

# Land South of Pembroke Avenue Waterbeach



Archaeological  
Evaluation Report



February 2014

Client: Ede and Ravenscroft  
NGR: TL 4895 6565  
OASIS: oxfordar3-219639

**Land to South of Pembroke Avenue, Waterbeach**

*Evaluation Report*

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*Report Date: February 2014*

**Report No:** 1817  
**Site Name:** Land south of Pemborke Avenue, Waterbeach  
**HER Event No:** ECB 4531  
**Date of Works:** 12th-14th February 2014  
**Client Name:** Ede & Ravenscroft  
**Client Ref:** 16531  
**Planning Ref:** S/1979/13/FL  
**Grid Ref:** TL 4895 6565  
**Site Code:** WATPEA14  
**Finance Code:** WATPEA14  
**Receiving Body:** CCC Stores  
**OASIS No:** oxfordar3-219639  
**Prepared by:** Louise Bush  
**Position:** Project Officer  
**Date:** February 2014  
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**Position:** Senior Project Manager  
**Date:** February 2014



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## **Summary**

*Between the 10th and 12th February 2014 Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological trench evaluation on land south of Pembroke Avenue, Waterbeach (TL 4895 6565).*

*The site revealed two clear phases of activity. On the eastern limit of site (Trench 6), Iron Age features were identified in the the form of a north-south aligned ditch and a number of postholes. The western portion of site contained post-medieval quarry pits and ditches (Trenches 2 and 3) along with two undated ditches which run parallel with Car Dyke (Trench 1).*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted on land south of Pembroke Avenue, Waterbeach (548970, 265649) (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 These archaeological works were undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East.

### 1.2 Aims and Methodology

- 1.2.1 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.
- 1.2.2 The Brief required that six 30m trenches (totalling 180 linear metres) be subject to investigation.
- 1.2.3 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 13 ton mechanical excavator using a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket.

## 2 RESULTS

### 2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 Archaeological features were encountered in five of the six trenches (Fig. 2). Due to the small size of the evaluation, the archaeology will be discussed by trench. A comprehensive listing of trench depths, descriptions and related context data can be found in Appendix A.
- 2.1.2 Natural geology was encountered around 0.5m below ground level. Topsoil (01) consisted of a dark brown grey silty sand which contained high level of post-medieval debris. The subsoil (02) was a clean mid orange grey silty sand.
- 2.1.3 The water table on site was very high, with water collecting in a number of trenches and all the excavated features.

### 2.2 Trench 1

- 2.2.1 Two north-northwest to south-southeast aligned ditches and a large shallow pit were seen toward the western end of the trench. No datable finds were collected from the features but their fill types suggested they were not likely to be medieval/post-medieval. One of these features (7) was vertical-sided and flat-based and may have been butt ending at the northern edge of the trench. It had the appearance of a large beamslot.

### 2.3 Trench 2

- 2.3.1 Three post-medieval intercutting quarry pits were identified in the trench. These truncated the possible continuation of one of the two ditches seen in Trench 1. Finds from the intercutting pits included fragments of 19th century brick, glazed pottery, animal bone and an iron nail.

### 2.4 Trench 3

- 2.4.1 This trench was seen to contain the most dense level of archaeology. The southernmost end of the trench contained four intercutting post-medieval quarry pits, which contained 19th century brick fragments. Five ditches running on three separate alignments were seen across the rest of the trench. Four of these, on two perpendicular alignments, appeared to be part of a post-medieval paddock/drainage system: the fifth ditch bordered the area of quarry pitting. Finds recovered from these features included animal bone and fragments of Cambridge white brick.

### 2.5 Trench 4

- 2.5.1 A single, shallow sub-rectangular pit was seen at the southern end of Trench 4. The pit contained animal bone, fired clay and a single fire cracked flint.

### 2.6 Trench 5

- 2.6.1 Trench 5 was devoid of archaeology.

### 2.7 Trench 6

- 2.7.1 A wide and shallow north-south aligned ditch was seen running through the trench. Several sherds of Later Iron Age flint-tempered pottery were collected from the fill. To the immediate south of this was a group of seven postholes and a small vertical-sided



pit. No finds were recovered from the postholes but they appeared to be part of a posthole structure. Their fills were not post-medieval/modern.

## 2.8 Finds Summary

2.8.1 Artefacts dating from the Iron Age through to the post-medieval period were collected during the archaeological works. A table of finds is listed below:

<b>Context</b>	<b>Trench</b>	<b>Artefact</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	-	Flint	Fat flake	Prehistoric
1	-	Pottery	Horningsea storage jar rim	C2-C3
1	-	Ceramic	English Stoneware	1700-1900
1	-	Clay pipe	Stem	c.1900
1	-	Shell	Oyster	-
10	2	Pottery	Redware bowl	1500-1800
10	2	Clay pipe	Stem	c.1900
10	2	Brick	Undiagnostic	17th-19th century
10	2	Animal bone	Unidentifiable	-
13	2	Pottery	Redware bowl	1300-1800
19	6	Pottery	Body sherds	Later Iron Age
21	4	Animal bone	Cattle	-
21	4	Fired clay	?Hearth base	?Prehistoric
21	4	Flint	Fire cracked	-
34	3	Animal bone	sheep/goat	-
34	3	CBM	Undiagnostic	NCD
43	3	Animal bone	Cattle	-
43	3	Brick	Cambridge white	17th-19th century

Table 1: Finds summary

### 3 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1.1 The development area is situated immediately adjacent to Car Dyke, therefore archaeology of a Roman origin was anticipated at the site. Trenches 1 and 2 were positioned over the ploughed out remains of the bank of the dyke so as to target potential buried soils beneath the bank. No finds of Roman date were identified, however the two ditches (one a potential beamslot) recorded in Trench 1 run parallel with Car Dyke and have the potential to be related to its construction or use.
- 3.1.2 Archaeological features uncovered on the eastern limit of site (in Trench 6) are considered to be of Iron Age or possibly of Anglo-Saxon date. The north-south aligned boundary ditch contained Later Iron Age pottery. The postholes immediately adjacent did not contain any datable finds and could therefore be contemporary with the ditch. However they could potentially be of a Saxon date, due to the site's close proximity to Anglo-Saxon settlement remains uncovered at Denny End Road 200m to the east where archaeological works revealed occupation dating to the early Anglo-Saxon period. The main feature uncovered was a shallow *grubenhause* with associated pits and postholes. Also seen on this site was a three-sided post-built structure (Mortimer 1996).
- 3.1.3 Trenches 2 and 3 contain evidence for post-medieval quarrying for the extraction of gravel. Trench 3 also contains a number of ditches attributed to the post-medieval period, which run parallel with and perpendicular to the modern field boundary to the east.
- 3.1.4 Overall, the archaeological features revealed show evidence for how this site has been subject to use for a prolonged period of time from the Iron Age period onwards. The findings in Trenches 1 and 6 are considered to be of particular interest.

## APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTION AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		WSW-ENE
Trench contained two ditches and a pit. Natural consists of sand and gravel.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		0.55
				<b>Width (m)</b>		1.8
				<b>Length (m)</b>		25
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
3	Fill	-	0.2	Ditch	-	-
4	Cut	1	0.2	Ditch	-	-
5	Fill	-	0..	Ditch	-	-
6	Fill	-	0.27	Ditch	-	-
7	Cut	0.77	0.33	Ditch	-	-
8	Fill	-	0.24	Pit	-	-
9	Cut	1.3	0.24	Pit	-	-

Trench 2						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		WSW-ENE
Trench contained quarry pits and a ditch. Natural consists of sand and gravel.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		0.45
				<b>Width (m)</b>		1.8
				<b>Length (m)</b>		25
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
10	Fill	-	0.4	Quarry pit	Clay pipe, Iron	
11	Cut	2.5	0.4	Quarry pit	-	-
12	Fill	-	0.2	Quarry pit	-	-
13	Fill	-	0.1	Quarry pit	Pottery	
14	Cut	1.1	0.3	Quarry pit	-	-
15	Fill	-	0.6	Quarry pit	-	-
16	Cut	0.6	0.6	Quarry pit	-	-

Trench 3						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		NE-SW
Trench contained quarry pits and five ditches. Natural consists of sand and gravel.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		0.5
				<b>Width (m)</b>		1.8

					Length (m)	30
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
27	Cut	0.5	0.42	Quarry pit	-	-
28	Fill	-	0.03	Quarry pit	-	-
29	Fill	-	0.1	Quarry pit	-	-
30	Fill	-	0.3	Quarry pit	-	-
32	Fill	-	0.4	Quarry pit	Pottery	
33	Cut	1.8	0.4	Quarry pit	-	-
34	Fill	-	0.38	Quarry pit	Bone	-
35	Cut	12.5	0.38	Quarry pit	-	-
36	Fill	-	0.16	Quarry pit	-	-
37	Fill	-	0.03	Quarry pit	-	-
38	Fill	-	0.13	Quarry pit	-	-
39	Cut	0.8	0.36	Quarry pit	-	-
40	Fill	-	0.3	Ditch	-	-
41	Fill	-	0.1	Ditch	-	-
42	Cut	0.8	0.4	Ditch	-	-
43	Fill	-	0.14	Ditch	Brick	
44	Fill	-	0.06	Ditch	-	-
45	Cut	0.72	0.2	Ditch	-	-
46	Fill	-	0.28	Ditch	-	-
47	Cut	1.3	0.28	Ditch	-	-

<b>Trench 4</b>						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		NNW-SSE
Trench contained a single pit. Natural consists of sand and gravel.				<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>		0.5
				<b>Width (m)</b>		1.8
				<b>Length (m)</b>		30
<b>Contexts</b>						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
21	Fill	-	0.3	Pit	Pottery, bone, fired clay	
22	Cut	1.4	0.3	Pit	-	-

<b>Trench 5</b>						
<b>General description</b>				<b>Orientation</b>		NW-SE

Trench devoid of archaeology. Natural consists of sand and gravel.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.5
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
					<b>Length (m)</b>	30
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

<b>Trench 6</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE
Trench contained a ditch, seven postholes and a pit. Natural consists of sand and gravel.					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.55
					<b>Width (m)</b>	1.8
					<b>Length (m)</b>	20
<b>Contexts</b>						
<b>context no</b>	<b>type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>comment</b>	<b>finds</b>	<b>date</b>
19	Fill	-	0.27	Ditch	Pottery	
20	Cut	2.4	0.27	Ditch	-	-
23	Fill	-	0.18	Posthole	-	-
24	Cut	0.35	0.18	Posthole	-	-
25	Fill	-	0.21	Posthole	-	-
26	Cut	0.35	0.21	Posthole	-	-
48	Fill	-	0.36	Pit/posthole	-	-
49	Cut	0.7	0.36	Pit/posthole	-	-

## APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- McConnell, D.            2014    *Brief for archaeological evaluation: Land south of Pembroke Avenue, Waterbeach.* Unpublished.
- Mortimer, R.            1995    *Excavation of a group of Anglo-Saxon features at Denny End, Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire.* Cambridge Archaeology Unit Report 196. Unpublished.

## APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-219639		
Project Name	Evaluation on land south of Pembroke Avenue, Waterbeach		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	12-02-2014	Finish	14-02-2014
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	WATPEA14	Planning App. No.	S/1979/13/FL
HER No.	ECB 4531	Related HER/OASIS No.	

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Development Type	Car Park (flat)

### Please select all techniques used:

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

### Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

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

Monument	Period	Object	Period
posthole	Iron Age -800 to 43	pottery	Iron Age -800 to 43
ditch	Iron Age -800 to 43	CBM	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901
quarry pit	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901		Select period...

### Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	South Cambs	Land south of Pembroke Avenue Waterbeach CB25 9QR
Parish	Waterbeach	
HER	Cambridge	
Study Area	5,400 sqm	National Grid Reference TL 4895 6565

### Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Dan McConnell
Project Design Originator	Richard Mortimer
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Louise Bush

### Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
CCC Store	OA East	CCC Store
ECB 4531	WATPEA14	ECB 4531

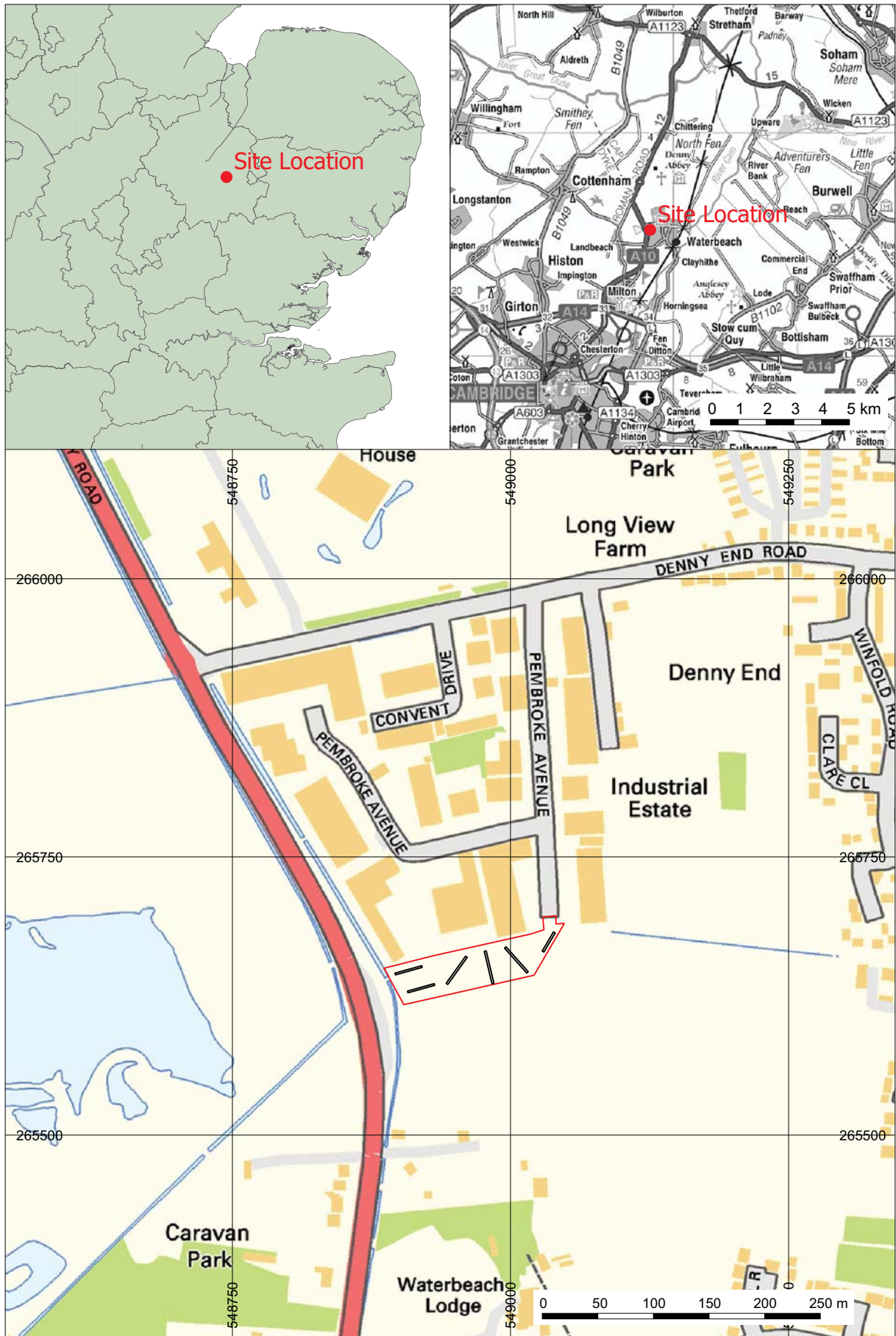
### Archive Contents/Media

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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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Images	<input type="checkbox"/> Diary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illustrations	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing
<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/> Map
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

### Notes:





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

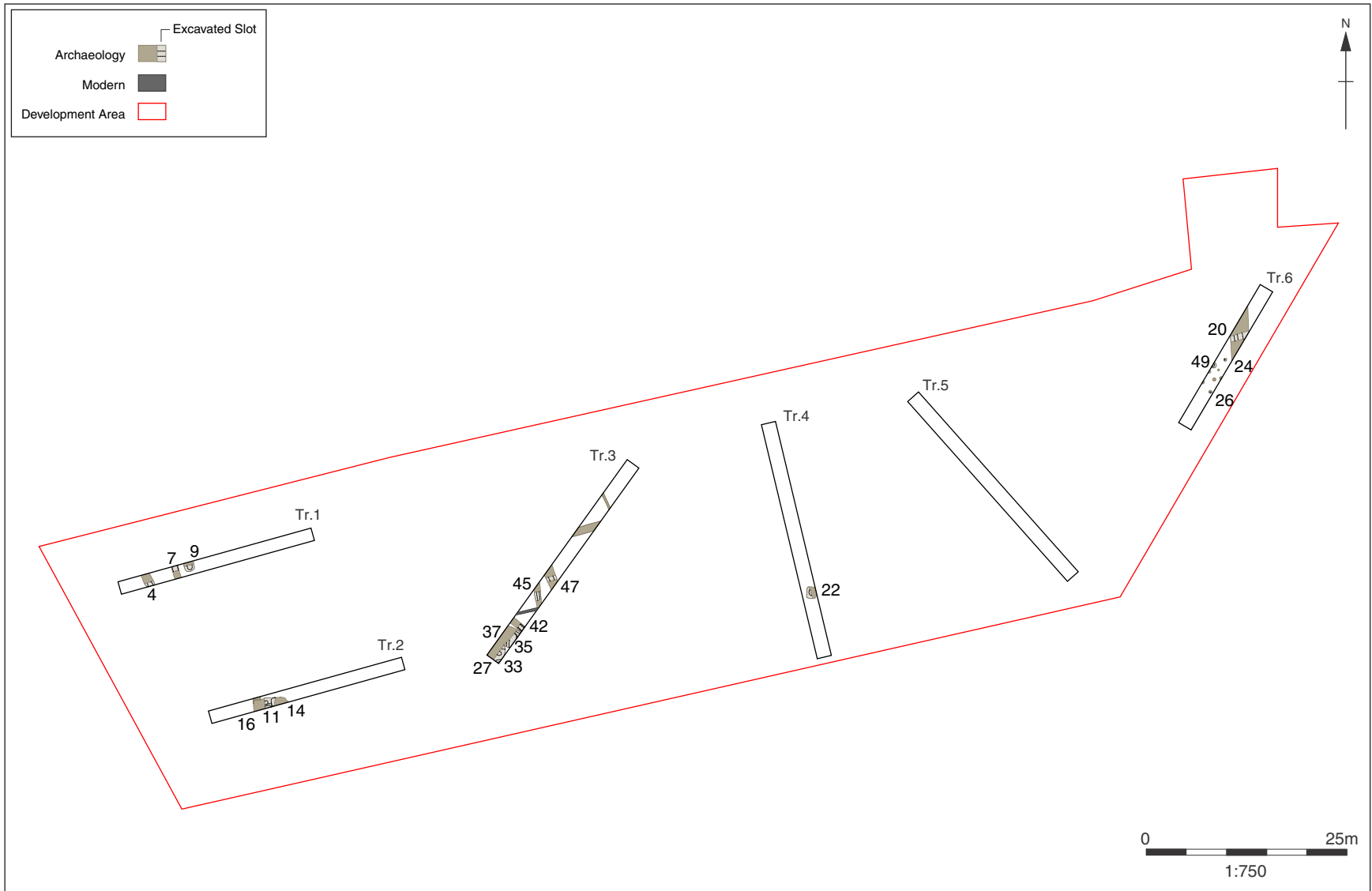


Figure 2: Trench plan



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