An Archaeological Strip, Map & Record and Trench Evaluation Semer Borehole Pipeline Nedging-with-Naughton Suffolk: Phase 2

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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An Archaeological Strip, Map & Record and Trench Evaluation, Semer Water Treatment Works, Nedging-with-Naughton, Suffolk: Phase 2

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 topograpy 6

1.3 Archaeological and historical background 6

1.4 Acknowledgements 6

2 Aims and Methodology **7**

2.1 Aims 7

2.2 Methodology 7

3 Results **8**

3.1 Introduction 8

3.2 Trenches 3 & 4 8

3.3 Finds Summary 9

4 Discussion and Conclusions **10**

4.1 Late Medieval and post-Medieval quarry pitting 10

4.2 Significance 10

4.3 Recommendations 11

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory **12**

Appendix B. Finds Reports **14**

B.1: Lithic Evidence (Phases 1 & 2) 14

Introduction 14

Quantification 14

Burnt Stone 14

Struck Flint 15

Discussion 16

Recommendations 17

Bibliography 17

Appendix C. Bibliography **18**

Appendix D. OASIS Report Form **19**

List of Figures

Fig. 1. Site location plan showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red)

Fig. 2. Trench location plan

Fig. 3 Detail plan of Trenches 3 & 4

Fig. 4 Selected sections

List of Plates

Plate 1. South west facing section of quarry pit **29**, trench 3

Plate 2. South east facing section of quarry pits **19** and **22**, trench 4

Plate 3. Trench 3 post-excavation (with pit **31** in foreground), looking south east

Plate 4. Trench 4 post-excavation, looking south west

Plate 5. Trench 4 post-excavation (with pit **29** in foreground), looking north east

Summary

Between the 15th and 22nd January 2015, Oxford Archaeology East conducted a Strip, Map & Record and Trench Evaluation at land adjacent to Hadleigh Road, 800m north of the village of Semer, Suffolk (Phase 1). This work was undertaken on behalf of Anglian Water in advance of the construction of a new water pipeline. Archaeological investigation in this phase concentrated on the test pitting and recording of naturally deposited sands and silts. Many of these deposits contained struck flint flakes dating from the Mesolithic to Iron Age periods, as well as Neolithic pottery. A report for Phase 1 has been produced (Jarosz-Blackburn 2015).

Oxford Archaeology East returned to the site for Anglian Water between 9th and 13th April 2015 for Phase 2, a further trench evaluation of a strip of land south-east of the original pipeline location, prior to the construction of a Water Treatment Works. After the topsoil had been stripped, two trenches totalling 136m^2 were excavated through the subsoil. In this area, the natural silty deposits containing worked flints were not present, however quarry pitting dating from the late Medieval to post-Medieval periods was uncovered and investigated. This activity is may relate to road and pathway/surface construction, the quarrying being for large gravel and cobblestone extraction.

A walk-over survey of the subsoil was carried out to check for the presence of struck flints (as found further to the north during Phase 1), and none were found to be present within this area. However, a small number of residual flints were recovered from within the quarry pits.

1 Introduction

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An archaeological Strip, Map and Record, with subsequent trench evaluation where subsoil was found to be present, was conducted at the Semer Water Treatment Works site, adjacent to Hadleigh Road (TL 99713 47547 to TL 99427 47831; Figure 1). The site is located 800m north of the village of Semer, Suffolk. The River Brett lies just to the south of the site.

1.1.2 This archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Rachael Abraham of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (Mortimer & Nicholls 2014).

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 SCCAS, 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 topograpy

1.2.1 The Water Treatment Works lies on the Newhaven Chalk formation and is in an area of river terrace and alluvial deposits (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html accessed 28/1/15). The land slopes down steeply from *c*. 43m AOD, to the north west of the site, to *c*. 29m at the River Brett to the southeast.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The scheme lies in an area of archaeological interest, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, situated in the eastern side of the River Brett Valley. There are three Bronze Age round barrows recorded on the opposite bank of the river, in a similar topographic setting (HER: SMR 005, SMR 006, SMR 030). There is a high potential for archaeological deposits in this valley location.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 OA East would like to thank Anglian Water who commissioned the work; the site was managed by Richard Mortimer and the brief was written by Rachael Abraham, who also monitored the work. The field work was carried out by Rebecca Jarosz-Blackburn, Adele Lord, Ted Levermore, Nick Gilmour and Matt Brooks. Thanks are also extended to Sarah Percival and Dr Barry Bishop for the finds reports, to Charlotte Davies and David Brown for illustrations and graphics, and to the editor, Richard Mortimer.

2 Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The objective of this Strip, Map & Record with trench 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, and to preserve any such deposits through record.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The Brief for the Phase 2 works required that a topsoil strip should be excavated by machine under archaeological supervision. Areas covered by subsoil should be evaluated with trial trenches to expose any underlying archaeological features or deposits. Should subsoil be present across the whole of the site, a 5% sample should be evaluated.

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

2.2.3 The area for the second phase of topsoil stripping was approximately 30m wide and 85m long, and subsoil was found to be present across the entire area. Following the guidelines in the original Brief for the work, a sample of approximately 5% (136m^2) was evaluated by means of two trenches totalling 62 linear metres. The trenches were positioned in a 'T' shape with the first running north-west to south-east across the strip, and the second south-west to north-east along the strip.

2.2.4 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 photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

2.2.5 The second phase of the Strip, Map and Record and trench evaluation took place in dry, warm and bright conditions.

3 Results

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 A summary of the findings from this evaluation follows below in trench order.

3.1.2 This summary is supplemented by Appendix A (trench descriptions and context inventory) and Appendix B (finds reports).

3.2 Trenches 3 & 4

3.2.1 The silty colluvial layers seen during Phase 1 were not present in this second phase of trenching. The natural consisted of coarse reddish gravels. Apart from a few small natural hollows, the only features present in these trenches were quarry pits, one of which was of considerable size, probably dating to the later Medieval and/or post-Medieval periods and potentially related to cobblestone extraction.

3.2.2 Trench 3 contained the largest quarry pit (**29**/**31**), running from the north-western extent of the trench for approximately 17m. Much of the surface fill was a layer of clean redeposited natural yellow sand with fine gravel. A test pit 1m from the north-western end of the trench revealed that pit **31** contained a number of silty fills beneath the redeposited layer, to a depth of 0.72m. A test pit at the centre of the trench revealed very similar fills underlying the redeposited sandy gravel, reaching the base of the pit **29** at 0.86m. The south-eastern edge of the pit was visible in plan, giving the total length of the pit which fell within the excavation area as 17.2m. The north-eastern edge of the pit (**30**) fell within Trench 4, giving the total width of the pit within the excavation area as 2.95m. The feature was sealed by subsoil. A number of residual struck flints were recovered from various depths within the pit**.** Two abraded pieces of pottery dating from the early Medieval period (11th/12th centuries) are also likely to be residual finds. The rest of the trench contained no archaeological features, however one modern pit was recorded in plan beyond the edge of the quarry pit. Please see Fig 3 for a plan of Trench 3, Fig 4 for relevant sections, and Plate 3 for a post-excavation photograph of the trench.

3.2.3 Trench 4 contained a number of small silty patches, distinct from the natural gravel, near the north-eastern extent of the trench. Three of these were investigated and found to be natural depressions, likely to have been caused by rooting activity, which were filled with sterile silty material. Further to the south west (towards Trench 3), a number of larger features were investigated which appear to be a continuation of quarry pitting activity. Adjacent pits **19** and **22** date to the post-Medieval period and cut through the subsoil. Pit **19** can also be seen to cut the edge of the large quarry pit **30**. Pits **32** and **34** are broad features along the same alignment and with similar upper fills. These contained no dating evidence but are likely to be contemporary with pits **19** and **22**. Thus these four features represent a series of probable quarry pits, later than the original large-scale quarrying seen in Trench 3. Please see Fig 3 for a plan of Trench 4, Fig 4 for relevant sections, and Plates 4 and 5 for post-excavation photographs of the trench.

3.3 Finds Summary

3.3.1 The pottery assemblage from Phase 2 of the evaluation was not large, and has been dated in-house by Oxford Archaeology East. Pottery from fills within the large quarry pit **29** in Trench 3 dates to the 11th and 12th centuries (C. Fletcher, pers. comm.). Two sherds were recovered from this feature; a small piece of 12th-century greyware from fill 47 (near to the surface) and an 11th-century rim sherd from fill 41, near to the base of the quarry pit. A fragment of very abraded flint-tempered pottery from post-Medieval quarry pit **19** has been dated to the Early Iron Age (M. Brudenell, pers. comm.), and is again a residual find from the subsoil/colluvium.

3.3.2 The struck flint finds from both phases of evaluation have been analysed and a joint report produced for the site. Struck and burnt flints recovered from the quarry pits in Phase 2 make up around 13% of the total assemblage; these were present as residual finds from the subsoil. The vast majority of struck flints recovered from these pits were flakes, and most exhibit characteristics dating from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age, with one flake possibly dating from the middle Bronze Age to Iron Age. One core of Neolithic to Bronze Age date was also recovered, and one prismatic blade of Mesolithic to early Neolithic date. Please see Appendix B for further discussion of this material by Dr Barry Bishop.

4 Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Late Medieval and post-Medieval quarry pitting

4.1.1 The series of pits in Trench 4 and single large quarry pit in Trench 3 indicate that extensive quarrying of materials was being carried out in this area in the late Medieval and/or post-Medieval periods; these pits are the only archaeological features encountered during this phase of excavation.

4.1.2 Pit **29**/**30**/**31** in Trench 3 is demonstrably of an earlier date than possible quarry pits in Trench 4; it is sealed by the subsoil and its north-eastern edge **30** is cut by pit **19**. This pit is likely to relate to large-scale extraction of materials in the late Medieval or post-Medieval period. It is notable that a the thick upper fill of this large pit was of fine gravel and sand, suggesting that the purpose of the quarry pit was not solely for sand and/or gravel extraction; the surrounding natural gravels, unlike the fill of the quarry, contain very frequent flint cobbles. It is possible that the main material extracted was cobblestones, which could suggest that this large pit was related to construction of the nearby road, or that cobbles were removed to the nearby settlements for roads, paths, surfaces etc. The smaller pits present in trench 4 may also be related to road construction or maintenance.

4.1.3 Pits **19** and **22** in trench 4 have been shown to cut through the subsoil layer which seals the earlier quarry pit. This, coupled with the presence of post-Medieval tile within pit **19**, dates these features to the post-Medieval period. The pits are not deep and do not extend far into the natural gravel. It is possible that the purpose here was to extract relatively small amounts of gravel and/or fine sand; this activity was sometime later than the large-scale quarrying demonstrated by the pit in Trench 3. These two pits seem to be contemporary but the deposition of fills indicates that **19** was cut first, followed by **22**.

4.1.4 Pits **32** and **34,** to the north east of **19** and **22**, have upper fills which also closely resemble the subsoil. A relationship with the subsoil layer is hard to determine, however the pits' position and alignment (adjacent and parallel to the two post-Medieval pits above) strongly suggests a contemporary date for these features. No dating evidence was recovered from these two pits, which may also have been for quarrying.

4.2 Significance

4.2.1 Archaeological work in this area has been limited. As such, the addition of evidence for human activity from the Mesolithic to Iron Age periods, and again during the Medieval/post-Medieval periods, is welcome. Perhaps the most significant addition to the archaeological record following work at this site has been the collection of a moderate-sized worked flint assemblage, particularly from Phase 1. It is interesting to note that Phase 2 has provided comparatively few struck flints, with none evident in the subsoil covering this area of site. Indeed the subsoil here is shallower and more like a 'true' subsoil layer, contrasting with the deep colluvium present in Phase 1. This may suggest that the majority of flint recovered during Phase 1, to the north of this site, was deposited there by being washed down-slope; further from the base of the hill, trenches 3 and 4 were not reached by this hill-wash action. As such, if the presence of the struck

flint material is indicative of nearby settlement in late prehistory, it may be that such settlement was present up-slope from our original site.

4.2.2 During Phase 2, the primary new discovery has been the presence of late/post-Medieval quarry pits, possibly related to nearby surface and road construction (and/or road maintenance).

4.3 Recommendations

4.3.1 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 3						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
The trench consists of natural orange-red sand and coarse flint gravels. This natural level is only present for c. 7m at the south-eastern end of the trench; the remaining 17m of the trench is filled by a large quarry pit. This feature was investigated by a 1m x 2m test pit at the centre of the trench (recorded as pit 29), and a 0.6m x 0.6m test pit near the north-western limit of the trench (recorded as pit 31). No archaeological features were present at the south-eastern end of the trench; a modern pit was recorded in plan. The trench is sealed by a subsoil layer 0.15-0.16m thick, and truncated topsoil 0.06-0.08m thick is present in patches (the majority of topsoil was stripped prior to evaluation). Total topsoil thickness in this area is 0.34m.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.22
					Width (m)	2.2
					Length (m)	24.25
Contexts						
Context no.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Comment**	**Finds**	**Date**
1	Layer	-	0.08	Topsoil (truncated)	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.16	Subsoil	-	-
29	Cut	2.95+	0.86	Quarry Pit (=31, 30)	-	Late/Post-Med
31	Cut	2.95+	0.72	Quarry Pit (=29, 30)	-	Late/Post-Med
40	Fill	-	0.14	Fill of quarry pit 29	-	-
41	Fill	-	0.22	Fill of quarry pit 29	Struck flints, pottery	Meso-BA flints, 11thC pot
42	Fill	-	0.06	Fill of quarry pit 29 (redeposited natural sand & gravel)	-	-
43	Fill	-	0.36	Fill of quarry pit 29	-	-
44	Fill	-	0.03	Fill of quarry pit 29 (redeposited natural sand & gravel)	-	-
45	Fill	-	0.13	Fill of quarry pit 29	Struck flints	Meso-IA
46	Fill	-	0.22	Fill of quarry pit 29 (redeposited natural sand & gravel)	-	-
47	Fill	-	0.4	Fill of quarry pit 29	Struck flints, pottery	Meso-BA flints, 12thC pot
48	Fill	-	0.34	Fill of quarry pit 29	-	-
49	Fill	-	0.1	Fill of quarry pit 31	-	-
50	Fill	-	0.1	Fill of quarry pit 31	-	-
51	Fill	-	0.05	Fill of quarry pit 31 (redeposited natural sand & gravel)	-	-
52	Fill	-	0.2	Fill of quarry pit 31	-	-
53	Fill	-	0.02	Fill of quarry pit 31 (redeposited natural sand & gravel)	-	-
54	Fill	-	0.12	Fill of quarry pit 31	-	-
55	Fill	-	0.26	Fill of quarry pit 31 (redeposited natural sand & gravel)	-	-

Trench 4		
General description	**Orientation**	NE-SW
The trench consists of natural orange-red sand and coarse flint gravels, with occasional patches of bright orange-yellow fine gravel and sand. A number of natural features were present at the north-eastern end of the trench and recorded as natural hollows 23, 25 and 27. A series of possible quarry pits 19, 22, 34 and 32 was present towards the south-western end, possibly associated with the quarrying activity in trench 3. The trench is sealed by a subsoil layer 0.15 to 0.32m in depth, averaging at around 0.25m. Subsoil is thickest at the north-eastern end of the trench. Patchy topsoil is present at the south-western end of the trench, but the majority of topsoil was stripped prior to evaluation. Total topsoil thickness in this area is 0.32m.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.25
	Width (m)	2.2
	Length (m)	38

Contexts

Context no.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.06	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.32	Subsoil	-	-
18	Fill	-	0.48	Fill of ?quarry pit 19	Tile, pottery, struck flints	Post-Med tile, IA pot, Meso-BA flints
19	Cut	1.8	0.48	?Quarry pit	-	Post-Med
20	Fill	-	0.05	Fill of ?quarry pit 22	-	-
21	Fill	-	0.46	Fill of ?quarry pit 22	-	-
22	Cut	1.18	0.46	?Quarry pit	-	Post-Med
23	Cut	0.86	0.12	Natural hollow (roots)	-	-
24	Fill	0.86	0.12	Fill of natural hollow 23	-	-
25	Cut	0.8	0.1	Natural hollow (roots)	-	-
26	Fill	0.8	0.1	Fill of natural hollow 25	-	-
27	Cut	0.45	0.14	Natural hollow (roots)	-	-
28	Fill	0.45	0.14	Fill of natural hollow 27	-	-
30	Cut	2.95+	0.2	Quarry Pit (=29, 31)	-	Late/Post-Med
32	Cut	2.95	0.26	?Quarry pit	-	?Post-Med
33	Fill	-	0.26	Fill of ?quarry pit 32	-	-
34	Cut	2.0+	0.54	?Quarry pit	-	?Post-Med
35	Fill	1.5	0.18	Fill of ?quarry pit 34	-	-
36	Fill	-	0.16	Fill of ?quarry pit 34 (redeposited natural sand)	-	-
37	Fill	-	0.18	Fill of ?quarry pit 34 (redeposited natural sand)	-	-
38	Fill	-	0.16	Fill of ?quarry pit 34 (redeposited natural sand)	-	-
39	Fill	-	0.2	Fill of quarry pit 30	-	-

B.1: Lithic Evidence (Phases 1 & 2)

By Dr Barry Bishop

Introduction

The excavations at the Semer Borehole pipeline resulted in the recovery of a moderate assemblage of struck flint and a small quantity of burnt stone, the material mostly coming from sub-soil / colluvial deposits (Phase 1) or post-Medieval quarries (Phase 2). A full catalogue detailing each piece, including contextual origin, raw material, condition and, where possible, a suggested date of manufacture has been compiled separately; this should also be consulted for information relating to the spatial and contextual distribution of the assemblage.

This report provides a summary description of the assemblage and assesses its archaeological significance and potential to contribute to the further understanding of the nature and chronology of activity at the site. All metrical descriptions follow the methodology established by Saville (1980).

Quantification

Location	Decortication flake	Core rejuvenation flake	Flake	Blade-like flake	Prismatic blade	Non-prismatic blade	Chip	Flake fragment	Core	Conchoidal chunk	Retouched	**Total Struck**	Unworked burnt stone (no.)	Unworked burnt stone (wt;g
Topsoil			1									**1**		
Sub-soil Surface	2	1	22	2	4	2		1	2	1	4	**41**		
Sub-soil TP 4									1			**1**		
Sub-soil TP 5			3		1	1			1			**6**	2	71
Sub-soil TP 6			9			3		2		1		**15**		
Sub-soil TP 7											1	**1**		
Sub-soil TP 10	5		12	1			1	4	2	1		**26**		
Trench 1 sub-soils			3		2	1			2			**8**	2	118
Trench 2 sub-soils	4		10	3	2	2	5	5	2	1	2	**36**		
Palaeochannel 10	1		5		1			3	2	1	2	**15**	3	101
Quarries	4		15		1			2	1			**23**	1	73
Total	**16**	**1**	**80**	**6**	**11**	**9**	**6**	**17**	**13**	**5**	**9**	**173**	**8**	**363**
Total %	***9.2***	***0.6***	***46.2***	***3.5***	***6.4***	***5.2***	***3.5***	***9.8***	***7.5***	***2.9***	***5.2***	***100***		

Table L01: Quantification of lithic material by features

Burnt Stone

The unworked burnt stone all comprises flint fragments that have been intensely heated to the extent that they had changed colour and become 'fire crazed'. The pieces were scattered in small quantities within the sub-soils, the palaeochannel and quarry [29]. No

specific concentrations indicative of *in-situ* burning are evident and the pieces are most suggestive of 'background waste' arising from occasional hearth use at the site.

Struck Flint

Raw Materials

The raw materials consist of a fine-grained 'glassy' flint that is predominantly dark grey/black in colour but often mottled with lighter opaque inclusions. A few pieces of similar flint but lighter brown or grey in colour are also present, as are a small number made from a more 'stony' opaque light grey flint. Cortex is preserved on over two-thirds of the pieces and this is mostly rough, relatively unweathered and of variable thickness, but often-heavily recorticated thermal surfaces are also common. Although the flint is generally of good quality, its knapping potential is limited by the frequency of internal thermal flaws. The raw materials are likely to have consisted of relatively large but glacially shattered nodular fragments gathered from the glacial deposits that mantle the area.

Technology, Typology and Dating

The struck flint assemblage from the site amounts to 173 pieces. Its technological characteristics indicate that it had been manufactured over a long period, quite possibly from the Mesolithic through to the later Bronze Age or even Iron Age. As considerable overlap exists between methods of production during these periods, individual pieces can rarely be unequivocally assigned to a chronologically specific reduction strategy. However, by considering the technological traits as a whole, it is possible with reasonable confidence to assign broad dates to much of the assemblage, allowing its division into three basic technological strategies, as are discussed below.

Mesolithic / Early Neolithic

The earliest evidence of flintworking is represented by a number of prismatic blades, blade-like flakes, a core rejuvenation flake and three blade cores, all products of a systematic reduction strategy characteristic of Mesolithic and Early Neolithic industries. Along with these, probably around half of the overall assemblage comprises relatively well-struck thin and narrow flakes which, although less diagnostic, would certainly not be out of place within the industries of these periods.

Activity during the Mesolithic period is attested by a truncated blade recovered from the colluvium. This example resembles an obliquely-truncated microlith although it is the distal end that has been retouched. Whilst it is difficult to be certain, some of the blades are particularly reminiscent of Mesolithic examples. These include a micro-blade from context [13] and a very expertly struck prismatic blade from Test-pit 5 that has a length/breadth ratio of over five.

Whilst most of these blade-based pieces can only be assigned more broadly to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic periods, evidence that activity at the site continued across the transition is demonstrated by a leaf-shaped arrowhead recovered from layer [15] overlying palaeochannel [10]. This has broken, probably during use, but is almost certainly one of Green's Early Neolithic type 3B arrowheads (1980, table II.18).

Later Neolithic / Early Bronze Age

Although no unequivocal evidence for flint use during these periods was identified, a small number of competently produced thin flakes with narrow and carefully edge-trimmed or faceted striking platforms are perhaps most characteristic of Later Neolithic

or Early Bronze Age flintwork. Also possibly of this date is a centripetally worked core from the colluvium and a few of the more extensively worked cores would also be compatible with a Later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date.

Middle Bronze Age to Iron Age Flintwork

The remaining part of the assemblage, probably comprising around a third to a half, derives from a successful although very unstructured approach to obtaining edges on pieces of flint that would be suitable both for direct use and further modification. This can be dated to the later prehistoric period and would be most typical of later second and first millennium BC industries (Ballin 2002; Herne 1991; Humphrey 2003; Young and Humphrey 1999). The flakes vary considerably in shape and size, although they tend to be broad and thick and often have wide, markedly obtuse, striking platforms comparable to Martingell's 'squat' flakes (1990; 2003). The assemblage was made by an exclusive use of hard hammer percussors as is indicated by the frequency of pronounced bulbs of percussion and visible, sometimes multiple, points of percussion. Several flakes appear to have been struck from much earlier, recorticated, cores or large flakes. The majority of the cores from the site are likely to be of later prehistoric date. These mostly have been minimally reduced and show little evidence for any pre-shaping or preparation, or for attempts at rejuvenation to aid further reduction, and most had been abandoned prior to exhaustion. They are all irregularly shaped with flakes mostly removed from numerous and seemingly random directions, using any platform deemed appropriate including cortical surfaces and unmodified flake scars. The later prehistoric retouched flakes are mostly simply and usually sporadically retouched along their edges, either to form steep-edged implements comparable to scrapers or to strengthen sharp edges for use as cutting tools. A number of other flakes also have edge damage consistent with such use, although their general condition precludes unequivocal identification of this.

Distribution and Context

The bulk of the struck flint was recovered from a series of sub-soils or colluvial deposits which contributed over three-quarters of the overall assemblage. Judging from the densities recovered from the test-pits, the material appears to be distributed throughout these deposits although there is no evidence of any chronological patterning, with both 'earlier' and ''later' pieces present throughout the soil profiles. The condition of this material is variable but most pieces show some evidence of edge chipping and/or sand glossing. This, combined with the mix of raw materials and varied technological traits, would indicate that the material had experienced some degree of post-depositional movement, which might relate to the colluvial origin of the deposits. Fifteen pieces were recovered from a palaeochannel and, although this collection is small, these tend to be in much better condition than those from the soils. Nevertheless the technological traits of these pieces suggest a similar chronological mixing as that seen in the material from the sub-soils. Some of these piece, such as a blade core fragment and a long-end scarper, are likely to date to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic. However, there are also four crudely struck flakes in a sharp condition that appear to have been struck from the same core and which may indicate (relatively) *in-situ* knapping. Although these cannot be dated with any certainly it is most likely that they are later prehistoric. The remaining pieces were recovered from either unstratified deposits or Medieval/Post-medieval quarries and have been residually deposited.

Discussion

The lithic assemblage was mostly recovered from sub-soils that may have seen colluvial movement and this is reflected in the condition of the pieces, although some later prehistoric flintworking may have occurred in the vicinity of the palaeochannel. Despite the assemblage being largely residual, it does demonstrate that that this area has seen persistent if intermittent prehistoric activity over a long period, probably commencing in the Mesolithic and continuing until the later Bronze Age or Iron Age. Occupation here was no doubt encouraged by site's proximity to the river and the presence of near-by river gravel terraces, located in an otherwise boulder-clay dominated landscape. The earlier material most probably reflects relatively transient activity but this did include both primary core reduction and tool use. During the later prehistoric periods flintworking tends to be casual and opportunistic, resulting in discarded struck pieces being recovered in small quantities scattered around settlements and field-systems, this raising the possibility that as yet unrecognized settlements may exist relatively close-by.

Recommendations

This report and associated catalogue is all that is required of the assemblage for the purposes of archiving and no further analytical work is warranted. The assemblage does, however, provide a welcome addition to the evidence of prehistoric activity in an area which until recently has produced few such finds, and can contribute to a broader understanding of landscape use in this area. Its details should therefore be noted in the local Historic Environment Record and a summary of this report included in any published accounts of the investigations.

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Appendix C. Bibliography

Nicholls, K. & Mortimer, R. (unpublished) 2015 *Specification for Archaeological Strip, Map & Record and Trench Evaluation*

Specification for Archaeological Trench Evaluation

Site Name: Semer Water Treatment Works, Nedging-with-Naughton, Suffolk
Site Code: XSFSEM15
HER Code: NDG 015
Event No: ESF22707
County (Grid Ref): TL 995 477

Project No: 17779
Client: Anglian Water
Date: 07/01/15 updated 14/01/15 and 16/02/15
Author: Kathryn Nicholls & Richard Mortimer

Specification for Archaeological Trench Evaluation

Oxford Archaeology Ltd is an Institute of Field Archaeologists Registered Organisation and follows IFA By-Laws, Standards and Policy.

Site Name:	**Semer WTW**
Event No:	**ESF22707**
Site Code:	**XSFSEM15**
County (Grid Ref):	**TL 995 477**

Project No.:	17779
Project Type:	Trench Evaluation
Client:	Anglian Water
Date:	07/01/15 updated 14/01/15 and 16/2/15
Author:	Kathryn Nicholls & Richard Mortimer

1 General Background

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

This specification (Written Scheme of Investigation) has been prepared on behalf of Anglian Water in response to a brief from Rachael Abraham of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service /Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT).

This specification conforms to the principles identified in English Heritage's guidance documents Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment, specifically the Morphe Project Manager's Guide (2006) and PPN3 (Project Planning Note 3): Archaeological Excavation.

This specification deals with the Trench Evaluation of the Semer Water Treatment Works, Nedging, Suffolk.

The new WTW is adjacent to the curremnt works. Linear trenches are to be excavated within the footprint of the new works through any surviving subsoils following a topsoil strip. The trenches will total c. 60m in length and will be a minimum width of 1.8m.

1.2 The Geology and Topography of the Site

The new works are alongside the Hadleigh Road 800m north of the village of Semer, Suffolk. The River Brett lies just to the south.

The area lies on the Newhaven Chalk formation and is in an area of river terrace and alluvial deposits.

1.3 The Proposed Development

The development comprises the construction of a new WTW. Significant ground disturbance will be caused with the potential to damage any archaeological deposit that exists beneath.

2 Archaeological Background

Anglian water has been advised that this scheme could affect important archaeological deposits. The scheme lies in an area of archaeological interest, recorded in the County Historic Environment Record, situated in the eastern side of the River Brett Valley. There are three Bronze Age round barrows recorded on the opposite bank of the river, in a similar topographic setting (HER: SMR 005, SMR 006, SMR 030). There is a high potential for archaeological deposits to be disturbed by development in this valley location. As such, the location offers potential for the discovery of hitherto unknown important features and deposits.

3 Aims and Objectives

The main aim of the project will be to preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the excavation area by record and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site.

4 Timetable

It is estimated that the initial topsoil strip will take approximately 2 working days with subsequent trench evaluation another 2-5 days. These figures do not allow for delays caused by bad weather or any additional works beyond the current agreed limits of the excavation area. Working days are based on a 5-day working week, Monday to Friday.

Post-excavation tasks and report writing to post-excavation assessment will take approximately 2 – 4 weeks following the end of fieldwork, unless there are exceptional discoveries requiring more lengthy analysis. A summary statement of results, however, can be produced more quickly if required.

5 Staffing and Support

The following staff will form the project team:

1 x Project Manager (supervisory only, not based on site) (Richard Mortimer)
1 x Project Officer/Supervisor (full time)
Site Assistants (as required)
1 x Finds Assistant (part time, as required)
1 x Illustrator for post-excavation work (part time)

The Project Manager and Project Officer/Supervisor will be core staff of OA East. Names, qualifications and experience of key project personnel can be communicated to the Suffolk County Archaeological Planning Advice team before the commencement of fieldwork if required. All Site Assistants will be drawn from a pool of qualified and experienced staff. The Contractor will not employ volunteer amateur or student staff, whether paid or unpaid, to fulfil any of the above tasks except as an addition to the stated team

Specialists will be employed for consultation and analysis as necessary. The following individuals will be consulted based on the evaluation results. Prehistoric pottery will be examined by Sarah Percival, Romano-British pottery by Alice Lyons. Faunal remains will be examined by Chris Faine. Small Finds will be examined by Chris Howard-Davies. Environmental analysis will be carried out by OA East staff and the results will be conveyed to the English Heritage Regional Scientific Advisor. Conservation will be undertaken by Colchester or York Museums. Should unexpected remains be encountered, a list of other specialists who may be consulted is given in Appendix 1.

6 Methods

The client or their principal contractor will supply a tracked 360 excavator. The area of the new works will be set out by the principal contractor.

Topsoil will be removed by machine using a 2m wide flat-bladed bucket under the observation and partial direction of a suitably qualified archaeologist. The topsoil will be formed into a bund to the sides of the stripped area, away from the hedge and road. Any subsoil between the topsoil and the underlying natural substrata will be left in place.

Any archaeological features or deposits revealed by the topsoil strip will be recorded. Any areas where subsoil remains in place, covering the natural substrata, may be subject to subsequent trial trench evaluation to a maximum of 2 trenches totalling 60 linear metres.

Any features revealed by the topsoil strip or trench evaluation will be mapped onto a base plan either by hand (1:50 or 1:100) or using a GPS, as appropriate. The survey data will be made available in digital format for transfer to the Heritage Environment Record (HER) GIS system. A plan showing all significant features will be located on the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

Established excavation and recording methodology will be used as has been generally employed on rural sites in Eastern England, a system closely based upon the DUA manuals of London Museum, and utilising single-context recording where appropriate. A Project Manager will monitor the work of the site supervisor to ensure accuracy of excavation and recording. Regular communication will ensure that the work programme and research direction is kept to, and that the recording strategy develops in the light of excavation results and input from finds, environmental and other specialists. Photographic records and hand-drawn sections will be completed to recognised standards.

A minimum 50% of each discrete feature will be excavated unless it is unsafe to do so. Where linear features are not directly related to settlement they will be excavated sufficient to provide evidence for an informed interpretation of their date and function. Where linear features are directly related to settlement, a minimum of 25% of each feature will be excavated.

Each feature will be individually documented on context sheets and hand drawn in section and plan at an appropriate scale (1:10 or 1:20).

Spoil will be scanned visually and with a metal detector when relevant to aid recovery of artefacts.

Monochrome and colour photographs supplemented by digital photography will form the photographic archive.

Bulk samples will be taken by the excavator and in consultation with the English Heritage Regional Scientific Advisor and the project's environmental specialists where practicable, to test for the presence and potential of micro- and macro-botanical environmental indicators. If buried soils are encountered a soil micromorphology specialist will be consulted. The results of any analysis will be included in the excavation report.

If **Human remains** are encountered, the relevant County Archaeological Advice Team, the Coroner and the client will be informed. Removal of these remains will be carried out in accordance with all appropriate Environmental Health regulations and will only occur after a Ministry of Justice licence has been obtained.

Public Presentation: The subject site is not suitable for direct presentation through the provision of a public open day as it lies within a construction site. However, should the results of this work prove of significant local or regional importance they will be disseminated during lectures and presentations to the public and archaeological societies upon request, as part of the growing body of work being conducted within the local area by OA East.

7 Post-excavation, Publication and Archive

A post-excavation report will be presented within one month of the completion of fieldwork unless the density and significance of features and finds make this impossible. Post-excavation and reporting will follow guidance in English Heritage's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (2009)*.

An Oasis report will be submitted on completion of report.

A hard copy of the approved report will be produced for the HER and the County Archaeological Advisor. In addition a digital copy of the report will also be made available.

If appropriate a report will be published in an appropriate journal as approved by the County Archaeological Advisor.

A security copy of the archive will be made.

All artefactual material recovered will be held in storage by OA East and ownership of all such archaeological finds will be given over to the relevant authority to facilitate future study and ensure proper preservation of all artefacts. In the unlikely event that artefacts of significant monetary value are discovered, and if they are not subject to Treasure Act legislation separate ownership arrangements may be negotiated.

It is Oxford Archaeology Ltd's policy, in line with accepted practice, to keep site archives (paper and artefactual) together wherever possible. All archives will comply in format with PPN3 recommendations.

The project archive will follow the guidelines contained in *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990), *Standards in the Museum care of Archaeological Collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission 1992), and *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation (*Brown 2007*).* The archive will be deposited within an approved county store. Costs associated with the deposition of the archive will be met by the client.

8 Further Considerations

8.1 Backfilling/Reinstatement

Backfilling/reinstatement of the excavation areas will not be undertaken by OA East.

8.2 Monitoring

Rachael Abraham of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service/Conservation Team (SCCAS/CT) will be informed appropriately of dates and arrangements to allow for adequate monitoring of the works should any archaeological features be found.

8.3 Health and Safety

A risk assessment covering all activities carried out during the lifetime of the project will be prepared prior to project commencement and updated throughout the life of the project. This draws on OA East's activity-specific risk assessment literature and conforms with CDM requirements.

All aspects of the project, both in the field and in the office will be conducted according to OA East's Health and Safety Policy, Oxford Archaeology Ltd's Health and Safety Policy, and *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology* (J.L. Allen and A. St John-Holt, 1997). A copy of OA East's Health and Safety Policy can be supplied on request.

8.4 Contingency Resourcing

The client is advised that consideration should be given to the possible need for additional contingency payments to ensure adequate project resourcing. Additional costs may be incurred in certain circumstances including: the presence of significant numbers of archaeological finds and/or features, prolonged periods of poor weather, or major changes in excavation strategy when made in order to accommodate alterations to any agreed scheme of concurrent site works by the Client or their sub-contractors.

8.5 Insurance

OA East is covered by Public and Employer's Liability Insurance. The underwriting company is Allianz Cornhill Insurance plc, policy number SZ/14939479/06. Details of the policy can be seen at the OA East office.

8.6 Services, Public Rights of Way, Tree Preservation Orders etc.

The client will inform the project manager of any live or disused cables, gas pipes, water pipes or other services that may be affected by the proposed excavations before the commencement of fieldwork. Hidden cables/services should be clearly identified and marked where necessary. The client will likewise inform the project manager of any public rights of way or permissive paths on or near the land which might affect or be affected by the work. The client will also inform the project manager of any trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders within the subject site or on its boundaries

8.7 Site Security

Unless previously agreed with the Project Manager in writing, this specification and any associated statement of costs is based on the assumption that the site will be sufficiently secure for archaeological work to commence. All security requirements, including fencing, padlocks for gates etc. are the responsibility of the client.

8.8 Access

The client will secure access to the site for archaeological personnel and plant, and obtain the necessary permissions from owners and tenants to place a mobile office and portable toilet on or near to the site. Any costs incurred to secure access, or incurred as a result of withholding of access will not be OA East's responsibility. The costs of any delays as a result of withheld access will be passed on to the client in addition to the project costs already specified.

8.9 Site Preparation

The client is responsible for clearing the site and preparing it so as to allow archaeological work to take place without further preparatory works, and any cost statement accompanying or associated with this specification is offered on this basis. Unless previously agreed in writing, the costs of any preparatory work required, including tree felling and removal, scrub or undergrowth clearance, removal of concrete or hard standing, demolition of buildings or sheds, or removal of excessive overburden, refuse or dumped material, will be charged to the client, in addition to any costs for archaeological evaluation already agreed.

APPENDIX 1: CONSULTANT SPECIALISTS

NAME	SPECIALISM	ORGANISATION
Allen, Leigh	Worked bone, CBM, medieval metalwork	Oxford Archaeology
Allen, Martin	Medieval coins	
Anderson, Sue	HSR, pottery and CBM	
Bates, Andy	Animal bone	Oxford Archaeology
Biddulph, Edward	Roman pottery	Oxford Archaeology
Bishop, Barry	Lithics	Freelance
Blackburn, Mark	Coins	
Blinkhorn, Paul	Iron Age, Anglo-Saxon and medieval pottery	Freelance
Bonsall, Sandra	plant macrofossils; pollen preparations	Oxford Archaeology
Booth, Paul	Roman pottery and coins	Oxford Archaeology
Boreham, Steve	Pollen and soils/ geology	Cambridge University
Cane, Jon	illustration & reconstruction artist	Freelance
Champness, Carl	Snails, geoarchaeology	Oxford Archaeology
Cotter, John	Medieval/post-Medieval finds, pottery, CBM	Oxford Archaeology
Crummy, Nina	Small Find Assemblages	Freelance
Cowgill, Jane	Slag/metalworking residues	
Darrah, Richard	Wood technology	
Dickson, ANthony	Worked Flint	Oxford Archaeology
Dodwell, Natasha	Human Bone	
Donelly, Mike	Flint	Oxford Archaeology
Doonan, Roger	Slags, metallurgy	
Druce, Denise	Pollen, charred plants, charcoal/wood identification, sediment coring and interpretation	Oxford Archaeology
Evans, Jerry	Roman pottery	Freelance
Fletcher, Carole	Medieval pot, glass, small finds	Oxford Archaeology
Fosberry, Rachel	Charred plant remains	Oxford Archaeology
French, Charly	Soil micromorphology and pollen	
Gale, Rowena	Charcoal ID	
Gleed-Owen, Chris	Herpetologist	
Goffin, Richenda	Post-Roman pottery, building materials, painted wall plaster	
Hamilton-Dyer, Sheila	Fish and small animal bones	
Howard-Davis, Chris	Small finds, Mesolithic flint, RB coarse pottery, leather, wooden objects and wood technology;	Oxford Archaeology
Huckerby, Elizabeth	Plant macrofossils, pollen	Oxford Archaeology
Hunter, Kath	Archaeobotany (charred, waterlogged and mineralised plant remains)	Oxford Archaeology
Jones, Jenny	Conservation	ASUD, Durham University
Kirkham, Andrea	Plaster	
Locker, Alison	Fishbone	
Loe, Louise	Osteologist	Oxford Archaeology
Morris, Carol	Wooden artefacts	Freelance
Mould, Quita	Ironwork, leather	
Nicholson, Rebecca	Fish and small mammal and bird bones, shell	Oxford Archaeology
Palmer, Rog	Aerial photographs	Air Photo Services
Poole, Cynthia	Multi-period finds, CBM, fired clay	Oxford Archaeology
Popescu, Adrian	Roman coins	Fitzwilliam Museum
Powell, Kelly	Prehistoric and Roman small finds	Oxford Archaeology
Rackham, James	Faunal and plant remains, can arrange	

	pollen analysis	
Riddler, Ian	Anglo-Saxon bone objects & related artefact types	Freelance
Robinson, Mark	Insects	
Rowland, Steve	Faunal and human bone	Oxford Archaeology
Rutherford, Mairead	Pollen, non-pollen palynomorphs, dinoflagellate cysts, diatoms	Oxford Archaeology
Samuels, Mark	Architectural stonework	
Scaife, Rob	Pollen	
Scales, Rachel	Animal bones	Oxford Archaeology
Scott, Ian	Roman, Medieval, post-medieval finds, metalwork, glass	Oxford Archaeology
Sealey, Paul	Iron Age pottery	Freelance
Shafrey, Ruth	Worked stone, cbm	Oxford Archaeology
Spoerry, Paul	Medieval pottery	Oxford Archaeology
Stafford, Liz	Snails	Oxford Archaeology
Stansbie, Dan	Iron Age and Roman pottery, cbm and fired clay	Oxford Archaeology
Strid, Lena	Animal bone	Oxford Archaeology
Topf, Ana	DNA	
Tyers, Ian	Dendrochronology	
Ui Choileain, Zoe	Human bone	Oxford Archaeology
Wadeson, Stephen	Samian, Roman glass	Oxford Archaeology
Watson, Claire	DNA	
Webb, Helen	Osteologist	Oxford Archaeology
Willis, Steve	Iron Age pottery	
Young, Jane	Medieval Pottery in the Lincolnshire area	
Zant, John	Coins	Oxford Archaeology

Radiocarbon dating is normally undertaken for Oxford Archaeology East by SUERC, University of Glasgow.

Appendix D. OASIS Report Form

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	Oxfordar3-212716		
Project Name	Strip & Map and Evaluation at the Semer Borehole Pipeline, Hadleigh Road, Suffolk: Phase 2		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	09-04-2015	Finish	13-04-2015
Previous Work (by OA East)	Yes	Future Work	

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	NDG015	Planning App. No.	
HER No.	NDG015	Related HER/OASIS No.	Oxfordar3-212710

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice
Development Type	Pipelines/Cables

Please select all techniques used:

☐ Aerial Photography - interpretation	☐ Grab-Sampling	☐ Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
☐ Aerial Photography - new	☐ Gravity-Core	☒ Sample Trenches
☐ Annotated Sketch	☐ Laser Scanning	☐ Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
☐ Augering	☐ Measured Survey	☐ Targeted Trenches
☐ Dendrochronological Survey	☐ Metal Detectors	☒ Test Pits
☐ Documentary Search	☐ Phosphate Survey	☐ Topographic Survey
☐ Environmental Sampling	☐ Photogrammetric Survey	☐ Vibro-core
☐ Fieldwalking	☐ Photographic Survey	☐ Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
☐ Geophysical Survey	☐ 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
layer	Late Prehistoric -4k to 43	flint	Select period...
	Select period...	pottery	Neolithic -4k to -2k
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Suffolk	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Babergh	Semer Borehole Pipeline Hadleigh Road nr. Nedging	
Parish	Nedging-with-Naughton		
HER	Suffolk		
Study Area	0.25 hectares	National Grid Reference	TL 995 477

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Suffolk County Council, Rachael Abraham
Project Design Originator	OA East, Richard Mortimer
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Rebecca Jarosz

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
SCC Stores	OA East	SCC Stores
NDG 015	NDG 015	NDG 015

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	☐	☐	☐
Ceramics	☒	☐	☐
Environmental	☐	☐	☐
Glass	☐	☐	☐
Human Bones	☐	☐	☐
Industrial	☐	☐	☐
Leather	☐	☐	☐
Metal	☐	☐	☐
Stratigraphic		☐	☐
Survey		☐	☐
Textiles	☐	☐	☐
Wood	☐	☐	☐
Worked Bone	☐	☐	☐
Worked Stone/Lithic	☒	☐	☐
None	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐

Digital Media	Paper Media
☒ Database	☐ Aerial Photos
☐ GIS	☒ Context Sheet
☐ Geophysics	☐ Correspondence
☒ Images	☐ Diary
☒ Illustrations	☒ Drawing
☐ Moving Image	☐ Manuscript
☐ Spreadsheets	☐ Map
☐ Survey	☐ Matrices
☒ Text	☐ Microfilm
☐ Virtual Reality	☐ Misc.
	☐ Research/Notes
	☐ Photos
	☒ Plans
	☒ Report
	☒ Sections
	☐ Survey

Notes:

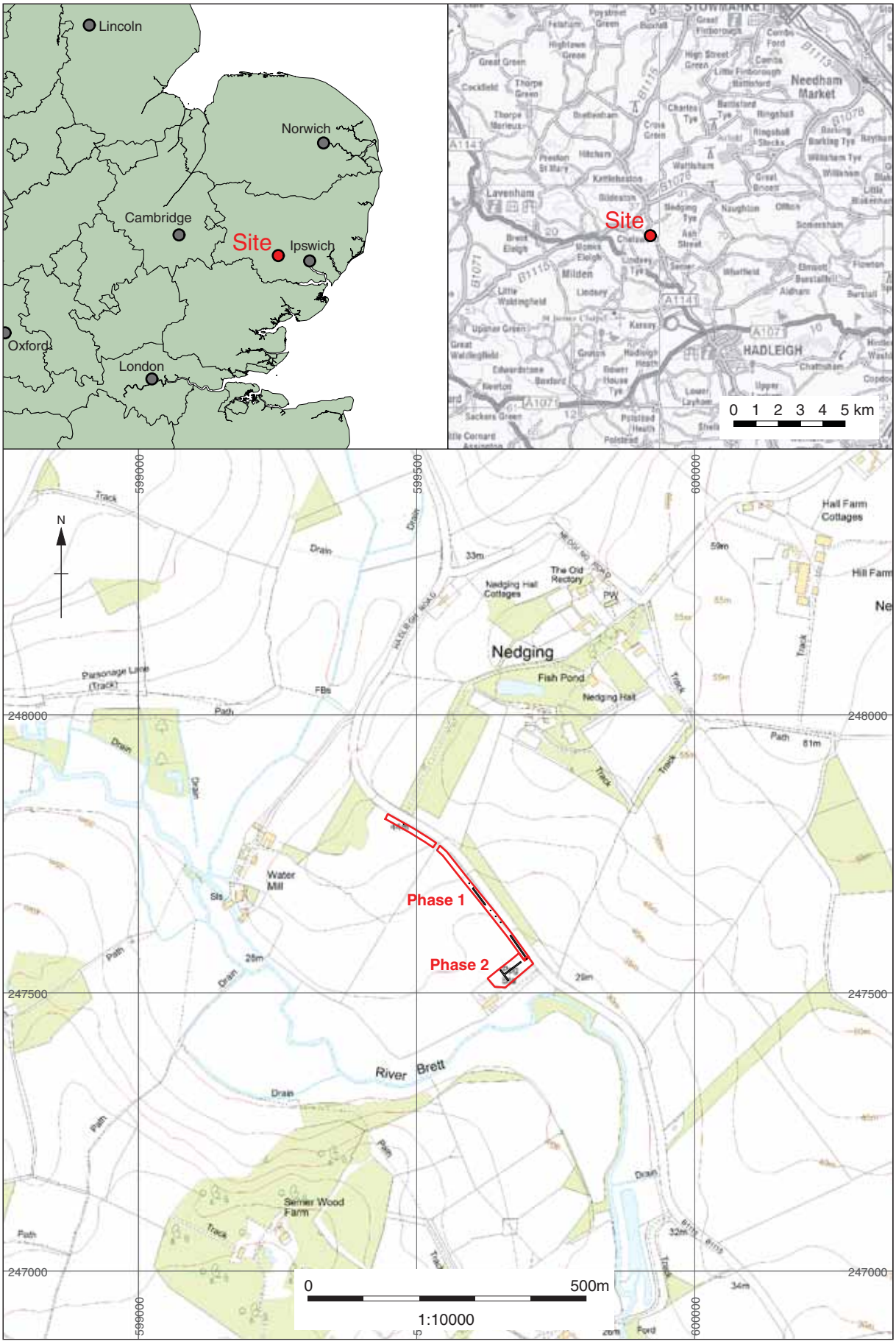

Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red)

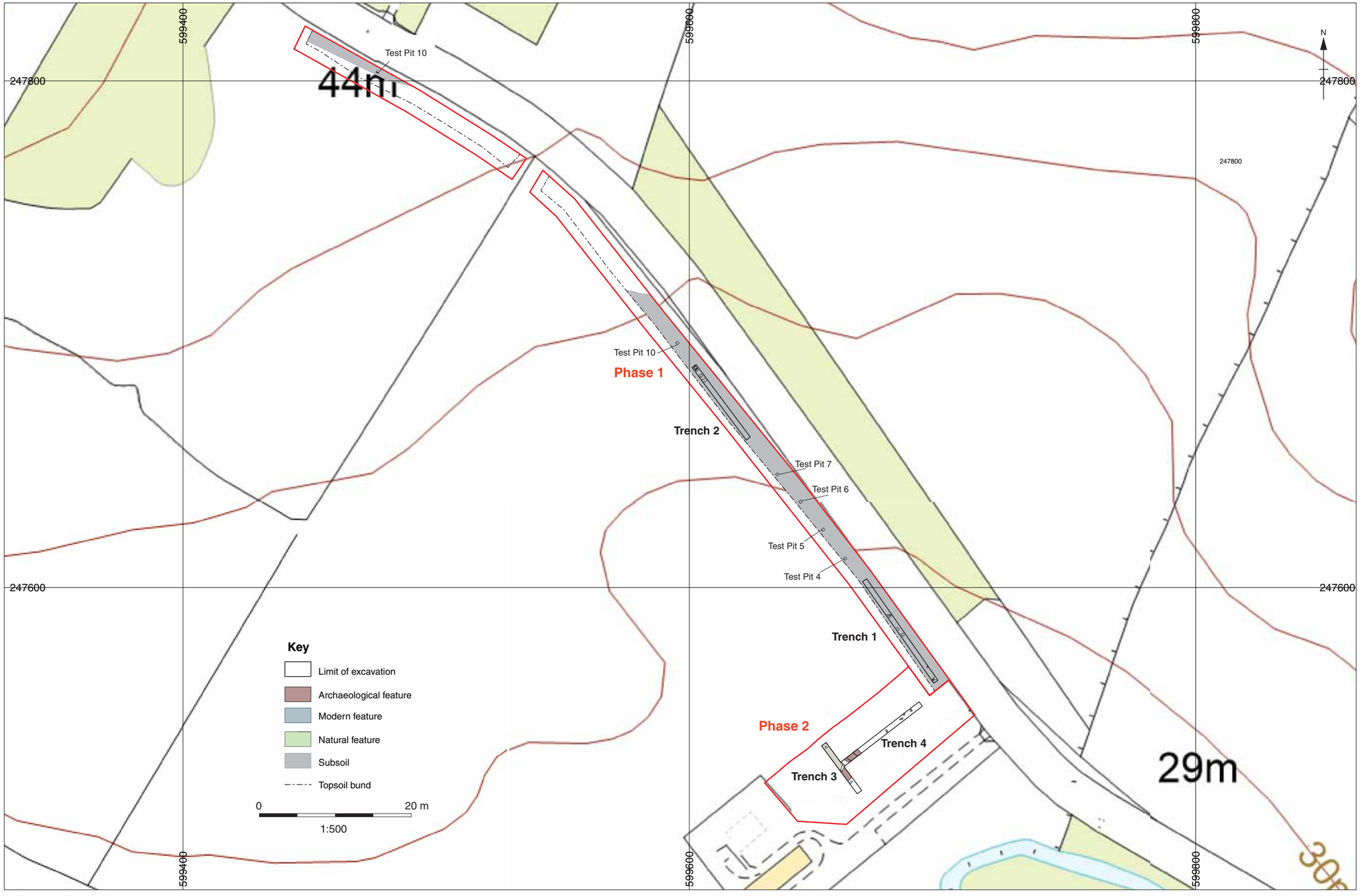

Figure 2: Trench location plan

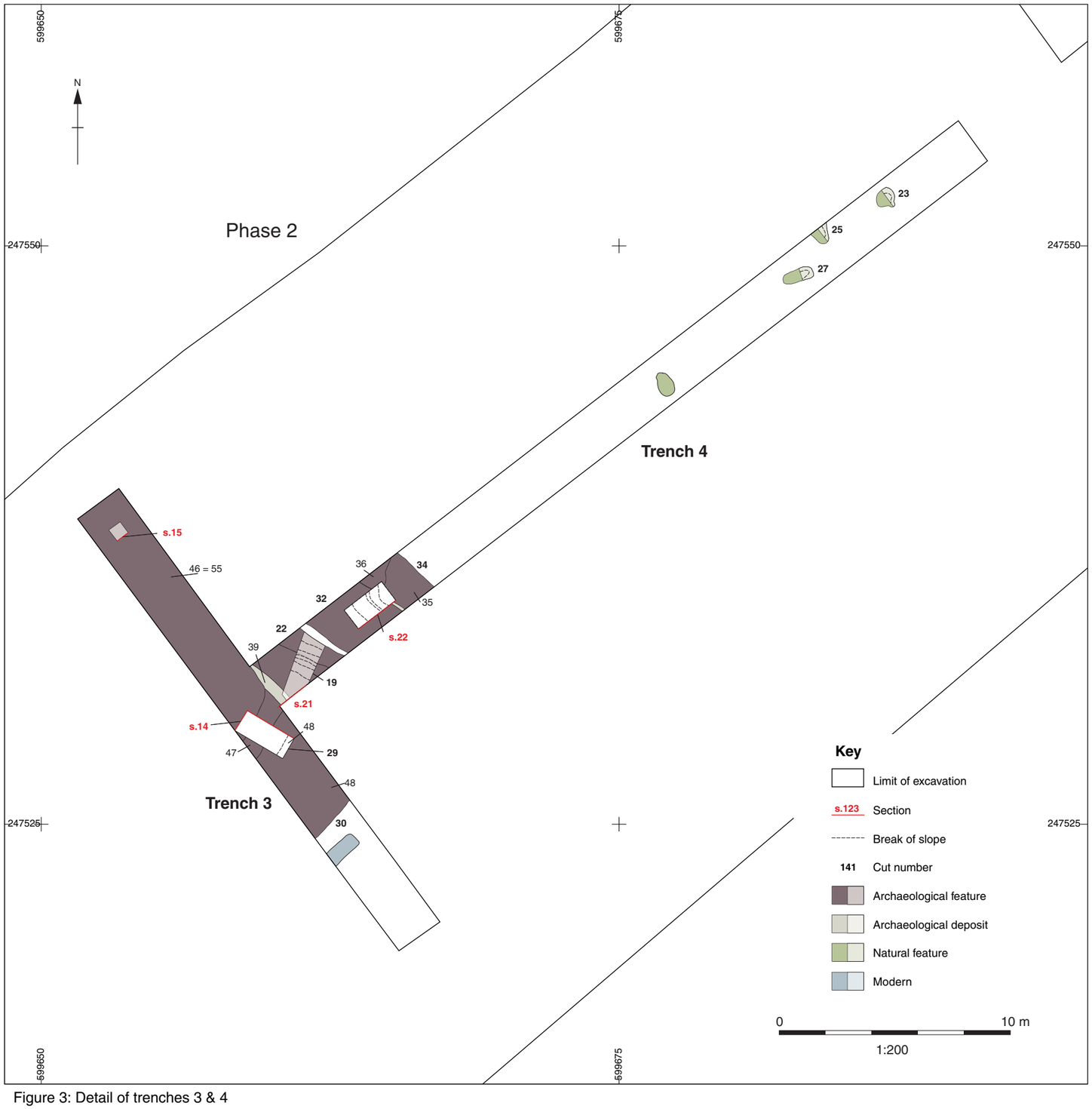

Figure 3: Detail of trenches 3 & 4

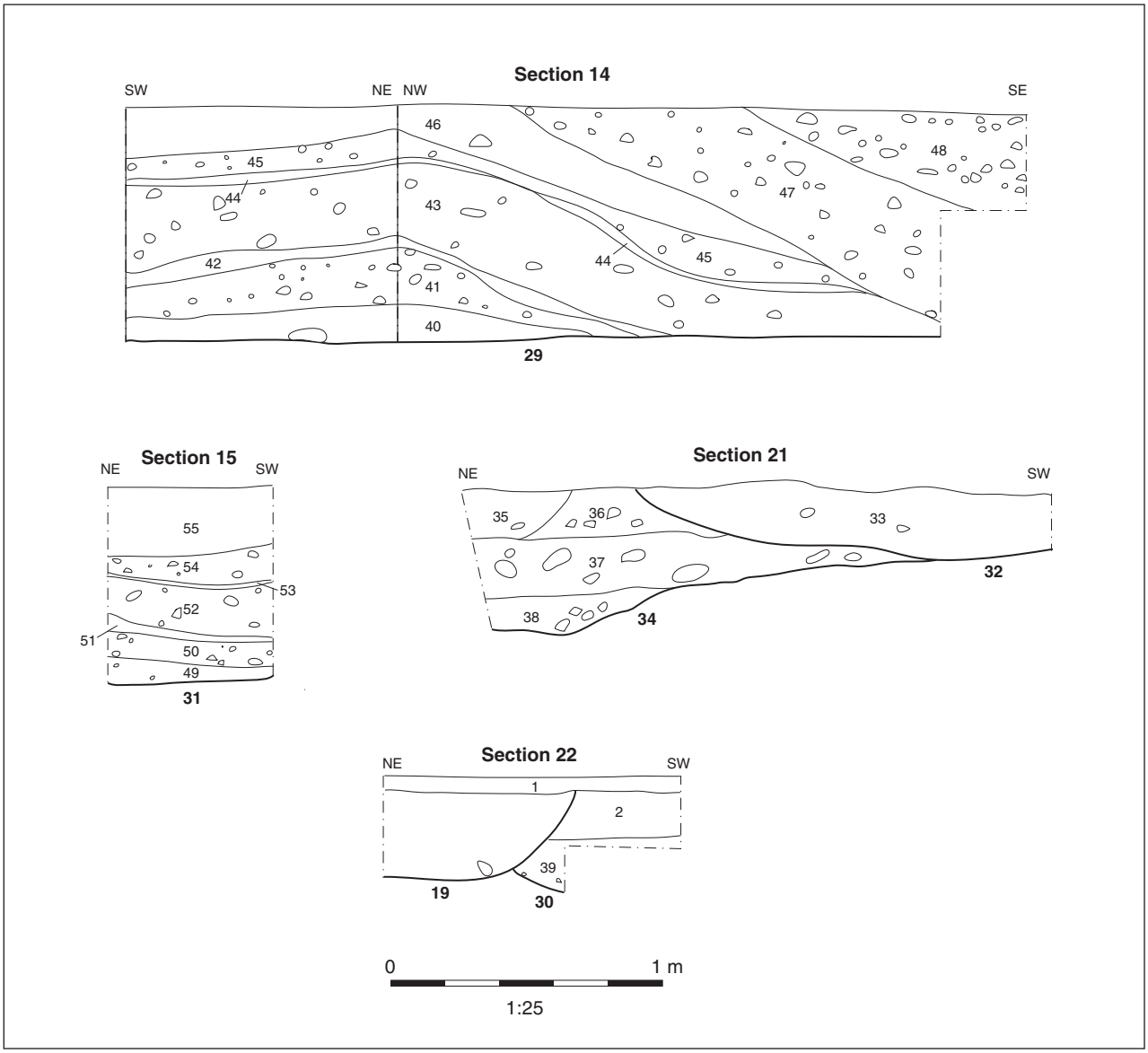

Figure 4: Selected sections

Plate 1: South-west facing section of quarry pit **29**, trench 3

Plate 2: South-east facing section of quarry pits **19** and **22**, trench 4

Plate 3: Trench 3 post-excavation (with pit **31** in foreground), looking south-east

Plate 4: Trench 4 post-excavation, looking south-west

Plate 5: Trench 4 post-excavation (with pit **29** in foreground), looking north-east

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