

# Babraham Road Park and Ride Extension 2012



## Archaeological Evaluation Report



May 2012

**Client: Cambridgeshire County Council**

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OASIS No: oxfordar3-122758

NGR: TL 4770 5447

**Babraham Road Park and Ride Extension 2012**

*Archaeological Evaluation*

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*Report Date: May 2012*


**Report Number:** 1352  
**Site Name:** Babraham Road Park and Ride Extension  
**HER Event No:** CHER ECB 3721  
**Date of Works:** March 2012  
**Client Name:** Cambridgeshire County Council  
**Client Ref:** 14000  
**Planning Ref:** Not Applicable  
**Grid Ref:** TL 4770 5447  
**Site Code:** CAMBAB12  
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**Receiving Body:** CCC Stores, Landbeach

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Date: 30-04-12

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## Summary

*Between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March 2012 OA East conducted an archaeological evaluation within Babraham Road Park and Ride Extension area, Cambridge (TL 4770 5447). The archaeological work comprised four evaluation trenches. One isolated posthole dating from the medieval period or later was the only datable feature. Several undated possible pits and linear features were also exposed. Most of these proved to be natural features but they also included four or five pits and one ditch that may be archaeological. An absence of finds in these features makes their characterisation and dating problematic.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation consisting of four trial trenches was conducted at Babraham Road Park and Ride, Cambridge in March 2012 (TL 4770 5447). The work was necessitated by a plan to add extra capacity to the Park and Ride.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council (Thomas, 2011) prior to a Planning Application being made. This was supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East.
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010). The results will enable decisions to be made by CCC, 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 area lies on bedrock of zig-zag chalk formation at the foot of a crescent formed by the Gog-Magog hills.
- 1.2.2 The site lies at the south side of the Park and Ride, in a flat, grassed area currently used for overflow parking. It is bounded by a fence to the east, south and west and by the Park and Ride carpark to the north.

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The site lies within the vicinity of the previously identified Neolithic/Bronze Age causewayed enclosure at Littletrees Hill, The Iron Age or earlier Hillforts of Wandlebury and War Ditches, and the Iron Age settlement at New Addenbrookes Hospital. Cropmarks of ditched enclosures have been plotted to the west of the site (Fig 3).
- 1.3.2 Excavations in advance of the Park and Ride site in 1997-1998 identified an extensive series of features constituting a unique prehistoric ritual landscape dating from the Late Neolithic period into the Iron Age (Hinman, 1999; HER ECB1285; Fig 3). The archaeology identified covered three broad periods.
- 1.3.3 Period 1 consisted primarily of pits (including two 'shafts') datable to the late Neolithic period. Animal bones within these pits indicated feasting activity. Late Neolithic human burials were found just to the south-east of the current site, dated 2205-1895 BC.
- 1.3.4 Period 2 consisted of a pair of large ditches with 'v' shaped profiles, located less than 100m to the north of the current site. These ditches were infilled in the early-middle Bronze Age (dated through radio-carbon dating to 1,755-1415 BC) and may be associated with a monument within the immediate vicinity.
- 1.3.5 The final period of activity is represented by a series of enigmatic, rectilinear cut features, which are aligned either east-west or north-south, across the site and contain fragments of late Iron Age ('Belgic') and early Roman pottery.

## **1.4 Acknowledgements**

- 1.4.1 OA East would like to thank Cambridgeshire County Council for funding the project. James Drummond-Murray managed the project on behalf of OA East and the fieldwork was carried out by Kate Clover and Steve Graham. Sarah Henley surveyed in the trenches. Carole Fletcher and Rob Atkins of OA East commented on the finds. Rachel Fosberry of OA East provided the environmental report. The brief was issued by Andy Thomas and the work was monitored by Kasia Gdaniec, both of Cambridgeshire County Council.



## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

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

### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The evaluation sampled 6.5% of the proposed carparking area which equated to 3 trenches measuring approximately 25m x 1.5m each and one trench measuring 20m x 1.5m (Fig 2). The trenches were sited to avoid an electricity cable which bisected the north end of site from north-west to south-east
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out using a Leica 1200 GPS. All trench locations were scanned for buried services with a Cable Avoidance Tool prior to machine excavation.
- 2.2.4 All finds were retained for inspection. 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 Bulk soil samples were taken of fills of potential archaeological features as well as from the subsoils, for finds and for charred plant or animal remains.
- 2.2.6 Site conditions were favourable.

### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The results are described in trench order below. Full details by trench/context appear in Appendix B. The entire site was covered by turf and a plastic 'honeycomb' matting. Before this carparking surface was laid the ground surface had been raised by the addition of between 0.24m and 0.4m of modern material consisting of redeposited chalk (2) and topsoil (1). All features were cut into natural and were, apart from modern services, sealed by subsoil (4) or former topsoil (3).

#### 3.2 Trench 1

3.2.1 Trench 1 measured 20m in length by 1.5m in width and was between 0.6m and 0.9m deep. It was sited at the north-western part of the site, avoiding the line of an electricity cable. Natural chalk mixed with sandy silt was encountered at 0.9m below ground level at the north-western end and 0.6m at the south-eastern end. Natural was sealed by between 0.24m and 0.5m of mid to light reddish brown compact sandy silt subsoil (4). This in turn was sealed by between 0.12m to 0.31m thickness of very compact dark grey brown former topsoil (3), containing fragments of post-medieval peg-tile and flecks of charcoal. Between 0.04m and 0.06m of redeposited chalk had been dumped on top (2) followed by approximately 0.2m of topsoil (1).

3.2.2 The trench contained two features that appeared to be linear cut features with very pale fills. They were not assigned context numbers as, on excavation, were found to be shallow, with very irregular sides and bases. The fills did not contain any finds and had the appearance of naturally deposited silts, probably within periglacial features.

3.2.3 Near the centre of the trench was a possible pit (8) which appeared in plan to be cut by another possible pit (6), which in turn may have been cut by a posthole (10). However without further excavation it was not possible to determine their function. The fills were sterile and they may equally be natural geological features, probably periglacial (Fig 5, Section 2; Plate 2).

3.2.4 At the south-eastern end of the trench was another dubious pit-like feature (12) with traces of charcoal in its fill but no finds.

#### 3.3 Trench 2

3.3.1 Trench 2 was located in the centre of the site. It measured 28m in length by 1.5m in width. Its average depth was 0.6m. Natural chalk mixed with sandy silt was encountered at 0.55m below ground level at the south-western end and 0.65m below ground level at the north-eastern end. The trench had a similar profile to Trench 1 but in places the subsoil (4) was not in evidence or was only a very thin layer.

3.3.2 There was only one definitely archaeological feature in the trench; an isolated posthole (22), 0.1m deep and 0.25m wide, with concave sides and a rounded base. Charcoal flecks were present throughout the fill and there was no sign of a post pipe or packing (Fig 5, Section 9). The posthole was sealed by previous topsoil layer (3). The subsoil (4) was not present in this area of the trench so it was not possible to say whether the posthole cut the subsoil or was sealed by it. One fragment of peg-tile was recovered from the top of the fill of the posthole which dates it to the medieval period or later.

3.3.3 Four other possible features were recorded in the trench; three wide cut linear features (16), (18) and (24) and one large pit-like feature (20). All were excavated and found to

be very shallow, with irregular sides and bases. None of the fills contained any finds but there were traces of charcoal. These features are considered to be natural hollows caused by tree rooting in the past or geological processes. Feature **24** was cut by a 0.9m deep service trench that had been backfilled with chalk. Feature **18** is illustrated in Fig 5, Section 7 and Feature **16** is depicted on Plate 1.

### 3.4 Trench 3

- 3.4.1 Trench 3 was located in the southern part of the site and measured 25m by 1.5m. Natural chalk mixed with silt occurred at an average depth of 0.5m. The profile was similar to the other trenches but the subsoil (4) was not in evidence apart from at the south-eastern end of the trench. Additionally the redeposited chalk layer (2) was thicker in this trench at 0.15m to 0.3m thick.
- 3.4.2 The trench contained two natural features. One a wide linear feature (**30**) and the other a large pit-like feature (**32**). Both were very shallow, with very uneven bases and sterile, light brown silty chalky fills. They are thought to be the result of tree rooting or geological activity. At the south-eastern end of the trench was a 0.35m deep pit (**25**) with a mid brown sterile silty fill and rare angular stones at the base (Fig 6, Section 11). It contained no finds but lumps of ironstone were present. At the north-western end of the trench a 0.22m deep ditch-like feature on a north to south alignment was recorded (**28**, Fig 6 Section 13; Plate 3). Its sides and base were fairly regular and concave and its fill contained flecks of charcoal but no finds. In the absence of any finds it is possible that **25** and **28** are not man made features but are the result of natural processes.
- 3.4.3 A water pipe and a CCTV cable were encountered at the south-eastern end of the trench.

### 3.5 Trench 4

- 3.5.1 Trench 4 was situated in the south-eastern part of the site and measured 26m in length by 1.5m in width. A water pipe encountered at 0.42m below ground level was left *in situ*. In order to make up the four metres of trenching lost by the position of the water pipe, a 4m long spur was excavated to the west of it. Natural chalk mixed with silt was encountered at between 0.65m and 0.8m below ground level. The profile was similar to Trenches 1-3 i.e. modern topsoil (1) and chalk (2) dumped on top of former topsoil (3). Subsoil (4) was present in some areas beneath the former topsoil but was almost non-existent at the southern end of the trench.
- 3.5.2 Two indistinct wide linear features with light coloured silt fills were recorded and excavated. The first (**13**, Fig 5, Section 4) was seen to be very shallow with irregular sides and an uneven base. There were no finds or charcoal in the fill. The second one was not assigned a context number and was very similar to **13**. One modern dark-filled feature was recorded at the southern end of the trench. The chalk-filled service trench recorded in Trench 2 was picked up at the southern end of Trench 4. Neither of these modern features were excavated.

### 3.6 Finds Summary

- 3.6.1 There was a low density of finds from the site. Small amounts of medieval or post-medieval roof tile and post-medieval clay pipe were present in the topsoil (1) and the former topsoil (3). The only piece of pottery recovered was a small body sherd of post-medieval red ware dated AD1500-1800 from within the topsoil (1). The fill of a posthole (**22**) contained one piece of medieval or early post-medieval peg-tile. The fill of a

possible pit or natural feature (25) contained four lumps of ironstone. A full list of finds is included in tabular form in Appendix C.

### **3.7 Environmental Summary**

- 3.7.1 The majority of the samples produced small flot volumes with very few charred plant remains. The charcoal present is mainly vitrified suggesting high temperature burning such as would be found in metalworking. The presence of flake hammerscale is also indicative of blacksmithing activities. The characteristic flakes produced are very small and may have worked their way into lower deposits through bioturbation.
- 3.7.2 The charred cereal grains recovered are indicative of culinary waste but do not add significantly to the interpretation of the assemblage. A full environmental report can be found in Appendix D.

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 4.1 Features

- 4.1.1 There was only one definitely archaeological, datable feature. This was an isolated medieval or later posthole (**22**) found in Trench 2.
- 4.1.2 Trenches 1 and 3 contained other potentially archaeological features although none of them contained any finds and they could equally have been formed by geological activity, probably in a periglacial environment. Trench 1 contained possible pit (**12**), possible intercutting pits (**6**) and (**8**) and possible posthole (**10**). Trench 3 contained possible ditch (**28**) and possible pit (**25**). The lumps of natural ironstone found in the fill of pit **25** may prove interesting. It is possible that the ironstone may have been used as an ore. The vitrified charcoal and the flake hammerscale recovered from the residues does hint at iron-working on the site (see Appendix D).

### 4.2 Subsoil

- 4.2.1 The features, including the definitely natural features, were sealed by a silty subsoil (4), although in some areas this had been removed, probably by ploughing. It was expected that flints would be recovered from this subsoil. However no flints or pottery were recovered from the subsoil, either in section or from the spoil heap. Flotation of soil samples taken from the subsoil revealed small amounts of charcoal, flake hammerscale and ironstone, however these may have reached the subsoil from layers above through bioturbation.

### 4.3 Significance

- 4.3.1 The results from the evaluation are largely negative. However this does not prove an absence of archaeology on the site. Previous excavations at the Park and Ride have shown that Neolithic features consist mainly of small pits or natural tree throws used for depositional purposes. These types of features could easily be missed by a 6.5% sample as used here. The absence of any flints within the subsoil may be the result of the methods used.

### 4.4 Recommendations

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

## APPENDIX A. HEALTH AND SAFETY STATEMENT

- A.1.1 OA East will ensure that all work is carried out in accordance with relevant Health and Safety Policies, to standards defined in *The Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act, 1974* and *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations, 1992*, and in accordance with the manual *Health and Safety in Fieldwork Archaeology* (SCAUM 1997).
- A.1.2 Risk assessments prepared for the OA East office will be adhered to.
- A.1.3 OA East has Public Liability Insurance. Separate professional insurance is covered by a Public Liability Policy.
- A.1.4 Full details of the relevant Health and Safety Policies and the unit's insurance cover can be provided on request.

## APPENDIX B. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW	
Natural chalk mixed with sandy silt was sealed by between 0.24m and 0.5m of mid to light reddish brown compact silty sand subsoil (4). This in turn was sealed by between 0.12m to 0.31m thickness of very compact dark grey brown former topsoil (3). Between 0.04mm and 0.06mm of redeposited chalk had been dumped on top (2) followed by approximately 0.2m of topsoil (1).				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.75	
				<b>Width (m)</b>	1.5	
				<b>Length (m)</b>	20m	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.1-0.18	Topsoil- mid grey brown clayey silt	Post-medieval clay pipe golf ball Medieval or early post-medieval peg-tile	Modern
2	Layer	-	0.04-0.06	Re-deposited chalk mixed with clayey sand	-	Modern
3	Layer	-	0.12-0.31	Former Topsoil – dark grey brown sandy silt, rare charcoal	-	Post-medieval to modern
4	Layer	-	0.24-0.5	Subsoil – mid to light reddish brown sandy silt. Rare chalk and charcoal flecks	-	?
5	Fill	1.98	0.36	Fill of <b>6</b> – dark reddish brown sandy silt with possible charcoal flecks. Disuse fill	-	Natural or prehistoric
<b>6</b>	Cut	1.98	0.36	Cut of possible pit or natural feature. Sub-circular with concave sides and base.	-	Natural or prehistoric
7	Fill	0.96	0.2	Fill of <b>8</b> – mid reddish brown silty sand.	-	Natural or prehistoric
<b>8</b>	Cut	0.96	0.2	Cut of possible pit or natural feature. Sub-circular with shallow sides. Possibly cut by <b>6</b> to the east	-	Natural or prehistoric
9	Fill	0.4	0.1	Fill of <b>10</b> - mid reddish brown silty sand.	-	Natural or prehistoric
<b>10</b>	Cut	0.4	0.1	Cut of possible posthole or natural feature. Circular with concave sides and	-	Natural or prehistoric

				base. Adjacent to <b>6</b>		
11	Fill	0.9	0.23	Fill of <b>12</b> . Dark red brown sandy silt. Rare traces of charcoal.	-	Natural or prehistoric
<b>12</b>	Cut	0.9	0.23	Cut of possible posthole or natural feature. Circular with concave sides and base	-	Natural and prehistoric
<b>Trench 2</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Natural chalk mixed with sandy silt was encountered at 0.55m below ground level at the SW end and 0.65m below ground level at the NE end. Natural was sealed by up to 0.2m of subsoil (4). This in turn was sealed by up to 0.3m thickness of former topsoil (3). Up to 0.1m of redeposited chalk had been dumped on top (2) followed by up to 0.35m of topsoil (1). In places the subsoil (4) was not in evidence.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.6
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.5
					<b>Length (m)</b>	28
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
1	Layer	-	Up to 0.35	Topsoil- mid grey brown clayey silt	1 sherd of post-medieval red ware pottery	Modern
2	Layer	-	Up to 0.1	Re-deposited chalk mixed with clayey sand	-	Modern
3	Layer	-	Up to 0.3	Former Topsoil – dark grey brown sandy silt, rare charcoal	-	Post-medieval to modern
4	Layer	-	0 to 0.2	Subsoil – mid to light reddish brown sandy silt. Rare chalk and charcoal flecks	-	?
15	fill	2.5	0.2	Fill of <b>16</b> . Light grey brown silty sand with rare charcoal flecks and chalk.	-	Natural
<b>16</b>	cut	2.5	0.2	Cut for natural linear feature. Shallow with very uneven base	-	Natural
17	fill	2	Up 0.32	Fill of <b>18</b> . Mid reddish brown silty sand. Rare charcoal flecks and chalk.	-	Natural
<b>18</b>	cut	2	Up to 0.32	Cut for natural linear feature. Shallow with irregular edges and very uneven base	-	Natural
19	fill	1.7	Up to 0.2	Fill of <b>20</b> . mid reddish brown silty sand. Occasional charcoal flecks	-	Natural
<b>20</b>	cut	1.7	Up to 0.2	Cut of natural pit-shaped feature. Sub-circular.	-	Natural



				Shallow with very uneven base		
21	fill	0.25	0.1	Fill of <b>22</b> . Mid grey brown clayey silt with rare charcoal flecks. Disuse fill. No evidence of post pipe or packing	1 sherd of peg-tile	Medieval or later
<b>22</b>	cut	0.25	0.1	Cut for posthole. Circular with concave sides and base	-	Medieval or later
23	fill	2.7	0.16	Fill of <b>24</b> . Mid red brown silty sand. Traces of charcoal	-	Natural
<b>24</b>	cut	2.7	0.16	Cut for linear natural feature. Shallow with an uneven base. Cut by a chalk-filled service trench	-	Natural
<b>Trench 3</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE
Natural chalk mixed with silt occurred at on average 0.5m depth. Natural was sealed by up to 0.2m of subsoil in places (4). This in turn was sealed by up to 0.3m thickness of former topsoil (3). Up to 0.16m of redeposited chalk had been dumped on top (2) followed by up to 0.13m of topsoil (1). The subsoil (4) was not in evidence apart from at the south-eastern end of the trench.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.5
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.5
					<b>Length (m)</b>	25
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
1	Layer	-	Up to 0.13	Topsoil- mid grey brown clayey silt	1 sherd of post-medieval red ware pottery	Modern
2	Layer	-	Up to 0.16	Re-deposited chalk mixed with clayey sand	-	Modern
3	Layer	-	Up to 0.3	Former Topsoil – dark grey brown sandy silt, rare charcoal	peg-tile	Post-medieval to modern
4	Layer	-	0 to 0.2	Subsoil – mid to light reddish brown sandy silt. Rare chalk and charcoal flecks	-	?
<b>25</b>	cut	1.1	0.35	Cut for possible pit or natural feature. Circular. SE side is convex with a shallow slope. NW side is steep. Uneven base.	-	Prehistoric or natural
26	fill	1.1	0.35	Fill of <b>25</b> . mid to light brown silt. Rare angular stones at the base.	ironstone	Prehistoric or natural

27	fill	1	2.4	Fill of <b>28</b> . Mid reddish brown silt sand. Occasional charcoal flecks.	-	Prehistoric or natural
<b>28</b>	cut	1	2.4	Cut for possible ditch. Linear edges. Concave sides and base .	-	Prehistoric or natural
29	fill	1.7	Up to 0.1	Fill of <b>30</b> . Mid red brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal	-	Natural
<b>30</b>	cut	1.7	Up to 0.1	Cut for natural linear feature. Shallow with uneven base	-	Natural
31	fill	2	Up to 0.24	Fill of <b>32</b> . Mid red brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal	-	Natural
<b>32</b>	cut	2	Up to 0.24	Cut for natural pit-shaped feature. Irregular edges. Shallow with a very uneven base	-	Natural

#### Trench 4

#### General description

Natural chalk mixed with silt was encountered at between 0.65m and 0.8m below ground level. Modern topsoil (1) and chalk (2) had been dumped on top of former topsoil (3). Subsoil (4) was present in some areas beneath the former topsoil but was almost non-existent at the southern end of the trench.

#### Orientation

NNE-SSW

#### Avg. depth (m)

0.7

#### Width (m)

1.5

#### Length (m)

26

#### Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	Up to 0.33	Topsoil- mid grey brown clayey silt	-	Modern
2	Layer	-	Up to 0.02	Re-deposited chalk mixed with clayey sand	-	Modern
3	Layer	-	Up to 0.18	Former Topsoil – dark grey brown sandy silt, rare charcoal	Peg-tile and clay pipe	Post-medieval to modern
4	Layer	-	0 to 0.2	Subsoil – mid to light reddish brown sandy silt. Rare chalk and charcoal flecks	-	?
<b>13</b>	cut	3	0.1	Cut of linear natural feature. Irregular edges. Shallow with an uneven base	-	Natural
14	fill	3	0.1	Fill of <b>13</b> . Light brown silt with chalk patches. Occasional ironstone lumps	-	Natural

## APPENDIX C. FINDS REPORTS

### C.1.1 Introduction and Methods

Finds were looked at by Carole Fletcher and Rob Atkins of OA East. There was a low density of finds from the site. Small amounts of medieval or post-medieval peg-tile and post-medieval clay pipe were present in the topsoil (1) and the former topsoil (3). The only piece of pottery recovered was a small body sherd of post-medieval red ware dated AD1500-1800 within the topsoil (1). The fill of a posthole (**22**) contained one piece of medieval or early post-medieval peg-tile. The fill of a possible pit or natural feature (**25**) contained four lumps of ironstone.

Context	Trench	Description	Weight (g)	Date
1 (topsoil)	1	Golf ball	-	Modern
1 (topsoil)	1	Clay pipe	6	1580-1880
1 (topsoil)	1	Peg-tile in yellow sandy fabric	79	Med or early Post-med
1 (topsoil)	2	Pottery. Post-medieval red ware	2	1500-1800
3(former topsoil)	4	Peg-tile, yellow sandy fabric and orange	19	Med or early Post medieval
3(former topsoil)	4	Clay pipe	7	1640-1880
3(former topsoil)	3	Peg tile, orangey red sandy	16	17th-18 <sup>th</sup>
26 (fill of pit)	3	Ironstone, 4 fragments	74	Naturally occurring

Table 1: List of finds by context

## APPENDIX D. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

By Rachel Fosberry AIFA

### D.1.1 Introduction and Methods

Eleven bulk samples were taken from across the excavated area and were submitted for an initial appraisal. Samples were taken from two small pits and a ditch of unknown date. Additionally four samples were taken from a modern buried topsoil which extended over four trenches and four samples were taken from the subsoil immediately below.

The total volume (up to sixteen litres) of each sample were 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 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts are noted on Table 2. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands (Cappers et al 2006) and the author's own reference collection.

### D.1.2 Quantification

For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and small animal bones have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories

# = 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal have been scored for abundance + = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant

### D.1.3 Results

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Trench	Feature Type	Cereals	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal > 2mm	Flot comments	residue contents
1	5	6	1	Pit		+		Charcoal only	Iron stone, flake hammerscale
2	11	12	1	Pit	#	+		single indet grain	Flake hammerscale
3	3		4	Topsoil		+++	++	Vitrified charcoal	Fe nails, flake hammerscale, clay pipe, glass, post-med pottery
4	4		4	Subsoil		+++	+	Vitrified charcoal	Ironstone, flake hammerscale
5	3		1	Topsoil		++	+	Vitrified charcoal	Flake hammerscale
6	4		1	Subsoil		++	+	Vitrified charcoal	Flake hammerscale, slag
7	3		2	Topsoil	#	++	+	Occasional wheat grains	Fe nails, flake hammerscale
8	4		2	Subsoil	#	++	+	Vitrified charcoal, indeterminate grain	Flake hammerscale
9	23	24	2	Ditch		++	+	Charcoal only	Ironstone, charcoal
10	3		3	Topsoil	#	++	+	Occasional wheat grains	Fe nails, flake hammerscale, post-med pottery
11	4		3	Subsoil		++	+	Sparse charcoal	Flake hammerscale

Table 2: Environmental remains by sample number

#### *Table 2. Results*

Preservation is by charring with no evidence of preservation by waterlogging or mineralisation. Charcoal occurs in all of the samples but in relatively low quantity and in most cases the charcoal is vitrified. Charred plant remains are scarce. Occasional wheat grains (*Triticum* sp.) were noted in the topsoil samples and indeterminate grains that are abraded and are only identifiable as cereals by their characteristic dense honeycomb structure were recovered from one of the subsoil samples (Sample 8, Trench 2) and from Sample 2, fill 11 of pit **12**.

Flake hammerscale was recovered from the residues of all of the samples except from Sample 9, ditch **24**. Post-medieval finds were recovered from the topsoil samples.

#### **D.1.4 Discussion**

The majority of the samples produced small flot volumes with very few charred plant remains. The charcoal present is mainly vitrified suggesting high temperature burning such as would be found in metalworking. The presence of flake hammerscale is also indicative of blacksmithing activities. The characteristic flakes produced are very small and may have worked their way into lower deposits through bioturbation.

The charred cereal grains recovered are indicative of culinary waste but do not add significantly to the interpretation of the assemblage.

#### **D.1.5 Further Work and Methods Statement**

The low density of charred plant macrofossils in this assemblage limits interpretation of the features sampled. It is not considered that full analysis would add significantly to this and further work is not recommended

## APPENDIX E. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cappers, RTJ, Bekker, RM and Jans, JEA. 2006 *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands* Groningen Archaeological Studies 4, Barkhuis Publishing, Eelde, The Netherlands.  
[www.seedatlas.nl](http://www.seedatlas.nl)

Hinman, M. 1999 *Ritualistic Prehistoric Activity and Inhumations on Land Adjacent to Babraham Road, Cambridge. Post Excavation Assessment of Evaluation and Excavation, 1997-1998.* Cambridgeshire County Council Report No. PXA 10.

Thomas, A. 2011 Brief for Archaeological Evaluation – Babraham Road Park and Ride Extension. Cambridgeshire County Council



## APPENDIX F. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-122758		
Project Name	Babraham Road Park and Ride Extension		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	02-03-2012	Finish	16-03-2012
Previous Work (by OA East)	Yes	Future Work	Unknown

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	CAMBAB12	Planning App. No.	
HER No.	ECB3721	Related HER/OASIS No.	ECB1285

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Car Park (flat)

### 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
posthole	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901	pottery	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901
boundary ditch	Uncertain	peg-tile	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901
pits	Uncertain	clay pipe	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901

### Project Location



County	<input type="text" value="Cambs"/>	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	<input type="text" value="Cambridge"/>	<input type="text" value="Babraham Road Park and Ride, Cambridge, CB22 3AB"/>
Parish	<input type="text"/>	
HER	<input type="text" value="Cambs"/>	
Study Area	<input type="text" value="3.75 ha"/>	National Grid Reference <input type="text" value="TL4770 5447"/>

### Project Originators

Organisation	<input type="text" value="OA EAST"/>
Project Brief Originator	<input type="text" value="Andy Thomas - CCC"/>
Project Design Originator	<input type="text" value="Richard Mortimer- OA East"/>
Project Manager	<input type="text" value="James Drummond-Murray - OA East"/>
Supervisor	<input type="text" value="Kate Clover"/>

### Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
<input type="text" value="Location ...CCC Stores, Landbeach"/>	<input type="text" value="Location ... OA East"/>	<input type="text" value="Location ...CCC Stores, Landbeach"/>
<input type="text" value="Accession IDCAMBAB12"/>	<input type="text" value="Accession ID ...CAMBAB12"/>	<input type="text" value="Accession ID ...CAMBAB12"/>

### 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"/>
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Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input checked="" 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
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey

**Notes:**



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Figure 1: Site location

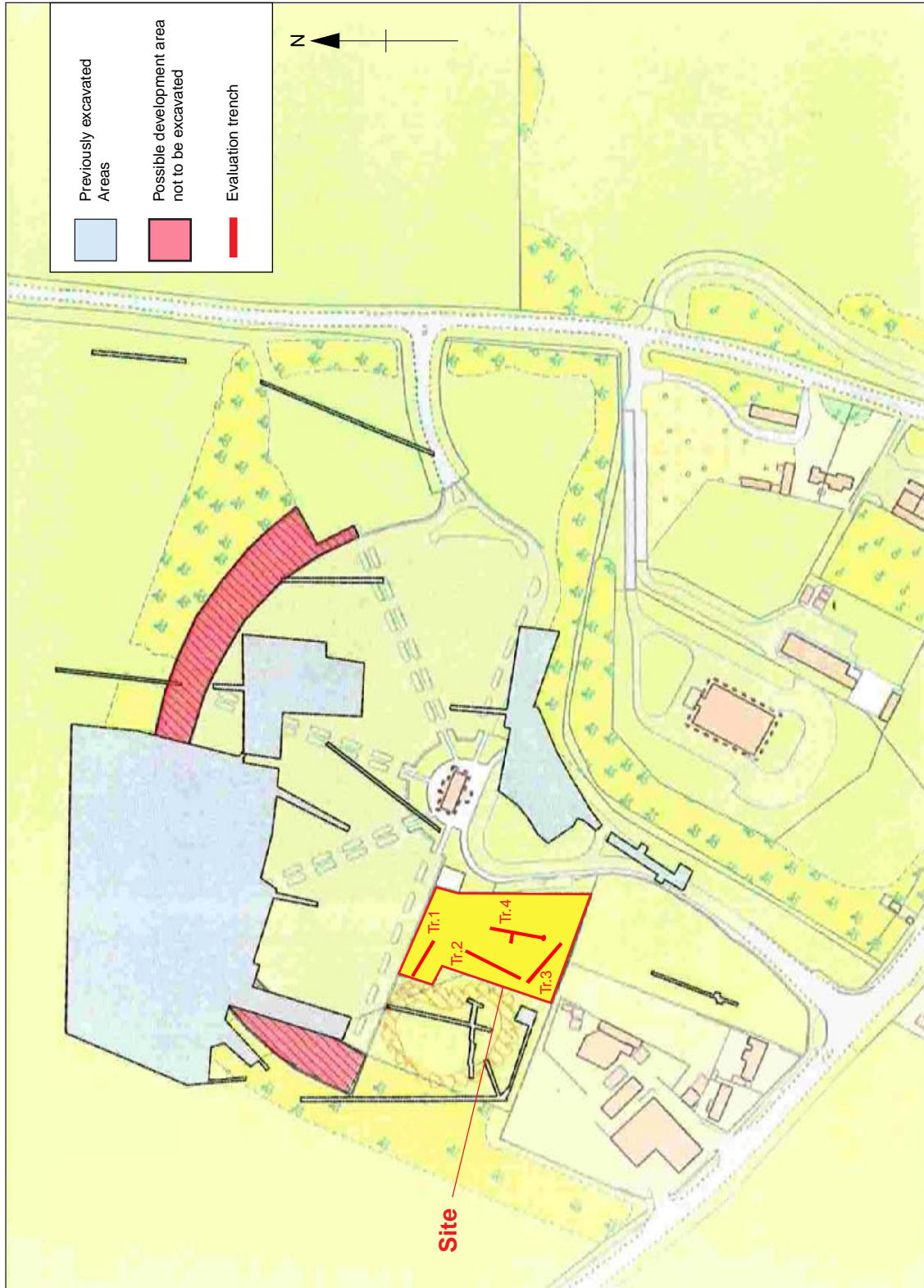


Figure 2: The current park and ride site, with evaluation trenches marked (from data supplied by the client)

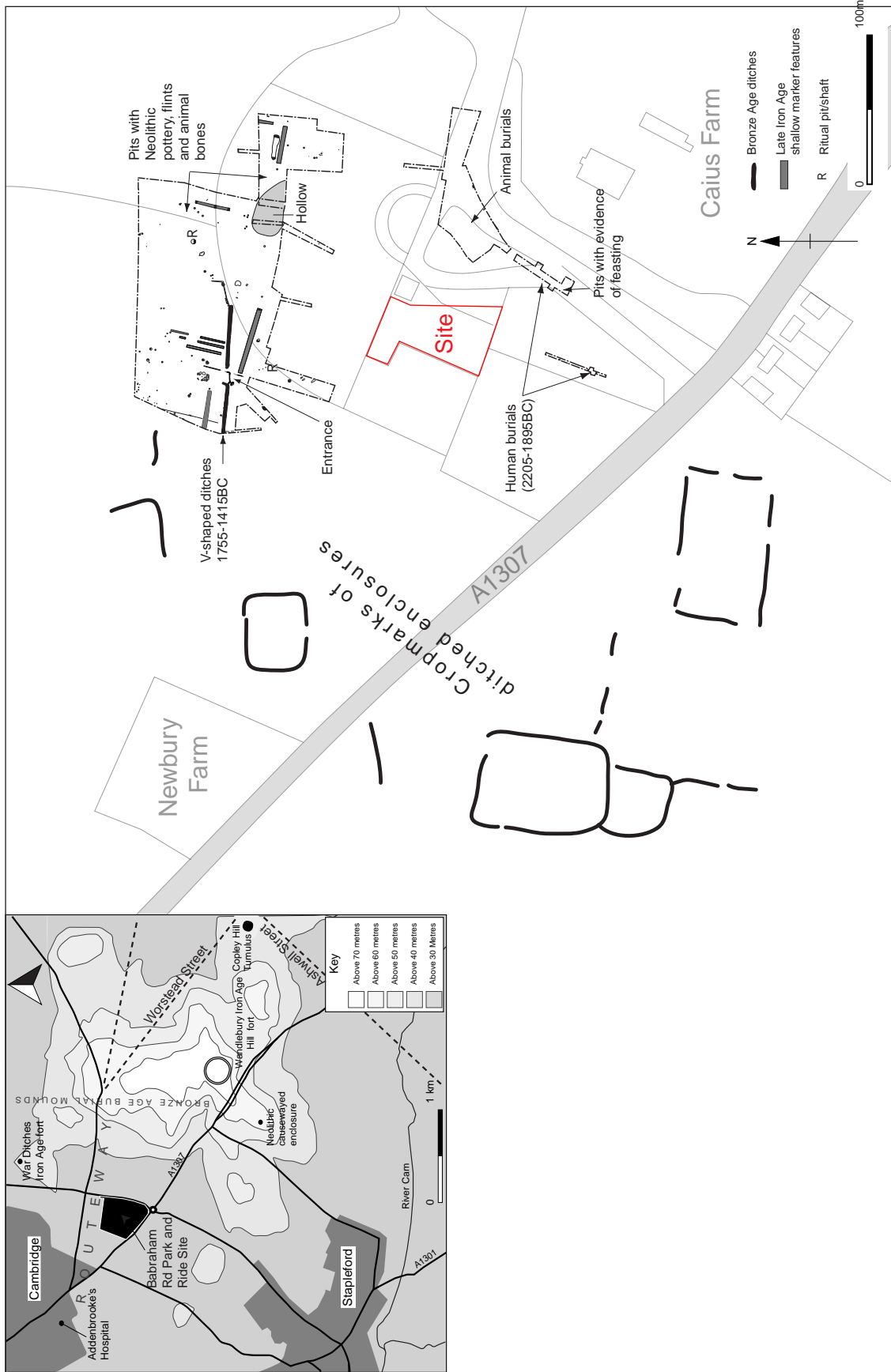


Figure 3: Known archaeology in the vicinity of the evaluation area

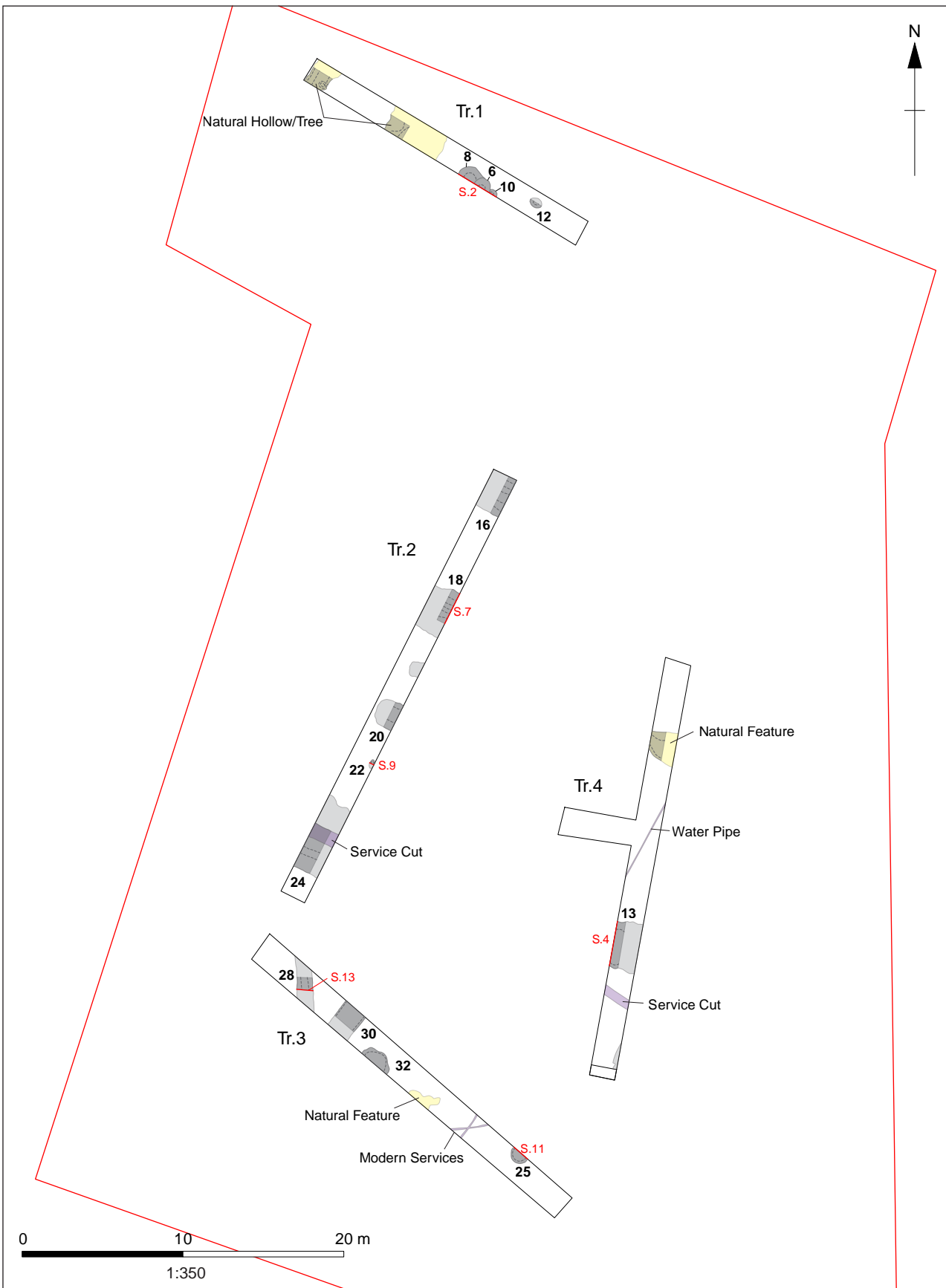


Figure 4: Trench plans

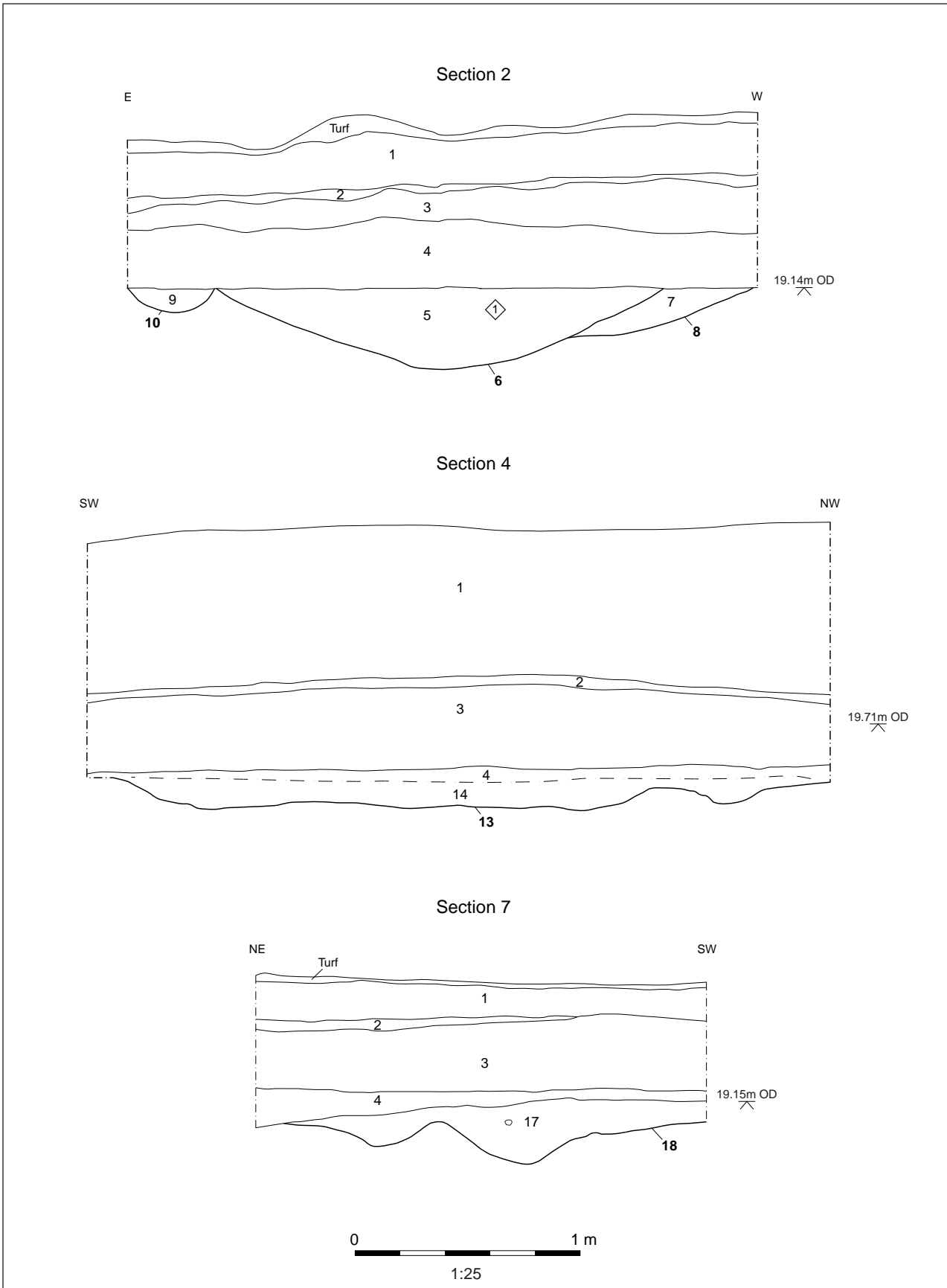


Figure 5: Sections 2, 4 and 7

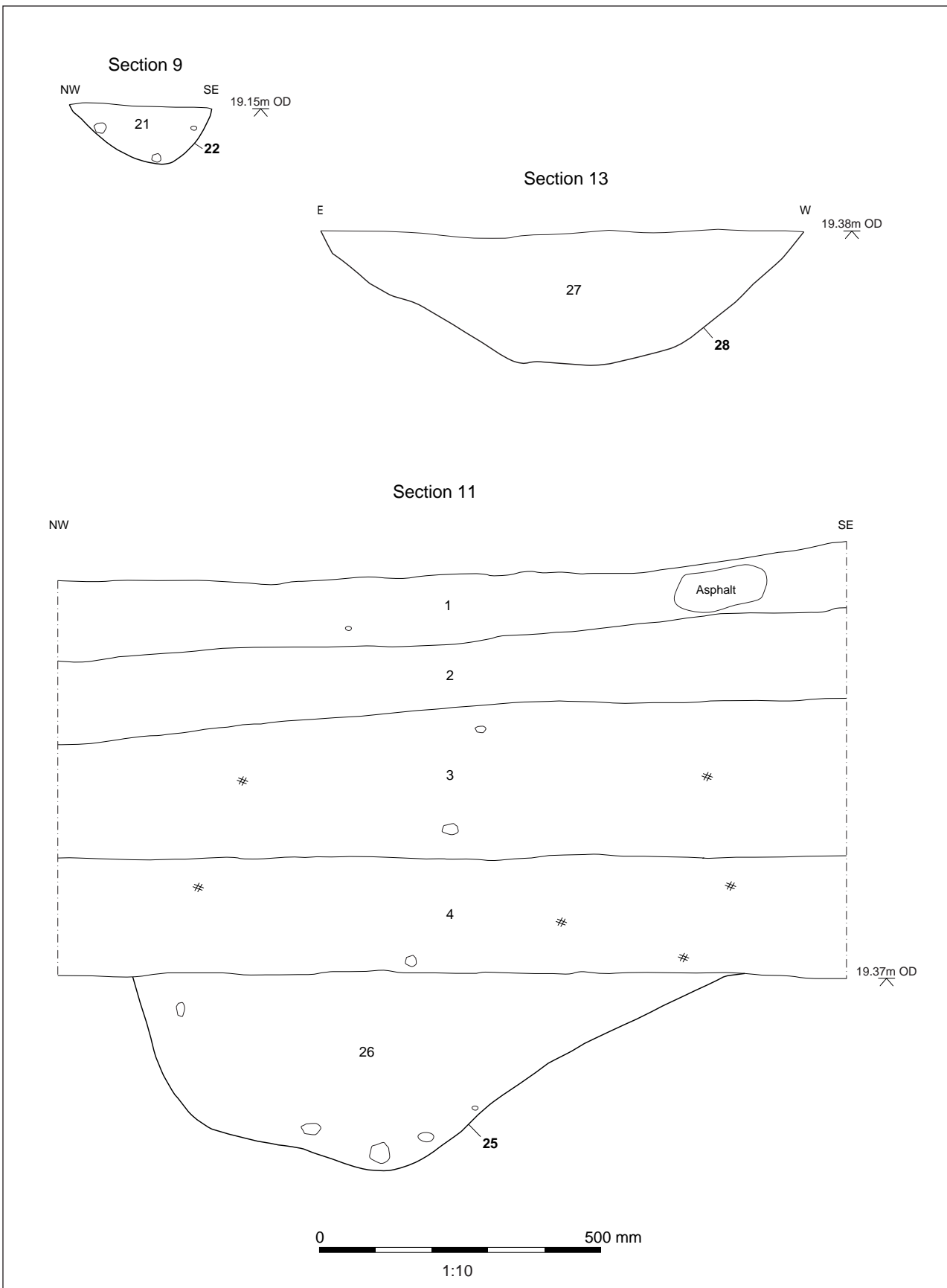


Figure 6: Sections 9, 11 and 13





Plate 1: Trench 2, from the north-east, Context (16) in the foreground



Plate 2: Trench 1, Section 2, Contexts **(6)** and **(8)**, from the North-East



Plate 3: Trench 3, Section 13, Context **(28)**, from the South



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