Field End Witchford



Archaeological Evaluation Report



October 2014

Client: CgMs Consulting

OA East Report No: 1653 OASIS No: oxfordar3-192638

NGR: TL 498 791



Field End, Witchford

Archaeological Evaluation

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HER Event No: ECB 4252

Date of Works: 18/8/2014 and 29/09/14 – 02/10/14

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Summary

A trial trench evaluation was carried out by Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) at Field End, Witchford, Cambridgeshire (TL 498 791). Prior to fieldwork a geophysical survey had taken place, which showed that medieval ridge and furrow extended over the entire site. The fieldwork was conducted in two stages; trenches 1 – 3 in Field A were excavated on 18th August 2014 and trenches 4 – 18 were excavated in Field B between 29th September – 2nd October 2014.

Within Field A the only features were two pits in trench 3, one of which contained Early Iron Age pottery and a large assemblage of animal bone. In Field B there were two concentrations of archaeological activity. The most interesting was the discovery of a cemetery in trenches 9 and 18. Initially five cremation burials (plus a possible sixth cremation) and a single inhumation burial were identified in the centre of trench 9. Subsequently, trench 18 was excavated to determine the extent of the cemetery. A further five cremation burials were discovered in the western end of trench 18. The burials extended over an area of c. 6.5m east to west but no more than 3.5m north to south. The cremations appeared to be un-urned and no finds could be seen on the surface of any of them. Determining a date for the cemetery is difficult at this stage, although there is no reason why the cemetery could not be broadly contemporary with the small number of Early Iron Age features in the field.

Secondly, in trench 6 there was a small group of features comprising a large posthole, two further possible postholes and a tree throw, all containing a dark silty clay fill. In total eight sherds of Early Iron Age pottery were recovered from this group of features.

Other features in Field B were isolated. A large hollow in trench 12 contained six sherds of Early and Middle Iron Age pottery, while a tree throw in trench 5 contained two small sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery. The only evidence for a field system or any form of land division were narrow undated ditches in trenches 4, 8, 10 and 17.





1 Introduction

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted by Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) at Field End, Witchford, Cambridgeshire (TL 498 791; Fig. 1). The site covers *c*. 5.1 ha on the northern side of Witchford, between Field End to the south and the A142 Witchford Bypass to the north. The area encompasses a small grass field in the east (Field A) and a larger arable field in the west (Field B). The site is proposed for development as a housing estate, with associated infrastructure.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team, supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East.
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *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 British Geological Survey indicates that the solid geology of the site at Witchford comprises mudstones in the Kimmeridge Clay Formation, overlain by diamicton (formerly known as Chalky Boulder Clay) belonging to the Oadby Member (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html). The soil type is deep glacial till.
- 1.2.2 The evaluation area occupies part of a low 'island' which rises above alluvium covered Fens. The 'island', which extends north-east to Ely and west to Sutton, rises locally from 4m OD (at Catchwater Drain, c. 750m to the north) to 16m OD, approximately 0.5km to the west. Within the site the land slopes down from north to south. Modern ground level in trench 4, in the north-east corner of Field B, was c. 10.3m OD and in trench 14, in the north-west corner of Field B, it was c. 10.2m OD. Ground level dropped to c. 9.4m OD in trench 13 and to c. 8.9m OD in trench 6, both in the south of Field B.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 A desk-based assessment has previously been prepared for the investigation area by CgMs Consulting (Thornton 2014), in order to determine the expected archaeological character of the site. This drew together the available archaeological, historic and landuse information, in order to assess the archaeological potential of the site. The following summary is based on information within the desk-based assessment. Entries from the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) are also referenced.



Prehistoric

- 1.3.2 Evaluation and excavation at Stirling Way, 1.7km east of the site, revealed evidence for pre-Iron Age activity in the form of two late Neolithic/early Bronze Age Beaker pits, as well as later prehistoric land-use, represented by a Late Iron Age boundary ditch (Atkins 2011). Field walking along the Ely, Apes Hall and Soham Area Bypasses was undertaken in the 1980s by Ely And District Archaeological Society (ECB442). Part of the route ran along the northern boundary of the site. No Prehistoric finds or features were identified in the vicinity of the evaluation area during the fieldwalking.
- 1.3.3 Hall's extensive fieldwalking survey of the Isle of Ely found the main monuments of the prehistoric period to be barrows. The closest possible barrow to the current site is a cropmark site approximately 3km to the south at Wilburton (CHER 05827), while there are further possible examples 5km to the east in Ely (CHER 06136 and 07245). Excavated barrows also exist slightly further away, including well-documented examples approximately 10km south-west of the current site, close to the River Ouse between Earith and Haddenham (Evans and Hodder 2006) and along the fen edge at North Fen, Sutton (Connor 2009), a similar distance to the west-north-west.
- 1.3.4 A possible Iron Age double-ditched enclosure (CHER07155) and an Iron Age settlement (CHER07879), identified through aerial photographs, are both located 1.3km north-east of the site.

Roman

1.3.5 The only evidence of Romano-British activity near the site comprises a large Romano-British pottery scatter, c.1.4km south-east of the site (MCB17276), and excavation at Stirling Way, which revealed Iron Age/Roman settlement evidence, a very Late Iron Age to Roman mortuary enclosure, a Roman cremation and two 2nd century inhumations (Atkins 2011). The field walking along the bypass recovered no Roman artefacts or features.

Saxon and Medieval

1.3.6 There are no records indicating activity on or near the site in either the Saxon or Medieval periods, although the village of Witchford is known from records.

Post-Medieval and Modern

1.3.7 A post-medieval ditch was found during evaluation at 7 Manor Court Road, *c.* 450m south-east of the site (MCB19676 and ECB3719; Phillips 2012). Post-medieval pits, ditches and boundaries were revealed during the fieldwork at Stirling Way (MCB18191 and ECB3008; Atkins 2011). An undated, although probably post-medieval/modern ditch, was found *c.* 1.5km south-east of the site, during evaluation at Lancaster Way Business Park (MCB18484). The current site appears to have remained agricultural land through the post-medieval and modern periods. Maps indicate there have been no changes to the site between 1840 and the present day, apart from the construction of the A142 which forms the northern boundary of the site (Thornton 2014).



1.4 Geophysical Survey

1.4.1 A magnetometry survey of the site was carried out by Museum of London Archaeology in April 2014 (ECB4170; Walford and Dindol 2014). It identified two furlongs of medieval to early post-medieval ride-and-furrow (Fig. 2). One furlong, with furrows aligned north-north-west to south-south-east, occupies the western half of Field B, while the other, with furrows aligned north-east to south-west, is present in Field A and the east of Field B. The headland between these furlongs is apparent as a band of 'empty' data, and survives on the ground as a very low, broad ridge (*ibid*, 2). The survey also identified two potential pits at the southern and western edge of the site.

1.5 Acknowledgements

1.5.1 The author would like to thank CgMs Consulting, who commissioned the archaeological evaluation. The site was excavated by the Lukas Barnes, Alexandra Cameron, Toby Knight, Pat Moan and the author. GPS survey was carried out by Dave Brown. Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team monitored the fieldwork. Illustrations were by Dave Brown and Gillian Greer.



2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

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

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 A total of eighteen trenches were machine excavated (Fig. 3). All trenches measured *c*. 30m long and 2.2m wide with the exception of trench 18, which measured 12.7m long. The trenches were distributed evenly across the subject site; certain trenches were positioned to investigate features identified in the geophysical survey.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360 excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by James Fairbairn and David Brown using a Leica GPS 1200 system.
- 2.2.4 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metaldetected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.6 Only one feature contained deposits that had the potential to provide evidence for micro- and macro-botanical remains. A single environmental sample was collected from this feature and submitted for environmental assessment. It was devoid of plant remains other than modern rootlets and sparse charcoal fragments



3 Results

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The results are discussed in field and trench order and then stratigraphically from the earliest to latest deposit or feature. Trenches and contexts are also summarised in Appendix A.

3.2 Field A

Trench 1

- 3.2.1 Trench 1 was located in the north of Field A (Fig. 3). It measured 30m long, 2.1m wide and had an average depth of 0.6m to the natural clay geology and was devoid of archaeology.
- 3.2.2 Subsoil (2) measured 0.15-0.25m thick and was a light red brown soft clayey silt with occasional small flint and chalk inclusions.
- 3.2.3 Topsoil (1) measured 0.35-0.4m thick and was a mid brown soft clayey silt with occasional small flint inclusions.

Trench 2

- 3.2.4 Trench 2 was located in the east of Field A. It measured 30m long, 2.1m wide and had an average depth of 0.5m to the natural clay geology and was devoid of archaeology.
- 3.2.5 Subsoil (2) measured 0.1-0.15m thick and was sealed by topsoil (1) measuring 0.35-0.4m thick.

- 3.2.6 Trench 3 was located in the south-west of Field A. It measured 30m long, 2.1m wide and had an average depth of 0.5m to the natural clay geology and contained two pits (4 and 6).
- 3.2.7 Pit (4) was 2.3m in length and 1.2m in width and had a maximum depth of 0.42m (Fig. 5, section 1 and Plate 1). It was irregular in plan and had irregular sides and base and contained one fill (5). Fill (5) was a dark brown grey soft silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks, small unworked flints and chalk flecks. Finds comprised Early Iron Age pottery (6 sherds, 28g; see Appendix B.1) and a large assemblage of animal bone (1205g). All the identifiable fragments were cattle and comprised portions of humerus, inominate and tibia, along with a mandible (see Appendix C.2).
- 3.2.8 Pit (6) was 0.75m in length and 0.7m in width and had a maximum depth of 0.17m. It was circular in plan and had concave sides and irregular base and contained one fill (7). Fill (7) was a mid brown grey soft silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and small unworked flint inclusions.
- 3.2.9 Subsoil (2) measured 0.1-0.15m thick and was sealed by topsoil (1), which measured 0.35-0.4m thick.



3.3 Field B

Trench 4

- 3.3.1 Trench 4 was located in the north-east of Field B and was orientated north-north-west to south-south-east. It measured 30m in length with an average depth of 0.35m. The trench contained a narrow linear ditch (10), which was undated, as well as three furrows orientated east-north-east to west-south-west.
- 3.3.2 Ditch **10** was located in the north of the trench, orientated north-east to south-west. It measured 0.7m wide and 0.25m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. No finds were recovered from the single fill.
- 3.3.3 Furrow 8 was located in the south of the trench, measuring 1.2m wide and 0.2m deep with gently sloping sides and a flat base. Its single fill contained two small sherds (5g) of residual Middle Iron Age pottery and a tiny struck flint flake of unknown date.
- 3.3.4 Subsoil (2) measured between 0.1 and 0.12m thick. It was sealed by topsoil (1), measuring between 0.24 and 0.26m thick.

Trench 5

- 3.3.5 Trench 5 was located in the east of Field B and was orientated north to south. It measured 29m in length with an average depth of 0.38m. The trench contained a small tree throw (12).
- 3.3.6 Tree throw **12** was located in the north of the trench and was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.6m wide and 0.3m deep with steep sides and a concave base. Its single fill contained two small sherds (2g) of Early Iron Age pottery and a single struck flint (39g) a blade core of possible Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic date.
- 3.3.7 Subsoil (2) measured between 0.18 and 0.25m thick. It was sealed by topsoil (1), measuring 0.2m thick.

- 3.3.8 Trench 6 was located in the south-east of Field B and was orientated north-north-west to south-south-east. It measured 29m in length with an average depth of 0.45m. The trench contained a small cluster of features in the north end (Fig. 4a and Plate 2) including a large posthole (16), two further postholes disappearing beyond the baulk (18 and 20) and a tree throw (14). All the features contained a similar dark greyish brown fill.
- 3.3.9 Tree throw **14** was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.8m wide and 0.18m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its single fill contained five sherds (14g) of Early Iron Age pottery.
- 3.3.10 Post hole **16** was circular in plan, measuring 0.47m wide and 0.46m deep with near vertical sides and a concave base (Fig. 5, section 5). The single fill contained Early Iron Age pottery (2 sherds, 6g).
- 3.3.11 Features **18** and **20** were only partially visible within the trench and were interpreted as a further two postholes. Posthole **18** measured at least 0.27m wide and 0.45m deep with steep sides and a concave base. Posthole **20** measured at least 0.28m wide and 0.27m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. The only find recovered from either was a single small sherd (1g) of Iron Age pottery from the single fill of posthole **18**.



- 3.3.12 In the south end of the trench the natural geology dropped away and became more gravelly. This natural depression (22) was filled with a mid brownish grey silty clay, presumably the remains of a relic topsoil.
- 3.3.13 Subsoil (2) measured between 0.15 and 0.2m thick. It was sealed by topsoil (1), measuring between 0.25 and 0.3m thick.

- 3.3.14 Trench 7 was located in the east of Field B and was orientated east to west. It measured 29.5m in length with an average depth of 0.38m. The trench contained two furrows orientated east-north-east to west-south-west (33 and 48).
- 3.3.15 Furrows **33** and **48** measured between 1.35 and 2.25m wide and between 0.14 and 0.16m deep with gently sloping sides and a flat base. Both contained single small sherds of medieval Ely ware pottery (AD1150 1350); the sherd from furrow **48** was possibly from a jar.
- 3.3.16 Subsoil (2) measured between 0.15 and 0.17m thick. It was sealed by topsoil (1), measuring between 0.21 and 0.23m thick.

Trench 8

- 3.3.17 Trench 8 was located in the north of Field B and was orientated east-north-east to west-south-west. It measured 30m in length with an average depth of 0.52m. The trench contained a narrow linear ditch (24), which was undated, as well as a tree throw (26). There were also two furrows, one at the east end aligned east-north-east to west-south-west and one at the west end aligned north-north-west to south-south-east.
- 3.3.18 Ditch **24** was located in the east of the trench, orientated north-east to south-west. It measured 0.4m wide and 0.1m deep with steep sides and a concave base. Its single fill contained no finds.
- 3.3.19 Tree throw **26** was located in the west of the trench. It was sub-circular in plan, measuring 1m wide and 0.2m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its single fill contained a single sherd (3g) of pottery, which was not closely datable.
- 3.3.20 Subsoil (2) measured between 0.1 and 0.12m thick. It was sealed by topsoil (1), measuring between 0.37 and 0.46m thick.

- 3.3.21 Trench 9 was located in the centre of Field B and was orientated north-north-west to south-south-east. It was deliberately aligned on a low but extant headland between two fields of ridge and furrow (see geophysics plot in Fig. 2). It measured 29.5m in length with an average depth of 0.49m. The trench contained part of a small cemetery in the southern half of the trench (Fig. 4b), along with a posthole (43) and a furrow (45).
- 3.3.22 The burials appeared to truncate a layer of reddish brown silty clay (52), measuring 0.1m thick. This extended into trench 18 also and was interpreted as a relic subsoil (Fig. 5, section 22 and Plate 5).
- 3.3.23 In trench 9 there were a minimum of five cremation burials (marked in yellow in Fig. 4b) and one inhumation burial, all within an area measuring 3.5m north to south. A small sub-circular feature at the junction of trenches 9 and 18 (marked in red in Fig. 4b) may also have been a cremation although fragments of burnt bone were not visible on the surface. A further five cremation burials were identified in trench 18 (see 3.3.49 50). The cremations measured between 0.25 and 0.5m in diameter; they appeared to be unurned and no finds were recovered from the surface of any them. The inhumation was



- within a grave orientated roughly east to west with the skull identified at the eastern end. All burials were unexcavated and were re-buried with a covering of black plastic bags, followed by subsoil and further black plastic bags.
- 3.3.24 Posthole **43** was located directly to the north of the cremations. It was circular in plan, measuring 0.26m in diameter and 0.16m deep with steep sides and a concave base. No finds were recovered from its single fill.
- 3.3.25 Furrow **45** was orientated north-north-west to south-south-east and was only present in the south of the trench. It measured 1.1m wide and 0.04m deep with an almost imperceptible concave profile.
- 3.3.26 Subsoil (2) measured between 0.2 and 0.28m thick. It was sealed by topsoil (1), measuring between 0.22 and 0.26m thick.

- 3.3.27 Trench 10 was located in the south of Field B and was orientated north to south. It measured 29.5m in length with an average depth of 0.5m. The trench contained two narrow linear ditches (37 and 39). The ditches truncated a layer (41), which sat in a natural depression. The base of the hollow was gravelly, as if formed by a shallow channel. A single partial cattle humerus (142g) was recovered from the very base of layer (41), along with a small sherd of pottery (2g), which was not closely datable.
- 3.3.28 Ditch **37** was located in the north of the trench, orientated north-east to south-west. It measured 0.4m wide and 0.1m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. No finds were recovered from its single fill.
- 3.3.29 Ditch **39** extended roughly perpendicular to ditch **37**, aligned north-west to south-east. It measured 0.35m wide and 0.1m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. No finds were recovered from its single fill.
- 3.3.30 Subsoil (2) measured between 0.2 and 0.3m thick. It was sealed by topsoil (1), measuring between 0.2 and 0.4m thick.

Trench 11

- 3.3.31 Trench 11 was located in the north of Field B and was orientated east-south-east to west-north-west. It measured 29.5m in length with an average depth of 0.49m. The trench contained no archaeological features.
- 3.3.32 Subsoil (2) measured between 0.16 and 0.26m thick. It was sealed by topsoil (1), measuring between 0.28 and 0.36m thick.

- 3.3.33 Trench 12 was located in the west of Field B and was orientated north-east to southwest. It measured 30m in length with an average depth of 0.45m. The trench contained a large natural hollow (28 and 31) and three furrows orientated north-north-west to south-south-east.
- 3.3.34 Hollow **28=31** was located in the south-western end of the trench. It measured 10.5m wide and 0.4m deep with gently sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 5, section 13). Its single fill contained six sherds (44g) of Early and Middle Iron Age pottery.
- 3.3.35 Subsoil (2) measured between 0.1 and 0.2m thick. It was sealed by topsoil (1), measuring between 0.25 and 0.4m thick.



- 3.3.36 Trench 13 was located in the south of Field B and was orientated north-west to south-east. It measured 30m in length with an average depth of 0.49m. The trench was positioned to investigate a feature at the south-east end, described in the geophysical survey as an 'Unidentified linear' anomaly. However, the feature was not present in the base of the trench; in fact no archaeological features were present in trench 13.
- 3.3.37 Subsoil (2) measured between 0.2 and 0.22m thick. It was sealed by topsoil (1), measuring between 0.25 and 0.3m thick.

Trench 14

- 3.3.38 Trench 14 was located in the north of Field B and was orientated east-north-east to west-south-west. It measured 29.5m in length with an average depth of 0.42m. The trench contained no archaeological features.
- 3.3.39 Subsoil (2) measured between 0.16 and 0.2m thick. It was sealed by topsoil (1), measuring between 0.2 and 0.26m thick.

Trench 15

- 3.3.40 Trench 15 was located in the west of Field B and was orientated east-north-east to west-south-west. It measured 29.6m in length with an average depth of 0.5m. The trench contained two furrows orientated north-north-west to south-south-east, one of which was excavated.
- 3.3.41 Furrow **50** was located in the east of the trench, measuring 2m wide and 0.21m deep with gently sloping sides and a flat base. No finds were recovered from its single fill.
- 3.3.42 Subsoil (2) measured between 0.19 and 0.23m thick. It was sealed by topsoil (1), measuring between 0.26 and 0.37m thick.

Trench 16

- 3.3.43 Trench 16 was located in the south-west of Field B and was orientated north-west to south-east. It measured 29.4m in length with an average depth of 0.45m. The trench contained no archaeological features.
- 3.3.44 Subsoil (2) measured between 0.16 and 0.2m thick. It was sealed by topsoil (1), measuring between 0.24 and 0.3m thick.

- 3.3.45 Trench 17 was located in the west of Field B and was orientated north-north-west to south-south-east. It measured 30m in length with an average depth of 0.5m. The trench contained a natural hollow (35) and an undated linear ditch (46), both of which were truncated by a modern drain extending along the whole of the trench.
- 3.3.46 Hollow **35** was in the centre of the trench, measuring 8.5m wide and 0.6m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a greyish brown silty clay fill, which was almost alluvial in appearance. No finds were recovered.
- 3.3.47 Linear ditch **46** was located in the south of the trench and was orientated north-west to south-east. It measured 1m wide and 0.44m deep with steep sides and a concave base. Its single fill contained no finds.
- 3.3.48 Subsoil (2) measured between 0.1 and 0.2m thick. It was sealed by topsoil (1), measuring between 0.25 and 0.33m thick.



- 3.3.49 Trench 18 was located in the centre of Field B and was orientated east-north-east to west-south-west. It measured 12.7m in length with an average depth of 0.41m The trench was excavated as an additional trench to determine the extent of the small cemetery encountered in trench 9. A further five cremation burials were identified, along with a furrow in the eastern end of the trench, which was orientated east-north-east to west-south-west.
- 3.3.50 The five cremation burials were identified at the western end of trench 18, extending over an area of 4.5m from west to east (Fig. 5). The cremations measured between 0.25 and 0.5m in diameter; as in trench 9 they appeared to be un-urned and no finds were recovered from the surface of any them. All burials were unexcavated and were re-buried with a covering of black plastic bags, followed by subsoil and further black plastic bags.
- 3.3.51 Subsoil (2) measured between 0.1 and 0.18m thick. It was sealed by topsoil (1), measuring between 0.25 and 0.3m thick.

3.4 Finds Summary

3.4.1 Very few finds were recovered during the evaluation. Pottery totalled 29 sherds (108g). With the exception of two small sherds of medieval pottery the assemblage dated to the Iron Age (27 sherds, 105g), with the majority dating to the Early Iron Age (see Appendix B.1). The only other finds recovered were two struck flints, an undated small flake from furrow 8 and a blade core of possible Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic date from tree throw 12.

3.5 Environmental Summary

- 3.5.1 Only one feature contained deposits that had the potential to provide evidence for micro- and macro-botanical remains. The single bulk soil sample from fill 17 in posthole **16** (trench 6), was processed and assessed to determine the quality of preservation of plant remains. The sample was devoid of plant remains other than modern rootlets and sparse charcoal fragments (see Appendix C.1).
- 3.5.2 A total of 1367g of animal bone was recovered from the evaluation (see Appendix C.2). Twenty three fragments were recovered, of which five were identifiable to species. Contexts 13 & 19 contained no identifiable fragments. Fill 5 in pit 4 (trench 3) contained portions of cattle humerus, inominate and tibia, along with a mandible from an animal around 4 years of age at death. A single partial cattle humerus was recovered from layer (41) (trench 10).



4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The evaluation identified two discrete areas of archaeological interest; a cemetery in trenches 9 and 18 and a group of Early Iron Age features in trench 6. Otherwise features and finds were scarce, limited to undated narrow boundary ditches in trenches 4, 8, 10 and 17 and occasional sherds of Early and Middle Iron Age pottery, recovered from a pit in trench 3, from tree throws in trenches 5 and 8 and from a large natural hollow in trench 12. The medieval ridge and furrow identified during the evaluation correlated with the layout established by the geophysical survey. The main findings are discussed below.

4.2 The cemetery in trenches 9 and 18

- 4.2.1 The cemetery identified in trenches 9 and 18 comprised of possibly eleven cremations and one inhumation burial (see Fig. 4b). The identification of the cremations (marked in yellow in Fig. 4b) was based on the presence of burnt bone on the surface. The inhumation was orientated roughly east to west and was identified by the presence of a human skull towards the eastern end of the grave cut. The western end of the grave cut was difficult to identify, possibly because it had been backfilled with re-deposited natural from the excavation of the grave. In total, the burials extended over an area *c*. 6.5m east to west and approximately 3.5m north to south.
- 4.2.2 The burials are clearly concentrated in a relatively small, tight, group. It is likely that the eastern and western extents of the burials have been located during the trial trenching, however, there may be further burials beyond the limits of evaluation trenches.
- 4.2.3 A date was not established for any of the burials during the evaluation, but the apparent lack of associated finds would make a date some time in the later prehistoric period most likely and there is no reason why the cemetery could not be broadly contemporary with the small number of Early Iron Age features in the field.

4.3 Early – Middle Iron Age activity

- 4.3.1 There was limited evidence of Early Middle Iron Age activity across the site, principally in trench 6 but also within discrete features in trenches 3, 8 and 12, suggesting that a more tangible Iron Age presence exists locally.
- 4.3.2 The small group of features in trench 6 represents Early Iron Age activity on a limited scale. The large posthole (16) along with two further, possible postholes (18 and 20) provide evidence of a structure in this location. The paucity of finds suggest this was not a domestic structure and the lack of associated features in the surrounding trenches indicate the activity was very localised. Trench 6 was located in the lowest part of the site and the geology in the south of the trench contained a lot more gravel than anywhere else on site. If there was once a shallow channel here or if the water table is closer to the surface then the group of features may relate directly to water procurement or an activity which requires the use of water.
- 4.3.3 Early Middle Iron Age pottery was also recovered from a pit in trench 3, from tree throws in trenches 5 and 8 and from a large natural hollow in trench 12. In total the assemblage is not large but these are all discrete features in a limited trench survey.



APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1							
General de	escription	Orienta	ition	E-W			
			Avg. de	epth (m)	0.6		
Trench dev		of topsoil and subsoil overlying a	Width (m)		2.10		
natarar or c	nay.		Length (m)		30.0		
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	da	ate
1	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-		-
2	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-		-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-		-

Trench 2							
General de	escription				Orienta	ition	N-S
				Avg. de	epth (m)	0.50	
Trench dev		naeology.	Consists o	f soil and subsoil overlying a	Width (m)		2.10
riatarar or c	παy.				Length (m)		30.0
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	da	ate
1	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-		-
2	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-		-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-		-

Trench 3						
General de	escription			Orientation	N-S	
				Avg. depth (m) 0.5	
Trench con natural clay		s (4) and (by subsoil (2) and cut into	Width (m)	2.10	
riatarar ola	,.			Length (m)	30.0	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
4	Cut	1.2	0.42	Cut of pit?	-	Early Iron Age
5	Fill	1.2	0.42	Fill of pit 4, dark brownish grey	Pot and	Early Iron Age



				silty clay	bone	
6	Cut	0.75	0.17	Cut of pit	-	Iron Age?
7	Fill	0.75	0.17	Fill of pit 6 , mid brownish grey silty clay	-	Iron Age?

Trench 4							
General de	escription	Orienta	ition	NNW-SSE			
		Avg. de	epth (m)	0.35			
				(10) orientated NE-SW, which ows orientated ENE-WSW.	Width (m)	2.1
was anaate	o. There v	vere also	unce iune	one mateur Live-vvovv.	Length	(m)	30
Contexts							•
context	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	da	ate
1	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-		-
2	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-		-
8	Cut	1.2	0.1	Furrow	-		-
9	Fill	-	-	Fill of furrow 8, dark greyish brown silty clay	Pot, flint		-
10	Cut	0.7	0.25	Ditch	-		-
11	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch 10 , dark greyish brown silty clay	-		-

Trench 5							
General d	escription	l			Orienta	tion	N-S
					Avg. de	pth (m)	0.38
The only feature was a small tree throw (12) in the north of the trench. It contained small fragments of animal bone, pottery and struck flint Width (m)							2.1
oontained .	oman magi	Length	(m)	29			
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	(date
1	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-		-
2	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-		-
12	Cut	0.6	0.3	Tree throw	-		-
13	Fill	-	-	Fill of tree throw 12, mid greyish brown silty clay	Pot, flint		-



Trench 6						
General de	escription				Orientation	NNW-SSE
Trench 6 co		Avg. depth (m	0.45			
(16), two fu		Width (m)	2.1			
14 , 16 and		. A ICW 3II	CIGS OF LC	arly Iron Age pot recovered from	Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
14	Cut	0.8	0.18	Tree throw	-	Early Iron Age
15	Fill	-	-	Fill of tree throw 14 , mid brownish grey silty clay	Pot	Early Iron Age
16	Cut	0.47	0.46	Post hole	-	Early Iron Age
17	Fill	-	-	Fill of posthole 16 , dark greyish brown silty clay	Pot	Early Iron Age
18	Cut	0.27	0.45	Post hole	-	Early Iron Age
19	Fill	-	-	Fill of posthole 18 , dark brownish grey silty clay	Pot, animal bone	Early Iron Age
20	Cut	0.28	0.27	Pit	-	-
21	Fill	-	-	Fill of pit 20 , mid greyish brown silty clay	-	-
22	Cut	1.97	0.16	Natural hollow	-	-
23	Fill	-	-	Natural hollow, fill of 22 , mid brownish grey silty clay	-	-

Trench 7								
General de	escription		Orienta	ition	E-W			
			Avg. de	epth (m)	0.38			
Trench 7 co	ontained tv	vo furrows	orientate	d ENE-WSW (33 and 48).	Width (m)	2.1	
					Length	(m)	29.5	
Contexts	Contexts							
context	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	da	ate	
1	Layer	-	0.23	Topsoil	-		-	
2	Layer	-	0.17	Subsoil	-		-	
33	Cut	1.35	0.14	Furrow	-		-	
34	Fill	-	-	Fill of furrow 33, mid greyish brown silty clay	Pot	med	dieval	
48	Cut	2.25	0.14	Furrow	-		-	
49	Fill	-	-	Fill of furrow 48, mid greyish	Pot	med	dieval	



,				
			brown silty clay	
			DIOWIT SILLY SILLY	

Trench 8									
General de	scription				Orienta	ition	ENE-WSW		
			(24) orientated NE-SW, which	Avg. de	0.52				
), which contained a single rows, one at the east end	Width (m)	2.1		
				end aligned NNW-SSE.	Length	(m)	30		
Contexts									
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	da	ate		
1	Layer	-	0.46	Topsoil	-		-		
2	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-		-		
24	Cut	0.4	0.1	Ditch	-		-		
25	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch 24 , dark brownish grey silty clay	-		-		
26	Cut	1	0.2	Tree throw	-		-		
27	Fill	-	-	Fill of tree throw 26 , dark brownish grey silty clay	Pot	Not close	ly datable		

Trench 9							
General de	escription				Orienta	ition	NNW-SSE
			un-urned cremation burials and	Avg. de	epth (m)	0.49	
		•		e southern half of the trench. All (43) and a furrow (45) were	Width (m)	2.1
also identifi		oa vatoa. 7	1,000,1010	(10) and a farrow (10) word	Length	(m)	29.5
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	da	ate
1	Layer	-	0.26	Topsoil	-		-
2	Layer	-	0.28	Subsoil	-		-
42	Fill	-	-	Fill of posthole 43 , mid greyish brown silty clay	-		-
43	Cut	0.26	0.16	Posthole	-		-
44	Fill	-	-	Fill of furrow 45 , mid brown silty clay	-		-
45	Cut	1.1	0.04	Furrow	-		-



Trench 10)						
General d	lescription	1			Orientation	า	N-S
				ditches, one orientated NE-SW	Avg. depth	(m)	0.5
				oth ditches were undated. The tin a natural depression. The	Width (m)		2.1
base of the fragments	e hollow wa	as gravelly oone and	, as if for	med by a shallow channel. Two d of pottery were recovered from	Length (m)	29.5
Contexts							1
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds		date
1	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-		-
2	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-		-
37	Cut	0.4	0.1	Ditch	-		-
38	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch 37, mid brownish grey sandy silt	-		-
39	Cut	0.35	0.1	Ditch	-		-
40	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch 39 , mid brownish grey sandy silt	-		-
41	Layer	-	0.2	Sitting in natural depression	Pot, bone	Not clo	sely datable
Trench 11							
General d	lescription	<u> </u>			Orientation	1	ESE-WNW
					Avg. depth	(m)	0.49
Trench 11	contained	no archae	eological 1	features.	Width (m)		2.1

Trench 11							
General d	escription			Orienta	ition	ESE-WNW	
		Avg. de	Avg. depth (m)				
Trench 11	contained i	Width ((m)	2.1			
					Length (m)		29.5
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	comment	finds	da	ate	
1	Layer	-	-		-		
2	Layer	-	Subsoil	-		-	

Trench 12							
General de	scription				Orienta	ition	NE-SW
Trench 12 d	contained a	a large na	w (28 and 31), the fill of which	Avg. de	0.45		
contained s	ix sherds	of Early a	Iron Age pottery. There were	Width (m) 2.1		2.1	
also three f	urrows ori	entated N		Length (m) 30		30	
Contexts							
context no	type	comment	finds	d	ate		
1	Layer	-	-		-		
2	Layer	-	Subsoil	-		-	



28	Cut	10.5	0.4	Natural hollow	-	-
29	Fill	-	0.1	Fill of natural hollow 28 , mid blueish grey clay	-	-
30	Fill	-	0.35	Fill of natural hollow 28, mid yellowish brown silty clay	Pot	Early Iron Age
31	Cut	1.25	0.2	Natural hollow	-	-
32	Fill	-	-	Fill of natural hollow 31 , mid yellowish brown silty clay	-	-

Trench 13							
General d	escription		Orienta	ation	NW-SE		
			Avg. de	Avg. depth (m) 0.49			
Trench 13	contained	no archae	Width	Width (m)			
					Length	Length (m) 30	
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	da	ate
1	Layer	-	-		-		
2	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-		-

Trench 14	Trench 14												
General d	escription				Orient	Orientation EN							
			Avg. d	Avg. depth (m) 0.									
Trench 14	contained	no archae	Width	Width (m)									
					Lengti	Length (m)							
Contexts					·								
context no	type	Width (m)	finds	d	ate								
1	Layer	-	0.23	-		-							
2	Layer	-	0.2	-		-							

Trench 15	;						
General d	escription			Orienta	ENE-WSW		
		_	Avg. de	epth (m)	0.5		
Trench 15 was excav		two furrov	ed NNW-SSE, one of which	Width (m) 2.1		2.1	
was exeav	atea (00).				Length (m) 29.6		29.6
Contexts							'
context no	type	Width (m)	comment	finds		date	
1	Layer	-			-		
2	Layer	-	-		-		



50	Cut	2	0.21	Furrow	-	-
51	Fill	-	-	Fill of furrow 50 , mid yellowish brown sandy clay	-	-

Trench 16								
General de	escription				Orienta	Orientation NW-		
			Avg. de	Avg. depth (m) 0.4				
Trench 16	contained	no archae	Width	Width (m)				
					Length	Length (m)		
Contexts								
context no	type	Width (m)	finds	d	ate			
1	Layer	-	-		-			
2	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil	-		-	

Trench 17								
General d	escription				Orienta	ition	NNW-SSE	
					Avg. depth (m) 0.5			
Trench 17 (46), orient) and an undated linear ditch	Width (m)	2.1		
(40), onem		west to s	outii cust.		Length	(m)	30	
Contexts								
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	da	ate	
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-		-	
2	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-		-	
35	Cut	8.5	0.6	Natural hollow	-		-	
36	Fill	-	-	Fill of natural hollow 35 , light yellowish brown silty clay	-		-	
46	Cut	1	0.44	Ditch	_		-	
47	Fill	-	-	Fill of ditch 46 , light brownish grey silty clay	-		-	



Trench 18										
General de	escription	Orienta	ition	ENE-WSW						
Trench 18		Avg. de	0.41							
cremation I burials wer		Width (m)		2.1						
		rientated ENE-WSW.	Length (m) 12		12.7					
Contexts	Contexts									
context no	type	Width (m) Depth comment finds date								
1 Layer - 0.28 Topsoil						-				
2	Layer - 0.14 Subsoil						-			
52	Layer	-	0.1	Relic subsoil? Mid reddish brown silty clay	-		-			

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APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Carole Fletcher and Sarah Percival

Introduction and methodology

B.1.1 A small assemblage of pottery totalling 29 sherds (108g) was recovered during the evaluation (Table 1). With the exception of two small sherds of medieval pottery the assemblage dated to the Iron Age (27 sherds, 105g), with the majority dating to the Early Iron Age.

Context	Cut	Trench	No of sherds	Weight (g)	Date	Comments
5	4	3	7	28	Early Iron Age	Flint tempered
9	8	4	2	5	Middle Iron Age	Sandy fabric
13	12	5	2	2	Early Iron Age	
15	14	6	5	14	Early Iron Age	Flint tempered
17	16	6	2	6	Early Iron Age	Flint tempered
19	18	6	1	1	Iron Age	
27	26	8	1	3	Not closely datable	
30	28	12	6	44	Mixed Early and Middle Iron Age	Some flint tempered
34	33	7	1	1	Medieval, Ely ware	
41	-	10	1	2	Not closely datable	
49	48	7	1	2	Medieval, Ely ware	

Table 1: Summary of pottery

- B.1.2 The Iron Age pottery comprised mainly flint tempered Early Iron Age wares. Pit 4 (fill 5) in trench 3 contained 7 sherds (28g) including the pinched base from a flint tempered jar and a fragment from a small cup with fine flint tempering. Two residual sherds of Middle Iron Age pottery (5g) were recovered from furrow 8 in trench 4, while a mixed assemblage of Early and Middle Iron Age pottery (6 sherds, 44g) came from natural hollow 28 (fill 30) in trench 12.
- B.1.3 The medieval pottery comprised two small abraded sherds of Ely ware (AD 1150 1350) from furrows **33** and **48** in trench 7. The largest sherd, from furrow **48**, was probably a jar fragment.



APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

C.1.1 Only one feature contained deposits that had the potential to provide evidence for micro- and macro-botanical remains. The single bulk soil sample from fill 17 in posthole 16 (trench 6), was processed and assessed to determine the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. The feature is thought to date to the Early Iron Age.

Methodology

C.1.2 The total volume (eighteen 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 0.3mm 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 flot was subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60.

Results

C.1.3 The sample was devoid of plant remains other than modern rootlets and sparse charcoal fragments indicating that the feature had not been used for the disposal of food remains neither had charred material accumulated in the feature as so often happens with post holes in a domestic dwelling.



C.2 Faunal Remains

By Chris Faine

C.2.1 A total of 1367g of animal bone was recovered from the evaluation. Twenty three fragments were recovered, of which five were identifiable to species. Contexts 13 & 19 contained no identifiable fragments. Context 5 contained portions of cattle humerus, inominate and tibia, along with a mandible from an animal around 4 years of age at death. A single partial cattle humerus was recovered from context 41. All elements were from adult animals and no evidence of butchery was observed.

Context	Cut	Trench	Weight (g)
5	4	3	1205
13	12	6	19
19	18	6	1
41	-	10	142

Table 2: Animal bone quantification



APPENDIX D. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project De	etails										
OASIS Number oxfordar3-19			ar3-192638	-192638							
Project Name Evaluation at			tion at Field	Field End, Witchford, Cambridgeshire							
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start				18-08-2014 Finish			02-	02-10-2014			
Previous Work (by OA East)			No Future V			Wo	/ork _{Unknown}				
Project Reference Codes											
Site Code	WFDFEN14			Planning App. No.				n/a			
HER No.	ECB 4252			Related HER/OASIS No			lo.	ECB4170 (Geophys survey)			
Type of Proj	ect/Tec	hniqı	ues Use	d							
Prompt				n Local Planning Authority - PPS 5							
Developmen	t Type	Ru	ral Resider	ntial							
Please sele	ect all t	tech	niques	used:							
☐ Aerial Photo	ography - i	nterpre	etation	☐ Grab-Sa	mpling] Rem	ote Operated Vehicle Survey	
Aerial Photo	ography - r	new		☐ Gravity-Core			Sam] Sam	mple Trenches	
Annotated S	Sketch			Laser Scanning				☐ Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure			
☐ Augering				☐ Measured Survey			×	▼ Targeted Trenches			
☐ Dendrochro	nological	Survey	,	Metal Detectors				Test Pits			
☐ Documentar	ry Search			☐ Phosphate Survey				☐ Topographic Survey			
Environmen	ıtal Sampli	ing		☐ Photogrammetric Survey				☐ Vibro-core			
☐ Fieldwalking	9			☐ Photogra	еу	ey 🔲 Vis] Visua	al Inspection (Initial Site Visit)		
☐ Geophysica	l Survey			Rectified	Rectified Photography						
Monument List feature type Thesaurus	es using th	ne NN	IR Mon	ument Type	e Thesa	aurus ar				ng the MDA Object type "none".	
Monument			Period		Object				Period		
Cemetery			Uncerta	n		Pottery			Iron Age -800 to 43		
Posthole			Iron Age	e -800 to 43		Animal bone			Uncertain		
Furrow			I 1066 to 1540						Select period		
Project Lo	ocatio	n									
County Cambridgeshire					Site Ad	ldress (in	s (including postcode if possible)				
District East Cambs				Field End, Witchford							
Parish Witchford											
HER	Cambric	dgeshir	re .								
Study Area	udy Area 5.1 ha				National Grid Reference TL 498 791						



Project Originators

Project Origin	141070									
Organisation		OA EAST								
Project Brief Originator		Cambs. County Council Historic Environment Team								
Project Design Originator		Rob Wiseman								
Project Manager		Aileen Co	Aileen Connor							
Supervisor	Supervisor			Tom Phillips						
Project Archiv	/es									
Physical Archive			Digital Archive			Paper Archive				
Deepstore			OA East	OA East			Deepstore			
WFDFEN 14			WFDFEN 14			WFDFEN 14				
Archive Content	s/Media									
	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents		Digital Me	dia	Paper Media			
Animal Bones	×				☐ Database		Aerial Photos			
Ceramics	×				☐ GIS ※ Geophysics ※ Images ☐ Illustrations ☐ Moving Image ☐ Spreadsheets		▼ Context Sheet			
Environmental							▼ Correspondence			
Glass							Diary			
Human Bones							▼ Drawing			
Industrial							Manuscript			
Leather							□ Мар			
Metal					Survey		Matrices			
Stratigraphic					☐ Text		Microfilm			
Survey					☐ Virtual Re	ality	☐ Misc.			
Textiles							Research/Notes			
Wood							Photos			
Worked Bone	ked Bone					X Plans				
Worked Stone/Lithic	×						▼ Report			
None							▼ Sections			
Other							Survey			
Notes:										

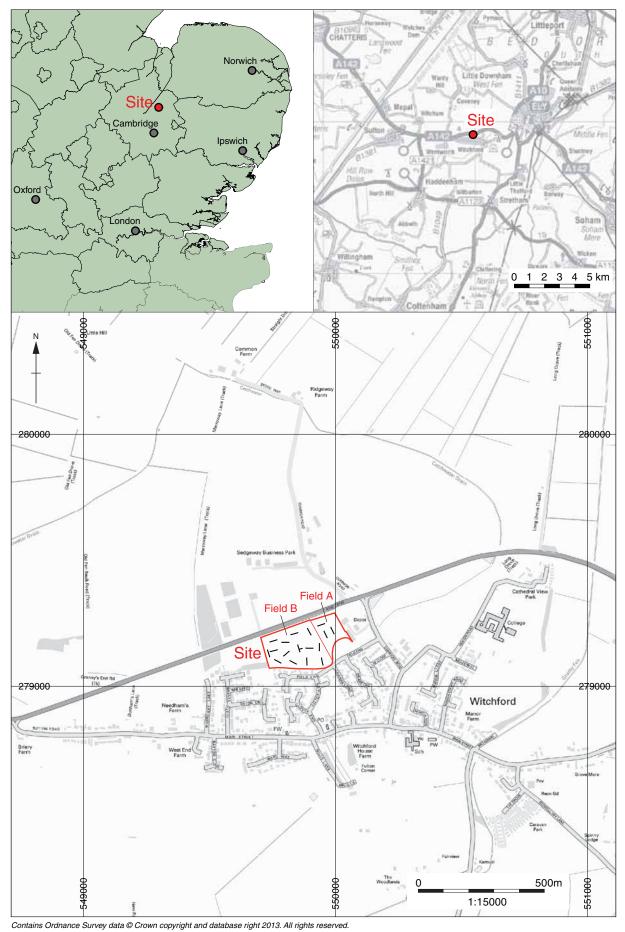


Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red).





Figure 2: Geophysical survey results with evaluation trenches superimposed (Museum of London Archaeology)



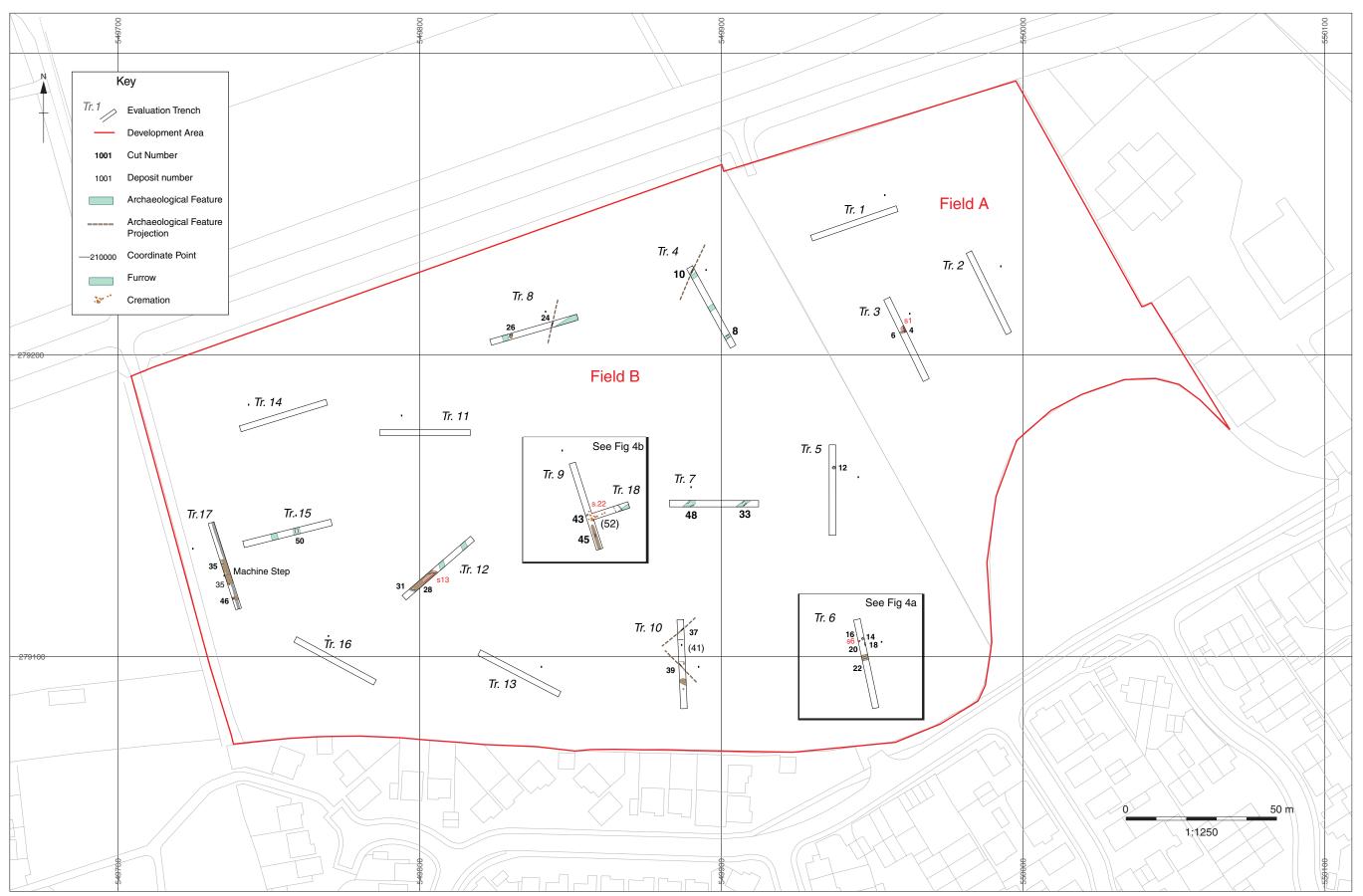


Figure 3: Plan of trenches. Scale 1:1250

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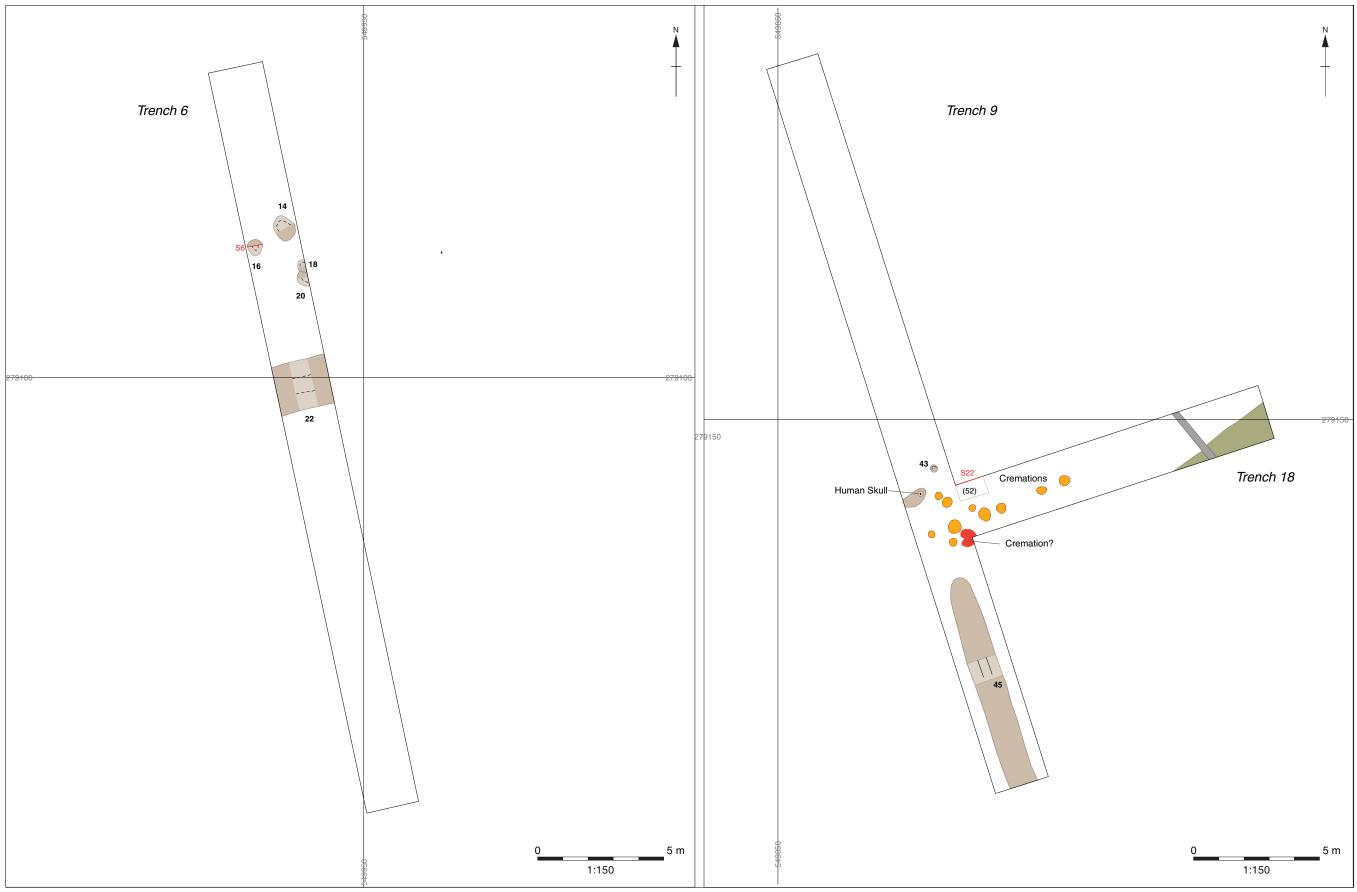


Figure 4: Detail of features in trench 6 and in trenches 9 and 18. Scale 1:150

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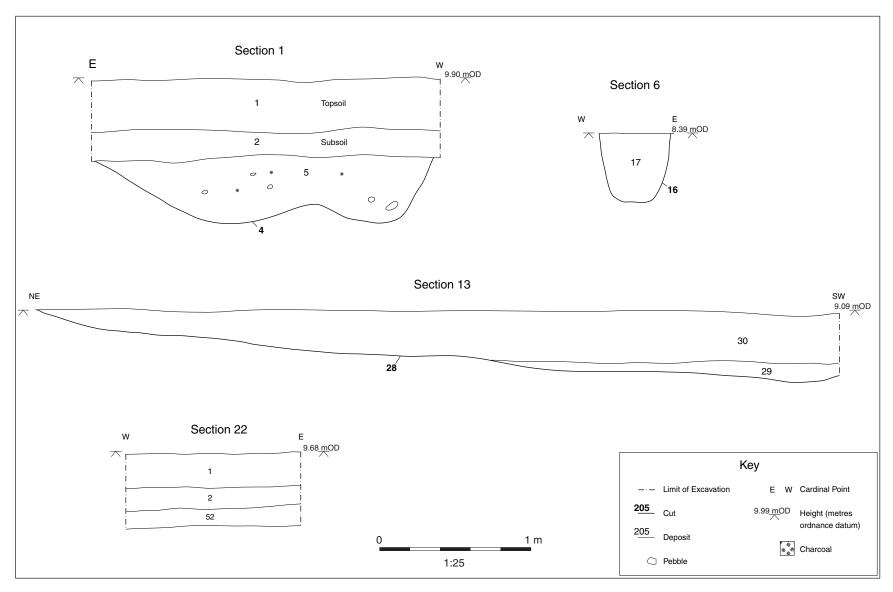


Figure 5: Selected section drawings





Plate 1: Pits 4 and 6 in trench 3, looking east. 1m scale





Plate 2: Trench 6 looking south. 1m scale





Plate 3: Group of cremations in trench 9 looking east. 1m scale



Plate 4: Cremations in trench 18, looking east. Cremations in trench 9 can be seen covered in the foreground





Plate 5: Test pit through layer (52) in trench 18. 1m scale



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