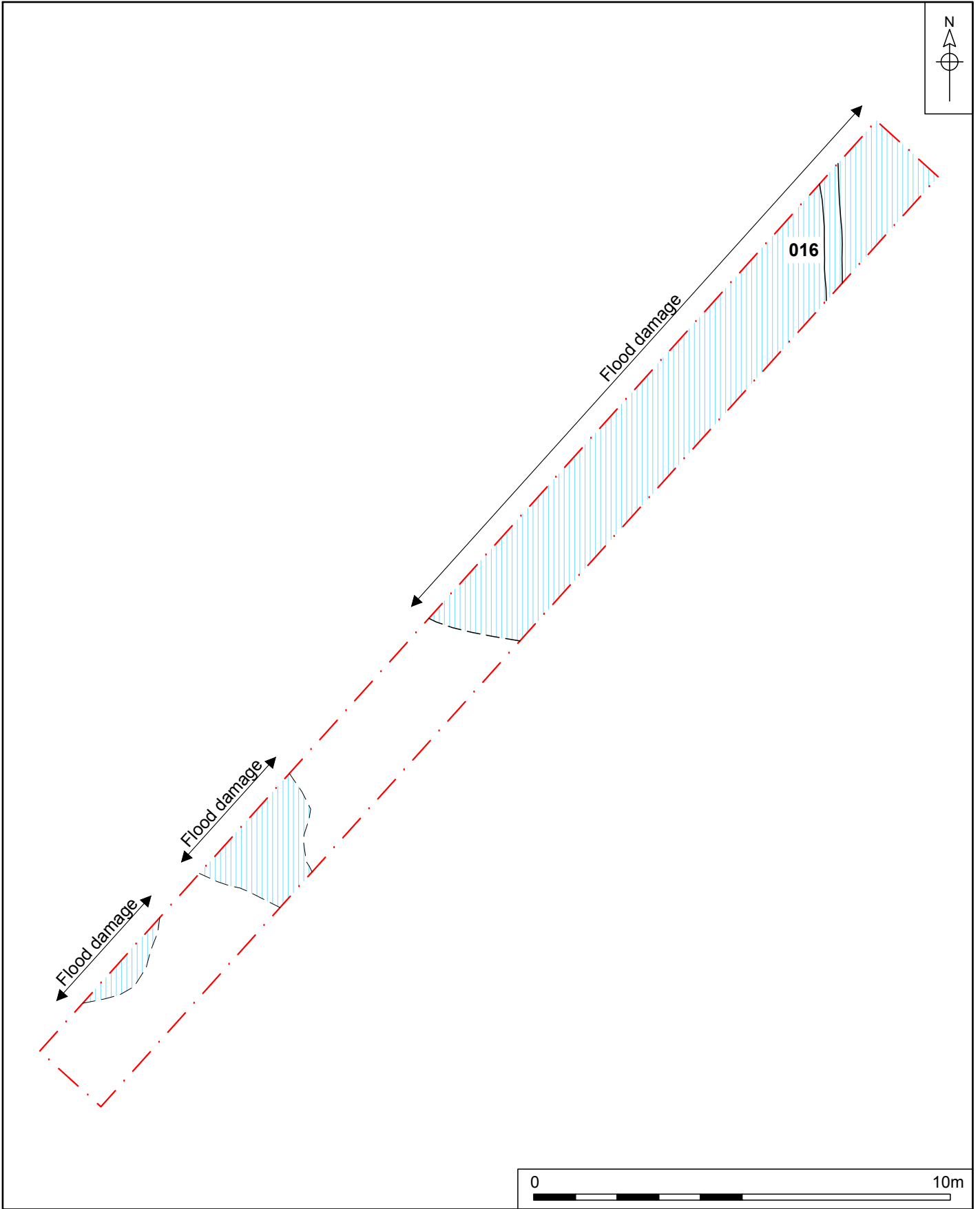



Figure 5. Trench 3, plan. Scale 1:125

Trench 4				
		Figures 2, 6; Plate 4		
		Location		
		Orientation	North-east – south-west	
		Dimensions		
		Length	30.00m	
		Width	1.80m	
		Depth	0.50m	
		Levels		
		North-east top	70.67m OD	
		South-west top	71.00m OD	
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	
001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.45m	
002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.1m	
003	Deposit	Natural geology	N/A	
017	Cut	Ditch approximately aligned east - west	Not excavated	
018	Deposit	Fill of 017	Not excavated	
Discussion				
<p>Once machined to natural geology this trench filled with water, although not as severely as trenches 2, 3 and 5.</p> <p>In the middle of this trench ditch [017], aligned east-west, was revealed but not excavated due to the flooding. Due to its width, nature of fill and alignment, it was determined that this is part of the same field system recorded in trenches 2 – 7.</p> <p>The subsoil in this trench was not as thick as in the other trenches and was non-existent towards the south-west end of the trench.</p>				

Trench 4



Plate 4. Flood damage

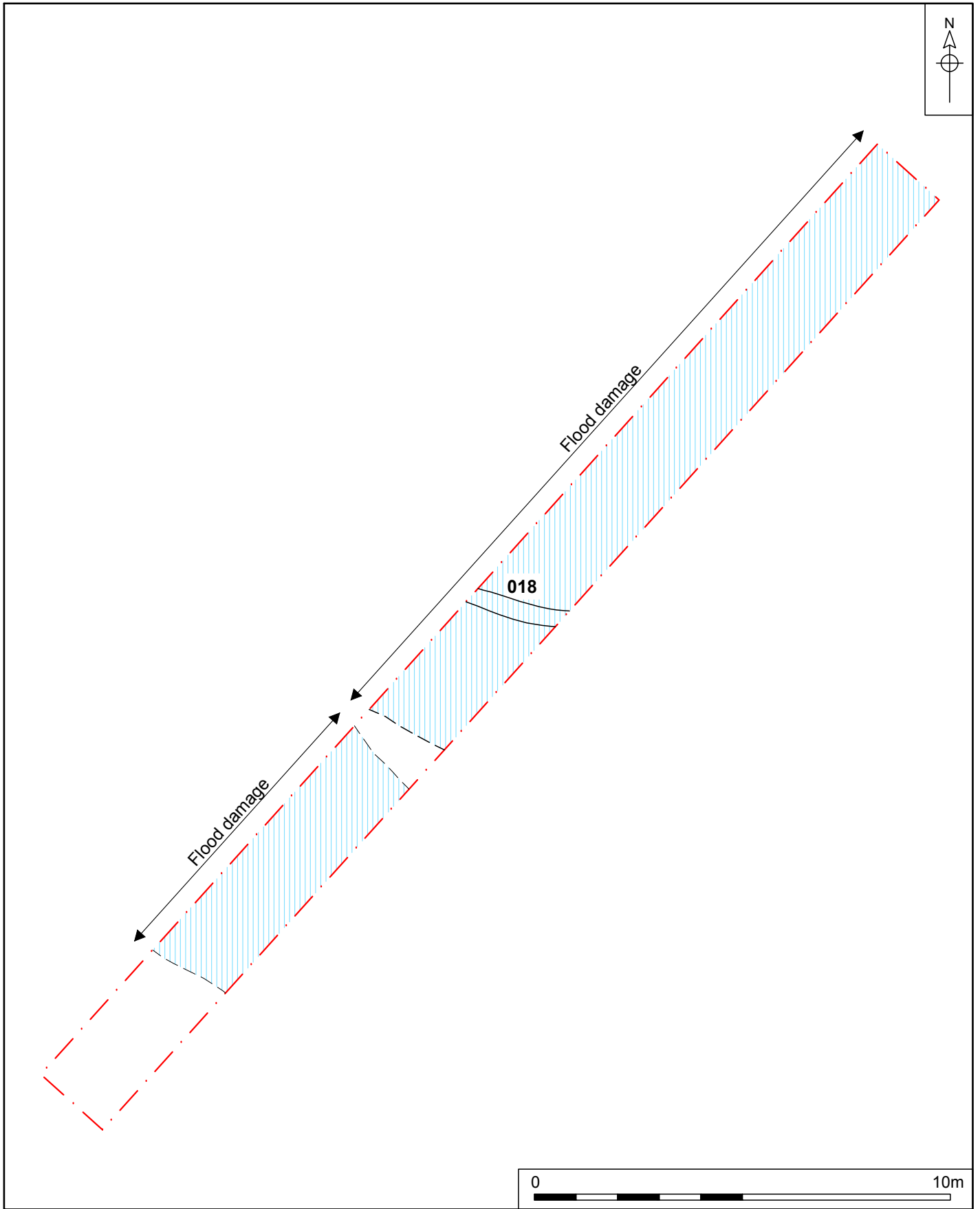



Figure 6. Trench 4, plan. Scale 1:125

Trench 5				
		Figures 2, 7; Plate 5		
		Location		
		Orientation	North-west - south-east	
		Dimensions		
		Length	30.00m	
		Width	1.80m	
		Depth	0.45m	
		Levels		
		North-west top	69.81m OD	
		South-east top	70.41m OD	
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	
001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.35m	
002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.10m	
003	Deposit	Natural geology	Not excavated	
020	Cut	Ditch aligned approximately north-south	Not excavated	
021	Deposit	Fill of 020	Not excavated	
022	Cut	Common-edge ditch?	Not excavated	
023	Deposit	Fill of 022	Not excavated	
Discussion				
<p>This trench immediately flooded when machined to the depth of natural geology with the ground water reaching the surface level at the north-west end.</p> <p>At this same end, the southern edge of a large feature [022] was exposed and recorded in plan. The deposit filling this large feature was a pale grey silt, mottled by mineralisation, and comparable to anaerobic deposits typical of those infilling a pond.</p> <p>The 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map, supported by evidence of a large ditch recorded in archaeological trial trenching some 600m west of the current site (Adams 2019), suggests the possibility that this feature may have been the continuation of a common edge boundary. Unfortunately, no intervention could be made to help substantiate this theory.</p> <p>Ditch [020] aligned north-south was also recorded in plan but could not be excavated. Due to its width, infilling and alignment it was determined that this is part of the same field system evident in trenches 2 – 7.</p>				

Trench 5



Plate 5. Trench 5, flood damage

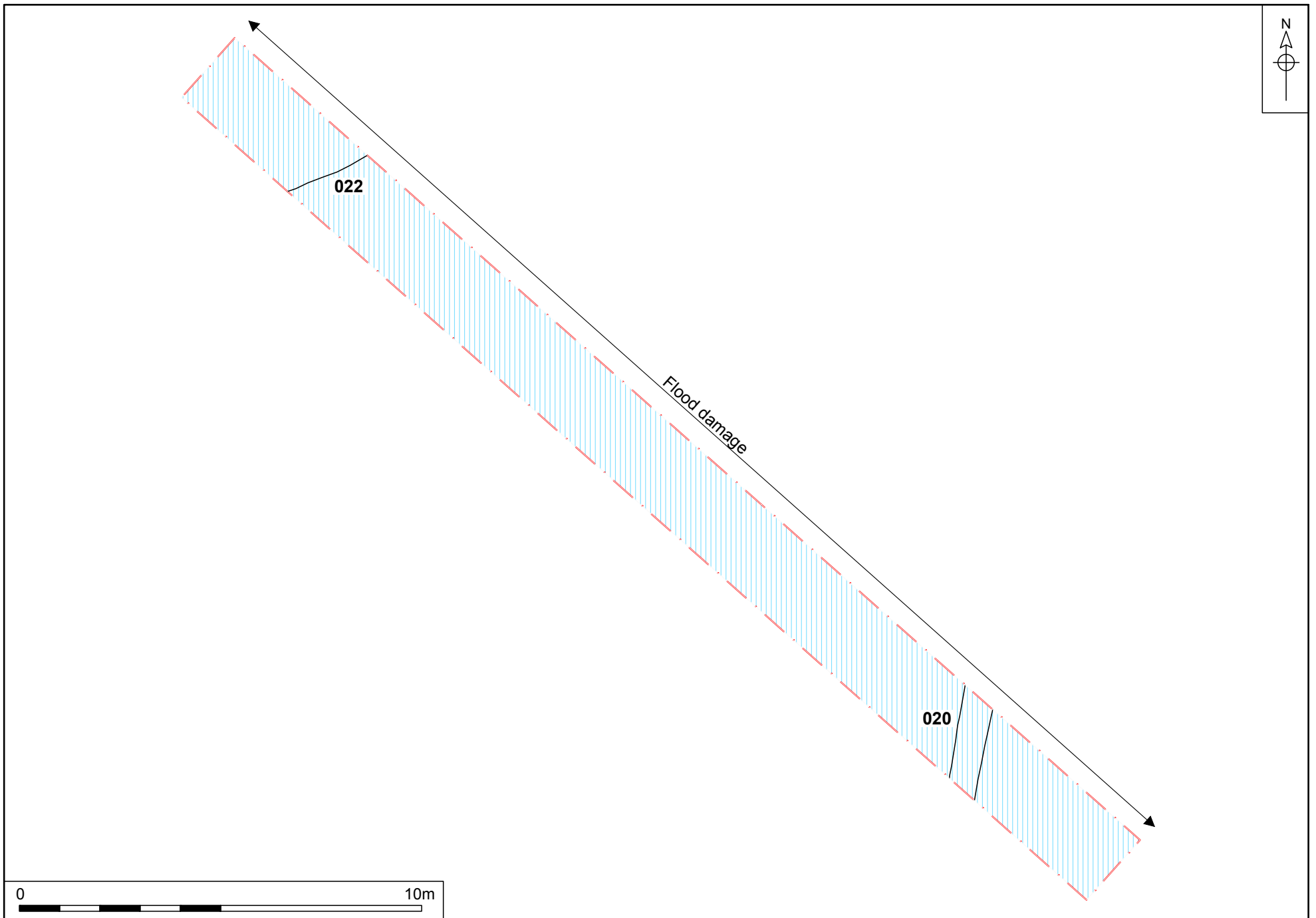



Figure 7. Trench 5, plan. Scale 1:125

Trench 6				
		Figures 2, 8; Plate 6		
		Location		
		Orientation	North-west - south-east	
		Dimensions		
		Length	30.00m	
		Width	1.80m	
		Depth	0.45m	
		Levels		
		North-west top	71.02m OD	
		South-east top	71.53m OD	
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	
001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.35m	
002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.10m	
003	Deposit	Natural geology	N/A	
010	Cut	Ditch approximately aligned north-south	0.10m	
011	Deposit	Fill of 010	0.10m	
Discussion				
<p>A small ditch [010] was revealed at the north-west end of Trench 6, aligned approximately north – south with moderate sides and a concave base. It contained a mid-grey-brown sandy silt deposit (011) with occasional small flints. No archaeological finds were recovered from this deposit.</p>				

Trench 6



Plate 6. Ditch 010 looking south 0.2m scale

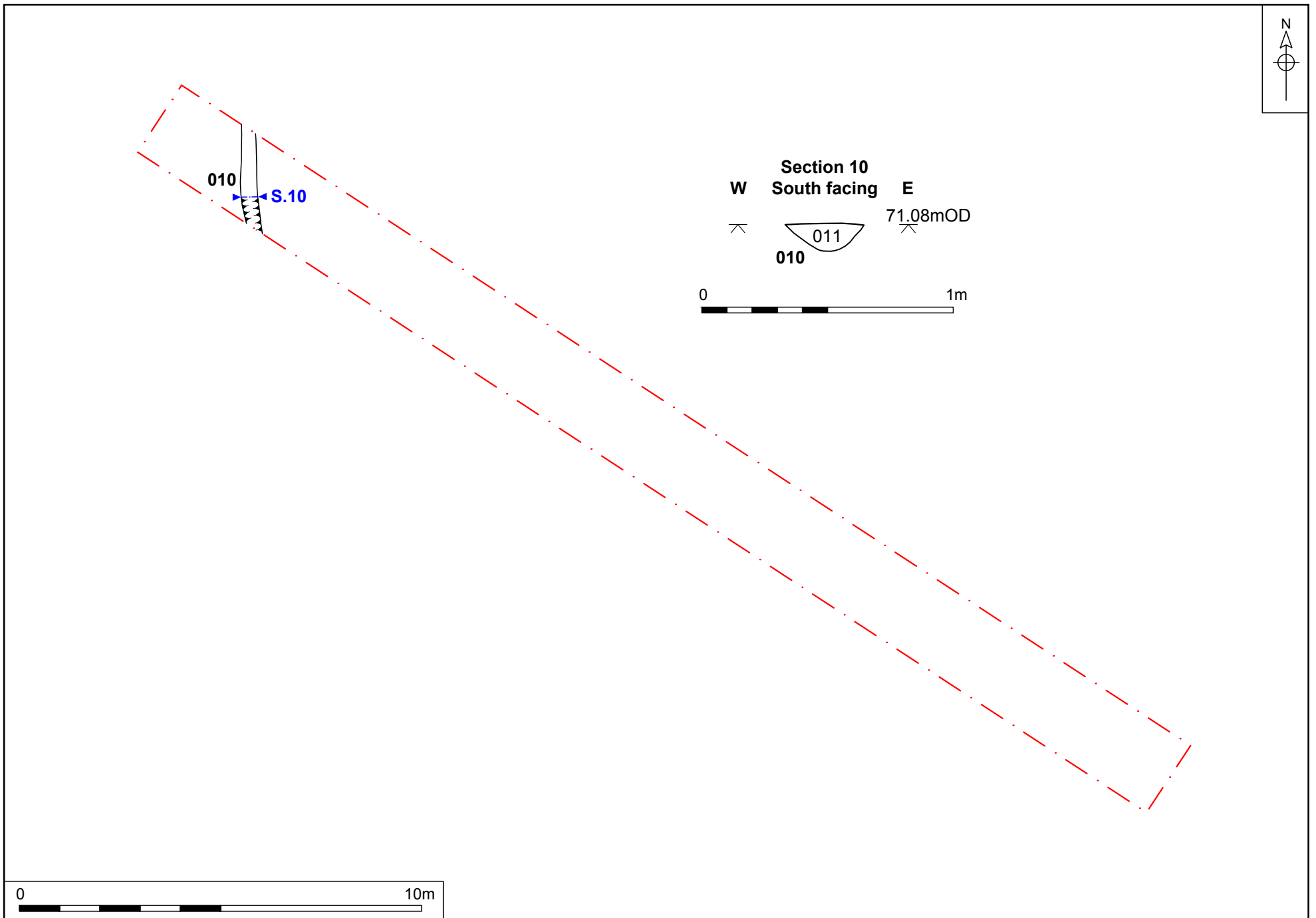



Figure 8. Trench 6, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:20

Trench 7				
		Figures 2, 9; Plate 7		
		Location		
		Orientation	North-east – south-west	
		Dimensions		
		Length	30.00m	
		Width	1.80m	
		Depth	0.60m	
		Levels		
		North-east top	70.82m OD	
South-west top	71.13m OD			
Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	
001	Deposit	Topsoil	0.35m	
002	Deposit	Subsoil	0.25m	
003	Deposit	Natural geology	N/A	
012	Cut	Ditch approximately aligned east - west	0.14m	
013	Deposit	Fill of 012	0.14m	
Discussion				
<p>Towards the middle of Trench 7 was ditch [012], This feature was aligned approximately east-west and had moderate sloping sides and a concave base. It measured 0.50m wide and 0.14m deep and was filled with a mid-grey-brown sandy-silt (013) containing occasional flints.</p> <p>Its alignment and profile match that of ditches found in trenches 2 – 7 and is probably part of a field system. It is the only ditch from this field system to produce any dating evidence.</p> <p>A small assemblage of Grimston-type or possible Ely ware (1/14g) and early medieval ware (4/39g) pottery was recovered from this feature.</p>				

Trench 7



Plate 7. Trench 7, Ditch 012 looking north 0.5m scale

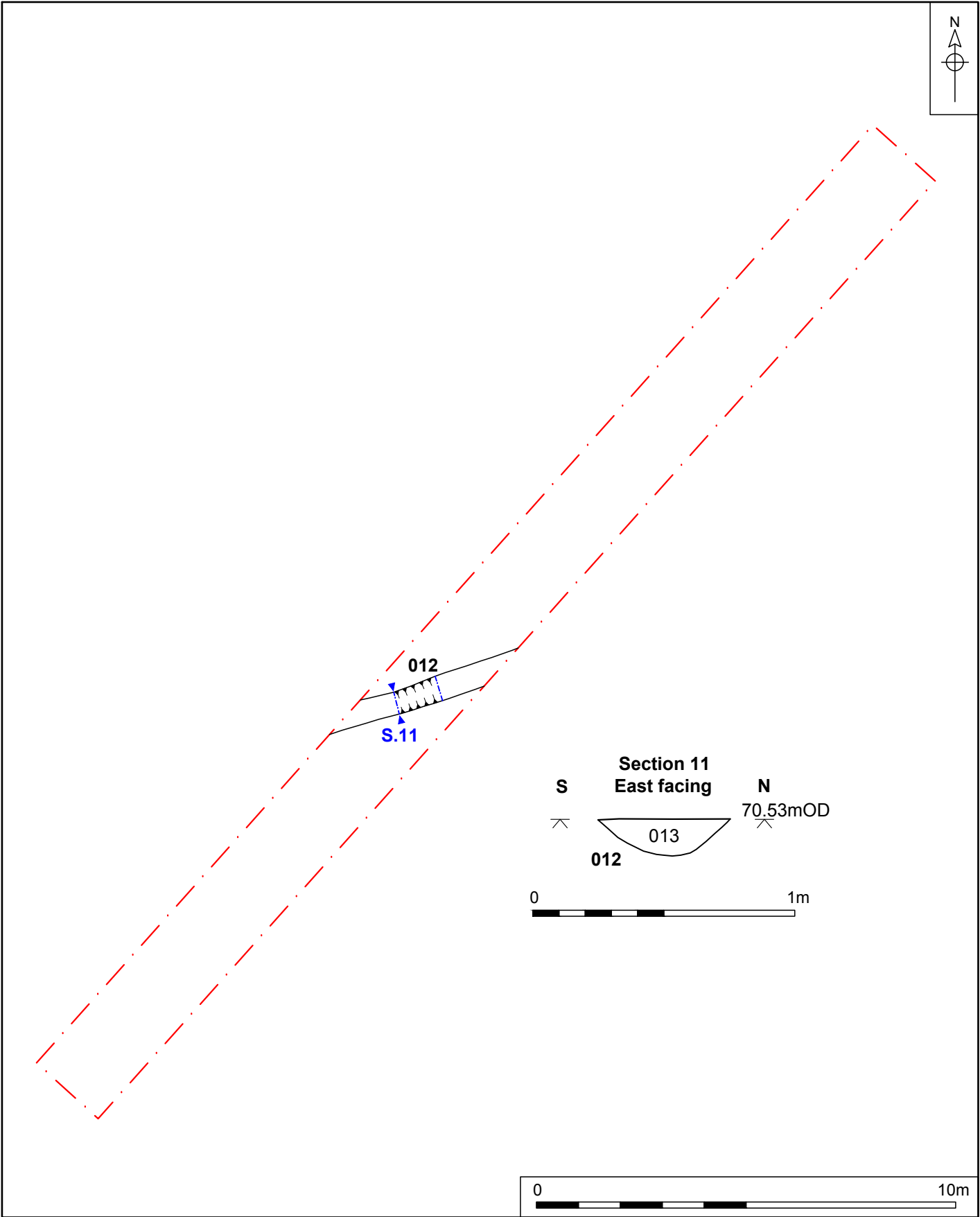


Figure 9. Trench 7, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:20

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS

Pottery

By Sue Anderson

- 58 Six sherds (54g) of medieval pottery were recovered from two contexts. From context **(005)** there was a very small sherd of Grimston-type (GRIM) or possibly Ely ware (ELYG). Context **(013)** contained a larger sherd of the same ware and four sherds of fairly thick-walled handmade early medieval ware (EMV) in a fine/medium sandy fabric. The Grimston/Ely-type wares, although similar to those from the Pott Row production sites, are softer and contain less well-sorted sand temper, perhaps indicating that they were made elsewhere, but they did not appear to contain the calcareous inclusions which commonly occur in Ely wares.
- 59 There is putative evidence for pottery manufacture in Fransham parish (A. Rogerson, pers comm), and the sherds from the pottery waste spreads Rogerson found during fieldwalking are similar in appearance to the early medieval wares recovered from the Crown Lane site. The sherds recovered from both contexts indicate a 13th/14th-century or later date for these feature fills.

DISCUSSION

- 60 The informative trial trenching carried out by NPS Archaeology on Land off Crown Lane, Little Fransham, Norfolk, recorded a number of ditches relating to a suspected medieval field system, with these features being present in six of the trenches excavated.
- 61 The ditches associated with this field system were typically 0.30m – 0.50m in width and up to 0.11m deep, suggesting some degree of truncation has occurred, probably associated with later agricultural activity. Ditch [012] produced five sherds of pottery. One of these was a Grimston-type or a possible Ely ware sherd, the rest was hand-made early medieval ware.
- 62 Based on their alignments and sizes, other undated ditches at the site might also date to this period, perhaps serving a dual purpose of both field boundary and drainage.
- 63 A large feature along the north-east edge of the site was recorded before Trench 5 could flood completely. Field walking and documentary evidence suggest that this feature may be what has been previously described as a common edge boundary (Rogerson 1995). This feature was perhaps the same as a large ditch present in a recent evaluation c. 600m west of the current site (Adams 2019). It did not appear in any other trial trenches and if its alignment is correct, as per the tithe map, its trajectory would have continued south-east.
- 64 Overall, little indication of significant past human activity at the site was recorded, with a notable lack of material culture and an absence of structural features such as postholes. The identification of the field system supports the idea that this land has been primarily for agricultural use rather than occupation.
- 65 Recommendations for further archaeological mitigation work (if required, based on the evidence presented in this report) will be made by Norfolk County Council Environment Service.

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Sue Anderson reported on the pottery. Metal-detecting was carried out by Mick Boyle.

This report was illustrated by the author and David Dobson, and edited by David Adams.

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Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
001	Deposit			Topsoil	Undated	
002	Deposit			Subsoil	Undated	
003	Deposit			Natural geology	Undated	
004	Cut	Ditch		Shallow linear feature	Medieval?	01
005	Deposit		004	Fill of shallow linear feature	Medieval?	01
006	Cut	Ditch		Ditch terminus	Medieval?	02
007	Deposit		006	Fill of ditch terminus	Medieval?	02
008				VOID	-	
009				VOID	-	
010	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Medieval?	03
011	Deposit		010	Fill of ditch	Medieval?	03
012	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Medieval?	04
013	Deposit		012	Fill of ditch	Medieval?	04
014	Cut	Pond		Pond	Undated	02
015	Deposit		014	Fill of pond	Undated	02
016	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Medieval?	03
017	Deposit		016	Fill of ditch	Medieval?	03
018	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Medieval?	04
019	Deposit		018	Fill of ditch	Medieval?	04
020	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Medieval?	05
021	Deposit		020	Fill of ditch	Medieval?	05
022	Cut	Ditch		Common edge ditch?	Undated	05
023	Deposit		022	Fill of 022	Undated	05

Appendix 1b: Feature Summary

Period	Category	Total
Medieval	Ditch	2
Undated	Ditch	2
Modern	Pit	2

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
005	Pottery	1	1g	Medieval	Soft, poss ELYG but no calc
013	Pottery	1	14g	Medieval	Soft, poss ELYG but no calc
13	Pottery	4	39g	Medieval	Fairly thick-walled HM black with reddish core, f/ms

Appendix 2b: Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Medieval	Pottery	6

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>