nps archaeology

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John Grant School, St George's Drive, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk

Excavation through Informative Trial Trenching

Prepared for: NPS Group

HER Event No.: ENF150320

Grid Ref.: TG 5151 1292

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District:	Great Yarmouth Borough Council
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Planning Reference:	FUL/2020/0048
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Summary

NPS Archaeology carried out informative archaeological trial trenching in advance of proposed development at the John Grant School, St George's Drive, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk. The work was in response to a brief issued by Norfolk County Council Environment Service, with fieldwork and reporting funded by Norfolk County Council Children's Services.

Archaeological remains were identified in four of the five trenches, with a total of eighteen separate archaeological features recorded, including pits, post-holes, ditches and two uncharacterised features. A considerable depth of subsoil was present across the site.

Dating of the archaeological remains was difficult due to the low levels of cultural material recovered from the features recorded. However, the presence of numerous struck flints, along with small quantities of Early Iron Age and Romano-British pottery suggests a broad preliminary 'later prehistoric to Romano-British' date for the activity identified at the site. This activity was most likely agrarian in nature or derives from small-scale occupation.

INTRODUCTION

Project Background

1 NPS Archaeology was commissioned and funded by NPS Group to undertake informative archaeological trial trenching at the John Grant School, St George's Drive, Caister-on-Sea (TG 5151 1292) in advance of a proposed extension of the school (FUL/2020/0048).

2 The site is situated *c.*500m north of the Caister-on-Sea Roman fort (Scheduled Monument 1015268) and *c.*300m north of its surrounding extra-mural civilian settlement. Considerable Middle Anglo-Saxon settlement and ecclesiastical activity is also known to have occurred within the area of the fort (Darling and Gurney 1993). Evidence of extensive Middle – Late Iron Age activity has also been identified during pre-development excavations *c.*900m to the north of the site (Anderson 2020).

3 Consequently, the potential for the existence of previously unidentified heritage assets at the site is considered high and any buried archaeological remains at the site would be considerably affected by the proposed development.

Planning Background

4 The current work was undertaken to fulfil planning requirements set by Norfolk County Council Environment Service (NCCES) on behalf of the planning authority, Great Yarmouth Borough Council.

5 The work was conducted in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by NPS Archaeology (Adams 2020) in response to the *Brief for Pre-application Evaluation by Trial Trenching* produced by NCCES (Hickling 2020).

6 The programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of both potential and unknown archaeological remains within the site, following guidelines set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2019).

7 The recipients of this report will be NPS Group (the client), Great Yarmouth Borough Council and NCCES.

GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

Geology

8 The underlying bedrock geology of the site consists of Crag Group sand and gravel, a sedimentary deposit that formed around 5 million years ago during the Quaternary and Neogene periods (British Geological Survey 2020).

9 Superficial sand deposits of the Happisburgh Glacigenic Formation overlay the bedrock geology. This formation is detrital, created by the glacial action of ice and meltwater during the Quaternary (British Geological Survey 2020).

10 The primary subsoil deposit situated above the superficial geology at the site consists of a friable pale brown sandy silt with rare small sub-angular flint inclusions (**07**=**09**), most likely formed through ploughing activities. Above this, a secondary subsoil consisting of a mid-yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions is present (**06**=**08**=**10**=**52**=**53**), also likely formed through ploughing and cultivation activities at the site. Overlying this is a topsoil consisting of a mid-greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions (**01**=**02**=**03**=**04**=**05**).

Topography

11 The site is located in the north of the village of Caister-on-Sea, *c.*5km north of Great Yarmouth. The development area is part of the John Grant School, and the trenches were situated across the school's grassed playing fields. The site gently sloped from the north to the south, from 16.78m AOD to 13.35m AOD. The site was surrounded by housing to the east, south and west, with the school building located to its immediate north.

12 The modern coastline is located *c.*900m to the east of the site, with the nearest extant watercourses of the River Bure accessible *c.*2.5km to the south and the River Thurne accessible *c.*8.6km to the north-west.

13 The field in which the proposed development is situated is roughly square and measures approximately 1.52ha in size.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Sources

14 The primary source of archaeological information in the county is the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER), which details both archaeological discoveries and sites of historical interest. In order to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development site and help inform its archaeological interpretation, a 1km radius search of the Historic Environment Record (HER) centred on TG 5151 1292 was purchased. A total of 128 separate HER records and fifty-nine separate archaeological event records were recovered by this search, with those most relevant discussed below in chronological order. Records that are situated in close proximity to the site are shown in Figure 1.

15 Cartographic and photographic evidence was examined through use of the online Norfolk County Council Historic Map Explorer (Norfolk County Council 2012).

HER Data

Prehistoric

16 The earliest evidence of human activity within the vicinity of the site dates to the Mesolithic, with struck flints from this period recovered during excavations *c.*900m to the north of the site (Anderson 2020). Neolithic activity in the near proximity has also been identified, with a flint axe head recovered *c.*400m to the west of the site (NHER 12311), and a group of pits/post-holes of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date found during an excavation *c.*775m to the south-east (NHER 35843).

17 Bronze Age activity is found in abundance in the environs of the site. Crop marks of field systems and enclosures have been identified through aerial photographic analysis (NHER 12828; NHER 12996), along with probable round barrows (NHER 12187; NHER 27395; NHER 27573). Bronze Age ditches and pits have been found during excavations in the vicinity (NHER 34032; 35843) and a Late Bronze Age metal hoard was discovered *c.*1km to the south-west of the site (NHER 12872). A copper-alloy axe of Bronze Age date has also been found *c.*470m to the north-west (NHER 17950).

18 During the later prehistoric and Romano-British periods, the site and its environs were cut off from the mainland and were situated upon the Isle of Flegg. Near to the site, extensive cropmarks of a suspected Iron Age to Romano-British field system have been identified, demonstrating that the island was well occupied during the 1st millennia BC (NHER 27382; NHER 27393; NHER 27400; NHER 27402; NHER 27572). Evidence of Middle - Late Iron Age activity has been found during excavations *c.*900m north of the John Grant School, where the remains of small-scale salt production were identified (Anderson 2020).

Romano-British

19 Early Romano-British activity has been identified at the same site, which may have been continuously occupied from the Late Iron Age (Anderson 2020). Early

Romano-British activity has also been identified during a watching prior to the construction of the Caister-on-Sea bypass *c.*550m to the south-west of the proposed development area (NHER 12737).

20 The most significant archaeological remains from this period in the village are those of the early 3rd to late 4th century 'Saxon Shore' fort located *c.*500m to the south of the site (Scheduled Monument 1015268) (NHER 8675). The ditch, wall and rampart of the fort enclosed a *c.*3.5ha area, and excavations have demonstrated that buildings were present within the confines of the fort, as well as possible corn drying kilns and a water tank (Darling and Gurney 1993). Possible Romano-British kilns have also been found *c.*750m to the south of the site (NHER 8678; NHER 8679). Middle – Late Romano-British occupation has also been identified during pre-development excavations *c.*150m to the south-east of the fort (Albone 2001; 2006) (NHER 35843).

21 Other Romano-British features are frequently encountered during small-scale archaeological investigations across Caister-on-Sea, with mostly pits and ditches being encountered (NHER 35843; NHER 59565; NHER 60545). Extensive cropmarks of Romano-British date have been identified across the parish from aerial photograph analysis (NHER 12828; NHER 27474), including the suspected remains of part of the civilian *vicus* settlement which surrounded the fort (NHER 27513), and a probable farmstead (NHER 27512).

22 Romano-British artefacts have been found in abundance across the village during fieldwalking and metal detecting, which has recovered coins (NHER 11657; NHER 14765; NHER 14768; NHER 15511; NHER 20688; NHER 25268; NHER 37499; NHER 39382; NHER 56884; NHER 56885), a copper-alloy mount (NHER 14538) and pottery (NHER 13228).

Anglo-Saxon

23 Occupation of Caister-on-Sea appears to continue after the decline of the fort and the disintegration of Roman administration. Cremation urns of either Late Romano-British or Early Anglo-Saxon date have been found *c.*525m to the south-east of the site during the 19th and 20th centuries (NHER 13688). An Early Anglo-Saxon brooch has also been found *c.*125m to the west of the site (NHER 15997).

24 Significant high-status Middle Anglo-Saxon occupation has been found within the vicinity of the fort, with a possible monastery recorded as having been situated on the site (NHER 8675). An extensive cemetery of this period has also been excavated to the north and south of the fort (NHER 8675). Middle Anglo-Saxon pits and a possible building has also been found during excavations *c.*550m south-east of the site (NHER 45329).

Medieval

25 Evidence for significant medieval occupation is abundant across Caister-on-Sea. The medieval Holy Trinity Church is situated *c.*750m to the south-east of the site; it has later post-medieval modifications and underwent full restoration in 1894 (NHER 8683). The extant moated brick castle of Sir John Fastolf built in 1432 (and later modified in the late 15th century) stands *c.*1.25km to the south-west of the site; the structure has a complex history and was sieged by the Duke of

Norfolk during the War of the Roses (Scheduled Monument 1002882) (NHER 8671).

26 Metal detecting across the parish has found a wide distribution of medieval artefacts including that of a gold finger ring (NHER 14771) and coinage (NHER 8682; NHER 14764; NHER 14766; NHER 14770; NHER 15511; NHER 15997; NHER 25268).

Post-medieval

27 Extant post-medieval domestic structures survive in the south of the village, present *c.*950m (NHER 42868) and *c.*975m (NHER 42908) from the site. Disused post-medieval boundaries have been identified from aerial photographs to the south and north-west of the site (NHER 27526; NHER 27575), and the location of two post-medieval mills has been identified from historic maps to the east and south-east of the site (NHER 8693; NHER 16360).

28 Post-medieval artefacts are found less frequently during metal detecting in the parish than those of Romano-British and medieval date. Coinage has however been found *c.*1.2km to the north-west of the site (NHER 34032), and a collection of ceramic building material was recovered *c.*675m to the south-west (NHER 34036).

Modern

29 The size of Caister-on-Sea grew substantially during the 20th century, while also becoming a significant seaside resort. The first holiday camp in Britain was established in the village by socialist Fletcher Dodd in 1906 and was located *c.*575m to the north-east of the proposed development area (NHER 40816).

30 The village also played a significant role in stationing military personnel during World War Two; the structures associated with this are visible on contemporary aerial photographs of the area (NHER 27511).

31 The remains of other World War Two structures and features are also visible on aerial photographs of the village from the 1940s. This includes air raid shelters (NHER 27482; NHER 27483; NHER 27486; NHER 27487; NHER 27488; NHER 27500; NHER 27507), pillboxes and defences (NHER 27471; NHER 27472; NHER 27473; NHER 27476; NHER 27478; NHER 27481; NHER 32673; NHER 32674), searchlights (NHER 27489), a gun battery (NHER 27475) and mortar emplacements (NHER 27480; NHER 27485). The locations of numerous plane crashes and bomb craters associated with the war are also present throughout the study area (NHER 13678; NHER 27477; NHER 27498; NHER 27484; NHER 27499).

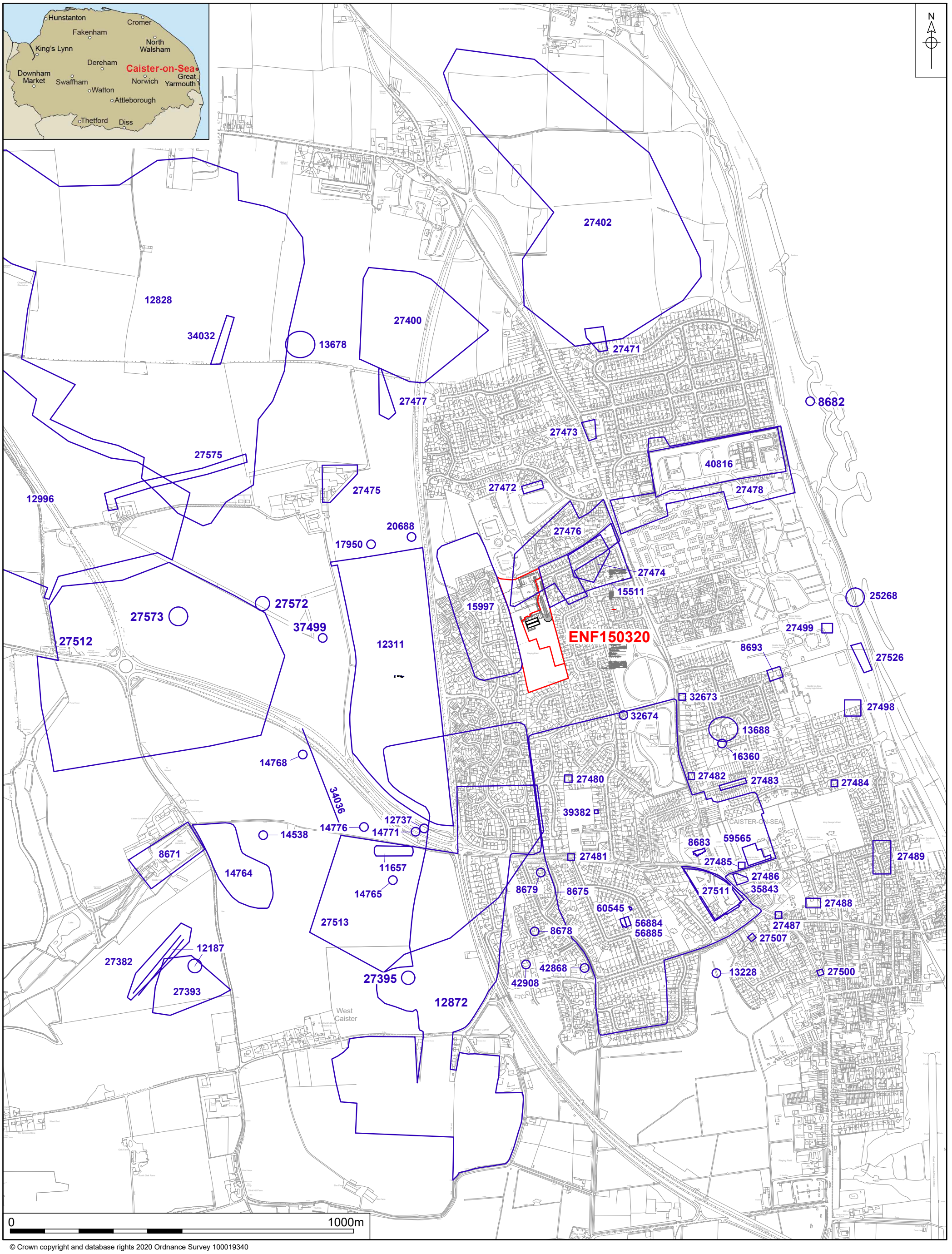

Figure 1. Site location with HER data. Scale 1:10,000

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Previous Archaeological Investigations

32 Numerous archaeological investigations have been undertaken in the local area, mostly consisting of small-scale watching briefs and trial trench evaluations.

33 The most significant investigations to take place within the vicinity of the site include those on the Romano-British fort and Middle Anglo-Saxon cemetery between 1951 – 1955 *c.*500m to the south (Darling and Gurney 1993), the excavation of Middle Iron Age – Early Romano-British occupation *c.*900m to the north in 2016 (Anderson 2020) and excavations on the Middle – Late Romano-British *vicus* settlement *c.*775m to the south-east (Albone 2001; 2006). Details on the findings from these excavations are discussed above.

34 Numerous extensive geophysical surveys have also recently been undertaken to the west of the development area (see ENF142358 and ENF147117).

Cartographic Evidence

35 The earliest cartographic evidence consulted for the area was *Faden's Map of Norfolk* published in 1797. This map illustrates the primary roads of Caister-on-Sea, including Ormesby Road which runs to the east of the site.

36 The early - mid 19th-century *Enclosure Map* of the area indicates the site was previously part of a large L-shaped field called 'Mill Hill Field' which extended from the current southern boundary of the site to Ormesby Road. The presence of a mill is not indicated on this map or on the previously discussed map, but the location of one on the site could be possible. The route of a 'discontinued public road (No.1)' is depicted running along the western boundary of the site. The surrounding environs of the site are shown as being completely undeveloped at this time and appears to have consisted entirely of divided agricultural fields. No changes to the site or its surrounds are illustrated on the mid-19th century *Tithe Map* or on the late 19th century OS map.

Photographic Evidence

37 A vertical aerial photograph taken in 1946 shows development to the north of the site, with the construction of a water tower and housing. The site remains undeveloped and was part of the field which still had an L-shape form in-plan.

38 A subsequent aerial photograph dating to 1988 shows extensive development of the sites environs with housing constructed upon all sides. This includes the north-east part of the L-shaped field, with the site now taking on a rectangular shape in-plan. The development of the John Grant School in the north of this field is also shown.

METHODOLOGY

General

39 The methodology for the archaeological trial trenching followed the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation (Adams 2020), where the mitigation strategy for the works is presented in full (Appendix 5).

40 All archaeological procedures were carried out in line with the *Standards For Development-Led Archaeological Projects in Norfolk* (Robertson *et al*. 2018) and conformed to 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 trial trenching 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 the John Grant School, St George's Drive, Caister-on-Sea, and to make the results of the work accessible.

Methods

43 The brief issued by NCCES (Hickling 2020) stipulated that five trenches were required as follows:

- 30m x 1.8m trench within the footprint of the New ASD building (Trench 1)
- 10m x 1.8m trench within the footprint of the associated soakaway (Trench 2)
- 10m x 1.8m trench within the footprint of the carpark extension (Trench 3)
- Two 20m x 1.8m trenches within the area of the contractor's compound and access area (Trench 4 and Trench 5)

44 A site survey was carried out by NPS Land Survey using a GS16 GPS which situated the trenches according to the NCCES approved WSI plan (Adams 2020). Due to the presence of recently placed shipping containers at the site, Trench 3 had to be moved 5m to the south of its originally planned position.

Fieldwork

45 Prior to mechanical excavation, each trench location was scanned with a CAT scan to check for buried services. Additionally, metal detecting of the trench locations was conducted prior to machining to identify any metal finds in the topsoil. Trench locations were also examined for any possible surface features prior to excavation.

46 Machine excavation was carried out by a 7-tonne 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.

47 All trench surfaces revealed by the machine were hand-cleaned and all archaeological deposits were excavated by hand. On completion of the work, all trenches were backfilled by machine.

48 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.

49 Soil sampling to recover plant macrofossils and other remains was carried out on several deposits where it was considered that good potential existed to retrieve secure assemblages.

50 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NPS Archaeology pro forma. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Digital photographs were taken of all relevant archaeological features and deposits where appropriate.

51 Temporary benchmarks used during the course of this work were located at the ends of each of the trenches with spot heights recorded by the GS16 GPS.

52 Site conditions were largely good with low winds and only occasional rain.

Plate 1. Excavation of feature **11**, Trench 1, looking east

Post-excavation

53 All hand-drawn records were digitised into AutoDesk AutoCad 2018. Digital copies of all context, plan, section, photographic, small find and soil sample registers were produced using Microsoft Excel. Digital photographs were archived and a digital catalogue created.

54 All contexts sheets were checked and cross-referenced with the drawn and photographic records to ensure consistency. Where errors were identified, corrections were made to the site database.

55 Archaeological finds were processed and catalogued in a single Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. This catalogue was updated as each artefact assemblage was examined by appropriate finds specialists.

56 Three (70L) soil bulk samples were processed and the flots were examined and reported upon.

Archive

57 The site archive is currently held at the office of NPS Archaeology. On completion of the project the archive will be prepared and indexed following guidelines set out by the Norfolk Museums Service (2018) and relevant national guidelines (Brown 2011; CIfA 2014b). The archive, which consists of all paper elements created during the recording of the archaeological site (including digital material) and the finds recovered from it, will be deposited with Norfolk Museums Service under the accession code 2020.150 subject to written consent from the landowner.

58 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 norfolka1-406959, and upon approval by NCCES this report will be uploaded to the OASIS database.

59 The content of the site archive is summarised in Table 1:

Item	**No**.
Contexts	54
Files/paper record sheets	58
Plan and section sheets	4
Digital Images	105
Finds	57 (1 box)

Table 1. Site archive quantification

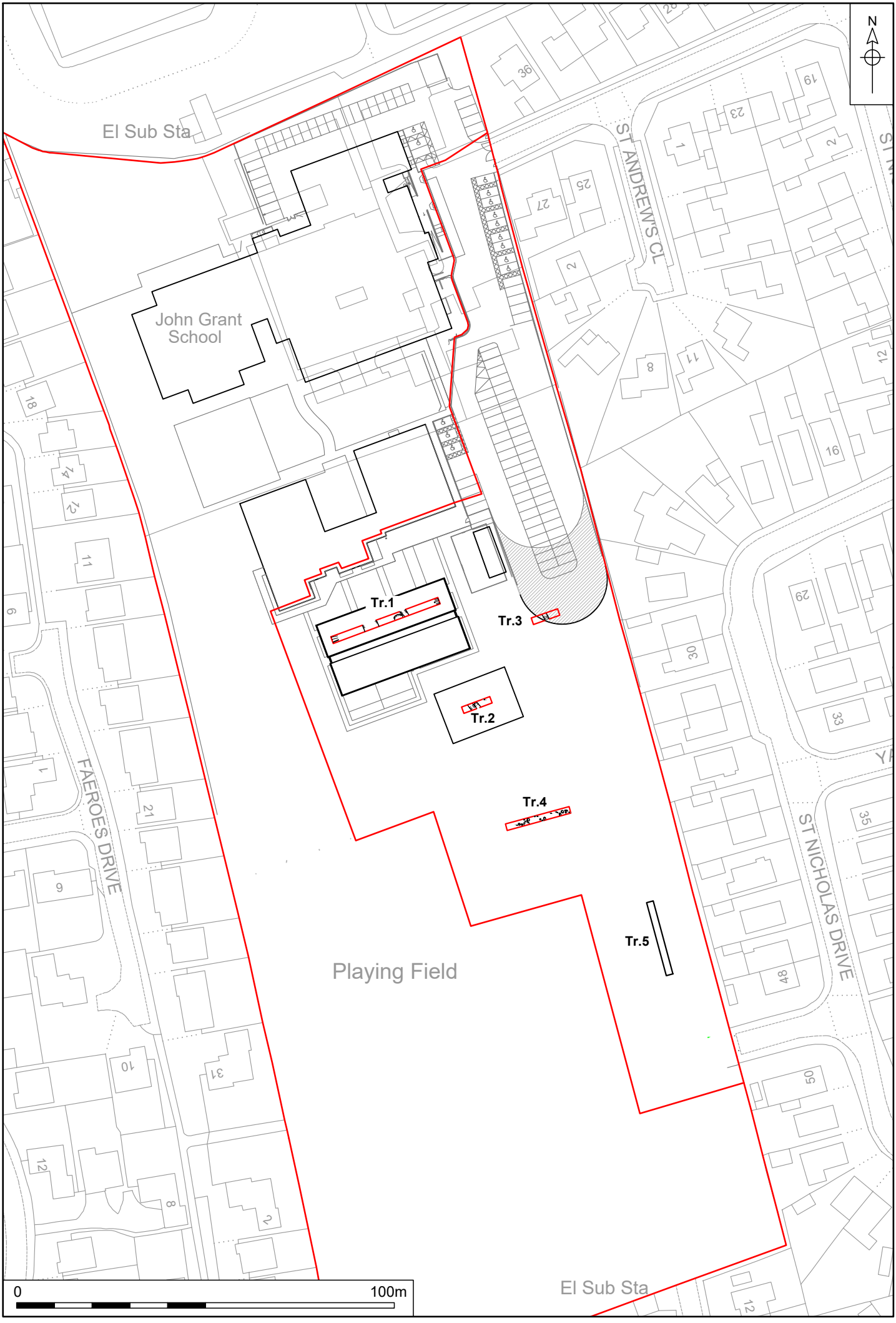

Figure 2. Location of trenches. Scale 1:1250

RESULTS

Trench 1

Figures 2 & 3; Plates 2, 3 & 4	
Location	
Orientation	north-east – south-west
Dimensions	
Length	30.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.87m
Levels	
north-east top	16.76mAOD
south-west top	16.78mAOD

Context	Type	Description	Thickness
01	Deposit	Topsoil	0.26m
06	Deposit	Subsoil	0.42m
11	Cut	Feature	0.28m
12	Deposit	Fill of feature **11**	0.28m
13	Cut	Pit	0.42m
14	Deposit	Fill of pit **13**	0.42m
15	Cut	Ditch	0.21m
16	Deposit	Fill of ditch **15**	0.21m
17	Deposit	Levelling/construction deposit	0.19m

Discussion

Three archaeological features were identified in Trench 1. The features in this trench were all truncated by a mid-yellowish brown sandy silt subsoil, which likely represents an old plough soil of post-medieval date (**06**). The subsoil was overlain by **17**, a compact layer of grey sandy silt with charcoal and modern brick inclusions. This deposit likely related to the construction of the school, representing a previous topsoil/ground surface. Above this, a mid-greyish brown sandy silt topsoil with occasional sub-angular flint inclusions was present (**01**).

Feature **11** was orientated north-west-to-south-east and measured 3.50m wide, 0.28m deep, with its full length extending beyond the confines of the trench. It was flat bottomed, with moderate sloping sides and a well-defined break of slope. It was filled with **12**, a pale yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions, from which no finds were recovered. Interpretation of this feature is difficult, with no finds and few immediately identifiable characteristics to distinguish its function/purpose. Its form resembles some Sunken Feature Buildings found in the county, such as those identified at Church Lane, Heacham (Hickling 2016; Hickling and White *forthcoming*), however the feature may equally, and perhaps more feasibly represent a flat-bottomed quarry pit or similar.

Towards the south-west of the trench, pit **13** was identified. This feature was oval in-plan, with its northern aspect extending slightly beyond the confines of the trench. It had a length of 2.25m, a

Trench 1

width of *c.*1.25m and a depth of 0.42m. The pit had an asymmetrical profile with moderate sloping sides and a gentle sloping base. A single deposit of pale greyish brown sandy silt containing rare small sub-rounded flint inclusions filled this feature (**14**), with a single retouched flint flake of prehistoric date recovered from it. Due to limited available evidence the function and date of this feature is not clear. The fill of this pit is distinctly sterile in nature, with an absence of charcoal, suggesting it was unlikely to have been cast in an area of intense occupation/activity. The presence of a non-abraded flint flake may tentatively suggest a later prehistoric date.

Ditch **15** was situated to the immediate south-east of pit **13** and was orientated north-west-to-south-east. It had a width of 1.40m and a depth of 0.21m, with an asymmetrical profile consisting of gentle sloping sides and a gentle sloping base. It was filled with **16**, a mid-yellowish brown sandy silt containing occasional small sub-rounded flint inclusions. From the top of this feature a small highly abraded sherd (1g) of early medieval pottery was recovered. There is a high possibility that this find was intrusively deposited into this feature, moving through the soft sandy soils via plough action and bioturbation. Analysis of this same feature in Trench 2 suggests a later prehistoric date. Due to the presence of sandy soils at the site, it is more likely that this ditch functioned as a property/field boundary or corral ditch, as opposed to a drainage feature.

Plate 2. Feature **11**, Trench 1, 2.0m scale, looking south-east

Plate 3. Pit **13**, Trench 1, 1.0m scale, looking north-west

Trench 1

Plate 4. Ditch **15**, Trench 1, 1.0m scale, looking north-west

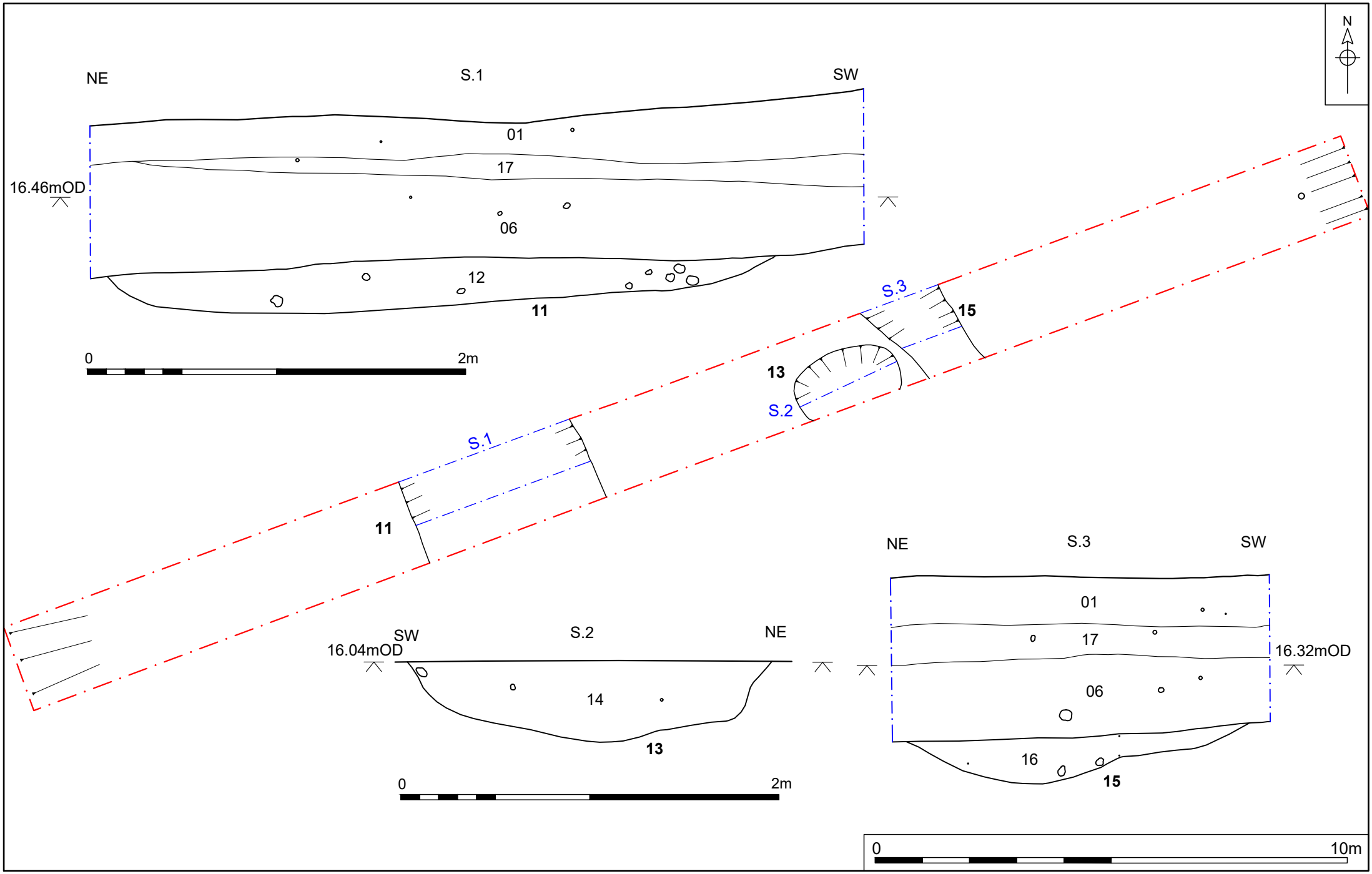

Figure 3. Trench 1, plan and sections. Scale 1:100 and 1:25

Trench 2

Figures 2 & 4; Plate 5	
Location	
Orientation	north-east – south-west
Dimensions	
Length	10.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.95m
Levels	
north-east top	15.62mAOD
south-west top	15.66mAOD

Context	Type	Description	Thickness
02	Deposit	Topsoil	0.40m
07	Deposit	Primary subsoil	0.32m
18	Cut	Ditch	0.30m
19	Deposit	Primary fill of **18**	0.18m
20	Deposit	Secondary fill of **18**	0.12m
21	Cut	Ditch	0.30m
22	Deposit	Primary fill of **21**	0.20m
23	Deposit	Secondary fill of **21**	0.10m
53	Deposit	Secondary subsoil	0.23m

Discussion

Two archaeological features were identified in Trench 2; both were truncated by a mid-brown sandy silt primary subsoil, which likely represents an old plough soil of post-medieval date (**07**). A fragment of post-medieval pantile was recovered from this deposit, along with a flint end scraper and a struck flint flake. This deposit was overlain by a secondary subsoil consisting of a mid-yellowish brown sandy silt with rare small sub-angular flint inclusions (**53**). Above this, a mid-greyish brown sandy silt topsoil with occasional sub-angular flint inclusions was present (**02**).

Ditch **18** was 1.10m wide, 0.3m deep and was orientated north-west-to-south-east. It had a symmetrical profile with moderate sloping sides and a gentle sloping base. Ditch **18** was filled with two deposits; primary fill **19**, which consisted of a pale greyish yellow silty sand with occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions, and secondary fill **20**, which consisted of a mid-greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions. From primary fill **19**, five struck flints were recovered including a large end scraper and a hammerstone, possibly suggesting a later prehistoric date for this feature. A single indeterminate cereal grain and a possible fragment of hazel nutshell was identified from a sample of deposit **19**. This ditch was also seen in Trench 1 (**15**).

Ditch **21** was situated immediately to the north-east of ditch **18** and shared the same alignment. This ditch terminated within the trench, extending to the north-west beyond the confines of the excavation. It was 1.30m wide, 0.30m deep and had an asymmetrical profile with moderate sloping sides and a sloping base. This feature was filled with two deposits; primary fill **22**, a pale yellowish grey silty sand with occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions, and secondary fill **23**,

Trench 2

a mid-greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions. A single struck flint chip and two small sherds of probable Post Deverel-Rimbury ware pottery were recovered from fill **22**, suggesting a later prehistoric date for this feature. The stratigraphic relationship between **18** and **21** could not be established from the available evidence.

Plate 5. Ditch **21** and ditch **18**, Trench 2, 2.0m scale, looking south-east

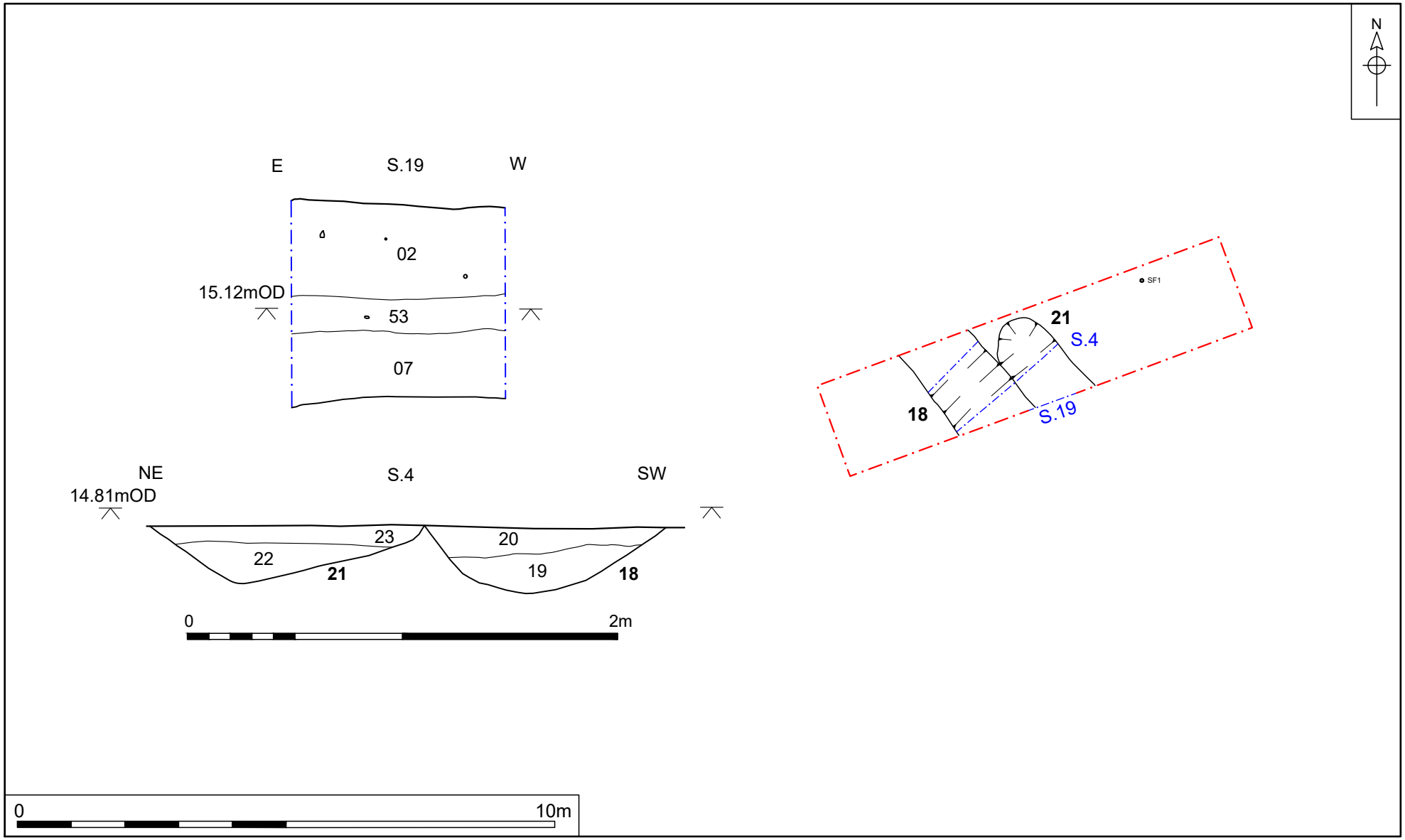

Figure 4. Trench 2, plan and sections. Scale 1:100 and 1:25

Trench 3

Figures 2 & 5; Plate 6	
Location	
Orientation	north-east – south-west
Dimensions	
Length	10.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.84m
Levels	
north-east top	16.29mAOD
south-west top	16.32mAOD

Context	Type	Description	Thickness
03	Deposit	Topsoil	0.42m
08	Deposit	Subsoil	0.42m
24	Cut	Ditch	0.34m
25	Deposit	Fill of ditch **24**	0.34m

Discussion

A single archaeological feature was identified in this trench which was truncated by a mid-yellowish brown sandy silt subsoil (**08**), from which fragments of post-medieval pantile and clay tobacco pipe were recovered. Above this was a mid-greyish brown sandy silt topsoil with occasional sub-angular flint inclusions (**03**).

Ditch **24** was similar in character to ditches **15**=**18** and **21**. It was orientated north-to-south, measured 1.07m wide, 0.35m deep and continued in both directions beyond the confines of the trench. It had a symmetrical profile with moderate sloping sides and base. A single deposit filled this feature and consisted of a mid-yellowish brown sandy silt with rare small sub-angular flint inclusions (**25**). Two struck flints were recovered from this fill, possibly suggesting this feature was of later prehistoric date. As with the other ditches identified at the site, it is more likely that ditch **24** functioned as a property/field boundary or corral ditch, as opposed to a drainage feature.

Trench 3

Plate 6. Ditch **24**, Trench 3, 1.0m scale, looking north-west

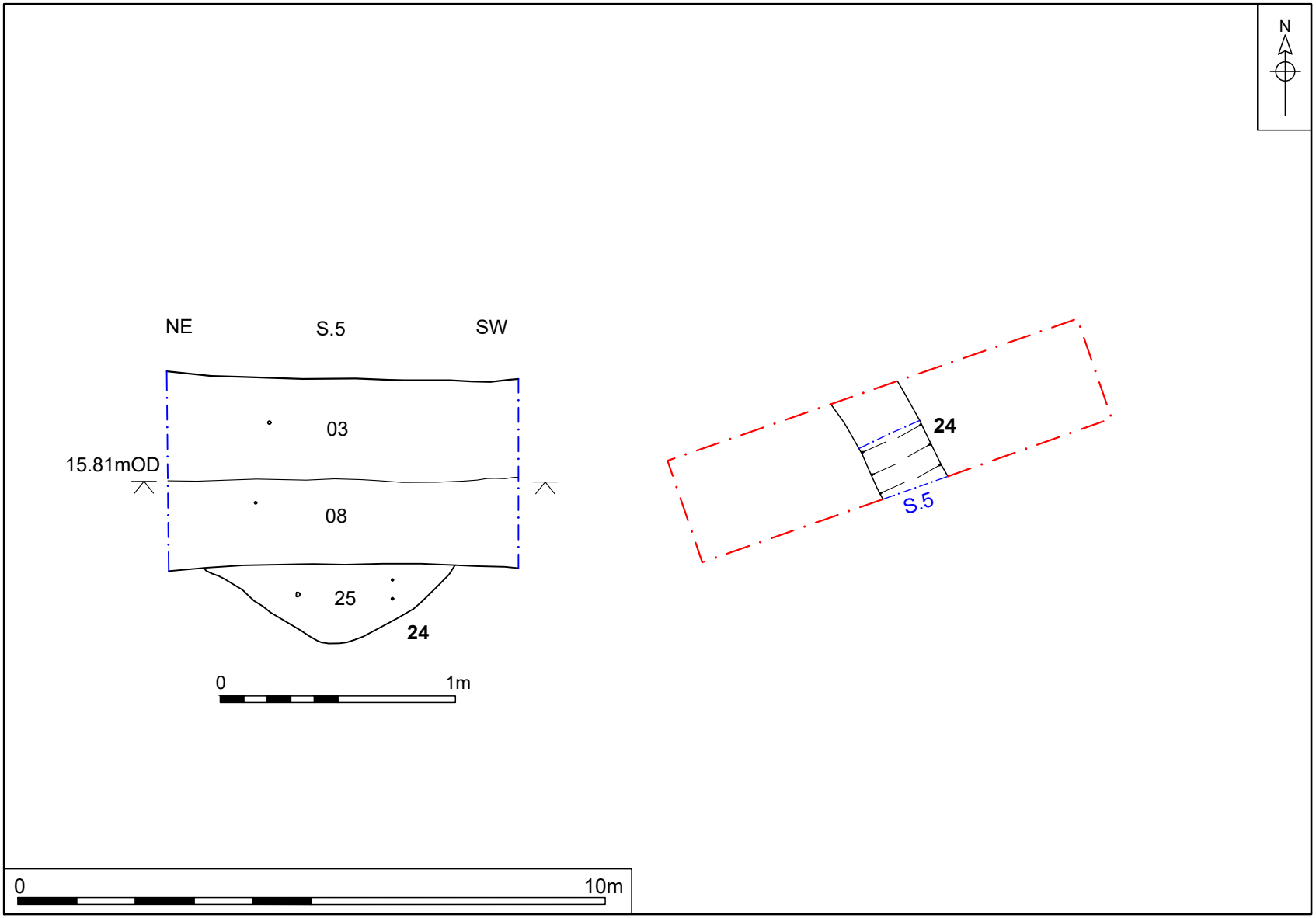

Figure 5. Trench 3, plan and section. Scale 1:100 and 1:25

Trench 4

Figures 2 & 6; Plates 7, 8 & 9	
Location	
Orientation	north-east – south-west
Dimensions	
Length	20.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	1.02m
Levels	
north-east top	14.51mAOD
south-west top	14.90mAOD

Context	Type	Description	Thickness
04	Deposit	Topsoil	0.42m
09	Deposit	Primary subsoil	0.34m
26	Cut	Pit	0.08m
27	Deposit	Fill of pit **26**	0.08m
28	Cut	Pit	0.06m
29	Deposit	Fill of pit **28**	0.06m
30	Cut	Pit	0.06m
31	Deposit	Fill of pit **30**	0.06m
32	Cut	Pit/post-hole	0.06m
33	Deposit	Fill of pit/post-hole **32**	0.06m
34	Cut	Pit	0.16m
35	Deposit	Fill of pit **34**	0.16m
36	Cut	Pit/post-hole	0.08m
37	Deposit	Fill of pit/post-hole **36**	0.08m
38	Cut	Pit	0.10m
39	Deposit	Fill of pit **38**	0.10m
40	Cut	Post-hole	0.18m
41	Deposit	Fill of post-hole **40**	0.18m
42	Cut	Feature	0.02m
43	Deposit	Fill of feature **42**	0.02m
44	Cut	Pit	0.10m
45	Deposit	Fill of pit **44**	0.10m

Trench 4			
46	Cut	Pit/post-hole	0.06m
47	Deposit	Fill of pit/post-hole **46**	0.06m
48	Cut	Pit	0.04m
49	Deposit	Fill of pit **48**	0.04m
50	Cut	Pit	0.07m
51	Deposit	Fill of pit **50**	0.07m
52	Deposit	Secondary subsoil	0.26m
54	Unstratified	Unstratified finds	N/A

Discussion

Thirteen archaeological features were identified in this trench, all of which were truncated by a mid-brown sandy silt primary subsoil with occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions (**09**). From this deposit several artefacts were recovered, some of which are likely to have been ploughed out of the tops of the truncated features identified in this trench. This finds assemblage included twelve struck flints (including one end scraper), a piece of heat-altered flint, one sherd of early medieval pottery and one sherd of Roman amphora. As with Trench 2, a secondary subsoil overlaid this deposit which consisted of a mid-yellowish brown sandy silt with occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions (**52**). Above this deposit was a mid-greyish brown sandy silt topsoil with occasional sub-angular flint inclusions (**04**). A small assemblage of unstratified finds was recovered from the spoil of this trench (**54**). This included three later prehistoric struck flints, a sherd of Roman samian ware and a sherd of post-medieval glazed red earthenware.

In the south-west end of the trench, five discrete pit-like features were present; all were sub-circular in-plan and shallow, having undergone significant horizontal truncation. Pit **26** had a diameter of 0.48m and a depth of 0.08m, with a gently sloping bowl-shaped profile. Pit **28** was very similar in form to pit **26**, but with a diameter of 0.46m and a depth of 0.06m. Pit/post-hole **32** was distinct, with a smaller diameter of 0.22m, a depth of 0.06m and a gently sloping bowl-shaped profile. The largest feature in this trench was pit **30** which had an approximate diameter of 1.40m and extended slightly beyond the south-east edge of the trench. This feature was flat bottomed with moderate sloping sides. All four of these features were filled with similar deposits consisting of friable mid-yellowish brown sandy silt with small rare sub-rounded flint inclusions and rare charcoal flecks (**27**, **29**, **31** and **33**). Struck flints of prehistoric date were recovered from the fills of features **28**, **30** and **32**. Although this may suggest a later prehistoric date for these features, a fragment of fired clay of Romano-British date was recovered from pit **30**. Consequently, their dating currently remains uncertain. Pit **34** was also located towards the south-west end of the trench and had a unique character. This feature had a diameter of 0.70m and a depth of 0.16m, with an asymmetrical moderately sloping profile. It was filled with **35**, a dark greyish brown sandy silt with rare small sub-angular flint inclusions and frequent charcoal flecks. A single flint chip was recovered from this feature.

In the centre of the trench three horizontally truncated features were present. Pit **36** had a diameter of 0.26m and a depth of 0.08m, with a moderately sloping bowl-shaped profile. Pit **38** was situated to the north-east of pit/post-hole **36** and was oval shaped in plan, with an approximate length of 0.84m, width of 0.50m and a depth of 0.10m. It had a gently sloping profile with an undulating base. Pit **50** was partially obscured by the north-west facing baulk, with a width of 0.35m and a depth of 0.07m. This feature had a moderate sloping bowl shaped profile. All three features were filled with similar deposits consisting of friable mid-yellowish brown sandy silt containing small rare sub-rounded flint inclusions and rare charcoal flecks (**37**, **39** and **51**). Finds were only recovered from the fill of pit **38**, with two struck flints collected. As with the features discussed above, dating of these pits/post-holes cannot be certain, but a later prehistoric to Romano-British date is most likely.

Trench 4

Towards the north-east end of the trench five further features were present. Post-hole **40** had a diameter of 0.34m, a depth of 0.18m and had an unclear relationship with feature **42**, which represented a shallow oval-shaped flat-bottomed scoop. Post-hole **40** had a moderate sloping u-shaped profile, and as with feature **42**, was filled with a mid-yellowish brown sandy silt containing small rare sub-rounded flint inclusions and rare charcoal flecks (**41** and **43**). No finds were recovered from either of these features. Pit **44** was sub-circular in-plan with a diameter of 0.68m and a depth of 0.10m. This feature had a gentle sloping bowl-shaped profile and was filled with a mid-yellowish brown sandy silt containing small rare sub-rounded flint inclusions and frequent charcoal flecks, from which no finds were recovered (**45**).

A small pit or post-hole with a diameter of 0.28m and a depth of 0.06m was also present in the north-east end of Trench 4 (**46**). This feature had a gentle sloping bowl-shaped profile and was filled with a mid-yellowish brown sandy silt containing small rare sub-rounded flint inclusions (**47**). A single sherd of Post Deverel-Rimbury pottery was recovered from this fill. To the north of this feature, pit **48** was present, which had an oval shape in-plan with a length of 0.75m, width of 0.35m and a depth of 0.05m. This feature was flat bottomed and filled with a mid-yellowish brown sandy silt containing small rare sub-rounded flint inclusions and rare charcoal flecks (**49**). No finds were recovered from the fill of this feature. As with the rest of the features in this trench, these features have been given a provisional later prehistoric – Romano-British date (see discussion).

Plate 7. Features **30**, **32** and **34**, Trench 4, 0.3m, 0.5m and 1.0m scale, looking north-east

Trench 4

Plate 8. Features **36**, **38** and **50**, Trench 4, 0.3m and 0.5m scale, looking north-east

Plate 9. Features **40**, **42**, **44**, **46** and **48**, Trench 4, 0.5m scale, looking north-east

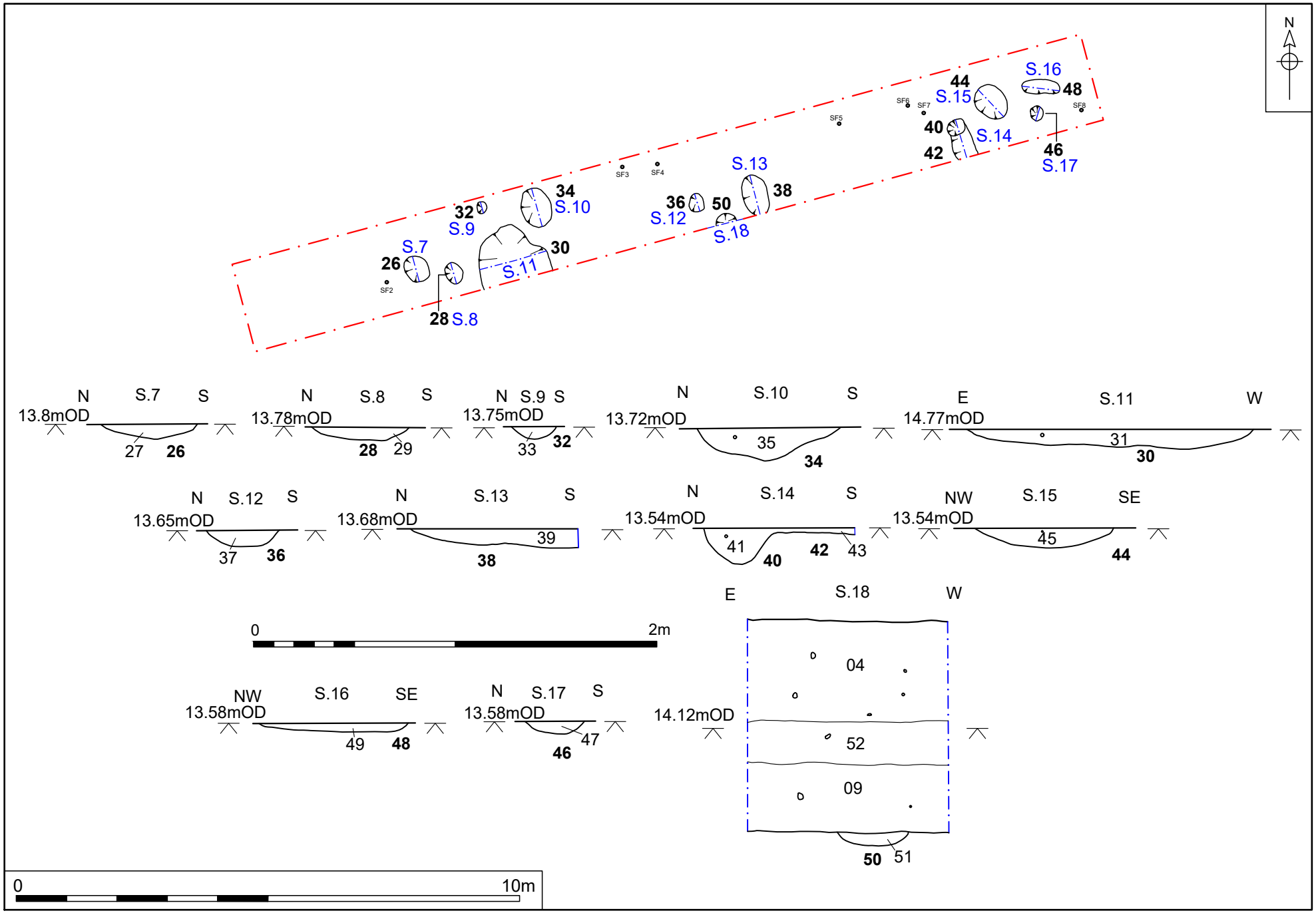

Figure 6. Trench 4, plan and sections. Scale 1:100 and 1:25

Trench 5

Figure 2	
Location	
Orientation	north-west – south-east
Dimensions	
Length	20.00m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.83m
Levels	
north-west top	13.65mAOD
south-east top	13.35mAOD

Context	Type	Description	Thickness
05	Deposit	Topsoil	0.41m
10	Deposit	Subsoil	0.42m

Discussion

No archaeological deposits or features were identified in this trench and no artefacts were recovered. A mid-yellowish brown sandy silt subsoil with frequent small sub-angular flint inclusions overlaid the natural (**10**). Above this, a mid-greyish brown sandy silt topsoil with occasional sub-angular flint inclusions was present (**05**).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS

Pottery

Sue Anderson, Sarah Percival and Alice Lyons

60 Eight sherds of pottery weighing 36g were collected from five contexts. Table 2 shows the quantification by context. A full catalogue is included in the archive as a Microsoft Access database.

Context	Fabric	No.	Wt/g	Description	Spotdate
09	EMW	1	1	small fine sandy body sherd, black - SF7	11th-12th c.
	BD20A	1	23	Baetican Dressel 20 amphora	AD 2nd c.
16	EMW	1	1	small fine sandy body sherd, grey	11th-12th c.
22	?PDR	2	2	abundant flint inclusions	?Early Iron Age
47	PDR	1	3	abundant flint inclusions	Early Iron Age
54	SAM	1	2	body sherd with heavily abraded moulded decoration externally – probably a bowl fragment	AD 70-230
	GRE	1	4	body sherd, pale orang glaze on both surfaces	17th-18th c.
Totals		*8*	*36*		

Table 2. Pottery catalogue

Key: SAM – samian ware; EMW - early medieval ware; GRE - glazed red earthenware; PDR - Post Deverel-Rimbury; BD20A - Baetican Dressel 20 amphora

61 One small body sherd weighing 3g from fill **47** of pit **46** has abundant flint inclusions suggesting a Post Deverel-Rimbury perhaps Early Iron Age date. Two further scraps of pottery with similar flint inclusions from fill **22** of ditch **21** are likely to be of a similar date. The Post Deverel-Rimbury sherds are comparable with examples found previously at Caister-on-Sea (Lawson and Healy 1993, 153).

62 Roman ceramics from the site were represented by a heavily abraded fragment of samian, which was an unstratified find from Trench 4 (**54**). The curvature of the sherd suggested that it was from a Dr. 37 bowl, with decoration of indeterminate design externally. Subsoil **09** produced a body sherd of Baetican Dressel 20 amphora (Tomber and Dore 1998; fabric BAT AM 2) of 2nd century or later date. These large vessels, used as olive oil containers, derived from Baetica in southern Spain and were found in some quantity during excavations at the Roman shore fort (Darling and Gurney 1993, 205).

63 Small body sherds of early medieval ware of typical fine-sandy thin-walled type were recovered from primary subsoil **09** in Trench 4 and ditch fill **16**.

64 A body sherd of post-medieval glazed red earthenware was also found unstratified from Trench 4.

65 The group is too small to provide any meaningful interpretation of the site.

Ceramic Building Material

Sue Anderson

66 Six fragments (287g) of ceramic building material (CBM) were collected from three contexts. Table 3 shows the quantities by form and fabric. A full catalogue is included in the archive as a Microsoft Access database.

Fabric	code	RBT	RTP	PAN
fine sandy with clay pellets	fscp		1	1
fine sandy with ferrous oxide	fsfe	1		
fine sandy with grog	fsg			2
medium sandy	ms		1	
Total no. frags		*1*	*2*	*3*
Total weight		92	68	127

Table 3. CBM quantities by fabric

67 One heavily abraded fragment of Romano-British tile in a fine sandy fabric with sparse ferrous inclusions was recovered from secondary subsoil **52**. It had buff surfaces and a red core.

68 All other CBM was of post-medieval date and comprised two fragments of plain tile from subsoil **52**, and three pieces of pantile from subsoil **07**, **08** and **52**.

Clay Tobacco Pipe

Joshua White

69 One fragment of clay tobacco pipe was recovered subsoil **08** in Trench 3, weighing 1g.

70 It was an undiagnostic piece of stem, which cannot be more closely dated than post-medieval.

Fired Clay

Sarah Percival

71 A fragment of baked clay from fill **31** of pit **30** is of a fine orange silty fabric with moderate medium to coarse ferrous inclusions. The fragment is not identifiable to any form but the fabric suggests that it is of Roman-British date (Alice Lyons *pers. comm*.).

Struck and Heat-altered Flint

Sarah Bates

Methodology

72 Each flint was examined and recorded by context. The material was classified by category and type with numbers of pieces and numbers of complete, corticated, patinated and hinge fractured pieces being recorded. The condition of the flint was also recorded along with additional descriptive comments.

The flint

73 Thirty-nine struck or shattered flints were found during the trial trenching. A single fragment of heat-altered flint weighing 10g was also recovered. The flint is summarised in Table 4 and listed by context in Appendix 3.

Type	Number
multi platform blade core	1
multi platform flake core	1
struck fragment	2
tested piece	1
shatter	3
flake	16
blade	1
spall	3
chip	3
end scraper	3
retouched flake	1
utilised flake	3
hammerstone	1
Total	**39**
Heat-altered	1

Table 4. Flint assemblage

74 A small core of smooth near-black flint from **31** had some quite neat blade-like removals from one side, the latest of which have failed at a step fracture. It was incomplete, with one side missing, but the presence/position of patinated 'cortex' shows that it would not have been much larger. The piece was rotated, its fractured surface used as a platform with a few short removals struck from its edge. The relative neatness of the small core as well as the blade-like removals suggest that it is of earlier Neolithic date.

75 Another core was a thick (?flake-like) fragment with abraded pebble cortex, found unstratified from Trench 4 (**54**). It had been struck from one end and on its side, although the latter appeared to have been less successful as only a couple of small short removals were made. It was in an abraded condition.

76 An irregular piece from ditch fill **25** had been struck at a few points from one 'platform' and may be part of a core or tested piece. A much smaller struck fragment came from the same context. An irregular cortical fragment from subsoil **09** (SF8) of near-black flint may have been struck but the very battered surfaces make this uncertain.

77 Sixteen flakes were present in the assemblage. They were mostly irregular, and one or two may be better described as shatter fragments (although clearly having been struck from parent lumps or 'cores' and having the attributes of platforms and percussion bulbs). The platforms were often quite thick with pronounced hard hammer struck percussion points. There was also a small number of thin flakes; including, from deposit **29** two very small thin flakes and a spall of the same semi-transparent light brownish grey flint with darker mottling which must be from the same core. One was slightly blade-like in form, but this was probably a chance result and the other flake was irregular. There were also two small thin pieces, one of which is quite neat and the other a fragment, both from context **09** (SF2). Only one flake had evidence of platform edge abrasion; the proximal fragment of a flake from deposit **31**. It had parallel dorsal scars, but it is not possible to say whether it was a blade-like piece. One small primary flake had a hinged distal termination.

78 A single small thin slightly curving blade was also present. Its proximal end was abraded and its platform virtually absent. It was almost certainly struck by soft hammer from a prepared core. It was of the same semi-transparent mottled flint as the small thin flakes described above.

79 There were three spalls in total and three small chips. One of the latter from deposit **22** was a thick piece with a flat 'pecked' surface reminiscent of flint querns – whether or not this might be the case here is very uncertain (the piece is tiny and no striations are apparent on the pecked surface). It may alternatively be from a naturally pitted surface pebble.

80 Three scrapers were found all of which can be classified as end scrapers (Plate 10). One from subsoil **07** (SF1) may originally have been on a long thickish blade-like piece of smooth grey-black flint, but only the distal part was found. This tool had been neatly retouched and was without cortex. The other two scrapers, although neatly retouched, were more irregular in nature. One was a squat flake with thick cortex around its right side, with its proximal end retouched across its distal edge (**09**) (SF3). The other was a slightly larger thinner flake from ditch fill **19**; its platform was a previously struck surface with its dorsal face partly cortical and partly with an abraded bluish patina. It was retouched around its convex distal end.

81 Other possible 'tools' included an irregular squat flake with a very pronounced hard hammer struck percussion bulb, abraded pebble cortex and possible very slight edge retouch from pit fill **14**. Three probably utilised flakes were also identified. One of these had an unusual very smooth area with previous incipient percussion rings apparent over part of its dorsal surface, with an abraded edge between that area and its battered proximal end/platform. It is possible that this could be a flake from a grinding stone of some kind, but this is uncertain and may alternatively be naturally polished. Some tiny chips on the left lateral edge of the flake were probably use-related and the right lateral edge seems to have been used as a cutting edge.

82 A small bun-shaped pebble of smooth light orangey brown ?quartzite from ditch fill **19** has been used as a hammerstone. There were slight traces of use in the form of tiny pecks or pits around its circumference, more concentrated in some areas, but it had not been heavily used and was without any facets formed through use as a pounder or grinder.

Context of the flint

Trench 1

83 A single flake with possible slight retouch came from pit **13**.

Trench 2

84 Eight flints were recovered from Trench 2. Five were from the primary fill of ditch **18**. They included a relatively large broad scraper, a hammerstone and a flake with an unusual smooth surface and battered and abraded proximal end. There was also a small irregular primary flake with pebble type cortex. The scraper's slightly irregular nature, the use of abraded patinated flint and the presence of a significant amount of cortex on its dorsal face suggest a Bronze Age date.

85 Part of another neat scraper and a small flake came from primary subsoil **07**. The scraper was probably made on a blade or long flake and seems likely to be of earlier Neolithic date.

86 A tiny chip from ditch **21** is probably insignificant, although its surface is reminiscent of that of a flint quern.

Trench 3

87 Two struck or tested fragments were recovered from ditch **24**.

Trench 4

88 The rest of the flint (twenty-nine pieces) was found in Trench 4.

89 One to six flints (a total of fourteen) came from each of five pits (pits **28**, **30**, **32**, **34** and **38**). Pit **30** with six pieces represented the largest single assemblage. This included part of a small neat core which had produced some small blades and part of a possible blade type flake from a prepared core. Pit **28** produced three very small thin pieces of the same type of flint which must derive from the same knapping episode but are not closely datable.

90 The other flints from the pits were irregular; a thick flake with patinated and abraded cortical surfaces from pit **32** is likely of later prehistoric date.

91 Twelve flints were from primary subsoil layer **09**. Two pieces, including a thick squat scraper, have a similar thick cream cortex. There are two small thin flakes (one a fragment). The rest of these flints comprise irregular flakes and fragments.

92 An abraded flake core on a pebble fragment, a small blade and a utilised flake were unstratified finds (**54**).

Conclusion

93 The flint demonstrates prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site. The assemblage is fairly small and flint was found is small amounts, often just a single piece, in individual contexts or features.

94 Three or four pieces may be of earlier Neolithic date and it is, perhaps, notable that two of these (part of a small blade core and a flake from a prepared core) were from the same pit. The other flint from the pit varies in nature, however, and it seems unlikely to be contemporary knapping debris. Part of a neatly retouched

scarper from a primary subsoil layer was made on what appears to be a blade-type piece and may be earlier Neolithic (cf. Butler 2005, 126, fig. 505 and 6).

95 The rest of the flint was much more irregular in nature. A range of raw material had been used, including fragments from gravel and pebbles many of which had patinated and/or abraded surfaces and represent surface-collected flint. The flint was hard hammer struck and there were often pronounced percussion cones, damaged platforms and no, or very little, platform preparation. A small number of slightly retouched or utilised flakes were present. The nature of the material used and pieces produced is consistent with a later prehistoric date (Ballin 2002; Humphrey 2007). The flint is not closely datable, but a Bronze Age date seems likely for two scrapers both of which were neatly retouched, if slightly irregular. Three small pieces of a distinctive flint type were found in one pit and must represent a single knapping episode, but they were not datable.

96 A small hammerstone was present and two pieces might possibly represent grinding stones of some kind, although this is uncertain. One of these, a flake, had been edge utilised. Pieces of flint quern known from elsewhere in Norfolk include some from Late Neolithic – Early Bronze Age contexts at Hopton-on-Sea (Bates 2017) and various grinding and pounding flints from later Bronze Age contexts are described by Herne (1991, 49).

Plate 10. Flint scrapers, (left to right): SF1 **07** (incomplete), SF3 **09** and **19**, 0.1m scale

ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Plant Macrofossils and Other Remains

Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

97 Samples for the retrieval of plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from pit **34** (sample 1), post-hole **40** (sample 2) and ditch **18** (sample 3).

98 The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed below in Table 5. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (2010). All plant remains were charred.

99 The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and sorted when dry. Artefacts/ecofacts were not present.

Results

100 Charcoal/charred wood fragments were present at varying densities within all three assemblages, but other plant macrofossils were scarce. However, the assemblage from the primary fill of ditch **18** did include a single indeterminate cereal grain and a possible fragment of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell. The charcoal was mostly rounded and abraded, but the assemblage from pit **34** also includes some material which had a distinct flaked appearance, possibly indicative of high temperature combustion. Other remains included black porous and tarry residues (possibly derived from the high temperature combustion of organic materials) and small pieces of coal. The latter are common within many archaeological assemblages, where they are probably derived from either the spreading of night soil during the later medieval period or the use of steam implements on the land during the early modern era.

Discussion

101 In summary, the assemblages were all small (i.e. 0.2 litres in volume or less) and very limited in composition. The charcoal, most of which is rounded and abraded, was probably derived from scattered hearth waste, some of which may have been exposed to the elements for some considerable period prior to incorporation within the feature fills.

102 As the assemblages were so limited, no further analysis is required. Although ditch **18** did include a cereal grain and a possible nutshell fragment, both may be intrusive within the feature fill and, therefore, neither are recommended for dating purposes.

Sample No.	**1**	**2**	**3**
Context No.	**35**	**41**	**19**
Feature No.	**34**	**40**	**18**
Feature type	**Pit**	**ph**	**Ditch**
Plant macrofossils			
Cereal indet. (grain)			x
Corylus avellana L.			xcf
Charcoal <2mm	xxxx	x	xxx
Charcoal >2mm	xxxx	x	
Charcoal >5mm	xx		x
Charcoal >10mm	x		
Other remains			
Black porous and tarry material	xx	x	xx
Bone			x
Burnt/fired clay			x
Small coal fragments	x	x	xxx
Vitreous material			x
Sample volume (litres)	**20**	**9**	**40**
Volume of flot (litres)	**0.2**	**<0.1**	**<0.1**
% flot sorted	**100%**	**100%**	**100%**

Table 5. Charred plant macrofossils and other remains

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens
cf = compare ph = post hole

DISCUSSION

104 The archaeological evaluation by trial trenching carried out by NPS Archaeology at the John Grant School, St George's Drive, Caister-on-Sea, recorded archaeological features in four of the five trenches situated across the proposed development area. A total of eighteen separate archaeological features were identified, including pits, post-holes, ditches and two uncharacterised features. The densest concentration of archaeological remains was recorded in Trench 4.

105 Dating of the archaeological remains identified at the site has been difficult due to the low levels of cultural material recovered from the features recorded. However, the presence of struck flints, along with the presence of small quantities of Early Iron Age and Romano-British pottery suggests a broad preliminary 'later prehistoric to Romano-British' date for the activity identified at the site, with most of the features ascribed to this period accordingly.

106 Due to the extremely fine sandy deposits at the site, the risk of finds from the soil overburden intrusively moving into buried archaeological features through bioturbation and plough action is also considered high, further complicating the dating of the archaeological remains discovered. This process is suspected to have happened for instance with ditch **15** in Trench 1, where a small highly abraded sherd of early medieval pottery was found from the top of the fill of this feature.

107 The ditches identified in Trenches 1, 2 and 3 are considered most likely to have functioned as boundary, enclosure or corral ditches, due to the soils at the site already having well-draining properties. Similar ditches of Early – Middle Iron Age and Early Romano-British date have been identified during excavations *c.*900m to the north of the site (Anderson 2020) and similar ditches of Middle – Late Romano-British date have been identified during excavations *c.*800m to the south-east of the site (Albone 2001; 2006).

108 The small pits and post-holes identified in Trench 4 are also reminiscent of features identified at the aforementioned excavations which have been dated to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age, Middle – Late Iron Age and Romano-British periods. Small clusters of prehistoric pits and post-holes with little spatial coherence are frequently identified across east Norfolk (Ashwin and Bates 2000; Moan 2018; White 2019); their function is difficult to ascertain, but they are most often interpreted as being structural in nature.

109 An undated feature in Trench 1 (feature **11**) may represent a flat-bottomed quarry pit or similar. Interestingly, its form resembles some Sunken Feature Buildings found in the county, such as those identified at Church Lane, Heacham (Hickling 2016; Hickling and White *forthcoming*), however the lack of artefacts recovered from this feature makes this unlikely.

110 The archaeological trial trenching has demonstrated the presence of buried archaeological remains at the site, with the highest concentrations located in the vicinity of Trench 1 and Trench 4. Preliminarily, the evidence identified suggests activity during the later prehistoric – Romano-British periods at the site and is most likely agrarian in nature or derives from small-scale occupation.

111 Recommendations for further archaeological mitigation work (if required, based on the evidence presented in this report) will be made by NCCES.

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Fieldwork was carried out by Joshua White and Richard Williams. The project was managed for NPS Archaeology by David Adams.

The report was authored by Joshua White, illustrated by Joshua White and David Dobson and edited by David Adams.

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Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Trench
1	Deposit			Topsoil Trench 1	Trench 1
2	Deposit			Topsoil Trench 2	Trench 2
3	Deposit			Topsoil Trench 3	Trench 3
4	Deposit			Topsoil Trench 4	Trench 4
5	Deposit			Topsoil Trench 5	Trench 5
6	Deposit			Subsoil Trench 1	Trench 1
7	Deposit			Lower Subsoil Trench 2	Trench 2
8	Deposit			Subsoil Trench 3	Trench 3
9	Deposit			Lower Subsoil Trench 4	Trench 4
10	Deposit			Subsoil Trench 5	Trench 5
11	Cut	Feature		Feature	Trench 1
12	Deposit		11	Fill of Feature 11	Trench 1
13	Cut	Pit		Pit	Trench 1
14	Deposit		13	Fill of Pit 13	Trench 1
15	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Trench 1
16	Deposit		15	Fill of Ditch 15	Trench 1
17	Deposit			Levelling deposit	Trench 1
18	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Trench 2
19	Deposit		18	Primary fill of Ditch 18	Trench 2
20	Deposit		18	Secondary fill of Ditch 18	Trench 2
21	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Trench 2
22	Deposit		21	Primary fill of Ditch 21	Trench 2
23	Deposit		21	Secondary fill of Ditch 21	Trench 2
24	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Trench 3
25	Deposit		24	Fill of Ditch 24	Trench 3
26	Cut	Pit		Pit	Trench 4
27	Deposit		26	Fill of Pit 26	Trench 4
28	Cut	Pit		Pit	Trench 4
29	Deposit		28	Fill of Pit 28	Trench 4
30	Cut	Pit		Pit	Trench 4
31	Deposit		30	Fill of Pit 30	Trench 4
32	Cut	Pit		Pit	Trench 4
33	Deposit		32	Fill of Pit 32	Trench 4
34	Cut	Pit		Pit	Trench 4
35	Deposit		34	Fill of Pit 34	Trench 4
36	Cut	Pit		Pit	Trench 4
37	Deposit		36	Fill of Pit 36	Trench 4
38	Cut	Pit		Pit	Trench 4
39	Deposit		38	Fill of Pit 38	Trench 4
40	Cut	Post-hole		Post-hole	Trench 4

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Trench
41	Deposit		40	Fill of Pit 40	Trench 4
42	Cut	Feature		Feature	Trench 4
43	Deposit		42	Fill of Pit 42	Trench 4
44	Cut	P		Pit	Trench 4
45	Deposit		44	Fill of Pit 44	Trench 4
46	Cut	Pit		Pit	Trench 4
47	Deposit		46	Fill of Pit 46	Trench 4
48	Cut	Pit		Pit	Trench 4
49	Deposit		48	Fill of Pit 48	Trench 4
50	Cut	Pit		Pit	Trench 4
51	Deposit		50	Fill of Pit 50	Trench 4
52	Deposit			Upper Subsoil	Trench 4
53	Deposit			Upper Subsoil	Trench 2
54	U/S Finds			Unstratified finds from Trench 4 spoil	Trench 4

Appendix 1b: Feature Summary

Period	Category	Total
Later prehistoric	Ditch	3
Later prehistoric – Romano-British	Pit	9
	Post-hole	1
	Pit/post-hole	3
	Uncharacterised feature	1
Undated	Uncharacterised feature	1

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period
7	Ceramic Building Material	1	37g	Post-medieval
7	Flint	2	16g	Prehistoric
8	Ceramic Building Material	1	73g	Post-medieval
8	Clay Tobacco Pipe	1	1g	Post-medieval
9	Burnt Flint	1	8g	Undated
9	Flint	11	189g	Prehistoric
9	Pottery	1	1g	Early medieval
9	Pottery	1	23g	Roman
14	Flint	1	23g	Prehistoric
16	Pottery	1	1g	Early medieval
19	Flint	5	220g	Prehistoric
22	Flint	1	1g	Prehistoric
22	Pottery	2	2g	Early Iron Age
25	Flint	2	99g	Prehistoric
29	Flint	3	2g	Prehistoric
31	Fired Clay	1	73g	Roman
31	Flint	6	42g	Prehistoric
33	Flint	2	23g	Prehistoric
35	Flint	1	1g	Prehistoric
39	Flint	2	5g	Prehistoric
47	Pottery	1	2g	Early Iron Age
52	Ceramic Building Material	1	20g	Roman
52	Ceramic Building Material	3	165g	Post-medieval
54	Flint	3	61g	Prehistoric
54	Pottery	1	3g	Roman
54	Pottery	1	5g	Post-medieval

Appendix 2b: Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Prehistoric	Struck flint	38
	Hammerstone	1
Early Iron Age	Pottery	3
Roman	Pottery	2
	Ceramic Building Material	1
	Fired Clay	1
Medieval	Pottery	2
Post-medieval	Pottery	1
	Ceramic building material	5
	Clay tobacco pipe	1
Undated	Heat-altered flint	1

Appendix 3a: Flint by Context

Context	SF	Type	No.
7		flake	1
7	1	end scraper	1
9	5	spall	1
9	4	flake	1
9	6	shatter	1
9	2	flake	2
9	8	struck fragment	1
9	3	end scraper	1
9		flake	3
9		burnt fragment	1
9		shatter	1
14		retouched flake	1
19		flake	2
19		utilised flake	1
19		end scraper	1
19		hammerstone	1
22		chip	1
25		tested piece	1
25		struck fragment	1
29		spall	1
29		flake	2
31		multi platform blade core	1
31		flake	3
31		chip	1
31		shatter	1
33		flake	2
35		chip	1
39		utilised flake	1
39		spall	1
54		utilised flake	1
54		blade	1
54		multi platform flake core	1

Appendix 3b: Flint Catalogue

Ctxt	SF	Cat.	Type	No.	Wt(g)	Comp.	Cort.	Prim.	Pat.	Sharp	E.dam.	Hinge	Cort. plat.	Prep. plat.	Comment
39		utfl	utilised flake	1		1	1	0	0			0	1	0	squat qu thin, v slight ut at lat edges and dist tip prob ut
39		flak	spall	1	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	v sm
35		flak	chip	1	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	v sm pointed chip/frag, fractured both sides of an edge
9	5	flak	spall	1	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	v sm spall from plat edge
7		flak	flake	1	0	1	0	1	0		slight	1	0	0	'prim.' fl but non cort. - dorsal surface abraded slightly patinated and pitted sm subcirc from ?pebble
22		grnd	chip	1	0	1	0	0	0			0	0	0	v sm thick - one flat surface is pitted - ??from quern or not??
9	4	flak	flake	1	0	1	1	0	0	quite		0	0	0	v irrg qu sm and thickish - sm area cream cortex and larger part of same surface is recort white/patina
9	6	flak	shatter	1	0	0	1	0	0			0	0	0	v irreg, prob non-struck, qu sm thick with fractured/thermal surfaces
33		flak	flake	2	0	2	1	0	0	quite		0	1	0	1 thick v irreg with pat'd white/recort thick acute angled 'plat' - , abraded/pat cortex, 1 - sm tert also irreg
19		flak	flake	2	0	1	2	1	0			0	0	0	irreg, 1 sm thickish, 1 broken edges and may be thermal, has abraded pebble cortex
19		utfl	utilised flake	1	0	1	0	0	0			0	0	0	irreg, sq/qu broad, R side is v smooth/abraded with traces of prev percussion, piitted/battered prox – might this be from quern type?? lat edges ut
19		scpf	end scraper	1	0	1	1	0	0			0	0	0	sq/subcirc but with wide plat with prev (transv) ripple scars - percussion point irreg/hh, cort across L side and prox/dors, central area pat', qu neatly ret around broad dist end
19		hams	hammerstone	1	128	1	0	0	0			0	0	0	qu sm, v reg bun- shaped pebble - light orangey brown, ?quartzite, slight evidence of use around circumf.

Ctxt	SF	Cat.	Type	No.	Wt(g)	Comp.	Cort.	Prim.	Pat.	Sharp	E.dam.	Hinge	Cort. plat.	Prep. plat.	Comment
25		stfr	tested piece	1	89	0	1	0	0			0	0	0	irreg, struck from more than one edge/angle, might be frag of irreg core'
54		utfl	utilised flake	1	0	1	0	0	0			0	0	0	irreg, but easy to hold - with slight prob ut of an edge
54		blad	blade	1	0	1	0	0	0	yes		0	0	1	sm thin slightly curving, unusual for the assemb
54		core	multi platform flake core	1	54	1	1	0	0			0	0	0	qu sm chunky piece, abraded pebble type cortex, struck several times from one end but also from another side
9	2	flak	flake	2	0	1	0	0	0	yes	some	0	0	0	both sm and thin , one a fractured fragment
9	8	stfr	struck fragment	1	97	1	1	0	0			0	0	0	??has multi faceted surfaces some of which poss str, but is quite battered and slightly abraded
9	3	scpf	end scraper	1	0	1	1	0	0			0	0	0	qu sm squat and thickish piece, medium/thick cream cortex around prox end and R side with inner white rind, qu slight/semi abrupt retouch across wider distal end the thickness forms a nat. scr-edge,
31		core	multi-platform blade core	1	28	0	1	0	0			0	0	0	sm qu sq/irreg, one side poss missing, one plat/side has sm bl type removals, also struck from another side
31		flak	flake	3	0	1	2	0	0	yes		0	1	1	1 - irreg plat/prox end and thin cortex, 1 sm thin with patinated and prob prep of plat, 1-sm thin frag
31		flak	chip	1	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	pa't'd, might be thermal
31		flak	shatter	1	0	0	1	0	0			0	0	0	sm angular frag, might be thermal
7	1	scpf	end scraper	1	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	dist end of what might be neat ?bl-like end scr - ret around the thickish end, length unknown.
29		flak	spall	1	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	
29		flak	flake	2	0	2	1	0	0	yes		0	0	0	both sm v thin, 1 sq with irreg prox, 1 longer - 'bl-like'
9		flak	flake	3	0	3	2	0	0	yes		0	0	0	irreg hh, qu fresh, 1 sm sq with hinge type dist, other two with qu thick whitish cortex, 1 prob heat affected/burnt
9		burn	burnt fragment	1	10	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	white 'crackled'

Ctxt	SF	Cat.	Type	No.	Wt(g)	Comp.	Cort.	Prim.	Pat.	Sharp	E.dam.	Hinge	Cort. plat.	Prep. plat.	Comment
9		flak	shatter	1	0	0	1	0	0	yes		0	0	0	fl-like but no clear plat/bulb, part of one former surface patchily patinated only slight trace of true cortex/rind
14		retf	retouched flake	1	0	1	1	0	0			0	0	0	pronounced hh plat.bulb, abraded pebble cortex along L side, slight ret of part of dist edge - irreg, forms/within slight concavity/shallow 'notch'
25		stfr	struck fragment	1	10	0	1	0	0			0	0	0	sm fragment

Appendix 4: 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.heritage-standards.org.uk/chronology/

Appendix 5: Archaeological Specification

BRIEF FOR PRE-APPLICATION EVAULATION BY TRIAL TRENCHING
at
the John Grant School, St George's Drive, Caister-on-Sea,
NORFOLK

PLANNING AUTHORITY:	Norfolk County Council
PLANNING REFERENCE:	FUL/2020/0048
HES REFERENCE	CNF49111
NHER EVENT NUMBER:	To be arranged
GRID REFERENCE:	TG 5151 1292
MAP EXTRACT ATTACHED:	N
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:	Erection of single storey 6 classbase unit with associated outside space and extension to car park
CURRENT LAND USE:	School playing field
ISSUED BY:	Steve Hickling Environment Service Culture and Heritage Norfolk County Council Union House, Gressenhall, Dereham Norfolk NR20 4DR Direct telephone line: 01362 869285 Email: steve.hickling@norfolk.gov.uk
DATE:	9th October 2020
NOTES:	

IN TRAN communication for all

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Introduction

Planning permission will soon be sought for the erection of a single storey 6 classbase unit with associated outside space and an extension to the car park. An evaluation by trial trenching is required prior to the determination of any future planning application (National Planning Policy Framework 2018, paragraph189).

This brief outlines the requirements of an evaluation by trial trenching which includes:

1) Full adherence to the *Standards for Development-led Archaeological Projects in Norfolk* (Robertson *et al* 2018, to be introduced on 1 May 2018) and all relevant national legislation, standards and guidance.

2) The production of an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (including a trench location plan) for the evaluation by trial trenching.

3) The provision for sampling, dating and recording of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts and ecofacts.

4) The production of a final grey literature archive report including specialist post-fieldwork analyses.

5) Provision for publication, where results warrant it.

6) Provision for archive deposition with a recognised archive depository.

This brief is valid for a period of one year from the date of issue. After that time, it may need to be revised to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy or the introduction of new working practices or techniques.

Policy Background

Relevant planning policies can be found in:

Great Yarmouth Borough Council's *Great Yarmouth Borough-Wide Local Plan Modifications* (Spring 1999). Policies BNV 1-3.

and

National Planning Policy Framework. The Department of Communities and Local Government (2019).

Archaeological Background

The proposed development site is located approximately 500m north of the area of the significant Roman settlement of Caister-on-Sea protected as a Scheduled Monument. The settlement is thought to extend at least another 200m beyond the scheduled area. The northern extent of the settlement is poorly defined and artefacts of Roman and Anglo-Saxon date (amongst others) have been found east and west of the application site. There is potential for previously unidentified heritage assets with archaeological

interest (buried archaeological remains) to be present within the current application site and that their significance would be affected by the proposed development.

Requirement for work

Evaluation by trial trenching is required to recover as much information as possible on the extent, date, phasing, character, function, status and significance of the site. The states of preservation of archaeological features or deposits within the area indicated should be determined. As the redline area is far larger than the area covered by the actual development, trenching as a sample of the total redline area is considered inappropriate in this case. Therefore, a total of 2no. 30m x 1.8m trenches and 2no. 10 x 1.8m trenches will be required, located as follows:

30m x 1.8m trench within the footprint of the New ASD building
10m x 1.8m trench within the footprint of the associated soakaway
10m x 1.8m trench within the footprint of the carpark extension
2no. 20m x 1.8m trenches within the area of the contractor's compound and access

A contingency for up to 2no. additional 20m x 1.8m trenches (or equivalent area) must be included in the event of, in agreement with NCCES, any further clarification about the form, extent or significance of any heritage assets encountered by required at this stage in order to make an informed decision about further archaeological mitigatory work.

Advice for developers

You should forward a copy of this brief to one or more archaeological contractors, and discuss with them the timing and costs. Your contractor/s should be asked to submit a draft Written Scheme of Investigation to Norfolk County Council Environment Service (NCCES) for approval. Once this document has been approved by NCCES you can include it in a formal planning application to the local planning authority for your proposed development.

NCCES does not see contractors' costings, nor do we give advice on the costs of archaeological projects. This is between you and the archaeological contractor/s. You may wish to obtain a number of quotations or to employ the services of an archaeological consultant.

From 1 October 2018 archaeological fieldwork in Norfolk must be undertaken by Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Registered Organisations or, in the case of sole traders, individuals that are professional accredited and hold MCIfA status.

Details of archaeological contractors can be found in the Registered Organisation section of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists website (http://www.archaeologists.net/regulation/organisations). Professionally accredited archaeologists are listed in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Yearbook and Directory* 2017 (available at https://www.archaeologists.net/publications/yearbook).