

An Iron Age pit and post medieval features on the route of the Kings Reach Growth Scheme pipeline, Biggleswade



Archaeological Evaluation Report



July 2015

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**An Iron Age pit and post medieval features on the route of the Kings Reach
Growth Scheme pipeline, Biggleswade**

Archaeological Evaluation and Excavation

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology East carried out archaeological works in advance of the construction of a new rising main, which now links the Kings Reach development to the existing treatment works. This work resulted in the discovery of a single middle Iron Age pit, along with a medieval quarry pit and several post-medieval ditches and trackways. The work also showed that the new pipe would not have an adverse impact on the known Bronze Age barrow, located within the existing treatment works.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological excavation and evaluation was conducted on 2.3km of the route of the Kings Reach Growth Scheme pipeline, Biggleswade (TL1893 4665 to TL 2070 4531).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Martin Oake of Central Bedfordshire Council, supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (Mortimer 2015).
- 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 the water act 1989 and Anglia Water codes of practice. Where archaeology was found, the project aimed to record and enhance understanding of the significance of these heritage assets before they were lost (wholly or in part). This is achieved by determining and understanding the nature, function and character of an archaeological site in its cultural and environmental setting. These characteristics are what form the “significance” of a heritage asset and from which we derive its value for this and future generations (as defined by the *National Planning Policy Framework*, Annex 2).
- 1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the Higgins Museum, Bedford, under the accession number BEDFM 2014.83, in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The British Geological Survey indicates that the solid geology of the site at Furzenhall Road is sandstones of the Woburn sands Formation, overlain by River Terrace 1 & 2 sands and gravel deposits.
- 1.2.2 The course of the pipeline is almost flat, rising from 26 metres OD at the northern end to 33m OD at Potton Road on the northeast of Biggleswade. The remainder of the pipeline northeast along Potton Road, then south to Kings Reach, undulates by no more than 3 metres, ending at 32m OD at the southern end of the pipeline.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following background has been taken from the written scheme of investigation (Mortimer 2015), with slight amendments.

Prehistoric

- 1.3.2 There is a dense concentration of cropmarks in the area of Biggleswade Common. Most have been identified only through aerial photographs and have not been dated, although the form of some (cursus, ring ditches) suggests Neolithic or Bronze Age dates. They include:
- One, and possibly two, square-ended cursuses to the east of the pipeline easement (CBHER 644, 16818)
 - Ring ditches and enclosures across the Common, and along the River Ivel on the other side of the railway line (CBHER 644, 701, 1343, 13928, 15507, 16808).
 - A short length of a pit alignment, visible in aerial photographs (CBHER15101), 400 metres east of the pipeline

- A D-shaped enclosure, with sub-rectangular enclosures nearby, 170 metres north of the where the pipeline passes the hospital site (CBHER 15079).

- 1.3.3 One potential Bronze Age ring ditch within the pipeline easement was excavated in 2007, immediately south of the sewerage works (CBHER 10138; Abrams 2010). A 1.6 metre trial trench was positioned across the ring ditch. This same trench also uncovered were three undated ditches and a ditch terminal. Although the ring ditch has been disturbed by work on previous pipelines, south from the sewerage works, the excavation demonstrated that it was partially preserved.
- 1.3.4 A barbed and tanged arrowhead was found at the Rowlett's Train Crossing in Biggleswade, twenty metres to the west of the pipeline easement (CBHER16205).
- 1.3.5 Excavations south of Potton Road ahead of residential development identified a number of pits. One concentration of three pits produced dates from the late Neolithic (CBHER13544). The evaluation identified a number of other isolated pits and ditches, one of which dated to the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age.

Roman

- 1.3.6 A number of Roman roads cross through Biddleswade, including one running north-south from Baldock to Sandy, and then on to Godmanchester (CBHER505). Possible metalled surfaces consistent with this course have been identified on Biggleswade common (CBHER 66), and cropmarks suggest the pipeline will cross the path of the road. Close to this road is an upstanding barrow attributed to the Roman period (CBHER15507) – it lies on the opposite side of the railway line to the pipeline. A human skull eroded out of the river 100 metres west of the pipeline has been attributed to a Roman cemetery (CBHER16111).
- 1.3.7 Another smaller Roman road has been identified in aerial photographs 300 metres to the east of the pipeline at the Kings Reach end (CBHER411). Further east is an area of cropmarks, showing subrectangular enclosures which later excavation showed were probably Roman field boundaries (CBHER3544). Directly south of the pipeline's southern end is an area of Roman settlement. Archaeological trial trenching found ditches, field boundaries and probable water holes (CBHER18301).

Medieval

- 1.3.8 Possibly close to the pipeline route is the site of the medieval village of Kinwick. It is recorded in the Domesday Book, but whose location is now unknown (CBHER775). Two areas of earthworks and cropmarks nearby – one of the 200 metres north of the pipeline on Biggleswade Common – have been suggested as possible sites for the village (CBHER 110, 446, 664).
- 1.3.9 Between Biggleswade Common and the River Ivel is an area of linear features and complex rectilinear enclosures, visible as cropmarks, and some of which may survive as earthworks (CBHER1615, 2483). They are interpreted as the remains of medieval fields. They intersect with the course of the pipeline at the south end of Biggleswade Common.

Post-medieval and Modern

- 1.3.10 A number of post-medieval buildings and gardens are noted in the HER within a kilometre of the pipeline easement, (CBHER 2046, 5443, 7319, 9439 15619). They include several at the south end of Biggleswade Common, although excavation work will not encroach on any of these.

-
- 1.3.11 On Potton Road is the old Sutton toll house (CBHER4324). A beer house was located north-east of the hospital (CBHER13960).
- 1.3.12 Based on surviving field names, former buildings presumed to lie on the fields of Biggleswade Common include a brickworks (CBHER13924) and a barn (CBHER13919). A post-medieval dovecote is recorded north of the sewage works (CBHER13939), while a former sandpit is recorded to the south C(BHER 13923).

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Ian Berry of Anglia Water who commissioned and funded the work. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer and the fieldwork was conducted by the author, with the assistance of Zoe Clarke, Gareth Reese and Chris Swain. Martin Oake monitored the work on behalf of Central Bedfordshire council.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The original aims of the project were set out in the Brief (Oake 2014) and Written Scheme of Investigation (Mortimer 2015).

2.1.2 The main aims of this excavation were

- To mitigate the impact of the development on the surviving archaeological remains. The development would have severely impacted upon these remains and as a result a full excavation was required, targeting the areas of archaeological interest highlighted by the previous phases of evaluation.
- To preserve the archaeological evidence contained within the excavation area by record and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site.

2.1.3 This excavation takes place within, and will contribute to the goals of local and Regional Research Frameworks relevant to this area:

- Oake, M; Luke, M; Daws, Medgewoth, M. & Murphy, P. (2007) *Archaeology of the East Midlands: An Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*. Bedfordshire Archaeology Monograph 9.
- *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern counties: 1. Resource Assessment* (Glazebrook 1997, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 3);
- *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern counties: 2. Research Agenda and Strategy* (Brown & Glazebrook 2000, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8)
- *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24)

2.2 Site Specific Research Objectives

2.2.1 The main areas of archaeological interest in the development site are Bronze Age Funerary monuments and Iron Age and Roman settlement. Topics that the site has the potential to address include:

- Bronze Age burial practices and the use of funerary and ceremonial monuments (Brown and Murphy 2000, 10; Oake 2007, 9 and Medlycott 2011, 20)
- The characterisation, chronology development, structure and organisation of rural settlement in the Iron Age and Roman periods (Bryant 2000, 16; Going and Plouviez 2000, 19; Oake 2007, 11 and Medlycott 2011, 31 and 47).
- Dating in the Iron Age and Roman periods, particularly the refinement of pottery dating (Bryant 2000, 16; Oake 2007, 10-11 and Medlycott 2011 29).
- Transition between Iron Age and Roman periods (Medlycott 2011, 31).

2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 The methodology used followed that outlined in the Brief (Oake 2014) and detailed in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Mortimer 2015). However, these were adapted in consultation with Martin Oake, as a result of slight changes in the pipeline route and the presence of far deeper subsoil than had been expected.

2.3.2 The barrow area, within the sewerage treatment works at the northern end of the route, was not excavated. Trial holes showed the route of two existing pipes passed to the

east of the barrow and the new pipe could be laid over the top of these, without the necessity of further damaging the barrow remains.

- 2.3.3 The subsoil along much of the route was considerably deeper than had been anticipated and it became clear that it would not be possible to strip subsoil from the entire route. Amendments to the methodology had to be made, in agreement with and following discussions with, Martin Oake, and trial trenches were excavated through the subsoil at intervals along the route to assess the significance and density of any potential archaeology. If significant archaeology was uncovered during this evaluation process the full width of the easement would then have been opened up.
- 2.3.4 Machine excavation was carried out by a 20ton tracked excavator using a 2.2m wide flat bladed ditching bucket under constant supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.
- 2.3.5 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.
- 2.3.6 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.
- 2.3.7 Bulk soil samples were taken from a single feature, as this was the only deposit on the site that was deemed to offer potential for the recovery of meaningful environmental remains.
- 2.3.8 Site conditions were generally good, with warm sunny conditions, although occasional rain showers did hamper excavation.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The results are presented below by trench and/or area. Details of each trench (length width, depth etc) are given in Appendix A. All of the trenches were excavated after the topsoil had been removed from the pipeline easement.

3.2 Trench 1

3.2.1 No archaeological features were identified in this trench.

3.3 Test pits 1-5

3.3.1 Several test pits were excavated by machine to check the depth of the subsoil and for previous disturbance. Test pit 1 showed undisturbed subsoil with a depth of 0.50m. This deep subsoil may have been present due to the proximity of Test pit 1 to a trackway.

3.3.2 Test pits 2, 3, 4 and 5 all showed previous disturbance to the area. A large concrete tank had been inserted below ground directly adjacent to the pipeline route in the area of these test pits and this was the likely cause of the disturbance.

3.4 Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

3.4.1 A pit and a possible posthole were located in trench 2. Pit 2 was circular in plan, with a diameter of 0.74m and a depth of 0.24m. It had near vertical sides and a flat base. A single deposit (1) filled this feature and this was a dark brownish grey, silty sand. Eight small and abraded sherds (27g) of Iron Age pottery were recovered from this feature, along with three fragments (394g) of burnt sandstone cobbles and 1g of unidentifiable animal bone.

3.4.2 Possible posthole 4 was located close to pit 2. It was circular in plan with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. Feature 4 had a diameter of 0.32m, with a depth of 0.20m and was filled by a single deposit (3). Fill 3 was a dark brownish grey, silty sand, which contained no finds.

3.5 Area 3 (Fig. 3)

3.5.1 Area three was opened along a section of the pipeline route where the subsoil was shallower and cropmarks had indicated that archaeological features would be present. Several later post-medieval features were identified.

3.5.2 Ditch 32 was located close to the eastern end of the area. It was very large, measuring 5.3m wide. A slot through this feature was excavated to a depth of 0.80m, without reaching the base. Ditch 32 had steeply sloping sides and was filled by a single deposit (31), which was very similar to the topsoil. Fill 31 was a mid grey brown, organic sandy silt. Finds recovered from this feature comprise a single sherd (29g) of late 16th to 19th century AD pottery, a further sherd (5g) of 18th to 19th century AD pottery and a single fragment (3g) of clay tobacco pipe stem.

3.5.3 At the eastern end of the trench was a possible metallated trackway (9) which crossed the area on an almost north to south alignment. There were ditches to either side (6, 8, 11, 13). The surface (9) was a mid orangey brown, sandy silt, with very frequent gravel inclusions. It was 10.20m wide and 0.15m thick. The width of surface 9 is larger than would be expected for a track and it may actually represent a surfaced area, although this was difficult to determine within the narrow pipeline easement.

- 3.5.4 Ditch **8** crossed the excavated area parallel to and to the east of surface 9. It was 0.94m wide and 0.14m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit (7), which was a mid brownish grey, sandy silt. Four sherds (22g) of late 18th or 19th century pottery were recovered from this feature, along with a single fragment (47g) of ceramic building material.
- 3.5.5 Ditch **13** was located to the west of trackway 9. It was truncated by ditches **6** and **11**, however it survived to a maximum width of 1.28m and was 0.50m deep. Ditch **13** was filled by two deposits, the basal fill (12) was a dark greyish brown, silty sand, which contained no finds, while the upper fill (14) was a mid brownish orange, sandy silt.
- 3.5.6 Ditch **6** cut the western edge of ditch **13**, it was 0.95m wide and 0.46m deep. Ditch **6** had steeply sloping sides, with a concave base and was filled by a single deposit (5). fill 5 was a mid reddish brown, sandy silt, which contained no finds. A clay drain had been placed within this feature.
- 3.5.7 Ditch **11** cut the eastern edge of ditch **13**. Ditch **11** had steeply sloping sides, with a concave base and also had a clay field drain within it. It was 1.30m wide, with a depth of 0.30m and was filled by a single deposit (10). Fill 10 was a mid greyish brown, sandy silt, which contained no finds.

3.6 Trench 4

- 3.6.1 No archaeological features were identified in this trench.

3.7 Trench 5 (Fig. 4)

- 3.7.1 Four pit- or scoop-like features, a ditch and a furrow were identified within this trench. Feature **21** was located close to the northern end of the trench. It was shallow, sub-circular in plan with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It had a diameter of 0.66m and was 0.16m deep. A single deposit (20) filled this pit and this deposit was a mid greyish brown, silty sand, which contained no finds.
- 3.7.2 Furrow **19** crossed the northern end of trench 5 on an east to west orientation and truncated feature **21**. Feature **19** was 2.70m wide and 0.15m deep, with gently sloping sides and an irregular base. It was filled by a single deposit (18), which was a mid greyish brown, silty sand similar to the subsoil. No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 3.7.3 A second shallow scoop-like feature (**17**) was recorded just to the south of feature **21**. It appeared to have been oval in plan, although it continued beyond the excavated area to the west. It was 1.30m wide, with a depth of 0.16m and had gently sloping sides, with a concave base. The basal fill (16) was a mid bluish grey sandy silt, potentially water-lain. This was overlain by deposit 15; a mid brownish grey, sandy silt. No finds were recovered from either of these deposits.
- 3.7.4 Feature **30** continued out of the excavated area to both the east and west and is likely to represent a quarry pit. It had a maximum visible width of 3.40m and was 0.78m deep, with steep sides and a flatish base. It was filled by two deposits. The basal fill (29) was a pale brownish grey, sandy silt, which contained two sherds (11g) of 12th to 14th century AD pottery. This was overlain by deposit 28, a mid brownish orange, sandy silt, which contained no finds.
- 3.7.5 Feature **30** was cut by scoop-like feature **27**, which was sub-circular in plan, with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It had a diameter of 1.70m, with a depth of 0.30m and was filled by two deposits. The basal fill (26) was a mid blueish grey, clayey silt, like

that in feature **17**, potentially water-lain. The upper fill (25) was a dark reddish grey, clayey sand. No finds were recovered from this feature.

- 3.7.6 Shallow ditch **24** crossed the trench on a north-east to south-west alignment, just to the south of inter-cutting pits **30** and **27**. Ditch **24** had a width of 1.20m and was 0.20m deep. It had gently sloping sides, with a flat base and was filled by two deposits. The primary fill (23) was a pale orangey brown, silty sand, which had slumped in from the north-western edge. The upper fill (22) was a pale grey, sandy silt. No finds were recovered from this ditch.

3.8 Trenches 6-10

- 3.8.1 No archaeological features were identified in these trenches.

3.9 Finds Summary

- 3.9.1 Summaries of all of the artefactual material recovered are given below, with detailed reports of the pottery in Appendix B.

Prehistoric Pottery

- 3.9.2 Eight small and abraded sherds (total weight 25g) of Iron Age pottery were recovered from the fill of Pit 2. these are all of Middle Iron Age date (350-50 BC) and include a sherd which probably belonged to a late La Tène-style decorated vessel.

Medieval and post-medieval pottery

- 3.9.3 The post-Roman pottery assemblage comprises eight sherds, total weight 67g. The assemblage spans the late 12th-end of the 19th century

Ceramic building material

- 3.9.4 A single fragment (47g) of ceramic building material was recovered from fill 7 of ditch **8**. This is a fragment of a roof tile in an oxidised sandy red fabric. It is post-medieval in date, most likely 18th or 19th century (Rob Atkins pers comm).

Clay tobacco pipe

- 3.9.5 A single piece (3g) from the stem of a clay tobacco pipe was found within fill 31 of ditch **32**. Such post-medieval pipe fragments are ubiquitous on British archaeological sites, and were in use between the 17th and 19th centuries.

3.10 Environmental Summary

Animal bone

- 3.10.1 Only two fragments (4g) of animal bone was recovered during the archaeological fieldwork. One fragment (1g) came from fill 1 of pit **2**, while the other piece (3g) was from fill 29 of quarry pit **30**. Neither of these small fragments is identifiable to species (Chris Faine pers comm).

Environmental sample

- 3.10.1 A single bulk sample was taken from fill 1 of Iron Age pit **2**, the sample was devoid of preserved plant remains other than fine charcoal. A full report on the environmental sample is given in Appendix C.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1.1 The results of the excavation have shown that none of the original aims and objectives of the excavation stated above could be met through the analysis of the excavated materials: the archaeological remains uncovered were all, bar one small pit, of the post-Medieval period.

4.2 Iron Age Pit

4.2.1 The single, small and truncated, Iron Age pit (**2**) and potential posthole (**4**), within trench 2, are difficult to interpret. It is not known whether the two features were broadly contemporary or belonged to different periods. The small and abraded nature of the pottery assemblage from pit **2**, indicates that the material was not rapidly deposited after the vessels from which they came were broken, but that the assemblage was already old, potentially surface material, before it entered the pit..

4.3 Medieval and post-medieval features

4.3.1 The large ditch (**32**), identified in area 3, appears as a boundary on the 1884 OS map, but was no longer present on the 1948 edition of the map. This, together with the finds recovered from the fill of the feature, support the idea that ditch **32** was a post-medieval enclosure boundary.

4.3.2 Surface 9, also in area 3, is not shown on any early OS maps, however, it is within the area occupied by a sewerage treatment works that was shown on the 1927 edition of the OS map and it is possible that it relates to this.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The project has shown that small-scale, scattered Iron Age activity has taken place in this area, adding to the known prehistoric activity in the area and potentially linked to the enclosure system seen as cropmarks c. 500m to the north-east. Apart from a potentially medieval quarry pit (**30**) all other features recorded probably date between the 18th and 20th centuries.

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of subsoil overlying a natural of sand.				Min. depth (m)		0.28
				Width (m)		2.10
				Length (m)		25
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
33	Layer	-	0.28	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 2						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench contained a single pit and possible posthole. Both were overlain by subsoil.				Min. depth (m)		0.24
				Width (m)		2.10
				Length (m)		28.2
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
33	Layer	-	0.24	Subsoil	-	-
1	Fill	0.74	0.24	Fill of pit 2	Pottery, bone, burnt stone	Iron Age
2	Cut	0.74	0.24	Cut of pit	-	Iron Age
3	Fill	0.32	0.20	Fill of possible posthole 4	-	-
4	Cut	0.32	0.20	Cut of possible posthole	-	-

Area 3						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of subsoil overlying a natural of sand.				Min. depth (m)		0.16
				Width (m)		3.95
				Length (m)		134.40
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
33	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil	-	-
5	Fill	0.95	0.46	Fill of ditch 6	-	-
6	Cut	0.95	0.46	Cut of ditch	-	-
7	Fill	0.94	0.14	Fill of ditch 8	Pottery	Post medieval

8	Cut	0.94	0.14	Cut of ditch	-	Post-medieval
9	Layer	10.20	0.15	Trackway surface	-	Post-medieval/modern
10	Fill	1.30	0.30	Fill of ditch 11	-	-
11	Cut	1.30	0.30	Cut of ditch		
12	Fill	1.28	0.50	Fill of ditch 13	-	-
13	Cut	1.28	0.62	Cut of ditch	-	-
14	Fill	1.28	0.18	Fill of ditch 13	-	-
31	Fill	5.30	>0.80	Fill of ditch 32	Pottery, CBM, clay pipe	Post-medieval
32	Cut	5.30	>0.80	Cut of ditch	-	Post-medieval

Trench 4						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of subsoil overlying a natural of sand.				Min. depth (m)		0.24
				Width (m)		2.10
				Length (m)		28
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
33	Layer	-	0.24	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 5						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Four pits and two ditches were identified in this trench.				Min. depth (m)		0.22
				Width (m)		2.10
				Length (m)		34.1
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
33	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
15	Fill	1.30	0.10	Upper fill of ?pit 17	-	-
16	Fill	0.70	0.06	Basal fill of ?pit 17	-	-
17	Cut	1.30	0.16	Possible pit	-	-
18	Fill	2.70	0.15	Fill of ditch 19	-	-
19	Cut	2.70	0.15	Cut of ditch	-	-
20	Fill	0.66	0.16	Fill of pit 21	-	-
21	Cut	0.66	0.16	Cut of pit	-	-
22	Fill	0.80	0.18	Upper fill of ditch 24	-	-
23	Fill	0.84	0.20	Basal fill of ditch 24	-	-

24	Cut	1.20	0.20	Cut of ditch		
25	Fill	1.70	0.18	Upper fill of pit 27	-	-
26	Fill	1.52	0.16	Basal fill of pit 27	-	-
27	Cut	1.70	0.30	Cut of pit	-	-
28	Fill	1.30	0.30	Upper fill of pit 30	-	-
29	Fill	3.40	0.54	Basal fill of pit 30	Pottery	Medieval
30	Cut	3.40	0.78	Cut of ?quarry pit	-	medieval

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of subsoil overlying a natural of sand.					Min. depth (m)	0.44
					Width (m)	0.20
					Length (m)	32
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
33	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 7						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of subsoil overlying a natural of sand.					Min. depth (m)	0.28
					Width (m)	2.10
					Length (m)	28.40
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
33	Layer	-	0.28	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 8						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of subsoil overlying a natural of sand.					Min. depth (m)	0.48
					Width (m)	2.10
					Length (m)	31
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
33	Layer	-	0.48	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 9						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of subsoil overlying a natural of sand.				Min. depth (m)		0.32
				Width (m)		2.10
				Length (m)		32.10
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
33	Layer	-	0.32	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 10						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of subsoil overlying a natural of sand.				Min. depth (m)		0.34
				Width (m)		2.10
				Length (m)		31
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
33	Layer	-	0.34	Subsoil	-	-

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Later Prehistoric Pottery

By Matt Brudenell

Introduction and methodology

- B.1.1 Eight small sherds (25g) of Iron Age pottery were recovered from the fill of Pit 2. All were fully recorded following the recommendations laid out by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group.

Discussion

- B.1.2 The assemblage included fragments of at least five different vessels, and included a rim, base, shoulder and decorated body sherd. Various fabrics were identified and recorded, with inclusions comprising a combination of chopped organic matter, fine quartz sand, possible grog (or clay pellets), and voids likely to represent leached calcareous inclusions (detailed below). The base, rim and shoulder were of simple form and not especially diagnostic. The rim was plain and flat-topped, the based sherd displayed a pinched out foot, and the shoulder sherds had a weak or 'slack' profile. The only really notable sherd in the group was a small, smoothed and silky-textured body sherd in a fine sandy fabric (2g), lightly incised with curvilinear decoration comprising an arc with lines emanating from it. The sherd probably belonged to a late La Tène-style decorated vessel, which, on current evidence, appear to date to the first or second centuries BC. Such a date would be consistent with the rest of the assemblage, which can comfortably be accommodated within the region's Middle Iron Age-type handmade potting tradition dating c. 350-50 BC.

Fabrics:

Organic matter (VE1; Beds code F04): Moderate to common linear voids from chopped burnt out vegetable matter. 3 body sherds (9g)

Sand, grog and voids (QVG1; Beds code F03): Sparse to moderate quartz sand, sparse medium voids from ?leached calcareous inclusions, and rare to sparse ?grog. 1 base with pinched out foot (6g), and one rim with flattened rim-top (3g).

Sand (Q1; Beds code F28): sparse fine quartz sand. 1 body sherd with incised curvilinear decoration. Smoothed exterior, silky texture (2g)

Sand and voids (QV1; Beds code F16A?): Sparse to moderate quartz sand with sparse medium voids from ?leached calcareous inclusions. 1 body sherd (2g), and one weakly profiled shoulder sherd (3g)

B.2 Post-Roman Pottery

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction

- B.2.1 Archaeological works produced a post-Roman pottery assemblage of eight sherds, weighing 0.067 kg. The assemblage spans the late 12th-end of the 19th century. The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded and the mean sherd weight is low at approximately 0.009 kg.

Methodology

B.2.2 Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described medieval and post-medieval types using the Bedfordshire fabric codes. All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed on a context-by-context basis. The assemblage is recorded in the summary catalogue. The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition

Assemblage

B.2.3 Ditch **8**, in Trench 3, produced a mix of fabrics, including two sherds of P45 (Transfer-printed Ware). Quarry Pit **30** in Trench 5, produced the only medieval pottery recovered from the site, two joining sherds of what has tentatively been identified as C04 (Coarse Sand).

B.2.4 The excavator has indicated that ditch **32** in Area 3 appears appears as a boundary on the 1884 OS map but is no longer present on the 1948 edition of the map. Two sherds of pottery were recovered from the feature, a single sherd from a P02 (Glazed Red Earthenware (coarse)) bowl, late 16th-end of 19th century and a small sherd from a P36A (Brown salt-glazed Stoneware) vessel, dating from the 18th-end of the 19th century. Both sherds are likely to have been deposited in the 19th century.

B.2.5 The assemblage is mainly domestic in nature, and indicates pottery deposition across the site from a broad range of periods. The medieval sherds are moderately abraded, indicating some reworking of the material.

Pottery Catalogue

Context	Cut	Fabric Code	Fabric	Basic Form	Sherd Count	Weight (kg)	Pottery Date Rang
7	8	P45	Transfer-printed Ware	Bowl/plate body sherd	2	0.010	Late 18th-end of 19th century
		P48	English Stoneware	Body sherd	1	0.006	18th-end of 19th century
		P55	White earthenware	Body sherd	1	0.006	19th century
29	30	C04	Coarse Sand	Body sherd	2	0.011	Late 12th-late 14th century
31	32	P02	Glazed Red Earthenware (coarse)	Bowl body sherd	1	0.029	Late 16th-end of 19th century
		P36A	Brown salt-glazed Stoneware	Body sherd	1	0.005	18th-end of 19th century
Total					8	0.067	

Table 1: Pottery

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

- C.1.1 A single bulk sample was taken from fill 1 of Iron Age pit 2 in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

Methodology

- C.1.1 The total volume (twenty litres) of the 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 floating component (flot) of the sample was collected in a 0.25mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. A magnet was dragged through each residue fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60.

Results

- C.1.2 The sample was devoid of preserved plant remains other than charcoal. Three fragments of pottery were recovered from the sample residue.

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	oxfordar3-216583		
Project Name	The Kings Reach Growth Scheme pipeline, Biggleswade		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	22-04-2015	Finish	13-05-2015
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	XBDKIR14	Planning App. No.	n/a
HER No.		Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice
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Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Field Observation (periodic visits)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Part Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Record
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Excavation (100%)	<input type="checkbox"/> Part Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Field Walking
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Recorded Observation	<input type="checkbox"/> Systematic Metal Detector Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pit Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Open-Area Excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage Excavation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Watching Brief

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
pit	Iron Age -800 to 43	pottery	Iron Age -800 to 43
trackway	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901	pottery	Medieval 1066 to 1540
ditch	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901	pottery	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901
Quarry pit	Medieval 1066 to 1540		Select period...

Project Location

County	Bedfordshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	central bedfordshire	
Parish	Biggleswade	
HER	central bedfordshire	
Study Area	c.3.4ha	National Grid Reference
		TL1893 4665-TL 2070 4531

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Martin Oake
Project Design Originator	Richard Mortimer
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Nick Gilmour

Project Archives

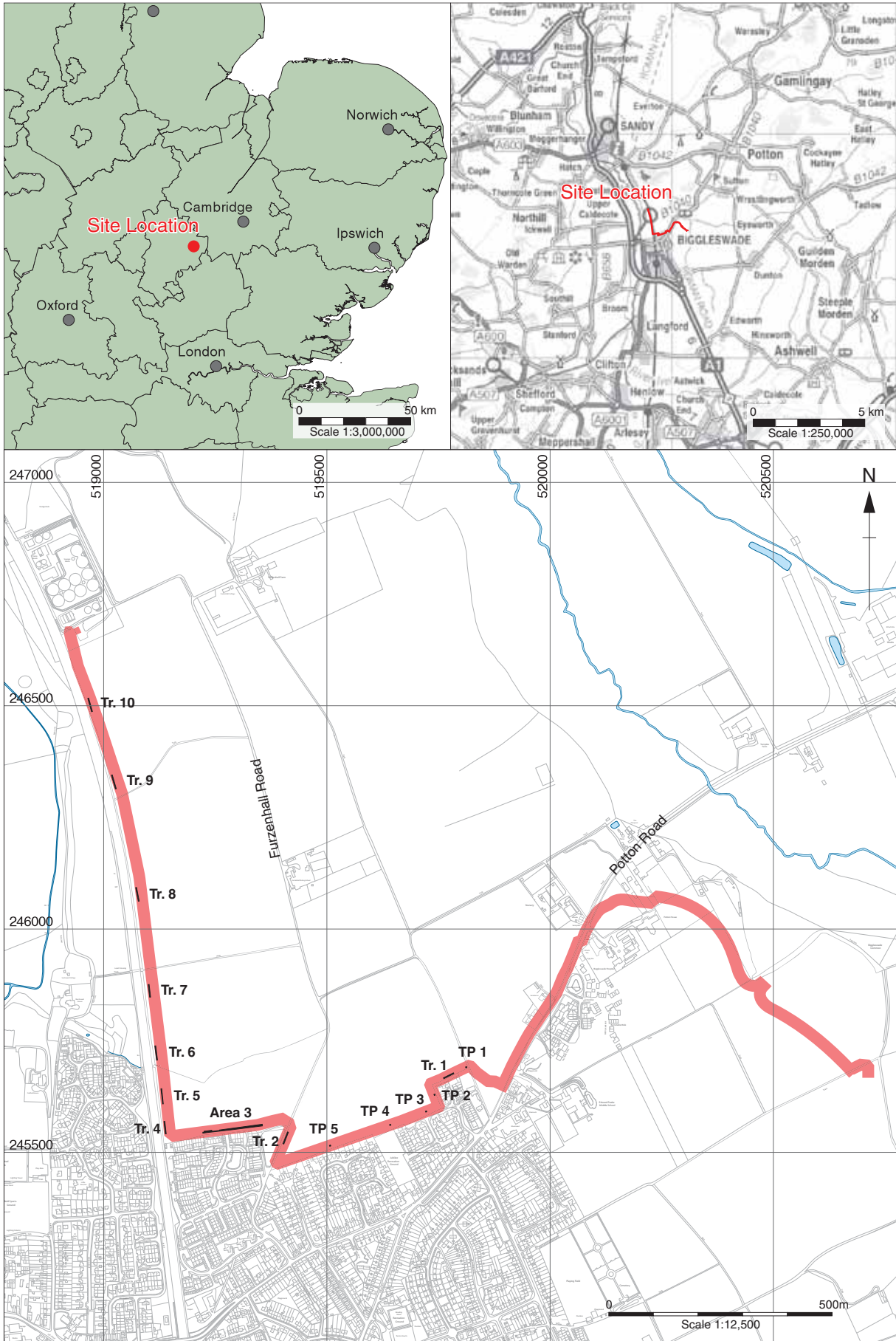
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
The Higgins, Bedford	OA East office Bar hill	The Higgins, Bedford
BEDFM 2014.83	XBDKIR14	BEDFM 2014.83

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Database	<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location

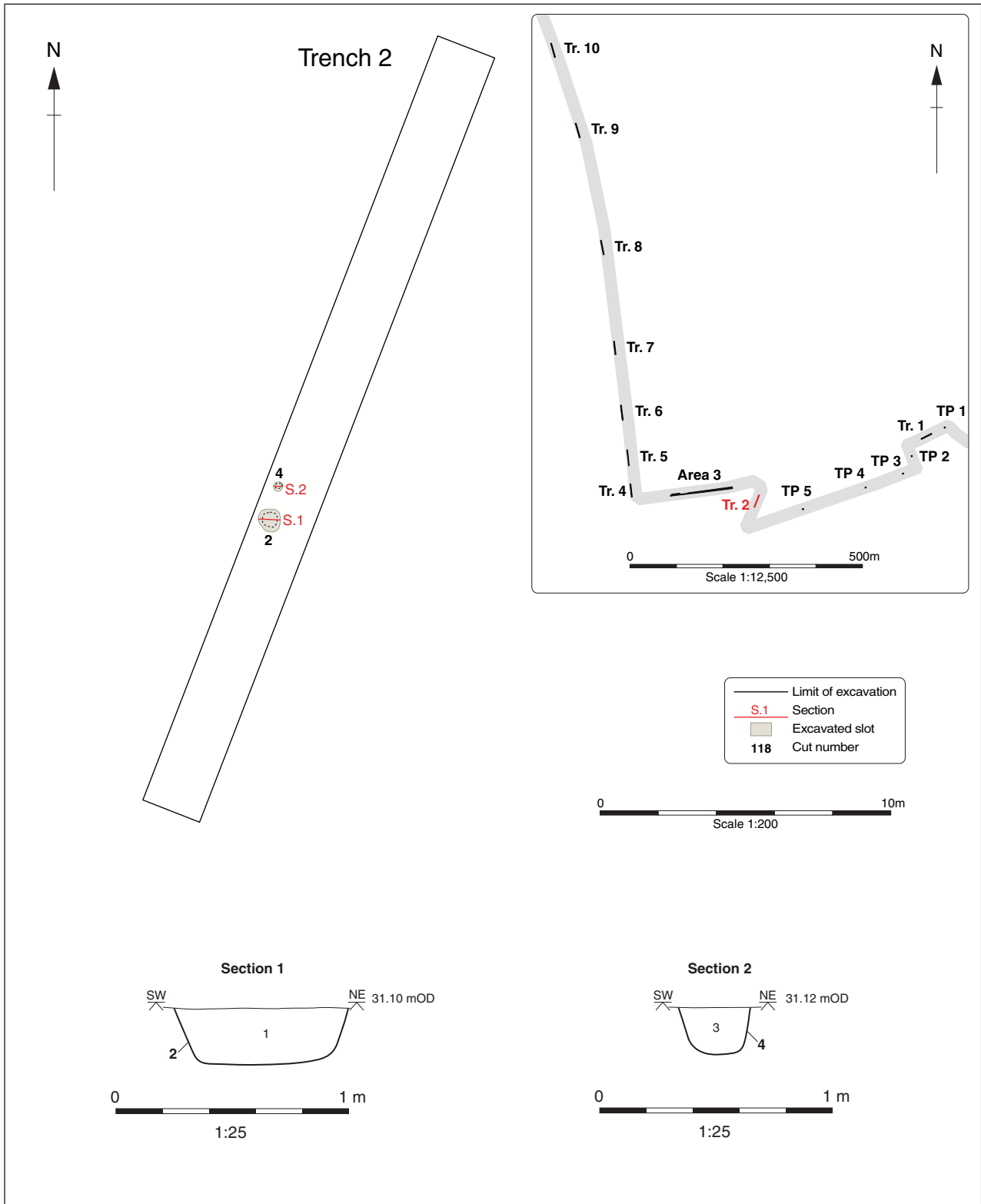


Figure 2: Plan of Trench 2

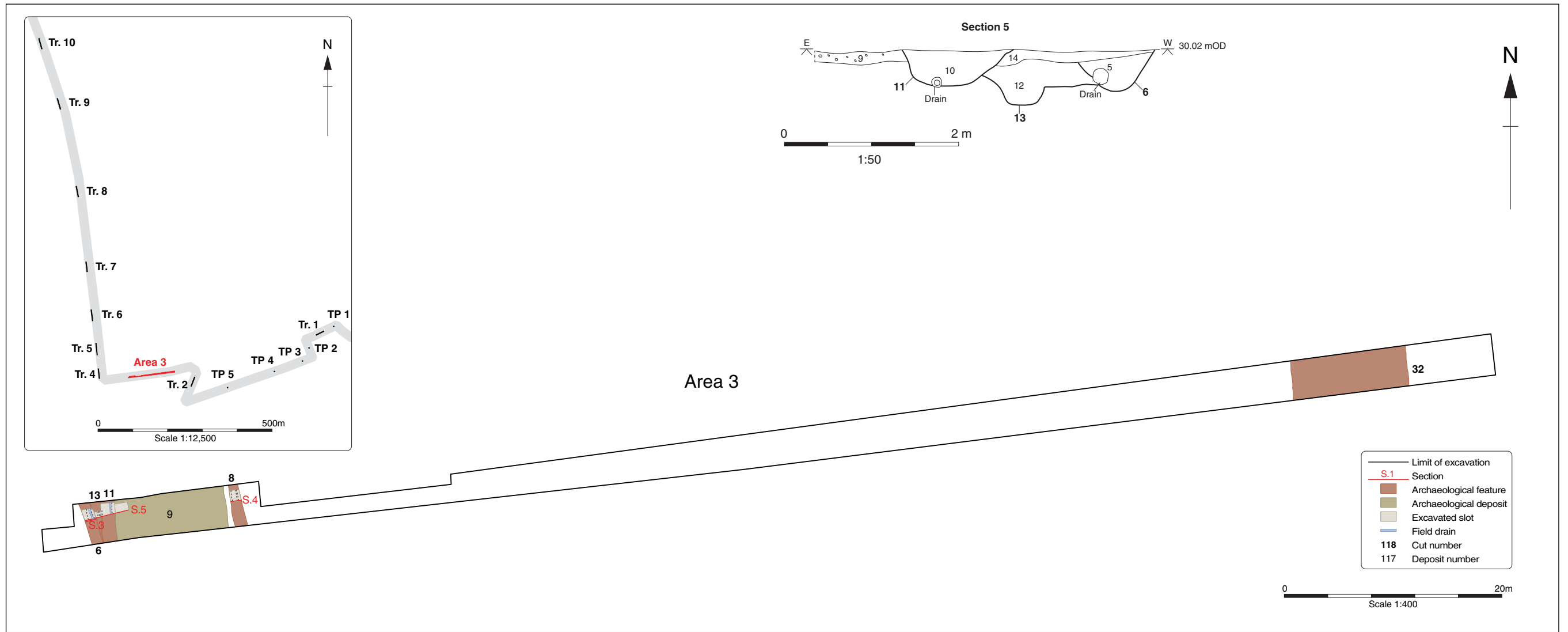


Figure 3: Plan of Area 3

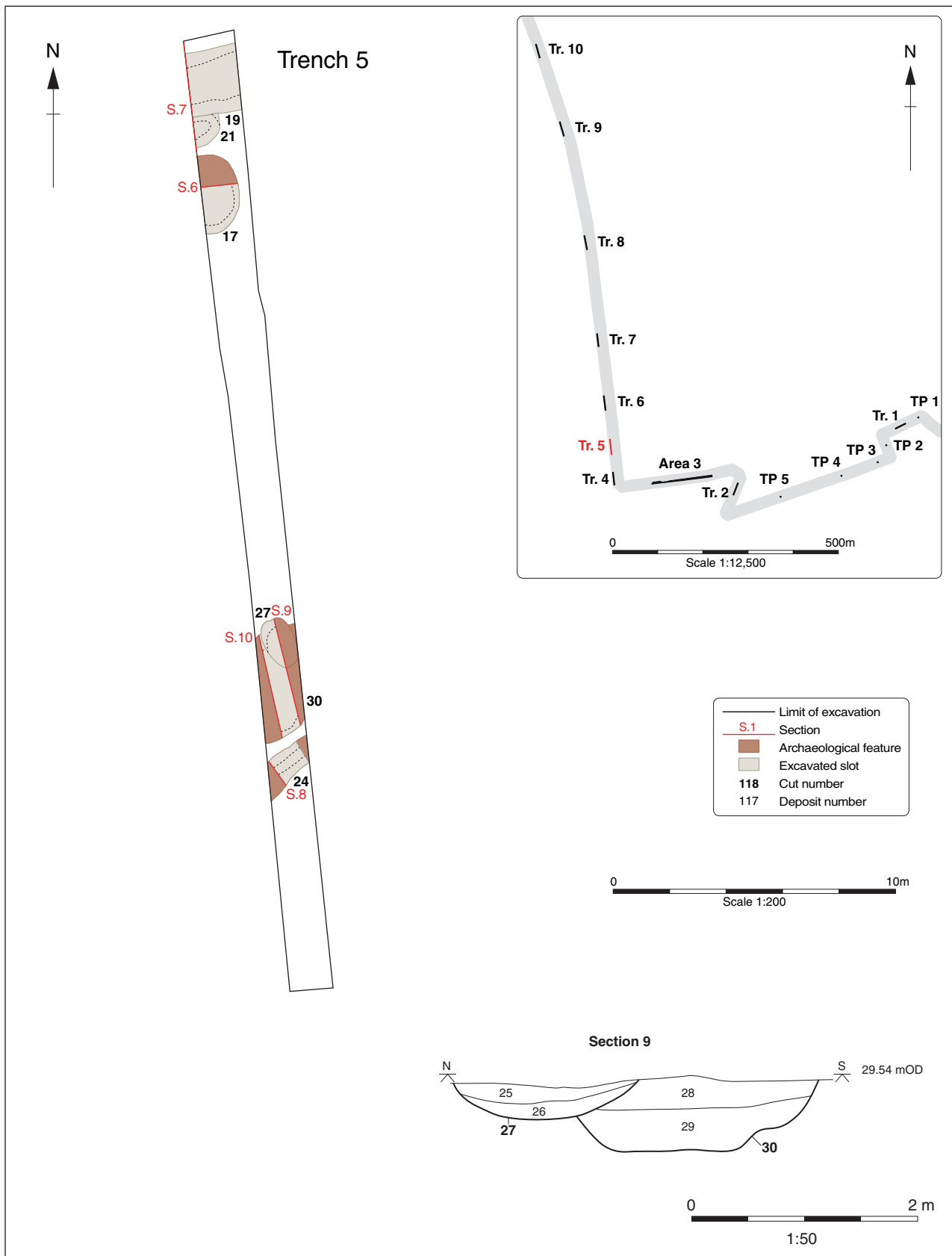


Figure 4: Plan of Trench 5



Plate 1: Pit 2 and possible posthole 4 from the south-east



Plate 2: Trackway 9 from the east



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