

Report 2496



nau archaeology

**An Archaeological Evaluation at 10–12 School Lane,
Manea, Cambridgeshire**

ECB 3471



Prepared for
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Location:	10-12 School Lane, Manea, Cambridgeshire
District:	Fenland
Grid Ref.:	TL 4777 8967
HER No.:	ECB 3471
OASIS Ref.:	88332
Client:	Norman Fox c/o Peter Humphreys Associates Ltd
Dates of Fieldwork:	18 to 20 October 2010

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was conducted for Peter Humphreys Associates Ltd on behalf of their client Norman Fox ahead of a proposed new housing development.

The work uncovered several post-medieval boundary ditches of 16th- to 18th-century date and at least six undated gullies which appeared to be stratigraphically earlier although probably still within the same date range. A further boundary ditch, a gully and two pits were probably later post-medieval in date, with the ditch likely to have been backfilled in the Victorian period.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

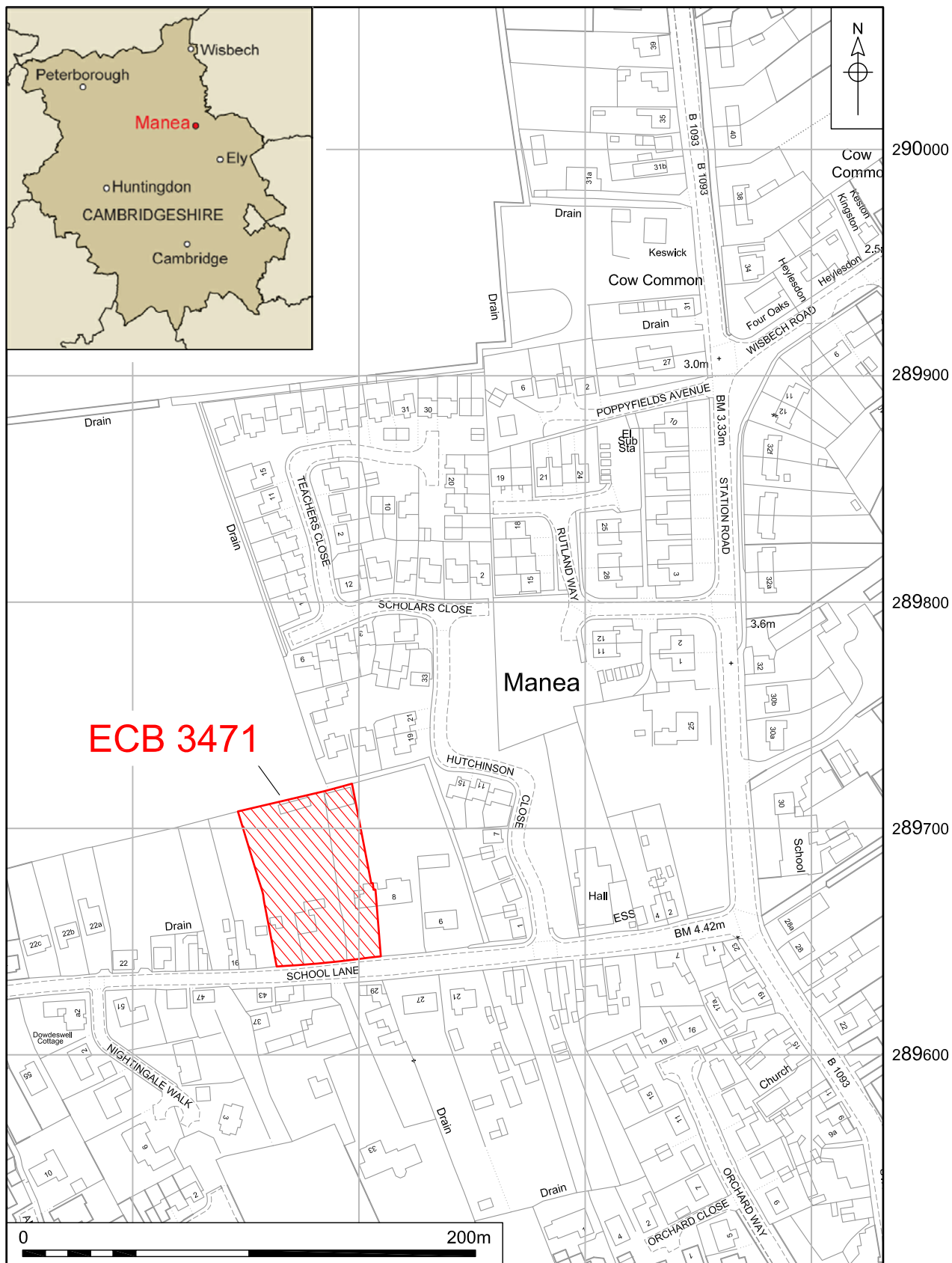
(Fig 1)

Proposals to build twelve new houses on land combining the properties of 10 and 12 School Lane, Manea required evaluation to ascertain information about the archaeological remains that may be present on the site due to the site's location within an area defined as being of high archaeological potential by Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice Office (CAPCA). The building plot is situated on the northern side of Manea village and covers an area of approximately one hectare. It is currently occupied by two houses with associated gardens.

This work was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition set by Fenland District Council (Ref. F/YR08/0340/F) and a Brief issued by CAPCA (Ref. Dan McConnell 14 July 2010). The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NAU Archaeology (Ref. BAU 2496/DW), and was commissioned by Peter Humphreys Associates Ltd on behalf of their client Norman Fox.

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 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 Cambridgeshire Museums Service, following the relevant policies on archiving standards.



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Figure 1. Site location. Scale 1:2500

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The underlying solid geology is one of Ampthill clays and the superficial geology is Till (McConnell 2010 and British Geological Survey). The observed natural substratum consisted of a firm light brownish yellow clay, which at certain places was tinged with blue where it had been subjected to waterlogging.

The topsoil was on average 0.30m thick and consisted of a dark grey clayey silt with moderate small fragments of brick and coal. Subsoil was a mid brown silty clay that measured 0.15m thick and covered the majority of the site. At the northern end of the site was an earlier subsoil which consisted of a light brown silty clay which was only 60mm in depth.

The site is located at around 3.0m OD above sea level within a relatively flat landscape. Manea village itself lies on a natural 'island' amongst the fens, situated at a slightly higher level than the surrounding area. The heavy clayey nature of the deposits encountered meant that drainage was poor. Drains carry water away to larger dykes situated around the village. The New Bedford River or the Hundred Foot Drain is located just to the south-east of the village and the River Nene is located several kilometres to the north.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A search of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record was undertaken and the most relevant results are recorded below. Supplementary historical background has been sought from the Victoria County Histories accessed at British History Online.

Prehistoric to Roman

The fens were repeatedly and densely occupied from Mesolithic times up until the Bronze Age (Pryor 1998) and this activity is manifest in the area around Manea mainly in the form of recorded finds.

To the north of the site a mace head of Mesolithic date was found. (CHER 05978) and two Mesolithic flints were also found at Rutlands Farm (CHER 05971). Flint scrapers of Early Neolithic to Late Bronze Age date were found a short distance to the north and more flints were found at site CHER 05864. At the southern tip of the village, a bronze halberd, of Bronze Age date was found in the fen prior to 1855 (CHER 05862). A Bronze Age socketed and looped axe head was unearthed in the village (CHER 05861) and a Bronze Age barrow is thought to lie close to the village to the west (CHER 05969). A concentration of flints, observed to the south of the site is believed to represent a Bronze Age occupation site. (CHER 05875). To the south-west of the site a darker area within a field examined as part of the Fenland Survey contained early Iron Age sherds which may represent part of a settlement site (CHER 10899).

As well as individual find spots, a large collection of objects (CHER 05981) belonging to Mr. Wiles Green who lived in the south part of the village has been recorded. His collection also contained one stone implement of probable Palaeolithic date and several large thick polished axes of dark and light, grey or reddish blotched flint, which seems to be made from the mottled flint of Yorkshire or Lincolnshire. He also collected a dozen Neolithic polished stone implements

and a fragment of coarse beaker pottery which had an indented linear pattern, of Bronze Age date. He also had Roman material within his collection consisting of pottery sherds (including samian ware and mortaria) and metal finds (including fragments of bronze cooking vessels and coins).

Of perhaps more relevance to this project was the location of a suspected Roman settlement to the west of the site (CHER 06048). The settlement is surmised from surface finds including bones and pot sherds (including a samian vessel stamp with the name ALBVCI) and appears to be the principal Roman site situated on the fen island of Manea. Evidence of possibly another Roman settlement site has been observed at site CHER 05864.

Immediately north of the development area a small Roman pewter hoard, consisting of two dishes, was found and is recorded as being found in one of two places (CHER 05867 and CHER 05868).

Saxon to Medieval

Little is known of Manea through the Saxon period, As the settlement developed in the earlier medieval period it appeared as part of Coveney manor and remained so for the entirety of the middle ages. Coveney was first mentioned c.1060 when it was assigned for life to *Elswida*, one of the daughters of *Oswi* and *Leofleda* as a reward for a gift to she had given to Ely monastery. The vill of Coveney was subsequently not mentioned in Domesday Book or the *Inquisitio Eliensis*, and it is possible that this small fen island 'in the bay' between the Isle of Ely proper and Doddington island was temporarily abandoned after *Elswida's* death as not worth occupying. This also may have been true of Manea island. In the mid 12th century it was seized from the monks (during the wars that occurred during King Stephens reign) but was afterwards restored through the efforts of Bishop Niel (1133-69), who granted it to Ralph his steward. The prior and convent remained overlords of the lands held throughout the medieval period (Victoria County History accessed via www.british-history.ac.uk).

The possible traces of a Saxon burial have been found within Manea, though this has been questioned. Amber and glass beads were found in 1838 associated with a skeleton in Manea Fen; however it is thought that they may represent an accidental death rather than a deliberate burial (CHER 05866).

Post-medieval to Modern

The low island of Manea was separated from Coveney by the cutting of the Old and New Bedford Rivers in the 17th century. The two settlements are 5 miles apart as the crow flies, but the distance using water courses meant that the journey became more than three times longer. Since the separation, although Coveney retained the medieval manor, Manea became the larger of the two settlements (Victoria County History accessed via www.british-history.ac.uk).

As drainage works were being undertaken by the Earl of Bedford on behalf of King Charles I, the king himself was deciding on the location of a new town (to be called Charlemont) to control the newly drained middle level within the fens. The island of Manea lay halfway along the tract of fenland that was being drained and was an ideal candidate for this new centre. A design for the proposed town was drawn up and included a Royal Palace and a canal to connect the town to the River Ouse. The acclaimed drainage engineer Cornelius Vermuyden was working for the Earl

of Bedford at this time but the scheme was terminated due to the eruption of the Civil War (Victoria County History accessed via www.british-history.ac.uk). There is a mound to the south of the development site which is supposed to be the founding site of Charlemont (CHER 05893) and indeed probably dates to this period however it is suggested that the association is purely speculative.

The parish church of St Nicholas, located to the south of the site was rebuilt in a 13th-century style during the 18th and 19th centuries. The church contains a 17th-century oak communion table and the churchyard has some surviving 18th-century headstones (CHERs 485031 and 10565).

During drainage works around Manea in 1712 when a tunnel was excavated under the Forty Foot Bank and Drain, a large amount of drained water was diverted into the Twenty Foot Drain, which was too small to contain it. A former rector, Thomas Neale, published a pamphlet in 1748 which reported that Manea had become 'the sink and receptacle for the waters of a great part of the level'. A series of fresh embankments were constructed after the event to suit the settlement for its new situation. A similar breach occurred in November 1823 in the north-west bank of the Old Bedford River between Manea and Welney. In 1842 the drainage mills were replaced by a steam engine costing £8,000. (Victoria County History accessed via www.british-history.ac.uk).

In 1748 a license was granted to Abraham Biggs for a Dissenters' meeting house at Coveney. This was closed by the end of the century. The Nonconformist baton was carried forward by the Methodists. Primitive and Wesleyan chapels in Manea both date from 1814. A further Methodist chapel was founded in Coveney in 1845 and a Baptist congregation founded in 1833. (Victoria County History accessed via www.british-history.ac.uk)

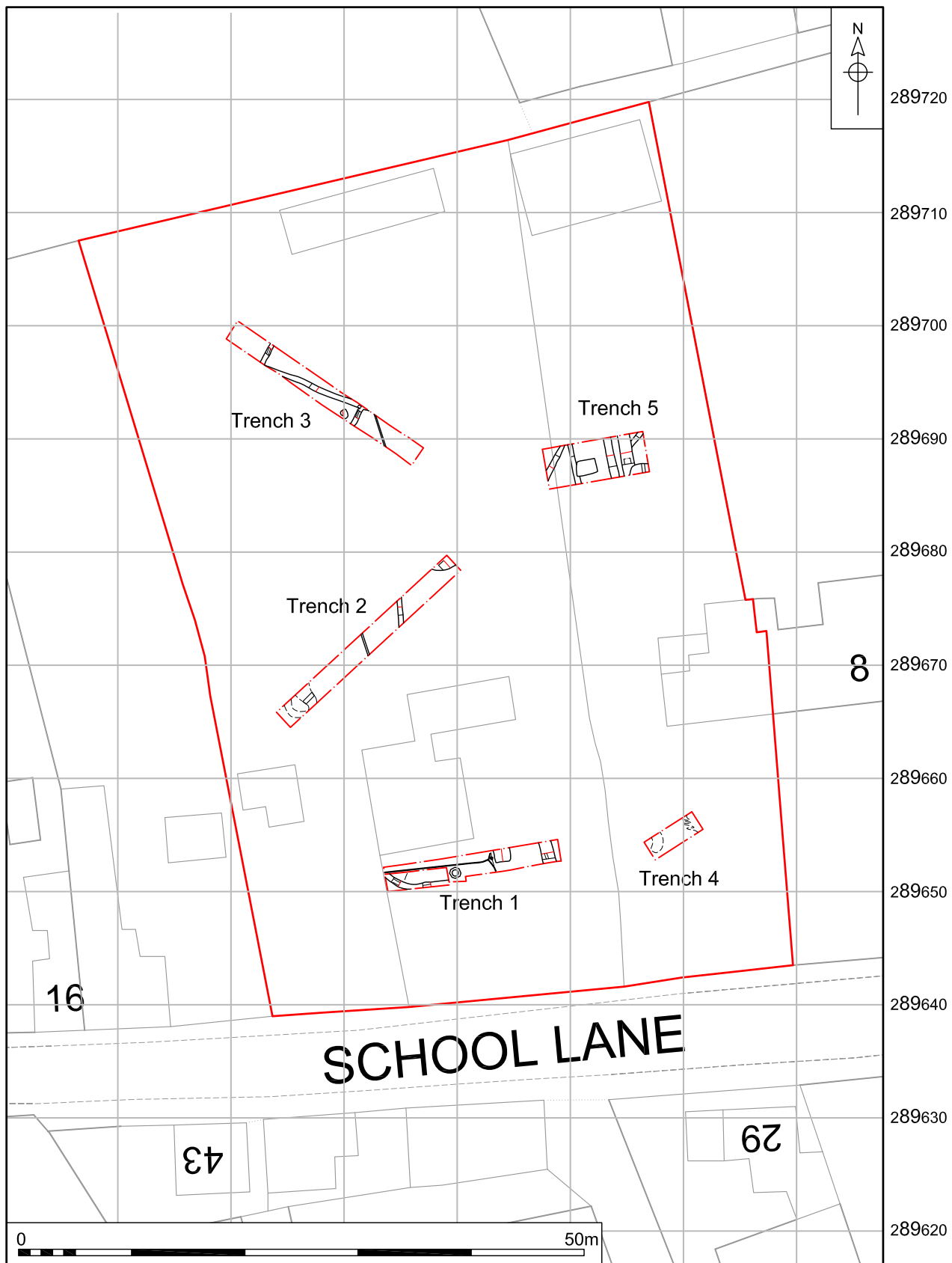
The Chartists, a political and social reform movement, were active in the fens in the mid 1800s. A commune was established by the socialist thinker Robert Owen in Manea Fen called Colony Farm. It was designed in 1838 and covered 200 acres operating under the motto 'Each for All'. Buildings were erected by the members of the commune and instead of money vouchers were issued to be used in the colony store. The colony suffered problems with drainage and this coupled with dissention amongst the colonists caused the community to be closed by 1851 (cambridgeshirehistory.com).

Post-medieval structures typical of the region were present in Manea, notably a 19th-century kiln (CHER 05864) to the south-east of the village, windmills to the north-west and north (CHERs 05989 and 01875 respectively) and a Methodist chapel established in 1814 (MCB17182).

A Royal Observer Corps post was located in Manea in the 20th century. It opened in March 1961 and closed seven years later in October 1968. No traces of the structure remain but its position was recorded as part of the Defence of Britain Project. (MCB16431).

Previous fieldwork

Several archaeological evaluations have been undertaken in the area. Three trial trenches were excavated in advance of a proposed residential development at West Field Road and revealed two parallel post-medieval ditches and modern



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Figure 2. Trench location. Scale 1:500

ceramic field drains (MCB16327). Further evaluation along West Field Road (at land north of 90a) recorded two parallel post-medieval ditches and more modern ceramic field drains (ECB1867). An evaluation undertaken at 28 School Lane Manea identified post-medieval remains (ECB3389). Evaluation of land adjacent to 64 Williams Way recorded no archaeological features or finds (ECB640). A further evaluation at Williams Way also revealed no archaeological remains (ECB1856).

4.0 METHODOLOGY

(Fig. 2 and Plate 1)

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 sample excavated with trial trenches.

Machine excavation was carried out with a wheeled JCB-type excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket and operated under constant archaeological supervision. The JCB and operator were provided by the developer. As the gardens were still in use, care was taken when moving and positioning the JCB within the development area.

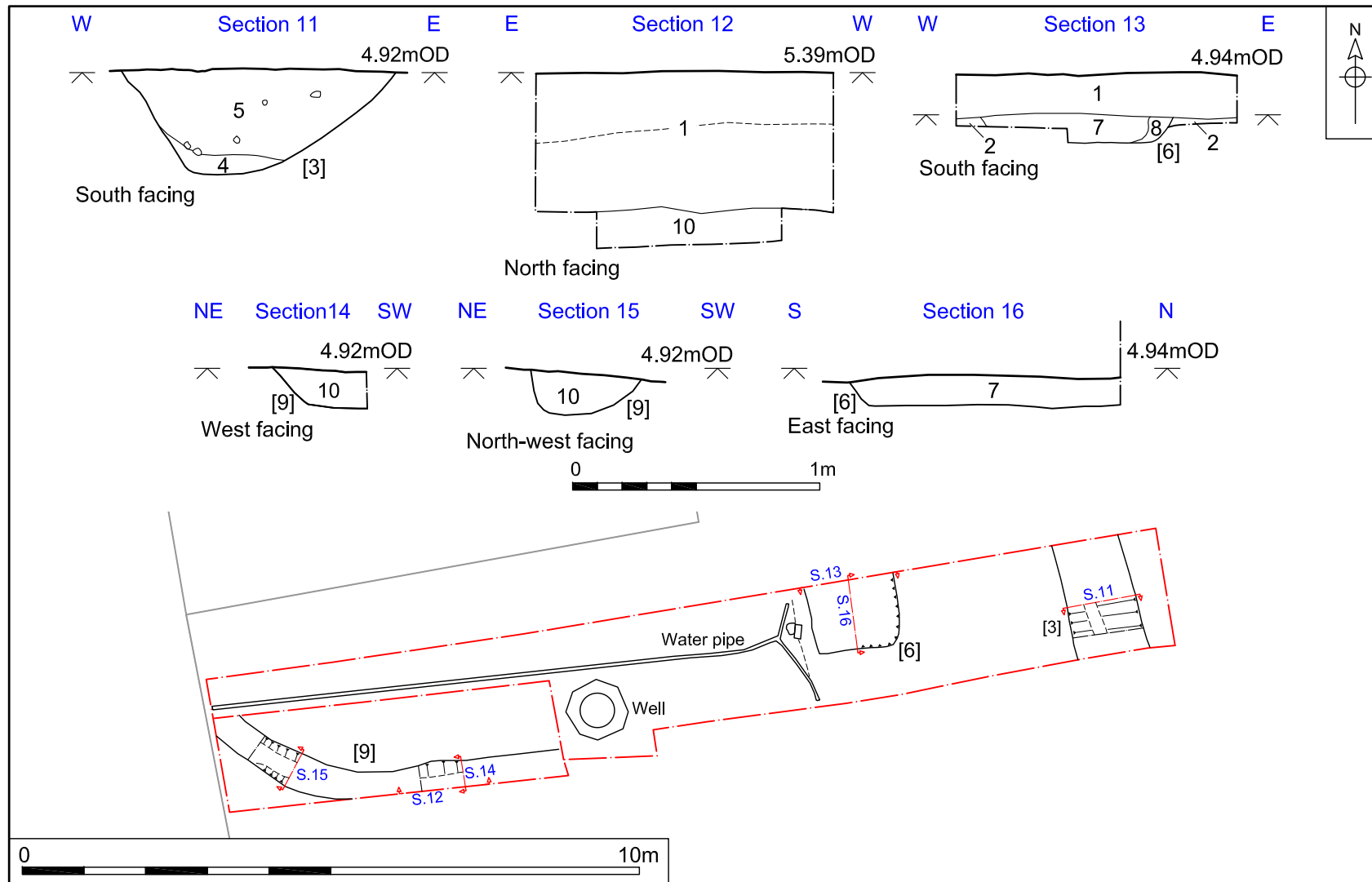
Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal-detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds, other than those which were obviously modern were retained for inspection.

No environmental samples were taken as the features were determined to be either reasonably late in date or undated.

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 temporary benchmark used during the course of this work was transferred from an Ordnance Survey benchmark with a value of 5.22m OD located on the south-west side of St Nicholas Church. A level was transferred and the main TBM located at the entrance to number 12 School Lane; it had a value of 4.21m OD.

Site conditions were good, with the work taking place in fine weather. Access was excellent and the owners of numbers 10 and 12 School Lane were very helpful.



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

5.0 RESULTS

Trench 1

(Figs 2 and 3; Plates 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5)

Trench 1 was located immediately to the south of 12 School Lane on the southern side of the development plot. It was orientated east to west and measured 15m by 1.80m. The trench was machine excavated to a maximum depth of 0.54m to the top of the natural substratum. A ditch, a curving gully and a pit were visible within the trench along with a well and lead water pipe (both live).

Ditch [3] at the eastern end of the trench crossed the trench at right angles and was 1.11m wide (Plates 2 and 3). It was orientated north to south and had a depth of 0.42m with a steeper western side. There were two fills within the ditch ([4] and [5]); the lower fill ([4]) consisted of a grey clay that was 0.08m thick and contained occasional charcoal flecks and the upper fill was comprised of a 0.34m thick friable slightly humic silty clay ([5]) which contained 18th- to 20th-century pottery. Both layers may have built up through natural processes.

A sub rectangular pit ([6]) was located a few metres to the west of ditch [3]. It measured 1.46m east to west and 1.0m north to south and was 0.12m deep with a reasonably flat base and fairly steep and slightly concave sides (Plate 4). The single fill ([7]) was a soft grey silty clay which may have accumulated through natural processes. It contained pottery of 18th- to 20th-century date along with probable residual finds - a single rim from a 16th- to 18th-century vessel as well as 15th- to 16th-century roof tile.

A relatively modern well ([11]) was encountered mid way along the trench. The top of the well was lined with thin concrete blocks around 0.10m thick and a metal cap was positioned over the opening with a diameter of 0.50m - this was dislodged during the machining of the trench partly revealing the chamber below which appeared to be lined with recent machine made bricks. The well opening measured 0.96m by 0.86m and was built in a hexagonal shape however the dimensions of the underground chamber could not be ascertained. The well was full, indicating that a high water table.

At the western end of the trench was a curving gully ([9]). This gully was 5.60m long, 0.60m wide and 0.17m deep with gently sloping sides and very slightly rounded base (Plate 5). It was orientated east to west and at its western end gradually turned towards the north. The single fill ([10]) was formed from a mid greyish brown friable silty clay which probably accumulated gradually over time.

The topsoil was a friable dark brown clay ([1]) which became more clay-rich in its lower half. There was no subsoil present in this part of the site.



Plate 1. Machining, looking south-west



Plate 2. Trench 1 (east end), looking east



Plate 3. Ditch [3], looking north



Plate 4. Pit [6], looking west



Plate 5. Gully [9], looking south-west



Plate 6. Trench 2, looking north-east



Plate 7. Pit [37], looking north-east



Plate 8. Gully [39], looking south-west

Trench 2

(Figs 2 and 4; Plates 6, 7, and 8)

Trench 2 was orientated on a north-east to south-west axis and located in the centre of the development plot. It was 20m long and 1.80m wide and was machined to a maximum depth of 0.60m until natural clay [44] was encountered. The clay took on a bluish hue at the southern end of the trench, presumably due to the waterlogged nature of the ground at this point. Two archaeological features were present; at the western end was a pit and towards the centre of the trench, a gully. A land drain and a patch of recently-dumped brick were observed in the middle and at the south-western end of the trench respectively.

Pit [37] was situated in the northern corner of the trench and measured 1.16m by 1.79m and appeared to be a small segment of a much larger, possibly circular pit (Plate 7). It was 0.40m deep with sloping sides and a slight rounded 'step' halfway down. The base could not be seen as it lay outside the limits of the trench. The features single fill ([38]) was a mid to light grey silty clay which may have accumulated naturally.

Gully [39] was observed in the north-eastern half of the trench (Plate 8). It measured 2.60m long by 0.41m and was 0.14m deep; it was orientated north to south with concave base and sides. The fill ([40]) consisted of a friable dark brown silty clay which contained no finds.

The topsoil here was a 0.29m thick layer of friable dark brown humic silty clay ([41]) which contained small fragments of crushed brick. It was situated above a layer of subsoil ([42]) which consisted of firm mid to dark grey silty clay. A thin layer of mixed subsoil (a friable light grey silty clay ([43])) lay at the base of the sequence.

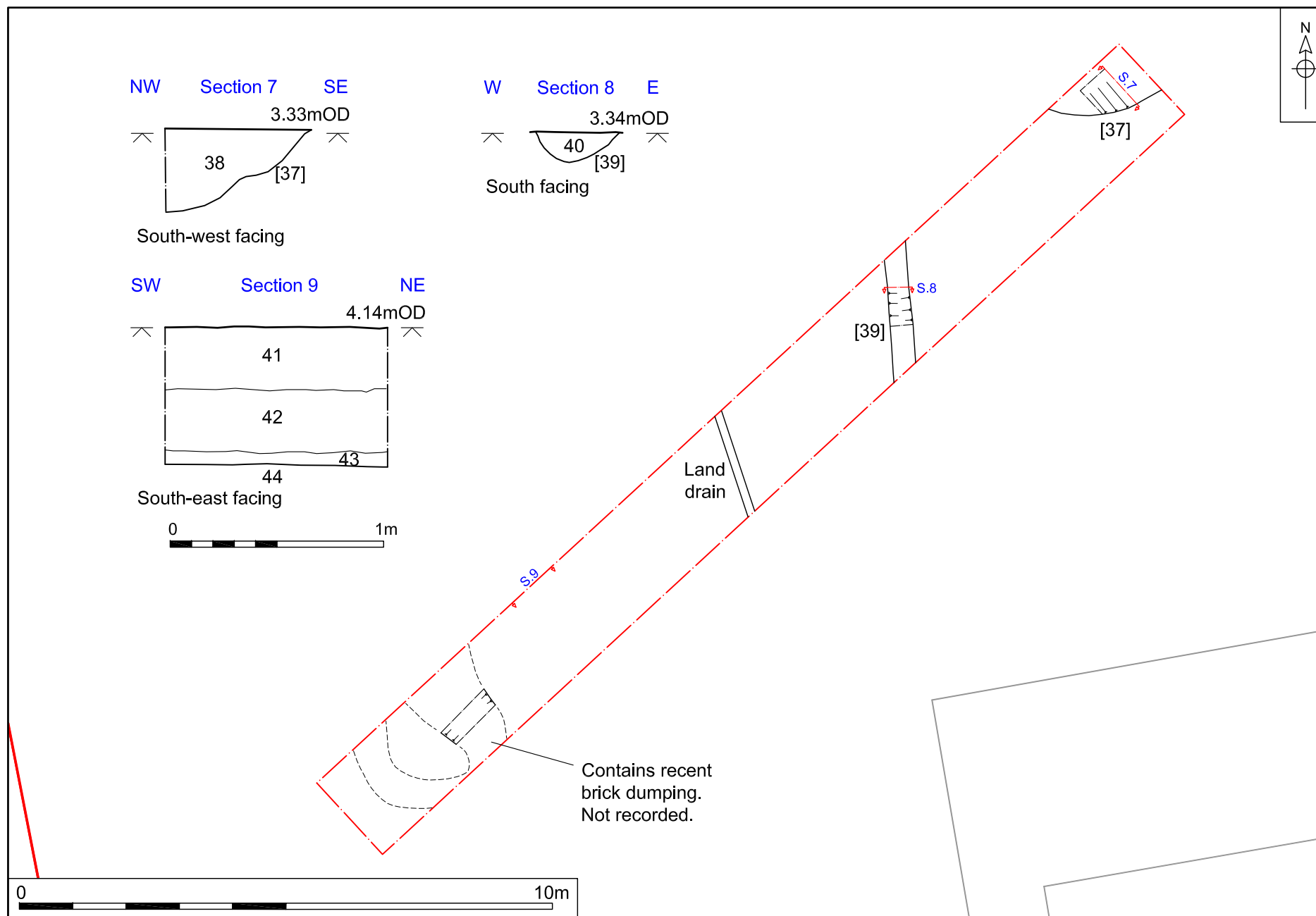


Figure 4. Trench 2, plan and sections. Scale 1:100 and 1:25

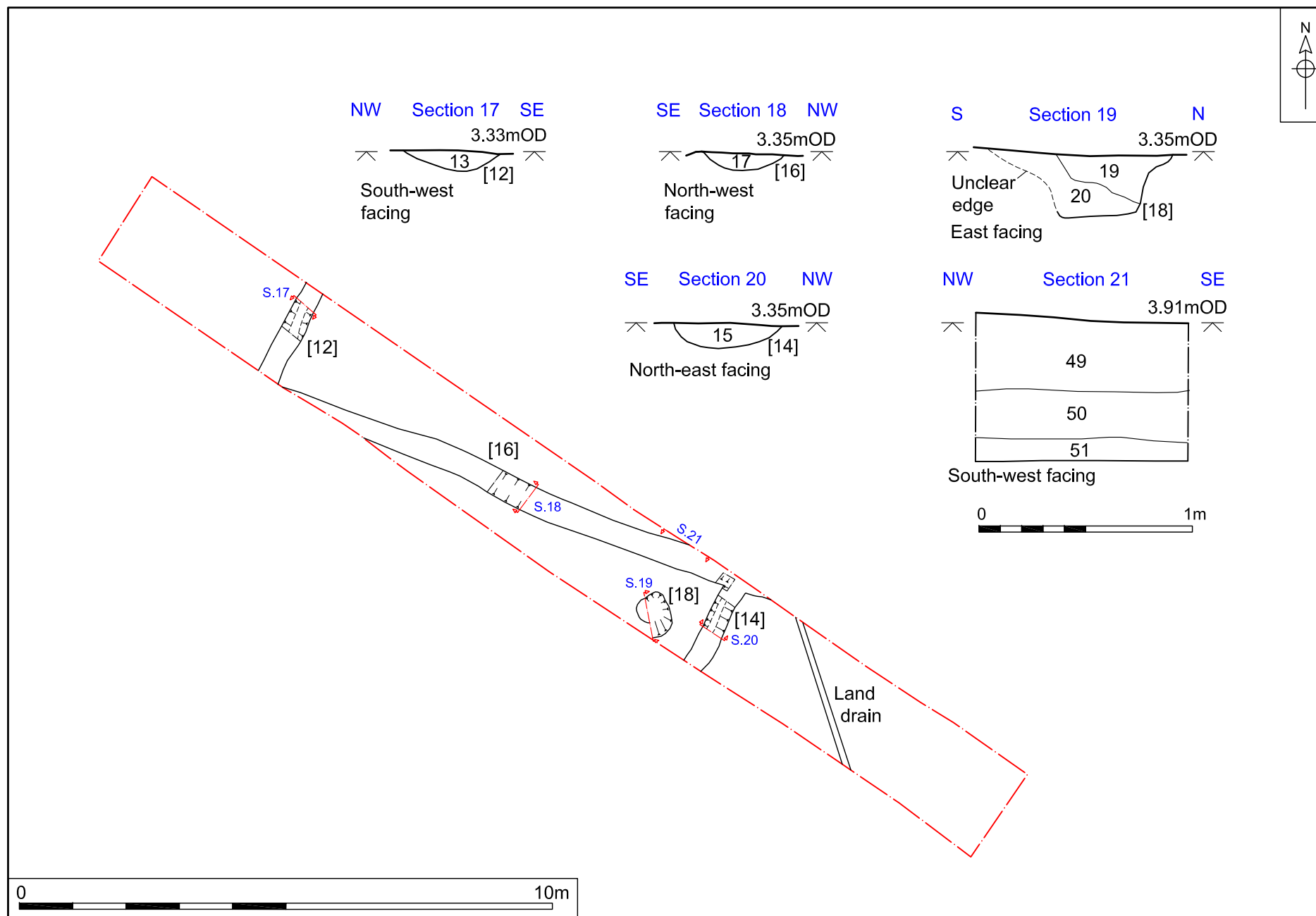


Figure 5. Trench 3, plan and sections. Scale 1:100 and 1:25

Trench 3

(Figs 2 and 5; Plates 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13)

Trench 3 was located in the northern portion of the development plot. It was orientated on a north-west to south-east axis and measured 20.0m by 1.80m. It was machined to a maximum depth of 0.66m until natural clay was observed. The natural substratum ([51]) was a yellowish brown clay, which appeared to be a little mixed in its upper portions. Four archaeological features were present in the trench consisting of three gullies and a small pit. A land drain was also visible at the southern end of the trench.

Gully [14] was orientated roughly north-east to south-west and ran parallel to gully [12]. It was at least 0.94m by 0.45m long and was 0.11m deep. The sides and base of the gully were rounded and it was filled with a firm light brownish grey clay mottled slightly with a yellowish clay ([13]) (Plate 10). The fill had probably accumulated naturally.

Gully [12] was situated nine metres to the north-west of gully [14] and was also on a north-east to south-west alignment (Plate 11). It had observable dimensions of 0.94m long by 0.45m wide and was 0.10m deep. The sides and base were rounded. Its single fill ([13]) was a compact light grey silty clay which was slightly mottled with yellow clay flecks. There was no dating evidence and the fill had probably accumulated naturally.

Located between the two was gully ([16]) (Plate 12) which was orientated on an almost north-west to south-east alignment not quite perpendicular to gullies [12] and [14]. It had a visible length of 9.80m and was 0.50m wide with a depth of 0.07m. The side and base were rounded and the fill was a compact light greyish brown clay which may have accumulated through natural processes.

A small pit ([18]) with unclear edges was located in the southern half of the trench (Plate 13). It has a sub-round shape with a diameter of approximately 0.80m. Its depth was 0.28m and the sides were shallower towards the top, steepening to almost vertical and the base was almost flat. There were two fills within the pit ([19] and [20]). The lower of the two fills ([20]) was a mottled light grey and yellow clay, which though it did not contain any inclusions, had the appearance that it had been disturbed; it was probably re-deposited natural which had slumped into the pit and was 0.30m thick. The secondary fill was a friable dark greyish brown silty clay which was 0.28m thick and contained no finds.

The topsoil ([49]) in Trench 3 was a friable dark brown humic silty clay measuring 0.36m deep. The subsoil ([50]) was a compact light greyish brown slightly silty clay 0.23m deep.



Plate 9. Trench 3, looking south-east



Plate 10. Gully [12], looking south-east



Plate 11. Gully [14], looking east



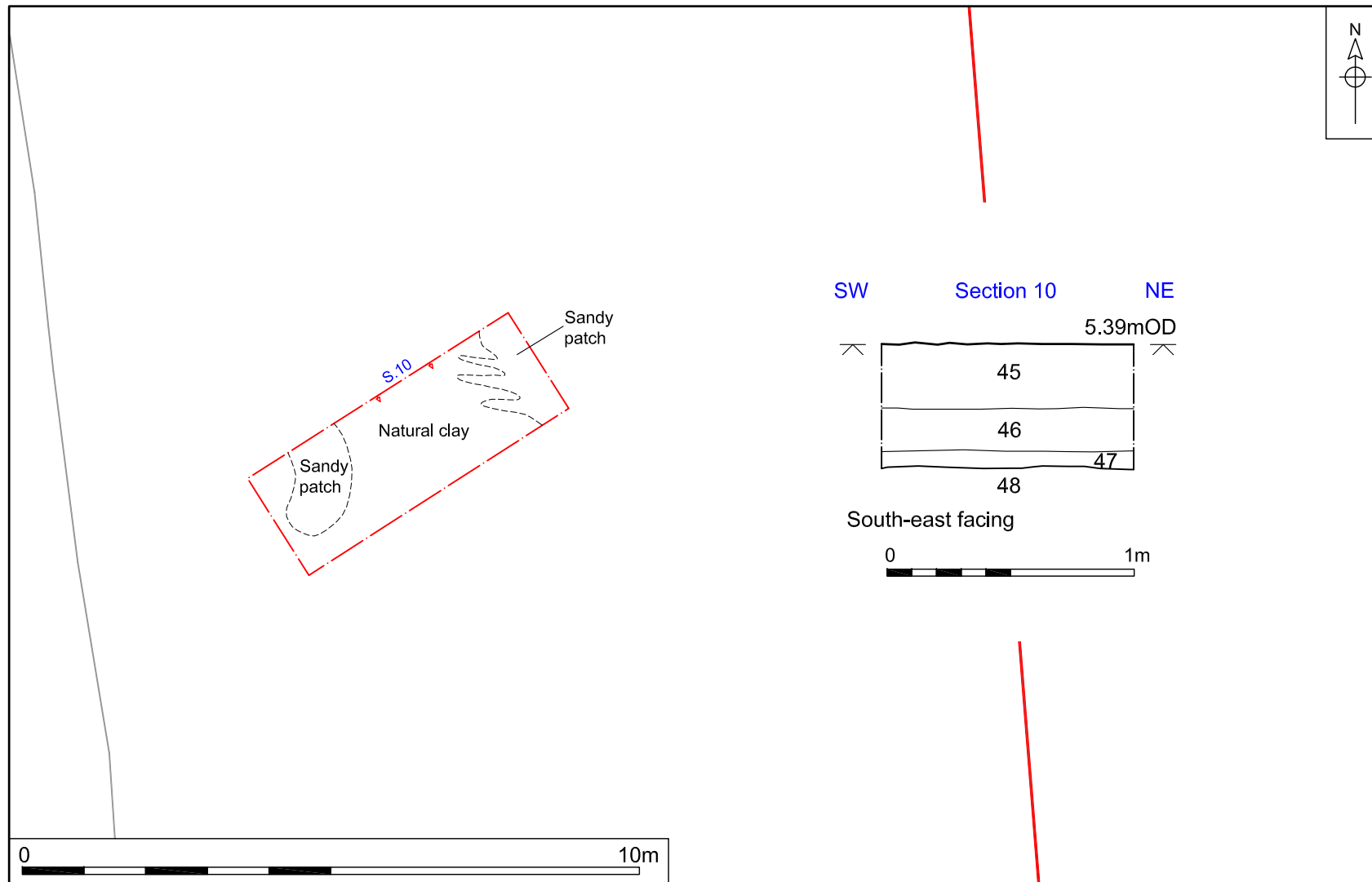
Plate 12. Gully [16], looking north-west

Trench 4

(Figs 2 and 6; and Plate 14)

Trench 4 was located in the garden in front of 10 School Lane. It measured 5.0m by 1.80m in area and was machined to a maximum depth of 0.50m. There were no archaeological features present within the trench. The natural clay substratum [48] was disturbed by frequent rooting and two sandier patches were visible.

The topsoil in Trench 4 consisted of a dark brown and humic clayey silt ([45]) with a depth of 0.50m. Two subsoils were present; subsoil ([46]) was a 0.17m thick layer of friable mottled yellowish grey silty clay and below this was a thinner layer ([47]) which consisted of a light grey silty clay and was situated immediately above the natural below layer [46].



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

Trench 5

(Figs 2 and 7; Plates 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20)

This trench was located in the northern half of the development plot on its eastern side. It measured 9.0m by 3.6m, and was shorter due to the presence of a concrete intrusion and large hedge at its western end so the trench was widened to maintain a reasonable surface area for investigation. Five linear features (two ditches and three gullies) were observed within the trench. Two of the ditches and one of the gullies were aligned north to south and the other two gullies were on a south-west to north-east alignment. There was also a lime-filled pit of recent date probably associated with the burial of agricultural and/or animal waste. Another modern pit was located in the south-eastern corner of the trench, which smelt very strongly of diesel.

Gully [21] was situated at the western side of the trench and was aligned on a south-west to north-east axis. The gully had an observed length of 3.40m, a width of 0.49m and was 0.24m deep with a rounded base and sloping sides (Plate 16). The fill ([22]) was composed of a mid grey silty clay with no inclusions and had probably accumulated slowly through natural processes.

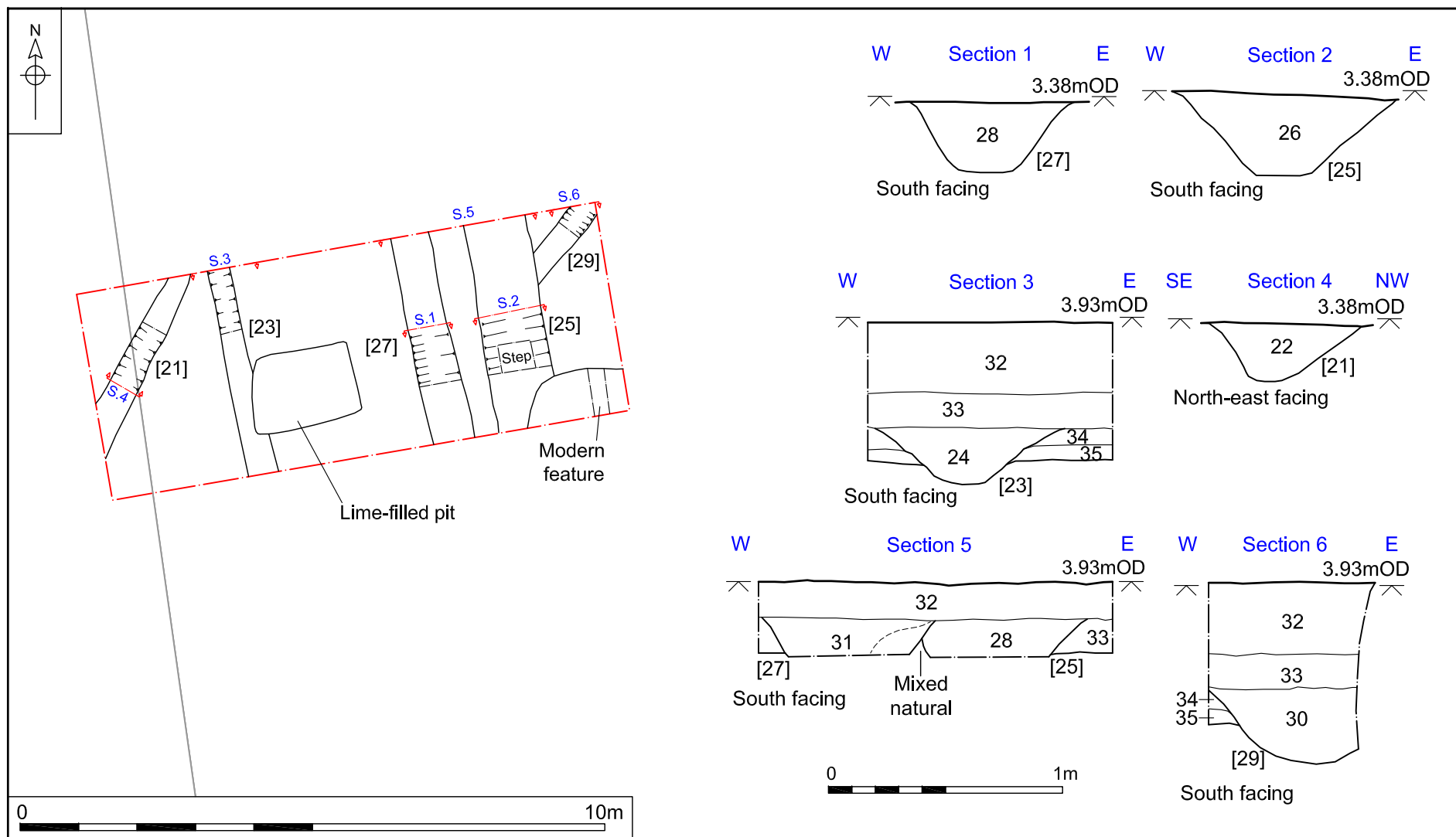
Gully ([23]) was located less than a metre to the east and probably converged with gully [21] just north of Trench 5. It was orientated roughly north to south and had an observed length of 3.60m, width of 0.40m and gently sloping sides with a rounded base (Plate 17). The fill ([24]) was formed from a mottled mid 'ginger' brown clay mixed with a greyish brown silty clay. The 'ginger' tone of the mottling was due to the presence of iron staining and it is likely that this fill probably accumulated through weathering processes.

At the centre of the trench there was north to south orientated ditch [27] close to and parallel to ditch [25]. It was at least 3.60m in length and had a width of 0.83m and was 0.29m deep (Plate 18). The fill ([28]) consisted of a dark grey silty clay containing a fragment of post-medieval brick of possible 15th- to 16th-century date along with pottery which dated from the 16th- to 18th-centuries. The inclusions within the fill suggested that the feature may have been deliberately infilled.

Ditch [25] was situated immediately to the east of and parallel to ditch [27]. It was at least 3.60m in length and had a width of 1.25m, a depth of 0.33m with sloping sides and a flat base (Plate 19). The single fill ([26]) consisted of a dark grey silty clay containing post-medieval bricks. The feature was probably deliberately infilled. Ditch [25] cut gully [29].

Gully [29] (Plate 20) was orientated north-east to south-west, like gully [21] further to the west of the trench. It was at least 1.73m in length and had a width of 0.43m with sloping sides and a rounded base. It was cut by ditch [25] and did not appear to the west of this feature suggesting that it terminated below it.

The topsoil [32] in Trench 5 consisted of a 0.31m thick, heavily disturbed and modified, friable dark grey clayey silt which included small fragments of coal, stones and bricks. Below it was a layer of subsoil ([33]) which consisted of a mid brown silty clay which was flecked with yellow clay and which had a depth of 0.14m. The three gullies ([21], [23] and [29]) appeared to be sealed by layer [33] which was in turn cut by the two ditches [25] and [27]. This suggests that the gullies predate the two ditches and might be earlier than the 16th- to 18th-century.



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



Plate 13. Pit [18], looking west



Plate 14. Trench 4, looking north



Plate 15. Trench 5, looking west



Plate 16. Gully [21], looking north



Plate 17. Gully [23], looking north



Plate 18. Ditch [27], looking north



Plate 19. Ditch [25], looking north



Plate 20. Gully [29], looking north-east

A 50mm thick layer of subsoil ([34]), a light brown silty clay, was present at the base of the sequence and lay above the natural clay substratum ([35]) which in places had a mixed appearance.

6.0 THE FINDS

by Sarah Percival

A table showing summary identification of all finds listed by context is shown in Appendix 2a

6.1 Pottery

A small domestic assemblage was recovered including three post medieval Glazed Red Earthenware sherds and nineteen sherds of late 18th- to 20th-century household pottery (Appendix 3).

6.1.1 *Post medieval*

A total of three sherds of post-medieval pottery, weighing 153g were collected. All are Glazed Red Earthenwares and include rims from two vessels, one a large bowl or pancheon and one a lid-seated jar. The jar rim was found in the fill of pit [6], Trench 1, which also contained modern pottery. The remaining sherds, including the bowl rim came from the fill of post medieval ditch [27], Trench 5.

6.1.2 *Modern*

Nineteen sherds, weighing 254g, were from 18th- to 20th-century household pottery comprising rims and base sherds from fourteen vessels including jars, bowls, saucers, mugs, and plates in a range of transfer printed earthenwares, refined earthenwares and industrial slipwares. A shallow bowl and flowerpot in late post medieval unglazed earthenware and sherds from two English Stoneware jars were also found along with a bodysherd of unsourced modern stoneware.

The sherds were recovered from topsoil and from the fills of ditch [3] and pit [6] in Trench 1 and pit [18] in Trench 3.

6.2 Ceramic Building Material

A range of brick and roofing tile of medieval to post medieval date was recovered during the evaluation (Appendix 4).

6.2.1 *Methodology*

The ceramic building material (CBM) was quantified by context, fabric and type, using fragment count and weight in grams. Forms were described following Drury (1993). Fabric descriptions are presented in Appendix 4.

6.2.2 *Medieval*

Two small abraded pieces of early brick in estuarine fabric were recovered. One brick fragment was found in the topsoil and the second from a redeposited layer in Trench 4 (47). The brick pieces weighed only 134g and were almost certainly residual within the contexts from which they were recovered and probably represent a background scatter which reached the site through agricultural activity such as middening.

6.2.3 Post medieval

The post medieval assemblage includes fragments of brick and roof tile in a range of red/ orange and white fabrics. A fragment of white brick in poorly mixed yellow fabric with orange swirls and grog and limestone inclusions, from the fill of pit [3] Trench 1, is similar to 15th-century bricks found at Ely (Cessford *et al* 2006, 32). A second late brick in orange/ red fabric with cream streaks and grog lumps from pit [6], Trench 1, was also found in Norwich in the early 16th century Duke's Palace (Drury 1993, 165). The remainder of the late bricks are well fired red to orange sandy fabrics often with reduced cores and sanded bases. At least one example, from the fill of pit [6] Trench 1 is heavily sooted suggesting that it had been used in a hearth or chimney.

Nine fragments of roof tile were recovered (six pan tile fragments, two flat tile fragments - almost certainly from peg tiles though no examples with peg holes were recovered - and one ridge tile fragment). The range of fabrics is similar to those identified for the late brick and includes a white-fired grog-tempered tile which is likely to be post-medieval (S. Anderson *pers. comm.*). Two of the fragments of pan tile were modern and were found in topsoil deposits. A large, well-fired, curved fragment in dense orange fabric with grey reduced core and thick dark green glaze on the inner and outer surfaces may be from a ridge tile. A ridge tile of similar form also with dark green glaze has been found in a 15th-century context in Ely (Cessford *et al* 2006, fig.23).

The late brick and tile indicate activity at the site from the 15th and 16th centuries onwards although they appear to be residual in the contexts in which they were found. The large size of many pieces suggests that they may not have moved far from their original point of use.

6.3 Animal Bone

A single piece of animal bone was found in re-deposited natural in Trench 3.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

Four of the five trenches on the site (Trenches 1, 2, 4 and 6) contained archaeological features and all of those containing dating evidence appear to be of post-medieval date. Undated gullies at the northern end of the plot in Trenches 3 and 5 appear to be possibly slightly earlier than the 16th- to 18th-century date assigned elsewhere as they are sealed by the subsoil in this part of the site. As the focus of a Roman settlement appears to be close to the west side of the site, finds of this period may be anticipated even if only as residual artefacts, and it is surprising that there are none present in the assemblage.

The undated gullies ([21], [23] and [29]) within Trench 5 were sealed by subsoil [33], which was in turn cut through by ditches [25] and [27]. The subsoil may have developed reasonably slowly and this pushes the date of the gullies back in time, however the lack of finds makes it difficult to be certain. Gullies [12], [14] and [16] in Trench 3 also appear to lie below a layer of subsoil ([50]) and have a similar form to those in Trench 5; they are also undated and may be of the same period. These gullies could conceivably be of medieval date, possibly associated with cultivated land on the edge of the village; the centre of the medieval settlement seems to be located further to the south at that time. However they could equally

be of early post-medieval date, possibly dating from a period of village expansion. Regardless of the era, they were almost certainly originally created to assist with drainage in the area.

Parallel ditches [25] and [27] (in Trench 5) appear to have been backfilled at some time in the 16th- to 18th-centuries. They almost certainly represent a boundary to perhaps a property and probably also had a secondary role as drainage ditches, designed to carry water away to the northern edge of Manea, where the larger dykes are situated. They probably date to the time when this part of the village was first developed, northwards and away from the medieval centre. The prevailing plots and drainage to this day are orientated on a north/south east/west grid. The backfilling of the two ditches may have occurred when the present properties were laid out superseding the earlier boundary represented by the ditches.

Other features observed on the site were probably later post-medieval in date. Ditch [3] in Trench 1 was also an earlier version of a plot boundary, on this occasion between 10 and 12 School Lane, though it was probably more modern than the two ditches [25] and [27] and appeared to have been backfilled in the Victorian period. Undated gully [9] was probably a drainage feature connected with the modern well. The two pits [18] and [37] and gully [39] appeared to be of relatively recent date and may have been connected with the farm which had existed on the plot in the 20th century.

Recommendations for future work based upon this report will be made by Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning and Countryside Advice Office

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Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Trench	Period
1	Deposit			Topsoil	Trench 1	Post-medieval?
2	Deposit			Natural	Trench 1	Post-medieval?
3	Cut	Ditch		Post-medieval ditch	Trench 1	Post-medieval?
4	Deposit		3	Grey clay fill in ditch [3]	Trench 1	Post-medieval?
5	Deposit		3	Silty clay fill of ditch [3]	Trench 1	Post-medieval?
6	Cut	Pit		Square pit in Trench 1	Trench 1	Post-medieval?
7	Deposit		6	Fill of pit [6]	Trench 1	Post-medieval?
8	Deposit		6	Possible subsoil/fill of pit [6]	Trench 1	Post-medieval?
9	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Trench 1	Post-medieval?
10	Deposit		9	Fill of ditch [9]	Trench 1	Post-medieval?
11	Masonry			Well in Trench 1	Trench 1	Post-medieval?
12	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Trench 3	Post-medieval?
13	Deposit		12	Fill of ditch [12]	Trench 3	Post-medieval?
14	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Trench 3	Post-medieval?
15	Deposit		15	Fill of ditch [15]	Trench 3	Post-medieval?
16	Cut	Ditch		Ditch in Trench 3	Trench 3	Post-medieval?
17	Deposit		16	Fill of ditch [16]	Trench 3	Post-medieval?
18	Cut	Pit		Small pit	Trench 3	Post-medieval?
19	Deposit		18	Main fill of pit [18]	Trench 3	Post-medieval?
20	Deposit			Re-deposited natural	Trench 3	Post-medieval?
21	Cut	Gully		Gully	Trench 5	Post-medieval?
22	Deposit		21	Fill of gully [21]	Trench 5	Post-medieval?
23	Cut	Gully		Gully	Trench 5	Post-medieval?
24	Deposit		23	Fill of gully [23]	Trench 5	Post-medieval?
25	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Trench 5	Post-medieval?
26	Deposit		25	Fill of ditch [25]	Trench 5	Post-medieval?
27	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Trench 5	Post-medieval?
28	Deposit		27	Fill of ditch [27]	Trench 5	Post-medieval?
29	Cut	Gully		Gully	Trench 5	Post-medieval?
30	Deposit		29	Fill of gully [29]	Trench 5	Post-medieval?
31	Deposit		25	Fill of ditch [25]	Trench 5	Post-medieval?
32	Deposit			Topsoil	Trench 5	Post-medieval?
33	Deposit			A subsoil	Trench 5	Post-medieval?
34	Deposit			A subsoil	Trench 5	Post-medieval?
35	Deposit			Mixed natural	Trench 5	Post-medieval?
36	Deposit			Natural in Trench 5	Trench 5	Post-medieval?
37	Cut	Pit		Recent pit	Trench 2	Post-medieval?
38	Deposit		37	Fill of pit [37]	Trench 2	Post-medieval?
39	Cut	Gully		Gully of recent date	Trench 2	Post-medieval?

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Trench	Period
40	Deposit		39	Fill of gully [39]	Trench 2	Post-medieval?
41	Deposit			Topsoil	Trench 2	Post-medieval?
42	Deposit			Subsoil	Trench 2	Post-medieval?
43	Deposit			Mixed natural	Trench 2	Post-medieval?
44	Deposit			Natural	Trench 2	Post-medieval?
45	Deposit			Topsoil	Trench 4	Post-medieval?
46	Deposit			Subsoil	Trench 4	Post-medieval?
47	Deposit			Mixed natural	Trench 4	Post-medieval?
48	Deposit			Natural	Trench 4	Post-medieval?

Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary

Period	Cut Type	Total
Post-medieval	Ditch	7
	Gully	4
	Pit	3

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Trench	Material	Qty	Wt	Period	Notes
1	1	Pottery	2	159g	Modern	
1	1	Ceramic Building Material	1	14g	Medieval	Brick
1	1	Ceramic Building Material	2	70g	Med./Post-Med.	Roof tile
1	1	Ceramic Building Material	1	74g	Modern	Roof tile
5	1	Pottery	6	205g	Modern	
5	1	Ceramic Building Material	2	788g	Med./Post-Med.	Brick
7	1	Pottery	8	130g	Modern	
7	1	Pottery	1	23g	Post-medieval	
7	1	Ceramic Building Material	4	269g	Post-medieval	Roof tile
7	1	Ceramic Building Material	1	631g	Post-medieval	Brick
8	1	Pottery	2	134g	Modern	
19	3	Pottery	4	67g	Modern	
19	3	Ceramic Building Material	1	396g	Post-medieval	Brick
20	3	Ceramic Building Material	1	854g	Post-medieval	Brick
20	3	Animal Bone	1	9g	Unknown	
26	5	Ceramic Building Material	4	569g	Post-medieval	Brick
26	5	Ceramic Building Material	2	83g	Post-medieval	Roof tile
28	5	Ceramic Building Material	2	784g	Post-medieval	Brick
28	5	Pottery	2	130g	Post-medieval	
47	4	Pottery	1	26g	Modern	
47	4	Ceramic Building Material	1	120g	Medieval	Brick
47	4	Ceramic Building Material	2	384g	Post-medieval	Brick
47	4	Ceramic Building Material	1	181g	Med./Post-Med.	Ridge tile

Appendix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Medieval	Ceramic Building Material	2
Med./Post-Med.	Ceramic Building Material	5
Post-medieval	Ceramic Building Material	17
	Pottery	3
Modern	Ceramic Building Material	1
	Pottery	23
Unknown	Animal Bone	1

Appendix 3: Pottery

Context	Fabric	Type	Form	Qty	Wt (g)	Period	Spotdate
1	ESW	Base	Jar	1	123	Modern	17th - 19th c.
1	TPE	Base	Bowl	1	36	Modern	18th - 20th c.
5	LGRE	Rim	Bowl	1	96	Modern	18th - 19th c.
5	LPME	Rim	Bowl	1	26	Modern	18th - 20th c.
5	REFW	Base	Saucer	2	52	Modern	L18th - 20th c.
5	STONEWARE	Body sherd	Mug	1	18	Modern	20th c.
5	TPE	Body sherd		1	13	Modern	18th - 20th c.
7	INDS	Body sherd		1	23	Modern	L18th - 20th c.
7	TPE	Body sherd		2	18	Modern	18th - 20th c.
7	GRE	Rim		1	23	Post medieval	16th - 18th c.
7	LPME	Body sherd	Flower pot	1	22	Modern	18th - 20th c.
19	REFW	Rim	Bowl	3	51	Modern	L18th - 20th c.
19	TPE	Rim	Plate	1	16	Modern	18th - 20th c.
8	ESW	Base	Jar	2	134	Modern	17th - 19th c.
28	GRE	Rim	Bowl	1	102	Post medieval	16th - 18th c.
28	GRE	Body sherd		1	28	Post medieval	16th - 18th c.
47	ESW	Rim	Bowl	1	26	Modern	17th - 19th c.

Appendix 4: Ceramic Building Material

Context	Fabric	Type	Form	No	Wt/g	Width	Length	Thickness	Glaze	Spotdate
1	Estuarine	Brick	Early brick	1	14g					Medieval
1	Pale orange fine sandy	Roof tile	Flat tile	1	41g					Med./Post-Med.
1	Cream fine sandy	Roof tile	Flat tile	1	29g					
1	Hard fired medium sandy orange	Roof tile (discarded)	Pan tile	1	74g					Modern
5	Fine sandy orange brick with occasional large pale grog inclusions	Brick	?Floor brick	1	470g	110mm		40mm		Med./Post-Med.
5	Poorly mixed yellow fabric with orange swirls. Large pale pink and small red grog inclusions. Sparse large limestone.	Brick	Late Brick	1	318g					Post medieval. Same as Ely 19 possibly imported from Netherlands
7	Pale orange fabric with cream swirls. Small cream and red grog inclusions	Roof tile	Pan tile	4	269g					Post-medieval
7	Poorly mixed cream fabric with orange swirls. Large pale pink and small red grog inclusions.	Brick	Late Brick	1	631g	110mm		50mm		Post-medieval

Context	Fabric	Type	Form	No	Wt/g	Width	Length	Thickness	Glaze	Spotdate
19	Dense orange fabric with reduced core. Moderate well mixed with numerous small to medium grey grog	Brick	Late Brick	1	396g			60mm		Post-medieval
20	Dense sandy well mixed well fired brick	Brick	Late Brick	1	854g	90mm		60mm		Post-medieval
26	Poorly mixed cream fabric with orange swirls. Large pale pink and small red grog inclusions.	Brick	Late Brick	4	569g					Post-medieval
26	Pale orange fabric with cream swirls. Small cream & red grog inclusions	Roof tile	Pan tile	2	83g					Post-medieval
28	Dense sandy well mixed well fired brick	Brick	Late Brick	2	784g					Post-medieval
47	Estuarine	Brick	Early brick	1	120g					Medieval
47	Dense well mixed cream fabric. No visible inclusion	Brick	floor brick	2	384g					Post-medieval
47	Dense pale orange silty fabric with reduced core. No visible inclusions.	Roof tile	Ridge tile	1	181g				Dark green glaze on interior and exterior	Med./Post-Med.