

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

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SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/146

**Land off of Mobbs Way, Oulton  
OUL 011**

J. A. Craven

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## HER Information

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**Planning Application No:** DC/08/0239/FUL and DC/08/0241/OUT

**Date of Fieldwork:** 26th-28th July 2010

**Grid Reference:** TM 521940

**Funding Body:** Persimmon Homes Ltd

**Curatorial Officer:** DrJess Tipper

**Project Officer:** J. A. Craven

**Oasis Reference:** Suffolkc1-78914

Digital report submitted to Archaeological Data Service:  
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>

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## Summary

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An archaeological evaluation was carried out on 1.7ha of arable land off of Mobbs Way, Oulton, in advance of development. Trenching showed the natural subsoil and archaeological horizon to be well-preserved at depth below colluvial silt/sands. A small assemblage of prehistoric material, together with two undated ditches and three possible pits indicates a possible phase of prehistoric occupation in the vicinity. A medieval or post-medieval ditch and isolated post-medieval small finds indicates that the site has probably been open or arable land since the medieval period.

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# 1. Introduction

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An archaeological evaluation was carried out in advance of development on farmland at Mobbs Way, Oulton, Suffolk (Fig. 1). The evaluation was required by conditions placed upon planning applications DC/08/0239/FUL and DC/08/0241/OUT, in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site and was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Dr Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team – Appendix 1). The project was funded by the developer, Persimmon Homes Ltd.

## 2. Geology and topography

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The site, which consists of part of an open arable field, lies on the edge of the modern extent of Lowestoft in the parish of Oulton at TM 521 940. The site lies on a south-east facing slope at a height of 9.5m-6.5m AOD. This area of relatively high ground lies c.3km to the east of the coastline, c.1.2km to the west of Oulton Marsh and overlooks Oulton Broad and Lothing River, which lie c.1km to the south.

The site geology is of deep loam overlying glacialfluvial and aeolian drift (Ordnance Survey 1983).

## 3. Archaeological and historical background

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The condition was placed upon the development as the site was a large area, not previously subjected to any systematic archaeological survey. Although no known archaeological sites are recorded on the County HER within 800m of the site, this is probably due to a lack of fieldwork or other survey in the area as the site's position, overlooking Oulton Broad and Oulton Marshes, is a topographical landscape which typically offers high potential for archaeological deposits.

On the Ordnance Survey 1st, 2nd and 3rd Editions, from 1885, 1905 and 1927 respectively, the site is shown as open farmland, some 200m to the north of Pond Farm. The modern field layout of the site is unchanged, despite the encroachment of urban development throughout the 20th century to the edge of the site.

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Figure 1. Site location, with development area (red) and trenches (black)



## 4. Methodology

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The twelve trenches (Fig. 2) were marked out by RTK GPS following a layout detailed in the project WSI. They were excavated by a mechanical digger, equipped with a ditching bucket, to the top of the subsoil surface or archaeological levels, under the supervision of an archaeologist. Measuring 470m in total length and 1.8m wide this amounted to 846sqm, or 5% of the 1.7ha area.

The depth of the trenching varied from 0.6m to 1.1m, largely depending upon the thickness of colluvial hillwash deposits that underlaid the modern ploughsoil. The natural subsoil consisted of mixed yellow and orange sands with occasional areas of gravel. Trenches and spoilheaps were thoroughly examined for archaeological material and surveyed by an experienced metal-detectorist both during the machining and subsequent hand-excavation of features.

Archaeological features or deposits were normally clearly visible cutting the natural subsoil and were cleaned and excavated by hand as required. The site was recorded using a single context continuous numbering system. Trench and feature positions were recorded by RTK GPS. Feature sections and trench profiles were drawn by hand on A3 gridded permatrace at a scale of 1:20. Site levels were recorded using an RTK GPS. Digital colour and black and white print photographs were taken of all stages of the fieldwork, and are included in the digital and physical archives respectively. Bulk environmental samples were taken from two contexts.

Site data has been input onto an MS Access database and recorded using the County HER code OUL 011. Bulk finds were washed, marked and quantified.

An OASIS form has been initiated for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-78914) and 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 kept in the main store of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Bury St Edmunds under HER Nos. OUL 011.

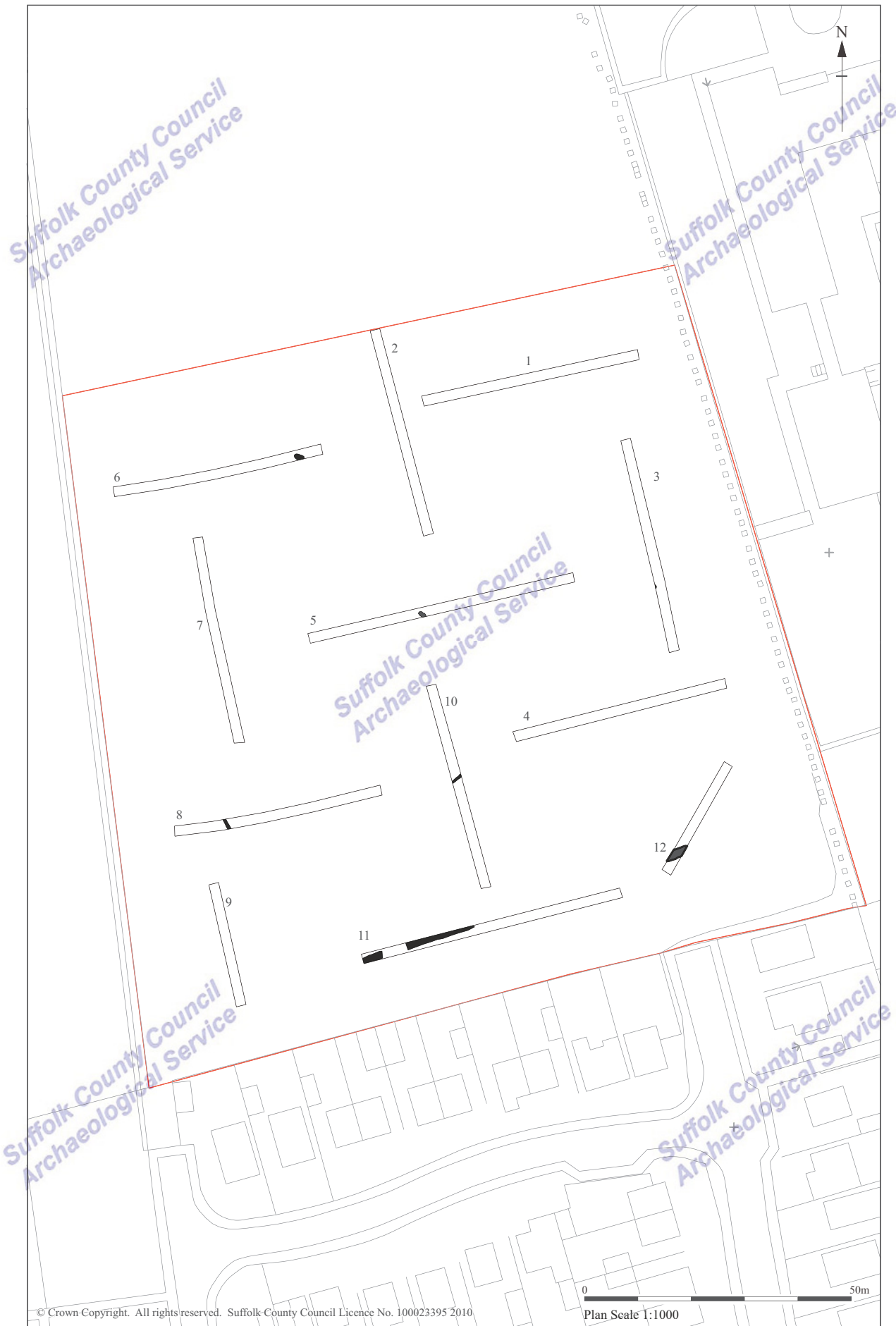


Figure 2. Trench Locations



## 5. Results

Context 0001 was reserved for unstratified material. One piece of flint was recovered from the spoilheap of Trench 02.

Basic trench descriptions are given in the table below.

Trench No	Length	Orientation	Depth	Description	Features
01	41m	W-E	0.9m	0.45m topsoil over 0.45m of layer 0002.	-
02	40m	N-S	0.9m-1.1m	0.4m topsoil over 0.3m-0.4m of layer 0002, then 0.2m of layer 0005.	-
03	41m	N-S	0.6m-0.7m	0.35m topsoil over 0.25m-0.35m of layer 0002.	0003
04	41m	W-E	0.6m-1.1m	0.3m topsoil over 0.25m-0.5m of layer 0002, then 0.05m-0.25m of layer 0005. Layers thicken to east.	-
05	51m	W-E	1.1m	0.45m topsoil over 0.65m of layer 0002	0006
06	40m	W-E	0.7m-0.9m	0.4m topsoil over 0.3m-0.5m of layer 0002 which thickens to the east.	0013
07	39m	N-S	0.65m-0.8m	At north end 0.4m topsoil over 0.25m of layer 0012. 0012 gradually thins and goes under 0002. At south end 0.4m topsoil over 0.4m of layer 0002.	-
08	40m	W-E	0.6m-0.9m	0.4m topsoil over 0.2m-0.5m of layer 0012 which thickens to the east.	0010
09	24m	N-S	0.6m	0.4m topsoil over 0.2m of layer 0012.	-
10	39m	N-S	0.8m-1.1m	0.4m topsoil over 0.4m-0.7m of layer 0002 which thickens to the south.	0015
11	50m	W-E	0.7m-0.85m	0.4m topsoil over 0.3m-0.45m of layer 0002.	0021
12	24m	SW-NE	0.7m-1.05m	0.4m topsoil over 0.3m-0.4m of layer 0002 and then, in north-east part of trench, up to 0.25m of layer 0018.	0019

Table 1. Trench list

Four contexts were issued to the colluvial layers underlying the topsoil. 0002 was the predominant deposit, a dense and compact homogenous mid brown silt/sand, up to

0.7m thick, that was seen underlying the ploughsoil in ten of the trenches. In trenches 02 and 04 0002 lay above 0005, a deposit of mixed pale yellow/brown sands up to 0.25m thick. The boundaries between 0002, 0005 and the natural subsoil were diffuse and indistinct.

0012 was a deposit of dense yellow/brown sands and gravel lying beneath the topsoil in trenches 08, 09 and the northern part of Trench 07. In the latter trench it gradually thinned and sloped down under layer 0002. Layer 0018 was a deposit of pale brown/yellow sands underlying 0002 in Trench 12 which again had diffuse and indistinct boundaries with 0002 and the underlying natural subsoil.

A total of seven possible archaeological features were identified in the trenching.

0003 was a possible oval pit aligned north to south in Trench 03. Partially removed by machine it was heavily disturbed and its shape was unclear although it measured c. 0.7m wide and c.0.36m deep. Its fill, 0004, had a small deposit of charcoal at the top from which material had leached down creating a mid/dark grey/brown silty sand.

0006 was a possible ditch terminus, aligned north-west to south-east, in Trench 05. Measuring 0.78m wide and 0.3m deep it had irregular sides and base suggesting that it may be a natural feature or series of irregular pits/hollows. Its basal fill, 0007, was a 0.1m thick mid grey/orange sand with frequent small stones. Above this was 0008, a mid/dark grey/brown silty sand with occasional stones and charcoal flecks from which a bulk environmental sample was collected. The final fill, 0009, was a 0.1m thick deposit of mid brown sand with occasional stones, very similar to 0002, meaning that the features relationship with 0002 could not be determined.

0010 was a linear ditch or gully, aligned north to south, in Trench 08. It measured 0.7m wide and 0.3m deep with moderate sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, 0011, was a dense pale/mid grey/brown sand with occasional flints. The feature was sealed by 0002.

0013 was a possible oval pit, measuring 1.8m by 1.2m and 0.3m deep, in Trench 06. Its irregular moderate sloping sides and concave base suggest that it may be a natural

disturbance or hollow. Its fill, 0014, a mid brown silt/sand, contained a single prehistoric pottery sherd. The feature was sealed by 0002.

0015 was a linear ditch, aligned north-east to south-west, in Trench 10. Measuring 1.56m wide and 0.5m deep it had been partially truncated by machining and had moderate sloping sides and a concave base. Its basal fill, 0016, was a mid/dark grey/brown sand, 0.3m thick, with occasional stones and flecks of charcoal from which a bulk environmental sample was collected. Above this was 0017, a 0.25m thick pale grey sand with occasional stones, which was very hard to distinguish from the mixed upper levels of the natural subsoil and was only seen in section.

0019 and 0021 appeared to be parts of the same broad ditch. Seen in Trenches 11 and 12 this feature was aligned east to west and measured c.1.2m wide and up to 0.3m deep, having been partially truncated or removed by machining in both trenches. An excavated section in Trench 12 showed 0019 to have a fill, 0020, of mixed yellow/brown sands which were very hard to distinguish from the base of 0002. The 0021 ditch profile was seen in Trench 11, where it had been removed by machine. Its fill, 0022, was a mid brown sand with scattered flints. While clear in plan, at this point 0021 measured less than 0.1m deep and the section was not recorded.

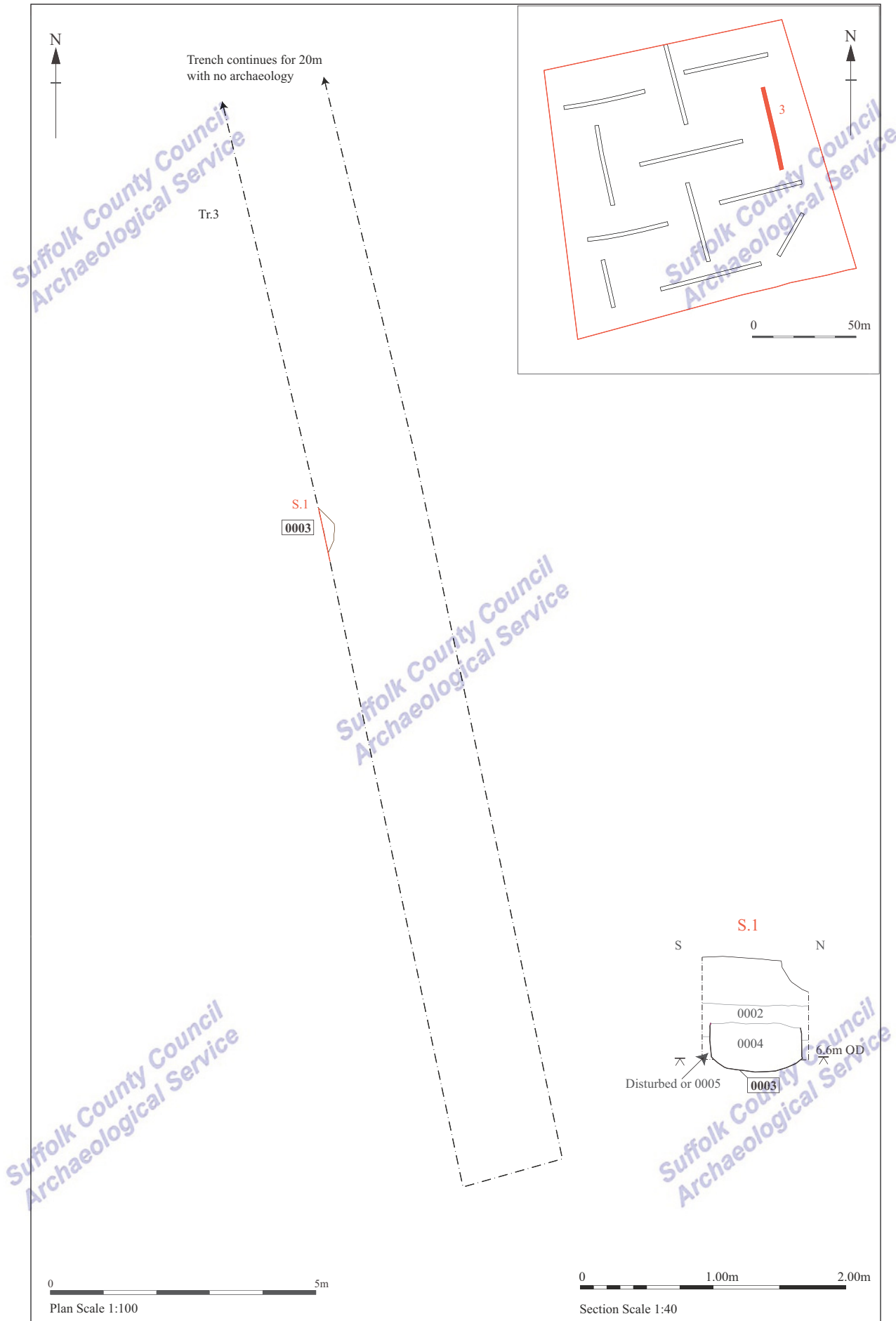


Figure 3. Trench 3, plan and section

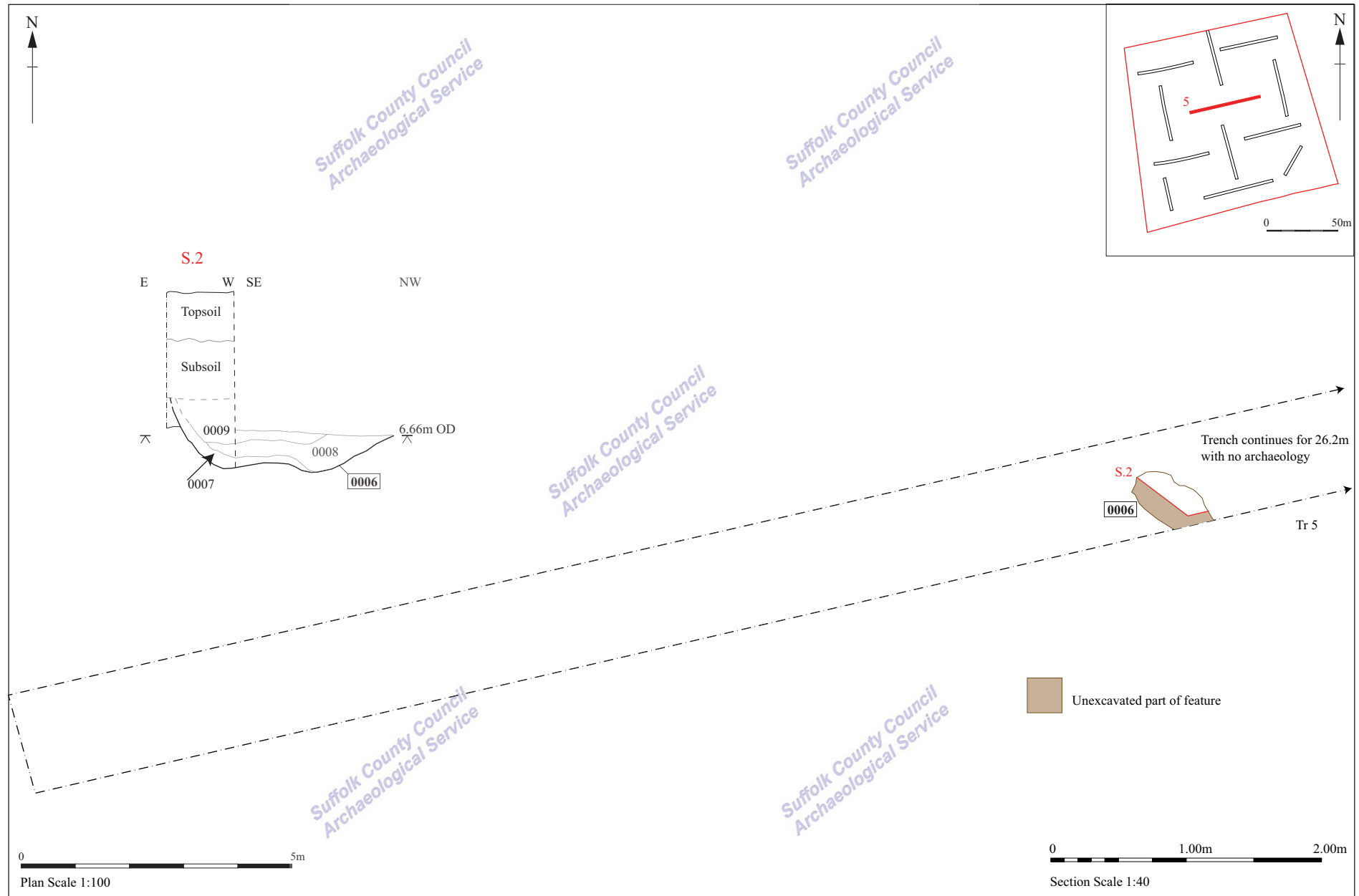


Figure 4. Trench 5, plan and section

10

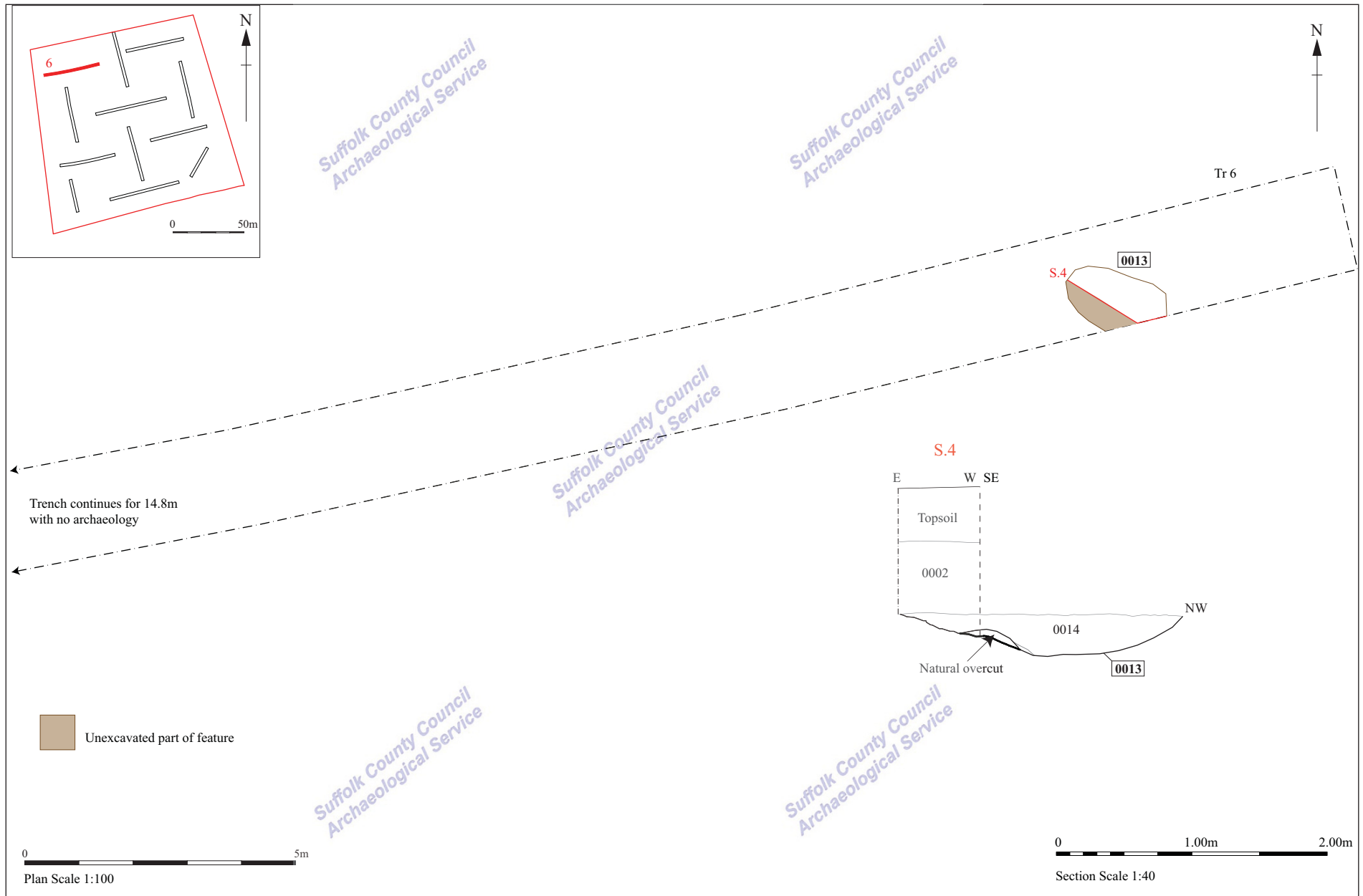


Figure 5. Trench 6, plan and section

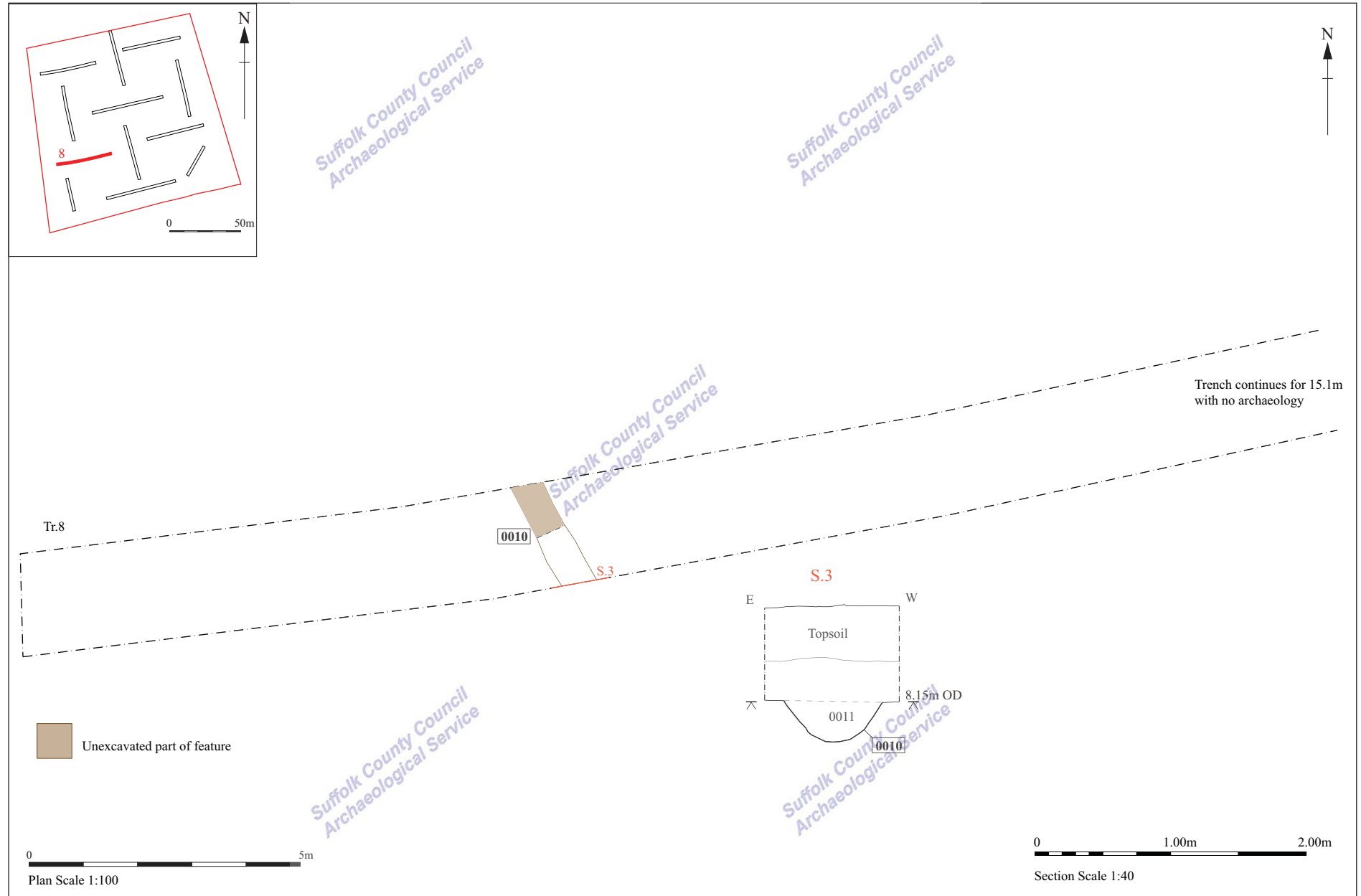


Figure 6. Trench 8, plan and section

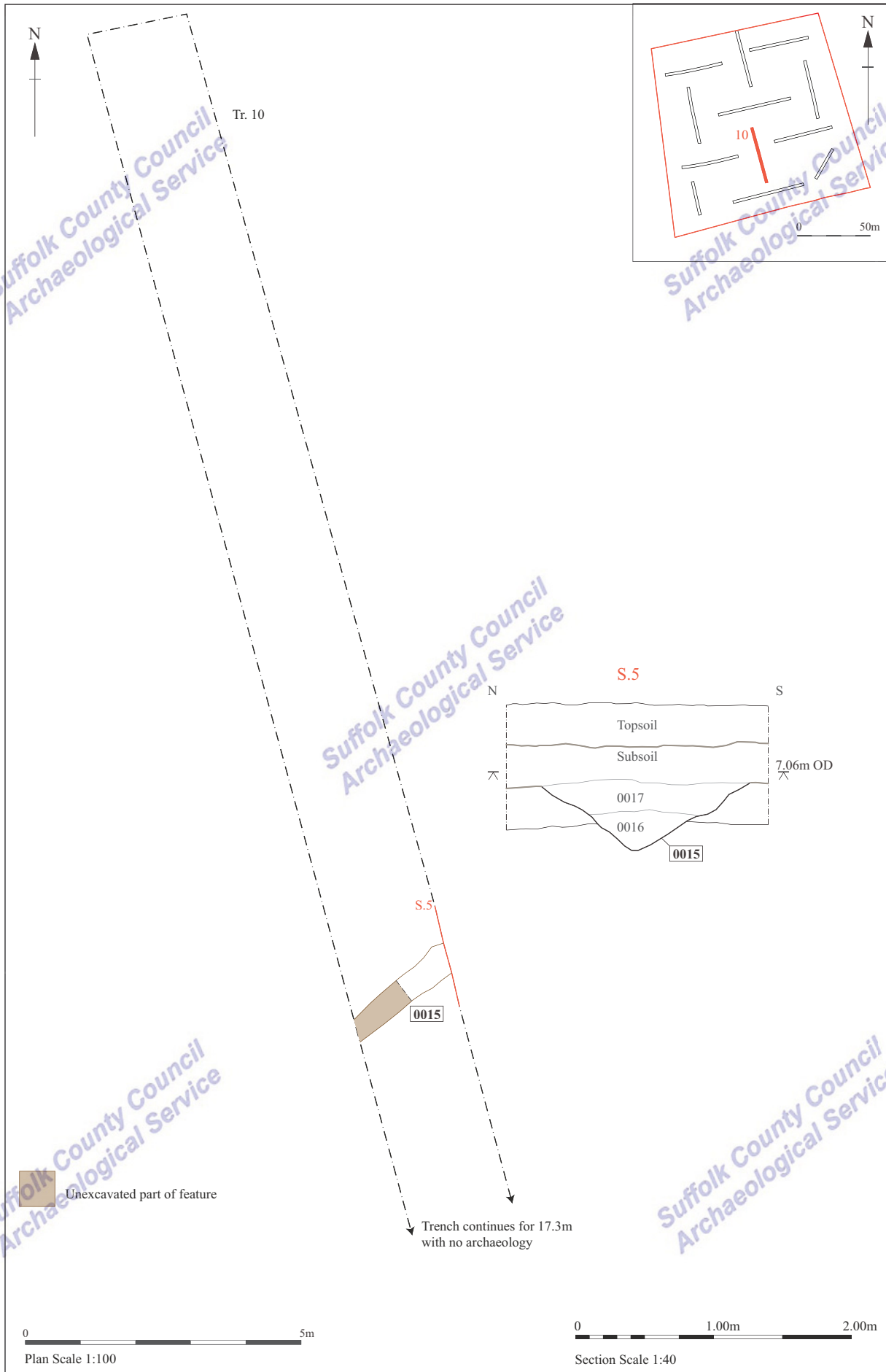


Figure 7. Trench 10, plan and section



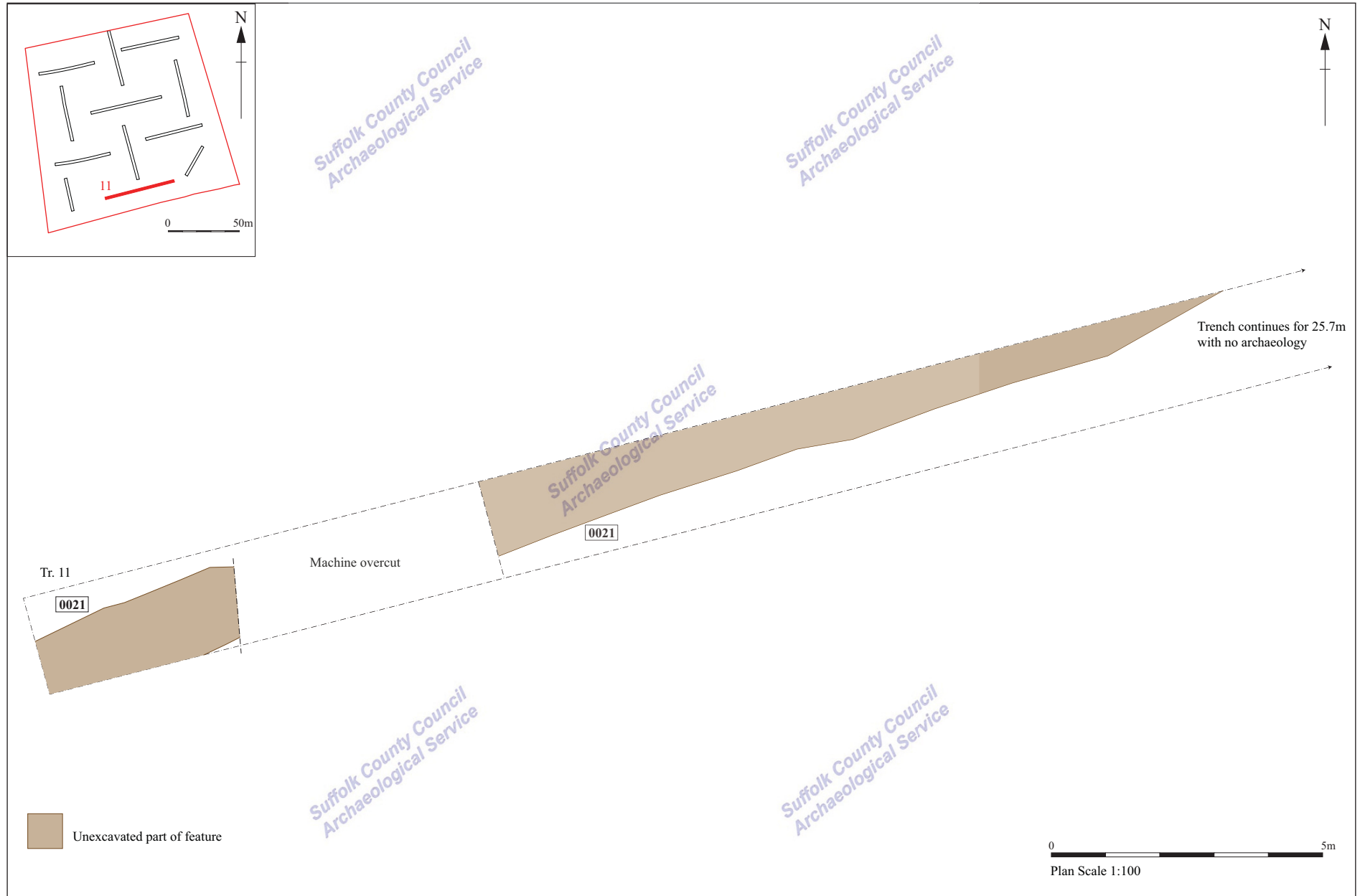


Figure 8. Trench 11 plan

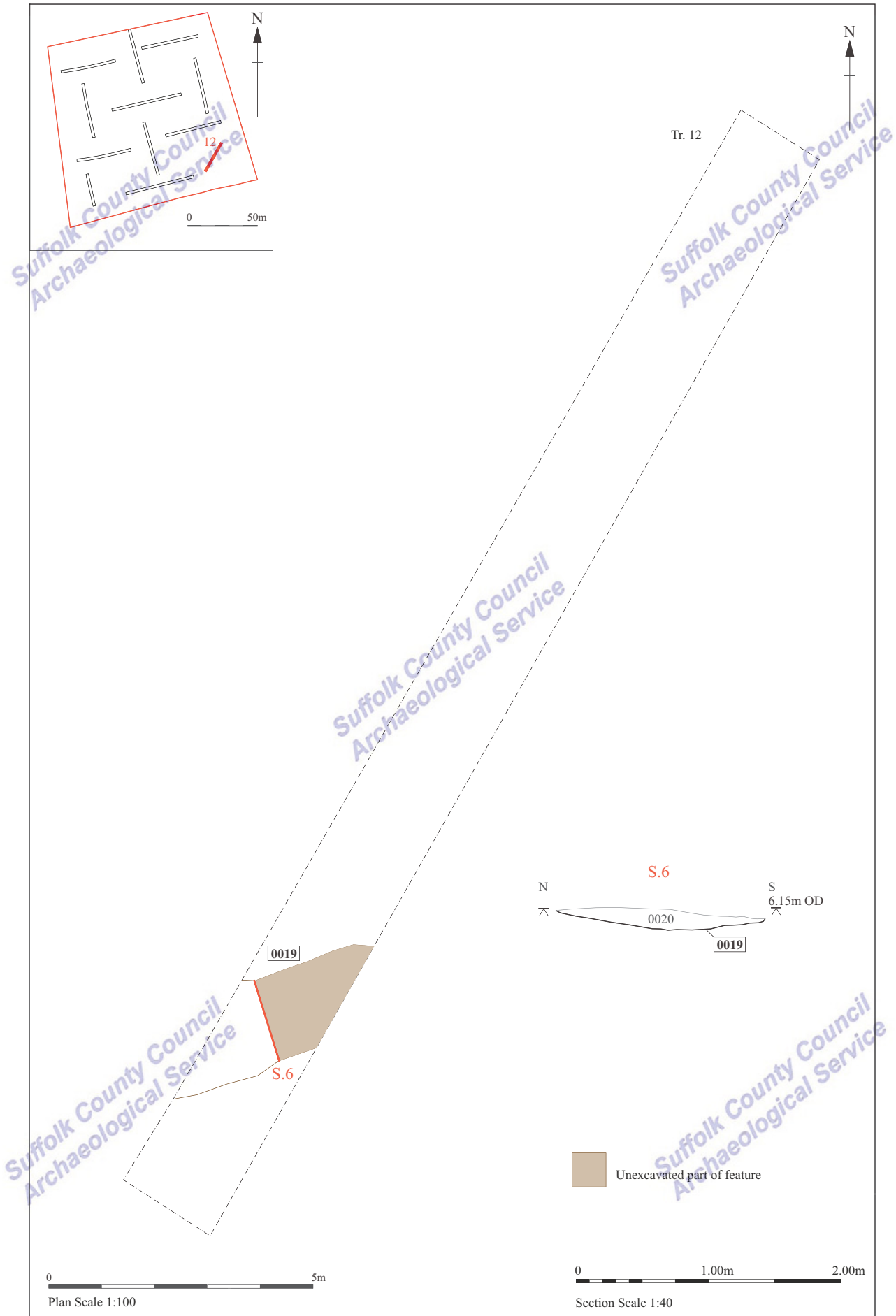


Figure 9. Trench 12, plan and section

## 6. Finds and environmental evidence

Andy Fawcett

### 6.1 Introduction

Finds were collected from two contexts, as shown in the table below.

Context	Pottery		Worked flint		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	
0001			1	18	Later prehistoric
0014	1	11	1	6	Bronze to Early Iron Age
Total	1	11	2	24	

Table 2. Finds quantities

### 6.2 Pottery

A single abraded sherd (11g) of flint-tempered pottery (HMF) pottery was recorded in pit fill 0014. The fragment is oxidised and the crushed flint is coarse and ill sorted. It is probably dated between the Bronze and Early Iron Age.

### 6.3 Worked flint

*(Identified by Colin Pendleton)*

Worked flint has been noted in two contexts amounting to two fragments with a weight of 24g. A full contextual breakdown of the flint types forms part of the site archive. The first piece is an unpatinated irregular flake with limited edge retouch/use wear. It also displays parallel flake scars on the dorsal face and is dated to the later prehistoric period. The second fragment is an unpatinated squat flake with neat edge retouch. This too has parallel flake scars on the dorsal face and is probably dated to the Neolithic or Early Bronze Age.

### 6.4 Small finds

The small finds assemblage has all been recovered from unstratified contexts.

**SF1001.** Lead and iron mending.

Width 25mm.

This small find is a rivet type shape, with a lead upper oval part with an iron attachment on the under side. The item is considerably worn and was likely to have been used for some form of 'mending' and it is dated to the post-medieval period.

**SF1002.** Lead token/waste.

Width 23mm

This piece of lead is sub-rounded and worn. It may be the remnants of a token or equally it could simply represent a piece of waste metal. It is likely to be dated to the post-medieval period.

**SF1003.** Copper token.

Width 17mm

This is a very worn trader token that has two segments broken off and missing. It bears the date 1664, but due to the condition of the token no other information on either obverse or reverse is legible. This sort of token was in use from between 1648 to 1670 and would have been minted under license by a tradesperson. The token is likely to have displayed a monogram, such as a woolpack to indicate the type of business, as well as the name of the tradesperson (<http://www.predecimal.com/p9tokens>).

## **6.5. Environmental evidence**

Val Fryer

### ***Introduction and method statement***

Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from fills within two ditches, 0006 and 0016, and were submitted for assessment.

The samples were bulk floated by SCCAS and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed below in Table 3. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant remains were charred. Modern fibrous roots, fungal sclerotia and seeds were present within both assemblages.

### ***Results***

The assemblages were both extremely small (<0.1 litres in volume), and although charcoal/charred wood fragments were relatively abundant, other remains were very scarce. Sample 1 contained a small legume (Fabaceae) cotyledon fragment, a possible

piece of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell and part of what appeared to be an oak (*Quercus* sp.) cupule. Sample 2 contained an indeterminate fragment of fruit stone or nutshell. Other remains included pieces of charred root or stem, fish bones, fragments of coal (probably intrusive within the contexts) and black porous and tarry concretions, the latter almost certainly being residues of the combustion of organic remains at very high temperatures.

### **Conclusions and recommendations for further work**

In summary, the material within both assemblages is abraded and fragmented, possibly indicating that it was either exposed for a prolonged period prior to deposition or subsequently disturbed. Both assemblages may possibly be derived from small deposits of hearth or midden waste, but as plant remains are so scarce, further interpretation is not possible at this stage.

Although the current assemblages are somewhat limited, they both clearly illustrate that plant macrofossils are present within the archaeological horizon at Oulton. Therefore, if further interventions are planned within this area, it is strongly recommended that additional plant macrofossil samples of approximately 30 – 50 litres in volume are taken from all well-sealed and dated features recorded during excavation.

<b>Sample No.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>0008</b>	<b>0016</b>
<b>Feature No.</b>	<b>0006</b>	<b>0015</b>
Fabaceae indet.	x	
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.	xcf	
<i>Quercus</i> sp. (cupule frag.)	xcf	
Charcoal <2mm	xxxx	xxxx
Charcoal >2mm	x	x
Charred root/stem	xx	
Indet.fruit stone/nutshell frag.		x
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	xx
Black tarry material	x	x
Fish bone		x
Small coal frags.	xx	xx
Vitrified material	x	
<b>Sample volume (litres)</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Volume of flot (litres)</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<b>&lt;0.1</b>
<b>% flot sorted</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 1. Charred plant macrofossils and other remains

**Key to Table:** x = 1 = 10 specimens, xx = 11 – 50 specimens, xxxx = 100+ specimens, cf = compare

## 6.5 Conclusion

Although this is only a very small collection of finds, both types offer a fairly consistent picture in terms of dating and contribute new knowledge to the existing prehistoric landscape that has already been recorded. Most of the prehistoric entries on the HER are located about 3km to the north-east of the current site. The nearest find spot to Mobbs Way is Pound Farm Lane (LWT 015), a kilometre in the same direction, where Neolithic scrapers, blades, hammer stones and an arrowhead were noted.

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## 7. Discussion

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The evaluation has shown that the site, which lies midway down a south-east facing slope, has a fairly consistent soil profile of a thick modern ploughsoil overlying largely uniform colluvial deposits. The natural subsoil surface lies well-preserved at a depth of at least 0.6m and there was little or no indication of any modern disturbance below the level of the topsoil.

A total of seven features were identified and, although three (0003, 0006 and 0013) are not certain to be man-made and may simply be areas of natural disturbance, they indicate some past activity on the site.

0010 and 0015 are small ditches of uncertain date although, as they underlie the colluvial deposits, they may be relatively early, possibly indicating some former land division in the pre-medieval period. Together with the possible pits, the small finds scatter and the environmental evidence this suggests a possible phase of low level prehistoric activity in the vicinity.

Ditch 0019/0021, whilst not matching any boundary on the 1st to 3rd Edition Ordnance Surveys, is closely aligned with the tree lined boundary that divides the fields to the east (Fig. 10). This suggests that it may be a continuation of that boundary, medieval or post-medieval in date, which had been infilled and lost prior to 1884. The current edge of the field, c.15m to the south, is an arbitrary modern creation marking the extent of the adjacent housing estate. The small finds are also of post-medieval date and have probably arrived onsite via casual loss or manuring practices.

## 8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

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The evaluation has identified slight evidence of prehistoric occupation sealed under significant colluvial deposits and a subsequent phase of post-medieval agricultural activity. The site has only low potential for archaeological deposits and, as they are sealed at depth, the proposed development will have little or no effect upon any such evidence. Accordingly no further archaeological work is thought necessary prior to or during the development to mitigate its impact upon the archaeological resource.



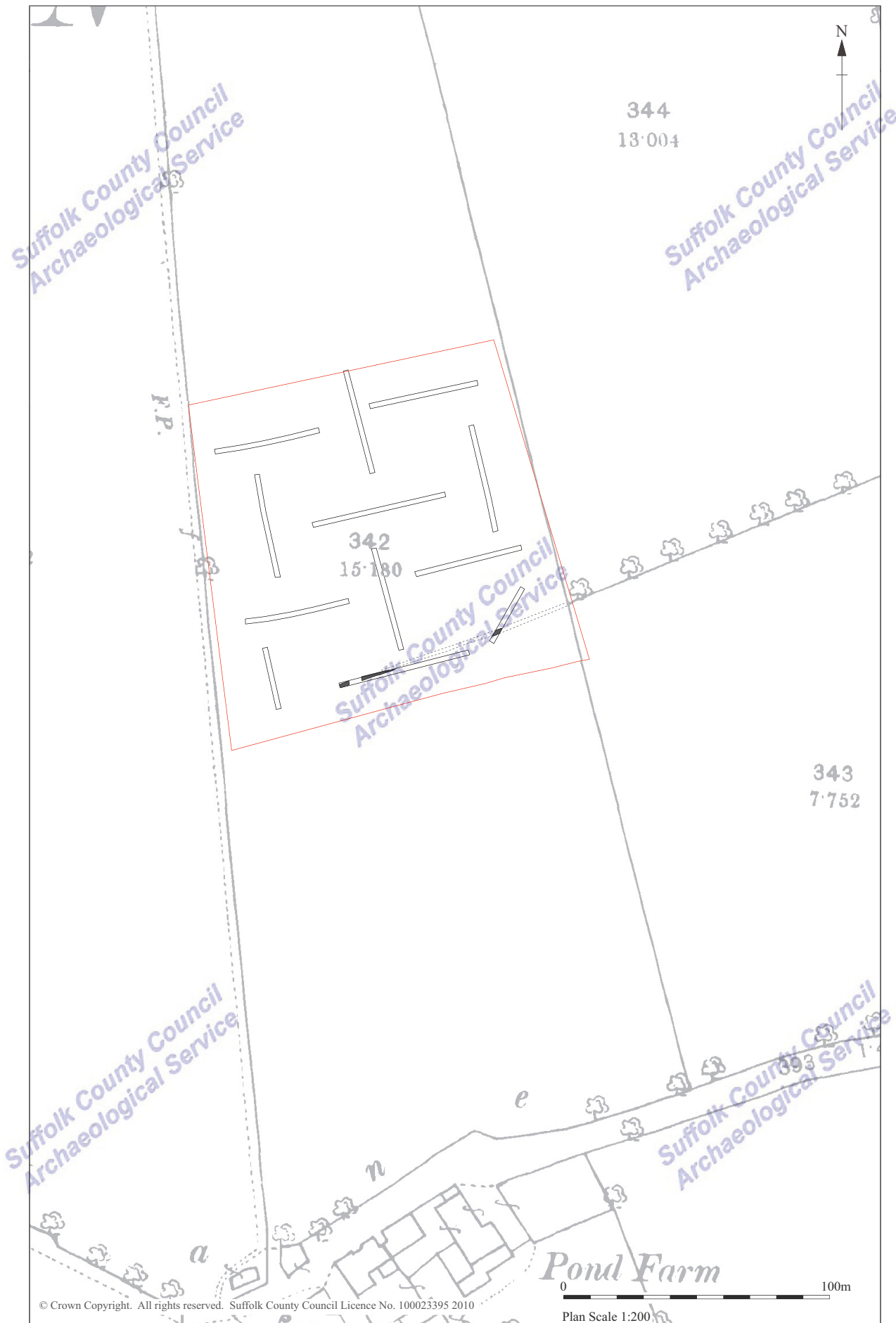


Figure 10. Linear ditch 0019/0021 (dotted) on 1st Ed OS, 1884



## 9. Archive deposition

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Paper and photographic archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds

Digital archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds T:arc\archive field proj\Oulton\OUL\_011

Finds and environmental archive: SCCAS Bury St Edmunds.

## 10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

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The project was directed and managed by John Craven.

The evaluation fieldwork was carried out by a number of archaeological staff (Robert Brooks, John Craven, Mike Feider, John Sims and Alan Smith) all from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team.

The post-excavation was managed by Richenda Goffin. The production of digital site plans and sections was carried out by Eleanor Hillen and managed by Crane Begg. Processing of environmental samples was carried out by Anna West. The specialist finds report was written by Andy Fawcett and Val Fryer (freelance). Other specialist identification and advice was provided by Colin Pendleton. The report was checked by Richenda Goffin.

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Stace, C., 1997, *New Flora of the British Isles, Second edition*. Cambridge University Press.

### 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.

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## Appendix 1a

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### DC/08/0239/FUL Brief and specification

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## Appendix 1b

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### DC/08/0241/OUT Brief and specification

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### DC/08/0239/FUL Brief and specification

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Environment and Transport Service Delivery  
9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall  
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IP33 2AR

## **Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation**

### **LAND OFF MOBBS WAY, MOBBS WAY, OULTON, SUFFOLK (DC/08/0239/FUL)**

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

#### **1. The nature of the development and archaeological requirements**

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted by Waveney District Council (DC/08/0239/OUT) for office development on Land off Mobbs Way, Oulton (TM 521 940). **Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.**
- 1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins (PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition).
- 1.3 The site (0.39 ha. in area), currently used as paddock, is located on the west side of Mobbs Way at c.5–10.00m OD. The soils are deep loam derived from the underlying glaciofluvial and aeolian drift.
- 1.4 This application affects a large area that has not been subject to systematic archaeological survey and we have no specific information relating to it. There is a strong possibility that archaeological deposits will be encountered given the landscape setting of the site, overlooking Lothing River to the south and Oulton Marshes to the west. Development causing significant ground disturbance has the potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.5 In order to inform the archaeological mitigation strategy, the following work will be required:
  - A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area.
- 1.6 The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. Decisions on the need for and scope of any mitigation measures, should there be any archaeological finds of significance, will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of an additional specification.
- 1.7 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
- 1.8 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.
- 1.9 In accordance with the condition on the planning consent, and following the standards and guidance produced by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and specification must be produced by the developers, their agents or archaeological contractors. This must be submitted for scrutiny by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (SCCAS/CT) at 9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443. The WSI



will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met. The WSI should be compiled with a knowledge of the Regional Research Framework (East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 3, 1997, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. resource assessment'; Occasional Paper 8, 2000, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy'; and Revised Research Framework for the Eastern Region, 2008, available online at <http://www.eaareports.org.uk/>).

- 1.10 Following receipt of the WSI, SCCAS/CT will advise the Local Planning Authority (LPA) if it is an acceptable scheme of work. Work must not commence until the LPA has approved the WSI. Neither this specification nor the WSI is, however, a sufficient basis for the discharge of the planning condition relating to the archaeological works. Only the full implementation of the approved scheme – that is the completion of the fieldwork, a post-excavation assessment and final reporting – will enable SCCAS/CT to advise the LPA that the condition has been adequately fulfilled and can be discharged.
- 1.11 Before any archaeological site work can commence it is the responsibility of the developer to provide the archaeological contractor with either the contaminated land report for the site or a written statement that there is no contamination. The developer should be aware that investigative sampling to test for contamination is likely to have an impact on any archaeological deposit which exists; proposals for sampling should be discussed with the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of SCC (SCCAS/CT) before execution.
- 1.12 The responsibility for identifying any constraints on field-work, e.g. Scheduled Monument status, Listed Building status, public utilities or other services, tree preservation orders, SSSIs, wildlife sites &c., ecological considerations rests with the commissioning body and its archaeological contractor. The existence and content of the archaeological brief does not over-ride such constraints or imply that the target area is freely available.
- 1.13 Any changes to the specifications that the project archaeologist may wish to make after approval by this office should be communicated directly to SCCAS/CT and the client for approval.

## **2. Brief for the Archaeological Evaluation**

- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*.
- 2.2 Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposit within the application area, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation.
- 2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- 2.4 Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
- 2.5 Provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.
- 2.6 This project will be carried through in a manner broadly consistent with English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (MAP2), all stages will follow a process of assessment and justification before proceeding to the next phase of the project. Field evaluation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential. Any further excavation required as mitigation is to be followed by the preparation of a full archive, and an assessment of potential, analysis and final report preparation may follow.

Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design; this document covers only the evaluation stage.

- 2.7 The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.
- 2.8 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.
- 2.9 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

### 3. Specification: Trenched Evaluation

- 3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area, which is c.195.00m<sup>2</sup>. These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site where significant ground disturbance is proposed). Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in c.108.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width.
- 3.2 If excavation is mechanised a toothless 'ditching bucket' 1.80m wide must be used. A scale plan showing the proposed locations of the trial trenches should be included in the WSI and the detailed trench design must be approved by SCCAS/CT before field work begins.
- 3.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket, down to the interface layer between topsoil and subsoil or other visible archaeological surface. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
- 3.4 The top of the first archaeological deposit may be cleared by machine, but must then be cleaned off by hand. There is a presumption that excavation of all archaeological deposits will be done by hand unless it can be shown there will not be a loss of evidence by using a machine. The decision as to the proper method of excavation will be made by the senior project archaeologist with regard to the nature of the deposit.
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For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min.) should be excavated across their width;

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

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- 3.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 3.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 3.11 Human remains must be left *in situ* except in those cases where damage or desecration are to be expected, or in the event that analysis of the remains is shown to be a requirement of satisfactory evaluation of the site. However, the excavator should be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857.
- 3.12 Plans of any archaeological features on the site are to be drawn at 1:20 or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data to be recorded. Sections should be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 again depending on the complexity to be recorded. All levels should relate to Ordnance Datum. Any variations from this must be agreed with SCCAS/CT.
- 3.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 3.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 3.15 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT.

#### **4. General Management**

- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by SCCAS/CT. The archaeological contractor will give not less than five days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.
- 4.2 The composition of the archaeology contractor staff must be detailed and agreed by this office, including any subcontractors/specialists. For the site director and other staff likely to have a major responsibility for the post-excavation processing of this evaluation there must also be a statement of their responsibilities or a CV for post-excavation work on other archaeological sites and publication record. Ceramic specialists, in particular, must have relevant experience from this region, including knowledge of local ceramic sequences.
- 4.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Brief.
- 4.4 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.
- 4.5 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.

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

## 5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds must be prepared consistent with the principles of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991 (particularly Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1).
- 5.2 The report should reflect the aims of the WSI.
- 5.3 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 5.4 An opinion as to the necessity for further evaluation and its scope may be given. No further site work should be embarked upon until the primary fieldwork results are assessed and the need for further work is established.
- 5.5 Reports on specific areas of specialist study must include sufficient detail to permit assessment of potential for analysis, including tabulation of data by context, and must include non-technical summaries.
- 5.6 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including an assessment of palaeoenvironmental remains recovered from palaeosols and cut features. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological potential of the site, and the significance of that potential in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.7 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 5.8 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the report.
- 5.9 The project manager must consult the County HER Officer (Dr Colin Pendleton) to obtain an HER number for the work. This number will be unique for each project or site and must be clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work.
- 5.10 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 5.11 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the full site archive, and transfer of title, with the intended archive repository before the fieldwork commences. If this is not achievable for all or parts of the finds archive then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, scientific analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.12 The project manager should consult the intended archive repository before the archive is prepared regarding the specific requirements for the archive deposition and curation, and regarding any specific cost implications of deposition.
- 5.13 If the County Store is the intended location of the archive, the project manager should consult the SCCAS Archive Guidelines 2010 and also the County Historic Environment Record Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive. A clear statement of the form, intended content, and standards of the archive is to be submitted for approval as an essential requirement of the WSI.

- 5.14 The WSI should state proposals for the deposition of the digital archive relating to this project with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), and allowance should be made for costs incurred to ensure the proper deposition (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/policy.html>).
- 5.15 Where positive conclusions are drawn from a project (whether it be evaluation or excavation) a summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute for Archaeology*, must be prepared. It should be included in the project report, or submitted to SCCAS/CT, by the end of the calendar year in which the evaluation work takes place, whichever is the sooner.
- 5.17 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 5.18 An unbound copy of the evaluation report, clearly marked DRAFT, must be presented to SCCAS/CT for approval within six months of the completion of fieldwork unless other arrangements are negotiated with the project sponsor and SCCAS/CT.

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

- 5.19 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 5.20 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.21 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

Specification by: Dr Jess Tipper

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service Conservation Team  
Environment and Transport Service Delivery  
9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk IP33 2AR  
Tel: 01284 352197  
Email: jess.tipper@suffolk.gov.uk

Suffolk County Council  
Archaeological Service

Date: 6 May 2010

Reference: / DC/08/0239/FUL\_Oulton2010

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

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

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# Appendix 1b

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## DC/08/0241/OUT Brief and specification

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Environment and Transport Service Delivery  
9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall  
Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk  
IP33 2AR

## **Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation**

### **LAND OFF MOBBS WAY, MOBBS WAY, OULTON, SUFFOLK (DC/08/0241/OUT)**

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

#### **1. The nature of the development and archaeological requirements**

- 1.1 Outline planning permission has been granted by Waveney District Council (DC/08/0241/OUT) for office development on Land off Mobbs Way, Oulton (TM 521 940). **Please contact the applicant for an accurate plan of the site.**
- 1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised that any consent should be conditional upon an agreed programme of work taking place before development begins (PPG 16, paragraph 30 condition).
- 1.3 The site (1.68 ha. in area), currently used as paddock, is located on the west side of Mobbs Way at c.5–10.00m OD. The soils are deep loam derived from the underlying glaciofluvial and aeolian drift.
- 1.4 This application affects a large area that has not been subject to systematic archaeological survey and we have no specific information relating to it. There is a strong possibility that archaeological deposits will be encountered given the landscape setting of the site, overlooking Lothing River to the south and Oulton Marshes to the west. Development causing significant ground disturbance has the potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.
- 1.5 In order to inform the archaeological mitigation strategy, the following work will be required:
  - A linear trenched evaluation is required of the development area.
- 1.6 The results of this evaluation will enable the archaeological resource, both in quality and extent, to be accurately quantified. Decisions on the need for and scope of any mitigation measures, should there be any archaeological finds of significance, will be based upon the results of the evaluation and will be the subject of an additional specification.
- 1.7 All arrangements for the field evaluation of the site, the timing of the work, access to the site, the definition of the precise area of landholding and area for proposed development are to be defined and negotiated with the commissioning body.
- 1.8 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 14, 2003.
- 1.9 In accordance with the condition on the planning consent, and following the standards and guidance produced by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and specification must be produced by the developers, their agents or archaeological contractors. This must be submitted for scrutiny by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (SCCAS/CT) at 9-10 The Churchyard, Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443. The WSI

will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met. The WSI should be compiled with a knowledge of the Regional Research Framework (East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 3, 1997, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 1. resource assessment'; Occasional Paper 8, 2000, 'Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. research agenda and strategy'; and Revised Research Framework for the Eastern Region, 2008, available online at <http://www.eaareports.org.uk/>).

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

- 2.1 Establish whether any archaeological deposit exists in the area, with particular regard to any which are of sufficient importance to merit preservation *in situ*.
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- 2.3 Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
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Each stage will be the subject of a further brief and updated project design; this document covers only the evaluation stage.

- 2.7 The developer or his archaeologist will give SCCAS/CT (address as above) five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored.
- 2.8 If the approved evaluation design is not carried through in its entirety (particularly in the instance of trenching being incomplete) the evaluation report may be rejected. Alternatively the presence of an archaeological deposit may be presumed, and untested areas included on this basis when defining the final mitigation strategy.
- 2.9 An outline specification, which defines certain minimum criteria, is set out below.

### 3. Specification: Trenched Evaluation

- 3.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area, which is c.840.00m<sup>2</sup>. These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site where significant ground disturbance is proposed). Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in c.467.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width.
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- 3.3 The topsoil may be mechanically removed using an appropriate machine with a back-acting arm and fitted with a toothless bucket, down to the interface layer between topsoil and subsoil or other visible archaeological surface. All machine excavation is to be under the direct control and supervision of an archaeologist. The topsoil should be examined for archaeological material.
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For linear features, 1.00m wide slots (min.) should be excavated across their width;

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- 3.8 Any natural subsoil surface revealed should be hand cleaned and examined for archaeological deposits and artefacts. Sample excavation of any archaeological features revealed may be necessary in order to gauge their date and character.
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- 3.15 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT.

#### **4. General Management**

- 4.1 A timetable for all stages of the project must be agreed before the first stage of work commences, including monitoring by SCCAS/CT. The archaeological contractor will give not less than five days written notice of the commencement of the work so that arrangements for monitoring the project can be made.
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- 4.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfill the Brief.
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- 4.6 The Institute of Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (revised 2001) should be used for additional guidance in the execution of the project and in drawing up the report.

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- 5.19 Where appropriate, a digital vector trench plan should be included with the report, which must be compatible with MapInfo GIS software, for integration in the County HER. AutoCAD files should be also exported and saved into a format that can be imported into MapInfo (for example, as a Drawing Interchange File or .dxf) or already transferred to .TAB files.
- 5.20 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> must be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators forms.
- 5.21 All parts of the OASIS online form must be completed for submission to the County HER. This should include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy should also be included with the archive).

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Date: 6 May 2010

Reference: / DC/08/0241/OUT\_Oulton2010

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

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

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## Appendix 2. Context list

Context	Feature	Trench no	Type	Category	Description	over	under
0001	0001				Unstratified finds.		
0002	0002		Subsoil	Layer	Dense and compact homogenous mid brown silt/sand, up to 0.7m thick.	0004, 0005, etc	Topsoil
0003		03	Pit	Cut	Possible oval pit aligned north to south. Heavily disturbed and shape unclear, 0.7m wide and 0.36m deep. Overmachined.		
0004		03	Pit	Fill	Mid/dark grey/brown silty sand with frequent charcoal, particularly at top.		0002
0005	0005	02, 04	Subsoil	Layer	Mixed pale yellow/brown sands up to 0.25m thick.		0002
0006	0006	05	Ditch	Cut	Possible irregular linear ditch terminus, aligned north-west to south-east. 0.78m wide and 0.3m deep. Irregular sides and base. May be a series of irregular pits.		
0007	0006	05	Ditch	Fill	Mid grey/orange sand with frequent small stones. 0.1m thick. Basal fill - disturbed natural?	0006	0008
0008	0006	05	Ditch	Fill	Mid/dark grey/brown silty sand with occasional stones and charcoal flecks. Bulk environmental sample 01 collected.	0007	0009
0009	0006	05	Ditch	Fill	Upper fill of 0006. Mid brown sand with occasional stones, 0.1m thick. Very hard to distinguish from 0002, may cut it.	0008	0002
0010	0010	08	Ditch	Cut	Linear ditch or gully, north to south aligned. 0.7m wide and 0.3m deep with moderate sloping sides and a concave base.		0011
0011	0010	08	Ditch	Fill	Dense pale/mid grey/brown sands and occasional flints.	0010	0012
0012	0012	07, 08, 09	Subsoil	Layer	Dense yellow/brown sands and gravel lying beneath the topsoil in trenches 08, 09 and the northern part of Trench 07.		0002
0013	0013	06	Pit	Cut	Possible pit. Oval, 1.8m by 1.2m and 0.3m deep. Irregular moderate sloping sides and concave base. Probably natural disturbance or hollow.		0013
0014	0013	06	Pit	Fill	Mid brown silt/sand.	0013	0002
0015	0015	10	Ditch	Cut	Linear ditch, aligned north-east to south-west, 1.56m wide and 0.5m deep. Truncated by machine. Moderate sloping sides, concave base.		0016
0016	0015	10	Ditch	Fill	Mid/dark grey/brown sand with occasional stones and flecks of charcoal. Bulk environmental sample 02 collected. Basal fill, 0.3m thick.	0015	0017
0017	0015	10	Ditch	Fill	Pale grey sand with occasional stones, 0.25m thick. Very hard to distinguish from surrounding mixed natural subsoil. Only seen in section.	0016	0002
0018	0018	12	Subsoil	Layer	Pale brown/yellow sands underlying 0002 in Trench 12. Diffuse and indistinct boundaries with 0002 and the underlying natural subsoil.		0002

Context	Feature	Trench no	Type	Category	Description	over	under
0019	0019	12	Ditch	Cut	Broad, shallow ditch, 1.2m wide and 0.3m deep, aligned east to west. Partially truncated by machine by 0.1m. Same as 0021?		0020
0020	0019	12	Ditch	Fill	Mixed yellow/brown sands, very hard to distinguish from base of 0002.		0002
0021	0021	11	Ditch	Cut	Broad, shallow ditch, 1.2m wide and 0.1m deep, aligned east to west. Clear in plan but partially removed by machine which showed a cross-section. Not drawn. Same as 0019?		0022
0022	0021	11	Ditch	Fill	Mid brown sand with scattered flints.		0002