

Archaeological Evaluation at Land off Setch Road Setchey, Norfolk



Archaeological Evaluation Report



October 2015

Client: Middleton Aggregates

OA East Report No: 1851

OASIS No: oxfordar3-225629

NGR: TF 6418 1463

Archaeological Evaluation at Land off Setch Road, Setchey, Norfolk

Archaeological Evaluation

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Editor: Richard Mortimer MCifA

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Report Date: October 2015

Report Number: 1851
Site Name: Land off of Setch Road, Setchey
HER Event No: ENF138821
Date of Works: September/October 2015
Client Name: Middleton Aggregates
Client Ref: -
Planning Ref: Pre planning
Grid Ref: TF 6418 1463
Site Code: ENF138821
Finance Code: XNFSER15
Receiving Body: Norfolk Museum and Archaeology Services

Accession No:

Prepared by: Kathryn Nicholls
Position: Supervisor
Date: October 2015

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Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: 15/10/15
Signed:



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Summary

From the 28th of September to 1st October, Oxford Archaeology East undertook an archaeological evaluation at land off Setch Road, Setchey, Norfolk (TF 6418 1463). A total of nineteen trenches were excavated to a length of 50m. The only features observed were two modern field drains on a north-north-west to south-south-east alignment. No finds of any date were recovered from the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Land off Setch Road, Setchey, Norfolk (Fig. 1) in advance of a proposed quarry extension. Nineteen 50m x 2m wide trenches were excavated on a regular grid pattern across the field, comprising a 4% sample of the development area.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Norfolk County Council (NCC; Pre-Planning), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East.
- 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 underlying geology of the site comprises Kimmeridge Clay with part of the site lying on an area with overlying superficial deposits comprising Lowestoft Formation-Diamicton ([http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html/.](http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html/))
- 1.2.2 The site lies on a slightly south facing slope, which gently rises from 4m to 10m OD and is currently under arable cultivation.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

Prehistoric

- 1.3.1 The site lies in the immediate vicinity of two findspots of Neolithic axe heads. (NHER 16242 and 16243). Two pot-boiler sites have been recorded in the surrounding area (NHER 23182 and 23592) with further prehistoric finds recovered in the vicinity consisting of pottery, flints and other pot-boilers, located to the north (NHER 23008) and south-east (NHER 24100). Cropmarks provisionally dating to the prehistoric period comprising a ring gully and a curvi-linear ditch have been observed to the east (NHER 42237).

Roman

- 1.3.2 The area around Middleton would have lain in an inlet on the Roman coastline with the surroundings being utilised for salt production. Further evidence for occupation include cropmarks of possible nearby field systems (NHER 44485 and 44487) and it should be noted that finds of Roman pottery have been collected from the site itself, as part of the Fenland survey.

Medieval

- 1.3.3 Medieval pottery was also recovered from the area during fieldwalking (NHER 23817). The village itself had a possible 12th century Motte and Bailey (NHER 2294) and the

medieval period saw a continuation in the importance of salt production, with historical references mentioning salt houses.

Undated

- 1.3.4 A human skeleton of unknown date was found close to the site during peat cutting (NHER 17682).

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank the clients consultant Stephen Daw for commissioning the work and Middleton Aggregates' quarry manager Martin Freestone for his assistance on site. Ken Hamilton of Norfolk county Council monitored the work and Richard Mortimer of Oxford Archaeology East was the project manager.

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 a 4% sample of the proposed development area would be excavated. This led to a total of nineteen trenches each measuring 50m in length.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360 excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by Dave Brown using a Leica GS08 GPS system.
- 2.2.4 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. Any metal-detected or hand-collected finds would have been retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.2.5 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 Site conditions were good throughout the time on site.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 A total of nineteen trenches were excavated at land off of Setch Road, Setchey (Fig 2). These trenches measured 50m in length. Topsoil across the site comprised a mid to dark grey brown clayey silt, subsoil often varied across the site but in the most part comprised an orange brown silty clay. The underlying natural substrata comprised a mix of clays, sands and chalk (Plate 1). All trenches were either on a north-north-west to south-south-east or east-north-east to west-south-west alignment.

3.2 All trenches

3.2.1 None of the trenches contained pre-modern archaeological features or deposits. Two modern ditches/drains were excavated (**4** and **6**), one in trench 17, the other in trench 18. Ditch **4** measured 0.76m wide and 0.38m deep and ditch **6** measured 0.94m wide and 0.38m deep. They were both on a north-north-west to south-south-east alignment and both contained modern land drains. Subsoil ranged from 0.14m to 0.33m across the site and topsoil ranged in depth from 0.21m to 0.45m.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion and Conclusion

- 4.1.1 No pre-modern archaeological features or deposits were uncovered during this evaluation. There is no record of archaeological features having been recorded in the immediate vicinity however a number of findspots are recorded from the prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods. It is likely that these finds will have been introduced to the field surface by manuring.
- 4.1.2 The nature of the geology and the obvious poor drainage on the site have clearly not been conducive to direct settlement and it is likely that the land has principally been under pasture, with occasional periods of cultivation. The site is located on the clay slope between the sandstone high points sitting at approximately 39m OD and the flat floodplains of the Nar Valley at 2m OD. Prehistoric settlement is known at Blackborough end (Moan 2014) located on a ridge with the Nar valley to the south and a former river to the north where the geology comprises Sedimentary Carstone Formation (Sandstone) (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>). The Fenland Survey Project has also recorded an extensive number of archaeological finds along the Nar Valley (Hall 1994).

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description				Orientation		ENE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of clay				Avg. depth (m)		0.6
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 2						
General description				Orientation		NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a clay natural				Avg. depth (m)		0.55
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 3						
General description				Orientation		ENE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a clay natural				Avg. depth (m)		0.55
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 4						
General description				Orientation		NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a clay natural				Avg. depth (m)		0.46
				Width (m)		2

					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.29	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.17	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 5						
General description				Orientation		NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a clay natural.				Avg. depth (m)		0.55
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 6						
General description				Orientation		ENE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a clay natural				Avg. depth (m)		0.65
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.33	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 7						
General description				Orientation		NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a mixed clay and sand natural				Avg. depth (m)		0.63
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.33	Topsoil	-	-

2	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 8						
General description				Orientation		ENE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a clay natural				Avg. depth (m)		0.66
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.45	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.21	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 9						
General description				Orientation		ENE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a clay natural				Avg. depth (m)		0.59
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.21	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 10						
General description				Orientation		NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a mix of sand and clay natural				Avg. depth (m)		0.58
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.45	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.14	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 11						
General description				Orientation		NNW-SSE

Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a mix of sand and clay natural		Avg. depth (m)	0.5			
		Width (m)	2			
		Length (m)	50			
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.29	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.21	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 12						
General description				Orientation	ENE-WSW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of sand and clay				Avg. depth (m)	0.54	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.33	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 13						
General description				Orientation	NNW-SSE	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a sand and clay natural				Avg. depth (m)	0.63	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.24	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 14						
General description				Orientation	ENE-WSW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of sand and clay				Avg. depth (m)	0.57	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	50	
Contexts						

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.37	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 15						
General description				Orientation		NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a mixed natural of chalk, sand and clay				Avg. depth (m)		0.49
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.21	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.28	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 16						
General description				Orientation		ENE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of sand and clay				Avg. depth (m)		0.59
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.39	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.16	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 17						
General description				Orientation		NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying sand and clay natural. A modern linear containing a pipe was uncovered.				Avg. depth (m)		0.61
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.41	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

4	Cut	0.76	0.38	Land Drain	-	Modern
5	Fill	0.76	0.38	Land Drain	-	Modern

Trench 18						
General description				Orientation		ENE-WSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a mix of sand, chalk and clay natural. Trench contained a modern drainage ditch				Avg. depth (m)		0.58
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
6	Cut	0.94	0.38	Land drain	-	Modern
7	Fill	0.94	0.38	Land drain	-	Modern

Trench 19						
General description				Orientation		NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a chalk, sand and clay natural				Avg. depth (m)		0.56
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.29	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.27	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Hall, D & Coles, J. 1994. *The Fenland Survey: An essay in landscape and persistence*. English Heritage: Archaeological Report 1

Moan, P. 2014. *Land West of Mill Drove, Blackborough End, Norfolk*. OA East Unpublished Report 1587

Stocks-Morgan, H. 2015. *Specification for Archaeological Evaluation: Land off Setch Road, Middleton, Norfolk*.

Online Resources

Geology of Britain: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (accessed 3/10/15)

Heritage Gateway: <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/> (accessed 3/10/15)

APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-225629		
Project Name	Evaluation on land off Setch Road, Setchey, Norfolk		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	28-09-2015	Finish	01-10-2015
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	ENF138821	Planning App. No.	-
HER No.	ENF138821	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Select Prompt (this should be in your brief/spec)...
Development Type	Other

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 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 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
N/A	Select period...	N/A	Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Norfolk	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	Kings Lynn & West Norfolk	Setch Road, Setchey, Norfolk, PE33 0PB
Parish	North Runcton	
HER	Norfolk	
Study Area		National Grid Reference
		TF 6418 1463

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Ken Hamilton
Project Design Originator	Richard Mortimer
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Kathryn Nicholls

Project Archives

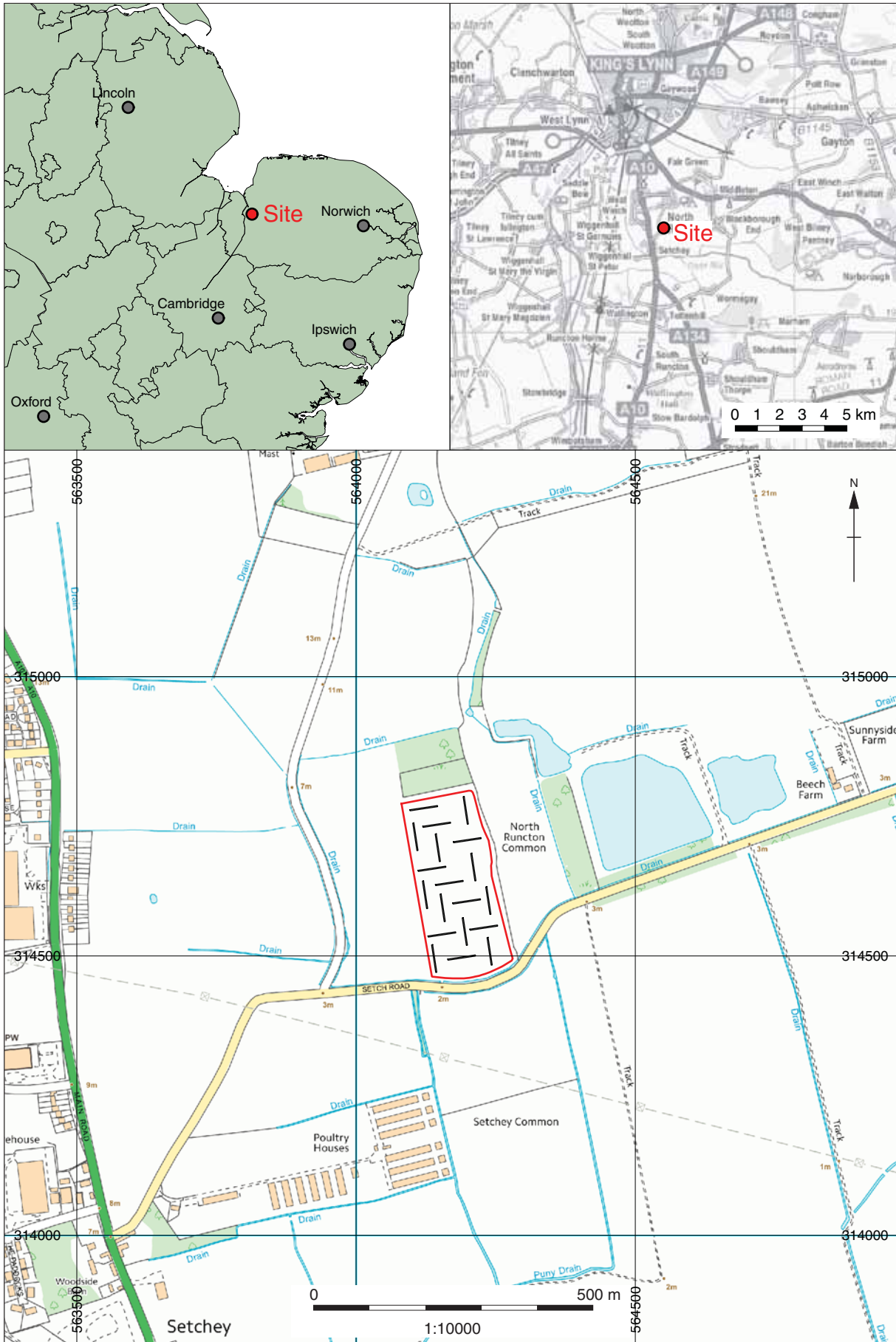
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Norfolk County Stores	OA East	Norfolk County Stores
ENF138821	XNFSER15	ENF138821

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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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

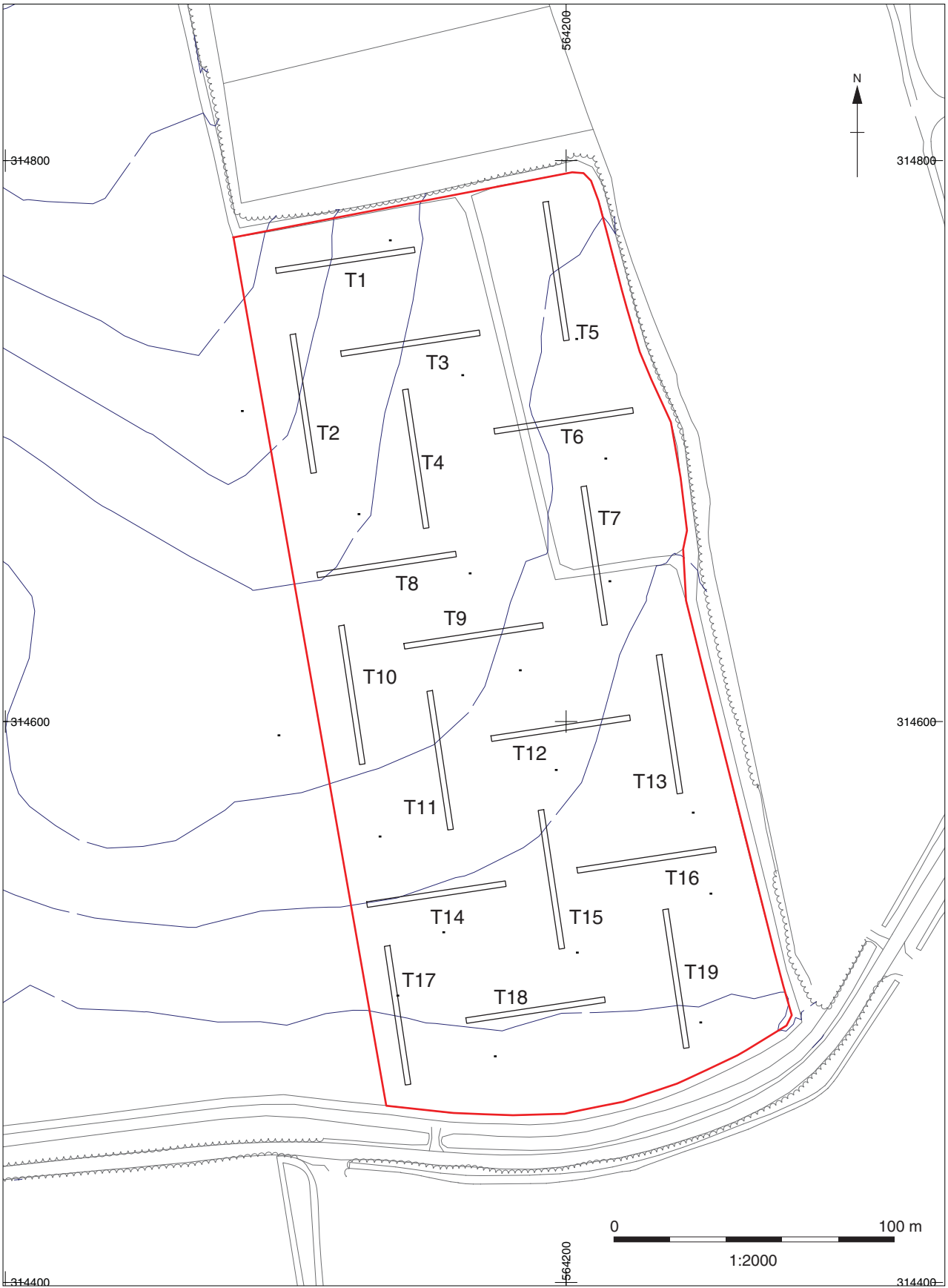


Figure 2: Plan of evaluation trenches



Plate 1: Trench 15, looking north north-west, showing varied natural geology



Plate 2: Trench 19, looking south south-east



Plate 3: Trench 11, looking south south-east



Plate 4: Trench 1, looking west south-west



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