Report 2523

nps group

nau archaeology

An Archaeological Evaluation at Hog Lane, Westhall, Suffolk

HER WHL028

Prepared for
St Lawrence Hall Farms Ltd
Ilketshall Hall
Ilketshall St Lawrence
Beccles
Suffolk
NR34 4NH

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November 2010

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Edit Completed	Jayne Bown	28/09/2010
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Trench 36 & 37figs	David Dobson	22/11/2010
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Location:	Hog Lane, Westhall, Suffolk
District:	Waveney District Council
Grid Ref.:	TM39188349
HER No.:	WHL028
OASIS Ref.:	83308
Client:	St Lawrence Hall Farms Ltd
Dates of Fieldwork:	25 August – 3 September and 2 November 2010

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was conducted for St Lawrence Hall Farms Ltd ahead of the construction of an Anaerobic Digestor Plant and Broiler Unit.

A total of 37 trenches were excavated, producing evidence of a small medieval (probably 13th-century) settlement and a possible prehistoric pit in the north-eastern corner of the development area and a number of broadly north-south aligned field boundaries to the west and south. These ditches are most likely post-medieval field boundaries visible on 19th and 20th century maps that were removed in the later 20th century although may have represented the continuation of field systems with prehistoric origins.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

A total of 37 evaluation trenches were excavated, representing a 5% sample of the development footprint (Fig. 1). The development lies in an area previously devoid of archaeological investigation, close to a Roman Road (Stone Street) and an extensive probable prehistoric field system.

This work was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition set by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) Conservation Team, on behalf of Waveney District Council and a Brief issued by SCCAS Conservation Team (Sarah Poppy 19 August 2010 Ref. WestHallanaerobicdigester 2010). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NAU Archaeology (Ref. NAU/BAU2523/DW). This work was commissioned and funded by St Lawrence Hall Farms Ltd.

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 PPS5 Planning for the Historic Environment (2010). The results will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority about the treatment of any archaeological remains found. The site (c. 11 ha. in area) is located to the east of Ilketshall St Lawrence at *c.*40.00m AOD.

The site archive is currently held by NAU Archaeology and on completion of the project will be deposited with the Suffolk County Council County Store following the relevant policies on archiving standards.

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The bedrock geology of the area is Neogene to Quaternary rocks (undifferentiated) and gravel, sand, silt and clay. Superficial geology in the area is

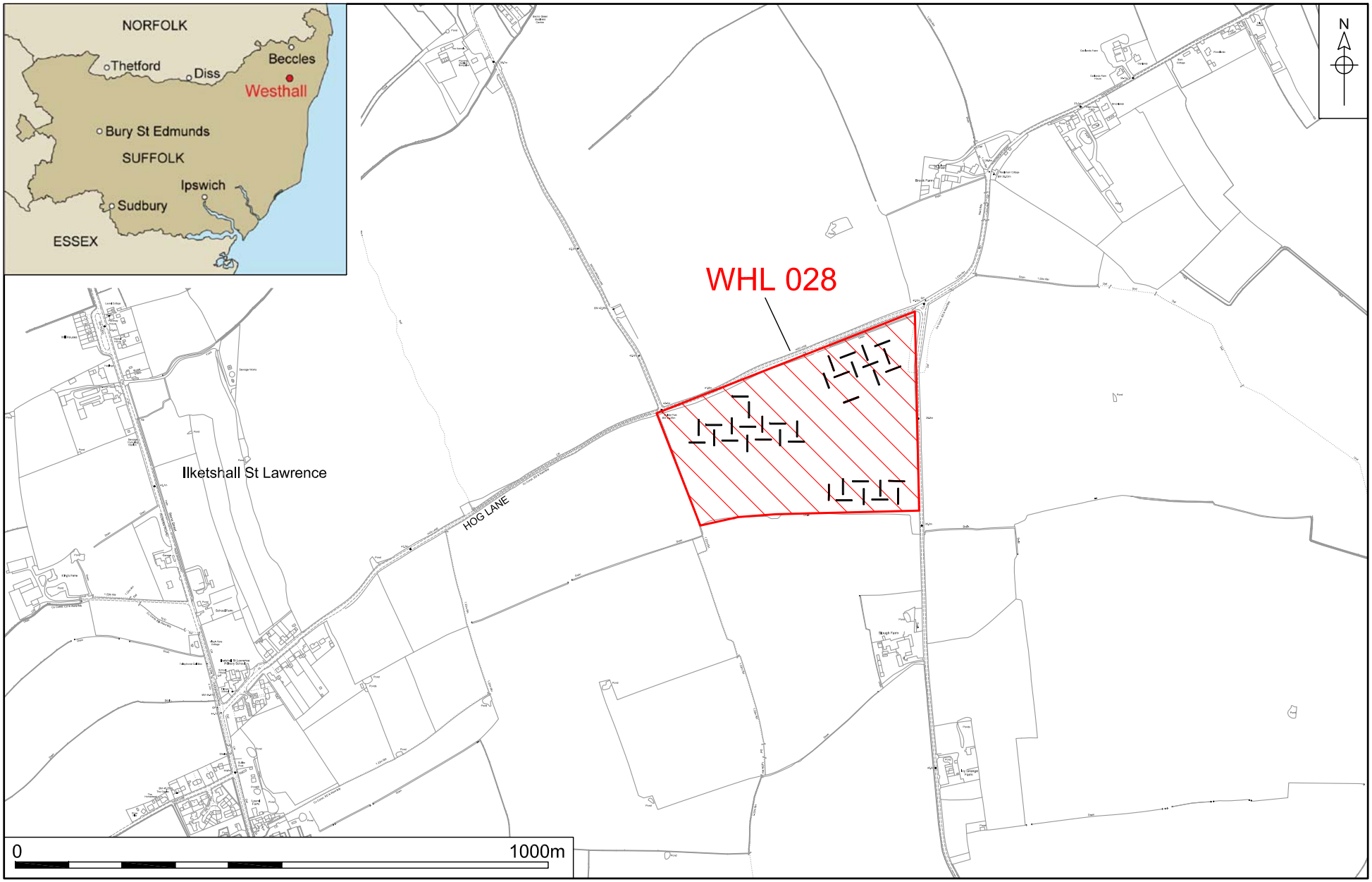

Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:10,000

deep loam to clay, over chalky till (Sillwood 2010). The topography was gently undulating with the development area sloping down gradually from north to south, from a height of 41m OD in the north to 36m in the south.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In July 2010 an Archaeological desk-based assessment was compiled for this site (Sillwood 2010) utilising information held in the Suffolk Historic Environment Record and cartographic sources. It showed that there was little evidence to suggest anything other than low potential for archaeological remains to be present and that the lack of archaeological work undertaken in the area may have contributed to the paucity of evidence in the vicinity.

Sillwood states that cartographic evidence indicated that the field under study was once divided into five fields, which aerial photographic evidence indicates were amalgamated into one field between 1966 and 1973 and that it is likely that these obsolete field boundaries will survive as archaeological features.

The development area is on the edge of a semi-regular fieldsystem identified as broadly prehistoric (Rackham 1986, fig. 8.2) and still discernable in the modern landscape. The historic settlement pattern is dispersed, with small hamlets and farms set in small, ancient fields rather than villages (Rackham 1986, pp 3-5).

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 5% of the development area be excavated by trial trenching, totalling 35 trenches each measuring 30m long and 1.8m wide. The trenches were located in three specific areas to evaluate the site of the broiler unit, the digester and a pond (Fig. 2). After the main phase of work was completed, an area of proposed redevelopment was re-sited away from the focus of medieval archaeology, requiring the examination of two further trenches (Trenches 36 & 37).

Machine excavation was carried out with a 7 ton 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. No environmental samples were taken due to the absence of suitable firmly dated deposits.

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.

The trenches were set-out by the NPS Land Survey team using a Leica GPS900 which also provided temporary benchmarks at both ends of each trench which were used for planning and establishing spot heights.

Site conditions were variable, with the work taking place in fine weather and heavy rain.

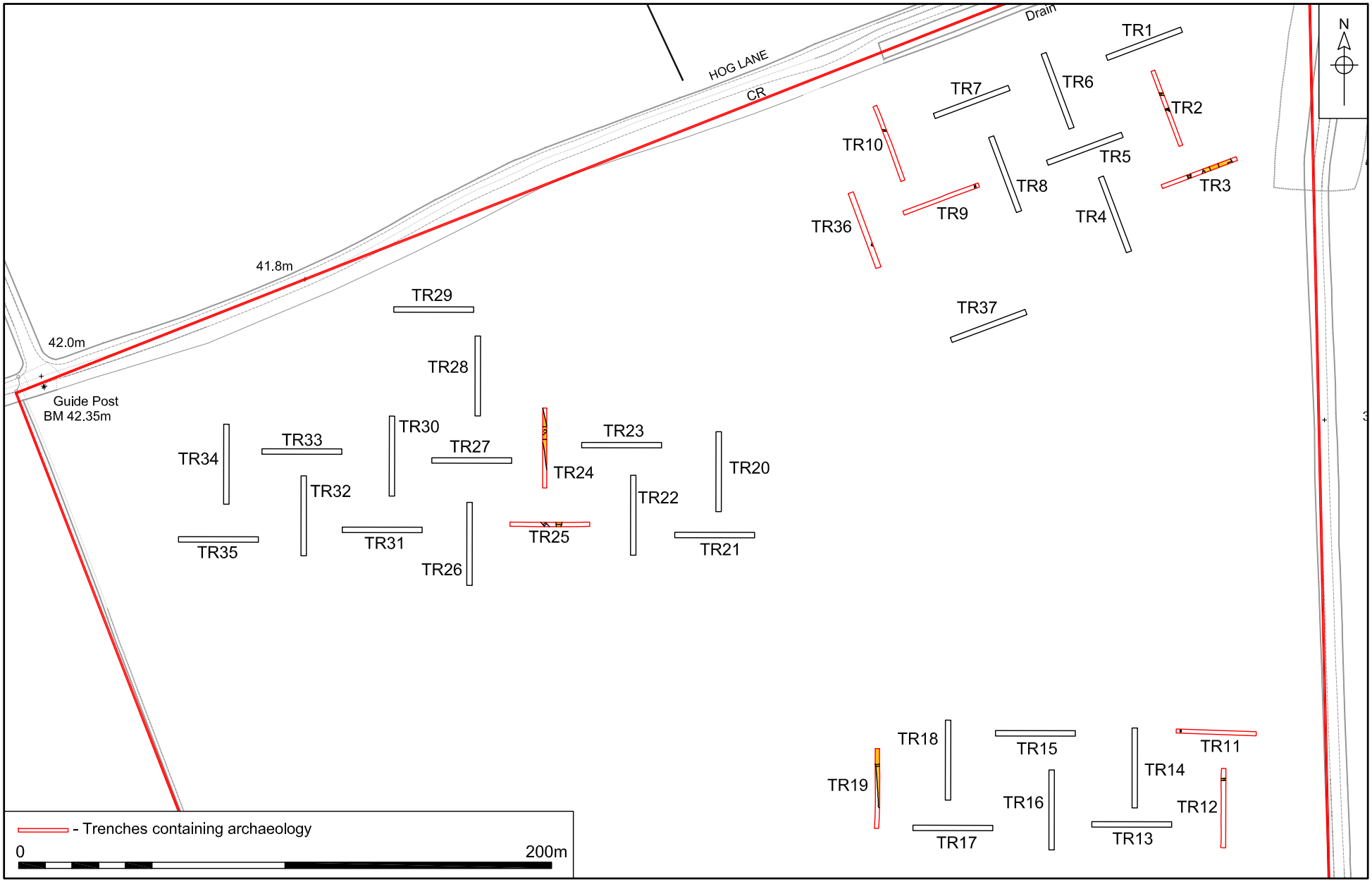

Figure 2. Trench location. Scale 1:2000

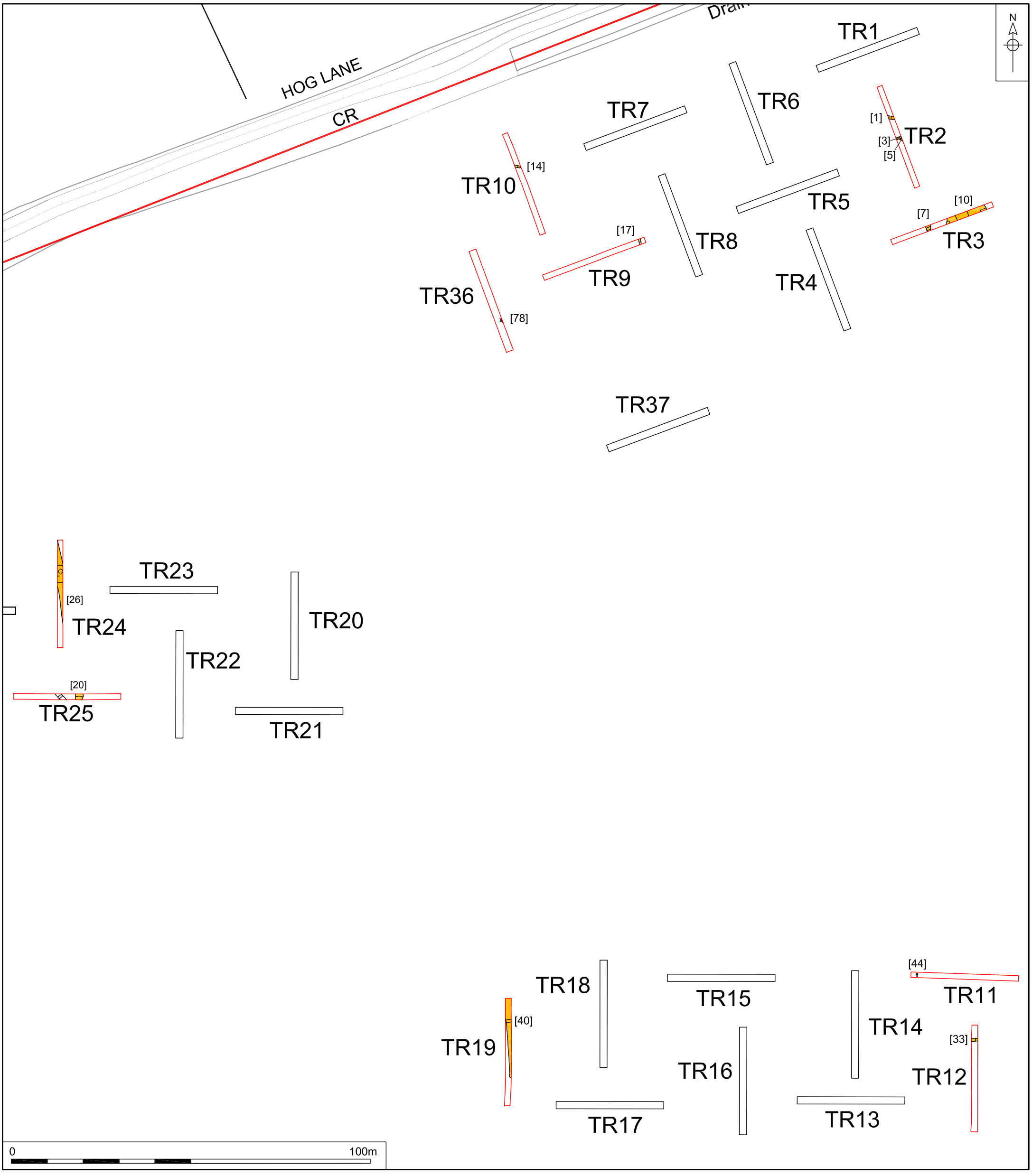

Figure 3. Plan showing detail of trenches containing archaeology. Scale 1:1000

5.0 RESULTS

Trench 1

Location	
Orientation	East to west
East End	639435.125, 283634.119
West End	639407.047, 283623.598
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.3m
Levels	
East End Top	40.555m OD
West End Top	40.433m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(46)	Layer	Topsoil. Dark brown clayey silt with occasional small flints	0.3m	0.3m

Discussion

No archaeological features or finds were noted.

Trench 2

Location	
Orientation	North to south
North End	639424.707, 283620.031
South End	639435.246, 283591.939
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.3m
Levels	
North End Top	40.482m OD
South End Top	40.539m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(47)	Layer	Topsoil. Dark brown clayey silt with occasional flints	0.3m	0.3m
[1]	Ditch	East to west aligned, 0.9m wide with steep sides and a concave base	0.5m	0.8m
(2)	Fill of [1]	Brownish grey clay rare charcoal, chalk and burnt clay flecks and rare small flints	0.5m	0.8m
[3]	Ditch	North-east to south-west aligned, 0.45m wide with a concave base	0.09m	0.39m
(4)	Fill of [3]	Greyish brown clay with rare small flints and charcoal flecks	0.09m	0.39m
[5]	Ditch	South-east to north-west aligned, terminating at ditch [3]. 0.45m wide with gently sloping sides and a concave base	0.05m	0.05m
(6)	Fill of [5]	Greyish brown clay with rare flints and charcoal flecks	0.05m	0.05m
(48)	Layer	Mid brown silty clay with moderate lumps of burnt clay and occasional flint gravel and charcoal flecks	0.04m	0.04m

Discussion

(Fig. 4)
Fill (2) of ditch [1] yielded the remains of three jars of 12th- to14th-century date, while ditch [3], fill (4) yielded a sherd of local unglazed pottery of the same date. Together with layer (48), these ditches may form part of a medieval farmstead. Layer (48) may represent the burnt and demolished remains of a medieval building.

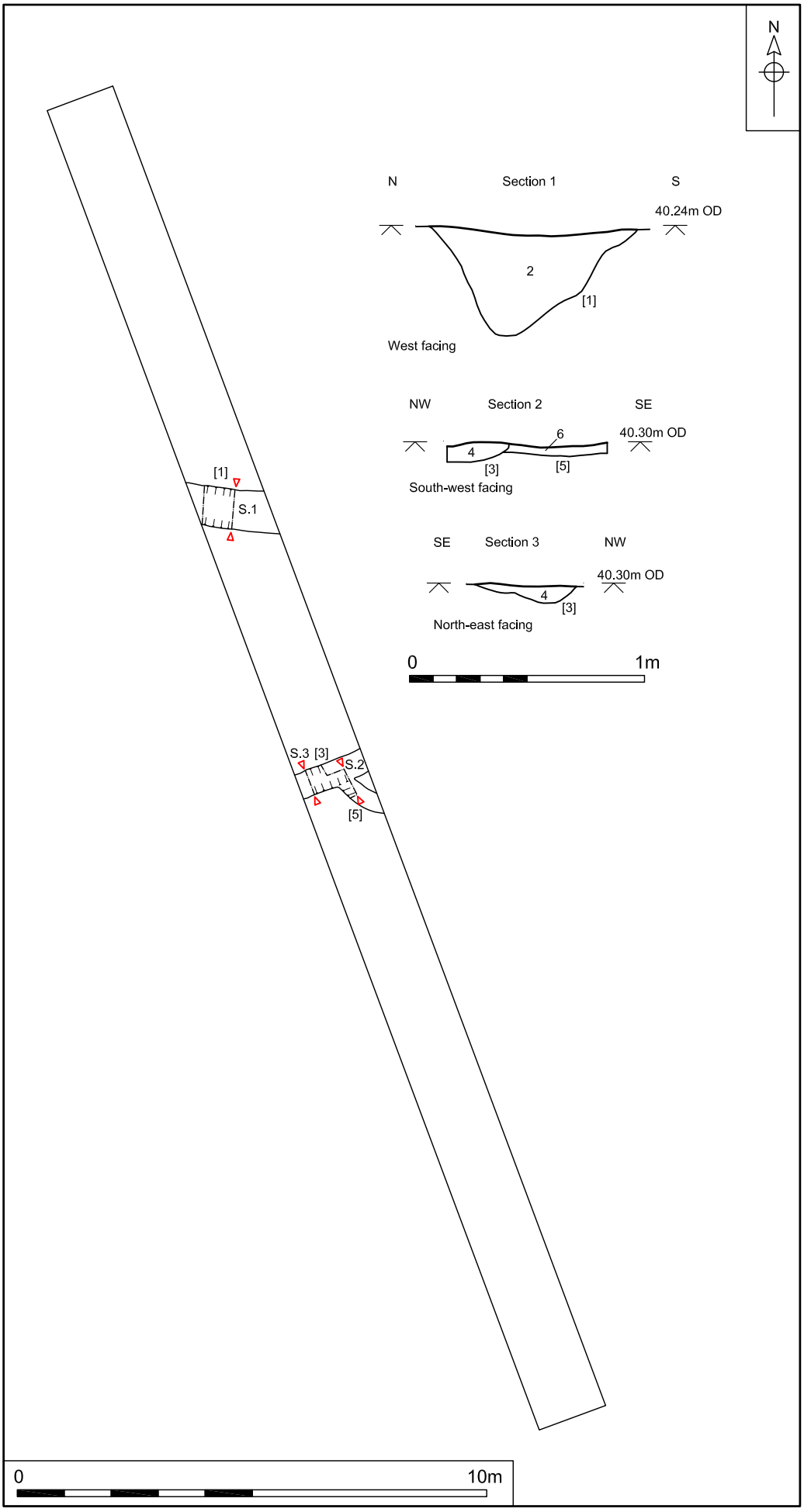

Figure 4. Trench 2, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 3

Location	
Orientation	East to west
East End	639455.742, 283586.139
West End	639427.650, 283575.605
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.4m
Levels	
East End Top	40.403m OD
West End Top	40.489m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(49)	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown silty sand with frequent flint gravel	0.4m	0.4m
[7]	Ditch	North to south aligned, 1.2m wide with steep sides and a concave base	0.52m	0.92m
(8)	Fill of [7]	Mid greyish brown clay with moderate chalk flecks and occasional gravel	0.52m	0.92m
(9)	Fill of [7]	Yellowish mod brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and gravel	0.52m	0.92m
[10]	Pit/pond	Possibly subcircular, 11.94m wide with gently sloping sides. Not bottomed due to excessive depth	?	?
(11)	Fill of [10]	Mid greyish brown sandy clay with occasional flint gravel and rare lumps of chalk	0.44	0.84m
(12)	Fill of [10]	Pale grey and yellow chalky clay mottled with white flecks with occasional pea grit and chalk pieces	0.3m	1m
(28)	Fill of [10]	Dark orangey brownish grey sandy clay with occasional flints and rare chalk flecks. Possibly same as (29)	?	?
(29)	Fill of [10]	Dark orangey brown sandy clay with very rare flints. Possibly same as (28)	?	?
(30)	Fill of [10]	Pale orangey brown clay with rare flints. Same as (31)	0.26m	1.24m

Trench 3				
(31)	Fill of [10]	Pale orangey brown clay with rare flints. Same as (30)	?	?

Discussion

(Fig. 5)
Fill (8) of ditch [7] contained two sherds of 12th-to 14th-century pottery. Like-wise the large pit or pond feature [10] contained a number of small and abraded fragments of medieval pottery and brick in its upper fill (11), but nothing datable in the layers below, suggesting that the feature predated the medieval activity in Trench 2, but was still visible as a partly filled feature. The excavated evidence suggests that this trench may be on the edge of the medieval activity found in Trench 2.

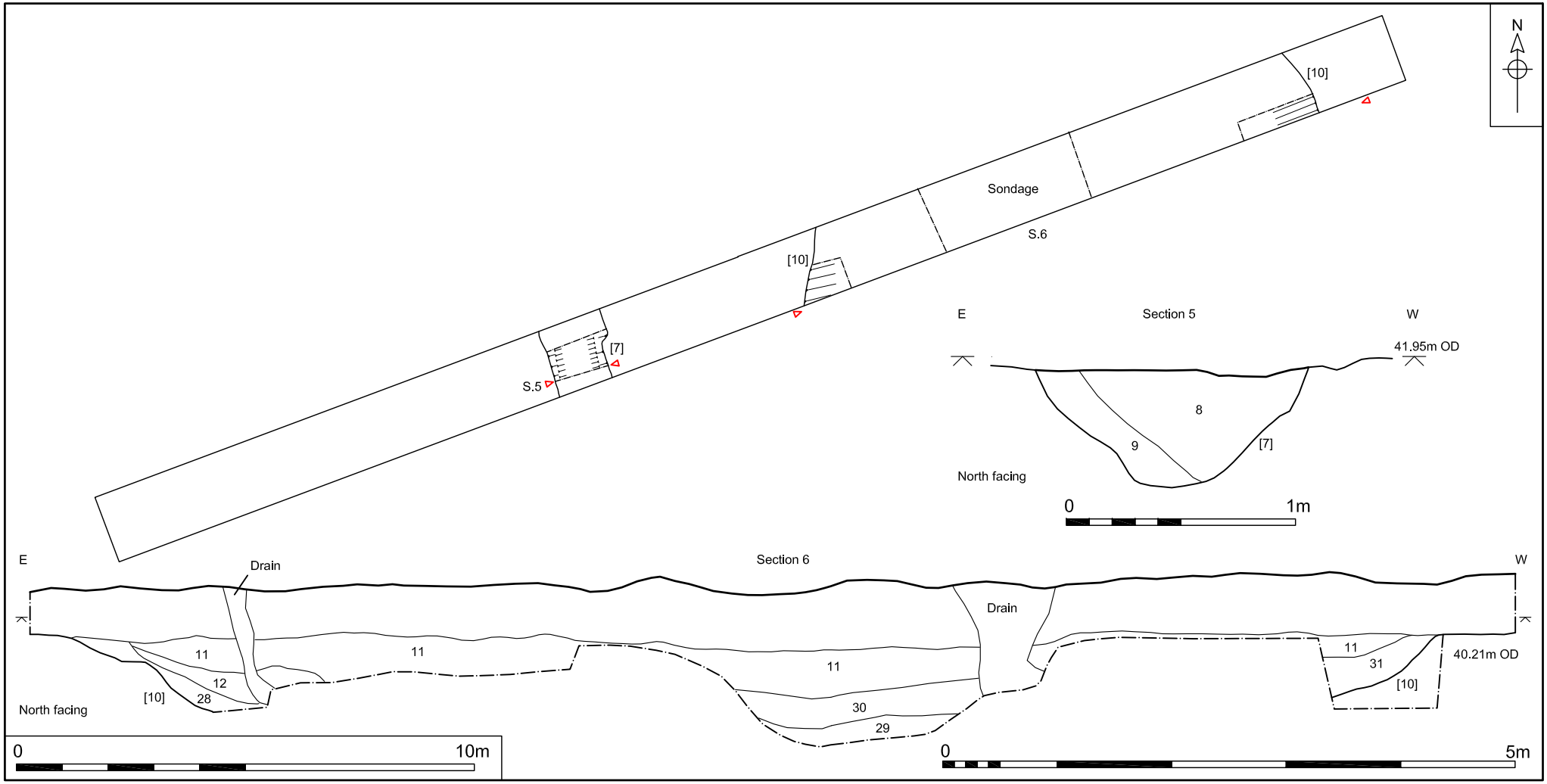

Figure 5. Trench 3, plan and sections. Scale 1:125, 1:50 and 1:25

Trench 4

Location	
Orientation	North to south
North End	639414.093, 283551.548
South End	639403.559, 283579.646
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.33m
Levels	
North End Top	40.465m OD
South End Top	40.382m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(50)	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt with occasional stones	0.33m	0.33m

Discussion

No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 5

Location	
Orientation	East to west
East End	639412.843, 283584.798
West End	639384.744, 283584.274
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.32m
Levels	
East End Top	40.505m OD
West End Top	40.560m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(51)	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt with occasional stones	0.32m	0.32m

Discussion

No archaeological features or finds present.

Trench 6

Location	
Orientation	North to south
North End	639383.955, 283626.657
South End	639394.472, 283598.582
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.32m
Levels	
North End Top	40.655m OD
South End Top	40.534m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(52)	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt with occasional stones	0.32m	0.32m

Discussion

No archaeological features or finds present

Trench 7

Location	
Orientation	East to west
East End	639370.393, 283612.394
South End	639342.293, 283601.856
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.32m
Levels	
East End Top	40.644m OD
West End Top	40.704m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(53)	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt with occasional stones	0.32m	0.32m

Discussion

No archaeological features or finds present

Trench 8

Location	
Orientation	North to south
North End	639364.248, 283595.398
South End	639374.751, 283567.335
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.3m
Levels	
North End Top	40.628m OD
South End Top	40.572m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(54)	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt with occasional stones	0.3	0.3

Discussion

No archaeological features or finds present

Trench 9

Location	
Orientation	East to west
East End	639358.863, 283576.150
West End	639330.757, 283565.630
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.35m
Levels	
East End Top	40.602m OD
West End Top	40.720m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(16)	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay with occasional flint and chalk gravel	0.35m	0.35m
[17]	Ditch	North to south aligned, 0.61m wide with steep sides and a flat base	0.11m	0.46m
(18)	Fill of [17]	Dark brown clay with occasional flint and chalk gravel	0.11m	0.46m

Discussion

(Fig. 6)
Ditch [17] was undated but is on the same north-south alignment as the larger field boundaries identified in Trenches 19, 24 and 25.

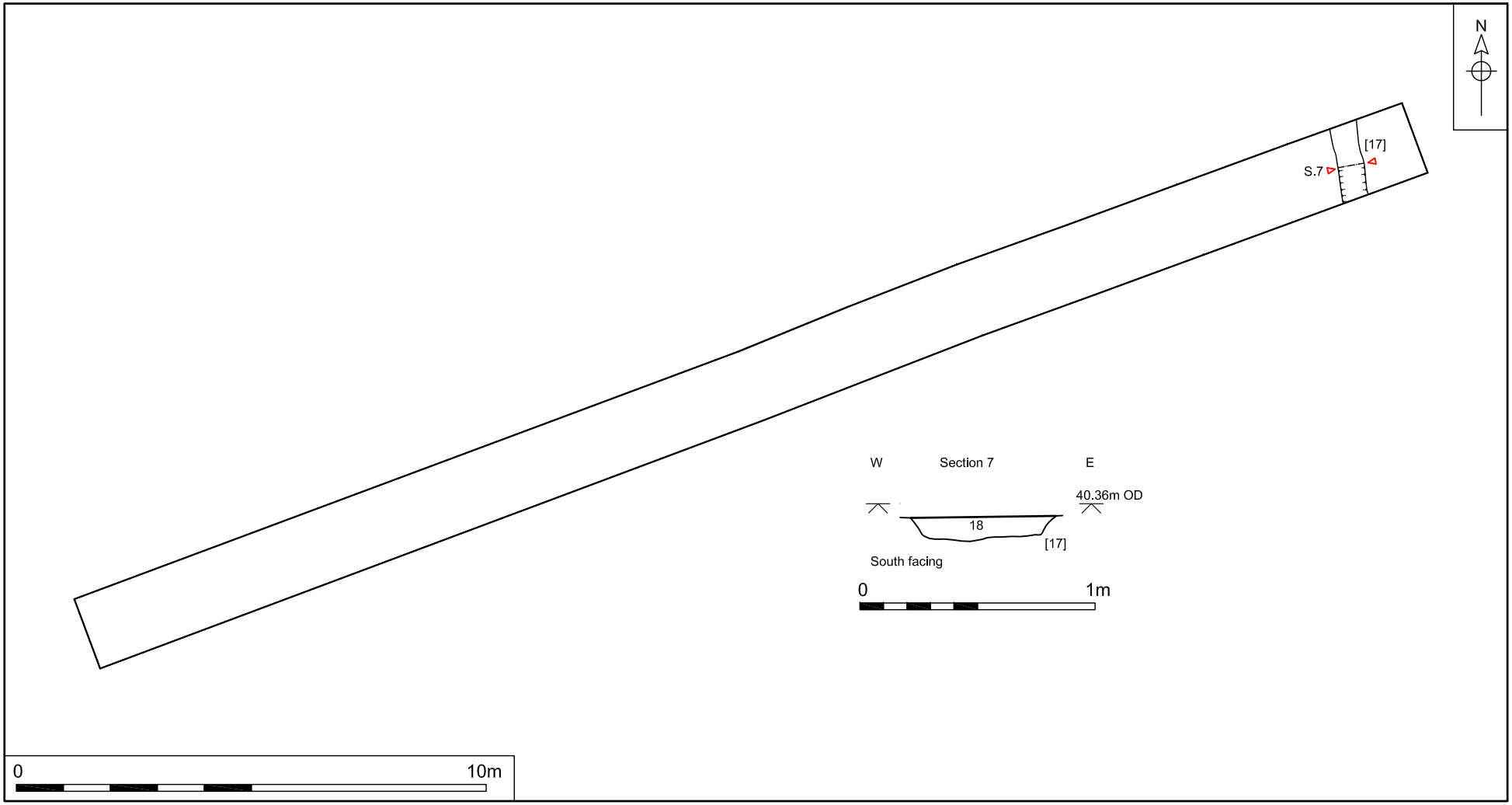

Figure 6. Trench 9, plan and section. Scale 1:125, and 1:25

Trench 10

Location	
Orientation	North to south
North End	639318.884, 283606.322
South End	639329.377, 283578.236
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.35m
Levels	
North End Top	40.810m OD
South End Top	40.656m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(13)	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay with occasional flint and chalk gravel	0.35m	0.35m
[14]	Ditch	East to west aligned, 0.55m wide with gently sloping sides and a concave base	0.08m	0.43m
(15)	Fill of [14]	Dark brown clay with rare flint and chalk gravel	0.08m	0.43m

Discussion

(Fig. 7)
Shallow ditch [14] appeared to terminate close to the east edge of the trench. The ditch contained no dating evidence, but was on a similar east-west alignment to ditch [1] in Trench 2 (containing pottery of 12th-to 14th-century date) and ditch [33] in Trench 12 and may represent the remnants of a medieval field system.

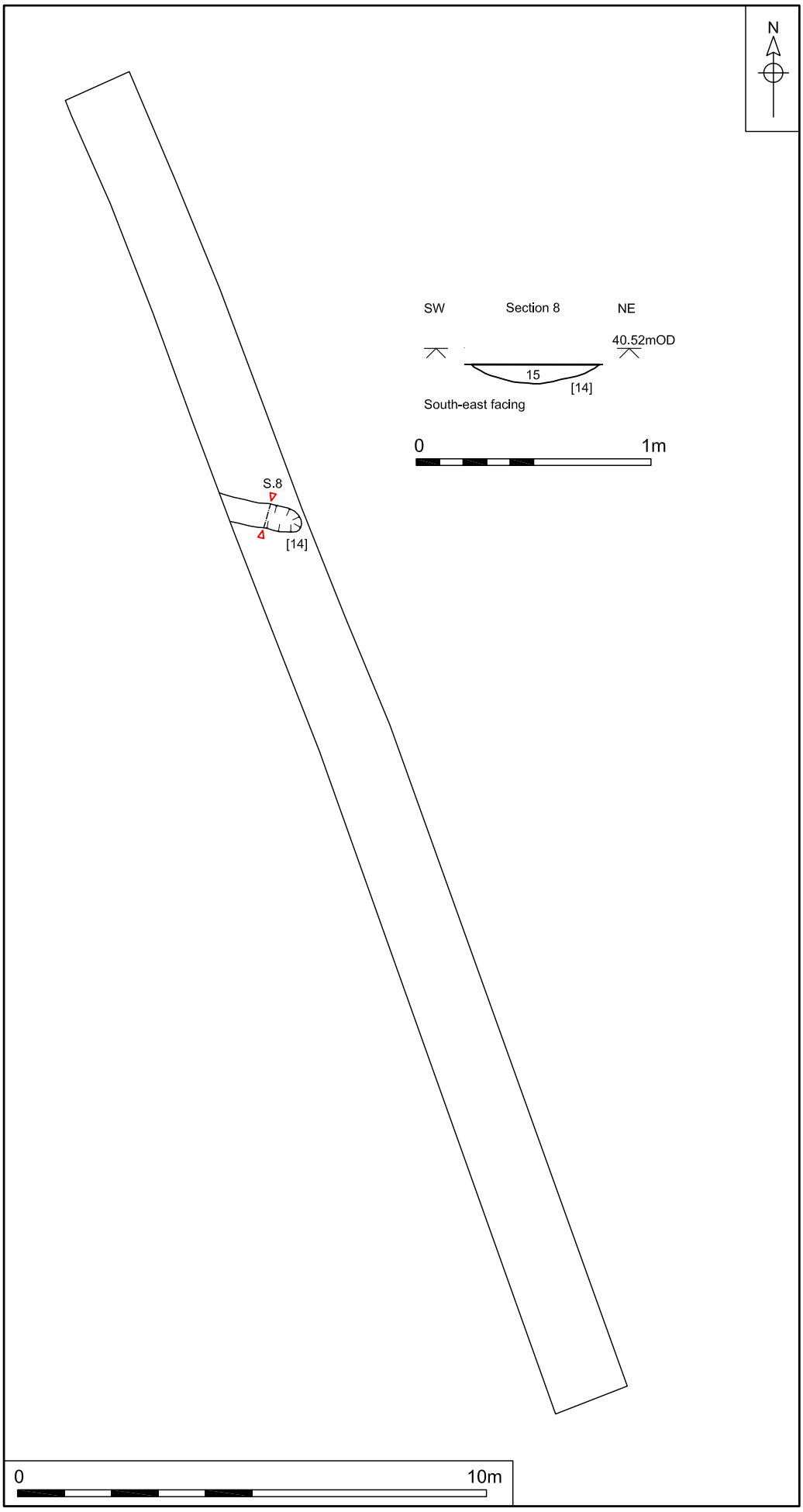

Figure 7. Trench 10, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 11

Location	
Orientation	East to west
East End	639462.769, 283371.395
West End	639432.739, 283371.406
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.3m
Levels	
East End Top	37.295m OD
West End Top	37.237m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(55)	Topsoil	Mid brown clayey silt with occasional flint	0.3m	0.3m
[44]	Posthole	Sub-oval in shape, 0.4m wide with steep sides and a concave base	0.37m	0.67m
(45)	Fill of [44]	Dark grey clay with rare flints, charcoal flecks and burnt clay	0.37m	0.67m

Discussion

(Fig. 8)
Posthole [44] contained one struck flint of prehistoric date. The nature, function and dating of this feature is uncertain. Although the recorded as a posthole, there was no evidence other than its size that this is so. It does not appear to be associated with any other features.

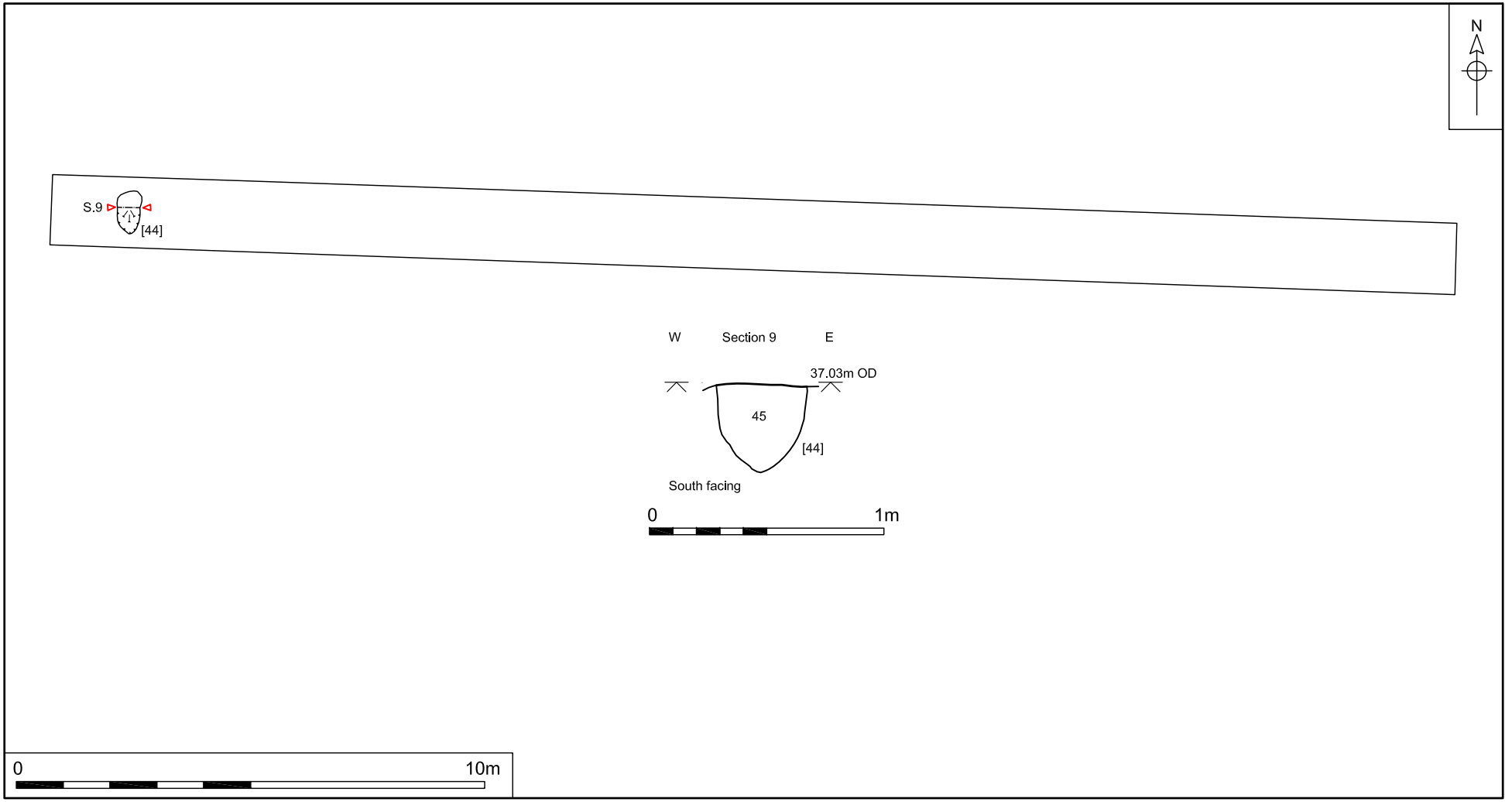

Figure 8. Trench 11, plan and section. Scale 1:125, and 1:25

Trench 12

Location	
Orientation	North to south
North End	639451.400, 283358.197
South End	639451.393, 283328.232
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.5m
Levels	
North End Top	36.731m OD
South End Top	35.822m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(56)	Topsoil	Mid brown silty sand with frequent flints	0.5m	0.5m
[33]	Ditch	East to west aligned, 0.77m wide with steep sides and a flat base	0.14m	0.64m
(34)	Fill of [33]	Dark greyish brown clay with rare fine flint gravel	0.14m	0.64m

Discussion

(Fig. 9)
Shallow ditch [33] was undated but was on the same alignment as other field boundaries in the area and may form part of a medieval field system.

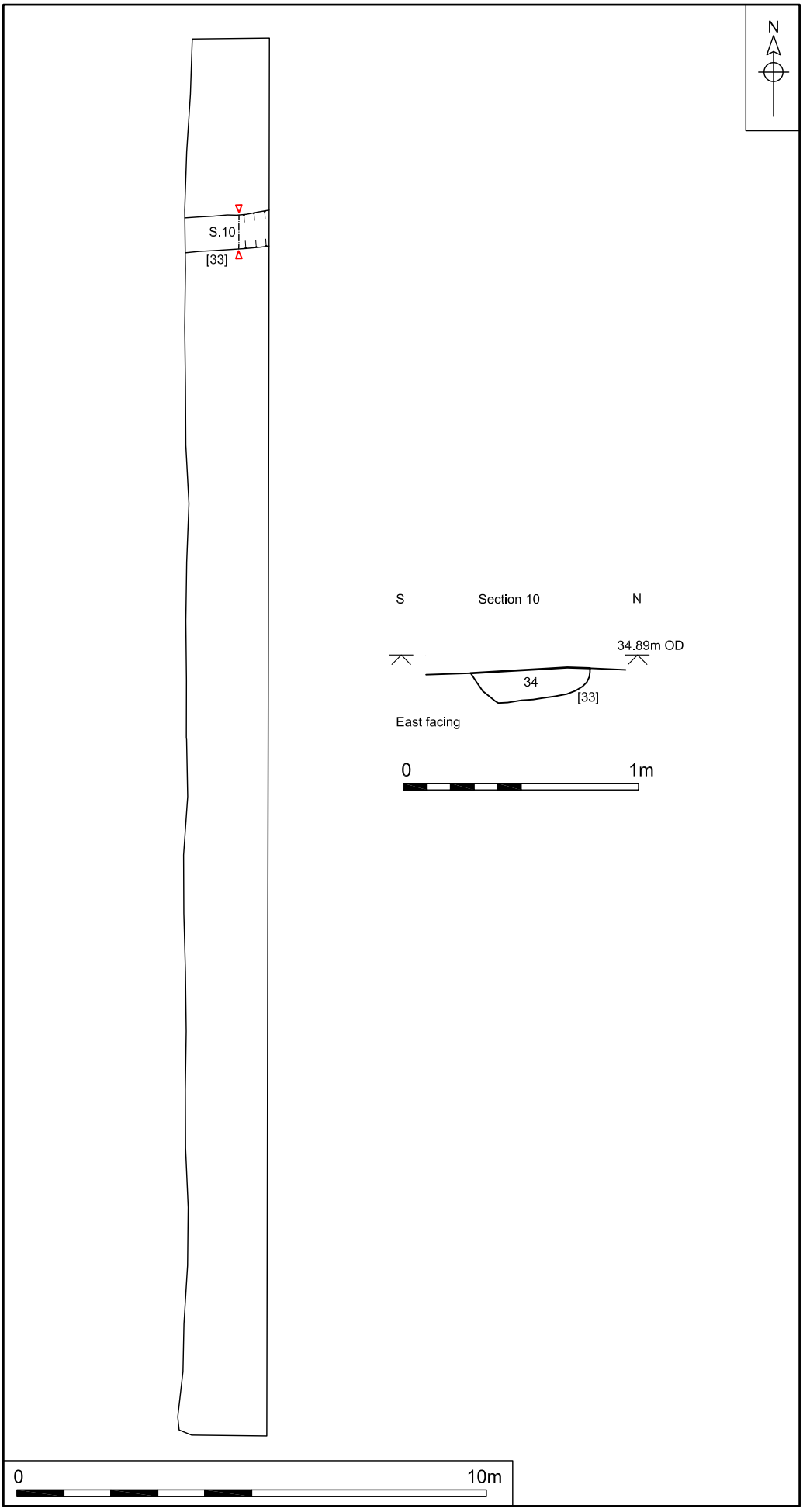

Figure 9. Trench 12, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 13

Location	
Orientation	East to west
East End	639431.069, 283336.049
West End	639401.073, 283336.036
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.28m
Levels	
East End Top	36.044m OD
West End Top	36.156m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(57)	Topsoil	Mid brown silty clay with frequent small stones	0.28m	0.28m

Discussion

No archaeological features or finds present

Trench 14

Location	
Orientation	North to south
North End	639418.235, 283374.410
South End	639418.240, 283344.411
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.3m
Levels	
North End Top	37.444m OD
South End Top	36.352m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(58)	Topsoil	Mid brown silty clay with frequent small stones	0.28m	0.28m

Discussion

No archaeological features or finds present

Trench 15

Location	
Orientation	East to west
East End	639394.960, 283371.382
West End	639364.931, 283371.407
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.35m
Levels	
East End Top	37.369m OD
West End Top	37.569m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(59)	Topsoil	Mid to dark brown silty clay with occasional small stones	0.35m	0.35m

Discussion

No archaeological features or finds present

Trench 16

Location	
Orientation	North to south
North End	639385.047, 283357.471
South End	639385.054, 283327.481
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.35m
Levels	
North End Top	36.979m OD
South End Top	36.208m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(60)	Topsoil	Mid brown silty clay with occasional stones	0.35m	0.35m

Discussion

No archaeological features or finds present

Trench 17

Location	
Orientation	East to west
East End	639363.970, 283336.786
West End	639333.957, 283336.772
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.3m
Levels	
East End Top	36.415m OD
West End Top	36.515m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(61)	Topsoil	Mid brown silty clay with occasional small stones	0.3m	0.3m

Discussion

No archaeological features or finds present

Trench 18

Location	
Orientation	North to south
North End	639348.191, 283377.375
South End	639348.198, 283347.368
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.32m
Levels	
North End Top	37.781m OD
South End Top	36.798m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(62)	Topsoil	Mid to dark brown silty clay with occasional stones	0.32m	0.32m

Discussion

No archaeological features or finds present

Trench 19

Location	
Orientation	North to south
North End	639319.439, 283365.582
South End	639319.456, 283335.587
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.35m
Levels	
North End Top	37.269m OD
South End Top	36.544m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(39)	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay with occasional flint and chalk gravel	0.35m	0.35m
[40]	Ditch	North to south aligned with steep sides and a concave base	0.86m	1.21m
(41)	Fill of [40]	Mid grey clay with frequent mineralisation, occasional chalk gravel and rare flint gravel	0.36m	1.21m
(42)	Fill of [40]	Dark brown clay with big lumps of redeposited natural clay	0.55m	0.9m

Discussion

(Fig. 10)
Ditch [40] was on the same alignment and had a similar profile and fills to ditch [26]/[20] in Trenches 24 and 25. Its basal fill (41) contained an undated fragment of fired clay and its appearance suggested that the ground conditions whilst the ditch was open were wet. The upper fill (42) consisted of backfilled material and contained a fragment of prehistoric struck flint. This backfill could have been 'bank' material derived from upcast from the ditch. This profile was very similar to the profile of a parallel ditch ([26] in Trench 24 and [20] in Trench 25) and probably represents one of the field boundaries visible on 19th and 20th century maps and infilled in the later 20th century.

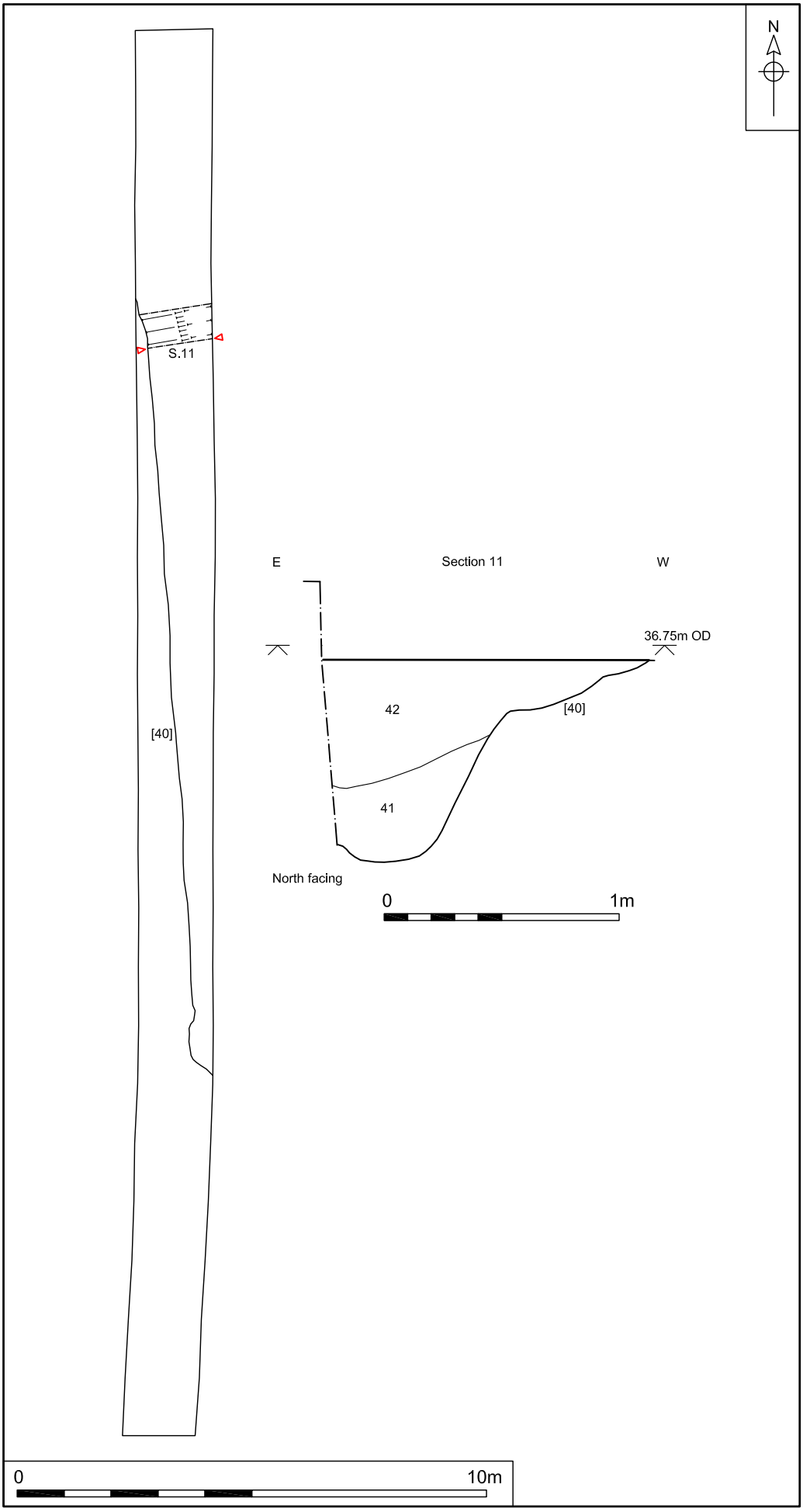

Figure 10. Trench 19, plan and section. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 20

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Location	
Orientation	North to south
North End	639262.070, 283484.453
South End	639262.044, 283454.452
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.3m
Levels	
North End Top	40.395m OD
South End Top	39.989m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(63)	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt with occasional small stones	0.3m	0.3m

Discussion

No archaeological features or finds present

Trench 21

Location	
Orientation	East to west
East End	639274.585, 283444.586
West End	639244.606, 283444.570
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.32m
Levels	
East End Top	39.806m OD
West End Top	39.894m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(64)	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt with occasional stones	0.32m	0.32m

Discussion

No archaeological features or finds present

Trench 22

Location	
Orientation	North to south
North End	639228.004, 283468.064
South End	639228.010, 283438.061
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.3m
Levels	
North End Top	40.324m OD
South End Top	39.860m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(65)	Topsoil	Mid to dark brown clayey silt with occasional stones	0.3m	0.3m

Discussion

No archaeological features or finds present

Trench 23

Location	
Orientation	East to west
East End	639239.692, 283478.320
West End	639209.677, 283478.344
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.3m
Levels	
East End Top	40.372m OD
West End Top	40.528m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(66)	Topsoil	Mid brown clayey silt with occasional flints	0.3m	0.3m

Discussion

No archaeological features or finds present

Trench 24

Location	
Orientation	North to south
North End	639196.507, 283493.260
South End	639196.513, 283463.299
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.3m
Levels	
North End Top	40.716m OD
South End Top	40.319m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(67)	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt with occasional flints	0.3m	0.3m
[24]	Ditch	South-west to north-east aligned, 1m wide with steep sides and a concave base	0.4m	0.7m
(25)	Fill of [24]	Orangey brown clay with rare small stones	0.4m	0.7m
[26]	Ditch	North to south aligned, 1.1m wide with steep sides and a concave base	0.85	1.15m
(27)	Fill of [26]	Very dark greyish brown silty clay with rare small stones	0.45m	1.15m
(35)	Fill of [26]	Very dark greyish brown silty clay with frequent bands of redeposited natural clay and rare small stones	0.43m	0.79m
(36)	Fill of [26]	Yellowish grey-brown compact clay with frequent chalk flecks and small stones	0.46m	1.15m
[37]	Ditch	Same as [24]		
(38)	Fill of [37]	Same as (25)		

Discussion

(Fig. 11)
Ditch [26] was a large ditch, in excess of 2m wide and 0.85m deep with a profile and deposit pattern very similar to the parallel ditch [40] in Trench 19. Although it remains undated in this trench, ditch [20] in Trench 25 may be part of the same feature. Its base fill suggests that it was open and damp for a while, before being partially backfilled with bank material. This ditch probably represents one of the field boundaries visible on 19th and 20th century maps and infilled in the later 20th century.

Ditch [24] cuts ditch [26] and was undated. Its orientation bears no similarity with other ditches in this area, but it is perpendicular to a land drain found in Trench 25, and may be a modern drain.

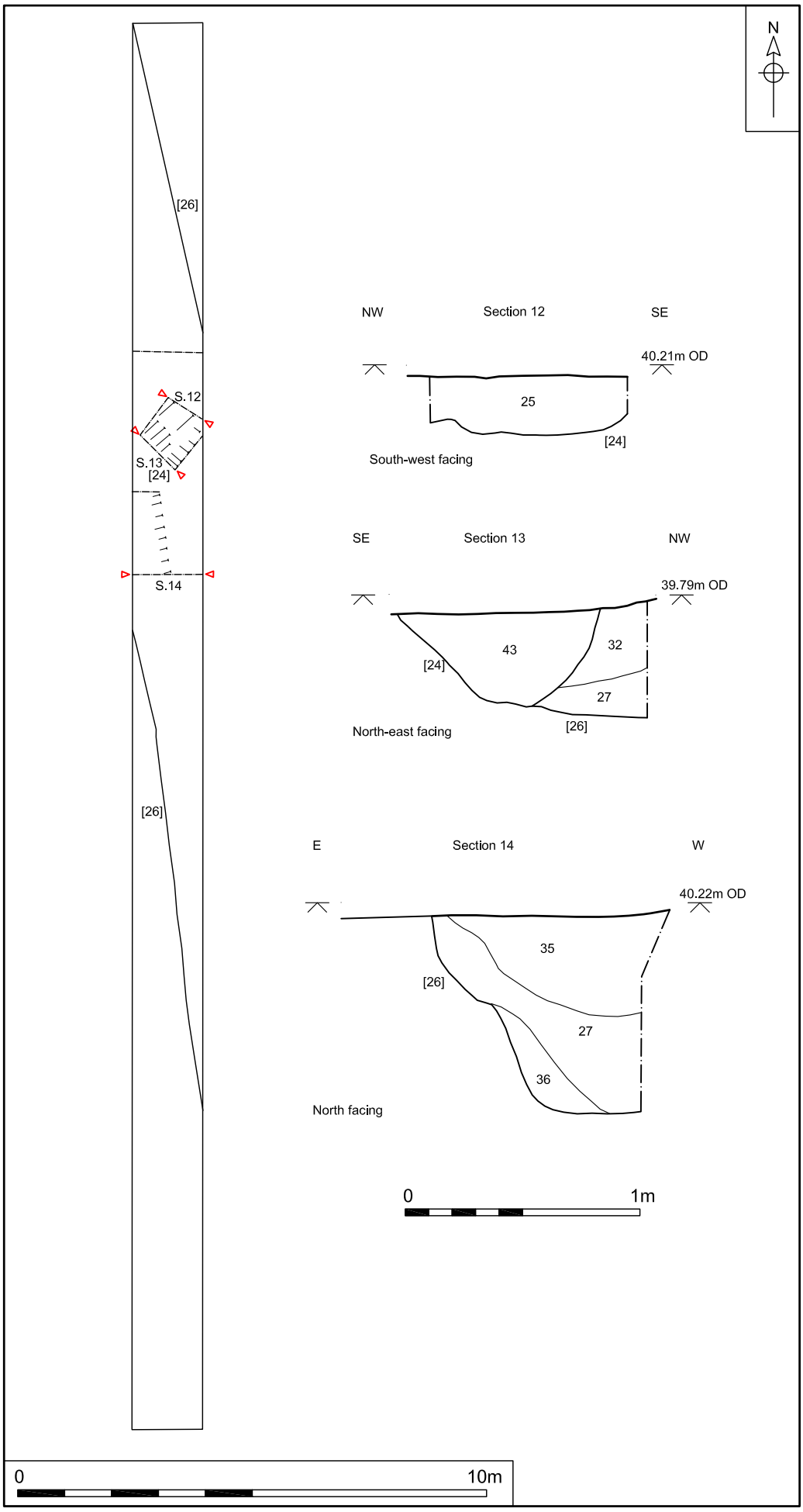

Figure 11. Trench 24, plan and sections. Scale 1:125 and 1:25

Trench 25

Location	
Orientation	East to west
East End	639212.800, 283450.626
West End	639182.796, 283450.619
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.35m
Levels	
East End Top	40.093m OD
West End Top	40.200m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(19)	Topsoil	Dark brown silty clay with moderate chalk and flint gravel	0.35m	0.35m
[20]	Ditch	North to south aligned, 2.2m wide with steep sides and a concave base	0.78m	1.13m
(21)	Fill of [20]	Dark brown clay with occasional charcoal and rare chalk flecks	0.1m	0.45m
(22)	Fill of [20]	Pale yellowish brown clay with occasional lumps of dark brown silty clay and rare flint gravel, charcoal and chalk flecks	0.45m	0.92m
(23)	Fill of [20]	Mid grey silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and rare charcoal and flint and chalk gravel	0.2m	1.13m

Discussion

(Fig. 12)
Ditch [20] was probably the same ditch as [26] seen in Trench 24 and was similar in profile and fills to that ditch and ditch [40] in Trench 19. The profile and section suggest that the ditch may have been re-cut. The basal fill (23) was identical to the basal fills of ditches [20] and [40] and was suggestive of the ditch being open and wet. It contained one fragment of prehistoric struck flint. Above this was a layer (22) of backfill material. The top fill (21), not present in the other similar ditches, contained post-medieval material and suggests that the ditch may have survived as a slight earthwork after it was backfilled. This ditch probably represents one of the field boundaries visible on 19th and 20th century maps and infilled in the later 20th century.

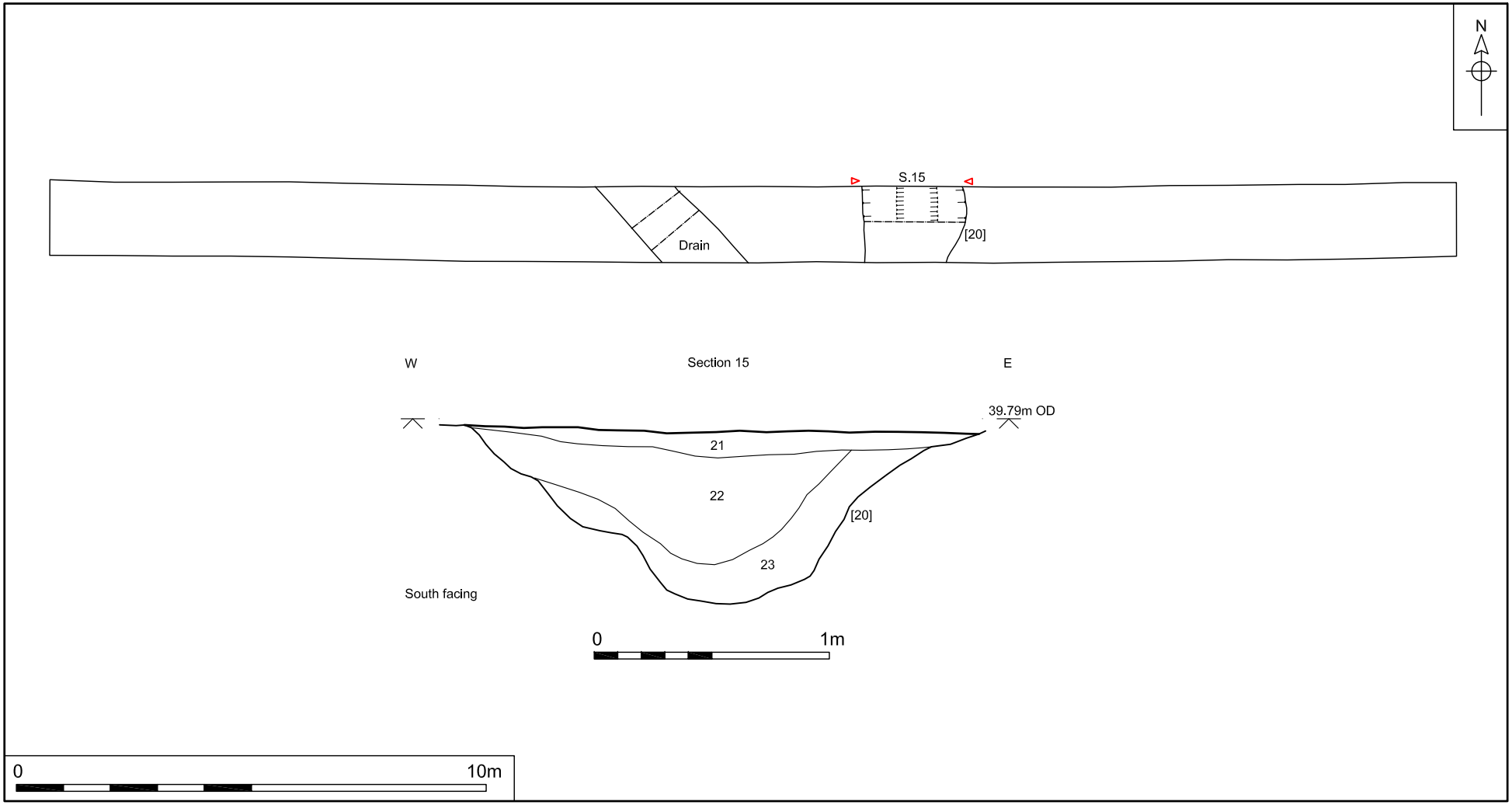

Figure 12. Trench 25, plan and section. Scale 1:125, and 1:25

Trench 26

Location	
Orientation	North to south
North End	639168.567, 283457.886
South End	639168.563, 283427.852
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.28m
Levels	
North End Top	40.353m OD
South End Top	39.973m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(68)	Topsoil	Mid to dark brown clayey silt	0.28m	0.28m

Discussion

No archaeological features or finds present

Trench 27

Location	
Orientation	East to west
East End	639183.37, 283474.584
West End	639153.368, 283474.617
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.3m
Levels	
East End Top	40.547m OD
West End Top	40.633m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(69)	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt with occasional flints	0.3m	0.3m

Discussion

No archaeological features or finds present

Trench 28

Location	
Orientation	North to south
North End	639169.575, 283520.284
South End	639169.586, 283490.314
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.3m
Levels	
North End Top	41.071m OD
South End Top	40.771m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(70)	Topsoil	Dark brown clayey silt with occasional flints	0.3m	0.3m

Discussion

No archaeological features or finds present

Trench 29

Location	
Orientation	East to west
East End	639169.075, 283529.181
West End	639139.076, 283529.170
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.3m
Levels	
East End Top	41.104m OD
West End Top	41.225m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(71)	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy silty clay with occasional flint and chalk	0.3m	0.3m

Discussion

No archaeological features or finds present

Trench 30

Location	
Orientation	North to south
North End	639137.359, 283490.272
South End	639137.384, 283460.280
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.28m
Levels	
North End Top	40.906m OD
South End Top	40.599m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(72)	Topsoil	Mid to dark brown clayey silt	0.28m	0.28m

Discussion

No archaeological features or finds present

Trench 31

Location	
Orientation	East to west
East End	639149.775, 283446.633
West End	639119.777, 283446.604
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.3m
Levels	
East End Top	40.416m OD
West End Top	40.467m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(73)	Topsoil	Mid to dark brown clayey silt	0.3m	0.3m

Discussion

No archaeological features or finds present

Trench 32

Location	
Orientation	North to south
North End	639106.332, 283467.852
South End	639106.333, 283437.851
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.23m
Levels	
North End Top	40.837m OD
South End Top	40.401m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(74)	Topsoil	Mid to dark brown clayey silt	0.23m	0.23m

Discussion

No archaeological features or finds present

Trench 33

.

Location	
Orientation	East to west
East End	639119.659, 283477.978
West End	639089.640, 283477.982
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.3m
Levels	
East End Top	40.828m OD
West End Top	41.040m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(75)	Topsoil	Mid to dark brown clayey silt with occasional stones	0.3m	0.3m

Discussion

No archaeological features or finds present

Trench 34

Location	
Orientation	North to south
North End	639075.240, 283487.242
South End	639075.245, 283457.230
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.22m
Levels	
North End Top	41.125m OD
South End Top	40.830m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(76)	Topsoil	Mid brown clayey silt with occasional stones	0.22m	0.22m

Discussion

No archaeological features or finds present

Trench 35

Location	
Orientation	East to west
East End	639088.290, 283444.993
West End	639058.310, 283445.013
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.6m
Depth	0.28m
Levels	
East End Top	40.587m OD
West End Top	40.705m OD

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
(77)	Topsoil	Mid brown clayey silt with occasional stones	0.28m	0.28m

Discussion

No archaeological features or finds present

Trench 36

Location	
Orientation	North to south
East End	639348.296, 283518.806
West End	639376.377, 283529.331
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.8m
Depth	0.35m
Levels	
East End Top	40.466
West End Top	40.436

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
	Deposit	Topsoil, mid brown silty clay, no inclusions	0.35m	0.35m
78	Cut	Oval pit, 0.6m long, 0.5m wide and 0.17m deep with a concave base	0.17m	0.52m
79	Fill of [78]	Mottled black, dark and pale grey silty clay with very frequent charcoal	0.17m	0.52m

Discussion

Pit [78] was a small feature full of fire debris. Its date and purpose remains unknown. A sample was taken from the fill (79) revealing that it represented the product of a single episode of burning and was deposited immediately after combustion. It contained few other remains apart from charcoal. It appears to be similar to pit [44] in Trench 11 and to be prehistoric in date

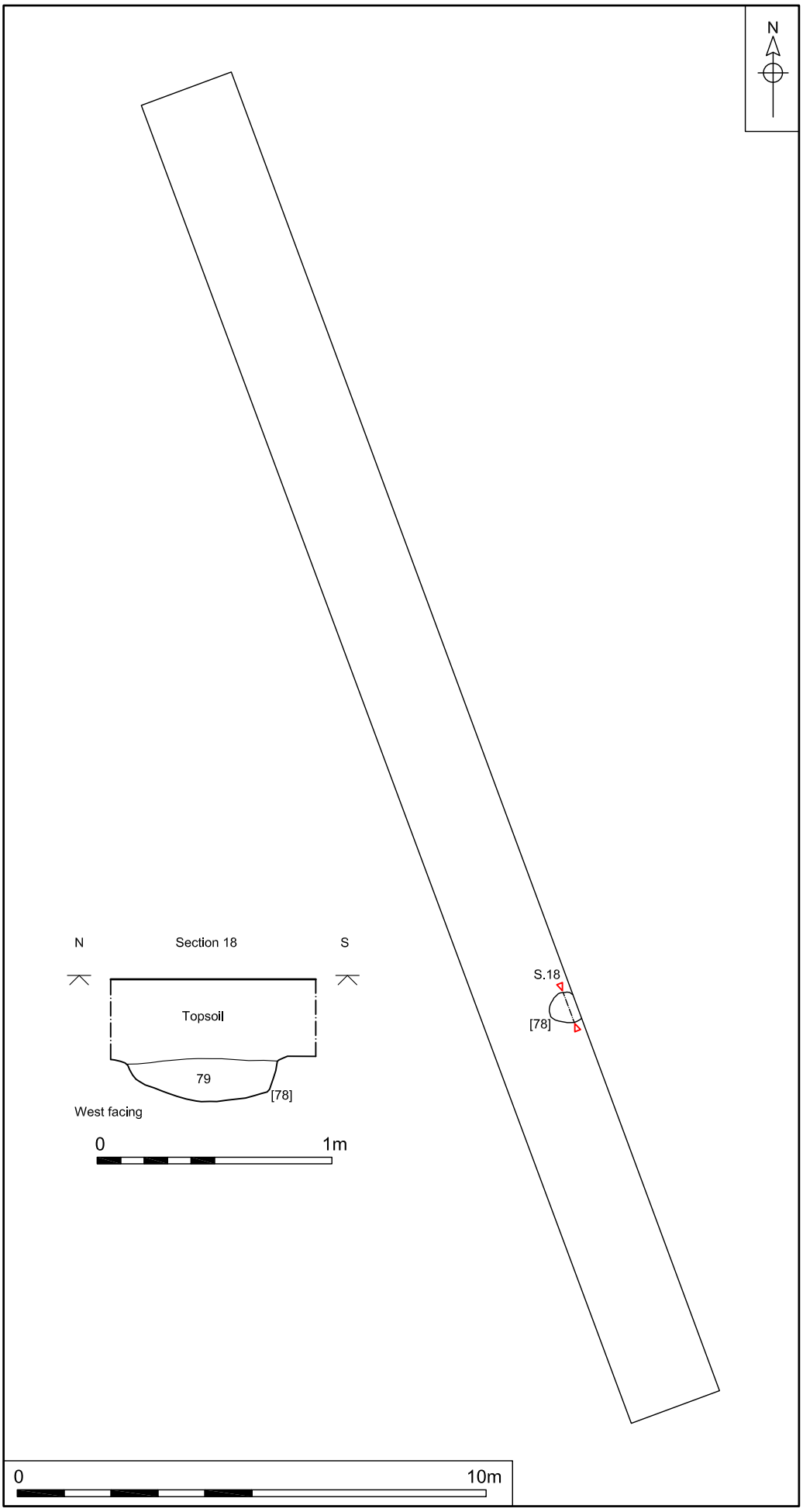

Figure 13. Trench 36, plan and section. Scale 1:125, and 1:25

Trench 37

Location	
Orientation	West to East
North End	639310.502,283574.05
South End	639321.035, 283545.94
Dimensions	
Length	30m
Width	1.8m
Depth	0.35m
Levels	
North End Top	40.774
South End Top	40.79

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
	Deposit	Topsoil, mid brown silty clay, no inclusions	0.35m	0.35m

Discussion

No archaeological features or finds present

6.0 THE FINDS

6.1 Pottery

by Sarah Percival

A small assemblage comprising 26 sherds weighing 189g was recovered from five contexts (Appendix 3). Pottery from ditches [1], [3] and [7] and from pit [10] is medieval. A single sherd of post medieval GRE came from ditch [37].

6.1.1 Medieval

The remains of three medieval jars were found in the fill of ditch [1]. These include a partially glazed rim from a Grimston ware vessel and rim and body sherds from two unglazed micaceous jars. Grimston Ware is ubiquitous in Norfolk and Suffolk in the 12th to 14th centuries as well as being more widely exported. The micaceous wares are probably products of sites in the Waveney Valley (S Anderson *pers. comm.*). An unsourced local unglazed jar in sandy grey fabric was found in the fill of ditch [07] and further body sherd in the same fabric came from ditch [3].

This small assemblage is typical of rural occupation in the region comprising unsourced locally produced sandy greywares and pottery from production centres in the Waveney Valley and Grimston. The assemblage compares well with those from local sites such as Ravensmere, Beccles (BCC030 Anderson 1999) and suggests occupation focussing on the 13th century. The pottery represents domestic debris probably redeposited during manuring.

6.1.2 Post Medieval

A glazed red earthenware body sherd of 16th- to 18th-century date was recovered from the fill of ditch [37].

6.2 Ceramic Building Material

by Sarah Percival

A small assemblage of nine pieces of ceramic building material weighing 82g was collected (Appendix 4). Three small abraded pieces of early brick in estuarine fabric were found in the fill of medieval pit [10]. The pit also contained three pieces of flat roof tile in sandy medieval to post-medieval fabrics. A further sandy medieval to post medieval roof tile fragment with dark green brown glaze was found in the fill of ditch [20]. The remainder of the assemblage is composed of small abraded scraps in sandy fabric which are not closely datable. The highly fragmentary nature of the assemblage suggests that the material is redeposited and may have come to the site during manuring.

6.3 Flint

by Sarah Percival

Flint was recovered from three contexts. The assemblage comprised a small utilised flake from the fill of posthole [44] and two shattered fragments with cortex, one from the fill of ditch [40] and the second from ditch [20]. The assemblage is not closely datable.

6.4 Animal Bone

by Julie Curl

6.4.1 Methodology

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 and any 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. The data was entered into an Excel database and a summary table produced for the appendix.

6.4.2 The assemblage

A total of 278g, consisting of six pieces, was recovered from evaluation excavations at this site (Appendix 5). Remains were produced from two contexts; no datable finds were found in the same fills as the faunal remains, but the site produced artefacts with a date range from prehistoric to post-medieval.

The bone is in good condition, although fragmentation has occurred from butchering and wear. The bone from (27) may have been gnawed and the mandible from (28) shows invertebrate damage.

Context (27), the fill of the north-south ditch [26], yielded five bone fragments from a juvenile hare, one of which showed several clear cuts that demonstrates this animal had been skinned and used for meat. Fill (27) from pit [10] produced a butchered juvenile cattle mandible.

6.4.3 Conclusions

This small assemblage provides evidence of domestic and wild species utilised as food, and probably by-products such as skins.

7.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Plant Macrofossils

By Val Fryer

Evaluation excavation on the edge of the Stone Street prehistoric field system at Ilketshall St Lawrence recorded a very limited number of features of unspecified prehistoric date including a pit with a charcoal rich fill. A single sample for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblage was taken from a pit fill (context (79)).

The sample was processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flot was collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. Approximately 50% of the dried flot was scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed below in Table 1. All plant remains were charred. Modern contaminants were scarce, but did include fibrous roots, seeds and fungal sclerotia.

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

Results

The recovered flot was very homogenous, being almost entirely composed of charcoal/charred wood fragments of a very uniform size (*c*. 1–4mm). Although small, the fragments showed very few signs of abrasion, possibly indicating that they were deposited and buried soon after combustion. Other remains were extremely scarce, but did include small flakes of heat shattered stone, charred root/stem fragments and a single, small, indeterminate bud.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, the uniform nature of this assemblage and the state of preservation of the material probably indicates that the deposit was the product of a single episode of burning, with the remains being buried soon after combustion and suffering little or no post-depositional disturbance. It is currently unclear whether the material is derived from a domestic, agricultural or other more discrete activity, but the assemblage is largely typical of many of prehistoric date, containing a high density of charcoal/charred wood with few other remains.

Although the current assemblage is very limited in composition, it clearly shows that well preserved plant remains are present within the archaeological horizon at Ilketshall St. Lawrence. Therefore, if further interventions are planned within the immediate 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 contexts recorded during excavation. In addition to this, the current assemblage almost certainly contains material suitable for Radiocarbon (C14) dating, which can be separated if required.

Context No.	79
Charcoal <2mm	xxxx
Charcoal >2mm	xxxx
Charred root/stem	x
Indet.bud	X
Burnt stone	x
Sample volume (litres)	**28**
Volume of flot (litres)	**0.4**
% flot sorted	**50%**

x = 1–5 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens)

Table 1. Plant macrofossils and other material

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

The presence of a small medieval settlement located in the north-eastern corner of the site (possibly on a road junction), especially evidence in Trench 2 suggests that settlement in this area was dispersed and possibly short-lived at any one location. The dating of this settlement between the 12th and 14th centuries suggests that it may have been present here at a high point in population levels before the decline caused by famine and plague in the 14th century.

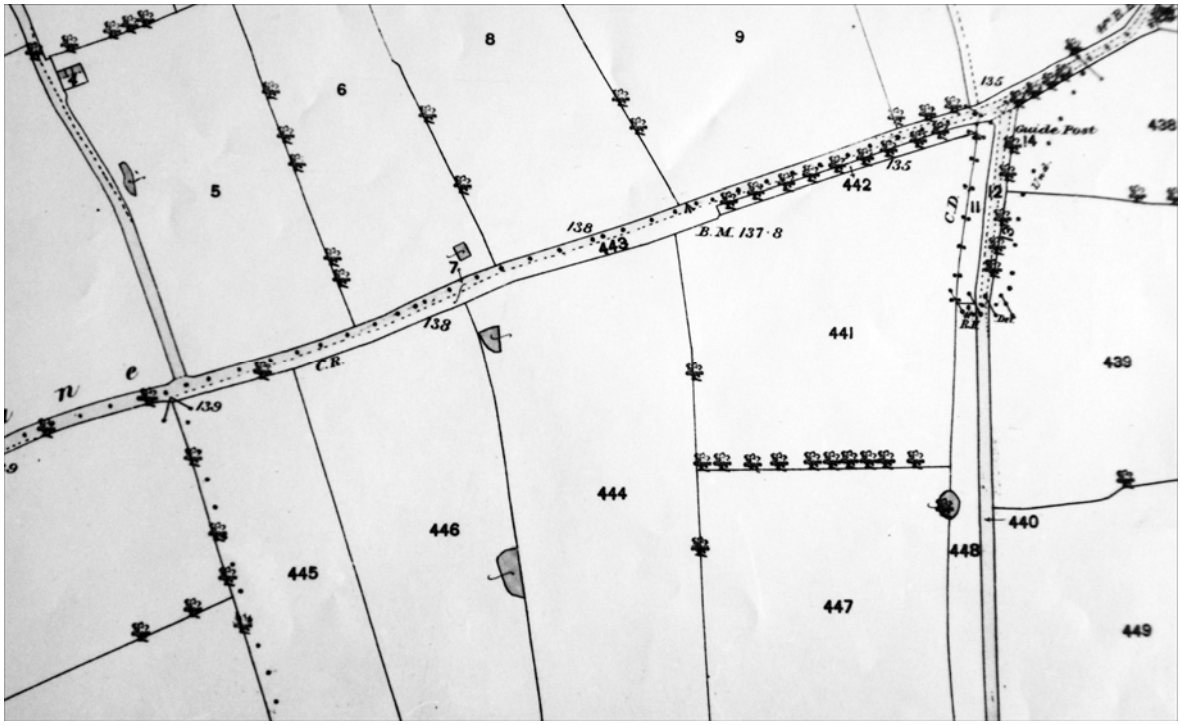

Figure 14. Ordnance Survey map, 1st edition 1884

The possible prehistoric pit also located in the north-eastern quadrant of the site provides a little more evidence of prehistoric activity in the area than the faint background noise from the odd flint flake found in a post-hole at the south of the site and in a ditch to the west.

The ditches at the west and south of the site have identical profiles and fill patterns which suggest contemporaneity. These ditches appear on the Tithe map of Westhall parish (1840), the 1884, 1904 and 1927 Ordnance survey maps (Fig. 14)(Sillwood 2010, figs. 4, 5, 6 and 7) and the 1951 Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 map (http://www.old-maps.co.uk/maps.html). Backfilling may have occurred in relatively modern times, perhaps within the last 50 years. It is worth noting that the field boundary ditches are parallel to Stone Street (a pre-Roman road) to the west and also align with a pre-Roman fieldsystem thought to exist to the north and west of this site (Rackham 1986). This fieldsystem could conceivably have extended to the surrounding area, specifically this site but evidence that the ditches are of prehistoric origin is not conclusive.

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

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was conducted by the author, assisted by Stuart Calow, Michelle Bull and Suzie Westall apart from Trenches 36 and 37 which were excavated and recorded by Pete Crawley aided by David Whitmore. The brief was set and the fieldwork monitored by Sarah Poppy of the Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service. The finds were washed by Michelle Bull and were processed by Sarah Percival. The animal bone was analysed by Julie Curl; all other finds were analysed by Sarah Percival with additional help from Sue Anderson regarding the medieval pottery. The environmental report was prepared by Val Fryer. The illustrations were digitised by the author and prepared for publication by David Dobson. This report was edited by Jayne Bown.

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Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period
1	Cut	Ditch		NW-SE aligned, steep sides and concave base	Medieval
2	Deposit		1	Brownish grey clay with rare flints, chalk and charcoal flecks and rare burnt clay flecks	
3	Cut	Ditch		E-W aligned, south side gentle, north side steep with concave base	Medieval
4	Deposit		3	Greyish brown clay with rare small flints and charcoal flecks	
5	Cut	Ditch		SE-NW aligned, gentle sides and concave base	
6	Deposit		5	Greyish brown clay with rare small flints and charcoal flecks	
7	Cut	Ditch		N-S aligned and V shaped	Medieval
8	Deposit		7	Mid greyish brown clay with moderate chalk flecks and occasional small stones	
9	Deposit		7	Yellowy mid brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and small stones	
10	Cut	Pit		Unknown size and shape, gently sloping sides	Medieval
11	Deposit		10	Mid greyish brown sandy clay with occasional flints and rare chalk flecks	
12	Deposit		10	Pale grey and yellow chalky clay with occasional pea grit and frequent chalk	
13	Deposit			Topsoil. Dark brown silty clay with occasional flint and chalk gravel	
14	Cut	Ditch		NW-SE aligned with gentle sides and concave base	Uncertain
15	Deposit		14	Dark brown clay with rare flint and chalk gravel	
16	Deposit			Topsoil. Dark brown silty clay with occasional flint and chalk gravel	
17	Cut	Ditch		N-S aligned with steep sides and a flat base	Post-medieval
18	Deposit		17	Dark brown clay with occasional flint and chalk gravel	
19	Deposit			Topsoil. Dark brown silty clay with occasional flint and chalk gravel	
20	Cut	Ditch		N-S aligned with steep sides and a concave base	Post-medieval
21	Deposit		20	Dark brown clay with rare chalk flecks and occasional charcoal	
22	Deposit		20	Pale yellowish brown clay with rare flint gravel, chalk flecks and charcoal and occasional lumps of dark brown silty clay	
23	Deposit		20	Mid grey silty clay with occasional chalk flecks, rare charcoal and flint and chalk gravel	
24	Cut	Ditch		NE -SW aligned, steep sides and a concave base	Uncertain
25	Deposit		24	Orangey brown clay with rare small stones	
26	Cut	Ditch		N-S aligned with steep sides and a concave base	Post-medieval
27	Deposit		26	Very dark greyish brown silty clay with rare small stones	
28	Deposit		10	Dark brownish grey sandy clay with occasional flint gravel and rare chalk flecks	
29	Deposit		10	Dark orangey brown sandy clay with rare flint gravel	
30	Deposit		10	Pale orangey brown clay with rare flint gravel	

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period
31	Deposit		10	Pale orangey brown clay with rare flint gravel	
32	Deposit		26	Orangey brown clay with rare small stones	
33	Cut	Ditch		E-W aligned, steep west side, concave base	Uncertain
34	Deposit		33	Dark greyish brown clay with rare flint gravel and occasional chalk flecks	
35	Deposit		26	Banded layers of dark brown silty clay (identical to (27) and redeposited natural	
36	Deposit		26	greyish brown clay with frequent chalk flecks and small stones	
37	Cut	Ditch		Truncated base	Post-medieval
38	Deposit		37	Dark brown silty clay with occasional small stones	
39	Deposit			Topsoil. Dark brown silty clay with occasional flint and chalk gravel	
40	Cut	Ditch		N-S aligned with steep slopes and a concave base	Post-medieval
41	Deposit		40	Mid grey clay with frequent mineralisation, occasional chalk gravel and rare flint gravel	
42	Deposit		40	Dark brown clay with moderate big lumps of redeposited natural clay	
43	Deposit		24	Dark grey clay with rare small stones	
44	Cut	Posthole		Suboval with steep sides and a concave base	Uncertain
45	Deposit		44	Dark grey clay with rare flint gravel, charcoal flecks and burnt clay	
46	Deposit			Topsoil.	
47	Deposit			Topsoil.	
48	Deposit			Occupation layer rich in charcoal and burnt clay fragments	Medieval
49	Deposit			Topsoil.	
50	Deposit			Topsoil.	
51	Deposit			Topsoil.	
52	Deposit			Topsoil.	
53	Deposit			Topsoil.	
54	Deposit			Topsoil.	
55	Deposit			Topsoil.	
56	Deposit			Topsoil.	
57	Deposit			Topsoil.	
58	Deposit			Topsoil.	
59	Deposit			Topsoil.	
60	Deposit			Topsoil.	
61	Deposit			Topsoil.	
62	Deposit			Topsoil.	
63	Deposit			Topsoil.	
64	Deposit			Topsoil.	
65	Deposit			Topsoil.	
66	Deposit			Topsoil.	
67	Deposit			Topsoil.	

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period
68	Deposit			Topsoil.	
69	Deposit			Topsoil.	
70	Deposit			Topsoil.	
71	Deposit			Topsoil.	
72	Deposit			Topsoil.	
73	Deposit			Topsoil.	
74	Deposit			Topsoil.	
75	Deposit			Topsoil.	
76	Deposit			Topsoil.	
77	Deposit			Topsoil.	
78	Cut	Pit		Oval, 0.7m long, 0.5m wide and 0.17m deep with a concave base	
79	Deposit		78	Mottled black, dark and pale grey silty clay, frequent charcoal	

Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary

Period	Type	Total
Prehistoric	Post-hole	2
Medieval	Ditch	4
Medieval	Pit	1
Post-medieval	Ditch	2
Uncertain	Ditch	5

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight	Period	Notes
2	Pottery	5	137g	Medieval	
8	Pottery	2	13g	Medieval	
11	Pottery	18	37g	Medieval	
11	Ceramic Building Material	6	63g	Med./Post-Med.	
21	Flint – Burnt	1	13g	Prehistoric	Discarded
21	Ceramic Building Material	1	17g	Post-medieval	
23	Ceramic Building Material	1	1g	Unknown	
23	Flint – Struck	1	108g	Prehistoric	
27	Animal Bone	5	12g	Unknown	
38	Pottery	1	1g	Post-medieval	

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight	Period	Notes
41	Ceramic Building Material	1	1g	Unknown	
28	Animal Bone	1	259g	Unknown	
4	Pottery	1	1g	Medieval	
42	Flint – Struck	1	9g	Prehistoric	
45	Flint – Struck	1	2g	Prehistoric	

Appendix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Prehistoric	Flint – Burnt	1
	Flint – Struck	3
Medieval	Pottery	25
Med./Post-Med.	Ceramic Building Material	6
Post-medieval	Ceramic Building Material	1
	Pottery	1
Unknown	Animal Bone	6
	Ceramic Building Material	2

Appendix 3: Pottery

Context	Fabric	Description	Form	Quantity	Weight (g)	Spotdate
2	WVCW	Rim	JAR	1	100	L.12th-14th c.
2	WVCW	Body sherd		2	17	L.12th-14th
2	WVCW	Rim	JAR	1	13	L.12th-14th
2	GRIM	Rim		1	7	12th-14th c.
8	MCW	Rim	JAR	1	13	L.12th-14th c.
11	WVCW	Body sherd		18	37g	L.12th-14th
4	MCW	Body sherd		1	1	L.12th-14th c.
38	GRE	Body sherd		1	1	16th-18th c.

GRIM Glazed Grimston Ware

MCW medieval coarseware

GRE Glazed red earthenware

WVCW Waveney Valley coarseware

Appendix 4: Ceramic Building Material

Context	Fabric	Type	Form	Spot date	No	Wt/g	Glaze
21	11	Roof tile	Flat	Post Medieval	1	17	Dark brown
11	2	Brick	Early brick	Medieval	3	12	
11	11	Roof tile	Flat	Med/Post med	2	27	
11	13	Roof tile	Flat	Med/Post med	1	24	
23	Sandy	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	1	1	
41	Sandy	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	1	1	

Fabrics follow Anderson 2005.

Fabric 2: Dense estuarine fabric with swirls of cream in pale orange background.

Fabric 11: Coarse sandy orange red fabric with common medium sand and moderate coarse quartz, occasional coarse flint, chalk and ferrous fragments.

Fabric 13: Fine sandy pale orange-red fabric with mica and soft ferrous fragments.

Appendix 5: Animal Bone

Context	Quantity	Weight (g)	Species	NISP	Ages	Butchering	Comments
27	5	14	Hare	5	j	Many knife cuts	many cuts on tibia
28	1	264	Cattle	1	j	cut	mandible, M2 erupted, no M3

Key: NISP = Number of Individual Species elements Present.

Age = Estimate age based on fusion of bones and tooth wear; j = juvenile

Suffolk County Council

The Archaeological Service

9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 2AR

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

ANAEROBIC DIGESTOR PLANT AND BROILER UNIT, WESTHALL, SUFFOLK

The commissioning body should be aware that it may have Health & Safety responsibilities.

1. The nature of the development and archaeological requirements

1.1 Planning permission is to be sought from for the construction of an anaerobic digester plant and broiler unit at St Lawrence Hall Farm Ltd, Westhall, Beccles (TM 438 885). **Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.**

1.2 The Planning Authority will be advised by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service that the location of the proposed area could affect important heritage assets with archaeological interest. The applicant should be required to undertake an archaeological field evaluation prior to consideration of the proposal, in accordance with PPS5 Planning for the Historic Environment (Policy HE6).

1.3 The site (c. 11 ha. in area) is located to the east of Ilketshall St Lawrence at *c.* 40.00m AOD. The underlying geology comprises deep loam to clay, over chalky till.

1.4 This proposal affects a large area which has not been the subject of previous investigation. There is high potential for archaeological sites of all periods to be disturbed by this development. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance that has potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

1.5 In order to understand the significance of the heritage assets, and to assess the impact of the proposed development on any heritage assets of archaeological interest, the following work will be required as a programme of archaeological evaluation:

- A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area (5% sample)

1.6 This information should be incorporated in the Environmental Statement in order to inform the development to ensure preservation *in situ* of any previously unknown nationally important archaeological remains within the development area.

1.7 The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. **Decisions on the suitably of the area for development, and also the need for and scope of any further evaluation or mitigation measures will be based upon the results of this assessment and will be the subject of an additional specification.**

1.8 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.

1.9 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.

1.10 In accordance with the condition on the planning consent, and following the standards and guidance produced by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and specification must be produced by the developers, their agents or archaeological contractors. This must be submitted for scrutiny by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (SCCAS/CT) at 9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443. The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met. The WSI should be compiled with a knowledge the Regional Research Framework (East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 3, 1997, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. resource assessment'; Occasional Paper 8, 2000, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy'; and Revised Research Framework for the Eastern Region, 2008, available online at http://www.eaareports.org.uk/).

1.11 Following receipt of the WSI, SCCAS/CT will advise the Local Planning Authority (LPA) if it is an acceptable scheme of work. Work must not commence until the LPA has approved the WSI. Neither this specification nor the WSI is, however, a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to the archaeological works. Only the full implementation of the approved scheme – that is the completion of the fieldwork, a post-excavation assessment and final reporting – will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.

1.12 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC (SCCAS/CT) before execution.

1.13 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work, e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.

1.14 Any changes to the specifications that the project archaeologist may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT and the client for approval.

2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation

2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*.

2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.

2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.

2.4 Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.

2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

2.6 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects,* 1991 (*MAP2*), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow. Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design; this document covers only the evaluation stage.

2.7 The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.

2.8 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.

2.9 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

3. Specification: Trenched Evaluation

3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover a 5% by area, which is 1,870m^2 of the total area of disturbance for the plant and broiler unit where significant ground disturbance is proposed (*c.* 3.74 ha). Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.8m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in a minimum of *c.* 1038m of trenching at 1.8m in width.

3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' 1.80m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins.

3.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket, down to the interface layer between topsoil and subsoil or other visible archaeological surface. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.

3.4 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.

3.5 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled. For guidance:

For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min.) should be excavated across their width;

For discrete features, such as pits, 50% of their fills should be sampled (in some instances 100% may be requested).

3.6 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.

3.7 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. The contractor shall show what provision has been made for environmental assessment of the site and must provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from Dr Helen Chappell, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.

3.8 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.

3.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.

3.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).

3.11 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.

3.12 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.

3.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.

3.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.

3.15 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT.

4. General Management

4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by SCCAS/CT. The archaeological contractor will give not less than five days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.

4.2 The composition of the archaeology contractor staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this evaluation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.

4.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Brief.

4.4 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.

4.5 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.

4.6 The Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

5. Report Requirements

5.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).

5.2 The report should reflect the aims of the WSI.

5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.

5.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established.

5.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.

5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).

5.7 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County Historic Environment Record (HER).

5.8 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the report.

5.9 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain an HER number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.

5.10 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.

5.11 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the full site archive, and transfer of title, with the intended archive repository before the fieldwork commences. If this is not achievable for all or parts of the finds archive then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, scientific analysis) as appropriate.

5.12 The project manager should consult the intended archive repository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation, and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.

5.13 If the County Store is the intended location of the archive, the project manager should consult the SCCAS Archive Guidelines 2010 and also the County Historic Environment Record Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive. A clear statement of the form, intended content, and standards of the archive is to be submitted for approval as an essential requirement of the WSI.

5.14 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure the proper deposition (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html).

5.15 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.

5.17 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.

5.18 An unbound copy of the evaluation report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.

Following acceptance, two copies of the report should be submitted to SCCAS/CT together with a digital .pdf version.

5.19 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.

5.20 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/ must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.

6.21 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

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Date: 19 August 2010 Reference: / WestHallanaerobicdigester 2010

This brief and specification remains valid for six months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.

If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.