

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

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

**Land to the south of Right-Up Lane,
Wymondham, Norfolk**

Archaeological Evaluation

by James Lewis

Site Code: 53744-RLW

(TG 1160 0096)

Land to the south of Right-Up Lane, Wymondham, Norfolk

**An Archaeological Evaluation
for Gladedale Ltd and the Bank of Scotland**

by James Lewis
Thames Valley Archaeological Services
Ltd

Site Code 53744-RLW

December 2009

Summary

Site name: Land to the south of Right-Up Lane, Wymondham, Norfolk

Grid reference: TG 1160 0096

Site activity: Evaluation

Date and duration of project: 10th – 11th December 2009

Project manager: Steve Ford

Site supervisor: James Lewis

Site code: 53744.RLW

Area of site: 1.3 ha

Summary of results: No deposits of archaeological significance were revealed. A later post-medieval pit/hearth was recorded and a single neolithic or Bronze Age struck flint was recovered.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service in due course, with accession code 53744.RLW.

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Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 18.12.09 Steve Preston✓ 18.12.09
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Land to the south of Right-Up Lane, Wymondham, Norfolk

An Archaeological Evaluation

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Report 09/118

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out on land to the south of Right-Up Lane, Wymondham, Norfolk (TG 1160 0096) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Richard Meager of CgMs Consulting, Morley House, 26 Holborn Viaduct, London, EC1A 2AT on behalf of Gladedale (Anglia) Limited and the Bank of Scotland.

Planning consent (Ref: 2009/0686/F) has been granted by South Norfolk Council for residential development on land to the south of Right-Up Lane, Wymondham, Norfolk. The application was granted subject to a condition (23) which required the implementation of a programme of archaeological work, 'To ensure the potential archaeological interest of the site is investigated in accordance with ENV9 of the South Norfolk Local Plan 2003'

As a result, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the 10th and 11th of December 2009. This is in accordance with the Department of the Environment's Planning Policy Guidance, Archaeology and Planning (PPG16 1990), and South Norfolk Council's policies on archaeology. The field investigation was carried out to a specification prepared by CgMs (Meager 2009a) and approved by Dr Ken Hamilton at Norfolk Landscape Archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by James Lewis and Aigi Castle on the 10th–11th of December 2009 and the site code is 53744.RLW. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited with Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the southern edge of the town of Wymondham in Norfolk. The north of the site is bounded by Right-Up Lane and a railway line. Beyond these is the town and located on the west side of the town is the remains of Wymondham Abbey. The land to the south-east is characterized by open farm land and approximately 900m from the site is the A11. To the south of the site is a small housing estate and beyond this to the west is open farmland with Bays River flowing through it. The underlying geology is Cretaceous Upper

Chalk and glacial sands and gravels above Boulder Clay (Meager 2009a) (Fig. 1). The site is at an elevation of *c.* 40m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted in a desk-based assessment (Meager 2009b). In summary few finds from the prehistoric period have been recorded within the environs of the site. Previous work at Browick Road to the north and north-east of the site has revealed evidence which includes Palaeolithic stone tools, an aisled structure dating from the Roman period, an early-mid Saxon sunken structure and medieval ditches.

The site itself was open unoccupied land until the beginning of the 19th century when it was used as a gravel quarry and allotments. By the mid-19th century the gravel pit had been extended and the allotments disappeared. In the later half of that century a domestic building was constructed but this has now been demolished (Meager 2009)

Objectives and methodology

The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological deposits within the area of development. Research aims were to be addressed within the context of the relevant sections of the Research Agenda and Strategy Frameworks for the Eastern Counties (Glazebrook 1997; Brown and Glazebrook 2000).

The objectives of the evaluation were:

- To establish the natural topography of the site;
- To establish the presence or otherwise of prehistoric or later occupation/activity and define the date and nature of that activity/occupation;
- To establish the palaeoenvironmental context of any prehistoric, or later occupation/activity;
- Evaluate the likely impact of past land use; and
- To provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy.

Five trenches, between 15m to 20m long were to be excavated using a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist. All archaeological deposits were to be hand cleaned and excavated and all spoil heaps monitored for artefacts. The six trenches were located on the areas not affected by previous quarrying.

Results

In the event six trenches were excavated, due to a need to reposition Trench 4 and a reduction in length of Trench 1 (Fig. 2). The excavation and positioning of the new trench was carried out in consultation with Mr Richard Meager. The six trenches measured between 13.6m to 22.45m in length and all were 1.6m wide (Fig. 2). A complete list of trenches giving lengths, breadths, depths and a description of sections and geology is given in Appendix 1.

Trench 1

Trench 1 was aligned NE–SW and measured 13.10m in length. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.4m of topsoil which overlay 1.95m of made ground. Due to the limited amount of space and the depth of the made ground it was not possible to excavate down to the natural geology along the whole length of the trench. Therefore two test pits were excavated at the ends of the trench. At the SW end, the made ground was 1.7m deep and directly overlay the chalk natural geology. At the NE end, the made ground also reached a depth of 1.95m and also directly overlay natural geology, which was sand at this location. No archaeological deposits were found.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was aligned WNW–ESE, 21.45m in length and varied in depth between 0.5m at the western end to 0.56m at the eastern end. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.4m of topsoil, overlying 0.16m of subsoil which was above the sandy gravel natural geology. No archaeological deposits were found, however a single struck flint of possible Neolithic or Bronze Age date was recovered from the topsoil.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was aligned E–W and measured 15.1m in length and varied in depth between 0.48m deep in the west end to 0.40m at the east end. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.48m of topsoil, over 0.2m of subsoil which lay above the sandy gravel natural geology. No archaeological deposits were found in the trench. In the topsoil and subsoil was found a single sherd of post-medieval pottery and two pieces of brick/tile.

Trench 4

Trench 4 was aligned NE–SW and measured 22.2 in length and the depth varied between 0.76m at the west end to 0.85m at the east end. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.35m of topsoil, over 0.34m of subsoil above the natural sandy gravel geology. No archaeological deposits were found.

Trench 5 (Fig. 3 and Pl. 1)

Trench 5 was aligned NW–SE and measured 22.45m in length and 0.8m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.60m of topsoil, over 0.2m of subsoil above the sandy gravel natural geology. The trench contained one pit. At 10m from the west end, the shallow circular pit (1) measured 1.3m in diameter and 0.25m deep. It contained loose black sand (52) with frequent charcoal inclusions and occasional burnt flint and one piece of brick or tile. A post-medieval date appears to be most likely for this feature. This overlay red brown sand (53) with natural flint inclusions. No finds were found in this context and it is considered that it represents a variation in the natural geology due to the presence of the overlying feature. The topsoil contained a single piece of slate.

Trench 6 (Pl. 2)

Trench 6 was aligned NW–SE and measured 14.1m long and 0.52m deep. The stratigraphy consisted of 0.4m of topsoil over 0.12m of subsoil above the sandy gravel natural geology. No archaeological deposits were found in this trench. A single piece of brick/tile was found in the topsoil..

Finds

Environmental Samples by Jo Pine

One bulk soil sample was taken from context 52 and was analysed. The analysis found no seeds present in the sample although charcoal was present in moderate amounts. The majority of the charcoal was less than 2mm in size and unidentifiable. The sample has little environmental potential.

Struck Flint by Steve Ford

A single struck flint was recovered during the course of the evaluation, from the topsoil for Trench 2. It is a primary broad flake, made on a frost shattered nodule. It is not closely datable and only a broad Neolithic or Bronze Age date can be suggested.

Conclusion

The evaluation only found one feature of possible archaeological interest and this was shown likely to be of later post-medieval date. One trench which revealed a deep thickness of made ground probably indicates backfilling of a previously quarried area. This information has the effect of reducing further the zone in which any

archaeological deposits could have survived. On the basis of these results therefore the site is considered to have no or minimal archaeological potential.

References

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Acknowledgements

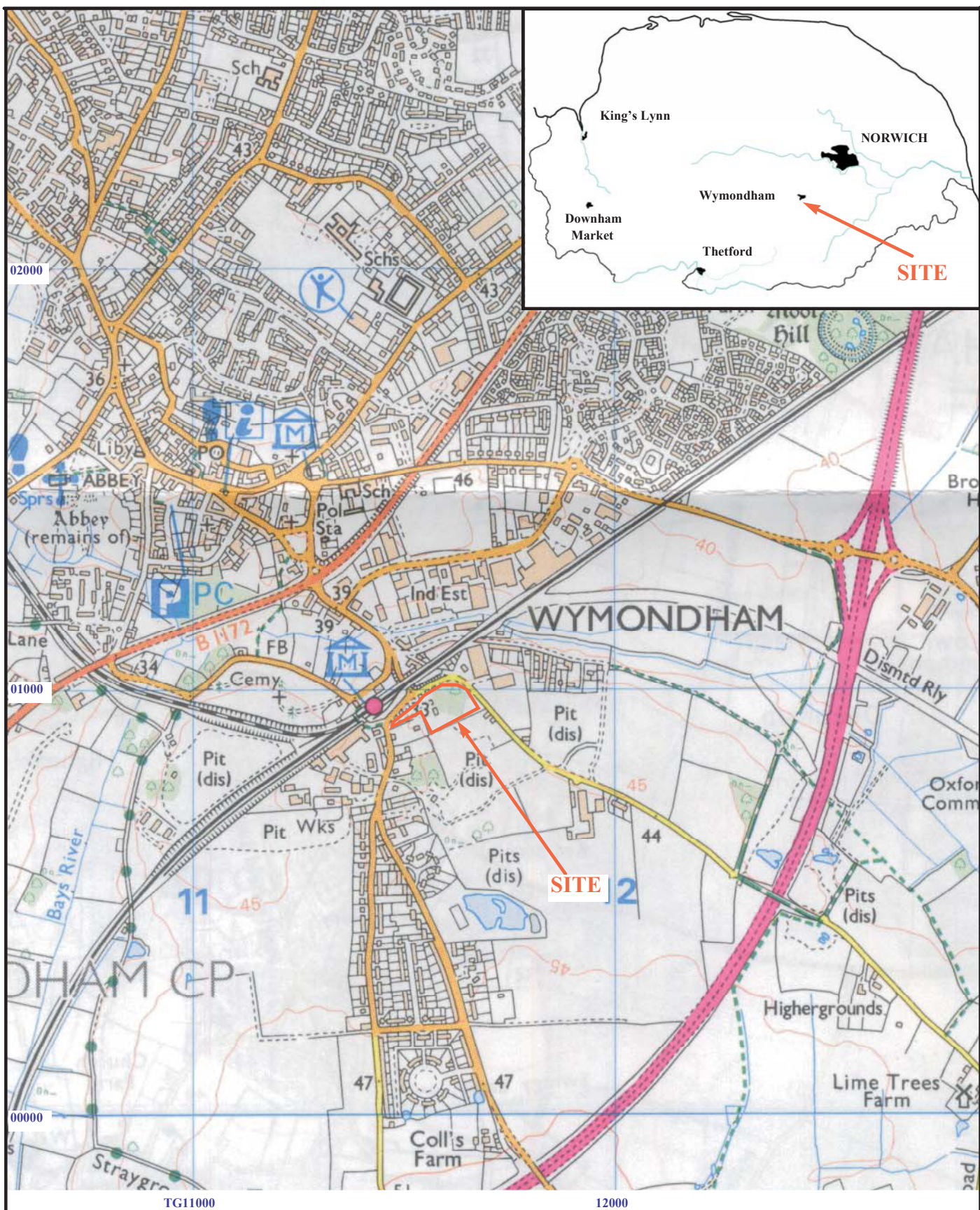
We would like to thank Mr. Richard Meager of CgMs, Dr. Ken Hamilton of Norfolk Landscape Archaeology and the client, Mr. James Baisley of Gladedale (Anglia) Limited for their assistance during the conduct of this project.

APPENDIX 1: Trench details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Length (m)</i>	<i>Breadth (m)</i>	<i>Depth (m)</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1	13.10	1.6	2.3	0–0.4m topsoil; 0.4–1.95 made ground; 1.95+ natural geology- chalk (west), sand and gravel.(east).
2	21.45	1.6	0.56	0–0.4m topsoil; 0.4–0.56m subsoil; 0.56m+ natural geology, sandy gravel.
3	15.10	1.6	0.68	0–0.48m topsoil; 0.48–0.68m subsoil; 0.68m+ natural geology, sandy gravel.
4	22.20	1.6	0.85	0–0.35m topsoil; 0.35–0.79m subsoil; 0.79m+ natural geology, sandy gravel.
5	22.45	1.6	0.80	0–0.60m topsoil; 0.6–0.8m subsoil; 0.8m+ natural geology, sandy gravel. Feature 1. [Plate 1]
6	14.10	1.6	0.52	0–0.4m topsoil, 0.4–0.52m subsoil, 0.52m+ natural geology, sandy gravel. [Plate 2]

APPENDIX 2: Feature details

<i>Trench</i>	<i>Cut</i>	<i>Fill (s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Dating evidence</i>
5	1	52	pit	Post-medieval	brick/tile



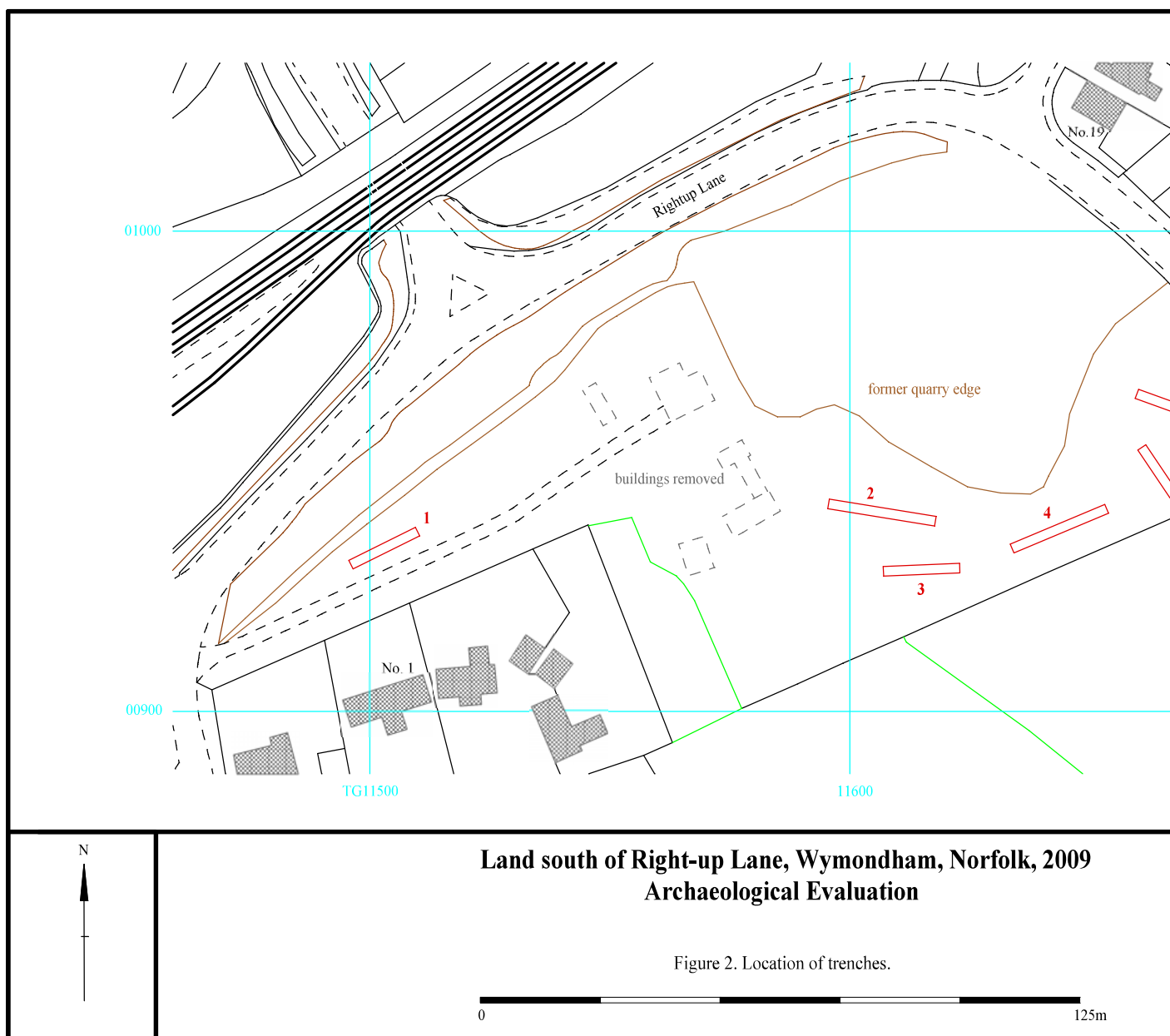
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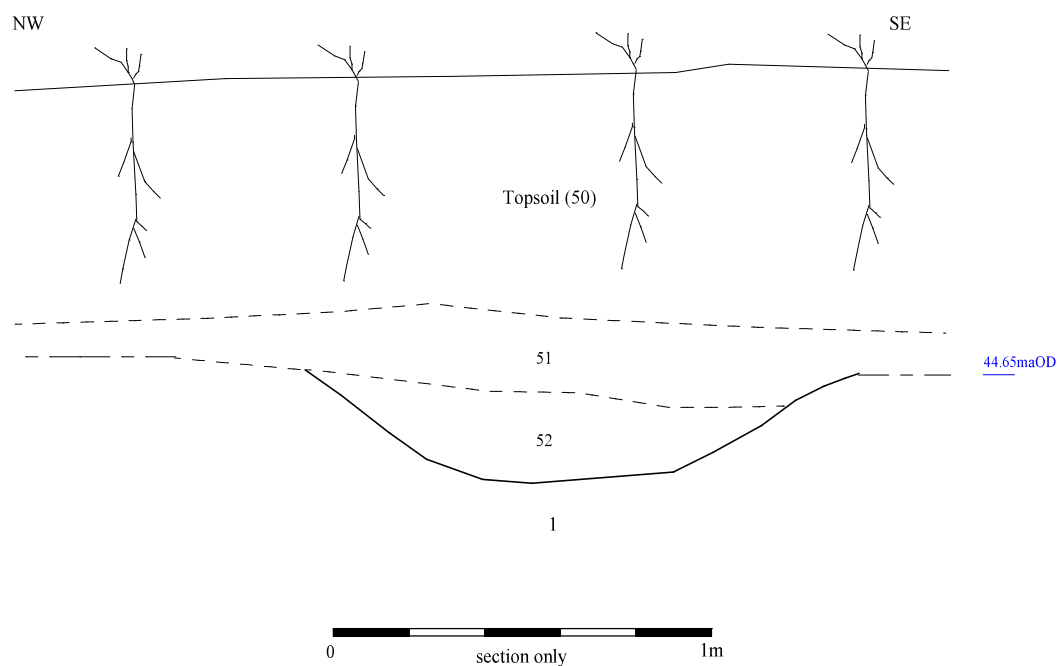
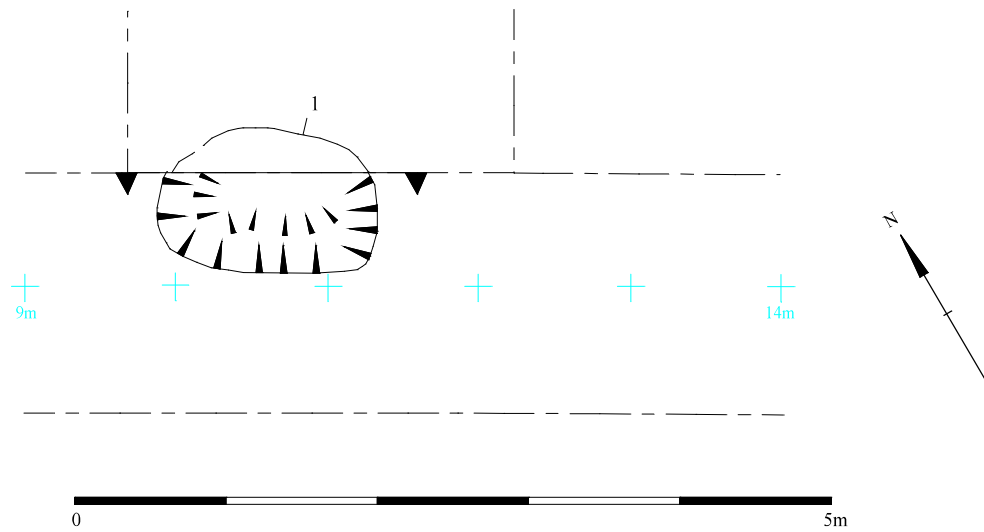
Figure 1. Location of site within Wymondham and Norfolk.

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Trench 5



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Figure 3. Detailed plan and section of Trench 5.

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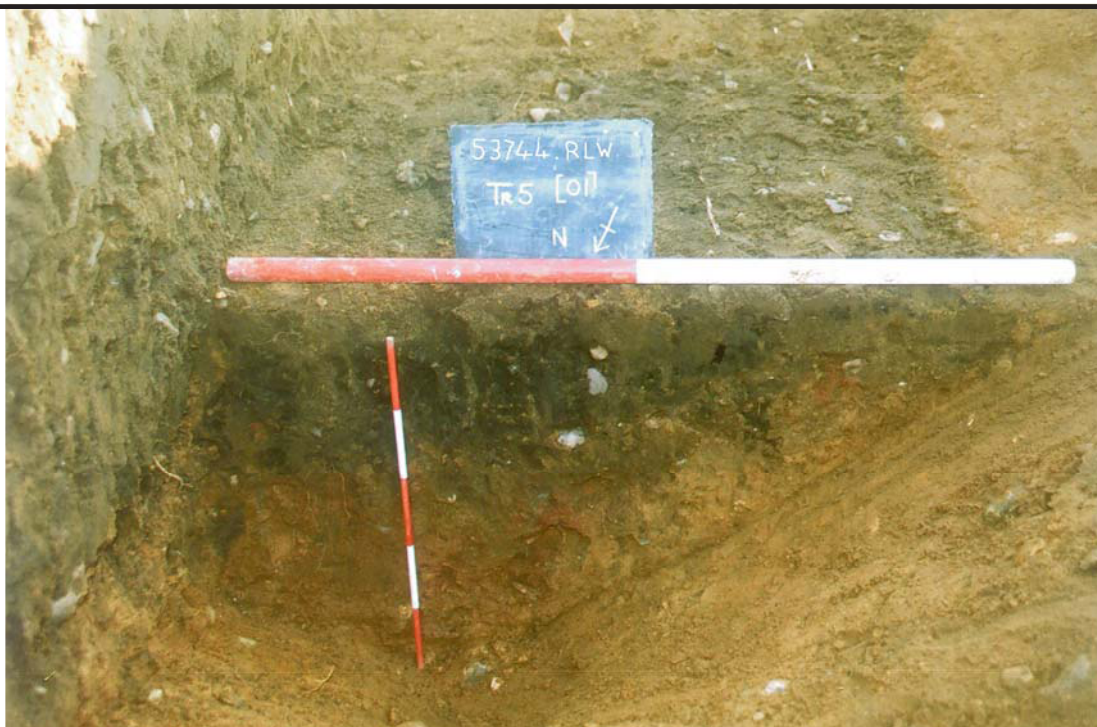


Plate 1. Trench 5, feature 1, looking south south east, scales 1m and 0.5m.



Plate 2. Trench 6. looking north, scales: 2m and 0.5m.

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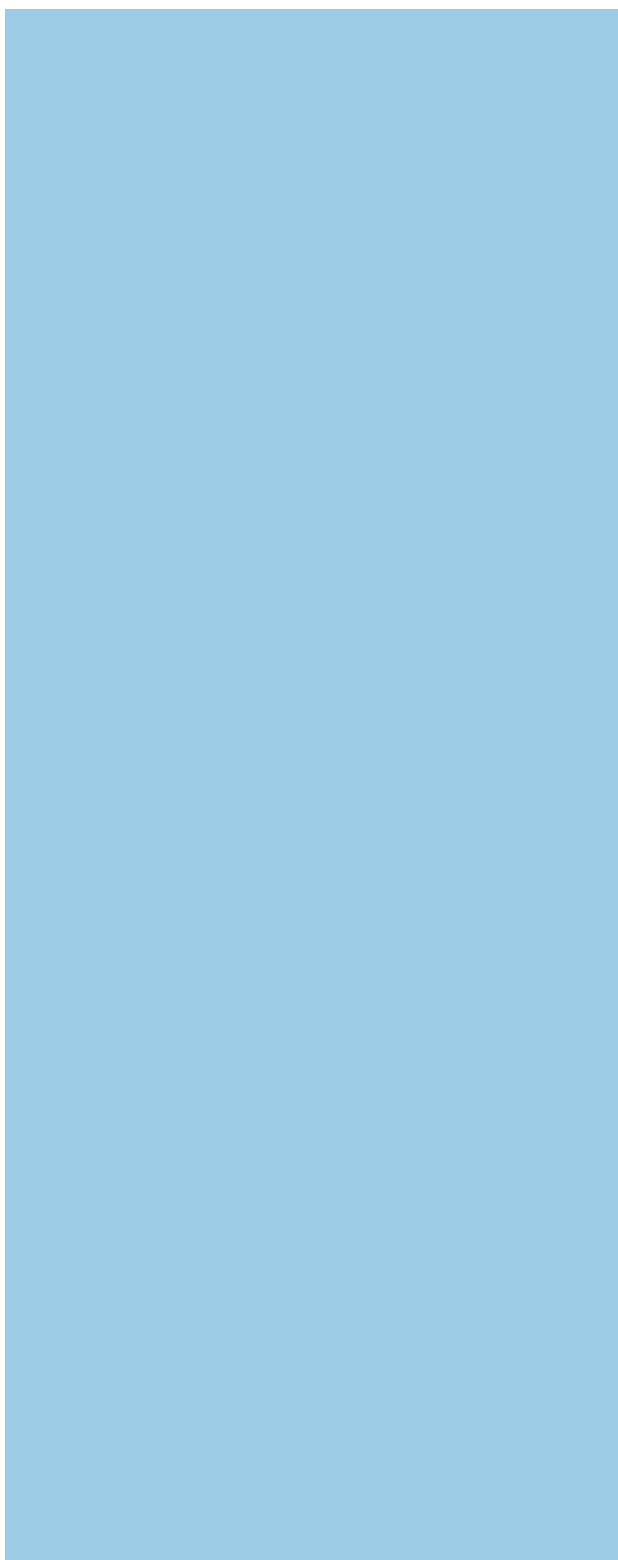
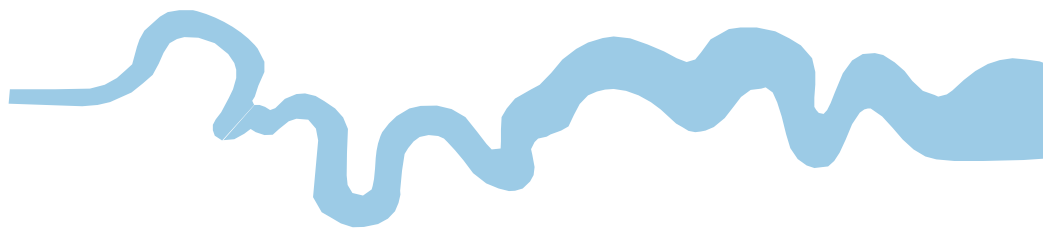
Land south of Right-up Lane, Wymondham, Norfolk, 2009
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Plate 1 and 2.

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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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