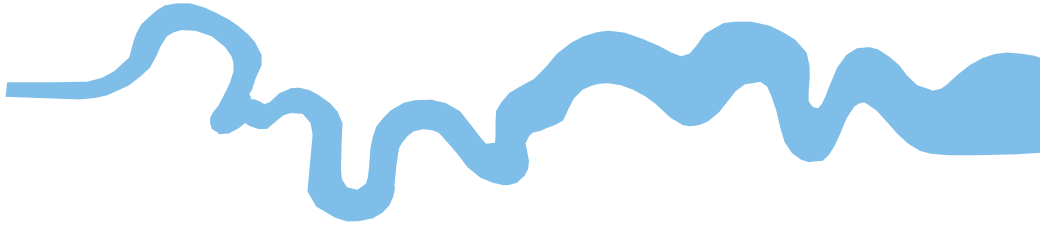


**T V A S**



**EAST MIDLANDS**

**Land at Overtons Way,  
Poringland, Norfolk**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

**by Joanna Pine**

**Site Code: OWP23/13**

**(TG 2675 0213)**

**NHER event number: ENF153254**

# **Land at Overtons Way, Poringland, Norfolk**

**An Archaeological Evaluation**

**For Pryde Homes Limited**

by Jo Pine

TVAS East Midlands

Site Code OWP 23/13

**February 2023**

## Summary

**Site name:** Land at Overtons Way, Poringland, Norfolk

**Grid reference:** TG 2675 0213

**Site activity:** Archaeological Evaluation

**Date and duration of project:** 6th February 2023

**Project coordinator:** Jo Pine

**Site supervisors:** Jo Pine

**Site code:** OWP 23/13

**NHER event number:** ENF153254

**Area of site:** c.1375 sqm

**Summary of results:** The results from the trenches indicate the site has been extensively disturbed/truncated during the modern period. The site is thus considered to have low archaeological potential.

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at TVAS East Midlands, Wellingborough and will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service in due course.

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[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford ✓ 17.02.23 Steve Preston ✓ 17.02.23
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# Land at Overtons Way, Poringland, Norfolk An Archaeological Evaluation

By Jo Pine

**Report 23/13**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land at Overtons Way, Poringland, Norfolk (TG 2675 0213) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Ms Lorraine Mayo of Lanpro Services on behalf of Pryde Homes Ltd

Planning permission (ref. 2020/1689) was granted on appeal (APP/L2630/W/21/3276576) from South Norfolk District Council for development of the site for housing. The consent is subject to a planning condition relating to archaeology which requires a programme of archaeological work, in this case to take the form of an initial archaeological evaluation, based on the results of which further fieldwork might be required to mitigate the impact of the development. This is in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2021) and the District's policies on archaeology.

The field investigation was carried out to a specification (Mayo 2023) approved by Mr Steve Hickling of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service, the archaeological adviser to the District. The fieldwork was undertaken by Jo Pine on 6th February 2023 and the site code is OWP23/13. The archive is presently held at TVAS East Midlands and will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service in due course.

## **Location, topography and geology**

Poringland lies 10km to the South of Norwich. The site is located in the centre of the settlement, at the corner of Overtons Way and Devlin Drive (Fig. 2). It comprises an area of grassland with a short hedgerow bounding the north of the site and a stand of trees along the south boundary. The site is located on level ground at approximately 55m above Ordnance Datum. The geology of the site is recorded as Crag Group (sand and gravel), overlain by superficial deposits of Lowestoft Formation diamicton (BGS 1975). Sand and gravel was observed in the trenches.

## **Archaeological background**

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted by a search of the Norfolk Historic Environment Record on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 for an area of 500m radius of the site. In summary the site is located within an area of earthworks of possible medieval ridge and furrow or post-medieval land improvement, visible on aerial photographs alongside The Street (NHER 52466). This site is located on land that is depicted as being within Poringland Heath on Faden's map of 1797 and it is possible that these earthworks indicate some early encroachment onto the open land of the heath. The parcel of land containing these probable cultivation ridges is marked as 'Poors Allotment' on the 1805 East Poringland Tithe map. The possible ridge and furrow is extremely straight and regular and clearly underlies the post medieval fields that divide the larger plot of land.

An archaeological evaluation to the north of the site at Stoke Road recorded potentially Neolithic and Bronze Age enclosure ditches and Anglo-Saxon features (NHER 65034), whilst another evaluation to the south of the site at Carr Lane (Hickling 2011) recorded prehistoric material (likely to represent a burnt mound) and a possible Roman farmstead (NHER58020), as well as possible medieval and post-medieval enclosures (NHER 52465).

Defensive features dating to World War II are recorded close to the site including a searchlight emplacement to the west (NHER 52467), and a searchlight battery (NHER 34192) and undated ditches (NHER55314) to the north-west. Geophysical survey and archaeological trial trenching undertaken to the north-west of the site (Ames 2011) recorded a number of features including a pit, ditches and post-holes thought to be associated with the Searchlight Battery (NHER55314). Two World War II pillboxes are recorded in the area in association with these searchlight batteries (NHER 52471, 31129).

## **Objectives and methodology**

The primary aim of the archaeological mitigation was to record and advance understanding of the significance of any archaeological remains within the site prior to their destruction during construction work. According to the agreed scheme of work (Mayo 2023), this was to be realised through the achievement of the following objectives:

To establish the spatial extent date, character, condition and significance of the archaeological activity in the proposed investigation areas;

To recover information relating to the nature and function of past human activity represented by the surviving archaeological remains;

Excavate and record identified archaeological features and deposits to a level appropriate to their extent and significance;

Assess the potential for survival of environmental evidence;

To interpret the nature of human activity at the site and to place the site within its local, regional and national context as appropriate;

Assess the site formation processes and the effects that these may have had on the survival and integrity of the archaeological features and deposits;

Undertake sufficient post-excavation assessment to confidently interpret identified archaeological features;

Undertake sufficient post-excavation assessment and analysis of artefacts and environmental samples to interpret their significance;

Report and publish the results of the excavation and post-excavation analysis and place them within their local and regional context;

Compile and deposit a site archive at a suitable repository and to provide information for the local HER to ensure the long-term survival of the excavated data.

It was proposed to excavate two trenches, each 20m x c.1.8m; a contingency of a further 10m of trenching was included should this be necessary to clarify the results of the initial findings. Topsoil and any other overburden would be removed by a 360° type machine. A toothless ditching bucket was to be used to expose archaeologically sensitive levels under constant archaeological supervision. Where archaeological features were either certainly or probably present, the stripped areas were to be cleaned using appropriate hand tools. Sufficient of the archaeological features/deposits exposed would then be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the aims outlined above, without compromising the integrity of any archaeological features or deposits which may warrant preservation *in-situ*, or which might better be excavated under the conditions pertaining to full excavation. The work was to be carried out in accordance with the relevant guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. The potential and significance of any such deposits located were to be assessed according to research priorities such as those set out in *Historic England Research Agenda* (HE 2017) or more local or thematic research priorities such as *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011).

## **Results**

Two trenches were excavated by a 360° type machine under constant archaeological supervision. Both trenches were 1.60m wide as that was the size of the machine bucket provided and Trench 1 had to be shortened due to erected fencing and trees. Trench 2 was extended to make up for this shortfall (Fig.3).

### Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4; Pls 1 and 3)

Trench 1 was aligned north-south was 16.00m long and 1.60m wide. At the south end the trench was 0.80m deep and at the far north end it was 1.20m deep due to the presence of a large modern cut. The stratigraphy for the

first 8.00m of the trench from the southern end was modern topsoil (50) which was a dark grey brown silty sand and 0.20m deep, overlying a buried soil (51) which was a mid brown grey silty sand with moderate gravel and was 0.60m deep. This sealed the yellow sand and gravel geology and contained a very small fragment of ceramic building material. From 8.00m to the northern end of the trench the buried soil (51) was truncated away by the edge of a large pit, cut 1, This cut had a steep southern edge and a flattish base and was 1.20m deep and truncated the natural sand and gravel geology. The base of the pit also truncated a redundant service, 3 containing a ceramic pipe (55). At the base of pit 1 was a stained black sand (52), sealed by a dump of brown grey silt with modern brick fragments (53). Finally a deep dump of Type 1 builders sand (54) which also contained brick rubble, Tarmac and concrete was placed in this pit. This pit was then sealed by the modern topsoil (50).

#### Trench 2 (Figs 3 and 4; Pls 2 and 4)

This trench was aligned east-west and was 27.00m in length and between 0.60m and 1.00m deep. The stratigraphy of the trench was topsoil (50) 0.18m deep overlying a made ground (56). This was a Type one building sand which contained modern brick fragments, Terram and plastic pipe fragments; this was 0.30m m deep and overlay the natural geology, a yellow sand and gravel with grey and reddish brown sand patches. Made ground 56 was truncated by the edge of pit 2, between 10m and 12m from the western end of the trench. It was filled with a brown clayey silt (57) which also contained modern brick and concrete fragments and truncated the natural gravel to a depth of over 1.00m.

## **Finds**

### *Ceramic Building Material* by Jo Pine

A small fragment of ceramic building material in a hard red sandy fabric was recovered from buried soil 51. It weighed 2g and is too small to identify to type of object or to date. Other brick from the site was clearly modern. This material was not retained.

## **Conclusion**

The evaluation has shown that the site had been previously extensively disturbed. It appears that a large part of the southern and central area of site had been previously stripped of topsoil and subsoil down to the natural geology. Made ground was then dumped on this geology and then a thin topsoil was placed on top of this. In the

northern part of the site, was a large modern cut or pit over 8m in length and 1.20m deep and filled with modern building materials. It truncated a small area of buried soil in the north-west of the site which sealed the natural geology. No archaeological features were recorded in this area and based on the results of this trenching, the whole site has low archaeological potential.

## References

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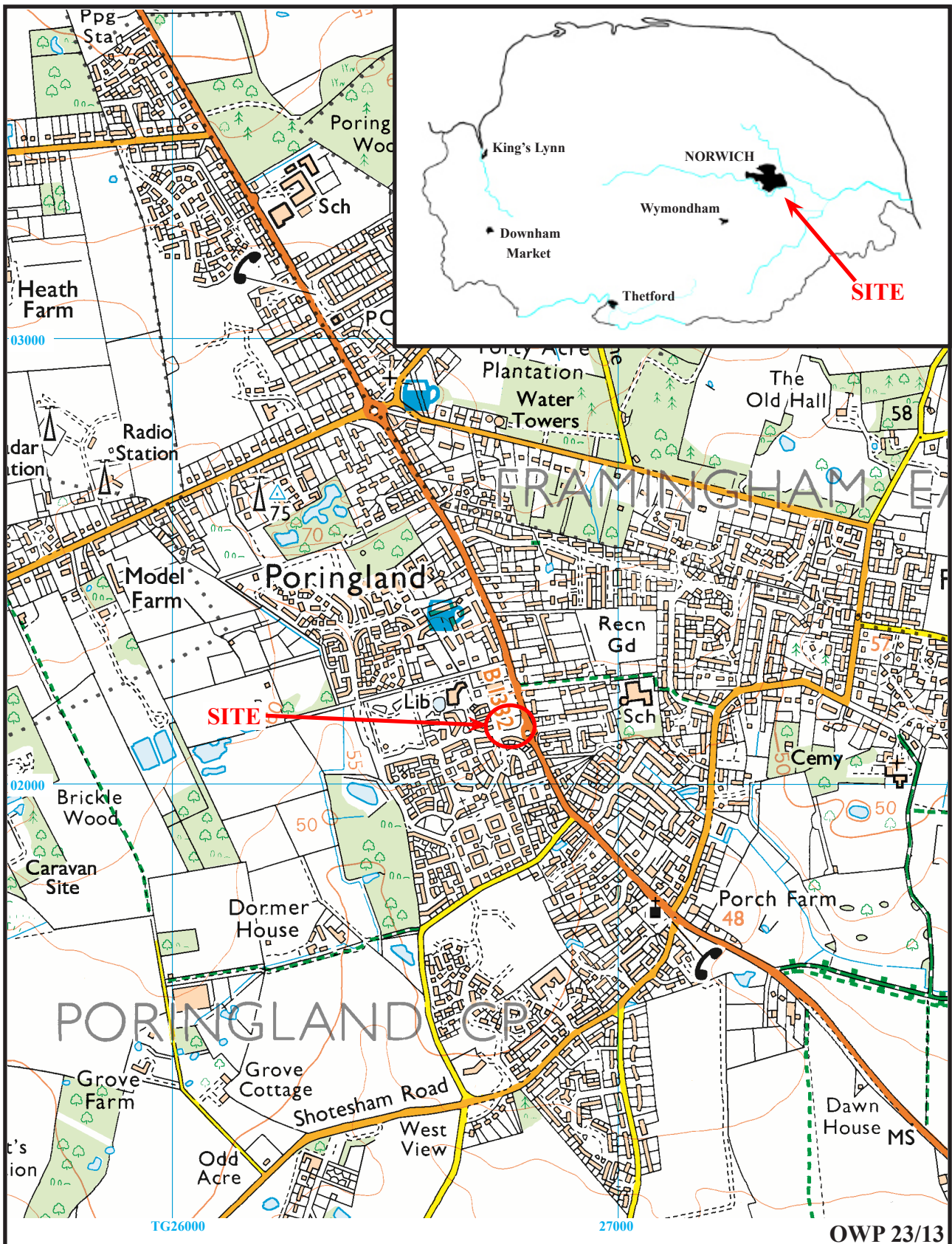
## APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at South or West end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	16.00	1.6	0.80-1.20	0m to 8m: 0.0-0.20m topsoil (50); 0.20-0.80m mid brown grey silty (51) 0.80m+ sand and gravel geology. 8m to 16m: 0.0-0.20m topsoil (50); 0.20-1.20m Pit 1. 1.20m+ sand and gravel geology. Pit 1. <b>[Pls 1 and 3]</b>
2	27.00	1.6	0.80-1.00	0.0-0.18m topsoil (50); 0.18-0.50 madeground (56); 0.50m+ sand and gravel geology Pit 2. <b>[Pls 2 and 4]</b>

**APPENDIX 2: Feature details**

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating Evidence</i>
1, 2		50	Topsoil	Modern	Stratigraphy
1		51	Buried Soil	Medieval or later	CBM
1	1	52-4	Pit	Modern	Brick, Tarmac and concrete
1	3	55	Service	Modern	Ceramic Pipe
2		56	Madeground	Modern	Brick fragments, terram and plastic pipe
2	2	57	Pit	Modern	Brick and concrete



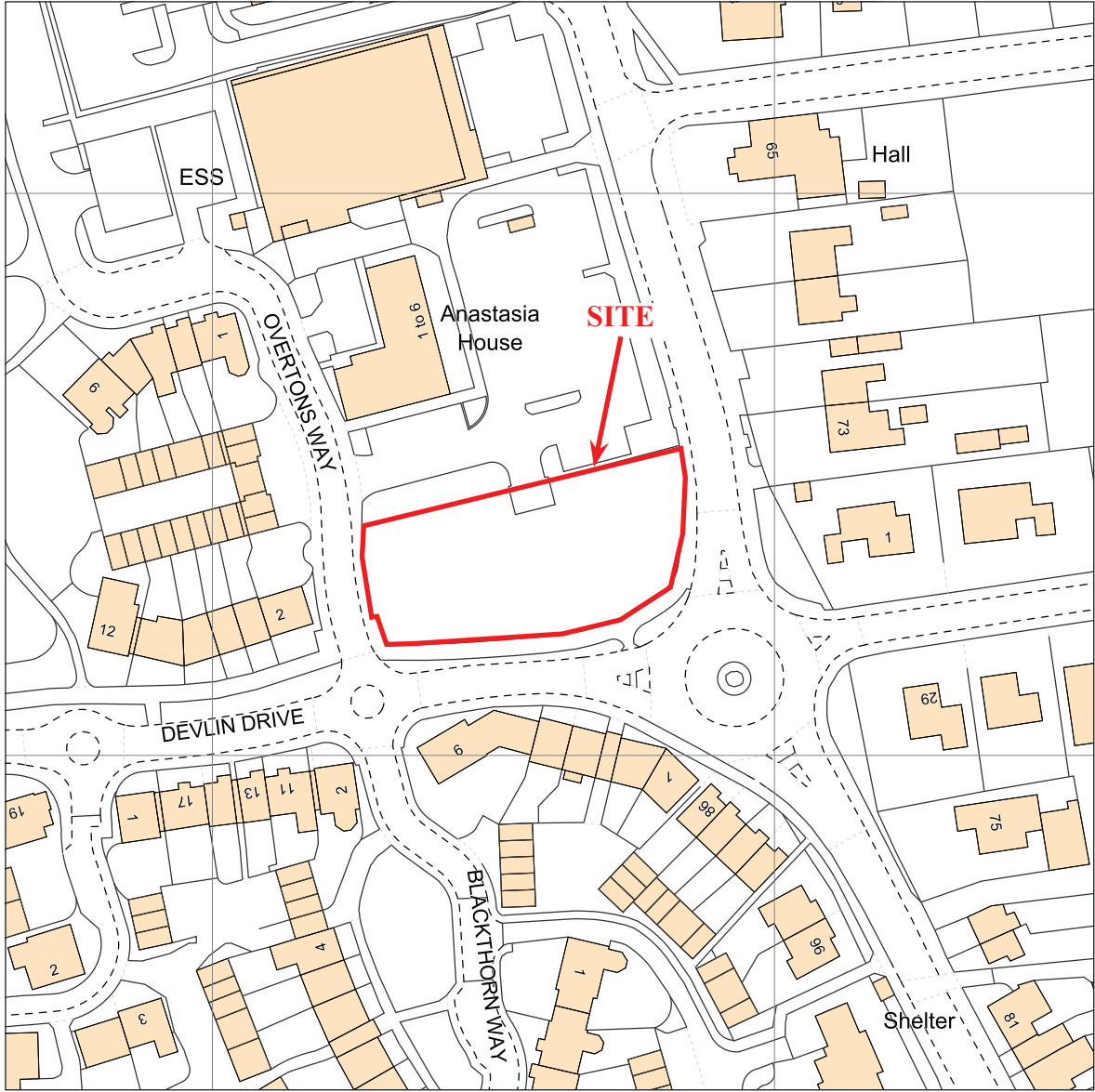
**Land at Overtons Way, Poringland,  
Norfolk, 2023**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 1. Location of site within Poringland and Norfolk.

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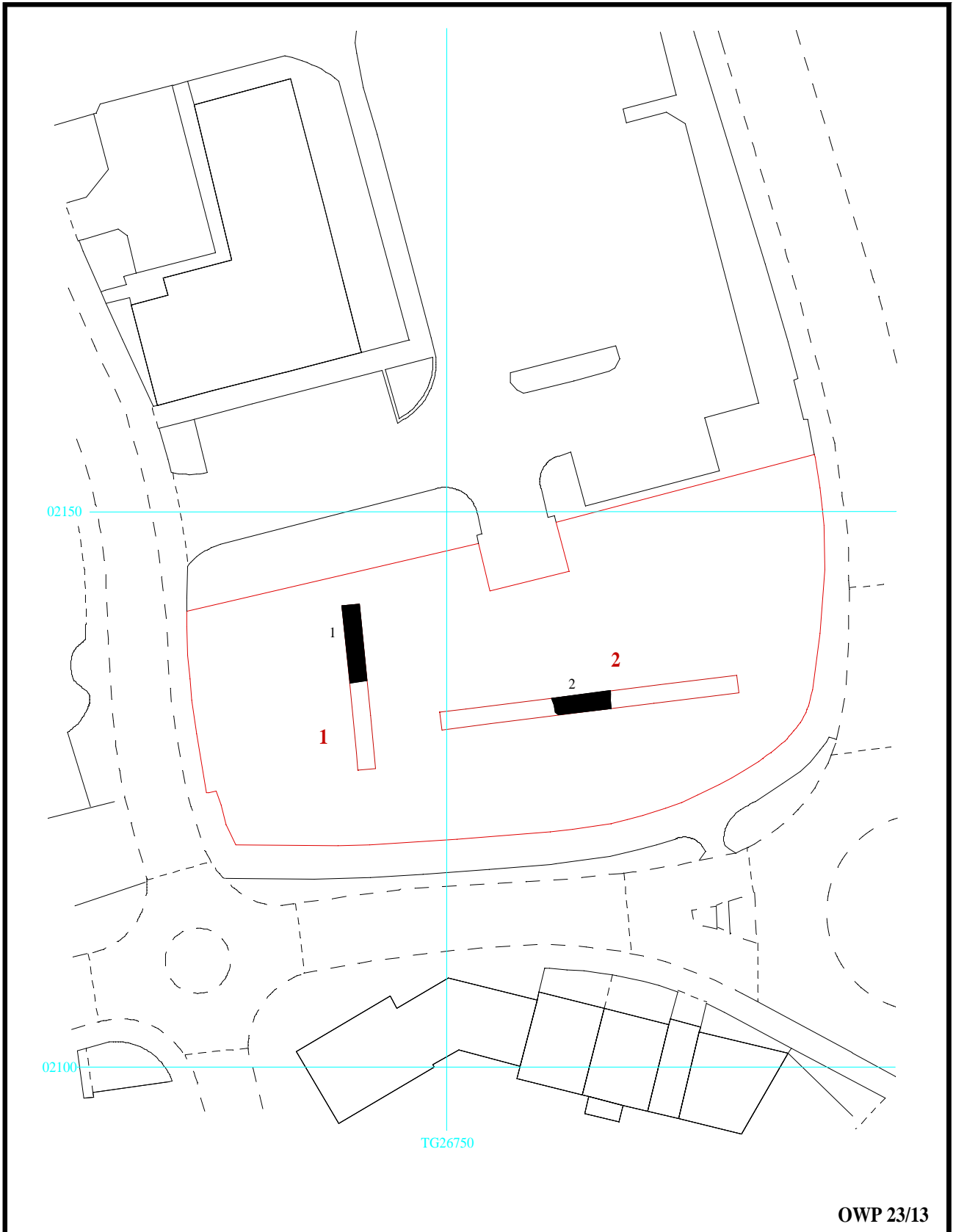
**Land at Overtons Way, Poringland,  
Norfolk, 2023**

**Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Overtons Way.

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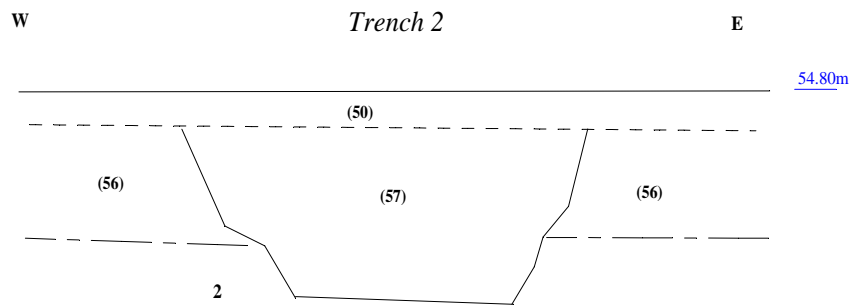
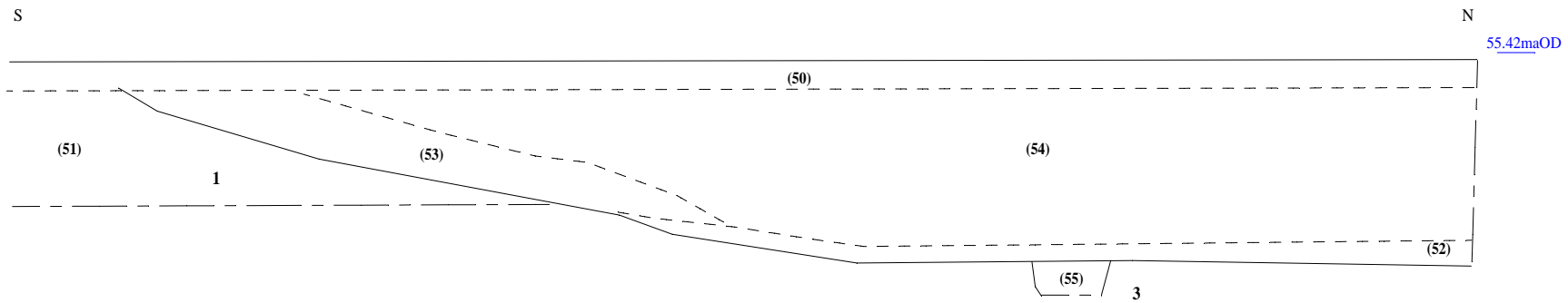
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**Land at Overtons Way, Poringland,  
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Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 3. Location of trenches.



*Trench 1*



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**Land at Overtons Drive, Poringland, Norfolk, 2023  
Archaeological Evaluation**

Figure 4. Selected Sections.





Plate 1. Trench 1, looking South, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Trench 2, looking East South East, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.5m.

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**Land at Overtons Way, Poringland,  
Norfolk, 2023  
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Plates 1 and 2.**





Plate 3. Trench 1 section, looking East, Scale: vertical 1m.



Plate 2. Trench 2 section, looking South, Scale: horizontal 2m, vertical 0.5m.

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**Land at Overtons Way, Poringland,  
Norfolk, 2023  
Archaeological Evaluation  
Plates 3 and 4.**

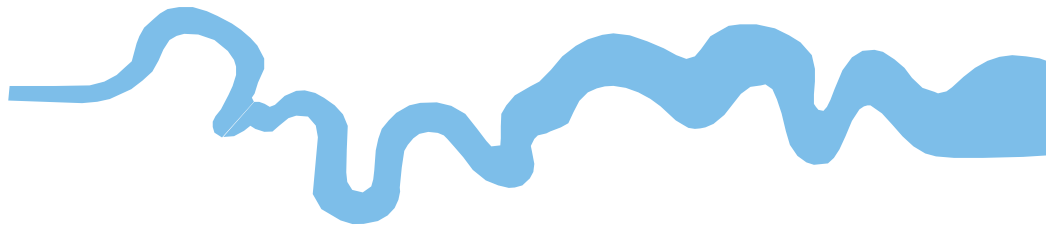




## TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43 AD 0 BC
Iron Age _____	750 BC
Bronze Age: Late _____	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle _____	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early _____	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late .....	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early .....	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late .....	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early .....	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper .....	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle .....	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower .....	2,000,000 BC





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