



Land west of Saham Road, Watton, Norfolk

Informative Trial Trenching Report

July 2017

Client: Hopkins Homes Ltd

Issue No: V1

OA Report No.: 2105


OA Reference No: XNFWTN17

NGR: TF 9090 0090



Client Name: Hopkins Homes Ltd
Document Title: Land west of Saham Road, Watton, Norfolk
Document Type: Informative Trial Trenching Report
Report No.: 2105
Grid Reference: TF 9090 0090
Planning Reference: 3PL/2015/0219/F (appeal APP/F2605/W/15/3140922)
Site Code: ENF142226
Invoice Code: XNFWTN17
Receiving Body: Norfolk Museum and Archaeology Service

OA Document File Location: X:\Active Projects_UseKT\Norfolk\XNFWTN17_Saham Road
_Watton\ Project Reports
OA Graphics File Location: X:\Active Projects_Use KT\Norfolk\XNFWTN17_Saham
Road_Watton\Project Data\Graphics

Issue No: V1
Date: June 2017
Prepared by: Daria Tsybaeva (Site Supervisor)
Checked by: Matt Brudenell (Senior Project Manager)
Edited by: Matt Brudenell (Senior Project Manager) and Louise Bush (Project
Officer)
Approved for Issue by: Aileen Connor (Senior Project Manager)
Signature: 

Disclaimer:

This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

OA South

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford
OX2 0ES

t. +44 (0)1865 263 800

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridge
CB23 8SG

t. +44 (0)1223 850 500

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane Mills
Moor Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1QD

t. +44 (0)1524 880 250

e. info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w. oxfordarchaeology.com

Oxford Archaeology is a registered Charity: No. 285627

Land west of Saham Road, Watton, Norfolk

Informative Trial Trenching Report

Written by Daria Tsybaeva MA(Hons) MA

*With contributions from Carole Fletcher HMD BA(Hons)
ACIfA, Rachel Fosberry HNC AEA ACIfA and illustrations by
Emily Abrehart BSc*

Contents

Summary	vii
Acknowledgements	viii
1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Scope of work.....	1
1.2 Location, topography and geology.....	1
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	1
2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY	5
2.1 Aims	5
2.2 Methodology.....	5
3 RESULTS	7
3.1 Introduction and presentation of results	7
3.2 General soils and ground conditions.....	7
3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits.....	7
3.4 Trench 5	7
3.5 Trench 8	8
3.6 Trench 9	8
3.7 Trench 10.....	8
3.8 Finds summary	9
4 DISCUSSION	10
4.1 Reliability of field investigation.....	10
4.2 Investigation objectives and results.....	10
4.3 Interpretation.....	10
4.4 Significance	11
APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY.....	12
APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS.....	15

B.1	Pottery and Ceramic Building Material	15
APPENDIX C	ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS.....	16
C.1	Environmental Samples.....	16
APPENDIX D	BIBLIOGRAPHY	17
APPENDIX E	OASIS REPORT FORM.....	18

List of Figures

- Fig. 1 Site location
Fig. 2 Trench plan
Fig. 3 Trench plan with geophysical survey
Fig. 4 Correspondence between linear features and late 19th and 20th century field boundary alignments
Fig. 5 Selected sections

List of Plates

- Plate 1 Trench 5, view from east
Plate 2 Ditch **1**, view from south-east
Plate 3 Ditch **5**, view from south-east
Plate 4 Trench 8, view from south-west
Plate 5 Ditch **12**, view from east
Plate 6 Trench 9, view from west
Plate 7 Ditch **16**, view from west
Plate 8 Trench 10, view from north-west
Plate 9 Tree throw **20**, view from north-west
Plate 10 Tree throw **24**, view from south-east

Summary

Between 19th and 21st of June 2017, Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) conducted a programme of informative trial trenching on land west of Saham Road, Watton, Norfolk (TF 9090 0090). Ten evaluation trenches were excavated, each 30m in length. Four of the trenches revealed archaeological features comprising a series of ditches and gullies, a pond feature, a post hole, modern pit and four tree-throws.

The ditches are interpreted as pre-19th century field boundaries, and are not depicted on any historic maps. Whilst none yielded finds or any dating evidence, their alignment in respect to Swaffham Road and Saham Road to the west and east suggests they are former plot divisions, of possibly late medieval or early post-medieval origin.

Towards the centre of the site, tree-throws uncovered in one trench correspond with a former field boundary depicted on the 1848 Tithe map, whilst at the southern end of the site, a waterhole yielded 19th century pottery. Combined, the features attest to the agricultural history of the site.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Myk Flitcroft of CgMs Consulting Ltd for commissioning the work on behalf of Hopkins Homes Ltd. Thanks are also extended to James Albone of the Norfolk Historic Environment Service (NHES), who monitored the project and provided advice and guidance.

The project was managed for OA East by Matt Brudenell. The fieldwork was directed by Daria Tsybaeva, who was supported by Paddy Lambert. Survey and illustrations were carried out by Dave Brown and Emily Abrehart. Thanks is also extended to Carole Fletcher and Rachel Fosberry for finds and environmental processing, and to Katherine Hamilton for archive preparation.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 OA East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Hopkins Homes Ltd to undertake a programme of informative trial trenching on land west of Saham Road, Watton, Norfolk (TF 9090 0090; Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. 3PL/2015/0219/F, appeal number APP/F2605/W/15/3140922), and followed on from the production of a desk-based assessment (Thompson 2010), an aerial photograph assessment (Palmer 2010) and geophysical survey at the site (Fisher 2016).
- 1.1.3 The scope of work was set out in an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by OA East (Tsybaeva 2017), and was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed development 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 the NHES, on behalf of Breckland District Council, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.4 This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements of the WSI.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies to the west of Saham Road on a gentle south-west facing slope between 39m and 44m OD. The area of proposed development consists of three pasture fields centred on TF 9090 0090.
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology of the area is mapped as chalk capped by Lowestoft Formation Diamicton (BGS).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following is drawn from information contained within the desk-based assessment (Thompson 2010), based on data from the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER).

Neolithic

- 1.3.2 Watton is situated 15km north-east of the nationally-significant Neolithic flint mines of Grimes Graves. A number of Neolithic axe heads have been found scattered in the area; in particular, one flint axe head was found c.150m south-east from the site (NHER 8771), and another polished axe head was 250m to the south (NHER 8776). A third polished axe head was recovered from spoil in High Street (NHER 21584), c.500m to the south-east.

Bronze Age

- 1.3.3 No Bronze Age finds were recorded within a 1km radius of the site, except for possible Bronze Age swords recovered from Saham Mere in 1855 c. 1km to the north of the site (NHER 8743).

Iron Age

- 1.3.4 Important Late Iron Age to Roman occupation at Woodcock Hall, Saham Toney (NHER 4697) has been identified 2.2km west of the site. A single Late Iron Age coin of the Trinovantes was found at an unrecorded location within the 1km radius (NHER 34324).

Roman

- 1.3.5 The B1108 south of the site may follow the course of a Roman road, joining the Fen Causeway to the west. The Fen Causeway was a major Roman road running from the Ermine Street, near Peterborough, to Denver in Norfolk (NHER 2796). At Denver it branched, with one route extending to Caistor St Edmund, the tribal capital of the Romanised Iceni, and – it is suggested due to the straightness of the road shown in early maps – that this branch ran through Watton along the course of the B1108 (NHER 8786).
- 1.3.6 In 1984, undated human remains, possibly a woman aged over 50, were unearthed c.500m to the south-west of the site; a residual sherd of Roman pottery was present (NHER 20401). Roman coins and other objects have been found within 1km of the site at NHER 17251, 25656, 31254, 35636 and 39299. The closest to the site is a coin of Valentinian I (AD 364-367) found c.500m to the south.

Anglo-Saxon

- 1.3.7 Anglo-Saxon remains have been found at Woodcock Hall (NHER 4697) c.2.2km west of the site, but there is comparatively little known evidence for similar settlement within 1km of the study area. Scatters of Saxon objects were recovered as surface and metal detected finds from locations not closely recorded, but unlikely to be nearer than c.500m to the site. These include, from the north and west, an Early Saxon spangle, Middle Saxon pottery and a padlock and a Late Saxon copper ingot (NHER 35636 and 37465). Finds south of the site include an Early Saxon brooch and a Late Saxon buckle (NHER 39299). A male burial associated with a large fragment of Early Saxon pottery was found c.800m to the south-east during construction of service trenches in the 1950s (NHER 8781).

Medieval

- 1.3.8 The site lies c.600m north-east of the historic core of medieval Watton. The church is the oldest building in the village, dating from the early 12th century. It probably stands on, or close to, the site of the original Saxon church. In 1204 King John granted Watton a Market Charter. This changed the layout of the village, shifting buildings clustered around the church and manor, to new buildings spreading west along the linear market place. Two medieval market crosses stood on the High Street in Watton (NHER 19195 and 19197).
- 1.3.9 A three-sided moat with the west side missing is shown approximately 80m east of the site on Ordnance Survey maps up to the 1950s (NHER 1329) but has since been built over. An excavation at the central crossroads in Watton c.800m south-east of the site identified a gully containing medieval ceramic building material and other undated features (NHER 51866). In the 1970s, medieval artefacts were found on the surface c.650m north of the site. They comprised pottery, lead weights, two iron knife blades, and a spur (NHER 12650). Other artefacts scatters have also been found nearby,

including medieval pottery, and a silver coin, pottery, a key and a buckle from south of the assessment site (NHER 29299 and 40121).

Post-medieval

- 1.3.10 In July 1549, a temporary rebel camp was set up at Watton during the Ketts rebellion when peasants and small farmers opposed land enclosure and profiteering.
- 1.3.11 Excavation at the town crossroads (NHER 51886) uncovered features containing post-medieval pottery along with two pig burials. A suicide burial is recorded c.750m to the north, the victim was purportedly ostracised by the community for pouring away a large quantity of beer and wine (NHER 13171). Post-medieval coins and artefacts have been found in the same locations as the Anglo-Saxon and medieval surface and metal detecting finds above (NHER 35636, 37465, 39299 and 40121).
- 1.3.12 There are 29 Grade 2 listed buildings within the 1km radius of the site, the majority are located on High Street, with the closest consisting of a range of 19th century almshouses c.250m to the south-east (NHER 46119). The site retained its rural character though the presence of surrounding houses and fields suggests possibility of further post-medieval boundaries to be present. Loch Neaton located c.750m to the east, is a 19th century railway ballast pit turned into an ornamental pond with a watermill (NHER 33722). Rectory Park c.1km to the north near Saham Mere is historic parkland dating from before 1797 (NHER 30599).

Modern

- 1.3.13 The WWII Watton Airfield, disused since 1995, is located 2.5km south-east of the site. No modern remains are recorded by the NHER within a 1km radius of the study area.

Cartographic information

- 1.3.14 The 1803 Enclosure map shows that the assessment site largely comprises a single enclosed plot owned by a Mrs Barker. The smaller strip to the south was also initially owned by Mrs Barker but given to a W. Lune. The Watton Tithe map of c.1848 shows that the large field owned by Mrs Barker is divided into three. These are owned by Henry Conyers Esquire and occupied by Rob Cubitt. Field 130 is classed as Drift and was used for pasture. Field 131, named Barn Close, and Field 133, named Five Acres, were both used for arable. The smaller plot to the south, Field 129, was Backyard Close, also used for arable. A new field division separating fields 107 and 106 is visible for the first time on 1848 Tithe map in the south-eastern corner of the study area.
- 1.3.15 The 1883 First Edition 25 inch OS map was not available at the time the DBA was written but is now available to view on-line (<http://maps.nls.uk/view/120852698>). This shows that the field divisions remained consistent. The 1905/6 Second Edition 25 inch OS map and the 1958 Ordnance Survey 6 inch map both show little change to the site. The map regression indicates little change to the assessment site since the Tithe map and awards.

Previous archaeological investigations

- 1.3.16 A geophysical survey was conducted at the site in 2016. (Fisher 2016). The survey detected only two possible linear anomalies, both interpreted as land drains (Fig. 3).

1.3.17 An aerial photographic assessment of site was completed in 2010 (Palmer 2010). No definite archaeological features were identified within the site, though a scatter of possible buried pits were recorded on the eastern side of Saham Road.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. To ground truth geophysical results, by testing a range of anomalies of likely archaeological origin, and areas where no anomalies registered.
- ii. To establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site, characterise where they are found (location, depth and extent), and establish the quality of preservation of any archaeology and environmental remains.
- iii. To provide sufficient coverage to establish the character, condition, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits.
- iv. To provide sufficient coverage to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking deposits.
- v. To set results in the local, regional, and national archaeological context – and, in particular, its wider cultural landscape and past environmental conditions.
- vi. To provide – in the event that archaeological remains are found – sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables, and orders of cost.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 A total of ten trenches on average measuring 30 x 2.1m were excavated by a mechanical excavator to the upper interface of archaeological features or deposits. A toothless ditching bucket was used to excavate the trenches. All machine excavation was undertaken under the supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.
- 2.2.2 Spoil was stored alongside trenches. Topsoil, subsoil, and archaeological deposits were kept separate during excavation, to allow for sequential backfilling of excavations.
- 2.2.3 All archaeological features and deposits were excavated by hand, in slots of at least 1m in width.
- 2.2.4 Site survey was carried out using a survey-grade differential GPS (Leica CS10/GS08 or Leica 1200) fitted with "smartnet" technology with an accuracy of 5mm horizontal and 10mm vertical.
- 2.2.5 A register has been kept of all trenches, features, and photographs. All features, layers and deposits have been issued with unique context numbers. Each feature is individually documented on context sheets, and hand-drawn in section and plan. Written descriptions are recorded on pro-forma sheets comprising factual data and interpretative elements.
- 2.2.6 Site plans have been drawn at 1:50. Sections of features have been drawn at 1:10 or 1:20. All sections are tied in to Ordnance Datum and the site plan is tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid.
- 2.2.7 All site drawings include the following information: site code, scale, plan or section number, orientation, date and initials of the archaeologist who prepared the drawing.

- 2.2.8 The photographic record comprises of high resolution digital photographs and black and white film photographs including both general trench shots and specific features. Every feature has been photographed at least once. Photographs include a scale, north arrow, site code, and feature number (where relevant), listed in the photograph register.
- 2.2.9 Environmental bulk samples (20 litres) of features were collected on site and processed by tank flotation using a modified Siraff-type equipment. The floating residues was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and 0.5mm sieve. The separate environmental register has been kept.
- 2.2.10 The site archive is currently held by OAE and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. Trenches 6 and 9 are slightly offset due to outlets of field drains encountered during machining (Figs 2 & 3).
- 3.1.2 Full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of each deposit can be found in Appendix A. Finds and environmental reports are presented in Appendices B and C.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The soil sequence between all trenches was fairly uniform. The natural mixed geology of chalk and diamictite was overlain by a mid brownish grey clayey sand subsoil with frequent flint inclusions (0.10-0.20m thick), which in turn was overlain by mid greyish brown clayey sand topsoil (0.14-0.22m thick).
- 3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the trenches remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in four trenches (Trenches 5, 8, 9 and 10; Fig. 2), in Fields 1-3 (Fig. 2). Trenches 1-4, 6 and 7 contained no archaeological remains and will not be described further. Finds were only encountered in pond **28**, Trench 9.

3.4 Trench 5

- 3.4.1 Trench 5 was located in south-east corner of Field 1 (Plate 10). The trench contained three ditches and a small, heavily truncated post hole.
- 3.4.2 Ditch **1** was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 0.70m wide and 0.28m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base (Plate 2, Fig. 5 Section 1). Its fill was dark brown silty clay (2).
- 3.4.3 Gully **3**, aligned north-west to south-east, was 0.40m wide and 0.09m deep with gently sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 5 Section 2). Its sole fill (4) was a dark brown silty clay.
- 3.4.4 Ditch **5** had gradually sloping sides and a concave base, 0.80m wide and 0.22m deep, situated on north-west to south-east alignment (Plate 3, Fig. 5 Section 3). It contained dark greyish brown silty clay (6). An environmental sample collected from this fill contained no charred remains.
- 3.4.5 A truncated post hole (**7**) was situated near ditch **1** towards the western end of the trench. It was sub-circular in plan with steep sides and an irregular base measuring 0.20m in diameter and 0.05m deep. It contained a dark yellowish brown silty clay (8) and could have been a variation in natural within the trench.

3.5 Trench 8

- 3.5.1 Trench 8 was situated at the eastern end of Field 3, and was orientated north-east to south-west. The trench contained two parallel gullies at the eastern end, both aligned north-west to south-east (Plate 4). There was evidence for rooting between and around the gullies suggesting the presence of a former hedge line.
- 3.5.2 Gully **12** was 0.60m wide and 0.16m deep with steep sides and a concave base (Plate 5, Fig. 5 Section 5). It contained a mid brownish grey clayey sand (13). An environmental sample collected from the fill yielded no charred remains.
- 3.5.3 Gully **14** had steep sides and a concave base, 0.78m wide and 0.20m deep (Fig. 5 Section 6). Its single fill (15) was a mid brownish grey clayey sand.

3.6 Trench 9

- 3.6.1 Trench 9 was located in the western half of Field 2 and aligned east to west (Plate 6). It contained a ditch, a small pit and a pond that was partially visible in the eastern end of the trench.
- 3.6.2 Ditch **16** was located at the western end of trench and was aligned approximately west-north-west to east-south-east (Plate 7, Fig. 5 Section 7). It had an irregular profile with gentle sloping sides and a concave base, measuring 1.70m wide and 0.28m deep. It contained a single fill (17) that comprised mid brownish grey sandy clay with frequent small to large flints near the base. Flecks of red ceramic building material (CBM) were recorded from the top of the ditch. An environmental sample was taken from fill 17, but contained no charred remains.
- 3.6.3 Tree throw **18**, was broadly sub-rectangular in plan, and was only partially visible in the trench. It was aligned north-west to south-east and had steep sides and an irregular concave base, measuring 0.80m wide and 0.26m deep (Fig. 5 Section 8). Its single fill (19) was a mid brownish grey clayey sand.
- 3.6.4 Pond **28** was partially exposed in the eastern end of the trench and corresponded with a c.10m dip in the field. A machine-dug slot revealed a 4m long section of the pond. It measured 0.46m deep and had gently sloping sides and a slightly concave base. The single fill of the pond was a modern backfill of mid greyish brown clayey sand (29). A single fragment of 19th century pot (11g) and a fragment of 18-19th century tile (36g) were retrieved from this fill.

3.7 Trench 10

- 3.7.1 Trench 10 was located in the south-east corner of Field 2, and was aligned north to south (Plate 8). It contained three large, irregular tree throws, and a modern pet burial.
- 3.7.2 Tree throw **20** was irregular in plan with gently sloping sides and an irregular base (Plate 9), measuring 7.76m wide and 0.24m deep. It contained dark blackish brown silty clay (21). Tree throw **24** was similar to tree throw **20** in plan and shape, measuring 5.12m wide and 0.16-0.18m deep (Plate 10, Fig. 5 Section 11). Its fill (25) was a mid yellowish/blackish brown silty clay.

- 3.7.3 Between tree throws **20** and **24** was a sub-circular pit with steep sides and an irregular base, measuring 1m wide and 0.36m deep. It contained dark blackish brown silty clay (23) and bones of modern pet burial. The bones were not retained.
- 3.7.4 Another, smaller, sub-circular tree throw **26** was located towards the southern end of the trench. It was 0.66m wide and 0.36m deep with irregular steep sides and an irregular base. Its fill (27) was a mid yellowish brown silty clay.

3.8 Finds summary

- 3.8.1 Only two finds were recovered from the evaluation. These comprised a 19th century Refined White Earthenware bowl (0.011kg) and a late 18th or 19th century, sub-rectangular fragment of roof tile (0.036kg), both recovered from pond **28**, Trench 9 (Appendix B).
- 3.8.2 Three environmental samples were taken from linear features in Trenches 5, 8 and 9 (ditch **5**, ditch **16** and gully **12**) in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains. There is no preservation of plant remains other than occasional charcoal flecks which suggests that there has not been human occupation in this area (Appendix C).

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 Archaeological features, distinguished by their mid brown and grey colours, were clearly visible within the trial trenches. The topsoil and subsoil layers were easily set apart from the natural horizon, and weather conditions for excavation and recording were good. All features exposed by the trenching were investigated, and the results are considered to have a good level of reliability.

4.2 Investigation objectives and results

4.2.1 The aim of this investigation was to establish the character, date and state of preservations of any archaeological remains present within the proposed development area, as described in the WSI (Tsybaeva 2017).

4.2.2 The trial trenching exposed a small selection of archaeological features, none of which registered in the geophysical survey (Fisher 2016, Fig. 3). Although the ditches in Trench 5 were found in close proximity to linear anomalies recorded by the survey, there was no direct correlation in terms of location or feature alignment. Similarly, no corresponding features or land drains were recorded in Trenches 2 and 3.

4.2.3 With the exception of posthole **7** in Trench 5, all features were reasonably well preserved. However, no finds were recovered from the linear features and tree throws. The only datable finds were retrieved from pond **28**, Trench 9.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 Although the geophysical survey of the site did not show any strong anomalies of likely archaeological origin (Fisher 2016), a small number of linear and discrete archaeological features were revealed during the evaluation. These included a series of ditches and gullies, a pond feature, a post hole, modern pit and four tree throws.

4.3.2 None of the linear features can be confidently dated, as no finds were recovered from their fills. However, as none are depicted on Ordnance Survey (OS) or earlier historic maps of the area (Thompson 2010), it is likely that they pre-date the 19th century. Ditches **1**, **5**, **12** and **14** shared a similar north-west to south-east axis, which runs broadly parallel to the western boundary of the site, and in turn, to Swaffham Road further west (Fig. 4). Ditch **16** extended approximately along the line of the western boundary of the site. These ditches might have formed earlier plot boundaries aligned parallel with the road. By contrast ditch **3** in Trench 5 was aligned parallel to Saham Road to the east, and may have formed an earlier sub-division of Field 1.

4.3.3 Whatever the exact date of these ditches the absence of artefacts, and the environmentally sterile character of their fills, suggests they were probably field boundaries located away from any centre of occupation.

4.3.4 In terms of other features, the location of tree throws **20**, **24** and **26** in Trench 10 corresponds to the position of a north-west to south-east aligned boundary between fields 107 and 106 depicted on the 1848 Tithe map (not produced here). This field division is not in existence on the earlier Enclosure map of 1803, but can be seen on

the later OS maps of 1905-6 and 1958 (Fig. 4). The tree throws may therefore be the remains of a hedge line boundary between the two fields in the mid-19th to 20th century, cut down and burned sometime after 1958.

- 4.3.5 Pond **28**, situated in the eastern end of Trench 9, was located in the lowest and wettest area in that field, and yielded 19th century artefacts. The feature is not depicted on any historic maps, but its position in the middle of a pasture field and its gently sloping sides suggests it was possibly used as a watering hole/dew pond for livestock. Local residents recollect a dew pond in that location in 1970s.

4.4 Significance

- 4.4.1 The site lies on the outskirts of the historic core of Watton on agricultural land. The informative trial trenching has revealed a small number of linear and discrete features relating to former field boundaries and the agricultural use of the land. Most probably pre-date the 19th century, but based on alignments with Swaffham Road and Saham Road, are perhaps likely to be late medieval or early post-medieval in origin.
- 4.4.2 The environmental potential of the site is poor, with environmental samples containing only scarce charcoal, with no animal bone being recovered. The only artefacts recovered were a fragment of 19th century pottery and a fragment of 18-19th century tile. Given the low significance of these finds it is not recommended that they are retained and deposited as part of the project archive.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk and diamictite.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.26
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
9	Layer	-	0.14	Topsoil	-	-
10	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
11	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk and diamictite.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
9	Layer	-	0.17	Topsoil	-	-
10	Layer	-	0.13	Subsoil	-	-
11	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	SW-NE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk and diamictite.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.28
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
9	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil	-	-
10	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
11	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk and diamictite.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.31
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
9	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil	-	-
10	Layer	-	0.13	Subsoil	-	-
11	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained three ditches and a heavily truncated post hole. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk and diamictite.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.33
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
9	Layer	-	0.17	Topsoil	-	-
10	Layer	-	0.16	Subsoil	-	-
11	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1	Cut	0.70	0.28	Ditch	-	-
2	Fill	0.70	0.28	Ditch fill	-	-
3	Cut	0.40	0.09	Gully	-	-
4	Fill	0.40	0.09	Gully fill	-	-
5	Cut	0.80	0.22	Ditch	-	-
6	Fill	0.80	0.22	Ditch fill	-	-
7	Cut	0.20	0.05	Post hole	-	-
8	Fill	0.20	0.05	Post hole fill	-	-

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	SE-NW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk and diamictite.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.42
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
9	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
10	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
11	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 7						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk and diamictite.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
9	Layer	-	0.19	Topsoil	-	-
10	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
11	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 8						
General description					Orientation	SW-NE
Trench contained two parallel gullies. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk and diamictite.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

9	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
10	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
11	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
12	Cut	0.60	0.16	Gully	-	-
13	Fill	0.60	0.16	Gully fill	-	-
14	Cut	0.78	0.20	Gully	-	-
15	Fill	0.78	0.20	Gully fill	-	-

Trench 9

General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained a ditch, a pit and a possible pond. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk and diamictite.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
9	Layer	-	0.14	Topsoil	-	-
10	Layer	-	0.21	Subsoil	-	-
11	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
16	Cut	1.70	0.28	Ditch	-	-
17	Fill	1.70	0.28	Ditch fill	CBM flecks	modern?
18	Cut	0.80	0.26	Tree throw	-	-
19	Fill	0.80	0.26	Tree throw fill	-	-
28	Cut	-	0.46	Pond	-	-
29	Fill	-	0.46	Pond fill	Tile, pot frag.	19 th C

Trench 10

General description					Orientation	SE-NW
Trench contained three tree throws and a small pit. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk and diamictite.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
9	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
10	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
11	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
20	Cut	-	0.24	Tree throw	-	-
21	Fill	-	0.24	Tree throw fill	-	-
22	Cut	1.00	0.36	Small pit	-	-
23	Fill	1.00	0.36	Pit fill, pet burial?	animal bones	modern
24	Cut	-	0.18	Tree throw	-	-
25	Fill	-	0.18	Tree throw fill	-	-
26	Cut	0.66	0.30	Tree throw	-	-
27	Fill	0.66	0.30	Tree throw fill	-	-

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery and Ceramic Building Material

By Carole Fletcher

- B.1.1 A single sherd (weighing 0.011kg) from a 19th century Refined White Earthenware bowl with transfer-printed decoration and a late 18th or 19th century, sub-rectangular fragment of roof tile (0.036kg, 14mm thick) in a hard-fired quartz-tempered, dull red fabric were recovered from watering hole **28**.
- B.1.2 The paucity of material suggests low levels of activity and the material is likely to have become incorporated into the feature, not as deliberate rubbish disposal, but more likely as random material casually thrown into the water.
- B.1.3 If no further work is necessary, this statement acts as a full record and the pottery and tile may be deselected prior to archival deposition.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

C.1.1 Three bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated area west of Saham Road, Watton, Norfolk in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. Samples were taken from ditches encountered within Trenches 5, 8 and 9 and are all considered to be late medieval or post-medieval in date.

Methodology

C.1.2 The samples were soaked in a solution of sodium carbonate for 24hrs prior to processing to break down the heavy clay matrix. The total volume (up to 18L) of each of the samples was processed by tank flotation using modified Siraff-type equipment for the recovery of preserved plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve.

C.1.3 The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 1.

Results

C.1.4 There is no preservation of plant remains other than occasional charcoal flecks that are not identifiable to species. Molluscs are present but may be intrusive.

C.1.5 Burnt flint was noted in the residue of Sample 2, fill 13 of ditch **12**.

Sample No.	Context No.	Feature No.	Feature Type	Area/trench No.	Volume processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)
1	6	5	Ditch	5	18	10
2	13	12	Ditch	8	17	5
3	17	16	Ditch	9	15	45

Table 1: Environmental samples from ENF142226

Discussion

C.1.6 The lack of preserved plant remains suggests that there has not been human occupation in this area.

C.1.7 If further excavation is planned for this area, it is recommended that environmental sampling is carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines (2011).

APPENDIX D BIBLIOGRAPHY

Fisher, I., 2016. *Archaeological geophysical survey at Saham Road, Watton. July 2016*. MOLA report no 16/138

Palmer, R., 2010. *Land at Greenways, Saham Road, Watton, area centred TF908009, Norfolk: Aerial Photographic Assessment*. Report No. 2010/3

Thompson, P, 2010. *Land at Greenways, Saham Road, Norfolk, An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*, Archaeological Solutions Ltd.

Tsybaeva, D., 2017. *Land west of Saham Road, Watton, Norfolk: Written Scheme of Investigation*. Oxford Archaeology East.

Online

British Geological Survey (BGS)

<<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>> accessed on 19/05/2017

National Library of Scotland

<http://maps.nls.uk/view/120852698>> accessed on 14/07/2017

APPENDIX E OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-288716		
Project Name	Land west of Saham Road, Watton, Norfolk		
Start of Fieldwork	19/06/2017	End of Fieldwork	21/06/2017
Previous Work	Yes	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	ENF142226	Planning App. No.	3PL/2015/0219/F
HER Number	ENF142226	Related Numbers	APP/F2605/W/15/3140922

Prompt	Pre-commencement condition
Development Type	Residential
Place in Planning Process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <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 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey | <input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography | |

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Ditch	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)	Pot	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
Pond	Modern (1901 to present)	Tile	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
Tree throw	Modern (1901 to present)		Choose an item.

Insert more lines as appropriate.

Project Location

County	Norfolk	Address (including Postcode) Land west of Saham Road Watton Thetford Norfolk IP25 6EA
District	Breckland	
Parish	Watton	
HER office	Norfolk	
Size of Study Area	3.27ha	
National Grid Ref	TF9090 0090	

Project Originators

Organisation	OAE
Project Brief Originator	James Albone

Project Design Originator	Daria Tsybaeva
Project Manager	Matt Brudenell
Project Supervisor	Daria Tsybaeva

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	NMAS	ENF142226
Digital Archive	OAE	XNFWTN17
Paper Archive	NMAS	ENF142226

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Remains	<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

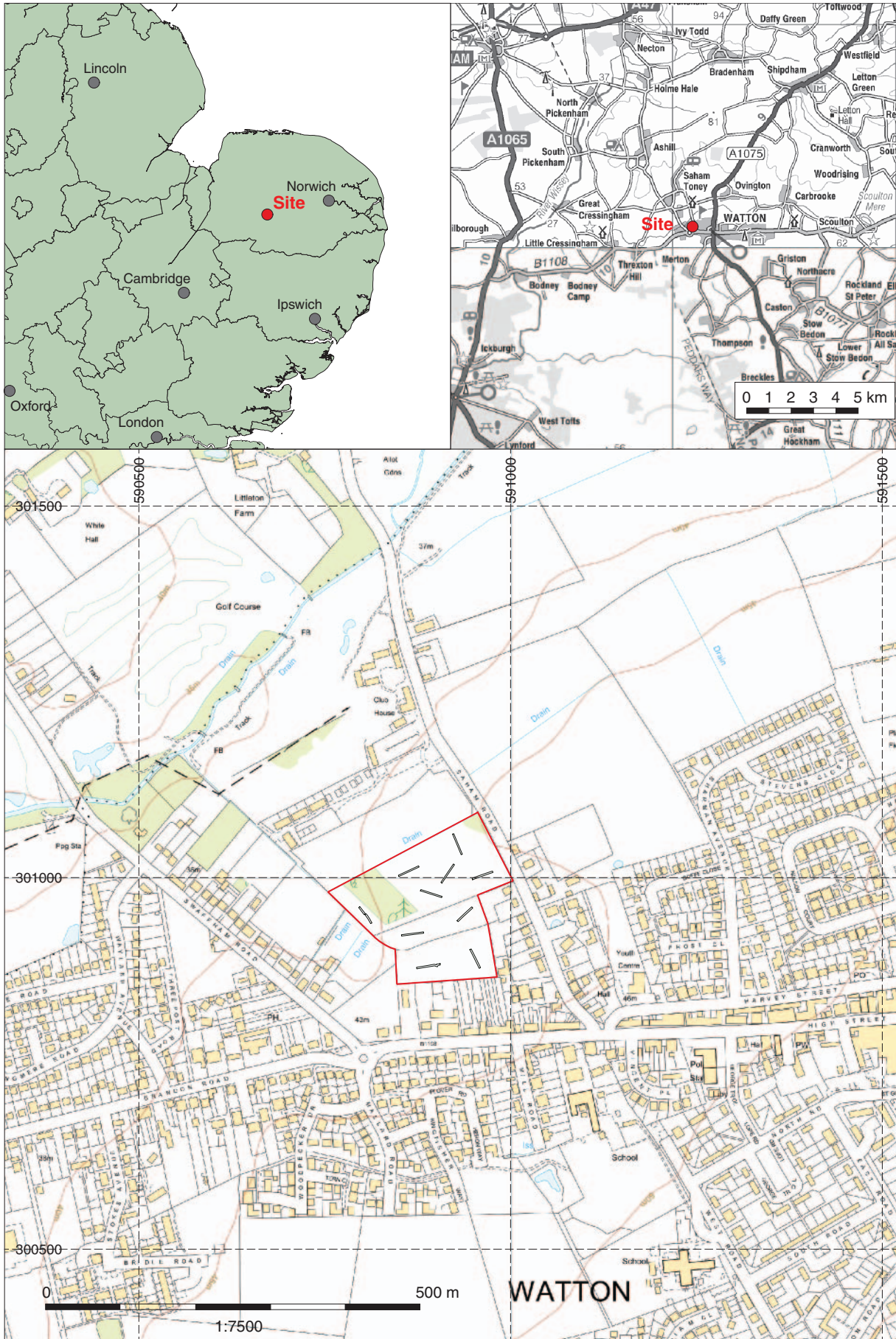
Database	<input type="checkbox"/>
GIS	<input type="checkbox"/>
Geophysics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Images (Digital photos)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Illustrations (Figures/Plates)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Text	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/>

Paper Media

Aerial Photos	<input type="checkbox"/>
Context Sheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Correspondence	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drawing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/>
Map	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matrices	<input type="checkbox"/>
Microfiche	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miscellaneous	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research/Notes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Photos (negatives/prints/slides)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Plans	<input type="checkbox"/>
Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sections	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Further Comments

Finds were deselected prior to archiving.



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2017. All rights reserved. CM 744352-19679- 300617

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



Figure 2: Trench plan. Scale 1:750

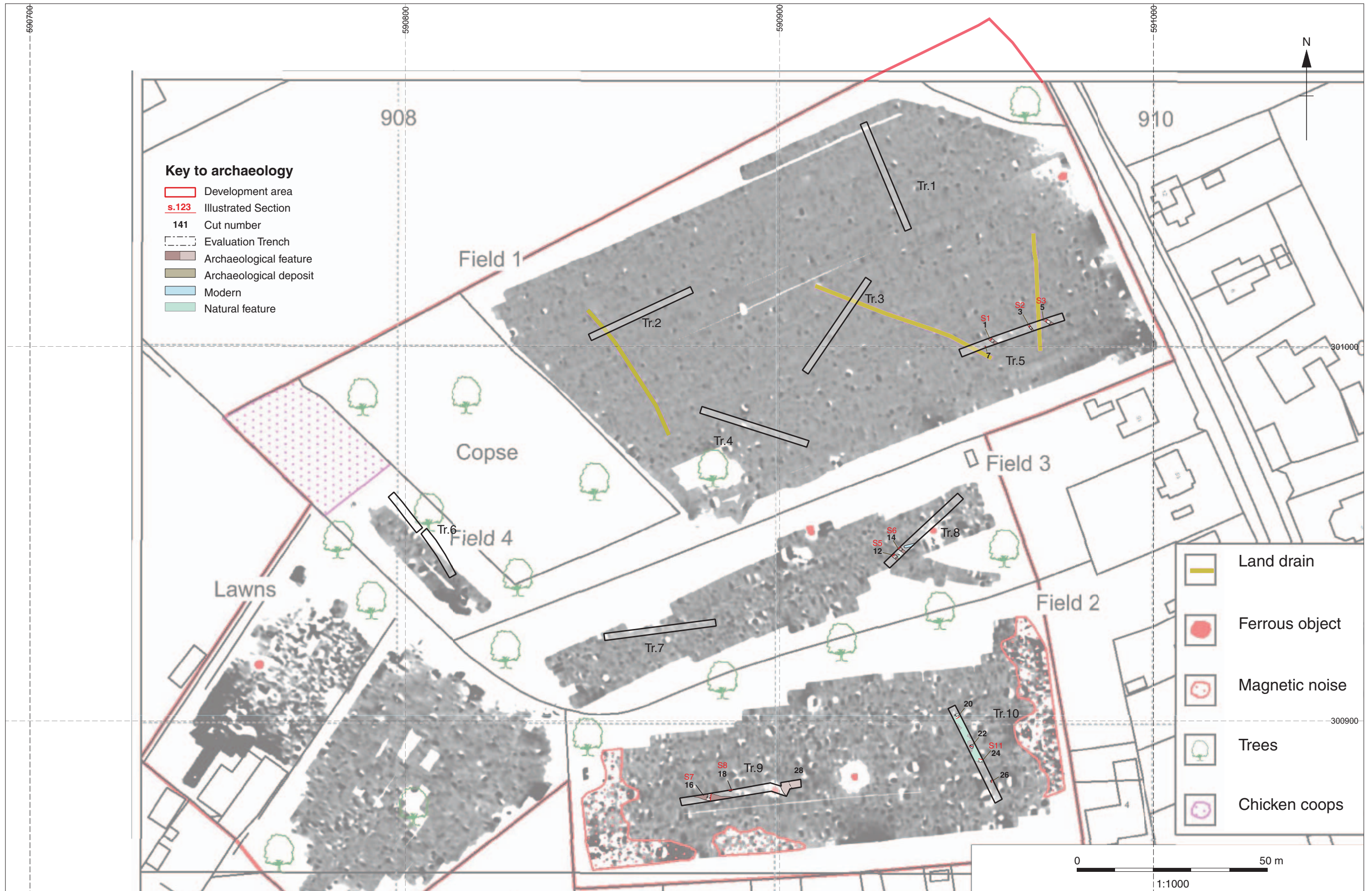


Figure 3: Trench plan with geophysical survey. Scale 1:1000

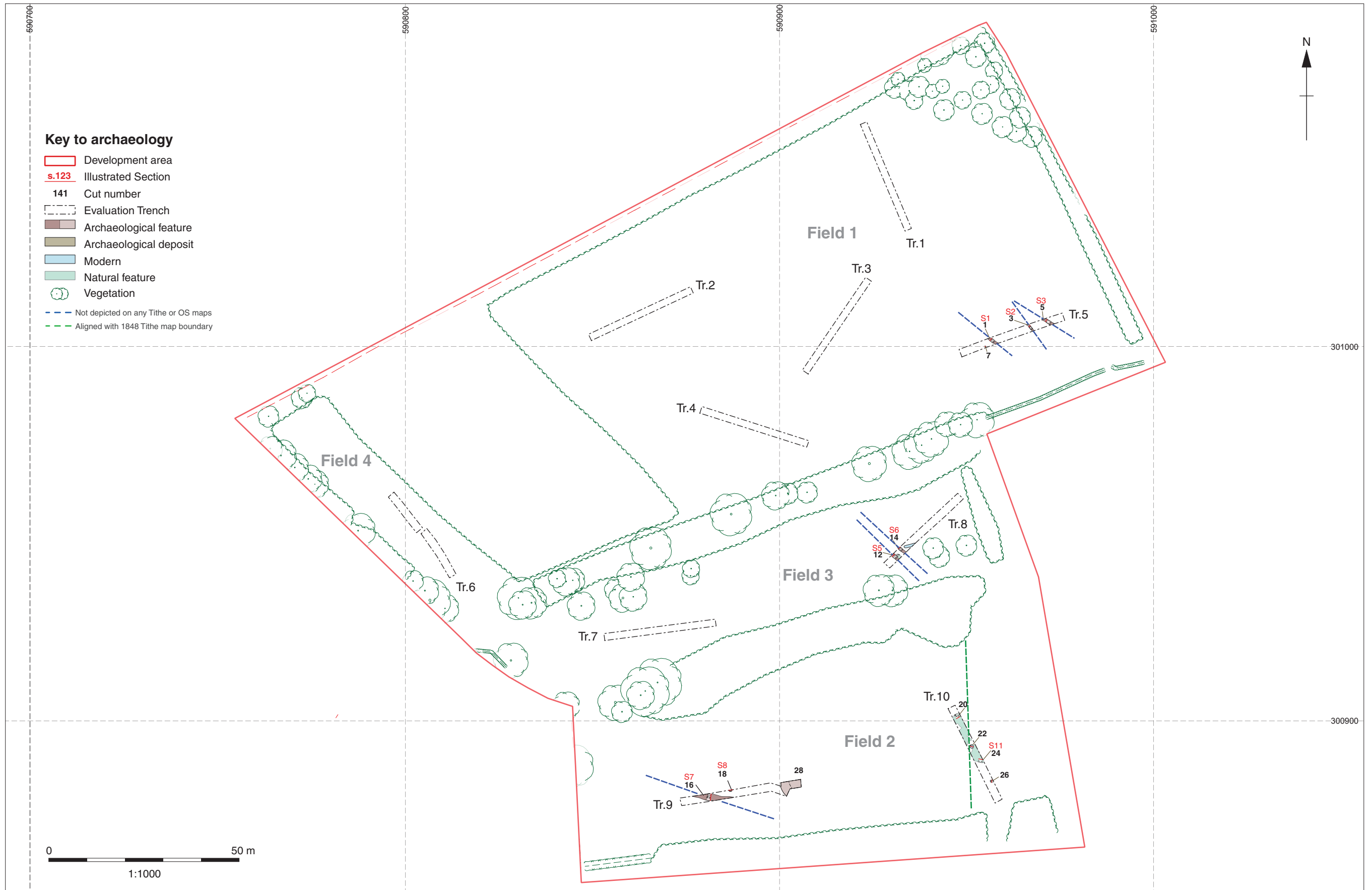


Figure 4: Correspondance between linear features and late 19th and 20th century field boundary alignments. Scale 1:1000

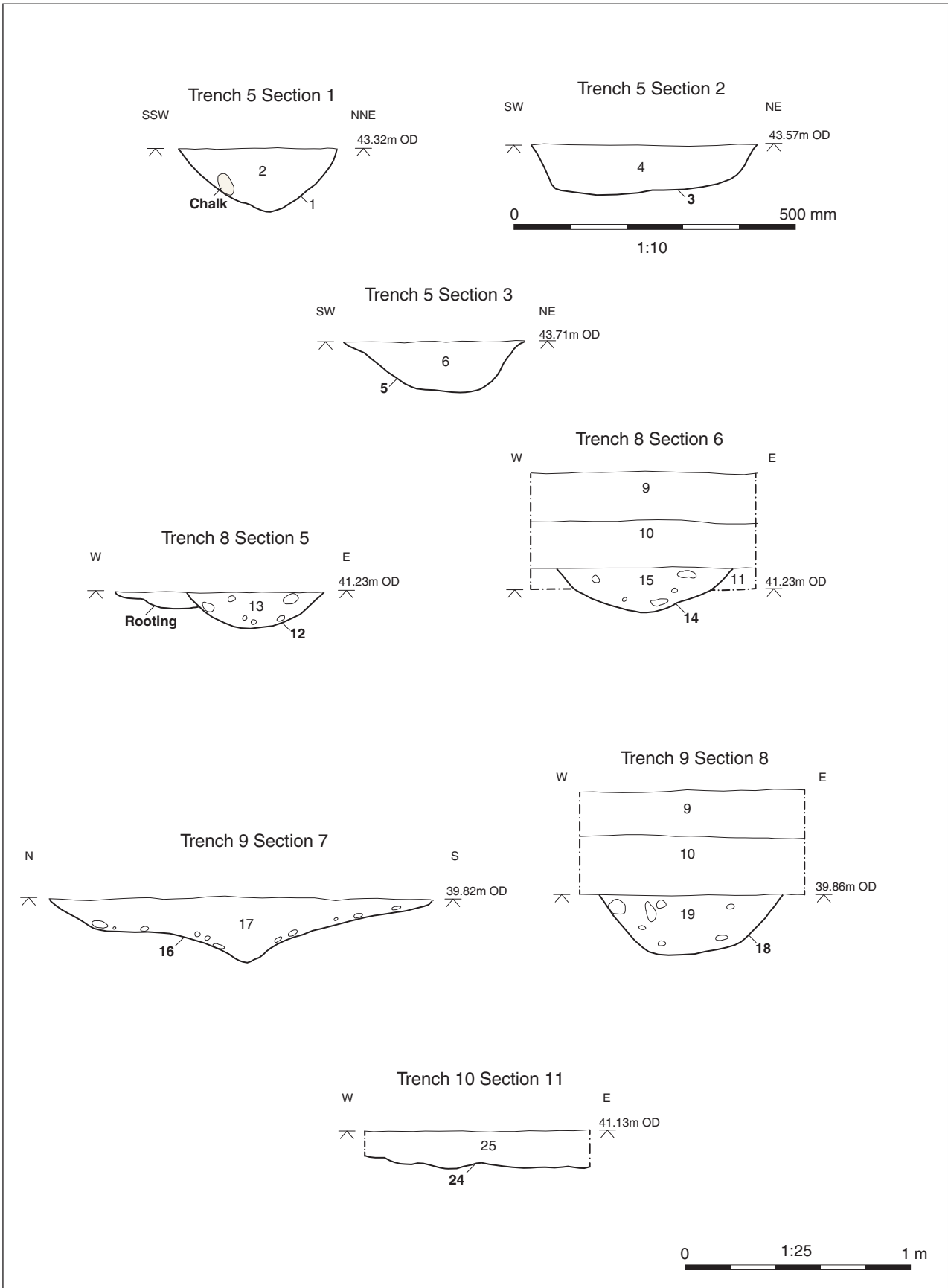


Figure 5: Selected sections



Plate 1: Trench 5, view from east



Plate 2: Ditch 1, view from south-east

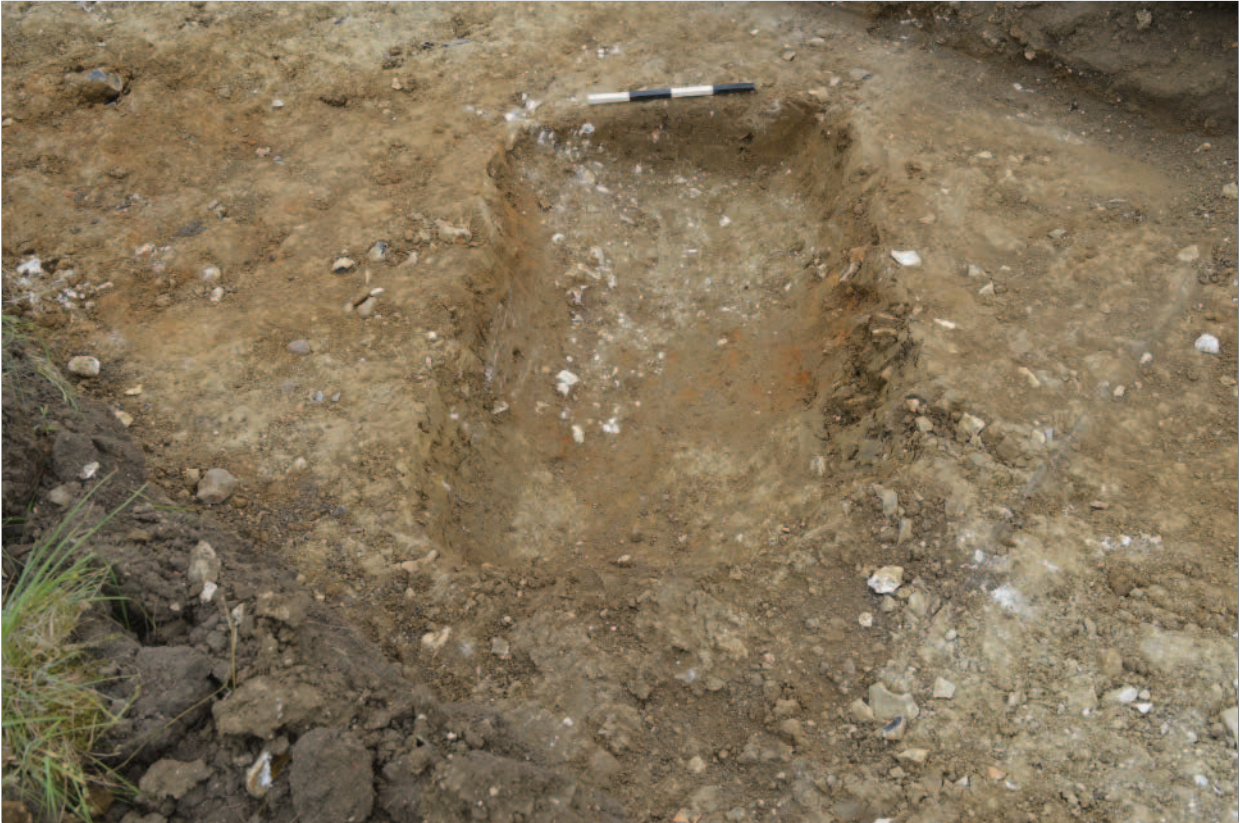


Plate 3: Ditch 5, view from south-east



Plate 4: Trench 8, view from south-west



Plate 5: Ditch 12, view from east



Plate 6: Trench 9, view from west



Plate 7: Ditch 16, view from west



Plate 8: Trench 10, view from north-west



Plate 9: Tree throw 20, view from north-west



Plate 10: Tree throw 24, view from south-east



**Head Office/Registered Office/
OA South**

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX20ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1QD

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: [oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500
e: [oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>



Director: Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MCIfA
*Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a
Private Limited Company, N^o: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, N^o: 285627*