

Report 2498



nau archaeology

An Archaeological Evaluation at the New Primary School, Hart's Lane, Cringleford, Norfolk

ENF125702



Prepared for
NPS South East Limited
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<i>Issue 1</i>		

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Location:	Hart's Lane, Cringleford, Norfolk
District:	South Norfolk
Grid Ref.:	TG 1919 0609
HER No.:	ENF 125702
OASIS Ref.:	94299
Client:	NPS South East Limited
Dates of Fieldwork:	21-25 January 2011

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was conducted for NPS South East Limited ahead of construction of a new primary school as part of the Round House Park development in Cringleford, Norfolk.

Sixteen of an original eighteen trenches were excavated, four of which contained archaeological features; ditches, possibly of prehistoric date, were present in three of the trenches and a probable large post-medieval quarry pit was revealed in a fourth trench. These trenches were all located in the eastern half of the site.

Several sherds of Iron Age pottery, all from a single vessel were found in the subsoil of Trench 8 on the westernmost part of the site. Other finds of prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval date were recovered from spoil from the trenches.

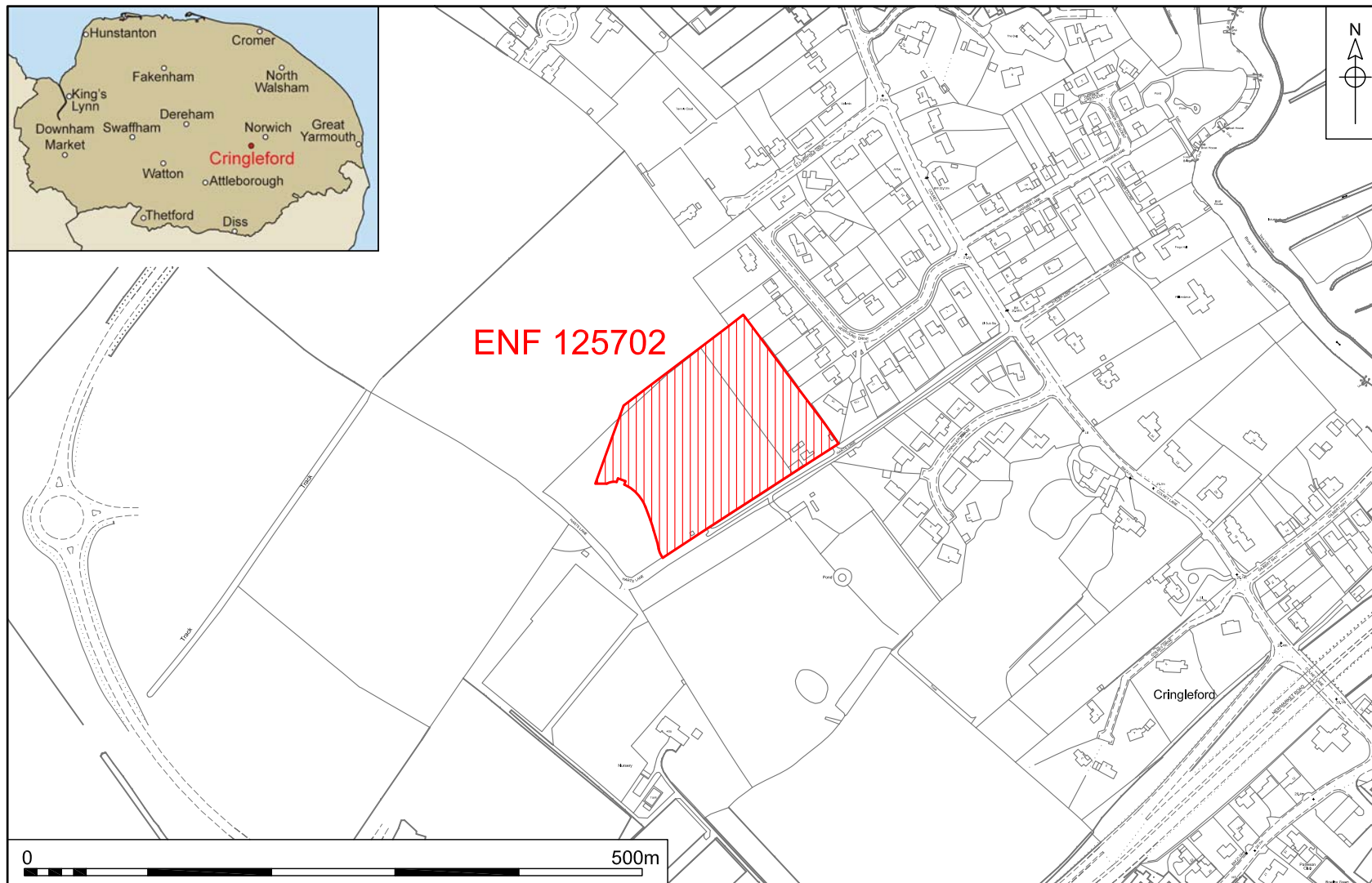
1.0 INTRODUCTION

Construction of a new primary school on Hart's Lane in Cringleford, Norfolk, as part of the Round House Park development of houses and associated amenities, required an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching prior to construction works taking place.

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 of the evaluation will be submitted with the Planning Application which will enable decisions to be made by the Local Planning Authority, South Norfolk District Council, about the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

The work was conducted in accordance with a Project Design and Method Statement prepared by NAU Archaeology (Ref. NAU/BAU2498/DW). This work was commissioned and funded by NPS South East Limited.

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 1:5000

2.0 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

The underlying geology of the area is composed of a bedrock of chalk, part of the Lewes Nodular, Seaford, Newhaven and Culver formation. The superficial geology is of Lowestoft Formation – Diamicton¹

Cringleford is a village that lies close to the south-west of Norwich, with most of the village concentrated to the south of the A11 trunk road; the new development lies on land to the north of this road. The River Yare flows to the east of Cringleford, before joining with the River Wensum at Norwich and draining into the Norfolk Broads.

The site is located on the western fringe of Cringleford on agricultural land.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The main source for archaeological information pertaining to Norfolk is the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER), a resource maintained by the Norfolk Historic Environment Service. The mapped extents of 96 records fall within a 1km radius of the proposed site of the new school. There are no known archaeological sites within the development area.

3.1 Prehistoric

A large site, evaluated in 1996 and 1998 prior to the construction of the new Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital (NHER 31871), recorded ditches and pits of Bronze Age to Iron Age date. Also recorded was a post-medieval boundary ditch, Mesolithic and Neolithic flints, undated metal working, medieval and post-medieval pottery and metalwork. The site of a possible round barrow of Bronze Age date (NHER 9395) falls within the area, and was recorded as a low mound, 20m in diameter, with a maximum height of 0.6m. To the north-west of Newfound Farm, a prehistoric flint scatter has been noted (NHER 11640). To the north-east of the site, at some distance, a scatter of prehistoric flint was recorded in 1977 (NHER 13410).

The cropmarks of a possible ring ditch with a linear feature cutting through the centre, and a larger ring ditch with a possible pit-like feature in the centre (NHER 25507) are recorded. Two further linear features are also noted, and also a broader ditched feature across the middle of the field. Fieldwalking here in 1989 found twelve flint flakes and a Neolithic flaked pick.

During the archaeological work prior to the construction of the Cringleford Park and Ride site (NHER 39823) in 2003–05 multi-period fieldwalking finds were recovered including two concentrations of worked flint. Evaluation and subsequent excavation of the site revealed features of Bronze Age and Iron Age date. Neolithic flint artefacts were recovered nearby, during fieldwalking prior to the construction of the new A11, in 1986 (NHER 22828). In the area now under the Thickthorn roundabout, the cropmarks of a rectilinear field system or settlement

¹ <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience/>

were recorded (NHER 9396). Fieldwalking and metal detecting prior to the roadwork recovered Mesolithic and Neolithic flints, an Iron Age coin, medieval pottery, a post-medieval seal of George I (1714-1724) and a possible 2nd-century Roman coin.

Work for a proposed new school, on land off Cantley Lane, undertaken in 2004, found several possible prehistoric features, and also recovered a later Neolithic to Bronze Age polished flint axe (NHER 40940).

Two multi-period fieldwalking and metal detecting sites (NHER 16229 and 162330) are recorded in the area; the sites are adjacent to each other, and between them have recovered finds ranging from Bronze Age axeheads, a Roman patera, Iron Age, medieval and post-medieval pottery, Roman and Middle Saxon coins, and much more.

Fieldwalking in 2004 (NHER 40134), prior to the residential development now surrounding the proposed school site, recovered finds of struck and burnt flint, along with a sherd of Iron Age pottery. Fieldwalking undertaken by Norfolk Archaeological and Historical Research Group (NAHRG) in 2001 (NHER 36243) found prehistoric flint. A prehistoric flint scraper was recovered during fieldwalking (NHER 28021) in 1978. Prehistoric flints were also found during fieldwalking and metal detecting from 1996 to 2001 (NHER 32333), to the south of the A11. Fieldwalking and metal detecting (NHER 14408) over the period 1978 to 1995 recovered multi-period finds, including Mesolithic flint and other prehistoric worked flints.

Other finds include a Lower Palaeolithic handaxe found during gardening in the late 1970s (NHER 21782). Some time before 1984, a Neolithic flaked flint axehead was recovered from the garden of 3 Mark Lemmon Close (NHER 21638). Directly north of the proposed development is an area where in the 1920s, two Bronze Age axeheads were found (NHER 9358). A flint knife or scraper (NHER 17112) was recovered from the garden of 12 Stratford Crescent. A prehistoric struck flint with signs of retouching was recovered in 1988 from the garden of 3 Osborne Road (NHER 24591). A Neolithic or Bronze Age flint scraper was also found in the area (NHER 9599), and came from the garden of 96 Peckover Road in 1969. A Neolithic or Bronze Age flint borer was recovered from Bluebell Wood (NHER 9378).

3.2 Roman

The possible site of a Roman kiln (NHER 9380) lies to the north of Eaton Hall, where in 1838, 1851 and 1868 quantities of Roman mortaria, greyware, Samian and amphorae, and also pottery wasters were found. A Roman coin hoard is noted to come from 'outside Norwich', and is thought to have originated in Cringleford (NHER 9363). To the south-east of the site, and nearer to the centre of Cringleford, a Roman cremation urn was recovered in 1930, from the garden of Kent House (NHER 9364).

Metal detecting in 1998 in the field to the north-west of the development area recovered artefacts including part of a Roman surgical instrument (NHER 33914). In 2004, metal detecting recovered a Roman coin of early 4th-century date (NHER 40536), the same phase of metal detecting also recorded three Roman coins and a Roman finger ring (NHER 41099). A metal detecting rally in 1995 recorded a

Roman coin (NHER 31627). Roman coins were also found during metal detecting and fieldwalking from 1996 to 2001 (NHER 32333) to the south of the A11. More Roman coins were found whilst metal detecting in 2010 (NHER 54059).

In 1940 a Roman coin was found in the garden of 10 Oakfields Road (NHER 9365). To the south of this a Roman coin was found in 1953 (NHER 9366). Two Roman coins were found at the junction of Newfound Lane and Harts Lane in 1957 (NHER 9368), one of which was from the reign of Antoninus Pius (138-161 AD).

3.3 Saxon

Metal detecting and fieldwalking from 1996 to 2001 (NHER 32333) recovered an Early Saxon brooch. Metal detecting in 2005 (NHER 42812) recovered a Late Saxon Borre-style disc brooch.

3.4 Medieval

Pond Farm (NHER 11612) is an extended medieval hall house that survived the fire of 1589 which destroyed most of Cringleford. The house is timber framed and thatched, and has a milestone of around 1770 built into the exterior. The possible site of a medieval manor house is believed to lie in the area (NHER 15914), and is thought to have been demolished during road widening in the 19th century. In 1795 'a great quantity of human bones' were found just to the north of the railway line (NHER 5008). These bones were not a complete skeleton, but are listed as a jumble of bones, and may be either related to a Bronze Age barrow (although this is unlikely) or the medieval chapel of St. Ethelred, listed as being nearby. A medieval moated site (NHER 9410), probably superseded by Cringleford Hall later, is known from the area. It is possible that the moated site was abandoned at around the time of the enhancements to Cringleford Hall. The moated site has wide water-filled arms, and the central island was thought to have been used as part of the garden of the Hall.

Metal detecting in 2004 recovered a medieval strap end and buckle plate (NHER 41099). Fieldwalking in 2004 recorded a medieval jetton and pottery (NHER 40134). A medieval coin and a Papal Bulla of Martin IV (1281-1285, NHER 32146) were recovered during metal detecting in 1996 and 1998. Medieval pottery was found during fieldwalking in 2001 (NHER 36243). Also to the north-west of the proposed site, at a distance of 200m, metal detecting in 1997 and 1998 recovered a medieval brooch and buckle (NHER 33920). Metal detecting in 1991 recovered a 13th-century buckle (NHER 28594). Along Colney Lane, fieldwalking by NAHRG (NHER 35178) recovered a medieval coin of Henry III (1207-1272). A 13th-century buckle was recovered to the north-east of Newfound Farm, during metal detecting in 1991 (NHER 28593). Fieldwalking and metal detecting in the period 1978 to 1995 recovered a medieval cauldron leg (NHER 14408). To the south of the site, directly north of the A11 road, a field has been comprehensively fieldwalked and metal detected, from 1996 to 2001 (NHER 32333). This recorded a number of objects including various medieval metalwork and pottery.

A sewer trench to the south of the east end of Oakfields yielded an iron spearhead of possible medieval date (NHER 9371). Dredging of the River Yare in 1974 recovered a sherd of Grimston pottery (13th- to 14th-century date; NHER 9381). In the garden of 3 Newmarket Road medieval kiln furniture was found, along with a

cannon ball of the same date (NHER 18367). On the line of the A11, found during road widening in 1986, was a medieval jetton (NHER 23397).

3.5 Post-medieval

Cringleford Hall (NHER 11610) was built as a relatively small timber framed house during the 16th or early 17th century, although it was greatly enhanced during the 17th and 18th centuries. To the south of the site and to the north of the A11 lies a listed building, known as The Round House (NHER 11613). This cottage is actually octagonal in shape, and was built for Sir Roger Kerrison in 1805. Another listed building in Cringleford, is that of Hill Grove (NHER 45644), now a home for the elderly. The house dates to around 1780, when it was built for John Ewing. Cringleford House and Roseland House, once one building, date to the 18th century, although they have 16th- 19th- and 20th-century elements (NHER 34057). The Vicarage (NHER 11611) is a 19th-century listed building which may have a piece of medieval sculpture built into it. Ford End House, once the George Inn (NHER 11615), is listed as a 17th-century building. The Millhouse and the site of a water mill are known in the vicinity (NHER 15913), with the Millhouse an extant building of late 18th century date. The water mill burnt down in 1916, and was marked on a map dating to around 1570.

The Cringleford Bridge over the River Yare was built in 1520 (NHER 9370), the original medieval structure was lost in floods in 1519. A post-medieval water pump is also known from the vicinity (NHER 34058), erected around 1835 for the Turnpike Trust. The site of a post-medieval windmill (NHER 15550), which was known from Faden's map of 1797 is recorded within the area. Also, the site of a post-medieval lime kiln (NHER 9612) depicted on a 19th-century map is recorded.

Newfound Farm (NHER 9404), which was apparently named for a newly found type of clay used in the manufacture of pottery is to be found within the area. This site is known from two 17th-century wills, which mention the exporting of the clay to Holland, and states that the site is now disused. The site of a 19th-century drainage windmill (NHER 35699) is to be found to the north of the previous site, and was recorded on the 1886 Ordnance Survey map.

Just south of the A11, fieldwalking and excavations in 2004 (NHER 40137) revealed finds of undated metalwork, and a post-medieval gun flint and pottery sherd. The excavations did not reveal features of any archaeological significance, although several possible tree holes, containing charcoal-rich modern material, were found, along with post-medieval building material, glass, and pottery from the topsoil.

At NHER 40970, a post-medieval coin weight dating to the reign of James I was recovered during metal detecting in 2004. On the line of the A11, found during road widening in 1986, was a medieval jetton and a post-medieval coin of 1756 (NHER 23397). Further fieldwalking recovered three coin weights, two of which date to the reign of James I (NHER 33922 and 33923) and one of 16th-century date (NHER 33915). Fieldwalking in 2001 recovered post-medieval pottery (NHER 36243). The results of further fieldwalking by NAHRG in 2000 (NHER 35177 and 35176) have not reached the Historic Environment record. A post-medieval token was found during metal detecting in 1997 and 1998 (NHER 33920). Metal detecting in 1997 recovered a 16th-century jetton (NHER 33917), and in 1998 a 16th- to 17th-century coin weight (NHER 33921), a 17th-century Norwich token

(NHER 33919), another 17th-century token (NHER 33916) and a coin of Charles I (NHER 33918). Fieldwalking in 2004 found post-medieval building material (NHER 40134). More metal detecting in 1997 found a late medieval to early post-medieval buckle or belt fitting (NHER 34877). Fieldwalking by NAHRG in 2002 (NHER 37342) recorded medieval and post-medieval finds. NAU Archaeology also fieldwalked here in 2004 (NHER 40132), recovering finds of prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval date. Subsequent geophysical survey in the field noted a circular and linear feature possibly representing a pit and a field boundary. A strip, map and record excavation was then undertaken and several possibly post-medieval or modern charcoal-rich pits or tree-throws were recorded. More metal detecting to the west of the previous field (NHER 54059) in 2010 recovered post-medieval coins, and a post-medieval belt mount and cloth seal. Metal detecting in 2005 (NHER 42812) recovered a silver post-medieval coin. Metal detecting in 2004 recovered post-medieval seals (NHER 41099). During fieldwalking prior to the construction of the Norwich Southern Bypass (the A47) in the 1970s NAHRG found over a hundred sherds of post-medieval pottery in one field (NHER 14272). This find has led to the supposition that a post-medieval pottery kiln may be present in the area. Also found on the site was a Late Saxon bridle cheek piece, during metal detecting in 2004.

Dredging of the River Yare in 1974 recovered a sherd of Grimston pottery (13th- to 14th-century date), and a fragment of black Basalt ware of the late 18th century (NHER 9381). A worn sherd of Delft pottery of post-medieval date was found during bypass construction in 1973 (NHER 9391).

A scatter of post-medieval pottery is recorded (NHER 9403), in an area known as Potter's Close, and possibly represents a dump of material into an old clay pit.

To the north-west of the proposed school site, metal detecting in 2004 and 2005 located medieval and post-medieval coins and a medieval strap clasp (NHER 41106).

4.0 METHODOLOGY

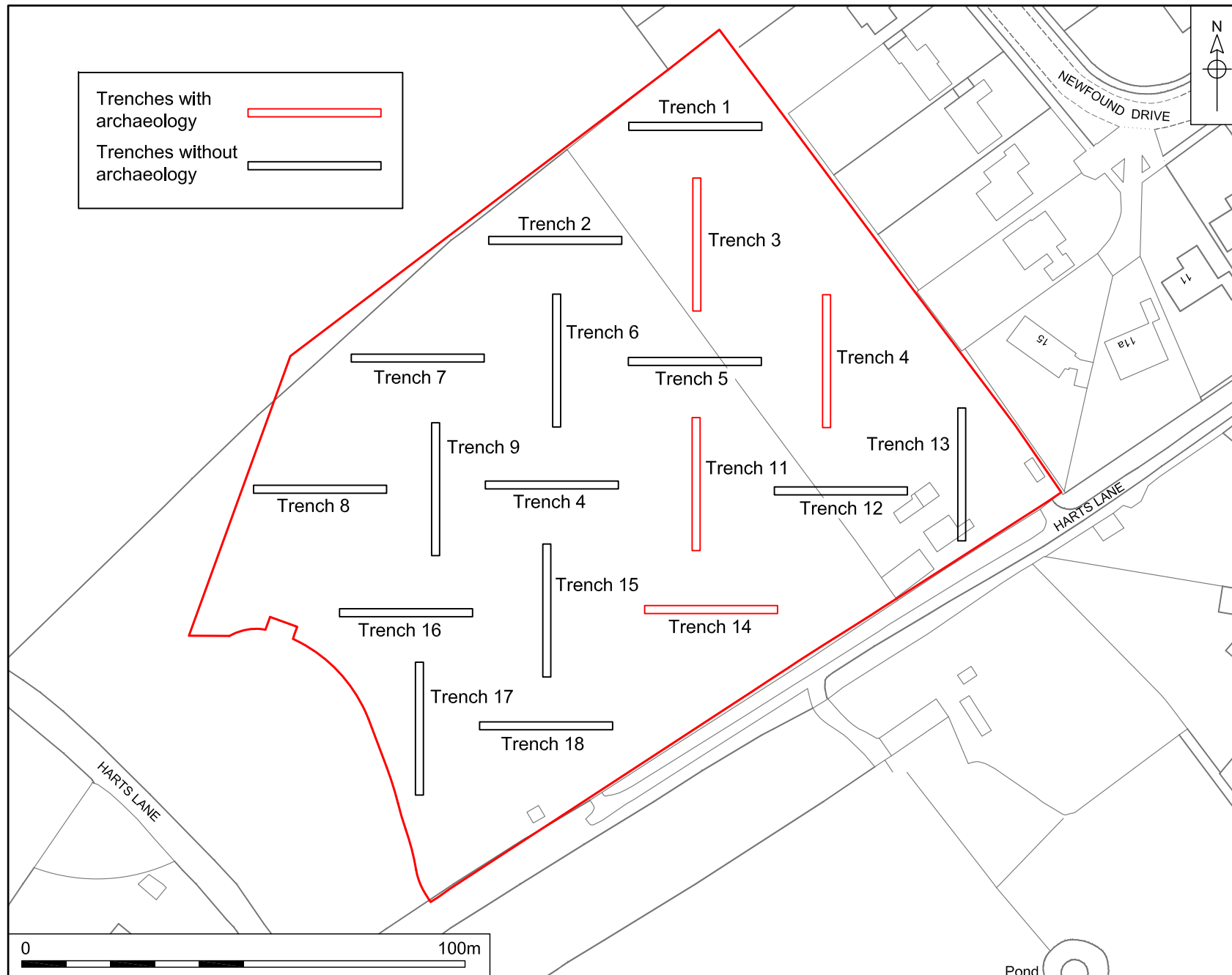
The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence or absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

The Brief required that eighteen trenches, each measuring 30m x 1.8m (972m²), were excavated to provide an approximate 5% sample of the development area (1.95ha).

Machine excavation was carried out with a hydraulic 360° excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket and operated 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.

Three environmental samples were taken, all from ditches.



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Figure 2. Trench locations. Scale 1:1250

All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using NAU Archaeology pro forma sheets. 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.

5.0 RESULTS

The results for each trench are described below in trench number order.

Trench 1

This trench remained unexcavated, due to it's location outside the eastern boundary of the site.

Trench 2



Plate 1

Fig. 2

Location

Orientation	East-West
East End	TG 19187 06145
West End	TG 19157 06145

Dimensions

Length	30m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.75m (East end) 0.65m (West end)

Levels

East End Top	30.50m
West End Top	30.83m

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand	0.40m	0-0.40m
	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty sand	0.25m	0.40-0.65m

Discussion

No archaeological features or deposits were encountered within this trench.

Trench 3



Plate 2

Figs 2 and 3

Location

Orientation North-South

North End TG 19204 06159

South End TG 19204 06129

Dimensions

Length 30m

Width 1.80m

Depth 0.75m (North end)
0.70m (South end)

Levels

North End Top 30.06m

South End Top 30.21m

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand	0.50m	0-0.50m
	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty sand	0.25m	0.50-0.75m
2	Cut	Quarry pit	0.72m	0.75-1.47m
3	Deposit	Fill of pit [2]	0.72m	0.75-1.47m

Discussion

A probable large quarry pit [2] was excavated in the southern end of this trench however its full extent was not established as the majority of the feature lay outside the excavated area. The depth reached in the slot excavated within the feature was 0.72m. The fill [3] consisted of mid grey brown clay sand with occasional flint gravel and rare redeposited lumps of natural. It was moderately compacted and was homogeneous and similar to the subsoil that sealed it.



Plate 3. Trench 3, pit [2], looking east

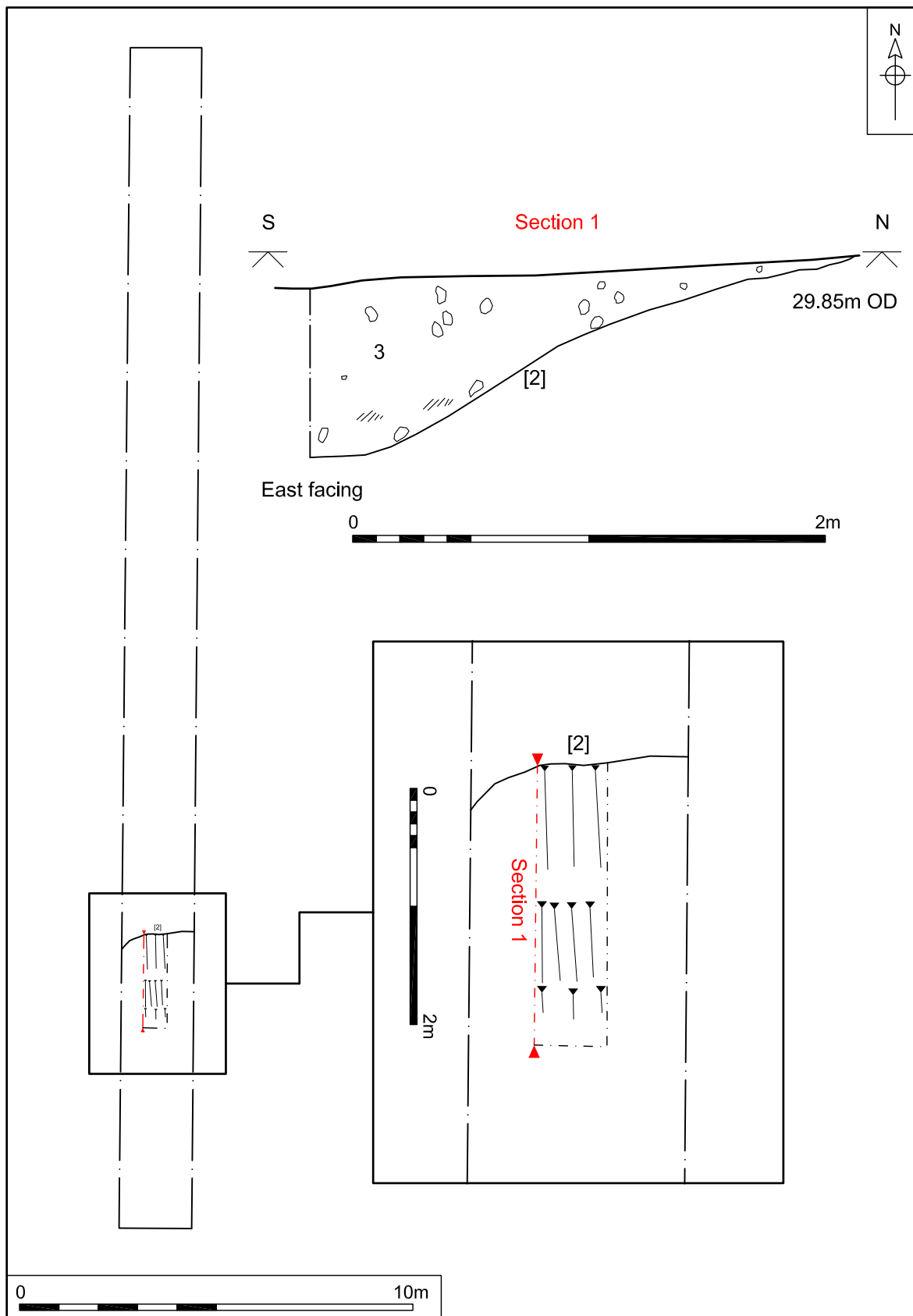


Figure 3. Trench 3, plan and section. Scale 1:150, inset 1:50 and section 1:25

Trench 4



Plate 4

Figs 2 and 4

Location

Orientation North-South

North End TG 19234 06133

South End TG 19234 06103

Dimensions

Length 30m

Width 1.80m

Depth 0.80m (North end)
0.75m (South end)

Levels

North End Top 29.85m

South End Top 30.20m

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand	0.50m	0-0.50m
	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty sand	0.30m	0.50-0.80m
4	Cut	E-W Ditch	0.64m	0.80-1.44m
5	Deposit	Fill of ditch [4]	0.64m	0.80-1.44m

Discussion

At the northern end of this trench, a ditch measuring 2.2m wide and 0.64m deep was sampled. The ditch was oriented east-west, with a flat base and an asymmetric profile. The sides on the south were curved, and on the north, stepped. The fill [5] consisted of mid grey brown silty sand with frequent charcoal.

The fill was sampled for plant macrofossils (Sample <1>) and the results showed the presence of a large amount of charcoal and 'intrusive' modern industrial residues and a goosegrass seed.

Iron Age pottery was recovered from this feature, along with flint possibly of an earlier date.



Plate 5. Trench 4, ditch [4], looking east

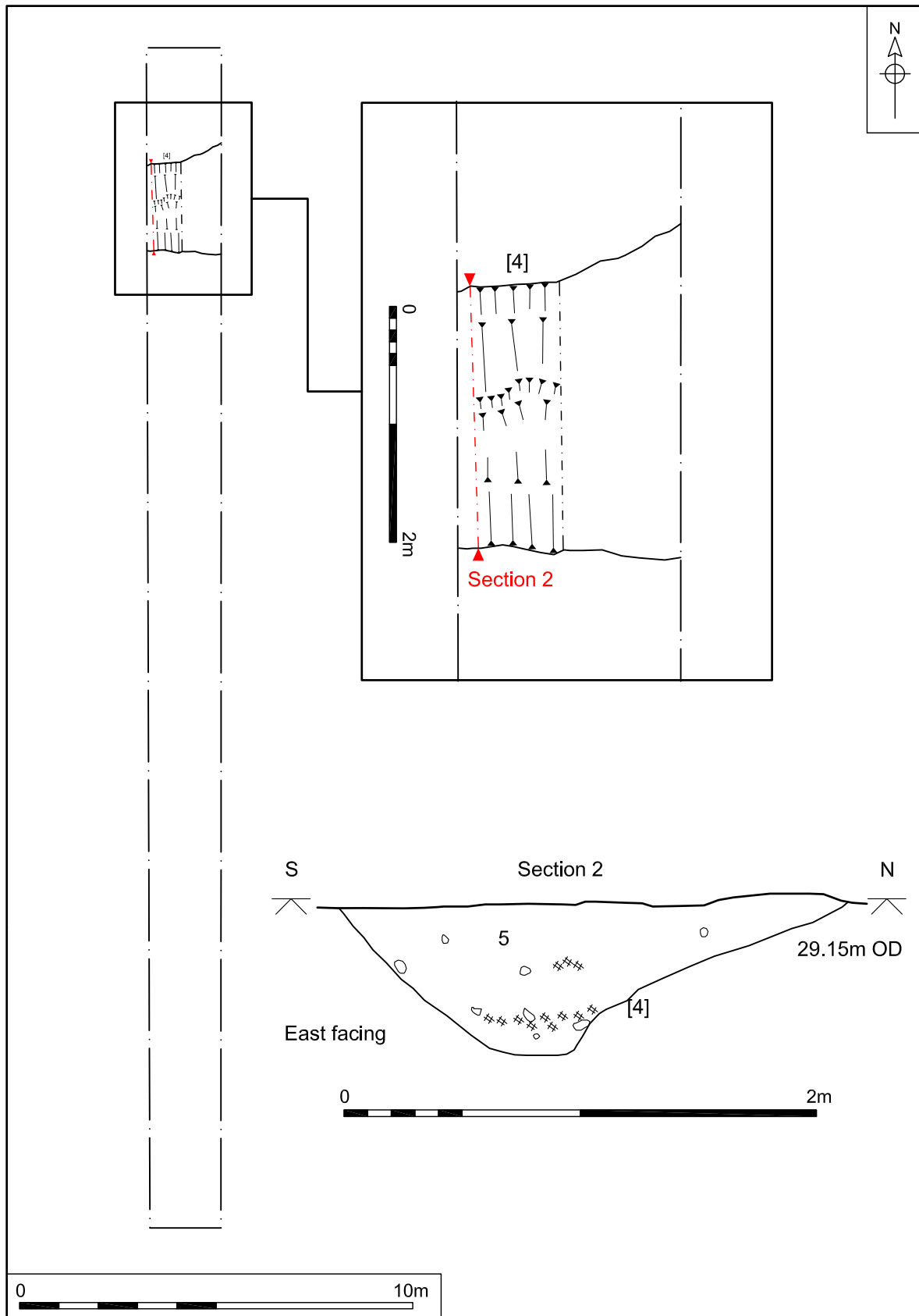


Figure 4. Trench 4, plan and section. Scale 1:150, inset 1:50 and section 1:25

Trench 5



Plate 6

Fig. 2

Location

Orientation East-West

East End TG 19219 06117

West End TG 19189 06117

Dimensions

Length 30m

Width 1.80m

Depth 0.75m (East end)
0.65m (West end)

Levels

East End Top 30.16m

West End Top 30.54m

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand	0.50m	0-0.50m
	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty sand	0.20m	0.50-0.70m

Discussion

No archaeological finds or features were recorded in this trench.

Trench 6



Plate 7

Fig. 2

Location

Orientation North-South

North End TG 19713 06133

South End TG 19713 06103

Dimensions

Length 30m

Width 1.80m

Depth 0.60m (North end)
0.70m (South end)

Levels

North End Top 30.66m

South End Top 30.81m

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand	0.40m	0-0.40m
	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty sand	0.20m	0.40-0.60m
10	U/S FINDS	Finds from spoil	-	-

Discussion

A single struck flint was recovered from the spoil of this trench, although no archaeological features were noted.

Trench 7



Plate 8

Fig. 2

Location

Orientation	East-West
East End	TG 19156 06118
West End	TG 19126 06118

Dimensions

Length	30m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.60m

Levels

East End Top	30.06m
West End Top	30.23m

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand	0.30m	0-0.30m
	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty sand	0.30m	0.30-0.60m

Discussion

No archaeological finds or featured were recorded in this trench.

Trench 8



Plate 9

Fig. 2

Location

Orientation East-West

East End TG 19134 06089

West End TG 19104 06089

Dimensions

Length 30m

Width 1.80m

Depth 0.60m (eastern end)
0.50m (western end)

Levels

East End Top 30.86m

West End Top 31.05m

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand	0.60m	0-0.60m
8	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty sand	0.60m	0.60-1m
11	U/S FINDS	Finds from spoil	-	-

Discussion

No archaeological features were noted in this trench; however 38 sherds of middle Iron Age pottery, all from the same vessel, along with some fired clay and burnt flint, were found within the subsoil.



Plate 10. Trench 8, middle Iron Age pottery in subsoil [1]

A fragment of medieval pottery, of 12th- to 14th-century date was recovered from the spoil.

Trench 9



Plate 11

Fig. 2

Location

Orientation	North-South
North End	TG 19145 06104
South End	TG 19145 06074

Dimensions

Length	30m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.60m (North end) 0.70m (South end)

Levels

North End Top	31.03m
South End Top	30.60m

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand	0.30m	0-0.30m
	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty sand	0.40m	0.30-0.70m
12	U/S FINDS	Finds from spoil	-	-

Discussion

No archaeological features were seen within this trench however finds were recovered from the soil arisings including struck flint and a post-medieval watch key.

Trench 10



Plate 12

Location

Orientation East-West

East End TG 19187 06090

West End TG 19157 06090

Dimensions

Length 30m

Width 1.80m

Depth 0.50m (eastern end)
0.60m (western end)

Levels

East End Top 30.66m

West End Top 30.83m

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand	0.30m	0-0.30m
	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty sand	0.30m	0.30-0.50m
14	U/S FINDS	Finds from spoil	-	-

Discussion

No archaeological features were recorded within this trench.

Several finds were recovered from the spoil of the trench, including struck flint, clay tobacco pipe and a coin dating to 1917.

Trench 11



Plate 13

Figs 2 and 5

Location

Orientation	North-South
North End	TG 19204 06105
South End	TG 19204 06075

Dimensions

Length	30m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.80m

Levels

North End Top	30.49m
South End Top	30.57m

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand	0.40m	0-0.40m
	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty sand	0.40m	0.40-0.80m
6	Cut	Ditch	0.75m	0.80m-1.55m
7	Deposit	Fill of ditch [6]	0.75m	0.80m-1.55m

Discussion

At the northern end of Trench 11 an east-west aligned ditch [6] was discovered. The ditch was 2.22m wide and 0.75m deep. The base of the feature was V-shaped with sloping sides. The fill [7] was mid grey brown clay sand with occasional flint gravel.

A single piece of struck flint was recovered from this deposit and a sample for plant macrofossils was taken (Sample <2>). The sample results were disappointing and demonstrated the presence of a large amount of intrusive modern waste.



Plate 14. Trench 11, ditch [6], looking east

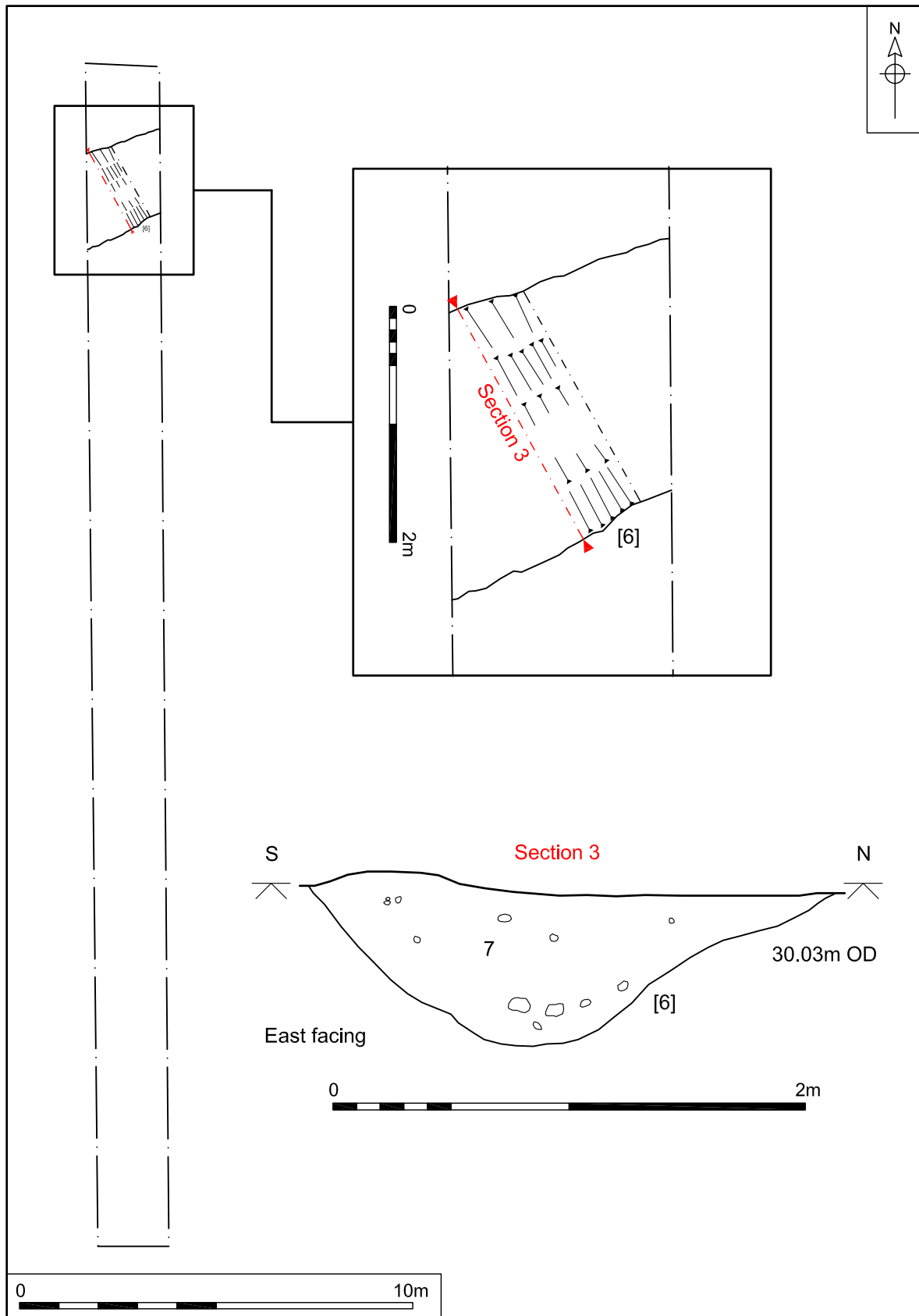


Figure 5. Trench 11, plan and section. Scale 1:150, inset 1:50 and section 1:25

Trench 12



Plate 15

Fig. 2

Location

Orientation	East-West
East End	TG 19252 06093
West End	TG 19222 06088

Dimensions

Length	30m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.50m (eastern end) 0.65m (western end)

Levels

East End Top	30.28m
West End Top	30.39m

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand	0.30m	0-0.30m
	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty sand	0.20m	0.30-0.50m

Discussion

No archaeological finds or features were recorded in this trench.

Trench 13

This trench remained unexcavated, due to its proposed location outside the eastern boundary of the site.

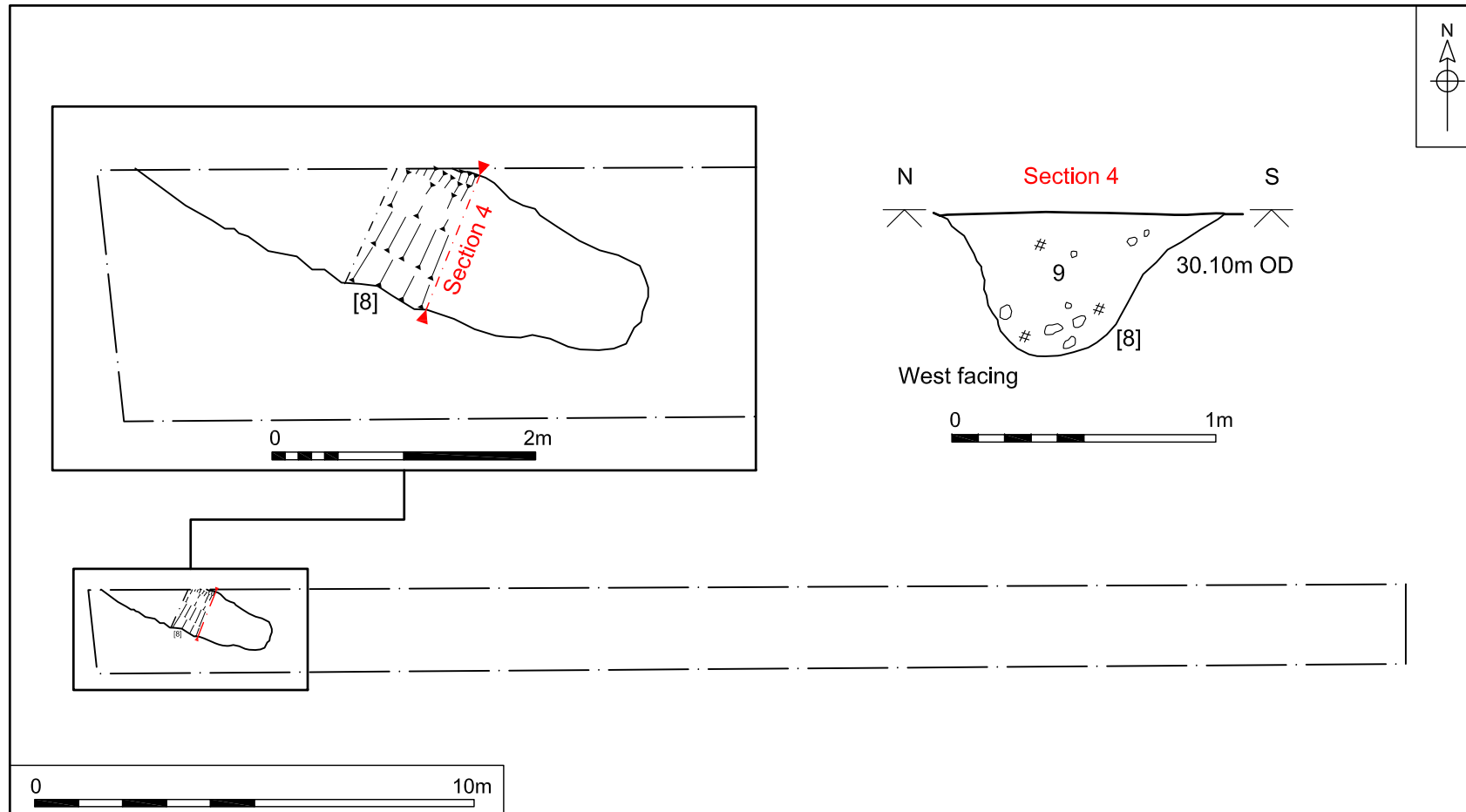


Figure 6. Trench 14, plan and section. Scale 1:150, inset 1:50 and section 1:25

Trench 14



Plate 16

Figs 2 and 6

Location

Orientation	East-West
East End	TG 19222 06061
West End	TG 19292 06061

Dimensions

Length	30m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.60m (eastern end) 0.70m (western end)

Levels

East End Top	30.47m
West End Top	30.54m

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand	0.40m	0-0.40m
	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty sand	0.20m	0.40-0.60m
8	Cut	Ditch	0.54m	0.60-1.14m
9	Deposit	Fill of ditch [8]	0.54m	0.60-1.14m

Discussion

At the western end of Trench 14 a ditch terminus [8] roughly aligned east-west was recorded.



Plate 17. Trench 14, ditch [8], looking east

The ditch measured 1.06m wide and 0.54m deep. The base was rounded and the profile was asymmetric, the sides being vertical on its northern edge and sloping on the southern edge. The fill [9] was mid grey brown silty sand with occasional flint gravel and rare charcoal inclusions. This fill

Trench 14

was also seen to become darker towards the base, and was quite compacted.

Finds of struck flint were recovered from this deposit, and an environmental sample (<3>) was taken to test for plant macrofossils. The sample showed modern intrusive debris along with two fragments of hazelnut shell.

Trench 15



Plate 18

Plate 2

Location

Orientation North-South

North End TG 19170 06076

South End TG 19170 06046

Dimensions

Length 30m

Width 1.80m

Depth 0.80m (northern end)
0.70m (southern end)

Levels

North End Top 30.61m

South End Top 30.42m

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand	0.40m	0-0.40m
	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty sand	0.40m	0.40-0.80m

Discussion

No archaeological finds or features were recorded within this trench.

Trench 16



Plate 19

Fig. 2

Location

Orientation	East-West
East End	TG 19154 06061
West End	TG 19124 06061

Dimensions

Length	30m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.50m

Levels

East End Top	30.45m
West End Top	30.28m

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand	0.25m	0-0.25m
	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty sand	0.30m	0.25-0.55m

Discussion

No archaeological finds or features were recorded within this trench.

Trench 17



Plate 20

Fig. 2

Location

Orientation	North-South
North End	TG 19142 06050
South End	TG 19153 06020

Dimensions

Length	30m
Width	1.80m
Depth	0.70m (northern end) 0.55m (southern end)

Levels

North End Top	30.22m
South End Top	30.08m

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand	0.30m	0-0.30m
	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty sand	0.40m	0.40-0.70m

Discussion

No archaeological finds or features were recorded within this trench.

Trench 18



Plate 21

Location

Orientation East-West

East End TG 19185 06035

West End TG 19155 06035

Dimensions

Length 30m

Width 1.80m

Depth 0.75m (eastern end)
0.60m (western end)

Levels

East End Top 30.36m

West End Top 30.50m

Context	Type	Description and Interpretation	Thickness	Depth BGL
	Topsoil	Dark brown silty sand	0.40m	0-0.40m
	Subsoil	Mid orange brown silty sand	0.30m	0.30-0.60m
13	U/S FINDS	Finds from spoil	-	-

Discussion

No archaeological features were recorded within this trench; however some medieval and post-medieval pottery, clay pipe and flint came from the spoil [13].

6.0 THE FINDS

The artefacts recovered from the site are summarised in Appendix 2a Finds by Context and described in more detail below and in Appendices 3a, 3b and 4.

6.1 Pottery

by Sarah Percival

6.1.1 Prehistoric Pottery

A total of 40 sherds of prehistoric pottery 409g were recovered from three contexts (Appendix 3a). A single highly-abraded sherd weighing 17g was found in the fill of ditch [4]. The sherd is made of highly flint-tempered fabric suggesting an early Neolithic or early Iron Age date.

Thirty-eight sherds weighing 388g and all from the same vessel were recovered from subsoil in Trench 8. The vessel, a shouldered jar with fingertip impressed rim, is made of sandy fabric with sparse flint and organic inclusions and is of mid Iron Age date.

6.1.2 Medieval and Post Medieval Pottery

Three sherds of medieval pottery weighing 52g were found in spoil in Trenches 8 and 18 (Appendix 3b). A rim from a coarseware jug in orange micaceous fabric

was found in Trench 8 and an unglazed coarseware body sherd and a fragment of handle from a glazed Grimston-type jug came from Trench 18. The pottery can be broadly dated to the late 12th to 14th centuries.

A body sherd of late 13th to 15th century Siegburg Stoneware was also found in spoil from Trench 18.

6.2 Clay Tobacco Pipe

by Sarah Percival

Two undatable pipe stem fragments were found in spoil from Trenches 10 and 13.

6.3 Fired Clay

by Sarah Percival

A total of three abraded fragments of fired clay weighing 16g were collected from subsoil in Trench 8. The fragment is made of poorly-mixed orange coloured clay with sparse micaceous inclusions and is not closely datable.

6.4 Flint

by Sarah Bates

Eleven struck flints were recovered from the site (Appendix 4). A range of dark to pale grey flint is present with several pieces having speckled dark cream thick cortex. A few of the flints are patinated and both edge-damaged and quite sharp flints are present.

A squat piece with thick cortex across much of one face and both side has flakes struck quite neatly from one steep edge with slight and shallow flaking of the other face at the same edge (from deposit [5]). It may have been used as a crude scraper type tool or be a keeled type core. Four flakes consist of three that are small and irregular and a triangular flake with a hinged distal edge. Three blade-like flakes - two small slightly curving pieces with abraded platforms from deposits [5] and [12] and a large quite thin and flattish flake which is from a large prepared core also from deposit [12] – were recovered. A small thick blade-like piece with patinated smooth white cortex at one side has oblique retouch across its proximal end forming a small piercer type point came from deposit [13]. There is also one utilised flake and a possibly utilised fragment.

There are no closely datable pieces although the blade-like pieces with evidence for core preparation suggest that an earlier Neolithic element is present. The core/tool is likely to be of later Neolithic or early Bronze Age date and the more irregular flakes could date to any later prehistoric period.

The flint was recovered from spoil and from ditch fills. It represents activity in the vicinity of the site during the prehistoric period but it is uncertain as to whether it relates to features excavated there. It seems likely to be residual in the ditches. Larger amounts of flint, most of it datable to the later Neolithic or later, have been found previously during archaeological work at Cringleford (NHERs 40130-40137, 39823 and 40940) and it is possible that some of this may have come from close to the present site.

6.5 Metal Objects

by Rebecca Sillwood

Five metal finds were recovered from two unstratified contexts; the spoil of Trench 9 (layer [12]) and the spoil of Trench 10 (layer [14]). Two of the objects were of copper alloy and three were of lead.

A copper alloy watch key (from [12]) is a rather neat little object comprising of two loops, one larger and one smaller, with a projection at one end to wind the watch. These objects occasionally come in silver and gold, although these are quite rare, and can be extremely ornate, unlike this one, which is plain and undecorated. The object is likely to be 18th- to 19th- century in date (Read, 1995, p.211, no.1467).

A copper alloy coin, a farthing dating from 1917, the reign of George V was recovered from deposit [14].

The three lead objects are more difficult to date; one is a disc (from deposit [12]) with a central perforation that has been neatly folded in on itself. The second find from [12] has been affected by heat, and has melted, so that it is very misshapen. The unaffected part is a right angle, showing two thick pieces of lead that appear to have been riveted together with lead. It is unknown what purpose either of these objects served. A roughly rectangular scrap of sheet lead (from deposit [14]) was also recovered.

7.0 THE ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

by Val Fryer

7.1 Plant Macrofossils

7.1.1 Introduction and Method Statement

Individual samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from three ditch fills ([5], [7] and [9] – Samples <1>, <2> and <3> respectively).

The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed below in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots and seeds were also recorded within all three assemblages.

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

7.1.2 Results

The assemblages were all small (0.1 litres in volume or less), and were largely composed of charcoal/charred wood fragments, black porous and tarry residues and small pieces of coal. Other plant macrofossils, namely a single goosegrass (*Galium aparine*) seed and two fragments of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell were noted in only two of the three assemblages. Fish bone and mammal bone fragments were also recorded along with globules of vitreous material.

7.1.3 Conclusions

The black tarry and porous residues, which were common or abundant throughout, were all probably modern in origin, having the appearance of 'industrial' residues or the bi-products of the combustion of coal. As coal fragments were also common, it is assumed that these remains, along with the fish bones and bone fragments, were all probably derived from spreads of night soil, which were commonly deposited on land around the city during the late post-medieval and early modern periods. Such material frequently became incorporated into the fills of pre-existing features as the land was disturbed during agricultural use or urban expansion. The charcoal/charred wood fragments, seed and pieces of nutshell may well be early, but as the assemblages contain so much intrusive material, it is highly unlikely that they would be suitable for radiocarbon dating.

Although plant macrofossils are scarce within the current assemblages, it is suggested that if further interventions are planned, additional plant macrofossil samples of approximately 20–40 litres in volume are taken from all well-sealed and dated contexts recorded during excavation.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

The results from this trial trench evaluation appear to reflect the general prehistoric nature of the landscape as shown through the previous works in the area, especially those around the Norfolk And Norwich University Hospital (NHER 31871) and the Cringleford Park and Ride site (NHER 39823).

The three ditches recorded in Trenches 4, 11 and 14 all appear to be on an approximate east to west alignment and are likely to be of prehistoric date. As well as containing prehistoric flint flakes, they were also sealed by subsoil which was apparent across the site and this subsoil deposit (in Trench 8 further to the west) contained 38 sherds from a single shouldered jar of mid Iron Age.

It is worth noting that the linear features do not appear to correspond to the orientation of field boundaries of later date in this area.

However some uncertainty to the posited dating of the ditches must be expressed as the results obtained from the environmental sampling of the ditch fills showed little survival of plant macrofossils but a significant presence of modern material despite the deposits being located below the subsoil.

Recommendations for future work based upon this report will be made by Norfolk Historic Environment Service.

Acknowledgements

Thanks go to the fieldwork team who undertook the excavation of the site, including John Ames, who was the Project Officer, along with Steve Hickling and Stuart Calow.

The finds were processed by Lucy Talbot, recorded and reported on by Sarah Percival. The metal finds were reported on by the author and the flint by Sarah Bates. The environmental samples were processed by Robert Fryer and analysed and reported on by Val Fryer.

The figures were produced by the author and edited by David Dobson. The report was edited by Jayne Bown.

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Appendix 1a: Context Summary

Context	Category	Cut Type	Fill Of	Description	Period	Trench
1	Deposit	Subsoil		Subsoil	Unknown	8
2	Cut	Pit		Pit	Post-medieval	3
3	Deposit	Pit fill	2	Fill of pit [2]	Post-medieval	3
4	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Iron Age	4
5	Deposit	Ditch fill	4	Fill of ditch [4]	Iron Age	4
6	Cut	Ditch		Ditch	Prehistoric	11
7	Deposit	Ditch fill	6	Fill of ditch [6]	Prehistoric	11
8	Cut	Ditch		Ditch terminus	Prehistoric	14
9	Deposit	Ditch fill	8	Fill of ditch [8]	Prehistoric	14
10	U/S Finds	Finds		Finds recovered from the spoil trench 6	Prehistoric	6
11	U/S Finds	Finds		Finds recovered from the spoil trench 8	Medieval	8
12	U/S Finds	Finds		Finds recovered from the spoil trench 9	Unknown	9
13	U/S Finds	Finds		Finds recovered from the spoil trench 18	Unknown	18
14	U/S Finds	Finds		Finds recovered from the spoil trench 10	Unknown	10

Appendix 1b: OASIS Feature Summary

Period	Cut Type	Total
Prehistoric	Ditch	2
Iron Age	Ditch	1
Post-medieval	Pit	1

Appendix 2a: Finds by Context

Context	Material	Qty	Wt	Period
1	Fired Clay	3	16g	Unknown
1	Flint – Burnt	1	2g	Prehistoric
1	Pottery	38	388g	Middle Iron Age
5	Flint – Struck	4	157g	Prehistoric
5	Pottery	1	17g	Iron Age
7	Flint – Struck	1	6g	Prehistoric
9	Flint – Struck	3	45g	Prehistoric
10	Flint – Struck	1	20g	Prehistoric
11	Pottery	1	26g	Medieval
12	Copper-Alloy	1	1g	Post-medieval
12	Flint – Struck	2	81g	Prehistoric
12	Lead	1	95g	Post-medieval
12	Lead	1	21g	Post-medieval
13	Clay Pipe	1	3g	Post-medieval
13	Flint – Struck	1	4g	Prehistoric
13	Pottery	2	31g	Medieval
13	Pottery	1	5g	Post-medieval
14	Copper-Alloy	1	2g	Modern
14	Lead	1	21g	Unknown
14	Clay Pipe	1	6g	Post-medieval
14	Pottery	1	4g	Prehistoric

Appendix 2b: OASIS Finds Summary

Period	Material	Total
Prehistoric	Flint – Burnt	1
Prehistoric	Flint – Struck	12
Prehistoric	Pottery	1
Iron Age	Pottery	1
Middle Iron Age	Pottery	38
Medieval	Pottery	3
Post-medieval	Clay Pipe	2
Post-medieval	Copper-Alloy	1
Post-medieval	Lead	2
Post-medieval	Pottery	1
Modern	Copper-Alloy	1
Unknown	Fired Clay	3
Unknown	Lead	1

Appendix 3a: Prehistoric Pottery

Context	Fabric	Description	Qty	Wt	Form	Decoration	Period	Spotdate
1	Q1	Rim	3	52g	Jar	Impressed on rim top	Prehistoric	Middle Iron Age
1	Q1	Rim	35	336g	Jar		Prehistoric	Middle Iron Age
5	F1	Body sherd	1	17g			Prehistoric	Earlier Iron Age
14	Q1	Body sherd	1	4g				
Total			40	409				

Key: Q1 Sandy well fired fabric with occasional small rounded quartz inclusions

F1 Coarse fabric with common small angular flint

Appendix 3b: Medieval and Post-medieval Pottery

Context	Fabric	Description	Qty	Wt	Form	Decoration	Period	Spotdate
11	MCW	R	1	26g	Jug		Medieval	12th - 14th
13	GRIM	H	1	26g	strap handle	Medium green/brown glaze. Thumbbed.	Medieval	L12th - 14th
13	MCW	U	1	9g			Medieval	12th - 14th
13	SSW	U	1	5g			Post-medieval	14th - 16th
Total			4	66				

Key: MCW Medieval coarseware

GRIM Grimston glazed coarseware

SSW Siegburg Stoneware

Appendix 4: Flint

Context	Type	Quantity
5	Flake	1
5	Blade-like flake	1
5	Core/tool	2
7	Utilised fragment	1
9	Flake	2
9	Utilised flake	1
10	Flake	1
12	Blade-like flake	2
13	Piercer	1

Appendix 5: Plant Macrofossils

Sample No.	1	2	3
Context No.	5	7	9
Feature No.	4	6	8
<i>Galium aparine</i> L.	x		
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.		x	
Charcoal <2mm	xxxx	x	xxx
Charcoal >2mm	xxx	x	xx
Charcoal >5mm			x
Charcoal >10mm			x
Charred root/stem	x		
Black porous and tarry material	xxx	xxx	xx
Bone		x	x
Fish Bone	x	x	
Small coal frags.	xx	xx	x
Vitreous globules	x	x	x
Sample volume (litres)	14	14	14
Volume of flot (litres)	0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%

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