

Land North of Back Street, Gayton, Norfolk



Archaeological Evaluation Report



January 2016

**Client: CgMs Ltd on behalf of
Gayton Estate**

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Land North of Back Street, Gayton, Norfolk

Archaeological Evaluation

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Table of Contents

Summary.....	5
1 Introduction.....	6
1.1 Location and scope of work.....	6
1.2 Geology and topography.....	6
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	6
1.4 Acknowledgements.....	7
2 Aims and Methodology.....	8
2.1 Aims.....	8
2.2 Methodology.....	8
3 Results.....	9
3.1 Introduction.....	9
3.2 Trenches devoid of archaeological features.....	9
3.3 Trenches containing archaeological features (Fig 3 and 4).....	9
3.4 Finds Summary.....	15
3.5 Environmental Summary.....	16
4 Discussion and Conclusions.....	17
4.1 Possible Marling ditches.....	17
4.2 Possible Medieval Square Enclosure.....	17
4.3 Post-medieval Boundary.....	17
4.4 Earthworks.....	18
4.5 Geophysics Results.....	19
4.6 Significance.....	19
4.7 Recommendations.....	19
Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory.....	20
Appendix B. Finds Reports.....	28
B.1 Pottery.....	28
Appendix C. Environmental Reports.....	30
C.1 Environmental samples.....	30
C.2 Faunal Remains.....	31
Bibliography.....	34
OASIS Report Form.....	36

List of Figures

- Fig. 1 Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red)
- Fig. 2 Plan of evaluation trenches, overlain on geophysics results
- Fig. 3 Plan of trenches 2-7
- Fig. 4 Plan of trenches 9-10 and 12-14
- Fig. 5 Section 14
- Fig. 6 Selected sections

List of Plates

- Plate. 1 Trench 1, looking west
- Plate. 2 Trench 8, looking north-north-west
- Plate. 3 Ditch **97**, Trench 4, looking south-south-east
- Plate. 4 Ditches **118** and **120**, Trench 7, looking west towards the earthworks
- Plate. 5 Linear feature **53**, Trench 10, looking west-south-west
- Plate. 6 East-north-east facing section of Trench 10 showing layer 78
- Plate. 7 Ditch **31**, Trench 12, looking north-north-east
- Plate 8. East-north-east facing section of Trench 14 showing layers 76 and 77

List of Tables

- Table. 1 Pottery type by context
- Table. 2 Environmental samples
- Table. 3 Identifiable fragments and No of individuals represented
- Table. 4 A summary of butchery and pathology

Summary

Between the 7th and 16th December 2015 Oxford Archaeology East undertook an archaeological evaluation at land north of Back Street, Gayton, Norfolk (TF 72607 19054). This evaluation comprised 14 trenches varying in length between 20m and 50m. A geophysical survey took place prior to evaluation which gathered a number of positive responses, some of which appeared to be ditches representing boundaries or enclosures. In most cases where responses occurred features were uncovered although the geophysics did not locate all archaeological features encountered on site. The majority of the trenches (11 in total) were in the main field, two were in horse paddocks and one was in a farmyard.

Three of the trenches were devoid of archaeology (Trench 1, 8 and 11). The features uncovered elsewhere largely comprised ditches, although pits, post holes and other deposits were identified. A series of parallel linear features may represent marling ditches, field divisions or cultivation strips, most likely medieval in date. A large square enclosure was also present, which is also likely to be medieval in date. Post-medieval or early modern field boundaries were identified, particularly on the eastern edge of the site.

A number of earthworks are present in the western end of the site, one of which was investigated. Here bank material was noted along with three ditches. A further six ditches were identified with either an east to west or east-north-east to west-south-west alignment in trenches 5 and 7. Here no bank material was recorded possibly due to modern ploughing, however these ditches are thought to relate in some way to the earthworks seen to the west. These ditches and earthworks appear to be enclosed to the east by a large boundary ditch which is aligned roughly north to south. These features are most likely agricultural in origin as there is no evidence to suggest settlement.

Only a small assemblage of pottery was recovered from the site along with animal bone. A small assemblage of pottery was recovered from the site, the majority of which was medieval in date. There were also a few sherds of Iron Age and Roman date, suggesting land-use began in the Roman period or earlier.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at land north of Back Street, Gayton, Norfolk (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Norfolk County Council supplemented by a Specification prepared by Paul Gajos on behalf of CgMs.
- 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 Norfolk County Council, 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 geology on site consists of chalks of the West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation and Zig Zag Chalk Formations with no recorded superficial deposits (British Geological Survey). The site lies on reasonably level ground at 18m AOD just north of Back Street on arable farmland, paddocks and a yard area.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 A number of prehistoric finds spots and features have been recorded around Gayton. Approximately 400m west of the site a Bronze Age copper alloy axehead was found (NHER 21447). A Bronze Age copper alloy spearhead has also been recovered 500m to the north-west (NHER 11346). A possible Bronze Age Barrow cemetery is located 1km east of the site and is represented by twelve ring ditches visible as cropmarks (NHER 55861).
- 1.3.2 A Roman coin dating to Antoninus Pius was found 750m north-east of the development area (NHER 17579). A larger area of Roman occupation is seen at Gayton Thorpe in the form of a Roman villa (NHER 3743).
- 1.3.3 An archaeological evaluation took place in 2011 at Wells Wondy Lane 800m to the north-east. This revealed a number of features dating to the prehistoric, Anglo Saxon and medieval periods (NHER 58139).
- 1.3.4 Within the western part of the site are a number of earthworks running roughly east to west (NHER 35473), these are interpreted as being medieval in date however little else is known about them. It is suggested that there could be the possibility of settlement remains as these earthworks may represent plot boundaries or braided trackways. One of these earthworks is due to be excavated during the evaluation. Further earthworks can be seen south of Back Street (NHER 35474). A medieval settlement is seen in the form of earthworks 650m north-west of the proposed development area (NHER 3748). This comprises a possible hollow way which leads northwards to a complicated group of earthworks including building platforms. The earthworks are bounded to the south by a ditch, ridge and furrow are also present to the north of these earthworks (Cushion & Davison: 2003).

- 1.3.5 Further evidence for medieval activity can be seen in the form of a medieval cross which is located within the village (NHER 12438). Near to the medieval cross an 18th century cottage has been partially built using medieval stone quoins (NHER 17382).
- 1.3.6 South-east of the site (250m) a medieval moat and fish ponds have been recorded (NHER 3771). The medieval moat surrounds a rectangular island. The two fish ponds are rectangular in shape and lie to the south of the moat, these are thought to date to the 19th century. These fish ponds are thought to relate to Gayton Hall directly to the east (NHER 46883), this brick house was built in 1800.
- 1.3.7 St Nicholas Church is situated 350m east of the proposed development area (NHER 3770). It is thought that the church as it is today was largely built in the 14th century although there are signs of earlier reused stones and an earlier lower roof inside the tower. Saxon pottery found in the churchyard may help support this interpretation.
- 1.3.8 A number of listed buildings are noted in the village of Gayton dating from the 17th to 19th century; an old school built in 1851 (NHER 55229), Orchard Farm House (NHER 33845), Pump Cottage (NHER 53805), Bridge House (NHER 39769), The Crown Inn (NHER 33844), Mill House (NHER 46810) and Gayton Windmill (NHER 5271).

Geophysical survey

- 1.3.9 A geophysical survey was undertaken in September 2015 on the arable area of site (to the east of the earthworks). This survey identified a number of linear features some of which appear to be field boundaries pre-dating the 19th century tithe mapping of the parish. A number of other positive responses occurred which may represent further archaeological features but may also indicate periglacial activity (Parker & Whittingham: 2015).

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Alistair Beales the land manager for his help on site and Paul Gajos of CgMs for working on behalf of the client Gayton Estate. Thanks to James Albone for monitoring the work and to Tom Phillips for managing the project. The fieldwork was undertaken by the author with the assistance of Dave Browne, Toby Knight, Nick Cox and Malgorzata Kwiatkowska.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The objectives of this evaluation are

- 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.
- To assess vulnerability/sensitivity of any exposed remains and to inform a strategy to avoid or mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains.
- To investigate positive responses located by the geophysical survey.
- To gain more understanding about the function of the known earthworks in the western part of the site.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 Fourteen trenches were excavated of varying lengths, the majority of which were located in the main field, two within the paddocks close to the earthworks and one within the yard area.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360 excavator using a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site was located to Ordnance Survey using a Leica GS08 GPS system.
- 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 Environmental sampling took place on six features deemed to be of potential interest.
- 2.2.7 Site conditions ranged from dry to wet. Some of the features within trenches 1-7 did contain water once excavated.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 A total of 14 trenches were excavated, three of which were devoid of archaeology. The trenches varied in length between 20m and 50m. Many of these trenches were targeted to investigate positive responses detected during the geophysical survey, in the majority of cases features corresponded with recorded responses (Fig. 2). The trenches devoid of archaeology will be discussed briefly first followed by those containing archaeology.

3.2 Trenches devoid of archaeological features

Trench 1, 8 and 11 (Fig. 2)

- 3.2.1 Trench 1 was located within the yard area of the farm and measured 20m in length (Plate 1). This trench was aligned east to west and consisted of modern make-up layers. Layer 17 consisted of a light whitish yellow silty chalk measuring 0.5m deep. This layer was very similar to the natural, however modern inclusions, such as ceramic building material were present within this layer. Overlying this was layer 16 which consisted of a dark brown grey silty clay measuring 0.25m deep. Layer 15 measured 0.2m deep and consisted of chalk. Layer 14 appeared to form part of the yard surface itself comprising of a dark silty clay with very frequent medium sized angular stone inclusions, this layer measured 0.15m deep. Overlying this is layer 13 measuring 0.15m deep, it consisted of a light yellow brown silt containing frequent stone inclusions. Layer 12 represents the current yard surface which measured 0.15m deep.
- 3.2.2 Trench 8 was located in the main field, it measured 50m in length and was aligned north-north-west to south-south-east (Plate. 2). This trench contained topsoil (1) measuring 0.25m deep and subsoil (2) measuring 0.3m deep, overlying a chalk natural.
- 3.2.3 Trench 11 was also located in the main field, it measured 50m in length and was aligned east-north-east to west-south-west. This trench contained topsoil (1) measuring 0.25m deep and subsoil (2) measuring 0.15m deep overlying a chalk natural.

3.3 Trenches containing archaeological features (Fig 3 and 4)

Trench 2

- 3.3.1 Trench 2 was located in the eastern paddock, due to constraints this trench had to be moved and shortened and in doing so was aligned approximately east to west and measured 12m in length. Further constraints were met when excavating this trench as space for spoil was limited. Pit 18 was hand excavated to a depth of 0.5m and was approximately 8m in length. A single fill was excavated from this pit (19); it contained a single sherd of pottery dating between the late 12th to early 14th century AD, animal bone and late medieval brick.
- 3.3.2 An attempt was made to machine excavate this pit further which revealed that this pit had a depth of at least 0.8m. Machine excavation had to cease due to the limited space available for storing spoil, which meant the pit's full extent was not recorded.

Trench 3

- 3.3.3 Trench 3 was located within the western paddock and was positioned to investigate a known earthwork. This trench measured 20m in length and was aligned north-west to south-east. A series of ditches were present in this trench (20, 21 and 46) along with a known bank (Fig. 5, section 14). Ditch 20 had a north-west to south-east alignment, this

ditch measured 1.6m wide and 0.3m deep, its single fill (43) contained animal bone. Bank 22 overlay the eastern edge of Ditch **20**.

- 3.3.4 Ditch **46** was aligned north-east to south-west and measured 1.8m wide and 0.4m deep. This ditch contained a single fill (45) with no finds. Ditches **20** and **46** were both sealed by bank material 22 (also known as 44), this layer measured 0.4m deep. Animal bone was recovered from this deposit. This bank material forms the earthwork that can be seen on the surface as a slightly raised linear earthwork.
- 3.3.5 Ditch **21** had a north-east to south-west alignment and measured 3m wide and 0.9m deep. This ditch contained two fills, the basal fill (42) measured 0.3m deep and consisted of a dark grey sandy silt which contained animal bone. The uppermost fill (41) measured 0.6m deep and consisted of a dark orange brown sandy silt and contained no finds.
- 3.3.6 Ditch **21** appeared to cut the bank material (22 and 44) and ditches **20** and **46** pre-date the bank material. This is one of five earthworks seen running roughly north-east to south-west, this one seen in Trench 3 being the most southerly. None of the ditches present seem to be contemporary with the linear earthwork.

Trench 4

- 3.3.7 Trench 4 was located to the west of the main field measuring 25m in length. This trench was aligned east-north-east to west-south-west. This trench contained a series of ditches (**97**, **109**, **112**, **114**) and two small pits (**72** and **74**).
- 3.3.8 Pit **72** was located roughly centrally within the trench and measured 0.6m wide and 0.24m deep. This pit contained a single fill (73), a light to mid whitish grey clayey silt which contained pottery dating from the late 12th to early 14th century and animal bone.
- 3.3.9 Pit **74** was located just south-east of pit **72**. Pit **74** measured 0.49m wide and 0.2m deep, its single fill (75) contained no finds.
- 3.3.10 Ditch **97** was located at the eastern end of the trench and had a north to south alignment (Fig. 6, section 35 and Plate 3). This ditch measured 2.4m wide and 0.45m deep, its single fill (98) contained animal bone. This ditch matches a linear feature identified from the geophysical survey.
- 3.3.11 A series of three ditches are located at the western end of the trench. Ditch **109** was the most westerly and had a north-north-west to south-south-east alignment. This ditch measured 1.4m wide and 0.6m deep and contained two fills. The basal fill (110) measured 0.1m deep and consisted of a dark brown grey clayey silt with occasional stone and chalk lump inclusions. The uppermost fill (111) measured 0.5m deep and consisted of a mid brown grey clayey silt with occasional stone and chalk lump inclusions. No finds were recovered from either fills.
- 3.3.12 Ditch **114** had a north-north-west to south-south-east alignment, its full extent is unknown as it had been truncated on the western side by ditch **112** and may in fact be the eastern side of ditch **109**. The portion of the ditch remaining measured 0.84m wide and 0.1m deep, its single fill (115) contained no finds.
- 3.3.13 Ditch **112** truncated ditches **109** and **114**. This ditch had a north-north-west to south-south-east alignment and measured 0.8m wide and 0.2m deep. Its single fill (113) consisted of a mid orange brown clayey silt containing occasional stone inclusions and no finds.

- 3.3.14 The ditches in this trench (**97**, **109**, **112** and **114**) are thought to continue into Trench 6 (**83**, **84**, **85** and **86**).

Trench 5

- 3.3.15 Trench 5 was located at the western end of the main field and measured 25m in length. This trench had a north-north-west to south-south-east alignment and contained a number of ditches (**87**, **89**, **92** and **95**) on two alignments.
- 3.3.16 Ditch **92** was aligned east-north-east to west-south-west and measured 2.1m wide and 0.5m deep (Fig. 6, section 33). This ditch contained two fills, the basal fill (93) measured 0.3m deep and consisted of a dark brown grey clayey silt which contained flint and chalk inclusions along with animal bone. The uppermost fill (94) measured 0.2m deep and consisted of a mid orange brown sandy silt with rare flint and chalk inclusions, it contained no finds. This ditch appears to be truncated by Ditch **87**
- 3.3.17 Ditch **87** was located at the southern end of the trench and had a north to south alignment. This ditch measured 1.52m wide and 0.34m deep (Fig. 6, section 31), its fill (88) contained pottery dating from the late 12th to early 14th century and animal bone. This fill was also environmentally sampled and was found to contain wheat and elderberry seeds.
- 3.3.18 Ditch **89** had an east-north-east to west-south-west alignment, it measured 2.4m wide and 0.5m deep. This ditch contained two fills, the basal fill (91) measured 0.25m deep and consisted of a mid to dark brown grey clayey silt containing occasional stone inclusions and animal bone. The uppermost fill (90) measured 0.25m deep and consisted of a mid grey brown silt which contained occasional stone and flint inclusions along with animal bone. This ditch aligns with a linear feature identified from the geophysics.
- 3.3.19 Ditch **95** had an east-north-east to west-south-west alignment, it measured 0.4m wide and 0.2m deep. This ditch contained a single fill (96) which contained no finds.
- 3.3.20 Ditches **89** and **95** were truncated by Ditch **79** which shall be discussed further in Trench 7. The ditches present in this trench (**87**, **89**, **92** and **95**) can not be seen continuing into any trenches to the north or east, perhaps therefore suggesting that these ditches relate to the area to the west where the earthworks are located.

Trench 6

- 3.3.21 Trench 6 was located at the western end of the main field and measured 25m in length. This trench had an east to west alignment and contained four ditches (**85**, **83**, **84** and **86**; Fig. 6, section 36 and 37) which had a roughly north to south alignment. All of these ditches were identified during the geophysical survey.
- 3.3.22 Ditch **84** had a north to south alignment and measured 2.8m wide and 1m deep. This ditch contained three fills. The basal fill (103) measured 0.7m wide and 0.3m deep and consisted of a dark grey brown sandy silt containing stone and charcoal inclusions. No finds were recovered from this fill, however an environmental sample contained elderberry seeds along with waterlogged plant material, particularly nettle and bramble seeds. Overlying this was fill 102 which measured 1.5m wide at its widest point and 0.5m deep. This fill consisted of a mid reddish brown silt. The uppermost fill (101) measured 2.8m wide and 0.7m deep, it consisted of a mid grey sandy silt which contained stone and chalk inclusions. This fill also contained animal bone and two sherds of pottery, one of which was a Thetford type ware dating from the 10th to 11th century. The other sherd dates from the late 12th to early 14th century.

- 3.3.23 Ditch **83** cut the upper fill of Ditch **84**. Ditch **83** had a north to south alignment, it measured 2.1m wide and 0.7m deep. This ditch contained two fills, the basal fill (100) measured 0.2m deep and consisted of a light brown silty sand containing flint and chalk inclusions. The uppermost fill (99) measured 0.5m deep and consisted of a mid brown silt containing frequent chalk inclusions. Pottery was recovered from this fill dating from the late 12th to early 14th century.
- 3.3.24 To the east of ditches **83** and **84** was Ditch **85**. Ditch **85** had a north to south alignment, it measured 2.6m wide and 0.5m deep. This ditch contained three fills, the basal fill (106) measured 1m wide and 0.4m deep it consisted of a light grey brown sandy silt which contained rare flint and chalk inclusions. No finds were recovered from this fill. Overlying this was fill 105 which measured 2m wide and 0.1m deep, it consisted of a light brown grey sandy silt containing occasional flint and chalk inclusions and no finds. The uppermost fill (104) measured 1.5m wide and 0.5m deep and consisted of a mid reddish brown silt.
- 3.3.25 Ditch **86** was located at the eastern end of the trench and had a roughly north to south alignment. This ditch measured 2.5m wide and 0.6m deep and contained two fills. The basal fill (108) measured 0.6m deep and consisted of a dark grey brown sandy silt containing rare stone and chalk inclusions. This fill also contained animal bone. The uppermost fill (107) consisted of a mid reddish brown sandy silt containing rare stone and chalk inclusions along with pottery dating from the 11th to early 14th century.

Trench 7

- 3.3.26 Trench 7 was located towards the west end of the main field and contained four ditches (**79**, **81**, **118** and **120**). A modern truncation was also present at the northern end which led to the trench being extended to the east by 1.5m.
- 3.3.27 Ditch **81** was aligned roughly east to west, it measured 2.2m wide and 0.28m deep. This ditch contained a single fill (82) which contained no finds.
- 3.3.28 Ditch **120** was aligned east-north-east to west-south-west, it measured 2.8m wide and 0.55m deep (Fig. 6, section 40). This ditch contained two fills, the basal fill (121) measured 0.3m deep and consisted of a dark brown grey clayey silt containing occasional stones and chalk lumps, along with animal bone. This fill appeared partially waterlogged and an environmental sample contained elderberry seeds and waterlogged plant material including nettle, hawthorn and fumitory. The uppermost fill (122) measured 0.25m deep and consisted of a mid reddish brown silt containing occasional stone and flint inclusions along with animal bone. Ditch **120** potentially runs parallel and is associated with an earthwork which can be seen to the east of the trench (Plate 4). Unfortunately the combination of ploughing and the modern truncation has meant that within Trench 7 no exact relationship could be determined as no bank material was observed.
- 3.3.29 Ditch **120** was truncated on its northern side by Ditch **118**. Ditch **118** had an east-north-east to west-south-west alignment, it measured 2m wide and 0.2m deep. Its single fill (119) was similar to that of Ditch **120** (mid reddish brown silt), this fill contained brick dating to the 14th or 15th century (*Rob Atkins pers comm*).
- 3.3.30 Ditch **79** had a roughly north to south alignment and truncated all other ditches seen in this trench (**81**, **118**, **120**). This ditch measured 0.6m wide and 0.14m deep, its single fill (80) consisted of a mid reddish brown silt and contained no finds.

Trench 9

- 3.3.31 Trench 9 was located at the southern end of the main field and contained a number of naturally occurring features, a sample of which were excavated, along with three ditches (**37**, **39**, **116**). This trench measured 50m in length and was aligned east-south-east to west-north-west.
- 3.3.32 A natural feature was excavated at the eastern end of the trench. Natural feature **35** measured 0.54m wide and 0.25m deep. This feature contained a single fill (36) with no finds.
- 3.3.33 Ditch **37** had a north-north-west to south-south-east alignment, it measured 0.5m wide and 0.15m deep. This ditch contained a single fill (38) which contained no finds. Running parallel to this was Ditch **116** which measured 0.54m wide and 0.04m deep. This ditch contained a single fill (117) which contained no finds. No subsoil was present in this area of the trench and it appears that both ditches had been truncated by ploughing which has potentially removed any relationship between the two ditches.
- 3.3.34 Ditch **39** was at the western end of the trench on a roughly north to south alignment and was located by the geophysical survey. This ditch measured 0.7m wide and 0.3m deep and contained a single fill (40) which consisted of a mid grey brown sandy silt with no finds (Fig. 6, section 13).

Trench 10

- 3.3.35 Trench 10 was located in the centre of the main field aligned north-north-west to south-south-east and measured 50m in length. This trench contained a large number of features including linear features (**51**, **53**, **55**, **57**, **61**, **63** and **65**), tree throws (**47** and **49**) and a post hole (**59**).
- 3.3.36 Tree throw **47** was located at the southern end of the trench, it measured 1.62m wide and 0.28m deep (Fig. 6, section 16). This tree throw contained a single fill (48) which contained a single sherd of pottery dating from the 11th to 12th century. Directly to the north was tree throw **49** which measured 0.86m wide and 0.18m deep. This tree throw contained a single fill (50) which contained no finds.
- 3.3.37 Linear feature **51** had an east-north-east to west-south-west alignment, it measured 0.9m wide and 0.34m deep (Fig. 6, section 18). This linear feature had vertically sided edges and a flat bottom perhaps indicating its function to be something other than a ditch. It contained a single fill (52) which consisted of a mid grey brown silty sand containing no finds.
- 3.3.38 Linear feature **53** had an east-north-east to west-south-west alignment, it measured 0.82m wide and 0.38m deep (Plate. 5) This linear feature is similar in profile to Ditch **51** (vertical sides, flat bottom). It contained a single fill (54) which contained no finds.
- 3.3.39 Gully **55** had a north-east to south-west alignment, it measured 0.35m wide and 0.09m deep. This gully contained a single fill (56) which consisted of a light brown silty sand and contained no finds.
- 3.3.40 Linear feature **57** had an east-north-east to west-south-west alignment, it measured 0.88m wide and 0.38m deep (Fig. 6, section 21). This linear feature had a similar profile to other ditches seen in this trench (**51**, **53**). Its single fill (58) contained pottery dating to the mid 1st to early 2nd century and animal bone.
- 3.3.41 Post hole **59** measured 0.32m wide and 0.18m deep and contained a single fill (60) which contained no finds. This post hole may be part of something structural, the rest of which has not survived.

- 3.3.42 Linear feature **61** truncated post hole **59** on its northern edge. Ditch **61** had an east-north-east to west-south-west alignment, it measured 0.82m wide and 0.4m deep. This ditch contained a single fill (62) which contained a sherd of Early Iron Age pottery and animal bone. This ditch is similar in profile to others seen in this trench (**51, 53, 57**).
- 3.3.43 Ditch **63** had an east-north-east to west-south-west alignment, it measured 0.62m wide and 0.11 deep. Its single fill (64) consisted of a dark grey brown silty sand and contained animal bone.
- 3.3.44 Ditch **65** had an east-north-east to west-south-west alignment, it measured 1.26m wide and 0.38m deep. Its fill (66) consisted of a mid grey brown silty sand with occasional chalk and stone inclusions. This fill was environmentally sampled and contained wheat grains. A single sherd of possible Saxon pottery was also recovered from this sample. This feature has a slightly different profile to the other linear features on the same alignment, with less vertical sides and a more concave base. This ditch is thought to be the southern side of the square enclosure which was identified from the geophysical survey.
- 3.3.45 Layer 67 can be seen at the northern end of the trench, a 1m square test pit was excavated into this deposit where it was seen to be 0.11m deep. This layer was also present in section (here known as 78) and is thought to represent a spread of material which had been sealed by the subsoil. Layer 67 consisted of a mid grey brown sandy silt. In the section where this layer was recorded as layer 78 it measured 0.28m deep (Plate 6).
- 3.3.46 The majority of the linear features present in this trench were primarily recorded as ditches (**51, 53, 57** and **61**), however their shape and size suggest that they in fact had a different function as either marling ditches or hand dug strip-field divisions. Many of these were identified from the geophysics.

Trench 12

- 3.3.47 Trench 12 was located at the eastern side of the main field and was aligned north-west to south-east. This trench measured 50m in length and consisted of a four ditches (**31, 33, 68** and **70**).
- 3.3.48 Ditch **31** was aligned north-north-west to south-south-east, it measured 0.48m wide and 0.25m deep (Plate. 7). This ditch contained a single fill (32) which consisted of a mid brown grey clayey silt with occasional stone inclusions along with animal bone. This ditch was identified by the geophysical survey and appears to represent a plot boundary marked on the tithe map of the area which continues into Trench 13 (Ditch **29**).
- 3.3.49 Ditch **33** was aligned roughly east to west, it measured 0.66m wide and 0.2m deep. Its single fill (34) contained no finds. As with Ditch **31** this ditch was identified by the geophysical survey and represents the southern side of this boundary.
- 3.3.50 Ditch terminus **68** is seen at the north western end of the trench with a north to south alignment. This ditch measured 0.45m wide and 0.12m deep, its single fill (69) contained no finds.
- 3.3.51 Ditch **70** was also recorded at the north western end of the trench with a north to south alignment. This ditch was not excavated but measured 0.6m wide.

Trench 13

- 3.3.52 Trench 13 was located at the eastern end of the main field with an east-north-east to west-south-west alignment and measured 50m in length. This trench contained features

towards the eastern end, comprising two post holes (**23** and **25**), a tree throw (**27**) and a ditch (**29**).

- 3.3.53 Post hole **23** measured 0.54m wide and 0.28m deep. Its single fill (24) consisted of a mid reddish brown sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions and no finds.
- 3.3.54 Post hole **25** is located further east and measured 0.17m wide and 0.12m deep. Its single fill (26) consisted of a light brown grey clayey silt with occasional chalk lumps and no finds. Post holes **23** and **25** are probably not contemporary. Post hole **25** lies on the western side of Ditch **29** and may have formed part of a boundary associated with this ditch.
- 3.3.55 Tree throw **27** measured 1.1m wide and 0.18m deep. Its single fill (28) contained no finds.
- 3.3.56 Ditch **29** had a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment and its location was known prior to excavation and can be seen extending into Trench 12 (Ditch **31**). This ditch measured 0.72m wide and 0.2m deep (Fig. 6, section 13), its single fill (30) contained animal bone.

Trench 14

- 3.3.57 Trench 14 was located in the north-east corner of the main field aligned north-north-west to south-south-east and measured 50m in length. This was the deepest trench in the main field due to buried soils being present at the northern end (76 and 77).
- 3.3.58 Post hole **7** was located at the northern end of the trench and has been truncated by Gully **5** therefore the measurements of this feature are now unknown. Its single fill (6) contained no finds.
- 3.3.59 Gully **5** was aligned north to south and measured 0.5m wide and 0.12m deep. This gully contained a single fill (4) which contained animal bone.
- 3.3.60 Ditch **9** had a roughly east-north-east to west-south-west alignment, it measured 1m wide and 0.2m deep (Fig. 6, section 2). This ditch contained a single fill (8) which consisted of a mid brown silty sand with occasional flint and chalk inclusions along with animal bone.
- 3.3.61 Post hole **11** was located in the centre of the trench and measures 0.3m wide and 0.1m deep. Its single fill (10) contained no finds.
- 3.3.62 At the northern end of the trench the depth to the natural was 1m. Beneath the topsoil and subsoil were two further layers (Plate 8). Directly beneath the subsoil was layer 76, consisting of a mid to dark brown grey sandy silt with occasional stone and flint inclusions measuring between 0.2 and 0.25m deep. Beneath that was layer 77, consisting of a light mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent flint and stone inclusions it measured between 0.15 and 0.25m deep. Layer 76 was environmentally sampled and was found to be devoid of plant remains. These two layers appear to seal Ditch **9** and may have occurred here due to its position at the north-east corner of the field, through ploughing or could be the remains of a headland.

3.4 Finds Summary

- 3.4.1 A total of 26 Sherds weighing 0.344kg were recovered from 10 features and topsoil across the site. This is a fairly small assemblage and the majority of the sherds are medieval in date. The lack of pottery results in many of the features being undateable as much of the pottery may be residual although there is a clear Roman and Saxon presence in the area.

3.5 Environmental Summary

- 3.5.1 A total of six samples were taken from various features across the site. The majority of the samples yielded wheat grains and elderberry seeds along with waterlogged plant remains comprising nettle, bramble, hawthorn and fumitory seeds.
- 3.5.2 A total of 3.830kg of animal bone was recovered from the site, most of which comprised pig, cow and horse. Some of the bones showed evidence for butchery.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Possible Marling ditches

- 4.1.1 A total of five linear features were observed with an east-north-east to west-south-west alignment (**51**, **53**, **57**, **61** and **63**). Four of these had a distinctive profile and were of similar size, with vertical sides and a flat bottom, ranging from 0.82 to 0.9m wide and 0.34m to 0.4m deep. The few finds from these ditches are Iron Age or Roman in date suggesting they may be Roman cultivation features. However the finds may be residual and they may instead be marling ditches – hand dug ditches that have been dug into the chalk to improve the drainage and mineral content of the soil. An example of this was recorded at Prior's Fen in Thorney (Pickstone & Mortimer 2009) where they are more commonly seen in an area of peat soils.
- 4.1.2 The three central ditches were evenly spaced at approximately 6m apart. Another possibility is that they were hand dug 'strip field' divisions, where spoil would have been piled onto the ridges between the divisions. Field divisions such as these were recorded at West Fen Road, Ely (Mortimer *et al.* 2005) where the field divisions later developed into ridge and furrow, which has not occurred at Gayton perhaps due to ploughing. Those seen at Ely were 12th century in date, only linear features **57** and **61** contained dateable evidence. Two sizeable sherds were recovered from fill 58 of feature **57** dating to the Roman period and a single sherd from fill 62 of feature **61** was Iron Age in date. The pottery recovered from these features may be residual as a later date for these features is more likely.
- 4.1.3 These ditches were on a very similar alignment to a large enclosure ditch identified by the geophysics survey and as ditch **65** in evaluation Trench 10.

4.2 Possible Medieval Square Enclosure

- 4.2.1 Geophysics revealed that a square enclosure was present in the northern central part of the site. The southern and western sides of this enclosure were uncovered during the evaluation (Ditch **65** and Ditches **83/84**). Ditch **83** cut Ditch **84** and may be evidence for maintenance and longevity of use.
- 4.2.2 The northern side was not located even though the geophysics showed that this should have been present within Trench 8. The extension of Trench 8 into what was thought to be the centre of this enclosure showed no evidence for archaeological features. This lack of archaeology within the enclosure may suggest it had an agricultural function.
- 4.2.3 Very few finds were recovered from the enclosure ditches; a sherd of medieval pottery and a sherd of presumably residual late Saxon pottery were found in the fill of Ditch **84**. a small medieval pottery sherd from Ditch **83** and a tiny sherd of possibly Saxon date from Ditch **65**. The enclosure is therefore likely to be of medieval date however due to the small number of finds the possibility of this enclosure being later in date should not be dismissed.
- 4.2.4 Saxon pottery has been uncovered near to the church approximately 350m to the east and features uncovered in Gayton have also been dated to this period.

4.3 Post-medieval Boundary

- 4.3.1 A post-medieval field boundary was identified on the eastern side of the site (ditches **29**, **31** and **33**). This field boundary was identified by the geophysics and is marked on the Tithe map of the area from 1840. It appears that by the time of the first Ordnance Survey map of the area in 1886 this boundary no longer existed (Norfolk Historic

Maps). The western field boundary may also have been uncovered (Ditch **79**) which has a roughly north to south alignment. This boundary can also be seen on the Tithe Map from 1840 (Norfolk Historic Maps) and appears to have moved slightly to the west on the Ordnance survey Map where it can also be seen at the present day.

Undated features

- 4.3.2 The western side of site contained an area of dense archaeology (in particular trenches 4, 5, 6 and 7). The features here largely consisted of ditched boundaries, including the possible medieval enclosure mentioned above. The geophysics suggest that Ditch **97** in Trench 4 is associated with the square enclosure, although no dating evidence was recovered.
- 4.3.3 Ditch **86** was identified in the geophysical survey. However, its extent to the north and south of Trench 6 was not clear, but it could possibly be associated with the square enclosure. Other ditches to the west had a similar north-north-west to south-south-east alignment, most interestingly ditches **109** and **84**. Both were quite large in size with an organic looking basal fill; the ditches may represent an earlier boundary.
- 4.3.4 Buried soils were noted in Trench 10 and 14. Only a single layer was noted in trench 10 (78), this was located where a broad area of positive responses had been picked up by the geophysics and was thought to be related to periglacial activity. Two layers were identified in Trench 14 (76 and 77) and their location in the north-east corner of the site may be due to how the field has been ploughed. The idea of these layers representing banks, such as those seen in the western end of site has been dismissed. There is a lack of evidence in any of the trenches directly to the east of the earthworks for a buried soil.
- 4.3.5 A total of four post holes were identified across the site (7, 23, 25 and 59) in all cases these stood alone and no structure could be identified. There was a distinct lack of pits on site perhaps attributed to the lack of occupation, two very small pits were noted in Trench 4 (**72** and **74**) yielding very little in the way of a finds. Pit **18** in Trench 2 was fairly substantial in size. The finds recovered from this pit are late medieval in date, however the fact it could not be fully excavated made it difficult to interpret.

4.4 Earthworks

- 4.4.1 The earthworks within the paddock area on the western side of the site were known prior to excavation. Trench 3 was purposefully positioned to investigate the most southerly of these earthworks. A profile through the bank material (22) was obtained alongside three ditches (**20**, **21** and **46**) although none appear to be contemporary with the bank itself. No dateable evidence was recovered from these ditches although the suggestion of them being medieval in date still stands. Due to the position of Trench 2 being changed it was not possible to determine this particular earthwork continued to the east. These earthworks lie on a roughly north-east to south-west alignment and continue north.
- 4.4.2 Ditches present in Trench 5 and Trench 7 (**89**, **92**, **95** and **81**, **118** and **120**) run vaguely parallel to these earthworks however evidence for the earthworks can not be found within the main field itself, possibly due to ploughing and in the case of Trench 7, modern truncations. These ditches were not located east of Trench 4 and 7, which is evidence in favour of these ditches being related to the earthworks to the west. These ditches contained very little dating evidence however some were truncated by what is thought to be a post-medieval boundary ditch (**79**), evidence to further suggest that these ditches are medieval in date.

4.5 Geophysics Results

- 4.5.1 The geophysical results identified a number of features many of which were located during the evaluation. Those marked in red were noted as representing probable archaeological features. Those marked in blue were thought to be possible infilled archaeological features but could also represent agricultural activity. In all cases those responses marked in red were located. Those marked as blue were not always accurate, for example in Trench 8. Some of the features identified as blue proved to be quite substantial. In Trench 4 and Trench 6 at their western ends there was the possibility of a linear feature being located here, although thought to be fragmentary. The linear features seen in Trench 10 were also uncertain on the geophysics survey but were proved during the evaluation.
- 4.5.2 In this instance the geophysical survey proved useful in aiding the identification of archaeological remains but also shows that geophysics can't be relied on totally as substantially sized ditches were uncovered in Trenches 5 and 7 that were not identified during the geophysical survey.

4.6 Significance

- 4.6.1 The majority of the archaeology present within the main field is suggestive of agricultural activity on the site. This land-use possibly began in the Roman period, although most likely the medieval period, as suggested by the possible cultivation ditches in Trench 10. Evidence for continuity of agricultural landscape is provided by the medieval square enclosure, and post-medieval field boundaries.
- 4.6.2 The concentration of ditches on the western side of the site is of more interest, with the possibility of an eastern boundary aligned roughly north to south, which encompasses the earthworks seen to the west. It is probable that these earthworks along with possible associated ditches are medieval in date.
- 4.6.3 The village of Gayton contains and is surrounded by a number of medieval earthworks ranging from simple ridge and furrow to fairly complex areas of occupation. Most notably the similar earthworks directly south of Back Street (NHER 35474) and the settlement 650m north-west of the site (NHER 3748). The archaeology present on this site is fairly minor. Animal bone is fairly common along with a lack of pottery which alongside a lack of charred plant remains suggests this area had more of an agricultural use. The features present are also indicative of agricultural use; enclosures and possible plot boundaries.

4.7 Recommendations

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

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of modern make-up layers					Avg. depth (m)	1.5
		Width (m)	2			
		Length (m)	20			
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
12	Layer	-	0.15	Make-up	-	-
13	Layer	-	0.15	Make-up	-	-
14	Layer	-	0.15	Make-up	-	-
15	Layer	-	0.2	Make-up	-	-
16	Layer	-	0.25	Make-up	-	-
17	Layer	-	0.5	Make-up	-	-
Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contains a large pit possibly post-medieval in date. Chalk natural was observed at the eastern end					Avg. depth (m)	0.6
		Width (m)	2			
		Length (m)	12			
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
18	Cut	8	0.8	Pit	-	-
19	Fill	8	0.8	Fill of Pit	Pot, bone and brick	12 th -14 th century

Trench 3						
General description: Trench contains a number of ditches alongside a medieval earthwork. Chalk natural was observed.					Orientation	NW-SE
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
		Width (m)	2			
		Length (m)	20			
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
20	Cut	1.6	0.3	Ditch	-	-
21	Cut	3	0.9	Ditch	-	-
22	Layer	-	0.4	Bank material	Bone	-
41	Fill	3	0.6	Fill of Ditch	-	-
42	Fill	1.5	0.3	Fill of Ditch	Bone	-
43	Fill	1.6	0.3	Fill of Ditch	Bone	-
44	Layer	-	0.3	Bank material	-	-
45	Fill	1.8	0.4	Fill of Ditch	-	-
46	Cut	1.8	0.4	Ditch	-	-

Trench 4						
General description: Trench contains a series of ditches largely aligned NNW-SSE, two small pits are also present cutting a chalk natural					Orientation	ENE-WSW
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	25	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
72	Cut	0.6	0.24	Pit	-	-
73	Fill	0.6	0.24	Fill of Pit	Pot and bone	12 th -14 th century
74	Cut	0.49	0.2	Pit	-	-
75	Fill	0.49	0.2	Fill of Pit	-	-
97	Cut	2.4	0.45	Ditch	-	-
98	Fill	2.4	0.45	Fill of Ditch	Bone and	-

					shell	
109	Cut	1.4	0.6	Ditch	-	-
110	Fill	1.4	0.1	Fill of Ditch	-	-
111	Fill	1.5	0.5	Fill of Ditch	-	-
112	Cut	0.8	0.2	Ditch	-	-
113	Fill	0.8	0.2	Fill of Ditch	-	-
114	Cut	0.84	0.1	Ditch	-	-
115	Fill	0.84	0.1	Fill of Ditch	-	-

Trench 5						
General description: Trench contains a series of ditches aligned ENE-WSW or N-S. Chalk natural is present.					Orientation	NNW-SSE
					Avg. depth (m)	0.6
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	25
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	Pot	11 th -12 th and 12 th -14 th century
2	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
87	Cut	1.52	0.34	Ditch	-	-
88	Fill	1.52	0.34	Fill of Ditch	Pot and bone	12 th -14 th century
89	Cut	2.4	0.5	Ditch	-	-
90	Fill	2.4	0.25	Fill of Ditch	Bone	-
91	Fill	1.2	0.25	Fill of Ditch	Bone	-
92	Cut	2.1	0.5	Ditch	-	-
93	Fill	2.1	0.3	Fill of Ditch	Bone	-
94	Fill	2.1	0.2	Fill of Ditch	-	-
95	Cut	0.4	0.2	Ditch	-	-
96	Fill	0.4	0.2	Fill of Ditch	-	-

Trench 6						
General description: Trench contains a series of ditches all with a roughly north to south alignment.					Orientation	E-W
					Avg. depth (m)	0.44
					Width (m)	2.10
					Length (m)	37.70
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.16	Subsoil	-	-
83	Cut	2.1	0.7	Ditch	-	-
84	Cut	2.8	1	Ditch	-	-
85	Cut	2.6	0.5	Ditch	-	-
86	Cut	2.5	0.6	Ditch	-	-
99	Fill	1.1	0.5	Fill of Ditch	Pot	12 th -14 th century
100	Fill	2.1	0.7	Fill of Ditch	-	-
101	Fill	2.8	0.7	Fill of Ditch	Pot, bone and stone	10 th -11 th and 12 th -14 th century
102	Fill	0.5	0.2	Fill of Ditch	-	-
103	Fill	0.7	0.3	Fill of Ditch	-	-
104	Fill	1.5	0.5	Fill of Ditch	-	-
105	Fill	2	0.1	Fill of Ditch	-	-
106	Fill	1	0.4	Fill of Ditch	-	-
107	Fill	2.8	0.2	Fill of Ditch	Pot	11 th -14 th century
108	Fill	2.6	0.6	Fill of Ditch	Bone	-

Trench 7						
General description: Trench contains three ditches, one of which has been truncated by a modern trench. This trench was extended in order to see this truncated ditch.					Orientation	NNW-SSE
					Avg. depth (m)	0.6
					Width (m)	3.5
					Length (m)	25
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-

2	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
79	Cut	0.6	0.14	Ditch	-	-
80	Fill	0.6	0.14	Fill of Ditch	-	-
81	Cut	2.2	0.28	Ditch	-	-
82	Fill	2.2	0.28	Fill of Ditch	-	-
118	Cut	2	0.2	Ditch	-	-
119	Fill	2	0.2	Fill of Ditch	Brick	14 th -15 th Century
120	Cut	2.8	0.55	Ditch	-	-
121	Fill	2.8	0.3	Fill of Ditch	Bone	-
122	Fill	2.8	0.25	Fill of Ditch	Bone	-

Trench 8						
General description: Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalk					Orientation	NNW-SSE
					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 9						
General description: Trench contains three ditches and a number of natural features cut into a chalk natural					Orientation	ESE-WSW
					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-
35	Cut	0.54	0.25	Natural feature	-	-
36	Fill	0.54	0.25	Fill of natural feature	-	-
37	Cut	0.5	0.15	Ditch	-	-

38	Fill	0.5	0.15	Fill of Ditch	-	-
39	Cut	0.7	0.3	Ditch	-	-
40	Fill	0.7	0.3	Fill of Ditch	-	-
116	Cut	0.54	0.04	Ditch	-	-
117	Fill	0.54	0.04	Fill of Ditch	-	-

Trench 10						
General description: Trench contains a number of linear features, the majority of which have an east-north-east to west-south-west alignment. A deposit sealed by subsoil is present at the northern end					Orientation	NNW-SSE
					Avg. depth (m)	0.6
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
47	Cut	1.62	0.28	Tree throw	-	-
48	Fill	1.62	0.28	Fill of tree throw	Pot	11 th -12 th century
49	Cut	0.86	0.18	Tree throw	-	-
50	Fill	0.86	0.18	Fill of tree throw	-	-
51	Cut	0.9	0.34	Ditch	-	-
52	Fill	0.9	0.34	Fill of Ditch	-	-
53	Cut	0.82	0.38	Ditch	-	-
54	Fill	0.82	0.38	Fill of Ditch	-	-
55	Cut	0.35	0.09	Gully	-	-
56	Fill	0.35	0.09	Fill of Gully	-	-
57	Cut	0.88	0.38	Ditch	-	-
58	Fill	0.88	0.38	Fill of Ditch	Pot and bone	1 st -2 nd Century
59	Cut	0.32	0.18	Posthole	-	-
60	Fill	0.32	0.18	Fill of Posthole	-	-
61	Cut	0.82	0.4	Ditch	-	-
62	Fill	0.82	0.4	Fill of Ditch	Pot, bone and flint	Early Iron Age
63	Cut	0.63	0.11	Ditch	-	-
64	Fill	0.63	0.11	Fill of Ditch	Bone	-

65	Cut	1.26	0.38	Ditch	-	-
66	Fill	1.26	0.38	Fill of Ditch	Pot	Saxon
67	Layer	-	0.11	Spread (Same as 78)	-	-
78	Layer	-	0.28	Spread (Same as 67)	-	-

Trench 11						
General description: Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalk					Orientation	ENE-WSW
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 12						
General description: Trench contains four ditches, three of which are on an N-S alignment. Chalk natural is present					Orientation	NW-SE
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
31	Cut	0.48	0.25	Ditch	-	-
32	Fill	0.48	0.25	Fill of Ditch	Bone	-
33	Cut	0.66	0.2	Ditch	-	-
34	Fill	0.66	0.2	Fill of Ditch	-	-
68	Cut	0.45	0.12	Ditch	-	-
69	Fill	0.45	0.12	Fill of Ditch	-	-
70	Cut	0.6	-	Ditch	-	-
71	Fill	0.6	-	Fill of Ditch	-	-

Trench 13						
General description: Trench contains two postholes, a tree throw and a ditch with a NNW-SSE alignment. Chalk natural is present					Orientation	ENE-WSW
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
23	Cut	0.54	0.28	Posthole	-	-
24	Fill	0.54	0.28	Fill of Posthole	-	-
25	Cut	0.17	0.12	Posthole	-	-
26	Fill	0.17	0.12	Fill of Posthole	-	-
27	Cut	1.1	0.18	Tree throw	-	-
28	Fill	1.1	0.18	Fill of tree throw	-	-
29	Cut	0.72	0.2	Ditch	-	-
30	Fill	0.72	0.2	Fill of Ditch	Bone	-
Trench 14						
General description: Trench contains a ditch and a gully with two postholes. These are cut into a chalk natural					Orientation	NNW-SSE
					Avg. depth (m)	0.75
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
4	Fill	0.5	0.12	Fill of Gully	Bone	-
5	Cut	0.5	0.12	Gully	-	-
6	Fill	N/A	N/A	Fill of Posthole	-	-
7	Cut	N/A	N/A	Posthole	-	-
8	Fill	1	0.2	Fill of Ditch	Bone	-
9	Cut	1	0.2	Ditch	-	-
10	Fill	0.3	0.1	Fill of Posthole	-	-
11	Cut	0.3	0.1	Posthole	-	-

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Carole Fletcher with Iron Age pottery identified by Matt Brudenell and Roman pottery identified by Stephen Wadeson

Introduction

- B.1.1 A total of 26 sherds of pottery, weighing 0.344kg, were recovered from five trenches, including sherds recovered from topsoil, context 1. All of the material recovered is moderately to heavily abraded, with no evidence of primary deposition.

Methodology

- B.1.2 The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) *A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG 1998) and *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics* (MPRG 2001) act as a standard. Rapid recording was carried out using OA East's in-house system based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described types using, where appropriate Norfolk fabric codes.
- B.1.3 All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed on a context-by-context basis. The assemblage is recorded in the summary catalogue and the full catalogue is recorded in a Microsoft Access database and a copy will be deposited with the archive. The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition

Assemblage

- B.1.4 Topsoil, context 1, produced four sherds of pottery, a single sherd from an unglazed medieval jar or jug and a sooted rim and body sherds from an Early Medieval ware jar or jars.
- B.1.5 Trench 2 produced three sherds from the handle of a medieval Brill/Boarstall Ware jug dating to the Late 12th-early 14th century.
- B.1.6 Pit **72** within trench 4 produced a single, undiagnostic, unglazed body sherd from a late 12th-14th century jar or jug. In trench 5, three sherds from the base of a fire-reddened vessel, possibly a jug, were recovered from ditch **87**. The sherds are unglazed and may be from a Grimston-type ware jug.
- B.1.7 Three ditches in trench 6 produced pottery. Ditch **83** contained a single abraded sherd from a medieval vessel and ditch **84** produced two sherds, one a handle, from a medieval Grimston-type ware jug, the second a residual, abraded body sherd from a Thetford-type ware storage jar. Finally, ditch **86** produced three sherds from an early medieval or medieval jar.
- B.1.8 The largest group of features that produced pottery were located in trench 10, of these the tree throw **47** produced two sherds of what appears to be early medieval ware. Ditch **57** produced five sherds of pottery, four of which are from a Romano-British Greyware carinated jar or bowl, however the earliest pottery was recovered from ditch **61**, which produced a single sherd of quartz and flint tempered Early Iron Age pottery. The final sherd was recovered from sample 3,

taken from context 66, the single fill of ditch **65**, which produced a small abraded partial rim sherd, tentatively identified as Saxon.

Discussion

- B.1.9 This is a relatively small assemblage, the bulk of which is moderately abraded-abraded medieval and early medieval material, alongside a small number of earlier sherds including Early Iron Age, Roman and tentatively Saxon material, all of a utilitarian nature.
- B.1.10 The pottery present is domestic with several sherds showing evidence of sooting, indicating the preparation of food and the presence of a jug sherd suggests also the consumption of liquids, most likely beer. The Iron Age, Roman and Saxon pottery, suggest activity in the vicinity of the area of excavation, with the material reworked in the medieval period.

Pottery Catalogue

Context	Cut no.	Fabric	Sherd count	Sherd weight (kg)	Context or pottery date
1		Early Medieval ware jar rim sherd and body sherds	3	0.014	11th-12th century
		Medieval Coarseware jar or jug rim sherd	1	0.012	Late 12th-14th century
19	18	Brill/Boarstall ware jug handle sherd	3	0.106	Late 12th-early.14th century
48	47	Early Medieval ware body sherds	2	0.005	11th-12th century
58	57	Romano-British Greyware carinated jar/bowl body sherd	4	0.034	Mid 1st-early 2nd century
		Romano-British Greyware body sherd	1	0.010	
62	61	?Iron Age Fine Flint	1	0.015	Early Iron Age
66	65	?Saxon	1	0.002	Saxon
73	72	Medieval Coarseware jar or jug body sherd	1	0.007	Late 12th-early.14th century
88	87	Grimston-type ware base sherds	3	0.014	Late 12th-14th century
99	83	Medieval Coarseware body sherd	1	0.005	Late 12th-early.14th century
101	84	Grimston-type ware jug handle	1	0.026	Late 12th-14th century
		Thetford-type ware storage jar body sherd	1	0.083	10th-11th century
107	86	Early medieval/Medieval Coarseware jar body sherd	3	0.011	11th-early 14th century
Total			26	0.344	

Table 1: Pottery type by context

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

C.1.1 Six bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated areas of Land north of Back Street, Gayton in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. The features sampled were mainly ditches and are thought to be medieval in date.

Methodology

C.1.2 For this initial assessment, one bucket (approximately ten litres) of each bulk sample was processed by water flotation (using a modified Siraff three-tank system) for the recovery of charred 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. Both flot and residues were allowed to air dry. A magnet was dragged through each residue fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 2. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands* and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (1997) for other plants. Carbonized seeds and grains, by the process of burning and burial, become blackened and often distort and fragment leading to difficulty in identification. Plant remains have been identified to species where possible. The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

Quantification

C.1.3 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as cereals and seeds have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories

= 1-5, ## = 6-10, ### = 11-50 specimens

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal have been scored for abundance

+ = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant

Results

C.1.4 Charred plant remains were recovered from two samples; Sample 3, fill 66 of Ditch **65** and Sample 4, fill 88 of Ditch **87** although only single cereal grains are present and preservation is poor. The grains are probably wheat (*Triticum* sp.).

C.1.5 Samples 4 (fill 88 of Ditch **87**), 5 (fill 103 of Ditch **84**) and 6 (fill 121 of Ditch **120**) all contain numerous elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) seeds. Sample 5 contains

waterlogged plant material including seeds of stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*) and bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*). Sample 6 also contains waterlogged plant material with seeds of dead nettle (*Lamium* sp.), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and fumitory (*Fumaria officinalis*). These seeds are all untransformed but it isn't clear whether they have been preserved by waterlogging or if their survival is due to the tough outer coats (testa) that each of these plant species possess.

- C.1.6 Layer 76 though possible buried soil or mound is devoid of preserved plant remains but fragments of animal bone were recovered from the residue.

Discussion

- C.1.7 The samples taken from this site contain very few charred plant remains, particularly for a site of this period. It is unlikely that this was an area of human habitation. Several of the ditches contain preserved remains of plants that were probably growing on the banks although hawthorn, bramble and elderberry are also indicative of hedgerow.
- C.1.8 The samples have limited archaeobotanical potential but they do indicate that there is potential for the survival of plant remains at this site, which should be taken into consideration if further excavation is planned.

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Sample Size (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Preservation	Cereals	Charcoal	Waterlogged plant remains	Pottery	Animal bone
1	82	81	Ditch	7	35	Charred	0	+	0	0	#
2	76		Layer	7	30	None	0	0	0	0	##
3	66	65	Ditch	8	50	Charred	#	0	0	#	##
4	88	87	Ditch	8	20	Charred	#	0	0	0	###
5	103	84	Ditch	9	60	Waterlogged	0	0	+++	0	##
6	121	120	Ditch	8	20	Waterlogged	0	0	+++	0	##

Table 2: Environmental samples

C.2 Faunal Remains

- C.2.1 A total weight of 3.830kg of animal bone was recovered from the site of Back Road, Gayton.
- C.2.2 The majority of the bone was recovered from pits and ditches dated to the medieval period.

Methodology

- C.2.3 All identifiable elements were recorded using a version of the criteria described in Davis (1992). Completeness was assessed in terms of percentage and zones present (Dobney and Reilly 1988). Identification of the assemblage was undertaken with the aid of Schmid (1972) and France (2009). No measurements were taken as no bones were complete. Taphonomic criteria including indications of butchery, pathology, gnawing activity and surface modifications as a result of weathering were also recorded where evident using the 0-5 scale devised by Behrensmeyer (1978).

Results

- C.2.4 The results are summarised in the table below
- C.2.5 There were no repeated elements from any species in any context however contexts (42) and (122) contained both juvenile and adult pig remains therefore a minimum of two individuals has been assumed for these contexts.
- C.2.6 While the fragmentation level was high the overall surface condition of the bone was good (Behrensmeyer grade 1 1978) with little detail being masked by erosion, gnawing or root activity and a large proportion of the bone recovered was identifiable to species.
- C.2.7 The most strongly represented species appeared to be cattle and horse which were distributed evenly throughout contexts. Pig was the next most common species noted which primarily appeared in both medieval and undated features.
- C.2.8 While an exact species could not be narrowed down for the bird bone it could be narrowed to large bird most likely goose or swan (Cohen and Serjeantson 1986).
- C.2.9 Butchery marks were noted on cattle, horse and pig bones. For the most part butchery marks present were represented by parallel short fine lines with a v shaped profile cut marks as are created by a knife (O Conner 2000 p46). Deeper wider V shaped marks suggestive of chop marks as can be created by a cleaver or axe could be observed on a horse phalange in context (58) and cow tibia and metapodial in context (121).

Discussion and conclusion

- C.2.10 The assemblage present primarily represents domestic animals. Cattle and horse are the most commonly represented however it is evident that bird and pig made up a proportion of this populations diet. Sheep is surprisingly under represented, occurring in only one context. The bone would appear to primarily represent domestic waste with butchery marks being evident on cattle and pig. The butchery marks present on the horse bone are more likely to be the result of industrial activity such as tanning (Baxter 1996 77). In total this represents a fairly typical assemblage for the medieval period.

Cut	Context	Feature	Date	Unid	Sheep/goat	pig	cow	Horse	Medium mammal	Large mammal	Tiny mammal	bird	No of individuals represented
5	4	gully	Undated									1	1
9	8	ditch	Undated							3			1
18	19	pit	Med			1				2			1
	22	layer	Undated			2							1
29	30	ditch	Undated			3							2
31	32	ditch	Undated									1	1
21	42	ditch	Undated			121							2
20	43	ditch	undated				1	1					2
57	58	ditch	Med							1			1
61	62	ditch	Med		1								1
63	64	gully	Undated							1			1
65	66	ditch		4							4		2
72	73	pit	Med	1									1
	76	layer		10									1
81	82	ditch		1							5		2

Cut	Context	Feature	Date	Unid	Sheep/goat	pig	cow	Horse	Medium mammal	Large mammal	Tiny mammal	bird	No of individuals represented
87	88	ditch	Med					4			12		2
89	90	ditch	Undated							1			1
	91		Undated							1			1
92	93	ditch	Undated							3			1
98	97	ditch	Undated					5	4			1	3
84	101	ditch	Med						4				1
	103							3		4		2	
86	108	ditch	Undated					8					1
120	121	ditch	Med	7				5				8	2
	122		Undated				4	3		4			2

Table 3: Identifiable fragments and No of individuals represented

Cut	Context	Feature	Butchery	Pathology
18	22	Pit	Defleshing cut marks on cow femur	
21	42	Ditch	Defleshing cut marks on adult and juvenile pig bones	
29	30	Ditch	Saw mark on pig pelvis (clean, ridged)	
57	58	Ditch	Poss chop mark on horse phalange	
89	90	Ditch	Cut mark at proximal end of long bone	
92	93	Ditch	Cut mark on proximal end of long bone	
86	108	Ditch	Defleshing cut marks on horse humerus	
120	121	Ditch	Chop marks on cow tibia and metapodial	
	122		Defleshing cut marks on base of cow mandible	Possible infection with new bone growth on cow mandible

Table 4: A summary of butchery and pathology

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Online resources

Geology of Britain - <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> (accessed 4/1/16)

Heritage Gateway - <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/> (accessed 4/1/16)

Historic Maps of Norfolk - <http://www.historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/> (accessed 5/1/16)

APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-236293		
Project Name	Land North of Back Street, Gayton, Norfolk		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	07-12-2015	Finish	16-12-2015
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	ENF139568	Planning App. No.	N/A
HER No.	ENF139568	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG15
Development Type	Rural Residential

Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/> Grab-Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-Core	<input 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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography	

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

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

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Ditch	Medieval 1066 to 1540	Pottery	Early Medieval 410 to 1066
Earthwork	Medieval 1066 to 1540	Pottery	Medieval 1066 to 1540
Ditch	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901	Pottery	Iron Age -800 to 43

Project Location

County	Norfolk	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	Kings Lynn & West Norfolk	Land North of Back Street Gayton Norfolk
Parish	Gayton	
HER	Norfolk	
Study Area	32 ha	National Grid Reference
		TF 72607 19054

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Norfolk County Council
Project Design Originator	CgMs
Project Manager	Tom Phillips
Supervisor	Kathryn Nicholls

Project Archives

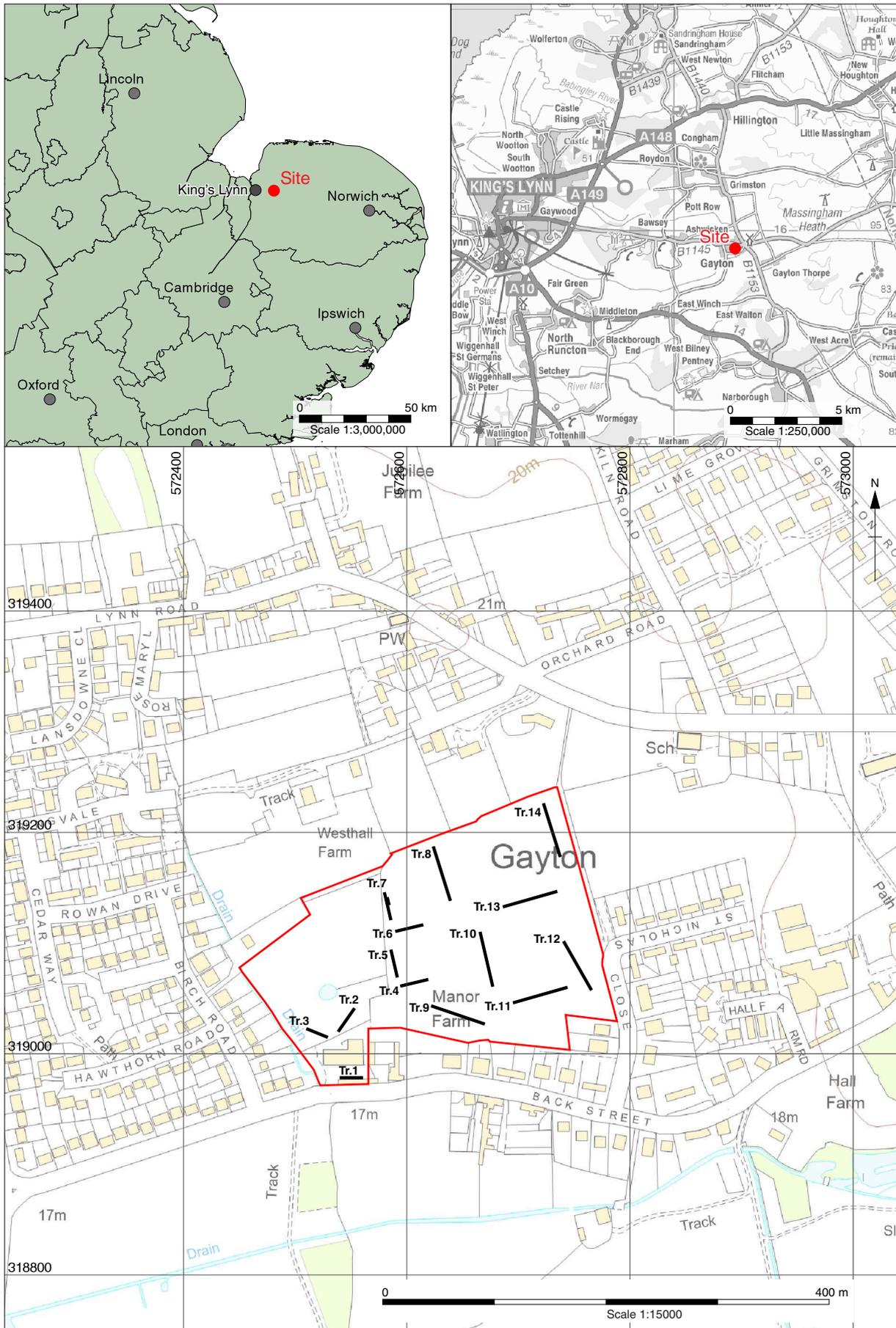
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Norwich Castle Museum	Norwich Castle Museum	Norwich Castle Museum
NWHCM2021.51	NWHCM2021.51	NWHCM2021.51

Archive Contents/Media

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Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Stratigraphic		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
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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.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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

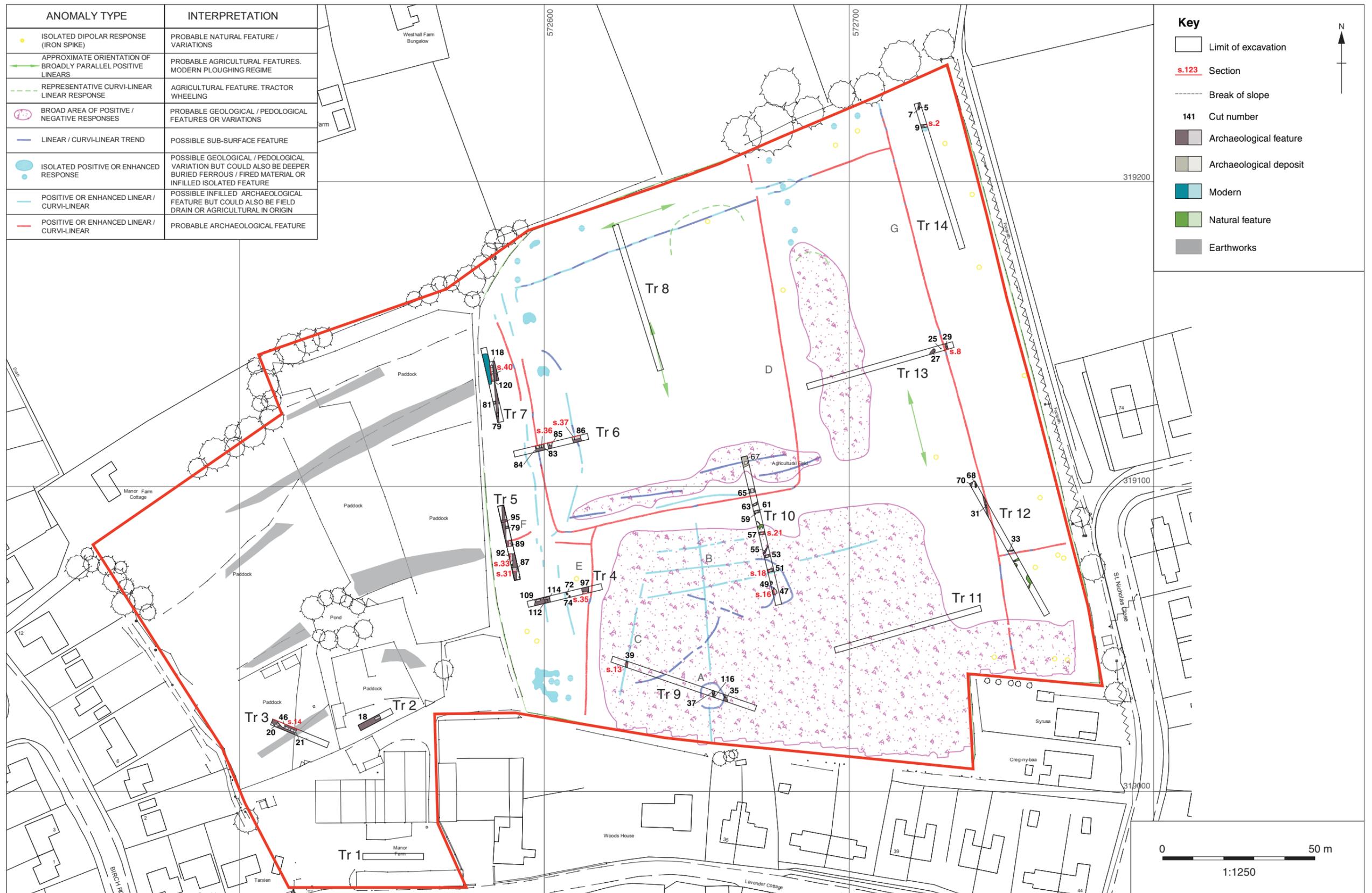


Figure 2: Plan of evaluation trenches, overlain on geophysics results. Data supplied by the client.

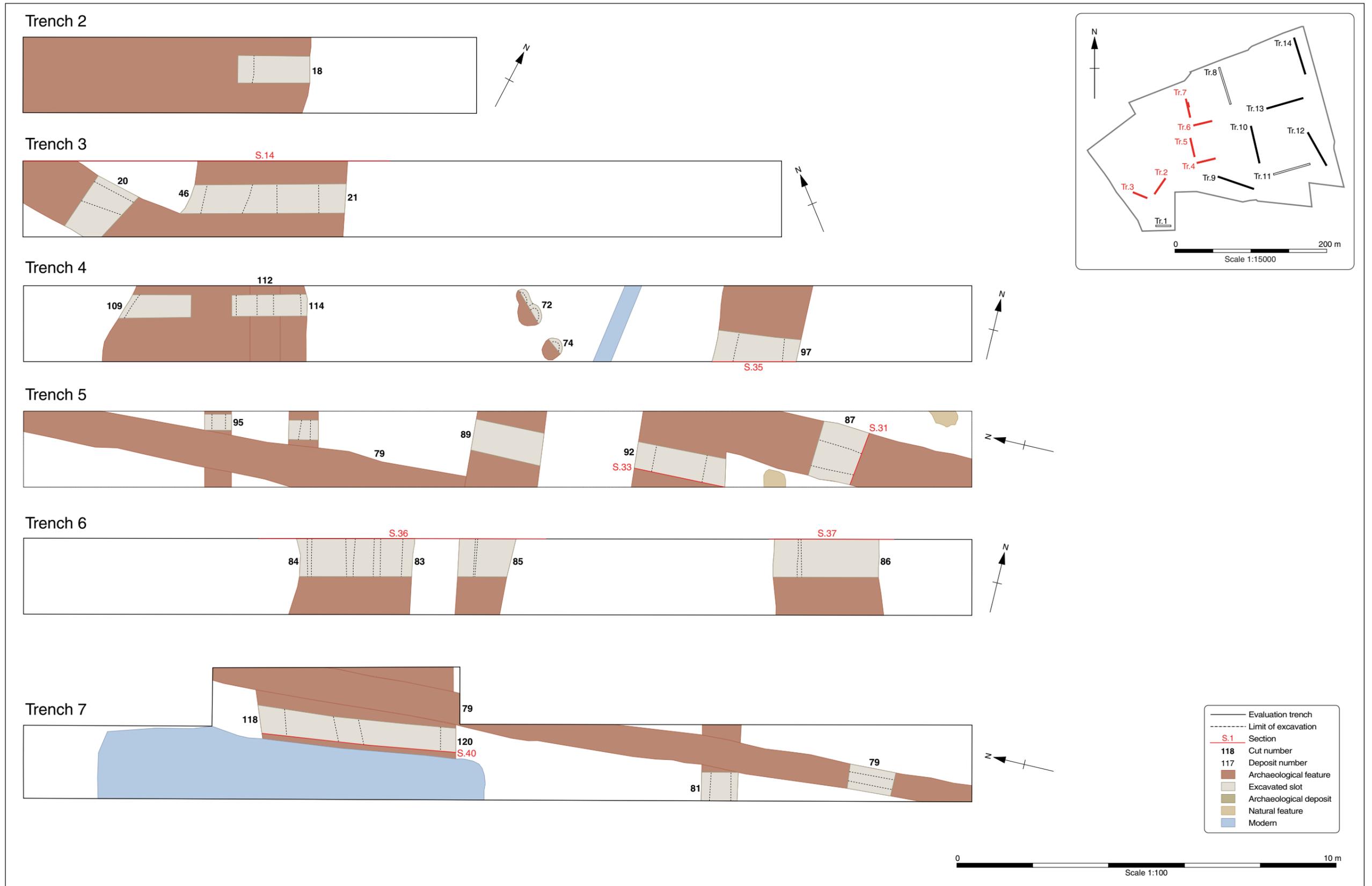


Figure 3: Plan of trenches 2-7

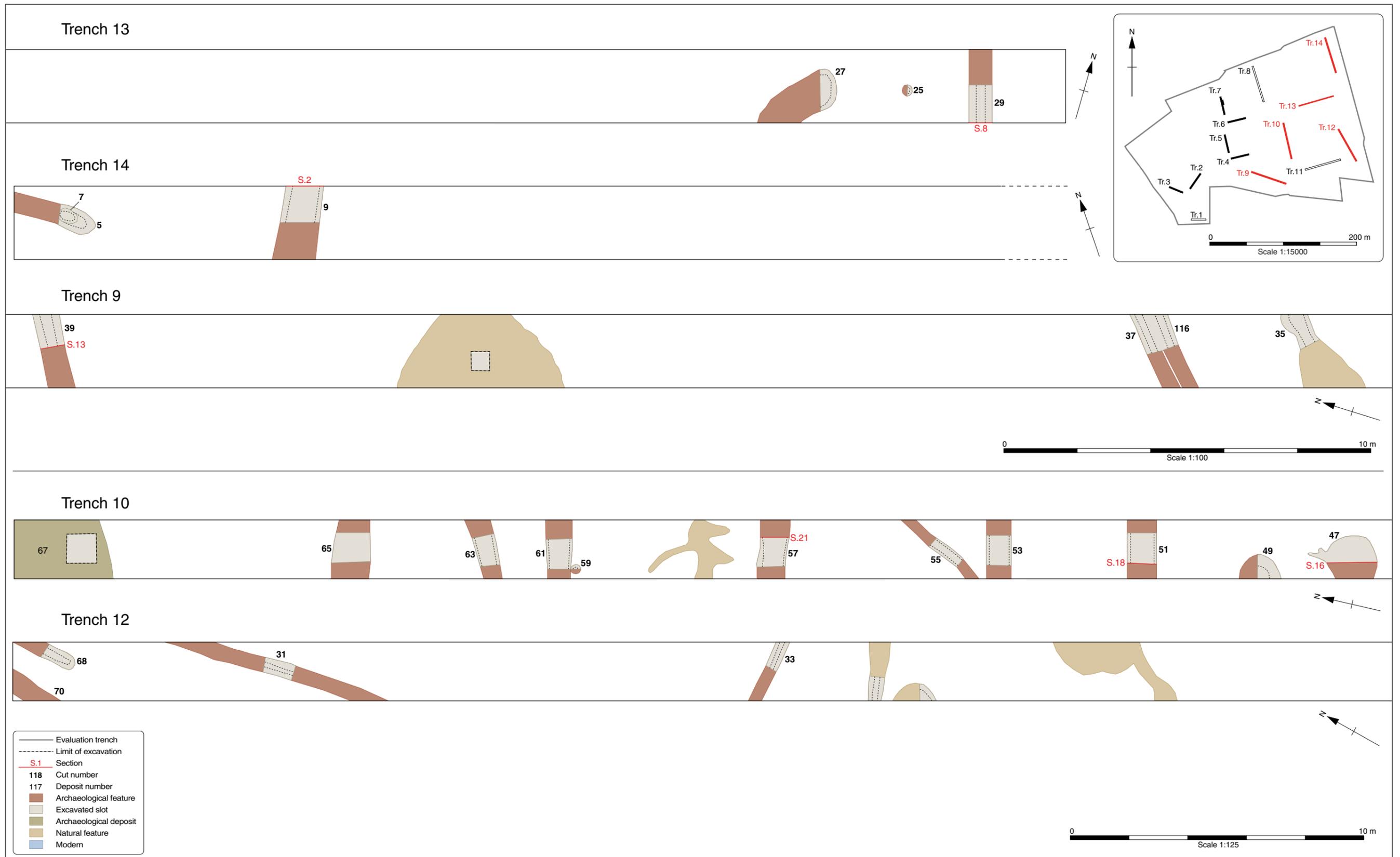


Figure 4: Plan of trenches 9-10 and 12-14

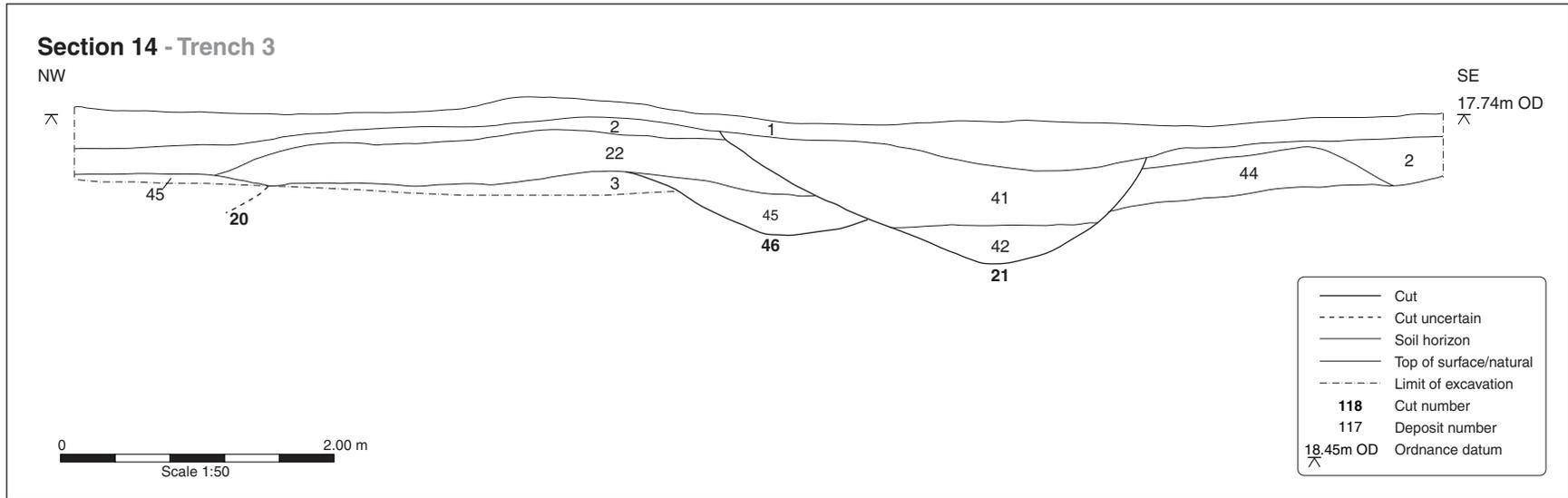


Figure 5: Section 14

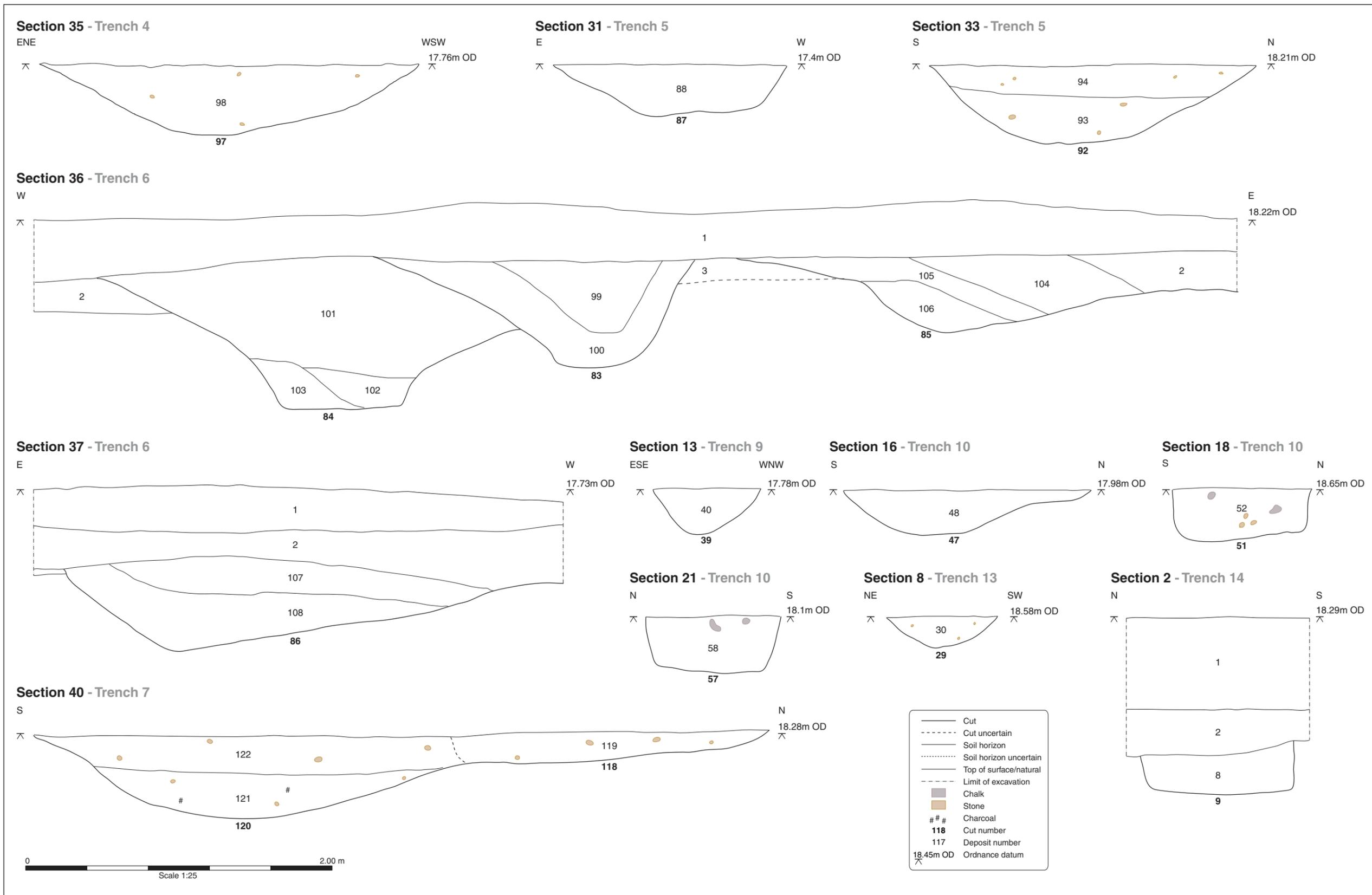


Figure 6: Selected sections



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking west



Plate 2: Trench 8, looking north-north-west



Plate 3: Ditch 97, Trench 4, looking south-south-east



Plate 4: Ditches 118 and 120, Trench 7, looking west towards the earthworks



Plate 5: Linear feature 53, Trench 10, looking west-south-west



Plate 6: East-north-east facing section of Trench 10

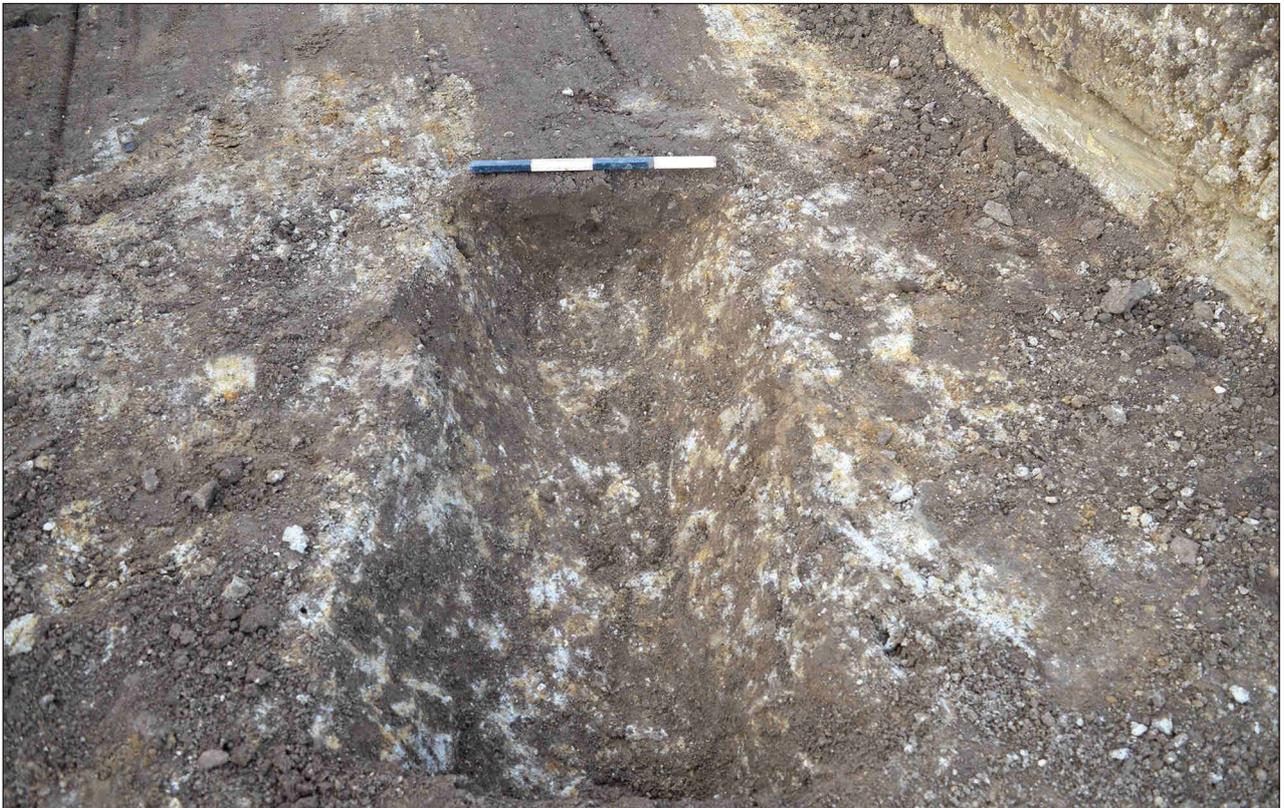


Plate 7: Ditch 31, Trench 12, looking north-north-east



Plate 8: East-north-east facing section of Trench 14



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