

# Westgate, Walsingham Norfolk



## Archaeological Monitoring Report



February 2017

**Client: Anglian Water**

OA East Report No: 2043

OASIS No: oxfordar3-272448

NGR: TF 94190 37655

**Westgate, Walsingham, Norfolk**

*Archaeological Monitoring*

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**Report Number:** 2043  
**Site Name:** Westgate, Walsingham, Norfolk  
**HER Event No:** ENF141645  
**Date of Works:** 10/1/17  
**Client Name:** Anglian Water  
**Client Ref:**  
**Planning Ref:**  
**Grid Ref:** TF 94190 37655  
**Site Code:** ENF141645  
**Finance Code:** XNFWWR17  
**Receiving Body:** Norfolk Museum and Archaeology Service  
**Accession No:** TBC

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Date: 03/02/2017

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Position: Senior Project Manager  
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## **Summary**

*Oxford Archaeology East attended mains replacement works along Westgate Road at Walsingham, Norfolk (TF 94190 37655) on the 10th January 2017. A layer of crushed and compressed chalk was found overlying natural peats and alluvial silts during the monitoring. This is likely to be associated with the nearby Berry Hall Moated Site (NHER 11951) and the ford across the River Stiffkey.*



## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 A programme of Monitoring and Recording was undertaken on the open cut sections of the Anglian Water Walsingham Main Replacement Scheme, Norfolk. The area of investigation was located on either side of the River Stiffkey ford, to the north of Westgate, Walsingham, centred on TF94190 37655
- 1.1.2 In compliance with the Anglian Water Code of Practice, the work was conducted in accordance with a generic Brief issued by Norfolk Historic Environment Service, and an approved Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by OA East (Brudenell 2017).
- 1.1.3 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 is located on the floodplain of the River Stiffkey, north of Westgate Road in the parish of Walsingham, approximately 0.23km west of the historic village core of Great Walsingham at a height of c.14mOD.
- 1.2.2 The bedrock geology comprises Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Seaford Chalk Formation. This is overlain by superficial deposits of alluvium from the River Stiffkey (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following section provides a brief description of the known heritage assets within a 500m radius of the site, drawn from the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER).

#### ***Roman***

- 1.3.2 There is a large body of evidence for Roman activity in Walsingham, with significant scatters of Roman material found at several sites across the Walsingham and Wighton parishes. The large number of pottery fragments, coins, brooches and building materials are thought to represent remains associated a Roman town (NHER 42850), that included a temple site (NHER 2024), a late Roman enclosure (NHER 1113), and roads (NHER 2050 & NHER 2087).
- 1.3.3 Other Roman finds within the parish include fragments of Roman pottery and roof tile found after ploughing in the field through which the replacement mains runs (NHER 12617). Roman coins and pottery were also found in this location c.300m to the north-east (19795), located next to the site of a possible Roman road and well (NHER 2041).

#### ***Medieval***

- 1.3.4 Beyond the main pilgrimage centre at Little Walsingham, there is evidence for widespread medieval activity in the parish, some of which is in the vicinity of the route of the replacement main. Most importantly, the Berry Hall medieval moated complex is located on the opposite side of Westgate Road (NHER 11951). This is a particularly large and complex set of earthworks including moats, fishponds and rectangular enclosures around possible house platforms (NHER 30697).
- 1.3.5 The site of a medieval stone cross is also located c.200m to the west (NHER 11952), whilst the site of the medieval All Saints' and St Mary's Church (NHER 2057) remains visible as a cropmark within a rectangular enclosure a little further north. This was demolished in 1552.



- 1.3.6 Furthermore, fragments of medieval architectural stone are known to have been re-used at several locations in the surrounding area. These include Westgate House Barn (NHER 16085), a wall on Westgate Lane (NHER 16087) and a cottage on Hindringham Road (NHER 16091).

***Post-medieval***

- 1.3.7 The NHER includes numerous records of post medieval buildings to the east and west of the site, particularly in Great Walsingham, where over 20 are listed. To the north-east, records state that 'Wesgate House', Great Walsingham, was hired in 1784 for use as a 'House of Industry' or workhouse (NHER 41237). To the east, in Great Walsingham, there is evidence for post-medieval chalk mines (NHER 17900) and a lime kiln (NHER 17918). The village was also home to the North Norfolk Iron Works foundry, established in 1809 (NHER 34085).

**1.4 Acknowledgements**

- 1.4.1 OA East would like to thank Jo Everitt and Kevin Howlett of Anglia Water who commissioned the project. Thanks are also extended to Shaun Kirk of Kier Construction and James Albone of the Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service. The fieldwork work was carried out by David Browne. The project was managed by Matt Brudenell.

## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The general aim of the investigation was to preserve by record any archaeological evidence revealed within the areas of groundworks requiring removal of the topsoil and subsoil. The investigation had the following aims:

- Establish the form, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits.
- Establish the impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Recover artefacts to assist in the development of a type series within the region.

### 2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The Brief required the monitoring of two open cut pipe trenches on either side of the River Stiffkey ford, to the north of Westgate Road. Both lengths of trench were shorter than originally designed. Further construction work was undertaken by directional drilling.

2.2.2 Both trenches were excavated under archaeological supervision using a 360° mechanical excavator with a 1.10m wide ditching bucket.

2.2.3 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's pro-forma sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

2.2.4 Site conditions were good, and the weather was bright and reasonably dry.

### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The results are presented by Trench. A full context inventory is presented in Appendix A. No finds were retained and are only mentioned in the text were relevant.

#### 3.2 West bank – Trench 1

3.2.1 Trench 1 was aligned east to west. It was 9.60m long and up to 1.10m deep. The lowest excavated deposit comprised a dark grey alluvial silt (3) at least 0.50m thick. This was sealed by a 0.10m deep mid grey alluvial subsoil with chalk flecks, and a dark brown silty topsoil up to 0.40m thick. Modern services had caused significant disturbance throughout the majority of the trench with only the western 3.60m unaffected.

#### 3.3 East bank – Trench 2

3.3.1 Trench 2 was aligned north-west to south-east alignment. It was 11m long and up to 1.20m deep. A dark blackish brown peat layer (5) lay at the base of the trench. This contained a single small fragment of animal bone (12g, not retained). The peat layer (5) was sealed at the north-western end of the trench by a 0.40m thick crushed and compressed chalk layer (4). This was sealed by a dark grey alluvial silt layer up to 0.5m thick (3). A mid grey alluvial subsoil layer (2) with chalk flecks, that was up to 0.6m thick, sealed the alluvial deposit. The overlying topsoil comprised a dark brown silt (1).

#### 3.4 Environmental Summary

No environmental samples were taken from the deposits encountered.

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## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 4.1 Discussion

- 4.1.1 The monitoring works revealed that Trench 1 was badly truncated by modern disturbance. It revealed a thick deposit of homogeneous alluvial silt (3), overlain by short stretches of undisturbed subsoil (2) and topsoil (1).
- 4.1.2 The southern end of Trench 2 revealed a sequence of deposits identical to Trench 1, with an alluvial silt (3) overlain by subsoil (2) and topsoil (1). At the northern end of the trench, however, the sterile alluvium (3) was found to seal a compressed chalk (4) deposit, up to 0.40m thick.
- 4.1.3 This man-made deposit/feature (4) is likely to represent either a low bank, platform or track-way, and could have been laid down to seal or stabilise the ground overlying the wet peat (5). The compressed chalk layer (4) is undated, but may possibly be associated with the complex of medieval earthworks at the Berry Hall Moated site (NHER 11951) to the south.
- 4.1.4 The chalk flecks within the subsoil (2) are likely to originate from plough drag of the chalk layer (4), indicating that this area of the floodplain was once cultivated.

### 4.2 Archaeological Significance

- 4.2.1 Although, the site revealed a possible medieval track-way, bank or surface, the small area of excavation has limited scope for interpretation.

## APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

<b>West Bank Trench 1</b>						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		E-W
Trench was heavily disturbed by modern services. It was devoid of archaeology, with a natural of alluvial silts overlain by subsoil and topsoil				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		1.10
				<b>Width (m)</b>		0.60
				<b>Length (m)</b>		9.60
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>width (m)</b>	<b>depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
1	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.09	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.58	Natural silts	-	-
<b>East Bank Trench 2</b>						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		NW-SE
Trench was excavated onto a natural of alluvial silts and peat overlain by subsoil and topsoil. A crushed chalk layer was found overlying the peat layer And sealed by the alluvial silts				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		1.20
				<b>Width (m)</b>		0.60
				<b>Length (m)</b>		11
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>width (m)</b>	<b>depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
1	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.60	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.50	Natural silts	-	-
4	Layer	-	0.4	Crushed chalk	-	-
5	Layer	-	0.1	Natural peat	Animal Bone	

## APPENDIX B. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	<input type="text" value="oxfordar3-272448"/>		
Project Name	<input type="text" value="Westgate, Walsingham, Norfolk"/>		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	<input type="text" value="10-01-2017"/>	Finish	<input type="text" value="10-01-2017"/>
Previous Work (by OA East)	<input type="text" value="No"/>	Future Work	<input type="text" value="No"/>

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	<input type="text" value="ENF141645"/>	Planning App. No.	<input type="text"/>
HER No.	<input type="text" value="ENF141645"/>	Related HER/OASIS No.	<input type="text"/>

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt

### Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Field Observation (periodic visits)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Record
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Excavation (100%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Field Walking
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Recorded Observation	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Metal Detector Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pit Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Open-Area Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Excavation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Watching Brief

### 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
<input type="text" value="Surface"/>	<input type="text" value="Uncertain"/>	<input type="text" value="None"/>	<input type="text" value="None"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="Select period..."/>

### Project Location

County	<input type="text" value="Norfolk"/>	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	<input type="text" value="North Norfolk"/>	<input type="text" value="Westgate, Walsingham NR22 6DZ, UK"/>
Parish	<input type="text" value="Walsingham"/>	
HER	<input type="text" value="Norfolk"/>	
Study Area	<input type="text" value="c. 13 sq. m."/>	National Grid Reference <input type="text" value="TF 94190 37655"/>

## Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Norfolk Historic Environment Service
Project Design Originator	Matt Brudenell
Project Manager	Matt Brudenell
Supervisor	David Browne

## Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
N/A	OA EAST	Norfolk Museum and Archaeology Service
	XNFWWR17	TBC

## Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Map
<input type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) along main replacement (red). Scale 1:5000



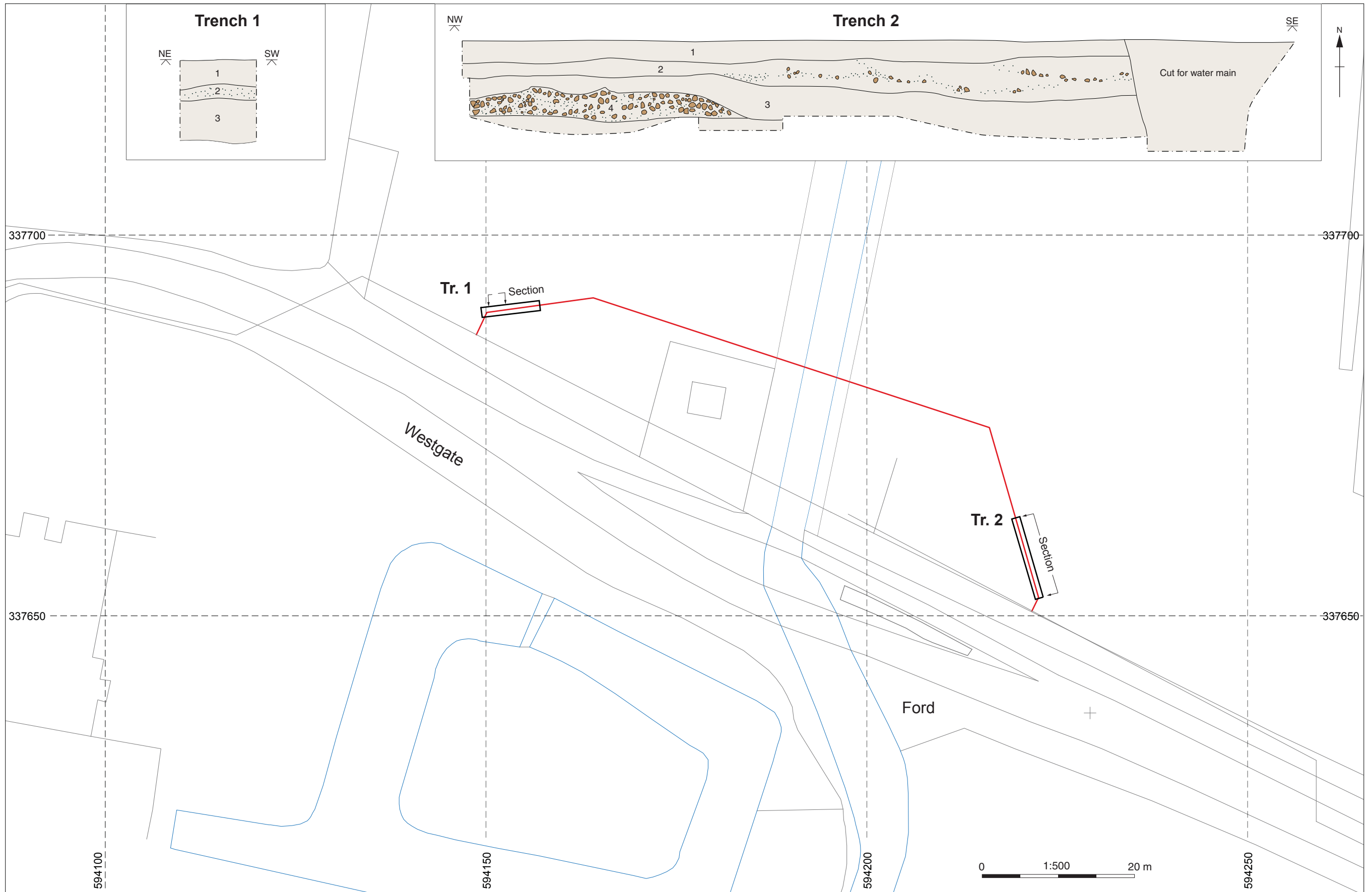


Figure 2: Plan of Trenches 1 and 2. Scale 1:500.



Plate 1: Trench 1 from east



Plate 2: Trench 2 from north-west



Plate 3: Trench 2 section from north-east



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