

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

SCCAS REPORT No. 2010/119

HMS Ganges, Shotley Gate, Shotley SLY 166

M. Sommers
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Lucy Robinson, County Director of Economy, Skills and Environment
Endeavour House, Russel Road, Ipswich, IP1 2BX.

HER Information

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Project Officer: Mark Sommers

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Contents

Summary

	Page
1. Introduction	1
2. Geology and topography	1
3. Archaeological and historical background	3
4. Methodology	3
5. Results	4
6. Finds and environmental evidence	24
7. Discussion	30
8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work	30
9. Archive deposition	30
10. Contributors and acknowledgements	30

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List of Figures

1. Site location plan	2
2. Trench location plan	5
3. Trench 2, plan and section	12
4. Trench 5, plan and section	13
5. Trench 7, plan and section	14
6. Trench 9, plan and sections	15
7. Trench 10, plan and sections	16

8. Trench 11, plan and section	17
9. Trench 12, plan and section	18
10. Trench 16, plan and sections	19
11. Trench 17, plan and section	20
12. Trench 22, plan and sections	21
13. Trench 25, plan and sections	22
14. Trench 26, plan and sections	23

List of Plates

I. Example of the soil profile noted across the site	33
II. Ditches 0016 and 0018 (Trench 2), looking east	33
III. Ditch 0014 (Trench 5), looking east	34
IV. Ditches 0008 and 0010 (Trench 7)	34
V. Ditch 0043 (Trench 9), looking north	35
VI. Ditch 0045 (Trench 9), looking west	35
VII. Pit 0047 (Trench 9), looking east	36
VIII. Pit 0025 (Trench 10), looking southwest	36
IX. ?Well 0029 (Trench 10), looking north	37
X. ?Well 0029 showing possible lining 0032 (Trench 10)	37
XI. Ditch 0033 (Trench 10), looking north	38
XII. Ditches 0039 and 0037 (Trench 11), looking south	38
XIII. Ditch/Pit 0041 (Trench 11), looking east	39
XIV. Ditch 0035 (Trench 12), looking north	39
XV. Ditch 0057 (Trench 16), looking south	40
XVI. Ditch 0060 (Trench 16), looking north	40
XVII. Ditch 0012 (Trench 17), looking northeast	41
XVIII. Ditches 0021 and 0023 (Trench 22), looking east	41
XIX. Ditch 0002 (Trench 25), looking north	42
XX. Ditches 0004 and 0007 (Trench 25), looking north	42
XXI. Ditch 0049 (Trench 26), looking east	43
XXII. Ditch 0051 (Trench 26), looking southwest	43
XXIII. Ditches 0055 (Trench 26), looking north	44

List of Tables

1. Finds quantities	24
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List of Appendices

1. Brief and specification	45
2. Context data	53
3. Finds and environmental data	55

Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at HMS Ganges, the former naval cadet training school at Shotley Gate, Shotley, in advance of redevelopment. The evaluation consisted of the mechanical excavation of twenty-six trial trenches across the proposed development area. Within these a small number of archaeological features were identified. These primarily consisted of undated ditches although two separate ditches yielded single sherds of Early Saxon pottery and a third ditch contained a single sherd of Middle Saxon pottery. Three sherds of medieval pottery were recovered, one from a ditch fill and two unstratified sherds from the topsoil. A single sherd of possible Roman date was also recovered as an unstratified find. An area of late medieval/ post-medieval activity was noted on the western road frontage with a number of sherds recovered from two pits, one of which may have been a well. The natural subsoil comprised sand and gravel and lay beneath a layer of loess. Despite the area appearing to be unnaturally flat no evidence for extensive landscaping was identified. (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service for Galliard Homes Limited).

1. Introduction

It has been proposed to develop the playing fields of the former HMS Ganges, Naval Training Establishment, Shotley Gate, Shotley. Planning consent has been sought (B/08/00964/ENQ) but is yet to be granted although the client has been advised that any consent would be conditional upon an agreed programme of archaeological work taking place prior to the commencement of the development.

The first stage of the programme of work, as specified in the Brief and Specification produced by Dr. J. Tipper, of the Suffolk County Council Conservation Team, (Appendix 1) is the undertaking of a trenched evaluation in order to ascertain what levels of archaeological evidence may be present within the development area and to inform any mitigation strategies that may be deemed necessary.

The National Grid Reference for the approximate centre of the site is TM 2474 3404. Figure 1 shows a location plan of the site.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service's Field Team who were commissioned by Galliard Homes Limited on behalf of their client, Haylink Limited

2. Geology and topography

The site is situated on a relatively level area of high ground close to the southeastern end of the Shotley peninsula, close to the junction of the rivers Orwell and Stour. Beyond the southern edge of the development area the land slopes down to the River Stour whilst to the east the land remains relatively high and level for a further 200m before steeply sloping down to the River Orwell. To the west the landscape continues as a level plateau although to the north it gently slopes down to form a northeast facing slope. At the time of the evaluation the site comprised an area of overgrown grassland with redundant structures associated with HMS Ganges located along the southern and eastern edges.

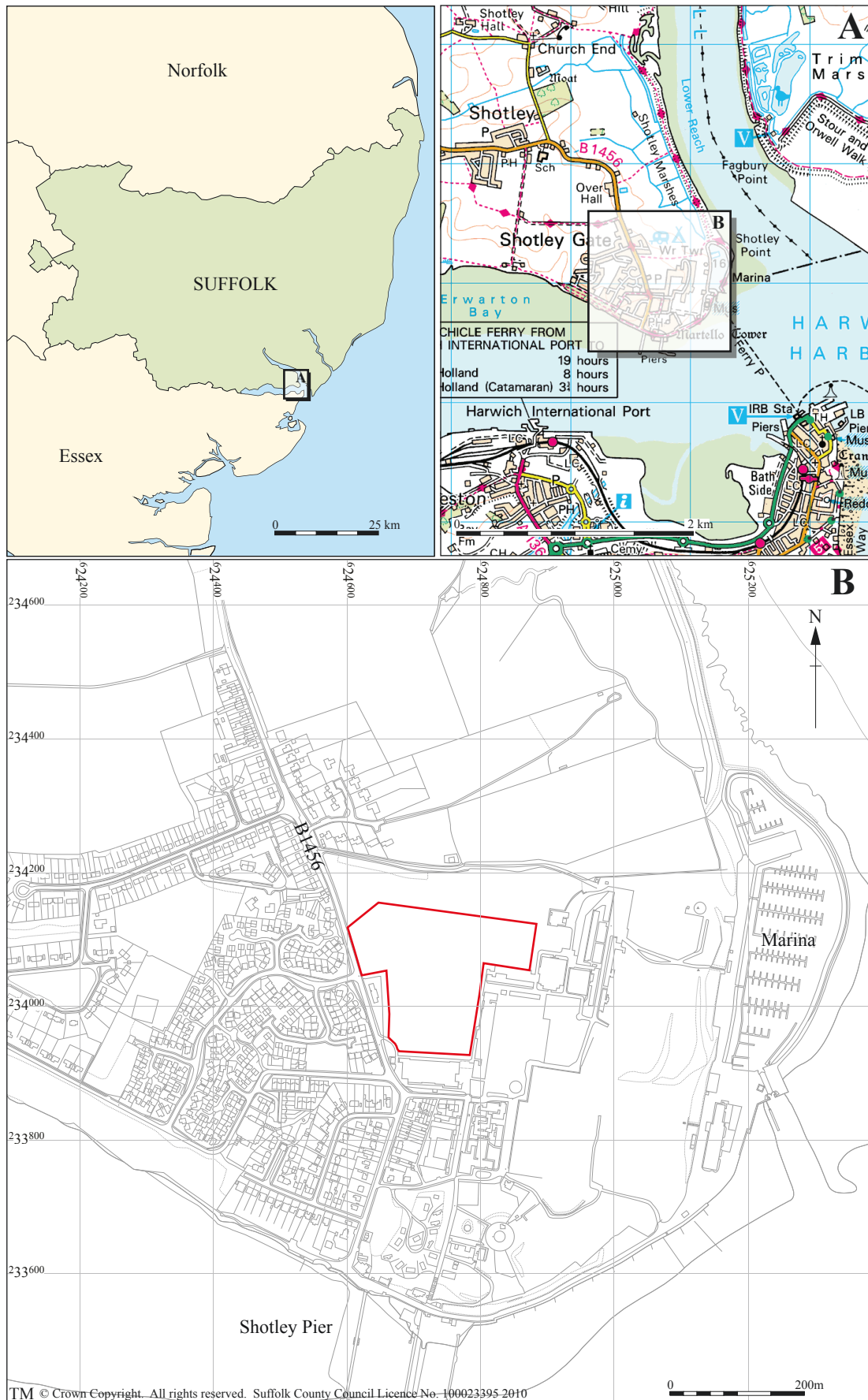


Figure 1. Site location, showing development area (red)

The landscape of Shotley peninsula consists of an elongated, elevated and relatively flat central spine with sloping sides where it is dissected by river valleys or meets the Orwell Estuary. The underlying geology of this central plateau comprises sand and gravel capped by fine-grained loess deposits that originated as wind-blown sediments from glacial sources.

3. Archaeological and historical background

The area evaluated comprises the playing fields of the former naval cadet training establishment known as HMS Ganges. HMS Ganges was established as a shore based facility in the early 20th century and was closed in 1976. The site was then used for police training for a number of years. In the 1990s the site was acquired for development. Examination of the 1st Edition (1:2500 scale) Ordnance Survey map of the area indicates that prior to the creation of the training establishment the area was open farmland.

There are no known archaeological sites recorded within the evaluation area on the County Historic Environment Record (HER) although a large area of cropmarks related to prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval trackways and field systems (HER ref. SLY 044). A number of defensive sites dating from the early 19th century through to the 2nd World War are also located in the vicinity including three Scheduled Monuments comprising two Martello towers and a mid 19th century gun battery.

The absence of sites recorded on the HER maybe due to the site's recent history as a militarily controlled area leading to a lack of public access and consequently a lack of surveying or metal-detecting opportunities. The site has a good potential for archaeological sites to be present due to its topographic setting, it being high ground overlooking the two rivers.

4. Methodology

The trial trenches were machine excavated down to the level of the natural subsoil using a 360 degree, tracked excavator fitted with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket.

The machining of the trenches was closely observed throughout in order to identify archaeological features and deposits and to recover any artefacts that might be revealed. Excavation continued until significant archaeological remains or the undisturbed natural subsoil was encountered. Any features or deposits identified were cleaned and excavated by hand in order to determine their depth and shape and to recover datable artefacts. A sample of the fill was retained for environmental analysis and to recover possible dating evidence. All excavated features were planned at a scale of 1:50 and cross-sections drawn at a scale of 1:20. A photographic record of the work undertaken was also compiled using a 10 megapixel digital camera. Upon completion of the evaluation the trenches were backfilled.

Spot heights were recorded using a dumpy level and related to a temporary benchmark. This comprised a wooden peg placed in the evaluation area; the height of a nail inserted into the top of the peg had a recorded height of 23.02m (established using GPS equipment).

The site is in a reptile sensitive area and consequently it was necessary to undertake certain precautions to minimise disturbance. The trench locations, which had been agreed by the County Conservation Team, were plotted using a Leica SmartRover RTK GPS 1200 and marked with wooden pegs. The area of each trench, including areas for the spoil and access routes, was then sprayed with herbicide to reduce the vegetation and so discourage reptile activity and all activities relating to the evaluation were to be conducted within these cleared areas.

5. Results

A total of twenty-six, 30m long trenches with a total length of approximately 765m were excavated across the evaluation area (Fig. 2). Within twelve of these trenches a number of archaeological features were identified for which sixty-three context numbers were issued (see Appendix 2 for the context list). The majority of these features consisted of linear cuts which have been interpreted as ditches.

It was intended to excavate all trenches to a length of 30m but in the event it found necessary to reduce the length of Trenches 3, 10 and 11 by c. 5m, this being lost from

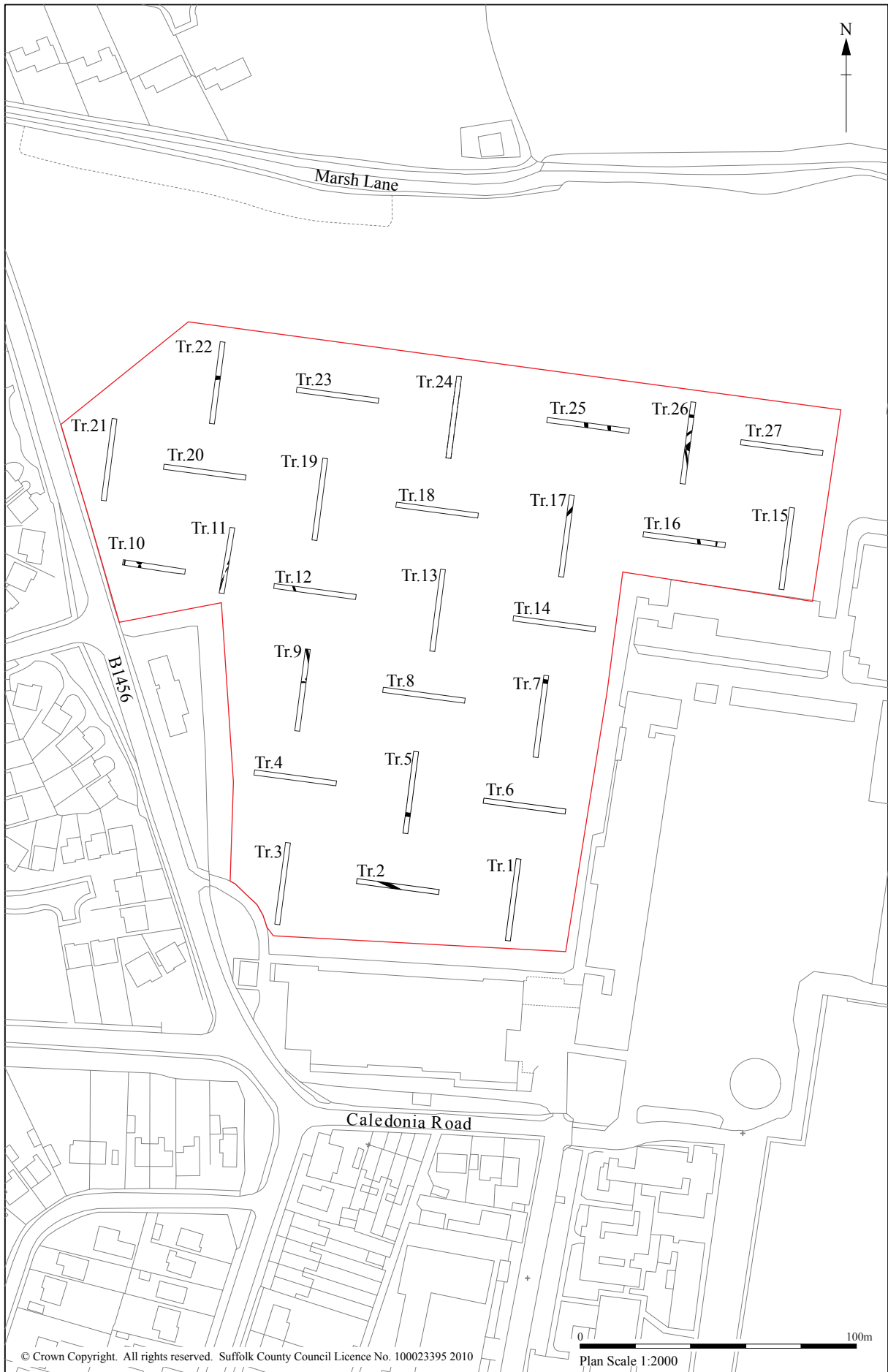


Figure 2. Trench plan

the southern end of trenches 3 and 11, and the eastern end of trench 10. This reduction in length was due to the presence of an electrical cable (Trench 3), the presence of an area of concrete slab related to a now demolished HMS Ganges structure (Trench 10) and to avoid excessive tree root damage to a belt of mature trees which are to be retained in the proposed development (Trench 11).

The natural subsoil comprised orange/yellow sand and gravel with varying degrees of silt. In nearly all trenches this was encountered at depths of between c. 0.6m to 0.7m and lay beneath a c. 0.3m to 0.4m thick layer of pale grey silt and c. 0.3m of topsoil (Plate I). Only at the eastern end of Trench 27 did this vary with a reduction in the depth of the natural subsoil to 0.4m due to a thinning of the pale grey silt layer.

The pale grey silt was interpreted as loess, a natural deposit that is known to be present in this area of Suffolk. As a natural deposit any archaeological features would have been cut into its surface but it has been noted during other archaeological works undertaken on sites in this area that features can be extremely hard to detect due to the leeching of colour resulting in the fills becoming virtually identical to the loess. To mitigate against this the loess was carefully removed by machine until the underlying sand and gravel was exposed, at which level archaeological features could be clearly identified.

Trench 4, as marked in figure 2, had not been cleared of vegetation and consequently was not excavated due to the risk of reptile disturbance/damage.

The recorded archaeological features are described in trench order below:

Trench 2 (Fig 3): Aligned approximately east-west with a single ditch aligned northwest-southeast and with a later re-cut (Plate II). The cuts were numbered 0016 and 0018 but it was not possible to determine the sequence of their excavation. Ditch 0016 measured 1m in width and cut the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.25m. The fill (0017- sample no. 7) comprised light grey-brown sandy silt. Ditch 0018 was narrower at 0.5m in width and cut the natural subsoil by 0.16m and contained a fill (0019 – sample no. 8) of light yellow-brown sandy silt. No finds were recovered from either fill.

Trench 5 (Fig. 4): A north-south aligned trench with a single ditch running perpendicular (Plate III). The ditch cut (0014) measured 1.6m in width and cut the natural subsoil to a

depth of 0.4m. The fill (0015 – sample no. 6) consisted of pale grey silt with occasional patches of iron panning and very few stones. No finds were recovered.

Trench 7 (Fig. 5): A north-south aligned trench with a single ditch and re-cut running perpendicular (Plate IV). The earlier ditch cut (0008) had been partially truncated but was probably originally 1.4m wide and cut the loess and the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.63m. The fill (0009 – sample no. 3) comprised pale brown silty sand. This ditch was cut by a parallel ditch, 0010, which was interpreted as a re-cut of ditch 0008. This later ditch measured 1.6m in width and cut the loess and the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.8m. The fill (0011 – sample no. 4) consisted of pale to mid brown sandy silt. No finds were recovered from either fill.

Trench 9 (Fig. 6): A north-south aligned trench containing three features.

Ditch 0043: A roughly northwest-southeast aligned ditch cut (0043) was present in the northern end of the trench (Plate V). It measured 0.95m in width and cut the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.4m. The fill (0044 – sample no. 15) comprised grey sandy silt from which a single sherd of late 13th-14th date was recovered. This cut was on the same line as Ditch 0035, located in Trench 12, which had a similar profile and fill and it is likely they are parts of the same feature.

Ditch 0045: A narrow ditch cut (0045) running perpendicular to the trench (Plate VI). It measured 0.62m wide and cut the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.17m. The eastern end of the cut within the trench noticeably narrowed and became shallower indicating it may have been coming to an end. The fill (0046 – sample no. 16) consisted of light brown-grey sandy silt. A single lump of unidentifiable fired clay was recovered from the fill.

Pit 0047: A small, sub-circular shaped cut on the eastern edge of the trench (Plate VII). It cut the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.3m and was 0.83m wide. The fill (0048 – sample no. 17) comprised pale grey sandy silt. No artefacts were recovered from the fill of this feature.

Trench 10 (Fig. 7): An east-west aligned trench adjacent the B1456, the only access in and out of Shotley Gate and HMS Ganges. Within this trench three features were excavated and recorded.

Pit 0025 was roughly circular in shape, had steep to near vertical sides, rounded base and was interpreted as a pit. It measured 0.80m in diameter, cut the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.6m and contained three distinct fills (Plate VIII). The primary fill (0028) consisted of dark brown silty sand and gravel. This was overlain by a deposit of mid orange brown sand and gravel (0027) and together these two deposits filled the bottom 0.25m of the cut. The upper fill (0026) comprised pale brown silty sand from which a number of artefacts dating to the 16th/-8th century were recovered.

Adjacent to Pit 0025 was a much larger cut (0029) which has been interpreted as a possible well (Plate IX). Although only a proportion was located within the trench, it appeared to be a large oval shaped pit measuring 2.8m by at least 0.85m and could be clearly seen cutting the loess. The west edge sloped at approximately 45° whilst the opposite side was near vertical. At a depth of just over 1m the base narrowed into a vertical shaft which was assumed to be circular with a diameter of 0.58m. In plan a clear band of dense, dark grey silt/clay (0032), approximately 0.04m wide, could be seen running around the edge of the deeper section (Plate X). Excavation continued for a further 0.2m before water saturation made further excavation impossible; the total depth achieved from the base of the topsoil being 1.2m. This feature had two distinct fills, a lower fill (0031 – sample no. 11) comprising mixed light grey brown and light orange brown sand and silt which in turn was overlain by a mid grey brown silty sand (0030). A number of artefacts dating to the 16th-18th century were recovered from both these fills.

At the west end of the trench small ditch or gully (0033) was noted cutting into the top of the loess and into the subsoil below (Plate XI). It measured 0.8m wide and was 0.28m deep with a fill (0034) of mid brown-orange silty sand from which fragments of red brick and peg tile were noted as well as a single sherd of 16th-18th century pottery.

Trench 11 (Fig. 8): A series of linear cuts interpreted as ditches were recorded in this trench. No artefacts were recovered from the fills of any of these features.

Ditch 0037 was a narrow, slightly meandering ditch on an approximately north-south alignment. It measured 0.4m wide and cut the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.1m. The fill (0038 – sample no. 13) comprised pale grey sandy silt. Parallel to this feature a second ditch, 0039, was present (Plate XII). It was 0.25m wide and 0.06m deep and had a similar fill (0040). To the north of ditch 0037, after a gap of 0.75m a further ditch, 0062,

continued on a similar line. It measured 0.4m in width and cut the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.06m. The fill (0063) consisted of similar pale grey sandy silt, as seen in ditches 0037 and 0039. It is probable that ditches 0037 and 0062 are parts of the same feature. The gap between the two is unlikely to be a real entrance but is probably the result a shallower section of the ditch having been completely lost through truncation.

On a similar alignment to the above ditches a further possible ditch (0041) was noted (Plate XIII). It comprised approximately 2.4m of a linear feature with a clear butt-end to the south. It was 0.6m wide and cut the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.44m. The fill (0042 – sample no. 14) consisted of pale brown silty sand.

Trench 12 (Fig. 9): An east-west aligned trench containing a single ditch, 0035, measuring 1.6m in width and cutting the loess and the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.9m with a very clear 'V' shaped profile (Plate XIV). The fill (0036 – sample no. 12) comprised grey sandy silt from which no artefacts were recovered. This feature lay on the same line as Ditch 0043, located in Trench 9, and had a similar profile and fill. It is likely they are parts of the same feature.

Trench 16 (Fig. 10): An east-west trench containing two ditches.

Ditch 0057 was aligned approximately north-south, measured 2.1m wide and clearly cut the loess and the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.68m (Plate XV). The edges sloped at c. 45° down to a 0.6m wide flat base. The fill (0059 – sample no. 22) comprised pale orange brown mottled silty sand. A separate fill (0058) was mid grey-brown silty sand and may have been associated with a later re-cut although this was not conclusive. It is probably a continuation of Ditch 0053 in Trench 26.

Ditch 0060 was defined by a narrow cut running perpendicular to the trench. It measured 0.7m wide and cut the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.36m (Plate XVI). The fill (0061 – sample no. 23) consisted of pale orange-grey sandy silt. No artefacts were recovered.

Trench 17 (Fig. 11): A north-south aligned trench with a single ditch, 0012. The ditch was aligned southwest-northeast, measured 1m wide and cut the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.3m (Plate XVII). The fill (0013 – sample no. 5) consisted of pale grey sandy

silt from which no artefacts were recovered. A possible smaller ditch branched off close to the eastern edge of the trench but this was not clear and may have been related to animal activity. A single sherd of Early Saxon pottery was recovered from the fill of this feature.

Trench 21: No features were identified in this trench but three sherds of pottery were recovered from the topsoil as unstratified finds (allocated context no. 0020). These comprised two sherds of late 12th-14th century pottery and a single sherd of a possibly Roman date.

Trench 22 (Fig. 12): two ditches were recorded in this trench, 0021 and 0023 (Plate XVIII). In section both cuts could be seen running up into the loess but they were not visible in plan until the natural subsoil had been reached.

The earlier ditch, 0023, was aligned east-west, measured 0.7m wide and cut the natural subsoil by 0.28m. The fill (0024 – sample no. 10) comprised light brown sandy silt mottled with pale yellow-brown silt from which no finds were recovered. This ditch was cut by a later ditch, 0021. Against the eastern edge of the trench this had nearly completely erased the earlier cut but as it progressed across the width of the trench it turning slightly to the south and exited the trench on a southwest-northeast alignment. This feature measured 1.2m in width and cut the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.35m. The fill (0022 – sample no. 9) consisted of mid grey-brown sandy silt from which a single sherd of pottery dated to 720-850AD.

Trench 25 (Fig. 13): An east-west aligned trench in which three ditch cuts were identified, with one being a probable re-cut of an existing ditch.

Ditch 0002 was aligned approximately north-south and measured 1.8m in width. It could be clearly seen cutting the loess and had a base 0.88m below the base of the topsoil (Plate XIX). The fill (0003) comprised mid to dark brown silty sand with occasional fragments of red brick and tile as well as some 20th century debris (tin cans, late glaze pottery etc.). This feature is on the same line as a field boundary marked on the 1st and 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey maps of c.1880 and 1900 and it is undoubtedly a ditch that marked this boundary. It is not marked on the 3rd Edition (c. 1926) indicating that the ditch had probably been filled.

The second ditch in this trench, 0004, had been partially truncated by a later re-cut, 0007 (Plate XX). The remaining portion measured 1m in width and cut the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.46m. The fill (0006 – sample no. 2) comprised mid orange-brown silty sand. The second cut, 0007, measured 1.1m in width and cut the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.4m. The fill (0005 – sample no. 1) consisted of mid brown silty sand. A single sherd of Early Saxon pottery was recovered from the fill of this feature.

Trench 26 (Fig. 14): A north-south aligned trench with four ditches. The most northern of these, Ditch 0049, ran perpendicular to the trench. It measured 1.5m in width and cut the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.48m (Plate XXI). In section it can be clearly seen cutting through the loess. The fill (0050 – sample no. 18) comprised mid-orange brown gravelly, silty sand from which no artefacts were recovered.

Ditch 0051 was aligned southwest-northeast, measured 0.75m in width and cut the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.38m (Plate XXII). The fill (0052 – sample no. 19) consisted of pale orange-brown sandy silt from which no artefacts were recovered.

Ditch 0053 was aligned approximately northwest-southeast, measured 0.37m wide and cut the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.1m (Plate XXIII). The fill (0054 – sample no. 20) comprised pale grey-brown sandy silt from which no artefacts were recovered.

Ditch 0055 was a later ditch than 0053 and may have been a re-cut although it was a very slightly different alignment. It measured 0.46m in width and cut the natural subsoil to a depth of 0.05m. The fill consisted of pale grey-brown silt from which no artefacts were recovered.

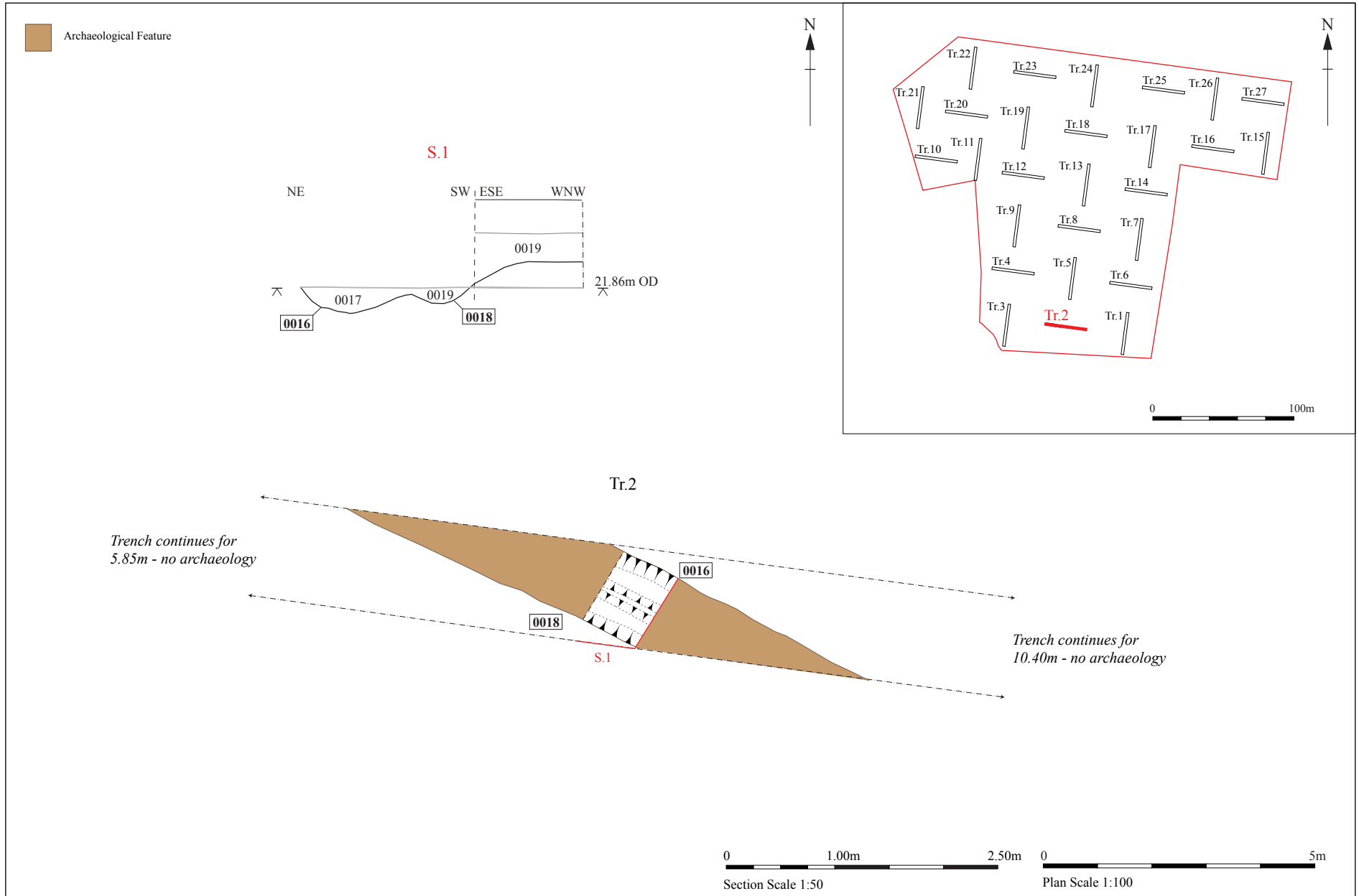


Figure 3. Trench 2, plan and section

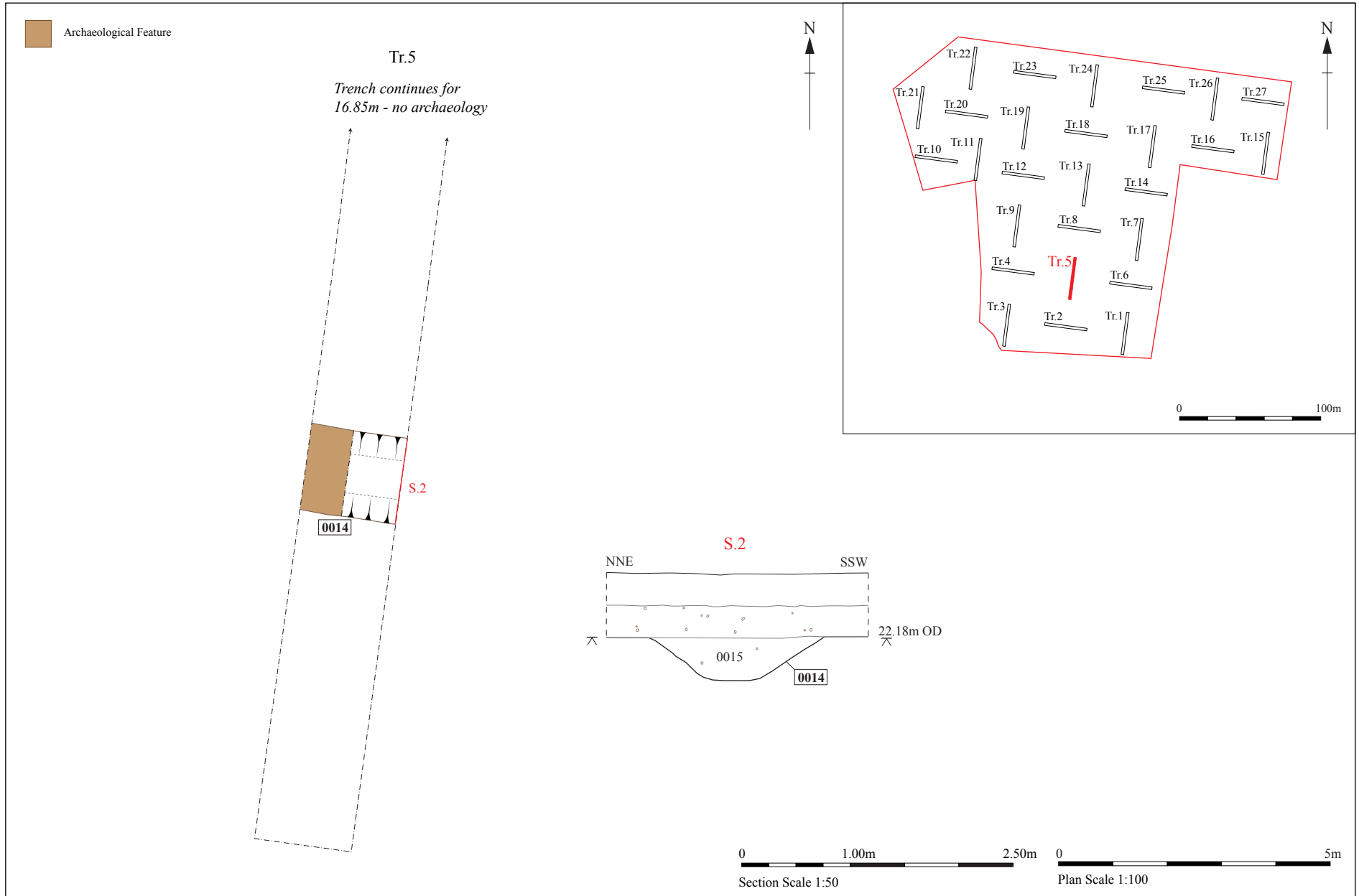


Figure 4. Trench 5, plan and section

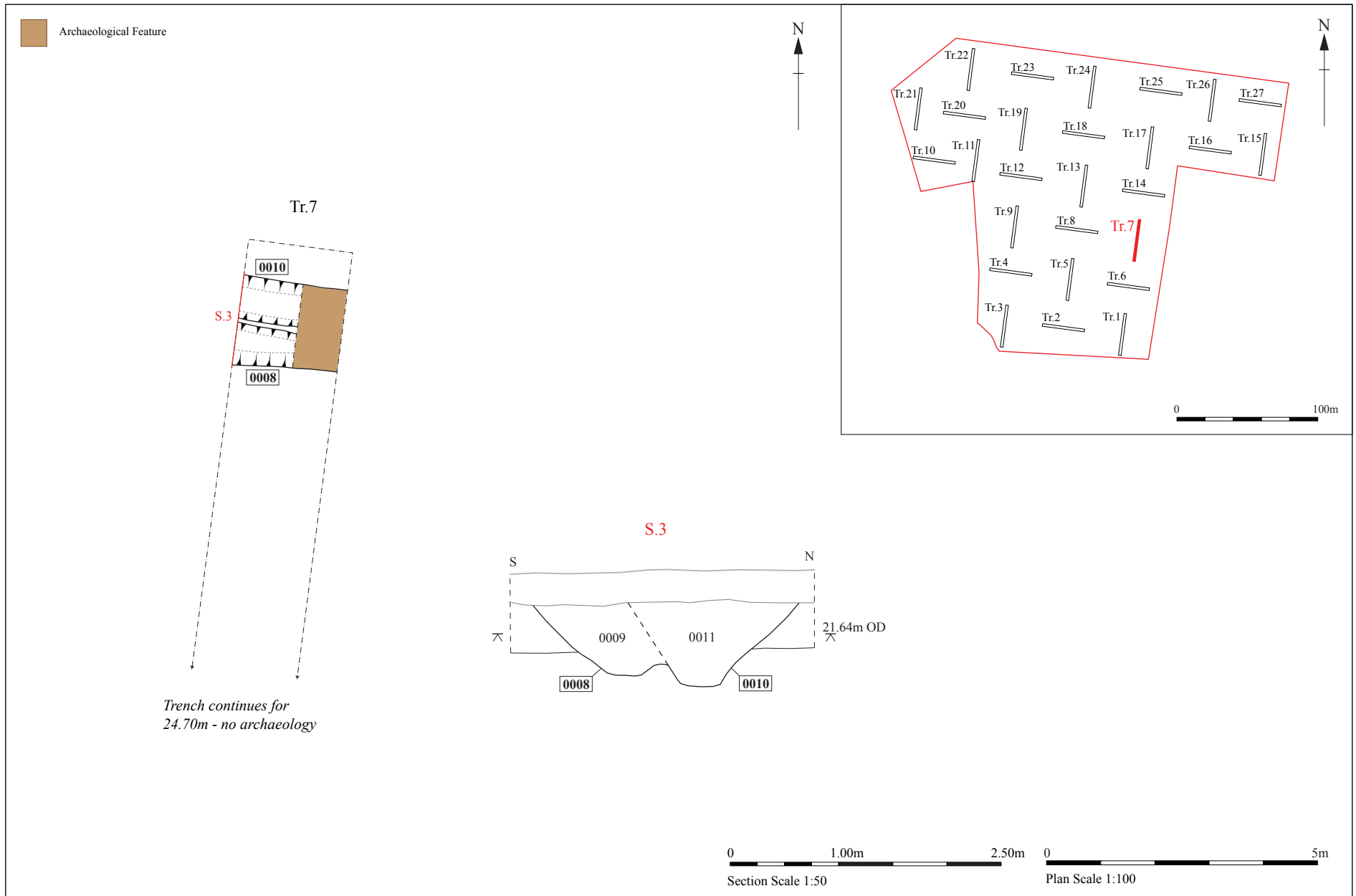


Figure 5. Trench 7, plan and section

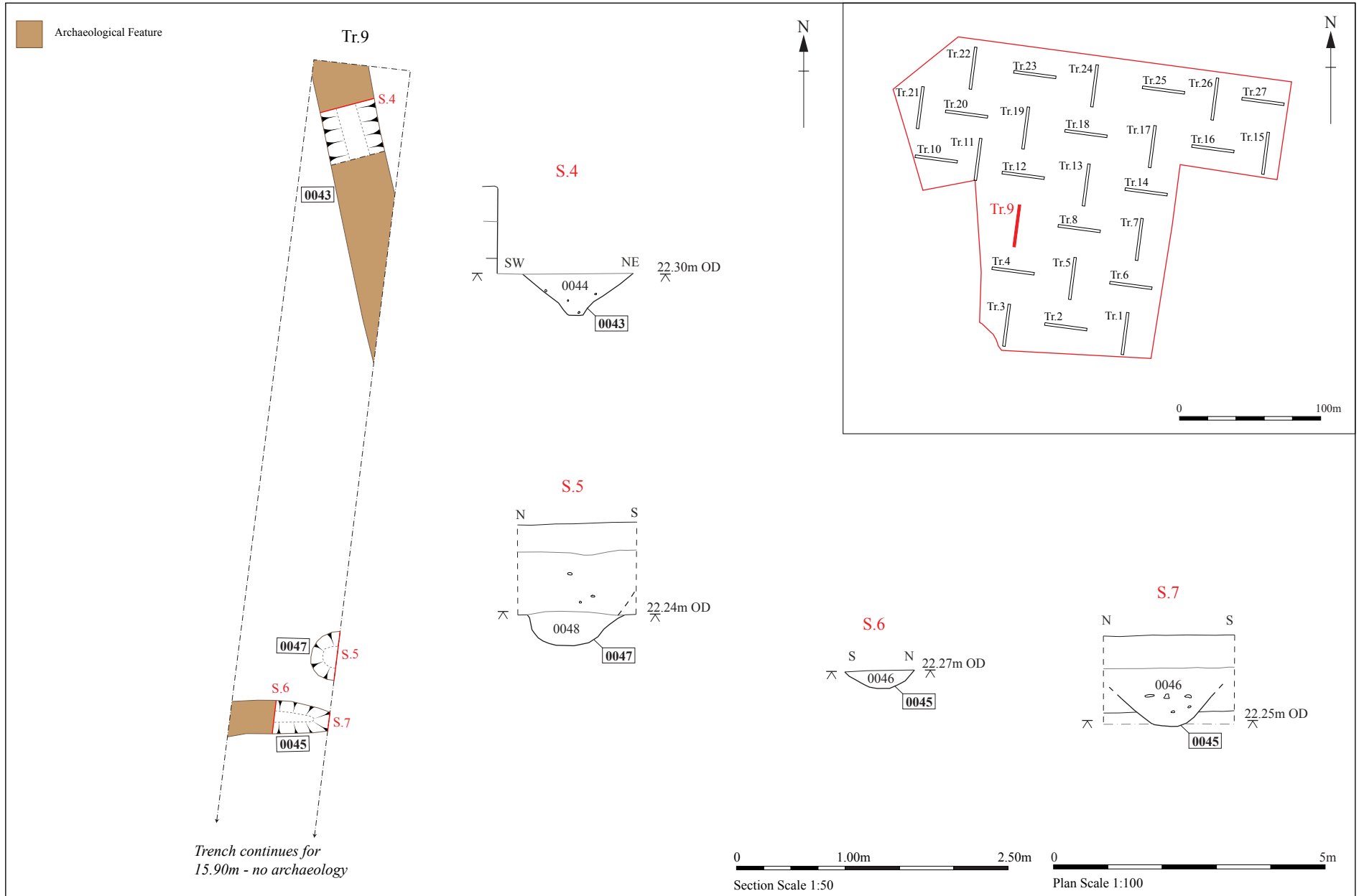


Figure 6. Trench 9, plan and sections

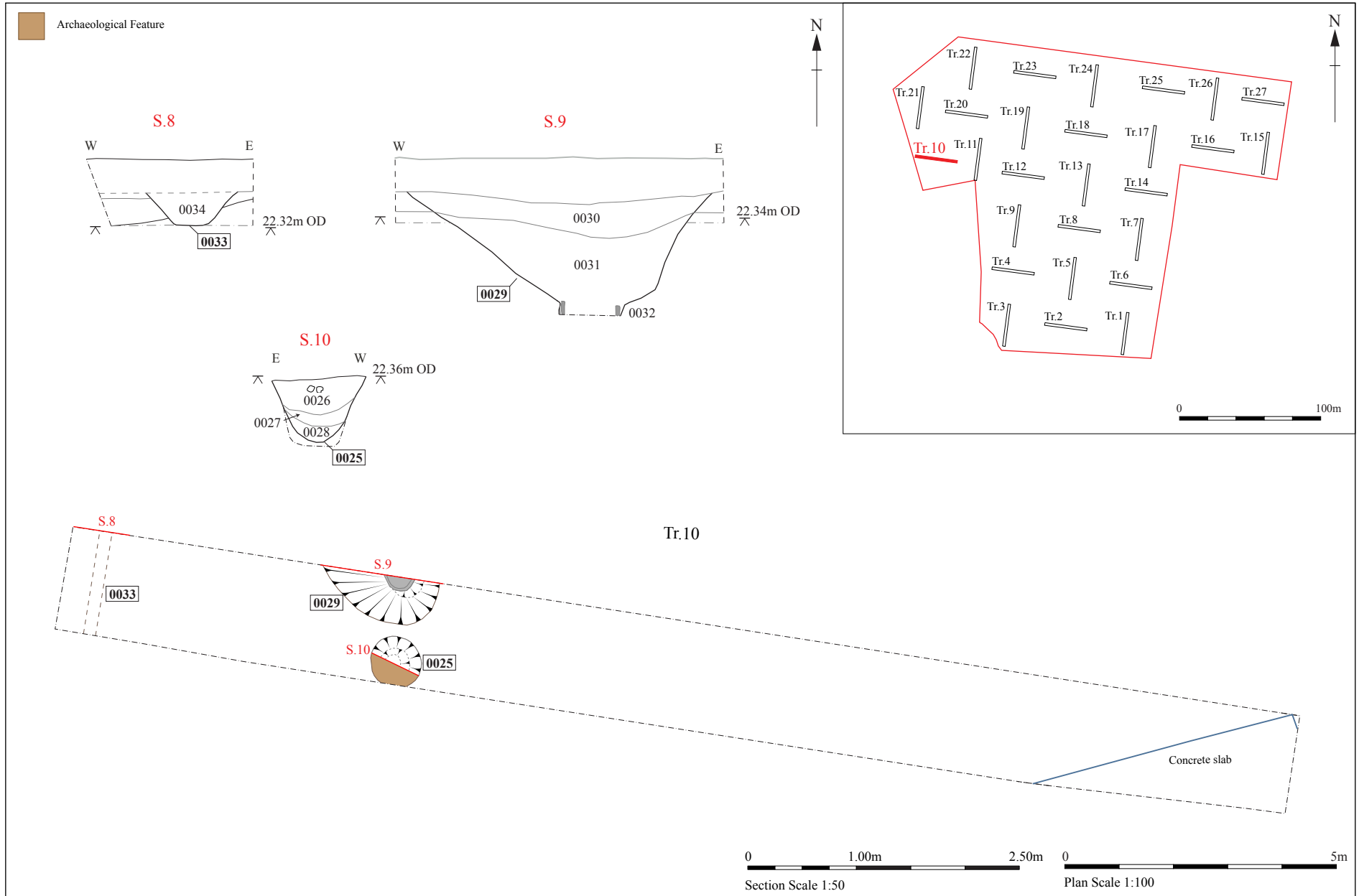


Figure 7. Trench 10, plan and sections

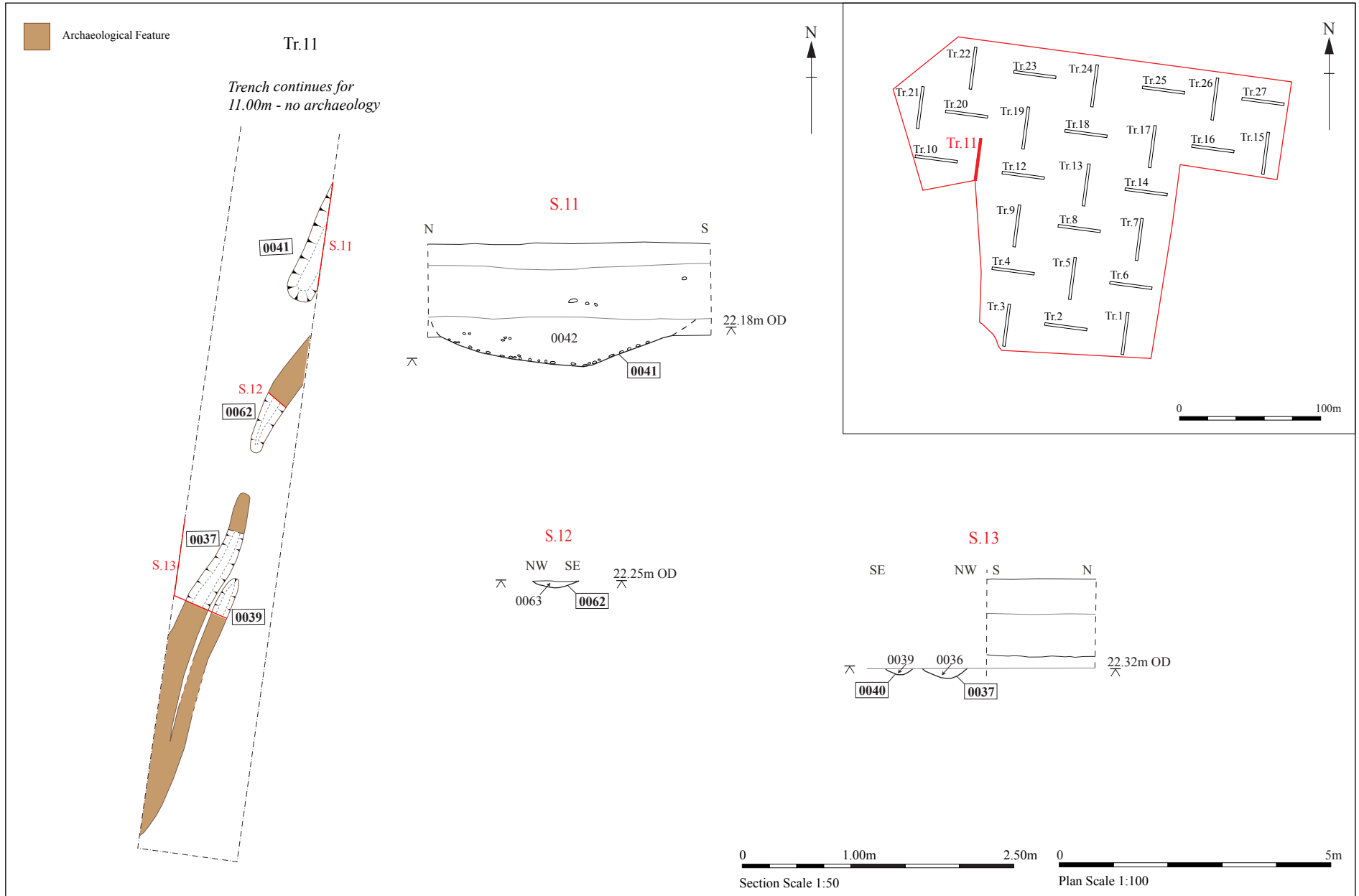


Figure 8. Trench 11, plan and sections

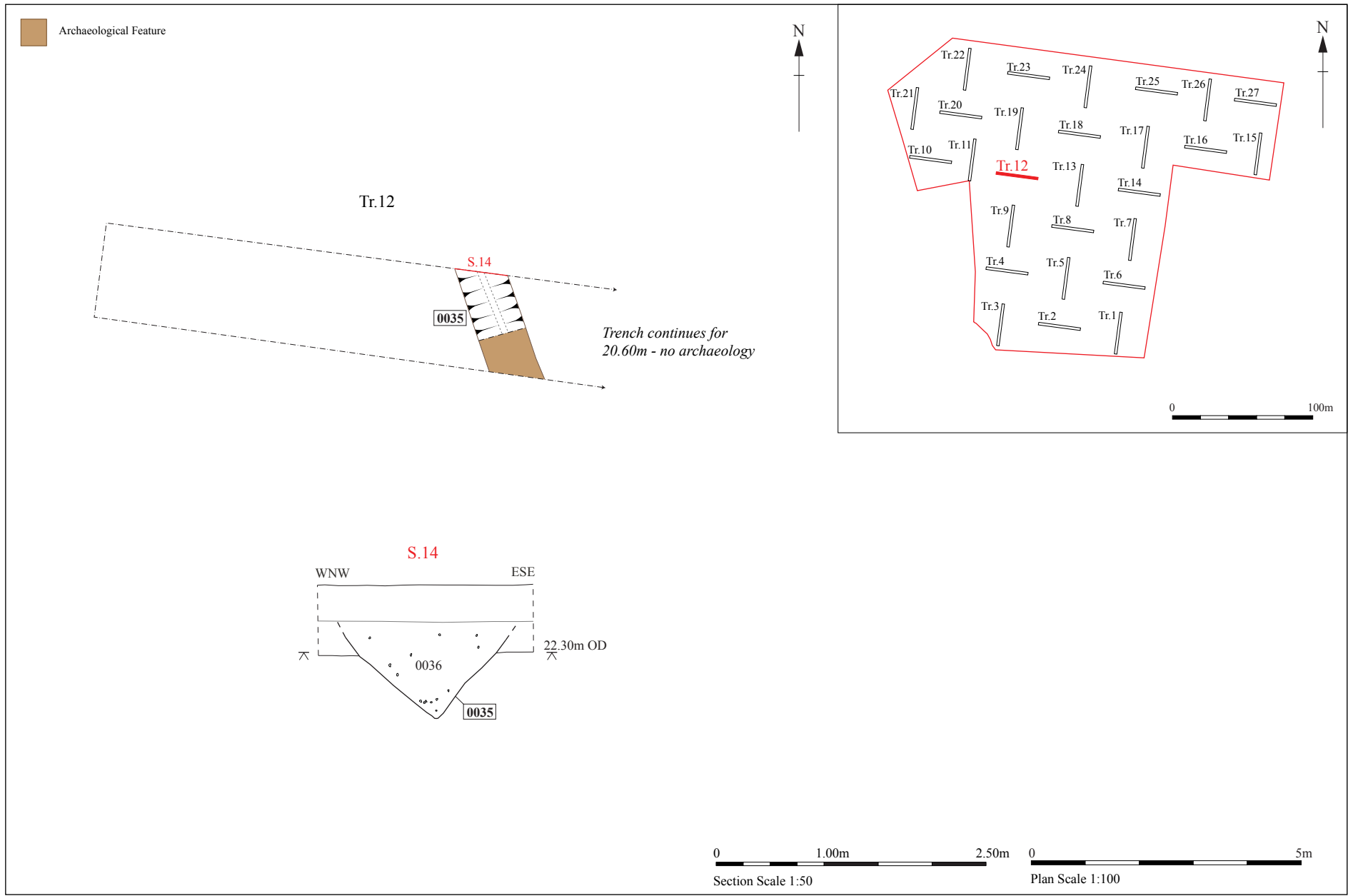


Figure 9. Trench 12, plan and section

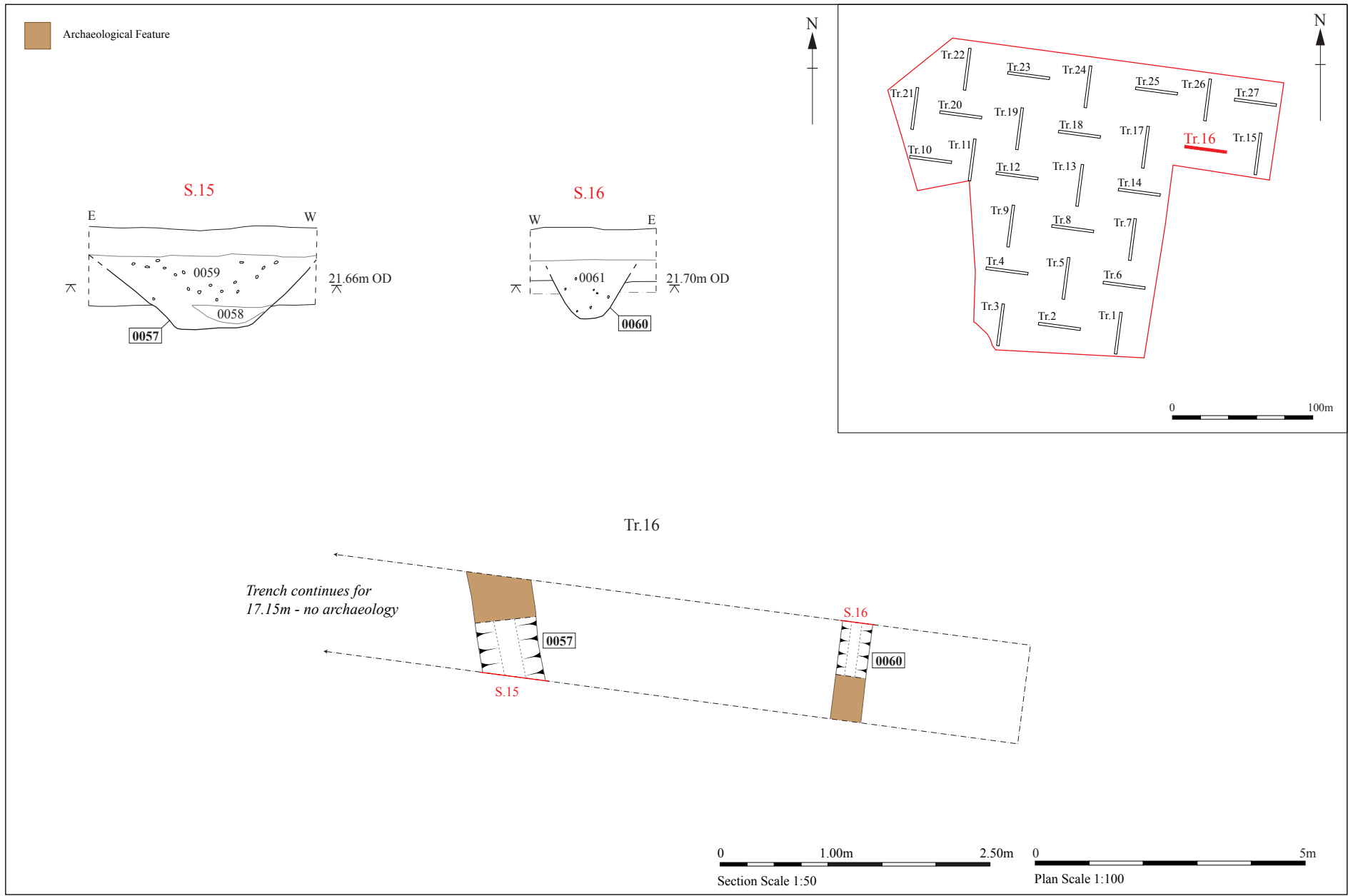


Figure 10. Trench 16, plan and sections

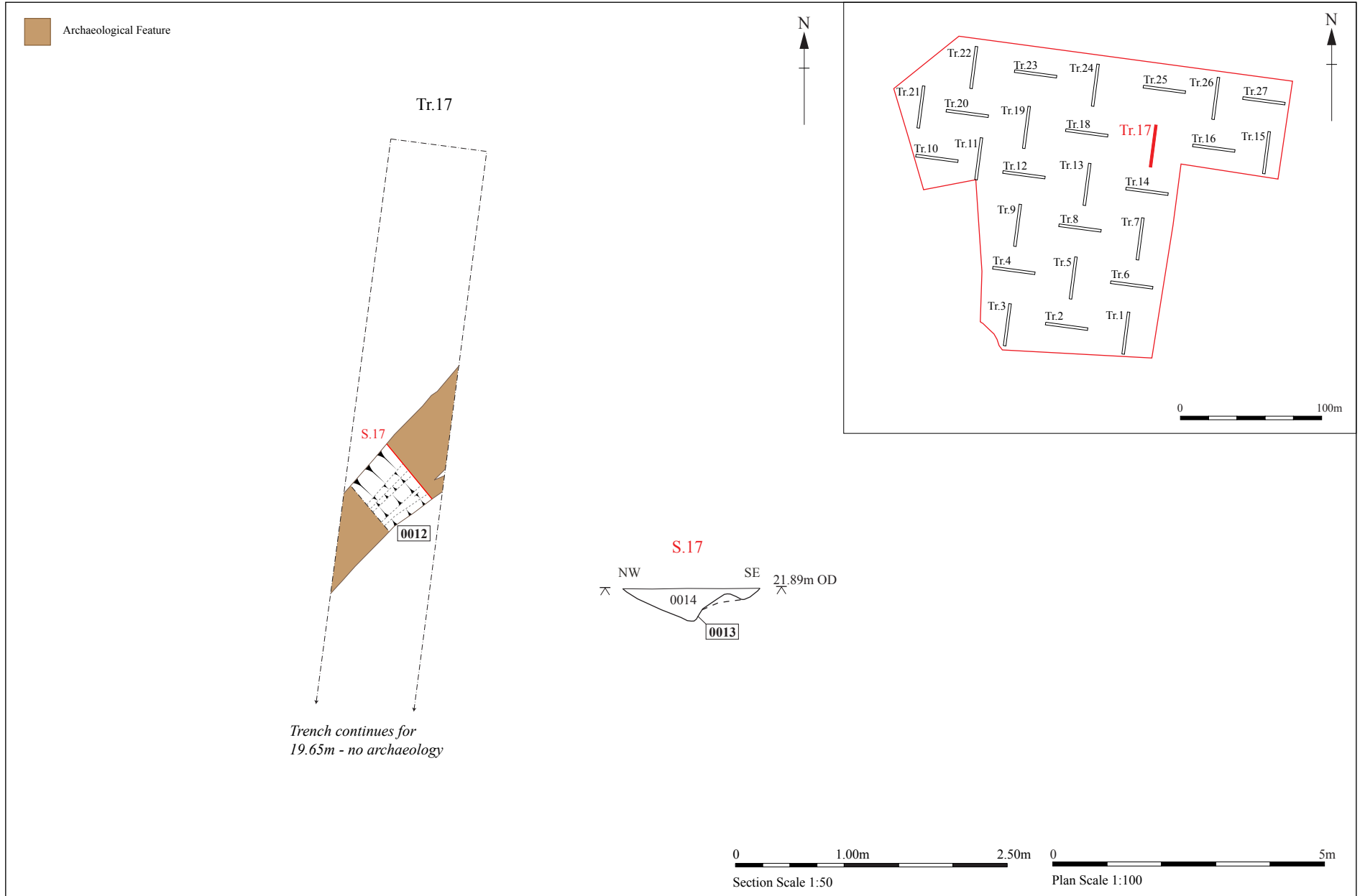


Figure 11. Trench 17, plan and section

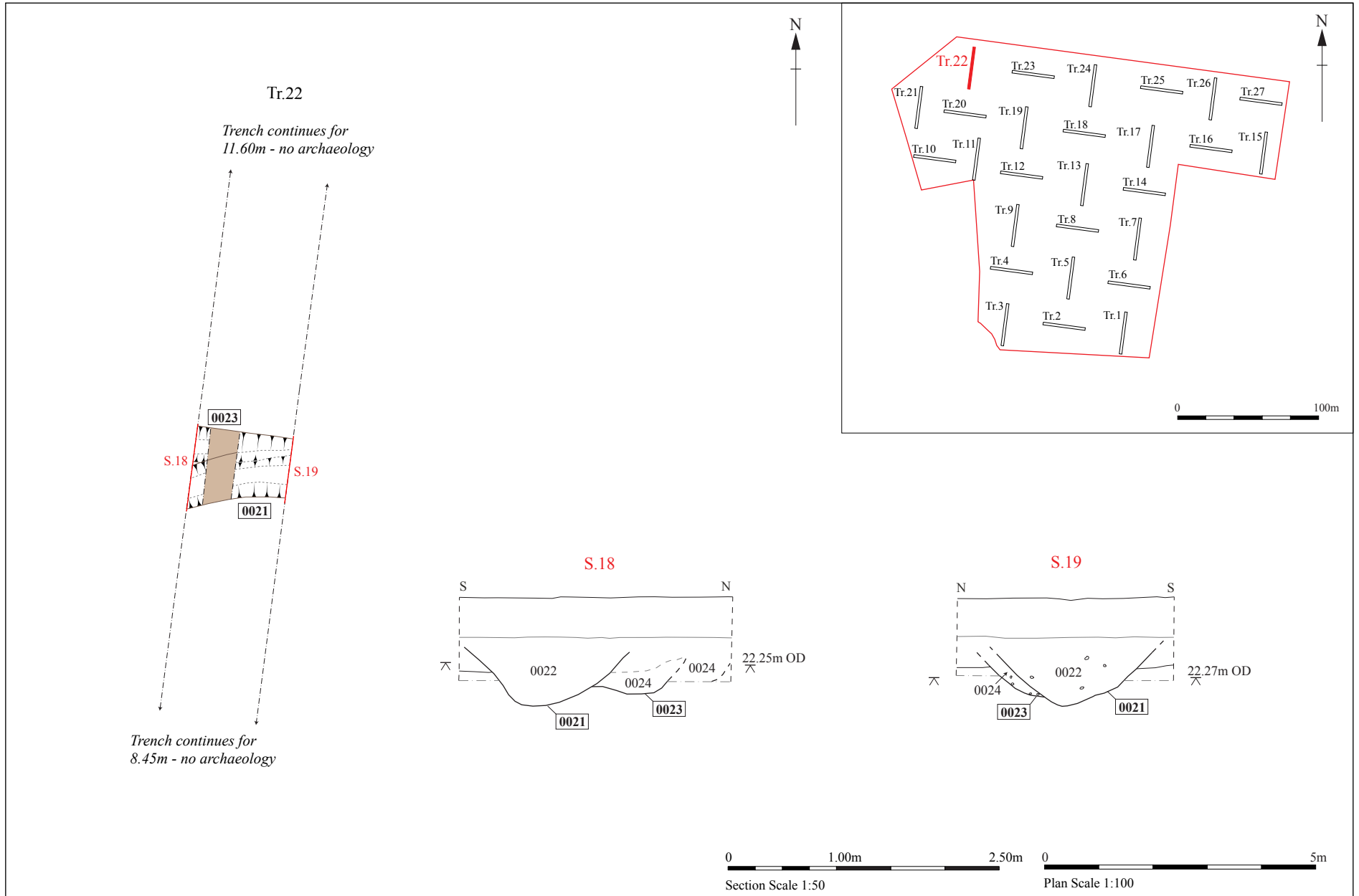


Figure 12. Trench 22, plan and sections

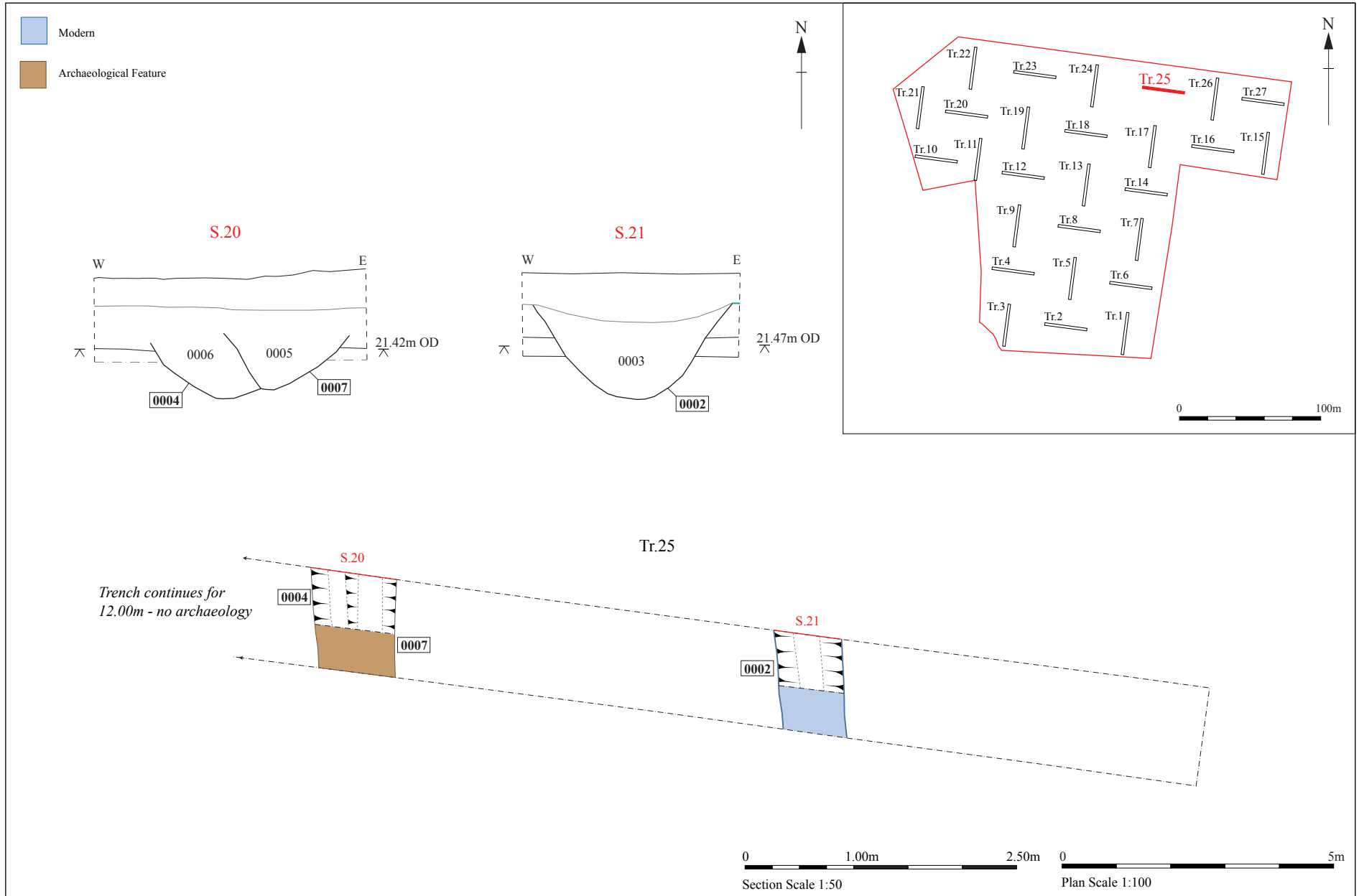


Figure 13. Trench 25, plan and sections

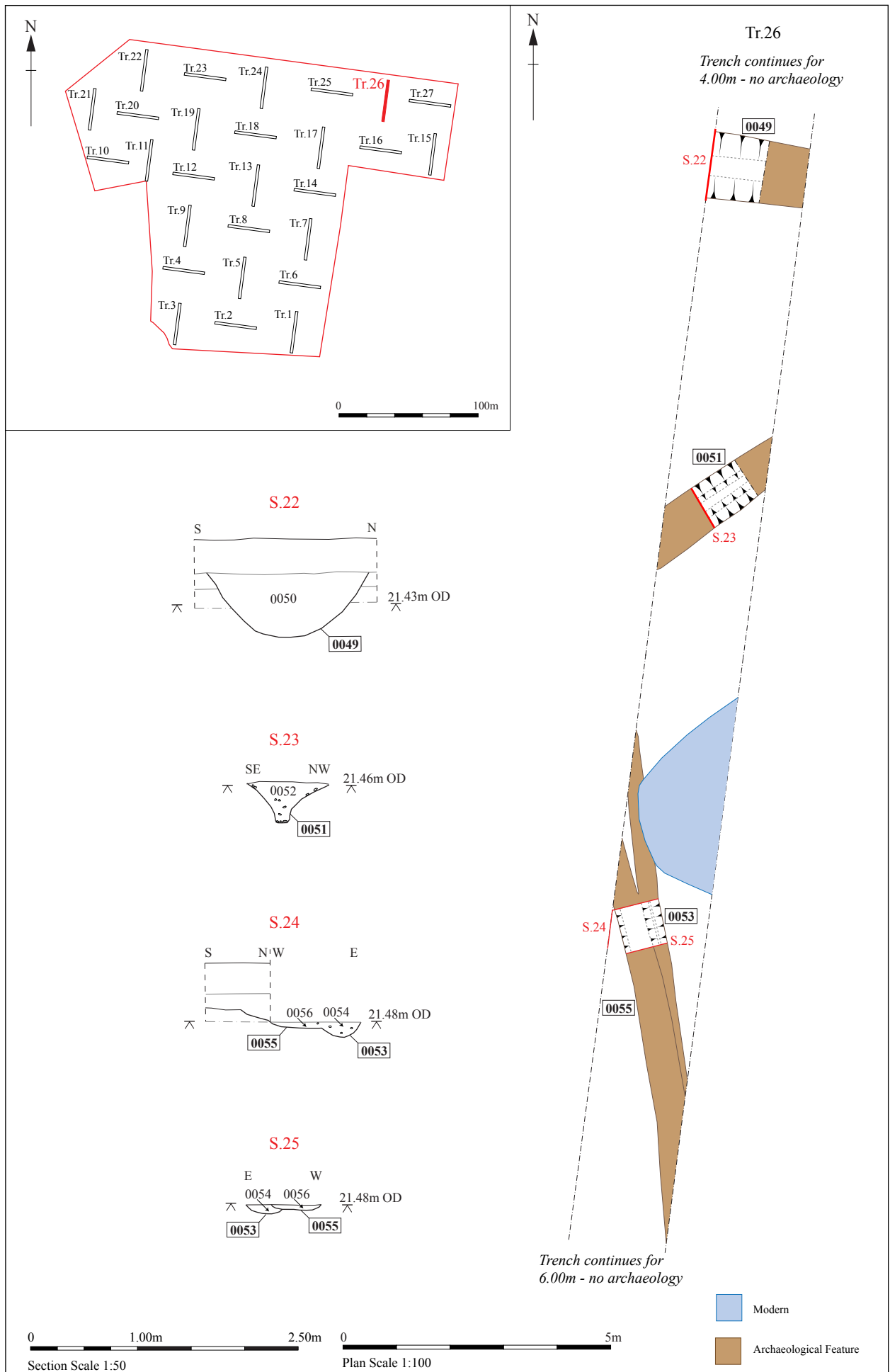


Figure 14. Trench 26, plan and sections

6. Finds and environmental evidence

Richenda Goffin, June 2010.

Introduction

Finds were collected from 10 contexts from 6 evaluation trenches, as shown in the table below.

Context	Pottery		CBM		Stone		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0005					1	11		Early A/Saxon?
0013	1	29						Early A/Saxon?
0020	3	67						Med
0022	1	31						M Saxon
0026	30	501	12	1582	2	348	1 iron nail @ 9g, 4 frags animal bone @ 340g, 1 frag p-med glass @ 127g, 2 frags clinker @ 13g	16th-18th C
0030	11	351	3	402			2 iron frags @ 32g	1st quarter of the 17th C
0031	1	31	2	27				16th-18th C
0034	1	43	1	102			1 iron nail @ 12g	16th-18th C
0044	1	17						L12th-14th C
0046							1 fired clay @ 8g	Undated
Total	49	1070	18	2113	3	359		

Table 1 Finds quantities

Pottery

A total of 49 fragments of pottery was recovered from 6 trenches (1070g). The assemblage is wide-ranging in date, with much of the pottery found in the fills of ditches. The pottery has been fully catalogued (Appendix 3).

A single fragment of abraded greyware recovered as an unstratified find in the topsoil of Trench 21 may be Roman. It was found with two fragments of medieval coarseware.

Two fragments of hand-made wares of a similar date were recorded. A large sherd from a simple vessel with a slightly inturned irregular-shaped rim was present in ditchfill 0013 in Trench 17 (Fig 11). It is made from a dense sandy fabric with occasional organic inclusions and circular voids (ESO2). The vessel which is slightly abraded, is patchily oxidised and has tooling on the exterior surface, particularly towards the rim edge. The fabric and appearance of this sherd could date to the Iron Age, but on balance it is considered more likely that it dates to the Early Anglo-Saxon period. A similar, but less well-preserved sherd with the same kind of fabric was identified in ditchfill 0005 (Trench 25).

A large but very abraded rim sherd of Ipswich Gritty type ware (West type Group 1 E, squared) was present in ditchfill 0022 in Trench 22. Such wares date to the Middle Saxon period (c720-850).

Four fragments of medieval date were recovered from the evaluation in total (88g). Two sherds of medieval coarseware were identified as unstratified sherds in Trench 21. A fragment of residual medieval greyware was present in pitfill 0026 in Trench 10. A sherd of a glazed medieval jug was found in ditchfill 0044 in Trench 9. It is made in a sandy fabric with flint and occasional lenses of grey clay, and is similar to Hollesley Glazed ware (L13th-14th C).

The remainder of the assemblage is post-medieval (41 fragments @ 916g). Twenty-nine sherds of this date range were identified in the upper fill 0026 of pit 0025 in Trench 10. In addition to other redwares, twenty-six fragments of Glazed red earthenware were present dating to the 16th-18th century. The pottery from the upper fill 0030 of a second pit in Trench 10 can be dated more closely. In addition to a fragment of Surrey whiteware and a sherd of Raeren stoneware, the upper parts of two jugs were present. One of these is a plain cordoned ovoid jug made in Frechen stoneware, and dating to the first quarter of the seventeenth century (Hurst, fig 106, no 334). The second jug is made in a hard, brick-red fabric and has a few splashes of a lead glaze. Several joining sherds of a plain jug with heavy grooves around the neck/shoulder join were identified. There are the remains of an elegant strap handle with shallow thumb impression at the base. Although the jug bears some resemblance to a Dutch-type red earthenware, it is most probably a local Late medieval transitional ware dating to the 15th-16th century.

Ceramic building material

A total of 17 fragments of ceramic building material was recovered from the evaluation (2100g). All of the assemblage dates to the post-medieval period. Fragments were recorded by fabric, based on the typology established for Suffolk.

The largest group of ceramic building material was present in the upper fill 0026 of a pit in Trench 10. Four fragments of red-fired post-medieval roof tile were identified made in sandy fabrics (284g, msfe and ms fabrics). Three fragments of late brick (fabric types fscp and fsg) date to the early post-medieval period. A white-firing brick (fabric wsg),

with a height of 45mm may be a floor brick or 'paviour' of a type commonly used in flooring in East Anglia in the 18th and 19th centuries (Anderson, 2005).

Three fragments were recovered from pitfill 0030, also in Trench 10. Two fragments of a plain glazed late medieval floortile were identified (271g). The tile is likely to be a Flemish import as fabric contains clay pellets and red grog and it has a nail impression on the upper surface with a kiln scar (Drury 1993 65). The only complete dimension is the height which is 25mm. It was accompanied by an abraded ?brick fragment made in a fine sandy fabric with clay pellets dating to the late medieval/early post-medieval period. A fragment of a post-medieval red-firing roofing tile and a burnt fragment of a late medieval/early post-medieval fabric were identified in pitfill 0031.

An abraded fragment of ?Late brick (104g) present in ditchfill 0034 in Trench 10 is made of a medium sandy fabric with grog (msg) and dates from the late medieval to post-medieval period.

Stone

Three fragments of septuaria were identified in pitfill 0026. This local stone, a type of compacted mudstone showed no evidence of having been modified or worked. A small fragment of burnt flint was present in ditchfill 0005.

Post-medieval glass

An unusual fragment of post-medieval glass was found in pitfill 0026. It resembles a dense baluster stem with ball knops, but it is made of dark green dense bottle glass and is far too large to be part of a wineglass. It is broken off at either end, but does not appear to be waste. Further work is required to identify this fragment further.

Metalwork

Two iron nails were recovered. One was found in ditchfill 0034 (Trench 10) and the second one was in pitfill 0026 in the same trench.

Two joining fragments of iron from pitfill 0030 were assigned a small find number (SF1001). They may be a buckle or chain link but radiography will enable a further description to be made.

Miscellaneous

Two fragments of clinker, possibly fuel ash slag were identified in pitfill 0026 (Trench 10). An unidentified fragment of possible fired clay was present in ditchfill 0046 in Trench 9.

Animal bone

Four fragments of animal bone were recovered from pitfill 0026 (Trench 10). They include two fragments of the proximal end of a bovine metacarpus and a metatarsus.

Discussion

A small quantity of ceramics of wide-ranging date was identified from the evaluation. In addition to a fragment of possible Roman greyware in Trench 21 topsoil, a large and relatively unabraded rim of a probable Early Anglo-Saxon vessel was identified in a ditchfill in Trench 17 and also in Trench 25. In addition medieval sherds were also recovered, and a fragment of late medieval glazed floortile. A small but coherent group of ceramics dating to the late sixteenth-early seventeenth century was also identified in Trench 10. The presence of all this material confirms the significance of the location of this site topographically and suggests activity in the area dating to the Early Anglo-Saxon period and possibly earlier. Fragments of a Roman greyware vessel were recovered from a subsoil deposit at an evaluation at Land North of Upper Lodge, Wades Lane (SLY 165) (Everett 2009).

Environmental Evidence

Val Fryer, April 2012

Introduction and method statement

The evaluation recorded a number of ditches and pits. Although few of the features were closely dated, pottery of Early and Middle Saxon, medieval and post-medieval date was recorded. Twenty three samples, for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages, were taken and all 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 assemblages containing plant macrofossils are listed in Appendix 3, Table 3. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (1997). All plant

remains were charred. Ten samples contained only charcoal/charred wood fragments and other remains, and these are listed in Appendix 3, Table 4. Modern fibrous roots were abundant within all assemblages, and seeds, arthropod remains and fungal sclerotia were also recorded.

Results

Cereal grains and/or seeds of common weeds are present within thirteen samples, although mostly as single specimens within an assemblage. Preservation is poor to moderate, with many of the grains being puffed and distorted, probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures. In addition, many of the macrofossils are heavily coated with fine silt particles, which may have prevented identification in some instances.

Wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grains are present within four assemblages along with a single possible immature barley (*Hordeum* sp.) grain. A spelt wheat (*T. spelta*) glume base is recorded within the assemblage from sample 5 (Early Saxon ditch cut [0012]), and this is possibly of note as, unless residual, it represents a very late record of this crop. Sample 9 (Middle Saxon ditch cut [0021]) contains a cotyledon fragment of an indeterminate large pulse (Fabaceae). Weed seeds are very scarce, but taxa noted include black bindweed (*Fallopia convolvulus*), goosegrass (*Galium aparine*), persicaria (*Persicaria maculosa/lapathifolia*) and dock (*Rumex* sp.). A single small fragment of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell is recorded within the assemblage from sample 12 (ditch cut [0035]). Charcoal/charred wood fragments are present throughout along with occasional pieces of charred root/stem and indeterminate buds, culm nodes and tuber fragments.

The fragments of black porous and tarry material, which occur within all but sample 19, are mostly very hard and brittle, and it is considered most likely that all are derived from the combustion of coal, fragments of which are also recorded within all twenty three assemblages. Both the residues and the coal are almost certainly later contaminants within the features from which the samples were taken. Other remains are very scarce, but do include fragments of bone, some of which are burnt, and vitreous globules.

Conclusions and recommendations for further work

In summary, the assemblages are all small (<0. 1 litres in volume) and very sparse, and it would appear most likely that the few remains which are recorded are derived from scattered detritus, all of which was probably accidentally incorporated within the feature fills. Most assemblages would appear to contain intrusive materials, possibly as a result of modern root penetration and other bioturbation.

Although the current assemblages are limited, they do illustrate that reasonably well-preserved plant remains are present within the archaeological horizon in this area of Shotley. Therefore, if further interventions are planned it is suggested that additional plant macrofossil samples of approximately 20 – 40 litres in volume are taken, although only from features which are both well sealed and dated.

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7. Discussion

The evaluation has revealed evidence for low levels of activity in the Saxon period with sherds having been recovered from three separate ditches. No evidence for a settlement was identified although one of the sherds was relatively large and unabraded suggesting the presence of a settlement site in the local area.

The small amount of medieval material recovered could be explained as the result of manuring of fields with waste that contains small amounts of pottery having been collected from a nearby farm/settlement and spread over the area.

The area of late medieval and post-medieval finds located in Trench 10 is indicative of a possible house site fronting onto the main road from Shotley Gate with further remains likely in the immediate vicinity. Hodskinson's map of 1783 appears to show a linear settlement on either side of the road in this area.

8. Conclusions and recommendations for further work

The nature of any further work will be the decision of the Dr Jess Tipper of the SCCAS Conservation Team. It will be heavily dependant on the proposed construction design which may require a variety of mitigation methods, ranging from a watching brief approach during topsoil stripping to small scale open-area excavation in selected areas.

9. Archive deposition

Paper archive: T:\ENV\ARC\MSWORKS3\PARISH\Shotley\HMS Ganges

Photo Archive: (yet to be fully archived, currently stored in the above location)

Historic Environment Record reference under which archive is held: SLY 166.

A summary has also been entered into OASIS, the online database, ref. suffolkc1-78937

10. List of contributors and acknowledgements

The evaluation was carried out by Bill Brookes, Roy Damant and Mark Sommers from the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Field Team. The machine and operator was provided by Holmes Plant and Construction Limited.

The project was directed by Mark Sommers, and managed by Rhodri Gardner, who also provided advice during the production of the report.

The graphics work was carried out by Crane Begg and his team in the Bury St Edmunds office of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service.

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.

Plates Scales = 1m and 2m lengths divided into 0.5m sections.

Note: trench numbers visible in the photographs relate to the order of excavation



Plate I. Example of the soil profile noted in the majority of trenches



Plate II. Ditches 0016 and 0018 (Trench 2), looking east



Plate III. Ditch 0014 (Trench 5), looking east



Plate IV. Ditches 0008 and 0010 (Trench 7), looking west



Plate V. Ditch 0043 (Trench 9), looking north



Plate VI. Ditch 0045 (Trench 9), looking west



Plate VII. Pit 0047 (Trench 9), looking east



Plate VIII. Pit 0025 (Trench 10), looking southwest



Plate IX. ?Well 0029 (Trench 10), looking north



Plate X. ?Well 0029 showing possible lining 0032 (Trench 10)



Plate XI. Ditch 0033 (Trench 10), looking north



Plate XII. Ditches 0039 and 0037 (Trench 11), looking south



Plate XIII. Ditch/Pit 0041 (Trench 11), looking east

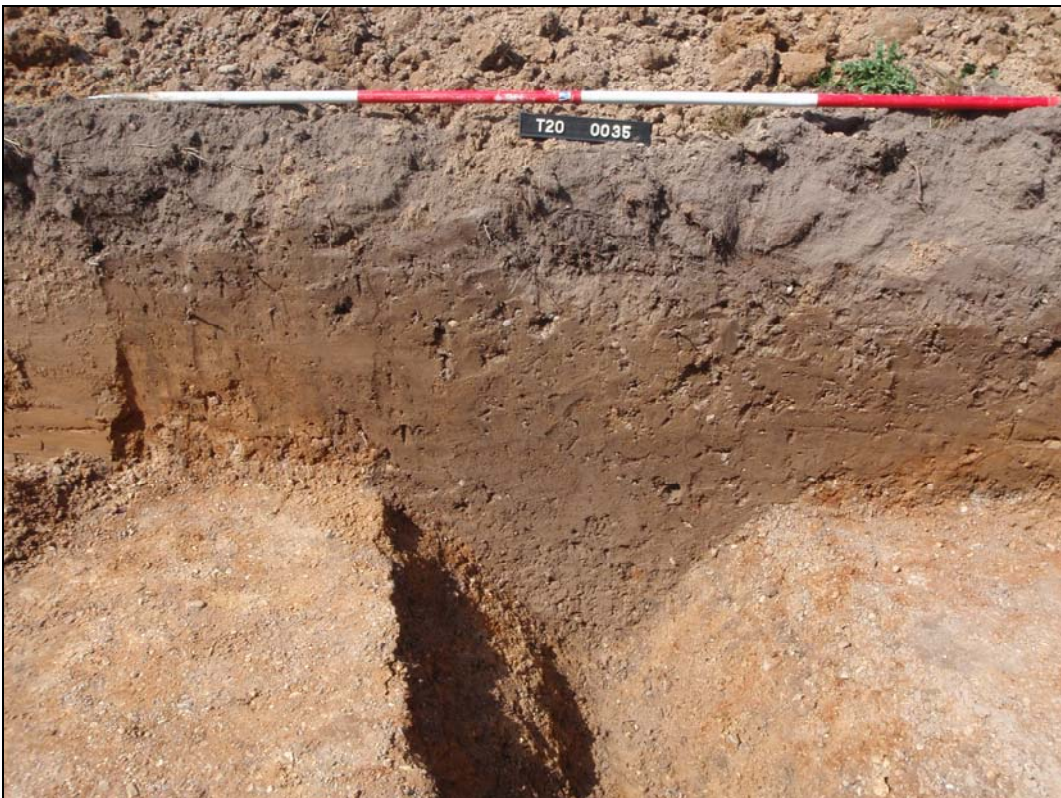


Plate XIV. Ditch 0035 (Trench 12), looking north



Plate XV. Ditch 0057 (Trench 16), looking south



Plate XVI. Ditch 0060 (Trench 16), looking north



Plate XVII. Ditch 0012 (Trench 17), looking northeast



Plate XVIII. Ditches 0021 and 0023 (Trench 22) looking east



Plate XIX. Ditch 0002 (Trench 25), looking north



Plate XX. Ditches 0004 and 0007 (Trench 25), looking north



Plate XXI. Ditch 0049 (Trench 26), looking east



Plate XXII. Ditch 0051 (Trench 26), looking southwest



Plate XXIII. Ditches 0055 (left) and 0053 (Trench 26), looking north

Brief and Specification for Archaeological Evaluation

HMS GANGES, SHOTLEY GATE, SUFFOLK

This is the brief for the first part of a programme of archaeological work. There is likely to be a requirement for additional work, this will be the subject of another brief.

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

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission has been sought from Babergh District Council (B/08/00964/ENQ) for redevelopment of land at HMS Ganges, Shotley Gate, Suffolk (TM 249 339).
- 1.2 The Planning Authority has been advised by Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT) that this proposal lies in an area of high archaeological importance. In order to establish the archaeological implications of the sports ground in the north-west part of the site, the applicant should be required, prior to consideration of the application, to provide an archaeological impact assessment of the proposed site as suggested in DoE Planning Policy Guidance 16 (November 1990), para 21.

It has been previously agreed that the remaining part of the site can be dealt with by a standard PPG 16 condition, comprising a phased programme of archaeological investigation.

- 1.3 The proposed development area overlooks the confluence of the Rivers Orwell and Stour. The soil is deep loam derived from the underlying glaciofluvial drift deposits at c. 20.00m AOD.
- 1.4 The site lies in an area of high archaeological potential recorded in the County Historic Environment Record. Dense archaeological remains are recorded as cropmarks by aerial reconnaissance immediately to the west of HMS Ganges. However, the location of this major development has not been subject to systematic archaeological survey.

The site has good potential for the discovery of important unknown archaeological sites and features in view of its proximity to known remains and also given the landscape setting on Shotley peninsula. This location is topographically favourable for early occupation. The proposed works would cause significant ground disturbance with the potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists.

- 1.5 The following archaeological evaluation work is required across the area of the sports pitch (c. 6.20ha. in size; see accompanying plan):

- A geophysical survey of the development area.
- A linear trenched evaluation 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 suitability of the area for development, and also the need for, and scope of, any further work (full excavation) 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 Paper 14, 2003.
- 1.9 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the WSI as satisfactory. The WSI will provide the basis for measurable standards and will be used to satisfy the requirements of the planning condition.
- 1.10 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.
- 1.11 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.
- 1.12 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 Evaluation is to proceed sequentially: the geophysical surveying will precede the trenched evaluation. The results are to be used to inform the trenching design
- 2.7 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.

- 2.8 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.
- 2.9 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.
- 2.10 Outline specifications for the two elements of the evaluation, which define certain minimum criteria, are set out below.

3. A. Specification for a Geophysical Survey

- 3.1 A fluxgate gradiometer survey is to be undertaken across the entire area marked on the accompanying plan (6.20ha. in extent).
- 3.2 The survey must be undertaken in accordance with *The Use of Geophysical Techniques in Archaeological Evaluation* (Gaffney, Gater and Ovenden 2002) and *Geophysical survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation* (David 1995) and also *Geophysical Data in Archaeology: A Guide to Good Practice* (Schmidt 2001) for best practice in the creation and use of digital geophysical data.
- 3.3 Careful consideration must be given to obtaining specialist advice and the appointment of an appropriate contractor. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategy should be sought from Paul Linford, English Heritage Geophysics Team Leader.

4. B. Specification for a Trenched Evaluation

- 4.1 Trial trenches are to be excavated to cover 5% by area, which is c. 3,100.00m². These shall be positioned to sample all parts of the site. Linear trenches are thought to be the most appropriate sampling method. Trenches are to be a minimum of 1.80m wide unless special circumstances can be demonstrated; this will result in a minimum of 1,722.00m of trenching at 1.80m in width.
- 4.2 For mechanised excavation a toothless 'ditching bucket' at least 1.20m 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.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 In all evaluation excavation there is a presumption of the need to cause the minimum disturbance to the site consistent with adequate evaluation; that significant archaeological features, e.g. solid or bonded structural remains, building slots or post-holes, should be preserved intact even if fills are sampled. For guidance:

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).

- 4.6 There must be sufficient excavation to give clear evidence for the period, depth and nature of any archaeological deposit. The depth and nature of colluvial or other masking deposits must be established across the site.
- 4.7 Archaeological contexts should, where possible, be sampled for palaeoenvironmental remains. Best practice should allow for sampling of interpretable and datable archaeological deposits and provision should be made for this. The contractor shall show what provision has been made for environmental assessment of the site and must provide details of the sampling strategies for retrieving artefacts, biological remains (for palaeoenvironmental and palaeoeconomic investigations), and samples of sediments and/or soils (for micromorphological and other pedological/sedimentological analyses. Advice on the appropriateness of the proposed strategies will be sought from Rachel Ballantyne, English Heritage Regional Adviser for Archaeological Science (East of England). A guide to sampling archaeological deposits (Murphy, P.L. and Wiltshire, P.E.J., 1994, *A guide to sampling archaeological deposits for environmental analysis*) is available for viewing from SCCAS.
- 4.8 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.
- 4.9 Metal detector searches must take place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user.
- 4.10 All finds will be collected and processed (unless variations in this principle are agreed SCCAS/CT during the course of the evaluation).
- 4.11 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.
- 4.12 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.
- 4.13 A photographic record of the work is to be made, consisting of both monochrome photographs and colour transparencies and/or high resolution digital images.
- 4.14 Topsoil, subsoil and archaeological deposit to be kept separate during excavation to allow sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 4.15 Trenches should not be backfilled without the approval of SCCAS/CT.

5. General Management

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 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.

- 5.3 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that adequate resources are available to fulfil the Brief.
- 5.4 A detailed risk assessment must be provided for this particular site.
- 5.5 No initial survey to detect public utility or other services has taken place. The responsibility for this rests with the archaeological contractor.
- 5.6 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.

6. Report Requirements

- 6.1 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).
- 6.2 The report should reflect the aims of the WSI.
- 6.3 The geophysical survey methodology should be set out carefully, and explained as appropriate. It must include a non-technical summary to make the report intelligible to both specialists and non-specialists.
- 6.4 The report on the geophysical survey must include images of both unprocessed (without smoothing or filtering) and also processed data, as well as interpretative plans (accompanied by a full key).
- 6.5 Digital copies of the geophysical survey plans should be supplied with the report for inclusion in the County Historic Environment Record; AutoCAD files should be 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 MapInfo .TAB files or ArcView files.
- 6.6 The results of the geophysical survey should be easily related to present-day landscape features and the National Grid.
- 6.7 The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its archaeological interpretation.
- 6.8 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.
- 6.9 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.
- 6.10 The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence, including an assessment of palaeo-environmental 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).
- 6.11 The results of the surveys should be related to the relevant known archaeological information held in the County Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 6.12 A copy of the Specification should be included as an appendix to the report.
- 6.13 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.

- 6.14 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*.
- 6.15 The project manager should consult the SCC Archive Guidelines 2008 and also the County HER Officer regarding the requirements for the deposition of the archive (conservation, ordering, organisation, labelling, marking and storage) of excavated material and the archive.
- 5.16 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>).
- 6.17 Every effort must be made to get the agreement of the landowner/developer to the deposition of the finds with the County HER or a museum in Suffolk which satisfies Museum and Galleries Commission requirements, as an indissoluble part of the full site archive. 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, analysis) as appropriate. If the County HER is the repository for finds there will be a charge made for storage, and it is presumed that this will also be true for storage of the archive in a museum.
- 6.18 The site archive is to be deposited with the County HER within three months of the completion of fieldwork. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 6.19 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.
- 6.20 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 and History*, 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.
- 6.21 County HER sheets must be completed, as per the County HER manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.
- 6.22 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.
- 6.23 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.
- 6.24 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

Date: 17 August 2009

Reference: ArchSpecEval_HMSGanges2009

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.

Context Data

Context	Component	Identifier	Trench	Description	Cuts	Cut by
0001		U/S finds		Unstratified finds from June 2010 evaluation		
0002	0002	Ditch Cut	25	Probable ditch cut, bowl shaped profile. Coincides with ditch marked on early OS maps		
0003	0002	Ditch Fill	25	Fill of cut 0025 comprising mid-dark brown silty sand. Some clearly 20th century artefacts located well within fill (tin cans, glass bottle etc.), not retained		
0004	0004	Ditch Cut	25	Probable ditch cut, bowl shaped profile		0007
0005	0007	Ditch Fill	25	Fill of cut 0007 comprising mid brown silty sand [sampled]		
0006	0004	Ditch Fill	25	Fill of cut 0004 comprising mid orange brown silty sand [sampled]		
0007	0004	Ditch Cut	25	Recut of ditch 0004	0004	
0008	0008	Ditch Cut	7	Probable ditch cut, sloping sides with a narrow flat base		0010
0009	0008	Ditch Fill	7	Fill of cut 0008 comprising pale brown silty sand		
0010	0008	Ditch Cut	7	Recut of ditch 0008	0008	
0011	0008	Ditch Fill	7	Fill of cut 0010 comprising pale-mid brown silty sand		
0012	0012	Ditch Cut	17	Probable ditch cut with possible re-cut on southeast side		
0013	0012	Ditch Fill	17	Fill of cut 0012 comprising pale grey sandy silt		
0014	0014	Ditch Cut	5	Probable ditch cut, bowl shaped profile		
0015	0014	Ditch Fill	5	Fill of cut 0014 comprising pale grey sandy silt with iron panning, very few stones		
0016	0016	Ditch Cut	2	Probable ditch cut, bowl shaped profile. Recut by, or is a recut of, Ditch 0018		
0017	0016	Ditch Fill	2	Fill of cut 0016 comprising light grey-brown sandy silt		
0018	0016	Ditch Cut	2	Probable ditch cut, bowl shaped profile. Recut by, or is a recut of, Ditch 0016		
0019	0016	Ditch Fill	2	Fill of cut 0018 comprising light yellow-brown sandy silt		
0020	0020	Finds	21	Unstratified sherds recovered from topsoil removed during excavation of Trench 21		
0021	0021	Ditch Cut	22	Probable ditch cut, possibly a recut of ditch 0023	0023	
0022	0021	Ditch Fill	22	Fill of cut 0021 comprising mid grey-brown sandy silt		
0023	0021	Ditch Cut	22	Probable ditch cut, recut by ditch 0021		0021
0024	0021	Ditch Fill	22	Light brown sandy silt mottled with pale yellow sand		
0025	0025	Pit Cut	10	Circular feature cut interpreted as a pit. Gently sloping sides down to a rounded base		
0026	0025	Pit Fill	10	Upper fill of pit 0025 comprising pale brown silty sand		
0027	0025	Pit Fill	10	Fill of pit 0025 comprising mid orange-brown sandy gravel		
0028	0025	Pit Fill	10	Primary fill of pit 0025 comprising dark brown silty sand		
0029	0029	Pit Cut	10	Large, probably circular feature cut. Sloping sides down a deeper, circular cut at a depth of c.1m. Circular section measured 0.54m in diameter. Clear 'lining' of grey silt/clay against edge (0032) suggesting a possibly well. Feature not bottomed due to water logging		
0030	0029	Pit Fill	10	Upper fill of cut 0029 comprising mid grey brown sand and silt		
0031	0029	Pit Fill	10	main body of fill from cut 0029 comprising mixed light grey-brown and light brown-orange silty sand		
0032	0029	Pit Fill	10	Thin band grey silt/clay around deeper portion of cut 0029. Interpreted as a possible lining for a well		
0033	0033	Ditch Cut	10	Linear feature cut across west end of trench, parallel with road to the west. Interpreted as a possible building slot or a ditch/gulley		
0034	0033	Ditch Fill	10	Fill of cut 0033 comprising mid grey brown silty sand becoming more brown and orange towards base		

Context	Component	Identifier	Trench	Description	Cuts	Cut by
0035	0035	Ditch Cut	12	Probable ditch cut with 'V' shaped profile (?same as ditch 0043 in Trench 9)		
0036	0035	Ditch Fill	12	Fill of cut 0035 comprising grey sandy silt		
0037	0037	Ditch Cut	11	Narrow, slightly meandering, probable ditch cut. Adjacent to Ditch 0039. Probably Associated with ditch 0062 to the north		
0038	0037	Ditch Fill	11	Fill of cut 0037 comprising pale grey sandy silt		
0039	0039	Ditch Cut	11	Narrow, slightly meandering, probable ditch cut. Adjacent to Ditch 0037		
0040	0039	Ditch Fill	11	Fill of cut 0039 comprising pale grey sandy silt		
0041	0041	Ditch Cut	11	Elongated pit or probable butt end of northeast-southwest aligned ditch		
0042	0041	Ditch Fill	11	Fill of cut 0041 comprising pale brown silty sand		
0043	0035	Ditch Cut	9	Probable ditch cut with 'V' shaped profile (?same as ditch 0035 in Trench 12)		
0044	0035	Ditch Fill	9	Fill of cut 0043 comprising grey silt		
0045	0045	Ditch Cut	9	Probable ditch cut aligned east west. Narrows and becomes shallower to the east		
0046	0045	Ditch Fill	9	Fill of cut 0045 comprising light brown grey sandy silt		
0047	0047	Pit Cut	9	Probably circular shaped feature on eastern edge of trench, interpreted as a pit. Sloping sides down to a rounded base		
0048	0047	Pit Fill	9	Fill of cut 0047 comprising pale grey silty sand		
0049	0049	Ditch Cut	26	Probable ditch cut, bowl shaped profile		
0050	0049	Ditch Fill	26	Fill of cut 0049 comprising mid orange brown gravelly, silty, sand		
0051	0051	Ditch Cut	26	Probable ditch cut with steep sides and a pronounced 'trench' at the base		
0052	0051	Ditch Fill	26	Fill of cut 0051 comprising pale orange-brown sandy silt		
0053	0053	Ditch Cut	26	Probable ditch, recut by Ditch 0055		0055
0054	0053	Ditch Fill	26	Fill of cut 0053 comprising pale grey-brown sandy silt		
0055	0053	Ditch Cut	26	Probable ditch cut. A recut of Ditch 0053	0053	
0056	0053	Ditch Fill	26	Fill of cut 0053 comprising pale grey-brown sandy silt		
0057	0057	Ditch Cut	16	Probable ditch cut. A continuation of ditch 0053 (or its recut 0055)		
0058	0057	Ditch Fill	16	Fill within cut of ditch 0057. Discrete zone, may actually be the fill of a separate recut. Comprises mid grey-brown sandy silt		
0059	0057	Ditch Fill	16	Fill of cut 0057 comprising pale grey-brown sandy silt		
0060	0060	Ditch Cut	16	Probable ditch, sloping sides rounded/flat base		
0061	0060	Ditch Fill	16	Fill of cut 0060 comprising pale orange-grey sandy silt		
0062	0037	Ditch Cut	11	Probable ditch cut. Associated with ditch 0037. On a similar line but with a 0.7m gap, Possible a shallower section of what is a heavily truncated feature		
0063	0037	Ditch Fill	11	Fill of cut 0062 comprising pale grey sandy silt		

Finds and Environmental Data

Table 1. Spotdates

Context No	Ceramic Period	Fabric	Form	Sherd No	Weight (g)	State	Comments	Fabric date range	Context date
0005	Early Saxon	ESO1?	BODY	1	6	A	Oxidised margin, fine grey fab. Dense sandy w occ organic voids	5th-7th C	5th-7th C
0013	Early Saxon	ESO1?	BOWL?	1	29		Pt oxid lge rim sherd. Tooled ext, irreg inturned rim. Dense sand w org	5th-7th C?	5th-7th C?
0020	Medieval	MCW	BODY	2	60			L12th-14th C	L12th-14th C
0020	Roman?	GX	BODY	1	6		Poss Roman greyware	Roman	
0022	Middle Saxon	SIPS	JAR	1	31	A	Abraded, West Type Group 1 squared	c720-850	c720-850
0026	Medieval	MCW	BODY	1	11	SA		L12th-14th C	
0026	Post-Med	IGBW/GRE	BODY	1	34			16th-18th C	
0026	Post-Med	GRE	JAR?	26	410		Has handle scar	16th-18th C	16th-18th C
0026	Post-Med	PMRW	BODY	2	45			16th-18th C	
0030	Post-Med	BORDG	BODY	1	3	A		1550-1700	
0030	Post-Med	FREC	JUG	2	86		Rim & handle of plain ovoid jug c1600-1625 (Hurst fig 106, no 334)	1600-1625	1600-1625
0030	Post-Med	LMT/DUTR	JUG	5	220		Upper part of redware jug, heavy grooves around neck/shoulder join	16th C?	
0030	Post-Med	LMT	BODY	1	11			15th-16th C	
0030	Post-Med	GRE	BODY	1	9			16th-18th C	
0031	Post-Med	GRE	BODY	1	31			16th-18th C	16th-18th C
0034	Post-Med	GRE	JAR/CAULD	1	43		Cauldron or jar rim	16th-18th C	16th-18th C
0044	Medieval	UPG	JUG	1	17		Poss Hollesley Glazed ware, or similar	L13th-14th C	L13th-14th C

Table 2. Bulk Finds

Context	Pottery No	Pottery Wt	Ceramic Period	CBM No	CBM Wt	Fired clay No	Fired clay Wt	Stone No	Stone Wt	Iron nails No	Iron nails Wt	Animal bone No	Animal bone Wt	Miscellaneous
0005								1	11					1 frag burnt flint
0013	1	29	SAX											
0020	3	67	UNID											
0022	1	31	SAX											
0026	30	501	PMED	12	1582			2	348	1	9	4	340	2 frags clinker @ 13g, 1 frag p-med ?bottle @ 127g
0030	11	351	PMED	3	402									2 iron frags @ 32g
0031	2	44	UNID	1	14									
0034	1	43	PMED	1	102					1	12			
0044	1	17	MED											
0046						1	8							

Table 3. Plant macrofossils

Sample No.	3	5	6	7	8	9	11	12	14	17	18	20	23
Context No.	0009	0013	0015	0017	0019	0022	0031	0036	0042	0048	0050	0054	0061
Cut No.	0008	0012	0014	0016	0018	0021	0029	0035	0041	0047	0049	0053	0060
Feature type	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Pit	Ditch	Ditch	Pit	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch
Date		?E.Sax				M.Sax	P.Med						
Cereals and other food plants													
<i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grain)													xcf
<i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains)		x			x				xcf	xcf			
<i>T. spelta</i> L. (glume base)		x											
Cereal indet. (grains)		x					xcffg		xfg				x
Large Fabaceae indet.						xcfcoty							
Herbs													
Fabaceae indet.											x		
<i>Fallopia convolvulus</i> (L.)A.Love												x	
<i>Galium aparine</i> L.			x	x									
<i>Persicaria maculosa/lapathifolia</i>									x				
Small Poaceae indet.	xcf												
<i>Rumex</i> sp.							x						
Tree/shrub macrofossils													
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L.								x					
Other plant macrofossils													
Charcoal <2mm	xxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxx	xx	xx	xxx	xx	xxx	xx	xx	xxxx
Charcoal >2mm	xx	xxx	xx	xxx	xx	x	xx	xx	xx	x	x	xx	xxx
Charcoal >5mm		x	x	xx	x	x							x
Charred root/stem			x	xx		x	x	x	x	x	x		
Indet.bud			x										
Indet.culm nodes							x						
Indet.seeds			x									x	
Indet.tuber				x									
Other remains													
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	x		x	x		x		xx	x	x	x	x
Black tarry material	x		x	x	x	x		x	xx	xx	x	x	
Bone						x							
Small coal frags.	x	x	x	x	xx	xx	xx	x	xx	xx	xx	x	x
Small mammal/amphibian bone							xb						
Sample volume (litres)	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 4. Charcoal/charred wood fragments and other remains

Sample No.	1	2	4	10	13	15	16	19	21	22
Context No.	0005	0006	0011	0024	0038	0044	0046	0052	0056	0059
Cut No.	0004	0007	0010	0023	0037	0043	0045	0051	0055	0057
Feature type	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch
Date	E.Sax					Med				
Other plant macrofossils										
Charcoal <2mm	xxx	xxxx	xxx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	x
Charcoal >2mm	xx	x	xx	x	x	xx	x	x	xx	x
Charcoal >5mm						x			x	
Charred root/stem	x	x		x	x			x	x	
Other remains										
Black porous 'cokey' material	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x
Black tarry material		x	x	xx	x		x			x
Bone			x		xb					
Small coal frags.	x	xx	x	xxx	xx	xx	x	x	x	x
Vitreous material	x		x	x						
Sample volume (litres)	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Key to Tables 3 and 4

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens
 cf = compare coty = cotyledon fg = fragment b = burnt
 E.Sax = Early Saxon M.Sax = Middle Saxon Med = medieval P.Med = post medieval