

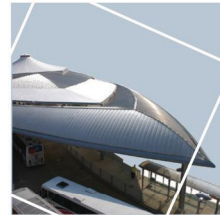
Report 2337



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## An Archaeological Evaluation at Broadland Gate, Postwick, Norfolk

HER ENF 123960



Prepared for  
Norfolk County Council



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April 2010



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Location:	Broadland Gate, Postwick
District:	Broadland
Grid Ref.:	TG 8765 9643
HER No.:	ENF 123960
Client:	Norfolk County Council
Dates of Fieldwork:	25 January–2 February 2010

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## **Summary**

*An archaeological evaluation was conducted for Norfolk County Council ahead of soil stripping prior to the construction of the contractors' compound for the Northern Distributor Route, known as the Broadland Gate. This involved the excavation of 33 50m long trial trenches. Seventeen of these trenches contained archaeology; two of these had been placed to coincide with known cropmarks, and one of these certainly located a ditch in the correct position to be this cropmark. Other trenches also contained ditches, many of which were aligned north–south and east–west, with one or two on different alignments, possibly of a different date. Some of the ditches show continuations across the site. The dating for the ditches is difficult, with few artefacts having been discovered.*

*Other excavated features include a single post-hole, several pits, and natural features. The dating for all of these features is also sparse. Flint artefacts dating from the Mesolithic to the early Bronze Age were recovered from some of these features, along with a few tiny fragments of prehistoric pottery.*

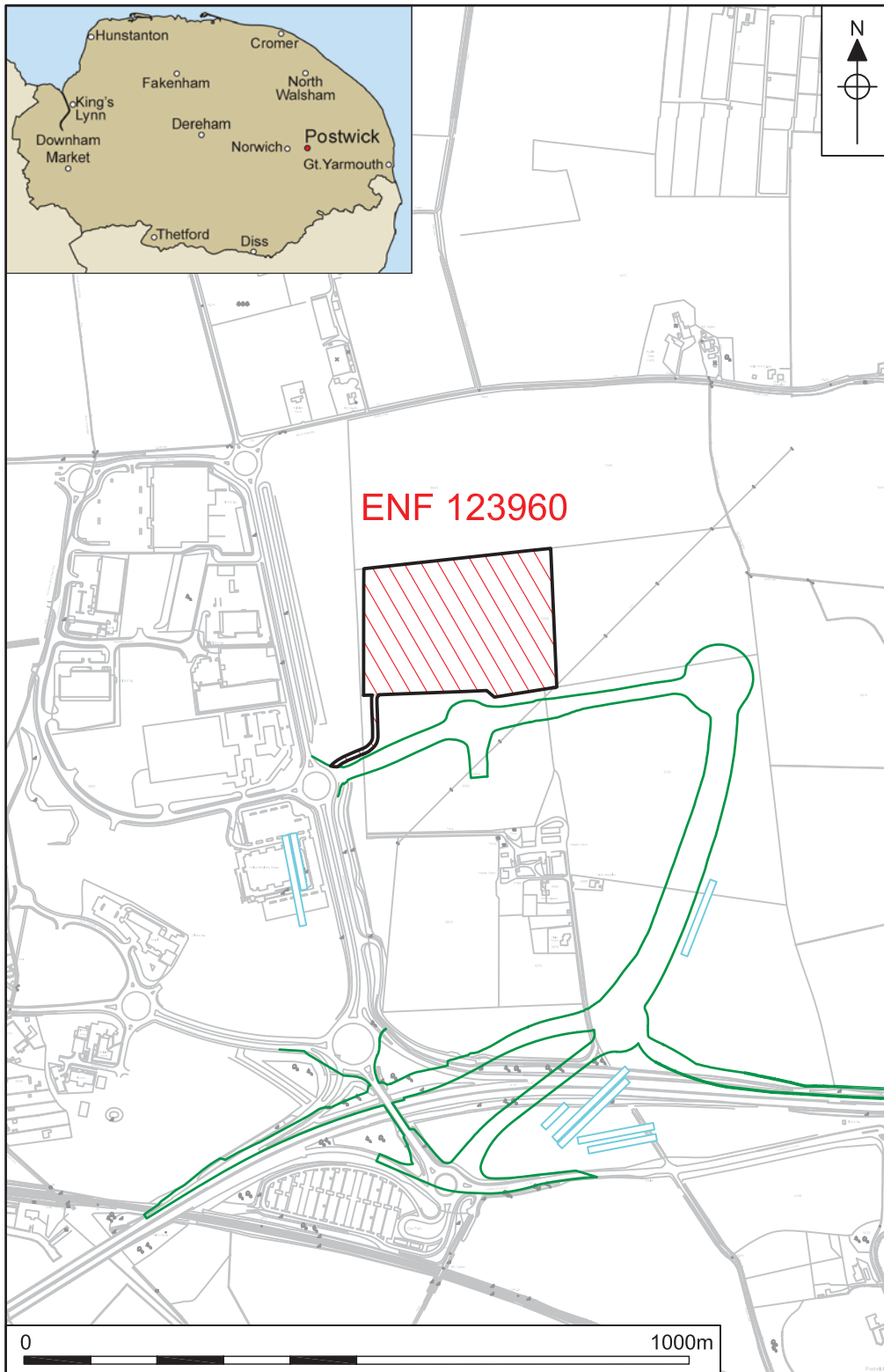
## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

An archaeological evaluation was conducted for Norfolk County Council ahead of soil stripping prior to the construction of the builders' compound for the Northern Distributor Route in the area known as Broadland Gate (Fig. 1). The evaluation comprised 33 trial trenches each measuring 50m long by 1.8m wide, constituting a 5% sample of the area (Fig. 2). These trenches were placed following advice from Norfolk Landscape Archaeology to target known cropmark evidence.

This work was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition set by Broadland District Council and a brief issued by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology. The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NAU Archaeology (Ref. NAU/NP/BAU2337). This work was commissioned and funded by Norfolk County Council.

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.

The site archive is currently held by NAU Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with the Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service (NMAS), following the relevant policies on archiving standards.



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Figure 1. Broadland Gate site location. Scale 1:10,000

## **2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

The site lies in an area of Crag Group sands and gravels, with a superficial geology of Happisburgh Glacigenic Formation.<sup>1</sup> Archaeological deposits were encountered at around 0.4m below the surface.

The topography of the site consisted of a series of gentle slopes, with the overall height ranging from 18.74m OD and 23.53m OD.

## **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **3.1 Prehistoric**

The Postwick area is rich in prehistoric activity, with a great deal of cropmark evidence pointing to a prehistoric date, and excavations in the vicinity proving this to be true.

The earliest activity in the area dates from the Palaeolithic, evidenced by the results from excavations at Laurel Farm (to the north-west of the site) in 2006, undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology, prior to the expansion of the Broadland Park development. These excavations uncovered multi-period archaeology, and will be mentioned again in the relevant section below, but the site located a Palaeolithic flint knapping site (NHER 51002). The same excavation also uncovered an early Neolithic flintworking site (NHER 51003), with a single tree-throw containing over 2,500 flint artefacts. Other tree-throws were found which also containing flint artefacts, and a possible placed deposit of a polished flint axe was found in one, with the blade pointing upwards.

Flint scatters and pot boilers are also known from the area to the west of the site, during the archaeological work carried out prior to the construction of the Broadland Park estate, at NHER 30931, 30932, and 31108. Also during the preliminary fieldwalking for the Northern Distributor Route, various flint concentrations were noted, at NHER 49756, 49758 and 50503. The concentration of prehistoric artefacts is not strange, given the proximity to cropmarks probably dating from this period.

Several ring-ditches have been seen, including at NHER 21766 to the south-west, and at NHER 52036 to the south-east. The ring-ditch at NHER 52036 was evaluated by NAU Archaeology as part of the Northern Distributor Route (NHER 49758) and confirmed the presence of the ditch (Trimble and Watkins 2008). The dating of the feature was difficult; it is thought that the ditch had been open for a considerable period before medieval material entered the fills. A large pit at the centre of the ring-ditch also contained medieval material and it is suggested that a great deal of disturbance has affected the prehistoric features. There is the possibility that this feature is either a round barrow or a hengiform monument.

Other prehistoric enclosures are known from the area, including one evaluated under the Postwick Hub phase of work of the NDR at NHER 52037 (ENF 123955;

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.bgs.ac.uk/OpenGeoscience/?src=sfb>

Ames and Sillwood 2010). The southern part of this rectilinear enclosure was also evaluated under another phase of the NDR, as NHER 49758 (Trimble and Watkins 2008). During that phase of work no date was put forward for the large ditch uncovered, as only struck flint was recovered from the fill. The Postwick Hub phase involved two trenches placed to investigate the northern arm of the enclosure and a large sub-circular anomaly in the entrance to this enclosure. Both the ditch and the possible pit were found to contain Middle Bronze Age artefacts.

To the south of the rectilinear enclosure (NHER 52037) is a cluster of three sub-rectangular features, seen as cropmarks. These lie between the enclosure and the ring-ditch (NHER 52036). The Norfolk National Mapping Programme has interpreted these features (NHER 52045) as possible grubenhäuser or extraction pits, although they may be similar to the pit found within the entrance to the rectilinear enclosure. They remain undated.

Many more cropmarks exist in the area (including NHER 52111, 51972, 51973); most remain undated, although many are probably prehistoric, and relate to the ones proven to be so.

### **3.2 Roman**

The biggest Roman presence in this area was at NHER 31108, to the north-west of the current evaluation area, where three Roman pottery kilns were found during excavations by NAU Archaeology in 1995. These kilns were dated to the 2nd century, and were accompanied by ditches and possibly pits. It is thought that the pottery production here was possibly seasonal and temporary, as the lack of settlement activity around them implies.

Other Roman activity in the area is represented through finds evidence, as at NHER 30932, where a Roman brooch was found, and several other pieces of Roman metalwork were found to the south of this at NHER 31109. At NHER 33265 four Roman coins were found. The fieldwalking phase of the NDR also recovered some finds of Roman date, although no great concentrations.

### **3.3 Anglo-Saxon**

Anglo-Saxon evidence is very limited for this area, with only findspot evidence and a single excavation. It was the previously mentioned excavation at Laurel Farm in 2006 which recovered the only stratified Saxon evidence, at NHER 51008. The evidence included pits with burning, and a substantial boundary ditch. The pits contained slag and waste materials, implying small-scale iron smelting on the site. Domestic rubbish pits present may also imply some occupation during this time.

At NHER 33265, to the south-east of the site, a Middle or Late Saxon brooch was recovered. At NHER 34970, which lies very close to the south-western corner of the evaluation area, the foot of a small-long brooch was found, dating from the Early Saxon period.

It is worth noting that the three cropmarks seen at NHER 52045 (discussed above within the prehistoric period), are recorded as possible Saxon grubenhäuser on the Historic Environment Record. It is not possible to refute this completely without investigation, although the proximity of the features to the prehistoric ones to the north and south has prompted the author to infer that these may also be of prehistoric date.

### **3.4 Medieval**

Evidence from the medieval period may be found by findspots, cropmarks and excavated remains within the study area. The excavation at Laurel Farm uncovered features dating to the medieval period, including fire pits, which may indicate the continuation of small-scale industrial activity from the Anglo-Saxon through to the early medieval period. Also found were a small group of post-holes, thought to be an agricultural structure and a quarry pit.

Cropmark evidence, tentatively dated as medieval to post-medieval period, is known to the north-east of the site, located to the north and south of Smee Lane. Three areas of cropmark have been recorded, all likely to be of medieval to post-medieval date, and all concentrated in one area. These sites (NHER 51971, 52112 and 52113) are comprised trackways and enclosures, with NHER 51971 seen as the centre of this occupation, with a possible farmstead and pits and ditches.

Other medieval evidence comes in the form of artefactual data, with the largest concentration of finds from NHER 34372, to the south of the site. The artefacts found here include coins, brooches, a cross pendant, a buckle, and several more. At NHER 31109 more medieval finds were recovered, including two horse harness pendants, three coins, a coin weight and a floor tile. Other areas that contained medieval finds are NHER 30931, 33265, 30932, 34970, 32276 and 31108. No concentrations have been noted, and the area under study here is not the village centre, which lies further to the south, beyond the Norwich Southern Bypass road.

### **3.5 Post-medieval**

What was said of the medieval period could also be said of the post-medieval period in Postwick, with the same areas of cropmark, the same excavation and the same findspots. The excavations at Laurel Farm (NHER 51008), characterise the post-medieval period here as 'agricultural', with quarrying that continued from the medieval period. The cropmarks are recorded as medieval to post-medieval.

## **4.0 METHODOLOGY**

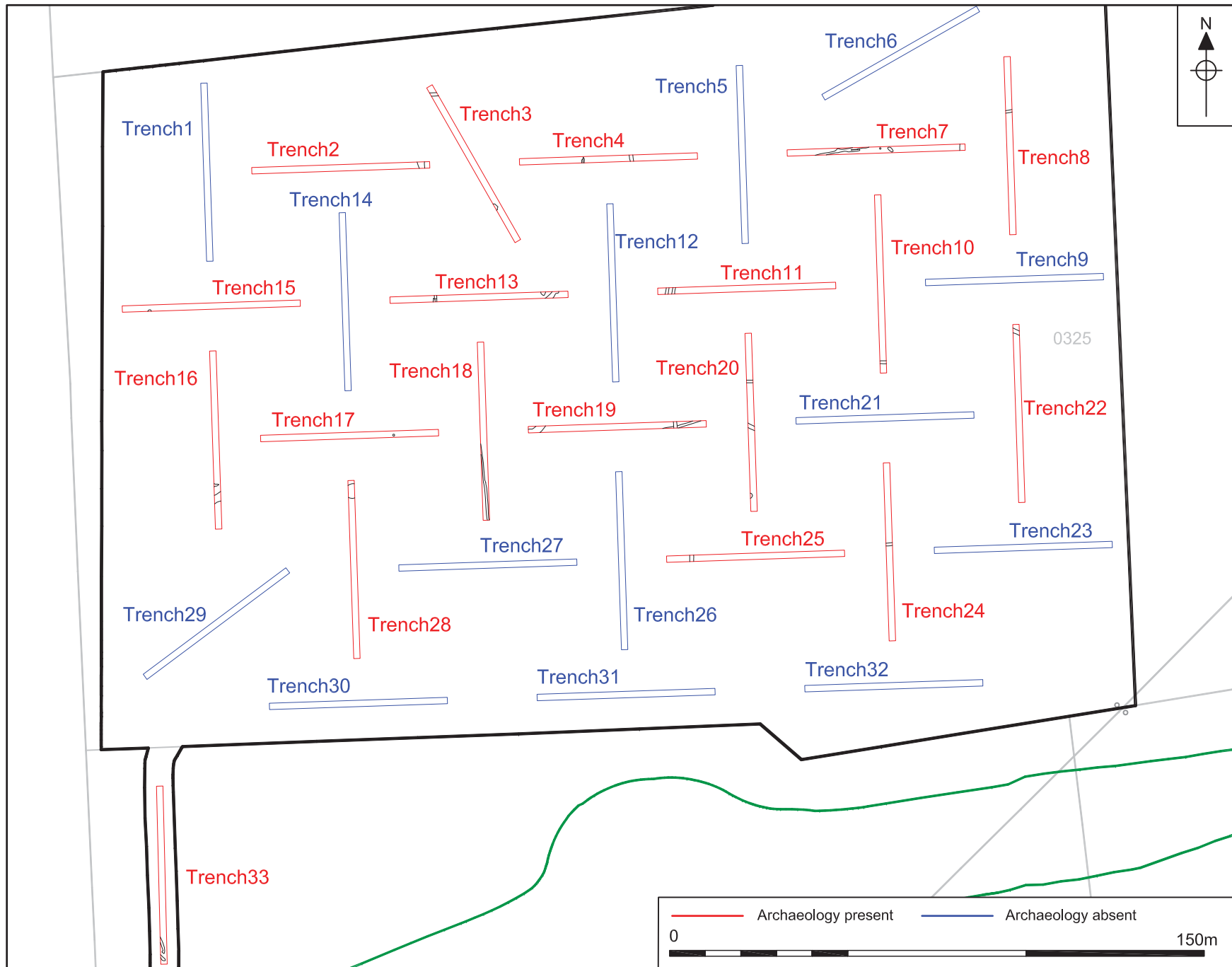
The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence or absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area. The brief required that 33 trenches measuring 50m long were excavated, making a 5% sample of the site.

Machine excavation was carried out with a hydraulic 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. Two environmental samples were taken.

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

Temporary benchmarks were positioned at the ends of each trench and were established by the use of the Leica GPS9000 surveying system. The temporary benchmarks ranged between 18.74m OD and 23.53m OD.





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Figure 2. Location of Broadland Gate trial trenches. Scale 1:1500

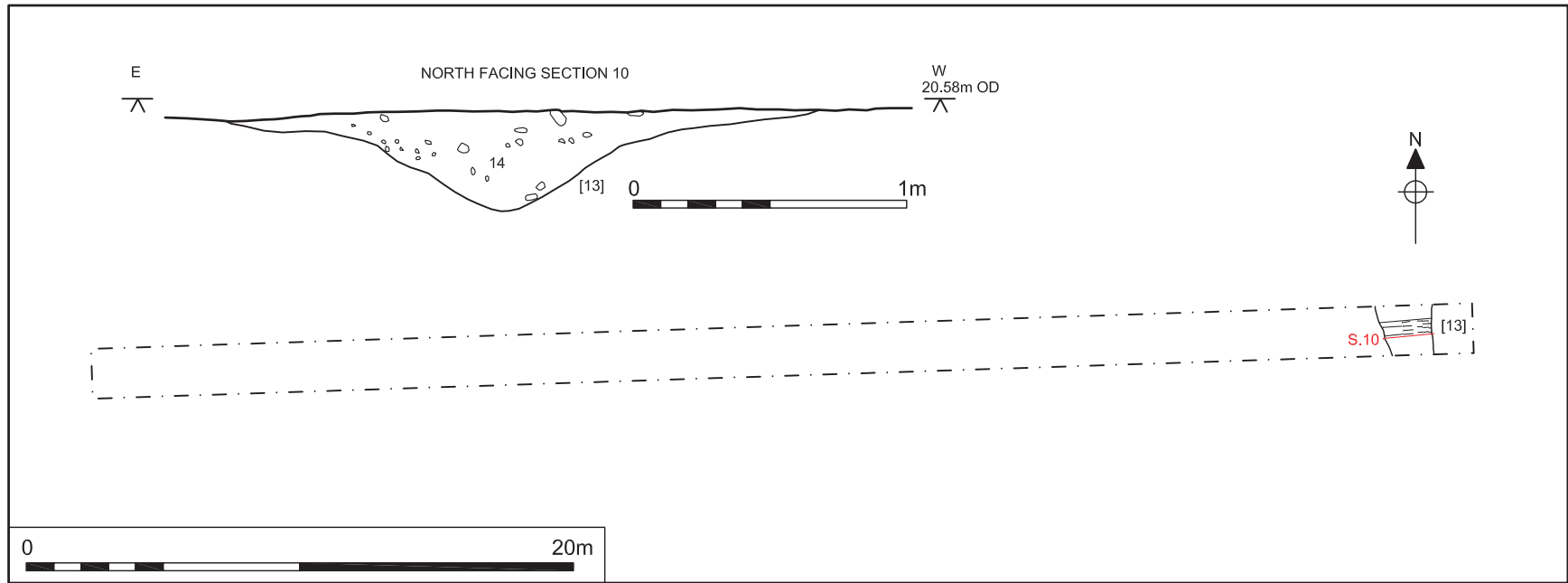


Figure 3. Trench 2, plan and section. Scale 1:250 and 1:25

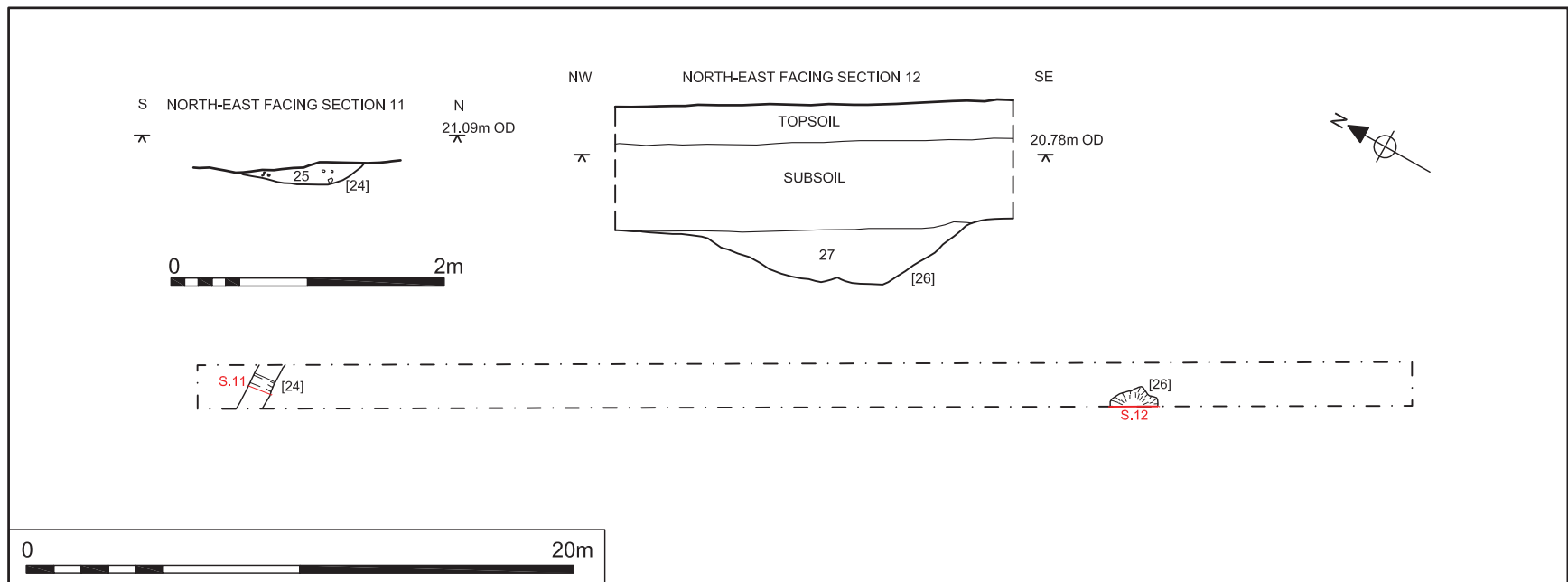


Figure 4. Trench 3, plan and sections. Scale 1:250 and 1:50

## 5.0 RESULTS

### 5.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was aligned north–south and located on a gentle south-facing slope ranging between 22.52m OD (N) and 21.42m OD (S) (Fig. 2). This trench was devoid of archaeological features or deposits.



Plate 1. Trench 2, ditch [13], looking south.

### 5.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned east–west and located on a gentle east-facing slope ranging between 20.97m OD (E) and 21.57m OD (W) (Figs 2 and 3). This trench was placed to investigate an approximate north–south cropmark. Ditch [13] was aligned north–south and was located at the eastern end of the trench. This ditch measured 1.8m long by 1.6m wide by 0.55m deep (Plate 1). The feature was filled by an undated deposit consisting of ginger-brown sandy silt [14]. Ditch [13] is likely to be the feature shown up as a cropmark.

### 5.3 Trench 3

Trench 3 was aligned north-west to south-east, ranging between 21.77m OD (NW) and 20.31m OD (SE) on a south-facing slope (Figs 2 and 4). This trench was placed to investigate an approximate north–south cropmark. This cropmark may be explained by a feature described by the excavator as a pit or ditch terminus [26] towards the south-eastern end of the trench (Plate 2). Although this feature does not appear to cover the whole trench (as the cropmark does), it is noted on the context sheet that the edges are disturbed. The fill of this feature [27] was an orange-brown clay-silt, and contained three pieces of struck flint, two of which date



to the Mesolithic to early Neolithic period and six small pieces of prehistoric pottery, which is not more closely datable. An environmental sample was taken of this fill (27), it produced no cereal remains and only minimal other remains.

Towards the north-western end of the trench ditch [24] measured 2m long by 0.9m wide by 0.19 deep. The fill [25] was patchy, being partly a light brown, interspersed with a creamy off-white, very fine silty sand; flecks of charcoal were noted by the excavator within the fill. This fill produced one fragment of struck flint, of Mesolithic to early Neolithic date.



Plate 2. Trench 3, pit [26], looking south-west.

#### 5.4 Trench 4

Trench 4 was aligned east–west, ranging between 21.11m OD (E) and 20.90m OD (W) on a south-facing slope (Figs 2 and 5). A north–south ditch [32] was located in the central part of the trench and measured 1.8m long by 1m wide by 0.38m deep. Ditch fill [33] was grey-brown clay-silt and produced two pieces of struck flint, one of which is of Mesolithic to early Neolithic date.

Towards the western end of the trench a possible ditch terminus [34], was discovered. This measured 1.55m long from the southern edge of the trench, and was 0.7m wide with a depth of 0.15m. This feature had a very irregular base, and contained one fill [35] which was an orange-brown clay-silt with flint inclusions.

#### 5.5 Trench 5

Trench 5 was aligned north–south and located on a gentle south-facing slope ranging between 21.83m OD (N) and 20.98m OD (S) (Fig. 2). This trench was devoid of archaeological features or deposits.

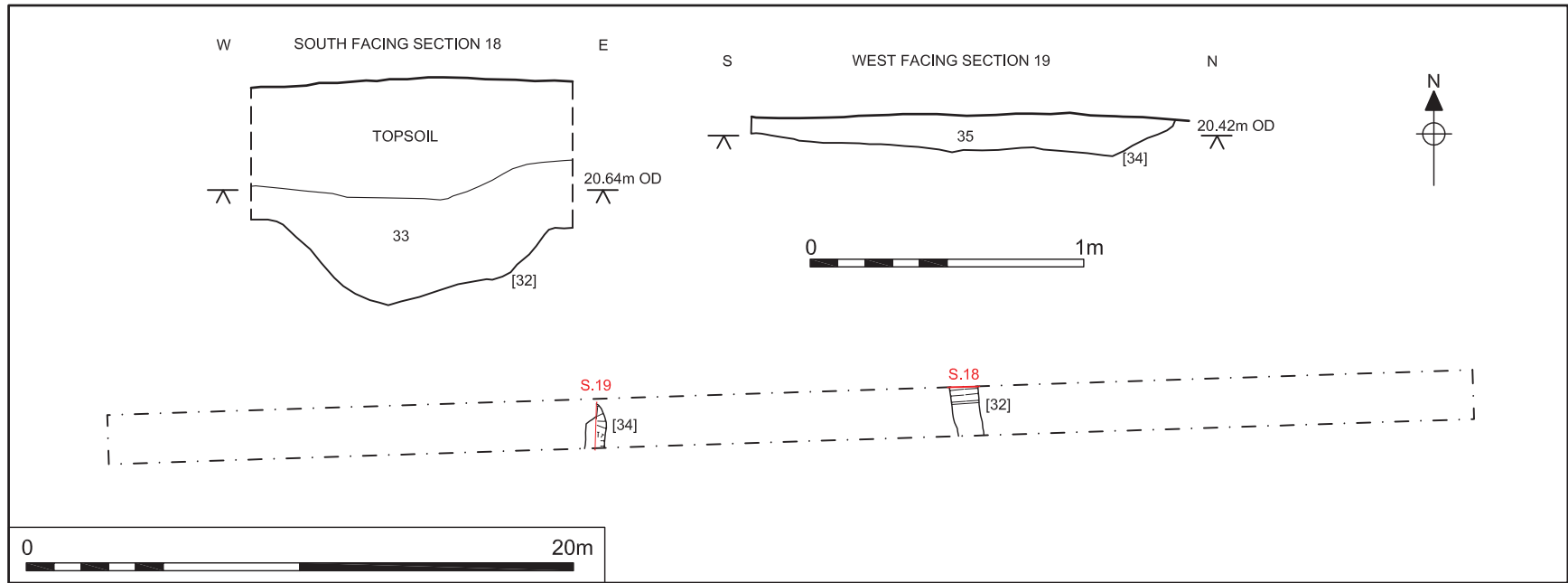


Figure 5. Trench 4, plan and sections. Scale 1:250 and 1:25

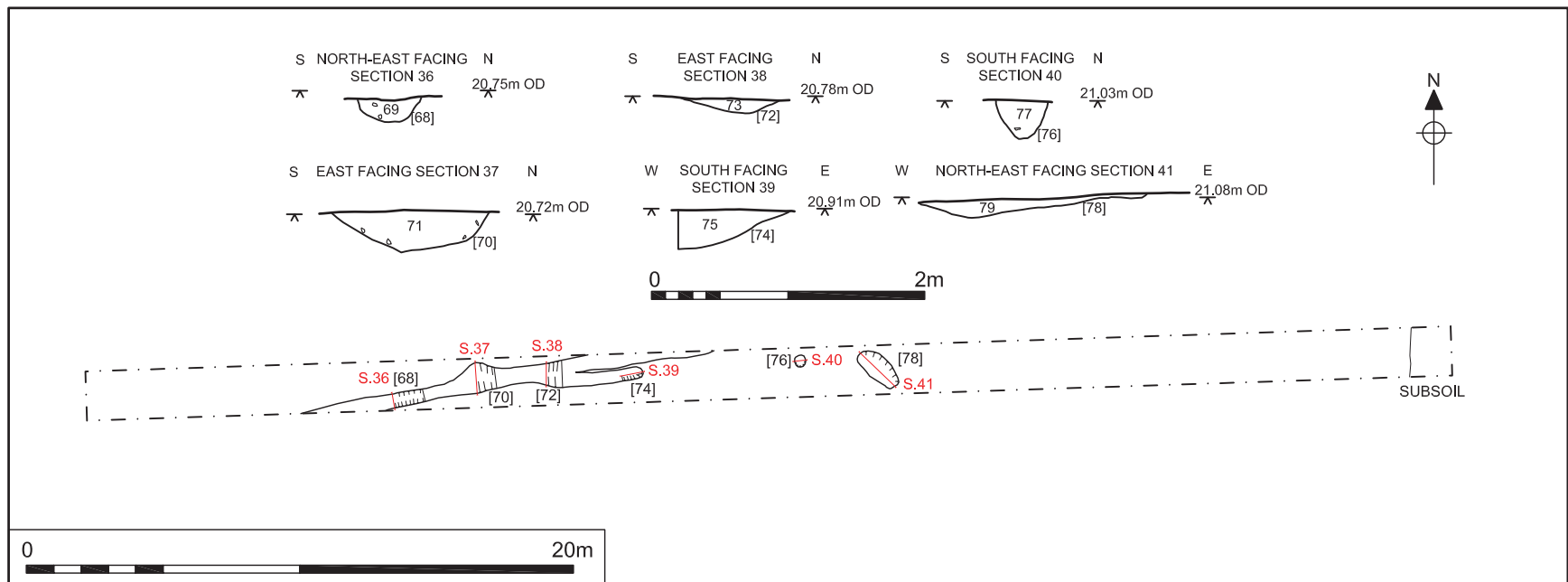


Figure 6. Trench 7, plan and sections. Scale 1:250 and 1:50



## 5.6 Trench 6

Trench 6 was aligned south east–north west ranging between 22.92m OD (SE) and 21.78m OD (NW) on a gentle south-west-facing slope (Fig. 2). This trench was devoid of archaeological features or deposits.



Plate 3. Trench 7, post-hole [76], looking north.

## 5.7 Trench 7

Trench 7 was aligned east–west, ranging between 22.02m OD (E) and 21.37m OD (W) at the base of a west-facing slope (Figs 2 and 6). An approximately north-east to south-west ditch was found at the mid-point of the trench, this then branched into two ditches, one of which disappeared under the edge of excavation, the other terminated within the trench. Three slots – [68], [70] and [72] – were excavated across the ditch. The width of the ditch varied between 0.45m to 1.15m with depths ranging between 0.18m to 0.30m. The ditch fill was very distinctive leached pale cream silt with frequent lumps of mineralisation. No finds were recovered from the fill. At the eastern end of the east–west ditch was the terminus [74]. These ditches are considered to be of parallel date as they both contained similar ditch fills, and no differentiation could be seen between them. A continuation of this ditch is to be found within Trench 8 [61].

A probable post-hole [76] was located east of the ditches (Plate 3). This post-hole measured 0.37m in diameter, with a depth of 0.3m and contained a single fill of leached pale creamy brown silt [77]. This feature remains undated. An irregular anomaly [78] was excavated east of the post-hole, however it remained uncertain whether this feature was cultural or a natural occurrence such as a tree hole. This feature was oval and measured 1.7m by 1m, with a depth of 0.1m. The shallow fill [79] was pale creamy-brown silt.

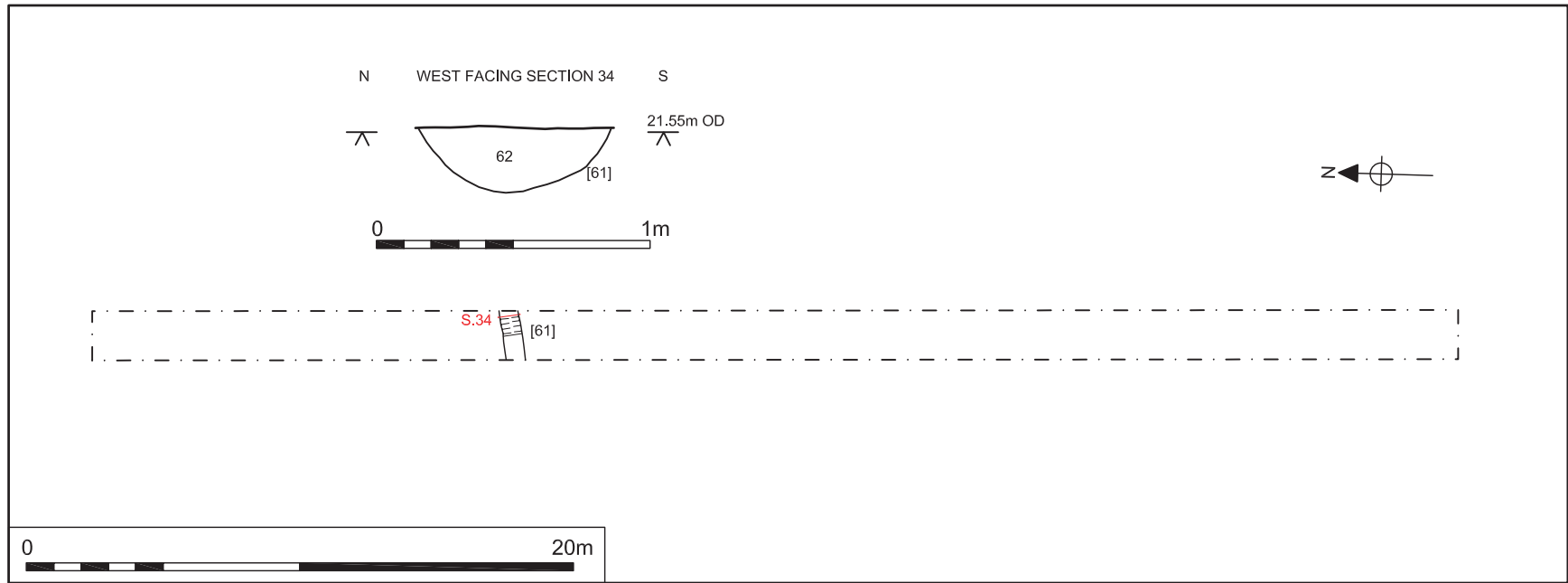


Figure 7. Trench 8, plan and section. Scale 1:250 and 1:25

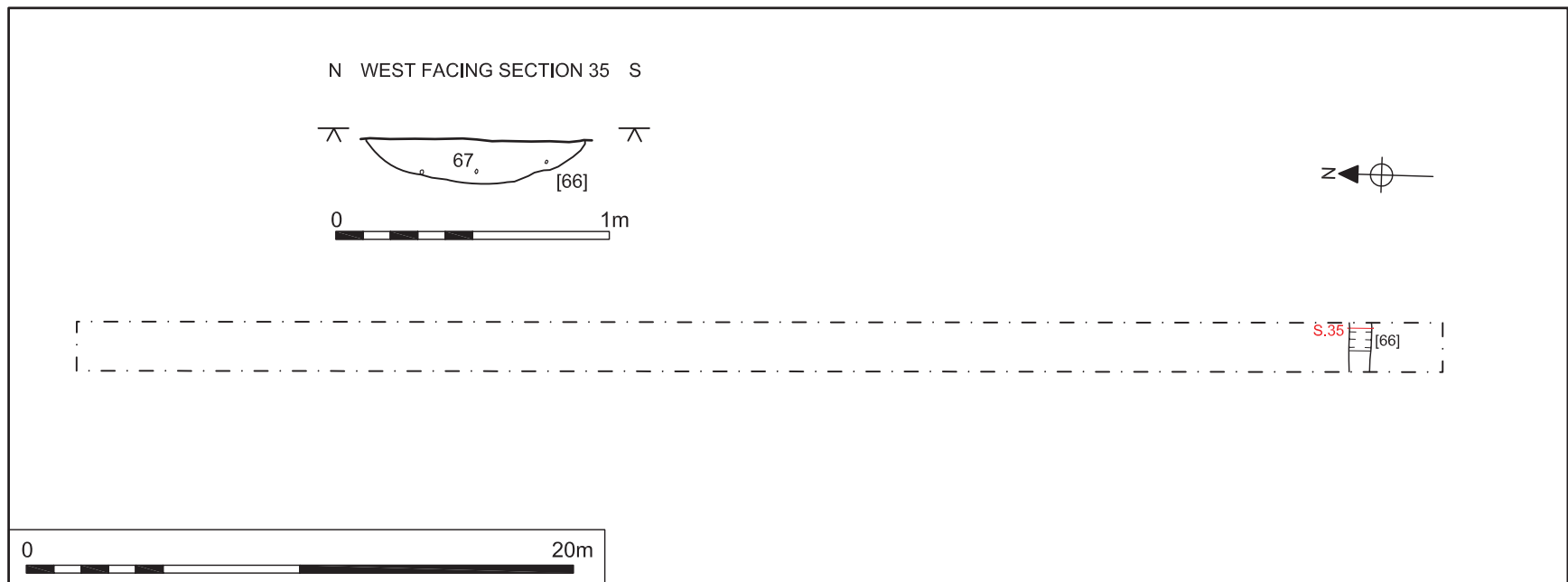


Figure 8. Trench 10, plan and section. Scale 1:250 and 1:25

## 5.8 Trench 8

Trench 8 was aligned north–south, ranging between 22.55m OD (N) and 22.15m OD (S) on a west-facing slope (Figs 2 and 7). An undated east–west ditch [61] was located towards the northern end of the trench. The ditch measured 0.7m wide, with a depth of 0.24m. Ditch fill [62] was leached pale grey silt with a high concentration of mineralisation. It is likely that this ditch is a continuation of the ditch located within Trench 7 (i.e. [68], [70], and [72]).

## 5.9 Trench 9

Trench 9 was aligned east–west ranging between 23.10m OD (E) and 21.95m OD (W) on a west-facing slope (Fig. 2). This trench was devoid of archaeological features or deposits.

## 5.10 Trench 10

Trench 10 was aligned north–south, ranging between 22.19m OD (N) and 21.52m OD (S) on the upper part of a west-facing slope (Figs 2 and 8). An undated east–west ditch [66] was located at the southern end of the trench. This ditch measured 0.8m wide, with a depth of 0.16m. The fill of this ditch [67] was leached pale grey silt with patches of mineralisation. It is likely that this ditch is a continuation of the ditch located within Trench 20, context [49].

## 5.11 Trench 11

Trench 11 was aligned east–west, ranging between 21.45m OD (E) and 20.62m OD (W) on a west-facing slope (Figs 2 and 9). Two north–south ditches, [45] and [47], were located at the western end of the trench. It is likely that one of these ditches is a continuation of the ditches in Trenches 19 ([38]) and 25 ([28]).

## 5.12 Trench 12

Trench 12 was aligned north–south, ranging between 20.66m OD (N) and 20.43m OD (S) at the base of a south-facing slope (Fig. 2). This trench was devoid of archaeological features or deposits. The unstratified find of an early Bronze Age barbed-and-tanged arrowhead was recovered near to this trench.

## 5.13 Trench 13

Trench 13 was aligned east–west, ranging between 20.18m OD (E) and 20.18m OD (W) on a south-facing slope (Figs 2 and 10). Two ditches were found within this trench. Ditch [18] was aligned north to south and measured 1.1m wide, with a depth of 0.23m. It contained a single fill, [19], which was pale brown clay-silt, with flint inclusions. Ditch [22] was aligned north-east to south-west, and measured 1.2m wide, with a depth of 0.27m. The fill [23], was pale brown clay-silt, with flint inclusions. Ditch [18] may show a continuation within Trench 2 as context [13]. Either of the ditches could be a continuation of the one within Trench 18, context [63], although both are a little wider than this one.

Also within Trench 13 was a possible pit, obscured by the baulk, measuring 1m long and 1.3m wide, with a depth of 0.32m. This possibly has a post-hole in the centre. The single fill [21] was pale brown clay-silt with flint inclusions.



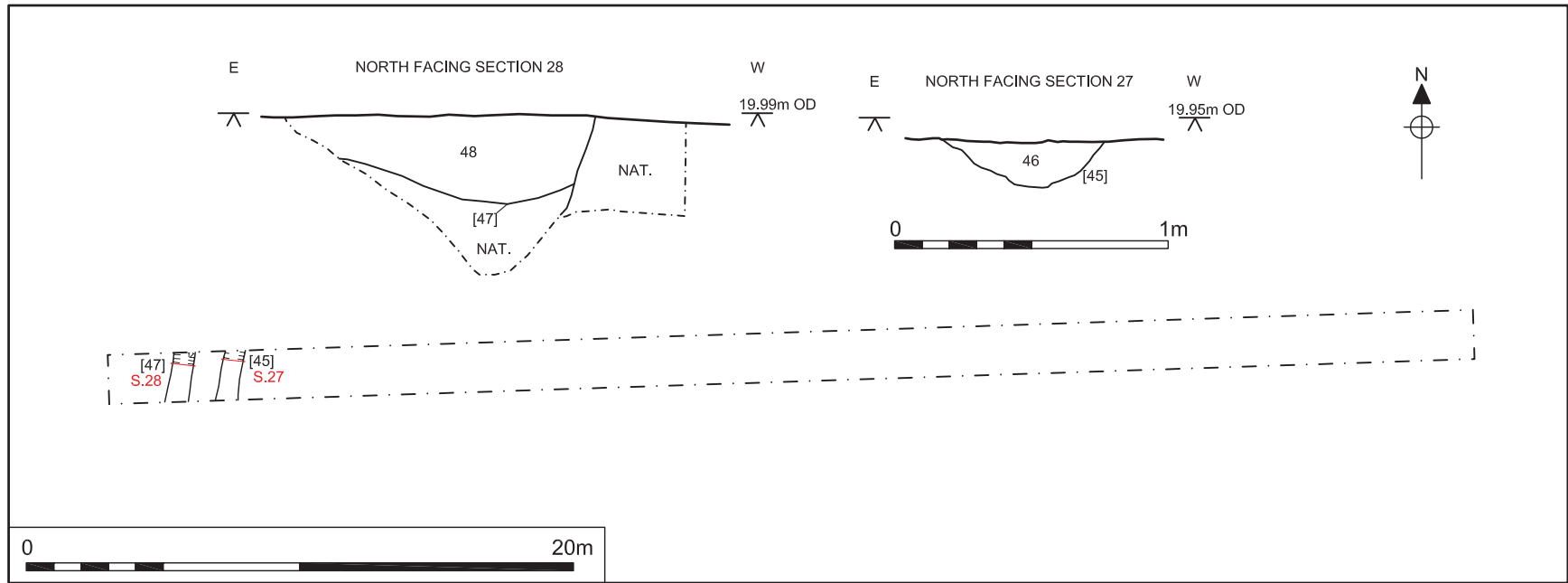


Figure 9. Trench 11, plan and sections. Scale 1:250 and 1:25

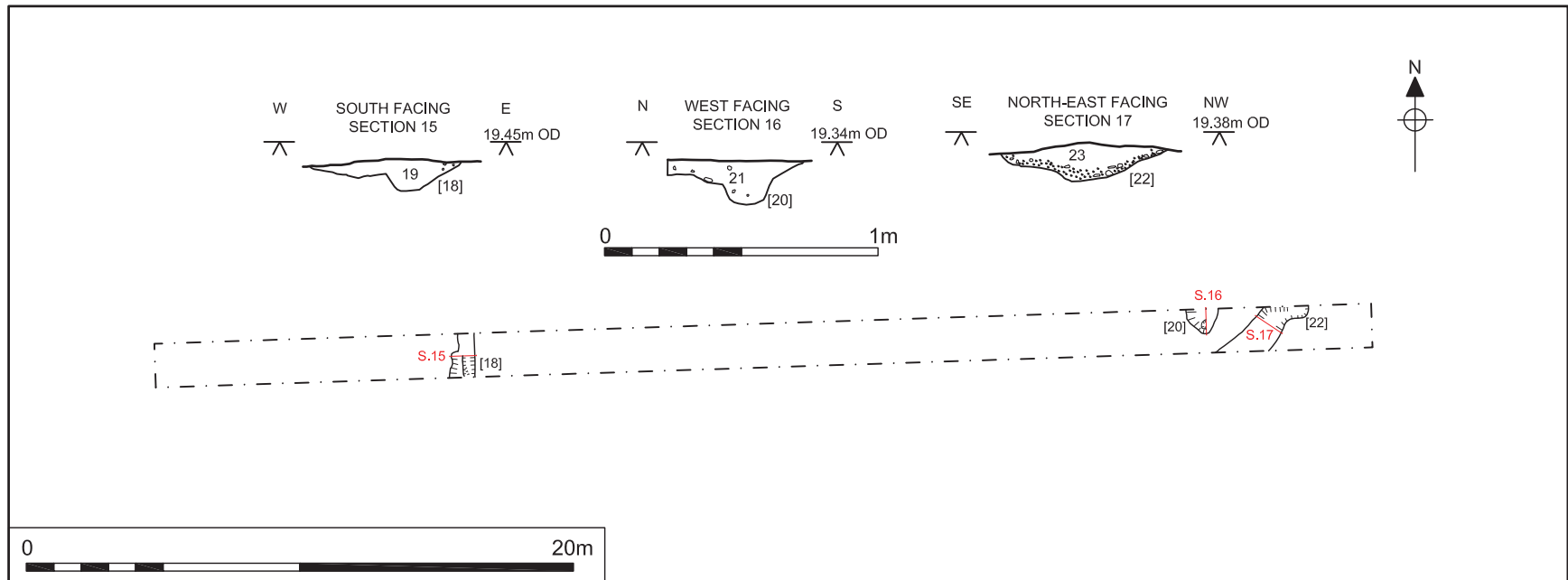


Figure 10. Trench 13, plan and sections. Scale 1:250 and 1:25

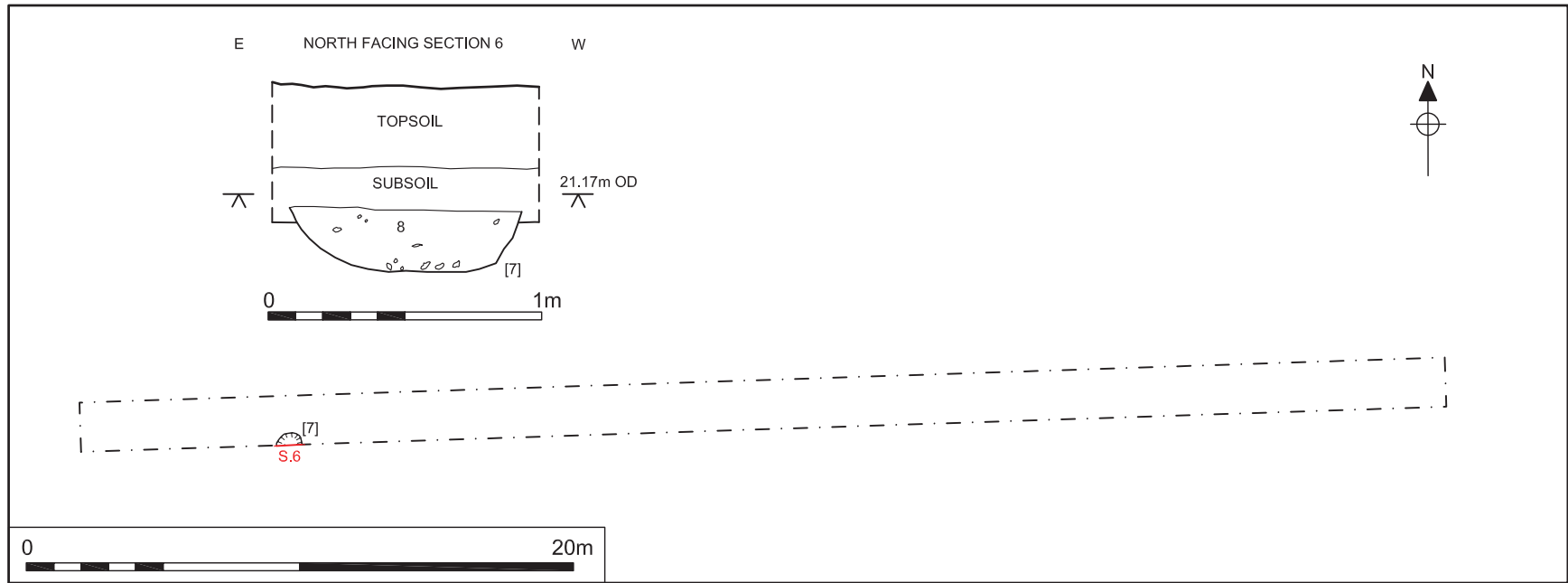


Figure 11. Trench 15, plan and section. Scale 1:250 and 1:25

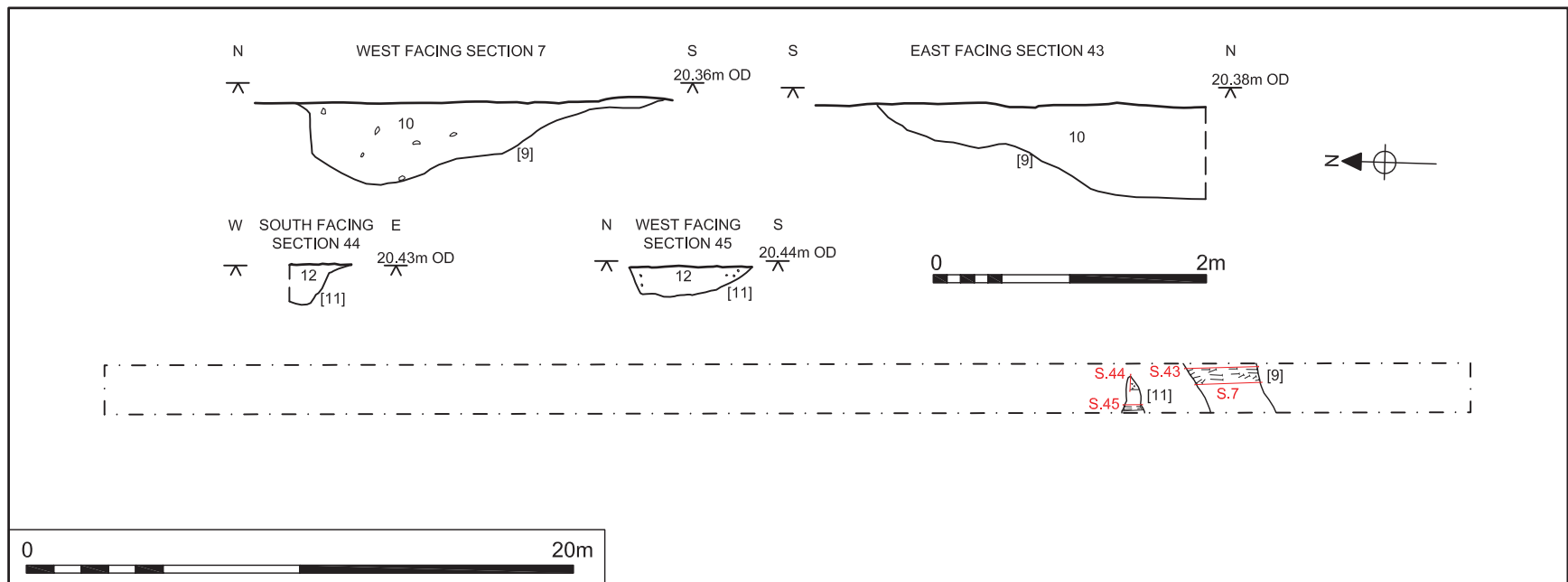


Figure 12. Trench 16, plan and sections. Scale 1:250 and 1:50

### 5.14 Trench 14

Trench 14 was aligned north–south, ranging between 20.83m OD (N) and 19.93m OD (W) at the base of a south facing slope (Fig. 2). This trench was devoid of archaeological features or deposits.



Plate 4. Trench 15, pit [7], looking south.

### 5.15 Trench 15

Trench 15 was aligned east–west, ranging between 20.54m OD (E) and 21.78m OD (W) on a gentle east-facing slope (Figs 2 and 11). A single feature was located in this trench, a possible pit [07] (Plate 4). This was seen against the southern edge of excavation and measured 0.8m wide, with a depth of 0.25m. The single fill [08], was pale brown sandy-silt, with inclusions of burnt flint.

### 5.16 Trench 16

Trench 16 was aligned north–south, ranging between 21.06m OD (N) and 20.12m OD (S) on an east-facing slope (Figs 2 and 12). An undated east–west ditch [09] was located at the southern end of the trench. Ditch fill [10] was pale brown clay-silt, with flint inclusions. A probable tree-hole [11] lay to the north of ditch [09]. This was an amorphous, with a single fill [12] consisting of pale brown sandy silt with flint inclusions.

### 5.17 Trench 17

Trench 17 was aligned east–west, ranging between 20.25m OD (E) and 19.72m OD (W) at the base of an east facing slope (Figs 2 and 13). A small shallow pit [56] was located at the eastern end of the trench, this measured 0.57m by 0.55m,

with a depth of 0.13m (Plate 5). Pit fill [57] consisted of pale brown silt with occasional patches of charcoal.



Plate 5. Trench 17, pit [56], looking east.

### 5.18 Trench 18

Trench 18 was aligned north–south, ranging between 19.90m OD (W) and 19.96m OD (W) on a west-facing slope (Figs 2 and 14). Three slots were excavated into ditch [63], which was aligned approximately north–south. This ditch measured 21m within the trench. It varied between 0.45m and 0.75m wide and 0.12m to 0.20m deep. This ditch contained contexts [64] and [65], a leached grey creamy silt which parallels the ditch within Trench 7. A single flint flake was recovered from [65] (given context number [65] to differentiate the location of the flint).

### 5.19 Trench 19

Trench 19 was aligned east–west, ranging between 21.26m OD (E) and 19.90m OD (W) on a west-facing slope (Figs 2 and 15). Two ditches, [36] and [38], were located at the eastern end of the trench (Plate 6). Ditch [36] was aligned east–north-east to west–north-west, and measured 1m wide by 0.22m deep. A length of 10m was recorded within the trench. The fill of this ditch [37] parallels ditches located in Trenches 7 and 18. Ditch [36] is cut by ditch [38], a north to south running feature, measuring 1m wide, with a depth of 0.4m. Ditch [38] is likely to be a continuation of the ditches located within Trenches 11 ([47]) and 25 ([28]).

At the western end of the trench a possible elongated pit or tree-hole [40]/[43]/[55], was partially excavated. This feature was given three context numbers as the excavator was unsure of the function of the feature, and it was not bottomed, due to the likelihood that it was of natural origin. It is likely that all of



these numbers relate to the same event. All of the deposits in the area are also fairly similar, being orange-brown sandy-silt. Fill [41] contained one piece of undated struck flint and one piece of burnt flint (discarded).

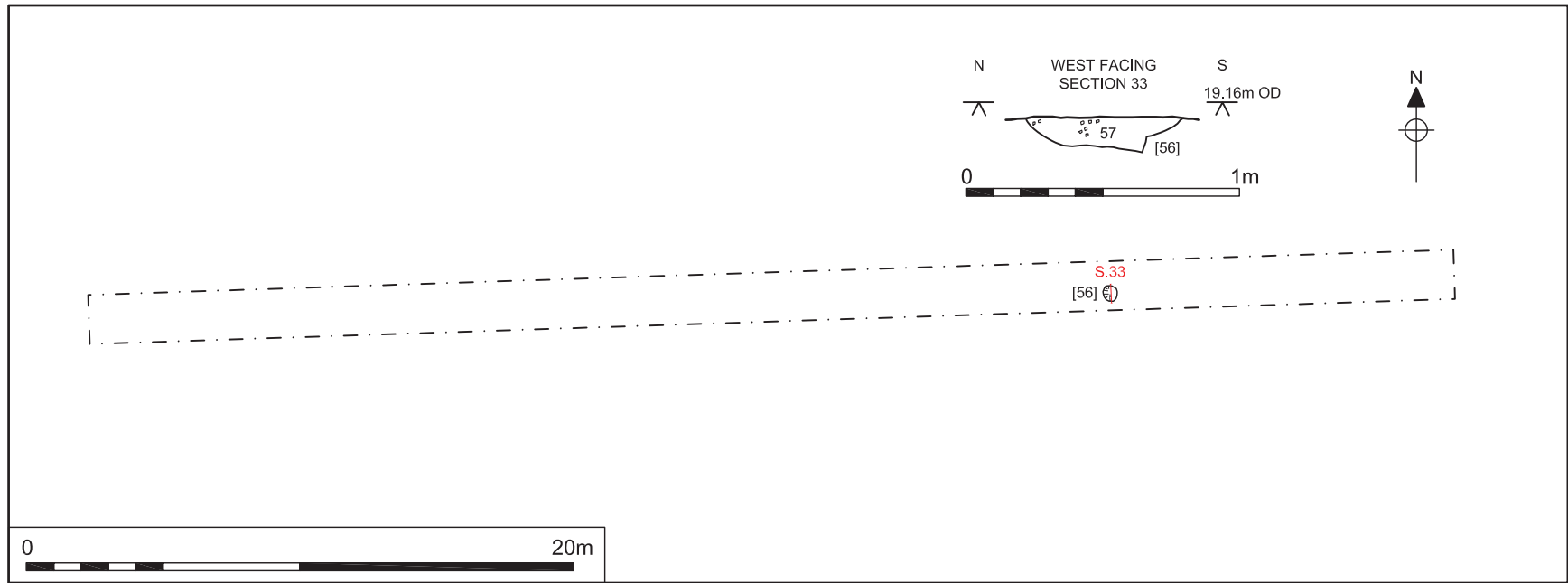


Figure 13. Trench 17, plan and section. Scale 1:250 and 1:25

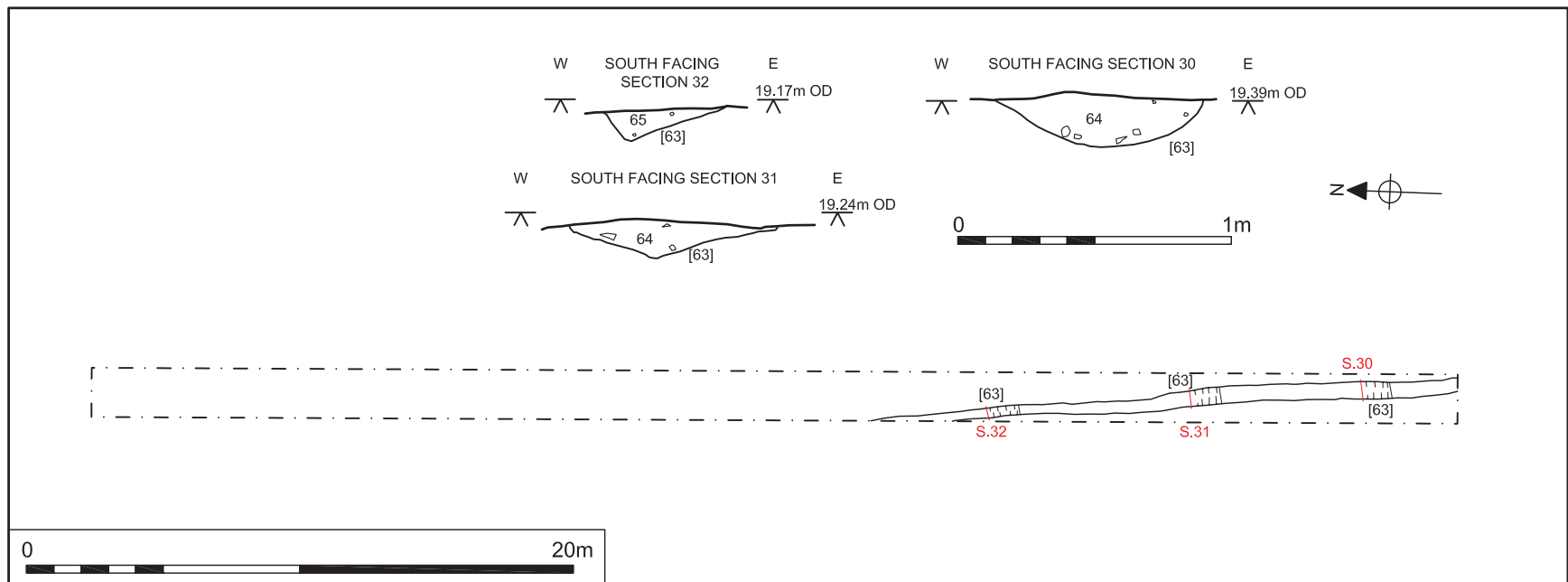


Figure 14. Trench 18, plan and sections. Scale 1:250 and 1:25

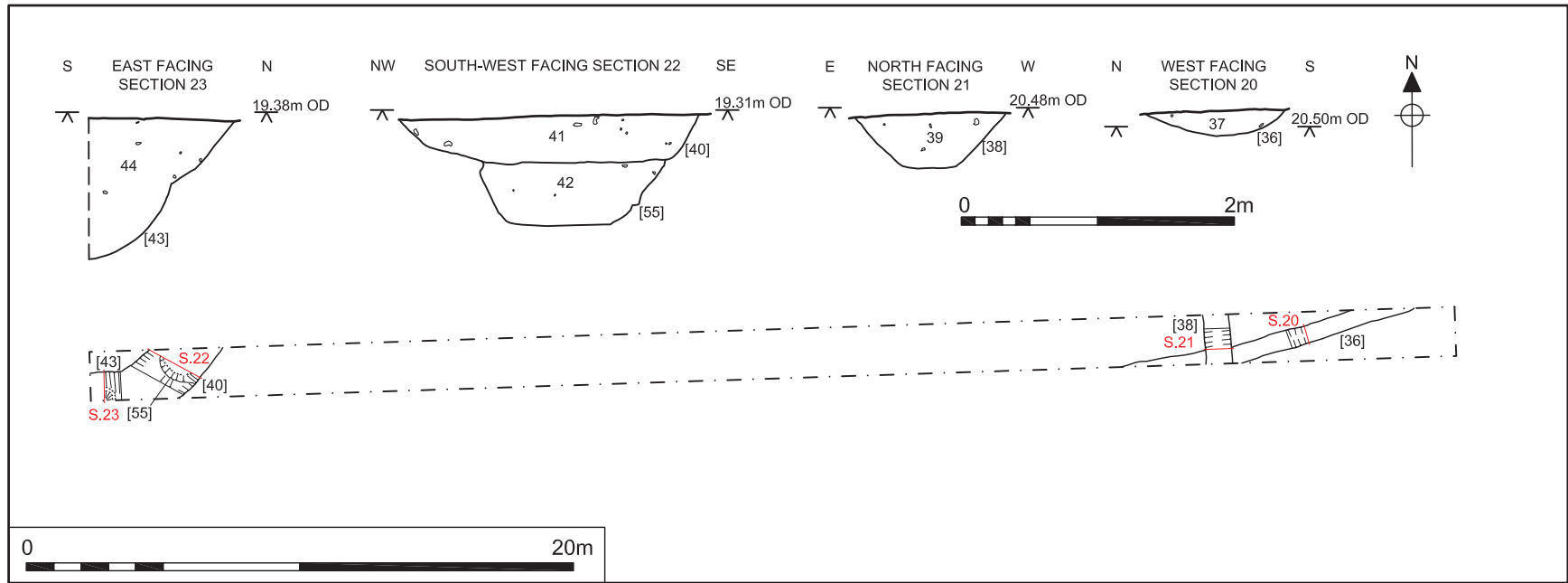


Figure 15. Trench 19, plan and sections. Scale 1:250 and 1:50

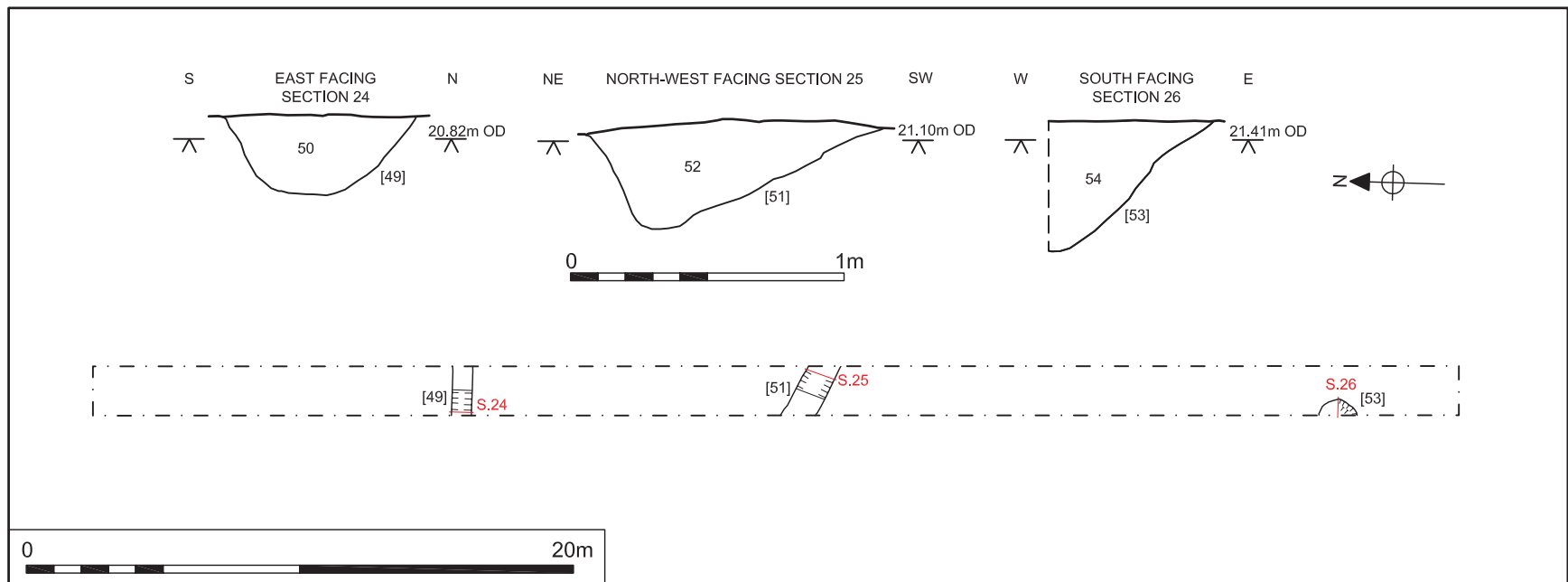


Figure 16. Trench 20, plan and sections. Scale 1:250 and 1:25



Plate 6. Trench 19, general shot, looking west.

## 5.20 Trench 20

Trench 20 was aligned north–south, ranging between 22.00m OD (N) and 22.11m OD (S) on a north-facing slope (Figs 2 and 16). Three features were located within the trench. The northernmost ditch [49] was aligned east–west and is likely to be a continuation of the ditch in Trench 19. This was 0.7m wide, with a depth of 0.28m. The single fill of this ditch was a mixed deposit of leached pale grey sands and grey clay-sand, with flint inclusions [50].

Ditch [51] was aligned north-east to south-west and measured 1.1m wide, with a depth of 0.36m. The single fill [52] was another mixed deposit, similar to [50]. This ditch parallels one of those present in Trench 22.

Pit [53] was located at the southern end of the trench. It was subcircular measuring 1.4m long by 0.60m wide by 0.50m deep. The fill [54] consisted of a mixed deposit of leached pale grey sands and brown clayey sand, from which a struck flint of late Neolithic to early Bronze Age date was recovered.

## 5.21 Trench 21

Trench 21 was aligned east–west ranging between 22.66m OD (E) and 21.76m OD (W) on a north-facing slope (Fig. 2). This trench was devoid of archaeological features or deposits.

## 5.22 Trench 22

Trench 22 was aligned north–south ranging between 23.41m OD (N) and 22.36m OD (S) on an east-facing slope (Figs 2 and 17). An undated east–west ditch [58] was located at the northern end of the trench. It measured at least 1.65m wide by



0.40m deep. It contained two deposits consisting of a lower fill of orange-brown silty sand [59] and an upper fill of pale grey silt [60]. This ditch is on a similar alignment to the ditch in Trench 20.

### **5.23 Trench 23**

Trench 23 was aligned east–west ranging between 23.25m OD (E) and 24.07m OD (W) on a north-facing slope (Fig. 2). This trench was devoid of archaeological features or deposits.

### **5.24 Trench 24**

Trench 24 was aligned north–south ranging between 22.53m OD (N) and 23.53m OD (S) on a north facing slope (Figs 2 and 18). An undated east–west ditch [30] was located in the central part of the trench. This measured 0.7m wide, with a depth 0.2m. It contained a single fill consisting of mixed orange brown clayey sand [31].

### **5.25 Trench 25**

Trench 25 was aligned east–west ranging between 22.74m OD (E) and 22.55m OD (W) on a west-facing slope (Figs 2 and 19). Ditch [28] was located at the western end of the trench is likely to be continuation of the ditches located within Trenches 11 and 19. The single fill [29] was dark brown clay-sand with flint inclusions.

### **5.26 Trench 26**

Trench 26 was aligned north–south ranging between 21.62m OD (N) and 20.73m OD (S) on a north facing slope (Fig. 2). This trench was devoid of archaeological features or deposits.

### **5.27 Trench 27**

Trench 27 was aligned east–west ranging between 20.79m OD (E) and 19.49m OD (W) on a west-facing slope (Fig. 2). This trench was devoid of archaeological features or deposits.

### **5.28 Trench 28**

Trench 28 was aligned north–south ranging between 19.61m OD (N) and 18.86m OD (S) at the base of a west-facing slope (Figs 2 and 20). A large, deep pit [15] was located in the northern end of this trench, part of which was obscured by the baulks (Plate 7). The width, or diameter, of the pit was 3.2m, with a depth of 1.4m. Two deposits were contained within the feature, with the primary fill (16) consisting of dark grey sandy-silt, with inclusions of charcoal and flint. The secondary, upper, fill [17], was an orange-brown sandy-silt, also with flint and charcoal inclusions. An environmental sample was taken of the primary deposit [16] within this trench and produced minimal results, with little present of plant macrofossils, and possible intrusive tarry concretions.

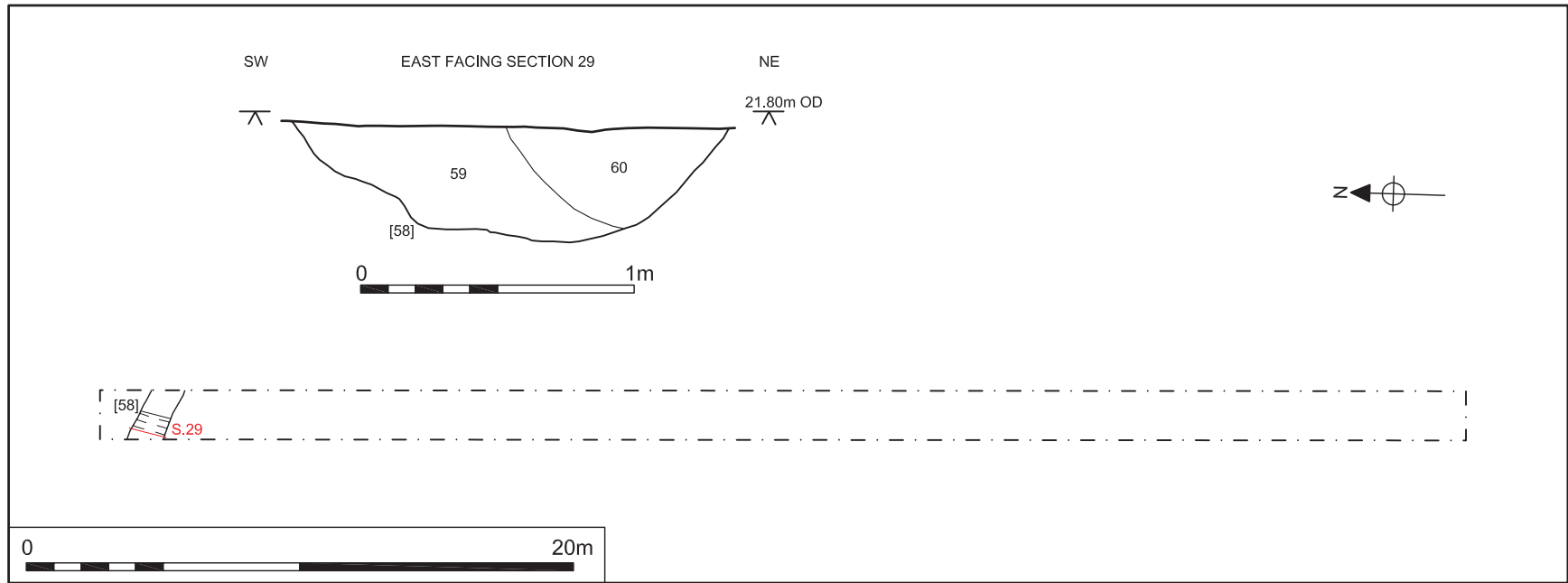


Figure 17. Trench 22, plan and section. Scale 1:250 and 1:25

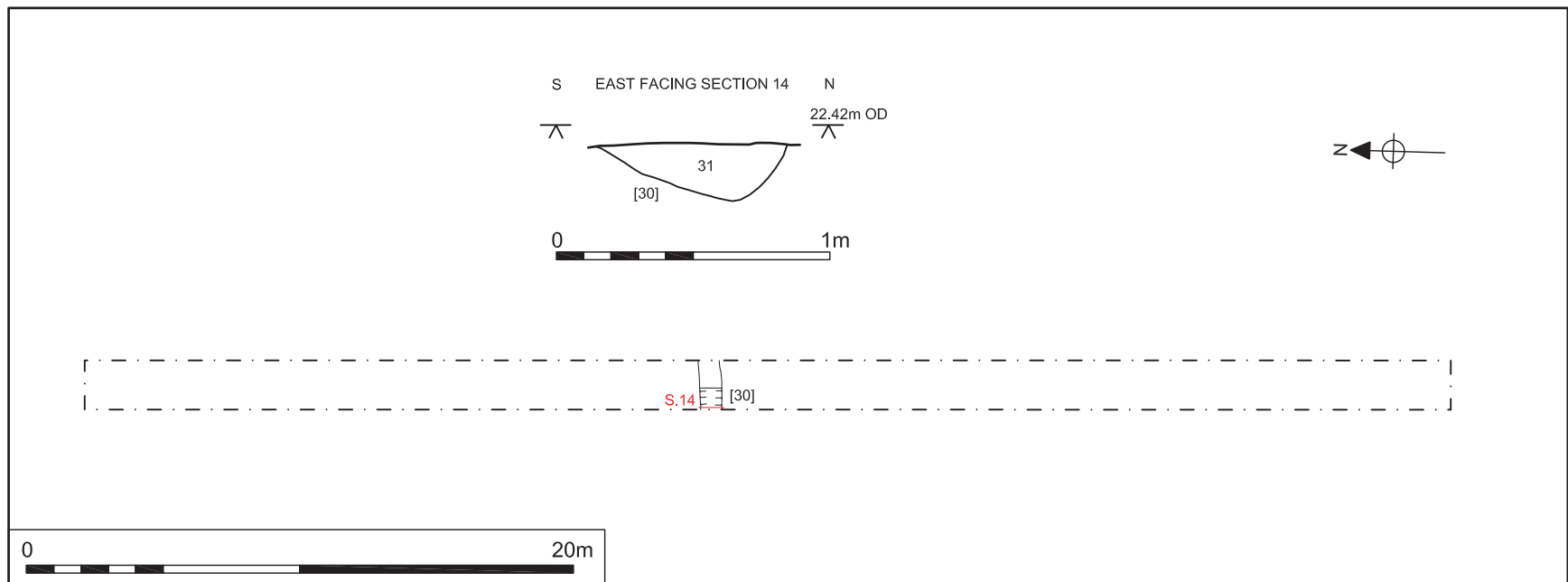


Figure 18. Trench 24, plan and section. Scale 1:250 and 1:25

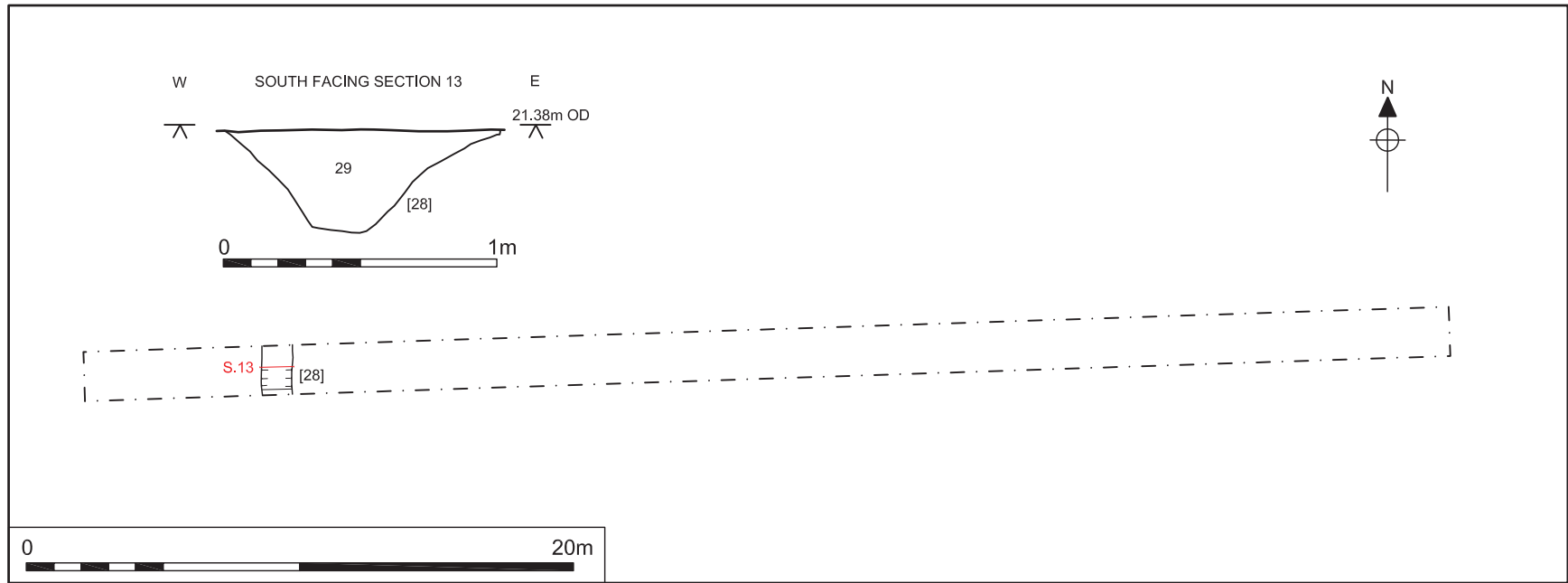


Figure 19. Trench 25, plan and section. Scale 1:250 and 1:25

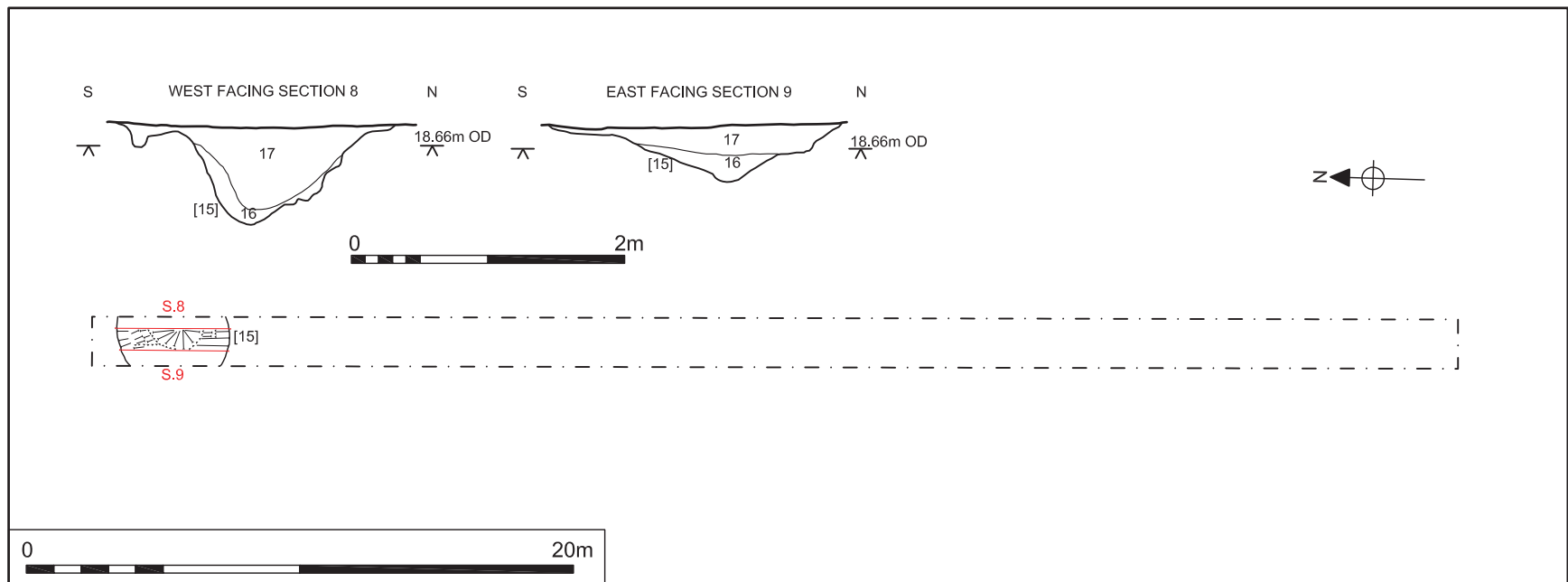


Figure 20. Trench 28, plan and sections. Scale 1:250 and 1:50



Plate 7. Trench 28, pit [15], looking east.

### 5.29 Trench 29

Trench 29 was aligned north east–south west ranging between 19.37m OD (NE) and 20.22m OD (S) on an east facing slope (Fig. 2). This trench was devoid of archaeological features or deposits.

### 5.30 Trench 30

Trench 30 was aligned east–west ranging between 19.78m OD (E) and 18.81m OD (W) on a west-facing slope (Fig. 2). This trench was devoid of archaeological features or deposits.

### 5.31 Trench 31

Trench 31 was aligned east–west ranging between 22.62m OD (E) and 20.82m OD (W) on a west-facing slope (Fig. 2). This trench was devoid of archaeological features or deposits.

### 5.32 Trench 32

Trench 32 was aligned east–west ranging between 24.33m OD (E) and 23.32m OD (W) on a west-facing slope (Fig. 2). This trench was devoid of archaeological features or deposits.

### 5.33 Trench 33

Trench 33 was aligned north–south ranging between 19.77m OD (N) and 18.74m OD (S) at the base of a west-facing slope (Figs 2 and 21). This trench contained two small, shallow ditches, [01] and [05], both of which terminate within the trench.

Ditch [01] measures 0.75m wide, with a depth of 0.25m. This contained one fill [02], a light brown silty-sand. This ditch cuts a natural feature [03] at its terminal end; where an area of undercutting was noticed by the excavator. The second ditch [05] measures 0.67m wide, with a depth of 0.17m, and this also contained one fill [06], consisting of orange-brown sandy-silt. Both ditches remain undated.



Plate 8. Trench 33, general shot, looking south.

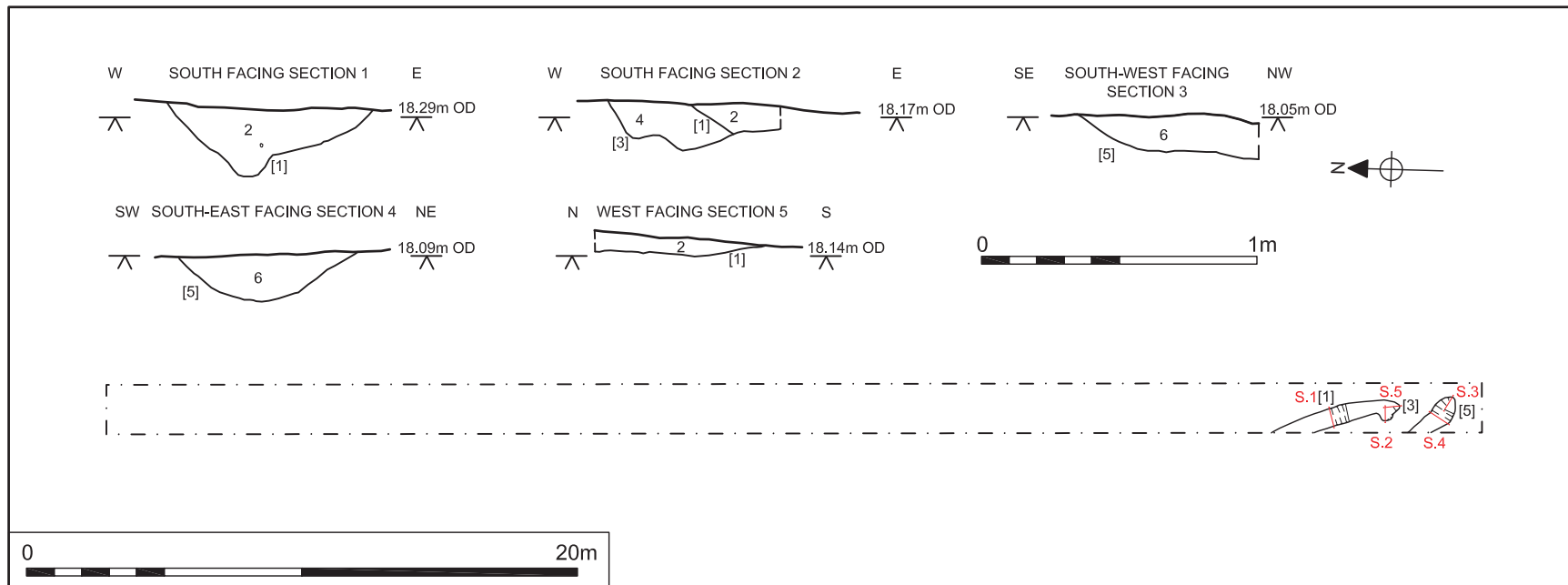


Figure 21. Trench 33, plan and sections. Scale 1:250 and 1:25



## 6.0 THE FINDS

### 6.1 Lithics

By Barry Bishop and Sarah Bates

#### 6.1.1 Introduction

This evaluation resulted in the recovery of ten struck flints weighing just over 350g (Appendix 2a and 3). This report quantifies and describes the material. Each piece of struck flint was examined by eye and x10 magnification and catalogued by context according to a basic typological/technological scheme, along with details of condition and, where possible, suggested dating.

Type	Flake	Blade (systematic)	Blade (not systematic)	Core	Retouched Implement
No.	4	2	1	2	1

Table 1. Quantification of the Struck Flint from Broadland Gate ENF 123960

#### 6.1.2 Quantification

Eight pieces of struck flint were recovered (Table 1) from seven separate contexts.

#### 6.1.3 Raw Materials

The raw materials predominantly consist of a mottled translucent black/speckled opaque grey fine-grained flint with a thin rough cortex. Ancient thermal scars were frequently present, indicating that the raw materials were probably obtained from glacial deposits as are present in the local landscape.

#### 6.1.4 Condition

The condition of individual pieces varied considerably, from good to chipped and abraded.

#### 6.1.5 Description

Datable elements of the flintwork suggest that it was manufactured from the Mesolithic and perhaps through to the Early Bronze Age.

The assemblage from pit fill [27] (Trench 3) comprised a very long microblade and a blade core, both of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date, along with a less securely dated 'Janus' flake. The three pieces were all in a sharp condition and of very similar raw materials, although did not refit. A nearby ditch fill [25] (Trench 3), also produced a blade although this was of a different raw material.

A further blade core also of probable Mesolithic or Early Neolithic date was recovered from ditch fill [33] (Trench 4) along with a flake that may have been

utilised, although these are both in a slightly chipped condition and may have been residually deposited.

A single undated chipped flake was recovered from pit or tree-hole fill [41].

A retouched implement was recovered from pit fill [54] (Trench 20) and consists of a narrow flake that has been lightly retouched into an awl-like piercer which, tentatively, is most similar to Later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age examples.

A barbed and tanged arrowhead of Early Bronze Age date is bifacially flaked with its tip and one tang missing. It is of Kilmarnock type (Green 1984). Its surviving barb is exceeded in length by the tang. The arrowhead was found in unstratified context [82].

An irregular flake is battered along its right ventral edge but this is probably due to accidental damage. The flake was found in ditch [63].

### **6.1.6 Discussion**

The lithic material recovered from features in Trench 3 is predominantly Mesolithic or Early Neolithic in date, the skill and care made in manufacturing the microblade from context [27] perhaps suggesting the former period is most likely. Similarly dated material was also recovered from a feature in Trench 4, although it is uncertain whether any of this material is contemporary with the features or was residually deposited. The retouched implement and the arrowhead suggest an Early Bronze Age presence

## **6.2 Pottery**

By Sarah Percival

A total of six small scraps of possible prehistoric pottery weighing 4g were recovered from the fill of pit [26] (Trench 3). The pieces are made of sandy fabric but are highly abraded and are not closely datable. No appendix has been included for these fragmentary pieces of pottery.



## 7.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

By Val Fryer

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 Appendix 4. All plant remains were charred. Modern contaminants including fibrous roots, invertebrates and chaff were present within both assemblages.

The assemblages are very small and sparse, with plant macrofossils (namely a low density of charcoal/charred wood fragments, small pieces of charred root or stem and a single indeterminate grain fragment) being particularly scarce. Mineralised soil concretions, varying in colour from a light brown to nearly black, are predominant throughout and both assemblages also contain pieces of coal and black tarry concretions. The latter are particularly common within pit [26] (Sample 2) along with a number of fragments of black porous material, all of which would appear to be derived from the combustion of coal.

In summary, the assemblages appear to be primarily composed of modern remains and residues, although it is currently unclear whether these are intrusive within earlier contexts, or whether they indicate that the features are of relatively recent date.

Although the interpretation of the current assemblages is somewhat ambiguous, it is clear from the artefactual evidence that some prehistoric activity was occurring in the near vicinity. Therefore, if further interventions are planned within this area, it is strongly recommended that additional plant macrofossil samples of approximately 40–60 litres in volume are taken from all well-sealed and dated features recorded during excavation.

## 8.0 CONCLUSIONS

This field, unlike that of the nearby Postwick Hub, did not have as many cropmarks to focus on. Only Trenches 2 and 3 were placed to locate features seen via cropmarks, and Trench 2 was certainly successful in this. The majority of the features located were ditches, and many of them link up, showing continuations over a fair distance, although lack of dating evidence has inhibited meaningful interpretation. It certainly appears that the majority of ditches are aligned north–south or east–west and where ditches are on a different alignment it is reasonable to assume that they are of a different date to the others. The only place where two of these ditches intersect is within Trench 19, with north–south ditch [38] apparently cutting ditch [36]. Neither of these ditches contained dating evidence, and neither did their continuations in other trenches. Where ditches do not show continuations it may be because they have a curvilinear character, although this too is difficult to be certain of due to the nature of the evaluation trenches. For example, within Trench 7 the ditches have a slight curve to them, as do those within Trench 33. Only ditches [24] (Trench 3) and [32] (Trench 4) contained any finds, and these were struck flint of Mesolithic to early Neolithic date. This certainly implies a prehistoric date for these ditches and possibly also for the others of similar form and alignment from the site, although Mesolithic / Early Neolithic finds have been recovered from the ditches these are likely to be residual. Of the 33 trenches excavated, 11 produced ditch fills with characteristic light brown grey clay-silt and leached creamy grey silt with lumps of mineralisation. At this point it is very difficult to state whether these soils represent gleying, podsolis or natural infilling of ditches. If further archaeological works are required soil morphology may go some way in answering this question.

Other features include five pits, although some of these features are only partially visible within the trenches and therefore could equally be ditch termini. The only discrete pit [56] (Trench 17) was apparently an isolated feature and contained no finds, making interpretation difficult. Two of the other possible pits from the site contained prehistoric finds and were also in isolation. Some features were difficult to identify properly, and may have been either pits or tree-holes.

A large pit within Trench 28 is unusual, as no other feature of such a great depth were found. Although the lack of dating evidence limits interpretation, the presence of charcoal in the fills may imply human intervention. The environmental evidence from this feature implies disturbance and intrusion, making it likely that this feature was also natural, and probably prey to rooting.

A single post-hole was found on site (Trench 7) and the presence of one implies the presence of more, although no others were seen within this or the other evaluation trenches. No finds were recovered from this feature, or the surrounding features, although the presence of a ditch nearby could make this post-hole part of the internal furnishing of an enclosure.

The presence of several interconnecting ditches implies enclosure, but the enclosure of what specifically, remains unknown. With reference to the Postwick Hub evaluation and surrounding areas, it is likely that these enclosures are prehistoric; the lack of any later finds is significant and it certainly does not preclude this theory. The other features uncovered are too isolated to make any judgement; they may be part of a wider area of settlement within and without the

enclosures. The presence of possible Mesolithic lithics on the site is significant as no other finds of Mesolithic date are known from the area, although both Palaeolithic and Neolithic material is known. These finds may be residual in later ditches, but the possibility of the presence of Mesolithic activity in this area cannot be ruled out. A tributary to the river Yare is shown on Faden's Topographical Map of Norfolk c.1797. The water course ran in a north-south direction and was located west of the site. This would follow Mesolithic/Early Neolithic find spot distribution patterns throughout the Broadland area which are usual close to water sources.

## **Acknowledgements**

The author would like to thank the field staff that excavated the site; Stuart Calow, Michelle Bull, Lilly Hodges, Suzanne Westall and Andy Phelps. The finds were processed and reported on by Sarah Percival, with Barry Bishop analysing the lithics. The environmental samples were processed by Robert Fryer and reported on by Val Fryer. The graphics were undertaken by the author and David Dobson, with the report also produced by David Dobson. The report was edited by Richard Hoggett.

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## Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
01	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Unknown	33
02	Deposit	Ditch fill	01	Fill of ditch [01]	Unknown	33
03	Cut	Tree Hole		Tree Hole	Unknown	33
04	Deposit	Tree Hole fill	03	Fill of tree hole [03]	Unknown	33
05	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Unknown	33
06	Deposit	Ditch fill	05	Fill of ditch [05]	Unknown	33
07	Cut	Pit		Pit	Unknown	15
08	Deposit	Pit fill	07	Fill of pit [07]	Unknown	15
09	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Unknown	6
10	Deposit	Ditch fill	09	Fill of ditch [09]	Unknown	16
11	Cut	Tree Hole		Tree Hole	Unknown	16
12	Deposit	Tree Hole fill	11	Fill of tree hole [11]	Unknown	16
13	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Unknown	2
14	Deposit	Ditch fill	13	Fill of ditch [13]	Unknown	2
15	Cut	Pit		Pit	Unknown	28
16	Deposit	Pit fill	15	Fill of pit [15]	Unknown	28
17	Deposit	Pit fill	15	Fill of pit [15]	Unknown	28
18	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Unknown	13
19	Deposit	Ditch fill	18	Fill of ditch [18]	Unknown	13
20	Cut	Pit		Pit	Unknown	13
21	Deposit	Pit fill	20	Fill of pit [20]	Unknown	13
22	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Unknown	13
23	Deposit	Ditch fill	22	Fill of ditch [22]	Unknown	13
24	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Prehistoric	3
25	Deposit	Ditch fill	24	Fill of ditch [24]	Prehistoric	3
26	Cut	Pit		Pit	Prehistoric	3
27	Deposit	Pit fill	26	Fill of pit [26]	Prehistoric	3
28	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Unknown	25
29	Deposit	Ditch fill	28	Fill of ditch [28]	Unknown	25
30	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Unknown	25
31	Deposit	Ditch fill	30	Fill of ditch [30]	Unknown	25
32	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Prehistoric	4
33	Deposit	Ditch fill	32	Fill of ditch [32]	Prehistoric	4
34	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Unknown	4
35	Deposit	Ditch fill	34	Fill of ditch [34]	Unknown	4
36	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Unknown	19
37	Deposit	Ditch fill	36	Fill of ditch [36]	Unknown	19
38	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Unknown	19
39	Deposit	Ditch fill	38	Fill of ditch [38]	Unknown	19
40	Cut	Pit/tree hole		Pit/tree hole	Unknown	19
41	Deposit	Pit/tree hole fill	40	Fill of pit or tree hole [40]	Unknown	19
42	Deposit	Pit/tree hole fill	55	Fill of pit or tree hole [55]	Unknown	19
43	Cut	Pit/tree hole		Pit/tree hole	Unknown	19
44	Deposit	Pit/tree hole fill	43	Fill of pit or tree hole [43]	Unknown	19

Context	Category	Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
45	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Unknown	11
46	Deposit	Ditch fill	45	Fill of ditch [45]	Unknown	11
47	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Unknown	11
48	Deposit	Ditch fill	47	Fill of ditch [47]	Unknown	11
49	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Unknown	20
50	Deposit	Ditch fill	49	Fill of ditch [49]	Unknown	20
51	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Unknown	20
52	Deposit	Ditch fill	51	Fill of ditch [51]	Unknown	20
53	Cut	Pit		Pit	Prehistoric	20
54	Deposit	Pit fill	53	Fill of pit [53]	Prehistoric	20
55	Cut	Pit/tree hole		Pit/tree hole	Unknown	19
56	Cut	Pit		Pit	Unknown	17
57	Deposit	Pit fill	56	Fill of pit [56]	Unknown	17
58	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Unknown	22
59	Deposit	Ditch fill	58	Fill of ditch [58]	Unknown	22
60	Deposit	Ditch fill	58	Fill of ditch [58]	Unknown	22
61	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Unknown	8
62	Deposit	Ditch fill	61	Fill of ditch [61]	Unknown	8
63	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Unknown	18
64	Deposit	Ditch fill	63	Fill of ditch [63]	Unknown	18
65	Deposit	Ditch fill	63	Fill of ditch [63]	Unknown	18
66	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Unknown	10
67	Deposit	Ditch fill	66	Fill of ditch [66]	Unknown	10
68	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Unknown	7
69	Deposit	Ditch fill	68	Fill of ditch [68]	Unknown	7
70	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Unknown	7
71	Deposit	Ditch fill	70	Fill of ditch [70]	Unknown	7
72	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Unknown	7
73	Deposit	Ditch fill	72	Fill of ditch [72]	Unknown	7
74	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Unknown	7
75	Deposit	Ditch fill	74	Fill of ditch [74]	Unknown	7
76	Cut	Post-hole		Post-hole	Unknown	7
77	Deposit	Post-hole fill	76	Fill of post-hole [76]	Unknown	7
78	Cut	Pit/tree hole		Pit/tree hole	Unknown	7
79	Deposit	Pit/tree hole fill	78	Fill of pit/tree hole [78]	Unknown	7
80	U/S Finds	U/S Finds		Unstratified finds	Unknown	
81	U/S Finds	U/S Finds		Unstratified finds	Unknown	3
82	U/S Finds	U/S Finds		Unstratified finds	Early Bronze Age	12



## Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary

Period	Type	Total
Prehistoric	Ditch	2
	Pit	2
Unknown	Ditch	23
	Pit	4
	Post-hole	1
	Tree Hole	2
	Pit/tree hole	4

## Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period
25	Flint – Struck	1	1g	Mesolithic
27	Flint – Struck	3	159g	Mesolithic
27	Pottery	6	4g	Prehistoric
33	Flint – Struck	2	106g	Mesolithic
41	Flint – Burnt	1	34g	Prehistoric
41	Flint – Struck	1	10g	Prehistoric
54	Flint – Struck	1	7g	Late Neolithic
65	Flint – Struck	1	32g	Prehistoric
82	Flint – Struck	1	3g	Early Bronze Age

## Appendix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Prehistoric	Flint – Burnt	21
	Flint – Struck	2
	Pottery	6
Mesolithic	Flint – Struck	6
Late Neolithic	Flint – Struck	1
Early Bronze Age	Flint – Struck	1

### Appendix 3: Lithics Catalogue

Context	Feature	Flake	Blade (systematic)	Blade (not systematic)	Blade-like flake	Core	Piercer	Condition	Suggested Date	Comments
25	Ditch [24]			1				Good	Meso-LNeo	Small, wide unmodified striking platform
27	Pit [26]		1					Good	Meso/ENeo	Microblade, L/B ratio of >6.8
27	Pit [26]	1						Good	UD	'Janus' flake
27	Pit [26]					1		Good	Meso/ENeo	Single-platformed blade core made on an irregularly shaped angular chunk
33	Ditch [32]					1		Slightly chipped	Meso/ENeo	Thermally split blade core with two off-set striking platforms
33	Ditch [32]	1						Slightly chipped	UD	Possibly utilised or with very fine retouch along right lateral margin
41	Pit or tree hole [40]	1						Chipped	UD	
54	Pit [53]						1	Slightly chipped	LN/EBA	Narrow flake with light retouch accentuating a converging distal end and forming an awl-like piercer
65	Ditch [65]	1						Good	Prehistoric	Retouched flake
82	U/S finds, Trench12		1					Good	EBA	Barbed and tanged arrowhead

#### Appendix 4: Environmental Samples

<b>Sample No.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Feature No.</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Feature type</b>	<b>Pit</b>	<b>Pit</b>
<b>Trench</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Plant macrofossils</b>		
Cereal indet. (grain frag.)	x	
Charcoal <2mm	x	xxx
Charcoal >2mm		x
Charred root/stem	x	x
<b>Other remains</b>		
Black porous 'cokey' material		xx
Black tarry material	x	xx
Bone		x
Mineralised soil concretions	xxxx	xxx
Mineralised root channels	x	
Small coal frags.	x	x
Vitrified material	x	
<b>Sample volume (litres)</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Volume of flot (litres)</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>
<b>% flot sorted</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Key: x = 1–10 specimens; xx = 11–50 specimens; xxx = 51–100 specimens; xxxx = 100+ specimens