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Archaeological Pre-Application Evaluation by Trial-Trenching Report

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Westhall Farm, Gayton, Norfolk

Archaeological Pre-Application Evaluation by Trial-Trenching Report

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Summary

Pre-planning archaeological evaluation by trial-trenching was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology (OA) East on four fields at Westhall Farm, Gayton between 17th-30th October 2019. Across several of the fields a rectilinear pattern of earthworks is present, which had previously been recorded by an earthwork survey (OA East Report 2326). The trenching revealed several ditches, representing field or plot boundaries and a few pits. Finds were scarce but three different phases of activity have been defined based solely on the alignments of the revealed ditches. The earliest phase possibly dates from the 11th to 12th centuries (based on the earliest finds from the site). A later re-alignment took place which may date to the 12th to 13th centuries as a few sherds of pottery from this date were present in the ditch fills of this alignment. The latest phase of ditches lay on the same alignment as the extant earthworks and therefore post-dates the earlier alignments.

Three large pits were recorded, one of which contained distinctive fills including a charcoal-rich layer with fragments of burnt worked wood and peat ash, possibly indicating some light industrial activity nearby. Environmental samples indicated an environment dominated by cereals. There was good preservation of environmental indicators, including those found in waterlogged contexts in parts of the site.

Overall the finds assemblage indicates a continual presence on the site from the 11th to 12th-centuries onwards, with the surviving earthworks indicating further use into the later medieval period. Fragments of walls and an infilled well presumably related to post-medieval farm buildings that once occupied much of the northern part of the site. Associated with West Hall Farm, these are shown on historic maps but are no longer standing.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) East was commissioned by NPS Property Consultants to undertake a trial trench evaluation in pasture fields to the south of Westhall Farm, Gayton (TF 7251 1920; Fig. 1).

1.1.2 The work was undertaken to pre-planning inform the Planning Authority in advance of a submission of a Planning Application. A brief was set by Norfolk County Council Environment Service (NCCES) and a Written Scheme of Investigation was produced by OA detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process. This document outlines how OA East implemented the specified requirements.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site occupies a central location within the present village of Gayton with the medieval village centre to the east and a modern housing estate to the west. It is bounded to both the north and south by fields laid to pasture.

1.2.2 The area of proposed development consists of four fields presently laid to pasture. The northern boundary of the site is formed by Vicarge Lane, a public bridleway (and former lane leading to Gayton Common) which links the older and newer parts of the village.

1.2.3 In general, the site is fairly flat at c.18m OD, although low earthworks are visible across parts of the site. These had been surveyed and reported on (Hutton 2019) prior to the evaluation trenching.

1.2.4 The underlying geology is recorded as West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation (www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html), however the interface between the West Melbury Chalk and the mudstone of the Gault Formation lies just to the west of the site. Trenching revealed the natural deposits to be mixed with areas of chalk, chalk marl, and sand.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 Prior to the trial trenching evaluation, both an archaeological desk-based assessment (NPS Archaeology 2018) and an earthwork survey (Hutton 2019) had been undertaken and reported on. Detailed background information has been presented in these documents, a brief summary of which is presented below (Fig. 2).

1.3.2 Prehistoric evidence for the surrounding area includes a possible Bronze Age barrow cemetery *c*.600m to the north-east (NHER55864) and Iron Age occupation *c*.200m to the south (NHER11776). Roman occupation (NHER61948) has been identified *c*.700m away. A number of early and Late Saxon sites have been recorded across the parish of Gayton including an Early Saxon cemetery (NHER61946).

1.3.3 The earthwork remains of two manorial sites lie in relatively close proximity to the area of proposed development, one to the north-west (NHER3748) which is possibly

the site of West Hall manor and the other, a moated site, lay to the south-east. Evidence of medieval settlement has been found adjacent to the site (NHER35474) and the earthworks which occupy the site are also thought to be medieval in date. The earthwork survey of the site illustrated the presence of sub-square plots defined by ditches which are thought to represent garden or building plots (Hutton 2019).

1.3.4 Post-medieval farm buildings occupied much of the area in the north of the site. These are shown on historic maps but are no longer standing. Maps also show that part of the northern field (Field B) was occupied by a pond (see NPS 2018).

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

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

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The methods for archaeological evaluation followed the guidelines set out in the Standards for Development-Led Archaeological Project in Norfolk (NCCES).

2.2.2 Trenches were excavated using a tracked 360 machine fitted with a flat bladed bucket, 1.8m wide. A total of 17 trenches were excavated, located to investigate areas of earthworks and those areas without surface contours. The location of the trenches was partially dictated by the presence of high voltage overhead electricity cables and the presence of trees with preservation orders.

2.2.3 Trenches were machine excavated under archaeological supervision to the top of the underlying natural, so revealing archaeological features. Hand cleaning of the trenches was undertaken where necessary to clarify presence or absence of features.

2.2.4 Metal detecting was undertaken during the machine excavation of the trenches and across the spoil heaps. The exposed features and their fills were also metal detected.

2.2.5 Spoil was stored alongside the trenches with topsoil and subsoil deposits kept separately. On completion of the evaluation excavations, and with the approval of NCCES, the trenches were backfilled.

2.2.6 Following the initial machine excavation of the trenches all further investigation of archaeological deposits was by hand excavation. A representative sample of all archaeological features was investigated and recorded in order to characterise the remains on the site. Any features of possible natural origin (eg tree throws) were investigated in order to confirm their character.

2.2.7 The depth of topsoil and subsoils were recorded for each trench (see Appendix A).

2.2.8 Site records consist of survey, drawn, written and photographic data. A single context recording methodology was employed, the written record being made on *pro-forma* context sheets. Plans were recorded using surveyed data and sections were hand drawn at 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate. All recorded levels have been tied into Ordnance datum. High resolution digital photographs were taken of all trenches and features.

2.2.9 All artefacts recovered from site were recorded to context and have been processed and reported on (See appendices).

2.2.10 Bulk samples for environmental data were taken from selected features where they were likely to help characterise the function of features. In this instance sampling was targeted at pit fills and some ditch fills. Environmental samples have been processed and reported on (see Appendix C.3).

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. This is ordered according to field code (lettered B to E) and is consistent with the field codes used in the Desk-based Assessment and Earthwork Survey reports. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all features and deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B with faunal with environmental data being presented in Appendix C. Figure 3 provides an overall plan of the results of the trial trenching with more detailed plans shown in Figures 4-7. Sections of selected features are on Figure 8 and trench sections are shown on Figures 9 and 10, while a selection of trench and feature photographs is included as Plates 1-17. Where finds were recovered, these are noted in the relevant descriptions below.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was fairly consistent. The natural geology was formed of chalk, chalk marl and sand. It was overlain by a subsoil, which in turn was overlain by topsoil.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and most of the site remained dry throughout, although deeper areas of investigation retained water, particularly where chalk formed a high proportion of the underlying natural. The fills of the features in these areas were waterlogged. Archaeological features, where present, were reasonably easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological deposits were present in all but one of the trenches (Trench 17; Fig. 3). Later post-medieval and modern features including wall foundations and a well were present in the north-west field (Field B, Trenches 1, 2, 15-17) and modern chalk-filled French drains were recorded in the south-west field (Fields C and D, Trenches 3, 4, 6 and 7). These drains were mainly located within and followed the lines of the earthwork ditches.

3.3.2 Features of (Late Saxon to) medieval date were present across the site, including sealed below the later post-medieval and modern features in Field B.

3.3.3 Three phases of activity have been defined on the site based on the alignment of ditches (see Discussion and Fig. 11). Stratigraphic relationships between these alignments were few, and finds from ditches were low in number: these phases of activity cannot therefore be precisely dated.

3.4 Field B (Fig. 4)

Trench 1

3.4.1 Three ditches were recorded in the west end of this trench; although they were intercutting the precise relationships could not be fully established within the limits of

the trench. All contained a single fill of silty clay, differentiated only by slight variation in colour.

3.4.2 Ditch **104** lay on a north-east to south-west alignment; the same alignment as the earthwork features seen in the field to the south. This was cut by north-south aligned ditch **108**. The latest ditch (**106**) also cut through the subsoil (102).

Trench 2

3.4.3 The only archaeological feature of any great antiquity was shallow north-east to south-west aligned ditch **206** which appears to have continued the alignment of ditch **104** in Trench 1. Although undated, it was sealed beneath the subsoil (202; Fig. 9, S. 25). Above the subsoil were makeup layers (204 and 205) of silt and chalk with brick fragments, gravel and sand. Two modern post-holes containing wooden posts were noted (**208** and a post in section; not illustrated), while a modern ditch and an area of concrete possibly within a pit were present in the northern end of the trench.

Trench 15

3.4.4 During the machine excavation of this trench a water pipe was encountered and broken. Although not a live water supply a large quantity of water released into the trench. In order to prevent flooding along the full length of the trench a baulk was retained to pool the water in the west end of the trench.

3.4.5 A ditch (**1506**) on the same alignment as the earthworks (although these are not visible in this area) was recorded, along with the terminal of a small adjacent gully (**1504**) (Plate 14; Fig. 9, S. 28). The ditch was infilled with clayey silts and the gully with more sandy silt fills. One further gully (**1509**) on a different alignment was also recorded. All were undated but were sealed beneath the subsoil.

Trench 16

3.4.6 Early features in this trench consisted of one flat-based ditch (**1604**) and two pits: one very shallow (**1608**) and the other at least 0.7m deep (**1609**) (Fig. 8, S. 39: Plate 16). All fills were of soft silty clays. No finds were recovered from any of these features but all were sealed by post-medieval deposits. During the post-medieval period a consolidating layer of yellow clay (1612) was laid down. Two walls (1614 and 1613) were recorded. These lay on a north-east to south-west alignment and were constructed of red brick and hard white lime mortar (Plate 15). A post-medieval well backfilled with modern rubbish including glass bottles and iron objects was located at the south end of the trench.

Trench 17

3.4.7 Three large post-medieval or modern features were present in this trench which cut through the topsoil and subsoil (Fig. 9, S.19). The brick and rubble fills of these were machined out in order to reveal any underlying features, however, no other features were seen. Once machined this trench quickly flooded (Plate 17).

3.5 Field C (Fig. 5)

Trench 4

3.5.1 Two ditches (**418** and **413**) were recorded on the same alignment of the overlying earthworks but sealed beneath the subsoil (Fig. 8, S. 60; Fig. 10, S. 65). They were filled with silty clays and one contained pottery of late 12th- to 13th-century date and a medieval horseshoe. The relationship between these two ditches had been destroyed by a modern drainage ditch (**415**) which also followed the line of the earthworks.

3.5.2 To the east of these were two further ditches, one 0.85m wide (**410**) and another parallel to it a narrower and shallower ditch (**406**=**408**). This smaller ditch cut a small oval pit (**404**) with a distinctive dark clayey silt fill. Perpendicular to these ditches, and located at the west end of the trench, was a further ditch (**420**) with a single clayey silt fill.

Trench 5

3.5.3 Three parallel north-north-east to south-south-west aligned ditches (**506**, **514** and **521**) were recorded underlying hollows in the earthworks (Fig. 10, S.27; Plate 5). In the base of ditch **506** were two circular depressions filled with distinctive dark silty clay which probably represented the base of post settings. Apart from this all three of the parallel ditches contained similar silty clay fills.

3.5.4 At the north end of the trench a narrow, vertically-sided slot with possible post setting (**504**) was tentatively interpreted as a beam slot (Fig. 8, S. 50). One other north-west to south-east aligned ditch was recorded (**510**), its fills were slightly different from the other features as some chalk flecking was noted.

3.5.5 A shallow irregular oval feature located to the south of ditch **514** is interpreted as a small pit (**517**).

Trench 6

3.5.6 The main features (Fig. 10, S. 66; Plate 6) in this trench were two ditches (**614** and **608**) which align with the overlying earthworks but were sealed by the subsoil. Both of these, and the modern drain (**611**), which cut them (and overlying deposits) were also recorded in Trench 4 to the north.

3.5.7 Two other narrow, parallel ditches or gullies (**604** and **606**) spaced *c*.4.2m apart were also identified. These lay on a different alignment to the overlying earthworks.

Trench 7

3.5.8 Two parallel ditches (**710** and **712**) were present in the base of, and aligned with, an earthwork ditch (Plate 7). As in other trenches these were cut by a modern drainage feature (**707**) which ran down the centre of the earthwork ditch (Fig. 8, S. 68/70). One small possible post-hole was present in the north end of the trench (**704**).

Trench 8

3.5.9 As in other trenches a ditch (**806**) underlay the earthworks. This was cut by a small pit (**808**). A further ditch (**804**) ran at an angle to the earthworks on an almost north to south alignment (Plate 8; Fig. 9, S. 24).

3.6 Field D (Fig. 6)

Trench 3

3.6.1 A ditch (**306**) ran on a north-east to south-west alignment and contained two sandy silt fills (308, 307) (Fig. 8, S. 48; Fig. 9, S.49). An environmental sample from this ditch produced evidence predominantly of cereals along with weeds which would have been growing within the crop. Wild species of legumes and wetland sedges were also present in small quantities.

3.6.2 This ditch was cut by a large pit (**309**) which extended beyond the edges of the trench and had partially waterlogged fills within its base (Plate 3; Fig. 8, S. 48). The lowest fill was a naturally accumulated clean silt (313) over which was a soft silty sand with gravel and charcoal inclusions (312) which also contained small pieces of wood. Above this were two firmer sandy silts (311 and 310) with flint, chalk and charcoal inclusions. The environmental sample from fill 311 contained both charred and waterlogged plant remains of cereal weeds along with evidence of water fleas, fish bone and amphibian bones. Pottery from the upper fill (310) dated from the 11th to 13th centuries.

3.6.3 A modern drainage ditch (**304**) was also recorded to the north of the features.

Trench 9

3.6.4 A post-hole (**908**), shallow pit (**904**) and a probable ditch terminal (**906**) were recorded in this trench, sealed beneath subsoil (Fig. 9, S. 21; Plate 9).

3.7 Field E (Fig. 7)

Trench 10

3.7.1 A single ditch (**1004**) was recorded aligned with, and in the base of, an earthwork ditch (Fig. 8, S. 44). The lowest silty fill (1005=1006) was sealed by a chalky deposit (1007=1008) which may be the result of the erosion of a chalky bank. Above this was a horizon which could indicate a re-cutting of this feature. The upper fills (1009 and 1010) were silty and probably formed by the natural accumulation of soils. This feature aligned with ditches (**1106** and **1109**) recorded in Trench 11 to the west.

Trench 11

3.7.2 As in Trench 10, a ditch (**1106**) ran along the base of the earthwork depression (cutting subsoil) and contained two fills; it was later recut (**1109**) along the same alignment (Fig. 10, S. 45; Plate 10). The lower fill (1110) of the latter was a silty material resulting from natural silting of the ditch. Environmental data included evidence of watercress, duck weed and water-fleas along with weeds generally associated with cereal cultivation. The upper fill (1111) contained pottery of 11th- to 12th-century date.

3.7.3 Two ditch termini (**1104** and **1114**) were recorded. If extrapolated, it can be seen that these ditches ran perpendicular to each other and on a different alignment to the surviving earthworks. Eleventh- to 12th-century pottery was recovered from the fill of ditch **1104**.

3.7.4 A large pit (**1117**; Plate 11 & Fig. 8, S. 43) also lay partially within the confines of the evaluation trench, sealed below the subsoil and containing multiple fills. The lowest four fills (1118, 1119, 1120 and 1121) were all silty sands or silty clays and were probably naturally accumulating deposits within an open pit. Above this were two probably dumped deposits (1122 and 1123), the upper one of which was hard greyish orange silt with fragments of fired clay and finds of animal bone, shell and some 11th-century pottery. This may have originated from an oven. At this point the pit was possibly re-shaped before a charcoal rich dark grey/black silt (1124) was dumped in the pit. This deposit contained fragments of charred and worked wood, bird bone, oyster shell and some 11th century pottery. An environmental sample from this layer produced evidence of cereals including wheat, cultivated oats, barley and rye along with weeds associated with cereal cultivation. Evidence for wetland includes several species of sedge and charred stems of common reed along with evidence of silicates which probably resulted from the burning of reeds/peat. The upper fills from the pit were silty sand, sandy silt and silty clay (1125, 1126 and 1127) and contained an assemblage of pottery with dates ranging from the 10th-11th centuries to 12th-13th centuries.

Trench 12

3.7.5 Two narrow, parallel ditches (**1204** and **1206**) filled with grey brown silty clay with some flint inclusions crossed the southern end of this trench (Fig. 9, S. 17). A wider ditch (**1209**) on a different alignment was noted in the north end of the trench. This ditch was not investigated in this trench as it continued into Trench 13 (ditch **1313**) where a section was excavated across it.

Trench 13

3.7.6 Ditch **1313** was a continuation of the ditch (**1209**) seen in Trench 12 (Fig. 10, S. 37; Plate 12). It was filled with a deposit of dark brown silty sand with clay and chalk inclusions and contained 12th- to 13th-century pottery. This cut a small gully (**1311**) which ran on a different alignment and contained a mixed fill of silty clay, silty sand and chalk flecks.

3.7.7 On an almost east-west alignment were two additional and almost parallel features. The earliest of these was a shallow gully (**1304**=**1318**), the north edge of which was clipped by ditch **1308**=**1306**=**1320**. A post setting was observed in the base of this ditch and its fills of sandy silts contained both 11th- to 12th- and 12th- to 13th-century pottery and environmental evidence of mixed cereals.

3.7.8 Two probable tree-throws (**1316** and **1322**) were also recorded between the ditches, one of which contained 11th- to 12th-century pottery.

Trench 14

3.7.9 A ditch (**1404**=**1413**) ran the length of this trench and was filled with silty clays. In one of the excavated sections a dip representing a possible post setting was seen in the base of the ditch. This ditch was cut by small pit or post-hole (**1411**). One small gully (**1409**) and a possible gully terminal or pit (**1407**), both filled with soft silty clay, lay on the same alignment as the earthworks in this field, although there are no surface features in this location. A modern ditch was also recorded in section, cutting the topsoil (Fig. 9, S. 16; Plate 13).

3.8 Finds summary

3.8.1 The pottery assemblage is of a modest size (54 sherds weighing 1213g) and consists of material dating from the Late Saxon period through to the 13th century. The Late Saxon assemblage is mainly made up of Thetford-type ware most of which is the locally produced Grimston-type. The medieval coarsewares identified include the handmade types such as Early medieval ware and Grimston coarsewares. The latest pottery recovered is Grimston glazed ware which dates from the late 12th to 14th centuries.

3.8.2 Overall the assemblage suggests continuous activity on the site between the 11th and 13th centuries, with ditches and pits containing a range of pottery of local origin, much of it comparable with pottery made at the known production sites in Pott Row, Grimston and Blackborough End, Middleton. Some of the forms are unusual, particularly some of the decorated Thetford-type ware and early medieval sandwich ware, perhaps suggesting that these were table wares rather than basic cooking pots.

3.8.3 A single metal find (SF1) of a medieval horseshoe was found on the site.

3.9 Faunal and environmental summary

3.9.1 The animal bone assemblage is small (31 fragments weighing 1544g) and fragmentary. Species identified are the usual range of food producing and traction animals; cattle, sheep/goat, pig and horse.

3.9.2 A small quantity of shell (0.457kg) was collected from features. The shells are edible examples of oyster from estuarine and shallow coastal waters, and mussel from intertidal zones.

3.9.3 The six bulk samples taken for environmental indicators proved to be of interest particularly those from waterlogged deposits where preservation of plant remains was by both carbonisation and waterlogging. Evidence for cereals included wheat, cultivated oats, barley and rye. Weeds associated with cereal production are also present. Some partially germinated rye was identified which may indicate the brewing of ale. Species associated with wetter environments are also present including sedges and reeds, along with watercress and duckweed. It is apparent that reeds, possibly in the form of peat have been used as a fuel. Molluscs, insect remains, fish, bird, amphibian and smaller animal bones were also recovered from the samples.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The evaluation trenches revealed archaeological features across most of the proposed development site with just one trench (Trench 17) containing only 19th-century or later deposits. Three phases of activity can be deduced from the evidence, two of which pre-date the extant earthworks. The later phase of linear cut features is reflected in the location and alignment of the earthworks. The fact that some of the excavated ditches on this alignment had been recut is testament to the longevity of the arrangement of this field / enclosure system. This largely reiterates the results of the earthwork survey, a fuller discussion of which is provided in the associated report (Hatton 2019).

4.1.2 Most of the linear features contained one or two fills which were largely derived from natural silting. The few pits which were present had a more complex sequence of infilling and contained evidence of nearby activities, some of which were probably of a light industrial nature (Trench 11).

4.1.3 Arable land-use was also identified through the environmental evidence which was particularly good in the parts of the site where the archaeological deposits are waterlogged (Trench 3, Trench 11).

4.2 Interpretation

4.2.1 The lines of the ditches revealed in the trenches have been extrapolated and it is apparent that three different alignments (Phases 1-3; Fig. 11) are present across the site. Few stratigraphic relationships were visible within the evaluation trenches and the datable finds assemblage is small and partially residual so the phase interpretation outlined below is based on ditch alignment only.

Phase 1 ditch alignment

4.2.2 The earliest phase (Phase 1) of ditches lay on a broadly west-south-west to east-north-east (and perpendicular) alignment. Features on this alignment were present across the southern part of the site (Trenches 3, 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 14) and were generally small gullies. No finds were recovered from this phase of linear features. One sample related to this phase (Sample 5, Ditch **306**) in Trench 3 and this contained charred plant remains predominantly of cereal grains but also contained legume and weeds. Two stratigraphic relationships related to this phase were recorded. Ditch (**306**) was cut by a pit (**309**) containing pottery dated to the 11th to 13th centuries while another ditch (**1311**) in Trench 13 was cut by a ditch/gully (**1313**, Phase 2) containing 12th to 13th century pottery.

Phase 2 ditch alignment

4.2.3 A second alignment of ditches (Phase 2) lay on a west-north-west to east-south-east (and perpendicular) axis. These features were mainly grouped in Trenches 12, 13 and 14 in Field E, although elements of a more dispersed field system on this general alignment can be traced further to the west (Trenches 1, 8 and 15). Pottery was found

within three contexts in Trench 13 (from a ditch and a tree throw), with spot dates of 11th to 12th centuries and 12th to 13th centuries. Samples from these ditches were less informative than others (probably due to the samples not being waterlogged) and contained a small assemblage of charred cereal grains and untransformed seeds of bramble and elder.

Phase 3 ditch alignment

4.2.4 The third alignment of linear features (Phase 3) was orientated north-north-west to south-south-east (and perpendicular). This alignment (Trenches 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16) is reflected in the earthworks which have survived across the site. In some trenches ditches on this alignment had been recut which along with the survival of the earthworks indicates a long life with continual renewal for this arrangement. Excavated evidence for this phase was also present in parts of the site where no earthworks survive (Trenches 1, 2, 14, 15, 16). Three of the ditch segments contained pottery with spot dates of 11th to 12th centuries, 12th to 13th centuries and late 12th to 13th centuries along with a medieval horseshoe. Overall the likely date for this layout is the 12th to 13th centuries. Environmental data from one segment (Sample 1 ditch **1109**) contained waterlogged plant remains of common weeds and egg cases of water fleas.

Other features

4.2.5 The pits and other smaller isolated features recorded cannot be assigned to one of these phases. Pit **306** contained 11th to 13th century pottery and cut Phase 1 ditch (**309**). Pit **1117** contained evidence of burning and also produced pottery of 11th- and 12th- to 13th-century date. These features were located within 30m of each other (in Trenches 3 and 11), indicating that other activities were taking place here or nearby. A possible beam slot in the northern end of Trench 5 may suggest the presence of an earlier building in this area.

4.2.6 A number of brick wall foundations were identified, notably in the northern part of the site (Trench 16), along with the remains of a well containing modern rubbish. These are likely to relate to post-medieval farm buildings and boundaries associated with West Hall Farm, which once occupied the northern part of the site. The various French drains recorded across the site would have been associated with the farm and/or more recent use of the site.

4.3 Significance

4.3.1 This evaluation has produced interesting results relating to settlement in this area from the Late Saxon and into the medieval periods, the survival of earthworks across the site adding another dimension to the picture.

4.3.2 Late Saxon settlement in this area has been attested by Gayton's entry in the Domesday Book and a number of finds of this date have been found in and around the village. The medieval development of the area is more complex with at least two manors known to exist; West Hall located to the north-west of the site and the moated site probably held by Wendling Abbey to the south-east (Fig. 2; NHERs 3748 and 3771). The fabric of the present church is 14th-century in date but almost certainly replaced

an earlier ecclesiastical building. Evidence from this site will add to picture of village development from the Late Saxon to medieval periods. Early maps of this part of the village (for example the 1726 Map of Gayton Thorpe; NPS 2018, fig. 6) indicate that a series of closes or fields extended between the edge of Gayton Common to the west and the village to the east. Faden's map of 1797 shows that the site spanned both sides of a lane (now the bridle path) that connected the village to the common, with some buildings shown along the lane (outside the site) (NPS 2018, fig. 7). Most of the features identified by the evaluation trenching seemingly predate these maps and suggest that much of the site was under pasture/agriculture after the 13th century, with continued digging of boundary and drainage ditches until relatively recently.

4.3.3 Enhancing the significance of this site is the presence of waterlogged deposits which can inform on diet and land usage. The presence of a charcoal-rich deposit along with possible peat ash and a deposit containing fired clay fragments all attest to some light craft or light industrial activities taking place in the vicinity of the site. A small number of unusual pottery forms collected from the evaluation suggest that more may be present which could aid current understanding of Gayton's place in the wider trading network in the medieval period as well as a better understanding of the status and character of the Westhall Farm site itself.

4.3.4 Overall there is the potential that further work would contribute to the understanding of Late Saxon and medieval rural development, looking at continuity and change throughout these periods. This in turn could contribute to future research priorities relating to land-use and the development of rural settlements, as outlined in the Regional Research Framework Review (http://eaareports.org.uk/assets/uploads/RRF2017_Medieval_Rural_Draft.pdf).

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Three medieval ditches were recorded in the west end of this trench.					**Length (m)**	15
					Width (m)	1.8
					Max. depth (m)	0.67
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
101	Layer	-	0.43	Topsoil	-	-
102	Layer	-	0.24	Subsoil	-	-
103	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
104	Cut	0.8	0.27	Ditch	-	Medieval, Phase 3
105	Fill	-	0.27	Fill of 104	Pot 12th-mid 13th	Medieval, Phase 3
106	Cut	-	0.20	Ditch	-	Undated
107	Fill	-	0.20	Fill of 106	-	Undated
108	Cut	-	0.15	Ditch	-	Medieval, Phase 2
109	Fill	-	0.15	Fill of 108	-	Medieval, Phase 2

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
One shallow undated ditch sealed beneath subsoil Two modern post-holes containing wooden posts, a modern ditch and concrete possibly within a pit.					**Length (m)**	20
					Width (m)	1.8
					Max. depth (m)	0.65
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
201	Layer	-	0.10-0.4m	Topsoil	-	-
202	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil	-	-
203	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
204	Layer	-	0.10	Make-up	-	-
205	Layer	-	0.25	Make-up	-	Modern
206	Cut	0.70	0.15	Ditch	-	Medieval, Phase 3
207	Fill	-	0.15	Fill of 206	-	Medieval, Phase 3
208	Cut	0.25	-	Post-hole	-	Undated
209	Fill	-	-	Fill of 208	-	Undated
210	Layer	-	0.10	Make-up	-	Modern

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
One ditch and one pit, both late Saxon or medieval.					**Length (m)**	20
					Width (m)	1.8
					Max. depth (m)	
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
301	Layer	-	0.45	Topsoil	-	-
302	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
303	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

304	Cut	1.20	-	Land Drain	-	Modern
305	Fill		-	Fill of 304	-	Modern
306	Cut	1.20	0.70	Ditch	-	Late Saxon/Medieval, Phase 1
307	Fill	-	0.60	Fill of 306	-	Late Saxon/Medieval, Phase 1
308	Fill	-	0.10	Fill of 306	-	Late Saxon/Medieval, Phase 1
309	Cut	4.40	0.85	Pit	-	Medieval
310	Fill	-	0.40	Fill of 309	Pot 11th-13th	Medieval
311	Fill	-	0.30	Fill of 309	-	Medieval
312	Fill	-	0.10	Fill of 309	-	Medieval
313	Fill	-	0.05	Fill of 309	-	Medieval

Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	WSW-ENE
Six ditches of late Saxon to medieval date and an undated pit					**Length (m)**	31.5
					Width (m)	1.8
					Max. depth (m)	0.6
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
401	Layer	-	0.20	Topsoil	-	-
402	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-
403	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
404	Cut	-	0.13	Pit	-	Undated
405	Fill	-	0.13	Fill of 404	-	Undated
406	Cut	-	0.16	Ditch	-	Late Saxon/Medieval, Phase 1
407	Fill	-	0.16	Fill of 406	-	Late Saxon/Medieval, Phase 1
408	Cut	0.35	0.05	Ditch	-	Late Saxon/Medieval, Phase 1
409	Fill	-	0.05	Fill of 408	-	Late Saxon/Medieval, Phase 1
410	Cut	0.85	0.15	Ditch	-	Late Saxon/Medieval, Phase 1
411	Fill	-	0.15	Fill of 410	-	Late Saxon/Medieval, Phase 1
412	Fill	-	0.05	Fill of 410	-	Late Saxon/Medieval, Phase 1
413	Cut	-	0.10	Ditch	-	Medieval, Phase 3
414	Fill	-	0.10	Fill of 413	-	Medieval, Phase 3
415	Cut	-	0.45	Land Drain	-	Modern
416	Fill	-	0.17	Fill of 415	-	Modern
417	Fill	-	0.20	Fill of 415	-	Modern
418	Cut	-	0.15	Ditch	-	Medieval, Phase 3
419	Fill	-	0.15	Fill of 418	Pot L12th-13th, horseshoe	Medieval, Phase 3

420	Cut	1.08	0.13	Ditch	-	Late Saxon/Medieval, Phase 1
421	Fill	-	0.13	Fill of 420	-	Late Saxon/Medieval, Phase 1

Trench 5						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Four medieval ditches and an undated pit and possible beamslot.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Max. depth (m)	0.52
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
501	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
502	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
503	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
504	Cut	0.65	0.21	Beam slot?	-	Undated
505	Fill	-	0.21	Fill of 504	-	Undated
506	Cut	1.78	0.60	Ditch	-	Medieval, Phase 3
507	Fill	-	0.32	Fill of 506	-	Medieval, Phase 3
508	Fill	-	0.22	Fill of 506	-	Medieval, Phase 3
509	Fill	-	0.16	Fill of 506	-	Medieval, Phase 3
510	Cut	0.62	0.11	Ditch	-	Late Saxon/Medieval, Phase 1
511	Fill	-	0.11	Fill of 510	-	Late Saxon/Medieval, Phase 1
512	Void	-	-	Void	-	-
513	Void	-	-	Void	-	-
514	Cut	1.04	0.60	Ditch	-	Medieval, Phase 3
515	Fill	-	0.15	Fill of 514	-	Medieval, Phase 3
516	Fill	-	0.60	Fill of 514	-	Medieval, Phase 3
517	Cut	0.90	0.14	Pit	-	Undated
518	Fill	-	0.14	Fill of 517	-	undated
519	Void	-	-	Void	-	-
520	Void	-	-	Void	-	-
521	Cut	1.10	0.29	Ditch	-	Medieval, Phase 3
522	Fill	-	0.18	Fill of 521	-	Medieval, Phase 3
523	Fill	-	0.29	Fill of 521	-	Medieval, Phase 3

Trench 6						
General description					**Orientation**	Ne-SW
Four ditches of late Saxon to medieval date.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Max. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
601	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
602	Layer	-	0.15-0.25	Subsoil	-	-

603	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
604	Cut	0.35	0.10	Ditch	-	Late Saxon/Medieval, Phase 1
605	Fill	-	0.100	Fill of 604	-	Late Saxon/Medieval, Phase 1
606	Cut	0.38	0.15	Ditch	-	Late Saxon/Medieval, Phase 1
607	Fill	-	0.15	Fill of 606	-	Late Saxon/Medieval, Phase 1
608	Cut	-	0.60	Ditch	-	Medieval, Phase 3
609	Fill	-	0.40	Fill of 608	-	Medieval, Phase 3
610	Fill	-	0.20	Fill of 608	-	Medieval, Phase 3
611	Cut	2.1	0.42	Land Drain	-	Modern
612	Fill	-	0.42	Fill of 611	-	Modern
613	Fill	-	0.42	Fill of 611	-	Modern
614	Cut	-	0.16	Ditch	-	Medieval, Phase 3
615	Fill	-	0.16	Fill of 614	-	Medieval, Phase 3

Trench 7						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Two medieval ditches and an undated pit.					**Length (m)**	18
					Width (m)	1.8
					Max. depth (m)	0.46
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
701	Layer	-	0.16	Topsoil	-	-
702	Layer	-	0.10-0.28	Subsoil	-	-
703	Fill	-	0.15	Fill of 704	-	Undated
704	Cut	0.43	0.15	Pit	-	Undated
705	Fill	-	0.24	Fill of 707	-	Modern
706	Fill	-	0.45	Fill of 707	-	Modern
707	Cut	0.85	0.45	Land Drain	-	Modern
708	Fill	-	0.30	Fill of 710	-	Medieval, Phase 3
709	Fill	-	0.18	Fill of 710	-	Medieval, Phase 3
710	Cut	-	0.45	Ditch	-	Medieval, Phase 3
711	Fill	-	0.28	Fill of 712	-	Medieval, Phase 3
712	Cut	-	0.35	Ditch	-	Medieval, Phase 3
713	Fill	-	0.10	Fill of 712	-	Medieval, Phase 3

Trench 8						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Two medieval ditches and an undated pit.					**Length (m)**	15
					Width (m)	1.8
					Max. depth (m)	0.42
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
801	Layer	-	0.23	Topsoil	-	-

802	Layer	-	0.17	Subsoil	-	-
803	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
804	Cut	0.74	0.14	Ditch	-	Medieval, Phase 2
805	Fill		0.14	Fill of 804	-	Medieval, Phase 2
806	Cut		0.11	Ditch	-	Medieval, Phase 3
807	Fill		0.11	Fill of 806	-	Medieval, Phase 3
808	Cut	0.45	0.17	Pit	-	Undated
809	Fill		0.17	Fill of 808	-	Undated

Trench 9						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
One medieval ditch, and undated pit and post hole.					**Length (m)**	20
					Width (m)	1.8
					Max. depth (m)	0.56
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
901	Layer	-	0.42	Topsoil	-	-
902	Layer	-	0.14	Subsoil	-	-
903	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
904	Cut	0.88	0.14	Pit	-	Undated
905	Fill	-	0.14	Fill of 904	-	Undated
906	Cut	0.45	0.10	Ditch	-	Medieval, Phase 3
907	Fill	-	0.10	Fill of 906	-	Medieval, Phase 3
908	Cut	0.20	0.13	Post-hole	-	Undated
909	Fill	-	0.13	Fill of 908	-	Undated

Trench 10						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
One large medieval ditch.					**Length (m)**	23
					Width (m)	1.8
					Max. depth (m)	1.12
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1001	Layer	-	0.45	Topsoil	-	-
1002	Layer	-	0.53	Subsoil	-	-
1003	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1004	Cut	1.25	0.36	Ditch	-	Medieval, Phase 3
1005	Fill	-	-	Fill of 1004	-	Medieval, Phase 3
1006	Fill	-	-	fill of 1004	-	Medieval, Phase 3
1007	Fill	-	-	Fill of 1004	-	Medieval, Phase 3
1008	Fill	-	-	Fill of 1004	-	Medieval, Phase 3
1009	Fill	-	-	Fill of 1004	-	Medieval, Phase 3
1010	Fill	-	-	Fill of 1004	-	Medieval, Phase 3

Trench 11		
General description	**Orientation**	NE-SW
Four late Saxon to medieval ditches and a large medieval pit.	**Length (m)**	29
	Width (m)	1.8

					Max. depth (m)	0.8
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1101	Layer	-	0.45-0.70	Topsoil	-	-
1102	Layer	-	0.70	Subsoil	-	-
1103	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1104	Cut	0.55	0.09	Ditch	-	Late Saxon/Medieval, Phase 1
1105	Fill	-	0.09	Fill of 1104	Pot, 11th-12th	Late Saxon/Medieval, Phase 1
1106	Cut	1.30	0.39	Ditch	-	Medieval, Phase 3
1107	Fill	-	0.39	Fill of 1106	-	Medieval, Phase 3
1108	Void	-	-	VOID	-	-
1109	Cut	0.70	0.31	Ditch	-	Medieval, Phase 3
1110	Fill	-	0.20	Fill of 1109	-	Medieval, Phase 3
1111	Fill	-	0.17	Fill of 1109	Pot, 11th-12th	Medieval, Phase 3
1112	Void	-	-	VOID	-	-
1113	Fill	-	-	Fill of 1106	-	Medieval, Phase 3
1114	Cut	0.91	0.26	Ditch	-	Late Saxon/Medieval, Phase 1
1115	Fill	-	0.15	Fill of 1114	-	Late Saxon/Medieval, Phase 1
1116	Fill	-	0.19	Fill of 1114	-	Late Saxon/Medieval, Phase 1
1117	Cut	-	0.60	Pit	-	Medieval
1118	Fill	-	0.07	Fill of 1117	-	Medieval
1119	Fill	-	0.12	Fill of 1117	-	Medieval
1120	Fill	-	0.32	Fill of 1117	-	Medieval
1121	Fill	-	0.30	Fill of 1117	-	Medieval
1122	Fill	-	0.40	Fill of 1117		Medieval
1123	Fill	-	0.13	Fill of 1117	Pot, 11th	Medieval
1124	Fill	-	0.33	Fill of 1117	Pot, 11th	Medieval
1125	Fill	-	0.22	Fill of 1117	-	Medieval
1126	Fill	-	0.09	Fill of 1117	Pot, 12th-13th	Medieval
1127	Fill	-	0.13	Fill of 1117	Pot, 11th-12th	Medieval

Trench 12						
General description					**Orientation**	NNW-SSE
Three late Saxon to medieval ditches.					**Length (m)**	20
					Width (m)	1.8
					Max. depth (m)	0.8
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1201	Layer	-		Topsoil	-	-
1202	Layer	-		Subsoil	-	-
1203	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

1204	Cut	0.40	0.16	Ditch	-	Late Saxon/Medieval, Phase 1
1205	Fill	-	0.16	Fill of 1204	-	Late Saxon/Medieval, Phase 1
1206	Cut	0.44	0.28	Ditch	-	Late Saxon/Medieval, Phase 1
1207	Fill	-	0.28	Fill of 1206	-	Late Saxon/Medieval, Phase 1
1208	Fill	-	-	Fill of 1209	-	Medieval, Phase 2
1209	Cut	-	-	Ditch	-	Medieval, Phase 2

Trench 13						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Four medieval ditches, three late Saxon to medieval gullies and two undated tree-throws.					**Length (m)**	20
					Width (m)	1.8
					Max. depth (m)	0.9
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1301	Layer	-	0.70-0.90	Topsoil	-	-
1302	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
1303	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1304	Cut	0.43	0.08	Gully	-	Medieval, Phase 2
1305	Fill	-	0.08	Fill of 1304	-	Medieval, Phase 2
1306	Cut	0.54	0.39	Ditch	-	Medieval, Phase 2
1307	Fill	-	0.39	Fill of 1306	Pot, 12th-13th	Medieval, Phase 2
1308	Fill	1.55	0.48	Ditch	-	Medieval, Phase 2
1309	Fill	-	0.35	Fill of 1308	Pot, 10th-11th	Medieval, Phase 2
1310	Fill	-	0.13	Fill of 1308	-	Medieval, Phase 2
1311	Cut	0.20	0.05	Gully	-	Late Saxon/Medieval, Phase 1
1312	Fill	-	0.05	Fill of 1311	-	Late Saxon/Medieval, Phase 1
1313	Cut	2.10	0.40	Ditch	-	Medieval, Phase 2
1314	Fill	-	0.35	Fill of 1313	Pot, 12th-13th	Medieval, Phase 2
1315	Fill	-	0.05	Fill of 1313	-	Medieval, Phase 2
1316	Cut	-	-	Tree throw	-	-
1317	Fill	-	-	Fill of 1316	Pot, 10th-11th	-
1318	Cut	-	0.10	Gully	-	Medieval, Phase 2
1319	Fill	-	0.10	Fill of 1318	-	Medieval, Phase 2
1320	Cut	-	0.30	Ditch	-	Medieval, Phase 2
1321	Fill	-	0.30	Fill of 1320	-	Medieval, Phase 2
1322	Cut	-	-	Tree throw	-	-
1323	Fill	-	-	Fill of 1322	-	-

Trench 14						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Two medieval ditches, two medieval gullies and an undated post-hole.					**Length (m)**	20
					Width (m)	1.8
					Max. depth (m)	0.75
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1401	Layer	-	0.44	Topsoil	-	-
1402	Layer	-	0.21-0.33	Subsoil	-	-
1403	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1404	Cut	0.45	0.24	Ditch	-	Medieval, Phase 2
1405	Fill	-	0.16	Fill of 1404	-	Medieval, Phase 2
1406	Fill	-	0.14	Fill of 1404	-	Medieval, Phase 2
1407	Cut	0.55	0.08	Gully	-	Medieval, Phase 3
1408	Fill	-	0.08	Fill of 1407	-	Medieval, Phase 3
1409	Cut	0.33	0.07	Gully	-	Medieval, Phase 3
1410	Fill	-	0.07	Fill of 1409	-	Medieval, Phase 3
1411	Cut	0.34	0.21	Post-hole	-	Undated
1412	Fill	-	0.21	Fill of 1411	-	Undated
1413	Cut	-	0.27	Ditch	-	Medieval, Phase 2
1414	Fill	-	0.16	Fill of 1413	-	Medieval, Phase 2
1415	Fill	-	0.09	Fill of 1413	-	Medieval, Phase 2

Trench 15						
General description					**Orientation**	ENE-WSW
Three medieval ditches.					**Length (m)**	32
					Width (m)	1.8
					Max. depth (m)	0.7
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1501	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
1502	Layer	-	0.33	Subsoil	-	-
1503	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1504	Ditch	0.30	0.04	Ditch	-	Medieval, Phase 3
1505	Fill		0.04	Fill of 1504	-	Medieval, Phase 3
1506	Cut	1.55	0.21	Ditch	-	Medieval, Phase 3
1507	Fill		0.07	Fill of 1506	-	Medieval, Phase 3
1508	Fill		0.14	Fill of 1506	-	Medieval, Phase 3
1509	Cut	0.60	0.20	Ditch	-	Medieval, Phase 2
1510	Fill		0.20	Fill of 1510	-	Medieval, Phase 2

Trench 16		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
One medieval ditch and post-medieval to modern walls, demolition debris and a well.	**Length (m)**	20
	Width (m)	1.8
	Max. depth (m)	1.0

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1601	Layer	-	0.44	Topsoil	-	-
1602	Layer	-	0.6	Subsoil	-	-
1603	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
1604	Cut	1.80	0.46	Ditch	-	Medieval, Phase 3
1605	Fill	-	0.24	Fill of 1604	-	Medieval, Phase 3
1606	Fill	-	0.25	Fill of 1604	-	Medieval, Phase 3
1607	Fill	-	0.07	Fill of 1607	-	Undated
1608	Cut	0.8	0.07	Pit	-	Undated
1609	Cut	-	0.70	Pit	-	Undated
1610	Fill	-	0.30	Fill of 1609	-	Undated
1611	Fill	-	0.62	Fill of 1609	-	Undated
1612	layer	-	-	Levelling	-	Post-medieval
1613	Masonry	0.45	-	Wall	-	Post-medieval
1614	Masonry	0.45	-	Wall	-	Post-medieval
1615	Cut	1.20	-	Well	-	Post-medieval
1616	Cut	-	-	Pit	-	Post-medieval
1617	Layer	-	-	Demolition debris	-	Modern

Trench 17						
General description					**Orientation**	NNW-SSE
No archaeological features present.					**Length (m)**	25
					Width (m)	1.8
					Max. depth (m)	0.65
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1701	Layer	-	0.40-0.55	Topsoil	-	-
1702	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
1703	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Sue Anderson

Introduction

B.1.1 Fifty-four sherds of pottery weighing 1213g were collected from thirteen contexts. Table 1 shows the quantification by fabric; a summary catalogue by context is included as Appendix 1.

Description	Fabric	Date range	No	Wt (g)	Eve	MNV
Thetford-type ware	THET	L.9th-11th c.	2	47		2
St Neots-type ware	STNE	L.9th-11th c.	1	13		1
Thetford Ware (Grimston)	THETG	10th-11th c.	20	543	0.54	19
'Early medieval' sandwich wares	EMSW	11th c.	2	23		2
Total Late Saxon			*25*	*626*	*0.54*	*24*
Early medieval ware	EMW	11th-12th c.	1	2		1
EMW Blackborough End type	EMWBE	11th-13th c.	11	128		6
EMW with moderate flint	EMWFL	11th-12th c.	1	8		1
Medieval coarseware	MCW	12th-14th c.	2	56	0.08	2
Grimston coarseware	GRCW	12th-13th c.	11	278	0.05	6
Grimston-type ware	GRIM	L.12th-14th c.	3	115	0.14	3
Total medieval			*29*	*587*	*0.27*	*19*
Total			54	1213	0.81	43

Table 1. Pottery quantification by fabric.

Methodology

B.1.2 Quantification was carried out using sherd count, weight and estimated vessel equivalent (eve). A full quantification by fabric, context and feature is available in the archive. All fabric codes were assigned from the author's post-Roman fabric series. Grimston Thetford-type ware fabrics were identified based on samples from the kiln site, and forms follow Little (1994), Anderson (2004) and Dallas (1984). Form terminology for medieval and later pottery follows MPRG (1998) and fabrics follow Jennings (1981). Data were input directly onto an MS Access database, which forms the archive database.

Pottery by period

Late Saxon

B.1.3 Twenty-five sherds were of Late Saxon date, the majority of which was Thetford-type ware, dominated by the locally-produced Grimston-type version. Two sherds of 'early medieval' sandwich ware and a body fragment of St Neots-type ware were also present.

B.1.4 Five vessels could be identified to form based on their rims. There were four THETG jars and a bowl. The bowl was comparable with the inturned rim form BF (Little 1994) but was a much thicker version of this. Two of the jars had type 4 parallel rims

(Anderson 2004) and one of these was comparable with Little's type JF. One jar had a rim with a more cavetto form. Although this type is not illustrated in the type series, examples are present in kiln waste from Grimston. The fourth 'jar' may be a spouted pitcher; it was decorated with an incised wavy line and cordon and had a slightly inturned plain rim. One flat THET base and one sagging THETG type were also found. One body sherd of EMSW was also decorated with an incised wavy line, and the other had incised lines forming corrugations – both sherds are unusual and there is a possibility that they may be of earlier date, given the similarity between Roman and Late Saxon pottery in this area; however they do not appear to be wheelmade.

Medieval

B.1.5 Twenty-nine sherds of medieval coarseware were identified, including the handmade types classified as EMW (although some of these were made well into the 13th century) and Grimston coarsewares. One early medieval ware was sandy with moderate inclusions of rounded flint up to 1.5mm in diameter. Other medieval sherds were in medium sandy fabrics of uncertain origin (MCW).

B.1.6 Only two rims were present. One was a simple everted jar form in a medium sandy hard-fired greyware (MCW), dated 11th-13th-century, and the other was an inturned bowl rim in Grimston coarseware (Little type BF). There was also a handle in Grimston coarseware. None of the coarsewares were decorated.

B.1.7 Three sherds of medieval glazed ware were found. By sherd count, this represents 10.3% of the medieval group, which is a relatively high proportion for a rural group. However, the proximity of the production centre at Grimston appears to have raised the proportion of glazed wares at sites in and around Kings Lynn. One rim/handle was present, from a jug with a beaded rim and strap handle, and there were two body sherds. One of these had a narrow applied strip with fine combing.

Pottery by context

B.1.8 The pottery was recovered from the fills of pits and ditches. Table 2 shows the distribution by period across the trenches and contexts.

Tr.	Feature	Context	Phase	Description	Fabrics	Spotdate
1	104	105	3	ditch fill	GRCW	12th-13th c.
3	309	311		pit fill	THETG EMWBE MCW	11th-13th c.
4	418	419	3	ditch fill	GRCW GRIM	L.12th-13th c.
11	1104	1105	1	ditch fill	THETG EMWBE	11th-12th c.
	1109	1111		ditch fill	EMW EMWBE EMWFL	11th-12th c.
	1117	1123		pit fill	THET THETG	11th c.
	1117	1124		pit fill	THETG STNE	11th c.
	1117	1127		pit fill	THETG EMSW EMWBE	11th-12th c.
	1117	1126		pit fill	GRCW	12th-13th c.
13	1306	1307	2	ditch fill	MCW	12th-13th c.?
	1308	1309	2	ditch fill	THETG	10th-11th c.
	1313	1314	2	ditch fill	EMSW GRCW	12th-13th c.
	1316	1317		pit fill	THET	10th-11th c.

Table 2. Pottery distribution by period, trench and context.

B.1.9 Some concentrations of activity may be shown by the pottery distributions, with a large group of Late Saxon and early medieval pottery in pit **1117**, and a similar range in the adjacent part of the ditch in Trench 11. Nearby Trenches 3 and 13 also contained relatively large groups of pottery of similar date. If the ditch in Trench 4 is related to that in Trench 11, the Grimston glazed wares in the former could relate to its final infilling.

Discussion

B.1.10 Overall this assemblage suggests continuous activity on the site between the 11th and 13th centuries, with ditches and pits containing a range of pottery of local origin, much of it comparable with pottery made at the known production sites in Pott Row, Grimston and Blackborough End, Middleton. Some of the forms were unusual, particularly some of the decorated Thetford-type ware and early medieval sandwich ware, perhaps suggesting that these were table wares rather than basic cooking pots. The latest wares were three sherds of Grimston glazed ware, all recovered from a ditch fill in Trench 4 – this group may represent a final backfilling of the feature and perhaps marks the end of activity on the site.

Recommendations

B.1.11 A few unusual forms were identified in the assemblage and should further work take place should be considered for illustration (Appendix 2). The assemblage should be retained and incorporated with any assemblages recovered from potential excavation at the site.

Pottery catalogue

Context	Fabric	Form	Rim	No	Wt/g	Spot date	Fabric date range
105	GRCW	jug		1	78		12th-M.13th c.
311	THETG	jar	4	1	36		10th-11th c.
311	EMWBE			2	18		11th-13th c.
311	MCW	jar	simple everted	1	31	11-13	12th-14th c.
419	GRCW			1	65		12th-M.13th c.
419	GRIM	jug	bead	1	77	12-13	L.12th-14th c.
419	GRIM			1	25		L.12th-14th c.
419	GRIM			1	13		L.12th-14th c.
1105	THETG			1	14		10th-11th c.
1105	EMWBE			4	70		11th-13th c.
1105	EMWBE			1	5		11th-13th c.
1105	EMWBE			1	12		11th-13th c.
1111	EMWBE			1	9		11th-13th c.
1111	EMW			1	2		11th-12th c.
1111	EMWFL			1	8		11th-12th c.
1123	THET			1	40		10th-11th c.
1123	THETG			1	72		10th-11th c.
1123	THETG	jar	4	1	64		10th-11th c.
1124	THETG	jar	cavetto	1	51	11	10th-11th c.

Context	Fabric	Form	Rim	No	Wt/g	Spot date	Fabric date range
1124	THETG	jar or spouted pitcher	inturned	2	33	11	10th-11th c.
1124	THETG			5	33		10th-11th c.
1124	THETG			1	11		10th-11th c.
1124	STNE			1	13		850-1150
1126	GRCW	bowl	inturned	1	21		12th-M.13th c.
1127	THETG			5	122		10th-11th c.
1127	THETG	bowl	inturned	1	101	11	10th-11th c.
1127	EMSW			1	14		11th-12th c.
1127	EMWBE			2	14		11th-13th c.
1307	MCW			1	25	12-13?	12th-14th c.
1309	THETG			1	6		10th-11th c.
1314	GRCW			2	11		12th-M.13th c.
1314	GRCW			6	103		12th-M.13th c.
1314	EMSW			1	9		11th-12th c.
1317	THET			1	7		10th-11th c.

Appendix 2: pottery to consider for illustration

Context	Fabric	Type	Form	Decoration	Rim diam
311	MCW	R	jar		250
1124	THETG	R	jar		220
1124	THETG	R	jar or spouted pitcher?	IWL, cordon	220
1127	EMSW	D		corrugations (IHLs)	
1123	THETG	R	jar		180

B.2 Metalwork

By Denis Sami

Introduction

B.2.1 A horseshoe (SF1) dating to the medieval period was the only metal artefact recovered from site during evaluation trenches. It is complete but poorly preserved showing thick encrustation and rust.

Methodology

B.2.2 The metalwork was assessed according to the Oxford Archaeology East (OAE) metalwork finds standard following the suggestions of the Historical Metallurgy Society (HMS, Datasheets 104 and 108), the Archaeometallurgy; Guidelines for best practice; and Guidelines for the Storage and Display of Archaeological Metalwork (Historic England 2015 and 2013).

B.2.3 Clark (1995) was used as reference in the identification and dating of the artefact.

Character and chronology

B.2.4 Horseshoe SF 1 was recovered from ditch **418** in Trench 4 and was associated only with animal bones. This horseshoe can be identified as a Clark type 1, a long produced artefact common in the Late Anglo-Saxon period, although such artefacts were still produced until the early 13th century.

Discussion

B.2.5 This single iron artefact may possibly be evidence of horse transport in the area during the earlier medieval period.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Animal bone

By Zoë Uí Choileáin

Introduction and Methodology

C.1.1 Thirty-one fragments of countable animal bone weighing 1544g were recovered from the evaluation at Westhall Farm, Gayton. The material was recovered from a mixture of ditches and pits. Nine fragments could only be identified to large/medium mammal. These have been recorded but are discounted from NISP and MNI tables. Four fragments of cattle bone recovered from the topsoil of Trench 14 were recorded but have not been included in the results below. Preservation condition was evaluated using the 0-5 scale devised by Brickley and McKinley (2004, 14-15).

Results

C.1.2 Four taxa are recordable; cattle, horse, sheep/goat and pig. The surface condition of the bone on average represents a 1 on the scale devised by Brickley and McKinley (ibid). This means most fragments have some slight and patchy erosion. Both fused and unfused bone is present and there is a high potential for ageing data to be recorded from this site. NISP (number of identifiable specimens) and MNI (minimum number of individuals) is summarised for phased contexts below.

Taxon	NISP	NISP %	MNI	MNI %
Cattle	5	27.78	1	20
Horse	1	5.56	1	20
Sheep/goat	6	33.33	2	40
Pig	6	33.33	1	20
Totals	**18**	**100**	**5**	**100**

Table 2: NISP (number of identifiable specimens) and MNI (minimum number of individuals) .

Summary and Recommendations

C.1.3 The assemblage is small and fragmentary. There is little other information that can be gleaned. However, should further excavations take place, the surface condition of the bone would allow aging data (joint fusion and tooth wear), butchery and pathologies to be recorded within the context of a larger assemblage. It is recommended that the material from the topsoil be dispersed.

C.2 Mollusca

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction

C.2.1 A total of 0.457kg of shells were collected by hand during the evaluation. The shells recovered are edible examples of oyster *Ostrea edulis*, from estuarine and shallow coastal waters, and mussel *Mytilus edulis* from intertidal zones. The shell is moderately well preserved and does not appear to have been deliberately broken or crushed.

Methodology

C.2.2 The shells were weighed and recorded by species, with complete or near-complete right and left valves noted, where identification can be made, using Winder (2011) as a guide. The minimum number of individuals (MNI) was not established, due to the small size of the assemblage.

Assemblage and Discussion

C.2.3 The shells were recovered from ditches and a single pit, across Trenches 11 and 13. Pit **1117** in Trench 11 produced four large oyster shells, one right valve and three left valves, one of which has a small 'V'-shaped hole on the outer edge of the shell, caused by a knife during the opening or 'shucking' of the oyster, prior to its consumption.

C.2.4 Two ditches in Trench 13 produced shell. From ditch **1308**, a single large oyster shell was recovered and from ditch **1316**, a moderate assemblage of small-medium mussel shell, from which, prior to processing during post-excavation, three examples of paired shells were recovered. This suggests that they did not open when cooked, and the shells appears to be stacked on top of each other or nested together, left valve on top of left valve or right valve on top of right valve. Not all of the shells were arranged in this way, although enough were, to suggest this was a deliberate deposition of shell.

C.2.5 This is too small an assemblage to draw any but the broadest conclusions, in that marine shellfish were reaching the site from the coastal regions, indicating trade with the wider area. The oyster shells represent general discarded food waste, although the mussel shell from ditch **1136** appears to be a more deliberate deposition and may be the remains of a single meal. Although not closely datable in themselves, the shells may be dated by their association with pottery or other material also recovered from the features.

Retention, dispersal and display

C.2.6 The assemblage indicates that, should further work take place, additional shell would be found. If no further work is undertaken, the catalogue acts as a full record and the shell may be dispersed or deselected prior to archive deposition.

Mollusca Catalogue

Trench	Context	Cut	Species	Common Name	Habitat	No. Shells or Frags	No. left valve	No. right valve	Description/Comment	Weight (kg)
11	1121	**1117**	*Ostrea edulis*	Oyster	Estuarine and shallow coastal water	1	1	0	Near-complete moderately thick, older, large left valve with damage to the ventral margin, mostly on the posterior side of the midline. Light to moderate damage to the shell by burrowing marine worms and sponges	0.085
	1127		*Ostrea edulis*	Oyster	Estuarine and shallow coastal water	1	1	0	Near-complete slightly powdery, medium-large left valve, with some damage to	0.045

Trench	Context	Cut	Species	Common Name	Habitat	No. Shells or Frags	No. left valve	No. right valve	Description/Comment	Weight (kg)
									the ventral margin around the midline	
						1	1	0	Near-complete large left valve with damage along most of the ventral margin, including what appears to be a shucking mark on the posterior ventral margin, slightly beyond the midline	0.066
						1	0	1	Incomplete large right valve, missing all the anterior ventral portion of the shell which is very probably post-depositional damage. The shell is otherwise in relatively good condition with some survival of horny scale	0.036
13	1309	**1308**	*Ostrea edulis*	Oyster	Estuarine and shallow coastal water	1	0	1	Near-complete large right valve in good condition, with damage to the posterior ventral margin	0.061
	1317	**1316**	*Mytilus edulis*	Mussel	Intertidal zone	85	45	36	Small-medium shells, both left and right valves are present. Three pairs of valves were still joined prior to cleaning. Three complete and two near-complete left valves survive. The remaining left valves are all incomplete, mainly having suffered damage to the ventral margin or ventral and posterior ventral margin. One complete and one near-complete right valve survives, the remainder having suffered similar damage to the left shells along the ventral or ventral and posterior ventral margin Four fragments of shell could not be assigned a valve type	0.164
Totals:						**90**	**48**	**38**		**0.457**

C.3 Environmental remains

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

C.3.1 Six bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated area at Westhall Farm, Gayton, Norfolk in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. The samples were taken from features excavated within Trenches 3, 11 and 13 from deposits that have been provisionally dated as mostly medieval.

Methodology

C.3.2 The total volume (up to 24L) was processed by tank flotation using modified Sīraf-type equipment for the recovery of preserved plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh.

C.3.3 The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 3. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands (Cappers et al. 2006) and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Stace (2010). Plant remains have been identified to species where possible.

C.3.4 The sample residues were washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve and dried before sorting for artefacts (Table 4).

Quantification

C.3.5 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as cereal grains and seeds have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories:

= 1-5, ## = 6-25, ### = 26-100, #### = 100+ specimens

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

+ = occasional, ++ = moderate, +++ = frequent, ++++ = abundant

Key to tables: b=burnt, NR=not retained

Results

C.3.6 Preservation of plant remains is by carbonisation and waterlogging. Untransformed seeds of bramble (Rubus sp.) and elder (Sambucus nigra) may be contemporary with the deposits sampled due to their tough outer coat (testa) which is particularly resistant to decay. Snail shells are present in all of the samples and are present as burnt specimens in Sample 4, pit **1117** (Trench 11).

C.3.7 The results are discussed by trench:

Trench 3

C.3.8 Sample 5, fill 307 of Phase 1 ditch **306** produced a flot that is entirely comprised of charred plant remains, predominantly cereal grains with lesser quantities of legumes and weed seeds, with very little charcoal suggesting that this is a discrete deposit of burnt grain. Rye (Secale cereale) grains are most abundant along with frequent free-threshing bread wheat (Triticum aestivum sensu lato) and occasional barley (Hordeum vulgare) and oats (Avena sp.). Occasional cereal grains display evidence of having germinated and there is a wheat grain that is swollen (with no ventral groove present) into a form that is reminiscent of infection by the ear-cockle nematode (Anguina tritici). Occasional chaff elements of barley and rye are present. The charred weed seed assemblage includes species that are likely to have been growing as contaminants of the cereal crop such as corncokle (Agrostemma githago), stinking chamomile (Anthemis cotula), cornflower (Centaurea cyanus), black bindweed (Fallopia convolvulus), rye-grass (Lolium sp.), docks (Rumex sp.) and cornsalad (Valerianella dentata). Occasional legumes present appear to be of the wild species vetch/tare (Vicia/Lathyrus sp.) and wetland plants are represented by occasional seeds of sedge (Carex sp.).

C.3.9 Ditch **306** was cut by pit **309** (Sample 6, fill 311) which contained both charred and waterlogged plant remains. The charred component is comprised of charcoal and occasional mixed cereal grains and seeds of corncockle. The waterlogged plant remains include goosefoots (Chenopodium sp.), *fool's-water-cress (Apium nodiflorum)*, common fumitory (Fumaria officinalis), poppy (Papaver sp.), dead nettle (Lamium sp.), pale persicaria (Persicaria lapathifolia), stinging nettle (Urtica dioica) and small nettle (U. urens). Insect fragments, the egg-cases of water-fleas (Cladocera), fish and amphibian bones are also present.

Trench 11

C.3.10 Sample 1, fill 1110 of Phase 3 ditch **1109** contains waterlogged seeds of fool's water-cress, fool's parsley (Aethusa cynapium), fumitory, dead-nettle, poppy, stinging nettle, elder and duckweed (Lemna sp.) along with egg-cases of water-fleas. This lower deposit was not noticed to have been waterlogged on excavation and may have recently de-watered as the taxa present are mainly tough-coated seeds that are more likely to preserve.

C.3.11 Sample 4, fill 1124 of early medieval pit **1117** contains a significant assemblage of charred plant remains. Charcoal is abundant with the survival of larger fragments, some of which are worked. Charred grain is abundant with a mixture of wheat, cultivated oat (A. sativa) as indicated by the survival of complete florets, barley and rye. Occasional germinated grains are also present along with rye chaff. Weed seeds of the cultivated cereals include corncockle, stinking chamomile, corn gromwell (Lithospermum arvense) and clover (Trifolium sp.). There are also frequent sedge seeds with several species represented and frequent charred stems of common reed (Phragmites australis). There is a high content of silicates/fuel ash slag which is indicative of the burning of silica-rich reeds, possibly in the form of peat. Ostracods (the shells of small bivalve crustaceans) were also noted. Bird bones were noted in the sample residue.

Trench 13

C.3.12 Sample 3, fill 1309 of Phase 2 ditch **1308** contains a small assemblage of charred mixed cereal grains and barley chaff along with occasional seeds of stinking chamomile.

C.3.13 Sample 2, fill 1314 of Phase 2 ditch **1313** produced only occasional charred wheat grains and untransformed seeds of bramble and elder. Ostracods and amphibian bones are also present.

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut no.	Trench no.	Feature type	Volume processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Chaff	Legumes	Charred weed Seeds	untransformed seeds	waterlogged seeds	Roots/stems	Ostracods	Snails	Flot Charcoal volume (ml)
5	307	306	3	Ditch	16	80	####	#	##	###	0	0	0	#	++	1
6	311	309	3	Pit	16	60	###	0	0	##	##	###	0	0	++	10
1	1110	1109	11	Ditch	19	50	0	0	0	0	0	####	0	0	+++++	0
4	1124	1117	11	Pit	24	300	####	##	0	####	#	0	####	0	++b	120
3	1309	1308	13	Ditch	16	60	###	#	#	#	0	0	0	0	++++	10
2	1314	1313	13	Ditch	8	10	#	0	0	0	#	0	0	#	++++	0

Table 3: Flot contents

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut no.	Pottery	Small mammal bones	Large mammal bones	Fish bones	Bird bones	Amphibian bones	Mussels	Residue charcoal volume (ml)	Charred plant remains	Comments
5	307	306	#	0	#	0	0	0	#	2	0	
6	311	309	#NR	#	#	#	0	#	0	20	0	
1	1110	1109	#NR	0	#NR	0	0	0	0	<1	0	
4	1124	1117	#	#	#	0	#	0	#NR	1000	###	worked wood charcoal, frequent charred stems
3	1309	1308	0	0	0	#	0	#	0	<1	0	
2	1314	1313	#	0	0	0	0	#	0	0	0	

Table 4: Residue contents (Small bones identified by Mary Andrews)

Discussion

C.3.14 The samples from Trenches 3, 11 and, to a lesser extent, Trench 13 have produced significant assemblages of charred and waterlogged plant remains indicating that there is excellent potential for the recovery of additional preserved remains should there be any further excavation in this area. The preservation of waterlogged plant remains have the potential to provide information on the local environment as features that cut below the water table act as a trap for any wind-borne seeds.

C.3.15 The abundance of charred plant remains also indicates that there is excellent potential for the study of diet and the weed seeds included within the assemblages provide information of the types of soils that were being cultivated. The presence of stinking chamomile is an indicator of the cultivation of heavy clays soils that are most suited to winter wheat. Rye is a more drought-tolerant cereal type and was often cultivated on drier, sandy soils. Both wheat and rye would have been used as flour for making bread whereas barley and oats were more likely to have been grown as fodder. Fill 1124 (sample 4) was noted on excavation to have contained frequent burnt/fired clay that may suggest that this assemblage represent the waste from a demolished oven.

C.3.16 There is some evidence of cereal spoilage through the presence of germinated grain and insect-infestation. Ear cockle nematode has been identified at a number of medieval sites in Cambridge such as Harvest Way (Fosberry in Atkins 2016) and Coldham's Lane (Fosberry in Atkins et al. 2015). It is possible that the germinated grain may be the result of brewing of ale, particularly as a fragment of pottery from pit **1117** has a white residue on the inner surface that might represent 'beerstone' (calcium oxalate) which forms when a vessel has been used for brewing.

C.3.17 In summary, the environmental samples have indicated that there is excellent potential for the recovery of charred and waterlogged plant remains and molluscs, insects, fish, bird, amphibian and animal bone. If further excavation is planned for this area, it is recommended that environmental sampling is carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines (2011).

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APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS / OASIS REPORT FORM

Site name: Westhall Farm Gayton
Site code: XNFWGF19
Grid Reference TF 7251 1920
Type: Evaluation
Date and duration: 17th-30th October 2019
Area of Site 2.7 ha
Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, 15 Trafalgar Way, Bar Hill, CB8 0UU, and will be deposited with Norfolk Museum Service in due course, under the following accession number: NWHCM:2019.327.

Summary of Results: The trenching revealed several ditches, representing field or plot boundaries and a few pits. Finds were scarce but three different phases of activity have been defined based on the alignments of the ditches. The earliest phase possibly dates from the 11th to 12th centuries (based on the earliest finds from the site). A later re-alignment took place which may date to the 12th to 13th centuries as a few sherds of pottery from this date were present in the ditch fills of this alignment. The latest phase of ditches lay on the same alignment as the earthworks still present in the field and therefore post-dates the earlier alignments.

Three large pits were recorded, one of which contained distinctive fills including charcoal rich layer with fragments of burnt worked wood and peat ash, possibly indicating some light industrial activity nearby. Environmental samples indicated an environment dominated by cereals. There was good preservation of environmental indicators in some of the features as waterlogged conditions were present across parts of the site.

Project Details

OASIS Number	Oxfordar3-367230
Project Name	Pre-application evaluation by Trial Trenching at Westhall Farm Gayton

Start of Fieldwork	17/10/2019	End of Fieldwork	30/10/19
Previous Work	Yes	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	XNFWGF19	Planning App. No.	Pre-application
HER Number	ENF146470	Related Numbers	ENF145952

Prompt	Local Authority Brief
Development Type	School
Place in Planning Process	Pre-application

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

☐	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
☐	Dendrochonological 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	Period
Field systems	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
settlement	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
	Choose an item.

Object	Period
Pottery	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
Horse shoe	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
	Choose an item.

Insert more lines as appropriate.

Project Location

County	Norfolk
District	West Norfolk
Parish	Gayton
HER office	Norfolk
Size of Study Area	2.7 ha
National Grid Ref	TF 7251 1920

Address (including Postcode)

Vicarage Lane
King's Lynn
Norfolk
PE32 1PD

Project Originators

Organisation	Oxford Archaeology East
Project Brief Originator	John Percival Norfolk County Council
Project Design Originator	Aileen Connor Oxford Archaeology
Project Manager	Aileen Connor
Project Supervisor	Heather Wallis

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	Norwich Castle Museum	
Digital Archive	Norwich Castel Museum	
Paper Archive	Norwich Castle Museum	

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	☒	☒	☐
Ceramics	☒	☒	☐
Environmental	☒	☒	☒
Glass	☐	☐	☐

Human Remains	☐	☐	☐
Industrial	☒	☐	☐
Leather	☐	☐	☐
Metal	☒	☐	☐
Stratigraphic		☒	☒
Survey		☒	☒
Textiles	☐	☐	☐
Wood	☐	☐	☐
Worked Bone	☐	☐	☐
Worked Stone/Lithic	☐	☐	☐
None	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐

Digital Media

Database	☒
GIS	☒
Geophysics	☐
Images (Digital photos)	☒
Illustrations (Figures/Plates)	☒
Moving Image	☐
Spreadsheets	☐
Survey	☒
Text	☒
Virtual Reality	☐

Paper Media

Aerial Photos	☐
Context Sheets	☒
Correspondence	☐
Diary	☐
Drawing	☒
Manuscript	☐
Map	☐
Matrices	☐
Microfiche	☐
Miscellaneous	☐
Research/Notes	☐
Photos (negatives/prints/slides)	☐
Plans	☒
Report	☒
Sections	☒
Survey	☐

Further Comments

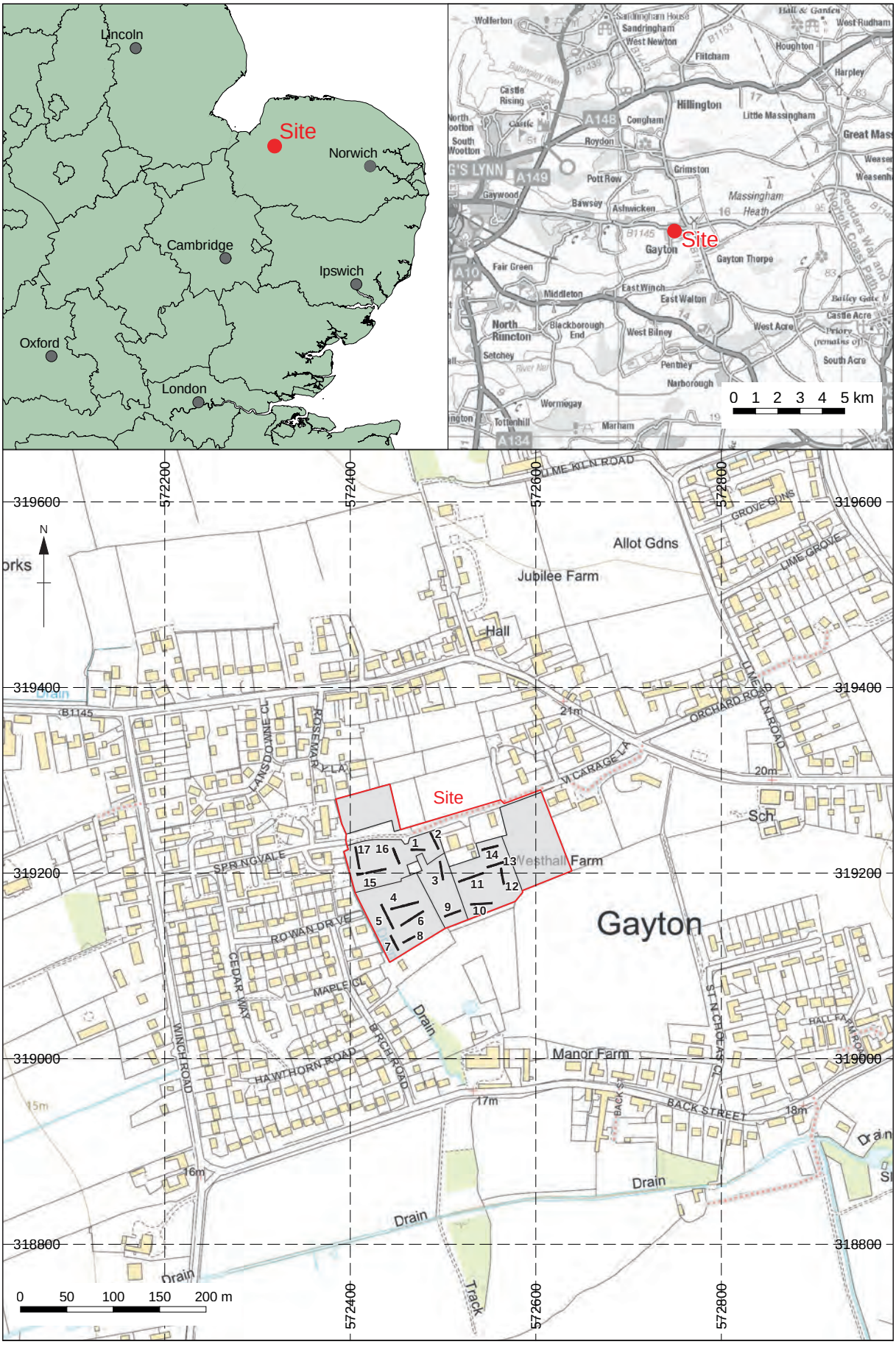
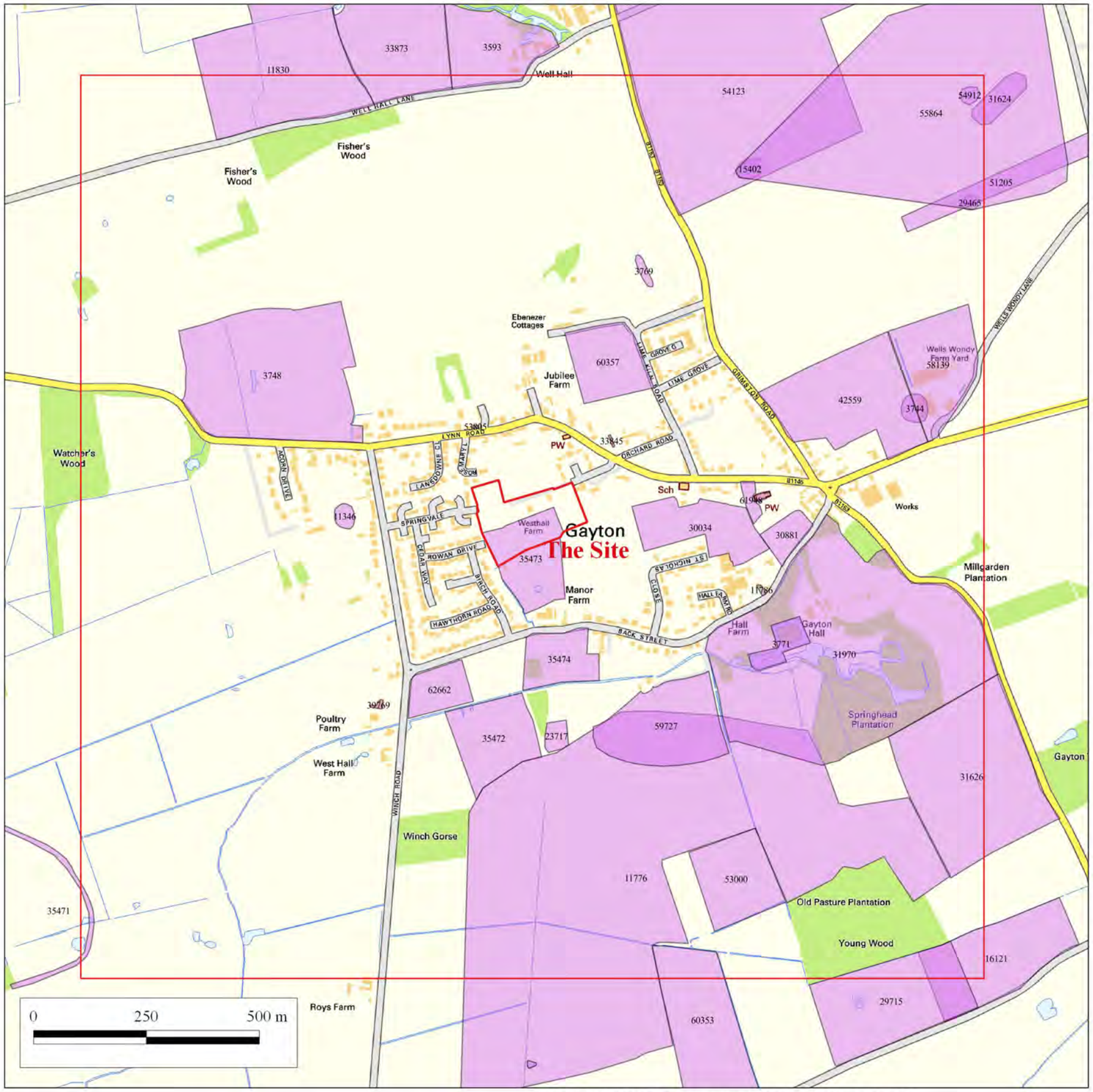


Figure 1: Site location showing trenches (black) in proposed development area (red). Scale 1:6000



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HER Ref	Period	Description
3593	Early Bronze Age to Post Medieval	Well Hall, built around 1700 on the site of a Benedictine cell; nearby earthworks could be a Roman road or settlement, part of the cell, or DMV
3744	Roman	Roman coin found during digging for a new corn dresser, and a Roman pot sherd found at a later date
3748	Medieval	Medieval settlement (manorial and village?) indicated by earthwork enclosures, building platforms and common edge boundary; also ridge and furrow
3769	Roman to Late Saxon	Roman pot sherd and Late Saxon or Saxo-Norman pottery found in a chalk pit
3770	Medieval to Post Medieval	St Nicholas' Church, Gayton is a Grade I Listed building, mostly 14th century with a 15th century chancel. Reused stone indicates an earlier building
3771	Medieval to Post Medieval	Medieval moated site and two fishponds near to Gayton Hall. The stream and ponds were landscape in the 19th century
11346	Bronze Age	Bronze Age copper alloy spearhead found in allotments behind Reader House
11776	Early Iron Age to Post Medieval	Cropmarks interpreted as a Roman field system and a canal or medieval ridge and furrow; also Iron Age to post-medieval finds from the area
11786	Post Medieval	Hall farm farmhouse is a Grade II Listed building dated 1587 on datestone
11830	Medieval	Earthwork enclosures and building platforms interpreted as remains of Wella deserted medieval village
15402	Bronze Age	Cropmark indicating possible Bronze Age ring ditch
16121	Lower Palaeolithic to Post Medieval	Roman settlement indicated by possible cropmarks and surface finds; also multi-period surface finds
23717	Early Saxon to Medieval	Late Saxon and medieval pottery and early Saxon to medieval metal objects found during metal detecting
29465	Bronze Age	Cropmark showing possible Bronze Age ring ditch. Lies close to a triple ditched ring ditch
29715	Early Bronze Age to Post Medieval	Bronze Age to post medieval finds recovered during metal detecting
30034	Roman to Post Medieval	Roman, Middle to Late Saxon and medieval objects found during metal detecting
30881	Middle Saxon to Post Medieval	Middle Saxon, medieval and post-medieval finds recovered during metal detecting
31624	Roman to Post Medieval	Roman, Early Saxon, medieval and post-medieval finds found during metal detecting
31626	Roman to Medieval	Roman and medieval finds found during metal detecting
31970	Medieval to Post Medieval	Gayton Hall Park, a landscape park laid out in 1810 on moated site NHER 3771 Three lawns and much of the planting survives
33845	Post Medieval	Grade II Listed Orchard Farm House is a late 17th to early 18th century chalk and gault brick house with a slate roof
33873	Early Iron Age to Post Medieval	Iron Age, Roman, Early and Late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval finds from metal detecting in Mill Dam Close, conjectured as the site of a mill
35471	Unknown	Undated trackways and field boundaries indicated by soilmarks on aerial photographs
35472	Unknown	Undated field boundaries indicated by soilmarks on aerial photographs
35473	Medieval	Medieval earthworks seen on aerial photographs
35474	Medieval	Medieval earthworks seen on aerial photographs
39769	Post Medieval	Bridge House, Winch Road has a south gable wall of probable 18th century date. The remainder dates from around 1900
42559	Roman to Post Medieval	Roman, Middle to Late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval metalwork found during metal detecting
51205	Medieval to Post Medieval	Medieval and post medieval metalwork recovered during metal detecting
53000	Early Neolithic to Post Medieval	Late Iron Age to post-medieval finds, with Early Saxon finds indicating a possible inhumation cemetery
53805	Post Medieval	Pump Cottage, Lynn Road, a brick and flint corner cottage of late 18th or early 19th century date
54123	Roman	Cropmarks showing linear features and enclosures indicative of a Romano-British field system
54912	Undated	Cropmark showing possible ring ditch of unknown date, located near to findspots of Roman, Early Saxon, medieval and post-medieval artefacts
55864	Bronze Age	Group of six ring ditches visible as cropmarks, interpreted as a probable dispersed Bronze Age barrow cemetery
58139	Lower Palaeolithic to Post Medieval	Trial trenching revealed two field boundaries and a large hollow containing Anglo-Saxon and medieval finds; also a 'post hole' with Bronze Age pot
59727	Early Mesolithic to Post Medieval	Mesolithic/Neolithic flint and Roman to post-medieval metalwork found during metal detecting
60353	Early Neolithic to Post Medieval	Late prehistoric worked flint and Iron Age to post-medieval pottery found during fieldwalking
60357	Early Iron Age to Post Medieval	Iron Age, Early Saxon, Late Saxon and medieval to post-medieval pottery found during fieldwalking
61948	Early Saxon to Post Medieval	Early to Late Saxon pottery found in 1996 the churchyard of St Nicholas Church; also disarticulated human remains found during a watching brief
62662	Post Medieval to Modern	Five undated pits and an irregular linear feature recorded during a trial trench evaluation in 2016

Figure 2: Selected HER data (after NPS 2018 figure 2). Scale 1:1000

Figure 3: All features plan overlaid on earthwork survey

Figure 4: Field B trench plan

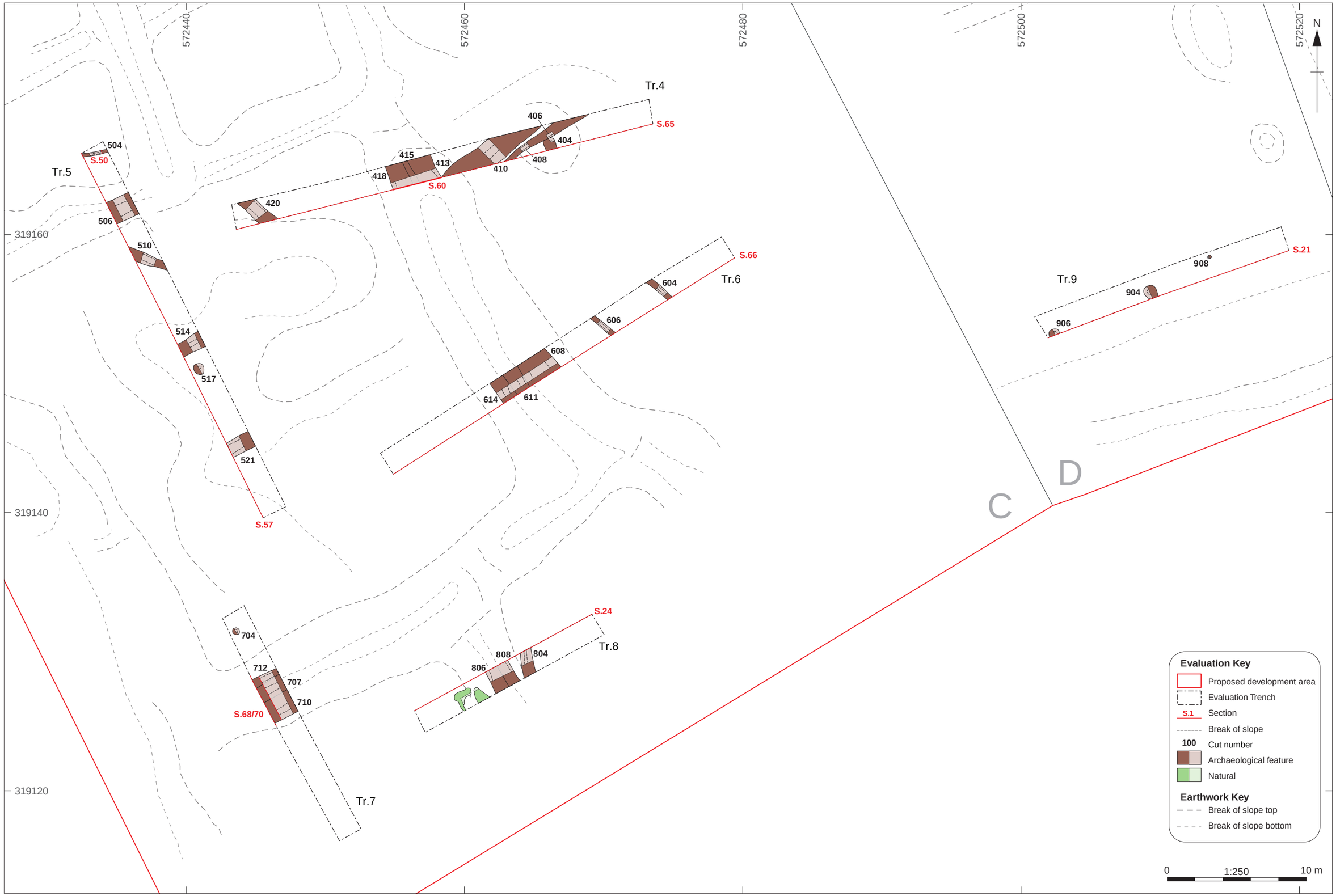


Figure 5: Field C trench plan

572480
572500
572520
319220
319200
319180
319160

Tr.1
S.34
Tr.2
206
S.25
B
Tr.3
304
S.48
306
309
S.49
E
Tr.11
S.43
1117
1114
1109
1106
1104
Tr.4
S.65
Tr.10
S.44
1004
Tr.6
S.66
604
Tr.9
S.21
908
904
906
C
D

Evaluation Key
- Proposed development area
- Evaluation Trench
- S.1 Section
- Break of slope
- 100 Cut number
- Archaeological feature
- Feature projection

Earthwork Key
- Break of slope top
- Break of slope bottom

N

0 1:250 10 m

Figure 6: Field D trench plan

Evaluation Key

- Proposed development area
- Evaluation Trench
- S.1 Section
- Break of slope
- 100 Cut number
- Archaeological feature

Earthwork Key

- Break of slope top
- Break of slope bottom

N

Tr.14
1413
1411
1409
1404
1407
S.16

Tr.13
1311
1313
S.42
1316
1322
1306
1308
1320
1304
S.37
1318

Tr.12
1209
1206
1204
S.17

E

Tr.11
S.45
S.43
1117
1114
1109
1106
1104

Tr.10
S.44
S.46
1004

Tr.9
S.21
908
904

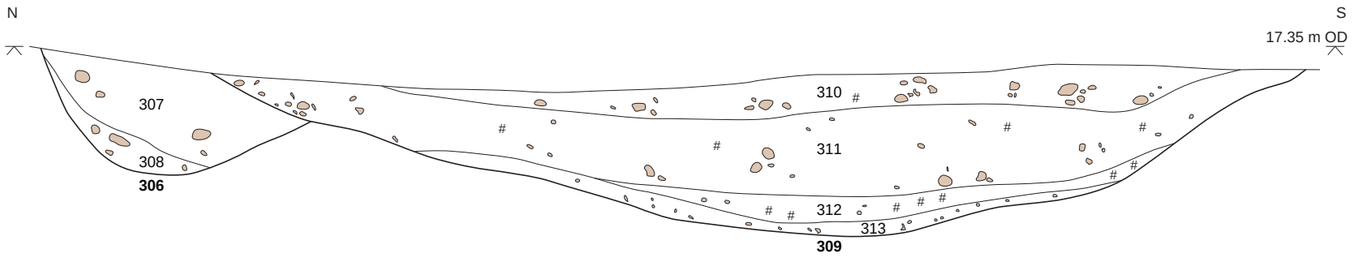
D

0 1:250 10 m

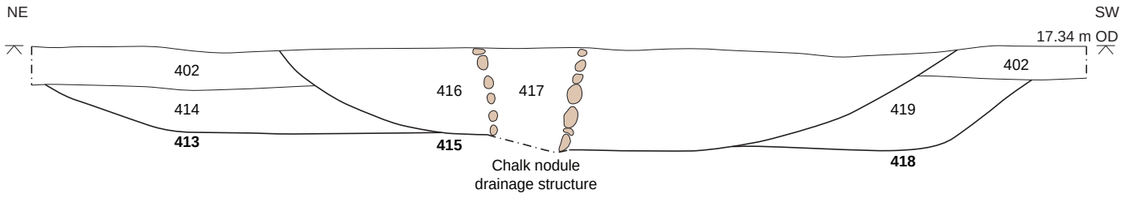
Figure 7: Field E trench plan

Key
- Limit of Excavation
- Top surface
- Cut / conjectured
- Deposit Horizon conjectured
- **117** Cut Number
- 116 Deposit Number
- # Charcoal
- Stone/chalk
- 32.26 m OD Level

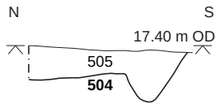
Trench 3 Section 48



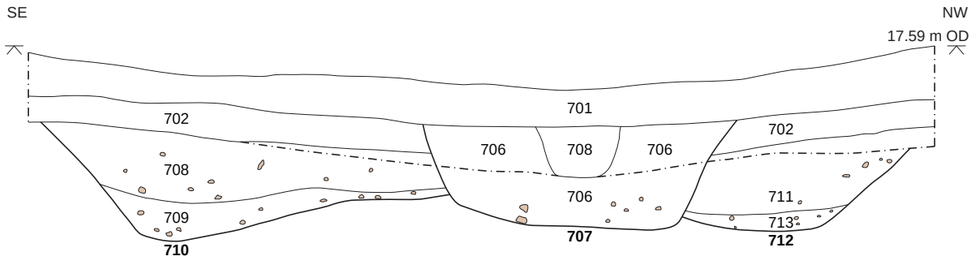
Trench 4 Section 60



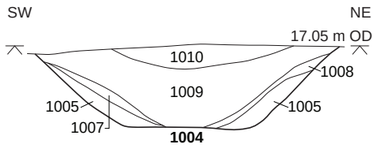
Trench 5 Section 50



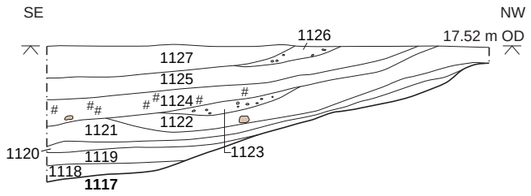
Trench 7 Section 68/70



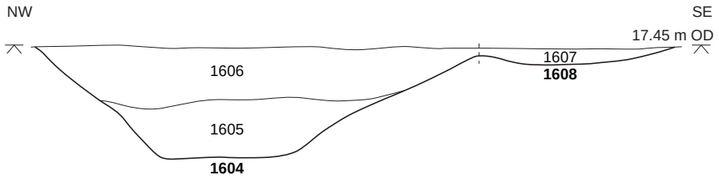
Trench 10 Section 44



Trench 11 Section 43



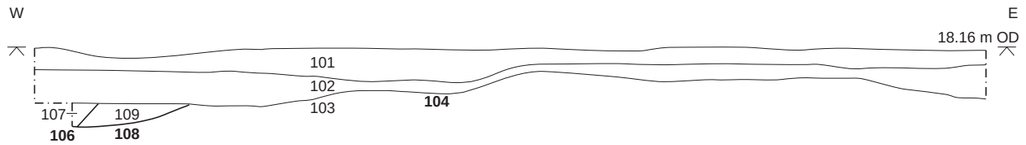
Trench 16 Section 39



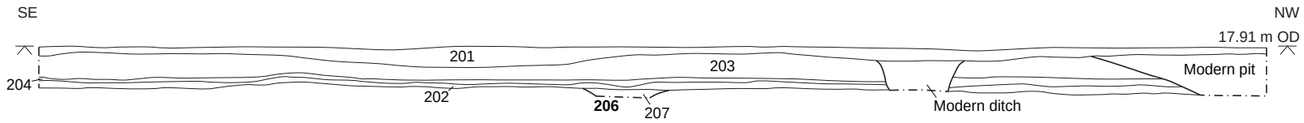
0 1:25 1 m

Figure 8: Selected feature sections

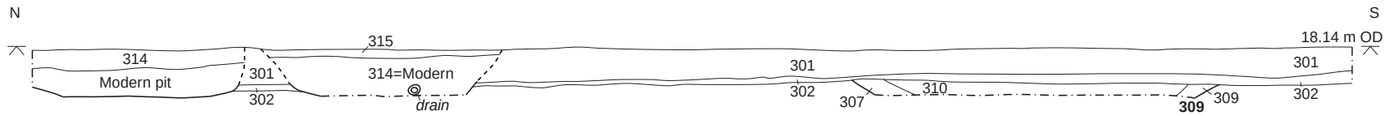
Trench 1 Section 34



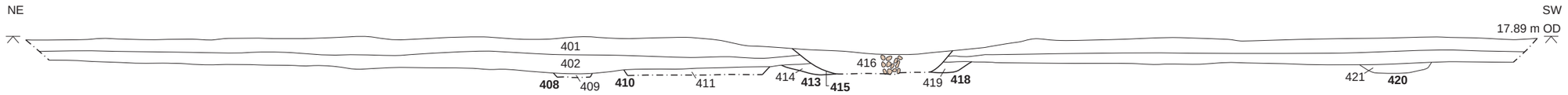
Trench 2 Section 25



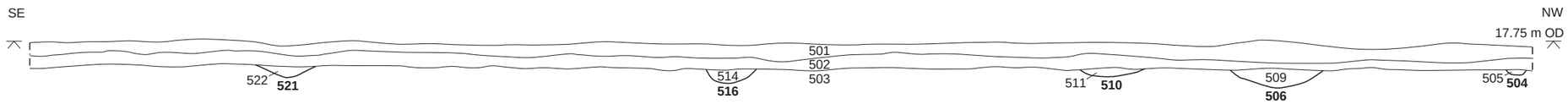
Trench 3 Section 49



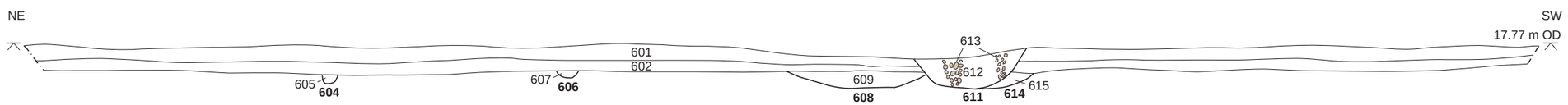
Trench 4 Section 65



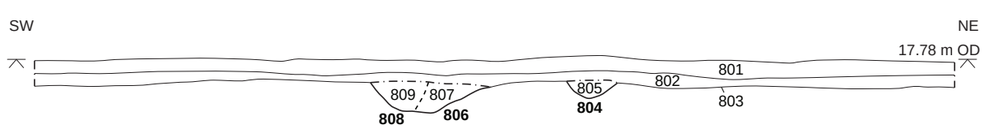
Trench 5 Section 57



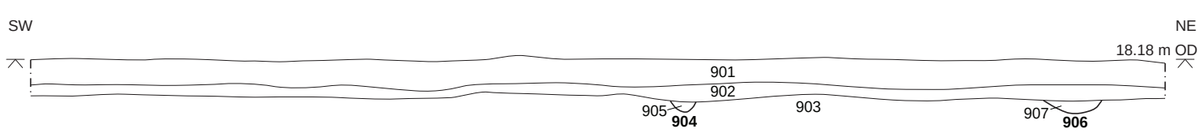
Trench 6 Section 66



Trench 8 Section 24



Trench 9 Section 21



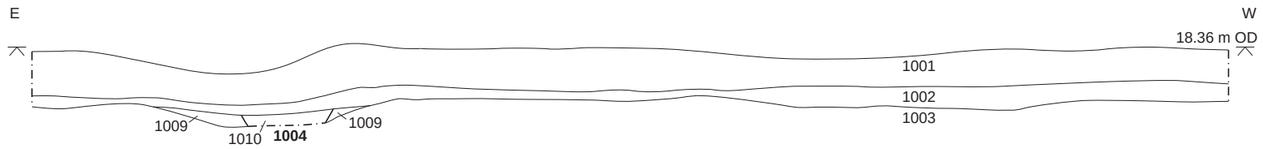
Key

- Limit of Excavation
- Top surface
- Cut / conjectured
- Deposit Horizon conjectured
- Break in Section
- **117** Cut Number
- 116 Deposit Number
- Stone/chalk
- 32.26 m OD Level

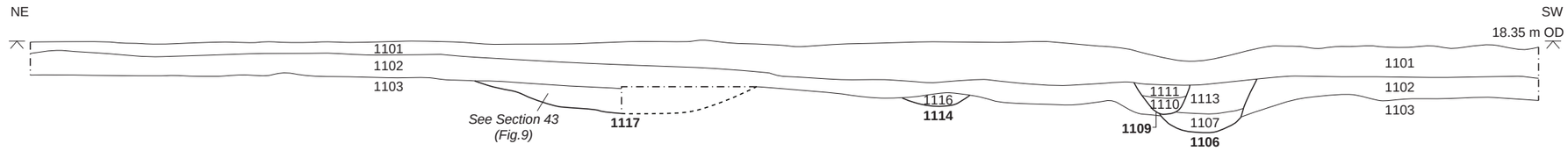
0 1:100 5 m

Figure 9: Trench sections (sheet 1 of 2)

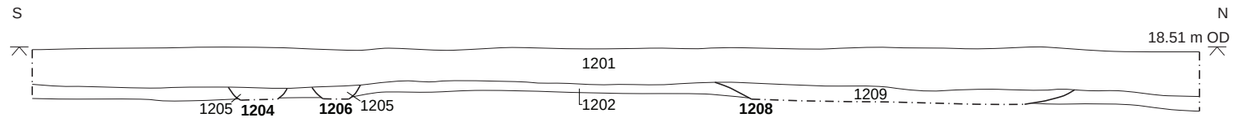
Trench 10 Section 46



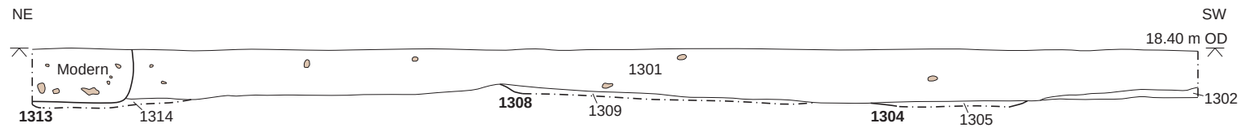
Trench 11 Section 45



Trench 12 Section 17

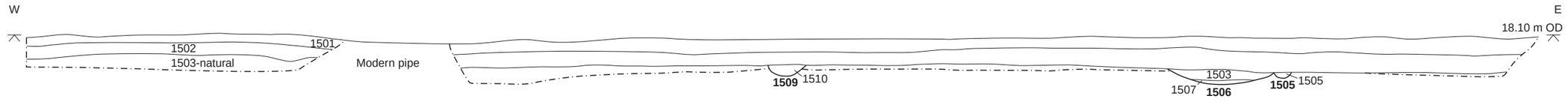


Trench 13 Section 37

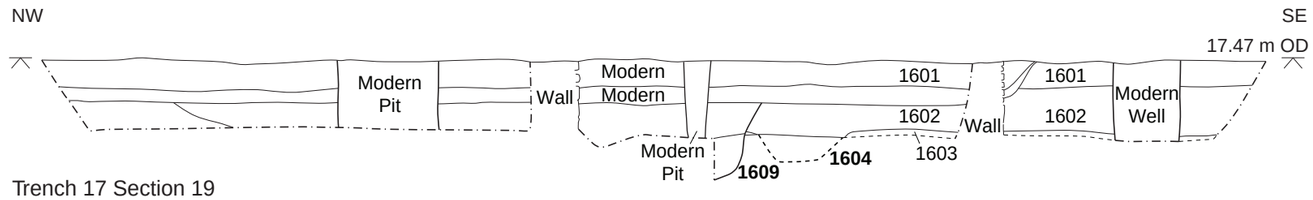


Trench 14 Section 16

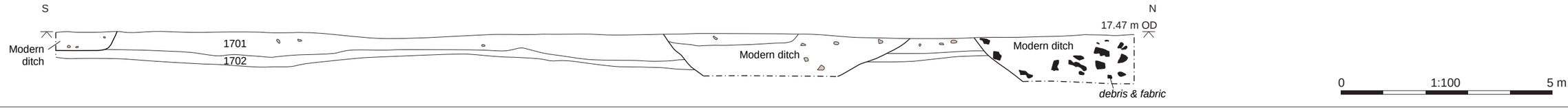
Trench 15 Section 28



Trench 16 Section 38



Trench 17 Section 19



Key

- Limit of Excavation
- Top surface
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- Deposit Horizon conjectured
- Break in Section
- **117** Cut Number
- 116 Deposit Number
- Stone/chalk
- 32.26 m OD Level

Figure 10: Trench sections (sheet 2 of 2)

Figure 11: Plan showing phases of ditch alignments

Plate 1: Trench 1, looking east

Plate 2: Trench 2, looking north-west

Plate 3: Trench 3, pit **309** and ditch **306**, looking north-east

Plate 4: Trench 4, looking west

Plate 5: Trench 5, looking south-east

Plate 6: Trench 6, looking north-east

Plate 7: Trench 7, ditches **710**, **707** and **712**, looking south-west

Plate 8: Trench 8, looking south-west

Plate 9: Trench 7, looking north-east

Plate 10: Trench 11, looking west

Plate 11: Trench 11, pit **1117**, looking south-west

Plate 12: Trench 13, looking south-west

Plate 13: Trench 14, looking south-west

Plate 14: Trench 15, looking south-west

Plate 15: Trench 16, walls 1613 and 1614, looking north-west

Plate 16: Trench 16, pit **1609**, ditch **1604** and pit **1608**, looking south-east

Plate 17: Trench 17, looking south-east

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