



Wymondham WRC Scheme

Archaeological Monitoring Report

August 2017

Client: Anglian Water Services

Issue No: 1

OA Reference No: XNRWRC17

NGR: TG 09603 02913

Report No: 2114



Client Name: Anglian Water Services
Document Title: Wymondham WRC Scheme
Document Type: Watching Brief Report
Report No.: 2114
Grid Reference: TG 09603 02913
Planning Reference: n/a
Site Code: ENF 142301
Invoice Code: XNFWRF17
Receiving Body: Norfolk Museum and Archaeology Services

OA Document File Location: X:\Active Projects_Use KT\Norfolk\XNFWRC17_Wymondham WRC\Project Reports
OA Graphics File Location: X:\Active Projects_Use KT\Norfolk\XNFWRC17_Wymondham WRC\Project Data\Graphics

Issue No: 1
Date: August 2017
Prepared by: Louise Bush (Project Officer)
Checked by: Matt Brudenell (Senior Project Manager)
Edited by: Aileen Connor (Senior Project Manager)
Approved for Issue by: Paul Spoerry (Regional Manager)
Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Spoerry".**Disclaimer:**

This document has been prepared for the titled project or named part thereof and should not be relied upon or used for any other project without an independent check being carried out as to its suitability and prior written authority of Oxford Archaeology being obtained. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for the consequences of this document being used for a purpose other than the purposes for which it was commissioned. Any person/party using or relying on the document for such other purposes agrees and will by such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement to indemnify Oxford Archaeology for all loss or damage resulting therefrom. Oxford Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability for this document to any party other than the person/party by whom it was commissioned.

OA South

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford
OX2 0ES

t. +44 (0)1865 263 800

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridge
CB23 8SG

t. +44 (0)1223 850 500

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane Mills
Moor Lane
Lancaster
LA1 1QD

t. +44 (0)1524 880 250

e. info@oxfordarch.co.uk
w. oxfordarchaeology.com

Oxford Archaeology is a registered Charity: No. 285627



SAFETY
SCHEMES IN
PROCUREMENT

Wymondham WRC Scheme

Archaeological Monitoring Report

Written by Louise Bush BA MA MCIfA

*With contributions from Lawrence Billington BA MA PhD and
Alice Lyons BA MA MCIfA.*

Illustrations by Emily Abrehart BA and Katie Hutton BA

Contents

Summary	vii
Acknowledgements	viii
1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Scope of work.....	1
1.2 Location, topography and geology.....	1
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	1
2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY	3
2.1 Aims	3
2.2 Methodology.....	3
3 RESULTS	4
3.1 Introduction	4
3.2 Results.....	4
3.3 Finds summary	4
4 DISCUSSION	5
APPENDIX A FINDS REPORTS.....	6
A.1 Pottery	6
A.2 Flint.....	6
APPENDIX B BIBLIOGRAPHY	7
APPENDIX C OASIS REPORT FORM	8

List of Figures

- Fig. 1 Site location showing archaeological watching brief area (red)
Fig. 2 Map showing HER data and air photograph data from the NMP
Fig. 3 Site plan and sections

List of Plates

- Plate 1 General view across site (looking north)
Plate 2 Overall view of archaeological features (looking north-east)
Plate 3 Ditch **109** (looking west)
Plate 4 Ditch **102** (looking north-west)

Summary

On the 3rd and 4th July 2017, Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) undertook a programme of archaeological monitoring on groundworks at the Wymondham Water Recycling Centre (WRC), Norfolk (TG 09603 02913).

One Roman ditch, one undated ditch and two modern service trenches were identified. An isolated assemblage of early Roman domestic pottery was found, along with residual struck flint.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Anglian Water Services for commissioning this project. Thanks also to James Albone of the Norfolk Historic Environment Services (NHES) for producing the Brief.

The project was managed for OA East by Matt Brudenell and the fieldwork was undertaken by Tom Collie.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 OA East was commissioned by Anglian Water Services to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring at the Wymondham Water Recycling Centre (WRC), Norfolk (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 In compliance with the Anglian Water Code of Practice, the work was conducted in accordance with a generic Brief issued by NHES, and an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by OA East (Bush & Brudenell 2017).
- 1.1.3 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies to the north-west of Wymondham at around 26.5m OD. It is bounded on its eastern side by the Wymondham to Dereham railway, to the north by the River Tiffey and by green fields.
- 1.2.2 Bedrock geology across most of the site consists of Lewes Nodular, Seaford, Newhaven and Culver Chalk Formation with superficial deposits of alluvium (clay, silt, sand and gravel). However, the south-eastern edge of the site has a superficial deposit of Lowestoft Formation diamicton (BGS 2017).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following provides a summary of the archaeological background for the area surrounding the site, drawing on information provided by the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) and the National Mapping Programme (NMP), under licence number 484 (Fig. 2).

Prehistoric

- 1.3.2 A number of findspots have been identified in the environs of the site: a flint leaf point (NHER 25095) has been recorded in the adjacent field, some 90m to the east. A stone axehead (NHER 8896) was recovered around 180m south-west of the site, close to the junction of Chapel Lane and Crownthorpe Road.
- 1.3.3 Flintwork (NHER 23094) broadly dated to the prehistoric period has been recovered during fieldwalking, 400m to the north-east of the site.
- 1.3.4 The site of a possible Bronze Age ring ditch is also known, 700m to the west.

Roman

- 1.3.5 Earthworks, cropmarks and soilmarks associated with the route of a Roman road between Caistor St Edmund and Crownthorpe (NHER 19725) have been recorded as running through the northern end of the site. A findspot of Roman pottery sherds (NHER 8901) has also been recorded in this part of the site. Further pottery sherds (NHER 21563) have been recovered around 200m to the west. The Scheduled

Monument of Crownthorpe Romano-Celtic temple (NHER 54693) is also located approximately 620m to the west of the site. A huge number of finds have been recovered from this location, including hundreds of Roman coins, jewellery and pottery (NHER 8897).

Medieval

- 1.3.6 The site of possible medieval building platforms, enclosures and a moat (NHER 54664) have been recorded as earthworks around 250m to the south-west, on the outskirts of the hamlet of Chapel Bridge. The field to the immediate west of Crownthorpe Road contains the cropmarks remains (NHER 54695) of field boundaries and trackway of probable medieval date.

Undated

- 1.3.7 The field to the immediate north of the site, on the other side of the River Tiffey contains the fragmentary remains of banks and ditches (NHER 57445) of uncertain date and function.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The general aim of monitoring investigations was to preserve by record any archaeological evidence revealed within the area of redevelopment. When archaeology was encountered, the investigation had the following aims:

- i. To determine or confirm the general nature of any remains present
- ii. To determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of any remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence
- iii. Establish the purpose of any remains present
- iv. Establish the impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Groundworks were monitored by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist. All archaeological features and deposits were investigated and recorded

2.2.1 Spoil arising from the ground penetrating works was scanned visually and with a metal detector to aid recovery of artefacts.

2.2.2 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's pro-forma sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales.

2.2.3 Digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits. Black and white monochrome film was also used to photograph the features. Unfortunately, the cameras were stolen on the last day of the project, therefore no negatives survive for archiving.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The results of the Watching Brief are presented below. Finds data can be found in Appendix A. A total of two small ditches, on two separate alignments were identified during the monitoring (Fig. 3; Plate 1).
- 3.1.2 The recorded sections for each of the two ditches were very similar in fill and form, so only one for each ditch is reproduced here (Fig. 3).

3.2 Results

- 3.2.1 The natural geology comprised yellow and orange sandy silts across the stripped area (Plate 2). A mid brown grey sandy silt subsoil was identified across the site, measuring between 0.15m and 0.18m in thickness. This was overlain by a 0.12m to 0.25m thick dark brown grey sandy silt topsoil.
- 3.2.2 The earliest ditch (**107, 109**) extended across the site in an east to west direction (Fig. 3, S.3; Plate 3). It measured 0.5m in width and ranged in depth from 0.12m to 0.26m. The steeply sloping sided and concave based ditch contained two fills. It was filled with a dark grey brown silty sand (105, 108). Finds from this fill consisted of 16 abraded sherds (206g) of early Roman pottery, along with two flints (26g), one struck and one unworked burnt flint.
- 3.2.3 Ditch **107** was cut by ditch **102 (104)**, which crossed the site on a north-west to south-east alignment (Fig. 3, S.2; Plate 4). The ditch measured 0.7m wide and was 0.15m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a light yellow grey silty sand (101, 103) with common sub-angular unworked flint pieces. No finds were recovered from this ditch.
- 3.2.4 Two modern service trenches were also identified within the stripped area.

3.3 Finds summary

- 3.3.1 A small assemblage was recovered from fill 105 of ditch **107** (see Appendix A). This consists of 206g of mid to late 1st century AD pottery, along with a single struck flint of probable Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date and an unworked burnt flint.

4 DISCUSSION

- 4.1.1 The area of archaeological recording is located around 75m directly south of the recorded route of the Caistor St Edmund to Crownthorpe Roman road (NHER 19725), which also runs through the northern edge of the site. Consequently, the presence of Roman remains within the stripped area is not unsurprising. Ditch **107**, which produced mid to late 1st century AD pottery, is parallel with the Roman road and could signify the remnant of a field system orientated with, and extending away from the road.
- 4.1.2 Whilst ditch **102** remains undated, it clearly cut through the Roman ditch, and therefore post-dated it. It does not appear to align with any recorded cropmarks or field boundaries in the immediate vicinity. Although, it is on a similar alignment to the railway.
- 4.1.3 The recovery of a residual struck flint in ditch **107** would also indicate a low-level prehistoric presence in the area.

APPENDIX A FINDS REPORTS

A.1 Pottery

By Alice Lyons

Results

- A.1.1 Sixteen sherds of early Roman coarse ware pottery (206g) were recovered from a single fill (105) within ditch **107**. The pottery is fragmentary and severely abraded with an average sherd weight of 12.5g. The pottery sherds are the remains of many (up to 16) individual vessels and not the remains of a single broken jar.
- A.1.2 All the pottery originates from globular flat bottomed utilitarian jars: two 'S' shaped rolled rims were recorded, also a straight everted rim (diameters ranged from 120 to 160mm). Although decoration is minimal, at least one of the jars has a cordon on the neck derived from the Iron Age tradition of vessel design (Thompson 1984). The fabrics are all blue grey Sandy grey wares, with common silver mica, although they show a variety of finishes including black slip. Such fabrics are typical of central Norfolk pottery production (Green 1977).
- A.1.3 This is a small discrete assemblage which probably reflects an isolated deposit of domestic rubbish which occurred during the mid to late 1st century AD. As the site is within a known Roman landscape with other Roman pottery, including samian found in the vicinity (NHER 8901), this level of activity should be expected.

Further Works

- A.1.4 No further work is suggested at the present time. If any additional archaeological work is undertaken in the vicinity this material should be incorporated into the larger archive.

A.2 Flint

By Lawrence Billington

- A.2.1 A single worked flint (10.7g) and one piece of unworked burnt flint (14.7g) were recovered from context 105 of ditch **107**. The worked flint is an unretouched, hard hammer struck, secondary flake. Although not strongly chronologically diagnostic, it is most likely to be of Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date. The flake is unrecorticated and is in relatively fresh condition, but does exhibit some edge damage along one lateral edge which is consistent with having been used as a simple cutting tool.

APPENDIX B BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Albone, J. 2017 *Generic Brief for the monitoring of works under archaeological supervision and control*. NCC HES. Unpublished
- Bush, L. & 2017 *Wymondham WRC Scheme, Norfolk: Written Scheme of Investigation*. OA
Brudenell, M. East. Unpublished
- Green, C. 1977 'Excavations in the Roman Kiln Field at Brampton, 1973-4' *East Anglian Archaeology* 5, 31-95
- Thompson, I. 1982 Grog-tempered 'Belgic' Pottery of South-eastern England, BAR British Series 108 (<http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/16/000.htm> - accessed 20/07/2017)

APPENDIX C

OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	Oxfordar3-288722		
Project Name	Wymondham WRC Scheme, Norfolk		
Start of Fieldwork	3/7/2017	End of Fieldwork	4/7/2017
Previous Work	No	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	XNFWRC17	Planning App. No.	
HER Number	ENF142301	Related Numbers	

Prompt	Anglian Water directive
Development Type	Utilities
Place in Planning Process	Not known/Not recorded

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography – interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/> Grab-sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-core	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording of Fabric/Structure
<input type="checkbox"/> Augering	<input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits
<input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search	<input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography	

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Ditch	Roman (43 to 410)	Pottery	Roman (43 to 410)
Ditch	Uncertain	Flint	Neolithic (- 4000 to - 2200)

Insert more lines as appropriate.

Project Location

County	Norfolk	Address (including Postcode) Wymondham WRC Chapel Lane Wymondham NR18 9EL
District	South Norfolk	
Parish	Wymondham	
HER office	Norfolk	
Size of Study Area	21x22m	
National Grid Ref	TG 09603 02913	

Project Originators

Organisation	OA East
Project Brief Originator	James Albone
Project Design Originator	Louise Bush & Matt Brudenell

Project Manager
Project Supervisor

Matt Brudenell
Tom Collie

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	Norfolk Museum & Archaeology Service	ENF142301
Digital Archive	OA East	XNFWRC17
Paper Archive	Norfolk Museum & Archaeology Service	ENF142301

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Remains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media

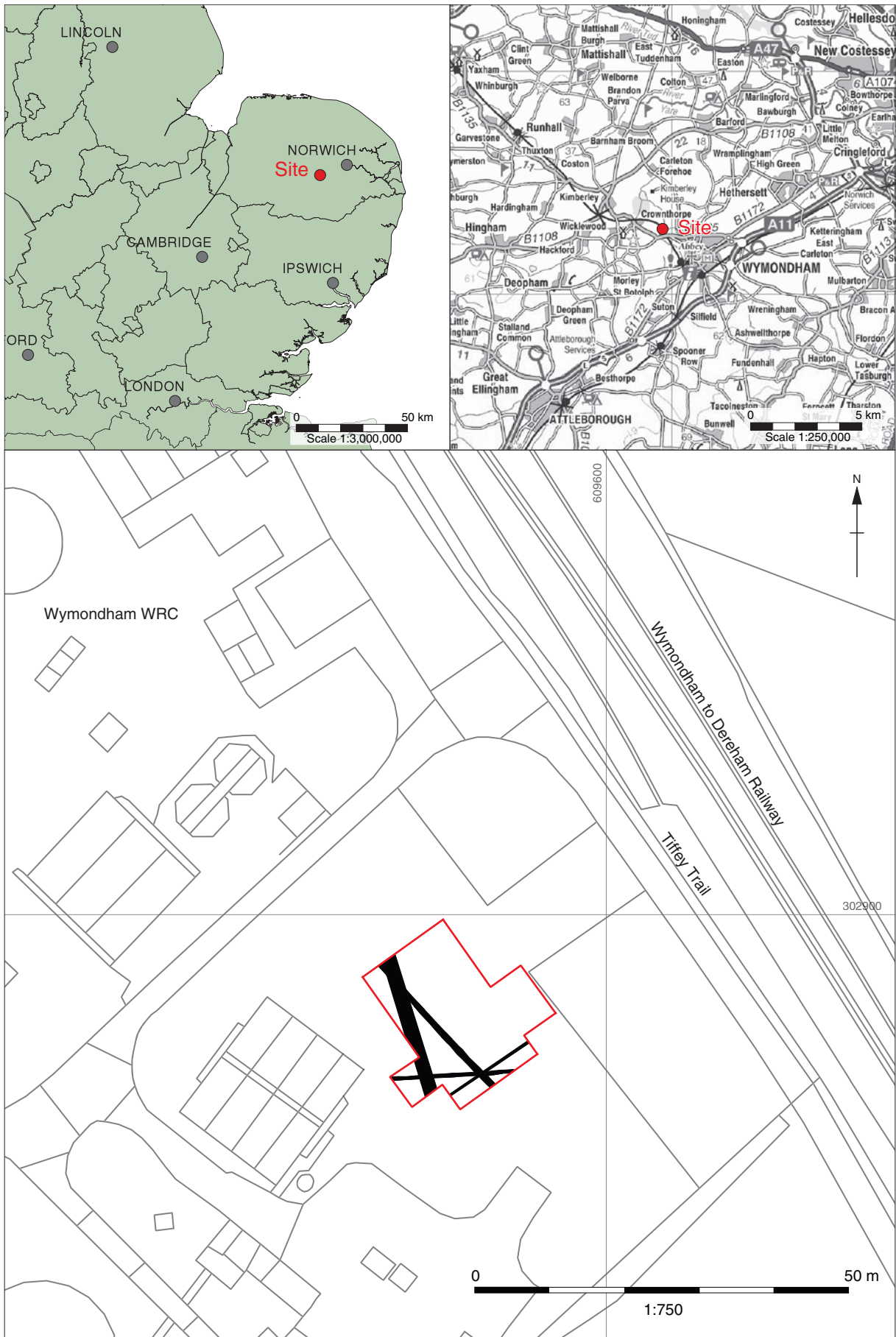
Database	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GIS	<input type="checkbox"/>
Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Images (Digital photos)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Illustrations (Figures/Plates)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>
Text	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/>

Paper Media

Aerial Photos	<input type="checkbox"/>
Context Sheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Correspondence	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drawing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/>
Map	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matrices	<input type="checkbox"/>
Microfiche	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miscellaneous	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research/Notes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photos (negatives/prints/slides)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sections	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>

Further Comments

Black and white film photographs were taken during the project; however the camera was stolen, therefore the negatives have been lost.



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2017. All rights reserved. OS1000 19980

Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological watching brief area (red). Scale 1:750

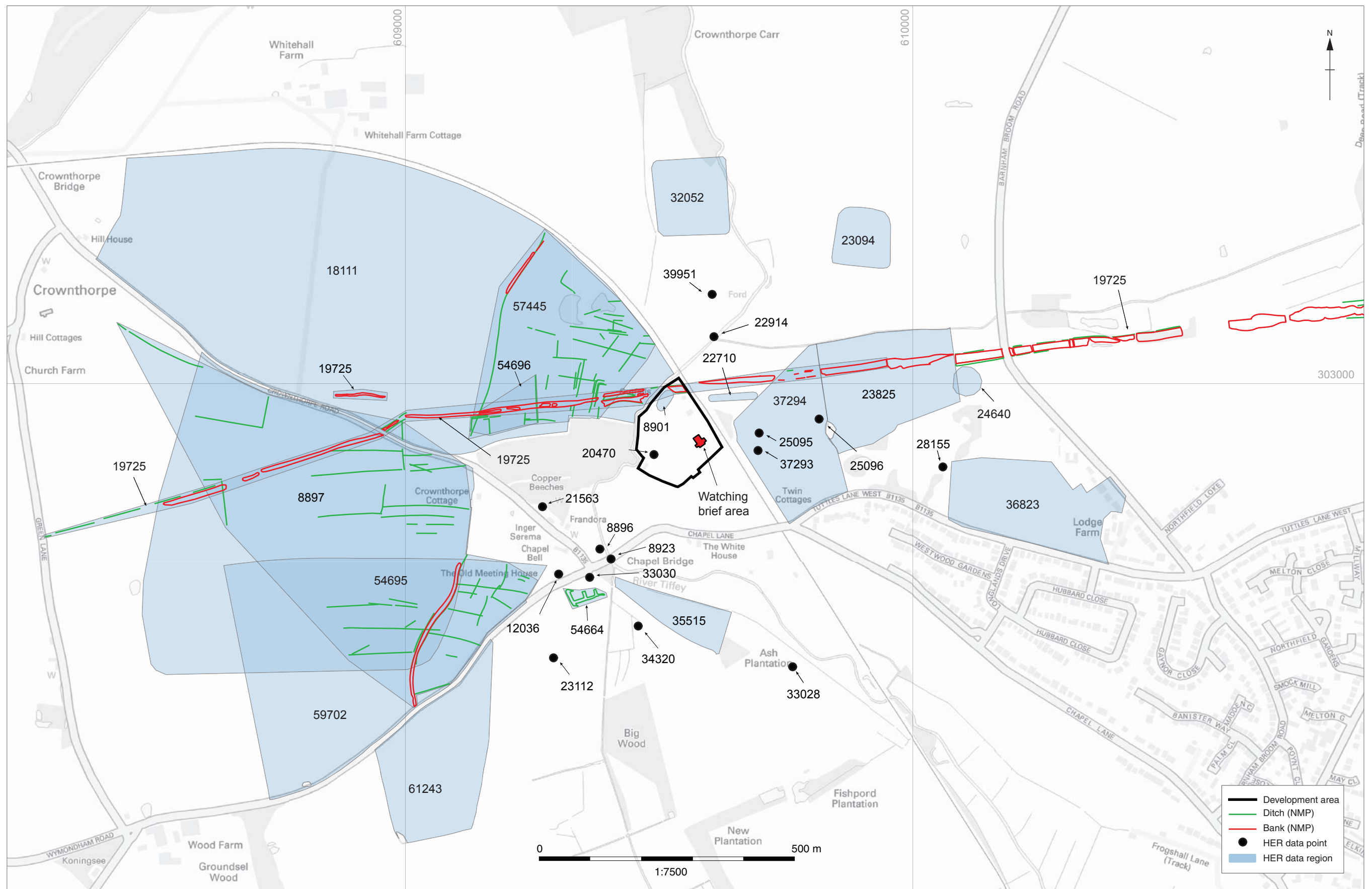


Figure 2: Map showing HER data and air photograph data from the National Mapping Programme (NMP)

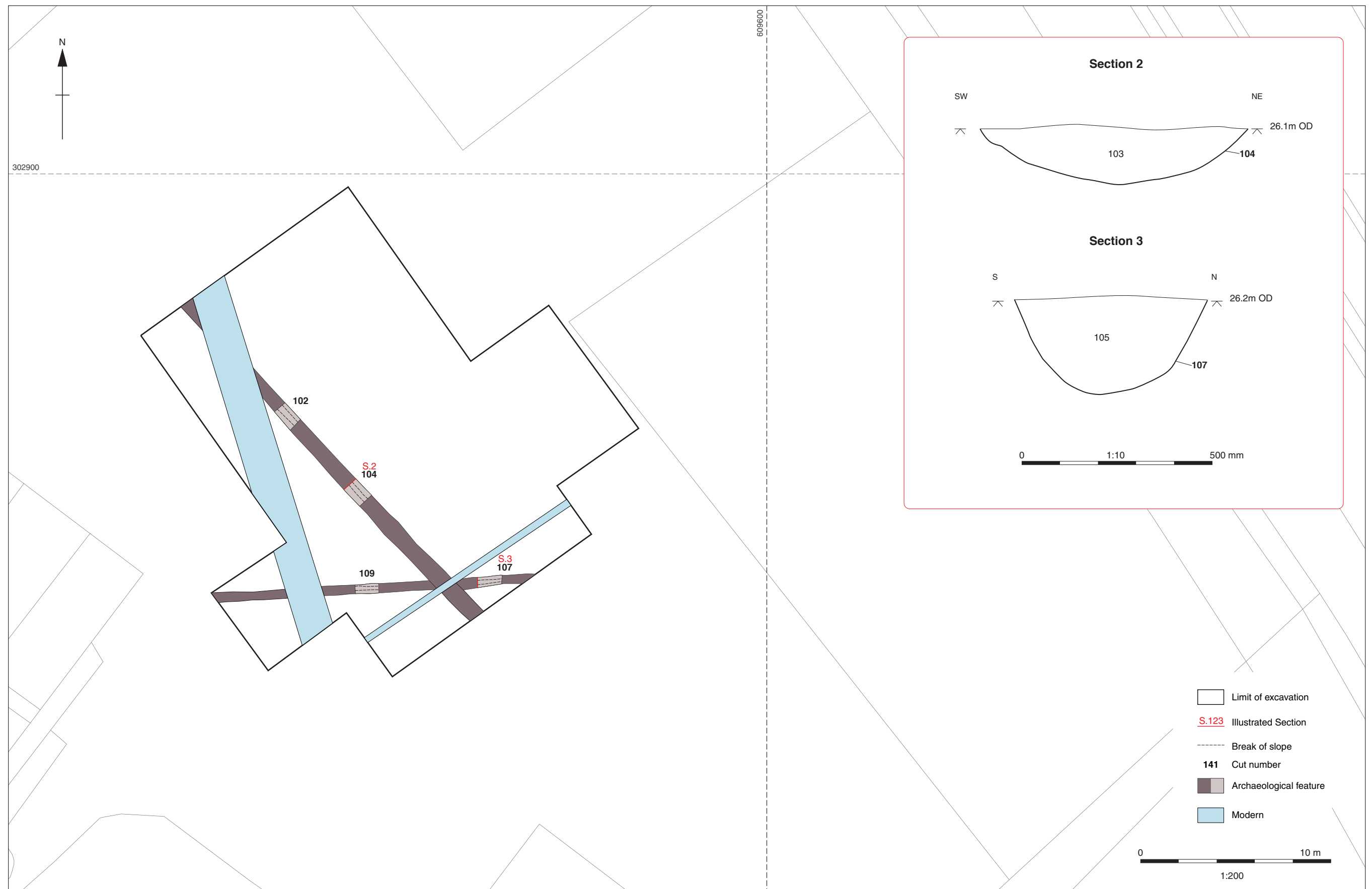


Figure 3: Site plan at 1:200 scale and selected sections at 1:10 scale.



Plate 1: General view across site (looking north)



Plate 2: Overall view of archaeological features (looking north-east)



Plate 3: Ditch **109** (looking west)



Plate 4: Ditch **102** (looking north-west)



**Head Office/Registered Office/
OA South**

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496
e: info@oxfordarchaeology.com
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA North

Mill 3
Moor Lane
Lancaster LA1 1QD

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606
e: [oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

OA East

15 Trafalgar Way
Bar Hill
Cambridgeshire
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850 500
e: [oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com)
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>



Director: Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MCIfA
*Oxford Archaeology Ltd is a
Private Limited Company, N^o: 1618597
and a Registered Charity, N^o: 285627*