Camgrain APC London Road Balsham

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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December 2009

Client: Camgrain Stores Ltd.

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

Camgrain APC site, London Road, Balsham

Archaeological Evaluation

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Report Date: December 2009

Report Number:	1145
Site Name:	Camgrain APC site, London Road, Balsham.
HER Event No:	ECB 3293
Date of Works:	November 2009
Client Name:	Camgrain Stores Ltd
Client Ref:	Camgrain
Planning Ref:	S/0506/09/F
Grid Ref:	TL 5673 5440
Site Code:	BALCAM09
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Summary

Oxford Archaeology East was commissioned to field walk and evaluate part of a 10 hectare site north of Balsham by Camgrain Stores Ltd. The fieldwalking revealed part of a series of post pits forming a circular enclosure thought to be a prehistoric timber circle. A small excavation was carried out on circle, whose full extent was revealed by extending the stripped area. The evaluation trenches only revealed signs of modern ploughing. The field walking exercise on the rest of the site only discovered one small piece of worked flint.

INTRODUCTION

Location and scope of work

A programme of archaeological work was conducted at land owned by Camgrain APC at London Road Balsham centered on TL5673 5440.

This archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application S/0506/09/F), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (formerly Cambridgeshire County Council's CAM ARC). Part of the site had previously been stripped of topsoil; this area was subject to a fieldwalking exercise after the stripped area had been "re-cleaned" by mechanical excavator with toothless ditching bucket. An archaeological evaluation took place on part of the site where topsoil had not been stripped.

The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning and Policy Guidance 16 - Archaeology and Planning* (Department of the Environment 1990). The results will enable decisions to be made by CCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

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

Geology and topography

The site lies on New Pit Chalk and Holywell nodular flint formations. The site lies at approximately 44.00 OD on a slight slope rising to the east.

Archaeological and historical background

The site lies to the south of a known (but undated) cropmark including ring ditches and enclosures (MCB111560. An evaluation for a wind farm to the east revealed Neolithic flint quarrying and working and Iron Age remains (Jones 2009 - ECB 3166). Two flint axes have also been found in the vicinity – HER 06260 & 06262.

An aerial photographic assessment (Palmer 2009) for the wind farm revealed a linear ditch in the south of the current field (MCB 18315) and other features further afield, including possible Bronze Age ring ditches.

The Fleam Dyke (HER07889) one of the Saxon dykes of Cambridge and a Scheduled Ancient Monument, lies to the south-west of the site.

An evaluation on a borrow pit for the A11 widening to the north-west produced no archaeological features (Bray 1992 – ECB 1510).

Acknowledgments

The Author would like to thank Philip Darke of Camgrain who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. The project was managed by James Drummond Murray. James Fairbairn and Louise Bush supervised the evaluation with the assistance of Pete Boardman, Dave Brown and Zoe UI Choilean. Site survey was carried out by Louise Bush. Harvey Cross scanned the site for metal artefacts.

Kasia Gdaniec wrote the brief for the archaeological works, who also visited and monitored the evaluation and subsequent excavation.

AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

Aims

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

Methodology

The Brief required that seven trenches totalling 135m in length were excavated on an unstripped area of the site. A test pit measuring 1m x 1m was dug at the the terminal of each test pit. A total of eleven test pits were dug. The rest of the area was subject to a light strip amounting to surface cleaning as this area had previously been stripped prior to any archaeological works being carried out. This area was then fieldwalked.

Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.

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

Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.

All 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.

A total of 310L of bulk soil samples were collected

The total volume for each sample was processed by water flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present.

The conditions on site were cold and overcast. Two days of intermittent heavy rain hampered the the evaluation. A compound at the western extent of the site restricted re-cleaning in that area somewhat.

Results

Introduction

The results are discussed by trench and associated test pit. The area field walked and the area that was re cleaned will be discussed separately. A separate inventory appears in Appendix A.

Test pits were hand dug to ascertain any evidence of archaeological artefacts present in the topsoil or subsoil.

Trench 1 and Test pit 1

Trench 1 revealed some natural plough-scarring a single flint flake thought to be of Middle Bronze Age was recovered from the subsoil. (see Appendix C)

Trench 2 and Test Pits 2, 3 and 4

Trench 2 and associated test pits 2,3 and 4 revealed some modern plough-scarring running in a north-east, south- west direction but no archaeological features.

Trench 3 and Test Pit 5

Trench 3 revealed some modern plough-scarring but no archaeological features. Test pit 5 was also devoid of artefactual remains.

Trench 4 and Test pits 6 and 7

Trench 4 was devoid of any archaeological features and test pit 6 and no artefacts were recovered from test pit 6. However the subsoil in test pit 7 produced 3 small crude flint flakes thought to date from the Middle Bronze Age. (See Appendix C)

Trench 5 and Test pit 12

Trench 5 was devoid of any archaeological features. Test pit 12 contained no artefactual evidence.

Trench 6 and Test pits 8 and 9

No archaeological features were found in trench 6. No archaeological artefacts were found in test pits 8 and 9.

Trench 7 and Test pits 10 and 11.

No archaeological features were found in trench 7. No archaeological artefacts were found in test pits 10 or 11.

Fieldwalking

The cleaned area was systematically fieldwalked to locate any areas of flint scatters.

Only one small flake was found lying on the surface. (See Appendix A)

However in the south-west corner of the stripped area a semi-circle of features was recorded.

When excavated, these turned out to be post-pits but contained no dating evidence or any artefactual material. Following discussions with Cambridgshire County Council, it was decided to fully expose and excavate this feature.

Excavation

A circular structure was excavated at the south-western corner of the site. This structure comprised of twelve elongated pits with a thirteenth pit located at the centre of the circle. The whole structure was c9.0m in diameter. These pits varied in depth 0.05m and 0.32m and in length between 0.30m and 1.10m. Widths were between 0.27m and 0.39m. All had a single fill consisting of a loose mid reddish brown sandy silty loam with frequent chalk inclusions. The exception to this was pit **22** which contained two fills (21 and 39) fill (39) was very similar to that of (21) but with more chalk inclusions. Pits 12, 26 and 30 appear to have post holes associated with them suggesting that all the pits may have done. These pits seem to be dug with a slight slant or gradient this maybe to facilitate the uplifting of the posts and the setting of packing behind. A slightly larger pit in the middle of the circular structure **38** most probably supported a central post. Two amorphous pits were also excavated within the area of the circular structure **45** and **47**. The irregular shape and uneven base and sides suggest that this is a tree bowl and has no discernible relationship with the structure. The distinct lack of artefactual evidence or domestic waste found within any of the pits strongly suggests this was not a domestic dwelling and is more likely to be associated with some ceremonial purpose.

Finds Summary

There was almost a complete lack of artefactual evidence discovered on the site. No pottery was found and only 4 flakes were recovered, none of these were discovered within a secure context. One was found during fieldwalking and the other three were found within the sub soil layer (02) in test pit 7.

Environmental Summary

Thirty two bulk samples were taken for the retrieval of any artefacts and ecofacts that may have been present. The results of the flotation of these samples revealed that plant remains were absent. No artefactual remains were found within the bulk soil samples.

Discussion and Conclusions

The Camgrain evaluation at Balsham has discovered the exciting possibility of a ceremonial structure in the shape of a timber circle existing on the site. The work to the south (Jones 2009) revealed part of a Neolithic flint quarry. Several pits cut into the chalk were excavated which contained primary flint reduction waste, though no tools were recovered. The pits were associated with a large V shaped ditch, 3.75m wide and 1.08m deep, running NW-SE. One of the undated cropmarks also turned out to be a V shaped ditch pointing to a wider prehistoric landscape of which the Camgrain timber circle was a part.

Two very similar structures, though slightly larger, was found at the Ferrybridge Henge site at the A1 interchange in North Yorkshire (Roberts (ed) 2005). Ferrybridge North consisted of thirteen post pits between 0.20-0.50m in diameter constructed around a central larger post pit 0.45m in diameter and 0.50m in depth. Ferrybridge South timber circle, c 25m to the south-west, comprised twelve outerpost settings between 0.40-0.60m in diamater and 0.20 – 0.50m in depth. They were constructed around a central post pit 0.55m in diameter and 0.5m in depth. Both circles were 15.5m in diameter.

Like at the Camgrain site, no artefactual or environmental evidence was found despite the complete excavation of all the post holes. A large number of flints were found nearby attesting activity around the monument in the Late Neolithic and Bronze Age Periods.

In his discussion, Roberts points out that timber circles are invariably found in association with henges and other major ritual monuments and are most commonly Late Neolithic in date. The possibility of lintels between the posts is thought more likely than a fully roofed structure.

Gibson (1994) catalogued 40 timber circles, and whilst more have been excavated since then, their function remains unclear, though a ceremonial, rather than domestic, one is usually ascribed. Diameters generally ranged between 5m and 40m+. Gibson did a plot of date and diameter and suggested that the earliest and latest circles were less than 10m in diameter with a peak of 35-40m in c2500 BC.

Significance

The results of the evaluation add to our sparse understanding of the prehistoric landscape and environment in this part of Cambridgeshire.

Since timber circles do not normally appear as isolated features but as part of a (ceremonial?) landscape, there must be the possibility of other remains in the locality.

Recommendations

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

Bibliography

Gibson, A 1994 *Excavations at the Sarn-y-bryn-caled cusus comples, Welshpool and the timber circles of Great Britain and Ireland* Proc. Prehist Soc 60

Jones, E 2009 *Wadlow Windfarm, West Wratting Cambridgeshire, Results of Archaeological Evaluation,* Headland Archaeology Report

Roberts, 1 (ed) 2005 *Ferrybridge henge: The Ritual Landscape* Yorkshire Archaeology 10

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying chalk natural. Some modern plough scaring evident. One Flake was found in the subsoil layer (See appendix **)					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.3
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	49.1
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil mid orangey brown sandy silt topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil: Light orangey brown silty chalk	Flint flake	MBA+
	Layer	-	-	Chalk Natural	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench 2 devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying chalk natural.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.31
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	24
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer		0.2	Topsoil mid orangey brown sandy silt topsoil		
2	Layer		0.11	Subsoil: Light orangey brown silty chalk		

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench 3 was devoid of any archaeological features. Consists of a topsoil and subsoil overlying chalk natural					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.3
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	49.1
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer		0.13	Topsoil mid orangey brown sandy silt topsoil		
2	Layer		0.17	Subsoil: Light orangey brown silty chalk		

Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench 4 was devoid of any archaeological features. Consists of a topsoil and subsoil overlying chalk natural					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.32
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	24.6
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer		0.22	Topsoil mid orangey brown sandy silt topsoil		
2	Layer		0.1	Subsoil: Light orangey brown silty chalk		

Trench 5						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench 5 was devoid of any archaeological features. Consists of a topsoil and subsoil overlying chalk natural					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.3
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	38.9
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer		0.12	Topsoil mid orangey brown sandy silt topsoil		
2	Layer		0.18	Subsoil: Light orangey brown silty chalk		

Trench 6						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench 6 was devoid of any archaeological features. Consists of a topsoil and subsoil overlying chalk natural					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.29
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	49.1
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer		0.18	Topsoil mid orangey brown sandy silt topsoil		
2	Layer		0.11	Subsoil: Light orangey brown silty chalk		

Trench 7						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench 7 was devoid of any archaeological features. Consists of a topsoil and subsoil overlying chalk natural					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.29
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	11.2
Contexts						

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer		0.08	Topsoil mid orangey brown sandy silt topsoil		
2	Layer		0.21	Subsoil: Light orangey brown silty chalk		

Post Pit 8						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Elongated post pit with sharp sides and a flattish base containing a single fill					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.11
					Width (m)	0.3
					Length (m)	1
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**Section No**	**date**
7	Fill			Mid yellowish reddish brown sandy silty fill of **8**	10	
8	Cut			Cut of post pit		
Post Pit 10						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Elongated post pit with almost vertical sides and a flattish base containing a single fill					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.19
					Width (m)	0.39
					Length (m)	0.19
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**Section No**	**date**
9	Fill			Mid yellowish reddish brown sandy silty fill of **10**	11	
10	Cut			Cut of post pit		
Post Pit 12						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Elongated post pit containing a single fill over cutting post hole14					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.17
					Width (m)	0.28
					Length (m)	0.82
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**Section No**	**date**
11	Fill			Mid yellowish reddish brown sandy silty fill of **12**	12	
12	Cut			Cut of post pit		

Post Hole 14						
General description					**Orientation**	
Circular post hole in post pit 12					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.32
					Diam (m)	0.27
					Length (m)	
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**Section No**	**date**
13	Fill			Mid reddish brown sandy silty fill of **14**		
14	Cut			Cut of post hole		

Post Pit 16						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Elongated post pit with sharp sides and an uneven base containing a single fill, evidence of post hole at the southern end					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.11
					Width (m)	0.32
					Length (m)	1.07
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**Section No**	**date**
15	Fill			Mid yellowish reddish brown sandy silty fill of **16**	13	
16	Cut			Cut of post pit		

Post Pit 20						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Elongated post pit with sharp sides and a flattish base containing a single fill					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.12
					Width (m)	0.3
					Length (m)	1
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**Section No**	**date**
19	Fill			Mid yellowish reddish brown sandy silty fill of **20**	14	
20	Cut			Cut of post pit		

Post Pit 22						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Elongated post pit with sharp sides and a flattish base containing two fills					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.13
					Width (m)	0.31
					Length (m)	1.02
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**Section No**	**date**

21	Fill			Mid yellowish reddish brown sandy silty fill of **22**	14	
39				Mid light whitish grey chalky sand	14	
22	Cut			Cut of post pit		

Post Pit 24						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Elongated post pit with sharp sides and a flattish base containing a single fill					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.12
					Width (m)	0.3
					Length (m)	1
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**Section No**	**date**
23	Fill			Mid yellowish reddish brown sandy silty fill of **24**	16	
24	Cut			Cut of post pit		

Post Pit 26						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Elongated post pit with sharp sides and an uneven base containing a single fill					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.1
					Width (m)	0.3
					Length (m)	0.8
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**Section No**	**date**
25	Fill			Mid yellowish reddish brown sandy silty fill of **26**	17	
26	Cut			Cut of post pit		

Post Hole 28						
General description					**Orientation**	
Small circular post hole with vertical sides and a flattish base. Possibly associated with Post pit **26**					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.12
					Diam (m)	0.18
					Length (m)	
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**Section No**	**date**
27	Fill			Mid white reddish brown silty sandy loam fill of **28**	18	
28	Cut			Cut of post hole		

Post Pit 30		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Elongated post pit with sharp sides and a flattish base containing a	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.12

single fill. Possible post hole at the southern end.					**Width (m)**	0.3
					Length (m)	1
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**Section No**	**date**
29	Fill			Mid yellowish reddish brown sandy silty fill of **30**	19	
30	Cut			Cut of post pit		
Post Hole 32						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Possible Post hole associated with Post pit **30**					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.12
					Width (m)	0.3
					Length (m)	1
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**Section No**	**date**
31	Fill			Mid reddish brown sandy silty fill of **32**		
32	Cut			Cut of post hole		
Post Pit 24						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Elongated post pit with sharp sides and an uneven base containing a single fill. Slightly deeper at the northern end suggesting a possible post hole					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.09
					Width (m)	0.25
					Length (m)	0.8
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**Section No**	**date**
33	Fill			Mid yellowish reddish brown sandy silty fill of **34**	20	
34	Cut			Cut of post pit		
Post Pit 41						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Elongated post pit with sharp sides and an uneven base containing a single fill					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.14
					Width (m)	0.35
					Length (m)	1.1
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**Section No**	**date**
40	Fill			Mid yellowish reddish brown sandy silty fill of **41**	23	
41	Cut			Cut of post pit		

Post Pit 36						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Elongated post pit with sharp sides and an uneven base containing a single fill					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.1
					Width (m)	0.45
					Length (m)	0.78
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**Section No**	**date**
35	Fill			Mid yellowish reddish brown sandy silty fill of **36**	21	
36	Cut			Cut of post pit		

Post Pit 38						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Elongated central post pit with sharp sides and an concave base containing a single fill					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.18
					Width (m)	0.45
					Length (m)	0.8
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**Section No**	**date**
37	Fill			Mid whitish reddish brown sandy silty fill of **38**	22	
38	Cut			Cut of post pit		

Tree Bowl						
General description					**Orientation**	
Two sections cut through tree bowl located within the circular structure the feature had an amorphous shape with gentle to sharp sides with an uneven base. There was no relationship between the Tree bowl and circular structure. Filled by re-deposited natural					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.1
					Width (m)	2.5
					Length (m)	0.8
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**Section No**	**date**
43				Mid white reddish brown soft loamy material	24	
44	Fill			Brownish whitish grey degraded chalk and loam	24	
45	Cut			Cut of tree bowl	24	
46	Fill			Mid yellowish reddish brown sandy silty re-deposited natural		
47	Cut			Cut of tree bowl		

Appendix B. Appendix B Test Pits

Test Pit	Dimensions (m)	Description	Artefactual Content
1	1x1	Mid orangey brown topsoil overlying a light orangey brown silty chalk subsoil.	
2	1x1	Mid orangey brown topsoil overlying a light orangey brown silty chalk subsoil.	
3	1x1	Mid orangey brown topsoil overlying a light orangey brown silty chalk subsoil.	
4	1x1	Mid orangey brown topsoil overlying a light orangey brown silty chalk subsoil.	
5	1x1	Mid orangey brown topsoil overlying a light orangey brown silty chalk subsoil.	
6	1x1	Mid orangey brown topsoil overlying a light orangey brown silty chalk subsoil.	
7	1x1	Mid orangey brown topsoil overlying a light orangey brown silty chalk subsoil.	2 small and crudely produced flakes of a MBA+ date.
8	1x1	Mid orangey brown topsoil overlying a light orangey brown silty chalk subsoil.	
9	1x1	Mid orangey brown topsoil overlying a light orangey brown silty chalk subsoil.	
10	1x1	Mid orangey brown topsoil overlying a light orangey brown silty chalk subsoil.	
11	1x1	Mid orangey brown topsoil overlying a light orangey brown silty chalk subsoil.	

APPENDIX C FLINT ASSESSMENT

The excavations at the above site resulted in the recovery of five struck flints. This report quantifies and describes the material, comments on its significance and recommends any further work needed for it to attain its full research potential. Each piece of struck flint was examined by eye and X10 magnification and catalogued by context according to a basic typological/technological scheme (Table 1).

Quantification

Context	Decortication Flake	Flake	Conchoidal Chunk	RetouchedCore-Tool/	Suggested Date	Comments
Bag 5			1		UD	Many multi-directional conchoidal scars, probably a shattered core fragment
02 Tr1				1	MBA +	Thermal spall with flakes removed from its 'upper' face and fine convex edge trimming along one side
02 TP7	2	1			MBA +	All small and rather crudely produced

Table 1: Quantification of Lithic Material

Description

The struck flint assemblage is small in quantity and was recovered from sub-soil deposits. It consists of three flakes, a conchoidally fractured chunk and a core tool (Table 1).

Raw Materials

The raw materials consist of a dense fine-grained black flint that becomes translucent at thicknesses of 3mm or less. Cortex, which is present on all five of the struck pieces, is thin (3mm or less) but rough and retains a chalky feel. Present on three of the five pieces are partially recorticated thermal scars. The raw materials are glacially affected but have not experienced any significant alluvial or colluvial displacement. The site lies on the Middle Chalk close to its junction with the Upper Chalk, where numerous seams of good knapping quality flint can be found, and it is likely that the raw materials were obtained from superficial deposits derived from these.

Condition

All of the struck pieces were in a good, sharp, condition and, although not stratified, were unlikely to have moved far from where originally discarded. None showed any indications of recortication.

Technology, Typology and Dating

None of the pieces are strictly chronologically diagnostic although the core-tool, which comprised a thermal spall that has been converted into a scraper, would perhaps be most typical of later second or first millennium BC industries, and the flakes, which were all small and simply produced, would not be out of place in similarly dated contexts. They could potentially be associated with the evidence for Early Iron Age settlement recorded in the vicinity (Jones 2000). The likely dating of this assemblage is interesting in respect of the Neolithic flint quarrying that

has been recorded upslope from the present investigations (ibid.) in that no certain Neolithic material was present here, although the raw materials could potentially have been scavenged from Neolithic waste heaps, a situation recorded at a number of other Neolithic extraction sites (eg Barber *et al*. 1999).

Significance and Recommendations

Due to the size of the assemblage and the lack of truly diagnostic implements or associated contextual association, its interpretative potential is limited and no further analytical work is recommended. It does, however, indicate activity at the site occurring during the later prehistoric period and has the potential to contribute to the wider understanding of prehistoric landscape use in an area where such evidence is otherwise sparse. It is therefore recommended that a brief description of the assemblage should be submitted to the local HER and included in any published account of the investigations.

Bibliography

Barber, M., Field, D. and Topping, P. 1999 *The Neolithic Flint Mines of England*. English Heritage.

B.1.1 Jones, E. 2009 Wadlow Windfarm, West Wratting Cambridgeshire: results of archaeological evaluation. Unpublished Headland Archaeology Report.

APPENDIX D OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-69049		
Project Name	Archaeological Evaluation at the Camgrain APC site, London Road, Balsham.		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	11-11-2009	Finish	17-11-2009
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	BALCAM09	Planning App. No.	S/0506/09/F
HER No.	ECB3293	Related HER/OASIS No.	None

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Development Type	Rural Commercial

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
Circular structure	Uncertain	Flint	Uncertain
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	Camgrain APC site. London Road Balsham.
District	S Cambs		
Parish	Balsham		
HER	Cambridgeshire		
Study Area	approx 2 hectares	National Grid Reference	TL5673 5440

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Kasia Gdaniec for CAPCA
Project Design Originator	James Drummond Murray
Project Manager	James Drummond Murray
Supervisor	James Fairbairn

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Cambs County Store	OA East	OA East
BALCAM09	BALCAM09	BALCAM09

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

Plans

Limit of Excavation

Deposit - Conjectured

Natural Features

Sondages/Machine Strip

Intrusion/Truncation

Illustrated Section S.14

Archaeological Feature

Archaeological Deposit

Excavated Slot

Root

Plough Scare

Cut Number **118**

Sample Number 21

Sections

Limit of Excavation

Cut

Deposit Horizon

Intrusion/Truncation

Top Surface/Top of Natural

Break in Section/
Limit of Section Drawing

Cut Number **117**

Deposit Number 117

Ordnance Datum 18.45m OD

Stone

Convention Key

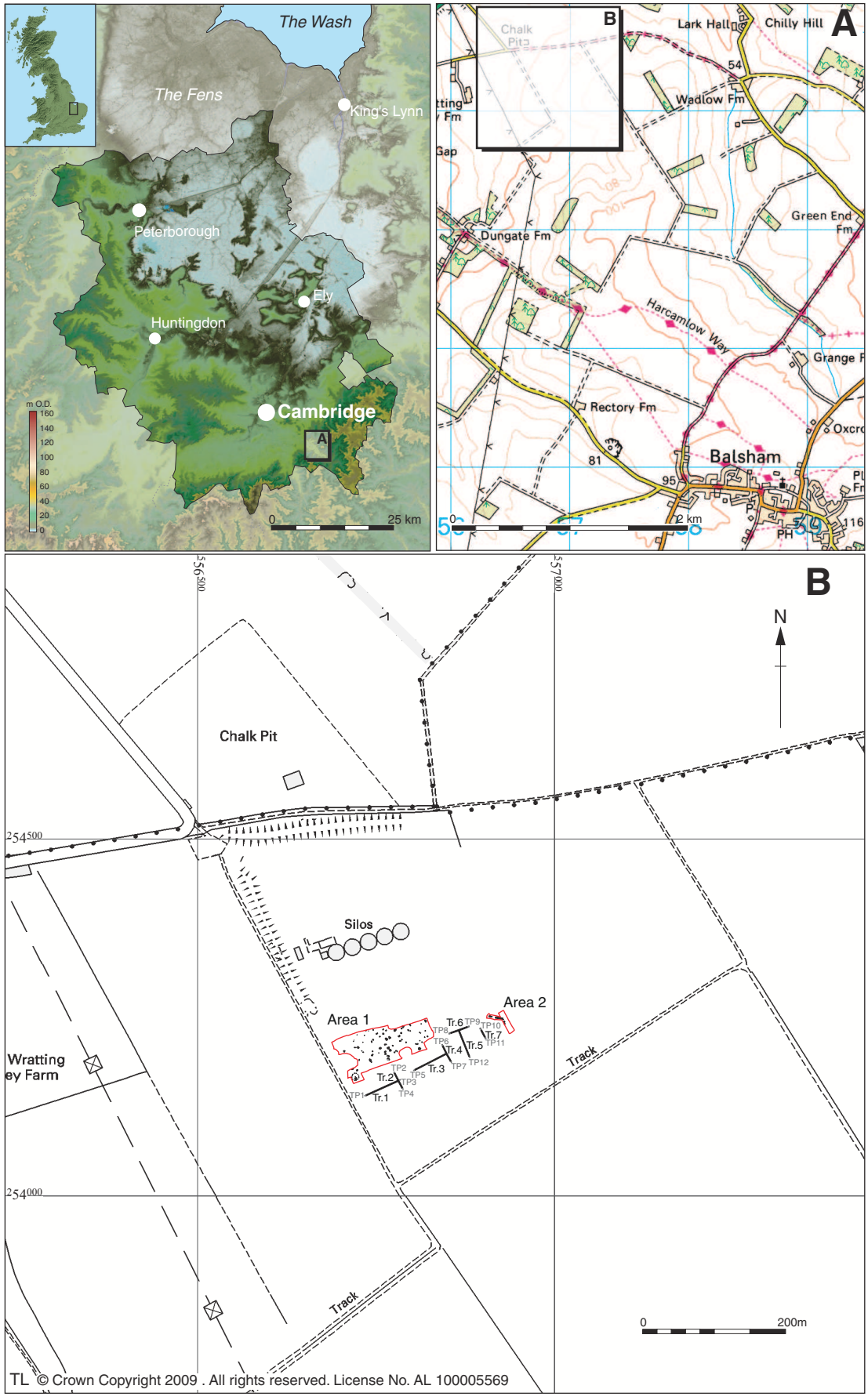

Figure 1: Location of the excavation areas (red), trenches (black) and test pits (dark grey)

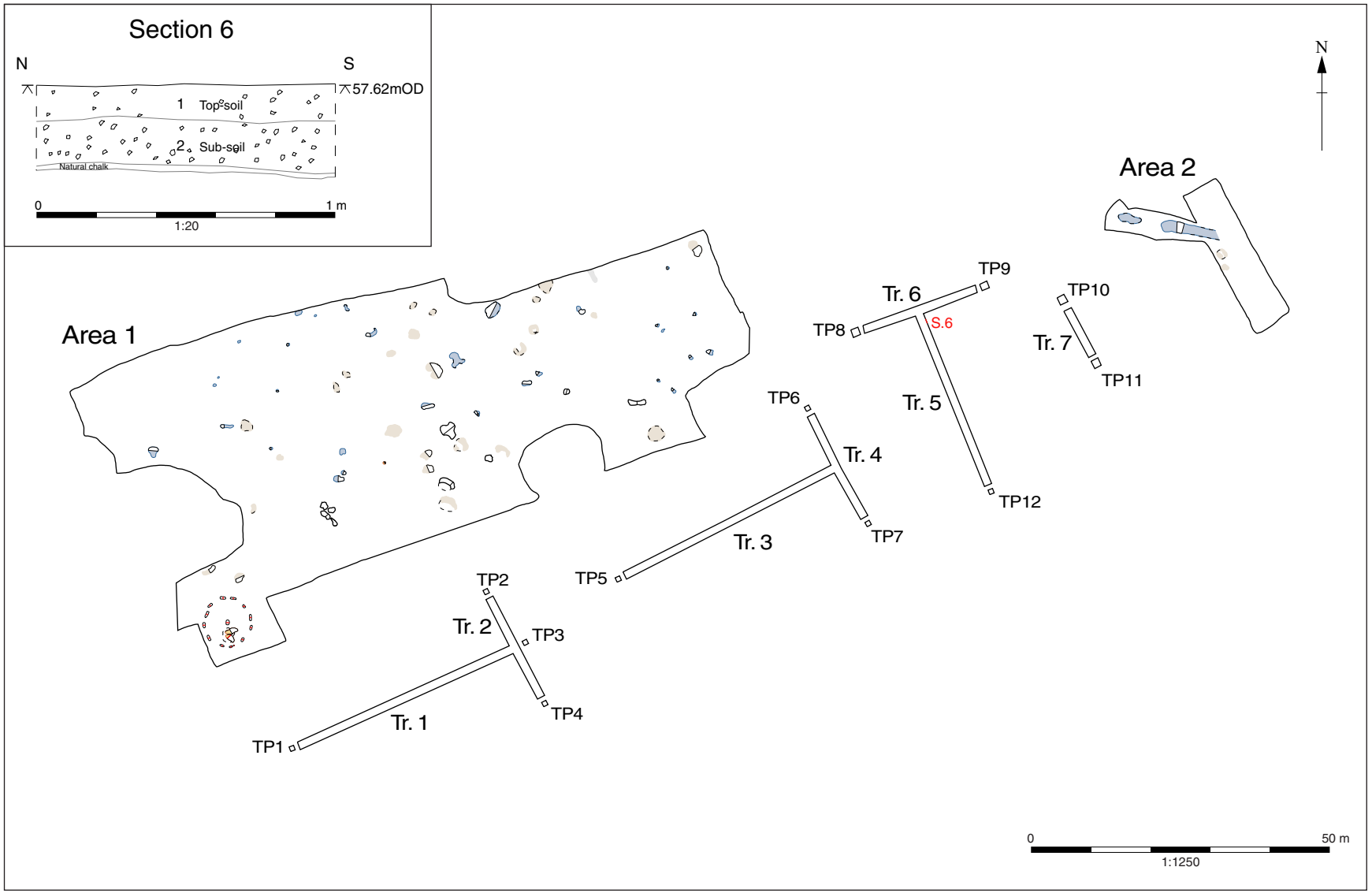

Figure 2: Plan of excavation areas, evaluation trenches, test pits and drawing of section 6

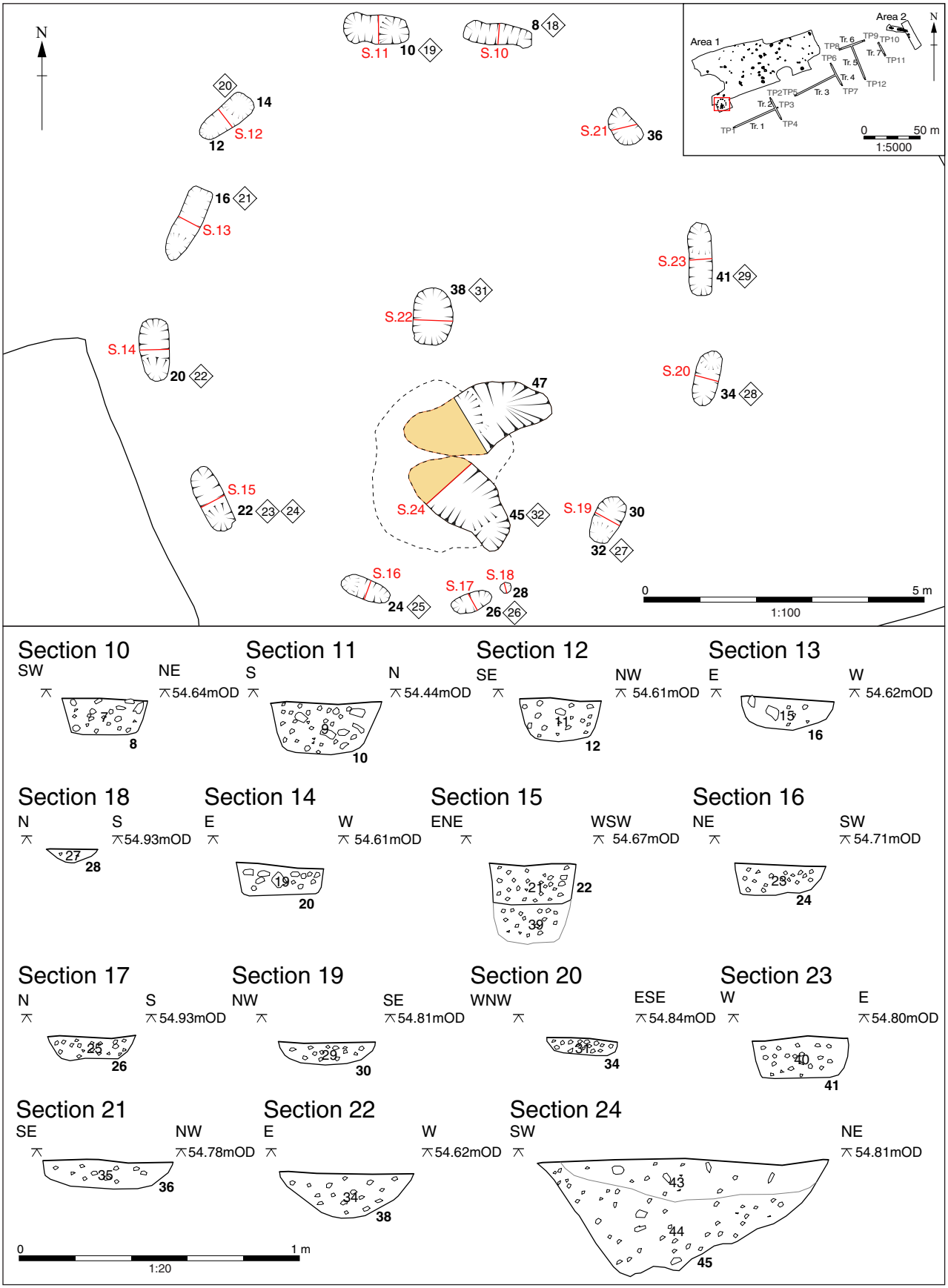

Figure 3: Plan of the circular structure and section drawings

Plate 1: The timber circle

Plate 2: Post pit 12

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