ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING ON LAND AT FIELD TRIALS STATION, BAWBURGH ROAD, BAWBURGH, NORFOLK (ENF 144683)

Work Undertaken For
Calvert, Brain and Fraulo Architectural Limited

May 2018

Report Compiled by
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Planning Application No: 2016/1303
National Grid Reference: TG 1514 0843
OASIS Record No: archaeol1-315231

APS Report No: **27/18**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT SERVICES

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1. SUMMARY

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken on land at Bawburgh Road, Bawburgh, Norfolk. This was during the topsoil strip for a new field trials building and access road and the excavation of a new water main, Telecom cable trench and reed-bed. The site lay in an archaeologically sensitive area with research indicating that prehistoric activity, in the form of dense flint scatters, surrounded the site. Roman and Saxon artefacts had also been found immediately to the north around the area of the church. A prior trenching evaluation revealed a ditch dated to the Late Iron Age in the southwest part of the site and a Saxo-Norman pit and ditch in the northeast area closer to the church. Worked flint of Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date was also retrieved. There was no evidence for further archaeological activity in the other trenches between these two points.

The monitoring and recording revealed an undated pit and field boundary ditch and a sequence of topsoil, subsoil and natural deposits.

No finds were retrieved.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Planning Background

A planning application (2016/1303) for development comprising construction of a new field trials building and water main was submitted to South Norfolk District Council. Norfolk Historic Environment Service (NHES) advised that a scheme of archaeological investigation was required.

Following an earlier trenching evaluation, Archaeological Project Services was further commissioned by Calvert, Brain and Fraulo Architectural Limited, to undertake monitoring and recording during excavation of the water main trench. This was carried out between 9th October 2017 and 11th January 2018, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation prepared by Archaeological Project Services and approved by NHES.

2.2 Topography and Geology

Bawburgh is located 8km west of Norwich and 17km southeast of Dereham, in the administrative district of South Norfolk (Fig 1). The proposed development site is located to the southwest of Bawburgh, 240m southwest of the Church of St Mary and St Walstan, at National Grid Reference TG 1514 0843 (Fig. 2).

Local soils are of the Burlingham 1 Association, typically stagnogleyic argillic brown earths (Hodge *et al.* 1984, 132). These soils are developed upon a drift geology of glacial till which seals glacially derived sands and gravels. These in turn overlie a solid geology of Cretaceous Chalk (GSGB 1975). The site lies on a gentle northeast facing slope above the valley of the River Yare at a height of *c*. 35m OD.

2.3 Archaeological Setting

Bawburgh is first mentioned in the Domesday Survey of *c*. 1086. Referred to as *Bauenburc*, the name derives from the Old English and means 'the fortified place (burg) belonging to *Bēaw*' (Ekwall 1989, 31).

A heritage statement indicated that finds from the Neolithic period to the Iron Age had been found across the local area and a Neolithic quarry is located to the northwest of the site. Many of the prehistoric sites adjacent to the proposed development area are represented by extensive flint scatters. Finds from both the Roman and Saxon periods are located to the north of the site

around the existing village and church. Saxon artefacts have also been found in the field immediately north of the site (Cope-Faulkner 2016). Further recent prehistoric finds include an incomplete Neolithic flint axehead (HER 56588-MNF62976) and a retouched Mesolithic flint blade (HER 56586-MNF62974). In addition, in the vicinity of the site during the present decade, metal detecting finds include a Late Saxon finger ring and medieval and post-medieval jettons (HER 54783-MNF62873) Roman, medieval and post-medieval coins (HER57843-MNF63627), a Roman brooch and medieval thimbles (59780-MNF66246).

An earlier trenching evaluation had revealed two separate areas of archaeological remains. A Late Iron Age ditch was identified south of the site of the field trials building, in the southwest part of the site. Separate from this, and almost 300m to the northeast, on the line of the water main, was evidence of Saxo-Norman activity. This was at the point closest to medieval church and probably relates to the extent of the village at that time. In addition to pottery of these dates, finds also included worked flint of Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date (Peachey 2016).

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the work was to gather sufficient information for the archaeological curator to be able to formulate a policy for the management of the archaeological resources present on the site. The objectives were to:

- Determine the form and function of the archaeological features encountered;
- Determine the spatial arrangement of the archaeological features encountered;
- As far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and
- Establish the sequence of the archaeological remains present on the site.

4. METHODS

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken on the strip for a new field trials building and access road and the excavation of a new water main, telecom cable trench and reed-bed (Fig. 3). Removal of topsoil and other overburden, to the depth required by the development, was undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket. The exposed surfaces of the trenches were then cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains. A metal detector was used to assist artefact recovery.

Each deposit exposed during the evaluation was allocated a unique reference number (context number) with an individual written description. A list of all contexts and their interpretations appears as Appendix 1. A photographic record was also compiled and sections and plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20. Recording of deposits encountered was undertaken according to standard Archaeological Project Services practice.

5. RESULTS (Figs 3-5)

The results of the archaeological evaluation and archaeological contexts are described below. The numbers in brackets are the context numbers assigned in the field.

Access Road

In the strip for the access road west of the new building, the yellow brown clayey

sand (003) was overlain by brown/orange clay subsoil (002) above which was 0.2m thick topsoil (001) (Fig. 4, Section 1; Plate 1).

Field Trials Building
In the strip for the field trials building, there was a similar sequence of natural (003), subsoil (002) and topsoil (001) deposits (Fig. 4, Section 2; Plate 2). No archaeological features were revealed.

Reed-bed area
During the monitoring of the reed-bed area, a single feature was observed cutting the natural clay (003). Probable pit [004] (Fig. 4, Section 3; Plate 3) steep sided with a rounded base, at least 0.83m wide and 0.28m deep. It was filled with brownish grey clay with large flints and rounded stones (005).

Telecom cable trench (Plate 4)
In a short length of new cable trench adjacent to Church Street the natural deposit was brownish yellow and white clayey sand and chalk with flints (009). This was overlain by 0.8m thick dark brown clayey sand layer (008), probably colluvium or agricultural headland, which was 0.32m thick at the southwest end, increasing to 0.8m thick at the northeast end. Above this was 0.3m thick topsoil (007) (Fig. 5, Section 4; Plate 5).

Water main trench
The new water main trench ran south from Church Lane, before turning westwards, to pass north of the existing barn (Plate 7) and up to the Field Trials Building.

The natural deposit in the length of trench parallel to Bawburgh Road was brownish yellow and white clayey sand and chalk with flints (009). This was overlain by 0.3m thick topsoil (007) (Fig. 4, Sections 5-8; Fig. 5, Section 9, Plate 6).

Northwest of the existing barn, the natural deposit was chalky marl (011) with occasional wedges of clayey sand. This was overlain by topsoil (012) (Fig. 5, Section 10).

Immediately east of the proposed Field Trials Building, adjacent to a field boundary, the natural chalky marl (011) was overlain by a 0.4m thick orangey brown sandy silty clay (017) buried soil. This was sealed by a 0.5m thick greyish brown clayey silt (015) subsoil which may represent upcast from successive cleaning phases of the field boundary ditch. This northwest-southeast aligned ditch [013] (Fig. 5, Section 11; Plate 8) had steep sides and a narrow flat base. It was filled with 0.38m thick reddish brown silty clay (014) overlain by 0.7m thick dark greyish brown humic silt clay (018). This was overlain by topsoil (016).

6. DISCUSSION

The natural deposits on the site comprised light brown clayey sand and yellowish white chalk with flints.

An undated pit and probable previous cut of the current field boundary ditch were recorded close to the Field Trials Building although no features were revealed in the strip for this and adjacent access road.

Elsewhere, only a sequence of topsoil, subsoil and natural deposits was revealed. Further evidence of the Late Iron Age remains in the southwest part of the site and Saxo-Norman remains in the northeast part were not encountered during the monitoring .

7. CONCLUSIONS

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken on the strip for a new field trials building and access road and the

excavation of a new water main, telecom cable trench and reed-bed on land at Bawburgh Road, Bawburgh, Norfolk. The site lay in an area of prehistoric activity, in the form of dense flint scatters. Roman and Saxon artefacts had also been found immediately to the north around the area of the church. An earlier evaluation had revealed two separate areas of archaeological remains: a Late Iron Age ditch in the southwest part of the site and evidence of Saxo-Norman activity almost 300m to the northeast.

The monitoring and recording revealed an undated pit and field boundary ditch and a sequence of topsoil, subsoil and natural deposits.

No finds were retrieved.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Project Services wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Calvert, Brain and Fraulo Architectural Limited for commissioning the fieldwork and post-excavation analysis. The work was coordinated by Paul Cope-Faulkner and this report was edited by Gail Graham.

9. PERSONNEL

Project Coordinator: Paul Cope-Faulkner
Site Supervisors: Sean Parker, Alex Beeby, Chris Moulis, Gary Trimble
Photographic reproduction: Mark Peachey
CAD Illustration: Andrea Frasca, Mark Peachey
Post-excavation Analyst: Mark Peachey

10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Hodge, CAH, Burton, RGO, Corbett, WM, Evans, R, and Seale, RS, 1984 *Soils and their use in Eastern England*, Soil Survey of England and Wales **13**

Peachey, M, 2016 *Archaeological Evaluation on land at Bawburgh Road, Bawburgh, Norfolk (ENF141370),* unpublished APS Report: **93/16**

11. ABBREVIATIONS

APS Archaeological Project Services

GSGB Geological Survey of Great Britain

NHES Norfolk Historic Environment Service

Figure 1 - General location plan

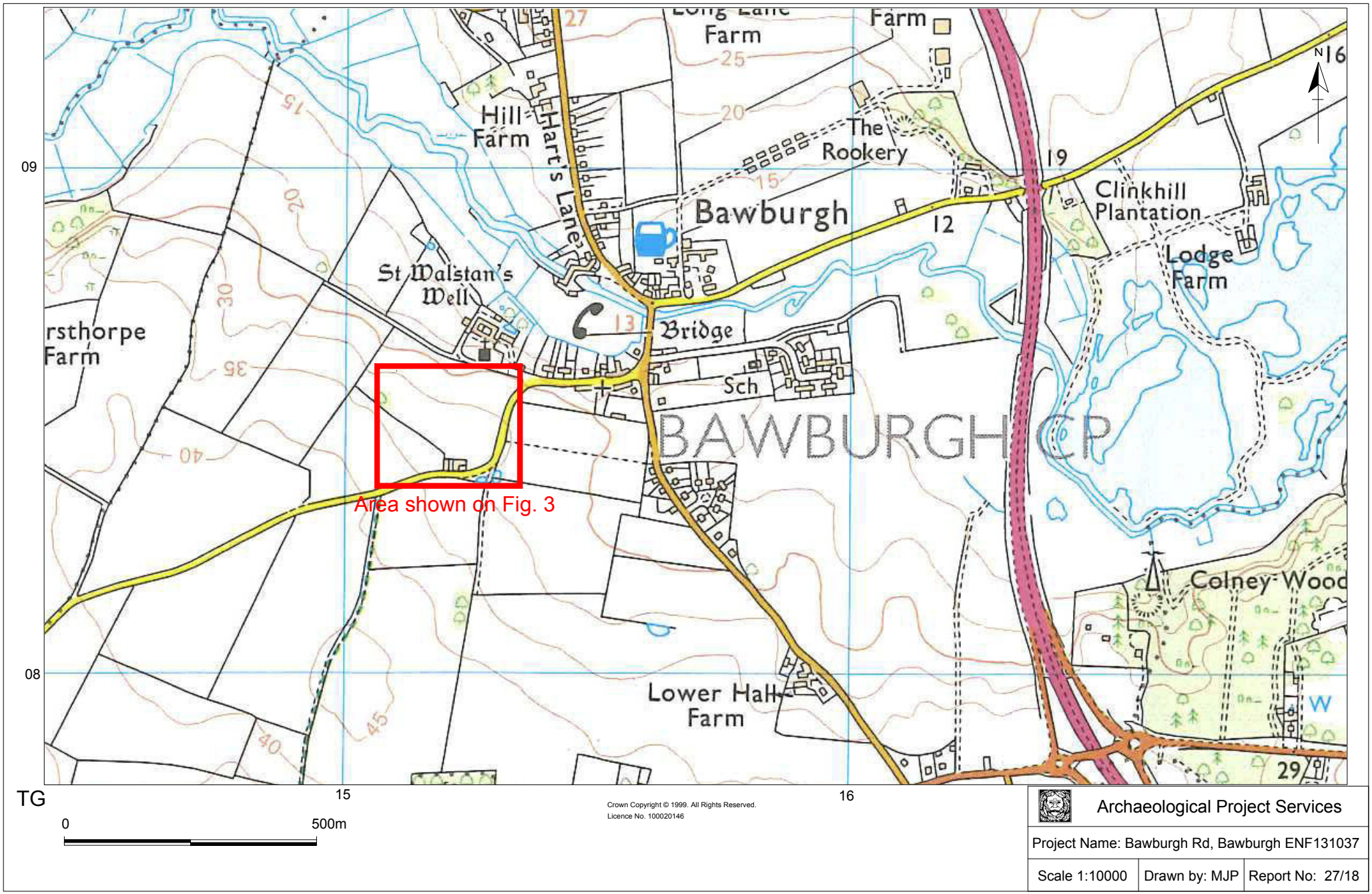


Figure 2. Site location plan

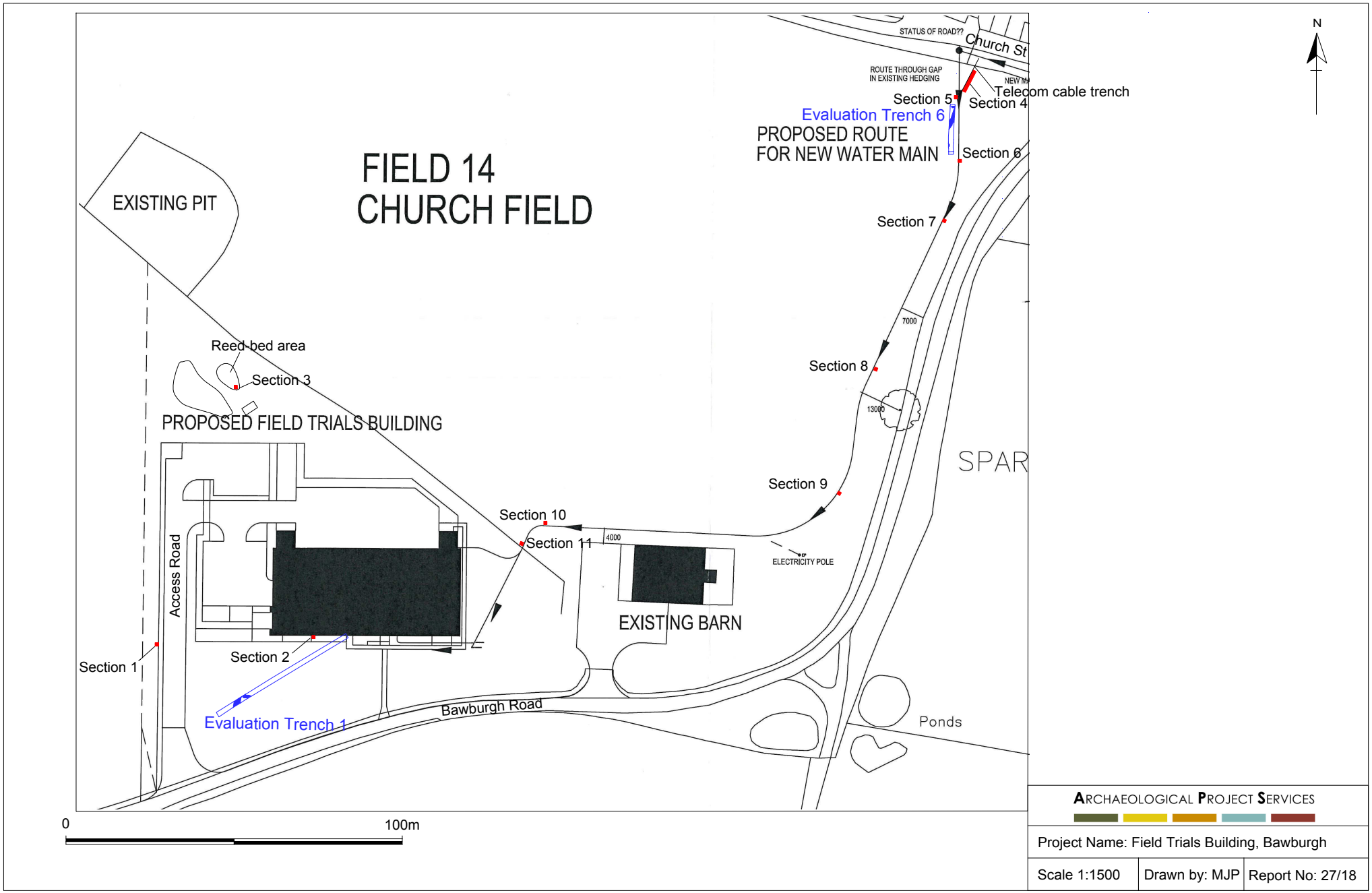


Figure 3. Trench location plan

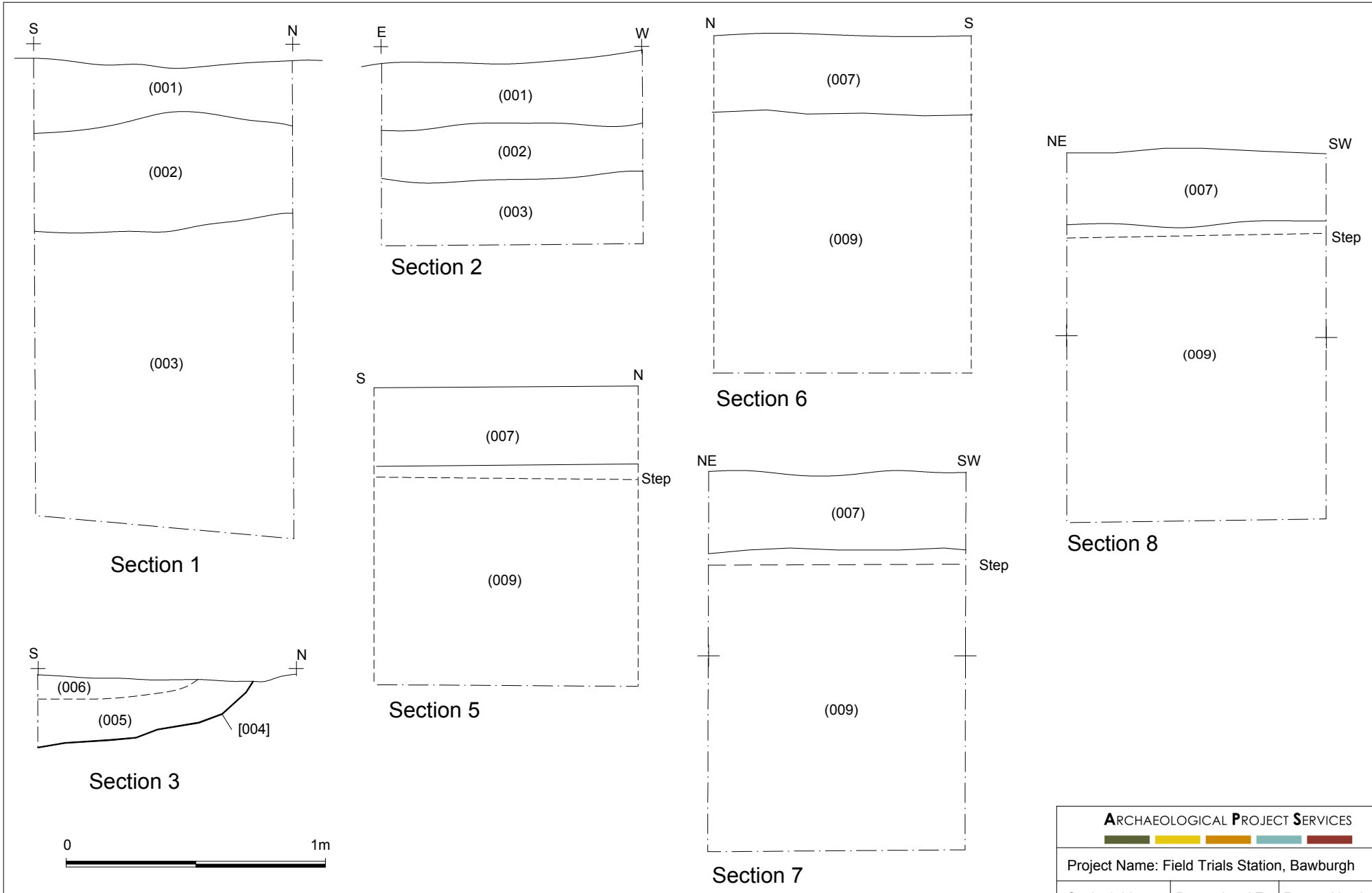
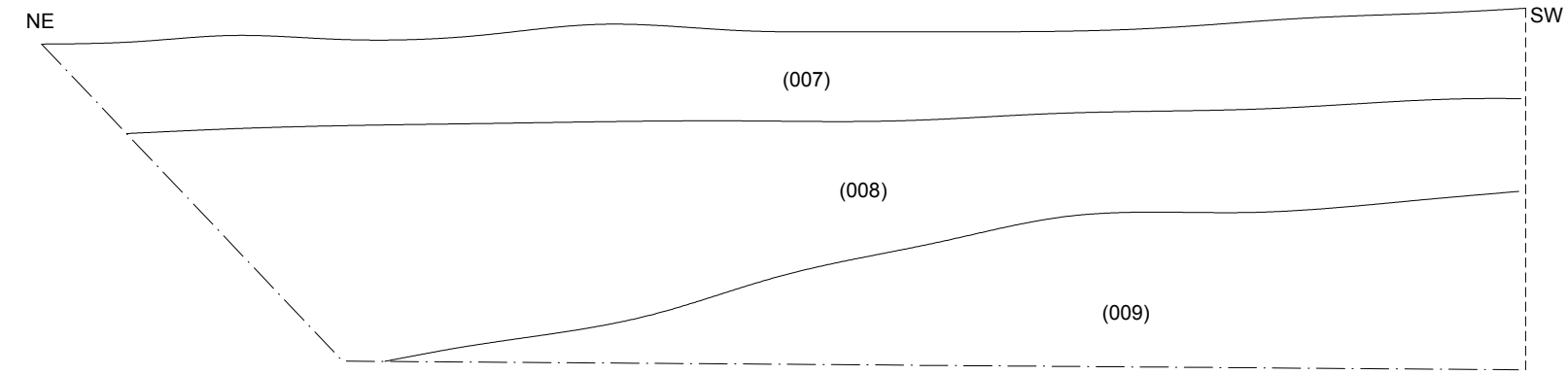
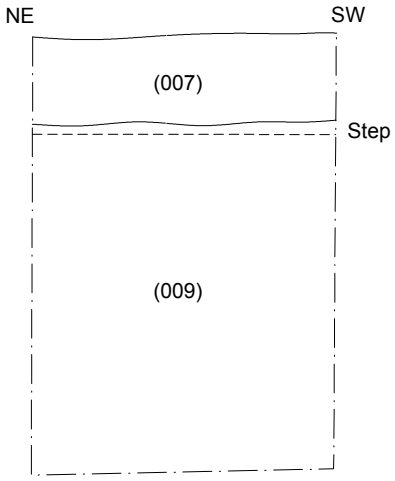


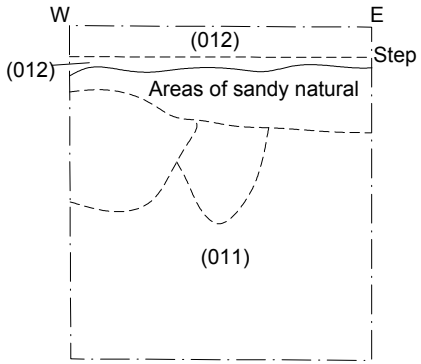
Figure 4. Sections 1-3, 5-8



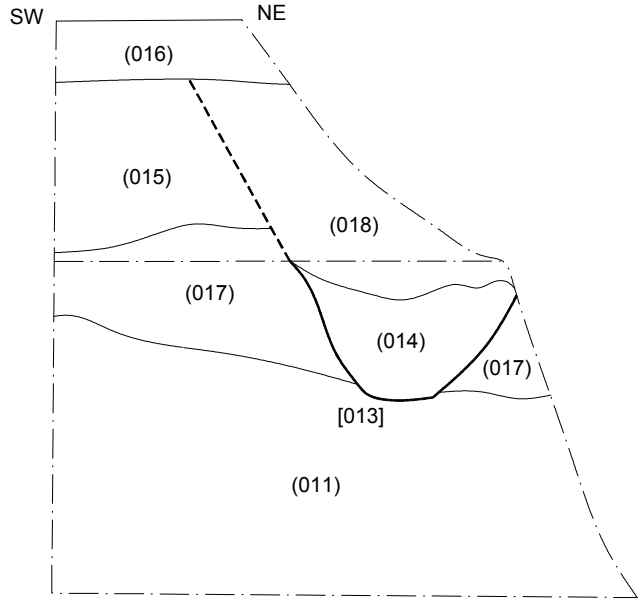
Section 4



Section 9



Section 10



Section 11

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Figure 5. Sections 4, 9-11

Plate 1. Access Road, representative Section 1, looking west

Plate 2. Field Trials Building, Representative Section 2, looking south

Plate 3. Reed-bed area, Pit [004], Section 3, looking west

Plate 4. Work in progress looking northwest towards church

Plate 5. Telecom trench, Representative Section 4, colluvium (008)

Plate 6. Water main trench, Representative Section 7, looking southeast

Plate. 7. Water main trench under excavation looking west towards existing barn

Plate 8. Water main trench by field boundary, Representative Section 11, looking northwest

Appendix 1

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

No.	Description	Interpretation
001	Dark brown clay with moderate flint. 0.2m thickness.	Topsoil
002	Light brown / orange clay with frequent medium sized flints.	Subsoil
003	Yellow to light brown clayey sand with frequent large flints. At least 1m thickness.	Natural
004	Irregular cut. Steep sides down to rounded base.	Probable pit
005	Firm reddish brownish grey clay with occasional large flints and rounded stones. 0.2m thickness.	Lower fill of [004]
006	Black moderately compacted burnt material with frequent burnt flint. 0.1m thickness.	Upper fill of [004]
007	Quite firm dark greyish brown humic clayey sand with frequent sub-angular and sub-rounded flints and moderate chalk fragments. 0.3m thickness.	Topsoil
008	Quite soft dark brown clayey sand with frequent sub-angular and sub-rounded flints. 0.8m thickness.	Probably colluvium or headland
009	Moderate to firm light brownish white to brownish yellow clayey sand and chalk with flints.	Natural chalky deposit
010	Finds recovered from area between Sections 4 and 6 using metal detector.	Finds
011	Chalky marl with flint, with occasional wedges of clayey sand.	Natural
012	As topsoil (007)	Topsoil
013	Cut of boundary ditch. Flat base with steep sides.	Boundary ditch
014	Friable dark reddish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal and occasional chalk and flint grits. Fills the extent of the feature.	Basal fill of boundary ditch [013]
015	Friable dark greyish brown clayey silt with occasional flint gravel and chalk grits. 0.5m thickness.	Successive cleaning phases of the ditch
016	Friable dark greyish brown silt with root content and occasional chalk grits.	Topsoil
017	Friable mid orangey brown sandy silty clay with occasional chalk grits. 0.4m thickness.	Buried soil
018	Modern humic fill of boundary ditch. Dark greyish brown humic silt clay with root and plant matter.	Upper fill of boundary ditch [013]

Appendix 2

GLOSSARY

Bronze Age	A period characterised by the introduction of bronze into the country for tools, between 2250 and 800 BC.
Colluvium	Weathered material that has been transported downslope by gravitational forces and deposited at the base of the slope.
Context	An archaeological context represents a distinct archaeological event or process. For example, the action of digging a pit creates a context (the cut) as does the process of its subsequent backfill (the fill). Each context encountered during an archaeological investigation is allocated a unique number by the archaeologist and a record sheet detailing the description and interpretation of the context (the context sheet) is created and placed in the site archive. Context numbers are identified within the report text by brackets, *e.g*. [004].
Cut	A cut refers to the physical action of digging a posthole, pit, ditch, foundation trench, *etc*. Once the fills of these features are removed during an archaeological investigation the original 'cut' is therefore exposed and subsequently recorded**.**
Domesday Survey	A survey of property ownership in England compiled on the instruction of William I for taxation purposes in 1086 AD.
Fill	Once a feature has been dug it begins to silt up (either slowly or rapidly) or it can be back-filled manually. The soil(s) that become contained by the 'cut' are referred to as its fill(s).
Headland	Strip of uncultivated land left between areas of ridge and furrow which was used for turning the plough. These strips provided access and often became lanes or roads.
Iron Age	A period characterised by the introduction of Iron into the country for tools, between 800 BC and AD 50.
Layer	A layer is an accumulation of soil or other material that is not contained within a cut
Natural	Undisturbed deposit(s) of soil or rock which have accumulated without the influence of human activity
Neolithic	The 'New Stone Age' period, part of the prehistoric era, dating from approximately 4500 - 2250 BC.
Old English	The language used by the Saxon (*q.v.*) occupants of Britain.
Prehistoric	The period of human history prior to the introduction of writing. In Britain the prehistoric period lasts from the first evidence of human occupation about 500,000 BC, until the Roman invasion in the middle of the 1st century AD.
Romano-British	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 43-410 when the Romans occupied Britain.
Saxon	Pertaining to the period dating from AD 410-1066 when England was largely settled by tribes from northern Germany, Denmark and adjacent areas.
Saxo-Norman	Pertaining to the period either side of the Norman Conquest of 1066, dating from about 1000-1100 AD.
Till	A deposit formed after the retreat of a glacier. Also known as boulder clay, this material is generally unsorted and can comprise of rock flour to boulders to rocks of quite substantial size.

Appendix 3

THE ARCHIVE

The archive consists of:

1	Context register sheet
18	Context record sheets
17	Daily record sheets
1	Plan register sheet
1	Section register sheet
2	Photographic register sheets
6	Sheets of scale drawings

All primary records are currently kept at:

Archaeological Project Services
The Old School
Cameron Street
Heckington
Sleaford
Lincolnshire
NG34 9RW

The ultimate destination of the project archive is:

Norwich Castle Museum
Castle Meadow
Norwich
Norfolk
NR1 3JU

Norfolk Historic Environment Service Site Code:	ENF 144683
APS Site Code:	BFTS17
OASIS Record No:	archaeol1-315231

The discussion and comments provided in this report are based on the archaeology revealed during the site investigations. Other archaeological finds and features may exist on the development site but away from the areas exposed during the course of this fieldwork. *Archaeological Project Services* cannot confirm that those areas unexposed are free from archaeology nor that any archaeology present there is of a similar character to that revealed during the current investigation.