Evaluation off Gazeley Road, Kentford, Suffolk

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Client: CgMs for Persimmon Homes

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Archaeological Evaluation

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Summary

Between the 14th and 17th of May Oxford Archaeology East excavated a series of evaluation trenches at the northern end of Gazeley road (Grid ref TL 711 665). The work revealed a series of colluvial and alluvial deposits filling palaeo-channels. Neolithic and Bronze age material was recovered from within these colluvial deposits suggesting some utilisation of the area during these periods. No archaeological cut features, or evidence for significant in situ prehistoric activity was identified. The 'riverbanks' and 'islands' within the palaeo-channels had been heavily plough-truncated, removing any early land surfaces.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted off Gazeley Road, in Kentford to the south of “Mr. Fothergills” garden business (Grid ref. TL711 665).

1.1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Jess Tipper of Suffolk County Council (SCC; Pre Planning Application), supplemented by a trenching plan prepared by CgMs Consulting and a Specification prepared by OA East (Mortimer 2013).

1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by SCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The proposed development area is located at 36m OD, to the south of “Mr. Fothergills” garden business along Gazeley road and to the north of a gently rising slope.

1.2.2 Underlying bedrock geology is of Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation and New Pit Chalk Formation formed in the Cretaceous period. The superficial geology is a mix of sands and gravels forming river terrace deposits with patches of fine silts and clays formed by over-bank flooding. (British Geological Survey)

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 Much of the following is taken from the Suffolk Historic Environment Records (SHER) and Flitcroft (2012). See HER plot Fig. 6.

Prehistoric

1.3.2 The earliest prehistoric evidence comes from 750m north-east of the proposed development, at the 19th century sand quarry, where significant numbers of Acheulean hand axes and interglacial mammal remains were found (KTD 006). Further palaeolithic material has been reported from other pit workings to the North and North-west. Wymer (1996, 80) lists 102 handaxes, 2 roughouts, 39 retouched flakes, 17 flakes, 3 misc and 2 levallois flakes from this site, dispersed among 11 museums.

1.3.3 Further prehistoric remains are represented by a number of Neolithic and Bronze age sites. A large polished Axe was recorded 350m east of the proposed development (KTD 008). Other flint finds including 11 neolithic flint axes 'come from Kentford'.

1.3.4 Bronze age sites are represented by a number of sites around Kentford. A group of bowl barrows are located 650m east of the site (GAZ 002, 003, and 008). Further Bronze Age barrows are recorded to the north-east (KTD 001, 002). Finally two more barrows were located 200m east of the development area (KTD 003, 004) and were archaeologically excavated prior to quarrying (Martin, 1975).

1.3.5 A significant assemblage of struck flint and Neolithic and Bronze Age occupation evidence have been found to the the east of Kentford at Moulton paddocks (MUN038) and Moulton Gallops (Mun 039, Bush 2011).

Iron Age and Roman

1.3.6 There is little evidence for later prehistoric activity around Kentford. No sites or monuments of Iron Age date have been found although Iron Age activity was identified at Moulton Paddocks further east of the development site. The route of the Icknield way is known to pass through Kentford but is believed to be the present Bury Road (B1506).

1.3.7 During Roman occupation the Icknield way remained in use and was straightened and formalised as a Roman road (Keith Briggs 2013; identified as Margary's route 333).

Saxon And Medieval

1.3.8 No Saxon occupation is known in the area around the development site.

1.3.9 Medieval occupation of Kentford appears to be focussed on a linear village (KTD 017) along the Ickneild way/Bury Road, east of the River Kennett. The Suffolk HER identifies four medieval monuments or sites within Kentford. Specifically the medieval church of St. Mary (KTD 011) at the west end of the village, remains of the former Pack horses bridge over the river Kennett (KTD 012), a possible former hollow way (KTD 010) and Earthwork remains of possible house plots and gardens (KTD 007).

1.3.10 The development lies to the south of the eastern end of the medieval village core. Archaeological trenching at Clifton Lodge, to the north of the site, uncovered a single sherd of medieval pottery attributed to manuring practices and recorded no evidence for the medieval settlement (KTD 015, Gill 2007).

Post-medieval and Modern

1.3.11 During the post medieval period the site is depicted from the earliest maps, dating to 1730's and 1760's, as being open fields with the later maps showing little change suggesting the site has stayed under cultivation and/or pasture.

Geophysical survey

1.3.12 Geophysical survey of the proposed development site was carried out in December 2012 (Walford 2012). The survey identified three poorly defined, weakly positive, linear anomalies which were interpreted as possible ditches.

1.3.13 Other anomalies are reported to be natural variation expected over river terrace deposits but may possibly represent archaeological features. See Fig 5 for evaluation trench locations in relation to the Geophysical Syrvey results.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like to thank Myk Flitcroft of CgMS for commissioning, and Persimmon Homes for funding, the evaluation work. The author would also like to thank Jess Tipper of Suffolk County Council for monitoring the works as well as Richard Mortimer of Oxford Archaeology East for managing the project.

1.4.2 Further thanks should go to Séverine Bézie for producing the illustrations and John Diffey and Andy Greef for their hard work on site. Thanks also to Louise Bush who carried out the site survey.

2 Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The objective of this trial trenching 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 agreed Specification allowed for twenty-two 30m trenches to be excavated in a grid across the site, with up to five additional contingency trenches. Due to on site conditions and the farmers request that the tram lines, for the crop sprayer, were preserved some of the trenches were shortened or split into shorter lengths. In order to make up the sample size two of the contingency trenches (Trenches B & E) and one trench extension (Trench 10) were also excavated.

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

2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by Louise Bush using a Leica 1200.

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.

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 A small number of environmental samples were taken from features to assess survivability of environmental remains.

2.2.7 Work was carried out in generally good weather, with occasional heavy rain showers. The ground was generally dry and free draining.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 A total of twenty-four trenches were excavated across the site on a grid pattern, with three of these slightly off-grid to target potential geophysical anomalies. No archaeological cut features were recorded in any of the trenches, all 'features' being of natural origin, either palaeo-channels or tree throws/hollows

3.1.2 A series blank trenches (numbers 2, 3, 5 ,8 ,11, 22 and E) are presented below first followed by those containing palaeo-channel deposits that were not excavated (numbers 1, 7, 9, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21). the remaining trenches, which were subject to some further archaeological investigation to confirm the nature of potential features, are discussed individually (trenches 4, 6, 10, 13, 20 and B).

3.2 Trenches 2, 3, 5, 8, 11, 22 and E.

3.2.1 These trenches were excavated through a mid grey-brown silty sand topsoil with an average depth of *c*.0.30m and a layer of mid reddish-brown silty sand colluvium, generally between 0.1m and 0.2m deep, to a layer of degraded chalk, sands and gravels. No features were uncovered within these trenches.

3.3 Trenches 1, 7, 9, 12, 14, 16, 18, 19 and 21

3.3.1 This group of trenches were also excavated through the topsoil and the layer of colluvium onto a mixed natural of degraded chalk, sands and gravels. All these trenches contained deposits of colluvium forming the upper fill of a series of braided palaeo-channels (see figs. 2 & 3). Trench 16 contained a single small natural feature (**16**).

3.3.2 **16** was roughly circular in plan with a diameter of 0.2m and a depth of 0.12m. It contained a single fill (15) of mid brown-grey sand with occasional charcoal fragments. It is likely to be a natural root hole.

3.4 Trenches 15 and 17

3.4.1 Both of these trenches were excavated through topsoil and colluvial material into the upper fill of a palaeo-channel. None of the underlying natural deposits of degraded chalk, sands and gravels were exposed and it is assumed that these trenches were completely within the palaeo-channels.

3.5 Trench 4

3.5.1 Trench 4 was 26m long and located on the northern edge of the site, with a maximum depth of 0.9m, comprised of 0.4m of topsoil and 0.5m of mid reddish-brown colluvium at the edge of a channel.

3.5.2 Two natural features were identified near the base of the colluvium. The larger (**12**) was 0.7m wide and 0.32m deep with gently sloping irregular sides and an irregular base. It contained a series of three fills: the lowest fill (27) was a friable light yellowish-grey silty sand 0.25m deep; the middle fill (26) was 0.2m deep and a friable light reddish-brown silty sand; the upper fill was a dark greyish-brown silty sand, 0.22m deep, with some burnt/heated sand/gravel and charcoal.

3.5.3 The second feature (**14**) was roughly circular in plan with gently sloping sides and a concave base 0.7m wide and 0.20m deep. It contained a single fill of light reddish-

brown silty sand (13). Evidence of burning and burnt animal remains were recovered from 13. It is likely that **14** is either a small pit or more probably a tree throw: its irregular nature would support the latter.

3.6 Trench 6

3.6.1 The trench was 29.2m long and 1.5m deep through a layer of topsoil and colluvium, the lower part of the latter (28) forming the upper fill of a palaeo-channel. The trench contained the northern limit of the channel deposits. Investigative test pits 6a and 6b were excavated into the channel deposits, both contained two main fills.

3.6.2 The lower of these deposits (21) was a brownish-yellow/white sandy alluvial fill and contained a few pieces of struck flint consistent with Neolithic working. The state of the flint with sharp edges and little damage would suggest that the flint was knapped close to where it was found. The upper deposit (20), a mid red-brown silty-sand colluvium contained further early Neolithic flintwork and a 13th century pottery sherd was recovered from the top of the deposit.

3.7 Trench 10

3.7.1 At 40m long, trench 10 was the longest excavated with an average depth of 0.75m. The trench was machined through topsoil and colluvium onto an earlier colluvial layer (9) which formed the upper fill of a palaeo-channel (**4**).

3.7.2 **4** was 30m wide and had a total excavated depth of 1.95m. It contained a series of fills comprising alluvial and colluvial deposits. The earliest excavated deposit (5) was a yellowish-cream friable sandy alluvial deposit with occasional angular and sub angular flint and stones, similar to layer 21 in Trench 6. It was overlain by 6, a mix of 5 and the overlying fill 7. 7 was a mid red-brown sandy colluvial deposit, 0.75m deep.

3.7.3 Two later colluvial fills completed the fill sequence channel, 8 a mid reddish-yellow compacted sand and 9 a mid reddish-brown sand. 9 contained relatively large quantities of later prehistoric struck flint.

3.8 Trench 13

3.8.1 Aligned south-west to north-east Trench 13 was excavated through a layer of topsoil, 0.4m deep, and a layer of colluvium 0.08m deep, at the south-west end, and 0.56m deep at the north-east end. The colluvium also forms the upper palaeo-channel fill.

3.8.2 A single feature (**10**) was exposed under the colluvium at the north-eastern end. **10** was 0.9m wide and 0.47m deep with steep sides and a concave base. Although it was only partially exposed and ran under the southern baulk of the trench **10** is likely to have been sub-circular in shape. The single fill (9) was a dark grey-brown silty sand containing a relatively high charcoal content and some burnt flint .

3.9 Trench 20

3.9.1 Located along the south-western edge of site, Trench 20 was 30m long and excavated through a 0.4m layer of topsoil and a 0.12m layer of colluvium, which sealed a mixed natural of degraded chalk, gravel and sand with colluvial material forming the upper fill of one of the palaeo-channels. A single 1m by 1m test pit 20a was excavated within this deposit (24). 24 was a mid reddish-brown sand, 0.38m deep, that contained an assemblage of Neolithic flintwork and pottery.

3.10 Trench B

3.10.1 Trench B was excavated in three sections. In the segment to the east topsoil and colluvium overlay the natural degraded chalk, gravel and sands. The other two segments were excavated onto the upper fills of one of a palaeo-channel. Two test pits were excavated into this trench to investigate the colluvium (17), which was a mid red-brown sand 0.2m deep. It sealed an irregular shallow depression (**19**). **19** was likely to be circular in plan with a diameter of 1.35m and a depth of 0.16m. It contained a single fill (18) of mid red-brown silty sand. Early Neolithic pottery and struck flint along with Early Bronze Age material including a large fragment of rusticated beaker where recovered from within this deposit.

3.11 Finds Summary

3.11.1 A small assemblage of early Neolithic and Beaker pottery was recovered from the site, either from within the colluvium or within tree throws/hollows beneath the colluvium (but filled with similar material). A small assemblage of Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flint, and a somewhat larger later Bronze Age assemblage were recovered. The state of the flint would suggest that although not in-situ it has been sealed within the colluvial deposits soon after manufacture, implying the colluvium was forming at the time the flint was knapped.

3.12 Environmental Summary

3.12.1 Charred cereal grains were recovered from the samples taken and suggest that human activity was occurring in the vicinity of the site. A small quantity of burnt animal bone was also recovered.

4 Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Palaeo-channels

4.1.1 The main features recorded, across the majority of the site, were the colluvial-filled palaeo-channels located in Trenches 1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12 to 21 and B. These features/deposits appear to form part of a wider braided river system with small islands surviving amongst the channels. The deeper, more clear-cut channels looked to be located along the northern edge of site. The channel deposits contained small quantities of prehistoric artefacts suggesting that at the least the most recent channel was active during the earlier Neolithic. Later prehistoric flint work was located above the upper colluvium filling the channel suggesting that the channel had been filled up by colluvium by the Late Bronze Age (Bishop pers comm).

4.2 Prehistoric

4.2.1 The site contained a small assemblage of prehistoric material including pottery and flint. The location of the material within the colluvium and the upper fills of the palaeo-channels suggests that the earlier Neolithic and earlier Bronze Age activity was occurring on site during the colluvial formation: with early Neolithic material within colluvium in Trench 20 for example, and early Bronze Age in Trench B.

4.2.2 This may indicate a change in use to agriculture within the surrounding area, specifically upslope to the south, with tree clearance and ploughing producing colluvial soils which have infilled potentially already sluggish backwater channels. There are also potential burnt out tree throws in Trench 4 and Trench 13.

4.2.3 The clean, scoured appearance of much of the chalk and sand/gravel natural in between the palaeo-channels, and the fact that the only 'features' (tree throws) were recorded well down slope into the colluvial river fills, indicates that these 'island' and 'riverbank' areas have become very heavily plough-truncated. Any early activities taking place in these areas would have been completely removed.

4.2.4 The later prehistoric material was recovered from the very upper levels of the colluvial deposits, perhaps implying that the majority of the colluvium had formed by the later Bronze Age.

4.3 Geophysical anomalies

4.3.1 During the trenching the geophysical anomalies reported by Walford (2012) where exposed in trenches 4, 7, 15 and 16. These anomalies appear to correspond to areas of denser natural silt and are therefore geological features.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The site is of some interest in furthering our understanding of the use of the early prehistoric landscape and its adaptation to agriculture in the Kentford area. However, it may tell us more about what was happening upslope to the south of the site, than it can about the development area itself. No features associated with settlement were identified and the palaeochannels and colluvial soils have acted as artefact traps for activities taking place upslope, or potentially on bank and island surfaces that have since been completely removed.

4.5 Recommendations

4.5.1 Recommendations for any future work based upon this report will be made by the County Archaeology Office.

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	SW-NE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and colluvium overlying a natural of degraded chalk, gravel and sand. The upper colluvial fill of part of the palaeo-channels was located at the south-west end of the trench.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.6
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	20
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
-	Layer	-	0.55	Topsoil	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.2	Colluvium	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.5	Upper channel fill	-	-
-	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and colluvium overlying a natural of degraded chalk, gravel and sand.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.5
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	20
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
-	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.1	Colluvium	-	-
-	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	SW-NE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and colluvium overlying a natural of degraded chalk, gravel and sand. Trench was excavated in 2 segments with a 5m break in the middle due to tram lines.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.65
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
-	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.25	Colluvium	-	-
-	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	SE-NW
Trench consists of soil and colluvium overlying the upper palaeo-channel deposits and a natural of degraded chalk, gravel and sand natural					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.9
					Width (m)	2

					Length (m)	26
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
-	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil		
-	Layer	-	0.5	Colluvium		
11	Fill			Fill of **12**		
12	Cut			Cut of Tree throw/Pit		
13	Fill			Fill of **14**		
14	Cut			Cut of Tree throw/Pit		
26	Fill			Fill of **12**		
27	Fill			Fill of **12**		
-	Layer	-	-	Natural		
Trench 5						
General description					**Orientation**	SW-NE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and colluvium overlying a natural of degraded chalk, gravel and sand. Trench was excavated in 2 segments with a 5m break in the middle due to tram lines.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.55
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
-	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil		
-	Layer	-	0.25	Colluvium		
-	Layer	-	-	Natural		
Trench 6						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench consists of soil and colluvium overlying the upper palaeo-channel deposits and a natural of degraded chalk, gravel and sand natural					**Avg. depth (m)**	1.5
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	29.2
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
-	Layer	-	0.5	Topsoil		
-	Layer	-	1.25	Colluvium		
28	Layer	-		Colluvium		
20	Fill			Fill of Palaeo-Channel	Pottery, Flint	RB?
21	Fill			Fill of Palaeo-Channel	Flint	
-	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 7						

General description					Orientation	SW-NE
Trench consists of soil and colluvium overlying the upper palaeo-channel deposits and a natural of degraded chalk, gravel and sand natural					Avg. depth (m)	0.72
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	20
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
-	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil		
-	Layer	-	0.36	Colluvium		
-	Layer	-	-	Natural		
Trench 8						
General description					**Orientation**	SE-NW
Trench consists of soil and colluvium a natural of degraded chalk, gravel and sand natural					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.5
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
-	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil		
-	Layer	-	0.12	Colluvium		
-	Layer	-	-	Natural		
Trench 9						
General description					**Orientation**	SW-NE
Trench consists of soil and colluvium overlying the upper palaeo-channel deposits and a natural of degraded chalk, gravel and sand natural. Trench was excavated in 2 segments with a 4m break in the middle due to tram lines.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.4
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
-	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil		
-	Layer	-	0.1	Colluvium		
-	Layer	-	-	Natural		
Trench 10						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench consists of soil and colluvium overlying the upper palaeo-channel deposits and a natural of degraded chalk, gravel and sand natural.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.75
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	40
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**

-	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-
9	Fill	-	0.2	Colluvial material in top of palaeo-channel	Lithic Implement	Late Bronze Age
8	Fill	30	0.25	Upper palaeo-channel colluvium	-	-
7	Fill	30	0.8	Colluvium in palaeo-channel	-	-
6	Fill	25	0.2	Palaeo-channel fill	-	-
5	Fill	-	0.5	Palaeo-channel fill	-	-
4	Cut	30	1.95	Cut of channel	-	-

Trench 11

General description	**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench consists of soil and colluvium overlying a natural of degraded chalk, gravel and sand natural	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.6
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	20

Contexts

context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
-	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil		
-	Layer	-	0.25	Colluvium		
-	Layer	-	-	Natural		

Trench 12

General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench consists of soil and colluvium overlying the upper palaeo-channel deposits and a natural of degraded chalk, gravel and sand natural	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.52
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
-	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil		
-	Layer	-	0.12	Colluvium		
-	Layer	-	-	Natural		

Trench 13

General description	**Orientation**	SW-NE
Trench consists of soil and colluvium overlying the upper palaeo-channel deposits and a natural of degraded chalk, gravel and sand natural. A single feature was sealed by the colluvium at the East end of the trench.	**Avg. depth (m)**	1.06
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	13

Contexts

context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**

-	Layer		0.4	Topsoil		
-	Layer		0.16	Colluvium		
9	Fill			Fill of **10**		
10	Cut			Cut of pit		
-	Fill		0.4	Palaeo-Channel fill		
-	Layer	-	-	Natural		

Trench 14

General description	**Orientation**	SE-NW
Trench consists of soil and colluvium overlying the upper palaeo-channel deposits and a natural of degraded chalk, gravel and sand natural	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.6
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
-	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil		
-	Layer	-	0.2	Colluvium		
-	Layer	-	-	Natural		

Trench 15

General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench consists of soil and colluvium overlying the upper palaeo-channel deposits. It was excavated in 2 segments with a 5m break	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.8
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	21

Contexts

context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
-	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil		
-	Layer	-	0.4	Colluvium		
-	Fill	-	-	Palaeo-Channel fill		

Trench 16

General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench consists of soil and colluvium overlying the upper palaeo-channel deposits and a natural of degraded chalk, gravel and sand natural. A single root hole or post hole was located in this trench	**Avg. depth (m)**	1.3
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
-	Layer	-	0.5	Topsoil		
-	Layer	-	1	Colluvium		
15	Fill			Tree Root?		
16	Cut			Tree Root?		

-	Layer	-	-	Natural		
Trench 17						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench consists of soil and colluvium overlying the upper palaeo-channel deposits.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.9
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	20
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
-	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.5	Colluvium	-	-
-	Fill	-	-	Upper fill of palaeo-channel	-	-
Trench 18						
General description					**Orientation**	SE-NW
Trench consists of soil and colluvium overlying the upper palaeo-channel deposits and a natural of degraded chalk, gravel and sand natural.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.85
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
-	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil		
-	Layer	-	0.45	Colluvium		
-	Fill	-	-	Upper fill of Palaeo-channel		
-	Layer	-	-	Natural		
Trench 19						
General description					**Orientation**	SW-NE
Trench consists of soil and colluvium overlying the upper palaeo-channel deposits and a natural of degraded chalk, gravel and sand natural.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.5
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	20
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
-	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil		
-	Layer	-	0.1	Colluvium		
-	Fill	-	-	Upper fill of Palaeo-channel		
-	Layer	-	-	Natural		
Trench 20						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE

Trench consists of soil and colluvium overlying the upper palaeo-channel deposits and a natural of degraded chalk, gravel and sand natural.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.6
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.2	Colluvium	-	-
24	Fill	1	0.38	Fill of palaeo-channel (**25**)	Flint	?Neolithic?
25	Cut	1	0.38	Cut of Palaeo-channel	-	?Neolithic?
-	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 21

General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench consists of soil and colluvium overlying the upper palaeo-channel deposits and a natural of degraded chalk, gravel and sand natural. It was excavated in 2 segments with a 5m break	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.6
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	Layer	-	0..35	Topsoil		
-	Layer	-	0.25	Colluvium		
-	Fill	-	-	Upper fill of Palaeo-channel		
-	Layer	-	-	Natural		

Trench 22

General description	**Orientation**	NW_SE
Trench consists of soil and colluvium overlying a natural of degraded chalk, gravel and sand natural	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.7
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil		
-	Layer	-	0.38	Colluvium		
-	Layer	-	-	Natural		

Trench B

General description	**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench consists of soil and colluvium overlying the upper palaeo-channel deposits and a natural of degraded chalk, gravel and sand natural. It was excavated in 3 segments with a 3.6 and 4.6m break. One natural feature containing Rusticated Beaker and worked flint	**Avg. depth (m)**	1.4
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

was identified within/under the colluvium						
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
-	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	
-	Layer	-	1	Colluvium	-	
17	Layer	-		Colluvium in top of palaeo-channel	-	
18	Fill			Fill of **19**	Pottery, Flint	?Neolithic?
19	Cut			Cut of natural feature/pit	-	?Neolithic?
-	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	
Trench E						
General description					**Orientation**	NW_SE
Trench consists of soil and colluvium overlying a natural of degraded chalk, gravel and sand natural					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.7
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
-	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil		
-	Layer	-	0.33	Colluvium		
-	Layer	-	0.65	Natural		

Appendix B. Finds Reports

B.1 Lithics

By Barry Bishop

Introduction

B.1.1 Field Evaluation at the site recovered 115 struck flints and 223g of burnt flint fragments. The material has been catalogued according to context (Table 2) and further details of all retouched pieces are provided in Table 3. The report briefly describes the characteristics of each of the industries present and discusses the archaeological significance of the material, including its potential to contribute to the further understanding of the nature and chronology of the activities identified during the project. It also recommends any further work required for the material to achieve its full research potential. The assemblage was recovered from unstratified deposits or soil and disturbed natural horizons. As such, it may be best understood as a surface deposited scatter.

Quantification

Type	Decortication Flake	Flakes	Chip (<10mm)	Prismatic Blade	Flake Fragments	Conchoidal Chunks	Retouched Implement	Unworked Burnt Flint (no.)	Unworked Burnt Flint (wt:g)
No.	12	63	1	3	9	12	15	15	223
%	10.4	54.8	0.9	2.6	7.8	10.4	13.0		

Table 1: Quantification of Lithic Material from Kentford

Burnt Stone

B.1.2 A small quantity of burnt stone, all consisting of flint, was recovered from four contexts. It had been burnt to variable degrees as would be consistent with having been in close contact with a hearth. No concentrations that could indicate the deliberate production of burnt stone were noted.

Raw Materials

B.1.3 The raw materials consist of translucent black and mottled translucent black/opaque grey fine-grained flint. Where retained, cortex is often thick but weathered and ancient thermal surfaces are frequent. Several pieces have a very thick cortex comparable to the floorstone mined at Grime's Graves. Many of these also retain thermal scars and there is no convincing evidence that mined flint was used. However, the site lies less than 1km north of outcrops of the Brandon Flint Member, a series of prolific and good knapping quality flint seams that also include the Grime's Graves' floorstone. Eroded and mass weathered remnants of these can be found in abundance as surface deposits in the vicinity, and it seems likely that these provided all of the raw materials.

Condition

B.1.4 As might be expected from a surface deposited scatter, the condition of the assemblage is varied but most pieces do exhibit some post-depositional edge damage, and in some cases this can be quite severe. The extent of the edge damage means that positively identifying deliberate light edge retouching or use-wear is often difficult.

Technology and Dating

B.1.5 No truly chronologically diagnostic implements are present. Nevertheless, considerations of the assemblage's technological attributes demonstrates that it was manufactured over a considerable period, from at least the Early Neolithic and through to the later prehistoric period (Middle Bronze Age to Iron Age).

Mesolithic/Early Neolithic

B.1.6 A small number of blades and blade-like flakes indicate activity at the site during the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic period. To these may be added a burnt conchoidally fractured chunk, which might represent a fragment of a blade-core. No retouched pieces that can be assigned to these periods are present, and the flintwork can only suggest short term and low key visiting of the site. Two of the blades, along with a flake and chip of probable Neolithic date, are in a good condition and were recovered from tree-throw hollow [12]. Along with a burnt flint fragment, these provide some, albeit far from overwhelming, evidence for the exploitation of such hollows during that period.

Later Neolithic / Early Bronze Age

B.1.7 A small number of the flakes were skilfully made, being thin, often with narrow and carefully edge trimmed striking platforms. These may be broadly dated to the Neolithic or Early Bronze Age periods. Three retouched pieces, an end scraper, a knife and a piercer, are also likely to belong to these periods. In particular, the knife comprises a narrow flake that has parallel semi-invasive flaking along both margins. Although not a classic example and rather minimally worked, this might best be compared to the invasively retouched plano-convex knives of Later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date. As with the earlier periods, the flintwork indicates that occupation at the site during this time is likely to have been low-key and ephemeral.

Later Prehistoric

B.1.8 The remainder, amounting to c.80-90% of the assemblage, is dominated by large but short and often remarkably thick flakes. These mostly have wide, unmodified and markedly obtuse striking platforms. An exclusive use of hard hammer percussion is evidenced by the frequent prominent points of percussion, shattered platform surfaces and pronounced bulbs of percussion, with several of the flakes having detached badly from being mis-hit.

B.1.9 No complete cores are present but most of the conchoidally shattered fragments most likely represent cores that disintegrated during reduction. Retouched pieces, most of which probably belong to the later prehistoric period, account for a high proportion of the assemblage at 13%. It is likely that this figure is under-represented as a number of other flakes also show edge damage that might have arisen from being used or retouched but due to their generally chipped condition this cannot be positively identified. The convincingly retouched flakes are all irregularly worked informal types with light edge trimming or inverse flaking. Whilst some of the latter may represent flakes used as cores to produce further flakes, in most cases the flakes are too small for conceivable use and the intention appears to have been to form a useable, often denticulated, edge on the flake. The production of crudely struck short and thick flakes and simple and informal retouched implements is characteristic of later prehistoric industries, dating to the later second and first millennium BC (Herne 1991; Young and Humphrey 1999; Humphrey 2003; McLaren 2009)

Discussion

B.1.10 A few earlier struck pieces suggests episodic but low-level flint using activates occurring at the site between the Mesolithic and Early Bronze Age, but the bulk of the assemblage can be dated on technological grounds to the Middle Bronze Age or later.

B.1.11 During the later prehistoric periods, flintworking tends to be casual and opportunistic, with discarded struck pieces being recovered in small quantities scattered around settlements and field-systems. The high proportion of retouched pieces suggests the undertaking of craft or domestic activities and although no such evidence for settlement was present at the site, its location, on river gravels adjacent to the River Kennett, suggests that this area may have been incorporated into the extensive and formally organized ditched field-systems and settlements recorded at other locations along this part of the southeastern Fenland borders (Yates 2007).

B.1.12 The assemblage is of some significance in that it indicates sporadic flintworking at the site during the Mesolithic/Early Neolithic and the Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age and, perhaps more significantly, indicates a more sustained phase of flintworking and deposition at the site during the later 2nd or early 1st millennium BC. A brief description of the flintwork should therefore be submitted to the local Historic Environment Record and an account summarising this report should be compiled and included in any published

account of the investigations.

Context	Feature	Decortication Flake	Flakes	Chip (<10mm)	Prismatic Blade	Flake Fragments	Conchoidal Chunks	Retouched	Burnt Flint (no.)	Burnt Flint (wt:g)	Condition	Suggested Date	Comments
3	Natural	10	30			4	8				Chipped	MBA-IA	Mostly very thick squat flakes and lots with very thick cortex
3	Natural							5			Chipped	MBA-IA	Inversely worked flakes
3	Natural							4			Chipped	MBA-IA	Edge retouched flakes
3	Natural		5								Chipped	Neo/EBA	Thin competently produced flakes
7	Nat04		1			1					Slightly chipped	MBA-IA	
8	Nat04	1	2				1				Chipped	MBA-IA	large squat flakes
8	Nat04							1			Chipped	MBA-IA	Battered edge trimmed retouched flake
8	Nat04							1			Chipped	Neo/EBA	End scraper
11	TT12				2						Good	Meso/ENeo	Complete blade and a medial blade section
18	Nat19	1	5								Slightly chipped	MBA-IA	Squat flakes
18	Nat19				1		1				Slightly chipped	Meso/ENeo	Blade measures 28X10X2mm. Chunk is a burnt possible blade-core fragment
18	Nat19							1			Slightly chipped	Neo/EBA	Knife
18	Nat19					3	1				Slightly chipped	Undated	
18	Nat19								11	58	Burnt	Undated	Small variably but mostly lightly burnt flint fragments
18	Nat19								2	102	Burnt	Undated	Large heavily burnt fragments
20	Natural		1								Good	Neo/EBA	
21	Natural		4								Slightly chipped	MBA-IA	
24	Nat19								1	46	Burnt	Undated	Heavily burnt fragment
24	Natural		2								Slightly chipped	Neo/EBA	Well struck flakes
26	TT12		1	1							Slightly chipped	Neo/EBA	Same raw materials?
27	TT12								1	17	Burnt	Undated	Heavily burnt fragment

Tr1	Unstratified		1								Chipped	MBA-IA	
Tr1	Unstratified		1								Slightly chipped	Neo/EBA	Recorticated small and thin flake
Tr12	Unstratified		1								Chipped	MBA-IA	Very battered
Tr16	Unstratified						1				Slightly chipped	Neo/EBA	Thermally shattered multiplatform core fragment
Tr2	Unstratified		1								Chipped	MBA-IA	Very battered
Tr20	Unstratified		4			1					Chipped	MBA-IA	
Tr20	Unstratified							2			Slightly chipped	MBA-IA	Scrapers
Tr3	Unstratified		1								Slightly chipped	MBA-IA	
Tr4	Unstratified		1								Slightly chipped	MBA-IA	Squat flake
Tr4	Unstratified		1								Chipped	Meso/ENeo	Small recorticated blade-like flake
Tr4	Unstratified							1			Chipped	Neo/EBA	Piercer
Tr7	Unstratified		1								Chipped	Neo/EBA	Possible edge retouch on distal

Table 2: Flint Catalogue

Context	Feature	Type	Form	L (mm)	B (mm)	W (mm)	Description
3	Natural	Edge Retouched	Flake	39	48	10	Squat flake with light steep scalar retouch on distal and inversely along left ventral margin cf scraper
3	Natural	Edge Retouched	Flake	30	40	10	Squat flake with fine steep scalar retouch on bulbar end
3	Natural	Edge Retouched	Flake	26	31	8	Flake with fine convex scalar retouch around distal. Also has some inverse flaking on its left ventral edge
3	Natural	Edge Retouched	Flake	38	27	8	Flake with fine sinuous scalar retouch around distal.
3	Natural	Inversely Worked	Flake	70	65	19	Large flake with a number of smaller flakes removed from right ventral margin - forms a coarsely denticulated flake with floor-stone-like cortex 'backing'
3	Natural	Inversely Worked	Flake	63	53	22	Primary flake with floorstone-like cortex which has been coarsely retouched along its left ventral margin forming a lightly denticulated acute edge
3	Natural	Inversely Worked	Flake	35	43	7	Flake with coarse, semi-invasive flaking on its distal ventral forming an acute edge

3	Natural	Inversely Worked	Flake	47	37	10	Flake with a number of smaller flakes removed from left ventral margin - forms a lightly denticulated edge
3	Natural	Inversely Worked	Flake	>44	25	7	Narrow flake with bulbar end broken off a slightly concave invasive flaking around distal
8	Nat04	Edge Retouched	Flake	48	30	12	Narrow cortical flake with extensive steep and coarse retouch along both lateral margins and distal. Edges are battered and reminiscent of fabricators
8	Nat04	Scraper	end	31	23	7	Teardrop shaped partially cortical flake with very fine convex steep scalar retouch around distal. LNeo?
18	Nat19	Edge Retouched	Knife	64	43	10	Narrow flake with skilfully executed moderate semi-invasive retouch extending along both lateral margins. cf minimally worked plano-convex knife
Tr20	Unstratified	Scraper	Inverse	20	27	10	Squat flake with thermal distal and fine semi-invasive retouch around distal and left ventral margins
Tr20	Unstratified	Scraper	end and side	38	29	7	Flake with thermal distal and fine relatively shallow retouch around distal and both lateral margins
Tr4	Unstratified	Piercer	Minimal	46	28	9	Narrow flake with a broken distal end that has been retouched to form a slender but sturdy point. Poss. LNeo?

Table 3: Retouched flint details

B.2 Prehistoric Pottery

By Matt Brudenell

B.2.1 Eleven sherds (128g) of handmade prehistoric pottery were recovered from the excavations, with a mean sherd weight of 11.6g. The pottery derived from three contexts (7, 18 and 24), a range of burnt flint and grog-tempered fabrics listed below. All the material dates to the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age, and includes a diagnostic Early Neolithic carinated sherd, and three decorated Beaker sherds. The largest assemblage, from context 18, was mixed, with early Neolithic, Beaker and generic early Bronze Age material.

B.2.2 The earliest pottery derived from context 18, the fill of a natural feature in Trench B, which included the abraded shoulder sherd of a plain Early Neolithic flint-tempered bowl (fabric F1, 28g), dated *c*. 3700-3500 BC. This context and context 24 also yielded three other small plain, flint-tempered body sherds (fabric F1, 11g: two sherds from context 18, 4g; one sherd from context 24, 7g) of 'generic' Neolithic date (M. Knight *pers. comm.*).

B.2.3 Pottery of Early Bronze Age origin was recovered from contexts 7 and 18. The latter yielded two sherds of rusticated Beaker in a grog and flint-tempered fabric (GF1, 81g): one, a flat-topped rim from a large vessel. A third decorated Beaker sherd in the same fabric (GF1, 4g) was also recovered, this being ornamented with comb impressions and incised lines. Collectively, these sherds can be dated *c*. 2400-2000 BC.

B.2.4 The final sherd from context 18 was a small, plain undiagnostic body sherd, tempered with grog (fabric G1, 2g). The sherd is given a 'generic' Early Bronze Age date based on the fabric. The same dating also applies to the three equally undiagnostic grog-tempered sherds from context 7, weighing just 2g.

B.2.5 Fabrics and sherd totals

B.2.6 G1: Sparse medium grog (1-2mm) in a slight sandy clay matrix. Four sherds, 4g (three sherds, 2g from context

B.2.7 7; one sherd, 2g from context 18). A generic Earlier Bronze Age fabric

B.2.8 GF1: Moderate to common fine to coarse grog (1-3mm) and sparse medium burnt flint (mainly 1-2mm) in a slightly sandy clay matrix. Three sherds, 85g (all from context 18). Early Bronze Age Beaker fabric

B.2.9 F1: Moderate to common medium and coarse burnt flint (1-4mm). Four sherds, 39g (three sherds, 32g from context 18; one sherd, 7g from context 24). Neolithic fabric

B.2.10

Site	Context no.	Feature type	Fabric group	Fabric type	Sherd type	Burnished type	Location of burnishing	Decorative category	Decorative position	Perforations?	Presence of burnt sherds?	No. Sherds	Wt. (g)	No. refits	Residue type	Location of residue	Rim type	Rim %	Rim Diameter	Base Type	Base %	Base Diameter	Form	Class	Vessel no.	Date	Crumbs (g)	Refits within or between contexts	Notes	Small <4cm	Medium 4-8cm	Large >8cm	Illustration no.	Residual?
KTD018	18	NA		GF1	r/sh			Pinched rustictaion	Body			1	76				FD	?	?							Rusticated Beaker (EBA) c. 2400-2000 BC						1		
KTD018	18	NA		GF1	o			Pinched rustictaion	Body			1	5													Rusticated Beaker (EBA) c. 2400-2000 BC				1				
KTD018	18	NA		F1	sh							1	28													Early Neolithic carinated bowl(Early Neo), c.3700-3500			Abraded		1			
KTD018	18	NA		GF1	o			Comb impresed and incised vertical lines	Body			1	4													Baeker (EBA), 2400-2000 BC				1				
KTD018	18	NA		F1	o							2	4													Generic Neoithic				2				
KTD018	18	NA		G1	o							1	2													Generic EBA				1				
KTD018	7	NA		G1	o							3	2													Generic EBA				3				
KTD018	24	NA		F1	o							1	7													Generic Neoithic				1				
FTD018	20	NA		Sandy Grey Ware																						Medieval c.13th								
KTD018	20	NA		Sandy Grey Ware																						Medieval c.13th								

Table 4: Pottery Catalogue

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Remains

By Rachel Fosberry

C.2 Introduction and Methods

C.2.1 Three bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated areas of the site at Gazeley Road, Kentford in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. Features sampled are provisionally dated to the prehistoric period.

C.2.2 The total volume (up to twenty litres) of each bulk sample was processed by water flotation (using a modified Siraff three-tank system) 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 5mm, 2mm and 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. A magnet was dragged through each of the residue 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.

C.3 Results

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Flot contents	Residue contents
1	9	10	Pit	Abundant charcoal,	Large lumps of charcoal (some vitrified), burnt flint
2	11	12	Ditch	Moderate charcoal	No finds
3	13	14	Pit	Sparse charcoal, carbonised grain	Calcined bone, flint

Table 5: Environmental samples from KTD018

C.3.1 All of the samples contain wood charcoal which is particularly abundant in Sample 1, fill 9 of pit **10**. This sample also contains burnt flint. The only sample that contains charred plant remains is sample 3, fill 13 of pit **14** which contains two carbonised cereal grains, possibly wheat (*Triticum* sp.). A few small fragments of calcined bone were recovered from the residue of sample 3.

C.4 Discussion

C.4.1 The samples provide evidence of burning and the charred cereal grains, though small in number, do suggest human activity in the area.

C.5 Animal Bone

By Anthony Haskins

C.5.1 Seven fragments of burnt bone were recovered from the residue of sample 3 (13). Of these 2 are fragments of pig tooth, whilst 1 is a fragment of unidentified medium mammal and the remaining are unidentifiable fragments. Due to the small size of the assemblage it is not possible to add further interpretation.

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Specification for Archaeological Trench Evaluation

Site Name: Gazeley Rd, Kentford, Suffok
Site Code: KTD 018
Finance Code: XSF GRK 13
County (Grid Ref): TL 711 665

Project No: 15554
Client: CgMs for Persimmon Homes
Date: May 2013
Author: Richard Mortimer

Specification for Archaeological Trench Evaluation

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Site Name:	**Gazeley Road, Kentford, Suffolk**
Site Code:	**KTD 018**
County (Grid Ref):	**TL 711 655**
Project No.:	15554
Project Type:	Evaluation
Planning App. No.:	n/a
Client:	CgMs for Persimmon Homes
Date:	07/05/13
Author:	Richard Mortimer

1 General Background

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

This Specification outlines the methodology for a trench evaluation to assess the potential archaeological heritage assets in advance of proposed residential development at Gazelely Road, Kentford. It has been prepared by Oxford Archaeology East for CgMs Consulting on behalf of Persimmon Homes, to support an application for planning permission.

The proposed development site is located on the east side of Gazeley Road, on the southeastern edge of the village of Kentford, District of Forest Heath, Suffolk. The site is centred at National Grid Reference TL 711 665 and covers an area of approximately 3.63 hectares.

1.2 The Geology of the Site

The site is located in the shallow valley of the River Kennett, on the southeastern edge of the village of Kentford and occupies level ground at around 36m above OD.

The British Geological Survey records the bedrock around the study site as chalk of the Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation And New Pit Chalk Formation. This is overlain by sand and gravel river terrace deposits (mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain).

Soils in the area are classified by the Soil Survey of England and Wales as part of the Melford Association (SSEW 1983, Sheet 4 *Unit 571o*), described as “fine loamy over clay soils on chalk till”.

1.3 The Proposed Development

The proposed development comprises residential properties, associated services, open ground etc.

2 Archaeological Background

An Archaeological Statement has been produced by Myk Flitcroft of CgMs (2012) from which the following is taken.

There are no records of archaeological fieldwork within the proposed development site prior to the geophysical survey in December 2012, but there have been a number of previous archaeological investigations within the surrounding search area.

Two prehistoric round barrows were excavated to the east of the proposed development site in advance of quarrying in the 1970s (Martin, 1977). More recently, archaeological trial trenching has been undertaken in 2007 on land adjacent to Bury Road to the north of the site ('Land to the rear of Clifton Lodge', Suffolk HER ref ESF19341). Trial trenching and monitoring of foundations took place in advance of larger scale development at Kennett Park, Moulton Road on the west side of the village in 2009 (Kennett Park, ESF20444).

Prehistoric

A major Lower Palaeolithic site is recorded 750m northeast of the site (KTD 006): significant numbers of Acheulean hand axes and interglacial mammal bones are recorded as being found during sand quarrying in the 19th century. Further palaeolithic finds are reported from other pit workings to the north and northwest (Wymer 1985, fig 32).

Neolithic artefacts are recorded from a number of sites within the Kentford area. A large polished flint axe is recorded as being found 350m east of the proposal site (KTD 008 / MSF6473); the HER notes other Neolithic flint finds including 11 flint axes reported to have come 'from Kentford' . Important Bronze Age monuments are recorded in the area east and north of the Kentford. A group of three bowl barrows (circular burial mounds) are located 650m east of the proposal site (GAZ 002, GAZ 003, GAZ 008); these monuments, which survive as low earthworks, collectively form the Scheduled Monument discussed above (Heritage List Entry No. 1018103). Two probable Bronze Age barrow sites are recorded from aerial photographs northeast of the proposed development site (KTD 001, KTD 002). Two further

Bronze Age bowl barrows were formerly located 200m east of the site (KTD 003, KTD 004); these were excavated archaeologically in advance of quarrying (Martin, 1975). Other upstanding barrow mounds are recorded outside the 1km search area in the area north and northeast of Kentford; historic maps (eg. the 1836 Ordnance Survey 1" map - Figure 4) show additional probable barrows within Kentford Heath and Kennet field northeast and northwest of the village. Archaeological excavations at Moulton Paddocks and Moulton Gallop, Newmarket to the east of Kentford have produced a significant assemblage of Neolithic worked flint and evidence of Neolithic and early Bronze Age features (Bush 2011).

Iron Age and Roman

In contrast to the extensive evidence for early prehistoric activity in the Kentford area, evidence for Iron Age remains is sparse. No sites or monuments of Iron Age date are recorded in the HER within the search area around the proposed development site, although Iron Age pits were identified on the Moulton Paddocks site further east. The route of the Icknield Way, a major long-distance communication and trade route, is believed to pass through Kentford. Its route is broadly followed by the present day Bury Road (B1506).

The Icknield Way remained in use and was straightened and formalised as a Roman road (Margary 1955, 231 Route 333). Remains of a former bridge over the River Kennett adjacent to the modern B1506 bridge have been claimed as remains of a
Roman bridge (KTD 012) although the HER makes it clear that this attribution is incorrect, and the former bridge remains are of medieval date. The HER includes no other records relating to Roman period sites or monuments within the search area around the proposed development site.

Saxon and Medieval

There is no recorded evidence from the proposed development site or surrounding search area for early Saxon remains. Medieval Kentford (KTD 017) appears to have been a linear village extending along the Icknield Way / Bury Road route, east of the River Kennett. The Suffolk HER identifies four medieval monuments or sites within Kentford: the medieval parish church of St Mary (KTD 011) is located at the west end of the village, 350m west of the proposed site; remains of a former medieval packhorse bridge over the River Kennet (KTD 012) - the so-called 'Old Roman Bridge' are recorded adjacent to the modern Bury Road bridge, 650m west of the site. Earthwork remains of possible medieval house plots and gardens (KTD 007) are recorded northeast of the river crossing, and a possible former road or holloway (KTD 010) is recorded southeast of the river crossing.

The proposed development site lies to the south of the eastern edge of the medieval settlement core. Archaeological trial trenching in 2007 at Clifton

Lodge, north of the proposed development site (ESF19341) recovered no evidence for medieval settlement in this area. The recovery of only a single abraded sherd of medieval pottery during the trial trenching is more indicative of manuring fields outside the settlement core than of activity within the settlement itself.

3 Objectives

3.1 The evaluation will seek to establish the character, date, state of preservation and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area.

3.2 In the event that archaeological remains are present the evaluation will seek to consider appropriate methodologies and suitable resourcing levels for excavation.

4 Methods

4.1 Background Research

4.1.1 A suitable level of documentary research has already been undertaken in order to determine the expected archaeological character of the site. Existing information from historical sources and previous archaeological finds and investigations in the vicinity have been collated. Following evaluation trenching the archaeological potential of the site will be assessed with regard to current regional and national research issues and preservation criteria.

4.1.2 The results of the background study will be incorporated into the final evaluation report.

4.3 Aerial Photographs

Aerial photography is not required at this site but Google earth photographs have been studied.

4.4 Geophysical Survey

A Geophysical survey took place at the end of 2012 (Walford 2012) but revealed little evidence archaeological features; two or three potential linear features and a few possible pits were recorded.

4.5 Trial Trenching

4.5.1 Trial trenches will be excavated by machine to the depth of geological

horizons, or to the upper interface of archaeological features or deposits, whichever is encountered first. An initial 22 trenches measuring 30m x 2m (1320 sq m, a 3.5% sample of the area) will be excavated by mechanical excavator with toothless ditching bucket across the site. These will be on a basic grid array, with some trenches tweaked slightly to intersect the anomalies picked up by the geophysics. A further 5 trenches (half of the 1.5% contingency sample) will then be excavated should significant archaeological finds or features have been uncovered, or should there be reason to believe that they will be by further trenching. The other half of the 1.5% contingency (5 trenches) will be kept in reserve and deployed to extend and/or widen the gridded trenches as required by results.

4.5.2 A plan of the proposed trenching strategy will be sent to Suffolk CC for approval before trenching begins.

4.5.3 Exposed surfaces will be cleaned by trowel and hoe as necessary in order to clarify located features and deposits. Trench spoil will be scanned visually and with a metal detector to aid recovery of artefacts.

4.6 Recording and Sampling

4.6.1 Records will comprise survey, drawn, written and photographic data. The drawn record will comprise an initial plan (scale 1:50 or 1:100) for each trench. Thereafter, single context and/or excavated feature plans will be produced for all exposed and excavated features. Trenches and features will be tied in to the OS grid. Sections will be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate. The written record will comprise context descriptions on OA East pro-forma context sheets. The photographic record will comprise monochrome of trenches and excavated features, and colour slides supplemented by colour and digital photographs.

4.6.2 All features will be investigated and recorded to provide an accurate evaluation of archaeological potential whilst at the same time minimising disturbance to archaeological structures, features and deposits.

4.6.3 Bulk samples will be taken by the excavator and in consultation with the English Heritage Regional Scientific Advisor and the projects environmental specialist where practicable, to test for the presence and potential of micro- and macro-botanical environmental indicators. The result of any analysis will be incorporated in the evaluation report.

4.7 Human Remains

4.7.1 If Human remains are encountered, the relevant authority and the client will

be informed. No further excavation will take place until removal becomes necessary, this will only be carried out in accordance with all appropriate Environmental Health regulations and will only occur after a Ministry of Justice licence has been obtained. Excavation may be required where the remains are under imminent threat or dating/preservation information is required for costing purposes. Due to the wide range of variables costs of excavation, removal and analysis of human remains are **not included** in any statement of costs accompanying or associated with this specification.

4.8 Report, Archive and Oasis record

4.8.1 A report on the results of the evaluation will be completed within 4 weeks of the completion of fieldwork.

4.8.2 An Oasis report will be submitted on completion of report.

4.8.3 All artefactual material recovered will be held in storage by OA East and ownership of all such archaeological finds will be given over to relevant authority to facilitate future study and ensure proper preservation of all artefacts. In the unlikely event that artefacts of significant monetary value are discovered, and if they are not subject to Treasure Act legislation separate ownership arrangements may be negotiated. It is Oxford Archaeology Ltd's policy, in line with accepted practice, to keep site archives (paper and artefactual) together wherever possible. All archives will comply in format with MAP 2 recommendations.

5 Timetable

5.1 It is estimated that the fieldwork will take approximately 1 week to complete. These figures do not allow for delays caused by bad weather. Working days are based on a 5-day working week, Monday to Friday.

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

6 Staffing and Support

6.1 The following staff will form the project team:

1 x Project Manager (Richard Mortimer, not based on site)
1 x Project Officer/Supervisor (Anthony Haskins, full time)
2/3 x Site Assistants (part time, as required)
1 x Finds Assistant (part time, as required)
1 x Illustrator for post-excavation work (part time)

6.2 The Project Manager and Project Officer/Supervisor will be core staff of OA East. Names, qualifications and experience of key project personnel can be communicated to the relevant authority before the commencement of

fieldwork if required. All Site Assistants will be drawn from a pool of qualified and experienced staff. The Contractor will not employ volunteer amateur or student staff, whether paid or unpaid, to fulfil any of the above tasks except as an addition to the stated team

6.3 Specialists will be employed for consultation and analysis as necessary. It is anticipated that the site at Gazeley Road may produce Prehistoric, Roman and/or Saxon remains and there will be sampling of environmental remains. Matt Brudenell will be asked to comment on any prehistoric pottery, Alice Lyons will be asked to comment on any Roman pottery and Dr Paul Spoerry/Carole Fletcher will be asked to assess any Saxon/medieval pottery. Environmental analysis will be carried out by OA East staff and the results will be conveyed to the English Heritage Regional Scientific Advisor. Faunal remains will be examined by Chris Faine. Conservation will be undertaken by Colchester Museums. In the event that these specialists are unable to undertake the work within the time constraints of the project or if other remains are found specialists from the list at Appendix 1 will be approached to carry out analysis.

7 Further Considerations

7.1 Insurance

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

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

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

7.3 Site Security

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

etc. are the responsibility of the client. In this instance, it is required that OA East are provided with keys to any relevant padlocks on gates to enable access (see below).

7.4 Access

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

7.5 Site Preparation

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

7.6 Backfilling/Reinstatement

Backfilling of trenches is included in the cost.

7.7 Monitoring

The relevant planning authority will be informed appropriately of dates and arrangements to allow for adequate monitoring of the works.

7.8 Health and Safety, Risk Assessments

7.8.1 A risk assessment covering all activities carried out during the lifetime of the project will be produced. This draws on OA East's activity-specific risk assessment literature and conforms with CDM requirements.

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

Policy can be supplied on request.

APPENDIX F: OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-151748		
Project Name	Evaluation off Gazely Road, Kentford, Suffolk		
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start 14-05-2013	Finish 17-05-2013	
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	KTD 018	Planning App. No.	N?A
HER No.	KTD 018	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Rural Residential

Please select all techniques used:

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

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

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

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Paleochannel	Early Prehistoric -500k to -4k	lithic implement	Early Prehistoric -500k to -4k
	Select period...	Pot	Neolithic -4k to -2k
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Suffolk	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Forest Heath	Gazeley Road Kentford Suffolk,CB8 7QB	
Parish	Kentford		
HER	Suffolk		
Study Area	3.63 hectares	National Grid Reference	TL 711 665

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Jess Tipper
Project Design Originator	Richard Mortimer
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Anthony Haskins

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Suffolk County Council	Suffolk County Council	Suffolk County Council
KTD018	KTD018	KTD018

Archive Contents/Media

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

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

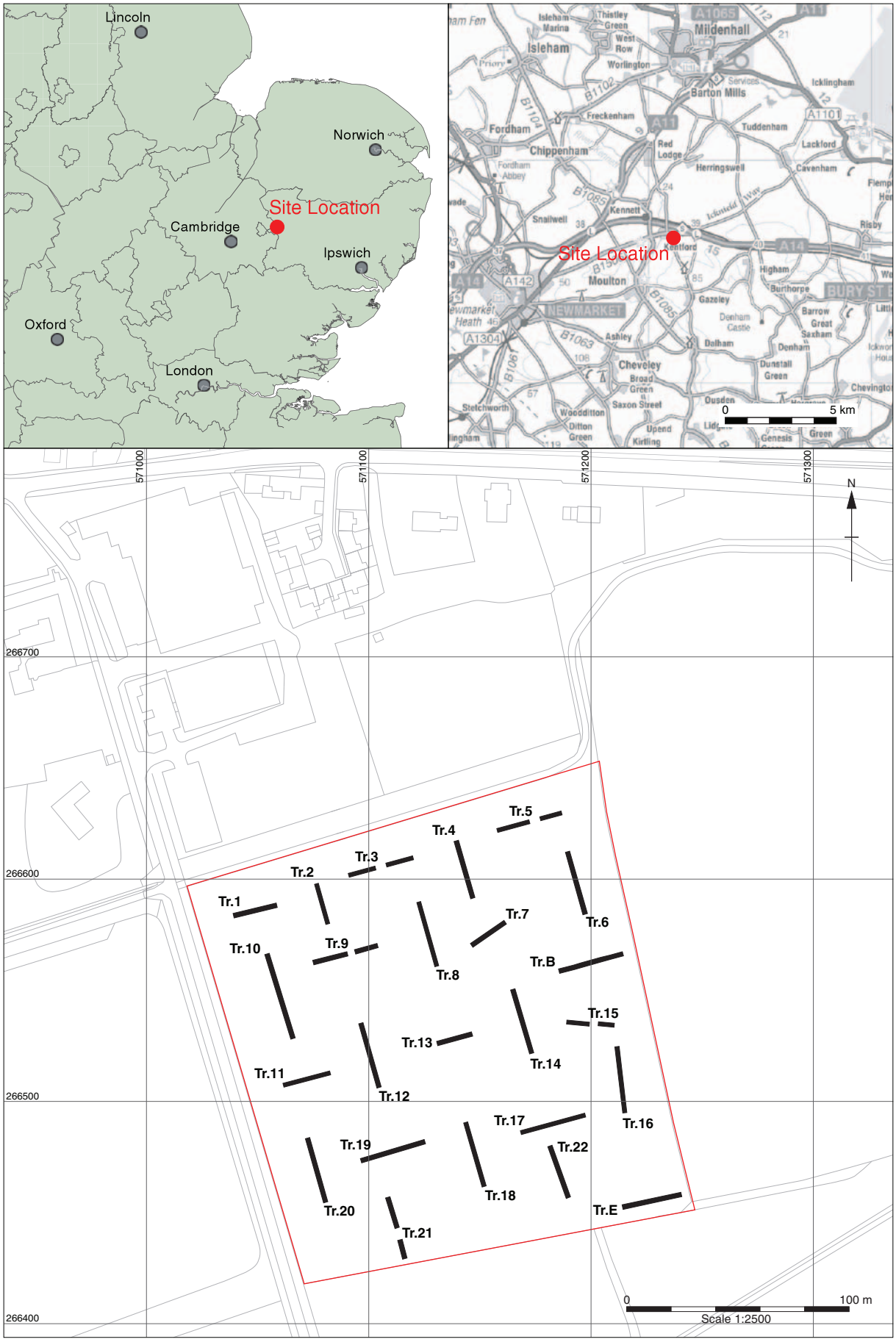

Figure 1: Site location

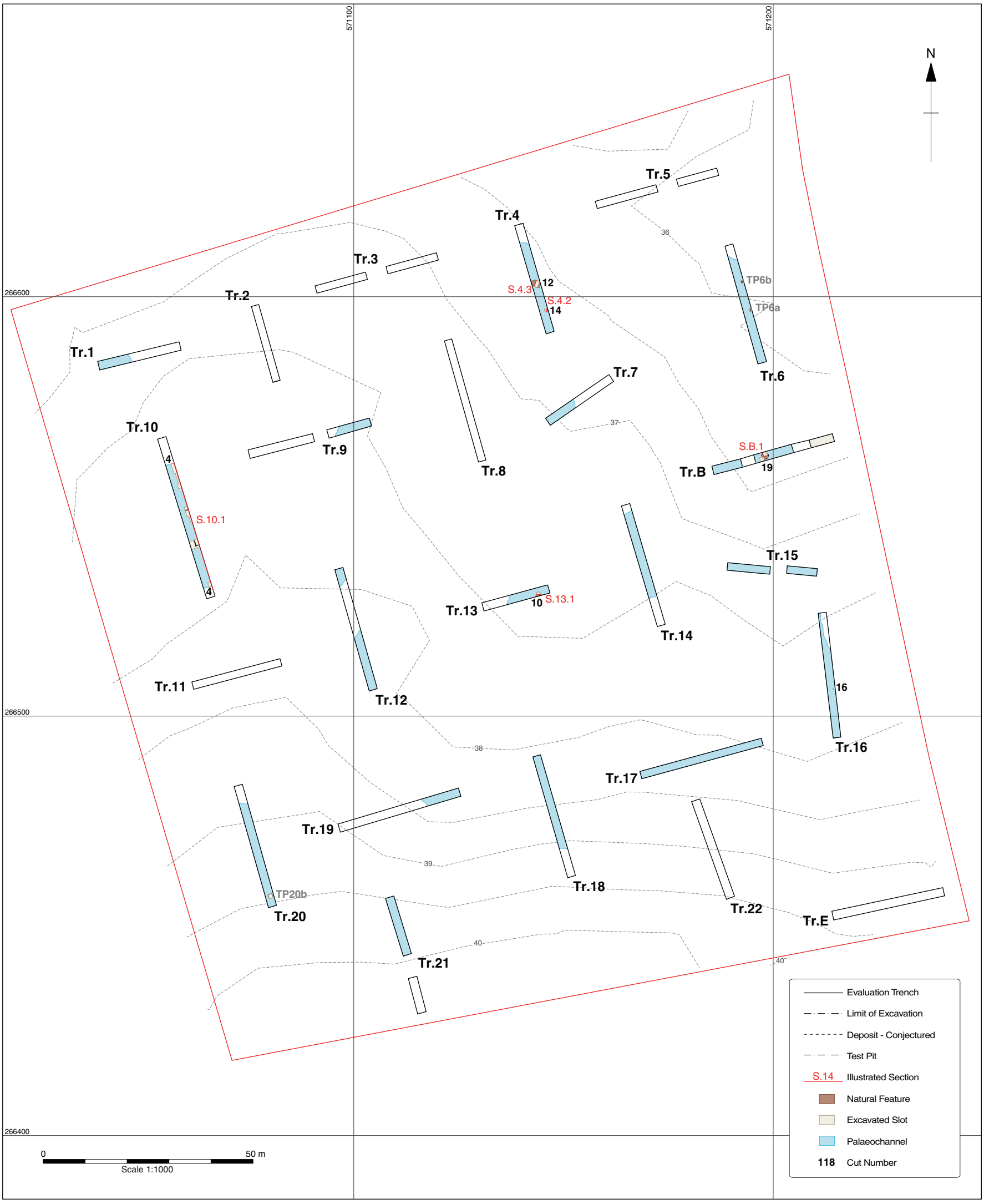

Figure 2: Trench plans

Figure 3: Positions of the channels

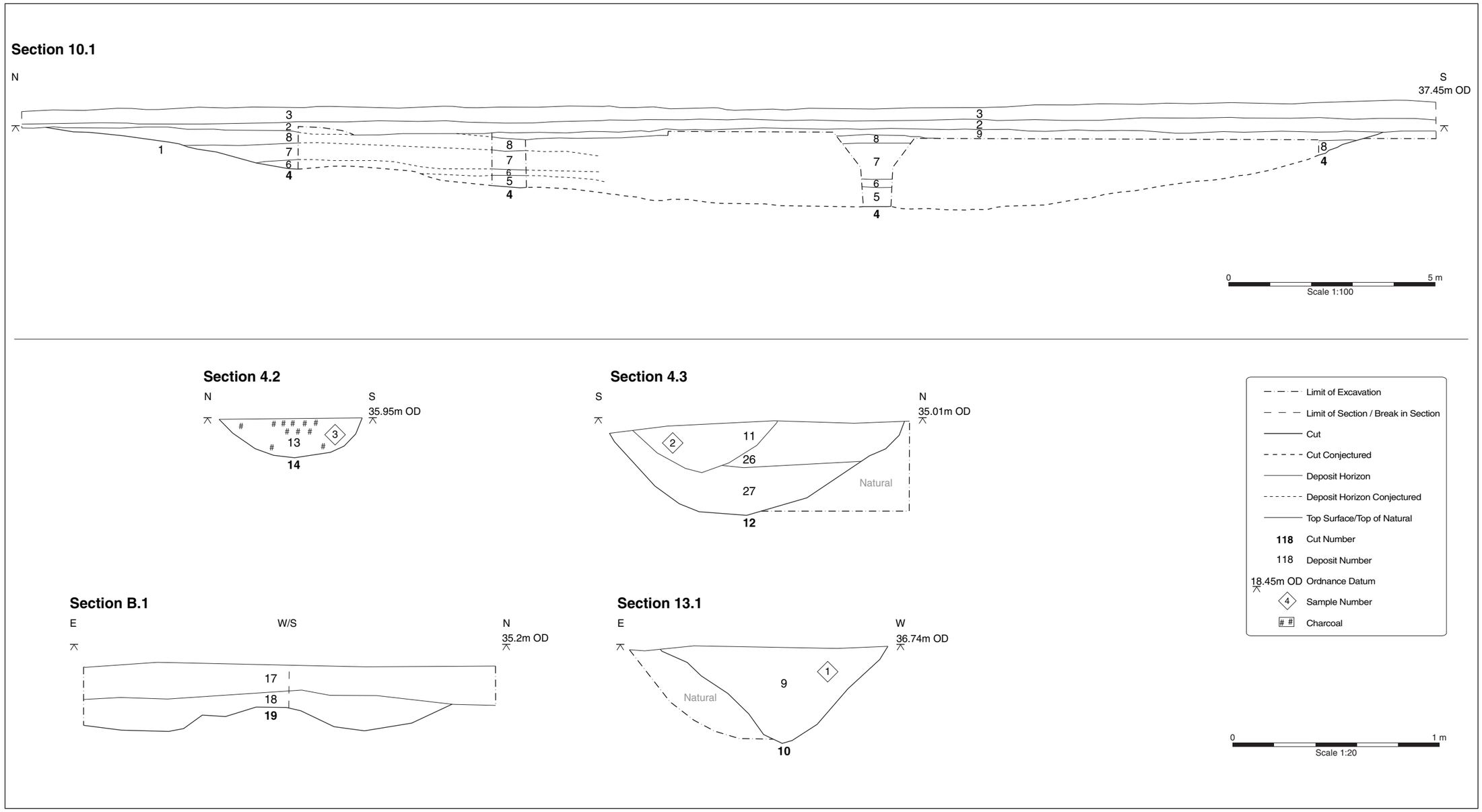

Figure 4: Selected sections

Figure 5: Geophysical results showing trench locations

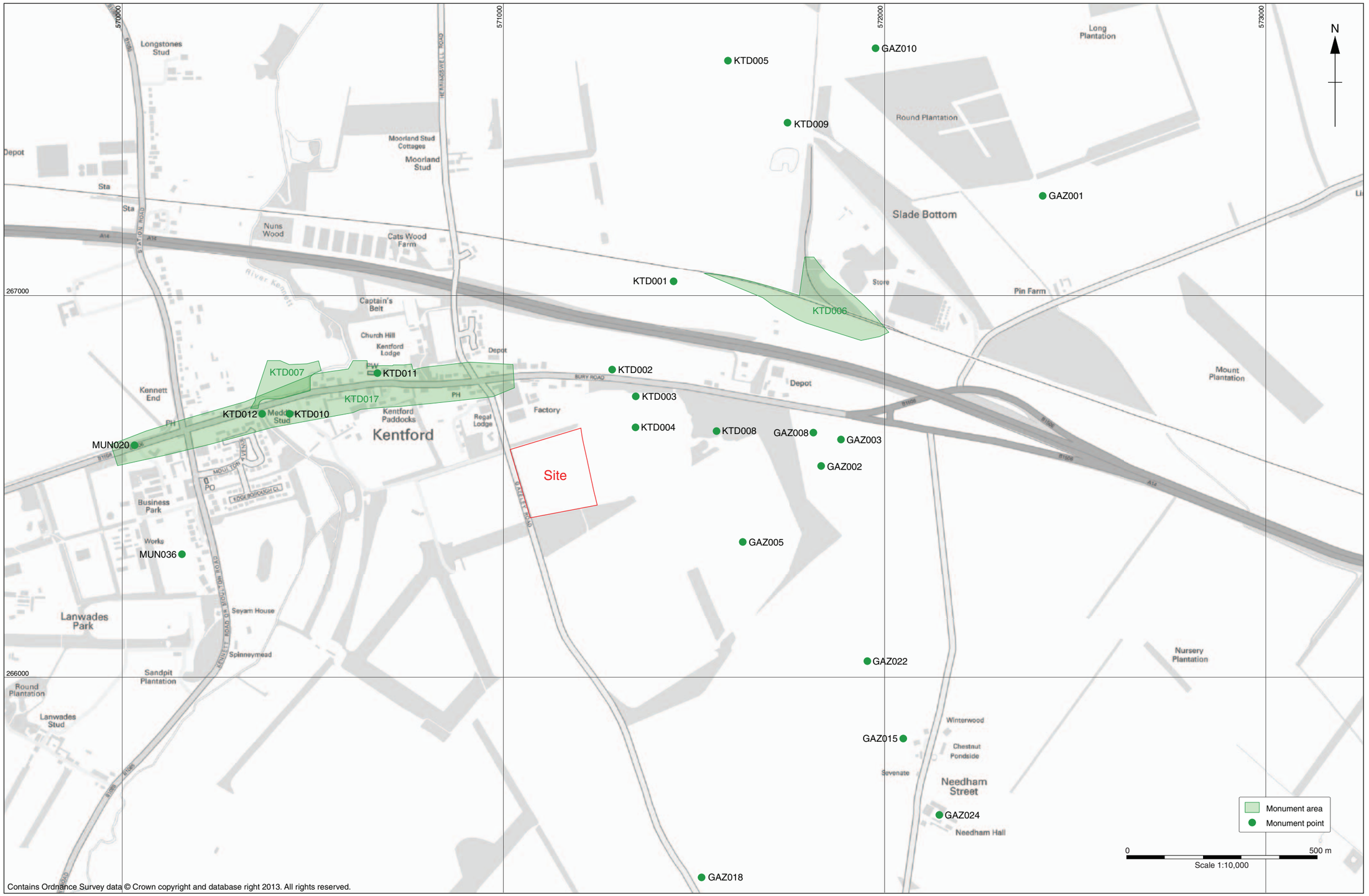

Figure 6: HER plot

Plate 1: Trench 10 looking North-East

Plate 2: Section through Paleo-channel in Trench 10 looking East

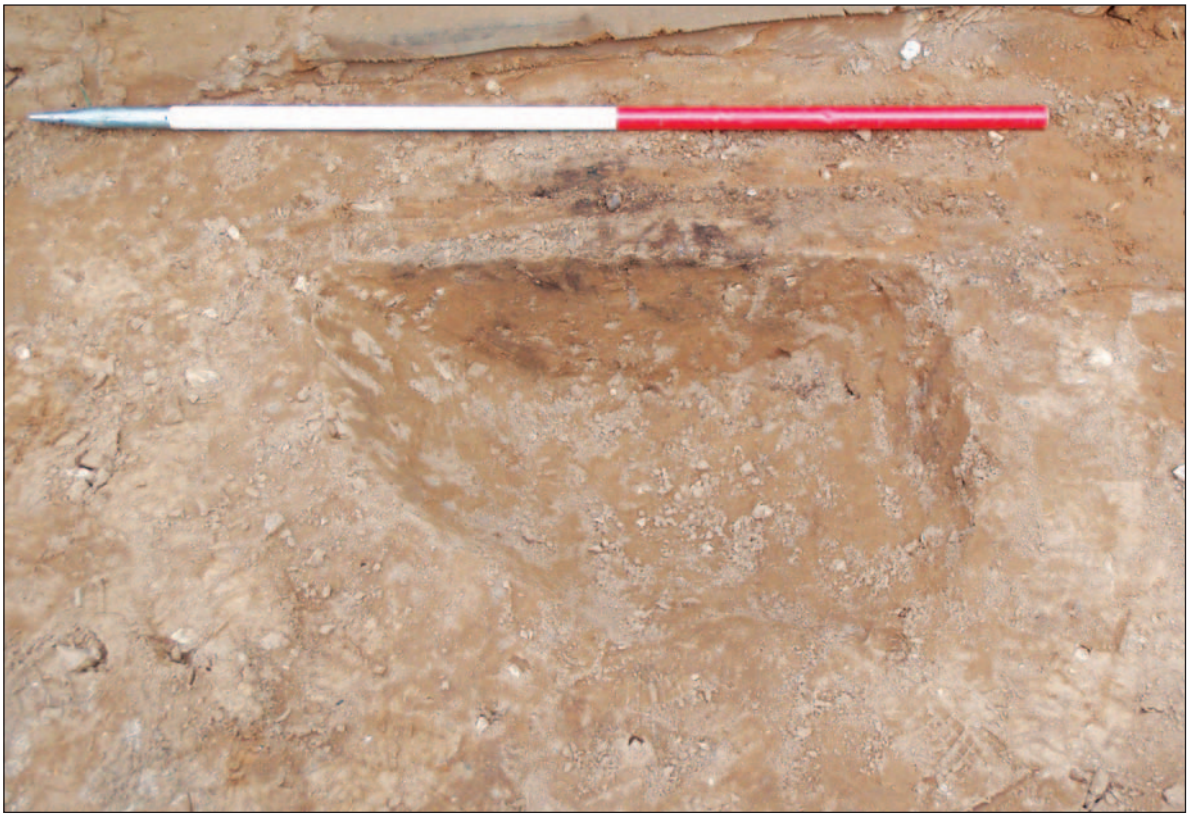

Plate 3: Section of tree throw/pit **14** looking east

Plate 4: Test Pit in Trench B showing Neolithic feature **19**, looking west

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