

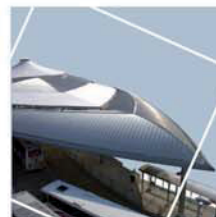
Report BAU2135



nau archaeology

**An Archaeological Evaluation at
Cherry Tree Farm, Mellis Road,
Wortham, Suffolk**

SHER WTM 047



Prepared for

Dr Simon Bennett



Lilly Hodges BSc PIFA

December 2009



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NAU ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT CHECKLIST		
Project overseen by	Nigel Page	
Draft completed	Lilly Hodges	12/11/2009
Graphics completed	David Dobson	25/11/2009
Edit completed	Jayne Bown	15/12/2009
Signed off	Richard Hoggett	15/12/2009

NAU Archaeology

Scandic House
85 Mountergate
Norwich
NR1 1PY

T 01603 756150

F 01603 756190

E jayne.bown@nps.co.uk

www.nau.org.uk

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Location:	Cherry Tree Farm, Mellis Road, Wortham, Suffolk
District:	Mid-Suffolk
Grid Ref.:	TM 0846 7708
SHER No.:	WTM 047
Client:	Dr Simon Bennett
Dates of Fieldwork:	7–9 October 2009

Summary

In October 2009 NAU Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation of the land around Cherry Tree Farm, Mellis Road, Wortham, Suffolk. This work was carried out for Dr Simon Bennett prior to a new housing development.

Prior to the work covered in this report an evaluation was carried out in 2008 by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services. This consisted of 13 trial trenches of which 1–9 were in the area covered by this report and trenches 10–13 were in an area to the south which was excavated by NAU Archaeology in 2009 (Ames and Morgan, 2009). Their results revealed a range of historical activity from prehistoric through to medieval periods.

The archaeological evaluation covered by this report consisted of six trial trenches c.25m long and c.1.8m wide. All six trenches contained archaeological evidence predominantly in the form of linear features such as gullies and boundary/drainage ditches.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The current site is located in the northern area of proposed development at Cherry Tree Farm, Mellis Road, Wortham, Suffolk (Fig. 1). Six trenches were excavated in accordance with the Brief and Project Design measuring c.25m long and c.1.8m wide. Three trenches were aligned north–south and three east–west (Fig. 2).

Archaeological evaluation of the site by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Field Team in 2008 revealed ditches and possible structural features that were either undated or of medieval date. The features observed in the evaluation are probably related to occupation on the edge of the village green. Excavation undertaken by NAU Archaeology in March 2009 at the southern end of the site revealed evidence for prehistoric occupation as well as a cluster of pits of Late Saxon date. (Ref. BAU2135)

This work was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition set by Mid-Suffolk Council (Ref. 751/06) and a Brief issued by Dr Jess Tipper of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services (1 June 2009). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NAU Archaeology (Ref. BAU2135/NP).

This programme of work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, following the guidelines set out in Planning and Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority about the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

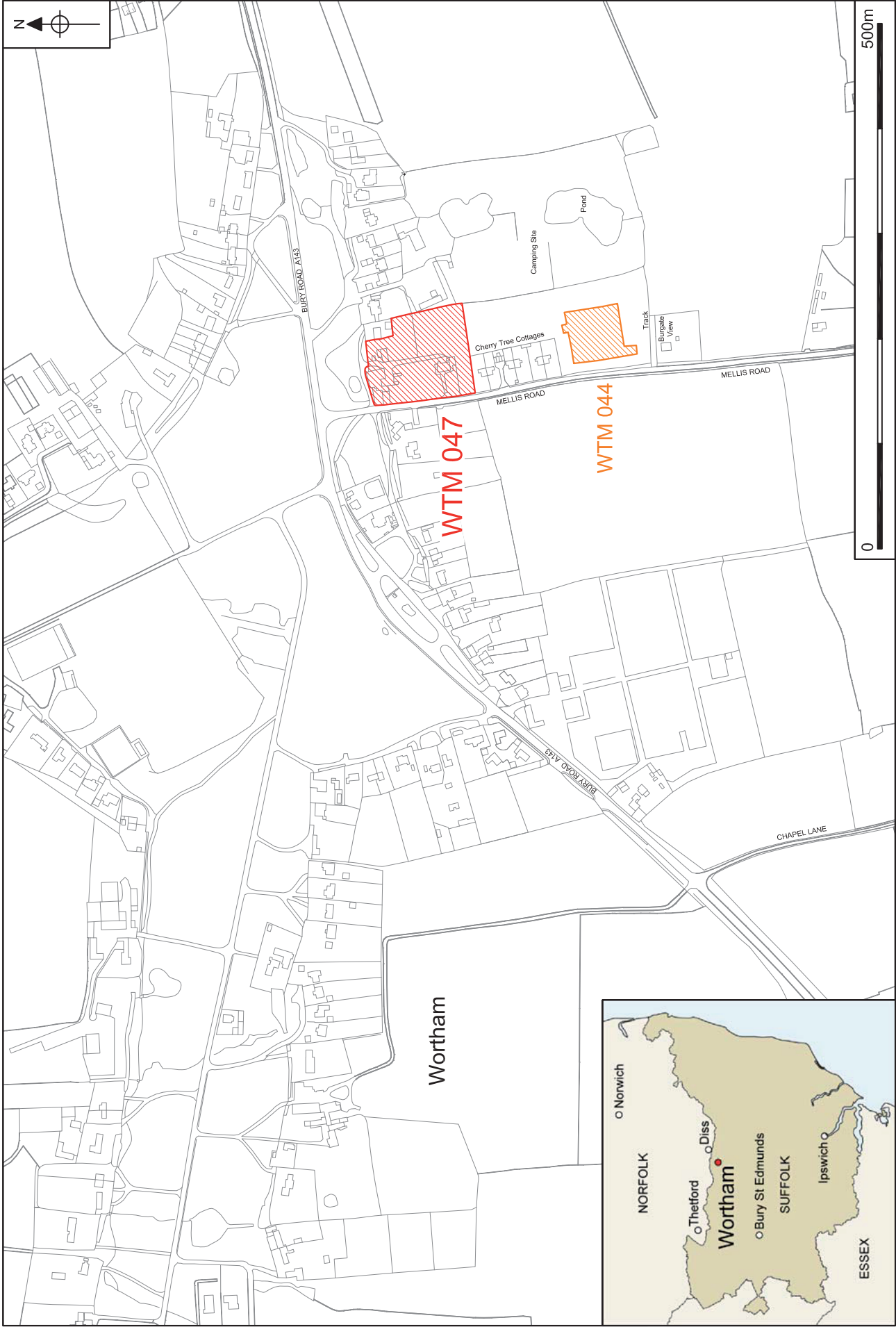


Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:5000

This work was commissioned by Ramon Pettit and funded by Dr Simon Bennett.

The site archive is currently held by NAU Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service subject to the client's requirements and following the relevant policies on archiving standards.

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site is situated on chalk overlain by clay loams derived from chalky till and lies at about 55m OD. It slopes south towards a shallow valley, perhaps a watershed at 40m OD at Seethings Wood and rises in the north-west to 60m OD at Spears Hill. Two major river sources, the Little Ouse and the Waveney, also form the Norfolk - Suffolk border for part of their routes and are located north of Gallows Hill in Redgrave some 3 miles to the north west of Wortham. The Little Ouse runs west, joining the Great Ouse at Littleport and discharging into the Wash at King's Lynn. The River Waveney flows east ultimately into Breydon Water where it joins the Yare and reaches the sea at Great Yarmouth (Ames and Morgan 2009).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed new development lies to the south of the village of Wortham, which is centred on a medieval green. Previous finds from the area to the south of the site include Roman coins found at Brook Bungalow and Great Green, Burgate (SHERs BUR 006 and BUR 011) and a Roman occupation site on Upper Buntings Field (SHER WTM 007). Roman coins have also been found to the north-west of site (SHERs TM 016 and WTM 015).

A possible Early Saxon structure and associated pottery was found during pipe laying in 1955 in the eastern part of Wortham by Basil Brown (West 1998, 105) along with other multi-period finds (SHERs WTM 008 and WTM 010). Other archaeological work in the village includes three evaluation trenches excavated in the north-eastern part of the village which uncovered three undated ditches (SHER WTM 014). An evaluation at St John's House Hospital, Palgrave, c.1.6km to the north-east of the site, uncovered prehistoric and Roman features and a Saxon inhumation (SHER PAL 024).

The name 'Wortham' probably means 'enclosed homestead' (Ekwall 1960, 536) and during the Late Saxon period the area where the village is now situated comprised two parishes, Southmoor and Eastgate, each with its own church and manor. These two parishes remained separate until 1769 when they were merged and the church at Southmoor subsequently disappeared.

Hodkinson's Map of 1783 shows the area where the site is situated as an empty space. However, Mellis Road, immediately to the west of the site, is depicted on this map as is a building to the south-east of the junction which this road makes with the Bury St Edmunds Road to the north of the site. It is thought that this building is still present (now ruined clay lump house) which was observed c.180m to the north-west of the site.

The 1886 Ordnance Survey map shows the site as open with a wooded area to the north. The village of Wortham itself appears to be a classic example of a common-edge settlement. Commons in clay lands such as this were often wooded

and may have contained pollarded trees, suggesting that a certain amount of land management was taking place (Williamson 2006; Ames and Morgan 2009).

4.0 METHODOLOGY

The objective of this 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.

The Brief required that six trial trenches be excavated with each trench measuring c.25m long and c.1.8m wide. The excavated depth was determined by the point at which natural ground or archaeological features were identified. Trenches 1, 2 and 6 were aligned north–south while trenches 3, 4 and 5 were aligned east–west.

Machine excavation was carried out with a tracked 360° excavator using a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision.

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds, other than those which were obviously modern, were retained for inspection.

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NAU Archaeology *pro forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

The temporary benchmark 54.91m used during the course of this work was transferred from an Ordnance Survey benchmark with a value of 57.09m, located on Wortham Green.

Environmental samples were taken from three features, and the results are described below.

Site conditions were good, with the work taking place in fine weather.



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Figure 2. Trench location plan. Scale 1:500

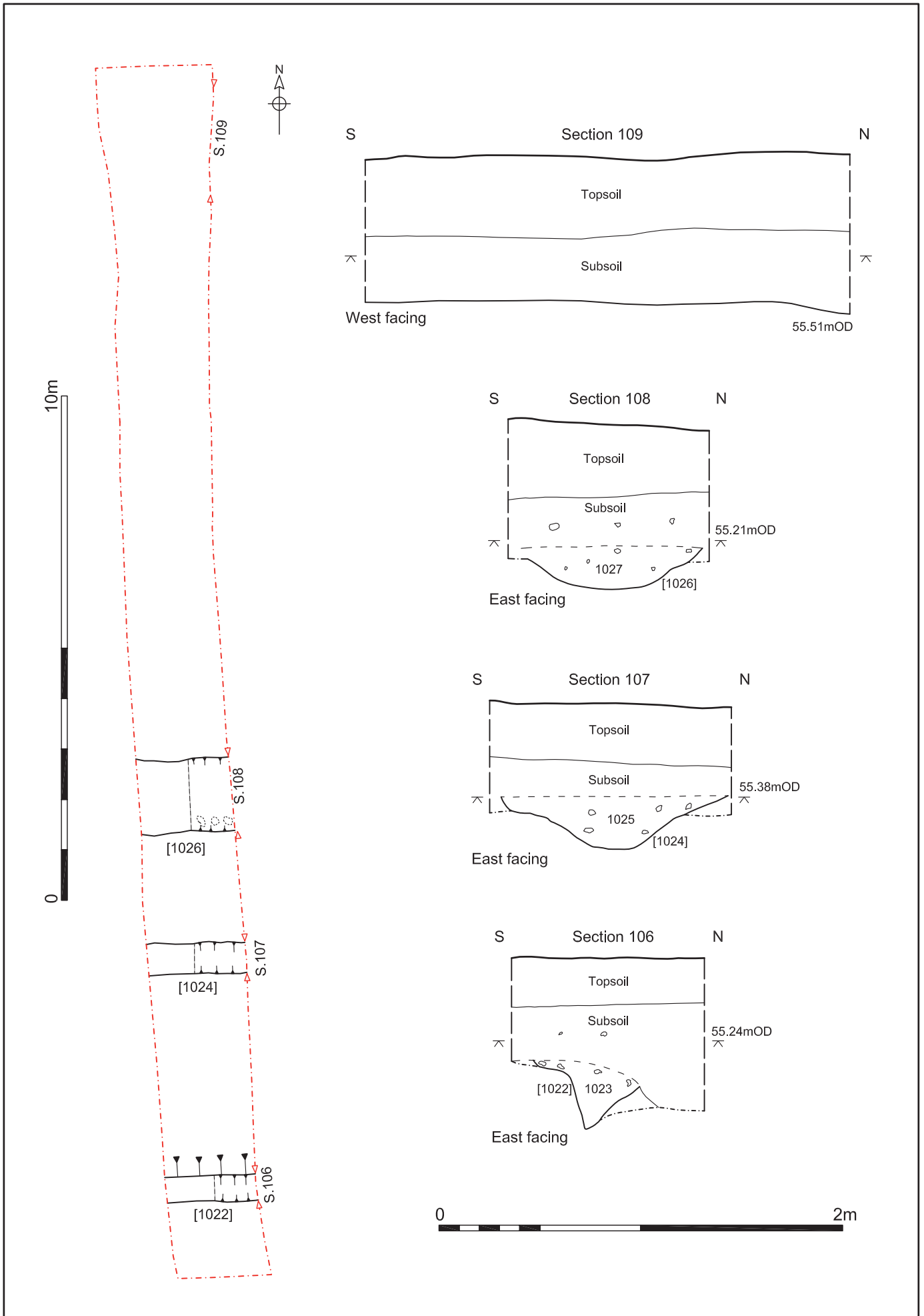


Figure 3. Trench 1, plan and sections. Scale 1:100 and 1:25

5.0 RESULTS

5.1 Trench 1

This north–south aligned trench contained three east–west aligned linear features, ([1022], [1024] and [1026], Fig. 3) interpreted as two possible gullies and a possible ditch all located at the southern end of the trench.

Possible Gully [1022]

Linear feature [1022] was a possible gully aligned east–west measuring c.1.75m long (visible in trench), c.55mm wide and c.320mm deep. The gully was cut into a south facing slope in the natural ground. The north side of [1022] was near vertical and the south side was very sloped with a narrow concave base. The gully contained a fill (1023) of orange brown sandy clay with rare flint inclusions. No artefacts were recovered from this deposit.

Possible gully [1024]

Linear feature [1024] was a possible gully aligned east–west measuring c.1.9m long (visible in the trench), c.1.13m wide and c.260mm deep. Feature [1024] was linear in plan with gently sloping sides and a concave base. This feature contained one deposit (1025), a dry mid-brown sand with rare flint inclusions. No artefacts were recovered from this feature.

Possible Ditch [1026]

Linear feature [1026] was a possible ditch heavily disturbed by tree roots, measuring c.1.85m long (visible in the trench), c.1.4m wide and c.210mm deep. Ditch [1026] had sloping sides and a concave base which was uneven in places. This feature contained one deposit (1027), a dry mid-brown silty sand with rare flint inclusions. No artefacts were recovered from this deposit.

5.2 Trench 2

This north–south aligned trench contained medieval ditches [1035], [1036] and [1037] oriented east–west (Fig. 4). One of the evaluation trenches excavated by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services in 2008 (their Trench 5) was observed at the southern limit of this trench.

Ditch [1035]

Oriented east–west, this ditch measured c.1.75m long (visible in trench), c.0.5m wide and c.230mm deep and cut ditch [1036]. Linear ditch [1035] had a sloping south edge and a steep north edge with a slightly curved pointed base. Contained within ditch [1035] was a single deposit (1050), an homogenous mid-olive-grey hard/firm clay sand with occasional rounded stones and occasional charcoal, moderate small chalk flecks and occasional iron pan lumps. Contained in the base of this fill were some pottery sherds of 12th– to 14th-century date. This ditch is possibly a re-cut of ditch [1036].

Ditch [1036]

Ditch [1036] was oriented on the same alignment (east–west) as ditch [1035] and measured c.1.75m long (visible in trench) c.1m wide and c.380mm deep. Linear in

plan the ditch had sloping sides and a concave base with a smaller concave dip in the very bottom. Contained within ditch [1036] was deposit (1051), a homogenous mid-olive-grey hard/firm clay sand with occasional rounded stones and occasional charcoal flecks, moderate small chalk flecks and occasional iron pan lumps. One fragment of 12th-century medieval pottery was also contained within this deposit. This ditch was cut by ditch [1035].

Ditch [1037]

Ditch [1037] was aligned north–south measuring c.17m long (visible in trench), c.800mm wide and c.110mm deep. Linear in plan only the sloping east edge was visible with a concave base. Contained within ditch [1037] was a single deposit (1052), a homogenous mid-olive-grey hard/firm clay sand with occasional rounded stones and occasional charcoal, moderate small chalk flecks and occasional iron pan lumps. This ditch was cut by ditch [1036] and also possibly by ditch [1035].

These ditches are possible medieval boundaries or land divisions perhaps associated with nearby occupation.

5.3 Trench 3

Contained within this east–west oriented trench were two ditches, east–west aligned ditch [1016] and north–south aligned ditch [1018], one post hole [1020] and one pit/natural feature [1014] (Fig. 5).

Ditch [1016]

East–west oriented ditch [1016] measured c.10.25m long (visible in the trench), c.1.5m wide and c.200mm deep. Only the south edge was visible in section showing its sloping side; the base of the ditch was flattish and slightly uneven in places. The ditch contains deposit (1017), a pale grey / pale brown compact silty sand with occasional sub-angular and sub-round flint inclusions <60mm in diameter. No artefacts were recovered from this deposit but it was sampled to test for surviving environmental evidence (sample <3>).

Ditch [1018]

Ditch [1018] was oriented north–south and measured c.1.75m long (visible in trench), c.1.35m wide and c.290mm deep. The eastern edge was gently sloping while the western edge sloped slightly more sharply and the base was rounded. The ditch contained one deposit (1019), a compact pale grey pale brown silty sand with occasional sub-angular and sub-round flint inclusions <60mm in diameter. No artefacts were recovered from this deposit.

It is possible that ditch [1016] and [1018] converge only a few metres to the north of the trench. Both ditches were of possible medieval date due to the similarity of the deposits to those contained by medieval ditches [1035] and [1036].

Post-hole [1020]

Post-hole [1020] was sub-oval in shape and measured c.510mm long, c.300mm wide and c.150mm deep. The north and south edges were steep and the post-hole had a flattish slightly concave base. It contained deposit (1021), a pale grey pale brown silty sand with rare sub-angular and sub-rounded flint inclusions <40mm in diameter. No artefacts were recovered from this deposit.

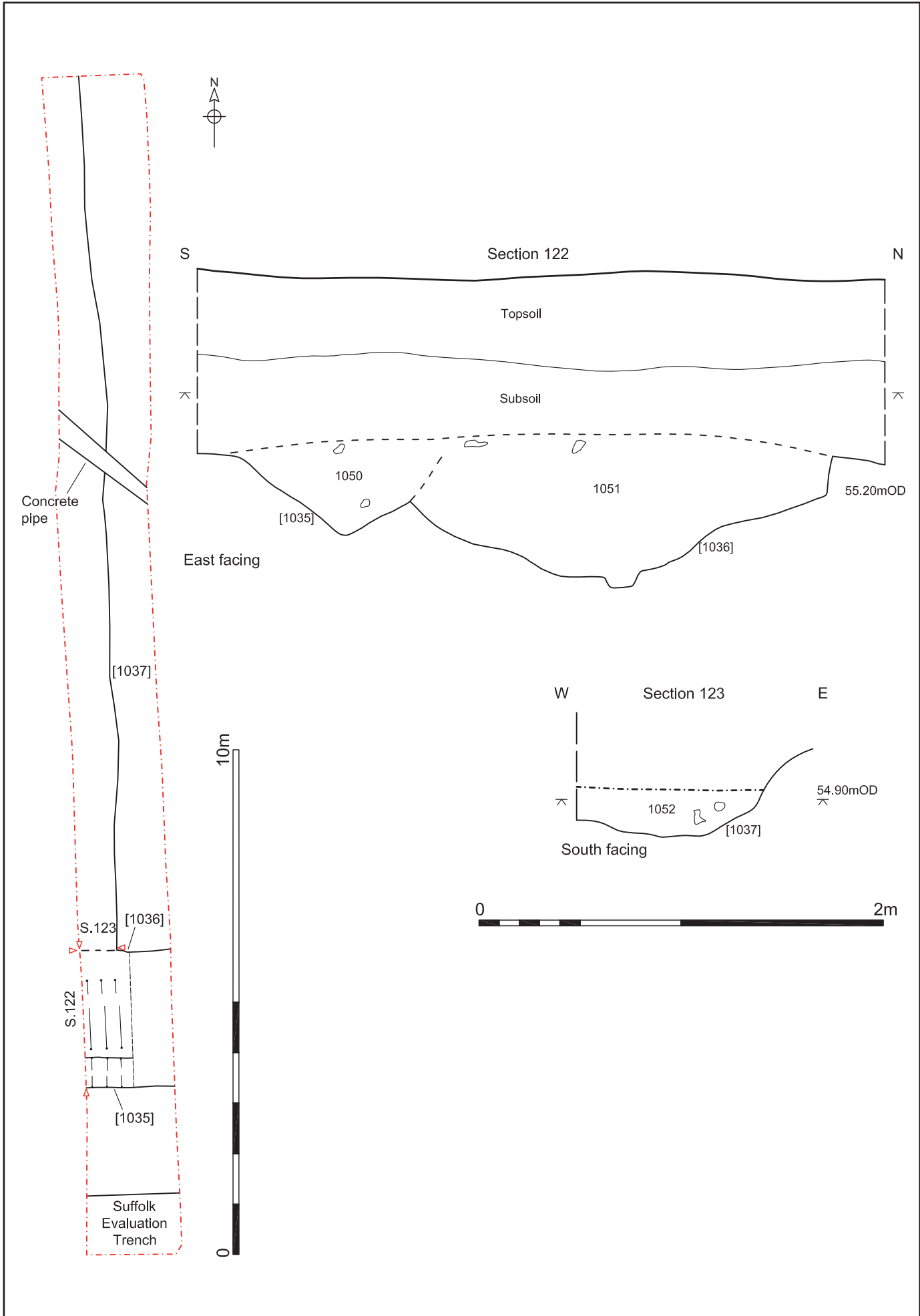


Figure 4. Trench 2, plan and sections. Scale 1:100 and 1:25

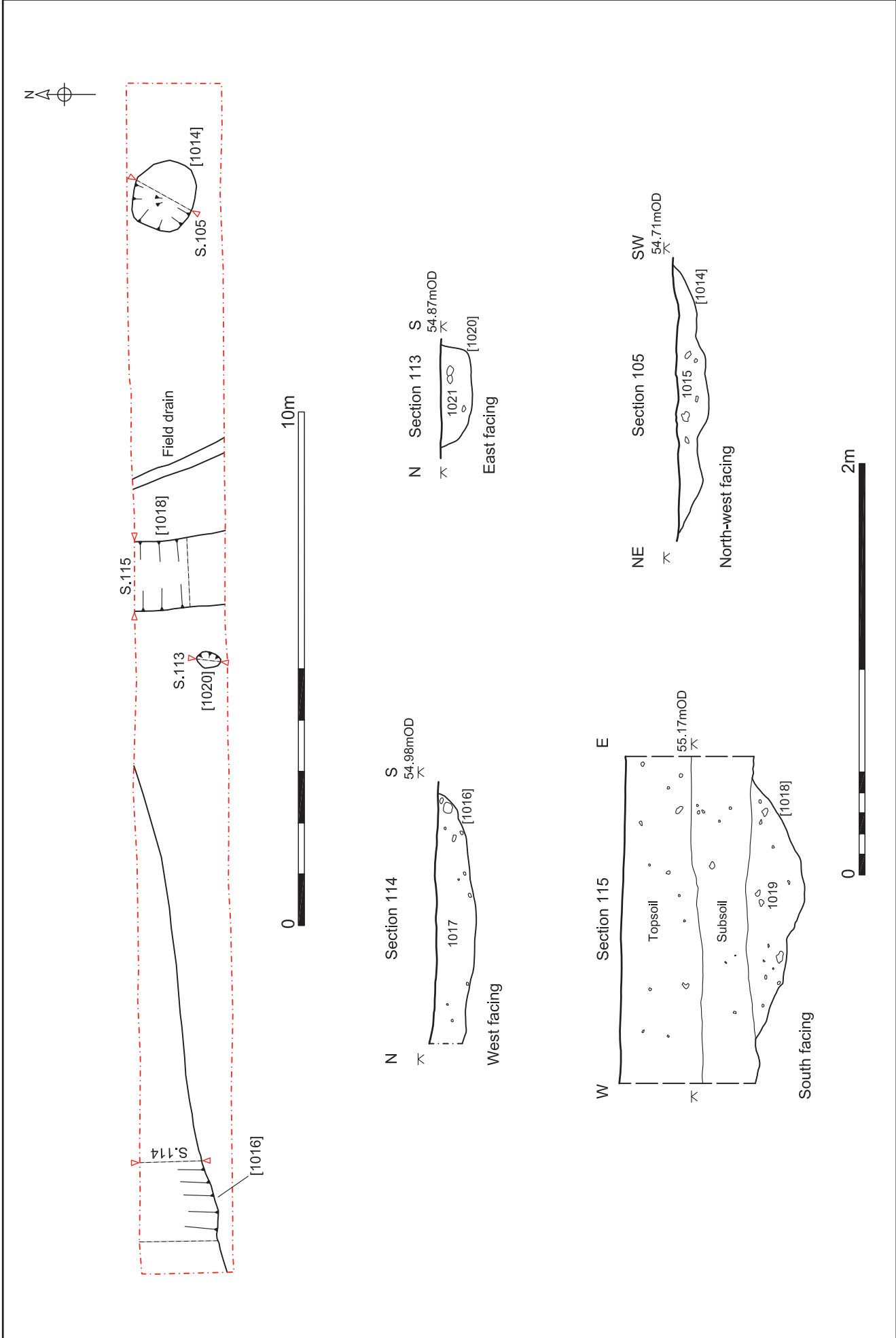


Figure 5. Trench 3, plan and sections. Scale 1:100 and 1:25

Possible Pit [1014]

Possible pit [1014] was oriented north-west–south-east. It measured c.1.6m long, c.1.31m wide and was c.150mm deep. Sub-oval in plan with gently sloping sides and an uneven base this possibly may be a natural feature, perhaps a tree throw. A single deposit (1015) was identified within this feature pale grey pale brown soft slightly silty sand with rare sub-angular and sub-round flint inclusions. No artefacts were recovered from this feature.

5.4 Trench 4

Aligned east-to west this trench contained two ditches [1028] and [1031] (Fig. 6).

Ditch [1028]

Ditch [1028] was oriented east–west measuring c.10.5m long (visible in the trench), c.800mm wide (visible in the trench) and c.260mm deep. It was linear in plan with a flat base and a steep southern side. This feature contained one deposit (1029), a mid-brown-grey clayey sand with moderate charcoal and occasional flint inclusions. Some 12th– to 14th-century pottery was recovered from this deposit. This feature is possibly a medieval boundary ditch and could have marked the edge of the green.

Ditch [1031]

Ditch [1031] was oriented north–south and was exactly in line with the west wall of the burnt timber building a few metres to the north of this trench. Measurements for this feature were c.1.85m long (visible in the trench), c.1.24m wide and c.520mm deep. It was linear in plan with near vertical sides and a concave base. The ditch contained a compact dark greyish brown silty sand with moderate charcoal and occasional flint inclusions (1032). One fragment of lava quern possibly the spout from a medieval pot quern was recovered from this deposit. This ditch was possibly a medieval boundary ditch.

5.5 Trench 5

This trench was aligned east–west and contained two ditches ([1000]/[1008] and [1010]), two post-holes ([1004] and [1006]), a shallow pit [1012] and a possible natural feature ([1002]) (Fig. 7).

Ditch [1000]

Ditch [1000] (also recorded as [1008]) was oriented east–west and was visible along the length of the trench. With well sloping sides and a flattish base the ditch had a general concave profile. Measurements for the ditch were a width of c.1.1m a depth of c.490mm and it was c.23m long. A single fill (1001) (also recorded as (1009)) was recorded. Deposit [1001] was fairly compact slightly clayey pale grey brown sandy silt. It contained occasional flint < 50mm in size both sub-angular and sub-round. Finds from this context included medieval post-medieval and early modern pottery, clay pipe, animal bone, metalworking debris, CBM and iron. Moderate root disturbance occurred at the eastern end from tree throw [1002].

Ditch [1000] was possibly a boundary ditch it contained post-medieval evidence and building material perhaps from the property just to the north of this trench.

This ditch cut earlier feature [1010], possibly also a ditch.

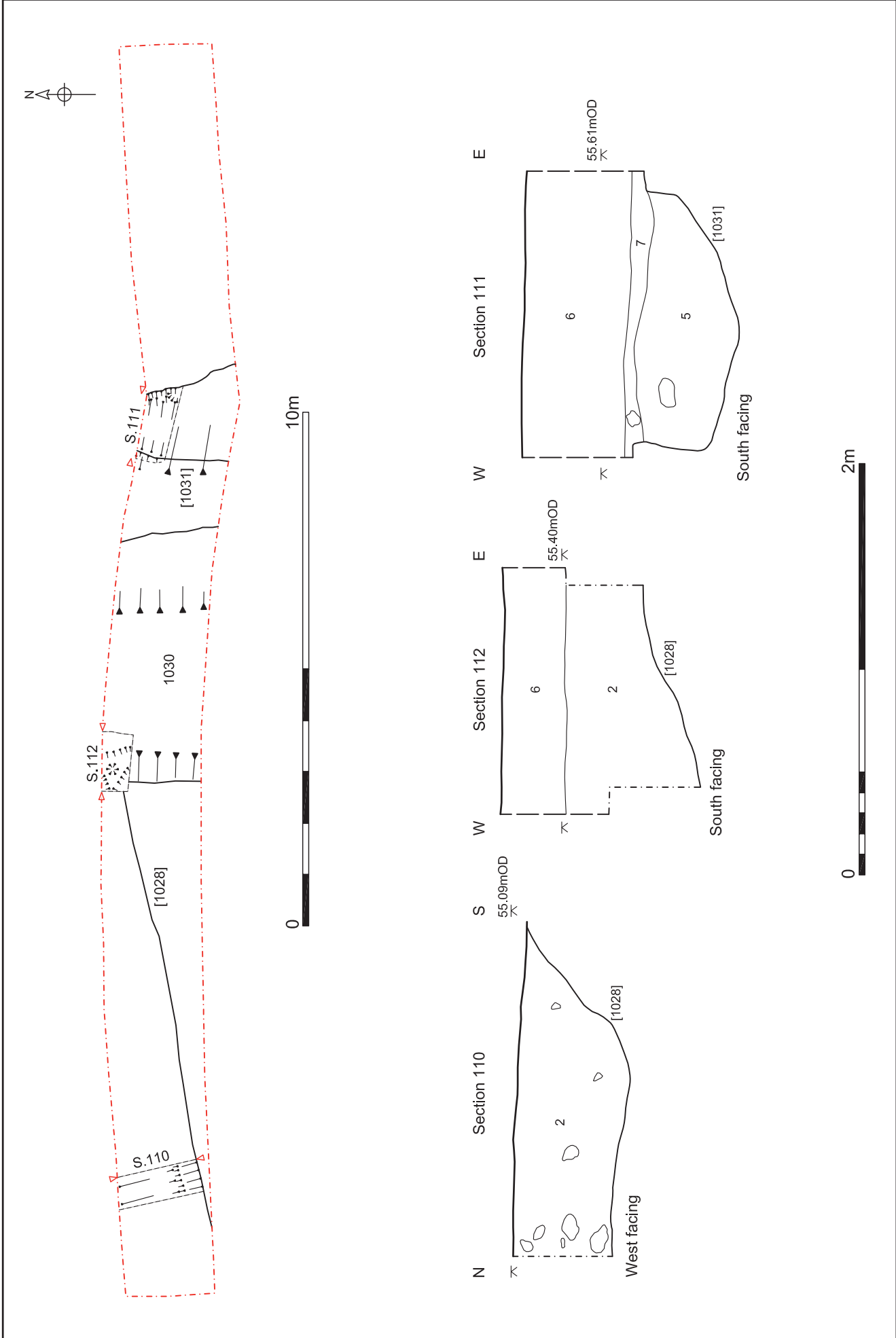


Figure 6. Trench 4, plan and sections. Scale 1:100 and 1:25

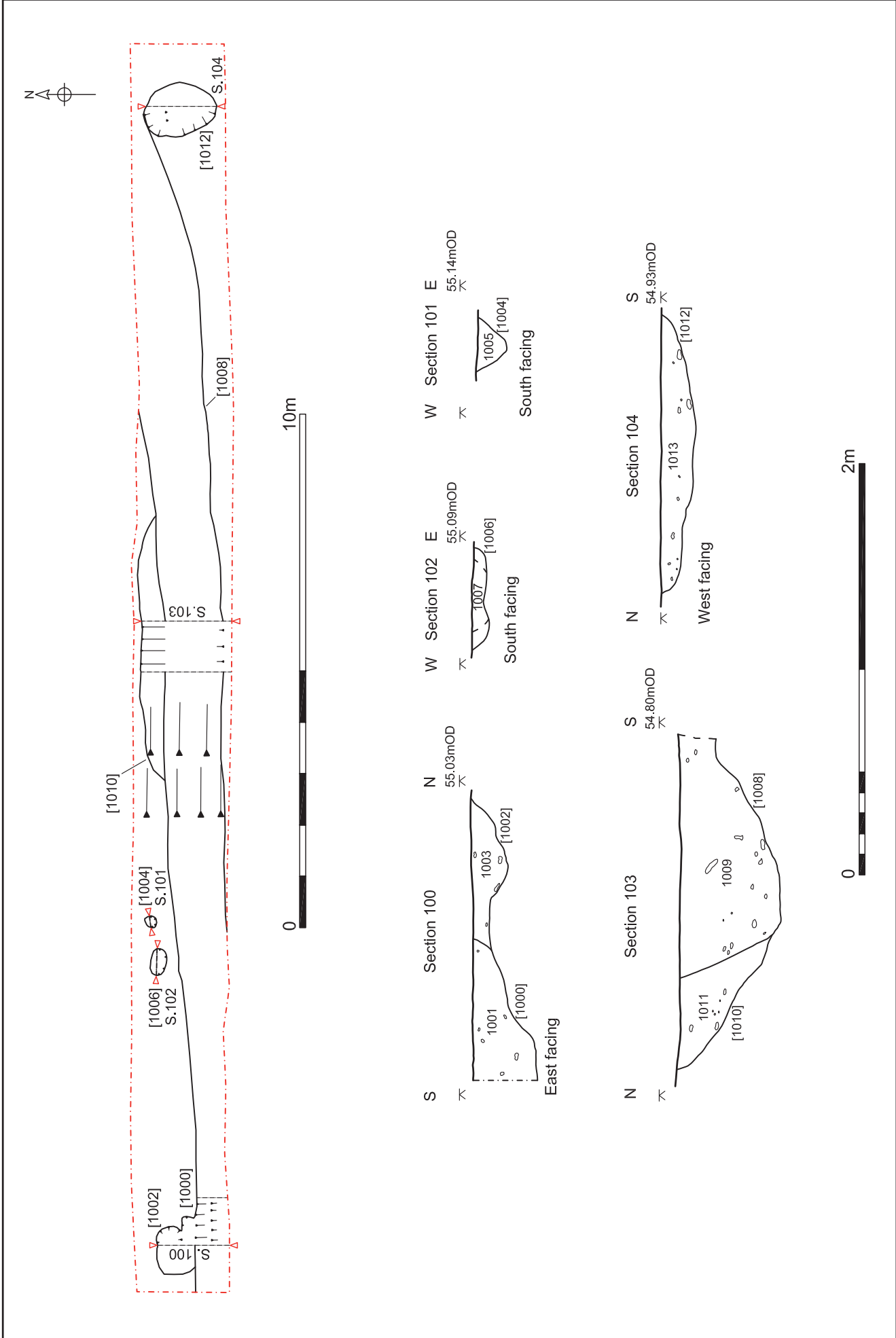


Figure 7. Trench 5, plan and sections. Scale 1:100 and 1:25

Possible Ditch [1010]

Feature [1010] is a possible ditch. It measured c.5.1m long and was c.440mm deep; the full width was unascertainable due to heavy truncation by later ditch [1000] on its southern edge. It contained one fill [1011], a moderately compact friable pale orangish brown slightly clayey silty sand. This deposit contained rare sub-angular and sub-round flint inclusions <40mm in size. Artefacts recovered from this fill were three fragments of (intrusive) post-medieval pottery of 16th – 17th-century date.

Post-holes [1004] and [1006]

Two post-holes [1004] and [1006] occurred in the western half of the trench. Post-hole [1004] was steep sided and measured c.140mm deep, c.270mm long and c.240mm wide. Sub-circular in plan it had a concave general profile. Contained within post-hole [1004] was deposit (1005), a fairly compact very pale grey pale brown slightly clayey silty sand. No artefacts were recovered from this feature. Post-hole [1006] was shallower than [1004] with gently sloping sides. It measured c.90mm deep, c.500mm long and c.300mm wide. Sub-oval in plan it had a concave general profile. Contained within [1006] was deposit (1007), a moderately compact very pale grey pale brown slightly clayey silty sand. No artefacts were recovered from this feature.

Possible Pit [1012]

Possible pit [1012] was oval in plan with gently sloping sides and a slightly uneven concave base. Oriented north–south this possible pit measured c.1.4m long, c.1.1m wide and c.170mm deep. Contained within [1012] was deposit (1013), a friable pale grey brown slightly clayey silty sand. No artefacts were recovered from this deposit.

Tree throw [1002]

Feature [1002] was subcircular in plan and measured c.750mm long, c.1m wide and c.170mm deep and had irregularly sloping sides. It contained deposit (1003), a pale grey brown silty sand with occasional flint. The nature of the fill and irregular sides would suggest that this is a naturally-occurring feature being the resultant depression left after the removal of tree roots (possibly by natural action). No artefacts were recovered from this feature.

5.6 Trench 6

This trench was aligned north–south and coincided with trenches excavated by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service in 2008 (Fig. 2). This trench contained five east–west aligned linear features [1038], [1040], [1042], [1046] and [1048] interpreted as gullies. Feature [1042] also contained post-hole [1044]. Fig. 8).

Gully [1038]

Gully [1038] was oriented east–west and measured c.1.75m long (visible in trench), c.670mm wide and c.120mm deep. It had sloping sides and a concave base. Contained within gully (1038) was fill (1039), an orange brown silty sand.

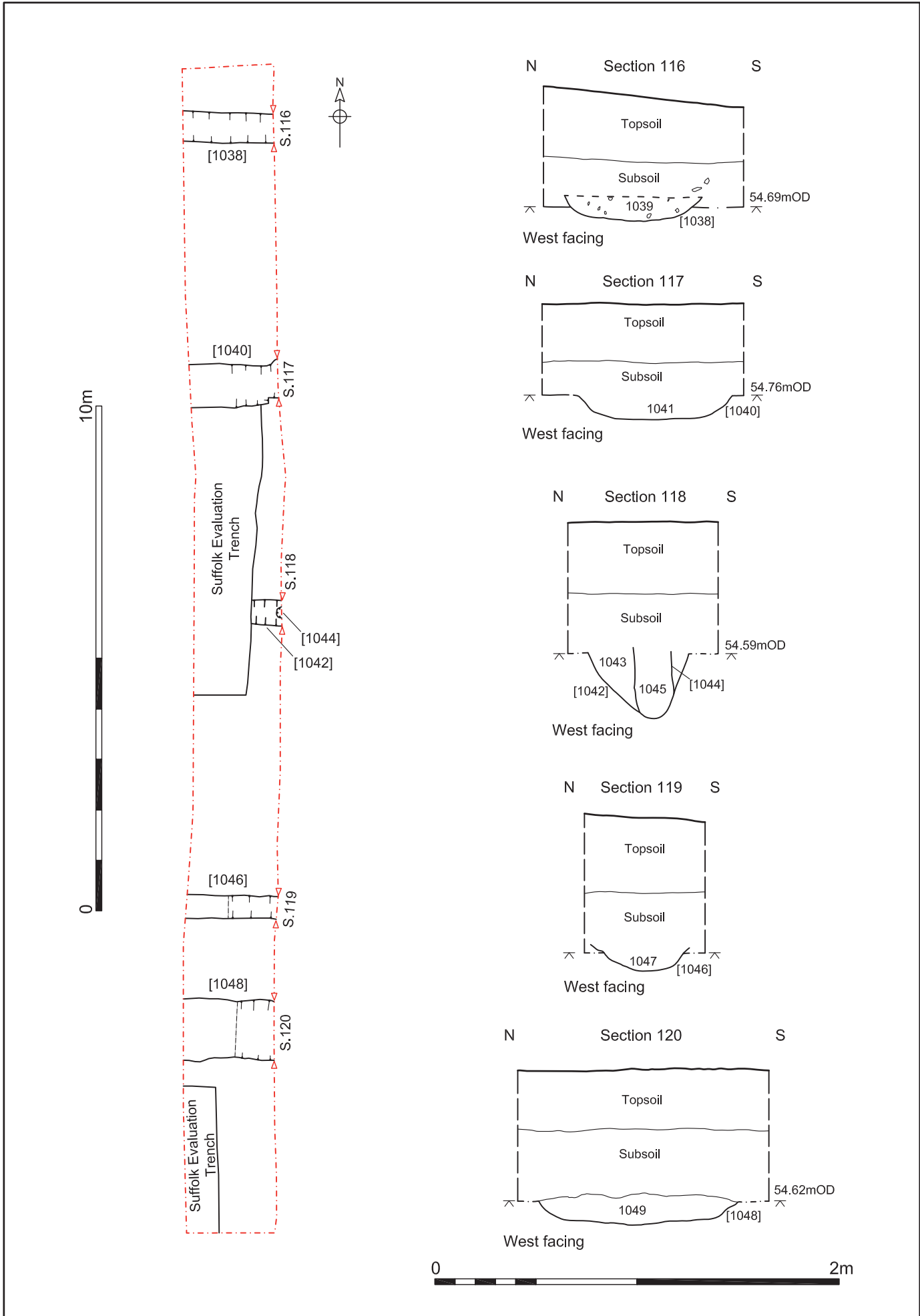


Figure 8. Trench 6, plan and sections. Scale 1:100 and 1:25

Gully [1040]

Gully [1040] oriented east–west measured c.1.75m long (visible in the trench), c.780mm wide and c.120mm deep. It was linear in plan with sloping sides and a slightly flattish concave base. Contained within gully [1040] was deposit (1041), an orange brown silty sand. One fragment of 13th-century medieval pottery was recovered from this feature.

Gully [1042]

Gully [1042] was oriented east–west and measured c.1.75m long (visible in the trench), c.510mm wide and c.320mm deep. Gully [1042] was linear in plan with very steep sides and a concave base. This gully contained fill (1043), an orange brown silty sand. This deposit was cut by post-hole [1044]. Gully [1042] was seen in the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services' Trench 1.

Post-hole [1044]

Post-hole [1044] cut gully [1042]; it measured c.350mm deep and c.180mm wide. with vertical sides and a concave base. Contained within the post-hole was deposit [1045], an orange brown silty sand.

Possible gully [1046]

Possible gully [1046] was oriented east–west and measured c.1.8m long (visible in trench), c.460mm wide and c.140mm deep. This gully was linear in plan with sloping sides and a concave base and contained fill (1047), an orange brown silty sand.

Gully [1048]

Gully [1048] was oriented east–west and measured c.1.80m long (visible in trench), c.980mm wide and c.160mm deep. It was linear in plan with sloping sides and a flattish concave base. It contained deposit (1049), a white leached sandy silt with occasional flint inclusions.

6.0 THE FINDS

6.1 Pottery

Thirty sherds of pottery weighing 481g were collected from seven contexts. Table 1 shows the quantification by fabric; a summary catalogue by context is included as Appendix 3.

Description	Fabric	Code	No	Wt/g	Eve	MNV
Waveney Valley coarsewares	WVCW	3.41	18	165		17
Melton shelly ware	MTN1	3.54	1	3		1
Dutch-type redwares	DUTR	7.21	2	24		1
Glazed red earthenware	GRE	6.12	2	43	0.10	2
Staffordshire-type Slipware	STAF	6.41	1	2	0.10	1
Cologne/Frechen Stoneware	GSW4	7.14	5	54		4
Late post-medieval unglazed earthenwares	LPME	8.01	1	190	0.08	1
Totals			30	481	0.28	27

Table 1: Pottery quantification by fabric

6.1.1 Methodology

Quantification was carried out using sherd count, weight and estimated vessel equivalent (eve). A full quantification by fabric, context and feature is available in the archive. All fabric codes were assigned from the author's post-Roman fabric series, which includes East Anglian and Midlands fabrics, as well as imported wares. Imports were identified from Jennings (1981). Form terminology follows MPRG (1998). Recording uses a system of letters for fabric codes together with number codes for ease of sorting in database format. The results were input directly onto an Access database.

6.1.2 Pottery by period

6.1.2.1 Medieval

Nineteen sherds of medieval pottery were recovered, eighteen of which were in the pale grey or buff medium sandy fabrics typical of the Waveney Valley (WVCW). All fragments were undiagnostic body and base sherds. One rim sherd in Melton-type shelly ware was present, an everted hammerhead type which is typical of the 13th century.

6.1.2.2 Post-medieval and modern

Ten sherds were of post-medieval date. There were two sherds of a Dutch-type redware handle from a small vessel such as a mug or skillet, a rim sherd of a GRE bowl or dish, an abraded redware body sherd, a small rim from a Staffordshire slipware mug, and five sherds of Frechen stoneware bottles.

One sherd of an unglazed storage jar may be a later post-medieval or early modern product from the Wattisfield kilns, as the fabric was similar to the LMT made in that area during the 15th-16th centuries.

6.1.3 Pottery by context

A summary of the pottery by feature is provided in Table 2.

Feature	Context	Description	Fabric	Spotdate
1000	1001	Ditch	GSW4	16th-17th c.
1008	1009	Ditch (same as [1000])	WVCW, GRE, GSW4, STAF, LPME	18th-19th c.
1010	1011	Ditch	DUTR, GSW4	16th-17th c.
1028	1029	Ditch	WVCW	12th-14th c.
1035	1050	Ditch	WVCW	12th-14th c.
1036	1051	Ditch	WVCW	12th c.?
1040	1041	Gully	MTN1	13th c.

Table 2: Pottery types present by feature.

All pottery was recovered from linear features, the majority from ditch [1000]/[1008], which contained a mixture of medieval, post-medieval and early modern sherds. Small quantities of medieval pottery were recovered from features [1028], [1035], [1036] and [1040], whilst the fill of [1010] was probably post-medieval.

6.1.4 Discussion

Two-thirds of the assemblage was of medieval date, the period being represented by locally-made sandy wares and one example of a shelly ware from the south-east of the county. No glazed wares of this period were present, but this is likely to be due to the small size of the collection. Later pottery included both locally manufactured earthenwares and imported wares from the Low Countries and the Rhine. These are typical imports of the period in most parts of East Anglia. The latest period was represented by one large sherd of an unglazed earthenware storage jar which may also be a local product.

6.2 Ceramic Building Material

The small assemblage of ceramic building material comprised three pieces weighing 475g including a large fragment of post-medieval floor tile in medium sandy yellow-cream fabric with sparse ferrous and moderate large pale blocky grog inclusions. The tile, which came from the fill of ditch [1008], is 36mm thick and is similar to examples from Dragon Hall, Norwich of 17th–19th century date (Anderson 2005, 92). Two small fragments of post-medieval brick weighing 10g in red sandy fabric were found in the fill of ditch [1000].

6.3 Metalworking Debris

Two pieces of undiagnostic iron working slag weighing 141g were found in the fills of ditches [1000] and [1008]. The pieces are not closely datable.

6.4 Fired Clay

A small abraded fragment of fired clay weighing 5g was found in the fill of ditch [1035]. The fragment is made of a poorly mixed silty fabric with chalk and orange grog inclusions and is not closely datable.

6.5 Lava

A fragment of grey vesicular lava weighing 290g was found in the fill of ditch [1031]. The fragment takes the form of a tapering rectangle with a narrow flange running along the outer edge and may be from the spout of a medieval pot quern. Pot querns were introduced into England in the mid-12th century and continued to be used into the post-medieval period (Watts 2006).

6.6 Vessel Glass

Two fragments from the base of two onion bottles in dark green glass were found in the fills of ditch [1008]. The bottle sherds date to the 17th century

6.7 Window Glass

A single piece of plain window glass in clear pale-green glass was found in the fill of ditch [1008]. The piece is not closely datable.

6.8 Clay Tobacco Pipe

Three pieces of clay tobacco pipe weighing 14g were found, all in ditch fills. Two pieces of stem were found in the fill of ditch [1000] and a stem with bowl fragment came from the fill of ditch [1008]. The fragments are perhaps of 18th-century date.

6.9 Animal Bone

The assessment was carried out following a modified version of guidelines by English Heritage (Davis 1992). All of the bone was examined to determine range of species and elements present. A note was also made of butchering and any indications of skinning, hornworking and other modifications. When possible a record was made of ages and any other relevant information, such as pathologies. Counts and weights were noted for each context.

A total of three pieces of bone, weighing a total of 0.068kg, was produced from three fills during excavations at Mellis Road. The remains are in good condition, although fragmentary from butchering and wear. Some invertebrate damage was noted on the bone from one ditch fill. All of the remains were produced from ditch fills. No dating information was available at the time of the faunal assessment.

The bone from (1001) is an undiagnostic fragment of mammal bone. The proximal end of a goose tibiotarsus was produced from (1009), the size of which indicates a large domestic goose or Greylag; no obvious butchering was seen on this bone. A fragment of equid femur which showed some butchering was yielded from the ditch fill (1047).

This is a very small assemblage with common domestic or wild species. The equid bone had clearly been butchered. Although equid meat is not popular for human consumption, this animal may have been used for meat or for feeding dogs. The lack of butchering on the goose does not rule out the birds use for meat, but it may be from a wild specimen.

7.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

A total of 3 samples was collected from features [1048] (<1>), [1035] (<2>) and [1016] (<3>). The rationale for selection and methodology employed for study are based on Environmental Archaeology (EH 2002).

Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from fills within ditches [1048], [1035] and [1016], and three were submitted for assessment (fills (1029), (1051), (1017) respectively).

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 in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern fibrous roots were present throughout.

The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and will be sorted when dry. Any artefacts/ecofacts will be retained for further specialist analysis.

Cereal grains and seeds were present at a low density in all three samples. Preservation was poor to moderate, with most grains being puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures. Barley (*Hordeum* sp.), rye (*Secale cereale*) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains were recorded along with a large grass (Poaceae) fruit and vetch/vetchling (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) cotyledons. A single, small fragment of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell was also noted within the assemblage from sample 2. Charcoal/charred wood fragments were present throughout, and all three samples also contained charred root or stem fragments, including at least one piece of heather (Ericaceae) stem.

The black porous and tarry residues were almost certainly derived from the combustion of organic remains at very high temperatures. Other remains were scarce, although small splinters of bone were noted within samples 1 and 2 and coal fragments were recorded within all three assemblages. It is unknown whether the latter were contemporary with the contexts or later intrusions.

In summary, the composition of the assemblages and the state of preservation of the remains almost certainly indicate that all three samples contain materials derived from scattered hearth or midden waste. Although there is little or no evidence for the primary deposition of this material, this is probably not surprising given the contexts from which the samples were taken.

Although the current assemblages are small, they clearly demonstrate that plant macrofossils do survive within the archaeological Horizon at Wortham. As this represents a rare opportunity within the eastern region to study assemblages from a rural site of medieval date, it is strongly recommended that, if further excavations are planned, additional plant macrofossil assemblages of approximately 20 – 30 litres in volume are taken from all recorded features.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

The arrangement of linear features revealed at the Mellis Road site suggests a degree of land management with a field pattern represented by possible boundary ditches. Finds of medieval pottery contained within [1050] in Trench 2 indicate nearby occupation of medieval date. Undated features could possibly be of a similar date as they are similar in form and deposit to those which are datable to the medieval period, for example ditches [1016] and [1018] in NAU Trench 3 which possibly form a right angle junction beyond the edge of excavation. Trench 5 contains ditch [1000] an east–west oriented ditch which provides a good example of a ditch serving as a boundary as it contained artefacts perhaps associated with the occupation of the building still standing on site just to the north of this ditch.

Environmental samples from ditches [1048], [1035] and [1016] indicated scattered hearth or midden waste was present within the fills of these features and provided assemblages from a rural site of medieval date.

While some evidence for activity close to the frontage onto the common was noted in Trench 4 at the north end of the site, there seemed to be little evidence for occupation along the Mellis Road frontage. Trench 1, oriented north–south and adjacent and parallel to Mellis Road contained three shallow, undated gullies, with no obvious indication of occupation along this frontage.

Despite evidence for Prehistoric, Saxon and Roman activity in the vicinity, only one artefact of these periods, a Prehistoric worked flint, was recovered from the evaluation. As this worked flint was recovered from [1009], a fill that also contained medieval and post-medieval artefacts, it is considered residual.

Recommendations for future work based upon this report will be made by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Services.

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Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Description	Period
1000	Cut	Ditch E-W	Post medieval
1001	Deposit	Fill of Ditch [1000]	Post medieval
1002	Cut	Tree bowl	Undated
1003	Deposit	Fill of [1002]	Undated
1004	Cut	Post hole	Undated
1005	Deposit	Fill of [1004]	Undated
1006	Cut	Post hole	Undated
1007	Deposit	Fill of [1006]	Undated
1008	Cut	Ditch E-W same as [1000]	Post medieval
1009	Deposit	Fill of [1008] same as (1001)	Post medieval
1010	Cut	E-W ditch	Medieval
1011	Deposit	Fill of [1010]	Medieval
1012	Cut	Pit/natural feature	Undated
1013	Deposit	Fill of [1013]	Undated
1014	Cut	Pit/Tree bowl	Undated
1015	Deposit	Fill of [1014]	Undated
1016	Cut	E-W ditch	Medieval?
1017	Deposit	Fill of [1016]	Medieval?
1018	Cut	N-S ditch	Medieval?
1019	Deposit	Fill of [1018]	Medieval?
1020	Cut	Post hole	Undated
1021	Deposit	Fill of [1020]	Undated
1022	Cut	E-W linear	Undated
1023	Deposit	Fill of [1022]	Undated
1024	Cut	E-W linear	Undated
1025	Deposit	Fill of [1024]	Undated
1026	Cut	E-W linear	Undated
1027	Deposit	Fill of [1026]	Undated
1028	Cut	Ditch E-W	Medieval
1029	Deposit	Fill of [1028]	Medieval
1030	Deposit	Subsoil (TR4)	Undated
1031	Cut	Ditch N-S	Medieval
1032	Deposit	Fill of [1031]	Medieval
1033	Deposit	Topsoil (TR4)	Modern
1034	Deposit	Layer beneath topsoil	Undated
1035	Cut	Ditch E-W	Medieval
1036	Cut	Ditch E-W	Medieval
1037	Cut	Ditch N-S	Medieval
1038	Cut	E-W linear gully	Medieval?
1039	Deposit	Fill of [1038]	Medieval?
1040	Cut	E-W gully	Medieval
1041	Deposit	Fill of [1040]	Medieval
1042	Cut	E-W gully	Medieval?
1043	Deposit	Fill of [1042]	Medieval?

Context	Category	Description	Period
1044	Cut	Post hole in end of [1042]	Medieval?
1045	Deposit	Fill of [1044]	Medieval?
1046	Cut	E-W linear	Medieval?
1047	Deposit	Fill of [1046]	Medieval?
1048	Cut	Pit/natural feature	Undated
1049	Deposit	Fill of [1048]	Undated
1050	Deposit	Fill of [1035]	Medieval
1051	Deposit	Fill of [1036]	Medieval
1052	Deposit	Fill of [1037]	Medieval

Appendix 1b: OASIS feature summary table

Period	Feature type	Quantity
Unknown	Posthole	3
Unknown	Pit/natural feature	4
Unknown	Gully	3
Medieval (1066–1539)	Ditch	8
Medieval (1066–1539)	Gully	4
Post-medieval (1540–1900)	Ditch	2

Appendix 2: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (g)	Period
1001	Iron	3	41g	Unknown
1001	Pottery	3	11g	Post-medieval
1001	Metalworking Debris	1	128g	Unknown
1001	Clay Pipe	1	2g	Post-medieval
1001	Animal Bone	1	2g	Unknown
1001	Ceramic Building Material	2	10g	Post-medieval
1009	Pottery	1	23g	Medieval
1009	Pottery	5	264g	Post-medieval
1009	Iron	1	17g	Unknown
1009	Glass	2	52g	Post-medieval
1009	Ceramic Building Material	1	465g	Post-medieval
1009	Flint – Struck	1	48g	Prehistoric
1009	Glass	1	13g	Post-medieval
1009	Metalworking Debris	1	13g	Unknown
1009	Animal Bone	1	4g	Unknown
1009	Clay Pipe	1	10g	Post-medieval
1011	Pottery	3	38g	Post-medieval
1029	Pottery	12	102g	Medieval
1032	Stone	1	290g	Unknown
1041	Pottery	1	3g	Medieval
1047	Animal Bone	1	62g	Unknown
1050	Pottery	4	32g	Medieval
1050	Fired Clay	1	5g	Unknown
1051	Pottery	1	8g	Medieval

Appendix 3: Pottery

Context	Fabric	Form	Rim	No	Wt/g	Fabric date range
1001	GSW4			3	11	16th-17th c.
1009	WVCW			1	23	12th-14th c.
1009	GRE			1	21	16th-18th c.
1009	GRE	bowl/dish	bead	1	22	16th-18th c.
1009	GSW4			1	29	16th-17th c.
1009	STAF	mug	everted	1	2	L.17th-18th c.
1009	LPME	storage jar	triangular bead	1	190	18th-20th c.
1011	DUTR			2	24	15th-17th c.
1011	GSW4			1	14	16th-17th c.
1029	WVCW			11	94	12th-14th c.
1029	WVCW			1	8	12th-14th c.
1041	MTN1	jar	hammerhead	1	3	13th c.
1050	WVCW			4	32	12th-14th c.
1051	WVCW			1	8	12th c.?

Key:

WVCW Waveney Valley coarsewares

MTN1 Melton shelly ware

DUTR Dutch-type redwares

GRE Glazed red earthenware

STAF Staffordshire-type Slipware

GSW4 Cologne/Frechen Stoneware

LPME Late post-medieval unglazed earthenwares

Appendix 4: Animal Bone

Context	Context Quantity	Context Weight (g)	Species	NISP	Comments
1001	1	2	Mammal	1	Undiagnostic fragment
1009	1	4	Goose	1	Proximal tibiotarsus
1047	1	62	Equid	1	Fragment of femur, chopped/cut

Key:

NISP = Number of Individual Species elements Present.

Age = Estimate age based on fusion of bones and tooth wear; a = adult, j = juvenile, neo = neonatal, range = range of ages.

Appendix 5: Environmental Evidence

Sample No.	1	2	3
Context No.	1029	1051	1017
Feature No.	1048	1035	1016
Cereals			
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grain)			x
<i>Secale cereale</i> L. (grain)		xcf	
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grain)	xcf	x	
Cereal indet. (grains)	x		x
Herbs			
Large Poaceae indet.		x	
<i>Vicia/Lathyrus</i> sp.	x	x	
Tree/shrub macrofossils			
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.		x	
Other plant macrofossils			
Charcoal <2mm	xx	xx	xx
Charcoal >2mm	xx	x	x
Charred root/stem	xx	x	x
Ericaceae indet. (stem)	x		
Other remains			
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	x	xx
Black tarry material			x
Bone	x xb	x	
Small coal frags.	x	x	xx
Small mammal/amphibian bone	x		
Vitreous globules		x	
Sample volume (litres)	20	20	20
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%