

Neolithic and Bronze Age Activity at Moulton Paddocks Newmarket



Archaeological Evaluation Report



October 2010

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Company Ltd**

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Neolithic and Bronze Age Activity at Moulton Paddocks, Newmarket

Interim Report

Archaeological Evaluation

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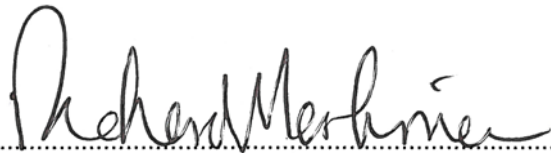
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Table of Contents

Summary.....	7
1 Introduction.....	8
1.1 Location and scope of work.....	8
1.2 Geology and topography.....	8
1.3 Archaeological and historical background.....	8
1.4 Acknowledgements.....	8
2 Aims and Methodology.....	9
2.1 Aims.....	9
2.2 Methodology.....	9
3 Results.....	10
3.1 Introduction	10
3.2 Spoilheap Finds Collection.....	10
3.3 Tree throws.....	11
3.4 Ditches.....	11
3.5 Pits.....	12
3.6 Postholes.....	13
3.7 Finds Summary.....	13
3.8 Environmental Summary.....	14
4 Discussion and Conclusions.....	15
4.1 Neolithic activity.....	15
4.2 Early Bronze Age.....	15
4.3 Field systems.....	15
4.4 Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age.....	16
4.5 Significance.....	16
Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory.....	17
Appendix B. Finds Reports.....	23
B.1 Earlier Prehistoric Pottery.....	23
B.2 Later Prehistoric pottery.....	24
B.3 Flint.....	25

Appendix C. Environmental Reports	27
C.1 Environmental samples.....	27
Appendix D. Bibliography	29
Appendix E. OASIS Report Form	30

List of Figures

Fig. 1	Site location map
Fig. 2	Trench plan
Fig. 3	Plan of flint and pottery topsoil finds
Fig. 4	Features plan
Fig. 5	Features plan
Fig. 6	Selected sections

List of Plates

Plate 1	Pottery vessel 123
Plate 2	Pottery vessel 123 in situ in pit 124
Plate 3	Pottery vessel 147
Plate 4	Pottery vessel 147 in situ in pit 130
Plate 5	ENE-WSW ditch 155
Plate 6	NNE-SSE ditch 146
Plate 7	Postholes 137 and 139
Plate 8	Pit 5 and ENE-WSW ditch 6

List of Tables

Table 1	Number of topsoil flint finds
Table 2	Pottery quantification and spot dates
Table 3	Environmental remains

Summary

From 23rd September to 4th October 2010 Oxford Archaeology East conducted an evaluation at Moulton Paddocks, Newmarket prior to the construction of new stables, paddocks, storage yard and warm-up track.

Evidence for prehistoric activity was encountered across the development area but was concentrated in two main areas of the site. The activity consisted of chiefly Late Neolithic struck flint scatters, Early Neolithic and Late Bronze Age pit and posthole groups, Middle Bronze Age field systems and, most notably, two burnt pits each containing a complete or near-complete Early Bronze Age vessel.

Large quantities of struck flint were recovered from the trench topsoil, particularly in the soil above and surrounding the two Early Bronze Age pits.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Moulton Paddocks, Newmarket.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief and Specification issued by Jess Tipper of Suffolk County Council, and a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Mott MacDonald.
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010). The results will enable decisions to be made regarding appropriate mitigation strategies to offset the loss of any archaeological remains caused by the development.
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The underlying geology across the site is from the Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation and New Pit Chalk Formation (BGS 2010).
- 1.2.2 The site lies at around 50.5m AOD at its most northern extent. It slopes down southwards to 45.7m AOD. The geology alters with the change in height, with chalk on the higher ground and a soft orange sand with flint inclusions on the lower lying ground.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The Ickneild Way, a major prehistoric route, is thought to run along the line of the B1506 to the north of the development site. Previous archaeological investigations have been carried out to the south and east of the proposed development area. A series of prehistoric pits (HER MUN 022) were found to the east, while a prehistoric inhumation burial (HER MUN 035) was located to the south. Other archaeological evaluations in the area (HER MUN 024-028) have largely proved negative. The investigations carried out across the area to date suggest the existence of sporadic prehistoric activity which may extend into the development area (Mott MacDonald 2010).

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Josh Williams of Mott MacDonald and Godolphin Management Company Ltd for commissioning and funding the work.
- 1.4.2 The evaluation was managed by Richard Mortimer and visited and monitored by Josh Williams and Jess Tipper from Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service. The site was excavated by the author with assistance from Jools Newman and Graeme Clarke. Machine excavation was undertaken by LOC. The site survey and illustrations were undertaken by the author.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required that 5% of the development area be subject to trial trenching, amounting to 2,350sqm.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked machine excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by the author using a Leica 1200 GPS.
- 2.2.4 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern. All topsoil and 'subsoil' spoilheaps were systematically examined for archaeological material with collections of flint and pottery being made in 5 or 10m lengths as appropriate.
- 2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.6 Eight environmental samples were taken to investigate the possible survival of micro- and macro- botanical remains.
- 2.2.7 Site conditions were warm but rainy for the duration of the archaeological works.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The archaeology revealed at Moulton Paddocks spans much of prehistory, from the Early Neolithic through to the Early Iron Age. There is some ambiguity at this Interim Report stage over the precise dating of some of the features, and the nature and spread of the archaeological features and deposits makes it difficult to assign simple 'phases' to the activity. Thus, at present, the features are discussed by feature type rather than by date or phase. A list of relevant trench depths, descriptions and related context data can be found in Appendix A.
- 3.1.2 Archaeological features were recorded in thirteen (out of thirty-seven) of the trenches across the development area (figure 2). Natural geology was encountered at depths of between 0.3m (to the north) and c. 1m (to the south-west) below the modern ground level. The topsoil consisted of a dark grey brown sandy silt which contained varying amounts of prehistoric flint debitage, along with occasional finds of modern debris. The subsoil (which was only present in the the paddocks on the western side of site (trenches 1-5, 6a and 8) consisted of a light orange brown sandy silt with moderate natural flint pieces.
- 3.1.3 The archaeological features below are described in four groups: tree throws, ditches, pits and postholes. Unless otherwise mentioned in the text, no finds were retrieved from the features.
- 3.1.4 A systematic search of the surface of all trench spoilheaps was made with all finds materials except the demonstrably modern recovered.

3.2 Spoilheap Finds Collection

- 3.2.1 Flint finds recovered from the topsoil showed two main concentrations. On the western side of site, greater amounts of flint were found in the topsoil of trenches 4, 5,7, 10 and 12, and on the east of site in trench 27 (table 1). These richer collections broadly match with the location of the underlying archaeological features.
- 3.2.2 The flints consisted predominantly of the early workings of cores, plus a few blades and tools and represents a relatively large assemblage from simple surface pick up on the spoil heaps.

Trench	No.	Trench	No.	Trench	No.	Trench	No.	Trench	No.
1	2	7	11	14	5	22	3	31	4
2	1	8a	3	15	6	23	1	35	1
3	2	9	5	17	5	24	1	36	1
4	11	10	14	18	1	26	4	37	5
5	16	11	2	19	3	27	140		
6a	3	12	13	20	3	28	2		
6b	2	13	5	21	3	29	3	Total	281

Table1: Number of topsoil flint finds

3.3 Tree throws

- 3.3.1 Several tree throws were uncovered in trenches on the north-eastern side of site, these were excavated to ascertain their nature and date (where possible). None contained finds material of any kind.
- 3.3.2 Three tree throws were seen in the north-western half of trench 25, one in the northern end of trench 23 and a single tree throw in the western end of trench 34.

3.4 Ditches

- 3.4.1 Four ditches were identified on site, which ran on two separate alignments.

Alignment 1

- 3.4.2 A single ditch running in an east-northeast to west-southwest direction was identified and excavated/recorded in eight trenches and given separate context numbers in each:
- 3.4.3 Ditch **6** (from trench 9) contained a single light grey brown silty sand fill (7) with very occasional flint pieces. The ditch was 0.55m wide and 0.2m deep with a U-shaped profile. Several flint flakes and larger stuck pieces were found in the fill.
- 3.4.4 In trench 6a, ditch **12** was 0.25m wide and 0.05m deep with a U-shaped profile. It contained a single light grey brown fill (11). The full depth of this ditch has been lost to ploughing, thus the size and depth of the feature related to the very base of it which remains.
- 3.4.5 Ditch **33** (in trench 13) was 0.7m wide and 0.26m deep and had one light grey brown fill (32). It had an open-U shape profile and contained no finds.
- 3.4.6 Ditch **35**, located in trench 17, had a single light grey brown fill (34). The ditch was 0.7m wide and 0.28m deep with a U-shaped profile.
- 3.4.7 From trench 8b, ditch **43** had a single fill (42) consisting of a light grey brown silty sand with occasional flint inclusions. It was 0.8m wide and 0.28m deep with an open-U profile. The fill contained four struck pieces of flint.
- 3.4.8 In trench 37, ditch **45** (figure 5) was 0.85m wide and 0.35m deep with a round bottomed-V profile. It had a single light grey brown fill.
- 3.4.9 Ditch **153** (trench 32) was 0.75m wide and 0.35m deep with a flat bottomed-V profile. It contained a single mid brown sandy silt fill (152) with flint and chalk inclusions.
- 3.4.10 Ditch **155** (from trench 22) contained a single mid brown fill (154) with chalk inclusions. It was 0.9m wide and 0.4m deep with a flat bottomed-V profile.

Alignment 2

- 3.4.11 The second ditch alignment ran in a north-northeast to south-southwest direction and was located in four trenches.
- 3.4.12 Ditch **132**, seen in trench 36, had an open-U shaped profile 0.5m wide and 0.15m deep with a single mid grey brown fill (133). The fill contained 16 small flint flakes.
- 3.4.13 In trench 28, ditch **134** was 0.65m wide and 0.25m deep. It had a single mid grey brown fill (133) with occasional flint inclusions and an open-U shape profile. The fill contained one flint flake.
- 3.4.14 Ditch **146** (from trench 35) was 0.85m wide, 0.34m deep with a round bottomed-V profile and contained two fills (144 and 145). The primary fill (145) was made up of a mid yellow brown sandy silt 0.17m deep. It looked to have come into the ditch from the

west and contained a moderate number of medium to large sub-angular stones. The secondary fill (144) consisted of a mid grey brown sandy silt 0.19m deep and contained a single flint flake.

- 3.4.15 Located in trench 25, ditch **149** was 0.35m wide and 0.1m deep with a flat bottomed-V profile. It contained a single mid brown fill (148) with chalk inclusions.

3.5 Pits

- 3.5.1 Two separate areas of pits were present, one to the west, concentrated in trenches 6a, 7, 9 and 13, then a second to the east of site in trenches 23, 27 and 35.
- 3.5.2 The largest and most substantial pit, **5**, was located in trench 9. It was 1.55m wide and 0.37m deep with a U-shaped profile. Pit **5** contained four fills (8, 9, 10 and 29) and appeared to have been truncated by ditch **6** though the relationship is unclear. The earliest fill (29) consists of a mid grey brown silty sand 0.12m deep. Fill 10 was 0.17m deep and was made up of a dark grey brown silty sand with occasional flint pieces and moderate charcoal. This fill had come in from the northern side of the feature. Fill 9 was a light grey brown silty sand 0.17m deep. Fill 8 was a light grey brown fill, 0.3m deep. Fill 8 contained 12 body sherds of Later Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pottery in varying flint-tempered fabrics while fill 10 contained 18 sherds probably from the same vessel (Appendix B.2).
- 3.5.3 In trench 7, two pits were located next to one another. Pit **22** was 1.1m wide, 0.35m deep with a bowl shaped profile. It contained one fill (21), which consisted of a mid grey brown silty sand. Several sherds of possibly Early Neolithic pottery were recovered from its fill (Appendix B.1). The same assemblage has also tentatively been assigned a Later Bronze Age date, pointing to the potential ambiguities in these assemblages where no feature or decorated sherds are present.
- 3.5.4 Located next to pit **22** was pit **24**. It was 0.8m wide and 0.12m deep with a bowl shaped profile. The pit contained a single light grey brown silty sand fill (23). A single very small sherd of prehistoric pottery was retrieved from the the fill.
- 3.5.5 In Trench 13 to the immediate north of ditch **33** was pit **31**. This pit was 0.56m wide, 0.24m deep with an open-U profile. There was a single light grey brown fill (30) containing five sherds of Late Bronze Age or Early iron Age pottery (Appendix B.2) and 3 struck flints.
- 3.5.6 Two pits were situated at the southern end of trench 27. Pit **124** was 0.5m wide, 0.5m deep with a U-shape profile. It had a single dark grey sandy silt fill (122) with moderate charcoal and frequent small and medium burnt flint pieces. Just above the base of the pit was a complete, small biconical urn of Early Bronze Age date (123). Three further sherds from a Collared Urn rim lay in the fill beneath the urn (Appendix B.1). The base and sides of pit **124** had been burnt, with the natural clay sand stained dark red.
- 3.5.7 The second pit in trench 27 was pit **130**. This pit was 0.45m wide, 0.39m deep with a U-shaped profile. The pit had three fills (127, 128 and 129). Cut into the centre of the pit was what appeared as a 'post-pipe' **126** (figure 6) which was 0.25m wide and 0.39m deep and had a single dark brown grey fill (125) with frequent charcoal inclusions. As with pit **124**, just above the base of this post-pipe was a second small biconical urn of Early Bronze Age date (147: Appendix B.1). As with pit **124**, the sides and base of pit **130** showed signs of having been burnt.

- 3.5.8 Pit **151** in trench 23 was 1.25m wide, 0.22m deep with a U-shaped profile. It contained one dark grey brown sandy silt fill (150). Five small degraded sherds of probably later prehistoric pottery were recovered from the fill (Appendix B.2).
- 3.5.9 In the eastern end of trench 35 was a large (probable) pit **143**. The full dimensions of this feature are unknown as it extended beyond the limits of the trench. It was 0.84m deep and contained three fills (140, 141 and 142). Several large flint flakes and two pieces of tile were found in the fills, dating pit **143** the medieval period at the earliest.

3.6 Postholes

- 3.6.1 As with the pits, two areas of postholes were identified. These were focused in trenches 6a, 7 and 9 on the western side of site and in trench 28 to the east of site.
- 3.6.2 Posthole **14** (trench 6a) was 0.2m wide, 0.06m deep with an open-U shaped profile. It contained one dark grey brown fill (13).
- 3.6.3 In trench 7, posthole **16** had a single light orange brown silty sand fill (15), 0.53m wide and 0.1m deep.
- 3.6.4 Also located in trench 7 was posthole **18**. It was 0.3m wide, 0.19m deep with a U-shaped profile. There was one light grey brown silty sand fill (17).
- 3.6.5 Posthole **20** (trench 7) was 0.25m wide and 0.15m deep. It had one fill (19), consisting of a light orange brown silty sand.
- 3.6.6 Posthole **26** from trench 7 had one dark grey brown fill (25) 0.08m deep, 0.35m wide with occasional charcoal flecks and an open-U profile.
- 3.6.7 Trench 7 also contained posthole **28**. It was 0.3m wide, 0.2m deep with a U-shaped profile. There was one dark grey brown silty sand fill (27).
- 3.6.8 Posthole **37** (trench 9) contained one mid yellow brown fill (36) 0.07m deep and 0.7m wide.
- 3.6.9 To the immediate east of posthole **37** was **39**. It was 0.03m wide, 0.06m deep with a light grey brown silty sand fill (38).
- 3.6.10 Posthole **41** (trench 7) was 0.56m wide and 0.06m deep. It had a single light yellow brown fill.
- 3.6.11 In trench 28 there were two postholes next to one another in a north to south alignment. Posthole **137** was 0.5m wide, 0.2m deep with a flat bottomed-U profile and vertical sides. There was one fill (136), which was a mid brown silty sand and contained one flint flake. The northern side of the posthole had been cut into by post-pipe **156** (figure 6). The post-pipe had a dark grey silty sand fill (135) with chalk and flint inclusions. The base of posthole **137** appeared to have been burnt with the chalk natural stained grey.
- 3.6.12 Posthole **139** immediately to the north was 0.35m wide, 0.2m deep with a flat bottom-U profile and vertical sides. The single fill (138) was made up of a mid brown silty sand with flint and chalk inclusions.

3.7 Finds Summary

- 3.7.1 This evaluation produced a sizeable assemblage of both prehistoric ceramics and struck flint. No animal or human remains were recovered. Ninety-eight sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered from nine contexts, plus two complete pottery vessels from a further two features. The pottery ranged in date from the Early Neolithic

to potentially the Early Iron Age, with the two urns dating to the Early Bronze Age. The condition of the pottery (other than the two urns) varied from very small to medium sized mildly abraded pieces to larger, fresher sherds.

3.7.2 281 flints were collected from the topsoil and consisted of a mixture of tools, flake debitage and struck pieces. Flints were also retrieved from 12 sub-surface contexts.

3.7.3 Two pieces of late- to post-medieval roof tile were found in one context.

3.8 Environmental Summary

3.8.1 Eight bulk samples were taken in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains, bones and artefacts and their potential to provide useful data as part of the archaeological investigations. The results of the assessment are presented in Appendix C.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Neolithic activity

- 4.1.1 A single feature has been tentatively assigned an early Neolithic date (Pit 22, Trench 7). However, the pottery assemblage from this feature is ambiguous and has equally been tentatively assigned a Later Bronze Age date.
- 4.1.2 Small numbers of potentially Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic struck flint were collected along with a much larger assemblage of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flint. The latter material shows two concentrations, the main one within Trench 27.

4.2 Early Bronze Age

- 4.2.1 The main activity area on the eastern side of site is concentrated around the two pits which contained complete pottery vessels. The pots show little to no decoration and both were lying on their side facing north to south. No cremated bone or other finds were present. The two pits lie c. 0.75m apart on a north-east to south-west alignment. The base of both pits and the pots themselves have been burnt, implying some formal ritualistic activity associated with their deposition. Where deposits of intact Early Bronze Age urns, seemingly not associated with human bone, have been recorded in the region before they have generally been within barrows (at Over, Cambridgeshire within a pond barrow, Knight pers. comm; at Broom, Bedfordshire, Mortimer pers. comm.)
- 4.2.2 Almost exactly half of the flint recovered from the topsoil on site came from above these pits. 137 flints from a total of 281 came from the southern 10m of trench 27, where pits **124** and **130** are located. It is possible that a flint working site is associated with this area, or that the flint deposit has deliberately been placed over these pits. This location is also where two later field system ditches converge, potentially marking this as a specifically chosen area of activity.
- 4.2.3 Located just to the south and parallel with the north-northeast to south-southwest field system are two postholes, which could potentially be part of a prehistoric structure, associated with the features and/or flint working activity directly to the north.
- 4.2.4 Flint finds from the topsoil also rose in number above and around the features located in trenches on the western part of site. These pits contained pottery and flint working debitage.

4.3 Field systems

- 4.3.1 Four small ditches recorded across the site probably represent a field system of Middle Bronze Age date. The main alignment is seen to be east-northeast to west-southwest, broadly parallel to the modern B1506 Well Bottom Road located to the north of the development area.
- 4.3.2 Frequently Middle Bronze Age (MBA) field ditches contain few finds dating to the period of their construction,. Small flint flakes were recovered from the north-northeast to south-southwest field ditch, which may date to the Neolithic period, reinforcing the presence of earlier activity in the area. Perhaps equally relevant is that the Early Bronze Age (EBA) urns and Late Neolithic/EBA flintwork appear penned in by two later ditches - MBA field system ditches are often seen to align on earlier, particularly funerary, features and monuments.

- 4.3.3 The only direct relationship between a discrete feature and the field system is seen in trench 9 where the ditch cuts, or is cut by, the large pit 5. There is some ambiguity as to what this relationship is, partly due to interpretation and partly because the initial pottery assessment of the assemblage from the pit fills (8 and 10), show it to have a late Bronze Age date.

4.4 Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age

- 4.4.1 The majority of the dated cut features are of the Late Bronze Age and/or Early Iron Age (LBA/EIA), with all of the dated features small to medium sized pits probably representing a small settlement and/or occupation focus. There are two areas where postholes have been recorded but, not unusually, they are undated; those at the west lie within an area of LBA/EIA pits and may be considered contemporary, those to the east do not and they remain dated as 'prehistoric'. Over the last few years a lot of research work has been done on the pottery sequence of the Bronze Age/Iron Age transition in this part of the region, but precise dating within this period is still difficult with limited numbers of featureless, undecorated sherds.

4.5 Significance

- 4.5.1 The evaluation at Moulton Paddocks has recorded significant remains from the Late Neolithic, Early Bronze Age, Middle Bronze Age and Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age. There is potential for study of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flint sourcing and manufacture and of Early Bronze Age ritual (potentially funerary) deposition. There is much recent, excavated evidence of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age occupation along the southeastern Fen Edge (Wicken, Fordham, Landwade, Burwell); study of comparative, contemporary remains in the chalk highlands behind the Fen edge is currently lacking.

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 6a						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalky sand.				Avg. depth (m)		0.55
				Width (m)		2.1
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
11	fill	-	0.05	-	-	-
12	cut	0.25	0.05	ditch	-	-
13	fill	-	0.06		-	-
14	cut	0.2	0.06	posthole	-	-

Trench 7						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalky sand. Features encountered all through trench				Avg. depth (m)		0.45
				Width (m)		2.1
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
15	fill	-	0.1	-	-	-
16	cut	0.53	0.1	posthole	-	-
17	fill	-	0.19	-	-	-
18	cut	0.3	0.19	posthole	-	-
19	fill	-	0.15	-	-	-
20	cut	0.25	0.15	posthole	-	-
21	fill	-	0.35	-	pottery flint	Neo
22	cut	1.1	0.35	pit	-	-
23	fill	-	0.12	-	-	-
24	cut	0.8	0.12	pit	-	-
25	fill	-	0.08	-	-	-
26	cut	0.35	0.08	posthole	-	-
27	fill	-	0.2	-	-	-
28	cut	0.3	0.2	posthole	-	-
40	fill	-	0.06	-	-	-

41	cut	0.56	0.06	posthole	-	-
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Trench 8b						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalky sand. A single feature in trench.				Avg. depth (m)		0.65
				Width (m)		2.1
				Length (m)		0.22
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
42	fill	-	0.28	-	flint	BA
43	cut	0.8	0.28	ditch	-	-

Trench 9						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalky sand. Archaeology found all through trench.				Avg. depth (m)		0.5
				Width (m)		2.1
				Length (m)		20
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
5	cut	1.55	0.37	pit	-	-
6	cut	0.55	0.2	ditch	-	-
7	fill	-	0.2	-	flint	BA
8	fill	-	0.3	-	pottery	LBA
9	fill	-	0.12	-	-	-
10	fill	-	0.17	-	pottery/flint	LBA
29	fill	-	0.17	-	-	-
36	fill	-	0.07	-	-	-
37	cut	0.7	0.07	posthole	-	-
38	fill	-	0.06	-	-	-
39	cut	0.3	0.06	posthole	-	-

Trench 13						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Consists of soil overlying a natural of chalk sand. Features encountered in the northern portion of the trench.				Avg. depth (m)		0.5
				Width (m)		2.1
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
30	Fill	-		-	pottery	?Neo
31	Cut			posthole	-	-
32	Fill	-		-	-	-
33	Cut			ditch	-	-

Trench 17						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Consists of soil overlying a natural of chalk sand. Features encountered in the southern portion of the trench.				Avg. depth (m)		0.45
				Width (m)		2.1
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
34	fill	-	0.28	-	-	-
35	cut	0.7	0.28	ditch	-	-

Trench 22						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Consists of soil overlying a natural of chalk sand. Features encountered in the eastern end of the trench.				Avg. depth (m)		0.37
				Width (m)		2.1
				Length (m)		58
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
154	fill	-	0.4	-	-	-
155	cut	0.9	0.4	ditch	-	-

Trench 23						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Consists of soil overlying a chalk natural. Single feature encountered in the northern half of the trench.				Avg. depth (m)		0.4
				Width (m)		2.1
				Length (m)		54
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
150	fill	-	0.22	pit	pottery	later prehistoric
151	cut	1.25	0.22	-	-	-

Trench 25						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Consists of soil overlying a chalk natural. Single feature encountered in the north-west of the trench.				Avg. depth (m)		0.3
				Width (m)		2.1
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
148	fill	-	0.1	-	-	-
149	cut	0.35	0.1	ditch	-	-

Trench 27						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Consists of soil overlying a chalk natural. Two features encountered at south end of trench.				Avg. depth (m)		0.4
				Width (m)		2.1
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
122	fill	-		-	pottery	EBA
123	vessel	-	-	complete vessel	pottery	EBA
124	cut			pit	-	-
125	fill	-		-	-	-
126	cut			postpipe	-	-
127	fill	-		-	-	-
128	fill	-		-	-	-
129	fill	-		-	-	-
130	cut			pit	-	-
147	vessel	-	-	complete vessel	pottery	EBA

Trench 28						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Consists of soil overlying a chalk natural. Features encountered at across trench.				Avg. depth (m)		0.47
				Width (m)		2.1
				Length (m)		52
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
133	fill	-	0.15	-	flint	?Neo
134	cut	0.65	0.15	-	-	-

135	fill	-	0.2	-	-	-
136	fill	-	0.2	-	flint	?Neo
137	cut	0.5	0.2	posthole	-	-
138	fill	-	0.2	-	-	-
139	cut	0.35	0.2	posthole	-	-
156	cut	0.25	0.2	postpipe	-	-

Trench 32						
General description					Orientation	NNE-SSW
Consists of soil overlying a mixed chalk and sand natural. A single feature in middle of trench.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	53
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
152	fill	-	0.35	-	-	-
153	cut	0.75	0.35	ditch	-	-

Trench 35						
General description					Orientation	WNW-ESE
Consists of soil overlying a mixed chalk and sand natural. Archaeology throughout trench.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	12.5
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
140	fill	-	0.28	-	flint	BA
141	fill	-	0.56	-	tile	?medieval
142	fill	-	0.2	-	-	-
143	cut	?	0.84	?pit	-	-
144	fill	-	0.19	-	flint	Neo
145	fill	-	0.17	-	-	-
146	cut	0.8	0.34	ditch	-	-

Trench 36						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Consists of soil overlying a mixed chalk and sand natural. Single feature in eastern end of trench.					Avg. depth (m)	0.48
					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	12

Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
131	fill	-	0.15	-	flint	Neo
132	cut	0.5	0.15	ditch	-	-

Trench 37						
General description	Orientation	NNW-SSE				
Consists of soil overlying a mixed chalk and sand natural. Single feature in centre of trench.	Avg. depth (m)	0.47				
	Width (m)	2.1				
	Length (m)	12				
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
44	fill	-	0.33	-	-	-
45		0.85	0.33	ditch	-	-

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Earlier Prehistoric Pottery

by Mark Knight

Introduction

- B.1.1 The evaluation produced a small assemblage of prehistoric pottery that included two whole or very nearly whole Early Bronze Age biconical urns. Several fragments of early Neolithic pottery, four refitting pieces of a Collared Urn and a small abraded piece of grog tempered early Bronze Age pottery (23) made up the remainder of the collection.

Results

Early Neolithic Pottery

- B.1.2 Context 21 - Simple rim and plain body fragments made of a hard fabric with abundant small (poorly sorted) burnt flint temper. Includes thin-walled (4mm) burnished sherds (internal and external).

Collared Urn

- B.1.3 Context 122 - Rim and collar fragments of a small diameter (c12.0cm) Collared Urn.
- B.1.4 Rim: Internally bevelled flattened form (plain). Decoration: two columns of fingernail impressions beside three rows of impressed twisted cord. Fabric: Medium hard with abundant small and medium angular grog. Condition: abraded and fire-cracked

Early Bronze Age 'biconical' urns

- B.1.5 Context 123 - Small biconical urn (Mouth diameter: 9.5cm; Height: 12.5cm; Base diameter: 6.0cm) with a short neck above a slightly pronounced shoulder. Rim: internally bevelled and out-turned lip. Decoration: seven impressed dots just below shoulder. Fabric: medium hard with common small grog, occasional burnt flint and frequent small rounded sand. Condition: discoloured and fire-cracked.
- 4.5.1 Context 147 - Small biconical urn (Mouth diameter: 11.0cm; Height: 13.8cm; Base diameter: 7.0cm) with raised 'collar' or cordon. Rim: lost pre-deposition (hint of simple tapered form). Decoration: None. Fabric: Medium hard with abundant small and very small grog. Condition: discoloured and fire-cracked.
- 4.5.2 Patches of discolouration and fire crazing indicated that these urns had been re-fired. For both vessels the change in colour was limited to only one side suggesting that both had been horizontal when subject to burning. Extensive sooting occurred on the smaller of the two urns.
- 4.5.3 As diminutive biconical urns that had been re-fired prior to deposition these pots represent part of a growing corpus of ancillary or sub-type vessels found in association with recognised early Bronze Age cinerary or funerary urns. The association of a unambiguous Collared Urn fragment (122) with one of these urns (123) would appear to reaffirm this connection. Recent excavations along the lower reaches of the River Ouse, Cambridgeshire, at sites such as Over have produced equivalent examples also in association with Collared Urns and consistently in connection with elaborate funerary customs being carried out at established monuments (round barrows and pond barrows). In every case the diminutive biconical urns displayed evidence of being

subject to intense heat prior to deposition and several examples were found in a burnt matrix which included calcined human bone (Knight in Tabor and Evans forthcoming). Radiocarbon dates from the Over cemeteries produced dates of 1880-1650 BC.

B.2 Later Prehistoric pottery

by Matt Brudenell

Introduction

B.2.1 96 (528g) sherds of probable late Bronze Age or early Iron Age pottery were recovered from the excavations, dating between c. 1100-350 BC (Table 3). The assemblage was dominated by small plain body sherds with only two rims and five rounded shoulder fragments present – none of which are particularly diagnostic of a period.

Results

B.2.2 Closer dating of the assemblage is problematic, owing to the paucity of feature sherds, and the complete absence of partial vessel profiles or decorated fragments. However, all sherds have crushed and calcined flint inclusions in a dense sandy clay matrix, which is typical of late second and earlier 1st millennium BC ceramics across much of East Anglia. Unfortunately, near identical fabrics are present in some Neolithic assemblages, and so the possibility that some of this material is significantly earlier cannot be ruled out. Although the absence of decoration may imply a late Bronze Age date (Post-Deverel Rimbury Plainwares, c. 1100-800 BC) for much of the pottery, the sandy quality of the fabrics and the small modal size of the calcined flint inclusions (generally 1-2mm in size, and moderately sorted) is more characteristic of the region's early Iron Age assemblages (c.800-350 BC). However, without further diagnostic material, it is probably unwise to push the dating beyond a broad late Bronze Age to early Iron Age bracket.

Context	Trench	No/wt.(g)	Description	Spot date
8	9	13/72	12 body sherds and one rounded shoulder sherd in hard flint and sand tempered fabrics	LBA or EIA
10	9	18/255	18 sherds probably from the same vessel, nine of which refit. The sherds are in a hard sand and flint tempered fabric and include three weakly rounded shoulder sherds and one upright rim sherd. The group perhaps belongs to a slack shouldered jar, wiped on the exterior	LBA or EIA (Early more likely?)
21a	7	9/72	Seven body sherds, one rounded shoulder sherd and one rim sherd with upright neck and rounded lip. All sherds in hard flint and sand tempered fabrics	LBA or EIA
21b	7	18/32	17 small body sherds and one rim sherd with flattened lip. All sherds in flint and sand tempered fabrics. Six of the body sherds have smoothed/burnished surfaces	LBA or EIA
30	13	30/	Five body sherds in flint and sand tempered fabrics. The group includes two sherds with roughly wiped surfaces	LBA or EIA
68	6a	2/6	Two small body sherds in hard flint and sand tempered fabrics	LBA or EIA
84	6a	1/3	One small body sherd in a hard flint and sand tempered fabric	LBA or EIA
150	23	5/17	Five small sherds from the same vessel in a dense sandy fabric with sparse flint	Later prehistoric

Table 3. Quantification and spot dates

B.3 Flint

By Barry Bishop

Introduction and methodology

- B.3.1 The assemblage is in a variable but predominantly good condition. The flint is of good-knapping quality, translucent black in colour and with a thick slightly weathered chalky cortex, often with an underlying white band, and typical of that from the 'Brandon Series' found at the junction of the Lewes and the Holywell Chalk Formations. It has frequent heavily recorticated ancient thermal scars and occasional thermal flaws can be seen within the flint. It almost certainly derives from glacial erosion (mass wastage) deposits as present at the site and in its vicinity.

Results

- B.3.2 Amongst the overall assemblage there are a few blades and flakes that are most typical of Mesolithic or early Neolithic industries, although no diagnostic pieces from these periods have so far been identified. The bulk of the assemblage, however, is technologically homogeneous and this includes most of the material from the sub-assemblages from Trench 27, the various cut features and the surface scatter from the southwest of the site. It consists of nodule dressing waste that includes large decortication and mass reduction flakes, conchoidal chunks, and failed, shattered or otherwise abandoned cores. Also present are a number of cores or conchoidally shattered pieces that display heavy damage from battering and these may have been employed as hammerstones. Very few retouched implements are present, these so far being limited to rather expediently made end-scrapers and flakes with minimal edge-retouch.
- B.3.3 As most of the material derives from the initial stages in core production, the flakes tend to be thick, cortical and rather crudely struck although a proportion, deriving from the later stages in core reduction, do display evidence of finer working. These tend to be narrow, relatively thin and often have edge-trimmed or faceted striking platforms. Similarly, most of the cores are large and only minimally shaped, having been abandoned prior to sustained flake production, but a few have been more extensively reduced and these include globular, bi-facial, keeled and centripetally worked examples.

Discussion

- B.3.4 Although some earlier flint-working activity is indicated, the bulk of the assemblage has an 'industrial' feel and derives from the processing of relatively large thermally shattered nodules. These were almost certainly obtained and initially worked at the site with the waste seemingly forming an extensive surface scatter. Consequently, much of the material is rather simply worked and difficult to confidently date. However, amongst it, and present in all areas of the site, are flakes and cores representing later stages in the reduction sequence which, in the absence of diagnostic pieces, would be most consistent with later Neolithic or early Bronze Age lithic industries.

Significance

- B.3.5 This preliminary examination of the flintwork from Moulton indicates that it represents sustained activities involving the preliminary dressing of flint nodules that were obtained at the site. The site is located in a geologically identical position to the only other well

known flint source in the region, the flintmine site at Grime's Graves, and the Moulton flintwork is technological comparable to that found in the 'working floors' there. Although the Moulton flint does not appear to be mined, it may have been obtained from quarrying through the flint-rich superficial deposits.

- B.3.6 Raw material procurement and processing sites are rare throughout the country and, despite the ubiquity of struck flint on Neolithic and Bronze Age sites, little is known about the role that the sources and their exploitation played in patterns of lithic technology.
- B.3.7 The flintwork from Moulton may therefore provide a chance to explore the mechanics, scale and organisation of obtaining and processing lithic raw materials. It would allow comparison with other known stone sources, and inform on how such sources are placed within wider patterns of landscape organisation, including their relationship with other social concerns, such as with domestic or ceremonial practices.

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction and methodology

- C.1.1 Seven bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated areas of the site at Moulton Paddocks, Newmarket, in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.
- C.1.2 Ten litres of each sample were processed by tank flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flot was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts are noted on Table 3. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands and the authors' own reference collection.
- C.1.3 Features sampled included pits and post holes dating from the Early Neolithic to the Late Bronze Age/Early iron Age.

Results

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No	Feature Type	Flot Contents
1	8	5	pit	Charcoal, Charred grain, charred seeds
2	21	22	pit	Charcoal only
3	23	24	pit	Charcoal, single charred grain
4	25	26	pit	Charcoal, charred grain fragments
5	30	31	pit	Charcoal, Charred grain,
11	125	126	Post pipe	Charcoal only
12	135	137	Post pipe	Sparse charcoal

Table 3: Environmental remains

- C.1.4 Preservation is by charring and is generally poor. Modern contaminants in the form of rootlets were common in all of the samples along with small, black spores which may be modern or contemporary.
- C.1.5 Charred cereal grains occur in four of the samples. Samples 1 (pit fill 8) and 5 (pit fill 30) both contain barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and hulled wheat grains (*Triticum* sp.). The charred grain in samples 3 and 4 are too poorly preserved to be identified.
- C.1.6 Charred weed seeds are rare, occurring only in Sample 1 and include plantain (*Plantago* sp.), knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*) and a single pea (*Pisum/lathyrus* sp.) which could have been wild or cultivated.
- C.1.7 Charcoal is common in all of the samples apart from Sample 12. Some of this charcoal may be suitable for C14/AMS dating.

Discussion

- C.1.8 The charred plant assemblage is limited to charred cereal grains with occasional weed seeds. The cereals represented are barley and hulled wheat were identified only by their characteristic morphology as no diagnostic chaff elements are present. The grains were likely to have been accidentally burnt during cooking over open fires. The weed seed assemblage is consistent with crop weeds growing in cultivated fields.

Further Work and Methods Statement

- C.1.9 This assemblage, although limited in its diversity, shows that there is the potential for recovery of charred plant remains. The presence of food remains in Sample 1 is of particular interest.
- C.1.10 If further excavation is planned, extensive sampling should be undertaken as investigation on the nature of cereal waste and possible weed assemblages is likely to provide an important insight into to utilisation of local plant resources, agricultural activity and economic evidence from this period.

APPENDIX D. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Williams, J. 2010 *Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation. Moulton Paddocks, Newmarket*. Mott MacDonald (unpublished)

APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-84072		
Project Name	Neolithic and Bronze Age Occupation at Moulton Paddocks, Newmarket		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	23-09-2010	Finish	04-10-2010
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Yes

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	XSFMOP10	Planning App. No.	
HER No.		Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Planning condition
Development Type	Other

Please select all techniques used:

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

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

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

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Pits	Neolithic -4k to -2k	Pottery	Neolithic -4k to -2k
Pits/postholes	Bronze Age -2.5k to -700	Pottery and flint	Bronze Age -2.5k to -700
Ditches	Bronze Age -2.5k to -700	Flint	Bronze Age -2.5k to -700

Project Location

County	Suffolk	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	Forest Heath	Moulton Paddocks Newmarket Suffolk CB8 7PJ
Parish	Newmarket	
HER	Suffolk HER	
Study Area	110,000 sqm	National Grid Reference TL675 647

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council)
Project Design Originator	Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council)
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Louise Bush

Project Archives

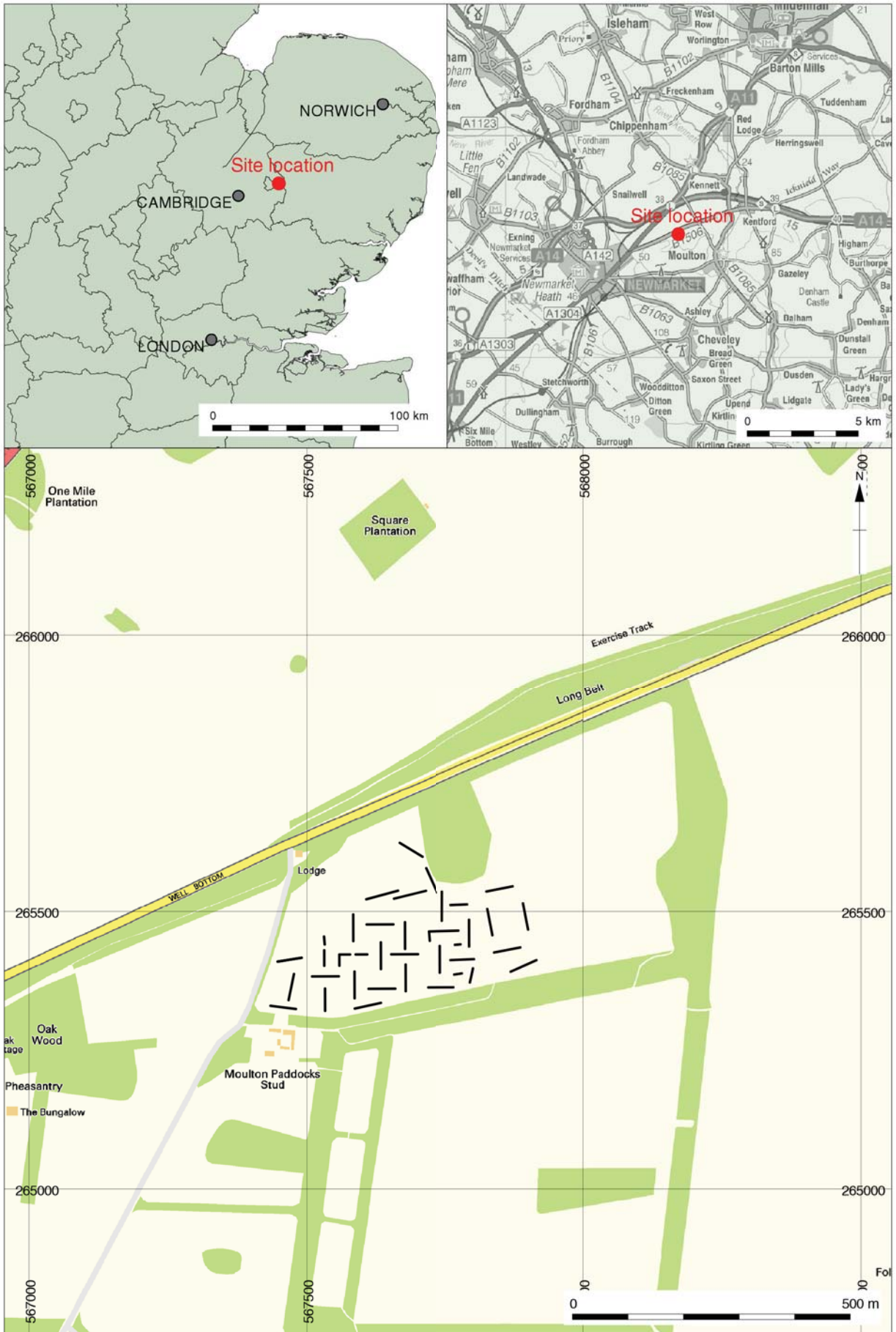
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St Edmundsbury museum	OA East	St Edmundsbury museum
XSFMOP10	XSFMOP10	XSFMOP10

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
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Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Digital Media	Paper Media
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location

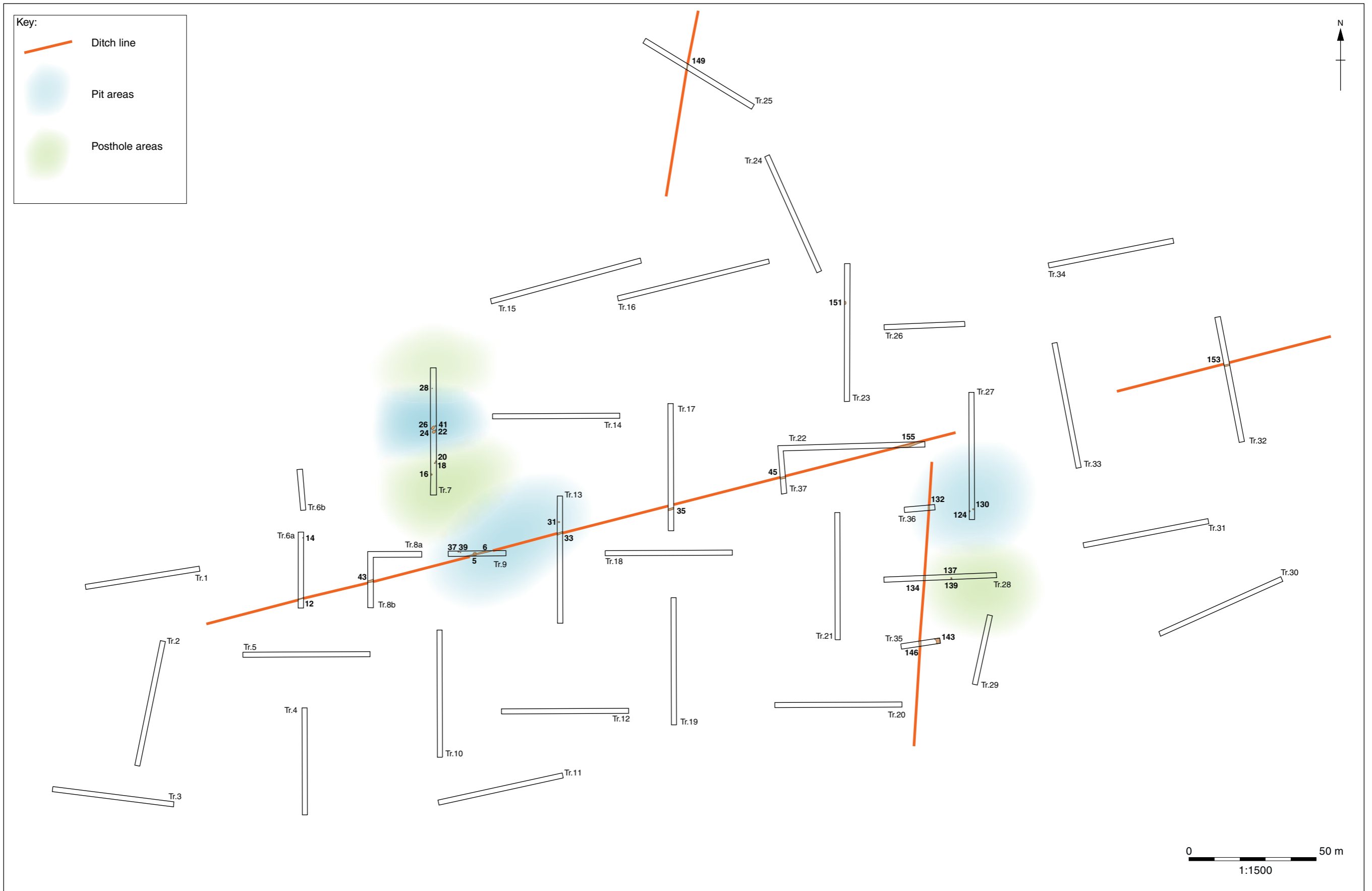


Figure 2: Trench plan showing archaeological features and areas of activity

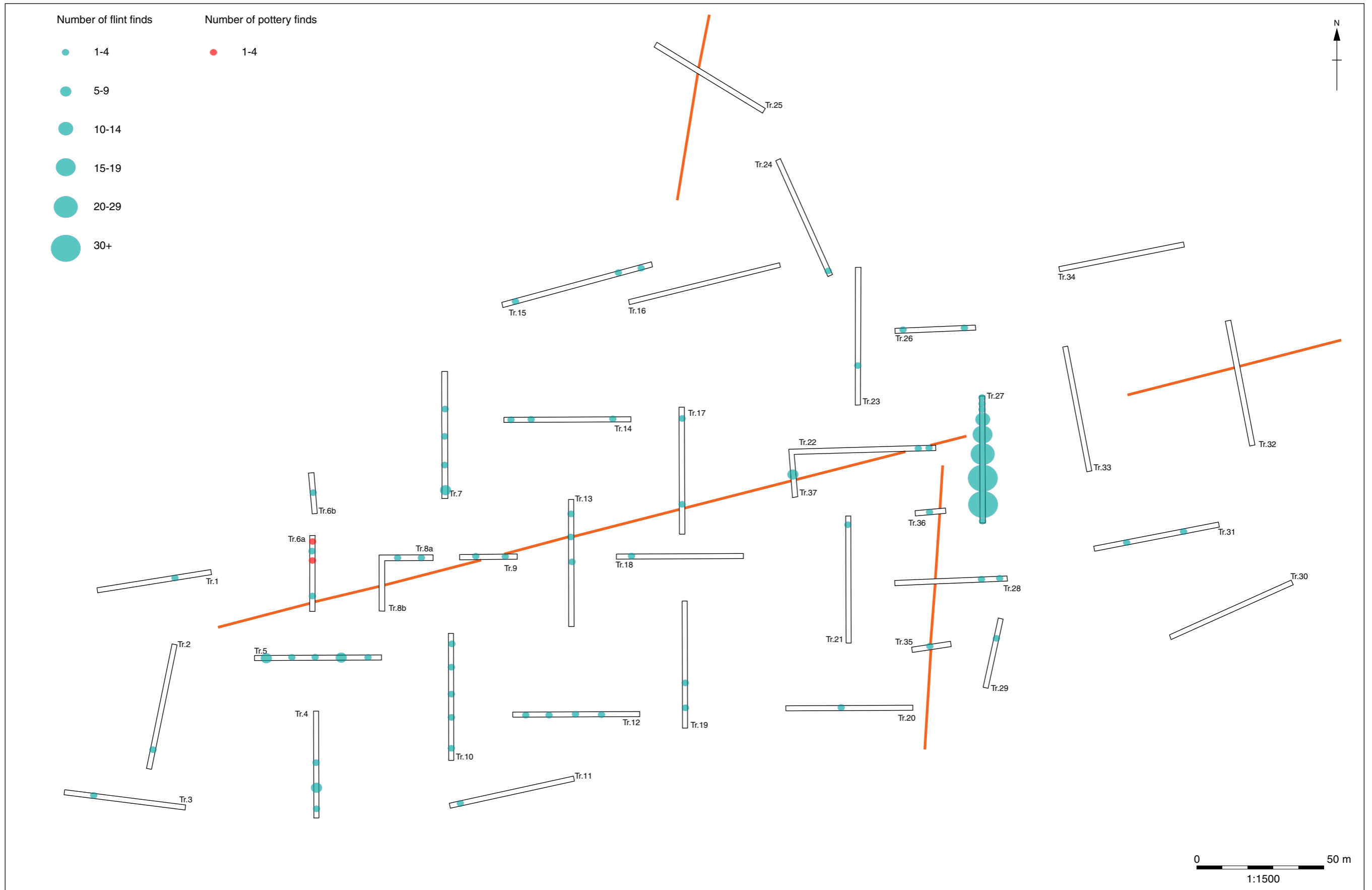


Figure 3: Plan of flint and pottery finds

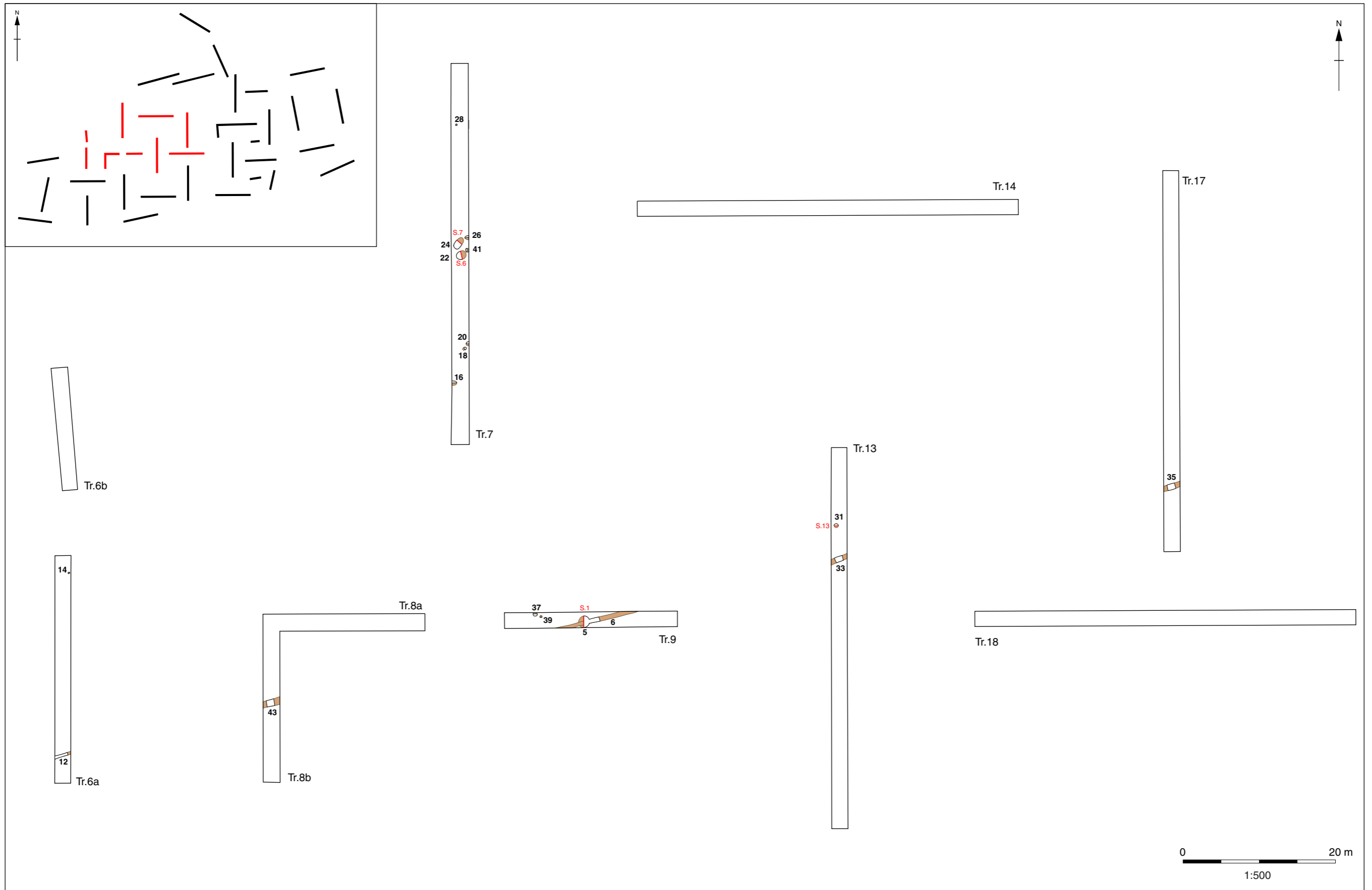


Figure4: Plan of features

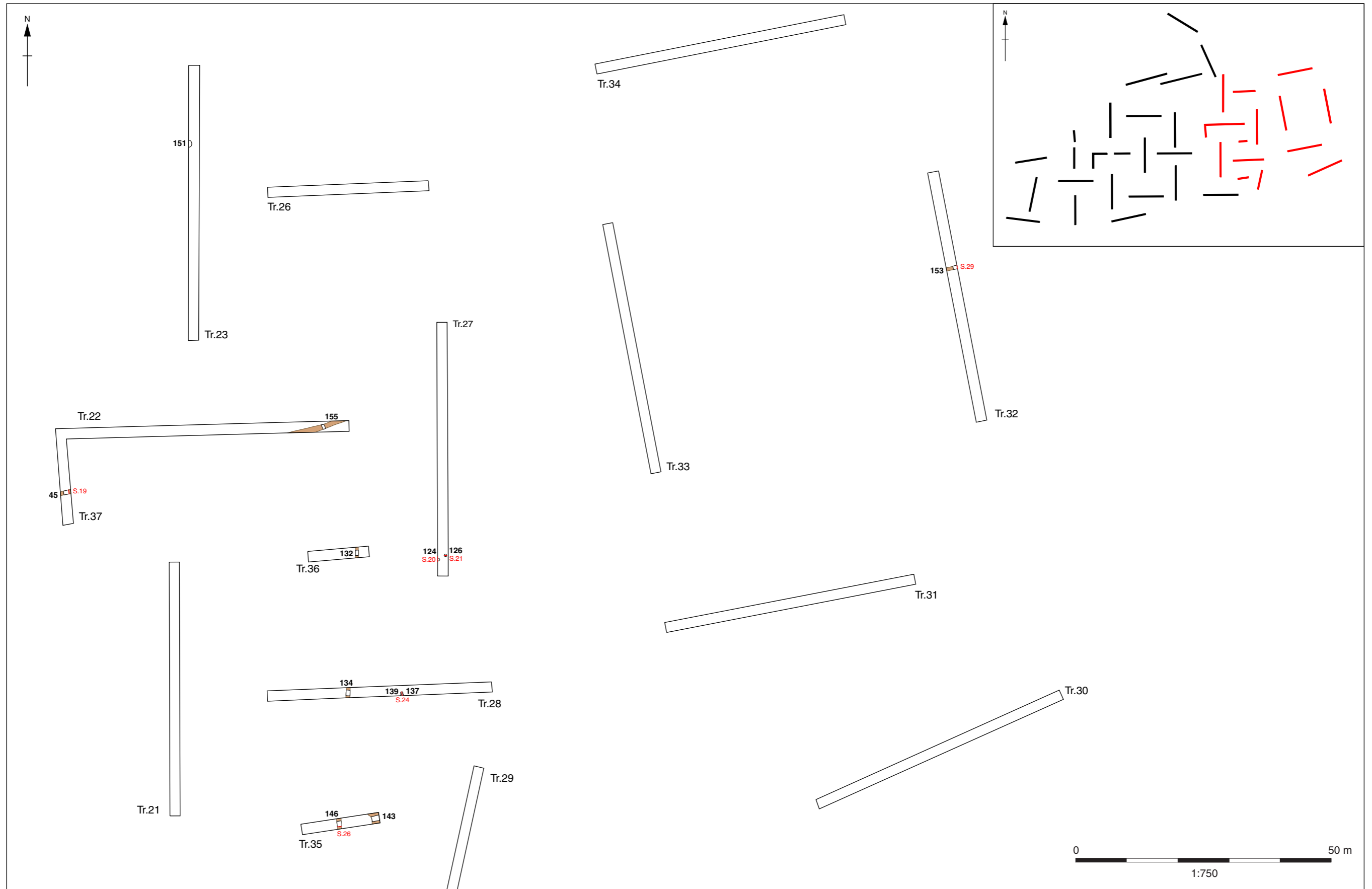


Figure 5: Plan of features

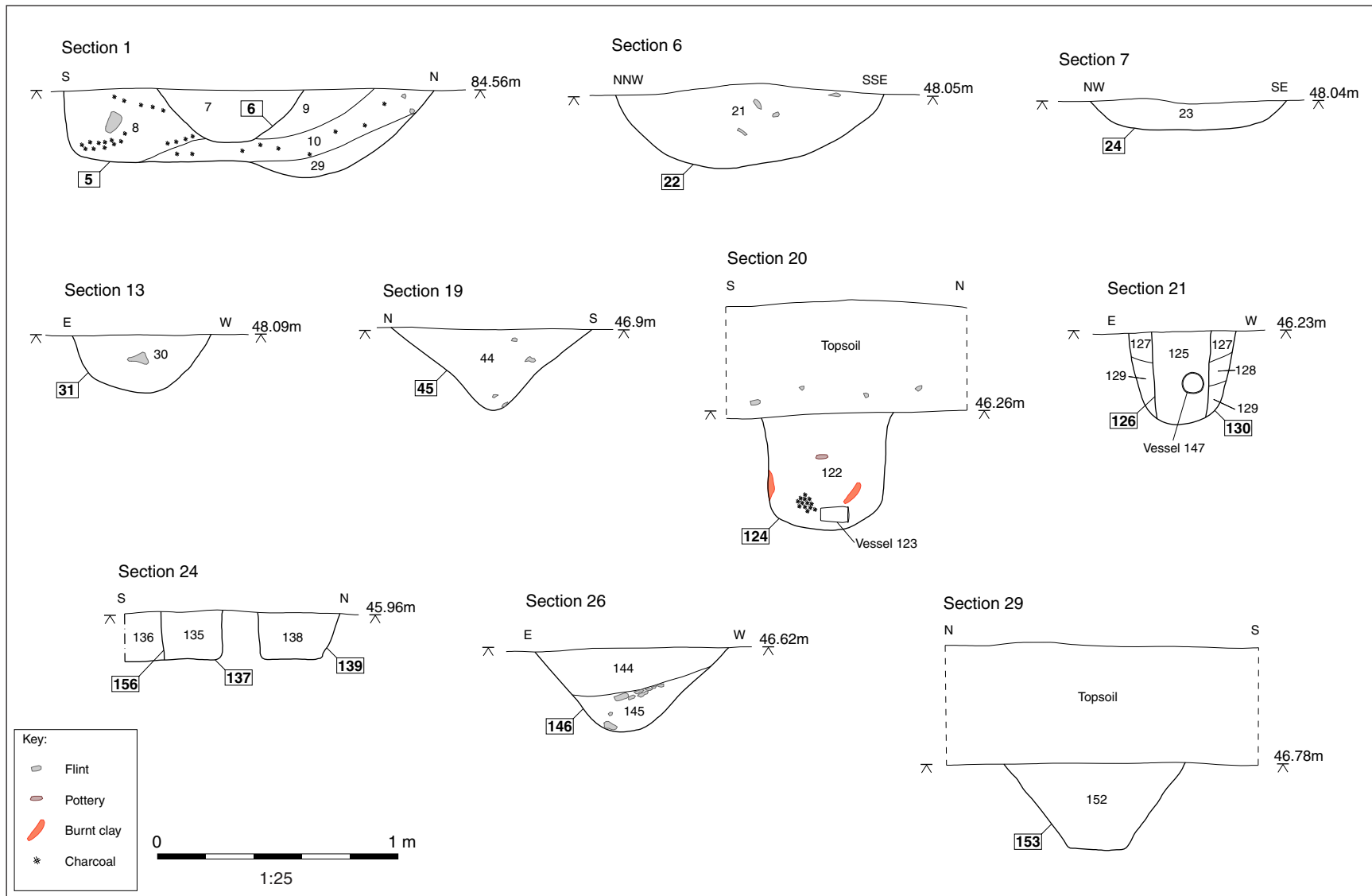


Figure 6: Selected sections



Plate 1: Pottery Vessel 123



Plate 3: Pottery Vessel 147



Plate 2: Pottery Vessel 123 in situ in pit 124



Plate 4: Pottery Vessel 147 in situ in pit 130



Plate 5: ENE-WSW ditch 155



Plate 6: NNE-SSE ditch 146



Plate 7: Postholes **137** and **139**



Plate 8: Neolithic pit **5** truncated by ENE-WSW ditch **6**



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