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**MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY AT MILL STREET,  
NECTON, NORFOLK**

**PUBLICATION REPORT**

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## OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	<i>Land at Mill Street, Necton, Norfolk. An Archaeological Excavation</i>		
<i>Excavation at this site revealed a small number of medieval features including a well, with a wood-lined shaft, ditches and pits. The majority of these features could be dated to the medieval period. Two separate phases of activity could be identified from the artefactual and stratigraphic evidence. These are likely to represent the rearrangement of land and boundaries; an event often identified in medieval villages. The later phase of activity clearly represents a boundary system, possibly representing the enclosed land holdings associate with peasant dwellings. It seems likely that the earlier phase represents similar land use.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>May 2012</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>Y</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>P4136</i>	Site code	<i>ENF 126774</i>
Type of project	<i>Open Area Excavation</i>		
Site status			
Current land use	<i>Agriculture</i>		
Planned development	<i>Residential development</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>Medieval well, ditches, pits, gullies</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>Medieval (11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>/mid 13<sup>th</sup> C) pottery, waterlogged wood</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Norfolk</i>	<i>Breckland</i>	<i>Necton</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Norfolk HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>1.3ha</i>		
NGR	<i>NGR TF 8801 0957</i>		
Height AOD (max/ min)	<i>51m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Ken Hamilton, Norfolk Landscape Archaeology</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>S. Quinn (Excavation), A. A. S. Newton (Post-Excavation)</i>		
Funded by	<i>Hopkins Homes Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Medieval Archaeology at Mill Street, Necton, Norfolk</i>		
Authors	<i>Andrew A. S. Newton</i>		
Report no.	<i>4126</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>November 2012</i>		

# MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY AT MILL STREET, NECTON, NORFOLK

**Andrew A. S. Newton MPhil PIFA**

*With contributions by Peter Thompson, John R. Summers, Julia E. M. Cussans and Michael Bamforth*

## Summary

*Excavation at this site revealed a small number of medieval features including a well, with a wood-lined shaft, ditches and pits. The majority of these features could be dated to the medieval period. Two separate phases of activity could be identified from the artefactual and stratigraphic evidence. These are likely to represent the rearrangement of land and boundaries; an event often identified in medieval villages. The later phase of activity clearly represents a boundary system, possibly representing the enclosed land holdings associate with peasant dwellings. It seems likely that the earlier phase represents similar land use.*

## INTRODUCTION

In May 2012, Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) conducted an archaeological excavation at Mill Street, Necton, Norfolk (NGR TF 8801 0957; Fig. 1) as part of a planning condition related to residential development of the site. The excavation followed a trial trench evaluation, conducted in June 2011 (Janes 2011) which targeted anomalies identified during a preceding geophysical survey (Smalley 2010).

The majority of the features identified during the evaluation were in Trench 5; the excavation, comprising an area of c. 800m<sup>2</sup>, was therefore focussed on an area including this trench and the land immediately to the east. Trench 4 of the preceding evaluation was located a short distance to the east of the excavated area.

In light of the small number of features recorded during the evaluation, the excavation revealed a surprising number and range of features: eight pits, three gullies, one post hole and four ditches. The majority of features were dated and were medieval (11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>/mid 13<sup>th</sup> century). Surprising also was the fact that a substantial well (F2036) was identified and it contained large waterlogged timbers.

## BACKGROUND

### The Site

The site comprised a plot of previously undeveloped agricultural land of some

1.3ha. It is located in the central northern part of modern Necton and is surrounded by domestic housing. It lies close to the 14<sup>th</sup> century church of All Saints and hence within the medieval core of the village.

The Mill Street site lies at a height of c. 51m AOD in an area of fairly flat relief with land gently sloping down to the south and climbing to the north. The solid geology of the area is comprised of Cretaceous Chalk, overlain by a drift geology of chalky till and glaciofluvial drift. The Mill Street site lies on the fine and coarse loamy over clayey soils of the Beccles 2 Association but the fine loamy soils of the Burlingham 3 Association are predominant to the north of the village (SSEW 1983). In accordance with these soil types, verbal evidence provided by a neighbouring landowner indicates that prior to drainage works undertaken in the late 1990s, the north-eastern part of the site was susceptible to waterlogging and flooding.

### **Archaeological and historical background**

Little evidence for Saxon activity has been recorded in Necton but pottery of this period has been recovered (NHER 4186, 8698). Such evidence, recovered from the churchyard (NHER 4642), suggests that the centre of population at this time may have been centred on the site of the medieval church. Evidence from the Domesday Book indicates that Necton had become an important and prosperous holding prior to the Norman period (Williams & Martin 2003, 1150-1151).

Settlement within the parish during the medieval period appears to have been quite widespread; three foci of settlement have been identified. In addition to known medieval settlement within the area of the modern village, earthworks representing the deserted medieval village of Pinkneys or Sparham (NHER 4209) are known in the north of the parish, to the west of Sparham Hall and a third area of settlement (NHER 23809) has been recorded on the edge of Necton Common where a house is known to have existed as early as 1361 (Norfolk Heritage Explorer accessed 16.7.2012). The prosperity of the Anglo-Saxon period appears to have continued in to the medieval period, as is suggested by the presence of a medieval hall house at Lodge Cottage, now much altered (NHER 17142) and two possible medieval moats (NHER 4190 and 4204). The relative status of medieval Necton is further highlighted by the presence of a 14<sup>th</sup> century Lotharingian silver coin less than c.50m to the west of the assessment site (HER18439), and a French jetton (button/counter) recorded c.300m to the north-west (HER30950). Significant parts of All Saints Church, c.150m to the north-west, date to the 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. The church and its environs appear to have formed part of a medieval religious centre of some status that included two, now lost, chantry chapels. A medieval buttress that forms part of the 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century buildings at 9 and 11 School Road c.200m to the east of the assessment site is suspected as being part of one of these chantry chapels (HER49764). The locations of two medieval crosses (NHER 19729 and 29730) are recorded in a document of 1427.

## Results of the trial trench evaluation

In June 2011 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) conducted an archaeological trial trench evaluation (Janes 2011). The principal aims of the evaluation were to investigate the main anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey, as well as targeting 'blank' areas of the site.

The majority of the features were identified in Trench 5 of the evaluation. Although datable material (sparse 10<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> century pottery) was only recovered from two of the eight features, their morphology makes it probable that they are broadly contemporary, with similar functions. The majority of the features were ditches. Apart from the pottery, no occupation debris in the form of animal bone, charcoal or other artefacts was recovered, indicating that the features may represent agricultural activity. A re-cut ditch was considered to represent the cleaning of a silted-up feature in order to reinstate a property boundary and/or plot division. Further ditches, identified as following similar alignments were considered to be broadly contemporary and to share a common function as boundaries and/or plot divisions.

## THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

### Introduction

The excavation revealed a well or cistern feature, containing a waterlogged wooden structure, eight pits, three gullies, one posthole and four ditches (Fig. 2). The majority of the features were dateable from the ceramic evidence that they contained and all were medieval. Based on a combination of the dateable artefactual evidence and stratigraphic relationships it was possible to see the chronological development of activity at the site.

Detailed archaeological descriptions of all of the recorded features can be found in the grey literature for this project (Quinn and Newton 2012).

### The earlier features

*Andrew A. S. Newton and Peter Thompson*

The earliest identifiable features were mostly located at the southern end of the excavated area, comprising a group of intercutting features (Pit F2005, Gully F2016, Ditch F2018 and the undated Pit F2032). Pit F2014, which lay c. 3m to the north-east of F2005 and Pit F2008, which was located further to the north, are likely to have been contemporary with these features.

Gully F2018 (= F1019 Tr.5) was linear in plan (8+ x 0.80 x 0.22m), orientated broadly east to west. It was cut towards its eastern end by sinuous Gully F2016 (7m+ x 0.75m x 0.28m) which ran on a south-south-west to north-north-east alignment. Its northern terminus was cut by sub-rectangular Pit F2005 (3.6 x 1.4 x 0.45m).

With the exception of the undated F2032, Ditch F2018 (=F1019) was the stratigraphically earliest of this group of features and has been identified as amongst the earliest features at the site on the basis of the presence of single sherd of Grimston-Thetford ware pottery comprising a slightly thickened 12cm diameter upright rim probably from a cooking pot. The pottery assemblage (comprising 13 sherds of Early Medieval sandy wares and Grimston-Thetford ware, including a strap handle) from Gully F2016, which cut F2018, also marked this as a comparatively early feature at this site; At nearby Castle Acre, Grimston-Thetford ware was present in small amounts in late 11<sup>th</sup> century contexts, but most of it was assigned to the first half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century (Milligan 1982, 224). F2016 was, in turn, cut by large Pit F2005, which contained the majority of the pottery assemblage from the site, and which can be closely dated to the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century due to the presence of a Developed Stamford ware decorated strap handle (Fig. 3). Developed Stamford ware containing a green copper colourant added to its glaze, such as this, was produced between c.1150 and 1250 (Kilmurry 1980, 134 & 203). The only other glazed sherds present were a Glazed Grimston ware and a rim in dark grey Early Medieval sandy ware which contained a splash of clear glaze. At Castle Acre a sherd of glazed Grimston ware was found in a sealed occupation layer dated to the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century, while several more sherds came from late 12<sup>th</sup> century contexts (Milligan 1982, 226). The remaining pottery from Pit F2005 was all unglazed Grimston coarseware (87 sherds) and Early Medieval sandy wares (184 sherds).

### **The Well**

*Andrew A. S. Newton, Peter Thompson, John Summers, Julia E. M. Cussans and Michael Bamforth*

At the northern end of the excavated area lay Pit F2036 (3m+ x 3.7m+ x 1.07). This was circular in plan and had steep sides and a flattish base (Fig. 4). At the base in the centre of the pit was Well Shaft F2038. The central cut for the well shaft, F2040, was rectangular (2.96m x 2m x 0.96m) and had four fills, L2041 - L2044, comprising sandy or sandy clay deposits.

This well, along with Ditch F2024, which lay to the west, were identified as the latest dateable features. The outer pit, within which the well was set, F2036, contained 36 sherds of pottery, of which 27 are glazed Grimston wares, including a small jug (Fig. 5). The narrow frilled base and decoration of this suggest a High Medieval date (Little 1994, 88). The fill identified within the wooden structure of the well itself (L2039) contained pottery two large body sherds of Ely ware in good condition and these were associated with two glazed Grimston sherds including one decorated with applied iron slipped clay pellets indicative of a 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century date. L2041, which surrounded the wooden structure, and represented the upper fill of the construction cut for this, contained late 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

The material comprising the shaft of the well (F2038) has all been identified as oak (*Quercus* sp.). This wood is likely to have been grown within the vicinity of the site. The majority of the timber is straight grained and of good quality (Fig.

6). The size and morphology of the parent logs (c. 200-300mm) suggests that the timbers were derived from the trunks of small trees. The style of woodworking recorded from the material is typical of that seen throughout the medieval period (Fig. 6). It is basic, and although functional, displays no evidence of finishing. Although the excavated material is in relatively poor condition, enough evidence of woodworking remains to describe a series of timbers that have been cleft from larger logs and cut to length, probably with axes, in order to produce appropriately sized timbers that were keyed together using basic lap and halving lap joints. The lining of pits, wells and watering holes with either timber or wattle lining is common from the Bronze Age onwards. There are numerous examples of timber lined pits and wells dating to the medieval period. The lining recorded at this site shares a great many features with the 'standard' design of a medieval well lining, as evidenced by excavated examples.

Environmental sampling of L2039, the fill of well shaft F2038, contained a number of waterlogged plant remains. In addition to numerous stem and root fragments, a number of identifiable seeds were present from plant species indicating disturbed and waste ground. These include poppy (*Papaver rhoas/dubium*), common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), fat hen (*Chenopodium cf. album*), common chickweed (*Stellaria media*), red campion (*Silene dioica*), docks (*Rumex* sp.), mallow (*Malva* sp.), bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), burdock (*Arctium* sp.), thistle (*Carduus/Cirsium* sp.), cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus*) and wild grasses (Poaceae indet.). The most abundant remains were the seeds of common nettle, often characteristic of nitrogen-rich waste ground. A number of flower buds from a daisy family (Asteraceae indet.) plant were also present. This confirms that such plants were growing in the immediate vicinity of F3028 and not just present as wind-blown seeds. The presence of meadow buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*) suggests nearby grassland habitats. Other than the single sedge (*Carex* sp.) nutlet, all of these plants grow in dry habitats. This demonstrates that the feature was cut through dry ground into the water table. The fairly shallow depth of the feature, however, indicates that the groundwater level must have been fairly high in the medieval period, as it appeared to be during excavation; this was demonstrated by waterlogged fills in the lower reaches of both this feature and Ditch F2003. Furthermore, reports of frequent flooding in the northern part of the site indicate a generally high water-table in this area. Although the water-table may well have altered from the medieval period, this suggests that the groundwater was easily accessible in this area, making it a suitable location for a well. This may also explain the comparatively shallow depth of the well F2036; only limited excavation would have been required to access fresh groundwater.

A number of carbonised cereal grains were also present in this sample. This shows that the feature was receiving carbonised debris, either in the form of deliberate waste disposal or scattered, windblown detritus. The limited concentration of carbonised remains from L2039 implies that the latter is more likely and that the feature was not used as a dump for domestic waste, even after it fell out of use. This, however, contradicts the artefactual evidence from the well, comprising pottery sherds and animal bone, which may be considered characteristic of domestic refuse. However, the particularly



pronounced abrasion and root etching evident on the bone from L2037 may indicate that the material used to infill this feature had been redeposited from a midden or refuse context elsewhere, in to which waste from cereal processing was presumably not disposed of.

### **The later features**

Despite the dating evidence, the well was amongst the stratigraphically earliest of the recorded features; it was cut by Ditch F2020, which, in turn, was cut by Ditch F2003, a feature that contained pottery indicative of an 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> to mid 13<sup>th</sup> century date. The stratigraphic evidence indicates that the well was present at the site prior to the establishment of the boundaries represented by these ditches. These boundaries must, therefore, post-date the infilling of the well in the 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century, suggesting that the 10 sherds of pottery recovered from Ditch F2003 are residual.

The origin of this residual material may have been activity associated with the early features identified at the southern end of the site (F2005, F2014, F2016 and F2018). The construction of the well may have been contemporary with these features but it was certainly backfilled in the 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. Following the disuse and backfilling of this feature, Ditches F2020 and F2003 were cut. The late 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date applied to the pottery assemblage from Ditch F2024 suggests that this feature may have been contemporary with F2020 and F2003. F2024 appears to be a recut, on a slightly different alignment, of the undated F2028, which may represent a boundary associated with the plot of land in which the well would have lain.

Ditch F2020 was aligned north to south and that part of it that lay within the excavated area measured 18m in length, 1m in width and 0.24m in depth. Its southern terminus was cut by the east to west aligned Ditch F2003. F2003 was notably wider (1.75m) and deeper (0.65m) than F2020 and, in section, displayed steeper sides. Despite these morphological differences and the apparent stratigraphic relationship between these features, the spatial relationship between them, the point at which they intercut, and the similarities in their fills (both contained dark, loose, silty sand with moderate angular gravel) indicated that they formed part of the same boundary system. Ditch F2024, which ran on a south-west to north-east alignment across the north-western corner of the excavated area may also have formed part of this boundary system its dimensions (10+ x 1.30 x 0.27m) were within a range similar to those of F2003 and F2020 and its positioning suggested that it could have functioned with these other ditches to form an enclosure. The pottery recovered from it, 12 glazed Grimston sherds probably all from the same jug and including a flat frilled base, suggest a date of late 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century, suggesting that it potentially post-dated the infilling of Well F2036, as both F2003 and F2020 clearly did.

## Undated features

Seven features recorded during the excavation contained no dateable artefacts and displayed insufficient stratigraphic relationships from which their date could be elucidated. This included discrete pits F2010 and F2012, located to the south-east of Well F2036, Pit F2032 (which was cut by Ditch F2018), Gully F2026 (cut by Ditch F2024) and Posthole F2034, which lay immediately adjacent to Ditch F2018 and Gully F2016.

Amongst the most notable of the undated features was Ditch F2028, which was cut Ditch F2024 and cut the undated Pit F2030. This was a feature comparable in dimensions (13.50+ x 1.78 x 0.20m) to the clearly later enclosure ditches F2003, F2020 and F2024. It seems possible, therefore, that this ditch represents an earlier system of enclosure that was replaced by the system represented by this group of later ditches. The position of Ditch F2028 in relation to Well F2036 suggests that this feature may have formed a boundary possibly enclosing the area in which the well lay. It is also possible that F2028 formed part of a boundary system with Ditch F2018; the lines that each followed would have caused them to meet at a point approximately 12m to the west of the excavated area, although the two features continued as far as this remains open to conjecture.

## DISCUSSION

### Introduction

The information recovered during the excavation of this site adds to the corpus of information regarding medieval Necton. The recorded archaeology represents land that was probably associated with fairly humble dwellings; this is a welcome addition to the body of information regarding the village in this period as, with the exception of the earthworks of Pinkneys or Sparham deserted medieval village (NHER 4186) and the cropmarks thought to represent part of the open field system (NHER 33816), much of the recorded archaeology of medieval Necton relates to comparatively high status buildings and finds.

Although small, the site makes a contribution to the understanding of the settlement form of medieval Necton and medieval villages in Norfolk in general and, as such, it contributes to the research objectives laid out in the regional research agenda (Medlycott 2011).

### Function of the site

The position of the Mill Street site, around 150m to the south-west of the medieval parish church, suggests it lay within, or close to, the main area of medieval settlement. The presence of the well may indicate domestic occupation in the vicinity. Ditches F2018 and F2003 both ran on alignments broadly parallel to School Road to the north and Mill Street to the south. This

suggests that these ditches may have formed the boundaries of plots of aligned with one, or both, depending on their antiquity, of these routes through the village.

The configuration of the group of earlier features at the southern end of the site makes it difficult to confirm their function as part of a system of enclosure. It is, however, possible that undated Ditch F2028 formed part of an enclosure with F2018. The finds assemblage from Pit F2005, which comprised a large quantity of domestic pottery, slag, animal bone and iron and copper fragments, suggests that the final function of this feature was as a dump for refuse material. Indeed, it is possible that this was its only function.

The later features, chiefly F2003, F2020 and F2024, appear, however, to have formed coherent boundaries, separating at least two small enclosures. It is possible that a north to south aligned boundary running parallel to and complementing Ditch F2020 existed in the uninvestigated area between the area of excavation and Trial Trench 4. Alternatively, undated Ditch F1014, identified within Trench 4 may have formed part of this enclosure system, though this was interpreted as a drainage ditch during the evaluation due to its dark silty fill. It is possible that these enclosures represent parts of enclosed crofts. These plots were attached to peasant holdings and were used as paddocks, gardens or to grow crops on a small scale, and might also have been used for over-wintering animals to avoid the trampling of larger pasture fields. The shallow depths of these ditches, especially F2020 and F2024, however, suggests they would not have been capable of preventing the movement of animals unless the ditch was supplemented by other features, such as a fence, for which no evidence exists. An alternative interpretation recognises that the ditches may have simply demarcated areas of land or property rather than acting as a physical barrier; crofts were commonly demarcated by boundary ditches (Gies and Gies 1991, 34).

The notion that these enclosures represent crofts is supported by the archaeobotanical evidence which derives, in general, from refuse disposal and nearby crop processing and occupation activities. This suggests that these enclosures were located in the vicinity of domestic dwellings. Further indication that domestic occupation occurred nearby is provided by the presence of the well or cistern F2038. Although this feature preceded the enclosures represented by F2003, F2020 and F2024 it may have been related to the same dwellings, or their precursors, to which the possible crofts belonged. Hurst (1971, 533) states that the plans of medieval villages were constantly changing and cites the example of a toft at Wharram Percy in East Yorkshire where the alignments of structures and boundaries can be seen to have been rearranged in succeeding periods. It has been suggested (Hurst 1971, 533) that peasant dwellings in this period may have been rebuilt and rearranged by successive generations. It seems reasonable to speculate, therefore, that the in-filling of Well F2038 and the replacement of Ditch F2028 in advance of the establishment of boundaries F2003, F2020 and F2024 represents the reordering of the land on it passing into the possession of new landowners or tenants.

The area that these ditches enclose, however, would appear to be small in comparison to the croft area of Toft 2, recorded at the deserted medieval village of Thuxton, also in Norfolk (Butler and Wade-Martins 1989). This may indicate that there was more pressure on land resources in Necton; a possibility in a settlement that appears to have been of reasonable importance and prosperity and, therefore, possibly fairly densely populated. Oosthuizen (1998) indicates that, in Cambridgeshire, some medieval settlement replanning appears to have been the result of the reorganisation of land into new Norman manors. Although the reorganisation apparent at the Mill Street site appears to significantly post-date the Norman Conquest and the subsequent redistribution of English estates, it may be the result of changes in manorial ownership.

### **The medieval economy**

*Andrew A. S. Newton, John Summers and Julia E. M. Cussans*

Rowley (1982, 27) states that much, if not most, English medieval agriculture operated on an open-field basis. This certainly appears to be the case in Necton; cropmarks of a medieval open field system (NHER 33816) have been recorded on aerial photographs. This means that much of the population must have been operating a mixed agricultural economy. Evidence from other medieval sites in Norfolk, such as Thuxton (Butler and Wade-Martins 1989) and The Old Bell, Marham (Newton 2010), certainly indicate that this was the case in these parts of the county.

Analysis of the charred plant macrofossils has provided a number of interesting insights into the arable economy at medieval Necton; the results of this work indicate that a broad-based arable economy was practised in the vicinity of the site and the overall assemblage can be compared to much of the rest of medieval Britain (e.g. Ballantyne 2005; Straker *et al.* 2007) and in particular to that from nearby Castle Acre Castle (Green 1982). The evidence demonstrates that a range of field and garden crops were grown on a variety of both lighter and heavier soils. Additional food resources appear to have included pulses (Fabaceae indet.) and apples (*Malus domestica*). The former are likely to have been grown on smaller horticultural plots (e.g. Straker *et al.* 2007, 886), such as those represented at the site, while the latter could have been deliberately cultivated in orchards or gathered from trees growing wild.

The faunal remains assemblage reveals the presence of domestic species, including cattle, horse and sheep/goats. Although no evidence for butchery was observed on the animal bone, this combination of evidence may be seen to suggest a mixed agricultural economy. The presence of a single horse bone of pony size indicates possible further similarities between this site and Thuxton; it has been suggested that the horse remains recovered at Thuxton, which were all from pony-sized animals, represent plough animals (Butler and Wade-Martins 1989, 62).

The soil types recorded in the vicinity of Necton are of types suited to arable agriculture while those of the Beccles 2 association, on which the site lies, are

considered to support productive grassland (SSEW 1983). This would appear to be in accordance with the evidence for a mixed agricultural economy.

### **The Mill Street site and the morphology of medieval Necton**

The small window that the excavated area affords does not give any indication as to the orientation of the possible plots of land represented by the later boundary features, or the position in relation to these of the associated domestic buildings. Their small size may indicate that they were not the larger rear crofts, but the generally smaller tofts, which usually fronted the street (Gies and Gies 1991, 34). This would suggest that a medieval road or street existed either to the immediate north or south and no evidence for such a feature was recorded either during the excavation or the preceding trial trench evaluation. However, the similarities in orientation between some of these features and existing roads in the village (in particular F2003 and School Road and Mill Street) may provide tentative evidence for the antiquity of these routes.

The proximity of the site to the church, around which medieval settlement is likely to have been concentrated, suggests that it lay within, or close to, the core of this focus of settlement. This may be considered to support the idea that the activity recorded during the excavation was related to nearby domestic structures.

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The Project was managed by Jon Murray on behalf of Archaeological Solutions Ltd and the fieldwork was carried out by Stephen Quinn. Pottery analysis was conducted by Peter Thompson. Slag was analysed by Andrew A. S. Newton. Flint was analysed by Andrew Peachey. Animal bone was analysed by Julia E. M. Cussans. Archaeobotanical remains were analysed by John Summers. Wood was analysed by Michael Bamforth. Illustrations are by Charlotte Davies.

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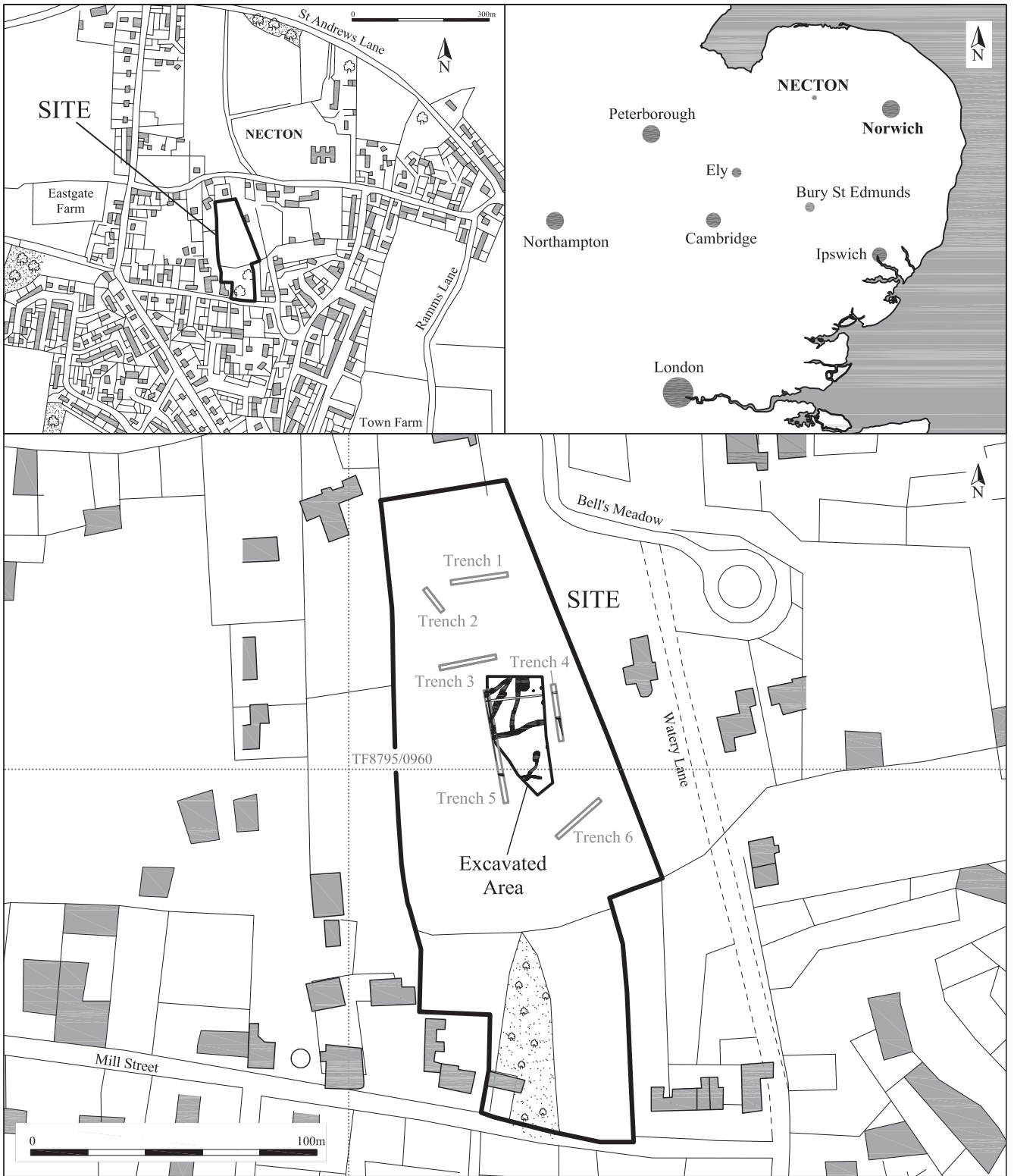


Figure 1 Site location

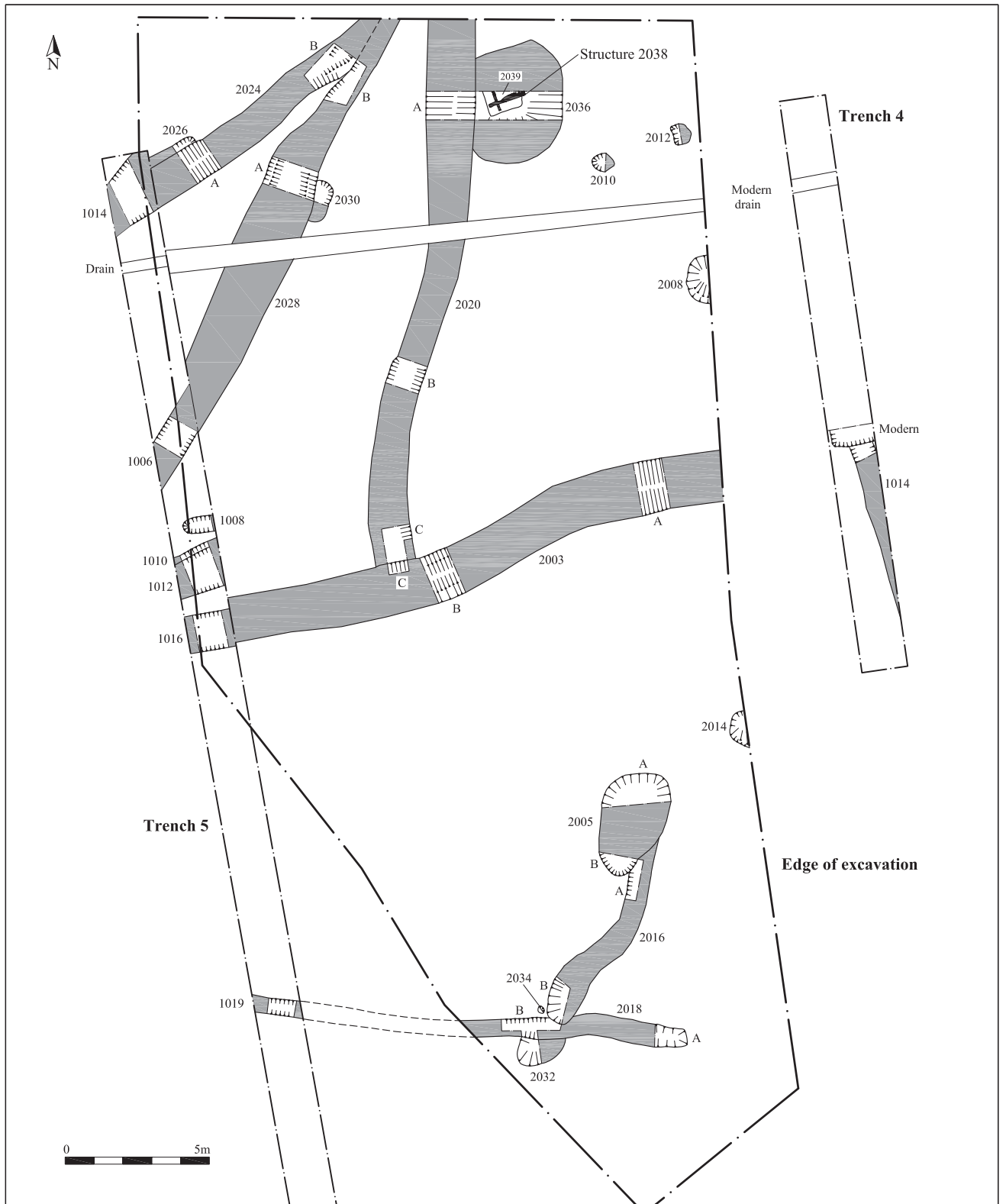


Figure 2 All features plan



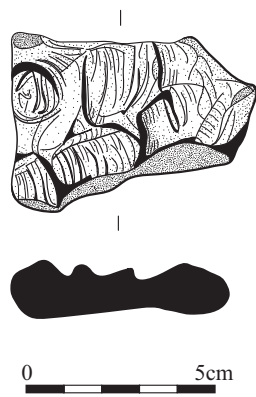


Figure 3 Pottery Illustration

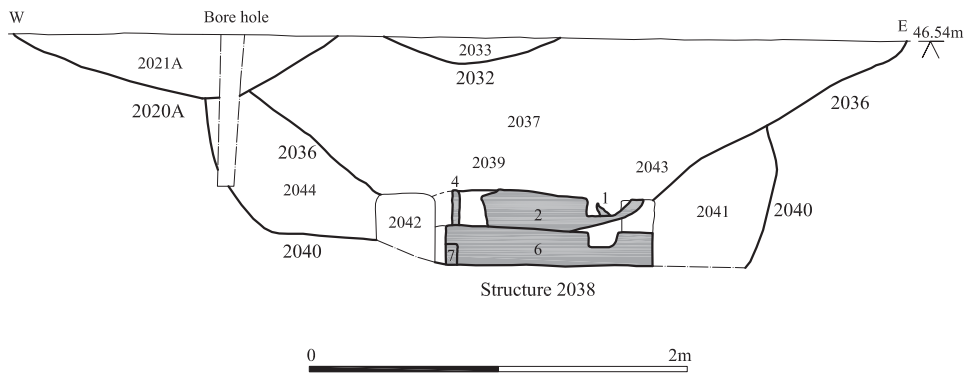
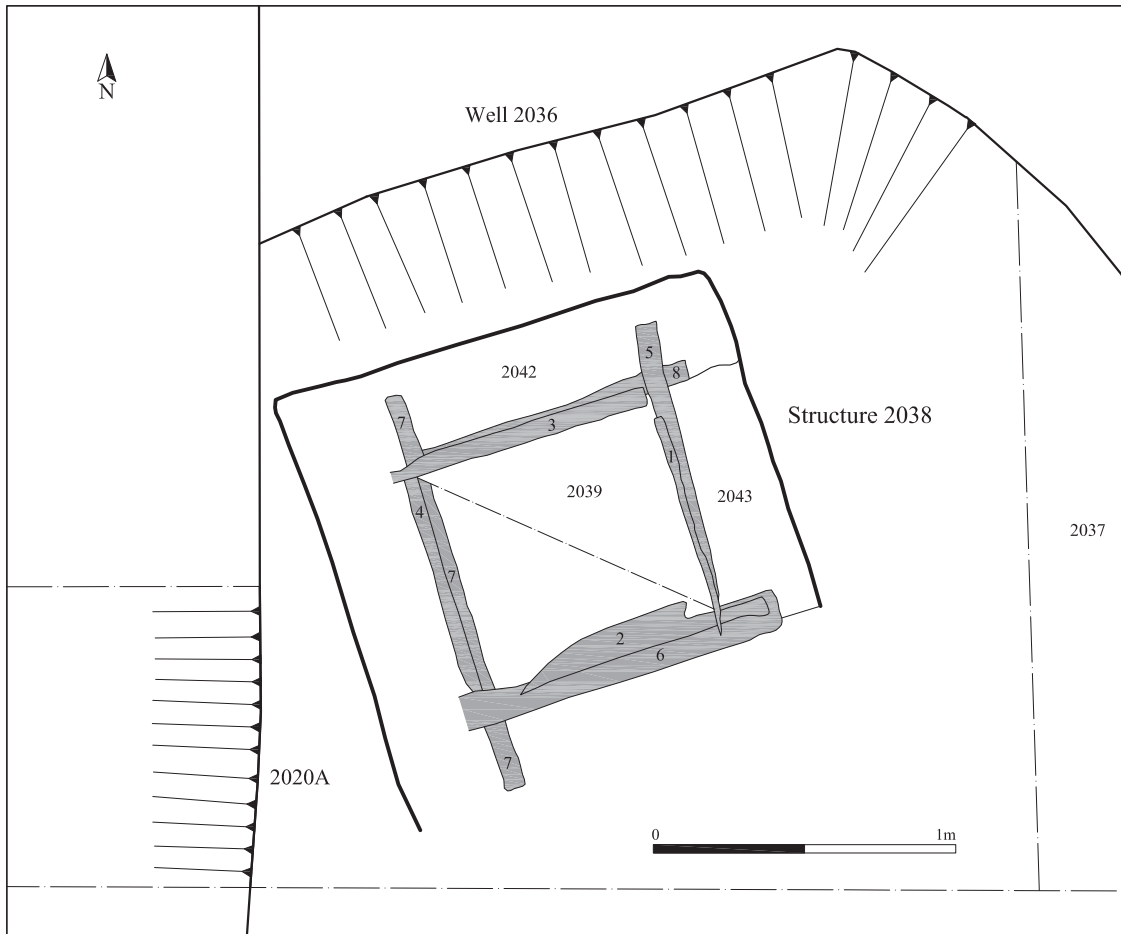


Figure 4 Plan & section of Well 2036

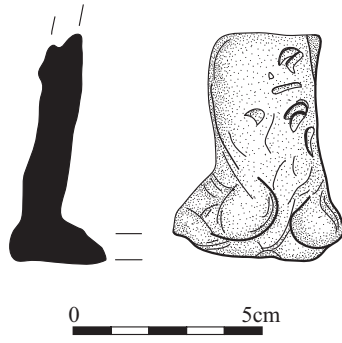


Figure 5 Pottery Illustration

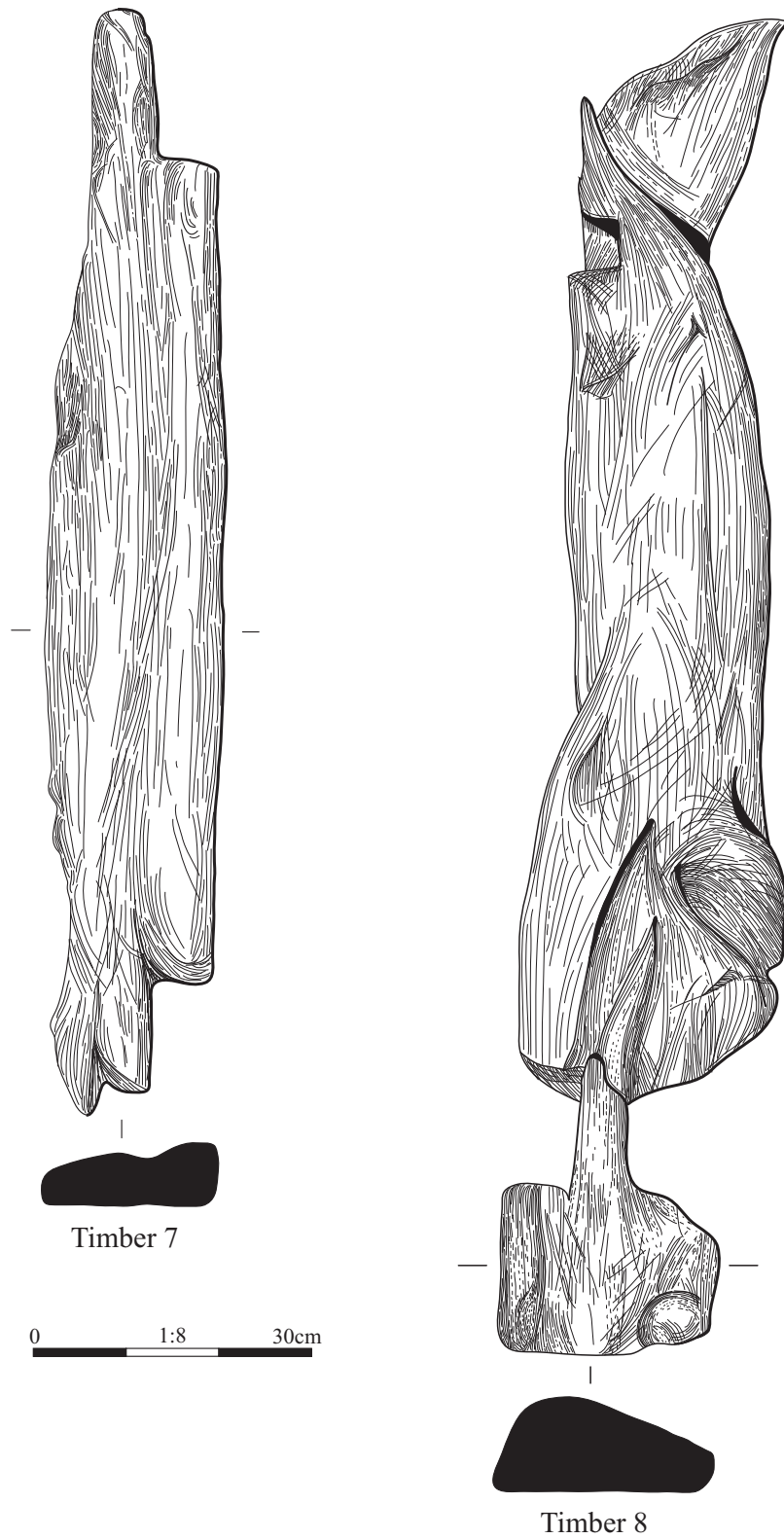


Figure 6 Wood illustrations