

Middle Iron Age Remains at Wiggin Hill Farm, St Ives, Cambridgeshire



Archaeological Evaluation Report



February 2014

Client: Street Energy

OA East Report No: 1580
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NGR: TL 3103 7496

Middle Iron Age Remains at Wiggin Hill Farm, St Ives, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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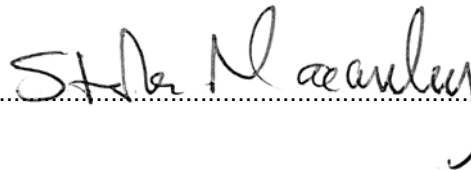
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HER Event No: CHER 4086
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Client Name: Street Energy
Planning Ref: Pre-application
Grid Ref: TL 3103 7496
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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Wiggin Hill Farm, St Ives, Cambridgeshire (TL 3103 7496) as Phase 2 of a Solar Farm development. The fieldwork took place between the 20th and 29th January 2014. A total of fourteen trenches were excavated within the proposed development area, targeting archaeological features suggested from geophysical survey and areas of impact.

Archaeological remains dating to the Middle Iron Age were present in the western side of the development area and included features relating to a nearby settlement and a ritual enclosure on the brow of the hill.

The settlement features comprised a system of field enclosure ditches, aligned north-east to south-west, that lay to the west of a north-west to south-east enclosure ditch. Two discrete pits were also encountered, one of which was a fire pit, thought to be for domestic cooking.

To the east of the settlement, located on the brow of the hill, was a possible ritual enclosure or shrine. This consisted of a small sub-circular enclosure set inside a sub-square enclosure, measuring 14m across.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Wiggin Hill Farm, St Ives, Cambridgeshire (TL 3103 7496), between the 20th and 29th of January.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; pre-application), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (Macaulay, 2013).
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed development 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 site lies on bedrock of West Walton Formation And Ampthill Clay Formation, no superficial deposits are recorded (British Geological Survey, 1975). It is situated on gently rolling hills with the highest point, to the south-west, at 28m AOD and slopes downwards to the north and north-east to 20.5m AOD.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 A full Historic Environment Record (HER) search was completed prior to fieldwork. A summary of significant records is given below, along with all previous archaeological work conducted within the vicinity.

Prehistoric

- 1.3.2 An aerial photographic survey undertaken in 2009 identified a series of rectilinear field enclosures laid out on a north-east to south-west axis 0.5km to the south-west of the site (MCB 19690). The aerial photographs also revealed ditches, possibly forming a boundary to the west of the site (MCB 19682). Although undated at present, their morphology is suggestive of a late prehistoric or Roman date.

Roman

- 1.3.3 Several Roman cremation urns were found in the 19th century, during gravel extraction in the vicinity. Their exact location is not known but they are thought to have been located close to the current site (HER 03606). These cremations are likely to have been part of a larger, as yet unknown, Roman cremation cemetery.
- 1.3.4 Roman finds, including a spindle whorl have been recorded 1km to the south of the site (HER 1561 and 03585).

1.4 Previous Archaeological Work

2013 Archaeological Evaluation

- 1.4.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted on land directly south of the current site as part of an archaeological mitigation strategy for phase one of the solar farm (Rees

2013). This phase of work identified a single undated ditch, aligned north to south in the southern part of the site.

- 1.4.2 The evaluation produced two struck flints, one of which was characteristic of Early Bronze Age activity, the second flint was dated to the later prehistoric period. Both of these were recovered as residual material within later contexts.

Geophysical survey 2013

- 1.4.3 A geophysical survey was conducted prior to this phase of archaeological evaluation. The results identified an area of ridge and furrow to the north-east of the site as well as two small square enclosures along the southern edge of the site.

1.5 Acknowledgements

- 1.5.1 The author would like to thank Nigel Street of Street Energy, who commissioned and funded the work, the landowner Tim Ransom and his son Rupert for their help. Also thanks to Paul Derry of RPS. The fieldwork was carried out by Peter Boardman, Nick Cox and Jemima Woolverton. David Brown and James Fairbairn carried out the on-site survey. The project was managed by Stephen Macaulay and monitored by Kasia Gdaniec 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.
- 2.1.2 The trenching was designed to test the results of the geophysical survey (Masters, 2014) as well as to clarify a paucity of responses in the Historic Environment Record (HER). Aerial photographs suggested that the site lay within an area of prehistoric settlement, whilst the HER indicated that Roman burials had been found in the vicinity.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required that an adequate sample of the potential development area be investigated by linear trial trenching. Two trenches were targeted on geophysical anomalies, with further trenches located along areas where cable routes, substations and access tracks were to be constructed.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360 JCB-type excavator using a 2.1m wide toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by David Brown and James Fairbairn using Leica GPS fitted with *Smartnet* technology.
- 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 photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.6 Fourteen environmental samples were taken in order to assess the environmental potential of contexts deemed to be of archaeological significance.
- 2.2.7 Torrential rain was experienced during the evaluation, resulting in pluvial flooding in several evaluation trenches.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The trenches are presented below in numerical order (see Fig. 2 for trench locations). All the trenches excavated were 50m in length and 2.1m wide, unless otherwise stated. The natural geology was an orange boulder clay. A subsoil layer, approximately 0.1m thick was encountered throughout the field. Topsoil comprising a dark greyish brown silty sand, 0.4m thick, was recorded in all trenches.
- 3.1.2 The archaeological remains identified during the evaluation corresponded relatively well with the geophysical results, although several small pits and ditches were recorded that were not identified by this survey. In addition, several anomalies encountered during the geophysical survey did not correspond with any archaeological remains during the evaluation.
- 3.1.3 The trench numbering for this phase of the works has been continued from Phase 1 (commencing at 24).

3.2 Results

Trench 24

- 3.2.1 No archaeological features were recorded in this trench.

Trench 25

- 3.2.2 Trench 25 was aligned east to west and lay in the western part of the site, on a north facing slope. In the western end of the trench lay a furrow (**10**), aligned north-west to south-east.

Trench 26

- 3.2.3 No archaeological features were recorded in this trench.

Trench 27

- 3.2.4 Trench 27 was aligned north-west to south-east and situated in the north-west of the site, at the bottom of the slope. Three furrows, aligned north-west to south-east, were recorded. These were not excavated, as the trench was subject to severe pluvial flooding throughout the evaluation.

Trench 28

- 3.2.5 A small tree throw (**8**) was located in the centre of the trench, this tree throw was sub-circular in plan with an irregular profile. It was filled by a subsoil derived greyish brown silty clay (7). No archaeological features were recorded in this trench.

Trench 29

- 3.2.6 A small sub-circular tree throw (**12**) was recorded in the south of the trench. It had gradually sloped sides, an irregular base and contained a mid greyish brown silty clay fill (11). No archaeological features were recorded in this trench.

Trench 30

- 3.2.7 Trench 30, located at the bottom of the slope, was aligned north to south and adjoined Trench 35. It was periodically flooded. At the northern end of the trench an east to west aligned ditch (**4**) was encountered. Ditch **4** measured 0.85m wide by 0.6m deep and had steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by a mid greyish brown silty clay (3).

Trench 31

- 3.2.8 Trench 31 lay at the base of the slope in the north-west of the field and was aligned north to south. At its northern end, an east to west aligned ditch (**34**) was recorded that is likely to be a continuation of the ditch **4** in Trench 30. Ditch **34** had steep sides and a concave base, measuring 0.8m wide and 0.38m deep and was filled by a series of secondary deposits (31, 32 & 33).

Trench 32

- 3.2.9 Trench 32 was aligned east to west, perpendicular with the western edge of the site, on a gradual west facing slope. A large ditch (**43**) was encountered ten metres from the western end of the trench. Ditch **43** was aligned north-east to south-west, with steep sides and a flat base. It measured 2.4m wide and 0.45m deep and was filled by a mid greyish brown silty clay (44).

Trench 33

- 3.2.10 Trench 33 was aligned north to south and adjoined Trench 32. In the centre of the trench lay a north-west to south-east ditch (**41**), which had stepped sides and a concave base. It was 1.2m wide and 0.45m deep and contained a mid greyish brown silty clay primary fill (45) on its north-western side. Its tertiary fill (42) comprised a dark brownish grey silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks, which contained Middle Iron Age pottery and a fragment from a cattle humerus. Seven metres to the south lay a parallel ditch (**39**), which had steep sides and a flat base. Ditch **39** was 1.2m wide and 0.15m deep and contained a dark greyish brown silty clay (40).
- 3.2.11 Towards the southern end of the trench lay a sub-circular pit (**26**) which had steep sides and a slightly concave base. It was 1m long, 0.52m wide and 0.24m deep. It contained a primary light yellowish brown clay fill (25) overlain by a series of tertiary deposits (22, 23 & 24) which contained dumps of baked clay.

Trench 34

- 3.2.12 Trench 34 was aligned north to south on the south-western edge of the site. Towards the centre of the trench a circular pit (**67**) was recorded that measured 0.7m in diameter and 0.25m deep. In profile, pit **67** had steep sides and a flat base. Its primary fill comprised a 0.04m thick lens of mid greyish brown silty clay (66). Overlying this was a layer of large burnt cobbles (c.0.2m long, 0.1m wide and 0.1m deep), interspersed by a dark brownish grey silty clay (58), that also contained unidentifiable animal bone.
- 3.2.13 Cut into the centre of this pit was a circular pit (**55**). The pit was 0.4m in diameter and 0.12m deep with steep sides and a flat base. The remains of a complete Middle Iron Age vessel (57) were recovered from within this pit. This vessel was deliberately interred within the pit and then covered over by a layer of dark brownish grey silty clay, with frequent charcoal flecks, believed to be the remains from a fire (56). Several unidentifiable animal bone fragments were retrieved from this fill.
- 3.2.14 Trench 34 was extended by machine in order to see if any further archaeological features were present. An area 12m (north to south) by 5m (east to west) was excavated immediately to the east of pit **55** but no further archaeological features were encountered within this trench extension.

Trench 35

- 3.2.15 Trench 35 lay to the northern end of the site, aligned east to west at the bottom of the slope. The subsoil layer was 0.3m thick throughout the trench, indicating a greater accumulation of soil at the bottom of the slope. Periodic pluvial flooding was

encountered during the evaluation, but did not hamper the excavation of any archaeological remains.

- 3.2.16 Towards the centre of the trench lay a small sub-circular pit (**1**), 0.5m in diameter and 0.11m deep. The pit had concave sides and a concave base and was filled by a dark greyish brown silty clay (**2**).

Trench 36

- 3.2.17 Trench 36 was targeted on a possible rectilinear enclosure, identified by the geophysical survey. Two intersecting trenches were excavated (both 25m long), one aligned north to south and the other perpendicular, crossing in the centre. The trench was later extended to expose the south-western quadrant.
- 3.2.18 Four ditches, forming a square 14m across, were recorded in this location. The northern ditch (**17**) was aligned east to west and had steep sides and a flat base. It measured 1.3m wide and 0.35m deep and contained a 0.3m thick mid reddish brown, silty clay primary fill (**18**), from which Middle Iron Age pottery was recovered. This was overlain by a layer of redeposited natural, consisting of a mid greyish yellow silty clay (**19**), 0.15m thick.
- 3.2.19 The second east to west aligned element, ditch **13**, was encountered in the southern end of the trench. This ditch had similar steep sides, a flat base and measured 1.4m wide and 0.41m deep. It had an initial fill of mid reddish brown silty clay (**14**), 0.16m thick. This was overlain by a 0.1m thick lens of light greyish yellow silty clay (**15**), representing side slumping. Its tertiary fill comprised redeposited natural (**16**), 0.24m thick, which contained Middle Iron Age pottery and a cow tooth.
- 3.2.20 The western ditch (**27**), aligned north to south, had steep sides and a flattish base. It measured 1.5m wide and 0.32m deep. It had a similar fill sequence; a 0.2m thick mid reddish brown silty clay (**28**) overlain by redeposited natural (**29**) that was 0.15m thick. The lower fill contained sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery. The eastern ditch was not excavated, but measured 1.25m wide and had an upper fill of mid reddish brown silty clay.
- 3.2.21 An internal enclosure was also evident that was composed of a ditch, which had straight sides and a gently curving corners. Three slots were excavated within this ditch (**35**, **60/62** & **65**). Along the western side of the enclosure the gully was aligned north to south before turning towards the east. The gully measured on average 0.4m in width by 0.2m depth and had steep sides and a concave base. A terminus was evident on the western part of the enclosure (**35**), which was rounded. A possible opposing terminus (**60**, **62**) was also evident at the southern part of the gully. A total of 14 sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery were recovered from the internal enclosure.
- 3.2.22 Towards the centre of the enclosure lay a small circular pit (**37**), 0.5m in diameter and 0.2m deep. It had steep sides and a flat base and was filled by a dark greyish brown silty clay (**38**) which contained frequent charcoal, baked clay, large burnt cobbles and Middle Iron Age pottery.

Trench 37

- 3.2.23 Trench 37 was targeted on another possible rectilinear enclosure, identified by the geophysical survey. Upon excavation no archaeological features were seen in this trench.

3.3 Finds Summary

- 3.3.1 A moderate assemblage of 213 pottery sherds, weighing 405g, was retrieved during the evaluation. The assemblage dates to the Middle Iron Age. An assemblage of baked clay, weighing 502g was also recovered during the evaluation.

3.4 Environmental Summary

- 3.4.1 Fifteen fragments of animal bone were recovered from the evaluation. The total weight of bone recovered was 273g. Only three elements were identifiable to species, specifically, a partial adult cattle humerus and molars.
- 3.4.2 A total of fourteen samples were taken during the evaluation. The results comprised a single cereal grain that would most likely to have been accidentally burnt.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The evaluation recorded a sequence of Middle Iron Age activity that is discussed below by character, in order to help establish the findings in the context of their wider landscape setting.
- 4.1.2 Although the site lies on the edge of the Ouse valley, which is a particularly rich archaeological landscape, little is known about the immediate area. Based upon its topographic setting, the archaeological potential of the site is mixed as a result of the changing terrain. The eastern part of the development area is set on a steep north-east facing slope, which would be unfavourable for settlement and arable farming. In the very northern part of the site, at the base of the slope, some pastoral farming has been undertaken despite the fact that the site would have been subject to periodic flooding, especially in winter and during periods of heavy rain. The western part of the site, where the land slopes gently to the west, would have been far more conducive to settlement
- 4.1.3 The geophysical survey identified two possible archaeological features in this part of the site that were targeted by trenches. In one instance the evaluation results tallied with the geophysics, however the other anomaly was not present. Furthermore, a number of archaeological features were recorded which did not appear on the geophysical survey.

4.2 Middle Iron Age settlement features

- 4.2.1 In the western part of the site elements of a field system, represented by ditches (**39**, **41**), were recorded aligned north-west to south-east. Enclosure ditch **43**, which was aligned north-east to south-west, was undated. However, based upon its alignment perpendicular to ditches **39** and **41**, it is suggested that these features are likely to be contemporary and to represent elements of a putative agricultural settlement. Several fragments of cattle bone and pottery sherds were recovered from one of the ditch fills (**42**), which is indicative of the disposal of refuse associated with a domestic settlement in the vicinity.
- 4.2.2 These ditches are seen on the geophysical survey to be continuing further west and outside of the development area, suggesting that the occupation remains area encountered during the evaluation lies on the eastern edge of the potential settlement.
- 4.2.3 To the south, a circular pit (**67**) was encountered which contained a concentration of large burnt sandstone cobbles at its base. It is suggested that this represented a domestic fire pit; the large cobbles would have been heated in a fire and then placed in an enclosed area such as a pit, then covered, the ensuing heat used to cook food.
- 4.2.4 A whole vessel (**56**) was later interred over the top of this fire pit. It would be unusual for a ceramic vessel to be used within a fire pit as the heat from the stones would cause cracking. It is therefore likely to have been interred after the pit fell out of use and may even represent a votive offering.
- 4.2.5 Fire pits are a common occurrence on Iron Age settlements, with comparative examples been found at South Cockerington, Lincolnshire (Bush, in prep). The presence of this feature would suggest that domestic activity was located almost immediately to the west of the site.

- 4.2.6 The presence of settlement in the western part of the site is also reflected by the results of the geophysical survey. These results revealed a higher frequency of magnetic anomalies in the same area, which although these disturbances can not be interpreted as individual archaeological features, it does suggest an area of occupation. One anomaly that is of particular interest is a possible ring ditch, located immediately east of trench 33.

4.3 Middle Iron Age ritual enclosure

- 4.3.1 A sub-square enclosure monument was identified in Trench 36. The putative interpretation is that of a shrine, set within a ritual enclosure.
- 4.3.2 The shrine comprises a sub-circular enclosure encompassing an area 8m by 8m. There is very little evidence for any buildings or internal structures within this area, with only one small posthole, of unknown function, in the centre. This was in turn surrounded by an outer ditch, which was sub-square in plan, enclosing an area 14m by 14m.
- 4.3.3 Very little is known about prehistoric belief systems, due to the difficulty in reconstructing ritual behaviour from the scant remains of putative sacred sites. It has been suggested that concentric enclosures were for controlling access to sacred sites and the exchanges between people and their gods; the inference being that access to the inner sanctums would only have been afforded to those of higher status, with the remainder of the population restricted to the peripheries.
- 4.3.4 The morphology of this monument has parallels with other shrines located throughout East Anglia, such as at Partney, Lincolnshire and Hinxton (Lyons, in prep). While there is a degree of variation in the size and morphology of these features, each shrine does adhere to a similar plan, with the majority being sub-square in plan with an internal cella.
- 4.3.5 A total of 149g of pottery sherds were recovered from the excavated fills of the enclosure ditches. Overall, the pottery sherds were quite abraded and highly fragmented, suggesting that they had been subject to some post depositional movement. There were no obvious votive offerings recovered from within the complex which would aid in a more definitive interpretation.
- 4.3.6 The situation of this monument, on the brow of the hill away from the putative settlement, may be significant as it could indicate deliberate location in a place seen as remote, liminal or sacred to the Iron Age inhabitants. Other examples are often located within a small wooded area on the outskirts of a settlement or close to water. In this instance there is only the most tentative evidence for a potential wooded copse in the form of two small tree throws (**8**, **12**), identified during the evaluation.
- 4.3.7 The shape and size of the enclosure does also have parallels with the square inhumation barrows encountered in Yorkshire, such as at Wetwang and Garton (Bradley, 2007). There is a possibility that the enclosure encountered on this site is part of a similar feature, however without the presence of an inhumation, which may well lie within the enclosure, but outside of the evaluation trench, an interpretation of this enclosure as a barrow is difficult to justify.

4.4 Significance

- 4.4.1 A concentration of archaeological features dated to the Middle Iron Age period were recorded in the western part of the development area, which coincides with the more favourable topographic setting. The activity was characteristic of mixed land use, with settlement related features to the very west of the site and a possible ritual enclosure, 50m to the east.

- 4.4.2 The Middle Iron Age date of the remains coincides with a period of settlement expansion throughout East Anglia. Areas of heavy clay, which had previously been restricted to pastoral farming, began to be settled and utilised for arable farming. This was the result of a number of factors including changing environmental conditions, population growth and also improvements in farming technology, especially the introduction of the plough.
- 4.4.3 Elsewhere on site the archaeological remains were restricted to ridge and furrow encompassing the eastern half of the site.

4.5 Recommendations

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

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 24						
General description				Orientation		NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of orange clay.				Avg. depth (m)		0.3
				Width (m)		2.1
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
5	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
6	Layer	-	0.11	Subsoil	-	-
46	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 25						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench contained one furrow. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of orange clay.				Avg. depth (m)		0.38
				Width (m)		2.1
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
9	Fill	0.85	0.1	Furrow	-	Post-medieval
10	Cut	0.85	0.1	Furrow	-	Post-medieval
5	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
6	Layer	-	0.09	Subsoil	-	-
46	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 26						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of orange clay.				Avg. depth (m)		0.35
				Width (m)		2.1
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
5	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
6	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
46	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 27						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench contained three furrows and a pit. Consists of soil and subsoil				Avg. depth (m)		0.4

overlying a natural of orange clay.	Width (m)	2.1
	Length (m)	50

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
47	Fill	0.85	0.08	Furrow	Glass	Post-medieval
48	Cut	0.85	0.08	Furrow	-	Post-medieval
49	Cut	0.9	-	Furrow	-	Post-medieval
50	Cut	0.9	-	Furrow	-	Post-medieval
51	Fill	1.4	0.1	Pit	Brick	Post-medieval
52	Cut	1.4	0.1	Pit	-	Post-medieval
5	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
6	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-
46	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 28

General description	Orientation	N-S
Trench contained one tree throw. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of orange clay.	Avg. depth (m)	0.35
	Width (m)	2.1
	Length (m)	50

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
7	Fill	0.6	0.08	Tree throw	-	-
8	Cut	0.6	0.08	Tree throw	-	-
5	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
6	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-
46	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 29

General description	Orientation	N-S
Trench contained one tree throw. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of orange clay.	Avg. depth (m)	0.32
	Width (m)	2.1
	Length (m)	50

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
11	Fill	0.6	0.09	Tree throw	-	-
12	Cut	0.6	0.09	Tree throw	-	-
5	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
6	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-
46	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 30						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
Trench contained one ditch. Consists of subsoil and soil overlying an orange clay natural.				Avg. depth (m)	0.35	
				Width (m)	2.1	
				Length (m)	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
3	Fill	0.85	0.6	Ditch	-	-
4	Cut	0.85	0.6	Ditch	-	-
5	Layer	-	0.23	Topsoil	-	-
6	Layer	-	0.17	Subsoil	-	-
46	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 31						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
Trench contained one ditch. Consists of subsoil and soil overlying an orange clay natural.				Avg. depth (m)	0.35	
				Width (m)	2.1	
				Length (m)	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
30	Fill	0.8	0.16	Ditch	Pottery	Iron Age
31	Fill	0.58	0.22	Ditch		Iron Age
32	Fill	0.28	0.07	Ditch		Iron Age
33	Fill	0.31	0.08	Ditch		Iron Age
34	Cut	0.8	0.38	Ditch	-	-
5	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
6	Layer	-	0.07	Subsoil	-	-
46	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 32						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
Trench contained one ditch. Consists of subsoil and soil overlying an orange clay natural.				Avg. depth (m)	0.29	
				Width (m)	2.1	
				Length (m)	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
43	Cut	2.4	0.45	Ditch	-	-
44	Fill	2.4	0.45	Ditch	-	-
5	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-

6	Layer	-	0.07	Subsoil	-	-
46	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 33						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contained two ditches and a pit. Consists of subsoil and soil overlying an orange clay natural.					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
20	Fill	0.54	0.05	Pit	-	Iron Age
21	Fill	0.2	0.09	Pit	-	Iron Age
22	Fill	0.45	0.14	Pit	Fired clay	Iron Age
23	Fill	0.3	0.07	Pit	-	Iron Age
24	Fill	0.25	0.2	Pit	-	Iron Age
25	Fill	0.3	0.02	Pit	-	Iron Age
26	Cut	0.52	0.24	Pit	-	Iron Age
39	Cut	1.2	0.15	Ditch	-	-
40	Fill	1.2	0.15	Ditch	-	-
41	Cut	1.2	0.45	Ditch	-	Iron Age
42	Fill	1.2	0.45	Ditch	Pottery, bone	Iron Age
45	Fill	0.3	0.3	Ditch	-	Iron Age
5	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
6	Layer	-	0.09	Subsoil	-	-
46	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 34						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contained a pit and a cremation. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of orange clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.32
					Width (m)	5
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
55	Cut	0.38	0.12	cremation	-	Iron Age
56	Fill	0.38	0.04	Cremation	-	Iron Age
57	Fill	0.32	0.07	Cremation	pottery	Iron Age
58	Fill	0.8	0.15	Pit	Pottery, bone	Iron Age
59	Fill	0.8	0.15	Pit	-	Iron Age

66	Fill	0.6	0.04	Pit	-	Iron Age
67	Cut	0.8	0.19	Pit	-	Iron Age
5	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
6	Layer	-	0.09	Subsoil	-	-
46	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 35						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained one posthole. Consists of subsoil and soil overlying an orange clay natural.					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
					Width (m)	2.1
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Cut	0.5	0.1	Posthole	-	-
2	Fill	0.5	0.1	Posthole	-	-
5	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-	-
6	Layer	-	0.09	Subsoil	-	-
46	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 36						
General description					Orientation	N-S, E-W
Trench contained five ditches and a pit. Consists of subsoil and soil overlying an orange clay natural.					Avg. depth (m)	0.34
					Width (m)	7.1
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
13	Cut	1.4	0.41	Ditch	-	Iron Age
14	Fill	1.4	0.16	Ditch	Pottery	Iron Age
15	Fill	1.4	0.22	Ditch	-	Iron Age
16	Fill	1.4	0.24	Ditch	Pottery , bone	Iron Age
17	Cut	1.3	0.35	Ditch	-	Iron Age
18	Fill	1.3	0.35	Ditch	Pottery	Iron Age
19	Fill	1.3	0.14	Ditch	-	Iron Age
27	Cut	1.5	0.32	Ditch	-	Iron Age
28	Fill	1.5	0.2	Ditch	Pottery	Iron Age
29	Fill	1.5	0.2	Ditch	-	Iron Age
35	Cut	0.5	0.28	Ditch	-	Iron Age
36	Fill	0.5	0.28	Ditch	-	Iron Age
37	Cut	0.5	0.35	Pit	-	-

38	Fill	0.5	0.35	Pit	-	-
60	Cut	0.5	0.12	Ditch	-	Iron Age
61	Fill	0.5	0.12	Ditch	-	Iron Age
62	Cut	0.3	0.25	Ditch	-	Iron Age
63	Fill	0.3	0.25	Ditch	bone	Iron Age
64	Fill	0.7	0.05	Ditch	-	Iron Age
65	Cut	0.7	0.25	Ditch	-	Iron Age
5	Layer	-	0.31	Topsoil	-	-
46	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 37

General description

Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of orange clay.

Orientation

N-S, E-W

Avg. depth (m)

0.34

Width (m)

2.1

Length (m)

50

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
5	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
6	Layer	-	0.07	Subsoil	-	-
46	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Sarah Percival

Introduction

- B.1.1 A total of 213 sherds weighing 405g were collected from ten features (Table 1). The pottery is poorly preserved and abraded with a small average sherd weight of less than 2g. A small, semi-complete jar came from pit 55. The jar form and fabric suggest that the vessel is of Middle Iron Age date (350-150BC).

Trench	Feature Type	Cut Number	Quantity	Weight (g)
33	Ditch	41	1	4
34	Pit	55	159	252
36	Ditch	13	20	48
		17	16	33
		27	1	5
		35	1	3
		60	8	24
		62	5	32
	Pit	37	2	4
Total			213	405

Table 1: Quantity and weight of prehistoric pottery

Methodology

- B.1.2 The assemblage was analysed in accordance with the Guidelines for analysis and publication laid down by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (PCRG 2010 Methodology.doc). The total assemblage was studied and a full catalogue was prepared. The sherds were examined using a hand lens (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types. Fabric codes were prefixed by a letter code representing the main inclusion present (F representing flint, G grog and Q quartz). Vessel form was recorded; R representing rim sherds, B base sherds, D decorated sherds and U undecorated body sherds. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Decoration and abrasion were also noted. The pottery and archive are curated by OAE

Fabric

- B.1.3 Six fabrics were identified in two fabric groups, one group sandy the other containing shell (Table 2). The majority of the sherds are shell tempered (98% 389g), made with the local Jurassic clays which are naturally rich in fossil shell. The remainder of the assemblage is made of sandy fabrics with the possible exception of two sherds (6g) which are extremely abraded so that the fabric cannot be identified.
- B.1.4 The fabrics compare well with the large Iron Age assemblage from around Huntingdon which consistently contain a mix of shell-rich and sand-tempered fabrics (Abrams and Ingham 2008, fig.2.11) and is particularly similar to the Middle Iron Age assemblages found at Bobs Wood, Hinchbrook and Little Paxton (Lyons and Percival in prep.; Hannocks 2003).

Fabric	Description	Quantity	Weight (g)
Q1	Dense sandy fabric, no visible inclusions	1	1
QF	Dense sandy fabric with sparse angular flint >2mm	2	3
QS	Dense sandy fabric with common plate-like voids	162	268
S1	Common small shell and plate-like voids in sandy clay matrix	26	63
S2	Moderate medium shell and plate-like voids in sandy clay matrix	17	37
SF	Common medium shell, sparse angular flint	3	27
U	Uncertain	2	6
Total		213	405

Table 2: Quantity and weight of Iron Age pottery by fabric

Form

- B.1.5 The majority of the assemblage is composed of undecorated body sherds. Rims are present from two vessels, both slack-shouldered jars with out-turned simple rounded rims. The semi-complete jar from pit **55** has a pinched-out base similar to examples from Wardy Hill (Evans 2003, fig.76, 12 & 13). A further pinched base was recovered from ditch **62** and a simple base was found in ditch **13**.

Discussion

- B.1.6 The small assemblage suggests occupation in the area in the Middle Iron Age. The pottery is broadly comparable with the Period II pottery from Wardy Hill (Hill with Horne 2003), the Phase 2 assemblage from Little Paxton (Hannocks 2003) and the Plainware component of the Haddenham V assemblage (Evans and Hodder 2006, fig.5.64, 11) and suggests a date of c.350-100/50BC. The predominance of shell-tempered fabrics is in keeping with contemporary assemblages from the area and the semi-complete but fragmentary vessel within pit **55**, a slack-shoulder jar with everted rim, is a ubiquitous utilitarian vessel, common to Iron Age assemblages from Cambridgeshire (Hill and Horne 2003, 174) and more widely across East Anglia from the 3rd century BC onwards (Percival 1996, 265).

B.2 Baked Clay

By Sarah Percival

- B.2.1 A total of 64 pieces of baked clay weighing 502g were collected from seven features. The pieces exhibit poor to average preservation and are not closely datable, though ditches **13**, **17**, **27** and **62**, Trench 36 and pit **55** Trench 34 also contained Iron Age pottery.

Trench	Feature type	Cut number	Quantity	Weight (g)
33	Pit	26	44	420
34	Pit	55	6	38
36	Ditch	13	5	22
		17	1	2
		27	1	1
		62	5	15
	Pit	37	2	4
Total			64	502

Table 3: Quantity and weight of baked clay by feature

- B.2.2 A small number of pieces were collected from the fills of three pits. Pit **26**, Trench 22, contained 44 pieces weighing 420g in dense sandy fabric with sparse flint. The pieces have one smoothed surface and an opposing irregular, extruded surface suggesting that they had been pressed onto a wattle backing. Pit **55**, Trench 34 produced a small assemblage of six pieces of baked clay in dense sandy with sparse flint, which may represent hearth lining. This pit also contained a smashed semi-complete Middle Iron Age pot. Pit **37**, Trench 36 contained two scraps weighing only 4g of orange sandy baked clay with sparse rounded quartz grains.
- B.2.3 Baked clay also came from ditches **13**, **17**, **27** and **62**, in Trench 36. The small fragments of dense sandy fabric with few visible inclusions were recovered from ditch 13 along with two fragments in reduced sandy fabric with sparse flint which may be from an object with a pierced centre or is perhaps a structure with wattle supports leaving a rod impression on one surface. The scrap found in ditch **17** weighs only 2g and is made of orange sandy fabric with sparse rounded quartz inclusions. Ditch **27** contained a small abraded scrap in similar fabric whilst ditch **62** produced five pieces in dense sandy with sparse flint. The baked clay from the pits and ditches probably represents domestic debris from hearths and ovens but is too small and abraded to be identified with certainty.

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Faunal Remains

By Chris Faine

- C.1.1 Fifteen fragments of animal bone were recovered from the evaluation. The total weight of bone recovered was 273g. Only three elements were identifiable to species in the form of a partial adult cattle humerus from context **42** and unworn adult 1st molars from contexts **16** and **63**. Several unidentifiable fragments of burnt bone were also recovered from context **56** (sample **9**).

C.2 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

- C.2.1 Fourteen bulk samples taken during the evaluation. Features sampled include ditches and a central pit from an Iron Age 'shrine/monument', a stone-lined pit located outside of the monument that may contain a cremation and ditches to the west of the site which are possibly part of an Iron Age settlement. The purpose of this assessment is to determine whether plant remains are present, their mode of preservation and whether they are of interpretable value with regard to domestic, agricultural and industrial activities, diet, economy and rubbish disposal.

Methodology

- C.2.2 The bulk samples were soaked in a solution of sodium carbonate for three days prior to processing in an attempt to break down the clay content of the soil. The total volume of each of the samples was processed by tank flotation (using modified Siraff-type equipment) for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve. The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 4. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands* and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Stace (1997). Carbonized seeds and grains, by the process of burning and burial, become blackened and often distort and fragment leading to difficulty in identification.

Quantification

- C.2.3 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and animal bones have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories

= 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens ##### = 100+ specimens

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal have been scored for abundance

+ = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant

Results

- C.2.4 Plant remains are scarce and are preserved by carbonisation. The carbonized material is comprised of a single cereal grain in addition to small amounts of charcoal. The grain is poorly preserved and can only be identified as such by its characteristic 'honeycomb' internal morphology.
- C.2.5 A few fragments of fully-calcined bone were recovered from Sample 9, fill 56 of pit 67.

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Volume processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal > 2mm	Large animal bones	Burnt bone	Pottery
1	18	17	Ditch	20	20	0	+	+	0	0	0
2	28	27	Ditch	20	10	0	+	0	0	0	0
3	22	26	Pit	18	15	#	+++	++	0	0	0
4	36	35	Ditch	18	20	0	+	+	0	0	#
5	38	37	Post holes	8	5	0	++	+	+	0	0
6	42	41	Ditch	18	2	0	++	0	+	0	0
7	38	37	Pit	20	10	0	+	0	+	0	#
8	64	65	Ditch	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	#
9	56	67	Pit	6	20	0	++	++	0	#	#
10	57	67	Pit	6	10	0	+	+	0	0	#
11	58	67	Pit	12	10	0	+	0	0	0	0
12	58	67	Pit	12	5	0	+	0	0	0	0
13	66	67	Pit	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
14	57	55	Vessel	2	10	0	+	0	0	0	0

Table 4: Environmental samples from STIWHF14

- C.2.1 Several of the sample residues contain pottery sherds and occasional fragments of animal bone (not removed) were noted.

Discussion

- C.2.2 The sparse charred plant assemblage recovered from excavations at Wiggin Hill Farm, St Ives. are comprised of a single cereal grain that would most likely to have been accidentally burnt during food preparation and subsequently been wind-blown across the site and fallen into a negative feature. There is no evidence of deliberate deposition. Charcoal volumes are low and represent the burning of wood, probably as fuel. Pit 67 did not contain enough charcoal to be significant in the interpretation of this feature as a cremation or burning pit.

Statement of Potential

- C.2.3 The preserved plant assemblage is too small to be of significance permitting only a tentative conclusion that plant remains have not been included in the small amounts of domestic waste deposited within the features sampled. The interpretation of a monument/shrine would not be expected to contain charred plant remains and the location of the site at the edge of a settlement would also explain the lack of such material.

APPENDIX D. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-170010		
Project Name	Iron Age Remians at Wiggin Hill FArm (phase 2) St IVes, Cambridgeshire		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	20-01-2014	Finish	28-01-2014
Previous Work (by OA East)	Yes	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	STIWHF 14	Planning App. No.	PRE APP
HER No.	5086	Related HER/OASIS No.	3874, 5085

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Development Type	Pipelines/Cables

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 checked="" 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
SHRINE	Iron Age -800 to 43	POTTERY	Iron Age -800 to 43
DITCH	Iron Age -800 to 43	ANIMAL BONE	Uncertain
PIT	Iron Age -800 to 43		Select period...

Project Location

County	CAMBRIDGESHIRE	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	HUNTINGDON	WIGGIN HILL FARM
Parish	ST IVES	ST IVES
HER	5086	CAMBS
Study Area	7.24 HA	PE27 3LL
National Grid Reference	TL 3103 7496	

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	KASIA GDANIEC (CCC HET)
Project Design Originator	STEPHEN MACAULAY (OA EAST)
Project Manager	STEPHEN MACAULAY (OA EAST)
Supervisor	HELEN STOCKS-MORGAN (OA EAST)

Project Archives

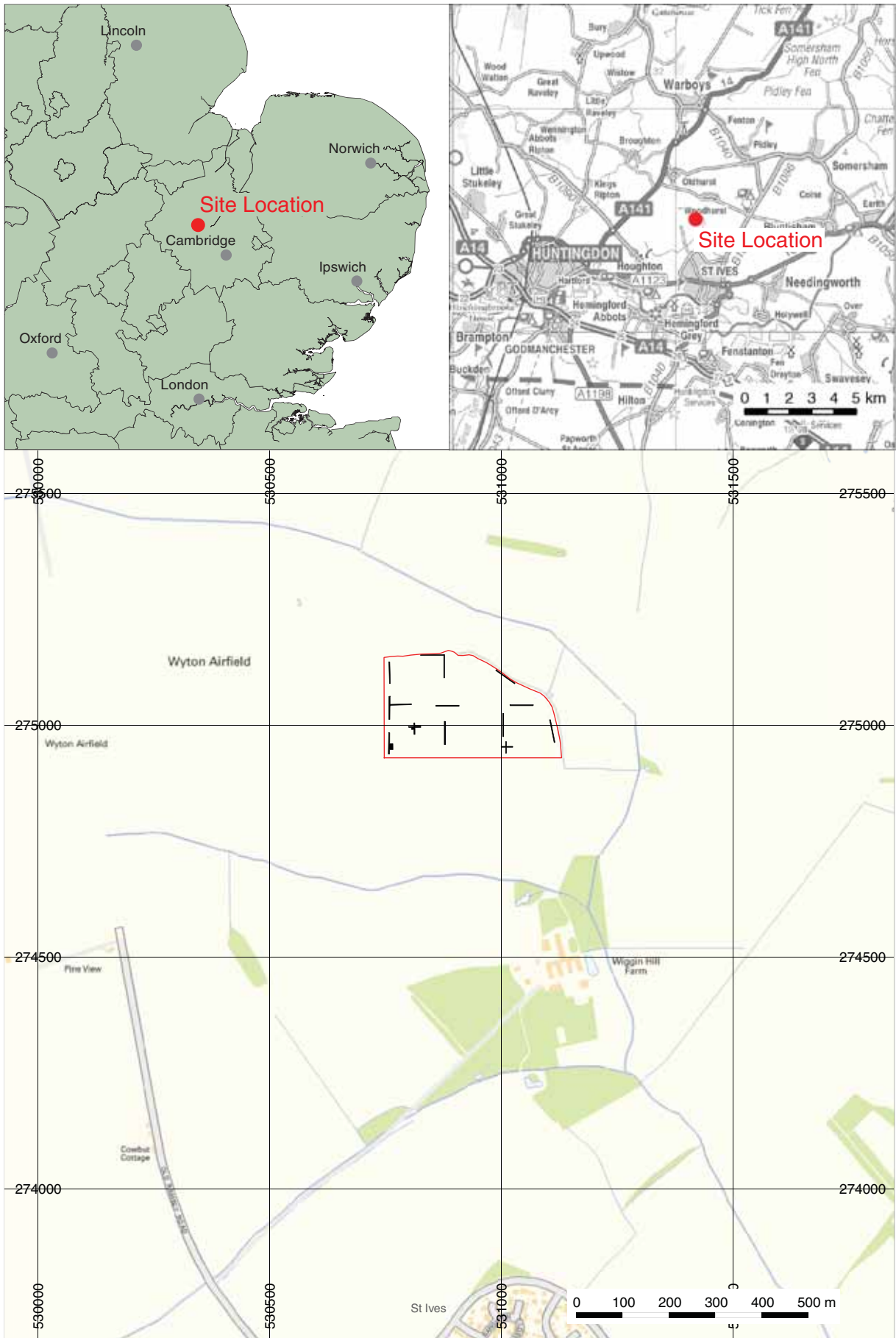
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
OA EAST	OA EAST	OA EAST
STI WHF 14	STI WHF 14	STI WHF 14

Archive Contents/Media

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Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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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 type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/> Map
<input type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input 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 showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red)

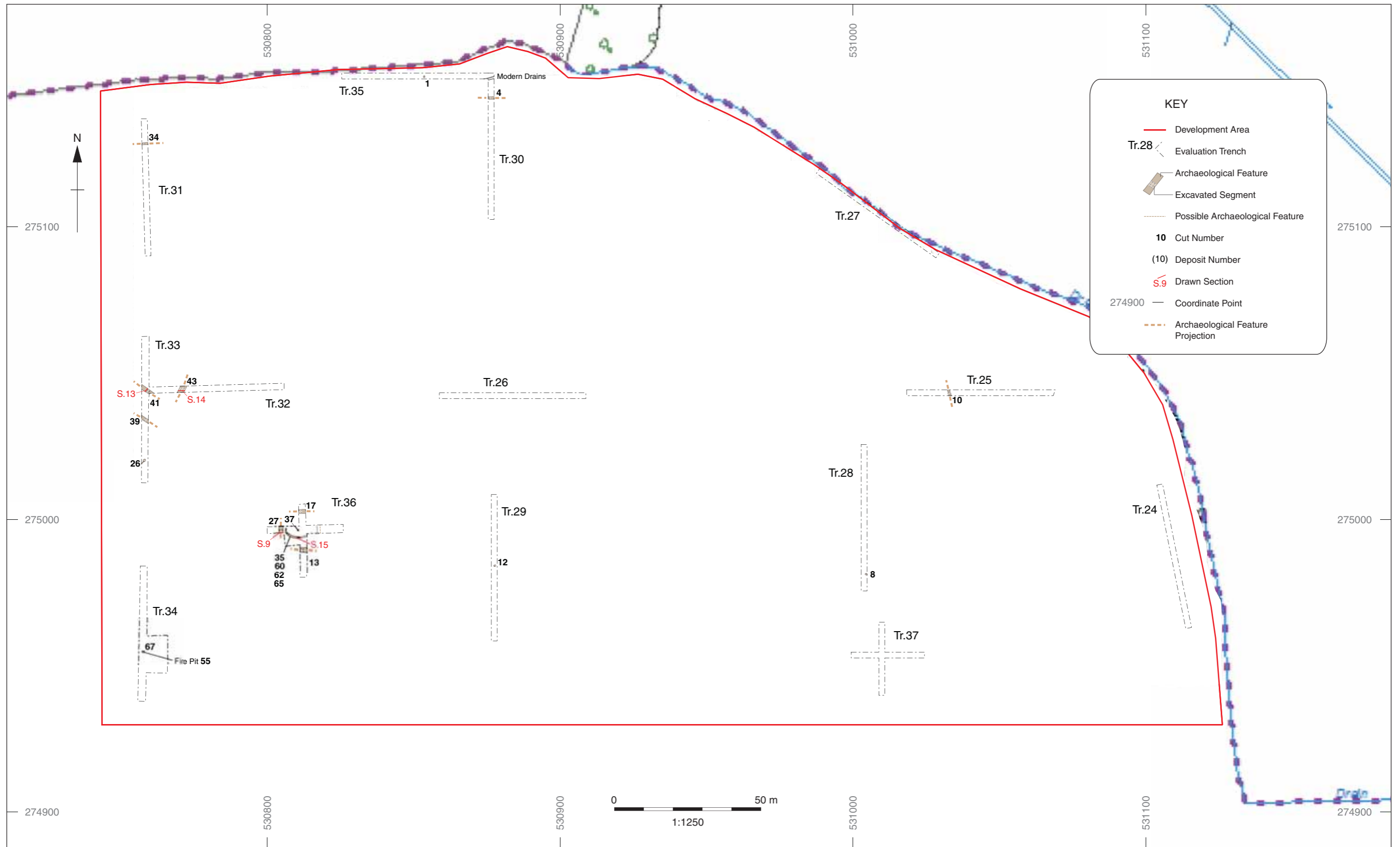


Figure 2: Trench location map

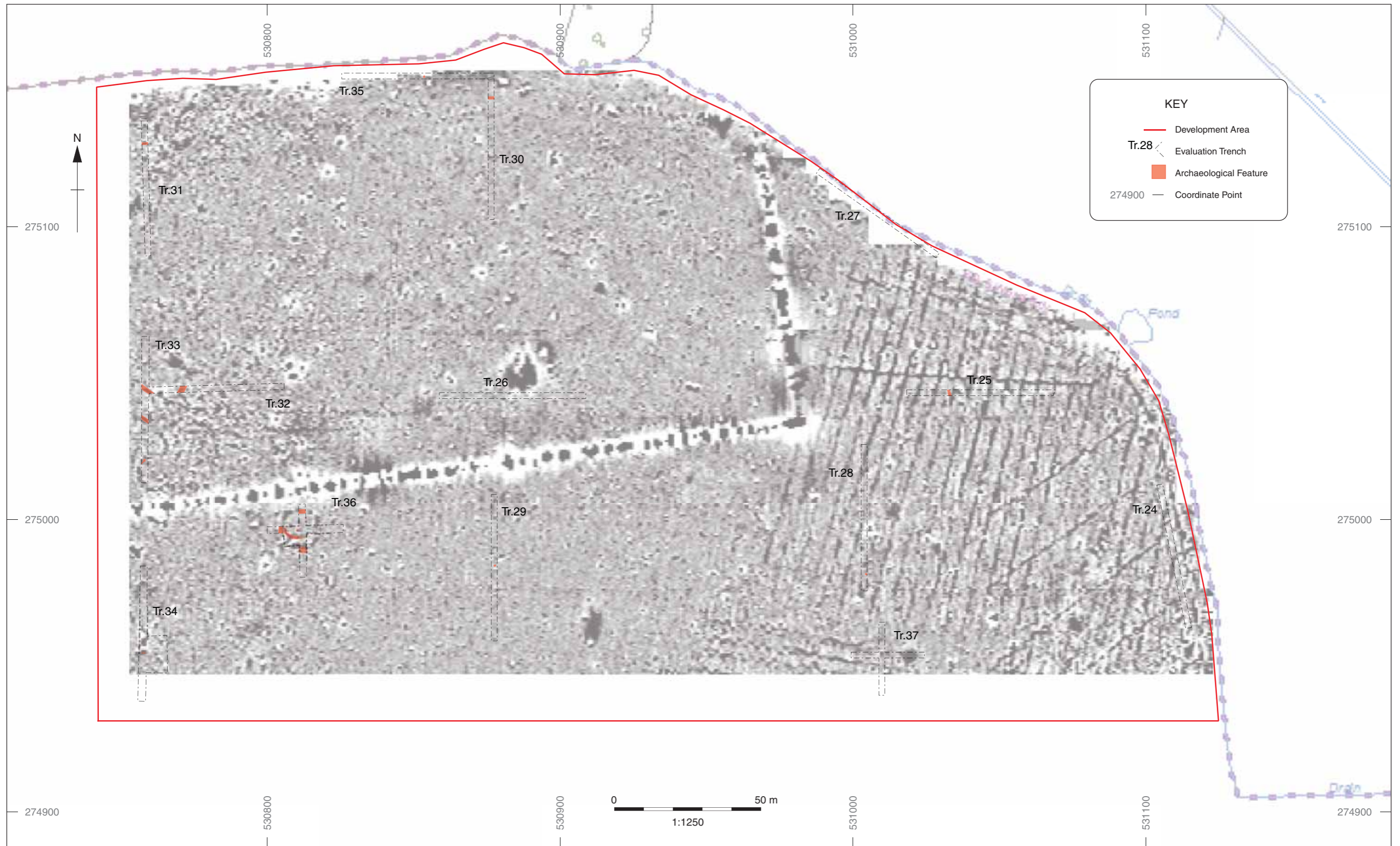


Figure 3: Trench plan overlain on geophysics plot

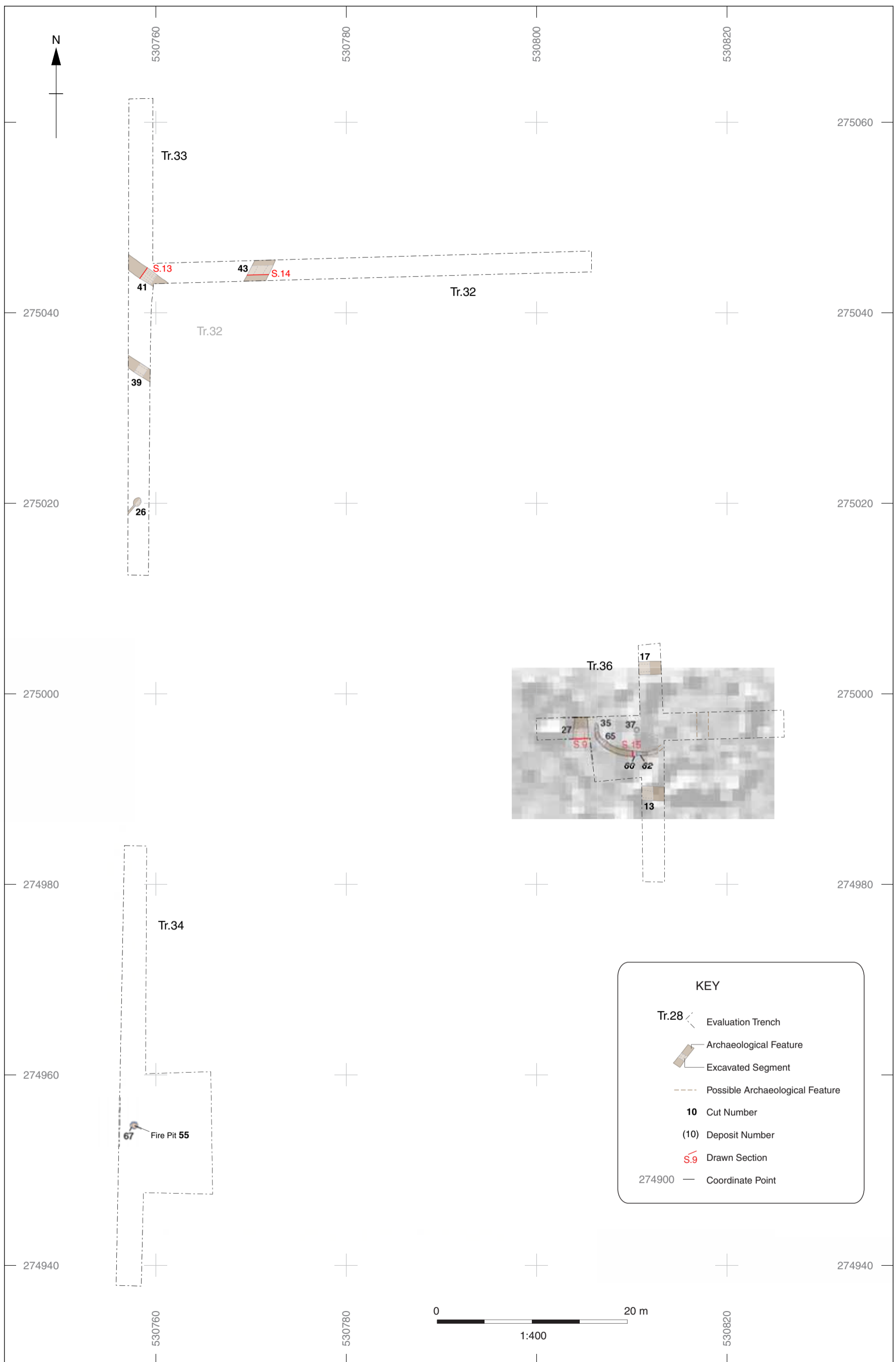


Figure 4: Iron Age Remains including square enclosure as indicated by geophysical survey

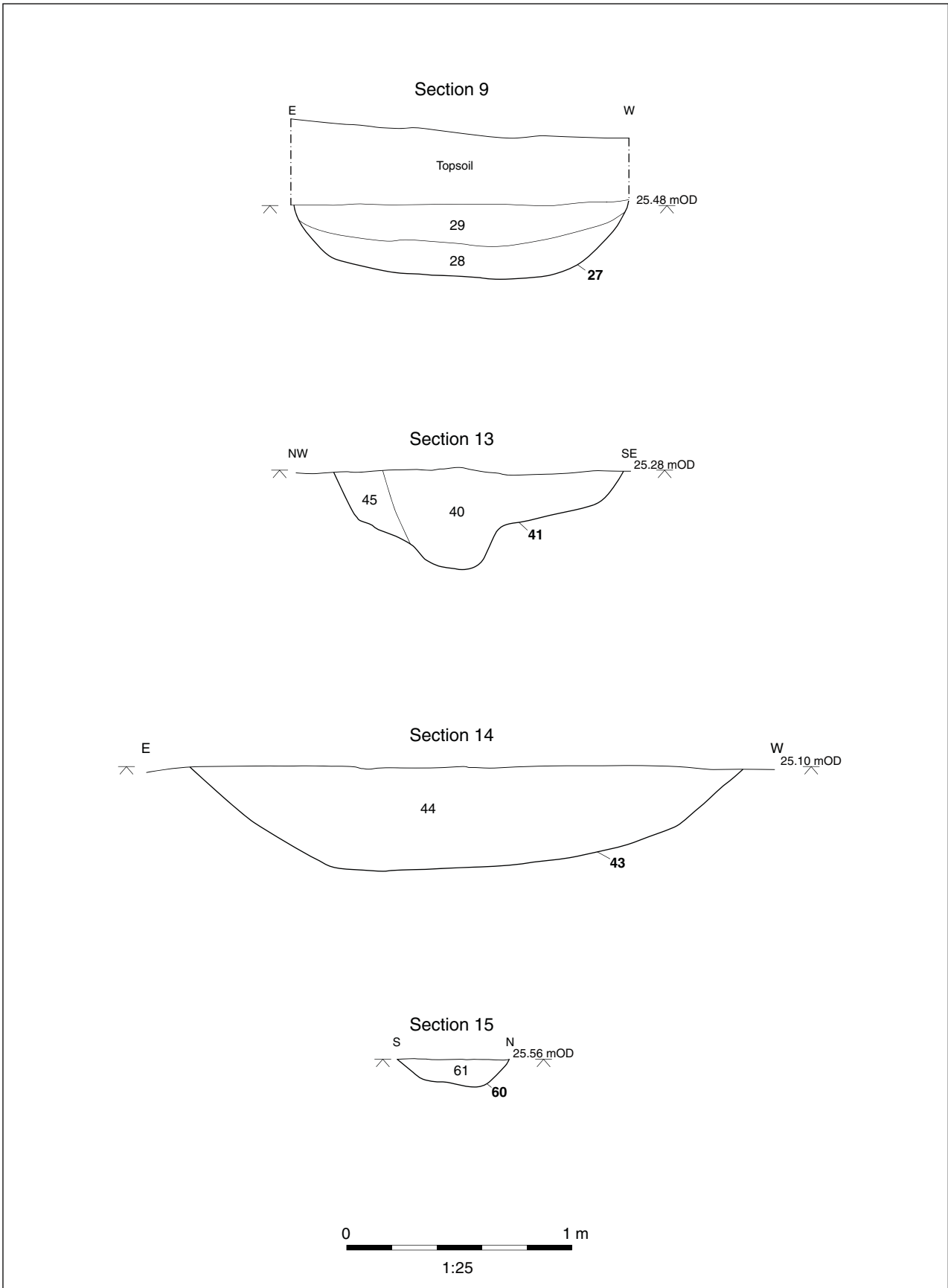


Figure 5: Selected sections



Plate 1: Circular Shrine 60



Plate 2: Fire Pit 67



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