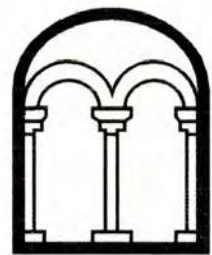


**LAND AT WALLINGTON HALL  
LYNN ROAD  
SOUTH RUNCTON  
NORFOLK**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH  
EVALUATION**

**Albion**  
archaeology



**LAND AT WALLINGTON HALL  
LYNN ROAD  
SOUTH RUNCTON  
NORFOLK**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH  
EVALUATION**

Project: WH2130  
Document: 2013/42  
Version 1.0

HES reference: CNF44770  
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Compiled by	Checked by	Approved by
Marcin Koziminski	Robert Wardill	Drew Shotliff

13th March 2013

Produced for:  
Fisher German LLP  
On behalf of the  
Wallington Hall Estate



## ***Contents***

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Non-Technical Summary	3
<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1 Planning Background	4
1.2 Site Location and Description	4
1.3 Archaeological Background	5
1.4 Project Objectives	5
<b>2. METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3. RESULTS</b>	<b>7</b>
3.1 Introduction	7
3.2 Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Strata	7
3.3 Possible Archaeological Features	7
<b>4. CONCLUSIONS</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>5. BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>6. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>7. APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM</b>	<b>16</b>

## ***List of Figures***

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Results overview plan

Figure 3: Trenches 2 and 4 – selected images and section drawings

*The figures are bound at the back of the report.*



## Preface

*Every effort has been made in the preparation of this document to provide as complete a summary as possible within the terms of the method statement. All statements and opinions in this document are offered in good faith. Albion Archaeology cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by a third party, or for any loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in this document.*

## Acknowledgements

*The project was commissioned by Fisher German LLP on behalf of the Wallington Hall Estate and monitored on behalf of the Local Planning Authority by James Albone and Ken Hamilton of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service.*

*The fieldwork was undertaken by Marcin Koziminski, who also prepared this report with contributions from Joan Lightning (CAD Technician).*

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## Version History

<i>Version</i>	<i>Issue date</i>	<i>Reason for re-issue</i>
<i>1.0</i>	<i>13/03/13</i>	<i>n/a</i>

## Key Terms

The following abbreviations are used throughout this report:

Borough Council	Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
HES	Historic Environment Service
IfA	Institute for Archaeologists
NCC	Norfolk County Council
PDA	Proposed Development Area



## **Non-Technical Summary**

*Baseline information is being collected in support of a planning application for the construction of an irrigation reservoir for arable farming use on land at Wallington Hall, Lynn Road, South Runcton, Norfolk.*

*South Runcton lies on the fen-edge which was a focus of activity in the prehistoric and Roman periods, and the proposed development area is located adjacent to a number of gravel pits where significant quantities of prehistoric and Roman pottery were discovered in the mid 20th century.*

*The Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service requested that a programme of archaeological works was undertaken on the site. Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the first phase of fieldwork that took a form of an archaeological trial trench evaluation. The results of this work will be assessed by the HES to make an informed and reasonable decision as to whether further investigations are necessary.*

*The trial trench evaluation has been successful in characterising the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. Two potential archaeological features were uncovered in one of the five trial trenches. Neither contained artefacts and both were significantly disturbed by tree roots. They may be interpreted as sections of ditches or elongated tree throws, with the latter interpretation being more likely. Therefore, the significance of these remains is considered to be low and they have little further potential for addressing research objectives for the region.*

*In summary, limited sub-surface archaeological remains were found within the PDA and their research potential is negligible.*



## 1. INTRODUCTION

---

### 1.1 *Planning Background*

Baseline information is being collected in support of a planning application for the construction of an irrigation reservoir for arable farming use on land at Wallington Hall, Lynn Road, South Runcton, Norfolk.

South Runcton lies on the fen-edge which was a focus of activity in the prehistoric and Roman periods, and the proposed development area (PDA) is located adjacent to a number of gravel pits where significant quantities of prehistoric and Roman pottery were discovered in the mid 20th century.

The Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES) requested that a Programme of Archaeological Works (PoAW) was undertaken on the site, the results of which would allow the HES to make an informed and reasonable planning decision.

This was in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework – Section 12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*, which was published on 27 March 2012<sup>1</sup>.

A Project Design (PD) (Albion Archaeology 2013) was prepared to describe the circumstances of the project, the scope of the work required, and the procedures, methodologies and resources that were to be employed for its successful completion. This was followed by the first phase of fieldwork that took a form of an archaeological trial trench evaluation, as detailed in a brief issued by the HES (NCC HES 2013).

This document presents the results of the trenching works, which will be assessed by the HES to determine whether further investigations are necessary.

### 1.2 *Site Location and Description*

South Runcton is a small hamlet, lying c. 4 miles to the north of Downham Market in the western part of Norfolk. Wallington Hall is located to the south-west of the hamlet and west of Lynn Road (A10). The River Great Ouse and its associated Fen Rivers Way channel lie c. 0.7 miles to the west (Figure 1).

The proposed reservoir site lies at the edge of the south-west corner of an open field within the grounds of the hall. The northern part of the site is arable land while the southern part is covered with trees. The site is surrounded by woodland to the south, quarry lakes to the west and pasture and arable fields to the north and east.

The site lies on fairly level ground which rises very gently from the River Great Ouse in the west towards Wallington Hall in the east. The proposed reservoir lies between 5 and 10m OD. The underlying geology consists of

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<sup>1</sup> National Planning Policy Framework, published by the Department for Communities and Local Government (2012). Available at:  
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/nppf>.



Tottenhill Gravel Member over Kimmeridge Clay Formation mudstone<sup>2</sup>. The site is centred on grid reference TF 6173 0741.

### **1.3 Archaeological Background**

South Runcton lies on the fen-edge which is a landscape that has been demonstrated by archaeological investigations elsewhere to have been intensively utilised in the prehistoric and Roman periods. Significant quantities of prehistoric and Roman pottery were retrieved in the mid 20th century from a number of gravel pits which lie directly adjacent to the PDA. There was, therefore, potential for archaeological heritage assets dating to the prehistoric and Roman periods to be present on the PDA itself.

### **1.4 Project Objectives**

The relevant research framework document for the area is *A Revised Framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011).

The distribution, density and dynamics of Iron Age settlements, the Iron Age to Roman transition and the characterisation of different character zones of the Iron Age and Roman landscapes within the east of England are all research themes which are highlighted by Medlycott (2011, 31 and 47). Settlement distribution and characterisation including the form, function and variation of buildings within the settlements are also part of the research topics.

The identification of a Roman Imperial Fen Estate and the question of formal organisation within the fen-edge are also research questions which are raised within by Medlycott (2011, 47).

The specific research objectives of the evaluation were:

- To assess if any heritage assets relating to Iron Age and Roman settlements or activity were present on the PDA;
- To assess whether the origin of the Iron Age and Roman artefacts within the nearby gravel pits could be established.

The general purpose of the evaluation was to recover information on the:

- location, extent, nature, and date of any archaeological features or deposits that were encountered within the application site;
- integrity and state of preservation of any archaeological features or deposits that were encountered within the application site;
- nature of palaeo-environmental remains to determine local environmental conditions.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/data/mapViewers/home.html> [Accessed 22nd February 2013].



## 2. METHODOLOGY

Trial trenching took place between 26th and 28th February 2013. A layout of five 30m x 2m trenches was agreed with the HES before fieldwork began.

The trenches were positioned within the central area of the PDA where the groundworks for the reservoir will extend below present ground level. However, a number of alterations to the original layout were necessary. Four out of five trenches were slightly rotated either clockwise (Trenches 2, 4 and 5) or anti-clockwise (Trench 1) so as to avoid trees. In addition, Trench 4 was excavated with a slight kink in order to avoid a tree.

The trenches were opened by a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-edged bucket, operated by an experienced driver under close archaeological supervision. Overburden was removed down to the top of archaeological deposits or undisturbed geological deposits, whichever was encountered first.

The bases and sides of the trenches were cleaned by hand as necessary. Any potential archaeological features were cleaned, investigated by hand and recorded using Albion Archaeology's pro formae sheets. All features and deposits were assigned a unique context number commencing at 101 for Trench 1, 201 for Trench 2 etc. Each trench was subsequently drawn and photographed as appropriate. Also, the spoil heaps were scanned for artefacts by both eye and a metal detector.

A full methodology is provided in the Project Design (Albion Archaeology 2013).

The project adhered throughout to the standards and requirements prescribed in the following documents:

• Albion Archaeology	<i>Procedures Manual: Volume 1. Fieldwork</i> (2nd edn, 2001).
• EAA	<i>Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England</i> (2003)
• English Heritage	<i>Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment PPN3: Archaeological Excavation</i> (2008)
	<i>Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation. 2nd ed. (2011)</i>
• IfA	<i>By-Laws and Code of Conduct</i>
	<i>Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation</i> (2008) and <i>Finds</i> (2008)

The trenches were inspected on 28th February 2013 by Ken Hamilton of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service.





### 3. RESULTS

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#### 3.1 *Introduction*

All significant deposits and features of possible archaeological interest found within the trial trenches are described below. Their location and extent are shown on Figures 2 and 3, while detailed technical data on all features and deposits can be found in Appendix 1.

All the deposits and features within the trenches seem to have been subjected to extensive bioturbation processes caused by both animal activity and tree root penetration.

#### 3.2 *Overburden and Undisturbed Geological Strata*

Overburden was homogeneous across the site and comprised a 0.26–0.36m thick deposit of dark clay silt topsoil, overlying a layer of grey orange clay silt subsoil that was generally 0.12–0.36m thick.

Undisturbed geological deposits predominantly consisted of mid orange grey clay silt with patches of gravely sands and blue grey clay also present.

#### 3.3 *Possible Archaeological Features*

Two possible archaeological features that produced no finds were revealed in Trench 2. These appeared as irregular but roughly linear sub-surface features [204] and [206] that were aligned N-S and E-W respectively (Figure 3).

Feature [204] was 1.3m wide, had an asymmetrical and uneven profile and measured up to 0.25m in depth (Figure 3, Section 1 and images 1 and 4). Feature [206] was 0.9m wide with a more regular, U-shaped profile and was 0.15–0.25m deep (Figure 3, Section 2 and images 2 and 5). Feature [204] was the stratigraphically later of the two features.

On site, the features had the appearance of possible ditches. However, the fact that both features were heavily disturbed by roots indicates that their interpretation as tree boles cannot be ruled out. On balance, the fact that neither extended into the adjacent Trenches 3 and 4 makes this the more likely interpretation.



## **4. CONCLUSIONS**

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The trial trench evaluation has been successful in characterising the archaeological potential of the PDA. Two potential archaeological features were uncovered in one of the five trial trenches. Neither contained artefacts and both were significantly disturbed by tree roots. They may be interpreted as sections of ditches or elongated tree throws, with the latter interpretation being more likely. Therefore, the significance of these remains is considered to be low and they have little further potential for addressing research objectives for the region.

In summary, limited sub-surface archaeological remains were found within the PDA and their research potential is negligible.



## 5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Albion Archaeology 2013. *Land at Wallington Hall, Lynn Road, South Runcton, Norfolk: Project Design for Trial Trench Evaluation* (Document: 2013/37).

DCLG 2012. *National Planning Policy Framework*.

Medlycott, M. 2011. *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England*. EAA Occasional Papers 24.

NCC HES 2013. *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching at Land at Wallington Hall, Lynn Road, South Runcton, Norfolk*. 12th February 2013.



## 6. APPENDIX 1: TRENCH SUMMARIES

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**Trench: 1**

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 30.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.44 m. Max: 0.44 m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TF (Easting: 61711: Northing: 7424)

OS Grid Ref.: TF (Easting: 61682: Northing: 7416)

**Reason:** To assess archaeological potential.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
101	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey clay silt occasional small-medium stones Moderately rooted, between 0.30-0.31m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
102	Subsoil	Friable mid grey orange clay silt occasional small-medium stones Moderately rooted, up to 0.14m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
103	Natural	Plastic mid orange grey silty clay With blue grey clay patches and lenses of mid yellow grey gravely sand, contained occasional flint nodules. Moderately rooted deposit.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench: 2**

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 30.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.42 m. Max: 0.56 m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TF (Easting: 61738; Northing: 7419)

OS Grid Ref.: TF (Easting: 61709; Northing: 7412)

**Reason:** To assess archaeological potential.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
201	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey clay silt occasional small-medium stones Moderately rooted. Between 0.3-0.36m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
202	Subsoil	Friable mid grey orange clay silt occasional small-medium stones Moderately rooted. Between 0.12-0.2m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
203	Natural	Plastic mid orange grey silty clay With blue grey clay patches and lenses of mid yellow grey gravelly sand, contained occasional flint nodules. Moderately rooted deposit.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
204	Ditch	Irregular N-S sides: Asymmetrical base: uneven dimensions: max breadth 1.3m, max depth 0.25m, min length 2.25m Truncates [208]/(209). Very heavily disturbed by rooting - possibly tree throw rather than a ditch.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
205	Fill	Friable mid grey sandy clay occasional small-medium stones With orange mottles - contained frequent roots.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
206	Ditch	Irregular E-W sides: U-shaped base: concave dimensions: max breadth 0.88m, max depth 0.25m, min length 3.m Truncates tree throw on the south side. Very heavily disturbed by rooting - possibly tree throw rather than a ditch. The same as [208], Gen. [210].	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
207	Fill	Friable mid grey sandy clay With occasional orange mottles and occasional flint nodules. Also moderately rooted.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench: 3**

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 30.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.4 m. Max: 0.5 m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TF (Easting: 61720: Northing: 7406)

OS Grid Ref.: TF (Easting: 61749: Northing: 7398)

**Reason:** To assess archaeological potential.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
301	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey clay silt occasional small-medium stones Moderately rooted. Between 0.28-0.32m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
302	Subsoil	Friable mid grey orange clay silt occasional small-medium stones Moderately rooted. Between 0.12-0.18m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
303	Natural	Plastic mid orange grey silty clay With blue grey clay patches and lenses of mid yellow grey gravely sand, contained occasional flint nodules. Moderately rooted deposit.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



**Trench: 4**

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 30.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.38 m. Max: 0.7 m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TF (Easting: 61757: Northing: 7430)

OS Grid Ref.: TF (Easting: 61757: Northing: 7400)

**Reason:** To assess archaeological potential.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
401	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey clay silt occasional small-medium stones Moderately rooted. Between 0.26-0.34m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
402	Subsoil	Plastic mid orange grey clay silt occasional small-large stones Moderately rooted. Between 0.12-0.36m thick deposit (a lot thicker at the north end)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
403	Natural	Plastic mid orange grey silty clay With blue grey clay patches and lenses of mid yellow grey gravely sand, contained occasional flint nodules. Moderately rooted deposit.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>





**Trench: 5**

**Max Dimensions:** Length: 30.00 m. Width: 2.00 m. Depth to Archaeology Min: 0.42 m. Max: 0.46 m.

**Co-ordinates:** OS Grid Ref.: TF (Easting: 61781: Northing: 7415)

OS Grid Ref.: TF (Easting: 61765: Northing: 7390)

**Reason:** To assess archaeological potential.

Context:	Type:	Description:	Excavated:	Finds Present:
501	Topsoil	Friable dark brown grey clay silt occasional small-medium stones Moderately rooted. Between 0.28-0.32m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
502	Subsoil	Friable mid grey orange clay silt occasional small-medium stones Moderately rooted. Up to 0.14m thick deposit.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
503	Natural	Plastic mid orange grey clay silt occasional small-medium stones With sand patches. Moderately rooted deposit.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

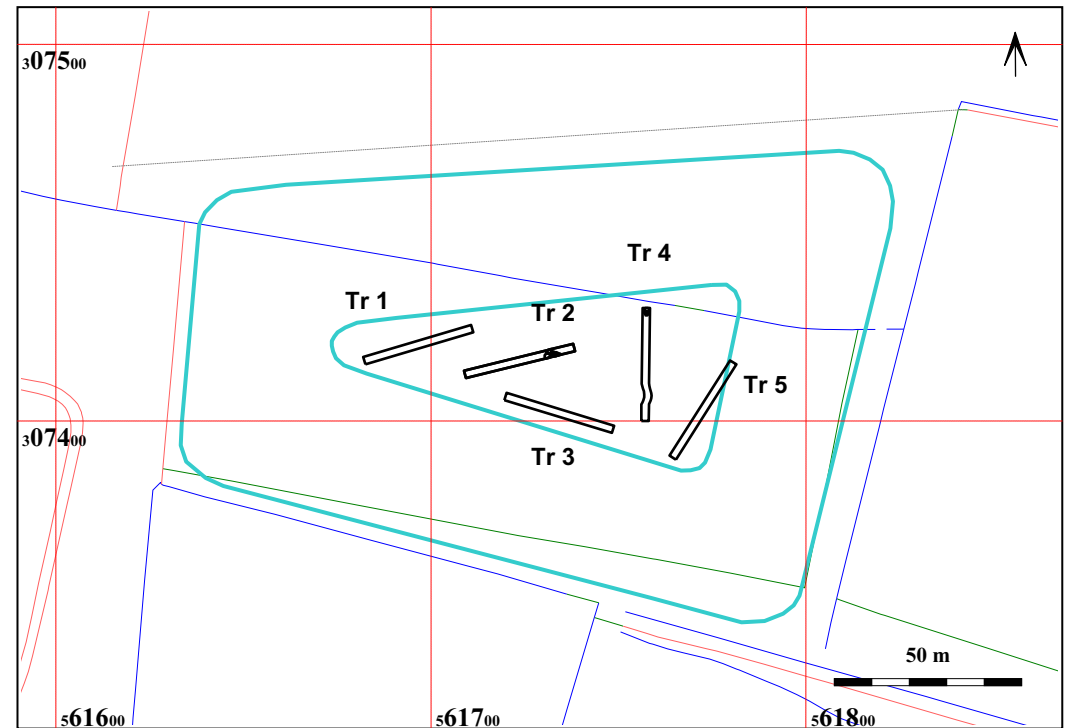
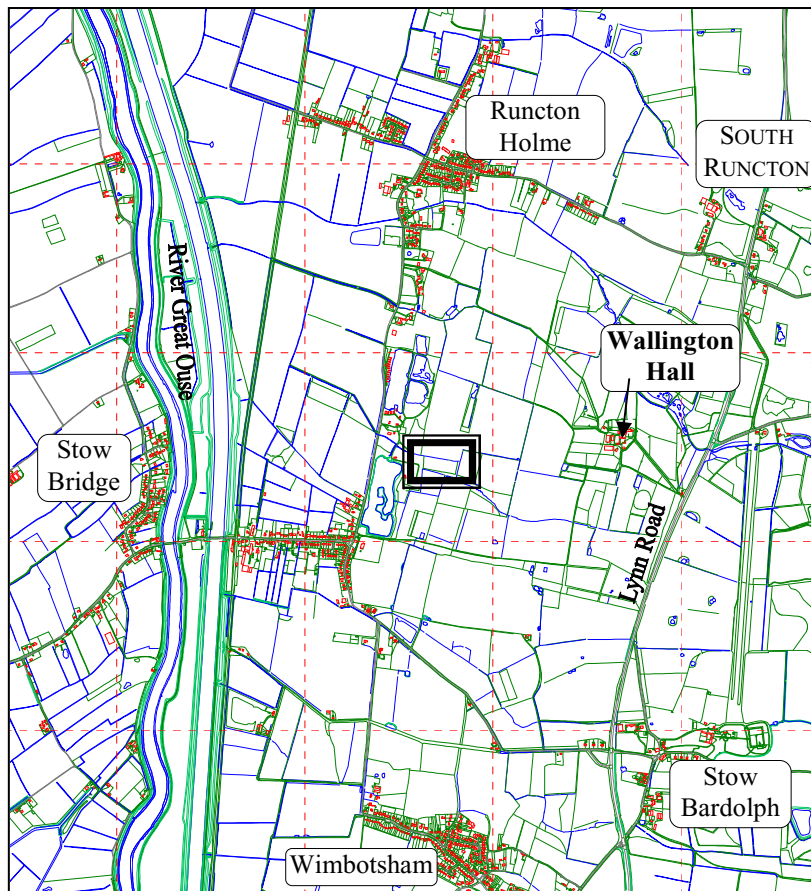
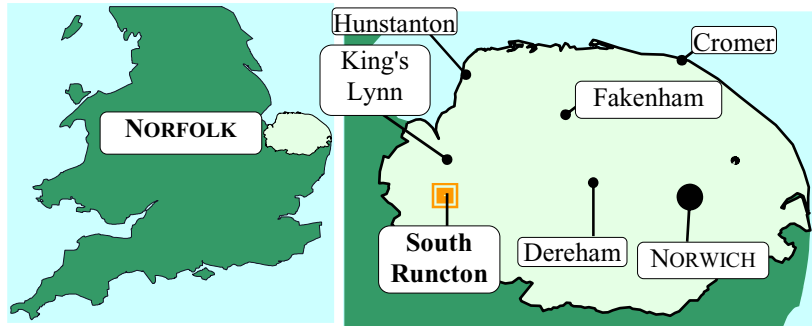


## 7. APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

<b>OASIS ID</b>	albionar1-144750
<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>	
Project name	Land at Wallington Hall, Lynn Road, South Runcton
Short description of the project	<p>Baseline information is being collected in support of a planning application for the construction of an irrigation reservoir for arable farming use on land at Wallington Hall, Lynn Road, South Runcton, Norfolk. South Runcton lies on the fen-edge which was a focus of activity in the prehistoric and Roman periods, and the proposed development area (PDA) is located adjacent to a number of gravel pits where significant quantities of prehistoric and Roman pottery were discovered in the mid 20th century. The Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES) requested that a Programme of Archaeological Works (PoAW) was undertaken on the site. Albion Archaeology was commissioned to carry out the first phase of fieldwork that took the form of an archaeological trial trench evaluation. The results of this work will be assessed by the HES to make an informed and reasonable decision as to whether further investigations are necessary. The trial trench evaluation has been successful in characterising the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.</p> <p>Two potential archaeological features were uncovered in one of the five trenches. Neither contained artefacts and both were significantly disturbed by tree roots. They may be interpreted as sections of ditches or elongated tree throws, with the latter interpretation being more likely. Therefore, the significance of these remains is considered to be low and they have little further potential for addressing research objectives for the region.</p>
Project dates	Start: 26-02-2013 End: 28-02-2013
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	WH2130 - Contracting Unit No. ENF 131117 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Monument type	DITCHES / UNCERTAIN
Significant Finds	NONE
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Irrigation Reservoir
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Before deposition of an application



<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>	
Country	England
Site location	NORFOLK KINGS LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK RUNCTON HOLME Land at Wallington Hall, Lynn Road, South Runcton
Study area	2.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TF 6173 0741
<b>PROJECT CREATORS</b>	
Name of Organisation	Albion Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Albion Archaeology
Project director/manager	Robert Wardill
Project supervisor	Marcin Koziminski
<b>PROJECT ARCHIVES</b>	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive notes	N/a
Digital Archive recipient	Albion Archaeology
Digital Contents	other
Digital Media available	"Database", "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Norwich Castle Museum
Paper Contents	other
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"
Paper Archive notes	To be stored at Albion Archaeology until deposition
<b>PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at Wallington Hall, Lynn Road, South Runcton, Norfolk: Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Koziminski, M'
Author(s)/Editor(s)	'Wardill, R'
Other bibliographic details	2013/42
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	Albion Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Bedford
Description	A4 comb bound report with colour figures. Cream coloured cover



**Figure 1: Site location**

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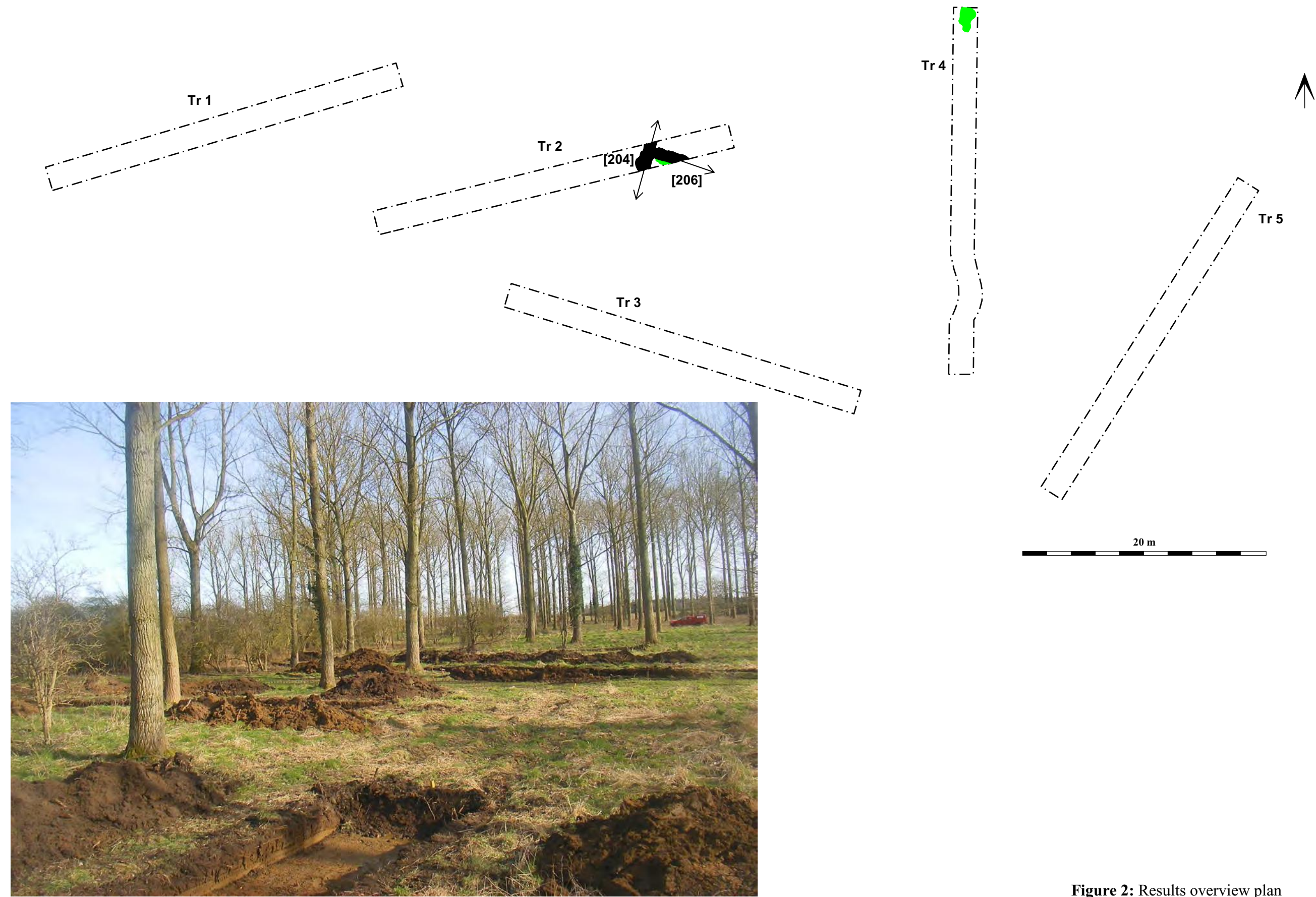
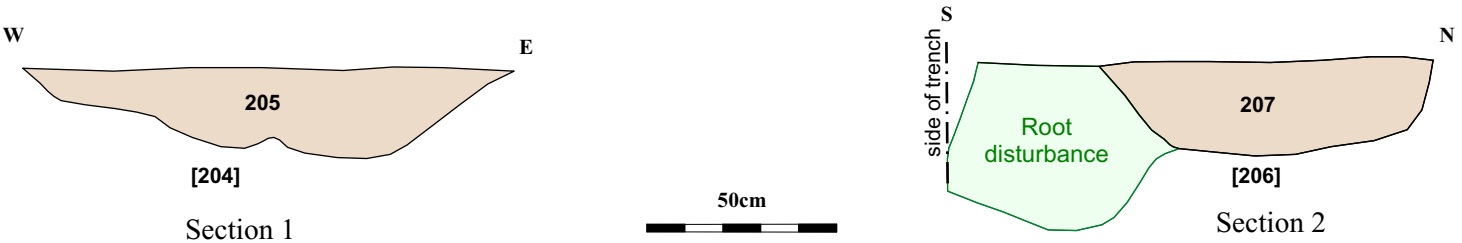
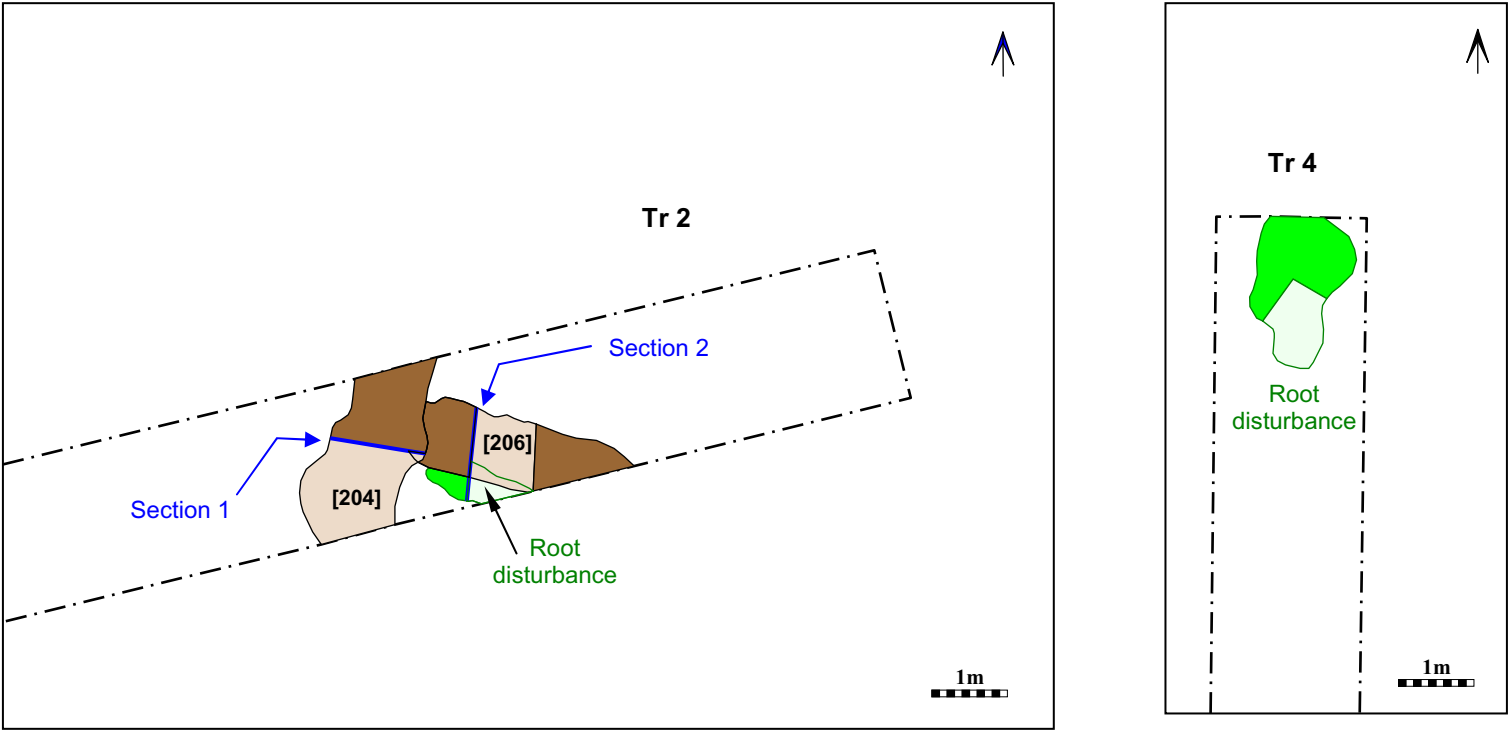


Image 1: General view of site

Figure 2: Results overview plan





**Image 1:** [204] and [206] looking N.  
Scale 1m



**Image 2:** Trench 2 looking SW.  
Scale 1m



**Image 3:** Trench 4 looking N. Scale 1m



**Image 4:** [204] and [206] looking NE.  
Scale 1m



**Image 5:** [206] looking W.  
Scale 1m

**Figure 3:** Trenches 2 and 4 – selected images and section drawings





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