

Evaluation at 68 Long Street Great Ellingham Norfolk



Archaeological Evaluation Report



March 2015

Client: Davidge Developments

OA East Report No: 1756

OASIS No: oxfordar3-203018

NGR: TM 01993 95754

Evaluation at 68 Long Street, Great Ellingham, Norfolk

Archaeological Evaluation

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HER Event No: ENF 136133
Date of Works: Feb 2015
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Client Ref:
Planning Ref: 3PL/2014/1366/F
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Site Code: ENF 136133
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Summary

A small, three trench evaluation was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology east on 20th February 2015 at 68 Long Street, Great Ellingham, Norfolk (TM 01993 95754). The works uncovered several small undated extraction pits and two linear ditches of post-medieval date. Reused brick rubble had been placed within one of the ditches to form either a French drain or soak away, this was dated to c.17th century.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at 68 Long Street, Great Ellingham (TM 01993 95754).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by James Albone of Norfolk County Council (NCC; Planning Application 3PL/2014/1366/F), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (Lambart 2015).
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by NCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site was located on level ground to the west of Long Street and in the south of Great Ellingham, at approximately 37m OD. The site is situated on a bedrock geology of Lewes Nodular chalk with overlying superficial glacial deposits of the Lowestoft formation (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> accessed 10/3/2015).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 A 1km search was commissioned from Norfolk Historical Records Office, the following is a synthesis of this search.

Prehistoric

- 1.3.2 Bronze Age and Iron Age activity has been identified within the search area (NHER 50741). Neolithic flint work has also been recovered from the search area, including an axehead located to the north of the development area (NHER 9073).

Roman

- 1.3.3 A substantial amount of Roman activity is recorded in the area around the development. This includes a cemetery site (NHER 4257) plus potential building evidence and cropmarks of field systems (NHER 58556) to the south and west of the development (NHER 9083). Roman finds have also been recovered by metal detector in this area (NHER 50469 & 50471).

Sax and Med

- 1.3.4 A possible Anglo-Saxon cemetery has been identified to the west of the development by metal detecting (NHER 9082). The village of Great Ellingham, located to the north of the development area, has a number of medieval listed buildings and medieval material has been excavated within the village (NHER 40325).

Post med

- 1.3.5 A number of post-medieval buildings are also listed to the north within Great Ellingham (NHER 4258).

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 Thanks go to Tim Davidge of Davidge Developments for commissioning the work.

1.4.2 The author would also like to thank James Albone for monitoring the project for NCC, Paul Spoerry, who managed the project and Anthony Haskins, who undertook the excavation work. Thanks also to Robin Webb who produced all the graphics and Rob Atkins for his comments on the fragments of CBM recovered.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required that three 15m trenches were excavated with the possibility of a fourth trench, should the initial three produce positive results. After consultation with James Albone it was decided that the initial three trenches were sufficient.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a 360° mechanical excavator using a 2.1m toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by Dave Brown using Leica DGPS.
- 2.2.4 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.6 No environmental sampling was taken as all features identified were either undated or of post-medieval date.
- 2.2.7 The site was excavated in good dry weather. However, the low lying nature of the site and high water table meant that the deeper features were waterlogged and difficult to excavate.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The results are presented by trench with a context inventory presented in Appendix A. All trenches were 2.1m wide and 15m long. They were excavated through a mid/dark brown silty sand topsoil layer (1) that was 0.3m thick, and a mid red-brown sandy clay subsoil layer (2), also 0.3m thick, overlying a natural of reddish-brown to brownish-yellow sands and gravels unless otherwise stated.

3.2 Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

- 3.2.1 Two potential, undated sub-circular pits were located next to each other in the centre of Trench 1, both of which extended beyond the south-west baulk. The southernmost pit (4) was 1.7m long, at least 1.1m wide and 0.2m deep with gradually sloping sides and a relatively flat base that contained a single mid brown-grey silty clay fill (3).
- 3.2.2 The second pit (6) was 1.55m long, at least 0.75m wide and 0.2m deep with gradually sloping sides and a flat base that contained a single fill (5) of a mid brown-grey clay that was similar to fill 3.

3.3 Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

- 3.3.1 The eastern end of Trench 2 was excavated through topsoil (1) and a layer of redeposited mid reddish-brown sandy clay subsoil (7) with frequent flecks of ceramic building material sealing a single ditch (10) and a pit (12). Ditch 10 was at least 1.3m wide and 0.2m deep with one steep regular side visible. Due to flooding it was not possible to see the base of the feature. It contained two fills, an upper fill (8) of mid greyish-brown sandy clay 0.2m thick and a lower fill (9) of reused and broken ceramic building material fragments, that formed a French drain or soak-away within the ditch. The lower fill produced ceramic building material of c.17th century date (Atkins pers. comm.).
- 3.3.2 Pit 12 was sub-circular and 2m in diameter, at least 0.45m wide and 0.15m deep with gradually sloped sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (11) of mid grey-brown sandy clay with frequent fragments of iron pan and manganese.
- 3.3.3 A small, modern machine dug pit was located at the western end of the trench.

3.4 Trench 3 (Fig. 2)

- 3.4.1 A single 1.5m wide ditch (14) was located at the southern end of Trench 3. Ditch 14 was 0.15m deep with steep sides and a flat base containing a single fill (13) of reddish-grey silty clay. This produced a single fragment of undiagnostic ceramic building material.

3.5 Finds Summary

- 3.5.1 Two fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) were recovered from ditches 9 and 14. The fragment recovered from ditch 14 was not closely datable, whilst the fragment from ditch 9 was of c.17th century date (Atkins pers. comm.).

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion

- 4.1.1 The dated features were either of post-medieval or modern date and it is likely that the undated features were of a similar date. The two ditches found in Trenches 2 and 3 may relate to field boundaries shown on the tithe map, but are not present on the 1st edition OS map.
- 4.1.2 The three undated pits were similar in form and all contained slightly reduced fills suggesting that they were deposited in wet conditions. It is likely that the three pits related to small scale extraction of the local sands and gravels.

4.2 Significance

- 4.2.1 No significant archaeological deposits were recovered, with only two post-medieval ditches and three small undated pits found.

4.3 Recommendations

- 4.3.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench contained two undated pits				Avg. depth (m)	0.6	
				Width (m)	2.1	
				Length (m)	15	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
3	Fill	1.7	0.2	Fill of 4	-	-
4	Cut	1.7	0.2	Cut of pit	-	-
5	Fill	1.55	0.2	Fill of 6	-	-
6	Cut	1.55	0.2	Cut of pit	-	-

General description				Orientation	SE-NW	
Trench contained a single post-medieval ditch, a single undated pit and a modern machine dug pit cutting into sand and gravel natural				Avg. depth (m)	0.6	
				Width (m)	2.1	
				Length (m)	15	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
7	Layer	-	0.3	Redeposited Subsoil	-	-
8	Fill	1.3	0.2	Fill of 10	-	-
9	Fill	0.7	0.1	Fill of 10	CBM	c.17th century
10	Cut	1.3	0.2	Cut of ditch	-	-
11	Fill	0.45	0.15	Fill of 12	-	-
12	Cut	0.45	0.15	Cut of Pit	-	-

Trench						
General description				Orientation		SSE-NNW
Trench contained a single post-medieval ditch cutting into sand and gravel natural				Avg. depth (m)		0.6
				Width (m)		2.1
				Length (m)		15
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
13	Fill	1.6	0.3	Fill of 14	CBM	Post-medieval
14	Cut	1.6	0.3	Cut of ditch	-	Post-medieval

APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Albone, J. 2015 *Generic brief for archaeological evaluation by trial trenching* Unpublished

Lambart, P. 2015 *Written Scheme of Investigation: 68 Long Street, Great Ellingham* Unpublished

APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-203018		
Project Name	Evaluation at 68 Long Street, Great Ellingham, Norfolk		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	20-02-2015	Finish	20-02-2015
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	ENF136133	Planning App. No.	3PL/2014/1366/F
HER No.	ENF135133	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Rural Residential

Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/> Grab-Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-Core	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
<input type="checkbox"/> Augering	<input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits
<input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search	<input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography	

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

List feature types using the [NMR Monument Type Thesaurus](#) and significant finds using the [MDA Object type Thesaurus](#) together with their respective periods. If no features/finds were found, please state "none".

Monument	Period	Object	Period
ditch	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901		Select period...
pit	Uncertain		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Norfolk	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	Breckland	68 Long Street Great Ellingham Norfolk
Parish	Great Ellingham	
HER	Norfolk	
Study Area	c. 3500 sq. m.	National Grid Reference
		TM 01993 95754

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	James Albone
Project Design Originator	Paddy Lambart
Project Manager	Paul Spoerry
Supervisor	Anthony Haskins

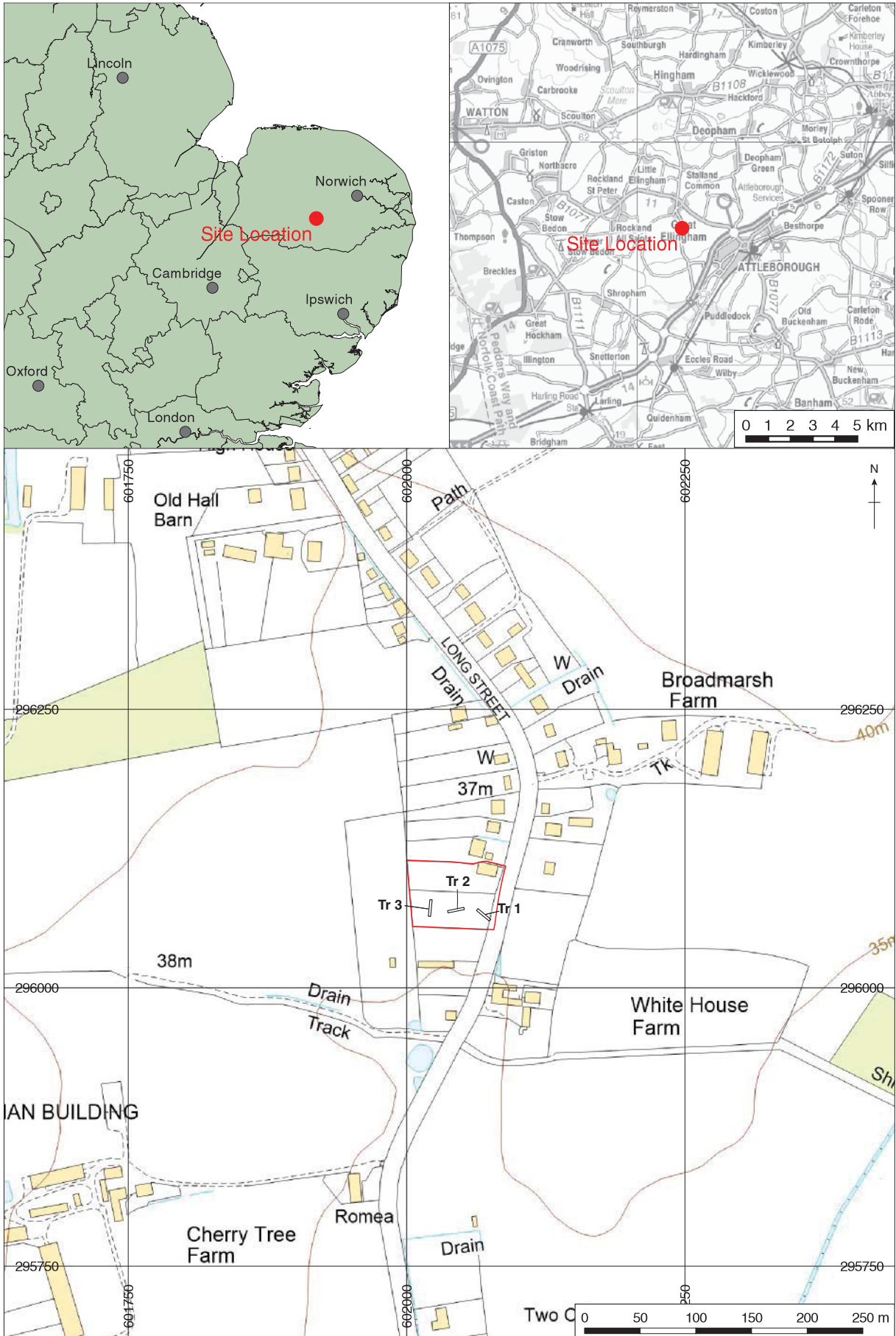
Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Location ...	Location ...	Location ...
Accession ID ...	Accession ID ...	Accession ID ...

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/> Map
<input type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey



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Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red)

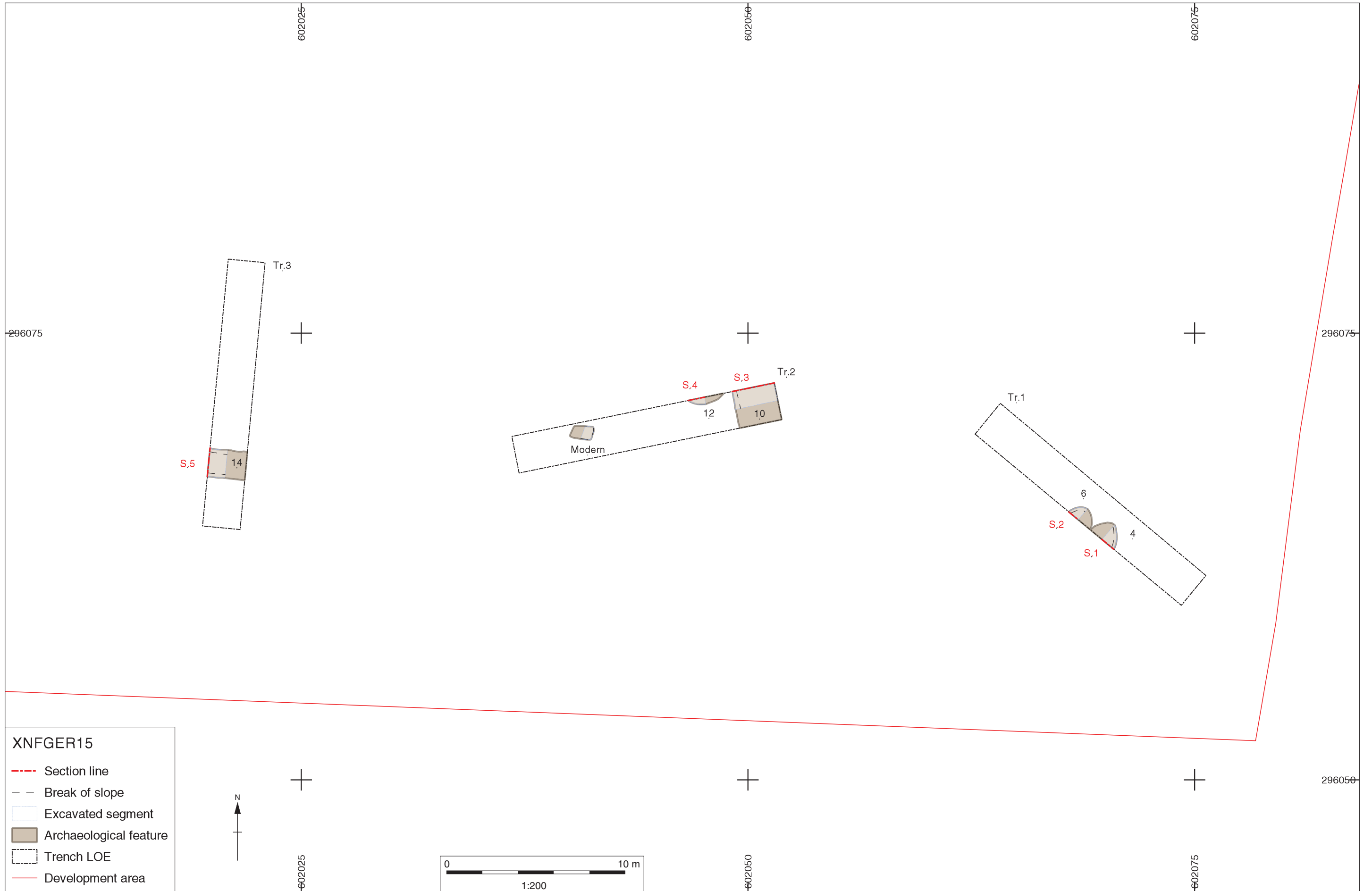


Figure 2: Trench plan
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Plate 1: Trench 1, looking north-west



Plate2: Trench 2, looking south-west



Plate 3: Trench 3, looking south-west



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