

Land at Briscoe Way, Lakenheath, Suffolk



Archaeological Evaluation Report



October 2013

Client: Bennett Homes

OA East Report No: 1536

OASIS No: oxfordar3-158711

NGR: TL 7124 8378

Land at Briscoe Way, Lakenheath, Suffolk

Archaeological Evaluation

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Report Date: October 2013

Report Number: 1536
Site Name: Land at Briscoe Way, Lakenheath, Suffolk
HER Event No: LKH 356
Date of Works: October 2013
Client Name: Bennett Homes
Client Ref: 16061
Planning Ref:
Grid Ref: TL 7124 8378
Site Code: LKH 356
Finance Code: XSFBWL13
Receiving Body: Suffolk Museum Stores
Accession No: LKH 356
Prepared by: Jonathan House
Position: Project Supervisor
Date: 29/10/13
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Signed:

Stephen Macaulay

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Summary

Summary

An Evaluation was carried out at and at Briscoe Way, Lakenheath, Suffolk, Grid Ref TL 7124 8378, the fieldwork took place from the 01/10/13 to 03/10/13.

A total of 14 trenches (totalling 640m's of linear trial trenches) were excavated within the proposed development area, no archaeological features were seen within any of the trial trenches.

The lack of evidence for agricultural activity prior to modern practices and the proximity to the fenland, suggests the development area may have been predominately used for pastoral farming practices.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Land at Briscoe Way, Lakenheath, Suffolk (NGR TL 7124 8378).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Matt Brudenell of Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS), supplemented by a Specification prepared by CgMs Consulting.
- 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 SCCAS, 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 evaluation encountered chalk within the trenches, possibly the Grey Chalk Subgroup; the chalk sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 94 to 100 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period (British Geological Survey online, 2013). Subsequent geological processes appear to have caused faults within the bedrock which were noted throughout the evaluation, in particular on the eastern side of the development area. These faults were observed as striations and pockets of dark silty deposits within the geology.
- 1.2.2 The course of the Lakenheath Lode runs to the north of the site, the ground rising from north to south from the watercourse. The land continues to rise to the south of the site, to 20m AOD; to the east and west of the development area the ground drops to 1m AOD. The development area ranges in height from the north east corner at approximately 6m AOD, to the south-west corner at 9m AOD. Fenland stretches to the north and to the west of the development area.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following section has been taken from the brief issued by Suffolk County Council, a plot of finds spots and previous investigations has been included with the report (Fig. 2.):
- 1.3.2 The site lies in an area of archaeological interest, as recorded in the County Historic Environment Record (HER). There are a large number of recorded remains within the immediate vicinity, with excavations immediately south revealing a Bronze Age/Iron Age burial site (LKH 220). In 2010, a partial geophysical survey of the proposed development area and surround plot identified a number of anomalies suggestive of enclosures and potential settlement features. Fieldwalking and metal detecting surveys also yielded a small number of Prehistoric worked flints, ceramics of the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods, and metal finds of post-medieval date. There is therefore a high potential for encountering early occupation deposits, of all periods (particularly Prehistoric), at this fen edge location.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Bennett homes who funded the project and Paul Gajos of CgMs who commissioned the archaeological works. The author would also like to thank the site staff John Diffey, and Dave Brown. Thanks are also extended to Stephen Macaulay who managed the project and Matt Brudenell who monitored the project on behalf of Suffolk County Council.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this archaeological investigation 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 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360-type excavator using a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.2 The site survey was completed with a Leica GPS 1200 GPS fitted with 'smartnet'.
- 2.2.3 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.
- 2.2.4 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.
- 2.2.5 A geophysical survey of the development area was undertaken prior to the evaluation. The results of the survey were extensively tested during the evaluation.
- 2.2.6 No suitable deposits were identified for environmental analysis.
- 2.2.7 The site conditions and the weather did not inhibit the archaeological work.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The results are presented in trench order, with average topsoil and subsoil depths. The trenches measured 2m by 50m, unless otherwise stated.

3.2 Trenches 1 - 14

Trench 1

- 3.2.1 The trench contained a topsoil measuring 0.37m in thickness, and a subsoil measuring 0.05m thick. The trench was 20m in length and was located at the north-east corner of the development area, and aligned roughly north-west to south-east.
- 3.2.2 The trench fell within an area identified within the geo-physics as containing naturally formed anomalies; the trench contained dark silty pockets formed within the natural chalk. These deposits were tested by excavation and were proved to be naturally occurring deposits. The trench contained no significant archaeological features or deposits.

Trench 2

- 3.2.3 Trench 2 was located at the eastern side of the development area, south-west of Trench 1 on a roughly north-east to south-west alignment. The trench contained topsoil, and a subsoil, measuring 0.36m and 0.04m thick respectively.
- 3.2.4 Naturally occurring geological deposits were also identified within the trench, these deposits were extensively tested as the deposits were initially identified as cut features, see Plate 1. The trench contained no significant archaeological features or deposits.

Trench 3

- 3.2.5 Trench 3 contained a topsoil measuring 0.35m thick and a subsoil measuring 0.06m thick. The trench was located at the south-east corner of the development area on a north-east to south-west alignment. A number of geological features were investigated within the trench, a small amount of finds were recovered from an excavated slot, the finds came from a thin lens of subsoil slumping into the natural feature. The small finds assemblage consisted of two sherds of not closely datable medieval pot (pers. comm. Carole Fletcher), and two small fragments of coal.

Trench 4

- 3.2.6 The trench was located in the north-eastern end of the site on a north-west to south-east alignment. The topsoil measured 0.33m thick and the subsoil measured 0.05m thick. A linear anomaly was identified within the geophysics at the southern end of the trench, excavation of the trench showed no sign of an archaeological feature at this location. The trench contained no significant archaeological features or deposits.

Trench 5

- 3.2.7 Trench 5 had a topsoil measuring 0.31m thick and a sub soil measuring 0.04m thick. The trench was north-east to south-west aligned and located south-west of Trench 4. The trench contained no significant archaeological features or deposits.

Trench 6

- 3.2.8 Trench 6 was located to the south-east of Trench 5 on a roughly north-west to south-east alignment, the trench had a topsoil measuring 0.37m thick and subsoil measuring 0.04m thick. The trench contained no significant archaeological features or deposits.

Trench 7

- 3.2.9 The trench was located centrally within the development area, to the north-west of Trench 5 on a roughly north-west, south-east alignment. The topsoil within the trench measured 0.33m thick and the subsoil measured 0.04m thick. The trench contained no significant archaeological features or deposits.

Trench 8

- 3.2.10 Trench 8 was located at the centre of the development area, the trench contained a topsoil measuring 0.31m thick and a subsoil measuring 0.03m in thickness. The trench was aligned north-east to south-west and contained no features or archaeologically significant deposits.

Trench 9

- 3.2.11 Trench 9 was located to the south-east of Trench 8 and ran on a roughly north-east to south-west alignment. The trench had a topsoil measuring 0.34m thick and a subsoil measuring 0.06m thick. The trench contained no significant archaeological features or deposits.

Trench 10

- 3.2.12 The trench was located centrally within the development area, north west of Trench 8 on a north-west to south-east alignment. The topsoil measured 0.33m and the subsoil measured 0.04m. The trench contained no significant archaeological features or deposits.

Trench 11

- 3.2.13 Trench 11 was located towards the western side of the development area west of Trench 8; the trench was aligned north-east to south-west. The trench contained a topsoil and subsoil measuring 0.32m thick and 0.04m thick respectively. The trench contained no significant archaeological features or deposits.

Trench 12

- 3.2.14 The trench was located towards the south-west corner of the development area, to the south-east of Trench 11, the trench was on a north-west to south-east alignment. The trench contained a topsoil measuring 0.33m thick and a subsoil which measured 0.05m thick. The trench contained no significant archaeological features or deposits.

Trench 13

- 3.2.15 Trench 13 was located at the north-west corner of the development area, the trench was aligned north-west to south-east. The topsoil measured 0.36m thick and the subsoil measured 0.05m thick. The trench targeted a geophysical anomaly at the north-western end of the trench, changes in the geology at the relevant location within the trench suggested a possible cause for the geophysical variation. A large depression was also noted within the natural chalk, the depression contained a much thicker

subsoil and extended across the middle of the trench, see Plate 2. The trench contained no significant archaeological features or deposits.

Trench 14

- 3.2.16 The trench was 20m in length and was located at the south-west corner of the development area, and aligned roughly north-west to south-east. The trench contained a topsoil measuring 0.3m in thickness, and a subsoil measuring 0.03m thick. The trench contained no significant archaeological features or deposits.

3.3 Finds Summary

- 3.3.1 A very small finds assemblage was recovered from the site, as well as the finds from Trench 3, a small number of possibly struck unstratified flints were retained.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion

- 4.1.1 Little or no evidence was seen for farming practices aside from evidence relating to obviously modern agriculture. The small amount of subsoil appeared to be more a result of modern deep ploughing consisting of a poorly mixed, poorly sorted interface between the natural chalk, and topsoil. The lack of evidence for agricultural practices prior to modern activity may suggest the land held value as pasture.
- 4.1.2 The proximity of the fenland may indicate the immediate area may have been wet for extended periods, rendering the immediate area unsuitable for long term habitation; with higher ground further to the south likely to be preferable.
- 4.1.3 All of the geophysical anomalies targeted by the trial trenching proved to be either natural in origin or simply were not present.

4.2 Significance

- 4.2.1 Previous human activities within the development area appear to be minimal, with any possible activity on the site leaving little or no archaeological signature. No significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered throughout the archaeological trial trenching.

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalk.				Max. depth (m)		0.42
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		20
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	layer	-	0.37	topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 2						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalk.				Max. depth (m)		0.4
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.04	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 3						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalk.				Max. depth (m)		0.41
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 4						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalk.				Max. depth (m)		0.38
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.33	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 5						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalk.				Max. depth (m)		0.35
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		49.8
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer		0.31	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer		0.04	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 6						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalk.				Max. depth (m)		0.41
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.37	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.04	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 7						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalk.				Max. depth (m)		0.37
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.33	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.04	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 8						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil				Max. depth (m)		0.34

overlying a natural of chalk. overlying a natural of chalky clay.		Width (m)	2			
		Length (m)	50			
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.31	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.03	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 9						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalk.				Max. depth (m)	0.4	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.06	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 10						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalk.				Max. depth (m)	0.37	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.33	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.04	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 11						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalk.				Max. depth (m)	0.36	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.04	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 12						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalk.				Max. depth (m)		0.38
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.33	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 13						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalk.				Max. depth (m)		0.41
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 14						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalk.				Max. depth (m)		0.33
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		20
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
100	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.03	Subsoil	-	-

APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Gajos, P, 2013, *A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation Land at Briscoe Way Lakenheath Suffolk*. Unpublished

APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-158711			
Project Name	Land at Briscoe Way, Lakenheath, Suffolk			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	01-10-2013	Finish	03-10-2013
Previous Work (by OA East)	No		Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	LKH356	Planning App. No.	
HER No.		Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Housing Estate

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 type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits
<input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search	<input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography	

Monument 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
	None		None
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Suffolk	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Forest Heath	Briscoe Way, Lakenheath, Suffolk. IP27 9SB	
Parish	Lakenheath		
HER	Suffolk		
Study Area	23,000m2	National Grid Reference	TL 7124 8378

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS)
Project Design Originator	CgMs
Project Manager	Stephen Macauley
Supervisor	Jonathan House

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Suffolk Museum Service	OA East (Bar Hill)	Suffolk Museum Service
LKU356	XSFBWL13	LKU356

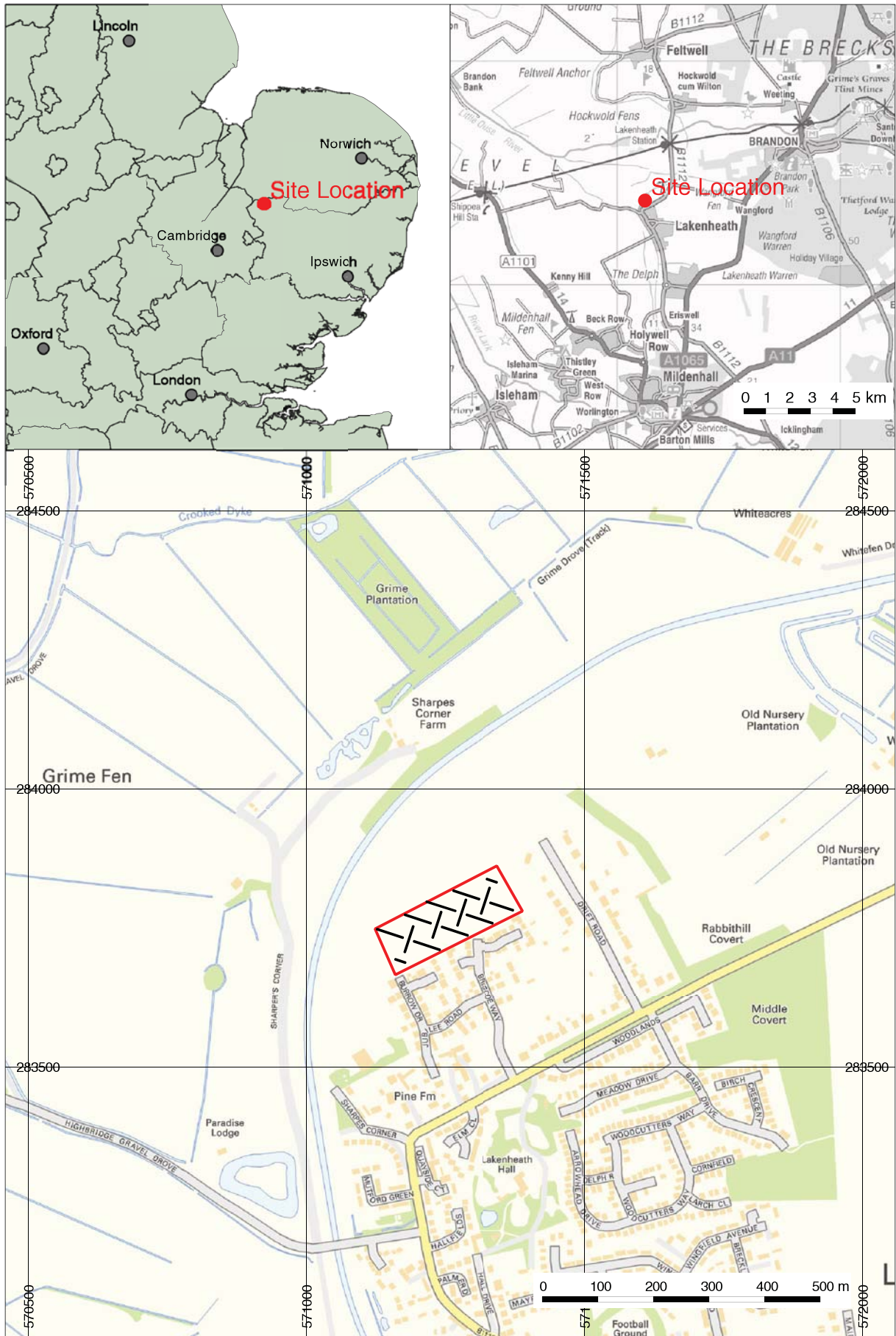
Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input 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"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/> Map
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:

A total of 14 trenches (totalling 640m's of linear trial trenches) were excavated within the proposed development area, no archaeological features were seen within any of the trial trenches.



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Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red)

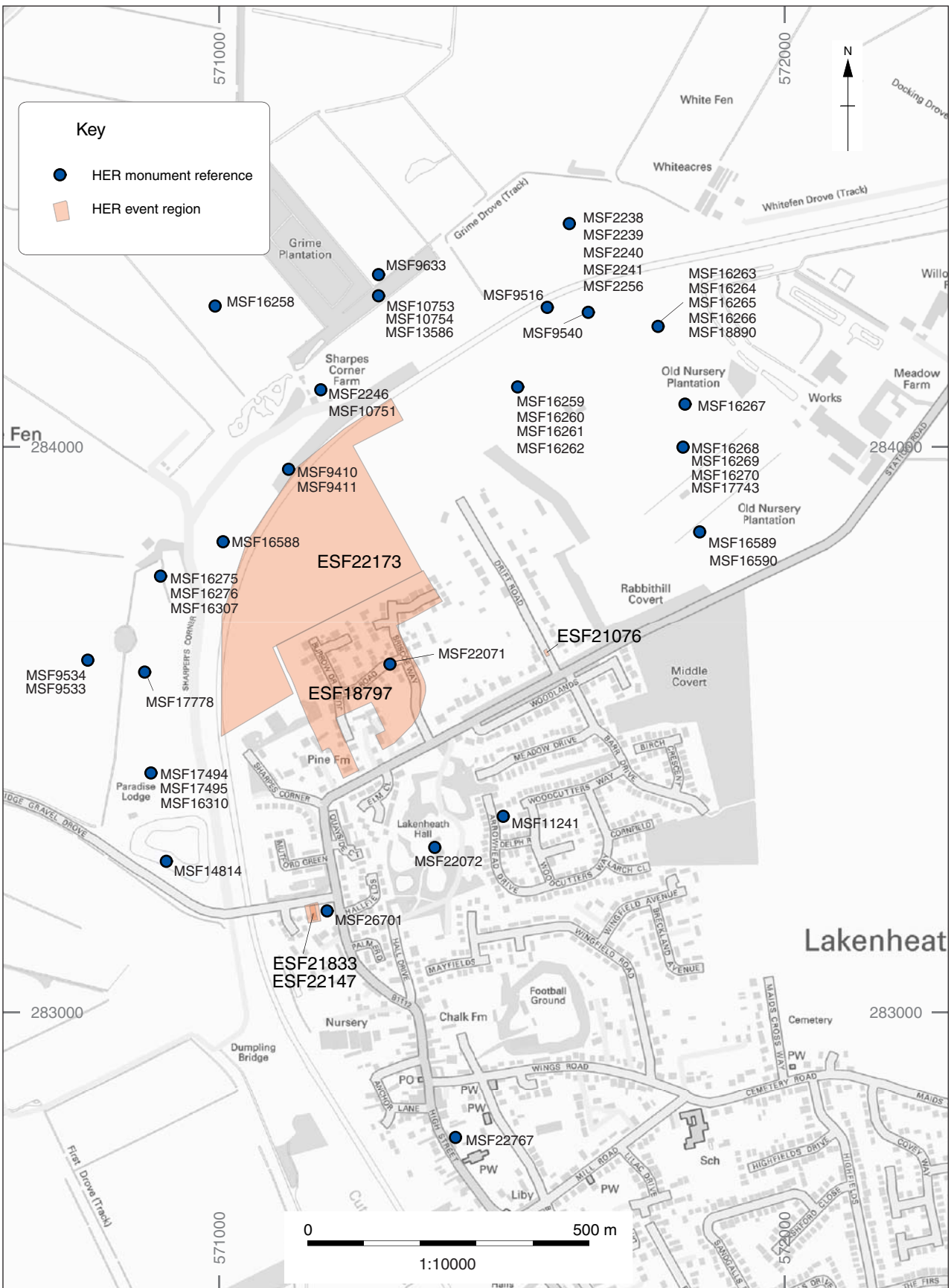


Figure 2: HER plot

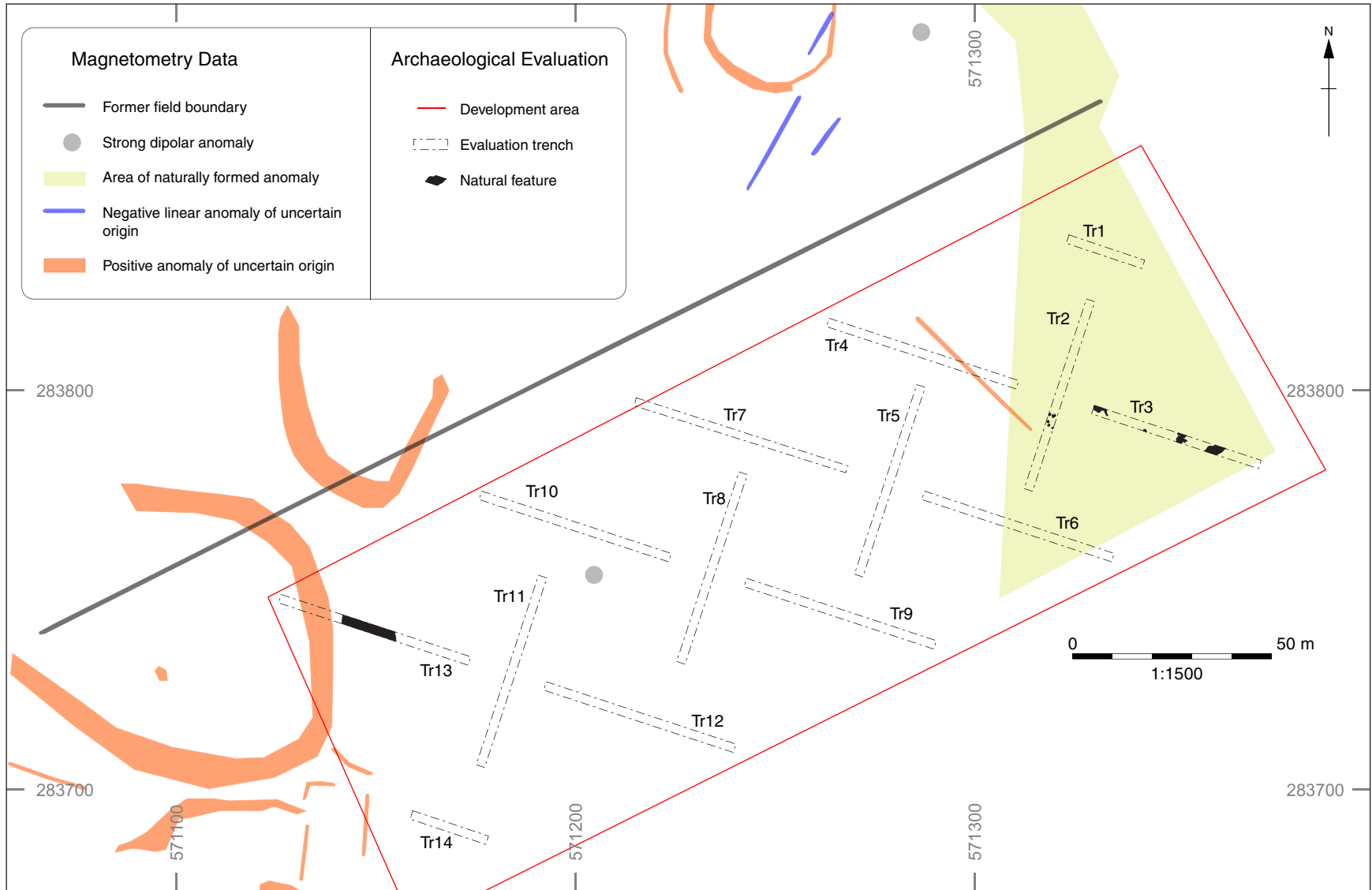




Plate 1: Geological anomalies seen within Trench 2 shot taken from south.



Plate 2:



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