

Report 2504



nau archaeology

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Gapton Hall Road, Bradwell, Gt Yarmouth, Norfolk

NHER ENF 125222



Prepared for
Eastern Fluid Power Ltd
Gapton Hall Road
Bradwell
Great Yarmouth
Norfolk, NR31 0NL



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Contents

<i>Summary</i>	1
1.0 Introduction	1
2.0 Geology and Topography	3
3.0 Archaeological and Historical Background.....	3
4.0 Methodology	3
5.0 Results.....	3
6.0 Conclusions	6
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	8
<i>Bibliography</i>	8
Appendix 1a: Context Summary	9
Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary	9

Figures

- Figure 1 Site Location
- Figure 2 Trench location
- Figure 3 Trench Plan
- Figure 4 Sections

Plates

- Plate 1 Trench 3, looking north-west



Plate 1. Trench 3, looking north-west

Location: Gapton Hall Road, Bradwell, Norfolk
District: Great Yarmouth
Grid Ref.: TG 5102 0568
HER No.: ENF 125222
OASIS Ref.: 83875
Client: Eastern Fluid Power
Dates of Fieldwork: 7-8 September 2010

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by NAU Archaeology to monitor groundworks for the proposed construction of an extension to a workshop at Gapton Hall Road, Bradwell, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk. The foundation trenches were relatively shallow, and as a result no archaeological features or artefacts were encountered.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

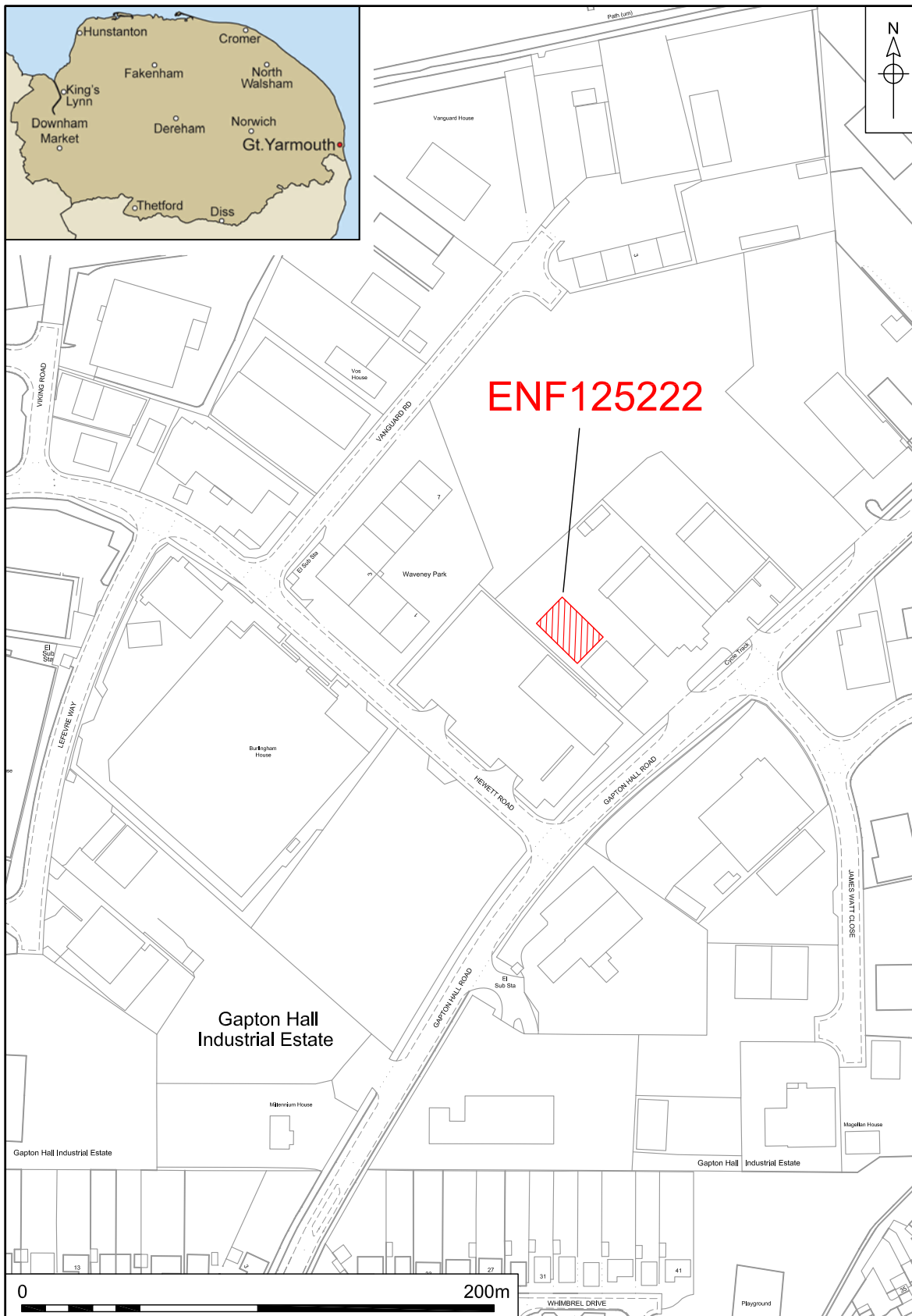
The site being monitored by an archaeological watching brief was located adjacent to the northern part of the existing workshop of Eastern Fluid Power, Gapton Hall Road, Bradwell, Norfolk. The foundation trenches for the proposed workshop extension were excavated by a tracked 360° excavator. The foundation trenches measured 24m (north-south) and 16m (east-west) by 0.80 wide.

The work was commissioned and funded by Eastern Fluid Power, Gapton Hall Road, Bradwell.

The scope of the monitoring is set out in the Archaeological Brief for the Monitoring of Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control issued by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (Ken Hamilton, 23 July 2010 – ref: CNF42461). In order to comply with that requirement ASD Architecture Limited, on behalf of their client Eastern Fluid Power, requested that NAU Archaeology prepared a Project Design for undertaking the programme of archaeological works.

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 Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010)*.

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. Site location. Scale 1:2,500

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

Bradwell sits in an area of Norwich Crag, which is made up of largely uncemented sands and gravel (Funnell 2005, 12). The site lies on the south western side of Gapton Marshes at approximately 10m OD.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The parish of Bradwell has over 200 Historic and Environmental Record (HER) entries. The area around Gapton Hall Road in Bradwell is one with a rich archaeological and historic background; the most relevant entries are presented below:

- HER 43464: Identified on aerial photographs and located to the north of the site. This HER entry is a sub-rectangular mound surrounded by a ditched enclosure. It has been suggested that this feature could be a saltern mound
- HER 42396: A series of linear and curvilinear cropmarks. These cropmarks are likely to represent drainage features on Gapton Marshes, probably of post medieval date
- HER 27567: Consists of a World War II light anti aircraft battery including buildings, structures and earthworks recorded on aerial photographs taken in 1944

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 constant attendance by an archaeologist during any excavation works.

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

No finds were recovered during this watching brief

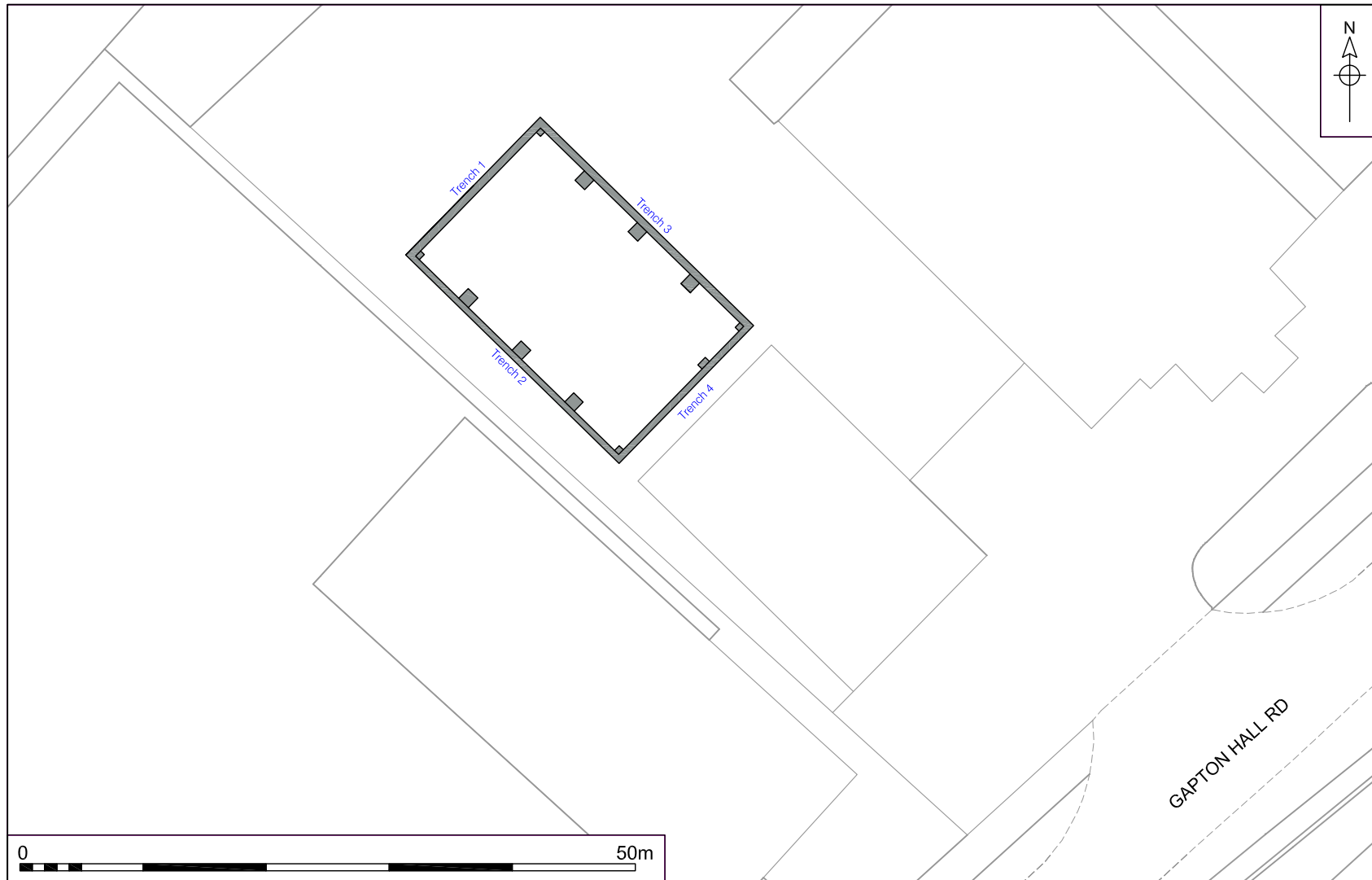
No environmental samples were taken.

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.

Site conditions were very good with clear access around the site.

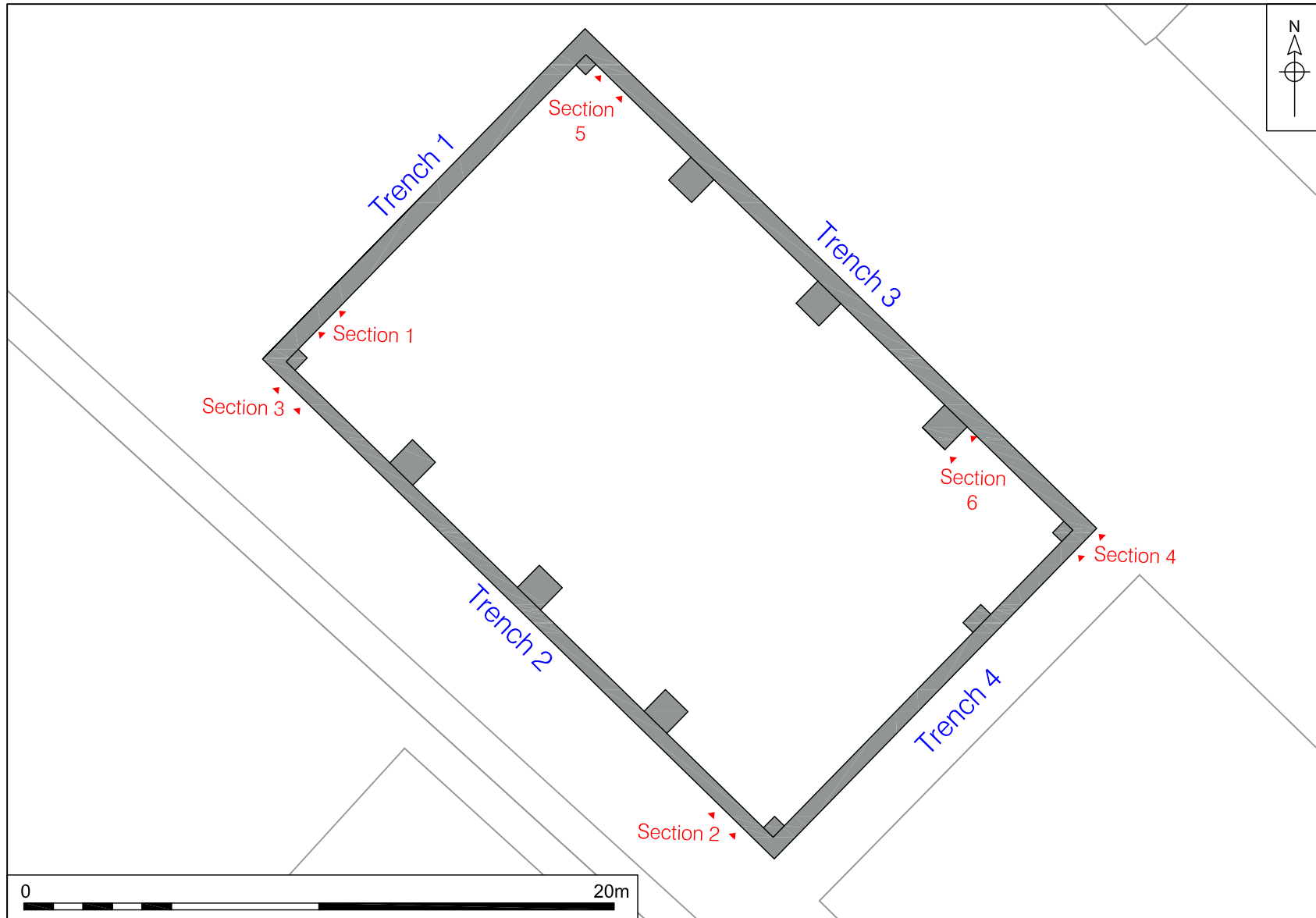
5.0 RESULTS

It was realised during the removal of the overburden that the excavated depth of the foundation trenches would not exceed beyond the level of made-up ground. All trenches were seen to cut through make-up deposits (01), (02), (03), (04), (05), (06), (07), (08) and (09).



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Figure 2. Trench location. Scale 1:500



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Figure 3. Trench plan. Scale 1:200

Trench 1, (Figs 3 and 4, Section 1) measured 15.8m x 0.70m, was located to the north and aligned south-west to north-east. It was excavated to a depth of 0.84m and four make-up deposits were encountered. The upper deposit (06) measured 0.08m and consisted of orange sand. Below this was (08) a crushed red brick deposit. Deposit (04) was seen in all of the six recorded sections and consisted of black silty sand. Below (04) was deposit (09) which consisted of mid brown clayey sand. No archaeological remains were encountered and no finds recovered.

Trench 2, (Figs 3 and 4, Sections 2 and 3) measured 24m x 0.70m, was located on the west side of the new structure and was aligned north-west to south-east. It was excavated to a depth ranging between 0.60m and 0.74m. Section 2 was located towards the southern end of this trench and contained a series of four make-up deposits. The upper deposits were very similar to those seen in Trench 1 i.e. deposit (06) which measured 0.10m and consisted of orange sand above deposit (08) which was a crushed red brick layer. Below layer (08) was deposit (04) which was seen to sandwich interleaved orange sand deposit (07).

Section 3 was located at the northern end of the trench and contained three make-up deposits ((04) (05) and (06)). The upper deposit (06) measured 0.17m and consisted of orange sand. Below (06) was deposit (04) which consisted of black silty sand. Below (04) was deposit (05) which consisted of dark brown silty sand. No archaeological remains were encountered and no finds recovered.

Trench 3, (Figs 3 and 4, Sections 5 and 6, Plate 1) measured 24m x 0.70m, was located to the east of the development and was aligned north-west to south-east, parallel to Trench 2. It was excavated to a depth ranging between 0.50m and 0.80m. Section 5, was located towards the northern end of the trench and contained five make-up deposits (01), (02), (03), (04) and (05) – all described above. Section 6 was situated towards the southern end of the trench and contained three deposits (04), (05) and (06). No archaeological remains were encountered and no finds recovered.

Trench 4, (Figs 3 and 4, Section 4) measured 15.8m x 0.70m and was located parallel to Trench 1 and aligned south-west to north-east. Deposit (01) represented a former concrete pad; deposit (02) was seen to overlie deposit (03), measured 0.20m and consisted of orange sand. Below (02) was deposit (03) which consisted of mid brown silty sand and below (03) was deposit (04) - a black silty sand. The lower fill (05) measured 0.30m and consisted of dark brown silty sand. No archaeological remains were encountered and no finds recovered.

6.0 CONCLUSIONS

The groundworks were relatively shallow and did not exceed beyond the levels of modern make-up deposits present at the site. Therefore it is not a surprise that no archaeological features were observed, even though it is possible that they may survive beneath the new development.

Although situated in a rich archaeological landscape and despite the presence of extensive cropmarks in the Bradwell area the results of this watching brief were negative.

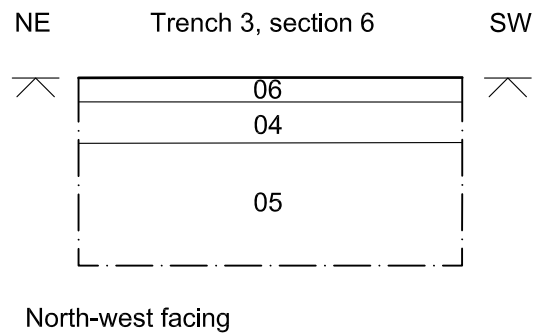
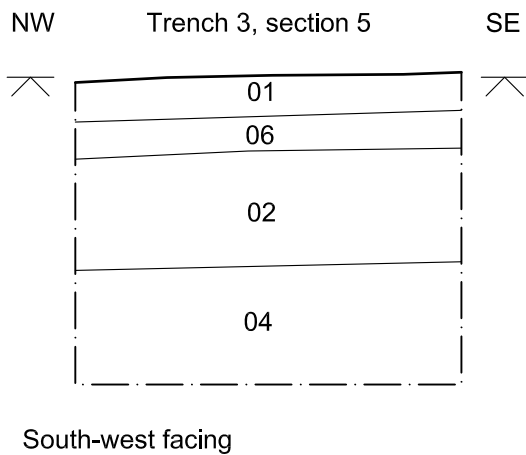
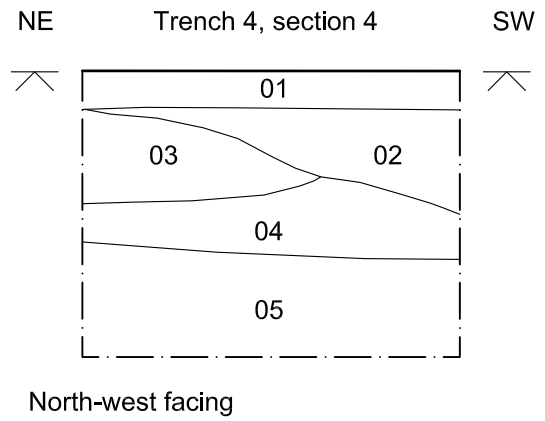
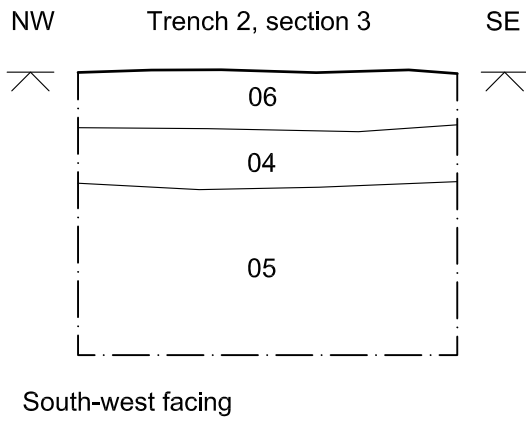
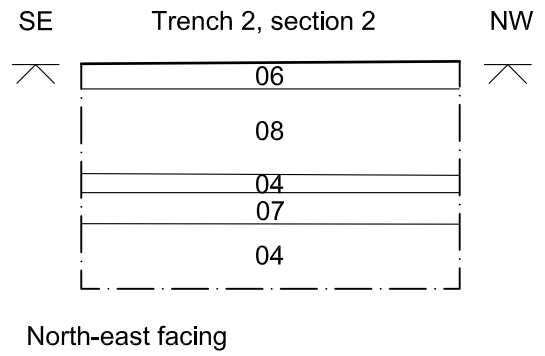
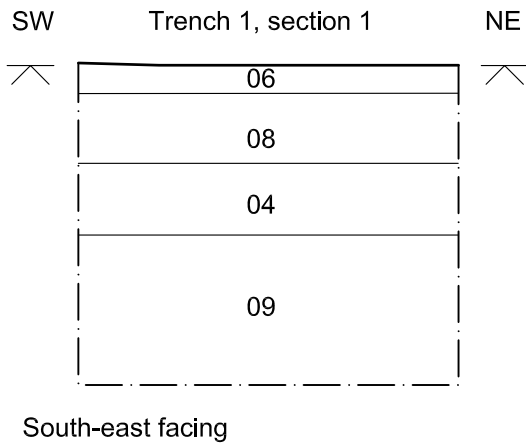


Figure 4. Sections. Scale 1:20

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Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Description	Period
1	Masonry	Concrete	Modern
2	Deposit	Make-up deposit of mid brown sand	Modern
3	Deposit	Make-up deposit of orange sand	Modern
4	Deposit	Make-up deposit of black silty sand	Modern
5	Deposit	Make-up deposit of dark brown silty sand	Modern
6	Deposit	Make-up deposit of orange sand	Modern
7	Deposit	Make-up deposit of orange sand	Modern
8	Masonry	Red brick rubble	Modern
9	Deposit	Make-up deposit of mid brown sandy clay	Modern

Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary

Period	Feature type	Quantity
Modern (1900–2050)	Make-up deposit	9