

Land off Hargham Road, Quidenham, Norfolk

Informative Archaeological Trenching and Excavation



for:
Ben Skinner (Wilson Wraight)

on behalf of:
Hargham Farms and Partners

CA Project: SU0606 and SU0658
CA Report: SU0658_1
OASIS ID: id cotswold2-516849
HES Ref: CNF49767
HER Event No's.: ENF 153685 & 154281
NWHCM:2023.156

December 2023



Land off Hargham Road, Quidenham, Norfolk

Informative Archaeological Trenching and Excavation

CA Project: SU0606 and SU0658
CA Report: SU0658_1
OASIS ID: cotswold2-516849
HES Ref: CNF49767
HER event No's.: ENF153685 & 154281
NWHCM:2023.156

Document Control Grid						
Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reasons for revision	Approved by
A	December 2023	L. Serrano	S. Boulter	Internal review	Quality Control	S. Boulter
B	December 2023	L. Serrano	S. Hickling	External review	Curatorial scrutiny	

This report is confidential to the client. Cotswold Archaeology accepts no responsibility or liability to any third party to whom this report, or any part of it, is made known. Any such party relies upon this report entirely at their own risk. No part of this report may be reproduced by any means without permission.

Cirencester Building 11 Kemble Enterprise Park Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 6BQ t. 01285 771 022	Milton Keynes Unit 8, The IO Centre Fingle Drive, Stonebridge Milton Keynes Buckinghamshire MK13 0AT t. 01908 564 660	Andover Stanley House Walworth Road Andover Hampshire SP10 5LH t. 01264 347 630	Suffolk Unit 5, Plot 11 Maitland Road Lion Barn Industrial Estate Needham Market Suffolk IP6 8NZ t. 01449 900 120
e. enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk			

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	3
1. INTRODUCTION.....	4
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	5
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES.....	8
4. METHODOLOGY	9
5. RESULTS.....	10
6. THE FINDS	16
7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE	24
8. DISCUSSION.....	26
9. CA PROJECT TEAM.....	28
10. REFERENCES.....	29
APPENDIX A: HER ENTRIES.....	33
APPENDIX B: TRENCH AND EXCAVATION AREA DESCRIPTIONS	35
APPENDIX C: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS.....	38
APPENDIX D: THE FINDS.....	41
APPENDIX E: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE.....	44

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000 @ A4)
- Fig. 2 HER entries within a 1km radius of the site (1:20,000 @ A3)
- Fig. 3 Overall plan of trenches and excavation area (1:1,000 @ A3)
- Fig. 4 Trench 4: plan, sections and photographs (1:20 @ A3)
- Fig. 5 Trench 4: section and photograph (1:20 @ A3)
- Fig. 6 Trench 5: plan, section and photograph (1:20 @ A3)
- Fig. 7 Trench 15: photograph
- Fig. 8 Plan of excavation area and Trench 8 (1:200 @ A3)
- Fig. 9 Section and photograph of pits 802, 804 and 806 (1:20 @ A3)
- Fig. 10 Sections and photographs of pits 808, 3003 and 3005 (1:20 @ A3)
- Fig. 11 Sections and photographs of ditch 3007 (segments 3008 and 3012) (1:20 @ A3)

SUMMARY

Project name:	Land off Hargham Road
Location:	Quidenham, Norfolk
NGR:	602743 290651
Type:	Informative Trenching followed by Set-Piece Excavation
Date:	31st July – 4th August and 18th – 20th September 2023
Planning reference:	3AG/2022/0012/AG
OASIS ID:	cotswold2-516849
Location of Archive:	To be deposited with both Norfolk Museum Service (NMS) and the Archaeology Data Service (ADS).
Site Code (Event No's.):	ENF 153685 (trenching) and ENF154281 (excavation)
NMS Accession No.:	NWHCM:2023.156

Between July and September 2023, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out a programme of informative trenching, immediately followed by a small set-piece excavation on land off Hargham Road, Quidenham, Norfolk. In addition to the twenty trenches, an area measuring c.30m × c.30m, centred on Trench 8, was excavated. Archaeological features comprising pits and ditches were recorded in Trenches 4, 5, 8 and 15 and within the excavation area. An assemblage of Iron Age pottery associated with pitting activity was identified in Trench 8 and the subsequent surrounding excavation area. These pits appear to form a cluster and the finds were securely dated between the Early and the later earlier Iron Age. While thought to be indicative of occupation in the immediate vicinity, no associated structural evidence was recorded.

Metal objects including six copper alloy Roman coins and a Roman buckle were recovered from the topsoil.

Evidence for later activity was sparse, represented by a few sherds of medieval pottery identified in Trenches 4 and 5 and a medieval/post-medieval ditch in Trenches 4 and 15. In addition, a medieval silver coin and a post-medieval bow brooch were also recovered from the topsoil during metal detecting.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. A planning application (3AG/2022/0012/AG) for the construction of an irrigation reservoir of land off Hargham Road, Quidenham, Norfolk (centred at NGR: 602743 290651; Figs. 1 and 3) was determined with an archaeological condition requiring a Programme of Archaeological Mitigatory Work (POAMW). The need for the work was identified by Norfolk County Council Environment Service (NCCES), the Archaeological Advisors (AA) to the Local Planning Authority (LPA).
- 1.2. Following the completion of a geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2022), the scope for a programme of Informative Trenching was detailed in a Brief prepared by NCCES archaeologist Steve Hickling and dated 19th June 2023 (Hickling 2023) with the methodology for these works then detailed in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Cotswold Archaeology (CA) (CA 2023a). Following the trenching, an addendum Project Design (PD) (CA 2023b) was prepared to cover the limited set-piece excavation work subsequently specified by NCCES.
- 1.3. The Informative Trenching was undertaken between July 31st and August 4th 2023 followed shortly after by the small set-piece excavation between the 18th and 20th September. Both phases of work were undertaken for Ben Skinner (Wilson Wraight) on behalf of their client, Hargham Farms and Partners, as part of the overall Programme of Archaeological Mitigatory Work (POAMW).
- 1.4. The trenching Brief stated that the initial works should involve opening up trenches to cover 3.5% by area within the cut line of the reservoir footprint which equates to c.3 hectares (Hickling 2023). The area for the subsequent set-piece excavation, measuring c.30m x c.30m was determined by NCCES following a site visit during the trenching phase. Given the limited nature of the proposed excavation, it was agreed that a joint trenching and excavation report could be prepared (this document).
- 1.5. The investigation was undertaken following the Standard and guidance: *Standard and guidance for Archaeological field evaluation* (ClfA 2020a), *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (ClfA 2020b), the *Standards for Development-led Archaeological Projects in Norfolk* (Robertson et al 2018), the *EAA Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England 2015a) and *Management of Research Projects in the*

Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide (Historic England 2015b).

- 1.6. The information gathered from the trenching phase of works was designed to enable NCCES to identify and assess the particular significance of any surviving heritage asset, to consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (MHCLG 2021).

The site

- 1.7. The site forms part of an open cultivated field bounded on all sides by other fields; these are predominantly under pasture, although one is similarly cultivated. The site lies on a gentle southwest facing slope falling from c.32m AOD to c.30m AOD from northeast to southwest overlooking the shallow tributary valley of the River Thet which passes some 200m to the south.
- 1.8. The bedrock geology is mapped as Lewes Nodular Chalk, Seaford Chalk, Newhaven Chalk, Culver Chalk and Portsdown Chalk Formations – Chalk, a sedimentary rock formed between 93.9 and 72.1 million years ago during the Cretaceous period. Superficial deposits are described as Lowestoft Formation – Diamicton a sedimentary deposit formed between 480 and 423 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period (BGS 2023).
- 1.9. The northern part of site lies in an area of slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage, whilst further south, the soils are described as loamy and sandy with high groundwater and a peaty surface (Soilscapes 2022).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The information presented below is a summary of the archaeological background information presented in the NCCES Brief complemented with the results of the research of the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) (<http://heritage.norfolk.gov.uk>).
- 2.2. The Brief states that *'the proposed reservoir lies adjacent to earthworks associated with the shrunken medieval village of Wilby and the site of Beck Hall. That area has also produced pottery dating to the Iron Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval*

periods. It is possible that that area of former settlement extends within the proposed reservoir area. In addition pottery dating to the Iron Age, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods have also been found within the proposed reservoir area. It therefore continues to be possible that significant medieval remains exist within the proposed development site. It is also possible that Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon remains may also be present. Consequently there is potential that heritage assets with archaeological interest (buried archaeological remains) will be present at the site and that their significance will be affected by the proposed development (Hickling 2023).

- 2.3. The research of the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) (<https://heritage.norfolk.gov.uk>), within a 1km study area, was initially commissioned by Magnitude Survey for inclusion in the geophysical survey report (Magnitude Surveys 2022). An updated version was undertaken as part of the current scope of works. The searches produced a total of fifty-one pertinent entries and these are summarised in Appendix A (Table 1) and Fig. 2.
- 2.4. Prehistoric activity has been recorded within a 1km search radius of the site. The evidence includes cropmarks, likely corresponding to curvilinear ditches c.740m south-west of the site (NHER 57480). In addition, to the cropmarks, a possible prehistoric burnt mount (NHER 30829) was recorded c.800m to the north-west. Most of the HER entries are related to findspots identified predominantly to the north and north-east of the site during fieldwalking including flint tools and/or pottery sherds. Late Iron Age metal finds were also identified via metal detecting carried out in the fields to the south and south-east of the site (NHER 45380, NHER 60595 and NHER 60859).
- 2.5. Roman activity has also been identified within a 1km search radius of the site. The majority of these entries also relate to finds recovered during fieldwalking. A large concentration of Iron Age and Roman pottery, as well as Roman roofing tile were identified in an area adjacent to a natural mound (NHER 30658) c.750m north-east of the study area. A fragment of Roman amphora and pottery sherds from the same period were also recovered within the field adjacent to the southern limits of the site (NHER 30835). In addition to the pottery sherds, metal finds were unearthed during metal detection c.740m south of the proposed development area. These included Roman brooches (NHER 58462, NHER 59752, NHER 60595 and NHER 34979) and a hoard of coins (NHER 60859) found c.540m to the south of the site.

-
- 2.6. Finds from the Anglo-Saxon period were also recovered during fieldwalking in the site vicinity. A possible Early Anglo-Saxon production site or cemetery (NHER 58793) is located c.1km to the south. A number of pottery sherds were also recovered during fieldwalking with metal objects, identified via metal detecting, including Roman/Early Anglo-Saxon tweezers (NHER 45380) c.550m to the south; a Middle Saxon copper alloy strap (NHER 29450); a Late Saxon coin hoard consisting of three silver pennies of Edward the Elder (NHER 60596) and a Middle/Late Saxon pin (NHER 60595) recovered at approximately 460m to the south-east.
- 2.7. Hargham was a settlement listed in Domesday in the hundred of Shropham (Norfolk) with a recorded population of fifteen households in 1086 (<http://opendomesday.org>). The site of Hargham deserted medieval village (NHER 11926) is located c.1km to the northwest of the site. A few medieval and post-medieval monuments are located within close proximity from the site such as the All-Saints' church (NHER 10824), Wilby Hall (NHER 9186) and the Old Rectory (NHER 19794).
- 2.8. Earthworks, likely related to the shrunken medieval village of Wilby (NHER 29582), were located roughly 750m to the south-east. Similar evidence also suggests the possible location of Beck Hall (NHER 57481, NHER 31185 and NHER 31186) c.200m north and approximately 300m north-east of the site. Earthworks likely medieval or post-medieval in date, associated with a possible hollow way, toft boundaries and possible enclosure (NHER 57482) were noted at c.300m to the south-east; cropmarks, likely correlated with field boundaries and/or drainage ditches, were identified c.750m west of the site (NHER 57478), whilst another cropmark is possible related to a linear ditch and bank is also medieval/post-medieval in date (NHER 57506).
- 2.9. A number of medieval finds have been recovered during metal detecting in the wider landscape. Of particular interest, a human figurine (NHER 60282) was found approximately 660m to the south, as well as a medieval silver finger ring (NHER 64043) located near Wilby, roughly 750m southeast of the site.
- 2.10. Fieldwalking has also recovered scattered medieval and post-medieval pottery within the immediate vicinity of the site.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The general objective of the Informative Trenching was to provide further information on the likely archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date and state of preservation.
- 3.2. This information enabled NCCES to identify and assess the particular significance of any archaeological heritage assets within the site, consider the impact of the proposed development upon that significance and develop a strategy (in this instance limited set-piece excavation) to avoid or minimise conflict between heritage asset conservation and the development proposals, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (MHCLG 2021).
- 3.3. The standard aims of the initial Informative Trenching were to:
- ‘Ground-truth’ the geophysical survey
 - Identify the date, approximate form, and purpose of any archaeological deposit, together with its likely extent, localised depth and quality of preservation at the site prior to their destruction by the proposed development;
 - Evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
 - Establish the potential for the survival of environmental evidence.
 - Establish the suitability of the area for development.
 - Recover and analyse any artefactual evidence;
 - Sample and analyse environmental remains to create a better understanding of past land use and economy;
 - Report on and publish the archaeological results at a level appropriate to their significance; and
 - Compile a stable, ordered, accessible project archive.
- 3.4. Any archaeological remains identified will be put into their local and regional context with reference to the East Anglian Regional Research Agenda (Medlycott 2011) and the more recent updated version (<https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/>).
- 3.5. The subsequent set-piece excavation was designed further investigate the cluster of prehistoric pits recorded in Trench 8.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The Informative Trenching fieldwork involved the excavation of twenty trenches with the follow up excavation measuring c.30m × c.30m (with provision to expand to 60m x 60m if significant archaeological deposits were encountered continuing beyond the site edge) centred on the prehistoric pits recorded in Trench 8 (Fig. 3):
- 20no 30m × 1.8m trenches;
 - Area 1 (c.30m x c.30m; c.0.09ha)
- 4.2. The trenches were located to test geophysical anomalies and to provide a representative sample of the remainder of the site.
- 4.3. The subsequent excavation strategy, as outlined in the Project Design (CA 2023b), entailed the excavation of a 30m × 30m area centred on a group of prehistoric pits previously uncovered in Trench 8, with a contingency to expand this to a 60m × 60m area should significant archaeological remains be found near the edges of the initial strip.
- 4.4. During a site visit on 19th September, Steve Hickling (NCCES), determined that the nature and extent of the archaeological remains uncovered in the initial strip did not warrant the expansion of the excavation area beyond the 30m × 30m.
- 4.5. However, at that time, only 50% of each pit had been hand-excavated with 1.00m slots at 10m intervals through the ditch and Steve Hickling (NCCES), requested that the excavation level was increased to 100% of the pits, including those previously uncovered in Trench 8, and that given its insubstantial nature, the one ditch should be investigated over its full length to try and recover artefactual dating evidence. In addition, the environmental sampling strategy was also decided at this point, with a sample taken from pit 3003.
- 4.6. Subsequently, it was agreed during e-mail correspondence with Steve Hickling (NCCES) that the results of the Informative Trenching could be combined with the archive report for the excavation work.
- 4.7. Trenches and excavation area were set out on OS National Grid co-ordinates using Leica GPS and scanned for live services by trained CA staff using CAT and Genny equipment in accordance with the *CA Safe System of Work for avoiding underground services*.

-
- 4.8. Overburden was stripped from the trenches by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision to the top of the natural substrate, which was the level at which archaeological features were first encountered.
- 4.9. Archaeological features/deposits were investigated, planned and recorded in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual*.
- 4.10. A metal detector search was undertaken by experienced detectorist Michael Green (CA) throughout all phases of the fieldwork. The location of the metal finds recovered were recorded by GPS.
- 4.11. Artefacts were processed in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 3: Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation*.
- 4.12. Deposits were assessed for their paleoenvironmental potential and samples were taken in accordance with *CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites*.
- 4.13. CA will make arrangements with Norfolk Museums Service (NMS) for the deposition of the project archive including, subject to agreement with the legal landowner(s), the artefact collection. A digital archive will also be prepared and deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS). The archives (museum and digital) will be prepared and deposited in accordance with *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (CIfA 2020c).
- 4.14. A summary of information from this project, as set out in Appendix F, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS

- 5.1. This section provides an overview of the trenching and archaeological excavation results. The trenches are discussed below in numerical order followed by the results of the excavation; the trench and excavation area summary descriptions is presented in Appendix B and the context descriptions as Appendix C. Details of the artefactual material recovered from the site are presented in Section 6 and Appendix D. Paleoenvironmental evidence is detailed in Section 7 and Appendix E. A summary of information from this project will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

-
- 5.2. The topsoil/ploughsoil was consistent across the site, comprising dark to mid-brown soft silty sand 0.30 – 0.50m thick. Nine metal objects were recovered from the topsoil, all during metal detecting; six coins, two of them, RA 2 (1.06g) and RA 3 (0.81g) from Topsoil 1000 in Trench 1; one, RA 4 (2.19g), from Topsoil 1100 in Trench 11; one from Topsoil 1500, RA 6 (1.61g), in Trench 15, and two coins from Topsoil 1700, RA 8 (1.51g) and RA 9 (0.69g), in Trench 17 and an incomplete bow brooch from Topsoil 1200, RA 5 (4.62g), in Trench 12. These finds are Roman in date.
- 5.3. Nonetheless, only one Roman pottery sherd (8g) was found during the current scheme of works, recovered from Topsoil 200 in Trench 2. In addition to the Roman finds, a medieval silver shortcross type penny of either John or Henry III, (RA 1, 1.25g), was found in Topsoil 300 in Trench 3, as well as a post-medieval copper alloy buckle, (RA 7, 10.03g), retrieved from topsoil 1700 in Trench 17.
- 5.4. The topsoil overlay a subsoil in fourteen of the trenches (Trenches 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20) which varied in thickness across the site from 0.11 – 0.34m and consisted of a light orange brown soft sandy silt. These trenches were located for the most part within the centre and towards the western edge of the site.
- 5.5. At the base of the stratigraphic sequence the naturally occurring superficial geology deposit (hereafter referred to as “the natural,”) consisted of a yellow compact clay with moderate chalk flecks.
- 5.6. All of the trenches were 1.8m wide and 30m in length. Trenches 1 to 3 were devoid of archaeology.

Trench 4 (Figs. 3 - 5)

- 5.7. Trench 4 was orientated north to south and located towards the western end of the site. Removal of the topsoil and underlying subsoil revealed three features. A ditch 404, a possible pond/hollow 406, and a tree throw 402.

Possible tree throw 402

- 5.8. Possible tree throw 402 was irregular in shape, measuring 2.28m × >1.44m × 0.16m (L×W×D) with shallow sloping sides and a gentle break of slope to an undulating base. The single fill, 403, comprised mid greyish brown firm clay with frequent small sub-angular stones and occasional charcoal flecks. No finds were recovered.

Ditch 404

- 5.9. Ditch 404 was orientated east to west, measuring 3.20m wide, 0.80m deep with steep, although asymmetrically sloping shouldered sides to an unexcavated base. A land drain was found at the base of this feature. Its single fill, 405, comprised mixed mid greyish brown friable silty sand. A sherd of medieval pottery (3g) and seven pieces (97g) of medieval/post-medieval CBM, as well as two fragments of animal bone (10g) and a residual prehistoric flint scraper (19g) were recovered.

Possible pond/hollow

- 5.10. Possible pond/hollow 406 was located at the northern end of the trench, extending beyond its limits to the north, east and west. It measured > 7.5m in length, >1.8m wide and c.0.90m in depth in the excavated 1m x 1m sondage. Three fills, 407, 408 and 409, were recorded above its irregular base. The 0.40m thick basal layer 407 comprised dark grey soft clayey sand with occasional small sub-angular flints. A soil sample (Sample 1) revealed only a single uncharred seed that was considered to be intrusive. The 0.2m thick middle fill layer, 408, comprised mid-grey firm silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flints while the 0.30m thick upper fill, 409, consisted of light orange/brown firm silty clay with frequent large to small sub-angular flints. A prehistoric flint flake (3g) in upper fill 409 was the only find recovered from this feature.

Trench 5 (Figs. 3 and 6)

- 5.11. Trench 5 was orientated approximately east to west and located in the north-west corner of the site. Removal of the topsoil revealed one feature, ditch 501.

Ditch 501

- 5.12. Ditch 501 was orientated approximately east-north-east to west-southwest, measuring 0.69m wide, 0.14m deep with a shallow rounded profile and a single fill, 502, comprising light brownish firm clay with occasional stones. Two sherds of 11th to 12th century pottery (1g) were recovered.
- 5.13. Trenches 6 and 7 were blank.

Trench 8 (Figs. 3, 8 and 9)

- 5.14. Trench 8 was orientated north to south and located to the south-west of centre of the overall site. The removal of the topsoil and subsoil revealed a cluster of four pits (802, 804, 806 and 808) in the northern end of the trench which subsequently became the

focus of the set-piece excavation. These feature have been described fully with the results from the excavation below.

- 5.15. Trenches 9 to 14 were devoid of archaeology.

Trench 15 (Figs. 3 and 7)

- 5.16. Trench 15 was orientated north to south and located north-east of centre within the overall site. The removal of topsoil and subsoil revealed one feature, ditch 1502.

Ditch 1502

- 5.17. Ditch 1502 remained unexcavated and recorded in plan only towards the southern end of the trench. It was considered to be the same medieval/post-medieval field boundary ditch, 404, previously excavated in Trench 4 and NCCES agreed that a second slot was unnecessary.

- 5.18. Trenches 16 to 20 were blank.

Excavation area (Figs. 3, 8 - 11)

- 5.19. Following discussions between CA (Stuart Boulter) and NCCES (Steve Hickling), it was agreed that the 60m x 60m excavation area proposed by NCCES could initially be reduced to 30m x 30m, centred on the four prehistoric pits (0802, 0804, 0806 and 0808) recorded in Trench 8, with provision to extend if significant archaeological features were found to continue beyond the edge of the site (Fig. 3).

- 5.20. On opening of the initial 30m x 30m area, it was found that, other than a narrow sinuous ditch, 3007, which entered the western side of the site, heading north before turning to the north-east and continuing on beyond the north-east corner of the site, only three additional archaeological features, pits 3003, 3005 and 3016, were recorded. These appeared to form part of the discrete cluster previously seen in Trench 8.

Pit 802

- 5.21. Oval shaped Pit 802 was orientated approximately north-northeast to south-southwest orientated, measuring 2.54m long, 1.83m wide, 0.70m deep with variably sloping, irregular sides to a rounded base and a single fill, 803, comprising mixed light greyish-brown compact sandy silt with small to moderately large stones. Stratigraphically, it was recorded as cut by adjacent pit 0804. A total of two hundred and ninety-six sherds (1,751.1g) of Early Iron Age pottery were recovered along with

two prehistoric flint flakes (4g) and thirty-six fragments (645g) of animal bone, including cattle and sheep/goat. An environmental sample (Sample 2) was taken in which a single well-preserved barley grain, a small amount of charcoal and a small number of molluscs were identified.

Pit 804

- 5.22. Oval shaped pit 804 was orientated approximately north-west to south-east, measuring 1.83m long, 1.12m wide, 0.28m deep with an irregularly rounded profile and a single fill, 805, comprising brown yellow firm sandy clay with occasional sub-angular stones. Twenty-eight Early Iron Age pottery sherds (318g) were recovered along with five fragments (132g) of animal bone, two of which were cattle bones. An environmental sample (Sample 3) produced only a small amount of charcoal.

Pit 806

- 5.23. Pit 806 was oval in shape, orientate approximately east to west, measuring 1.15m long, 0.61m wide, 0.09m deep with a shallow rounded profile and a single fill, 807, comprising brown semi-firm sandy clay with occasional small sub-angular flint inclusions. Sixteen sherds (152g) of Early Iron Age pottery were recovered along with eighteen fragments of animal bone (50g), including cattle and sheep/goat.

Pit 808

- 5.24. Sub-oval pit 808 was orientated east to west, measuring 1.61m long, 0.94m wide, 0.20m deep with gently sloping sides to an angled base. Two fills were recorded; basal fill 809 comprised dark greyish loose silty sand while the upper fill, 810, consisted of mid-yellowish-brown loose silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded stones. No finds were recovered.

- 5.25. Additionally, four more features were located just west of the group in Trench 8, comprising pits 3003 and 3005. A third pit 3016 was also recorded, which appears to correspond to a natural feature, nonetheless contained finds. Lastly, a ditch 3007 running along the western and northern edges of the site for a distance of about 45m, was exposed and recorded at four segments: 3008, 3010, 3012 and 3014.

Pit 3003

- 5.26. Oval-shaped pit 3003 was west-south-west to east-north-east orientated, measuring 1.53m long, 1.07m wide, 0.19m deep with steeply sloping sides leading to a flattish base and a single fill, 3004, comprising mid-greyish brown, silty sand with occasional small stones. It produced seventeen sherds (53g) of Early Iron Age pottery and five

fragments (32g) of animal bone. In addition, a fragment of deer antler (12g) was also recovered. An environmental sample (Sample 100) was found to contain only a small amount of charcoal, possibly representing wind-blown/dispersed hearth waste. This feature was truncated by a modern drain which passed through its centre. A modern field drain was recorded cutting through the middle of this feature.

Pit 3005

- 5.27. Pit 3005 was oval shaped, orientated approximately north-west to south-east, measuring 1.35m long, 1.10m wide, 0.17m deep with moderately sloping sides to an uneven base and a single fill, 3006, comprising mid-greyish brown silty sand with occasional small stones and chalk flecks. Two sherds (20g) of Early Iron Age pottery were recovered.

Pit 3016

- 5.28. Pit 3016 was oval in shape, orientated north-east to south-west, measuring 0.88m long, 0.63m wide, 0.07m deep with poorly defined edges and a shallow flat-based profile. Its single fill, 3017, comprised mid-greyish brown, friable silty sand, with occasional small stones. While this was considered that this was likely to be a naturally derived feature, a fragment of cattle bone (40g) was recovered.

Ditch 3007

- 5.29. Sinuous ditch 3007 was recorded running in a roughly north-north east direction from the western limit of excavation, before turning gradually to the east at a point where a modern geotechnical test-pit was seen to cut it (Fig. 8). Four formal sections were excavated, 3008, 3010, 3012 and 3014, two of which, 3008 and 3012, are illustrated (Fig. 11). The ditch was recorded as between 0.58 and 0.88m wide and between 0.13 and 0.24m deep with a rounded, although locally more angular, profile. Despite spending time digging through the majority of the feature, on the instruction of NCCES, no finds were recovered.

Ditch slot 3008

- 5.30. Slot 3008 was excavated into the western arm of the ditch, here measuring 0.73m wide, 0.24m deep with relatively steeply sloping sides to a gently angled base and a single fill, 3009, comprising mid-greyish brown, friable silty sand with occasional small stones.

Ditch slot 3010

- 5.31. Slot 3010 was also excavated into the western arm of the ditch just south of the modern geotechnical test-pit. Here it measured 0.58m wide, 0.16m deep with moderately sloping sides to a flattish base and a single fill, 3011, comprising mid-greyish brown, friable silty sand with occasional small stones.

Ditch slot 3012

- 5.32. Slot 3012 was excavated into the northern arm of the ditch, here measuring 0.56m wide, 0.13m deep with a rounded profile and a single fill, 3013, comprising mid-greyish brown, friable silty sand with occasional small stones.

Ditch slot 3014

- 5.33. Slot 3014 was also excavated into the northern arm of the ditch towards the eastern edge of the site, here measuring 0.86m wide, 0.13m deep with a broad, almost V-shaped profile and a single fill, 3015, comprising mid-greyish brown, friable silty sand with occasional small stones.

6. THE FINDS

- 6.1. A moderate assemblage of pottery, worked flint, ceramic building material (CBM) and metalwork was recovered during the two phases of archaeological work on the site; these are summarised in Table 1 below. Overall, the finds are indicative of activity in the vicinity during the prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. However, the most notable component of this assemblage was the Early Iron Age pottery found within the fills of a group of pits initially uncovered in Trench 8, and subsequently excavated in full. Both the Roman and earlier prehistoric assemblages are residual in nature, as may also be true for the small medieval assemblage.
- 6.2. All the finds have been quantified by material type, count and weight in each context, examined with the aid of microscopy or low powered magnification where necessary, and recorded in line with the ClfA Toolkit for Specialist Recording (ClfA 2021, Level 2). Results have been directly input to the Microsoft Access database for the project. A summary quantification is provided in Table 1 and a catalogue in Appendix B.

Table 1: Summary of finds (number / weight in grammes)

Type	Category	Count	Weight (g)
Pottery	Prehistoric	359	2,592
	Medieval		
	Post-medieval/modern		
	Total	363	2,605
Flint	Worked	14	58
Brick/tile	All	4	95
Metalwork	Iron		

Pottery

- 6.3. A moderate assemblage comprising 363 sherds (2,605g) of prehistoric, Roman and medieval pottery was recovered from deposits within five pits and two ditches. Refitting sherds has only been attempted where obvious joins are present within the same context. All results are recorded directly into a Microsoft Access database forming the catalogue of finds for archive. The prehistoric pottery is recorded in line with PCRG guidance (PCRG 2010), categorised into a site-specific fabric series where the initial letter of a fabric code indicates the dominant inclusions (e.g. F1, flint-tempered). Pottery record numbers (PRN) have been assigned to each sherd, or group of related sherds from a single vessel. Roman pottery is recorded in reference to the Suffolk Roman Fabric Series as published following the excavations at Scole (Ashwin and Tester 2014). The post-Roman pottery is recorded in line with MCRG guidance and with reference to the Suffolk Medieval Fabric Series (Anderson 2020). The pottery is summarised in Appendix B, Table 1, with fabrics of all periods detailed Appendix B, Table 2.

Prehistoric

- 6.4. The prehistoric pottery comprises 359 sherds, weighing 2,592g, recovered during hand excavation and the later processing of bulk samples from the fills of five clustered pits (pits 802, 804, 806, 3003, and 3005), in and around Trench 8. By far the largest proportion (296 sherds, weighing 2,049g together) came from the fill (803) of pit 802. The assemblage is in good, though fragmentary condition, with relatively little abrasion overall and little sign of pre-burial periods of exposure. Unfortunately no full profiles are present, but in a number of cases joining sherds preserve part profiles from rim to shoulder, or neck to belly.

Vessel form

- 6.5. The fragmentary nature of the assemblage makes close classification of most forms impossible, but enough larger and joining sherds survive to place vessels within the

shouldered jar and bowl series of the post-Deverel Rimbury (PDR) tradition, as characterised by Brudenell (2012, fig. 4.1). The assemblage possibly includes shouldered bowls (Brudenell 2012, 121, Form L), round bodied bowls (*ibid.* Form K) and a shouldered jar (Form F); at least one small vessel might be a tripartite cup (Form W) or small bowl (Form O). Shoulders are generally rounded or marked; only one angular shoulder is identifiable, on a small jar/bowl (PRN 26). Few base sherds were recovered, and those present appear to be simple and flat, with no identifiable omphalos, foot-ring or pedestal forms which might provide further chronological indications. Rims are generally upright or slightly out-turned, sometimes thickened with simple rounded or flattened tops over off-set or slightly concave necks. One especially distinctive rim is internally flanged, considered a characteristic of assemblages from the later Early Iron Age in Norfolk (Brudenell 2011, 19-20). Close parallels for this rim can be seen at Bittering Quarry, Norfolk (Ashwin and Flitcroft, 243 Fig 22 P31) and further afield at Linton, Cambridgeshire (Fell 1953, 35, fig. 3 P9), both sharing this sherd's upright neck and sinuous profile toward the shoulder. Even so, the present example shows a distinctly broader and more evenly shaped flange than any of the parallels currently found.

Vessel fabric

- 6.6. The fabrics in the assemblage represent a continuum of quartz sandy wares with varying proportions of crushed calcined flint added, occasionally with very rare, probably incidental flint and stone gravel. These range from those with no added flint or only rare finely crushed flint (used mainly in relatively fine wares) to those with poorly sorted, angular, coarsely crushed flint temper up to 4mm (generally in more robust, coarse wares). Where large or joining sherds were identified, many displayed inconsistent distribution of inclusions across areas of the vessel, often with finer or fewer coarse inclusions towards the rim; as such, fabric definitions are relatively broad regarding inclusion frequency, to avoid obscuring possible connections through over-differentiation of smaller sherds. Sandy fabrics with rare or no finely crushed flint (Q1) comprise a small proportion of the assemblage by weight (106 sherds, 440g); this is broadly comparable with the quantity of the coarsest fabric category, with added crushed flint up to 4mm (F2), which includes fewer but larger sherds (59 sherds, 715g). The greatest proportion by both sherd count and weight is tempered with medium crushed flint up to 2mm (F1), accounting for well over half the assemblage (194 sherds, 1,437g). The majority of the assemblage is fully or mostly unoxidised, with only a minority showing any oxidation, mostly on the external

surface and often inconsistent across the visible area. Overall, the continuity between fabrics is suggestive of close contemporaneity of vessels within and between the pit groups, and both the firing and fabrics support an Early Iron Age date for the assemblage.

Surface treatment and decoration

- 6.7. Limited areas of very light burnish are seen on a large proportion of the finer fabrics, though in most cases it is barely present and usually restricted to the area of the rim or internal surface. Coarser vessels more often show smoothed or wiped surfaces, occasionally appearing possibly scratched. Some vessels may be fingertip-and-nail rusticated, in addition to vessels with decorative bands of fingertip impressions. Approximately a quarter of the assemblage shows some level of decoration, almost exclusively on the flint tempered sherds; the most commonly occurring motifs are linear scored grooves and fingertip-and-nail impressions. Less frequently, sherds show lattices of shallow scored grooves, random scoring, tool impressions and, rarely, possible comb-dragging. Of the fifteen rims recovered, only two are decorated: one with interior and exterior edges finger-pinched, and one with a fingertip-impressed rim top.

Discussion

- 6.8. Many features of this assemblage suggest a link to the 'Harling-type' pottery assemblages of the Early Iron Age, beginning in the 8th century BC and remaining current into the 6th, and possibly the 5th centuries BC, with one radiocarbon date suggesting this style may have pervaded as late as the 4th century BC (Brudenell 2011, 17-19). These features include the prevalence of decorative techniques and surface treatments such as shallow scored lattices, and bands of fingertip-and-nail impressions at the rim and shoulder, techniques both seen at Valley Belt, Trowse, Norfolk, as well as the wiped or possibly scratched surface treatments mentioned above (Percival 2000, figs 141-2). However, in addition to shouldered vessels with bands of fingernail impressions at the shoulder, the present assemblage includes vessels where those impressions also occur at the neck (for example PRN 10) or more often this surface treatment extends below the shoulder across the body of the vessel, creating a rusticated surface (PRNs 68, 80, 82, possibly 71). Taken together, the sherds of the latter vessels may suggest the presence of a jar type specifically distinctive of Norfolk pottery in the later Early Iron Age, c.600-350 BC (Brudenell 2011, 21, fig. 7), exemplified by a jar from Bittering Quarry, Norfolk (NHER 13023;

Ashwin and Flitcroft 1999, 244, fig. 23 P34). A second Bittering assemblage (*ibid.*, Fig 23; NHER 15910) associated with the same period provides parallels for PRNs 32 and 56 with vessels displaying random scoring and broad horizontal grooves. The deeper, relatively broad, linear scored grooves in the present assemblage, however, may be in some cases better compared with pottery from Linton, Cambridgeshire (Fell 1953, 36, fig.4 P16-18, 22-24), associated with the Darmsden-Linton style of pottery, thought to be later than the West Harling group and typically identified on pottery from sites to the south (Brudenell 2011, 21; Cunliffe 1968, 178-81; 2005, 76-77).

- 6.9. The current assemblage probably does not belong with the Darmsden-Linton group, especially since it is disputed whether the style is actually present in Norfolk at all (Brudenell 2011, 21); however, the similarities may again tangentially support a date toward the later Early Iron Age. Certainly the relative absence of angular bipartite and tripartite form, sharply shouldered bowls and a lack of certain decorative features such as cordons appears in line with this suggestion. It should be noted, however, that such typological comparisons for dating purposes have significant limitations given the vagueness of current understandings of Norfolk's chronology in this period, particularly in the transitional period from between Early and Middle Iron Age.

Roman

- 6.10. A single sherd of Roman pottery (8g) was recovered from the topsoil of Trench 2. It is a sherd from the rim of a grey coarseware vessel, likely a bowl.

Medieval

- 6.11. Three sherds (weighing 5g together) of early medieval pottery were recovered from the fills of ditches 501 (fill 502) and 404 (fill 405). All are small body sherds of hard-fired, thin-walled vessels in fine-medium sandy fabrics. Though no diagnostic formal features are present, the fabric and overall appearance of the sherds suggests a 11th-12th century date of manufacture (Anderson 2020). However, given the small quantities and sherd sizes present, the pottery cannot be relied upon to date ditches 501 or 404, as the material may be residual or intrusive. The pottery from ditch 404 was accompanied by small fragments of CBM which may suggest a date later in the medieval or post-medieval periods.

Worked flint

- 6.12. Five worked flints were recovered via the hand excavation and bulk soil sampling of four deposits (fills of pits, a ditch and a pond). All are made from fine or relatively fine-grained flint and cortex is present on three. This is chalky on two flakes and abraded on one, indicating the exploitation of both chalk and secondary (such as river gravel) sources. The underlying geology at the site is chalk of the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk Formation, Culver Chalk Formation and Portsdown Chalk Formation (BGS 2023), so good quality chalk flint would have been readily available. The lithics consist of four flakes and an end-and-side scraper. None of the flakes display any chronologically diagnostic features, so only broad prehistoric dating is possible for these. The end-and-side scraper has been rather crudely made using a thermal blank and steep, irregular retouch along two edges. The use of a thermal blank and the relatively poor quality of the retouch would both be most consistent with dating in the Late Neolithic or Bronze Age periods (Butler 2005, 155). However, the dating of a single object which is not a chronologically diagnostic tool type, must be tentative. The lithics from fill 803 of pit 802 and fill 805 of pit 804 were recovered in association with pottery of Early Iron Age date, the end-and-side scraper with medieval pottery and medieval/post-medieval CBM, and most of the flints are moderately edge damaged. Therefore, it is likely that all of the flints are residual.

Ceramic Building Material

- 6.13. Seven fragments (97g together) of CBM came from the single fill (405) of ditch 404. The assemblage includes two fragments (43g) of possible brick, four fragments of probable roof tile (53g), and one undiagnostic flake (1g). All the CBM is in highly fragmentary condition, with few diagnostic formal features remaining.
- 6.14. The roof tile fragments are flat and range between 12mm and 15mm thick, likely representing peg tile though no peg holes are present. The tiles are handmade, in medium sandy fabrics, some of which include rare flint 1-2mm in size. Some small patches of adherent sandy mortar are visible on one surface of one of the fragments. Mortar is not typically used with peg tile, and the presence of this small quantity is probably incidental rather than indicative of the tile's use. The possible brick fragments are in a fine sandy fabric with rare grog, in an orange clay matrix with cream swirls. Only one sanded surface remains, somewhat irregular in shape.

-
- 6.15. The fabrics and overall appearance of the fragments point to a broad date in the medieval or post-medieval periods.

Metalwork

- 6.16. Nine metal objects weighing 24.07g were recovered. Eight are copper alloy and one is silver, all being recovered from the topsoil layers over six trenches across the site via metal detecting. The overall condition of the objects ranges from poor to fair. They have been packed in perforated bags and stored in an airtight box with silica gel.

Roman

- 6.17. Seven copper alloy objects are of Roman date, comprising six coins and an incomplete bow brooch.
- 6.18. The bow brooch (Registered Artefact (Ra.) 5, topsoil 1200 of Trench 12) is of the Colchester Derivative Rearhook type (Mackreth 2011, CD R) a form which dates from AD 43-100. Missing its pin/spring mechanism and lower bow, the brooch has a winged head – each wing decorated with a singular diagonal groove. The bow curves strongly in profile, its midpoint adorned with three beaded longitudinal moulded ridges enclosing two grooves that extend to the point at which it truncates. It is broadly comparable with an example published in Mackreth's corpus (Mackreth 2011, 43, pl. 40, no. 910).
- 6.19. All the coins are of late 3rd to early 4th century date. Five date to the period of AD 275-296/Reece (1995) period 14, and the last from AD 336-341/Reece period 17. Most are preserved relatively poorly, being worn and/or corroded. Two were found in topsoil 1000 (Ra's 2-3, Trench 10), a further two in topsoil 1700 (Ra's 8-9, Trench 17) and the remaining two as singular finds in topsoil 1100 (Ra. 4, Trench 11) and 1500 (Ra. 6, Trench 15).
- 6.20. Registered artefacts 3, 6, 8 and 9 are all barbarous radiates dating c.275-285, representing a coin type commonly found as site finds from Britain. Two of these clearly copy official prototypes of the Gallic separatist emperors; whereas Ra. 6 probably copies a PAX AVG reverse type (Pax standing left with palm and long sceptre) struck for either Tetricus I or Victorinus (Bland et. al 2009/Normanby 194, no. 1406 or 196, no. 1473), Ra. 8 appears to be imitating a SPES AVG/AVGG/PVBLICA reverse of Tetricus I or II - Spes walking left holding flower, lifting hem of skirt (Bland et. al 2009/Normanby 195, no. 1471, 197, nos. 1526 or 1533). A better preserved radiate (Ra. 4) is an official issue of the British usurper

emperor Allectus (AD 293-296) struck at the mint of London with the VIRTUS AVG (galley left with rowers) reverse type, cf RIC vol V, part II, 563, no. 55 (Webb *et al.* 1933). Lastly, a corroded *nummus* (Ra. 2) represents the latest coin within the group – corresponding to the GLORIA EXERCITVS reverse type (two soldiers standing either side of one standard) and dating c.AD 336-341. The mint cannot be identified.

Medieval

- 6.21. A somewhat worn English silver shortcross type penny of either John or Henry III was found in topsoil 300 (Ra. 1, Trench 3). This coin is of class 6a and dates to the period 1208-1218, struck by the moneyer Walter at the mint of London (see North 1994, 222, no. 974).

Post-medieval

- 6.22. A complete but somewhat bent buckle was found in topsoil 1700 (Ra. 7, Trench 17). This example is a double looped form, preserved with its strap bar and wound pin intact. Each loop is decorated with a barrelled central knop flanked by curvilinear mouldings demonstrating a single punched annulet, further smaller knops and paired transverse ridges adorning the sides of the frame as they curve towards the knopped terminals of the strap bar. No exact parallel for this buckle could be found, though it is very similar to an example published by Whitehead (2003, no. 427). This form of buckle and its decoration are indicative of a post-medieval date, c.1550-1650.

Discussion

- 6.23. A moderate assemblage of stratified finds indicative of prehistoric activity at the site were recovered, as well as topsoil finds indicative of nearby activity in the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods.
- 6.24. In the prehistoric period, residual flints may tentatively suggest activity nearby in the Late Neolithic or Bronze Age. The pottery from a group of pits in the area of Trench 8 derives from Early Iron Age occupational activity. While this assemblage bears many similarities to West Harling-type pottery of Earliest Iron Age pottery, a number of the forms and decorative motifs present are more closely associated with assemblages of later Early Iron Age date, c.600-350BC.
- 6.25. Roman metalwork and a single sherd of Roman pottery, although present as residual finds in the topsoil, are suggestive of some level of nearby activity in this period. However, the very low quantity of pottery would seem to suggest that the site is peripheral to the focus of this activity. Spatial analysis suggests a slight trend towards

the southwestern corner of the site, perhaps indicating a concentration of activity in this vicinity. The focus on the late 3rd and early 4th centuries in regards to the Roman coins is perhaps indicative of small scale rural settlement, sites of this nature typically peaking in Reece 14 and 17. However, this interpretation is tentative given the small size of the assemblage thus far.

- 6.26. The small assemblage of medieval and post-medieval metalwork and CBM, as well as early medieval pottery, recovered from topsoil and the fills of ditches 404 and 501, are also likely indicative of continued use of the local area in later periods, though there is little to indicate the nature of that activity. The CBM and pottery are both likely to have entered the archaeological record residual in nightsoils, and the metalwork objects of the Roman and post-Roman assemblages probably entered the archaeological record as either casual losses or within discarded debris.

Potential and recommendations

- 6.27. The ceramic chronology for the Early Iron Age remains poorly understood in Norfolk, so an assemblage of this moderate size and good condition provides a useful addition to current typological understanding. While beyond the remit of investigation, future research might include further refitting of sherds within and between the pit groups, to establish which, if any, features may have been in use contemporaneously or at least derived from the same primary deposit such as a midden.
- 6.28. All finds have been fully recorded to archive standards and it is recommended that they will be retained as part of the archive.

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

- 7.1. Four bulk soil samples (120 litres of soil) were collected from the site; three samples (Samples 1 – 3) were taken from trenching phase (Trenches 4 and 8) and one during the set-piece excavation (Sample 100). The samples were taken to help understand the level of preservation of paleoenvironmental remains in the area and with the intention of recovering environmental evidence of industrial or domestic activity that may have occurred on the site. It was also hoped that the environmental remains may aid in the dating of some of the undated sampled features. The samples were processed by wet sieving (Sample 1) and standard flotation procedures (Samples 1-3 and 100) (CA Technical Manual No. 2).

7.2. Preliminary identifications of plant macrofossils are noted in Appendix E, Table 1, following nomenclature of Stace (2019) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary *et al* (2012) for cereals.

7.3. The flots were small to medium in size, with moderate numbers of rooty material which may indicate a low level of risk of post-depositional movement of the environmental material. The charred material was well preserved.

Trench 4

7.4. Two samples were taken from features in Trench 4. The sample from hollow/pond 406 (Sample 1; context 407) was recorded during excavation as potentially waterlogged in nature. Upon processing (wet sieving) of an initial 2 litres of soil, only a single uncharred goosefoots (*Chenopodium*) seed was identified. Due to the absence of waterlogged plant remains, the remainder of the sample was then subject to standard flotation procedures to check for any charred remains. No further plant remains or charcoal were recovered from the sample. Goosefoots seeds are quite a find in environmental samples and can be archaeological, but are also often found as a modern intrusive find. It is a weed which cultivates on waste and cultivated ground and as such on its own is of no interpretative value.

Trench 8

7.5. Two samples were recovered from two pits within Trench 8. Pit 802 (Sample 2; context 803) contained a single well-preserved barley grain, a small amount of charcoal and a small number of molluscs. This assemblage is likely to be indicative of wind-blown/dispersed domestic waste. Pit 804 (Sample 3; context 805) contained no charred plant remains and only a few charcoal flecks. This sample provides no material of interpretative value.

Excavation area

7.6. Pit 3003 (Sample 100; context 3004) contained no charred plant remains but did contain a small amount of charcoal. The charred assemblage is likely to be indicative of wind-blown/dispersed hearth waste.

Summary

7.7. The sample recovered from Trench 4 contained only a single seed, which may be intrusive in nature and is of no interpretative value.

-
- 7.8. The samples recovered from Trench 8 and the excavation area contain slightly larger assemblages of charred material, all charcoal with the exception of a single barley grain which may indicate evidence of wind-blown/dispersed hearth/domestic waste. Although there are accumulations of charcoal in both pits 802 and 3003, there is insufficient material to suggest this is the result of deliberate dumping of hearth waste.

Animal Bone

- 7.9. A small assemblage of animal bone, amounting to sixty-seven fragments (909g) was recovered from the fills of six pit and ditch features. Artefactual material dating broadly to the prehistoric period was also recovered from these features (See Table 1, Appendix C). The bone was fragmentary and poorly preserved however, it was possible to identify the presence of cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep/goat (*Ovis aries/Capra hircus*) and deer (*cervus*).
- 7.10. Cattle and sheep/goat were identified from fifteen and six bones respectively, consisting of fragments of the skull, mandible, the bones of the lower limbs and loose molar teeth. None of this material displayed any damage suggestive of butchery practice, but such marks may have been removed as a result of the poor preservation. Despite the lack of butchery marks, these bones are often removed from a carcass during the early stages of the butchery process. As such, the cattle and sheep/goat bone may have an origin in the waste from primary butchery.
- 7.11. In addition, a single fragment of deer antler (12g) was recovered from pit fill 3004. The antler was small and lacked enough diagnostic features to identify the species and did not display any cut marks, but its presence on site may be an indication of the use of antler as a raw material.
- 7.12. There is no further useful interpretative information to be gained from such a small assemblage of animal bone and long-term deposition within the site archive would not be recommended.

8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1. The methodology applied during the Informative Trenching and subsequent set-piece excavation was suited to the scale and nature of the project in determining the character and significance of the archaeology present, and the potential impacts of the proposed an irrigation reservoir construction upon the archaeological resource.

-
- 8.2. The results of the geophysical survey undertaken on site by Magnitude Surveys (2022) stated that no anomalies suggestive of significant archaeological features were identified; nonetheless, two linear anomalies were noted one oriented east-west and a second northeast-southwest. These were classified as agricultural and “undetermined” respectively. In the same report, agricultural activity was also recorded as modern ploughing trends, whilst natural activity was identified in the form of chalk dissolution features.
- 8.3. The Informative Trenching and set-piece excavation results did show some correlation between the recorded archaeology and the geophysical linear anomalies; however the remaining excavated features were not detected during the geophysical survey.

Iron Age

- 8.4. The earliest securely dated evidence identified on site was assigned to the Early to the later Early Iron Age and comprised an assemblage of three hundred and fifty-nine sherds (2,592g), recovered from five clustered pits (pits 802, 804, 806, 3003, and 3005) located within Trench 8 and its immediate environs.
- 8.5. While no accompanying structural was identified, the size of the ceramic assemblage is suggestive of occupation in the immediate vicinity.
- 8.6. The Iron Age pottery assemblage recovered from the site has the potential to contribute to a wider understanding of regional pottery sequences. As referred to in East Anglian Regional Research Agenda (Medlycott 2011, 30), in particular Early Iron Age pottery chronologies are still poorly understood.
- 8.7. Environmental Samples 2, 3 and 100 taken from contexts 803, 805 and 3003 within Trench 8 and excavation area included only a small amount of charcoal and a single barley grain which may indicate evidence of wind-blown/dispersed hearth/domestic waste. However, the quantity of charcoal was insufficient to suggest the presence of deliberately deposited hearth waste.
- 8.8. While it is entirely possible, even probable that the curving ditch, 3007, was contemporary with the Early Iron Age pits which spatially it appeared to surround, this could not be positively determined as no dating evidence was recovered from the ditch.

-
- 8.9. The small assemblage of Roman metalwork also has a limited interpretative value as it solely derives from topsoil contexts and by their nature unstratified and not in their primary context of deposition. Similarly, the single sherd of Roman pottery was also recovered from the topsoil in Trench 2. Nevertheless, these finds suggest that human activity took place within the wider landscape during the 3rd – 4th centuries, possibly with a focus beyond the south-western corner of the site.

Medieval and post-medieval

- 8.10. The limited number of finds and features dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods consists of a few pottery sherds retrieved from ditches 404 and 501. In addition, medieval/post-medieval CBM was recovered from fill 405 of ditch 404 and included seven fragments of brick and tile. Ditch 404 (same as 1502) corresponds to the east-west oriented linear identified during the geophysical survey. The alignment of this feature appears to correlate to the boundaries of the field immediately to the west of the site. Although, this feature was not depicted in later cartographic sources such as OS Map 1888 – 1913, which suggest that it had become redundant by that time, the presence of a land drain in and following its base suggests that it may have influenced the position of this relatively recent drainage feature.

Modern

- 8.11. Evidence of more recent agricultural activity was recorded on site in the form of small land drains. These could be seen in Trenches 5 to 11, 13 and 20. The northeast-southwest linear anomaly identified during the geophysical survey exhibits a good correlation with the field drain recorded in Trenches 10 and 11.
- 8.12. The subsoil was not encountered across the whole site and, where present, consisted of a thin layer of variable thickness and while horizontal truncation of features could have happened locally, preservation across the site was generally good with the archaeological works undertaken resulting in an appropriate characterisation of the surviving archaeological features/deposits.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

- 9.1. Fieldwork was undertaken by Michael Green and Preston Boyles, assisted by Philip Charalambous and Patrick McMaster. This report was written by Liliana Serrano and edited by Stuart Boulter. The pottery and CBM reports were written by Ciar Boyle-Gifford; the flint report was prepared by Jacky Sommerville; the metalwork report was written and Alex Bliss. The paleoenvironmental report was prepared by Sarah Cobain

and the animal bone report was written by Andy Clark. The report illustrations were prepared by Ryan Wilson. The project archive has been compiled and prepared for deposition by Clare Wootton and Zoe Emery. The project was managed for CA by Stuart Boulter.

10. REFERENCES

- Anderson, S. 2020, Suffolk Medieval Pottery Fabric Series, <https://www.suffolkmedpot.co.uk/> (Accessed November 2023)
- Ashwin, T. and Bates, S. (eds.) *Norwich Southern Bypass, Part I: Excavations at Bixley, Caistor St Edmund, Trowse East Anglian Archaeol.* **91**
- Ashwin, T. and Flitcroft, M. 1999 The Launditch and its Setting: Excavation at the Launditch, Beeston with Bittering, and Iron Age features and finds from its vicinity. *Norfolk Archaeol.* **43**, 217-256
- Ashwin, T. and Tester, A. 2014 *A Roman Settlement in the Waveney Valley: excavations at Scole 1993–4 E. Anglian Archaeol.* **152**
- Bland, R., Besly, E., Burnett, A. and Moorhead, S. 2009 *The Cunetio and Normanby Hoards*. London, Dept. of Portable Antiquities and Treasure
- British Geological Survey 2023 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/map-viewers/geology-of-britain-viewer/> (Accessed November 2023)
- Brudenell, M. 2011 'Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age Pottery in Norfolk – a review' in Davies (ed.) 2011, 11-24
- Brudenell, M. 2012 *Pots, Practice And Society: An Investigation Of Pattern And Variability In The Post-Deverel Rimbury Ceramic Tradition Of East Anglia*. University of York. unpublished PhD thesis
- Butler, C. 2005 *Prehistoric flintwork* Stroud, Tempus
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2012 The taking and processing of environmental and other samples from archaeological sites Technical Manual No. 2
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2023a *Land off Hargham Road, Quidenham, Norfolk, Written Scheme of Investigation for a Programme of Archaeological Mitigatory Work (Informative trial-trenching)*, CA Project No. **SU0606**

-
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2023b *Land off Hargham Road, Quidenham, Norfolk, Project Design for Archaeological Excavation as Part of a Programme of Archaeological Mitigatory Work (POAMW)*, CA Project No. **SU0658**
- ClfA 2020b *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation* (Reading)
- ClfA 2020a *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists* (Reading)
- ClfA 2020c, *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (Reading)
- ClfA 2021 Toolkit for Specialist Reporting <https://www.archaeologists.net/reporting-toolkit> (Accessed November 2023)
- ClfA 2021 Toolkit for Specialist Reporting| [Introduction | Chartered Institute for Archaeologists](#) (Accessed November 2023)
- Cunliffe, B. 1968 'Early pre-Roman Iron Age Communities in eastern England' *Antiq. J.* **48**, 175-191
- Cunliffe, B. 2005 *Iron Age communities in Britain: an account of England, Scotland and Wales from the seventh century BC until the Roman Conquest* (fourth edition). London, Routledge
- Davies, J. (ed.) 2011 *The Iron Age in Northern East Anglia: New work in the Land of the Iceni*. BAR Brit. Ser. 549, 11-24
- East of England Research Frameworks, 2021 <https://researchframeworks.org/eoe/> (Accessed November 2023)
- Fell 1953, 'An Early Iron Age Settlement at Linton, Cambridgeshire' *Proc. Cambridge Antiq. Soc.* **XLVII**, 31-42
- Gurney, D. 2003 'Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England' *East Anglian. Archaeol. Occ. Pap.* **14**
- Hickling, S., 2023, *Brief for Informative Trenching as Part of a Programme of Archaeological Mitigatory Works at Land off Hargham Road, Quidenham, Norfolk*
- Historic England, 2015a, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation*

-
- Historic England, 2015b, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide*
- Mackreth, D. 2011 *Brooches in Late Iron Age and Roman Britain*. Oxford, Oxbow
- Magnitude Surveys, 2022, Geophysical Survey Report of Field West of Hargham Hall, Hargham Road, Quidenham, Norfolk (Ref. **MSTM1383A**)
- Medlycott, M., 2011, Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England, E. Anglian Archaeol. Occ. Paper **24**
- Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government 2021 *National Planning Policy Framework*
- MPRG, 2001 *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics*. Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2
- Norfolk Historic Environment (NHER) (<http://heritage.norfolk.gov.uk>) (Accessed November 2023)
- North, J, J. 1994 *English Hammered Coinage: Volume 1. Early Anglo-Saxon to Henry III, c. 600-1272*. London, Spink and Son
- Open Domesday 2021 Domesday Book, <http://opendomesday.org/> (Accessed November 2023)
- PCRG, 2010. *The Study of Prehistoric Pottery: General Policies and Guidelines for Analysis and Publication*. Occasional papers 1 and 2. 3rd revised edition
- Percival 2000, 'Pottery' in Ashwin and Bates (eds.) 2000, 170-179
- Reece, R. 1995 Site-finds in Roman Britain. *Britannia* **26**, 179-206
- Robertson *et al*, 2018, *Standards for Development-led Archaeological Projects in Norfolk*
- Soilscapes, 2022, Quidenham, Norfolk. Cranfield University, National Soil Resources Institute <http://landis.org.uk> (Accessed November 2023)
- Stace, C. 2019 *New flora of the British Isles*, 4th edition Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Webb, P, H, with Mattingly, M and Sydenham, E, A (eds.) 1933 *Roman Imperial Coinage Vol. V, Part II*. London, Spink & Son
- Whitehead, R. 2003 *Buckles: 1250-1800*. Chelmsford, Greenlight

Zohary, D., Hopf, M. and Weiss, E. 2012 Domestication of plants in the Old World: the origin and spread of cultivated plants in West Asia, Europe, and the Nile Valley, 4th edition Oxford, Clarendon Press

Cartographic sources

- OS Map 1880 – 1913, scale 6": 1 mile

APPENDIX A: HER ENTRIES

Table 1. Summaries of HER entries within 1km of the study area (ENF153685) by period.

HER reference	Description	Period
NHER 9151	Hearths South of All Saints' Church	Undated
NHER 9152	Hearths South of All Saints' Church	Undated
NHER 9153	Hearths South of All Saints' Church	Undated
NHER 9186	Wilby Hall	Post-medieval
NHER 10824	All Saints' Church, Wilby, Quidenham	Medieval
NHER 11926	Hargham deserted medieval village	Medieval
NHER 19794	Old Rectory	Post-medieval
NHER 29450	Saxon copper alloy strap end	Middle Saxon
NHER 25477	Medieval ornaments, seal and stamp and Roman brooch	Roman and Medieval
NHER 29582	Wilby Shrunk Village, Quidenham	Medieval
NHER 29629	Prehistoric flint implements and collection of multi period finds (Hargham 1)	Prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval
NHER 29633	Worked flints and multi period pottery sherds (Hargham 6)	Prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval
NHER 29637	Site of post medieval house and multi period finds (Hargham 9)	Post-medieval
NHER 29941	Flint scrapper and medieval/post medieval sherds (Hargham 27)	Prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval
NHER 29944	Flint knife and medieval pottery sherd (Hargham 30)	Prehistoric and medieval
NHER 29945	Flints and multi period pottery sherds (Hargham 31)	Prehistoric, Roman, Medieval and post-medieval
NHER 29948	Flints and sherd of post-medieval pottery (Hargham 35)	Prehistoric and post-medieval
NHER 29949	Prehistoric worked flints and multi period pottery (Hargham 36)	Prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval
NHER 29960	Prehistoric flints and multi period pottery (Hargham 47)	Prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval
NHER 30653	Multi-period finds	Prehistoric, Saxon and medieval and post-medieval
NHER 30658	Prehistoric worked flints and multi period pottery (Hargham 53)	Iron Age, Roman and Saxon
NHER 30659	Multi period pottery sherds (Hargham 54)	Iron Age and medieval
NHER 30831	Prehistoric flint implements and multi period pottery sherds (Hargham 63)	Prehistoric and post-medieval
NHER 30829	Possible prehistoric burnt mound, concentration of burnt flints	Prehistoric
NHER 30834	Flint artefacts and multi period pottery sherds (Hargham 64)	Prehistoric, Roman, Late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval
NHER 30835	Prehistoric flint implements and multi period pottery sherds (Hargham 65)	Iron Age, Roman and medieval
NHER 30836	Prehistoric flint flake (Hargham 66)	Prehistoric

HER reference	Description	Period
NHER 30837	Prehistoric flints and multi period pottery sherds (Hargham 67)	Prehistoric, Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval
NHER 31103	Prehistoric flints and multi period pottery sherds (Hargham 69)	Prehistoric, Roman, Late Saxon, medieval and post-medieval
NHER 31104	Prehistoric flints and multi period pottery sherds (Hargham 68)	Prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval
NHER 31105	Prehistoric flints and multi period pottery sherds (Hargham 70)	Prehistoric, Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval
NHER 31185	Possible site of Beck Hall, Quidenham	Medieval and multi period pottery
NHER 31186	Possible site of Beck Hall, Quidenham	Medieval and multi period pottery
NHER 31227	Prehistoric worked flint and Saxon/medieval pottery sherds (Hargham 79)	Prehistoric, Saxon and Medieval
NHER 31229	Prehistoric worked flint and medieval pottery sherds (Hargham 73)	Prehistoric and Medieval
NHER 31230	Prehistoric flint (Hargham 72)	Prehistoric
NHER 34979	Roman dolphin copper alloy brooch	Roman
NHER 45380	Multi period finds, including Late Iron Age/Roman coins, early medieval to post-medieval metal objects	Late Iron Age, Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval
NHER 57478	Possible medieval to post-medieval field boundary banks and/or drainage ditches	Medieval to post-medieval
NHER 57480	Faint curvilinear ditch cropmarks	Likely Prehistoric
NHER 57481	Earthworks relating to possible site of Beck Hall (NHER 31185 and 31186)	Medieval
NHER 57482	Earthworks of possible hollow way, toft boundaries and possible enclosure	Likely medieval to post-medieval
NHER 57506	Cropmark of linear ditch and bank	Likely medieval to post-medieval
NHER 58462	Roman, Early/Middle Saxon, medieval and post medieval metal finds	Roman, Saxon medieval and post-medieval
NHER 58793	Possible Early Saxon cemetery or production site	Early Saxon
NHER 59752	Roman, medieval and post medieval metal finds	Roman, medieval and post-medieval
NHER 60282	Medieval human figurine	Medieval
NHER 60595	Undated, Late Iron Age/Roman, Middle/Late Saxon and medieval post-medieval metal finds	Late Iron Age/Roman, Saxon and medieval
NHER 60596	Late Saxon coin hoard consisting of three silver pennies of Edward the Elder	Late Saxon
NHER 60859	Roman coin hoard consisting of twenty-two Roman silver <i>denarii</i> and twenty-five Icenian silver units	Late Iron Age and Roman
NHER 64043	Medieval silver finger ring	Medieval

APPENDIX B: TRENCH AND EXCAVATION AREA DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1		
General description	Orientation	N - S
Topsoil over natural	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.80
	Avg. depth (m)	0.36
Trench 2		
General description	Orientation	N - S
Topsoil over natural	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.80
	Avg. depth (m)	0.37
Trench 3		
General description	Orientation	NW - SE
Topsoil over natural	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.80
	Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Trench 4		
General description	Orientation	N - S
Topsoil over subsoil which sealed ditch 404 a tree throw 402 and a possible pond/hollow 406	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.80
	Avg. depth (m)	0.36
Trench 5		
General description	Orientation	E - W
Topsoil over ditch 501 which cuts natural	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.80
	Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Trench 6		
General description	Orientation	NNW - SSE
Topsoil over natural	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.80
	Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Trench 7		
General description	Orientation	E - W
Topsoil over natural	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.80
	Avg. depth (m)	0.30

Trench 8		
General description	Orientation	N - S
Topsoil over subsoil which sealed features 804, 806 and 808	Length (m)	35
	Width (m)	1.80
	Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Trench 9		
General description	Orientation	E - W
Topsoil over subsoil over natural	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.80
	Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Trench 10		
General description	Orientation	E - W
Topsoil over natural	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.80
	Avg. depth (m)	0.36
Trench 11		
General description	Orientation	N - S
Topsoil over natural	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.80
	Avg. depth (m)	0.36
Trench 12		
General description	Orientation	E - W
Topsoil over subsoil over natural	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.80
	Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Trench 13		
General description	Orientation	N - S
Topsoil over subsoil over natural	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.80
	Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Trench 14		
General description	Orientation	E - W
Topsoil over subsoil over natural	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.80
	Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Trench 15		
General description	Orientation	N - S
Topsoil over subsoil over natural	Length (m)	30

	Width (m)	1.80
Trench 16		
General description	Orientation	E - W
Topsoil over subsoil which sealed ditch 1502 cut into the natural	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.80
	Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Trench 17		
General description	Orientation	N - S
Topsoil over subsoil over natural	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.80
	Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Trench 18		
General description	Orientation	E - W
Topsoil over subsoil over natural	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.80
	Avg. depth (m)	
Trench 19		
General description	Orientation	N - S
Topsoil over subsoil over natural	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.80
	Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Trench 20		
General description	Orientation	NE - SW
Topsoil over subsoil over natural	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	1.80
	Avg. depth (m)	0.4

Excavation Area		
General description		
Topsoil over subsoil over pit cluster and ditch 3007	Length (m)	30
	Width (m)	30
	Avg. depth (m)	0.45

APPENDIX C: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpret.	Descriptions	Dimensions L×W×D			Spot-date
1	100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-brown soft silty ploughsoil			0.40	
2	200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-brown soft silty ploughsoil			0.37	
3	300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-brown soft silty ploughsoil			0.40	
4	400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-brown soft silty ploughsoil			0.36	
4	401	Layer		Subsoil	Light orange brown silty sand			0.34	
4	402	Cut		Tree throw	Shallow sloping sides and a gentle break of slope to an undulating base	2.28	>1.44	0.16	
4	403	Fill	402	Fill of tree throw	Mid greyish brown firm clay with frequent small sub-angular stones and occasional charcoal flecks			0.16	
4	404	Cut		Ditch	Convex sides and a sharp slope to an unexcavated base		3.22	0.80	Post-med
4	405	Fill	404	Fill of ditch	Mixed mid greyish brown friable silty sand			0.80	Post-med
4	406	Cut		Pond/possible hallow	Irregular shaped with shallow sloping sides and a gentle break of slope to an undulating base	>7.47	1.80	0.90	
4	407	Fill	406	Fill of pond/hallow	Dark grey soft clayey sand with occasional small sub-angular flints			0.40	
4	408	Fill	406	Fill of pond/hallow	Mid-grey firm silty clay with occasional small sub-angular flints			0.20	
4	409	Fill	406	Fill of pond/hallow	Light orange brown firm silty clay with frequent large to small sub-angular flints			0.30	
5	500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-brown soft silty ploughsoil			0.35	
5	501	Cut		Cut of ditch	Shallow sides and a gentle slope leading to a rounded base	>8.14	>0.69	0.14	
5	502	Fill	502	Fill of ditch	Light brownish firm clay with moderate inclusions of large to small sub-angular flint nodules			0.14	
6	600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-brown soft silty ploughsoil			0.50	
6	601	Layer		Subsoil	Light orange brown silty sand with occasional small stones			0.15	
6	602	Layer		Geology	Manganese stain				
7	700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-brown soft silty ploughsoil			0.30	
7	701	Layer		Subsoil	Light orange brown silty clay			0.20	
8	800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-brown soft silty ploughsoil			0.35	
8	801	Layer		Subsoil	Light orange brown silty clay			0.15	
8	802	Cut		Pit	Oval shaped roughly north-northeast to south-southwest orientated, with convex sides with a shallow lip around the upper part that dropped away near-vertically to a flattish concave shape	2.54	1.83	0.70	EIA/ ?Later EIA
8	803	Fill	802	Fill of pit	Mixed light greyish-brown compact sandy silt with moderately large to small sub-angular stones			0.70	EIA/ ?Later EIA
8	804	Cut		Pit	Oval shaped with roughly northwest to southeast orientated, with moderately sloped concave sides and a broad concave base	1.83	1.12	0.28	EIA/ ?Later EIA
8	805	Fill	804	Fill of pit	Brown yellow firm sandy clay with occasional sub-angular stones			0.28	EIA/ ?Later EIA

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpret.	Descriptions	Dimensions L×W×D			Spot-date
8	806	Cut		Pit	Oval shaped with very shallow sides and a gentle break of slope to an irregular/flattish base	1.15	0.61	0.09	EIA/ ?Later EIA
8	807	Fill	806	Fill of pit	Brown semi-firm sandy clay with occasional small sub-angular flint			0.09	EIA/ ?Later EIA
8	808	Cut		Pit	Sub-oval shaped, east-west oriented with irregular sloping sides and a gentle slope to a flattish base	>1.61	0.94	0.20	
8	809	Fill	808	Fill of pit	Dark greyish loose silty sand whilst the upper fill was a mid-yellowish-brown loose silty sand			0.10	
8	810	Fill	808	Fill of pit	Mid-yellowish-brown loose silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded stones			0.10	
9	900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-brown soft silty ploughsoil			0.30	
9	901	Layer		Subsoil	Light orange brown silty clay			0.15	
10	1000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-brown soft silty ploughsoil			0.40	
11	1100	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-brown soft silty ploughsoil			0.40	
12	1200	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-brown soft silty ploughsoil			0.35	
12	1201	Layer		Subsoil	Light orange brown silty clay			0.20	
13	1300	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-brown soft silty ploughsoil			0.35	
13	1301	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown soft sandy silty with occasional flint			0.35	
14	1400	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-brown soft silty ploughsoil			0.35	
14	1401	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown soft sandy silty with occasional flint			0.10	
15	1500	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-brown soft silty ploughsoil			0.35	
15	1501	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown soft sandy silty with occasional flint			0.25	
15	1502	Cut		Cut of ditch	Unexcavated				Post-med
16	1600	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-brown soft silty ploughsoil			0.35	Post-med
16	1601	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown soft sandy silty with occasional flint			0.20	
17	1700	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-brown soft silty ploughsoil			0.40	
17	1701	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown soft sandy silty with occasional flint			0.25	
18	1800	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-brown soft silty ploughsoil			0.40	
18	1801	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown soft sandy silty with occasional flint			0.30	
19	1900	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-brown soft silty ploughsoil			0.40	
19	1901	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown soft sandy silty with occasional flint			0.25	
20	2000	Layer		Topsoil	Mid-brown soft silty ploughsoil			0.40	
20	2001	Layer		Subsoil	Mid orange brown soft sandy silty with occasional flint			0.40	
Area 1 Context No.		Type	Fill of	Interpret.	Description	Dimensions L×W×D (m)			Spot-date
3000		Layer		Topsoil	Dark greyish brown sandy silt, containing moderate small stones and occasional medium to large sized stones			0.35	
3001		Layer		Subsoil	Mid to pale reddish yellow silty sand, containing occasional small stones.			0.10	

Trench	Context No.	Type	Fill of	Interpret.	Descriptions	Dimensions L×W×D			Spot-date
3002		Layer		Natural	Yellow, coarse sand with large outcrops of pale-yellow chalk-flecked clay, reddish yellow clayey sand and smaller outcrops of gravelly sand.				
3003		Cut		Pit	Oval-shaped cut in plan, orientated west-southwest to east-northeast, with steep concave sides leading to a flattish concave base	1.53	1.07	0.19	EIA
3004		Fill	3003	Fill of pit	Mid-greyish brown, silty sand, containing occasional small stones. The fill became darker and greyer towards the base of the feature			0.19	EIA
3005		Cut		Pit	Sub-oval shaped cut in plan, orientated roughly northwest to southeast, with shallow, slightly convex sides and a slightly undulating concave base	1.35	1.10	0.17	EIA
3006		Fill	3005	Fill of pit	Mid-greyish brown silty sand, containing occasional small stones and chalk flecks			0.17	EIA
3007		Cut		Ditch	Group number for a ditch. It has a curving course, running in a roughly north-northeast direction from the western limit of excavation before turning gradually to the east				
3008		Cut		Ditch	Cut of ditch, orientated roughly north to south, with moderately sloped, slightly convex sides and a flattish concave base.	1 (exc.)	0.73	0.24	
3009		Fill	3008	Fill of ditch	Mid-greyish brown, friable silty sand, containing occasional small stones			0.24	
3010		Cut		Ditch	Cut of ditch, orientated roughly northeast to southwest, with moderately sloped, slightly convex sides and a flattish concave base	1 (exc.)	0.58	0.16	
3011		Fill	3010	Fill of ditch	Mid-greyish brown, friable silty sand, containing occasional small stones			0.16	
3012		Cut		Ditch	Cut of ditch, orientated roughly northeast to southwest, with moderately sloped concave sides and a concave base.	1 (exc.)	0.56	0.13	
3013		Fill	3013	Fill of ditch	Mid-greyish brown, friable silty sand, containing occasional small stones			0.13	
3014		Cut		Ditch	Cut of ditch, orientated roughly east to west, with broad, slightly convex V-shaped sides, leading to a narrow concave base.	1 (exc.)	0.83	0.23	
3015		Fill	3014	Fill of ditch	Mid-greyish brown, friable silty sand, containing occasional small stones			0.23	
3016		Cut		Pit	Poorly defined, shallow feature, surviving as little more than a stain. It had a roughly oval shape in plan, orientated northeast to southwest. Likely a natural feature	0.88	0.63	0.07	
3017		Fill	3016	Fill of pit	Mid-greyish brown, friable silty sand, containing occasional small stones			0.07	

APPENDIX D: THE FINDS

Table 2: Finds concordance

Feature	Context	Sample	Material	Fabric/Description	Ct	Wt (g)	Spotdate
Topsoil	200		Roman pottery	GX	1	8	
Topsoil	300		Metalwork	Ra 1 Medieval silver coin	1	1.25	
Ditch 404	405		Medieval pottery	EMW	1	3	Med/PM
			CBM	Brick?, roof tile (inc. one with adherent mortar)	7	97	
			Worked flint	End-and-side-scraper	1	19	
Pond 406	409		Worked flint	Flake	1	3	Residual preh.
Ditch 501	502		Medieval pottery	EMW	2	1	C11-12, likely residual.
Pit 802	803		Prehistoric pottery	F1	134	939	EIA/ ?Later EIA (600-350BC)
				F2	28	236	
				Q1	70	301	
			Worked flint	Flake	1	3	
		2	Prehistoric pottery	F1	27	149	
				F2	25	374	
				Q1	12	50	
			Worked flint	Flake	1	1	
Pit 804	805		Prehistoric pottery	F1	17	282	EIA/ ?Later EIA (600-350BC)
				F2	1	5	
				Q1	7	27	
			Worked flint	Flake	1	1	
		3	Prehistoric pottery	Q1	3	4	
Pit 806	807		Prehistoric pottery	F1	11	52	

Feature	Context	Sample	Material	Fabric/Description	Ct	Wt (g)	Spotdate
				F2	5	100	EIA/ ?Later EIA (600-350BC)
Topsoil	1000		Metalwork	Ra 2, Roman copper alloy coin (1.06g); Ra 3, Roman copper alloy coin (0.81g)	2	1.87	
Topsoil	1100		Metalwork	Ra 4, Roman copper alloy coin	1	2.49	
Topsoil	1200		Metalwork	Ra 5, Roman copper alloy bow brooch	1	4.62	
Topsoil	1500		Metalwork	Ra 6, Roman copper alloy coin	1	1.61	
Topsoil	1700		Metalwork	Ra 7, copper alloy post-medieval buckle (10.03g); Ra 8, Roman copper alloy coin (1.51g); Ra 9, Roman copper alloy coin (0.69g)	3	12.23	
Pit 3003	3004		Prehistoric pottery	Q1	2	15	EIA
		1	Prehistoric pottery	F1	4	2	
				Q1	11	36	
Pit 3005	3006		Prehistoric pottery	F1	1	13	EIA
				Q1	1	7	

Table 3: Pottery fabrics by period

Period	Fabric Code	Description	Ct.	Wt. (g)	Fabric Date
Prehistoric	F1	Sparse-common moderately sorted calcined flint temper <2mm, with moderate-common fine-medium quartz sand. Very rare or no poorly sorted gravel/coarse sand of flint and stone, probably incidental.	194	1437	EIA
	F2	Sparse-moderate poorly-moderately sorted calcined flint temper <4mm, with moderate-common fine-medium quartz sand. Very rare or no poorly sorted gravel/coarse sand of flint and stone, probably incidental.	59	715	EIA
	Q1	Sparse-common fine-medium quartz sand, very rare or no fine calcined flint or coarse flint sand.	106	440	EIA
Roman	GX	Coarse greywares	3	5	Rom
Post-Roman	EMW	Fine/medium sandy thin-walled handmade wares. Coarser quartz present in some, but generally not visible on surface. Occasional calcareous, ferrous, organic and flint/chert inclusions may also be present. (Anderson 2020)	1	8	11-12th C

APPENDIX E: THE PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

Table 1: Paleoenviromental remains

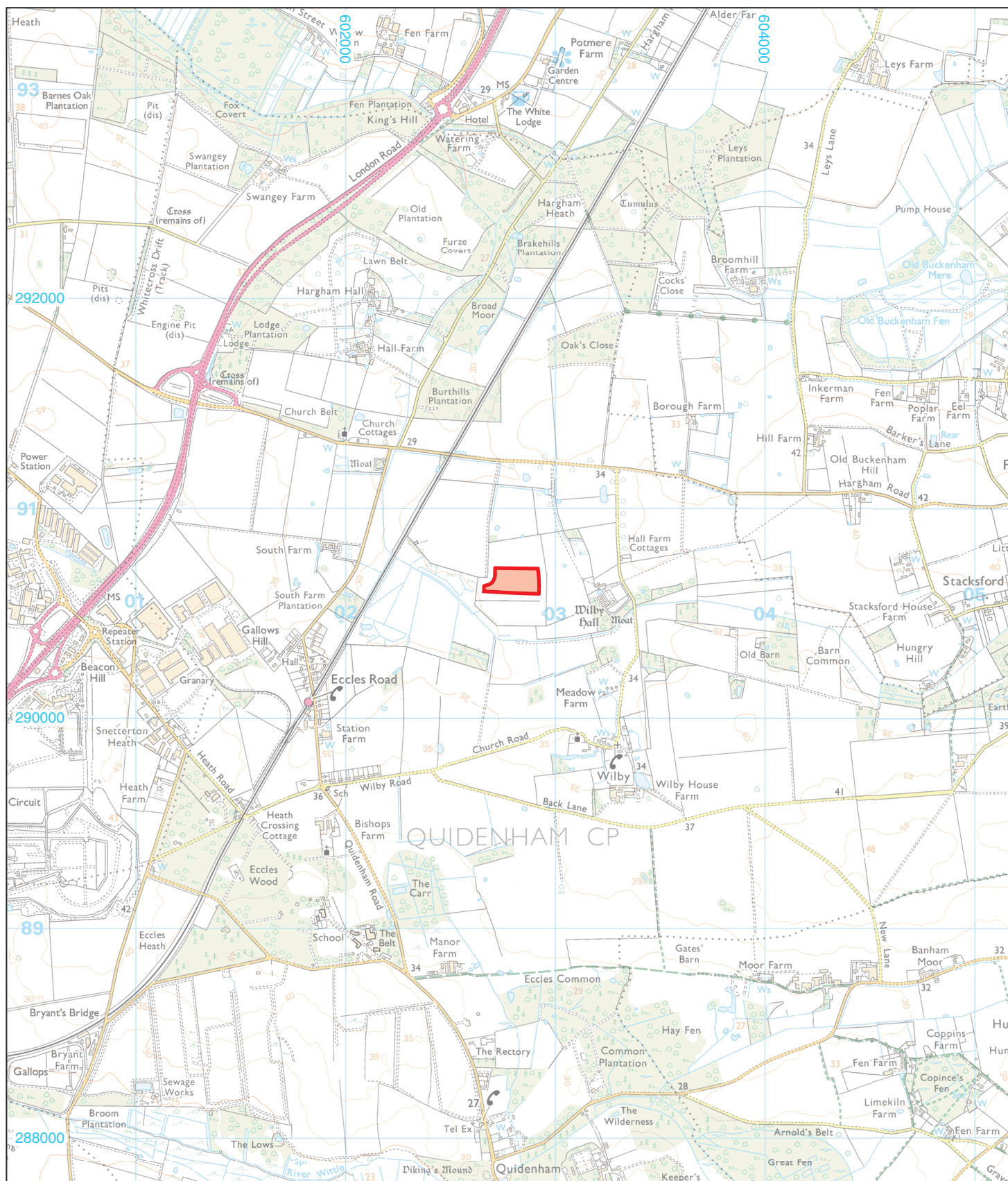
Trench/ Area	Feature Type	Cut	Context	Sample	Sample Type	Processed vol (L)	Flot size (ml)	Roots %	Grain	Chaff	Cereal Notes	Charred Other	Charred Other Notes	Charcoal > 4/2mm	Other
Tr. 4	Hollow/pond	406	407	1	WL	2	75	N/A	-	-	-	uncharred (*)	uncharred: <i>Chenopodium</i>	-/*	-
					Bulk	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tr. 8	Pit	802	803	2	Bulk	40	15	10	*	-	Barley grain	-	-	**/**	moll-t (**)
Tr. 8	Pit	804	805	3	Bulk	20	1	50	-	-	-	-	-	-/*	moll-t (*)
Excavation area	Pit	3003	3004	100	Bulk	40	6	30	-	-	-	-	-	***/*	moll-t (**)

Key: * = 1–4 items; ** = 4–20 items; *** = 21–49 items; **** = 50–99 items; ***** = >100 items
moll-t = terrestrial mollusc WL (potential waterlogged; wet sieved)

Table 2: Number of Identifiable Specimens (NISP) by weight and context.

Cut	Fill	BOS	O/C	Deer sp.	LM	MM	Ind	Total	Weight (g)
404	405						2	2	10
802	803	7	4		2	6	17	36	645
804	805	2				3		5	132
806	807	4	2				12	18	50
3003	3004	1		1			3	5	32
3016	3017	1						1	40
Total		15	6	1	2	9	34	67	
Weight		606	47	12	107	25	112	909	

BOS = Cattle; O/C = sheep/goat; Deer Sp. = deer species; LM = cattle size mammal; MM = sheep sized mammal; Ind = indeterminate



 Site boundary

0 1km

© Crown copyright and database rights 2023
Ordnance Survey 0100031673



Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
Suffolk 01449 900120
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land off Hargham Road, Quidenham,
Norfolk

FIGURE TITLE

Site location plan

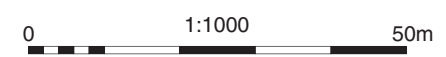
DRAWN BY RW
CHECKED BY DJB
APPROVED BY LS
PROJECT NO. SU0658
DATE 15/08/2023
SCALE @A4 1:25,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- Site boundary
- Evaluation trench
- Excavation area
- Archaeological feature
- Modern feature
- Drain
- Natural / tree-throw



© Crown copyright and database rights 2023 Ordnance Survey 0100031673



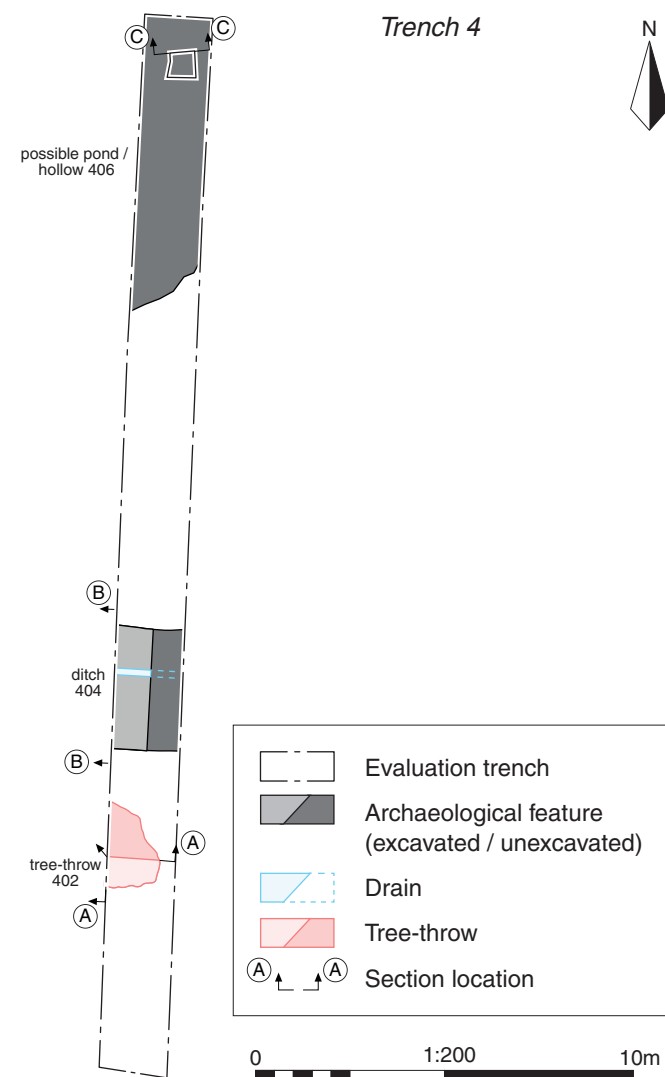
**Cotswold
Archaeology**

Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
Suffolk 01449 900120
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

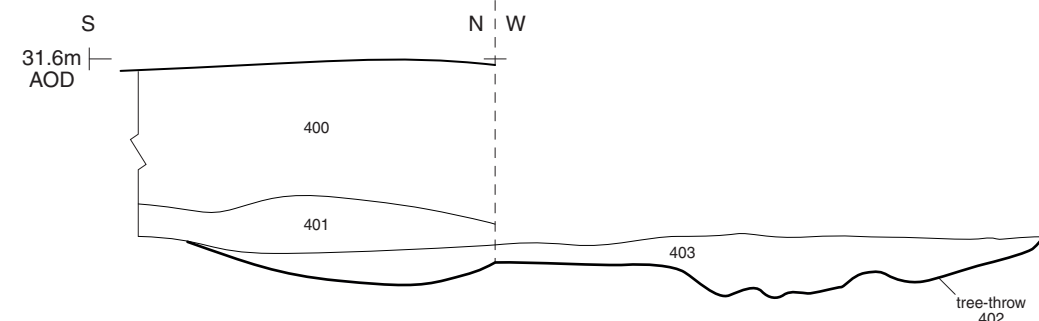
PROJECT TITLE
Land off Hargham Road, Quidenham,
Norfolk

FIGURE TITLE
**Overall plan of trenches and
excavation area**

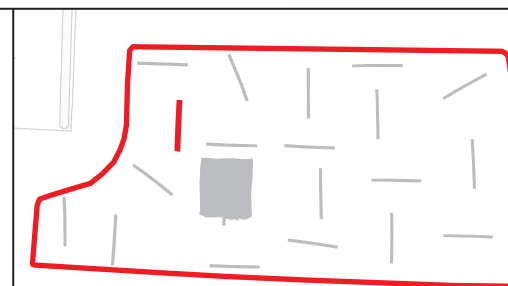
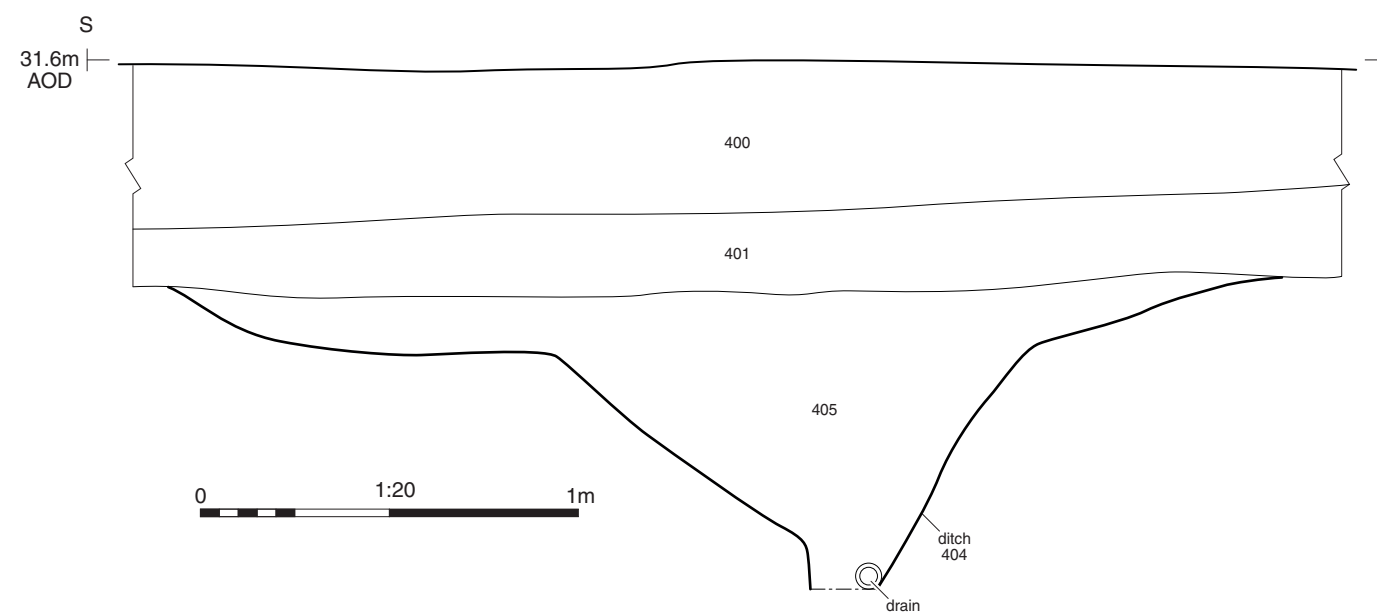
DRAWN BY	RW	PROJECT NO.	SU0658	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	02/10/2023	3
APPROVED BY	LS	SCALE@A3	1:1000	



Section AA



Section BB



Tree-throw 402, looking north-west (1m scale)



Ditch 404, looking west (1m scale)

© Crown copyright and database rights 2023 Ordnance Survey 0100031673

Cotswold Archaeology

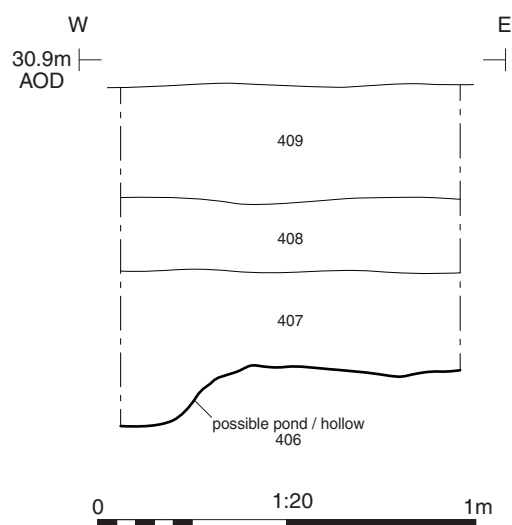
Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Land off Hargham Road, Quidenham,
 Norfolk

FIGURE TITLE
**Trench 4: plan, sections and
 photographs**

DRAWN BY CHECKED BY APPROVED BY	RW DJB LS	PROJECT NO. DATE SCALE@A3	SU0658 02/10/2023 1:200, 1:20	FIGURE NO. 4
---------------------------------------	-----------------	---------------------------------	-------------------------------------	------------------------

Section CC



Sondage into possible pond / hollow 406, looking north (1m scale)



Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land off Hargham Road, Quidenham,
 Norfolk

FIGURE TITLE

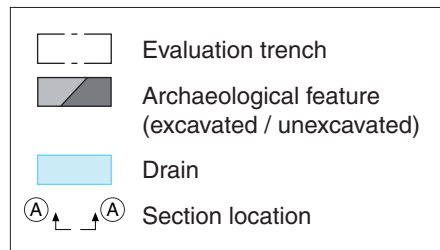
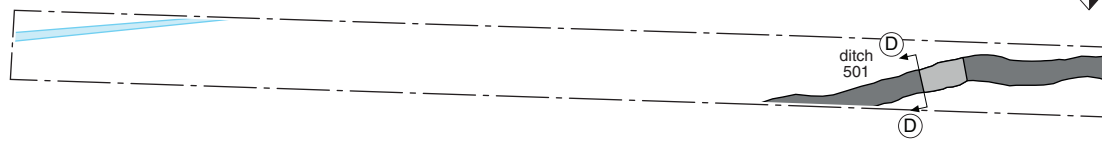
Trench 4: section and photograph

DRAWN BY **RW** PROJECT NO. **SU0658**
 CHECKED BY **DJB** DATE **02/10/2023**
 APPROVED BY **LS** SCALE@A4 **1:20**

FIGURE NO.

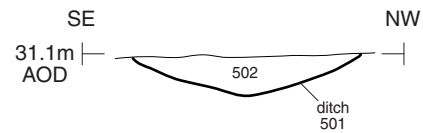
5

Trench 5



0 1:200 10m

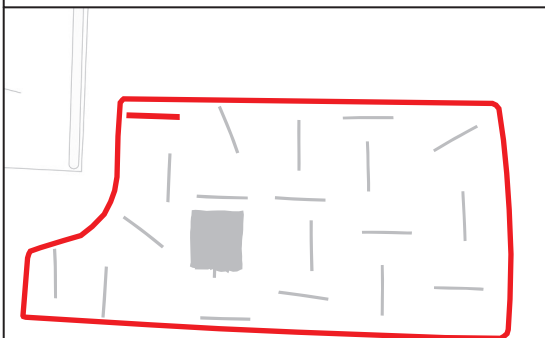
Section DD



0 1:20 1m



Ditch 501, looking south-west (0.5m scale)



Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
Suffolk 01449 900120
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land off Hargham Road, Quidenham,
Norfolk

FIGURE TITLE

Trench 5: plan, section and photograph

DRAWN BY RW PROJECT NO. SU0658
CHECKED BY DJB DATE 02/10/2023
APPROVED BY LS SCALE@A4 1:200, 1:20

FIGURE NO.

6



Trench 15 showing unexcavated ditch 1502, looking north (1m scales)



Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land off Hargham Road, Quidenham,
 Norfolk

FIGURE TITLE

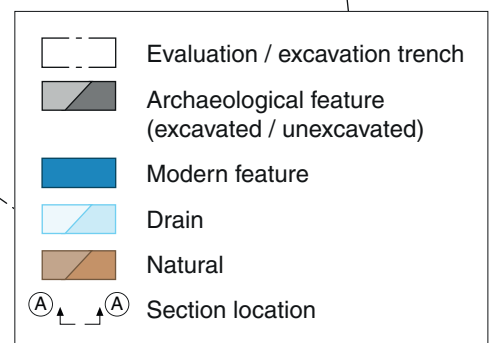
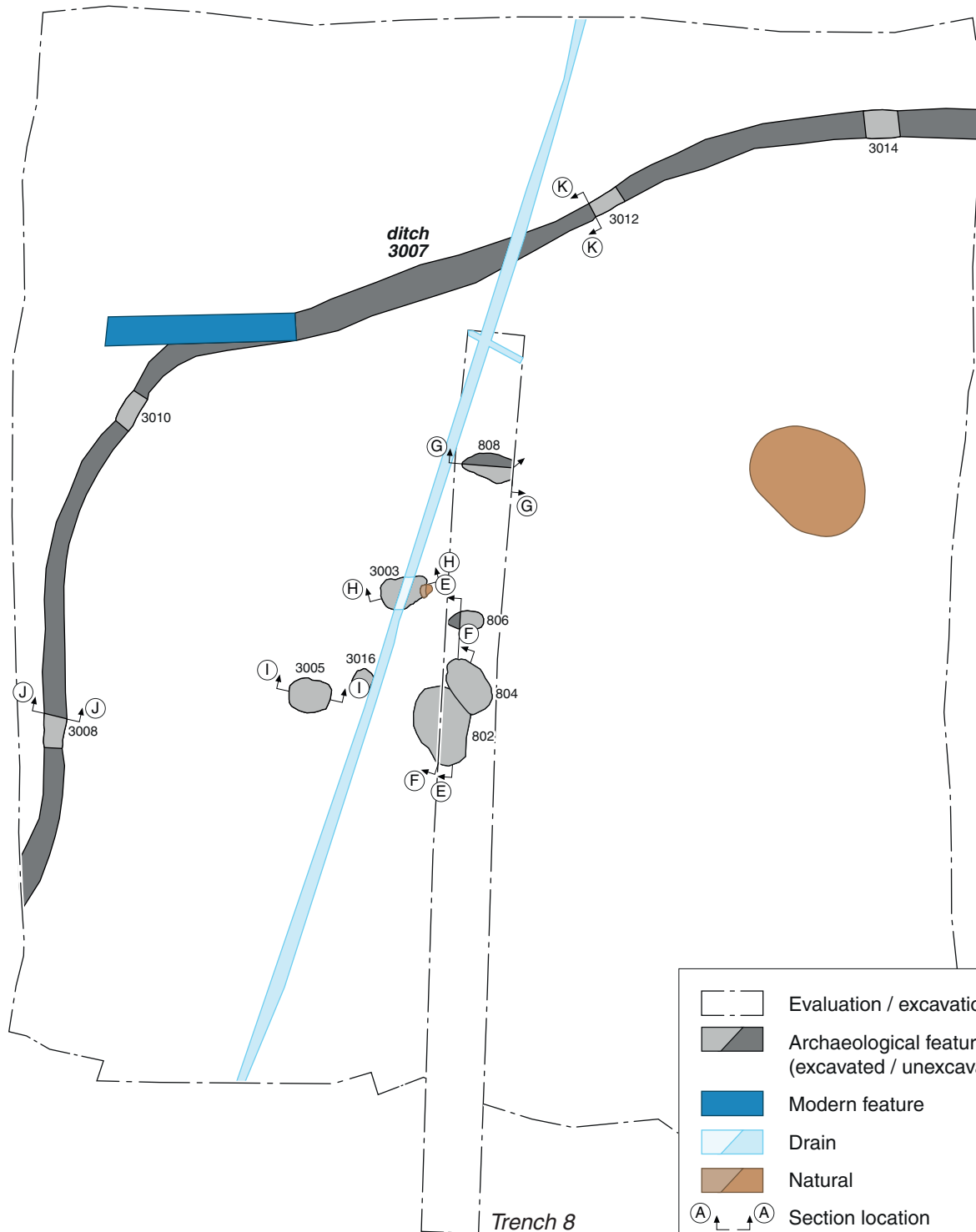
Trench 15: photograph

DRAWN BY **RW** PROJECT NO. **SU0606**
 CHECKED BY **DJB** DATE **15/08/2023**
 APPROVED BY **LS** SCALE@A4 **NA**

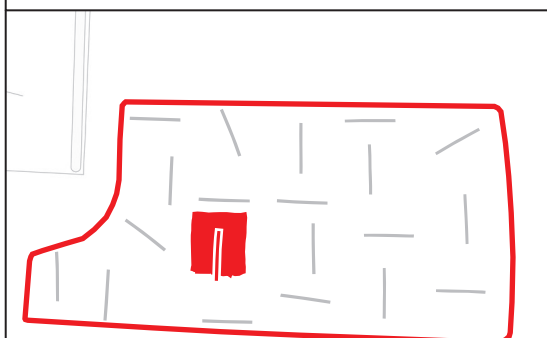
FIGURE NO.

7

Area 1



Trench 8



Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 Suffolk 01449 900120
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

Land off Hargham Road, Quidenham, Norfolk

FIGURE TITLE

Plan of excavation area and Trench 8 amalgamated

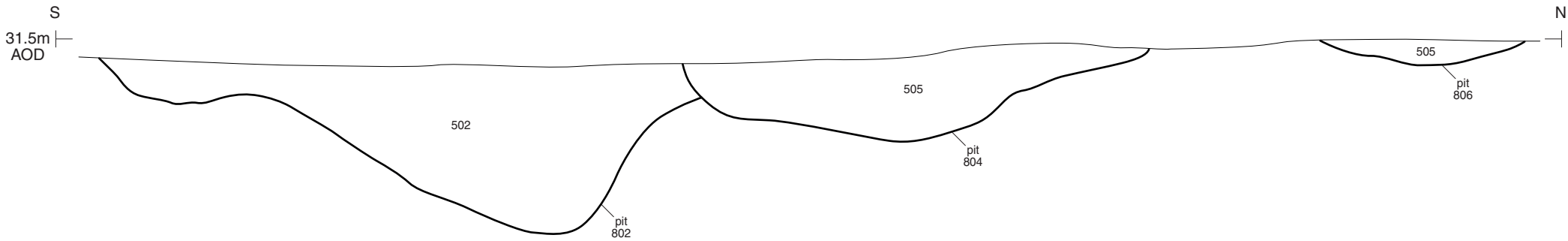
0 1:200 5m

DRAWN BY RW PROJECT NO. SU0658
 CHECKED BY DJB DATE 02/10/2023
 APPROVED BY LS SCALE@A4 1:200

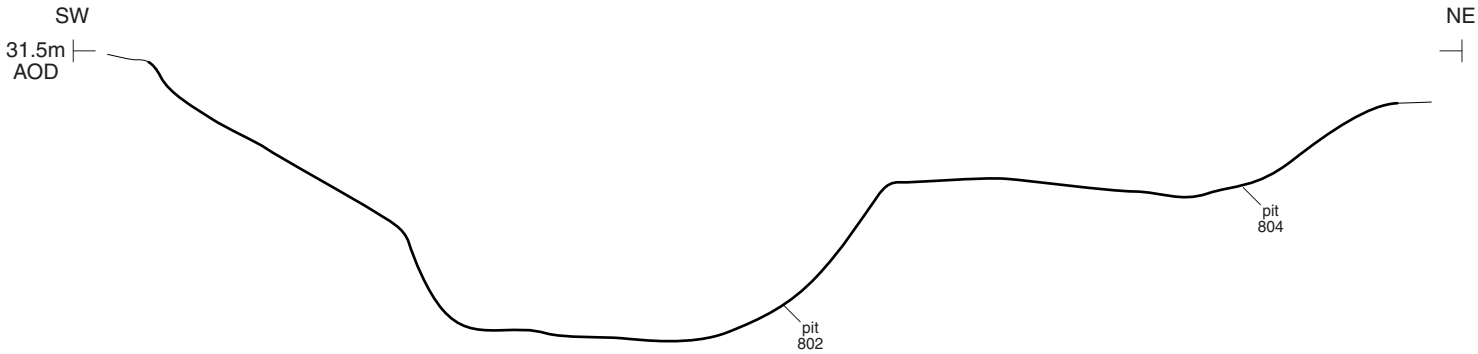
FIGURE NO.

8

Section EE



Section FF



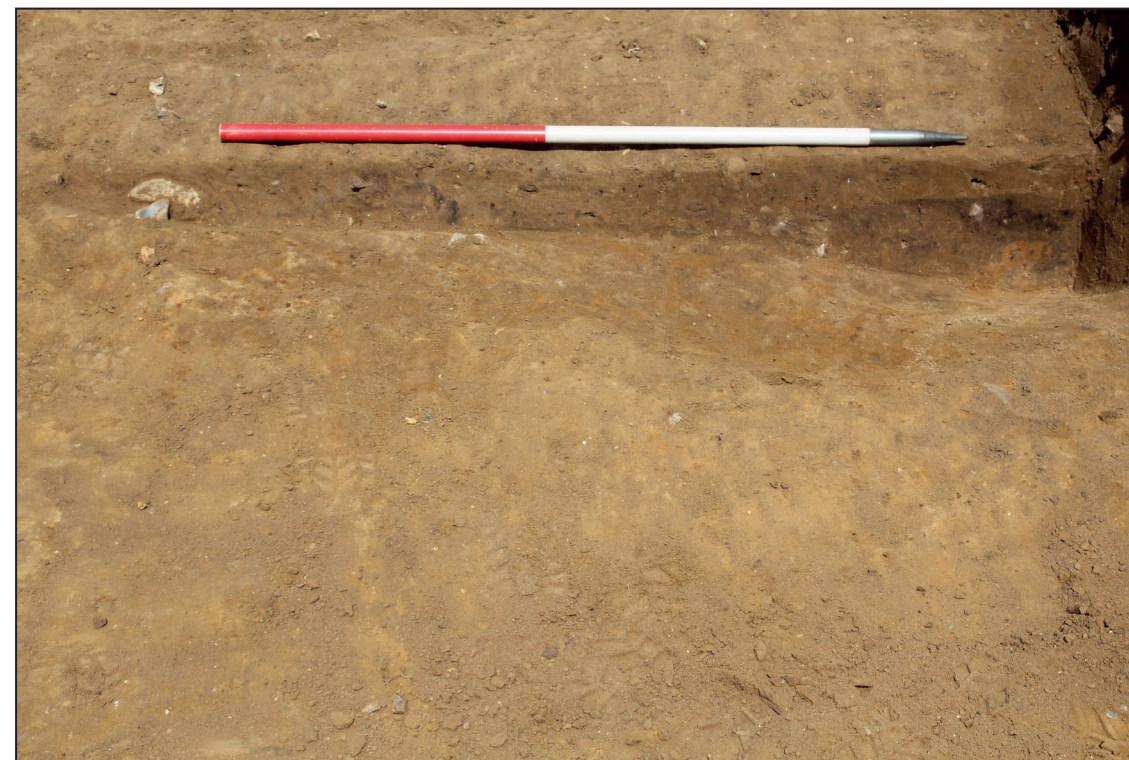
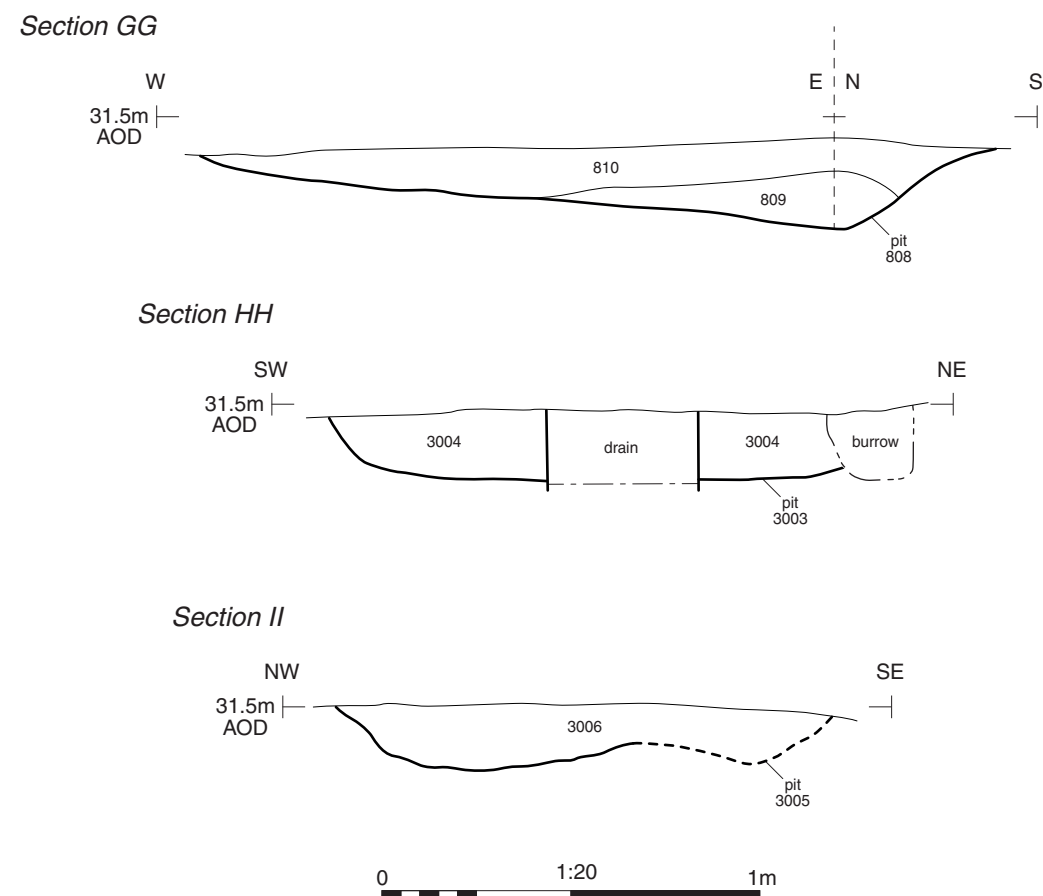
Post-processed panorama of pits 802 (left) 806 (centre) and 806 (right), looking west (1m scales)

 **Cotswold Archaeology**
Andover 01264 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
Suffolk 01449 900120
w www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
e enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

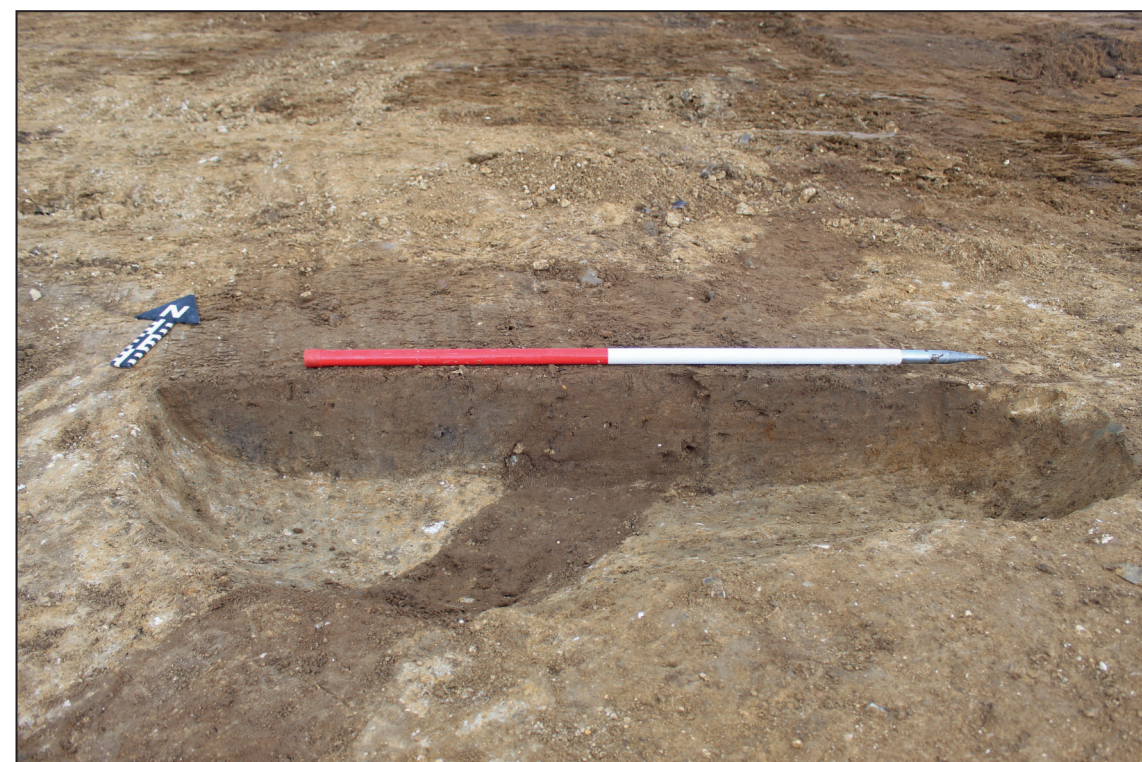
PROJECT TITLE
Land off Hargham Road, Quidenham,
Norfolk

FIGURE TITLE
Trench 8: section and photograph
of pits 802, 804 and 806

DRAWN BY	RW	PROJECT NO.	SU0606	FIGURE NO.
CHECKED BY	DJB	DATE	15/08/2023	9
APPROVED BY	LS	SCALE@A3	1:20	



Pit 808, looking north (1m scale)

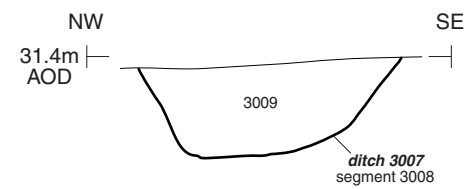


Pit 3003, looking north-west (1m scale)



Pit 3005, looking north-east (1m scale)

Section JJ



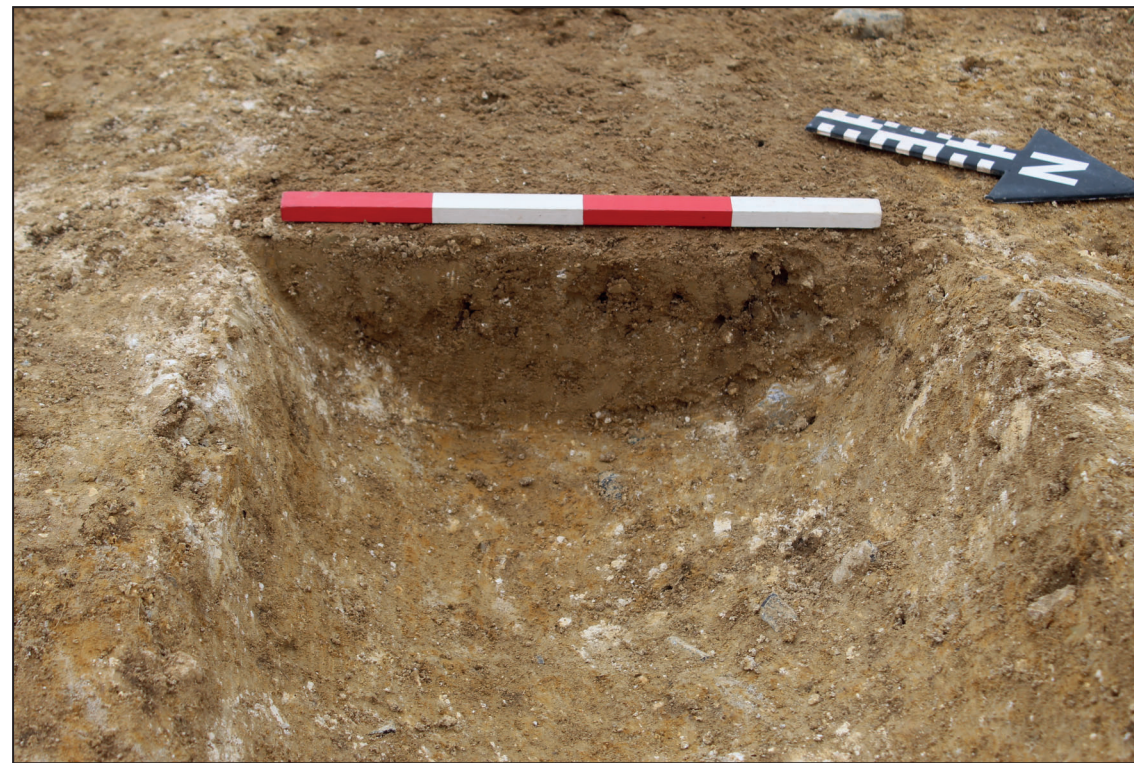
Section KK



0 1:20 1m



Ditch 3007 (segment 3008), looking north-east (0.4m scale)



Ditch 3007 (segment 3012), looking south-west (0.4m scale)

Andover Office

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

Cirencester Office

Building 11
Cotswold Business Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

Milton Keynes Office

Unit 8 - The IO Centre
Fingle Drive, Stonebridge
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK13 0AT

t: 01908 564660

Suffolk Office

Unit 5, Plot 11, Maitland Road
Lion Barn Industrial Estate
Needham Market
Suffolk
IP6 8NZ

t: 01449 900120

e: enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

