

Undated Ditches Found AT Perse Schools Rugby Pitch, Cambridge



Archaeological Investigation Report



December 2012

Client: The Perse School

OA East Report No: 1419

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Undated ditches found at Perse Schools rugby pitch, Cambridge

Archaeological Investigation

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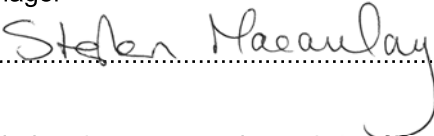
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Summary

Between the 5th and 16th October 2012 Oxford Archaeology East was commissioned by The Perse Upper School to carry out an evaluation, and subsequent limited excavation, in advance of the construction of new netball courts at the Perse Upper School, Hills Road, Cambridge TL 4614 5569.

The trenches were excavated to a chalk natural and revealed a number of natural tree throws. These were cut by the later archaeological features and may relate to a tree clearance episode in the Early to Middle Bronze Age.

The trenches uncovered three separate alignments of ditches. The earliest aligned north-west to south east and was potentially prehistoric in date. A second alignment orientated west-north-west to east-south-east with associated north to south ditch was potentially Roman or medieval, with Latest Iron Age and Early Roman pot recovered from it's fills. Finally an undated system aligned approximately east-west.

An isolated post-hole of unclear date was also uncovered.

These features are likely to be of prehistoric date and are likely to be associated to the nearby Bronze Age field systems and settlement at Clay Farm, which lies to the immediate southwest of the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation, and subsequent excavation, was conducted at The Perse Upper School, Cambridge (TL 4614 5569) between October 5th - 16th 2012. This work was commissioned by The Perse School in advance of proposed new netball courts.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application 12/0951/FUL), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (Macaulay 2012).
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to record 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 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 development area is located at the south-west of The Perse School playing fields adjacent to Long Road and just North of Addenbrookes Hospital. The development area is located on the current sports playing fields directly to the west of the current all weather sports pitches. The site is level at approximately 15m OD. The pitch was covered in well manicured turf.
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology is of West Melbury marly chalk formation lying to the east of the Cam/Granta river valley (BSG).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 A large number of previous evaluations and excavations been carried out in the area of The Perse school. The earliest known work at the school was carried out by Wallker (1910 – HER 05146) where he uncovered evidence for a Roman road running on a north-east to south-west alignment on the eastern side of the site under the current school buildings. This feature was first identified when the playing fields were levelled (CHER 04819). Further finds were located along the line of the Roman Road during 1911 with continued levelling of the playing field (Stokes, 1911).
- 1.3.2 During drainage works of the playing fields at the Perse School a cremation urn and four samian bowls were found in 1960 not far from the 'Via Devana' (Liversidge 1977:21 – HER 04820). Roman pottery was also found in a foundation trench dug in 1970 at Perse school (HER 04824).
- 1.3.3 Leith (1996) and Fairburn (2011) have both carried out evaluations at The Perse School for Boys to the north and east of the current development area. Leith located a small number of post medieval post holes (HER 11902) and Fairburn failed to locate any archaeological features.

- 1.3.4 Clarke (2008) also evaluated at The Perse School in the area adjacent to the east of the development. Clarke's evaluation trenching uncovered a post-medieval boundary ditch and some undated ditches (MCB18124).
- 1.3.5 A number of evaluations and excavations have been carried out south of long road . An evaluation was carried out by Crank at 18 long road that found undated features including a possible plough furrow and a small ditch (MCB 16495).
- 1.3.6 Abrams (2000 - CB15270) excavated an area at Long road sixth form college south of long road and located a series of pre-historic ditches broadly aligned north to south. However, more notable material was uncovered in an evaluation and subsequent excavation of the playing fields, where extensive Iron Age and Roman material was uncovered including pottery kilns, inhumations and two cremations (Mackay and Evans 2003:216)
- 1.3.7 Further work carried out at Addenbrookes Hospital has revealed Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman material (Whittaker 2003:216, CB15010, MCB15027 and MCB16500 for example).
- 1.3.8 Also south of long road at The Hutinsons site, Addenbrookes a series of open area excavations uncovered large amounts of Bronze age to early Saxon occupation (MCB17888, CB15770, MCB17890, MCB17800, MCB17896).
- 1.3.9 Further to the south-east of the development a large scale evaluation and subsequent large scale excavation was carried out at Clay Farm and Trumpington Meadows. This revealed extensive Bronze Age through to Roman occupation (MCB 17912 for example).
- 1.3.10 To the North east of the Perse school a number of evaluations have been carried out in Glebe Road (Connor 2000a, 2000b, Gilmour 2011, Muldowney 2007). These again located a series of Iron Age, Roman and undated features.
- 1.3.11 Part of an Inhumation was also found during repair works at 278 Hills road. The burial was lying in an east west orientation (HER 07972).
- 1.3.12 Finally excavations to the North of the site have been carried out at Homerton College (Alexander 1997, Webb and Dickens 2006 – HER 11958). These works revealed a number of field systems related to Roman and Post-Medieval farming and drainage. Further work at the college revealed post-medieval remains (MCB 17702).
- 1.3.13 The area of the playing fields at Perse school was purchased by the School in 1910 and had previously been used as agricultural land. As already alluded to the site was levelled to form the current playing fields during 1910 and 1911 (Collinge Pers. Comm.).

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank The Perse School for there assistance and help throughout the project and specifically John Collinge, Adrian Turner, Jackie Dixon and Adrian Roberts.
- 1.4.2 The author would also like to thank Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council who monitored the project and Stephen Macaulay of Oxford Archaeology East who managed the project.
- 1.4.3 Finally the Author would also like to thank Gareth Reese for the survey, Severine Bezie for the illustrations and Stephen Morgan, Helen Stocks-Morgan, Stuart Ladd Pete Boardman and Steve Graham who worked on the site.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this evaluation was to determine and record 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 prior to construction of the all weather pitch.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required that initial trial trenching of 120m was carried out across the development area followed by further interventions of features at the request of Dan McConnell, Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360 degree excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by Gareth Reese using a Leica 1200 DGPS.
- 2.2.4 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.6 Environmental sampling was required to assist dating of the features. Two monoliths samples were also taken for pollen analysis so that they could be compared to the Clay Farm sequence.
- 2.2.7 The site was excavated in generally dry overcast conditions with occasional showers and a single heavy rain storm.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The results are presented by trench.

3.2 Trench 1

- 3.2.1 Trench 1 was initially excavated as a 40m trench 1.8m wide. An extension of 13m by 4m was added. The trench was initially excavated along an east to west alignment with the extension excavated part way along the original trench in a north to south direction. The trench was excavated through a layer of good quality turf and topsoil of dark brownish-grey silty clay 0.3m deep and a layer of dark orangey-grey silty clay subsoil 0.1m deep onto a natural of mixed glacial gravels and chalk marl. A number of archaeological features were identified within the trench.
- 3.2.2 A natural Tree Throw **3**, 1.5m across and 0.57m deep, with an irregular shape in plan and section was excavated near the centre of the trench. The tree throw had a single natural fill (4) of mid brownish-orange clayey silt with occasional sub angular flints. The tree throw was truncated by **1**.
- 3.2.3 Tree throw **3** is likely to be part of or the same feature as a cluster of tree throws located in the extension to trench 1. The collection of features represented by cuts **36**, **38** and **40** were a group of irregularly shaped inter-cutting features filled by a mix of mid to light greyish to reddish-yellow silty clay (39), a light to mid greyish to reddish-yellow silty clay (37) similar to 39 but with more frequent stones and a mid to dark brownish-grey silty clay (35) with a large amount of charcoal flecking. It is unclear whether the charcoal present within this feature(s) represents carbonised rooting or an intentional burning out of the tree throw.
- 3.2.4 A second large tree throw was located at the southern end of the extension to Trench 1. The tree throw was 1.4m long and 2.7m wide with a maximum depth of 0.33m. **64** contained three fills, a lower fill of mid greyish-yellow sandy silt (63) and two upper fills of mid brownish-grey clayey silt and light brownish-grey clayey silt with frequent charcoal inclusions (61 and 62 respectively). The charcoal in the tree throw is similar to that in fill 35 in tree throw cut **36**.
- 3.2.5 **1** was a north to south aligned ditch terminus 0.75m wide and 0.42m deep. The ditch had a 'U' shaped profile and contained a single fill of mid greyish-brown firm clayey silt (2). No finds were found within the feature. The ditch was seen to respect the larger boundary ditch **66** within the extension of Trench 1. **1** truncated tree throw **3**.
- 3.2.6 **66** was a large linear ditch located towards the south end of the extension of Trench 1. The ditch was 3.5m wide and 0.5m deep and contained a single fill of mid greyish brown clayey silt (65). The ditch is the same feature as **28** and **60** in Trench 2 and **9,47** and **51**.
- 3.2.7 A shallow linear feature similar in form and shape to a medieval plough furrow was located at the western end of the trench. The feature (**7**) is the same as **22** in Trench 2. The linear feature was 1.4m wide and 0.1m deep it contained a single fill (8) of mid brownish-grey clayey silt with occasional sub-angular stones. The feature may be a medieval plough furrow but could also be a heavily truncated ditch. Sherds of Early Roman pottery were found within this feature.

- 3.2.8 A single modern post-hole (**5**) was located in Trench 1. The post-hole had a single fill of dark grey silt (**4**) and is likely to be associated with the rugby pitch the trench was machined through. The rectangular post hole was 0.34m by 0.38m and 0.14m deep.

3.3 Trench 2

- 3.3.1 Trench 2 was initially excavated as a 40m long trench. An additional area of 24m by 4m was excavated from the northern end along the western edge of the trench. The trench contained a number of archaeological features.
- 3.3.2 The most northerly feature within trench 2 was a shallow furrow like feature **22**. The feature was the same feature as **7** in trench 1. The feature was 1.1m wide and 0.13m deep with a flat base and shallow sides. It contained a single fill of light brownish-grey silty clay (**21**).
- 3.3.3 A Tree throw **20** 0.65m long, 1.15m wide and 0.65m deep was located at the northern end of the trench south of **22**. The tree throw was an amorphous shape with irregular sides and base. The tree throw was filled by **19** a firm mid grey silty clay with no inclusions, most likely a gradual silting of the tree throw.
- 3.3.4 The tree throw was truncated by the terminus of a small linear feature (**18**) with a concave base and steep sides, 1.15m wide and 0.35m deep. The ditch contained a mid to dark orangey-grey silty clay with occasional manganese flecks (**17**). A single shard of 17th century pottery was recovered from this feature.
- 3.3.5 A large linear ditch (**28** and **60**) was located towards the northern end of Trench 2. It is the same feature as **66** in Trench 1 and **9,47** and **51** in Trench 3. The ditch was 2.82m wide and 0.41m deep. It contained two fills. The lower fill (**27** and **59**) was an alluvial deposit of light yellowish-grey silty clay with occasional rounded stones. The upper fill (**58**) was a mid to light greyish-yellow silty clay with occasional stones and manganese flecks. This feature produced a small assemblage of residual struck flint and a small assemblage of Latest Iron Age and Early Roman pottery.
- 3.3.6 Between ditches **28** and **24** a small isolated post-hole (**26**) was excavated. The post-hole was 0.26m in diameter and 0.16m deep. It contained a single leached fill (**25**) of mid reddish-brown to mid reddish-grey silty clay.
- 3.3.7 At the southern end of Trench 2 a small linear feature (**24**) 0.68m wide and 0.35m deep was located on an east to west alignment. The feature had steep convex sides with a sharp break of slope into a flat base. The ditch had a single fill (**23**) of mid grey silty clay. It is likely that this is the same feature as **14** in trench 3.

3.4 Trench 3

- 3.4.1 Trench 3 was originally excavated on a north-west to south-east alignment, 1.8m wide and 40m long. The trench was excavated through 0.3m of topsoil and 0.1m of subsoil onto natural chalk and marl. A number of features were identified cutting the natural. An extension was added at the north-west end of 10m by 10m.
- 3.4.2 A small tree throw (**41**) was located at the northern end of trench 3 and into the south-east edge of the extension of trench 3. The tree throw was sub-circular in plan 0.1m wide and 0.5m deep. The tree throw contained a single fill of light orangey-brown to orangey-grey silty clay (**42**). The feature was truncated by linear features **43** and **45**.
- 3.4.3 A second tree throw (**32**) was located halfway along Trench 3. It was 1.2m wide and .34m deep. The tree throw was an irregular bowl shape and filled by a single fill, **31**, of brownish-grey sandy clay. It was truncated by ditch cut **30**.

- 3.4.4 A third tree throw was located within the extension to Trench 3 along the western edge. It was truncated by the large linear ditch cut **51**. The tree throw was an amorphous shape with a fill (55) of blueish-orange chalky marl.
- 3.4.5 A small ditch(**11,16,30,34,43,49** and **57**) ran the entire length of trench 1. The ditch was between 0.6m and 0.86m in width and had a maximum depth of 0.4m, it truncated tree throws **32** and **41**. The ditch was slightly irregular in plan but largely a straight linear and was an irregular V shape in section. The ditch contained a single fill (12,15,29,33,44,50 and 56 respectively) of a homogeneous mid greyish-brown clayey silt.
- 3.4.6 A shallower linear ditch was located perpendicular to the above ditch on a north-east to south-west alignment in the area of the southern portion of the Trench 3 extension. The ditch (**45**) was 0.7m wide and 0.08m deep. It is likely to be contemporary with ditch cuts **11,16,30,34,43,49** and **57**. The ditch contained a single fill of mixed light grey and light brown silty clay with occasional patches of chalk marl.
- 3.4.7 A large linear feature(**9,47** and **51**) was found at the north-west end of trench 3. It is likely to be the same feature as **66** in Trench 1 and **28** and **60** in Trench 2. The ditch was 3m wide and 0.25m deep with steep sides and a flat base. The ditch was aligned on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment. It contained a two fills, the lower a mid to dark brown silty clay (53) and an upper fill of mid brownish-grey clayey silt with occasional sub angular flints within the matrix (10,48 and 52). A sherds of Latest Iron Age to Early Roman pottery, dated between Mid 1st century BC and Mid 2nd Century AD were recovered from the fills. This feature truncates ditch cut **49**.
- 3.4.8 A further ditch (**14**) was located towards the south-east end of trench 3. It is likely to be the same as ditch **24** in trench 2. It contained a single fill of firm dark grey silty clay (13).

3.5 Finds Summary

- 3.5.1 Struck flint was recovered from within the large boundary ditch **27** and **66**. The flint was undiagnostic but the poor quality of the working and the expedient tool located from within **27**, suggest that it is of later prehistoric date and is potentially Bronze Age or even Iron Age.
- 3.5.2 The pottery recovered from the excavation included a small assemblage of Latest Iron Age or Early Roman pottery types from fills 27 and 48 of the large boundary ditch **9, 27,47** and **51** dated to the middle of the 1st century BC to the middle of the 2nd century AD. Pottery recovered from fill 10 of the same ditch is dated to the middle of the 1st century AD to the middle of the 2nd century AD. Similar dated pottery was also found within the furrow like feature **7** with a date range between the middle of the 1st century AD to the early to middle 2nd century AD.
- 3.5.3 A single fragment of post-medieval pottery came from ditch **18**.

3.6 Environmental Summary

- 3.6.1 No significant environmental remains were recovered. Samples were taken, including those for pollen assessment and analysis, however none contained material for palaeoenvironmental reconstruction.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Prehistoric

- 4.1.1 A number of features excavated within the trenches are likely to be prehistoric in date. They generally had heavily leached fills and were slightly irregular in form.
- 4.1.2 The numerous tree throws are all likely to be of a similar age to each other and may represent a period of tree clearance. As one is truncated by the earliest linear feature on site they potentially represent prehistoric clearance.
- 4.1.3 The north-west to south-east and north-east to south-west aligned ditches (**11,16,30,34,43,49,57** and **45**) in trench 3 are also likely to be prehistoric as they are similar in form and alignment to the Middle Bronze Age ditches found at Clay Farm (Mortimer *pers. comm.*).
- 4.1.4 The fill of the single isolated post-hole (**26**) is very similar in form and colour to the fills within the potentially prehistoric ditches and therefore may be of a similar date.

4.2 Roman or Medieval

- 4.2.1 The Large ditch found in all three trenches on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment had a small assemblage of Latest Iron Age and Early Roman pottery recovered from within it. The pottery is heavily abraded suggesting that it is secondary deposition. The ditch is, therefore, likely to be of Roman or medieval date.
- 4.2.2 The furrow like feature **7** and **22** is possibly of medieval date although there is no evidence of medieval ploughing. The feature may be a shallow truncated linear feature rather than a furrow as only one was found. The pottery recovered from it is of Late Iron Age or Early Roman date and therefore like **9, 28, 60** and **66** it could potentially be Roman or Medieval in date.

4.3 Modern

- 4.3.1 Evidence for truncation of the subsoil was present within the extension of Trench 3. This was particularly apparent around ditch **51**. This truncation is most likely associated with the levelling of the playing field in 1910 and 1911.

4.4 Undated features

- 4.4.1 The small linear ditch found to the south of Trenches 2 and 3 is undated. No finds were recovered from within the fills. It truncates and is therefore more recent than the north-west to south-east aligned ditch in Trench 3 (**11,16,30,34,43,49,57** and **45**).

4.5 Significance

- 4.5.1 The tree throws within this excavation are likely to represent a clearance event on the site, especially as two of the tree throws seem to have been burnt out. The environmental evidence from Clay Farm suggests that a large scale clearance occurred between 1650 and 1550 BC (Mortimer *pers. Comm.*) and therefore it is not beyond reason to suggest that the tree throws represent part of this event.
- 4.5.2 The linear features uncovered within the evaluation trenching and subsequent extensions are likely to represent three phases of land division, most likely for agricultural purposes. The earliest phase of this is on the same alignment as the Middle Bronze Age enclosures within Clay Farm and may be part of the same system,

although this cannot be proven due to a lack of dating material. This ditch truncates a number of the tree throws supporting the theory that they represent the clearance event suggested at Clay Farm.

- 4.5.3 The large linear boundary ditch is likely to be the same feature as that found within Trenches 3 and 4 of the AOC evaluation carried out in 2008 (Clarke 2008). The 2008 excavation dated this feature as post-mediaeval based on a small fragment of post-medieval pottery and part of an 18th century wine bottle recovered from the fill.
- 4.5.4 The excavation of this feature within the recent phase of works suggests it is older with the recovery of worked flints and pottery from the Latest Iron Age and Early Roman period from within the fill, especially near the base of the feature. This evidence may tentatively suggest that the post-medieval pottery and glass from the AOC evaluation is intrusive and therefore the ditch is potentially earlier, either Roman or medieval. The small ditch terminus **1** may well be part of the same system of field division as it is perpendicular too and respects this much larger boundary.
- 4.5.5 The final ditch alignment is approximately east to west and composed of a ditch found at the southern end of Trenches 2 and 3. It is similar in form and profile to a ditch found in Trench 3 of the AOC evaluation. This undated ditch is more recent than the tentatively dated prehistoric ditch system within Trench 3 which it truncates. This ditch may be on the same alignment as the possible furrow found at the northern end of Trench 2 and the eastern end of Trench 1.
- 4.5.6 Due to paucity of finds and lack of environmental evidence it is suggested that the ditches found within this excavation are outlying field boundaries either associated with the known prehistoric settlements, in the area of Glebe Road or the extensive prehistoric occupation to the south in the area of Clay farm, Trumpington Meadows and Addenbrookes hospital.

4.6 Recommendations

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

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench was excavated through topsoil and subsoil onto chalk and marl natural. The trench contained a furrow, A ditch and ditch terminus, a modern post-hole and a number of tree throws.				Avg. depth (m)		0.4
				Width (m)		1.8
				Length (m)		40
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	Modern
	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-
1	Cut	0.75	0.42	Cut of ditch terminus	-	-
2	Fill	0.75	0.42	Fill of 1	-	-
3	Cut	1.5	0.57	Cut of Pit or Tree throw	-	-
4	Fill	1.5	0.57	Fill of 3	-	-
5	Cut	0.38	0.14	Cut of Post-hole	-	Modern
6	Fill	0.38	0.14	Fill of 5	-	-
7	Cut	1.4	0.1	Cut of Furrow?	-	-
8	Fill	1.4	0.1	Fill of 7	Pottery	-
35	Fill	0.72	0.33	Fill of Tree throw 36	-	-
36	Cut	0.72	0.33	Cut of Tree throw	-	-
37	Fill	1.1	0.24	Fill of Tree throw 38	-	-
38	Cut	1.1	0.24	Cut of Tree throw	-	-
39	Fill			Fill of Tree bole 40	-	-
40	Cut			Cut of Tree Bole	-	-
61	Fill	0.77	0.2	Upper fill of Tree throw	-	-
62	Fill	0.87	0.33	Upper fill of Tree throw	-	-
63	Fill	0.78	0.2	Lower fill of Tree throw	-	-
64	Cut	2.7	0.33	Cut of Tree throw	-	-
65	Fill	3.5	0.5	Fill of Ditch 66	Flint	Roman?
66	Cut	3.5	0.5	Cut of Ditch	-	Roman?
	Layer	-	-	Natural – Chalk marl	-	-
Trench 2						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Trench excavated through topsoil and subsoil onto a chalk and marl natural. Trench contained a furrow, 3 ditches, an isolated post-hole and a tree throw.				Avg. depth (m)		0.4
				Width (m)		1.8
				Length (m)		40
Contexts						

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	Modern
	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-
17	Fill	1.15	0.35	Fill of Ditch 18	Pottery	Post-Medieval
18	Cut	1.15	0.35	Cut of Ditch	-	Post-Medieval
19	Fill	1.15	0.65	Fill of Tree Throw or Pit 20	-	-
20	Cut	1.15	0.65	Fill of Tree throw or pit	-	-
21	Fill	1.1	0.13	Fill of Furrow? 22	Pottery	Roman?
22	Cut	1.1	0.13	Cut of Furrow?	-	Roman?
23	Fill	0.68	0.35	Fill of Ditch 24	-	-
24	Cut	0.68	0.35	Cut of Ditch 24	-	-
25	Fill			Fill of Post-hole 26	-	Prehistoric?
26	Cut			Cut of post-hole	-	Prehistoric?
27	Fill	2.82	0.5	Fill of Ditch 28	Flint, Pottery	Roman?
28	Cut	2.82	0.5	Cut of Ditch	-	Roman?
58	Fill	2.84	0.22	Upper fill of Ditch 60	-	Roman?
59	Fill	2.84	0.24	Lower fill of Ditch 60	-	Roman?
60	Fill	2.84	0.41	Cut of Ditch	-	Roman?
	Layer	-	-	Natural – Chalk Marl	-	-

Trench 3

General description

Trench contained 3 ditches and a number of tree throws.

Orientation

NW-SE

Avg. depth (m)

0.4

Width (m)

1.8

Length (m)

40

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	Modern
	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-
9	Cut	2	0.25	Cut of Ditch	-	-
10	Fill	2	0.25	Fill of 9	-	-
11	Cut	0.7	0.25	Cut of Ditch	-	Prehistoric?
12	Fill	0.7	0.25	Fill of Ditch 11	-	Prehistoric?
13	Fill	0.45	0.22	Fill of Ditch 14	-	-
14	Cut	0.45	0.22	Cut of ditch	-	-
15	Fill	0.86	0.33	Fill of Ditch 16	-	Prehistoric?
16	Cut	0.86	0.33	Cut of Ditch	-	Prehistoric?
29	Fill			Fill of Ditch 30	-	Prehistoric?

30	Cut			Cut of Ditch	-	Prehistoric?
31	Fill			Fill of Tree throw or pit 30	-	-
32	Cut			Cut of tree throw or pit	-	-
33	Fill	0.75	0.2	Fill of Ditch 34	-	Prehistoric?
34	Cut	0.75	0.2	Cut of Ditch	-	Prehistoric?
41	Cut	1	0.5	Cut of Tree throw	-	-
42	Fill	1	0.5	Fill of Tree throw 41	-	-
43	Cut	0.6	0.4	Cut of Ditch	-	Prehistoric?
44	Fill	0.6	0.4	Fill of Ditch 43	-	Prehistoric?
45	Cut	0.7	0.08	Cut of Ditch	-	Prehistoric?
46	Fill	0.7	0.08	Fill of Ditch 45	-	Prehistoric?
47	Cut	3	0.3	Cut of Ditch	-	Roman?
48	Fill	3	0.3	Fill of Ditch 47	-	Roman?
49	Cut	0.6	0.25	Cut of Ditch	-	Prehistoric?
50	Fill	0.6	0.25	Fill of Ditch 49	-	Prehistoric?
51	Cut	3.6	0.7	Cut of Ditch	-	Roman?
52	Fill	3.6	0.5	Lower fill of ditch 51	Pottery	Roman?
53	Fill	3.6	0.2	Upper fill of ditch 51	-	Roman?
54	Cut			Cut of Tree throw	-	-
55	Fill			Fill of Tree throw 54	-	-
56	Fill	0.8	0.2	Fill of Ditch 57	-	Prehistoric?
57	Cut	0.8	0.2	Cut of Ditch	-	Prehistoric?
	Layer	-	-	Natural – Chalk Marl	-	-

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Flint

By Anthony Haskins

Introduction

B.1.1 An assemblage of ten struck lithics was recovered from the evaluation at The Perse School, Cambridge. This report covers the basic classification of the material present.

Methodology

B.1.2 The material was scanned using a simple classification scheme to identify typological and chronological indicators within the assemblage.

Quantification

B.1.3 The assemblage contained ten lithics. Two of these are burnt, of the remaining artefacts one is an identifiable retouched tool, the remainder are debitage flakes. Ditch fill 27 produced the most lithics with seven of the ten coming from this feature.

TRENCH Number			1	1	2	
CONTEXT NO.			65	2	27	Totals
TYPE	SUB TYPE	CLASSIFICATION				
flakes (>25mm <50mm)	primary				1	1
	secondary				2	2
	broken		1		1	2
blades (all sizes)	secondary				1	1
	broken				1	1
retouched tools		awl			1	1
burnt flint (all types)				2		2
Totals			1	2	7	10

Table 1. Flint Quantification data

Assessment

B.1.4 The raw material within this assemblage is a mix of a dark brownish-grey translucent flint with a thick yellowish-white smooth cortex, a light yellowish brown translucent material with a similar yellowish-white smooth cortex and a single heavily patinated piece with a very thin and smooth mid brown cortex.

B.1.5 No technological characters could be identified within the material although most of the flakes seem to have been struck by soft hammer with small diffuse bulbs of percussion.

- B.1.6 The assemblage contains a single tool a thick flake retouched at the distal end and along the left hand side to form an awl or borer. The quality of the retouch and the flake selected would suggest that this is an expedient tool.
- B.1.7 All the material within this assemblage is heavily rolled, abraded and broken in places suggesting that the artefacts were not in-situ and had moved around prior to burial possibly by plough action.

Conclusion

- B.1.8 It was not possible to assign this small assemblage to a narrow date range due to a lack of identifiable characters. However, the expedient tool and the quality of the flint working would suggest a later prehistoric date.

B.2 The Latest Iron Age, Early Roman and post-Medieval Pottery Pottery

By Stephen Wadson and Carole Fletcher

Introduction

- B.2.1 A total of twenty-one sherds of pottery, weighing 0.110kg were recovered during excavations at the Perse School, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire (CAM PUS 12). This is a small, early Roman assemblage recovered alongside a number of Latest Iron Age (LIA) sherds and a single post-medieval black glazed ware sherd (Table 1).
- B.2.2 The assemblage is small and fragmentary, the majority of the sherds being abraded with little evidence for surface finishes or residues surviving. Small fragment sizes such as these indicate high levels of post-depositional disturbance, possibly the result of ploughing or middening during the Roman and/or post-Roman periods. As a result the pottery has an average sherd weight of only c.5g, suggesting that the majority of the sherds were not found within their site of primary deposition.

Ceramic Period	Sherd Count	Weight (kg)	Weight (%)
Latest Iron Age	12	0.046	41.8
Early Roman	8	0.059	53.6
Post-Medieval	1	0.005	4.6
Total	21	0.110	100.00

Table 1: Quantity and weight of pottery by ceramic period

Methodology

- B.2.1 The assemblage was examined in accordance with the guidelines set down by the Study Group for Roman Pottery (Webster 1976; Darling 2004; Willis 2004). The total assemblage was studied and a preliminary catalogue was prepared. The sherds were examined using a magnifying lens (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types present. The fabric codes are descriptive and abbreviated by the main letters of the title (Sandy greyware = SGW). Vessel form was also recorded.
- B.2.2 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

Quantification

- B.2.1 All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed to the nearest whole gramme. Decoration and abrasion were also noted and a spot date has been provided for each individual sherd and context

Assemblage

- B.2.2 The small assemblage was recovered from six contexts, with the majority of sherds recovered from contexts 27 and 52.

- B.2.3 Context 8 contained a single sherd of early proto-sandy grey ware, these early grey wares are referred to as proto-wares due to the variable consistency in colour of the fabric. This was a result of poor clay preparation and firing technologies during the first and early second centuries before the use of both the fast wheel and semi-permanent kiln became widespread (Swan 1984). Also present was a single base sherd from a sandy red ware.
- B.2.4 Context 10 produced a single sandy oxidised sherd with linear combed decoration which may be a fragment from a local copy of a Gallo-Belgic beaker. Context 17 produced no Roman pottery, only a single post-medieval black glazed red ware sherd dating to the 17th century.
- B.2.5 Context 27 contained a single Verulamium type sandy oxidised ware which is visually identical to 1st-2nd century Verulamium white wares (Tyres 1996, 199-201). This type of ware was known to have been produced into the second and third centuries in the Northamptonshire region and at Godmanchester in Cambridgeshire (Lyons 2008). Also present is a small sherd from a thin-walled black-surfaced ware vessel. The context also produced eight residual sherds of low fired, grog-tempered reduced wares, dating to the latest Iron Age (mid 1st century BC-mid 1st century AD) and a single inverted rim sherd from a sandy reduced ware bowl. This is a distinctly transitional fabric and is the darker, coarse (often thicker) predecessor of the more Roman sandy reduced ware, typical of the early Roman period onwards.
- B.2.6 Context 48 produced a single body sherd from a jar/bowl in a grog-tempered sandy reduced ware fabric.
- B.2.7 Context 52 contains a single proto-grey ware (flint tempered) sherd from a possible carinated jar or bowl. Also present are small undiagnostic sherds of fine sandy grey ware and black-surfaced red ware. A sandy reduced ware rolled rim sherd from a jar or bowl was also recovered alongside a single residual sherd of grog-tempered reduced ware.

Discussion

- B.2.8 This is a small assemblage dating to the LIA and Early Roman periods. The majority of the LIA sherds are grog tempered, with vessel forms consisting of unspecified utilitarian coarse ware jar/bowl types. There are no early fine wares and the majority of the sherds are undiagnostic. The assemblage shows continuity between the LIA and early Roman periods. Due to the fragmented and heavily abraded nature of the assemblage, the majority of the sherds are likely to be residual in Early Roman contexts. This has made the assemblage difficult to assess beyond providing basic dating information. The small number of sherds recovered during excavation is common on many rural sites and would suggest; there there is an as yet unlocated Romano-British settlement or farmstead near to the area of excavation.

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The Latest Iron Age, Early Roman and post-medieval Pottery Catalogue

Context	Fabric	Dsc	Vessel form	Qty	Weight (Kg)	Fabric Date	Context Date
8	SGW (Proto)	U	JAR/BOWL	1	0.022	MC1-E/MC2	MC1-E/MC2
8	SANDY RED WARE	B		1	0.010	MC1-E/MC2	
10	SOW	U	?BEAKER	1	0.004	MC1-MC2	MC1-MC2
17	BLK GLAZED RED WARE	U		1	0.005	POST-MEDIEVAL	POST-MEDIEVAL
27	SOW	U		1	0.002	MC1-MC2	MC1-MC2
27	SRW	R	BOWL	1	0.005	MC1BC-MC1AD	
27	BLK SURFACE RED WARE	U		1	0.001	MC1-C4	
27	RW (Grog)	U		8	0.028	MC1BC-MC1AD	
48	SRW (Grog)	U	JAR/BOWL	1	0.003	MC1BC-MC1AD	MC1BC-MC1AD
52	SGW (Proto)	U	JAR/BOWL	1	0.018	MC1-E/MC2	MC1-E/MC2
52	SRW (Grog)	R	JAR/BOWL	1	0.006	MC1BC-MC1AD	
52	RW (Grog)	U		1	0.004	MC1BC-MC1AD	
52	GW (Fine)	U		1	0.001	MC1-E/MC2	
52	BLK SURFACE RED WARE	U		1	0.001	MC1-C4	
Total				21			

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fossberry and Steve Boreham

Introduction and Methods

- C.1.1 Five bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated areas of the site at the Perse School, Cambridge in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. Features sampled include undated ditches and a tree-throw that was sampled for the purpose of retrieving charcoal for radiocarbon dating.
- C.1.2 One bucket (up to ten litres) of each bulk sample was processed by water flotation (using a modified Siraff three-tank system) for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flot was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 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.

Results

- C.1.3 All of the samples were devoid of plant remains other than modern rootlets and sparse charcoal flecks. The charcoal recovered from Sample 4, fill 35 of tree-throw **36** did not produce any charcoal suitable for radiocarbon dating. The residues did not contain any finds.

Discussion

- C.1.4 It is unusual for an assemblage not to produce any plant remains. It is most likely that the ditches were dug for drainage and were not near any form of settlement.

Further Work and Methods Statement

- C.1.5 If further excavations are planned for this area, it is recommended that a schedule for targeted environmental sampling should be appended to the updated project design.

Monolith samples

- C.1.6 There were two monolith tins provided (samples 5 & 7) from the large boundary ditch 9, 28, 60 and 66.
- C.1.7 For sample 5, two pollen sub-samples were taken, one from context 59 at 14cm from the base of the tin, and one from context 58 at 26cm.
- C.1.8 For sample 7, two pollen sub-samples were taken from context 65 at 10cm & 24cm.
- C.1.9 In all cases the material sampled appeared to be slightly oxidised silt to silty clay, and care was taken to choose the best material available for pollen preparation.
- C.1.10 The four pollen sub-samples were prepared using the standard hydrofluoric acid technique, and the stained residues were mounted on glass slides for pollen assessment. Pollen assessment was undertaken at x400 magnification with a high-power stereo

microscope.

- C.1.11 Unfortunately all four of the pollen sub-samples assessed were barren. That is to say that the concentration of pollen detected was far below 2000 grains/gram and the preservation of material was very poor indeed. The few grains detected were heavily armoured spores and Asteraceae pollen in an advanced state of decay.
- C.1.12 This strongly suggests that the sediments have had prolonged exposure to fluctuating water tables, and that aerobic microbial degradation of organic material has reached an advanced state. The apparently modest oxidation observed in the sediments is most likely due to the reversible nature of redox reactions. This means that in the past water tables have been lower and oxidation has proceeded apace, but with higher water tables the signs of oxidation visible to the naked eye have been reversed by the reduction of iron oxide in anaerobic conditions. Unfortunately, once the organic material has been destroyed, a return to reduced conditions cannot resurrect it.
- C.1.13 It is a little unusual for four samples from a site to all be completely barren, but local water table changes can wreak havoc on the preservation potential of archaeological sediments.

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APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-136851		
Project Name	Evaluation at The Perse Upper School, Cambridge		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	05-10-2012	Finish	30-12-2012
Previous Work (by OA East)	Yes	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	CAM PUS 12	Planning App. No.	12/0951/FUL
HER No.	ECB 3864	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Other

Please select all techniques used:

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

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

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

Monument	Period	Object	Period
boundary ditch	Uncertain	pottery	Iron Age -800 to 43
post hole	Uncertain	pottery	Roman 43 to 410
natural feature	Uncertain	lithic implement	Uncertain

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Cambridge City	Perse upper School Hills Road Cambridge CB2 8PP	
Parish	Queen Ediths		
HER	Cambridgeshire		
Study Area	4118 sq. m	National Grid Reference	TL 4614 5569

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Dan McConnell - CCC
Project Design Originator	Stephen Macauley - Oxford Archaeology East
Project Manager	Stephen Macauley
Supervisor	Anthony Haskins

Project Archives

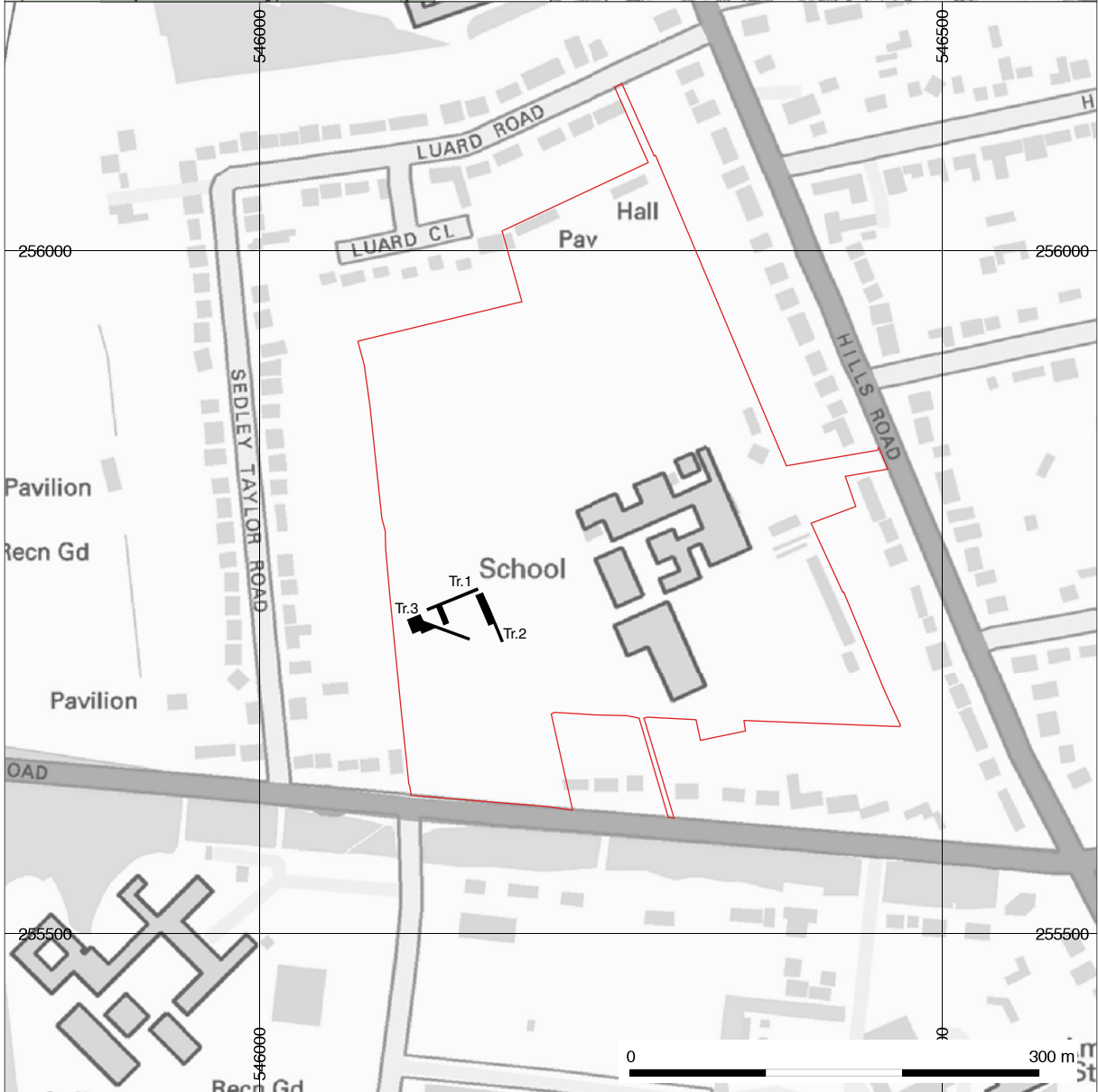
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
CCC Stores, Landbech	CCC Stores, Landbech	CCC Stores, Landbech
CAMPUS12	CAMPUS12	CAMPUS12

Archive Contents/Media

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	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location with development area outlined (red) and trenches (black)

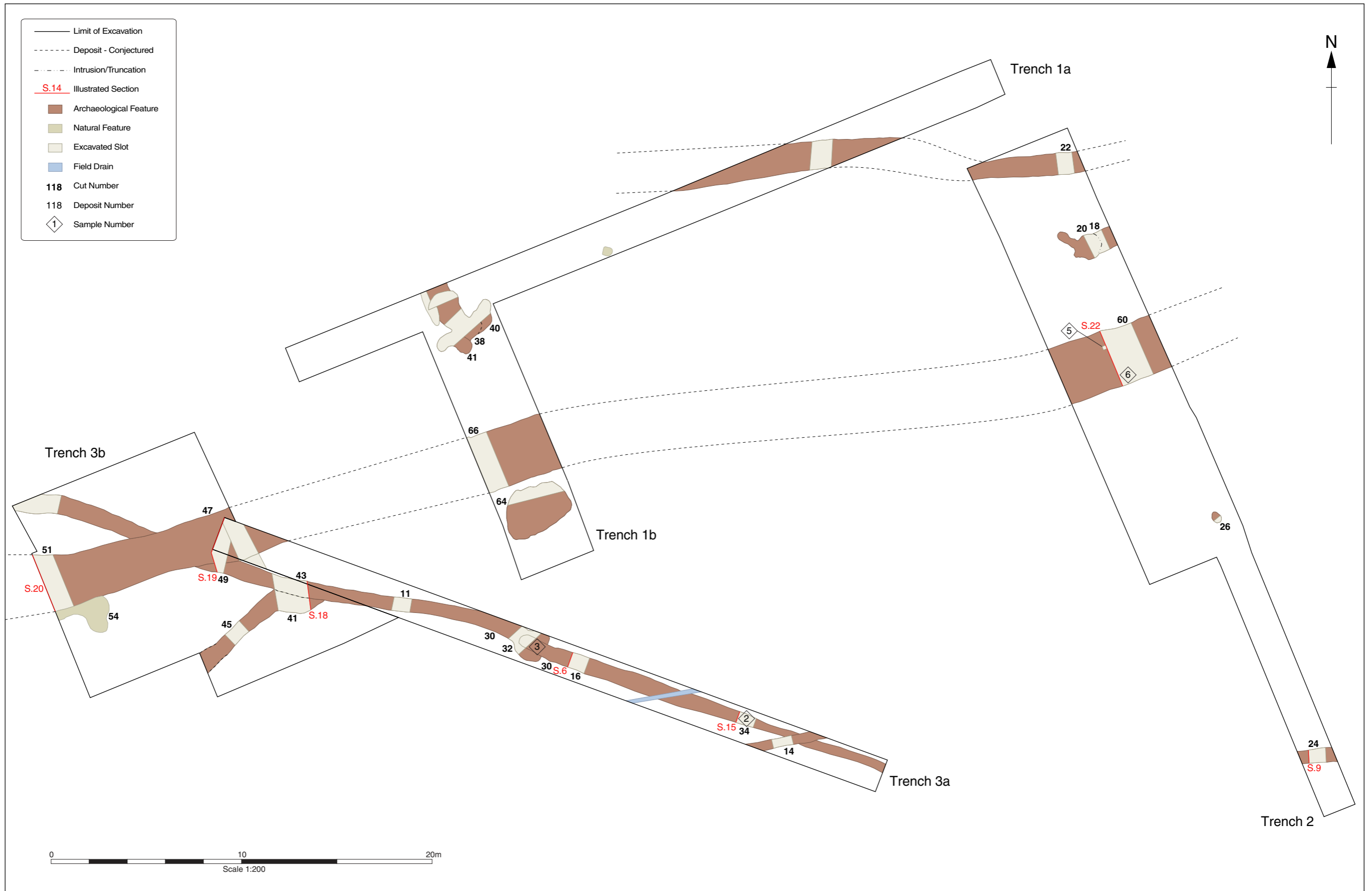


Figure 2: Trench plans

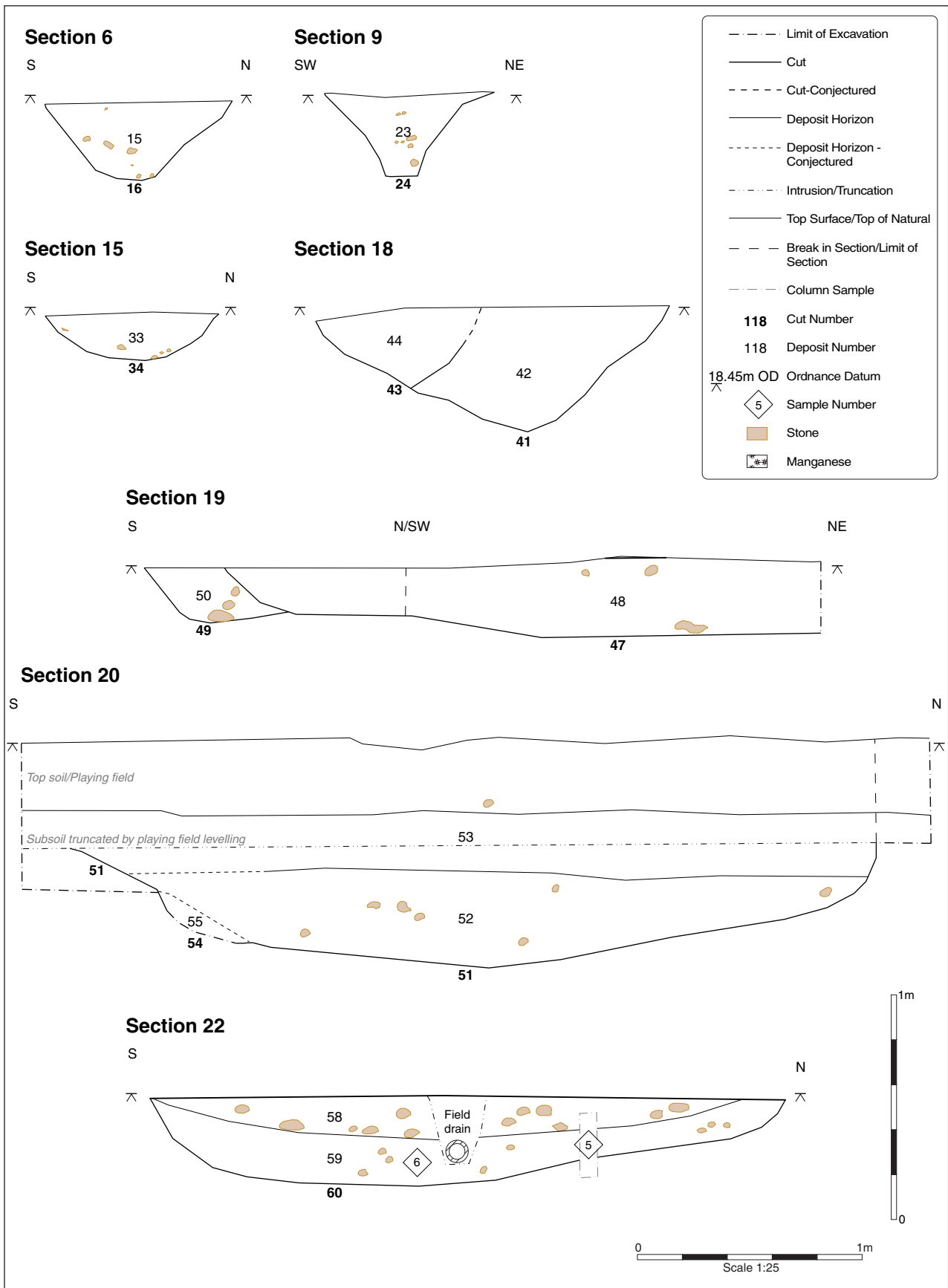


Figure 3: Selected sections



Plate 1: Trench 1 facing east



Plate 2: Trench 2 facing south



Plate 3: Trench 3 facing north-west

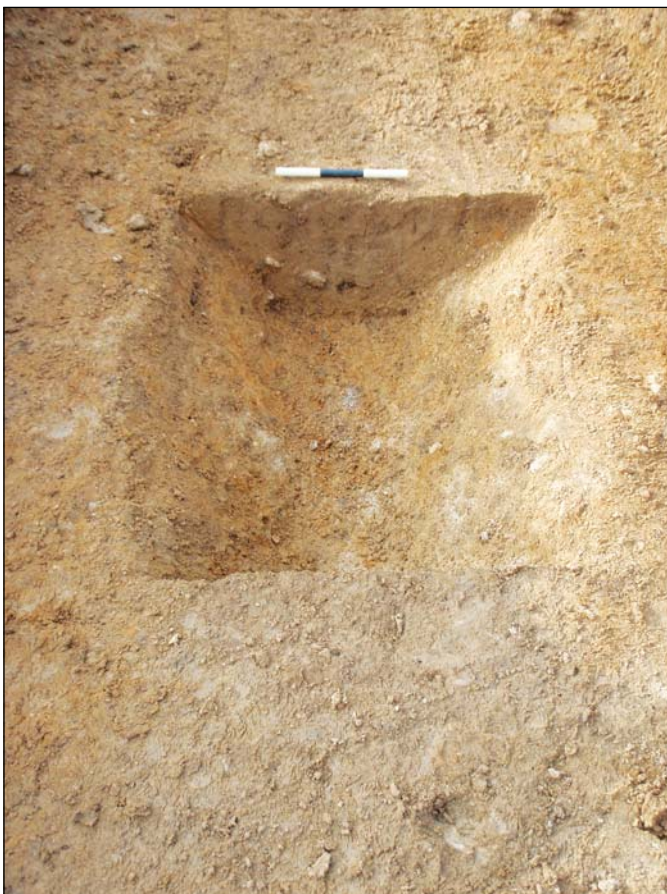


Plate 4: Section of ditch 34 facing south-east



Plate 5: Section of Ditch 28 facing west



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