

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land at Benacre Road, Ellough
Lowestoft, Suffolk**

An Archaeological Evaluation

by Susan Porter

Site Code: BRL 13/196

(TM 4589 8763)

**HER Event No. ESF32114
HER Parish Code: ELO 016**

Land at Benacre Road, Ellough, Lowestoft, Suffolk

An Archaeological Evaluation

for Memoria Ltd

by Susan Porter

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code BRL 13/196

January 2015

Summary

Site name: Land at Benacre Road, Ellough, Lowestoft, Suffolk

Grid reference: TM 4589 8763

Site activity: Archaeological Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 5th–9th January 2015

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: Susan Porter

Site code: BRL 13/196

Area of site: c. 1.8 ha

Summary of results: A single ditch of indeterminate date, but matching the location of a late 19th century field boundary, was observed in the north-eastern corner of the area evaluated. No deposits nor artefacts of archaeological interest were observed and the site is considered to have little or no archaeological potential.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Suffolk Archaeological Service in due course.

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www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp.*

Report edited/checked by: Steve Ford✓ 21.01.15 Steve Preston✓ 21.01.15

Land at Benacre Road, Ellough, Lowestoft, Suffolk An Archaeological Evaluation

by Susan Porter

Report 13/196b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land at Benacre Road, Ellough, near Lowestoft, Suffolk (NGR: TM 4589 8763) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Michael Hackney of Memoria Ltd, The Pool House, Bicester Road, Stratton Audley, Oxfordshire, OX27 9BS.

Planning permission has been granted by Waveney District Council (app no. DC/14/1314/FUL) for the redevelopment of the site for a crematorium with associated landscaped grounds on a parcel of land off Benacre Road. The consent is subject to two conditions (7 and 8) relating to archaeology, requiring a programme of archaeological investigation prior to the development. This was to take the form, initially, of field evaluation by means of trial trenching, based on the results of which, a further phase of archaeological work might be required.

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government's *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012), and the District Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification approved by Ms Rachael Abrahams, Archaeological Officer with Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, acting as adviser to the District Council. The fieldwork was undertaken by Susan Porter and Lizzie Lewins between 5th and 9th January 2015 and the site code is BRL 13/196. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Suffolk Archaeological Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the south-west side of Benacre Road (B1127) opposite Beccles airfield, in the region of Ellough, south of Beccles and to the south-west of Lowestoft (Fig. 1). The site currently comprises a parcel of farmland, previously part of Beccles airfield (Fig. 2). The area to be developed covers approximately 1.8 ha within a larger parcel of land (Fig. 3). The site rises slightly towards the centre, falling away on each side, at an average elevation of 21m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology is recorded as Sand and Gravel of uncertain age and origin (BGS 1996) and this was observed in all trenches.

Archaeological background

The background archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk based assessment (Elliott 2013). In summary, evidence for medieval and possibly earlier occupation deposits was encountered during an archaeological evaluation in the adjacent field on the edge of Ellough Moor, which may continue into the development site.

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological or palaeoenvironmental deposits within the area of development.

This work was to be carried out in a manner that would not compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits which warrant preservation *in situ* or would be better excavated under conditions pertaining to full excavation.

The specific research aims of this project were:

- to determine if archaeologically relevant levels had survived on the site;
- to determine if archaeological deposits of any period were present; and
- to provide sufficient information to enable a mitigation strategy to be produced if necessary.

It was proposed to dig 16 trenches, each 30m long and 1.8m wide targeting the area of the proposed development. A contingency of 25m additional length of trench was included within the proposal should it be required to clarify initial findings. Topsoil and overburden were removed by a JCB-type machine equipped with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Sufficient of the archaeological features and deposits exposed were to be excavated or sampled by hand to satisfy the requirements of the project.

Results

All 16 trenches were dug as intended (Fig. 3). They ranged in length from 27m to 40m and in depth from 0.30m to 0.94m. All trenches were 1.8m wide. Spoil heaps were monitored for finds.

A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1. Appendix 2 summarizes the single feature excavated.

Trench 1 (Figs 3 and 4, Pls 1 and 2)

Trench 1 was aligned SE–NW and was 30.90m long and 0.32m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.20m of topsoil and 0.12m mid grey brown sandy clay subsoil overlying light grey brown sandy clay with occasional gravel inclusions natural geology. A 'V'-profiled ditch (1) was recorded at the north end of the trench, which was 0.63m wide and 0.36m deep and filled with a single deposit (52) comprising firm light grey brown silty clay with small sub-rounded gravel inclusions. No finds were recovered.

Trench 2 (Fig. 3)

Trench 2 was aligned SW–NE and was 30.90m long and 0.32m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of topsoil and 0.10m of subsoil overlying natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 3 (Fig. 3)

Trench 3 was aligned SE–NW and was 30.90m long and 0.32m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of topsoil and 0.10m of subsoil overlying natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 4 (Fig. 3)

Trench 4 was aligned WSW–ENE and was 40m long and 0.62m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of topsoil and 0.16m mid yellow brown sandy clay re-deposited natural, overlying 0.18m dark grey brown sandy clay made ground with chalk and brick inclusions overlying gravel inclusions natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 5 (Fig. 3; Pl. 3)

Trench 5 was aligned SE–NW and was 34.50m long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.05m of subsoil overlying natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed nor finds recovered.

Trench 6 (Fig 3)

Trench 6 was aligned SW–NE and was 31.10m long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of topsoil and 0.08m of subsoil overlying natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 7 (Fig 3)

Trench 7 was aligned SE–NW and was 32m long and 0.50m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.25m of subsoil overlying natural geology. A 10m spread of made ground was observed in the centre of the trench however no deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 8 (Fig. 3, Pl. 4)

Trench 8 was aligned WSW–ENE and was 27m long and 0.75m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.30m of topsoil and 0.30m yellow brown sandy clay re-deposited natural, overlying 0.15m dark grey brown sandy clay made ground with chalk and brick inclusions, overlying natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 9 (Fig. 3)

Trench 9 was aligned SE–NW and was 27.20m long and 0.42m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.22m of topsoil and 0.20m of subsoil overlying natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 10 (Fig. 3)

Trench 10 was aligned SE–NW and was 29.70m long and 0.94m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.31m of topsoil and 0.22m dark yellow brown silty clay made ground with occasional gravel, overlying 0.22m of mid yellow brown sandy clay re-deposited natural, which in turn overlay 0.19m dark grey brown sandy clay made ground with chalk and brick inclusions, above natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 11 (Fig. 3)

Trench 11 was aligned SE–NW and was 29.60m long and 0.60m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.21m of topsoil and 0.15m mid yellow brown sandy clay re-deposited natural, overlying 0.21m dark grey sandy clay made ground with chalk and brick inclusions, above natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 12 (Fig 3; Pl 5)

Trench 12 was aligned WSW–ENE and was 29m long and 0.56m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.27m of topsoil and 0.10m of mid yellow brown sandy clay re-deposited natural, overlying 0.12m dark grey brown sandy clay made ground with chalk and brick inclusions, overlying natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 13 (Fig 3; Pl. 6)

Trench 13 was aligned WSW–ENE and was 30.80m long and 0.70m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.21m of topsoil and 0.18m dark yellow brown silty clay made ground with occasional gravel inclusions, overlying 0.31m dark grey brown sandy clay made ground with chalk and brick inclusions, overlying natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 14 (Fig 3)

Trench 14 was aligned SE–NW and was 29.20m long and 0.46m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.23m of topsoil and 0.23m of subsoil overlying natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 15 (Fig 3)

Trench 15 was aligned SE–NW and was 31.10 long and 0.30m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.28m of topsoil and 0.02m of subsoil overlying natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed and no finds were recovered.

Trench 16 (Fig 3)

Trench 16 was aligned WSW–ENE and was 28.80m long and 0.40m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.25m of topsoil and 0.15m of subsoil overlying natural geology. No deposits of archaeological interest were observed nor finds recovered.

Conclusion

Despite location of medieval remains in the adjacent field and the subsequent potential for archaeological deposits on the site, only a single feature of possible archaeological interest was encountered during this evaluation. This was a narrow ditch aligned broadly NE–SW with a 'V' shaped profile, from which no finds were recovered. However, it matches closely with a boundary marked on 19th and early 20th century maps. The trenches located in the central area of the field encountered a number of made ground deposits suggesting that at some point the field has been subject to landscaping, likely excavating and building up the centre for drainage purposes, presumably relating to its use as part of the airfield. A number of field drains were also encountered. The results of this field evaluation suggest a low potential for archaeology on the site.

References

BGS, 1996, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 176, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
Elliott, G, 2013, 'Land at Benacre Road, Ellough, Lowestoft, Suffolk: An Archaeological Desk-based Assessment', TVAS unpubl rep 13/196, Reading
NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Govt, London

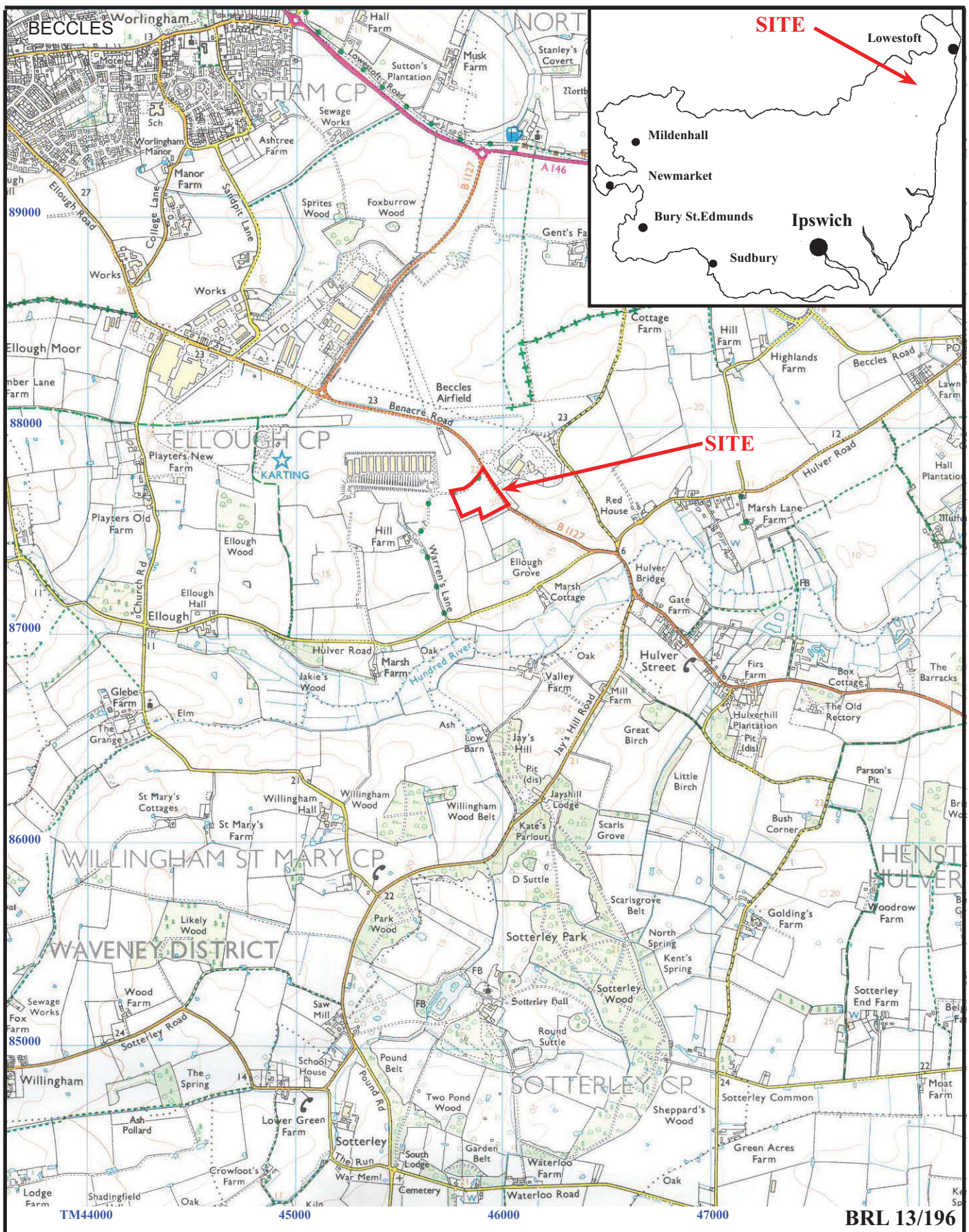
APPENDIX 1: Trench details

0m at south or western end

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	30.90	1.80	0.32	0–0.20m topsoil, 0.20-0.32m mid grey brown sandy clay subsoil, 0.32m+ light grey brown sandy clay with occasional gravel inclusions natural geology. Ditch (1) at 27.8-28.6m. [Pls 1 and 2]
2	30.90	1.80	0.32	0–0.22m topsoil, 0.22-0.32m subsoil, 0.32m+ natural geology.
3	30.90	1.80	0.32	0–0.22m topsoil, 0.22-0.32m subsoil, 0.32m+ natural geology.
4	40.00	1.80	0.62	0–0.28m topsoil, 0.28-0.44m mid yellow brown sandy clay re-deposited natural, 0.44-0.62m dark grey brown sandy clay made ground with brick and chalk inclusions, 0.62m+ natural geology.
5	34.50	1.80	0.30	0–0.25m topsoil, 0.25-0.30 subsoil, 0.30m+natural geology. [Pl. 3]
6	31.10	1.80	0.30	0–0.22m topsoil, 0.22-0.30 subsoil, 0.30m+ natural geology.
7	32.00	1.80	0.50	0–0.25 topsoil, 0.25-0.50m subsoil, 0.50m+ natural geology.
8	27.00	1.80	0.75	0–0.30m topsoil, 0.30-0.60m mid yellow brown sandy clay re-deposited natural, 0.60-0.75m dark grey brown sandy clay made ground with brick and chalk inclusions, 0.75m+ natural geology. [Pl. 4]
9	27.20	1.80	0.42	0–0.22m topsoil, 0.22-0.42m subsoil, 0.42m+ natural geology.
10	29.70	1.80	0.94	0–0.31m topsoil, 0.31-0.53m dark yellow brown silty clay made ground with occasional gravel, 0.53-0.75m mid yellow brown sandy clay re-deposited natural, 0.75-0.94m dark grey brown sandy clay made ground with brick and chalk inclusions, 0.94m+ natural geology.
11	29.60	1.80	0.60	0–0.21m topsoil, 0.21-0.36m mid yellow brown sandy clay re-deposited natural, 0.36-0.57m dark grey brown sandy clay made ground with brick and chalk inclusions, 0.57m+ natural geology.
12	29.00	1.80	0.56	0–0.27m topsoil, 0.27-0.37m mid yellow brown sandy clay re-deposited natural, 0.37-0.49m dark grey brown sandy clay made ground with brick and chalk inclusions, 0.49m+ natural geology. [Pl. 5]
13	30.80	1.80	0.70	0–0.21m topsoil, 0.21-0.39m dark yellow brown silty clay made ground with occasional gravel, 0.39-0.70m dark grey brown sandy clay made ground with brick and chalk inclusions, 0.70m+ natural geology. [Pl. 6]
14	29.20	1.80	0.46	0–0.23m topsoil, 0.23-0.46m subsoil, 0.46m+ natural geology.
15	31.30	1.80	0.30	0–0.82m topsoil, 0.28-0.30m subsoil, 0.30m+ natural geology.
16	28.80	1.80	0.40	0–0.25m topsoil, 0.25-0.40m subsoil, 0.40m+ natural geology.

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

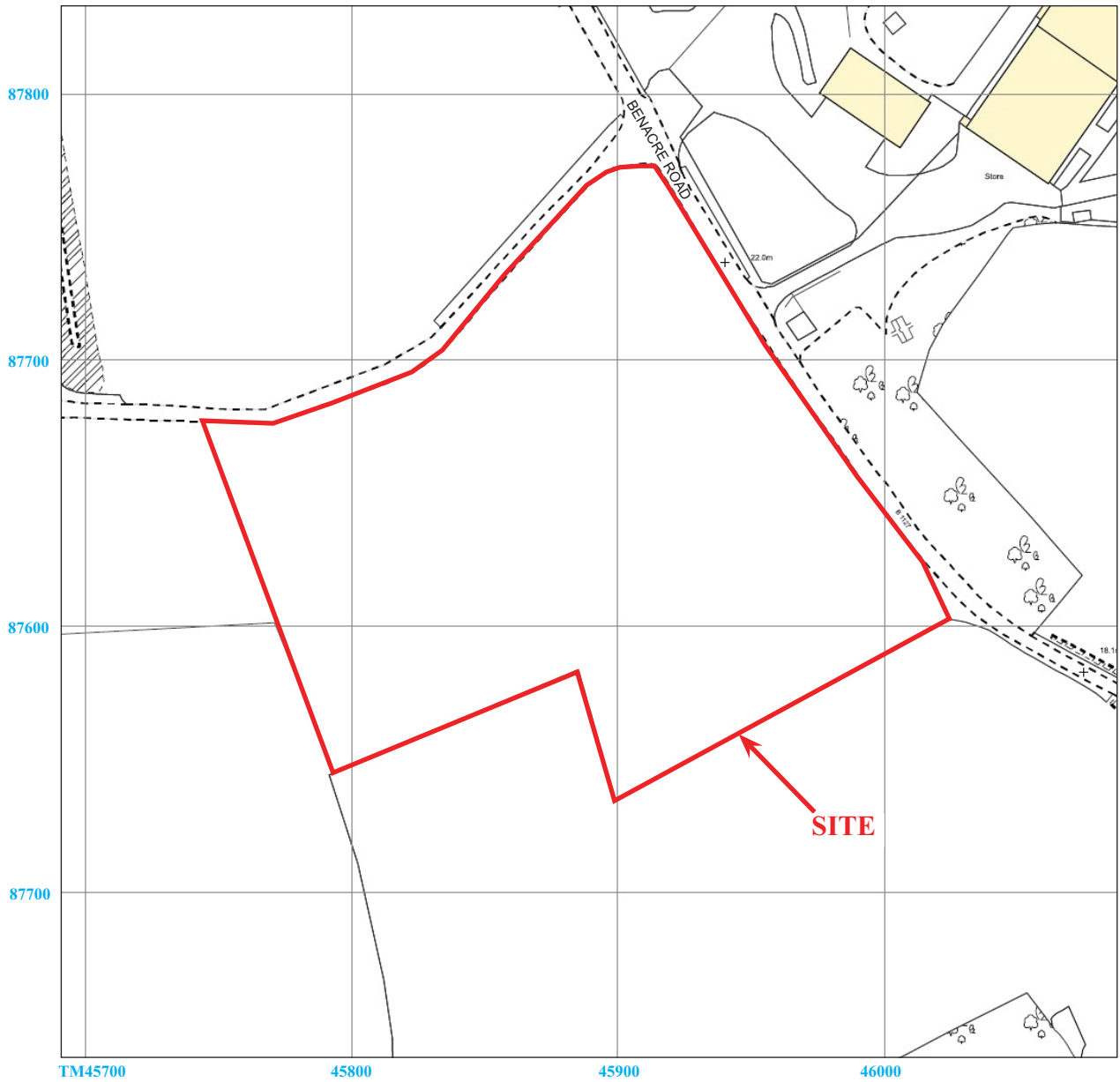
<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
1	1	52	Ditch	Undated	None



**Land at Benacre Road, Elloough, Beccles,
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Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Elloough and Beccles in Suffolk.

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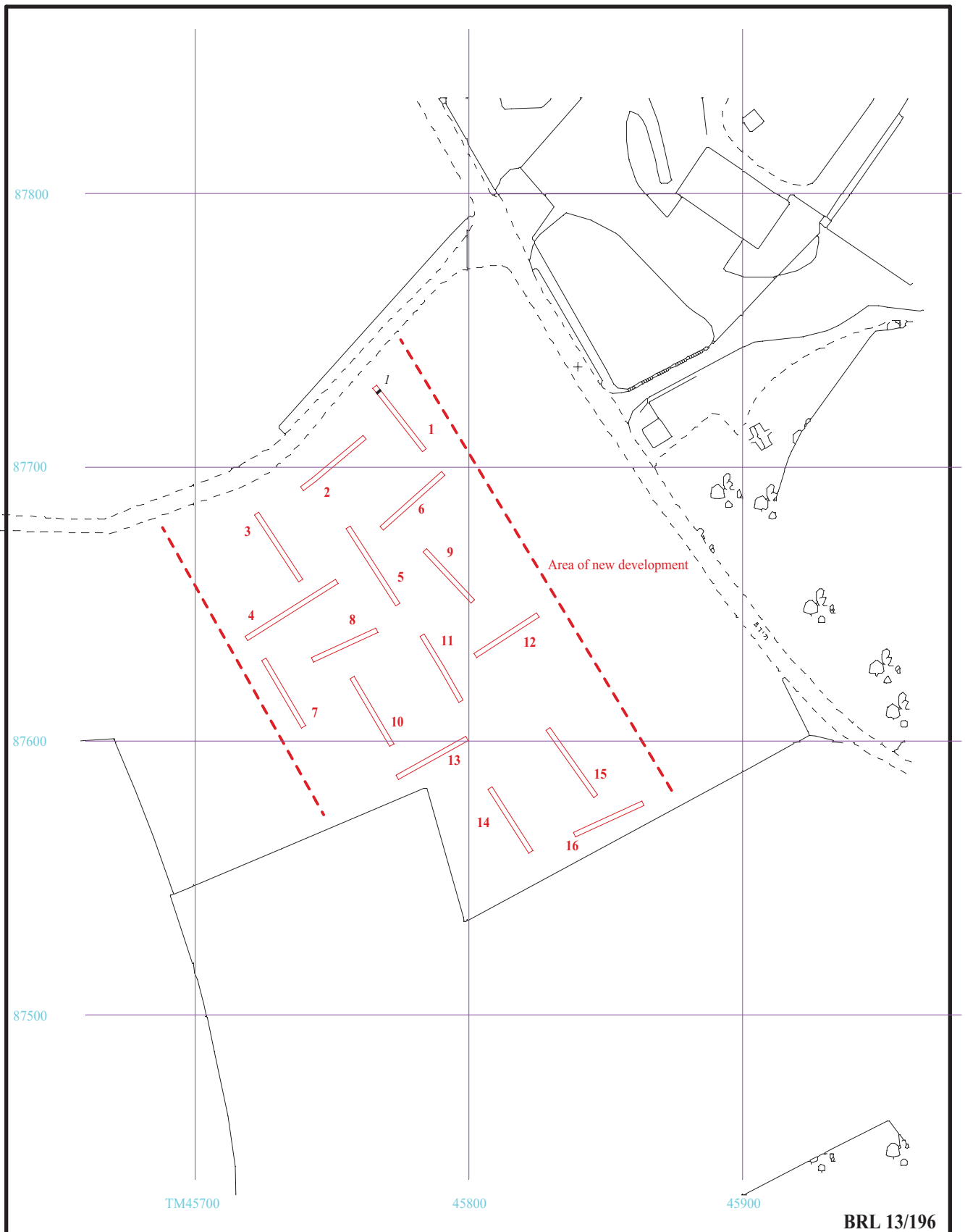


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Figure 2. Detailed location of site off Benacre Road.

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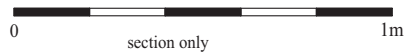
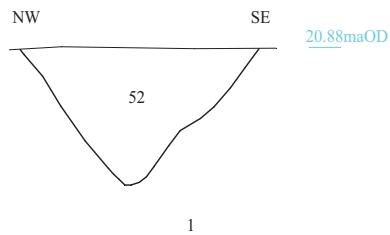
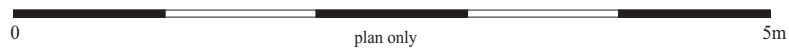
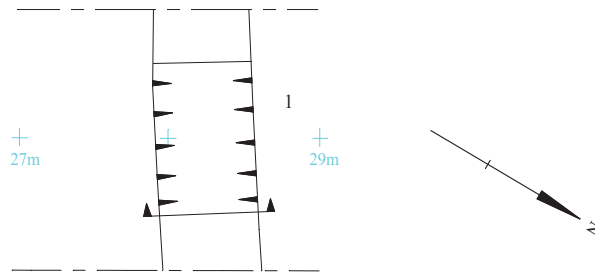
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Figure 3. Location of trenches.



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Trench 1



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Figure 4. Detailed plan and section from Trench 1

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Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north-west, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 2. Trench 1, gully 1, looking north-east, Scales: horizontal 0.5m, vertical 0.3m.

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**Land at Benacre Road, Ellough,
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Plates 1 - 2.**

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Plate 3. Trench 5, looking north-west, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 4. Trench 8, looking south-east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.

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**Land at Benacre Road, Ellough,
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Plates 3 - 4.**

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Plate 5. Trench 12, looking north-east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.



Plate 6. Trench 13, looking north-east, Scales: horizontal 2m and 1m, vertical 0.3m.

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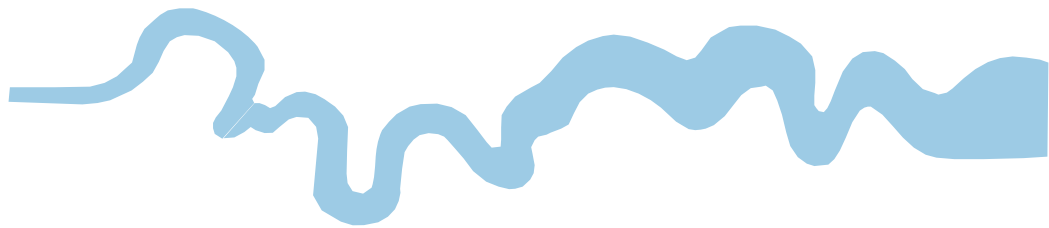
Land at Benacre Road, Ellough,
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Plates 5 - 6.

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TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 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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