

Pinelands Industrial Estate Horsford Norfolk



Archaeological Evaluation Report



December 2010

Client: Lovells Partnerships Ltd.

OA East Report: 1237

OASIS No: oxfordar3-90034

NGR: TG 18713 16966

Pinelands Industrial Estate, Horsford, Norfolk

Archaeological Evaluation

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Report Date: December 2010

Report Number: 1237
Site Name: Pinelands Industrial Estate, Horsford
HER Event No: ENF 125471
Date of Works: December 2010
Client Name: Lovell Partnerships Ltd.
Client Ref:
Planning Ref: 201007744
Grid Ref: TG 18713 16966
Site Code: ENF 125471
Finance Code: XNFPEH10
Receiving Body: Norfolk County Stores
Accession No: ENF 125471
Prepared by: Nick Gilmour
Position: Supervisor
Date: December 2010
Checked by: Paul Spoerry
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Date: December 2010
Signed:

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Summary

Between 14th and 16th December 2010, Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological evaluation at Pinelands Industrial Estate, Horsford, Norfolk. This work followed on from a desk-based assessment undertaken by OA East in July 2010. A total of 465m of linear trenches was excavated. No archaeological features or finds were recovered from any of the trenches, or during a metal detector survey of the site. This was in spite of the proximity of the study area to the known barrow cemetery in Horsford Woods. However, two modern pits and several cultivation trenches were noted. Tree root disturbance was related to the previous use of the site as a pine plantation.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Pinelands Industrial Estate, Horsford, Norfolk.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Dr Ken Hamilton of Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA; Planning Application 201007744), 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 *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010). The results will enable decisions to be made by NLA, 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 encompasses a plot measuring 2.5ha in size and comprises areas of rough pasture/paddocks, an access road and former track, several temporary timber structures, a number of light industrial units surrounded by hard standing and a bungalow with associated garden. Sandy Lane forms the boundary to the north, houses fronting onto Holt Road lie to the east and south and a tree-lined private track bounds the study area to the west.
- 1.2.2 The topography of the site is generally flat with some slight undulations; the 35m contour passes through the site. Glacial sands and gravels form the predominant surface geology of this part of Norfolk, overlying glacial till.
- 1.2.3 Horsford, a fairly large parish within Broadland district, is situated c.6km to the north-west of Norwich. The study area is located close to the junction of Holt Road (B1149) and Sandy Lane, on the northern fringe of Horsford and some distance from the village centre. St Faith's Common and Horsford Woods extend to the north and east of the site, the latter on the opposite side of the road. The Forestry Commission manages much of this northern part of the parish as a pine plantation. The village straddles the river Hor, a tributary of the river Bure, from which it may derive its name; the earthwork remains of Horsford castle lie c.2.2km south-east of the subject site.
- 1.2.4 It appears that the open areas of the site have generally been under pasture, with no clear evidence for arable cultivation, although it is feasible that this land was ploughed during and after the second world war.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 A full consideration of the archaeological and historical background has been presented in a desk-based assessment previously prepared for the site (Clarke 2010). A summary of this is given below.

Archaeological Sources: The Norfolk Historic Environment Record

- 1.3.2 A 1km search of the archaeological and historical record around the study area was commissioned from Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (NLA). The NHER is a computerised database of all listed and other historic buildings and all known archaeological sites, historic parks and gardens and other historic landscape features in the county, plotted onto linked digital mapping, and often backed by photographs, drawings and substantial written accounts.
- 1.3.3 There have been very few archaeological investigations within Horsford generally and none within the study area. The two documented sites listed on Heritage Gateway comprise an earthwork survey and cartographic study within the park to the north of the castle (Cushion 2003) and a watching brief to the south of the village for the Horsford to Norwich Airport Underground Cable (Phillips 2000). The latter recorded post-medieval and modern features.
- 1.3.4 There are no HER entries within the study area, although there are several in the vicinity. The position of the HER records is not illustrated in this report, although a map is presented in the desk based assessment report (Clarke 2010)

Prehistoric

- 1.3.5 A number of chance finds within the parish (but mainly outside the search area) are indicative of earlier prehistoric activity and include Mesolithic worked flints and nine Neolithic flint axeheads. One of these (NHER 15183) was discovered a few hundred metres to the south of the subject site.
- 1.3.6 Probably the most significant remains are those of a Bronze Age barrow cemetery (grouped as NHER 52449) within Horsford Woods and Heath less than a kilometre to the north-east of the subject site on the opposite side of Holt Road. This comprises a group of at least ten possible barrows (burial mounds), some of which are as yet unconfirmed despite systematic study of the available aerial photographs. The dispersed cemetery covers an area of approximately 2.2km by 0.5km of heathland and plantation and includes two large embanked barrows with double concentric ring ditches. Two oval barrows (NHER 7772 and 7773) and three further round barrows (NHER 7774, 7777 and 52450) are also visible as earthworks. One of the oval barrows (NHER 7773) survives to around 1m high and about 30m in diameter; both this and NHER 7772 appear to respect the 35m contour line. Two possible ring ditches within the cemetery are identified as vegetation marks (NHER 52450 and 52426 and 52450).
- 1.3.7 In addition, two previously-reported round barrows (NHER 7775 and 5245) and two ring ditches (NHER 7776 and 7778) within this area could not be confirmed by this recent study of the aerial photographs.

Iron Age and Roman

- 1.3.8 There is very little evidence of Roman occupation within the vicinity of the study area, or within the village generally. Finds include a Roman brooch (NHER 35253) found during a metal-detecting survey in 2000 in a field to the west of Houghen Plantation and a Roman coin of Antonius Pius (NHER 12305) discovered in a garden c.1km to the east of the study area.
- 1.3.9 A faint fragmentary linear ditch (NHER 53205) identified as a cropmark for a length of over 600m on a north northeast-south southwest alignment within Horsford Castle Park may date to the Roman period.

Saxon and medieval

- 1.3.10 Metal-detected finds to the west of Houghen Plantation (NHER 35253) include two Middle Saxon brooches, a Middle Saxon pin, a Late Saxon bridle cheek piece, and medieval coins.
- 1.3.11 Earthworks of possible medieval tofts with an associated field system and a pre-enclosure trackway (NHER 29480) have been identified on aerial photographs close to Poplars Farm to the south of the study area. A 15th century copper alloy ring (NHER 15897), perhaps depicting a dove and an olive branch, was found on an allotment just to the east of this.
- 1.3.12 Several cropmarks that could represent fragmentary medieval or later fieldsystems and trackways have also been identified on aerial photographs to the west (NHER 52455) and north-east (NHER 52452 and 52453) of the study area and within Horsford castle park (NHER 53207).

Post-medieval to modern

- 1.3.13 Finds of post-medieval date, including a ring and coins, have been found by metal-detecting survey to the west of Houghen Plantation (NHER 35253).
- 1.3.14 Many of the linear and fragmentary cropmarks mentioned above could be post-medieval in origin but have yet to be tested by excavation. A linear bank and ditch (NHER 40146) recorded on the western edge of Horsford castle park are undated but likely to be post-medieval in date.
- 1.3.15 St Helen's tower windmill (Listed Building (II) 228425; NHER 7792), located on the eastern side of Holt Road, was probably built in 1858 and replaced an earlier smock mill on the same site. It was last used in 1912 or 1920 and originally had five storeys.
- 1.3.16 Other buildings of note within the village are the Dog public house, a 17th century building that was possibly originally a house, and Horsford Hall, which was also built in the 17th century.
- 1.3.17 More recent activity includes a World War Two searchlight battery (NHER 53203) and bomb crater (NHER 53204) to the east of the village and slit practice trenches (NHER 52438) within St Faith's Common to the north of the study area.

Undated

- 1.3.18 As yet undated features include earthworks of a charcoal-burning site (NHER 22631) on the northern edge of St Faiths Common, linear cropmarks of possible geological origin to the east of Holt Road (NHER 52454) and evidence of quarrying within Horsford Woods (NHER 52602).
- 1.3.19 Undated iron working waste and fragments of furnace (NHER 7782) were also found less than a kilometre to the west of the study area after a field had been ploughed for the first time in 1971.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Lovells Partnerships Ltd for commissioning and funding the evaluation. Particular thanks go to Russell Edwards and Corin Pitchers for their assistance on site. The excavation was supervised by the author, with the assistance of Graeme Clarke and Mick Boyle. Rachel Clarke surveyed the site and provided operational support. The excavator was operated by Carl of Bryn Williams Engineering.

Steve Critchly carried out the metal detector survey and the project was managed by Paul Sperry.

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. Specific Objectives will be:

- to investigate whether the barrow cemetery identified to the north-east in Horsford Woods, or any contemporary/associated remains, extends within the development area.
- To investigate whether the barrow cemetery became a focus for later settlement.

As noted in the Brief (Hamilton 2010), Bronze Age cemeteries are often associated with later occupation, forming foci for both settlement and burial. This is reiterated in the Research Agenda which highlights 'the development and use of monuments, including burial mounds, as key elements in determining and understanding the landscape... this may be exemplified by the integration of practices once associated with monuments into settlements, and the appearance of enclosed settlements, some of which were of monumental character, during the later Bronze Age' (Brown and Murphy 2000, 10).

2.1.4 In the event that archaeological remains are present the evaluation will seek to consider appropriate methodologies and suitable resourcing levels for excavation.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The Brief required that a 5% sample of the development area be excavated, equating to c.650m of linear trenching. However, the presence of extant buildings, together with overhead and underground services, resulted in this total being reduced to c.500m. Due to further underground services being located while on site, the total trenching excavated was 465m, with a 2.10m wide bucket.

2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with an 18 tonne, tracked 360 excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.

2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by Rachel Clarke using a Leica GPS 1200.

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 Site conditions were generally good, although cold. It rained on the final day of work.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 Full details of each trench are given in Appendix A, with a summary presented below.

3.2 Trenches 1, 4, 7, 12, 14, 15 and 16

3.2.1 These trenches were not excavated, due to the presence of standing buildings, along with underground and overhead services.

3.3 Trenches 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 17 and 18

3.3.1 No archaeological features were identified in any of these trenches. In addition, no finds were recovered from the topsoil during machining. In some of the trenches small areas of tree root disturbance were visible, along with probable plough scarring.

3.4 Trench 11 (fig. 3)

3.4.1 A series of parallel features were identified in this trench. They were all oriented northeast to southwest and continued out of the excavated area to the northeast. Two of these were excavated and were shown to be on average 0.60m wide and 0.08m deep. Their fill strongly suggested a modern origin.

3.5 Trench 13 (fig. 3)

3.5.1 A large circular pit was identified in this trench, which on excavation was found to contain a bicycle tyre. This evidently modern feature was not excavated to its base.

3.5.2 Two linear features were also identified in this trench. The fill of these was paler than that of other plough scars on the site. However, excavation showed that they were very shallow (maximum 0.06m deep) and almost certainly plough scars.

3.6 Finds Summary

3.6.1 No archaeological finds were recovered from the site.

3.7 Environmental Summary

3.7.1 No environmental samples were taken, as no archaeological features were identified.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 No archaeological finds or features were recorded during this evaluation. The lack of finds in the topsoil suggests that archaeological features have not been ploughed out or truncated, but were never present in the area evaluated. This is unexpected, given the proximity of the site to a large barrow cemetery.
- 4.1.2 The presence of several tree boles would seem to confirm the previous use of the site as a pine plantation (Clarke 2010). The presence of possible plough scars was unexpected, as ploughing was not previously recorded on the site. However, these may relate to a single episode of cultivation. The modern features identified in trench 11 are almost certainly the result of cultivation, perhaps potato trenches.
- 4.1.3 The lack of archaeological finds or features recorded during this evaluation strongly suggests that this site has not been used for any archaeologically visible activity.
- 4.1.4 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by Norfolk Landscape Archaeology.

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 2						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil overlying a natural of sand.				Avg. depth (m)		0.4
				Width (m)		2.10
				Length (m)		39
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 3						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil overlying a natural of sand.				Avg. depth (m)		0.35
				Width (m)		2.1
				Length (m)		60
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 5						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil overlying a natural of sand.				Avg. depth (m)		0.5
				Width (m)		2.1
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.5	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 6						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil overlying a natural of sand.				Avg. depth (m)		0.35
				Width (m)		2.1
				Length (m)		38
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 8						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil overlying a natural of sand.				Avg. depth (m)		0.4
				Width (m)		2.1
				Length (m)		60
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 9						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil overlying a natural of sand.				Avg. depth (m)		0.45
				Width (m)		2.1
				Length (m)		40
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.45	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 10						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil overlying a natural of sand.				Avg. depth (m)		0.4
				Width (m)		2.1
				Length (m)		25.5
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 11						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil overlying a natural of sand. A series of shallow parallel features represent modern agricultural features.				Avg. depth (m)		0.4
				Width (m)		2.1
				Length (m)		60
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 13						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil overlying a natural of sand.				Avg. depth (m)		0.45
				Width (m)		2.1
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.45	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 17						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil overlying a natural of sand.				Avg. depth (m)		0.4
				Width (m)		2.1
				Length (m)		54
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 18						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of sand.				Avg. depth (m)		0.35
				Width (m)		2.1
				Length (m)		28
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-

APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Brown, N, and Murphy, P. 2000; 'Neolithic and Bronze Age' in Brown and Glazebrook (eds) 2000 *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 2: research agenda and strategy EAA Occasional Paper 8*, pp9-13.
- Clarke, R. 2010; *Land at Pinelands Industrial Estate, Horsford, Norfolk. Desk-based assessment*. Oxford Archaeology East report no. 1197.
- Cushion, B, 2003; *Horsford: archaeological earthwork investigation, North of Castle*. Norfolk Landscape Archaeology Report
- Hamilton, K, 2010; *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching at Pinelands Industrial Estate, Norfolk*.

APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-90034		
Project Name	Pinelands Industrial Estate, Horsford		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	14-12-2010	Finish	16-12-2010
Previous Work (by OA East)	Yes	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	ENF 125471	Planning App. No.	20100774
HER No.	ENF125471	Related HER/OASIS No.	n/a

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Housing Estate

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input checked="" 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
none	Select period...	none	Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Norfolk	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Norwich	Pinelands Industrial Estate, Holt Road, Horsford NR10 3EB	
Parish	Horsford		
HER	Norfolk		
Study Area	2.5ha	National Grid Reference	TG 18713 16966

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Ken Hamilton
Project Design Originator	Rachel Clarke
Project Manager	Paul Spoerry
Supervisor	Nick Gilmour

Project Archives

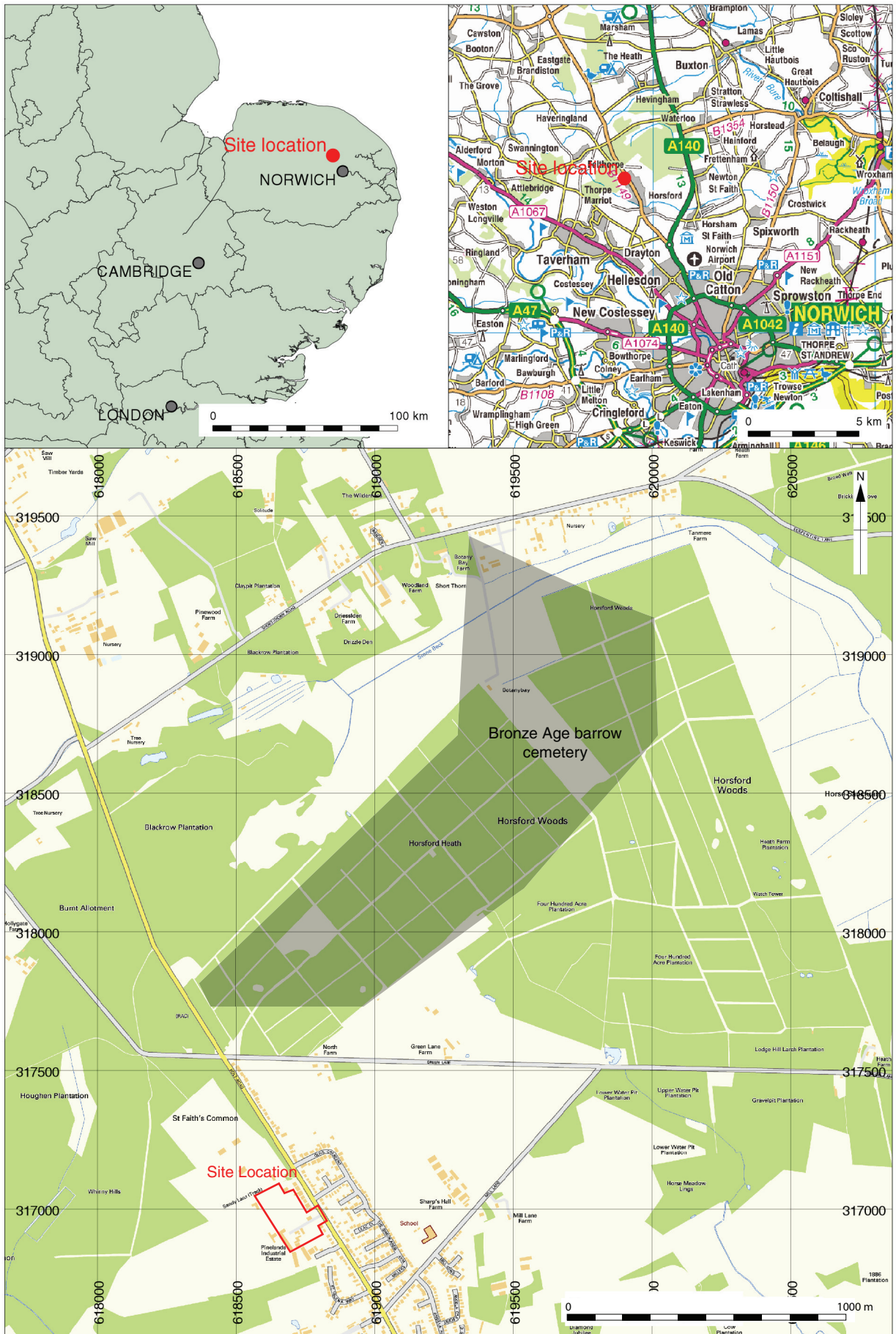
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Norfolk County Stores	OA East office, Bar Hill	Norfolk county Stores
ENF 125471	XNFPEH10	ENF 125471

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing
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<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.
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" 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



Figure 2: Trench plan

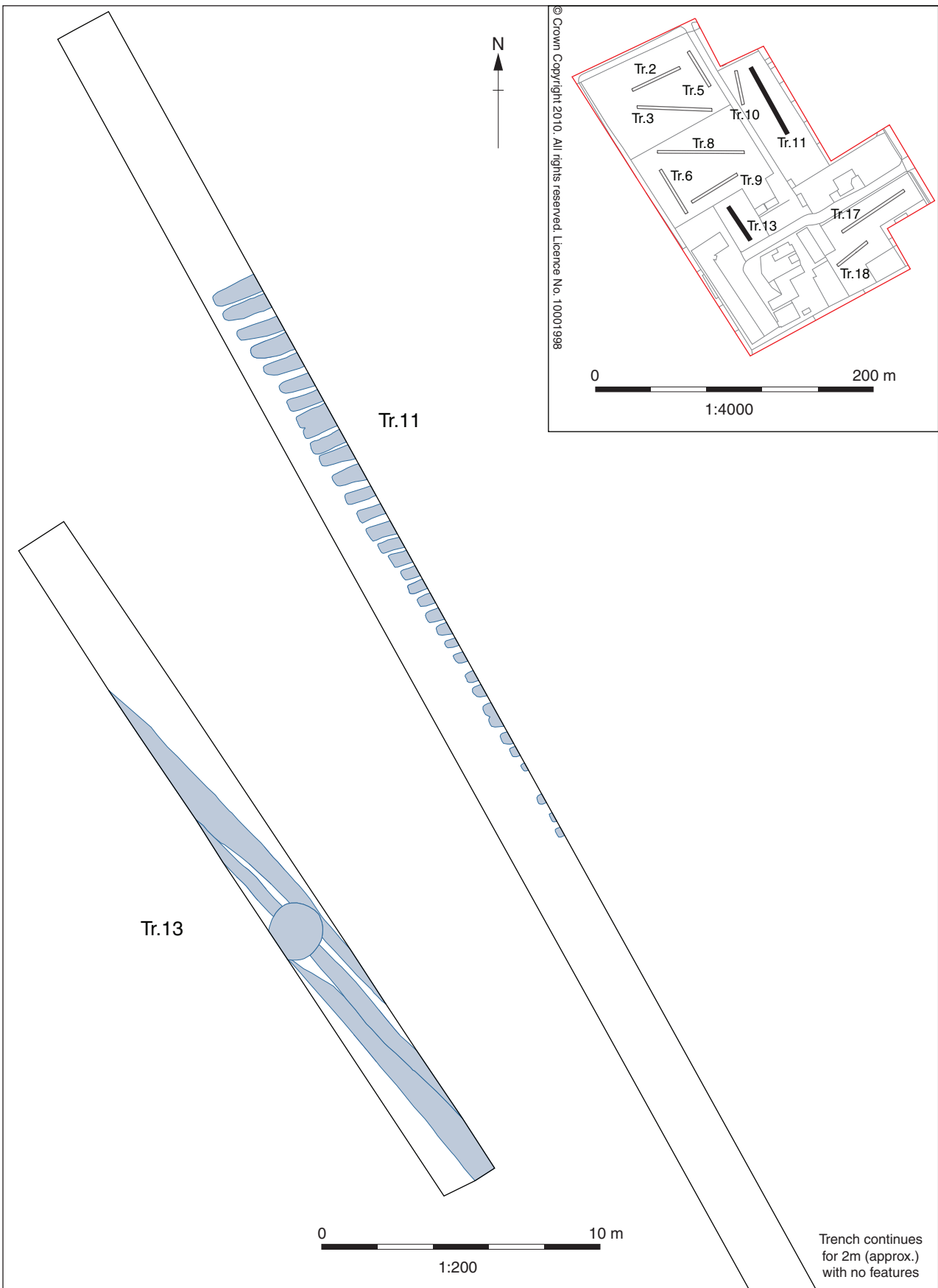


Figure 3: Modern features (blue) in trenches 11 and 13



Plate 2: Trench 13 from the south

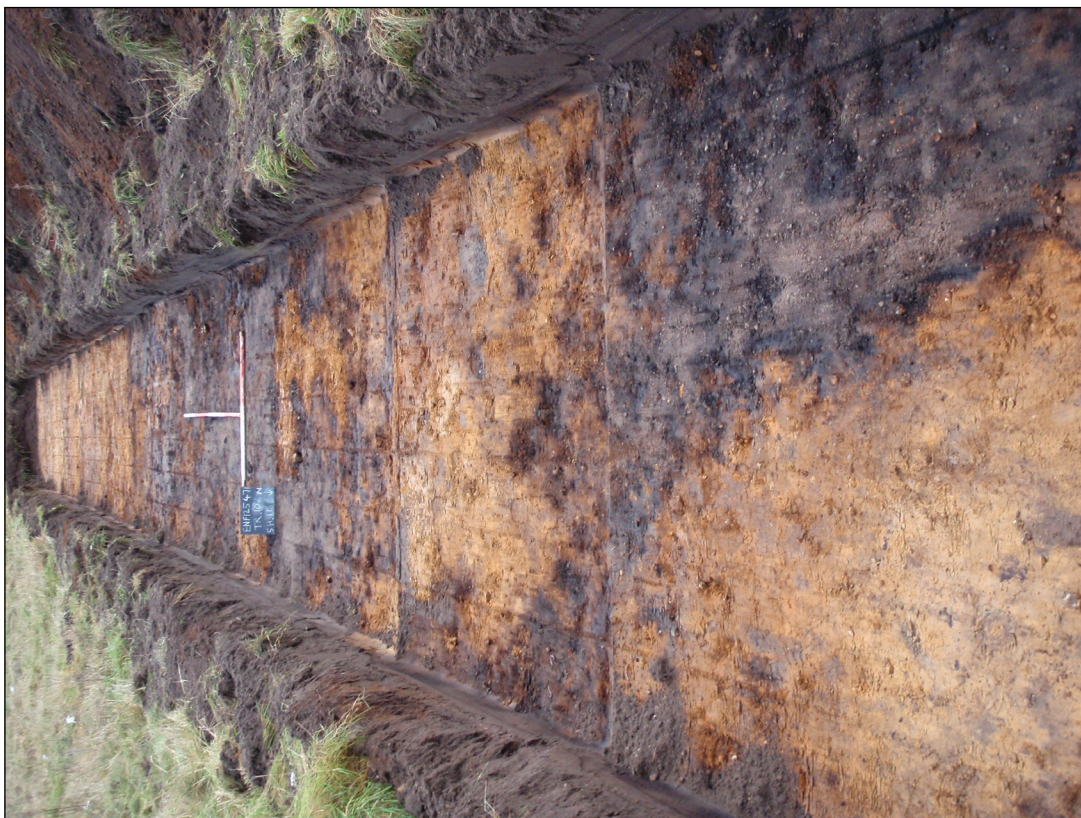


Plate 1: Trench 10 from the North, showing tree root disturbance



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