

Former Hamlins Site, Park Road, Diss,  
Norfolk  
ENF 130793

**Archaeological Evaluation Report**

**SCCAS Report No. 2013/023**

**Client: Barnes Construction**

Author: Simon Cass

March 2013

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## HER Information

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**Site Code:** ENF 130793

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### Disclaimer

Any opinions expressed in this report about the need for further archaeological work are those of the Field Projects Team alone. Ultimately the need for further work will be determined by the Local Planning Authority and its Archaeological Advisors when a planning application is registered. Suffolk County Council's archaeological contracting services cannot accept responsibility for inconvenience caused to the clients should the Planning Authority take a different view to that expressed in the report.

Prepared By: Simon Cass

Date: 25/02/2013

Approved By: David Gill

Position: Senior Project Officer

Date:

Signed:



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## **Summary**

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land to the south of Park Road, Diss (the former Hamlins site adjacent to the bus station) between the 12th and 15th February 2013. Several features of indeterminate date were identified, most likely to represent various drainage attempts to carry water away from the site towards the River Waveney to the south. A large ditch was encountered on the western side of the site, believed to be that shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of the area, which appears to have been a wholly modern feature with C19th china, bottle glass and metalwork found at the base of the feature.



## **1. Introduction**

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An archaeological evaluation was undertaken between the 12th and 15th February 2013 on land at the former Hamlin's factory site, south of Park Road and adjacent to Diss bus station (NGR TM 1154 7957). Fourteen trenches were excavated across the entire site, aiming for 5% sampling of the total area.

## **2. Geology and topography**

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The site lies on a south-facing slope, with surface heights ranging from 25.5m OD at the northern boundary to 24.0m OD at the southern boundary of the site and the current surface consists of areas of demolition rubble/hardcore and waste-ground with small stands of willow and brambles where there is little hardcore covering. The majority of the hardcore, as well as a large stock-pile of demolition rubble on the site, is believed to derive from the demolished building that previously occupied the site. The underlying geology is recorded as Fen peat and river alluvium of the Mendham Series (generally deep peat deposits associated with clayey over sandy soils, high groundwater levels and high risks of flooding). The River Waveney is situated some 150m south of the site, and its potential floodplain area reaches the southern boundary of the site. Prior to the modern development of the site it is likely that it was similar in nature to the land around Roydon Fen and south towards the Waveney, low lying seasonally wet fields and/or grazing land.

## **3. Archaeology and historical background**

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The archaeological potential of the site has been identified in a desk-based assessment prepared by AOC Archaeology Group in 2011 as being most likely to involve medieval and post-medieval land use related to the development of the town of Diss, with a possibility of stray prehistoric, Roman and early medieval deposits and artefacts in the wider area. The available maps consulted during the DBA conclude that the site is likely to have been used as agricultural land from the early post-medieval period through to the early 20th century.

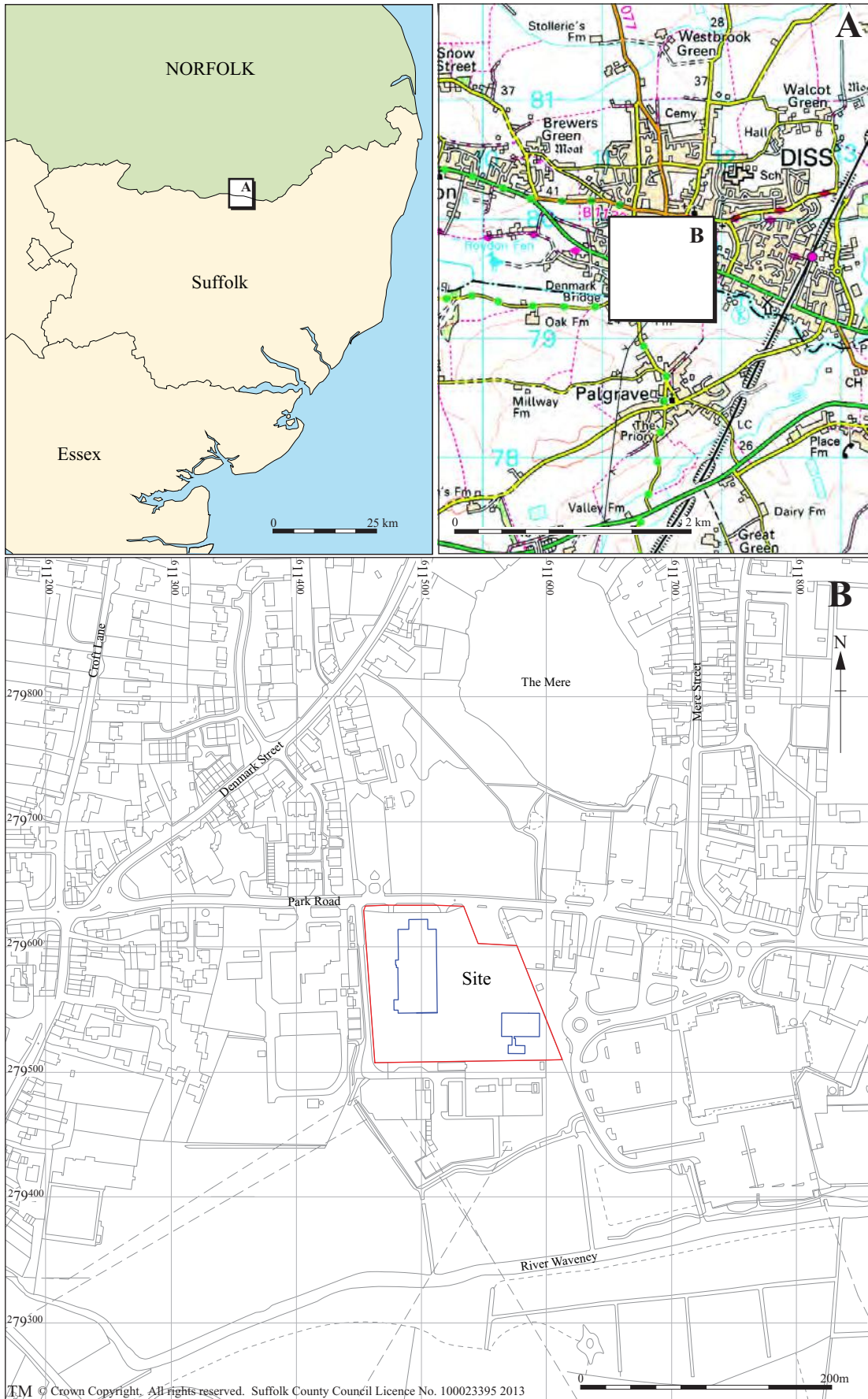


Figure 1. Site location showing development area (red) and previous buildings (blue)

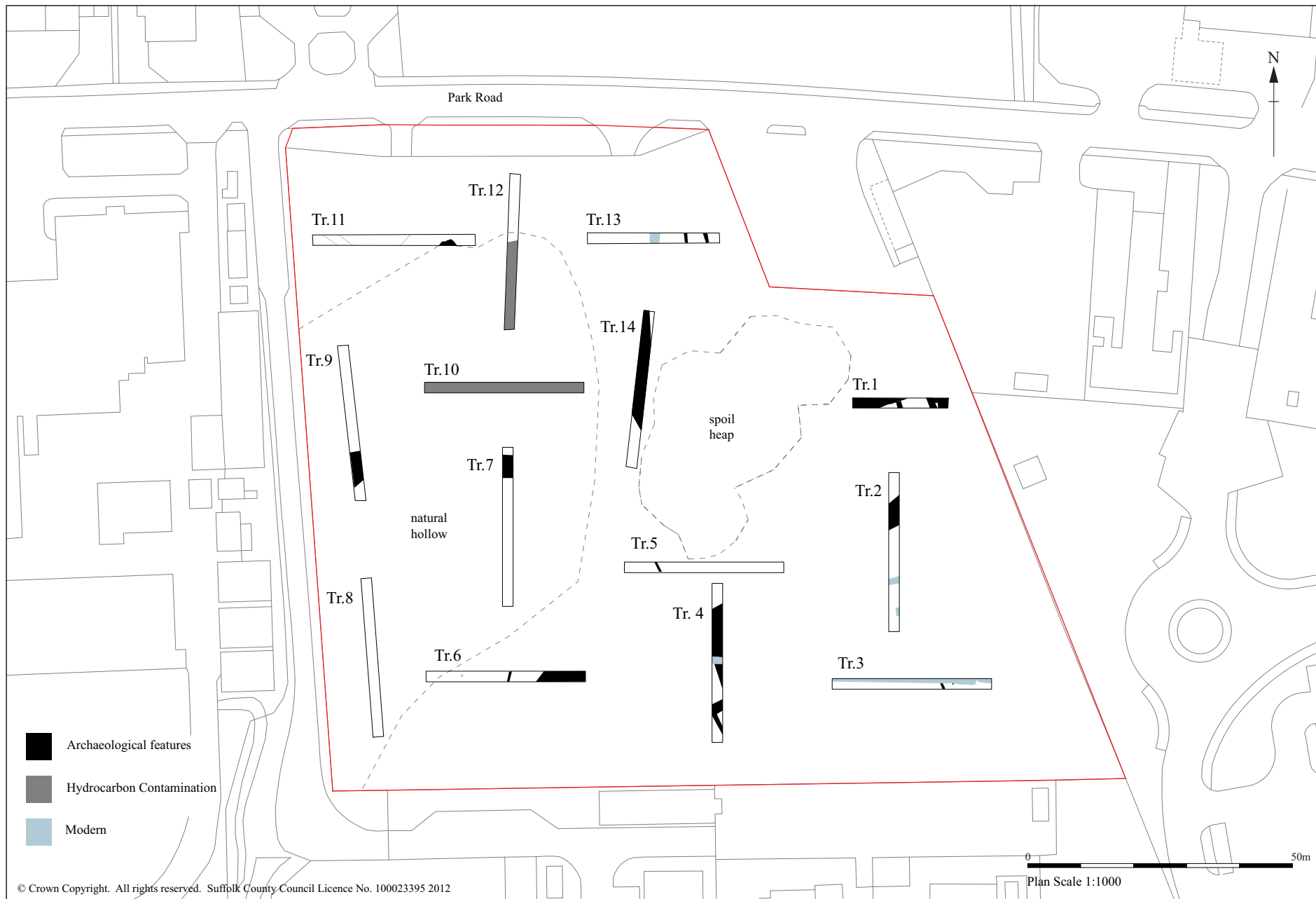


Figure 2. Trench plan

## 4. Methodology

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The Brief and Specification (Appendix 1) required that 5% of the development area (c. 756m<sup>2</sup>) should be subject to trial trenching. This equated to 420m of trenching, at 1.8m wide. The trench locations were sited in order to cover the entire site; although two had to be repositioned slightly in order to avoid the large pile of demolition rubble on the eastern side of the site.

The trenches were excavated by a 13-tonne 360<sup>0</sup> mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. All machining was constantly supervised by an experienced archaeologist. Overburden was removed until the first archaeological horizon or top of the natural substrate was encountered. The total area examined was 816m<sup>2</sup>, exceeding the requirement of the brief although Trench 1 was shortened due to the large spoil heap obstructing the machine.

Deposits were recorded using SCCAS *pro forma* sheets and plans and sections were hand-drawn at scales of 1:50 and 1:20 where necessary. A photographic record was made using a high resolution digital SLR camera and a monochrome film camera.

The location of each trench was established prior to excavation using GPS surveying equipment to an accuracy of within 0.04m.

A digital copy of the report will be submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>) upon completion of the project.

The site archives are recorded under NHER No. ENF 130793 and are currently kept in the store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service in Bury St Edmunds but final deposition will be with Norfolk Museums Service.



## 5. Results

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### 5.1 Trench results

#### Trench 1

This trench was 18m long, 2.0m wide and up to 0.65m deep, orientated east/west. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of approximately 0.35m of dark brown sandy silt disturbed topsoil over between 0.3-0.35m of dark/mid yellowish/red brown friable silty sand with frequent root disturbance which sealed the archaeological features encountered in the trench.

Ditch 0002 was a north-south aligned feature towards the centre of the trench with a shallow concave profile 1.5m wide and up to 0.26m deep, filled with a dark greyish brown firm silty sand with rare medium sized sub-angular flints. This was cut by ditch 0004 (Pl. 1) which was a large northeast/southwest orientated ditch that filled the western part of the trench, in excess of 2m wide and 0.54m deep with a moderately steep straight sloped side. The base was not encountered in the excavated slot.



Plate 1. Ditch 0004 in Trench 1, facing north-east (1m scale)

Ditch 0009 was a north/south orientated ditch which possibly turned east in the centre of the trench. It was 1.26m wide and 0.34m deep with steep concave sloped sides to a broad flattish base, filled with a mid yellowish brown silty sand.

Ditch 0011 was a north/south orientated ditch just east of ditch 0009 (Pl. 2). It was at least 1.5m wide (extending out of the trench to the east) and an investigatory slot was excavated to 0.6m deep without reaching the base of the feature. The exposed side was a steep convex angled slope and the feature was filled with a mid brownish grey firm silty sand with very frequent root disturbance from the stand of mature trees along the property boundary.



Plate 2. Ditch 0011 in Trench 1, facing south (1m scale)

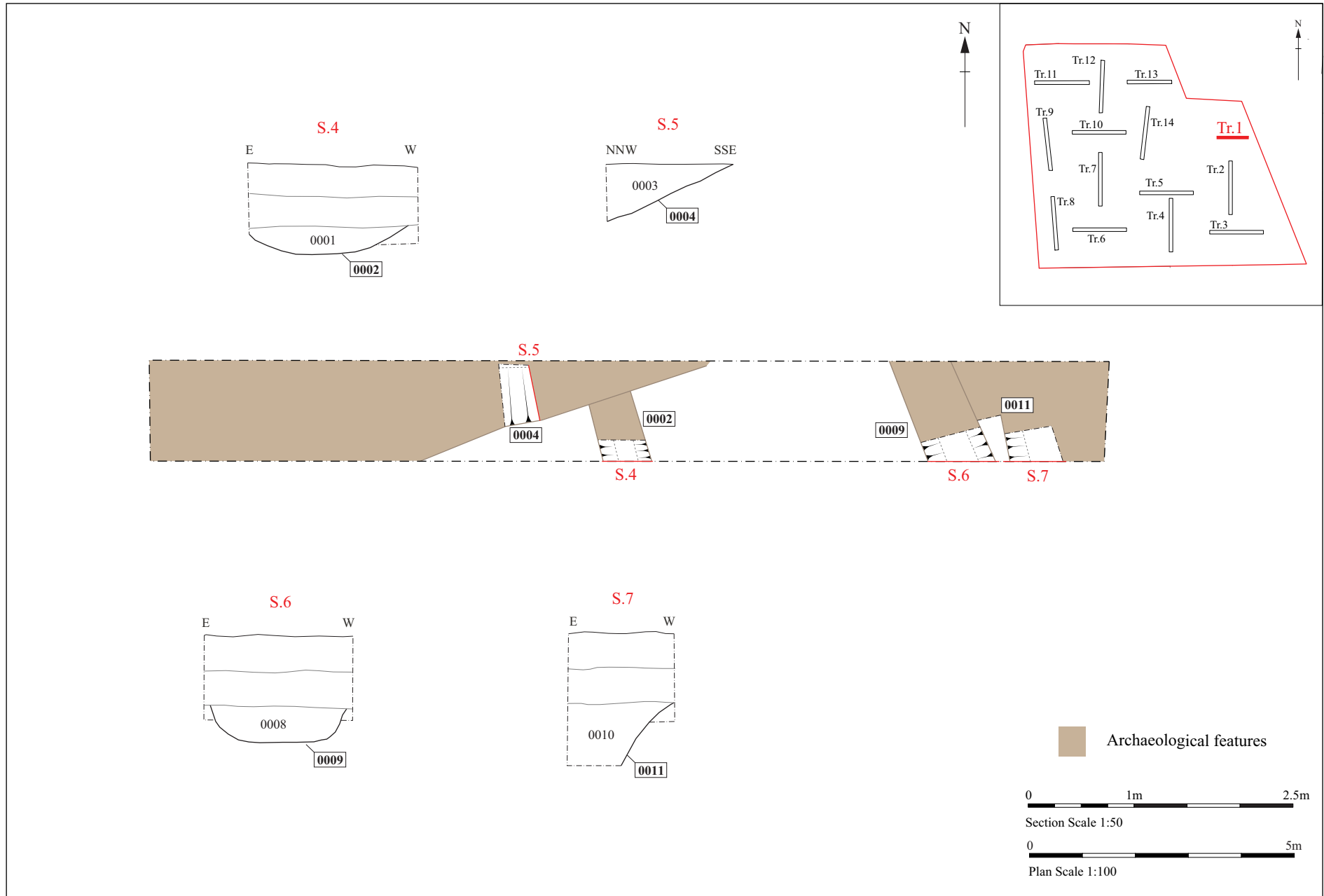


Figure 3. Trench 1 plan and sections

## Trench 2

This trench was 30m long, 2.0m wide and up to 0.7m deep, orientated north/south. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.2m of modern made ground (possibly disturbed ground during the demolition of previous structures in this area) above a layer of mid/dark brown sandy silt topsoil 0.2m thick. This sealed a leached pale white/grey mottled sandy subsoil 0.4m thick which had traces of plough scarring visible in the trench section (Pl. 3). Two modern cut features and two older ditch features were identified in this trench. The modern linear feature is thought to be the remains of the northern wall foundation of the previous building that stood in this area, while the gravel-filled cut is suspected to be either a geological test-pit or a soakaway for the building.



Plate 3. Trench 1 section facing west showing plough marks (0.3m scale)

The northern ditch visible in the trench proved to consist of multiple intercut features, a trait shared with features in Trenches 4 and 6. Ditch 0039 was the northernmost of the features, with a moderately steep-sloped northern side to a v-shaped base. This rose slightly to the south and then descended again where an additional feature – 0042 – was noted in the corner of the sondage dug in this feature (Pl. 4). It was not possible to obtain a full section due to obstruction by modern services but this feature appears to be a continuation of those in Trenches 4 and 6 where multiple smaller ditches on a similar orientation and with a similar fill appear on the surface to be larger single features.

A jug rim fragment was collected from the surface of the ditch group (0045) which was dated from the late 12th to 14th century but it was found in conjunction with a possible gun flint which would imply a post-medieval date



Plate 4. Ditches 0039 and 0042 in Trench 2, facing west (2m and 1m scales)

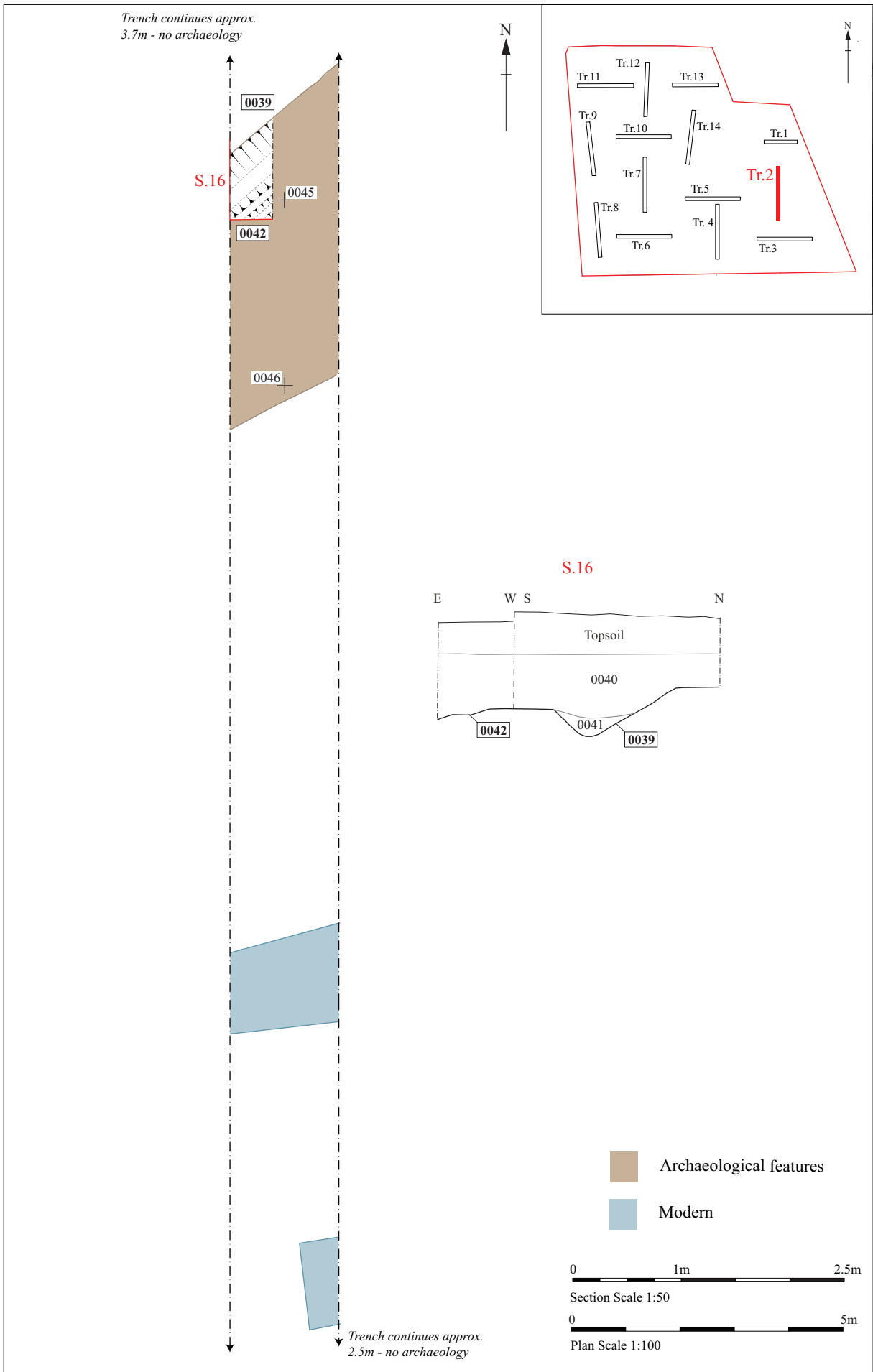


Figure 4. Trench 2 plan and section

### Trench 3

This trench was 30m long, 2.0m wide and up to 0.48m deep, orientated east/west. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of a layer of modern made ground/demolition rubble c. 0.2m thick over mid brown sandy silt topsoil 0.25m thick. This lay directly over natural sands. The northern half of this trench and much of the west end were affected by modern truncation – believed to be the southern wall foundation and a small extension of the previous structure in this corner of the site. A small ditch and a posthole were noted towards the eastern end of the trench.

Ditch 0013 was 1.2m long, 0.25m wide and up to 0.15m deep with steep sloped sides to a v-shaped concave base, filled with a mid brown silty sand. No finds were recovered from this feature. Posthole 0015 was 0.3m in diameter and 0.1m deep with gentle sloped sides to a shallow concave base, filled with a dark blackish brown silty sand deposit. It was also partially truncated on its northern side by the modern disturbance.



Plate 5. Posthole 0015 in Trench 3, facing east (0.3m scale)

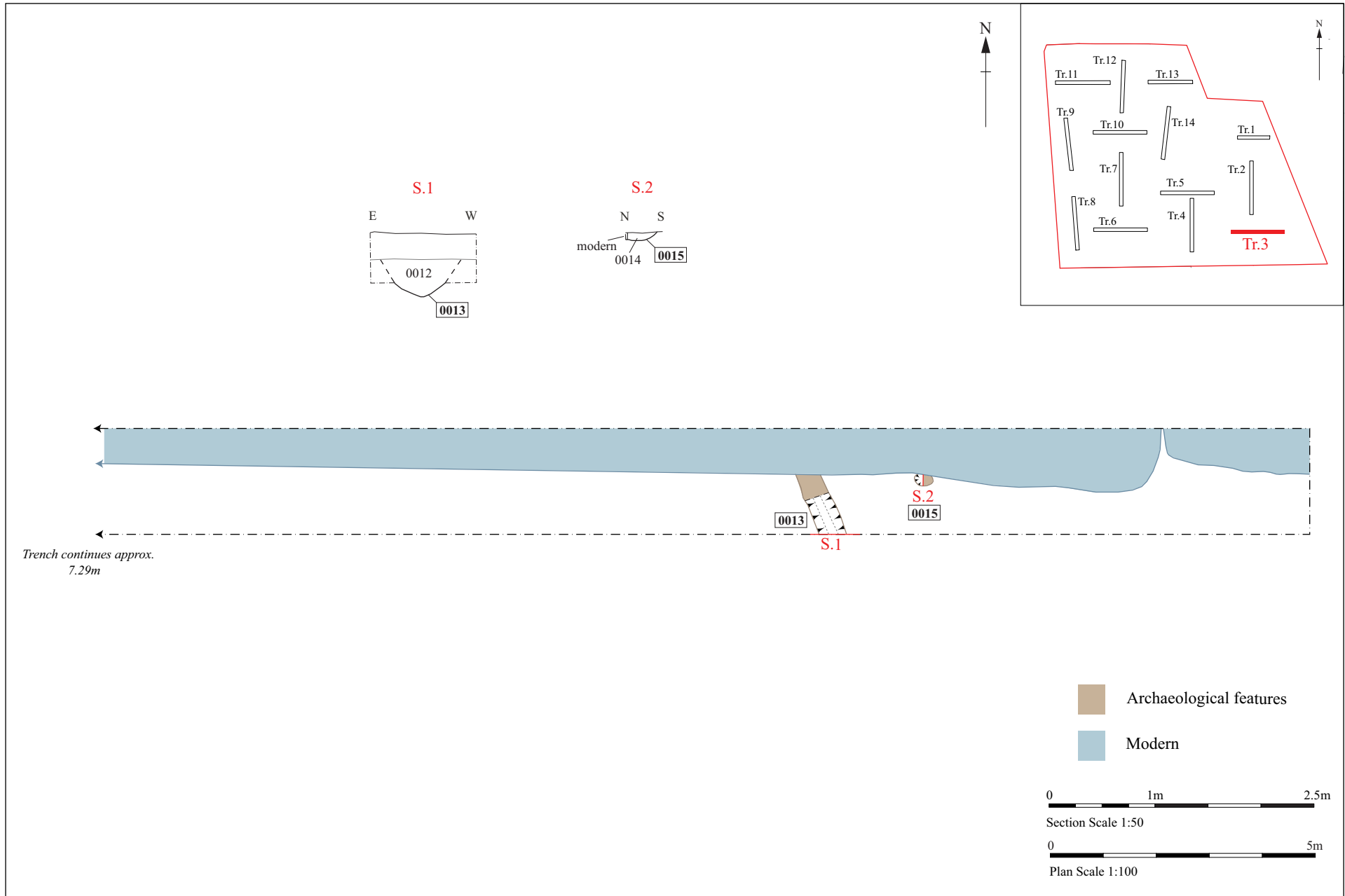


Figure 5. Trench 3 plan and sections



## Trench 4

This trench was 30m long, 2.0m wide and up to 0.75m deep, orientated north/south. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.25m of sands and gravels at the northern end over 0.35m of mid brown sandy silt topsoil, while at the southern end there was a layer below the topsoil approximately 0.57m thick of dark silty sands, believed to be a wet-lain deposit.

Several northwest/southeast orientated ditches were encountered, as well as two northeast/southwest orientated alignments which consisted of multiple individual ditches.

Ditch 0017 was 0.55m wide, 0.2m deep and orientated northwest/southeast with moderately steep concave sides and a shallow concave base, filled with a dark greyish brown silty sand which produced sheep bone and a single sherd of medieval coarseware pottery dated to the 12th-14th century. Ditch 0019 ran parallel to 0017, entering from the southeast and terminating within the trench. It was 0.35m wide by 0.1m deep with a shallow concave profile, filled with a similar dark greyish brown silty sand and was probably cut by 0017 though the relationship was not obvious.



Plate 6. Ditches 0017 and 0019, facing southeast (1m scale)

Ditch 0023 was northwest/southeast orientated with a possible junction or new feature leading eastwards from it. It was not practical to investigate this east/west orientated

feature due to a modern truncation at this point in the trench unfortunately. Ditch 0023 was 0.75m wide by 0.15m deep with a shallow dished profile with concave sides to a shallow concave base, filled with a dark brownish grey silty sand. A piece of medieval pottery with a light green glaze and raised pellets ware was recovered from the ditch; the decorative style of this sherd is indicative of Northern French pottery of the 13th to 14th century.

Ditch 0025 towards the southern end of the trench was also northwest/southeast orientated, measuring 0.75m wide by 0.25m deep with a slightly irregular steep concave sloped profile to a shallow concave base. It was filled with a dark red/grey brown firm silty sand and appeared to be cut through ditches 0030 and 0032.

Ditch 0030 was 0.6m wide and up to 0.25m deep with a moderately steep sloped profile to a shallow concave base, filled with a dark greyish brown friable silty sand while ditch 0032 was 1.2m wide and up to 0.3m deep with moderately steep sloped sides to a slightly irregular flattish base, filled with a mid greyish brown friable silty sand.

Ditch 0021 was orientated northeast/southwest and measured in excess of 2.0m wide. It was 0.5m deep and had a moderately steep straight sloped side to a very shallow concave/flattish base. It was filled with a pale brownish grey friable silty sand which produced a small assemblage of heavily weathered bone, some of which could be identified as cattle bones. This is believed to be part of the same feature as observed in Trenches 2 (which was dated to the early post-medieval period) and 6, consisting of several intercutting ditches on a similar alignment. Unfortunately modern services made a full profile impractical at this point (similar to Trench 2).

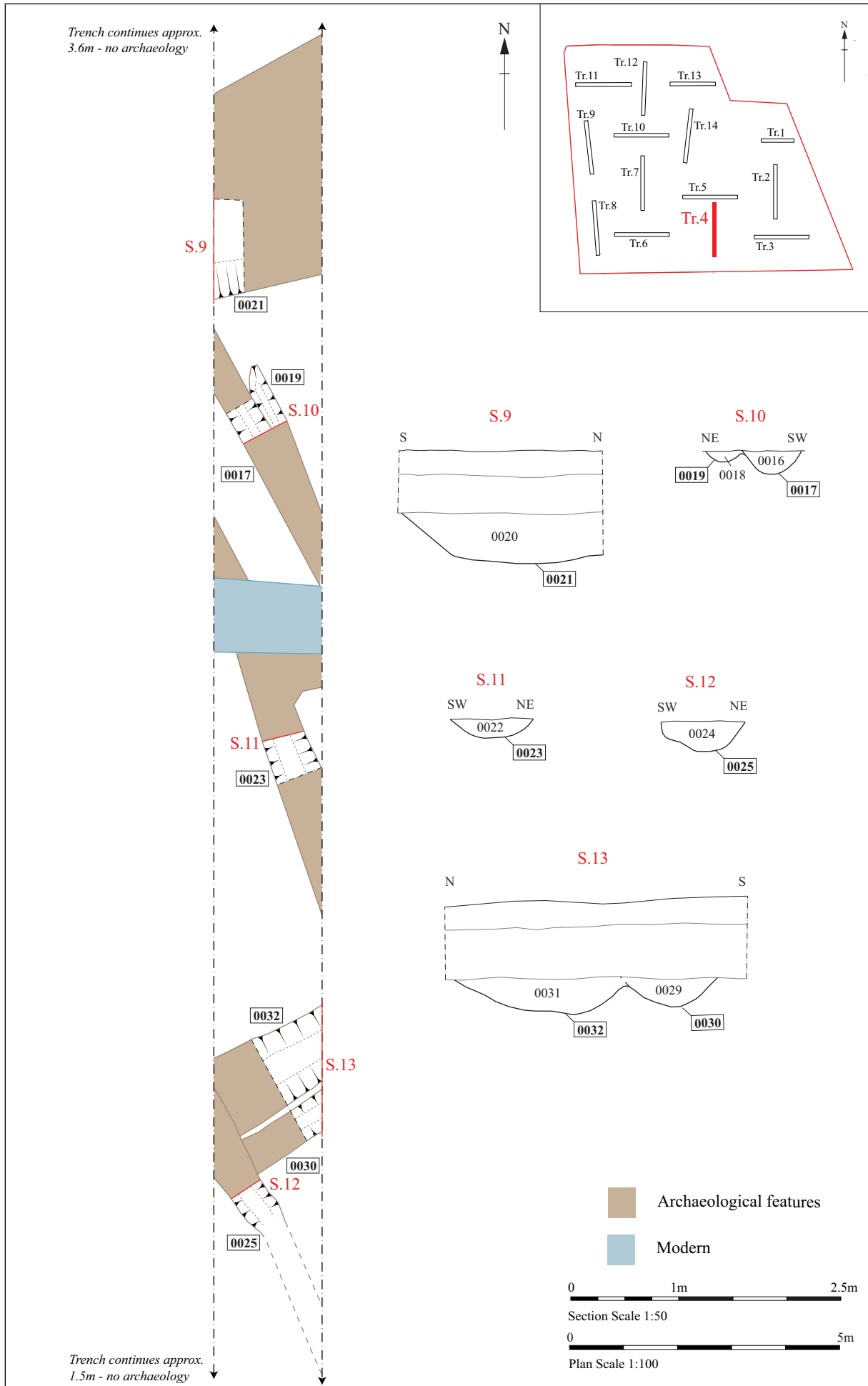


Figure 6. Trench 4 plan and sections

## Trench 5

This trench was 30m long, 2.0m wide and generally up to 0.5m deep, orientated east/west. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.25m of sand and gravel over 0.25m-0.3m of topsoil which lay over natural pale sands. The western end of the trench was slightly deeper and flooded before a narrow ditch, noted during stripping, could be excavated. In the eastern end an edge was noted likely to belong to the northeast/southwest orientated ditches crossing from Trench 6 to Trench 2. It was not excavated at this time due to the small area available for investigation.

## Trench 6

This trench was 30m long, 2.0m wide and up to 1.0m deep at the western end (though generally more like 0.4m) and was orientated east/west. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of approximately 0.25m-0.3m of topsoil over natural sands. In the western end of the trench, a dark wet-lain organic-rich silty sand deposit was observed below the topsoil up to 0.7m thick.

This trench contained a series of northeast/southwest orientated ditches at its eastern end, as well as an isolated north/south ditch towards the centre of the trench. A single modern pit was noted towards the western end of the trench and a worked flint tool (0044) was recovered from the surface of the natural sands.

Ditches 0035, 0036 and 0037 were located at the eastern end of the trench, not quite on a north-south alignment, generally with steep sides and shallow flattish bases. They all shared a single fill, though this may be a result of not being able to see a visible difference in fills that had been formed by the same process rather than a case that all three were open at the same time.

Ditch 0026 and 0034 were orientated northeast/southwest and were situated just west of 0035-0037. Ditch 0026 was 2.2m wide and 0.8m deep with a steep western side to a flattish step with a gently sloped incline to a narrow concave base. The visible remnant of the eastern edge did not have an opposing step at a similar depth but was a moderately steep convex slope. The basal fill of this feature was a dark black/brown organic-rich silt sand, apparently waterlain, deposit while the majority of the fill was a

mid brown silty sand with occasional small stone inclusions (which also filled ditch 0034 to the east); this upper fill was deposited in the post-medieval period and contained CBM and oyster shell. Ditch 0034 had a moderately steep eastern edge to an off-centred v-shaped base with a gentler western edge where discernable. There was no visible relationship between the two ditches.



Plate 7. Ditches 0026 and 0034 in Trench 6 (2m and 1m scales)

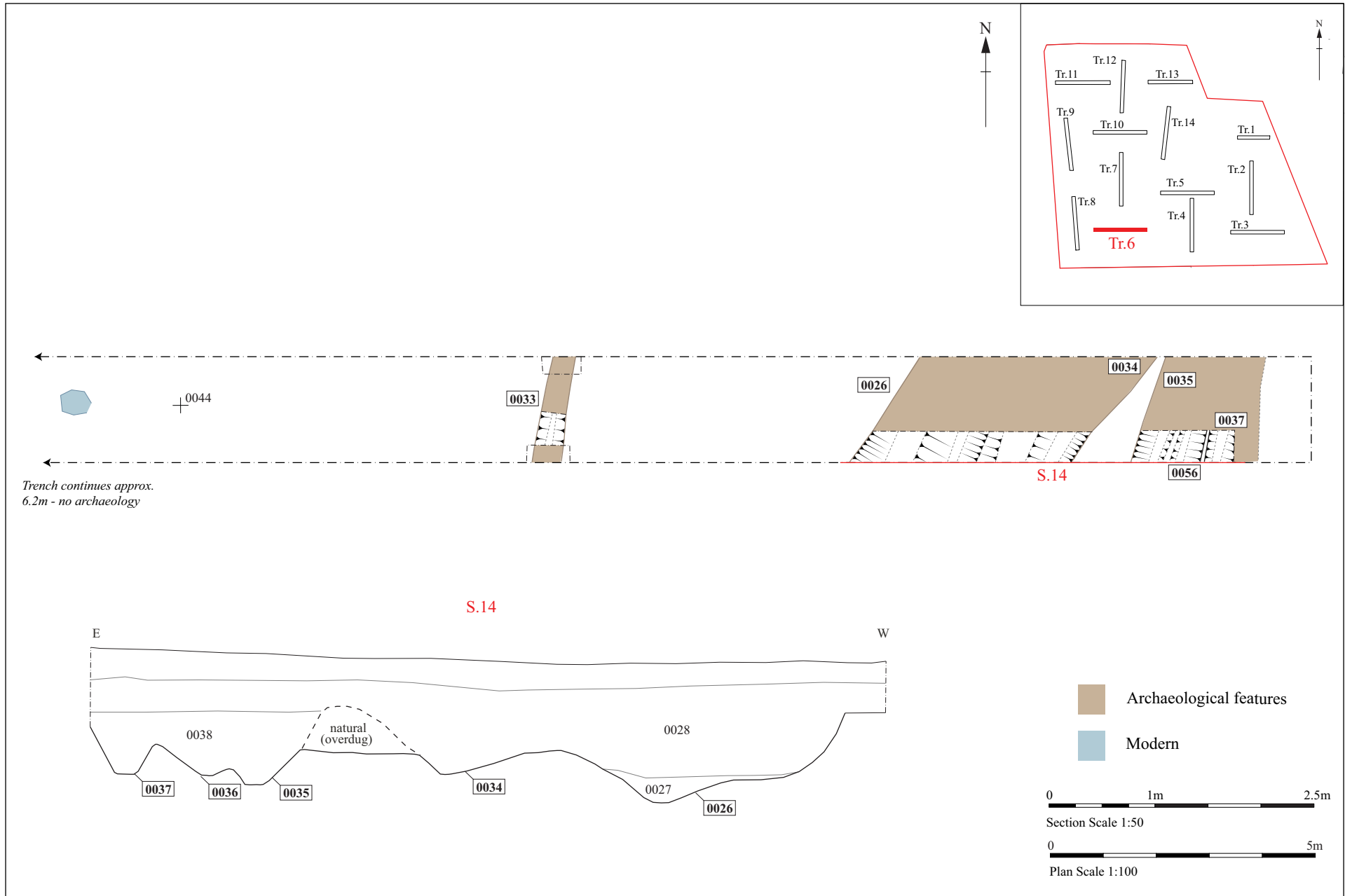


Figure 7. Trench 6 plan and sections

## Trench 7

This trench was 30m long, 2.0m wide and up to 2m deep, orientated north/south. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of a thick layer of sand and gravel with some demolition rubble approximately 0.65m thick over deep deposits of black organic rich sandy silts. A ditch was noted in section towards the northern end of the trench and is believed to be the one visible on early Ordnance Survey maps and also present in Trench 9 to the west (where it is described in more detail)



Plate 8. Trench 7, facing west showing ditch 0007 (2m and 1m scales)

## Trench 8

This trench was 30m long, 2.0m wide and up to 1.0m deep, orientated north/south. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of approximately 0.3m of hardcore rubble over 0.7m of wet dark brown/black sandy silts with frequent organic fragments. This lay over a buried soil which in this trench was a mid/dark grey with black patches. A possible northeast/southwest orientated ditch was noted at the southern end of the trench but it flooded before investigation was possible.

## Trench 9

This trench was 30m long, 2.0m wide and up to 0.75m deep, orientated north/south. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.4m of rubble hardcore over 0.35m of buried topsoil which sealed natural pale mottled sands. Ditch 0007 (Pl. 7) was noted in the southern end of this trench and a machine-dug sondage was excavated in the centre of the feature to check its depth and to retrieve any dating evidence from its lower fills. It was 6.3m wide and up to 1.5m deep with a grey clay capping/consolidation layer covering the central area of the ditch (likely to have been the softest area of the fill) and was filled with a dark blackish organic-rich silty sand deposit which contained frequent modern artefacts (china, bottle glass, lead and iron fragments, roof slate, etc). This ditch has been identified as the drainage ditch visible on early Ordnance Survey maps, with the orientation of the southern edge suggesting that it lies just at the point of confluence with a north/south orientated ditch that would have carried water from the horizontal drainage ditches down to the River Waveney to the south.



Plate 9. Ditch 0007 in Trench 9, facing west (2m and 1m scales)



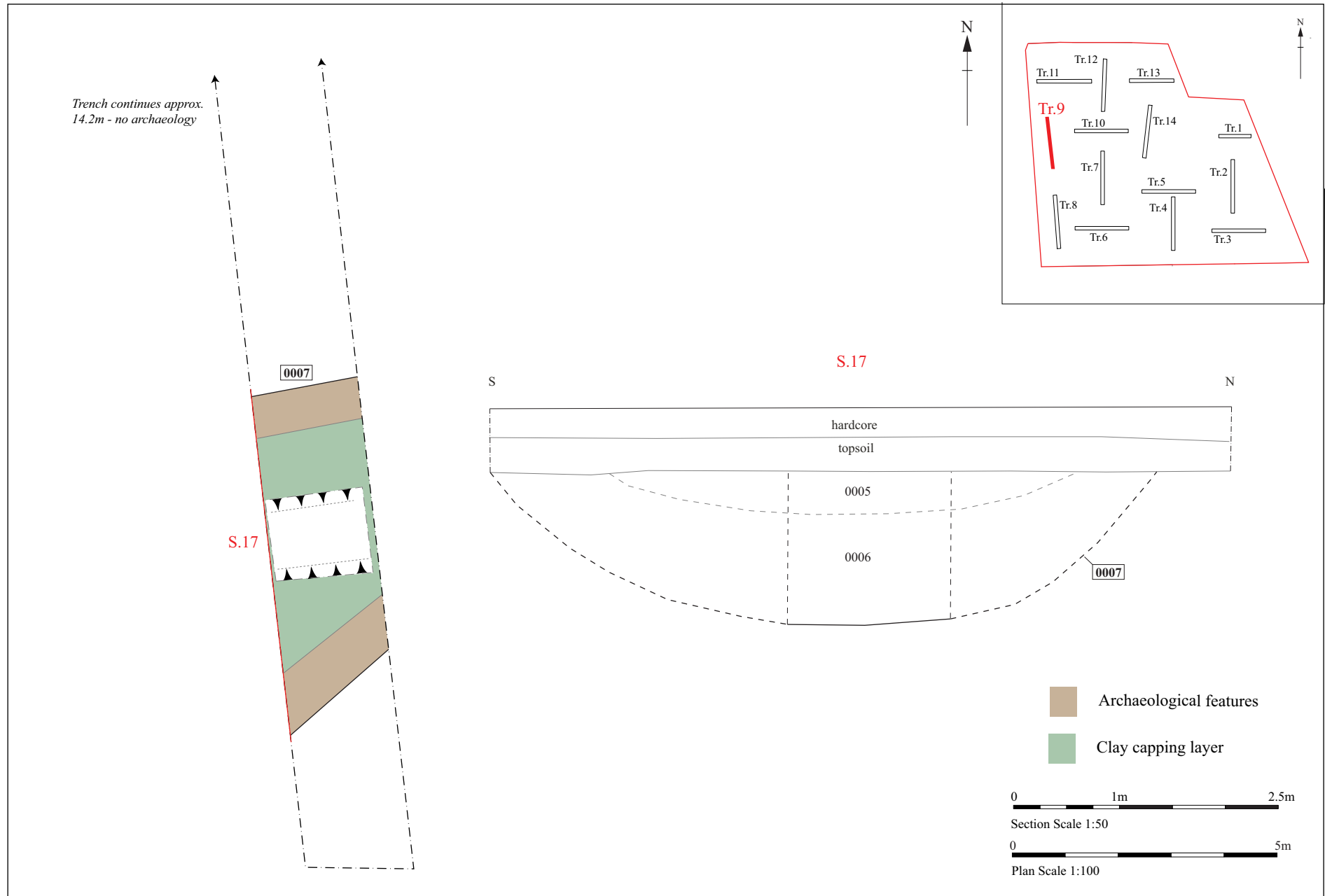


Figure 8. Trench 9 plan and section

## Trench 10

This trench was 30m long, 2.0m wide and up to 1.25m deep, orientated east/west. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of approximately 0.8m of building rubble and sand/gravel hardcore over 0.4m of dark greyish brown organic-rich sandy silt that over layer greyish sands flecked with charcoal, which were observed along much of the length of the trench. The depth of hardcore suggests extensive grubbing out of the previous building during demolition.



Plate 10. Trench 10, facing east

## Trench 11

This trench was 30m long, 2.0m wide and up to 0.65m deep, orientated east/west. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.45m of a dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil over a thin layer of mottled reddish brown sandy silts (c. 0.05m thick) which overlay at least 0.15m of dark grey silty sands. Two small ditches were noted in this trench towards the eastern end, each with a very dark blackish brown organic-rich fill and measuring approximately 0.4m wide and up to 0.1m deep with steep/near vertical sides

to shallow concave/flattish bases. Unfortunately the trench flooded before these features could be properly recorded.

A further ditch was noted towards the centre of the trench, a wide apparently linear feature filled with a mid brown silty sand. Two modern services were observed within it before the trench flooded.

## Trench 12

This trench was 30m long, 2.0m wide and up to 1.3m deep, orientated north/south. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.2m of topsoil and building rubble above 0.7m of a dark greyish brown firm sandy silt which in turn overlay the natural sands.

Three possible trenches were noted in the section at the northern end of the trench, all of which appeared to be wide and shallow features filled with a similar deposit to the overlying dark greyish brown sandy silts.

Approximately half-way down the trench heavily contaminated ground was encountered, which was not excavated further.



Plate 11. North end of Trench 12, facing west (2m and 1m scales)

## Trench 13

This trench was 30m long, 2.0m wide and up to 0.8m deep at the eastern end, orientated east/west. The stratigraphy encountered at the western end consisted of 0.5m of mid/dark brown sandy silt topsoil over natural pale mottled sands while at the eastern end there was up to 0.8m of topsoil over the sands. This discrepancy appears to be a result of a genuine lowering of the underlying natural geology rather than a localised build-up of topsoil in this area. A partial feature visible towards the eastern end has been interpreted as the edge of the water-lain deposit in the centre of the site.

Two electricity cables were encountered at the western end of the trench which prevented excavation to the topsoil/natural interface in this area, and a concrete covered ceramic drain was seen near the centre of the trench.

## Trench 14

This trench was 30m long, 2.0m wide and up to 0.5m deep, orientated approximately north/south after being repositioned westward to avoid the demolition rubble stockpile on the site. The stratigraphy encountered consisted of 0.3m of topsoil at the southern end of the trench overlying natural pale mottled sands, while after five metres this topsoil is partially truncated by a deposit of hardcore/demolition rubble which starts at approximately 0.2m thick and thickens to 0.4m thick at the northern end of the trench, where the topsoil survives at 0.2m thick below this, with the natural sands at a depth of c. 0.6m below current ground level.

A single large ditch (0047) was noted running along the length of this trench, aligned approximately north-south and filled with a dark blackish organic-rich sandy silt deposit; the trench flooded before it was possible to properly excavate this feature. A machine sondage was excavated across it to establish its approximate profile and depth (Pl. 12). This confirmed it as having a moderately steep concave profile to a shallow concave base with a single fill, c. 0.5m deep and in excess of 2m wide. The ditch cut through an orange sand enriched with natural iron and below this was a grey mineralised sand; a natural water-logged deposit.



Plate 12. Trench 14 facing south showing machine sondage (2m scale)

## 6. Finds and environmental evidence

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Andy Fawcett

### 6.1 Introduction

Table 1 shows the quantities of finds collected in each context from the archaeological evaluation. Finds were recorded in six ditch fills (0016, 0020, 0022, 0024, 0028 and 0038) and as three spot finds (0044, 0045 and 0046). A full contextual breakdown of the finds can be seen in Appendix 3.

Find type	No	Wgt/g
Pottery	3	45
CBM	1	3
Fired clay	1	6
Worked flint	2	41
Animal bone	24	444
Shell	2	28
<b>Totals</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>567</b>

Table 1. Finds quantities

## **6.2 The pottery**

### Introduction and methodology

Three sherds of medieval pottery were recorded. Two were noted within Tr.4 (ditch fills 0016 and 0022) and the other as a spot find in Trench 2 (0045). The condition of the pottery may be described as being slightly abraded.

All of the pottery has been examined at x20 vision and allocated to fabric groups. Codes have been assigned to these groups using the Suffolk fabric series (SCCAS). All of the pottery has been recorded by sherd count, weight and EVE and a full contextual breakdown of this information forms part of the site archive.

### The assemblage

Ditch fill 0016 contained a single sherd of medieval coarseware (MCW) dated from the late 12th to 14th century. The sherd was part of a cooking pot base and is in a grey fabric with a buff/oxidised outer surface. The fabric is made up of abundant ill sorted quartz with occasional elongated calcitic flecks.

A single unprovenanced glazed ware (UPG) was noted in ditch fill 0022. The sherd has a grey core with orange surfaces, and the outer is decorated with a light green glaze and applied pellets in a North French style, whilst the fabric consists of abundant ill sorted quartz. The decorative style indicates a 13th to 14th century date for the sherd (Goffin.pers.comm).

A jug rim fragment was recorded as a spot find in Trench 2 (0045). It is in a reduced fabric (MCW) that contains abundant ill sorted quartz and it is dated from the late 12th to 14th century.

## **6.3 Ceramic building materials (CBM)**

A single abraded fragment of CBM was identified in ditch fill 0028. The fabric is fully oxidised, hard and in a medium sandy fabric with abundant orange/red grog (msg). Due to the size and condition of the piece, it is not possible to categorize this as either roof tile or brick. The fabric style is dated to the late medieval/post-medieval period.

## **6.4 Fired clay**

An abraded fired clay fragment was recorded in ditch fill 0024. The piece is oxidised with the remains of a heavily pitted buff surface on one side. The fabric is medium sandy with sparse grog inclusions (msg). No other datable finds are present within the fill.

## **6.5 Worked flint**

Identified by Colin Pendleton

Two fragments of struck flint were identified as spot finds. The first in Trench 2 (0046) is an unpatinated flake. This has a triangular cross-section, retouch on the sharp edge as well as cortex on the dorsal face. It is possibly a post-medieval wedge-shaped gun flint. An unpatinated deep brown long blade with steep edge retouch was recorded in Trench 6. The blade is dated to the Upper Palaeolithic/Mesolithic period, although a Neolithic date cannot be ruled out entirely.

## **6.6 Faunal remains**

Identified by Justine Biddle

Six ditch fills contained fragments of heavily weathered animal bone (0016, 0020, 0022, 0024, 0028 and 0038). All of these ditch fills are located within Trenches 4 and 6.

The identifiable fragments include cow tibia (0022/0038), radius (0022), tooth (0020), coccyx (0022), as well as a sheep metatarsal (0016), ulna (0016) and a chicken femur (0028). None of the pieces displayed signs of butchery. Only two of the ditch fills (both within Trench 4) also contained medieval pottery, 0016 and 0022.

## **6.7 Shell**

Two worn oyster shell halves were noted in ditch fill 0028 (Tr.6). A fragment of CBM dated to the late medieval/post-medieval period was also recorded in the context.

## **6.8 Discussion of material evidence**

The assemblage is dominated by animal bone and contains few other finds that can be used as dating evidence for activity on the site. Those that can be dated are distributed around the southern area of the site.

The earliest find is a flint blade (Upper Palaeolithic/Mesolithic), recovered from a raised area in Trench 6. Thereafter three sherds of medieval pottery dated from around the late 12th to 14th century were noted. Two of the sherds occurred in two separate ditch features (Tr.4) and the third was a spot find (Tr.2). Prior to the modern development of the site, the area was likely to have been utilised for grazing during the medieval period (due to its low lying and wet nature) and there seems to have been some attempt at ploughing during the later post-medieval period. It is therefore not possible to be certain if the sherds arrived on the site as a result of medieval land use, flooding or perhaps later manuring activity.

## **7. Discussion**

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The features encountered in the trenches on this site appear to be mainly related to post-medieval drainage and field demarcation, with the possibility that there are some earlier, medieval property lines preceding these. Although the alignment does not appear to respect Park Road to the north, the northwest/southeast alignment is present on the first and second edition Ordnance Survey maps of the site (the multiple ditches at the southern end of Trench 4 are quite likely to be redefinitions of the ditch shown on the 1880 map for example). If the site was as frequently wet as it appears, and bearing in mind the soft geology and topsoil, then the need to frequently re-dig drainage ditches would account for the multiple intercut similarly aligned ditches. The large drainage ditch entering the site from the west (also shown on the first edition OS map) appears to terminate at the end of the large area of boggy ground in the centre of the site and it is suggested that this was an intentional decision to attempt to drain this area for arable use in the later post-medieval period or early modern period.

The Palaeolithic/Mesolithic flint blade found in Trench 6 is significant because this area appears to be on a slight rise, and is likely to have been dry ground on the edge of the wetlands to the north and south and could have been a temporary occupation area/camp site at this time. Its good condition and presence directly on the natural sands suggests accidental loss with minimal disturbance since then.



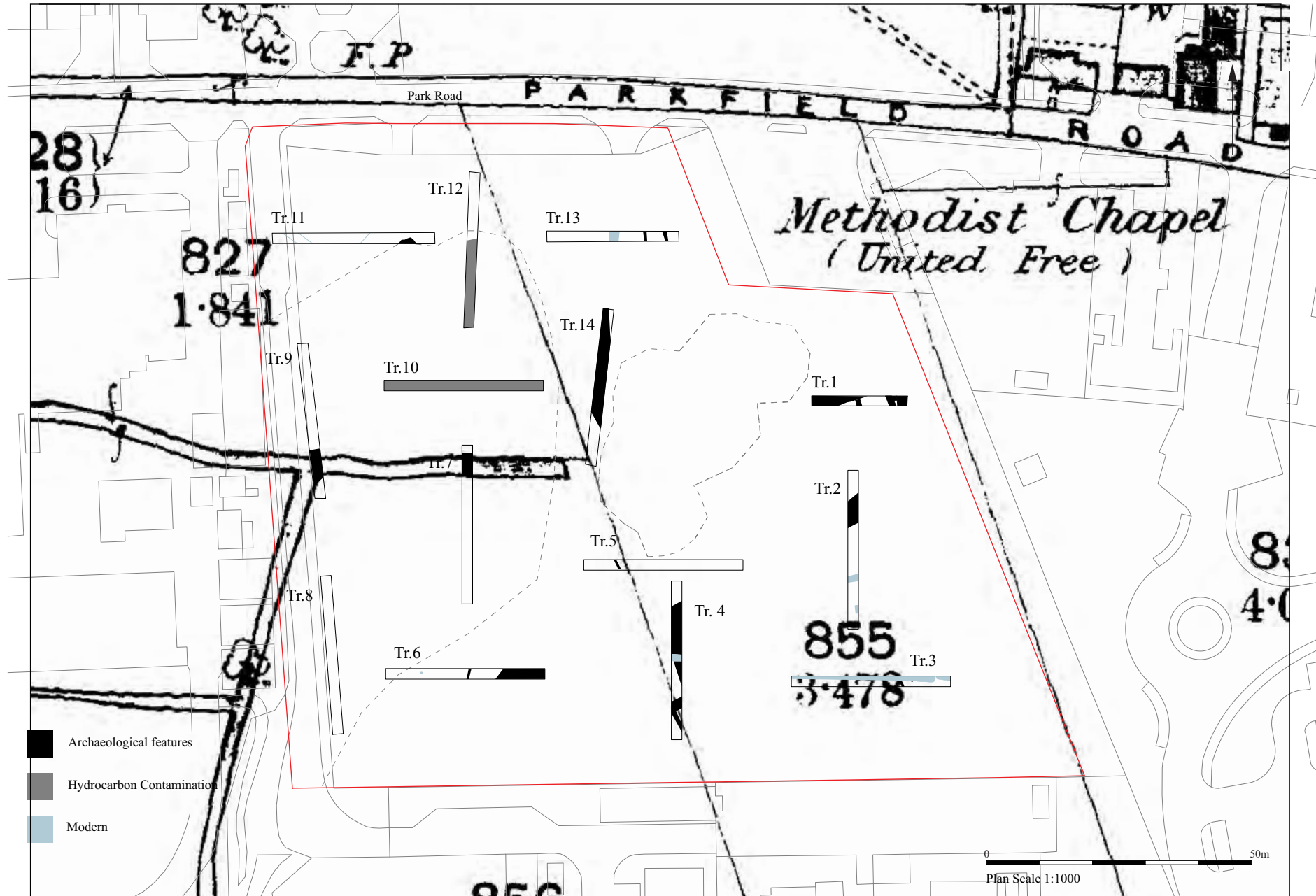


Figure 9. Trenches and feature extrapolations overlaid on First Edition Ordnance Survey Map

## 8. Conclusions

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The evaluation of the ex-Hamlin factory site south of Park Road, Diss has revealed at least one field drainage/boundary system, likely to be of late medieval/post-medieval date at the earliest, which continued in use till the later 19th/earlier 20th century. A large area of liminal ground in the centre of the site has been identified as the edge of the waterlain deposits and fenland soils north of the River Waveney, and prehistoric activity from the Palaeolithic/Mesolithic period has been tentatively assigned to a slight rise in the vicinity of Trench 6 which may have been an attractive occupation site due to its liminal nature on the boundary of the river edge wetlands and the higher dry ground to the north.

## 9. Archive deposition

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Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds (currently)

Digital archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Archive\Norfolk\ENF 130793 Evaluation

Digital photographic archive: SCCAS R:\Environmental Protection\Conservation\Archaeology\Catalogues\Photos\HSA-HSZ\HSW 63-99 and HSX 1-14

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds (currently)

Store Location: **Row, Bay and Shelf (if known).**

## **10. Acknowledgements**

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The fieldwork was carried out by Simon Cass, Andrew Beverton, John Sims and David Gill. Project management was undertaken by David Gill who also provided advice during the production of the report.

Post-excavation management was provided by Richenda Goffin. Finds processing and analysis was undertaken by Johnathon Van Jennians and Andrew Fawcett respectively. The specialist finds report was produced by Andrew Fawcett and additional specialist advice was provided by Colin Pendleton and Justine Biddle.

The report illustrations were created by Gemma Adams and the report was edited by Richenda Goffin.

## 11. Bibliography

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Ordnance Survey 1983 *Soils of England and Wales*: Soil survey of England and Wales, sheet 4 Eastern England 1:250,000. Harpenden

# Appendix 1

Brief for Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching at the Former Hamlins Site, Park Road, Diss



BRIEF FOR  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION BY TRIAL TRENCHING  
AT  
**FORMER HAMLINS SITE**  
**PARK ROAD**  
**DISS**  
**NORFOLK**

PLANNING AUTHORITY:	South Norfolk Council
PLANNING APPLICATION NO.:	2011/0049/0
HES REFERENCE	CNF42424
ASSOCIATED.	Yes
NHER NO. FOR THIS PROJECT:	To be arranged
GRID REFERENCE:	TM 1154 7957
MAP EXTRACT ATTACHED:	No
DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL:	Commercial
AREA:	2 ha
CURRENT LAND USE:	Vacant
ISSUED BY:	James Albone Planning Archaeologist Historic Environment Service Environment, Transport and Development Union House, Gressenhall Dereham, Norfolk NR20 4DR Tel: 01362 869279 (direct) james.albone@norfolk.gov.uk
DATE:	28 <sup>th</sup> January 2013



If need this document in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact James Albone on 01362 869279 and we will do our best to help.

## **Summary**

The proposed development site lies on river terrace gravels immediately to the south of the medieval town of Diss. Potential for the site to contain heritage assets with archaeological interest (buried archaeological remains) dating from the prehistoric to post medieval periods due to its location on the terrace of the River Waveney.

Planning permission has been granted subject to a condition for a Programme of Archaeological Work (hereafter PoAW). Trial trenching is required to determine the presence/absence, date, extent, state of preservation and significance of any archaeological layers or subsoil archaeological features. This Evaluation may indicate a need for a further phase of archaeological excavation or monitoring before or during the development if features of importance are found and these cannot be preserved *in situ*.

### **1. Policy Background**

The relevant planning policies can be found in :-

Broadland District Council, Norwich City Council and South Norfolk Council *Joint Core Strategy for Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk* (Adopted March 2011) Policies 1 and 8 and 11 (Norwich only)

and

Department of Communities and Local Government *National Planning Policy Framework* (Adopted March 2012)

### **2. Archaeological Background**

The proposed development site lies on river terrace gravels immediately to the south of the medieval town of Diss. An archaeological desk based assessment<sup>1</sup>, which included the results of a geotechnical survey, has been produced for the site. This report highlighted the potential for the site to contain heritage assets with archaeological interest (buried archaeological and palaeoenvironmental remains) dating from the prehistoric to post medieval periods due to its location on the terrace of the River Waveney.

### **3. Planning Background**

Planning permission has been granted, subject to a condition for a PoAW. This brief provides an outline of the first phase of the PoAW, the results of which will be assessed by the Historic Environment Service to determine whether further investigations (excavation) are necessary should archaeological remains be found to exist on the site and these cannot be preserved *in situ*.

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<sup>1</sup> Carter, N. & Smith, C. 2011 *Park Road, Diss, Norfolk: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*. AOC Archaeology Project 30913

## **4. Requirement for Work**

Trial trenching is required to recover as much information as possible on the extent, date, phasing, character, function, status and significance of the site. The states of preservation of archaeological features or deposits within the area indicated should be determined. A 5% sample of the development area is required.

Contractors should note that no element of this brief should be treated as a contingency unless agreed in advance with the Historic Environment Service.

Trenches must be stepped or shored if archaeological deposits extend below a depth of 1.2m. Utilising the results of the geotechnical survey at the site the evaluation must characterise the full archaeological sequence down to the natural deposits. In the interests of reproduction of the results, a single context planning methodology must be used and a matrix of the sequence created on site.

Project Designs must confirm that relevant health and safety considerations have been built in. The potential of the area being contaminated by toxins must have been adequately investigated or plans for a pre-project investigation of ground conditions outlined. Appropriate tools for the job must be utilised and consideration for this shown in the Project Design.

The relevant experience of the project team must be articulated within the Project Design. In particular the person leading the project in the field must have significant experience of appropriate archaeological methods, theory and safe practice.

The Archaeological Contractor will prepare a Method Statement or Specification for this phase of the PoAW and submit this to the Historic Environment Service for approval *before* costs are prepared for the commissioning client. The PoAW will include, as appropriate, background research, fieldwork, assessment, analysis, preparation of report, publication and deposition of the project archive.

The Archaeological Contractor will contact the HER Officer of the Historic Environment Service in advance of work starting to obtain a HER number for the site or, if a number is already given on the Brief, to ensure that it is still applicable.

The archaeological research aims and objectives of the project will be clearly stated, and the Method Statement or Specification will demonstrate how these will be met. Appropriate reference will be made to the following documents:-

Medlycott, M (ed.) (2011) *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper **24**

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

When the project is completed, all parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the Norfolk Historic Environment Record. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report.

A copy of the OASIS form must be included in the final report.

Hard copies of the report must also be provided, as specified below.

## **5. Standards**

Method Statements or Specifications prepared by Archaeological Consultants or Contractors should state that all works will be carried out in full accordance with the appropriate sections of Gurney, D., 2003, '**Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England**', as adopted by the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers for the East of England Region and published as *East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14*. This is available as a PDF file on the web at [www.eaareports.org.uk](http://www.eaareports.org.uk)

Archaeological Contractors should note that the **Standards** document stipulates basic *methodological* standards. It is considered axiomatic that all contractors will strive to achieve the highest possible *qualitative* standards, with the application of the most advanced and appropriate techniques possible within a context of continuous improvement aimed at maximising the recovery of archaeological data and contributing to the development of a greater understanding of Norfolk's historic environment. Monitoring officers will seek and expect clear evidence of commitment to the historic resource of Norfolk, with specifications being drawn up within a context of added value.

## **6. Other matters**

Archaeological Contractors are reminded that they should submit a copy of their Method Statement or Specification to the Historic Environment Service for approval, *before* costs are prepared for commissioning clients, in line with the Institute for Archaeologists' guidance.

The Method Statement or Specification should indicate the number of person days allocated to the fieldwork stage of the project

The Historic Environment Service will be responsible for monitoring progress and standards throughout the project. The Archaeological Contractor will give the Historic Environment Service not less than two weeks' written notice of the commencement of the work, so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.

Any subsequent variation to a Detailed Project Specification or Method Statement must be agreed with the Historic Environment Service prior to its



implementation.

This brief is valid for a period of one year from the date of issue. After that time, it may need to be revised to take account of new discoveries, changes in policy or the introduction of new working practices or techniques.

Three hard copies and a PDF copy on CD of the Report should be supplied to the Historic Environment Service for the attention of the Senior Archaeologist (Planning) within eight weeks of the completion of the fieldwork on the understanding that this will become a public document after an appropriate period of time (generally not exceeding six months). Two hard copies and the PDF file will be deposited with the Norfolk Historic Environment Record, and the third hard copy will be forwarded to the Local Planning Authority.

A fourth copy of the report should be sent directly to the Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science, English Heritage, Brooklands House, 24 Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge CB2 2BU.

## **7. Notes for Applicants/developers**

The Historic Environment Service is responsible for safeguarding the County's archaeological heritage. The Historic Environment Service is consulted by Local Planning Authorities and provides specialist information and advice on the archaeological implications of development proposals.

An Archaeological Project will usually consist of one or more of the following:-

**Desk-based assessment:** a report drawing together existing information about a site from a wide range of sources.

**Survey:** usually fieldwalking and metal-detecting, sometimes non-intrusive geophysical surveys (e.g. magnetometer survey)

**Evaluation:** survey and/or trial-trenching or test-pitting.

**Excavation:** larger-scale excavation

**Watching brief or monitoring:** the presence of an archaeologist during the development to record any features exposed

**Post-excavation:** analysis, and the preparation of a report and archive of records and finds at the end of any archaeological project

A phased approach to fieldwork is frequently adopted, with one stage leading on to another (if necessary) after each phase is reported upon and reviewed.

If an evaluation is required before an application is determined or if Planning Permission is granted subject to a condition for a programme of archaeological work, the Historic Environment Service will provide a **Brief** for the archaeological project. This outline of the project is forwarded to you by the Historic Environment Service or the Planning Authority.

You should then ask one or more Archaeological Contractors to prepare a **Method Statement** or **Specification** which will detail how the project is to be

undertaken, and how the brief will be fulfilled. This will be sent to the Historic Environment Service for approval on behalf of the Planning Authority, after which the Contractor will give you details of costs.

Details of archaeological contractors based in Norfolk and beyond may be found in the Institute for Archaeologists Yearbook & Directory, available from the I.F.A., University of Reading, 2 Earley Gate, PO Box 239, Reading RG6 6AU. Tel: 0118 931 6446. Fax: 0118 931 6448. Email: [admin@archaeologists.net](mailto:admin@archaeologists.net). Website: [www.archaeologists.net](http://www.archaeologists.net).

The Historic Environment Service does not see Contractors' costings, nor do we give advice on the costs of archaeological projects. This is between you and the archaeological contractor(s). You may wish to obtain a number of quotations or to employ the services of an archaeological consultant.

For further information or advice on any archaeological matters please contact the person issuing this report whose details are on Page1.

# Appendix 2 - Context List

Context No	Feature No	Grid Sq.	Feature Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Small Finds	Group No	Phase	Spotdate
0001	0002		Ditch Fill	Dark greyish brown firm silty sand with rare medium sub-angular flints. Fill of Ditch	>1.2	>1.5	0.26				
0002	0002		Ditch Cut	Linear ditch, aligned approx. North-South. Broad shallow profile with concave sides to a broad slightly concave base. Ditch	>1.2	>1.5	0.26				
0003	0004		Ditch Fill	Very dark brown firm sandy silt with occasional small angular and rounded flints. Fill of ditch 0004.		>2.0	0.54				
0004	0004		Ditch Cut	Probably linear in plan ditch feature. Full width not uncovered as feature is wider than trench. One straight edge seen aligned NE/SW. Profile seen was a 45-degree sloped side, no base seen. Probably cuts ditch 0002 (seen in plan). Ditch		>2.0	0.54				
0005	0007		Ditch Fill	Mid greenish grey firm silty clay with occasional chalk flecks. Upper fill of large drainage ditch entering site from western edge. Machine excavated in deep unstable trench so minimally recorded. Top fill of drainage ditch. Probable intentional backfill/consolidation of wet/boggy ditch fill at end of life of feature.							
0006	0007		Ditch Fill	Dark greyish brown firm/firable sandy silt with occasional small rounded and sub-angular flints and chalk flecks. C20th fill of major drainage ditch. Finds of blue/white china, bottle glass, lead fragments, slate, Fe fragments not retained.			c.1.5				
0007	0007		Ditch Cut	Large drainage ditch crossing into the site from the west (East-West orientated). Visible in Trenches 7 and 9. Partially machine excavated (trenches and feature too deep to hand-excavate). Filled by 0005 and 0006 Large drainage ditch visible on first edition OS map of site.		c.4.1	c.1.5				
0008	0009		Ditch Fill	Mid yellowish brown firm silty sand with occasional small rounded flints. Fill of ditch 0009.	2.0	1.26	0.34				
0009	0009		Ditch Cut	Linear ditch feature, aligned NW-SE, possibly turning to the east and running into Ditch 0011. Steep concave sides to a broad flattish base. Ditch	2.0	1.26	0.34				
0010			Ditch Fill	Mid brownish grey firm silty sand with heavy root disturbance, occasional very small angular and rounded flints. Half-brick recovered from this deposit. Fill of possible ditch. Modern half-brick recovered but not retained.			>0.6				

Context No	Feature No	Grid Sq.	Feature Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Small Finds	Group No	Phase	Spotdate
0011	0011		Ditch Cut	Possible ditch feature (only 1 edge uncovered in trench) with a N-S aligned edge visible, steep convex sloped side and not bottomed. Ditch fill contained a modern half-brick. Ditch?	>2.0m	>1.5	>0.6m				
0012	0013		Ditch Fill								
0013	0013		Ditch Cut								
0014	0015		Posthole Fill								
0015	0015		Posthole Cut								
0016	0017		Ditch Fill	Dark greyish brown friable silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks. Fill of ditch 0017			0.22				
0017	0017		Ditch Cut	Linear ditch feature, aligned NW/SE with a dished profile (steep concave sides to a concave base) running parallel to ditch 0019. Relationship with 0019 not clear, thought to cut fill 0018. Ditch - possibly medieval.	>4.3	0.52	0.22				
0018	0019		Ditch Fill	Dark greyish brown friable silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks. Fill of ditch 0019. Probably cut by 0017.			0.1				
0019	0019		Ditch Cut	Linear ditch, aligned NW/SE with a rounded terminus towards the northwest. Runs parallel to Ditch 0017, relationship not clear but thought to be cut by 0017. Shallow profile with moderately steep concave sides to a concave base. Ditch	2.4	0.34	0.1				
0020	0021		Ditch Fill	Pale brownish grey firm/friable silty sand with rare small flints and some animal bone. Fill of ditch 0021	>2.0		0.44				
0021	0021		Ditch Cut	Linear ditch, aligned NE-SW (probably the same ditch as in Tr 2). No full profile, 45 degree straight sloped sides to a nearly flat base. Cut of large ditch. Potentially created by several smaller adjoining ditches and same as that seen in Trench 2.	>2.0		0.44				
0022	0023		Ditch Fill	Dark brownish grey friable silty sand with occasional animal bone and a single piece of pottery. Generally clear horizon but becoming more diffuse on eastern edge. Fill of ditch 0023.			0.18				
0023	0023		Ditch Cut	Linear ditch, aligned NW/SE, with possibly another ditch diverging from it towards the east. Broad shallow profile with concave sides to a slightly concave base Ditch	>5.2	0.76	0.18				

Context No	Feature No	Grid Sq.	Feature Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Small Finds	Group No	Phase	Spotdate
0024	0025		Ditch Fill	Dark red/greyish brown firm silty sand with rare small flints Fill of ditch 0025.	>5.0	0.78	0.28				
0025	0025		Ditch Cut	Linear ditch feature, aligned NW-SE with slightly irregular concave sides and base. SE end machined away. Ditch, cuts 0029 and 0031 in ditches 0030 and 0032 respectively.	>5.0	0.78	0.28				
0026	0026		Ditch Cut	Large ditch in Trench 6, in excess of 3m wide (eastern edge removed by/obscured by ditch cut 0034) and 1m deep with a steep sloped western edge to a shallow stepped base with a moderately sloped eastern edge where it survives. Large ditch in Trench 6 - possibly modern.	>2.0	>3.0	1.0				
0027	0026		Ditch Fill	Mid/dark black/brown silty sand bands/lenses with occasional small flints/stones. Probable wet-lain deposit in base of ditch feature. Lower fill of ditch 0026, probably wet-lain deposit in base of ditch.							
0028	0026		Ditch Fill	Mid grey/brown friable silty sand with occasional small stones. Upper fill of Ditch 0026, also fills ditch 0034 (no visible/discernable relationship). Upper fill of ditch 0026 and also fill of ditch 0034.							
0029	0030		Ditch Fill	Dark greyish brown friable silty sand Fill of ditch 0030.			0.32				
0030	0030		Ditch Cut	Ditch, orientated NE/SW Ditch			0.32				
0031	0032		Ditch Cut	Mid greyish brown friable silty sand Fill of ditch 0032			0.26				
0032	0032		Ditch Cut	Ditch, orientated NE/SW Ditch			0.26				
0033	0033		Ditch Cut	Shallow ditch in Trench 6, with gently sloped concave sides to a shallow concave base. Shallow ditch in Trench 6.	2.0	0.9	0.3				
0034	0034		Ditch Cut	Linear ditch, with an uncertain relationship with 0026 to the immediate west. Steep western side to v-shaped base with a shallower eastern edge where it survives. Approx 0.6m deep and 2.0m wide (as surviving) Ditch in Trench 6.	>2.0	2.0	0.6				
0035	0035		Ditch Cut	Narrow ditch with steep western side and a flat base, mostly truncated eastern side by 0036. Ditch in Trench 6. intercut with 0036 and 0037, no relationship discernable between the features - possibly forms part of same feature as seen in Tr 2 and 4 (apparent large ditch at base of trench, made up of multiple smaller ditches.	>2.0	0.5	0.75				

Context No	Feature No	Grid Sq.	Feature Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Small Finds	Group No	Phase	Spotdate
0036	0036		Ditch Cut	Probable narrow ditch with moderately sloped eastern edge to a flattish base, western edge mostly truncated by 0035. 0.75m deep and possibly 0.6m wide.  Ditch in Trench 6. intercut with 0035 and 0037, no relationship discernable between the features - possibly forms part of same feature as seen in Tr 2 and 4 (apparent large ditch at base of trench, made up of multiple smaller ditches.	>2.0	0.6	0.75				
0037	0037		Ditch Cut	Narrow ditch with steep straight sides to a flat base, partially truncated western edge by 0036. 0.6m wide as surviving, 0.5m deep.  Ditch in Trench 6. intercut with 0035 and 0036, no relationship discernable between the features - possibly forms part of same feature as seen in Tr 2 and 4 (apparent large ditch at base of trench, made up of multiple smaller ditches.	>2.0	0.6	0.5				
0038			Ditch Fill	Patchy black/dark brown silty sands with very occasional small flints/stones. Single fill of 3 ditches (0035, 0036 and 0037) with no discernable relationship between them.  Fill of multiple ditches in Trench 6 - no discernable differences between deposit in any of the intercutting ditches							
0039	0039		Ditch Cut	Moderately steep straight northern side to a v-shaped base and a small southern side at a similar angle. Does not rise back to same natural level - levels off to south at a depth of c. 0.2m below natural level outside ditch.  Ditch in Trench 2. part of apparent large intercutting series of ditches.	>2.0	1.8	0.5				
0040	0039		Ditch Fill	Slightly mottled mid brown sandy silt with reddish flecks fading to grey at base of deposit. Exists outside of feature as a subsoil?  Upper fill of ditch 0039, also fills ditch 0042. 0045 found on surface of this deposit							
0041	0039		Ditch Fill	Dark blackish brown silty sand (wet-lain deposit) in base of ditch 0039.  Lower fill of ditch 0039.	>2.0	0.6	0.2				
0042	0042		Ditch Cut	Edge of an additional ditch cut seen in slot dug through 0039, shallow stepped profile on a Northeast-southwest aligned edge. Not bottomed.  Edge of an additional ditch cut seen in slot dug through 0039. Relationship with 0039 not clear.							
0043	0033		Ditch Fill	Fill of Ditch 0033 in Trench 6.							
0044	0044			Spot find - worked flint flake found in Tr 6.							
0045	0045			Spot find - worked flint found in Tr 6.							
0045	0045			Spot find A - found above ditches in Tr 2.							
0045	0045			Spot find - found above ditches in Tr 2.							
0046	0046			Spot find B - found above ditches in Tr 2.							
0046	0046			Spot find - found above ditches in Tr 2.							

Context No	Feature No	Grid Sq.	Feature Type	Description	Length	Width	Depth	Small Finds	Group No	Phase	Spotdate
0047	0047		Ditch Cut	Linear ditch (almost N-S orientated) visible along the length of Trench 14. Machine sondage excavated due to flooding, ditch was wide shallow concave base with steep sloped sides (c. 0.65m deep) with a dar blackish silty sand fill (potentially stained due to hydrocarbon contamination). Ditch							





# Appendix 3 - Bulk Find

Context	Pottery		CBM		Plaster/ Mortar		Fired Clay		Clay Pipe		Iron Nails		Slag		Post-Med Glass				Flint				Stone		Bone			Notes	
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	No	Wt		
0016	1	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	0	0	0
	Ceramic Periods: Med																				Overall Date: L12th-14th C								
0020	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	8	0	0	0	
	Ceramic Periods:																				Overall Date:								
0022	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	317	0	0	0	
	Ceramic Periods: Med																				Overall Date: 13th-14th C								
0024	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	
	Ceramic Periods:																				Overall Date:								
0028	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	10	0	2	28	
	Ceramic Periods:																				Overall Date:								
0038	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	103	0	0	0	
	Ceramic Periods:																				Overall Date:								
0044	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Ceramic Periods:																				Overall Date: Upper Palaeolithic/Mesolithic								
0045	1	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Ceramic Periods: Med																				Overall Date: L12th-14th C								
0046	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Ceramic Periods:																				Overall Date: ?Post-medieval								



# Archaeological services Field Projects Team

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