

Land at Bartlow Road Linton, Cambridgeshire



Archaeological Evaluation Report



February 2015

Client: Bidwells

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Land at Bartlow Road, Linton, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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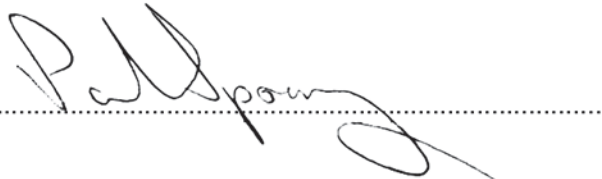
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Summary

Between 27th November and 12th December 2014, Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) carried out an archaeological evaluation on Land at Bartlow Road, Linton, Cambridgeshire. Twenty-one evaluation trenches were excavated across the site, which encompassed two fields (c.4.5ha) located on the eastern edge of the village of Linton.

A detailed magnetometer survey of the site was carried out by Bartlett-Clark Consultancy in advance of the evaluation. This survey was found to provide an accurate prediction of the below ground features that were subsequently encountered on site during the evaluation. Interpretation of these features has been refined and altered by the results of the targeted evaluation trenches. Few features of archaeological origin were identified in the northern field. The linear and discrete archaeological anomalies in the southern field were found to be ditched boundaries and pits/quarries of mostly medieval origin, possibly associated with a former trackway that once linked the villages of Bartlow and Linton.

Of particular note was the discovery of an Early Saxon sunken floored building with other possibly associated features, including a pit and postholes, that were revealed in the north-west part of the southern field close to Bartlow Road.

A moderate finds assemblage, including Saxon and medieval pottery, animal bone, CBM and quernstone fragments was recovered, while environmental samples indicate that there is excellent potential for the recovery of charred and mineralised plant and insect remains from Saxon and medieval deposits.

Despite the proximity of Linton Roman villa and walled cemetery to the south and a Saxon inhumation cemetery to the north, the evaluation of the site has indicated that no archaeological features directly relating to these monuments are present on this site. However, a background scatter of ceramic building material of Roman date was found across the southern field that probably derived from the villa. The flint assemblage provides further evidence of activity along the River Granta in the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic periods.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted by Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) at Land at Bartlow Road, to the east of Linton, Cambridgeshire (TL 57242 46443; Fig. 1). A desk-based assessment and subsequent geophysical survey undertaken prior to the evaluation indicated a high archaeological potential for the site.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) (Gdaniec 2014). This was issued in response to a pre-application from Bidwells. CCC HET requested that the results of an archaeological evaluation (by trenching) be submitted with the planning application so that an informed and reasonable planning decision can be taken when the results of the evaluation have been considered (CCC HET ref.: ECB4331). The Brief was supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (Spoerry 2014).
- 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 site comprises two fields, one on either side of Bartlow Road on the eastern edge of the village of Linton (Fig. 1). The field to the south is an arable field sloping down from the road towards the south-west and the River Granta (from approximately 50m to 40mOD). The northern field comprises a flat grassy un-tilled plot of land lying at approximately 51mOD. In total the proposed development area comprises 4.5ha.
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology of the proposed development site comprises New Pit Chalk Formation - Chalk Bedrock. Superficial deposits are present in the lower level of the southern field towards the River Granta and below the 45m contour line. These are described as River Terrace Deposits – Sand and Gravel underlying Alluvium: clay, silt, sand and gravel (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>, accessed 7th January 2015).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 A desk-based assessment of the site, including a study of aerial photographs, was carried out by OA East in October 2014 (Gilmour 2014), which details the archaeological potential of the site and should be referred to for the full background. The main results of this report are summarised below.
- 1.3.2 The proposed development area is considered to have a high potential for archaeological remains of prehistoric, Roman and Saxon date, while medieval remains may also be encountered. The site is located adjacent to the River Granta, in an area favoured for prehistoric occupation. Part of a walled Roman cemetery has been excavated within the study area (CHER 06198), which was associated with Linton

Roman Villa, located to the south of the site (CHER 09841). A possible Anglo-Saxon cemetery was also recorded immediately adjacent to the proposed development area during construction of housing (MCB16249). In addition, the deserted medieval village and priory of Barham is located c.300m to the south of the site (CHER08091).

1.3.3 The degree of survival of archaeological remains is hard to gauge with certainty. However, it is known that excavations in the 19th and early 20th century have removed some of the archaeology. In addition, much of the site is ploughed and this will have further truncated any buried features.

1.3.4 A reinterpretation of aerial photographs of the site has shown a probable trackway crossing it. This trackway may be of medieval or later date and may have linked the villages of Great Linton and Barham. Field divisions were also noted during the aerial photographic survey, which are believed to be of post-medieval date.

1.4 Magnetometer Survey

1.4.1 A detailed magnetometer survey of the site was carried out by Bartlett-Clark Consultancy for OA East in November 2014, which identified linear and discrete anomalies across the site (Fig. 2; Appendix F), including a buried service in the northern field. Other buried cables were subsequently identified along the western part of the southern field that were not mapped or shown on the geophysical survey.

1.4.2 The potential archaeological anomalies identified included a series of parallel linear features in the eastern part of the southern field that may relate to the medieval trackway identified in the desk study (Gilmour 2014). Two parallel linear anomalies identified in the north-western part of the southern field are possibly a continuation of this trackway. Two enclosures were also identified in the southern field. Many discrete strong and weak anomalies were identified across the site and these have been interpreted as geological in origin. Two discrete anomalies in the northern field were described as possibly archaeological in origin.

1.5 Metal Detecting Survey

1.5.1 A metal detecting survey of the site was carried out by Steve Critchley with OA East on the 13th November 2014. The survey was conducted with knowledge of, and with reference to, the results of the magnetometer survey – both in terms of anomalies of potential archaeological origin and any 'metal spike' anomalies. Metal finds were retrieved from topsoil layers, but left *in situ* if they appeared to be within archaeological features. All find locations were digitally recorded with a GPS.

1.5.2 It was not possible to metal detect the northern grassy field due to the thickness of the overlying vegetation and turf. The small number of metallic items identified consisted of modern metallic rubbish.

1.5.3 The area around the entrance to the southern field was strewn with modern metallic rubbish. The remainder of the field was found to be devoid of metallic artefacts. This led to the conclusion that this field has been previously well-searched with metal detectors over a long period of time, thus effectively removing any metal objects from the topsoil.

1.6 Acknowledgements

1.6.1 The author would like to thank Bidwells who commissioned the work. The author directed the investigation and would also like to thank Nick Cox, Adele Lord, Robin Webb and Rebecca Pridmore who assisted in the excavation of the site. Paul Sperry managed the project for OA East. Thanks should also be extended to Kasia Gdaniec of

Cambridgeshire County Council who monitored the works. The various specialists and illustrators are also thanked, as is Dave Brown for undertaking the site survey.

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.

Specific Objectives were to identify:

- Evidence for the presence of Roman remains in the field to the south of Bartlow Road contemporary with the high status Roman villa site (CHER 09841a) immediately to the south of the River Granta.
- Evidence for the presence of Saxon inhumations in the field to the north of Bartlow Road associated with known burials (CHER MCB16249) immediately to the west.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The Brief required a programme of linear trenching to be carried out in order to adequately sample the area and conform with the aims of the investigation set out in the WSI. The trenches were placed to target and test the presence of the possible archaeological anomalies identified during the magnetometer survey. Twenty-one trenches were excavated, representing a 3% sample of the 4.5ha proposed development area. The trench design took into account the presence of a medium voltage cable in the northern field as well as other buried services that were encountered in the southern field.

2.2.2 The trenching comprised: nine 50m x 2m trenches, four 25m x 2m trenches, one 60m x 2m trench, one 40m x 2m trench, one 35m x 2m trench, one 33m x 2m trench, one 29m x 2m trench, one 22m x 2m trench and one 13m x 2m trench.

2.2.3 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked back-hoe type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.

2.2.4 The site survey was carried out using a Leica GS08.

2.2.5 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.

2.2.6 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.

2.2.7 A total of 26 bulk samples were taken from the excavated features. These each totalled between 10L & 40L and were processed by flotation at OA East's environmental processing facility at Bourn.

2.2.8 Site conditions were good with rain at times.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 Descriptions of the ground conditions encountered, features identified and artefacts recovered are given in this section, described numerically by trench. Further descriptions with dimensions are given in Appendix A, supplemented by artefact and ecofact reports included as Appendices B and C.
- 3.1.2 Figure 2 shows the location of all the trenches in relation to the geophysical survey. Figures 3 & 4 provide a phased plan of the features encountered with projected continuations in relation to the geophysical survey. Figure 5 includes a detailed plan and section of SFB **15** in Trench 11 and Figure 6 provides selected sections of the features encountered.

3.2 Ground Conditions: natural geology, subsoil and topsoil

- 3.2.1 Excavation of the 21 trenches revealed two distinct zones of underlying natural deposits across the proposed development area, which confirms the geology described in Section 1.2. The natural chalk was encountered in Trenches 1 to 11, 20 & 21, while the natural river terrace gravels and alluvium were encountered in Trenches 12 to 19.
- 3.2.2 The natural chalk in the grass-covered field to the north of Bartlow Road was overlain by topsoil (149) which comprised a soft grey sandy silt with occasional flint gravel inclusions, measuring 0.3m thick. No subsoil was present in this part of the site.
- 3.2.3 In the field to the south of Bartlow Road the natural deposits were overlain by a subsoil (2) comprising a soft brown sandy silt with frequent flint gravel inclusions. The subsoil was between 0.1m and 0.3m thick across the majority of this field. A notable exception was in the north-western corner in Trenches 11 & 20, where the subsoil was up to 0.6m thick. Here the subsoil was overlain by a cultivated topsoil (1) comprising a layer of soft dark grey sandy silt with frequent flint gravel. Flint artefacts were recovered from the surface of this topsoil, with a notably greater concentration towards the south of the field (see App. B2).

3.3 Trench Descriptions

Trench 1 (Fig 3)

- 3.3.1 This trench contained a linear ditch (**141**) running north-west to south-east with a U-shaped profile. The fill (142) consisted of soft reddish brown sandy silt with moderate chalk and flint gravel inclusions. The fill yielded a few fragments of CBM that are a mixture of Roman and medieval/post-medieval in date.

Trenches 2-3

- 3.3.2 No archaeological features were recorded within these trenches.

Trench 4

- 3.3.3 This trench contained a rectangular pit (**143**) with steep sides and a flat base and contained three fills (Fig. 6, S.52 & Plate 1). The primary fill (144) consisted of a thin lens of soft dark grey sandy silt with occasional burnt flint fragments and frequent charcoal fragments. This fill extended across the base and lower side of the cut and was overlain by fill 145, a soft mid-greyish brown sandy silt with very frequent burnt flint gravel inclusions making up the majority of the fill. A tertiary fill (146) consisting of soft

mid-brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel inclusions formed the uppermost deposit. No finds were retrieved from this feature.

Trench 5

- 3.3.4 This trench formed a T-junction with Trench 21. No archaeological features were recorded within this trench.

Trenches 6 and 7 (Fig. 4a)

- 3.3.5 A series of parallel linear ditches was observed running across both these trenches from north-west to south-east. Trench 6 contained four ditches, a gravel road surface and a single pit. Trench 7 contained five ditches, a gravel road surface, one pit and two postholes.

Medieval enclosure/boundary ditches

- 3.3.6 Ditch **98** in Trench 6 was a substantial linear boundary measuring 3.7m wide and in excess of a metre deep with a U shaped profile (Fig. 4 & Plate 3). Beyond Trench 6, the geophysical survey shows that the ditch turned to the south-west and continued into Trench 15, where it was recorded as ditch **120**. This ditch contained four fills, the earliest of which (99) consisted of a firm light reddish yellow sandy silt with frequent chalk and flint gravel inclusions which yielded fragments of animal bone. This was overlain by fill 100: a firm dark brownish yellow sandy silt with moderate flint gravel inclusions which also contained fragments of animal bone. Above this was fill 101, a soft mid-brownish yellow sandy silt with moderate gravel inclusions which was overlain by fill 102, comprising a soft dark reddish brown sandy silt with moderate gravel inclusions. This latter fill contained several sherds of medieval pottery (c.1150-1350) in addition to (Roman) CBM, lava quern and animal bone fragments.
- 3.3.7 Ditch **95** at the southern end of Trench 6 had an irregular profile and contained two fills. Fill 96 consisted of firm reddish brown sandy silt with frequent flint and chalk gravel inclusions. This fill was overlain by fill 97 consisted of soft dark reddish brown sandy silt with moderate gravel inclusions. This ditch continued to north-west to Trench 7, where it was recorded as ditch **32**.

Trackway

- 3.3.8 The trackway surface, recorded as 31 in Trench 7 and 105 in Trench 6, consisted of a thin layer of loose yellowish brown flint nodules and gravel with a little sandy silt (Plate 4). No finds were retrieved from this layer, which was truncated on its northern side by modern ditch **50/108**.

Other ditches

- 3.3.9 Ditch **35** in Trench 7 had a U-shaped profile and contained two fills. Fill 36 consisted of a soft reddish brown sandy silt with flint nodules and gravel inclusions and was overlain by a darker reddish brown fill (37). The latter yielded post-medieval CBM fragments and animal bone. This ditch was not observed to continue into Trench 6.
- 3.3.10 Ditch **38** in Trench 7 had a U-shaped profile and contained three fills (39, 40 and 41), consisting of soft greyish and reddish brown sandy silts with flint gravel inclusions. Of these, fill 40 yielded oyster shell fragments and fill 41 contained medieval (1300-1500AD) pottery sherds and animal bone. This ditch, which may have been associated with the trackway, was not observed in Trench 6 and is considered to have been truncated by the modern ditch **103**.

- 3.3.11 Ditch **137** in Trench 7 was a shallow, narrow linear feature adjacent to the southern edge of the gravel road surface. The fill (138) consisted of a soft reddish brown sandy silt. This ditch was also not observed in Trench 6 and was probably truncated by the modern ditch **103**.

Pits and postholes

- 3.3.12 Pit **46** in Trench 7 was sub-circular in plan with an irregular shaped profile. It contained three fills (47, 48 and 49), consisting of soft yellowish and reddish brown sandy silts with frequent flint nodules, gravel inclusions and lumps of chalk. Fill 48 yielded fragments of CBM and fill 49 yielded Saxon and medieval pottery sherds.
- 3.3.13 Pit **106** in Trench 6 was sub-circular in plan with a U-shaped profile. The fill (107) comprised a soft light reddish brown sandy silt with frequent chalk and flint gravel inclusions.
- 3.3.14 Two adjacent postholes (**42 & 44**) in Trench 7 were circular in plan with U-shaped profiles. They were filled by similar soft reddish brown sandy silt deposits with occasional flint gravel inclusions (43 and 45 respectively).

Modern features

- 3.3.15 Two shallow linear ditches (**103 & 108**) revealed in Trench 6 were found on excavation to be shallow modern trenches (Plate 2). The fills (104 & 109 respectively) consisted of soft mid to dark reddish brown sandy silt with flint gravel inclusions. Fill 104 yielded CBM and animal bone fragments and fill 109 contained modern metal objects and animal bone. Ditch **108** continued north-west to Trench 7 where it was recorded as ditch **50**.

Trench 8

- 3.3.16 This trench contained three natural treeboles (85, 88 and 91) that were complex or sub-circular in plan. The fills consisted of soft brown and orange brown sandy silt. Fills 87 and 90 yielded medieval pottery sherds and animal bone.

Trench 9 (Fig. 4b)

- 3.3.17 This trench contained two adjacent pits (**131 & 134**) that could not be excavated to full depth due to the section extending below the safety limit. Both pits were sub-circular in plan with U-shaped upper profiles (Plate 5).
- 3.3.18 Pit **131** was filled by a firm yellowish grey sandy silt with frequent flint nodules and gravel inclusions (132), overlain by 133, which was a soft light greyish brown sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions (Fig. 6, S.47). Fill 132 yielded a small amount medieval (AD1050-1225) pottery.
- 3.3.19 Pit **134** was filled by 135, a firm light grey sandy silt with moderate flint gravel inclusions, overlain by a similar deposit (136) with more occasional flint gravel inclusions. Fill 135 yielded a single medieval pottery sherd and fill 136 contained animal bone.

Trench 10 (Fig. 4b)

- 3.3.20 A series of five parallel ditches and a former hedge line were identified, all of which ran from north-west to south-east.
- 3.3.21 The ditches (**52, 61, 63, 65, 69**) were all shallow, narrow linear features with U-shaped profiles. The fills consisted of soft brown or orange brown silty sand with occasional gravel. Fill 53 of ditch **52** contained an unidentified iron object, fill 68 of ditch **65** yielded a sherd of medieval pottery and fill 70 of ditch **69** contained animal bone fragments.

Ditches **63**, **65** and **69** continued to the west, to Trench 20 where they were recorded as ditches **11**, **9** and **13** respectively.

- 3.3.22 The old hedge line (**54/58**) could be traced by its root disturbance that had created a shallow linear depression with an irregular profile that was filled by a mix of soft to firm lenses of light brown and grey silty sand. Fill 55 yielded a fragment of an unidentifiable iron object.

Trench 11 (Figs 4b and 5; Plate 5-6)

- 3.3.23 This trench formed a T-junction with Trench 20 and contained a sunken floored building (SFB), three postholes and a pit.
- 3.3.24 The northern end of SFB **15** was exposed within the trench and revealed to be 3.5m wide with a rectangular shape in plan. Excavation revealed steep sides merging sharply with a slightly concave to flat base. Three fills were identified, the primary fill (16) extended across the base of the cut and consisted of a soft yellowish and greyish brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel inclusions. This yielded Early Saxon pottery sherds, animal bone and Roman CBM fragments. The locations of these finds in the primary fill were mapped as small find numbers (Fig. 5). Secondary fill 17 extended around the sides of the cut and consisted of a soft reddish brown sandy silt with occasional gravel inclusions. The upper fill (18) extended across the top of the central part of the SFB and comprised a soft dark grey sandy silt with occasional flint gravel. This fill yielded frequent animal bone (dominated by cattle remains along with smaller numbers of sheep and pig), Early Saxon pottery sherds and lava quern fragments. Environmental bulk samples from the fills of the SFB contained charred cereal grains, with most coming from the upper fill (see App. C2).
- 3.3.25 The SFB also incorporated posthole **19** at its northern end, which had been sealed by the upper secondary fill (17). It had a sub-circular shape in plan and a U-shaped profile. The fill (20) consisted of soft brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel and yielded a few pieces of animal bone.
- 3.3.26 Two further postholes (**23** and **25**) lay to the south-east of SFB **15**. Both were circular in plan with U-shaped profiles. The fills, 24 and 26 respectively, consisted of soft dark grey and brown sandy silts with occasional gravel inclusions.
- 3.3.27 Pit **21** was revealed immediately to the west of SFB **15**. This pit was sub-circular in plan with a U-shaped profile. The fill (22) consisted of a soft dark grey sandy silt with occasional flint gravel inclusions which yielded CBM and animal bone fragments.

Trench 12 (Fig. 4b)

- 3.3.28 This trench contained four pits. Three of the pits (**124**, **126** and **128**) were sub-circular in plan with U-shaped profiles. The fills (125, 127 and 129 respectively) consisted of soft dark greyish brown sandy silts with frequent flint gravel. Fill 125 yielded a flint flake, fill 127 contained some animal bone and fill 129 yielded medieval pottery sherds and some animal bone.
- 3.3.29 The remaining pit (**147**) was a large feature that extended across the southern 11.85m of the trench and continued beyond the trench to the south, east and west. A test pit was dug into this feature which determined the depth of the feature to be 0.5m down to a flat base. The fill (148) consisted of soft greyish brown sandy silt with frequent flint gravel.

Trench 13 (Fig. 4a)

- 3.3.30 This trench formed a T-junction with Trench 17 and contained one ditch, two pits, two treeboles and a natural pond (Plate 7).
- 3.3.31 The ditch (**79**) comprised a linear feature that ran south-west to north-east and had a U-shaped profile. The fill (80) consisted of soft brown sandy silt with frequent flint gravel inclusions. The geophysical survey indicated this feature ran east from Trench 13 and turned to the south-west towards Trench 14, where it was recorded as ditch **93**.
- 3.3.32 A large pit (**75**) was encountered at the south-eastern end of the trench that was not excavated. The fill (76) consisted of soft grey brown sandy silt with frequent gravel inclusions.
- 3.3.33 Located to the north-west of this, pit **77** was sub-circular in plan with a U-shaped profile (Fig. 6). The fill (78) consisted of soft dark grey sandy silt with occasional flint gravel inclusions and yielded medieval pottery sherds and CBM fragments.
- 3.3.34 Two adjacent treeboles **27** and **29** were circular in plan with vertical sides and rounded bases. They were filled respectively by 28 and 30, both of which consisted of soft dark grey sandy silts with frequent burnt flint gravel inclusions.
- 3.3.35 The natural pond (**81**) was located at the juncture of Trenches 13 and 17. This was a large circular feature in plan with a gently-sloping side and a flat base. The fill (82) consisted of loose mid-grey silty sand with occasional flint gravel.

Trench 14 (Fig. 4a)

- 3.3.36 This trench contained a ditch (**93**) that was shown by the geophysical survey to continue to Trench 13 where it was recorded as ditch **79**. This linear ditch ran north-west to south-east and had a U-shaped profile. The fill (94) consisted of a soft mid grey sandy silt with occasional flint gravel inclusions and flint artefacts.

Trench 15 (Fig. 4a)

- 3.3.37 This trench contained one ditch and two pits.
- 3.3.38 The ditch (**120**) was a substantial feature that ran south-west to north-east with a U-shaped profile. The geophysical survey indicated this ditch continued to the north-east before turning to the south-east in Trench 6 where a similar substantial ditch was recorded (**98**). Ditch **120** contained three fills, the earliest of which was 121, a dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional flint gravel inclusions which yielded CBM fragments and animal bone. Overlying this was a soft yellowish brown sandy silt with moderate flint gravel inclusions (122) and a soft reddish brown sandy silt with moderate flint gravel inclusions (123).
- 3.3.39 The two adjacent pits (**116** and **118**) had similar circular shapes in plan with U-shaped profiles (Fig. 6). The fills of each pit (117 and 119 respectively) consisted of soft brown sandy silts with occasional flint gravel. Fill 117 yielded medieval pottery sherds and animal bone and fill 119 contained some oyster shell and animal bone.

Trench 16 (Fig. 4a)

- 3.3.40 This trench contained one ditch and one pit.
- 3.3.41 Ditch **115** comprised a linear feature that ran north-west to south-east and had a U shaped profile. It contained three fills, the earliest of which (114) consisted of soft mid-greyish brown sandy silt with frequent flint gravel inclusions and was overlain by soft mid-reddish brown sandy silt (113). The uppermost fill (112) consisted of a soft dark

greyish brown sandy silt with frequent flint gravel inclusions and yielded medieval pottery sherds and animal bone.

- 3.3.42 Pit **111** had a complex shape in plan with an irregular profile (Fig. 6). The fill (110) consisted of soft dark grey sandy silt with occasional flint gravel inclusions and yielded a large assemblage of medieval pottery (over 100 sherds; AD1200-1400), animal bone and lava quern fragments. Environmental samples from the fills yielded moderate assemblages of charred wheat and peas.

Trench 17 (Fig. 4a)

- 3.3.43 This trench formed a T-junction with Trench 13 and contained one pit and one pond (**81**) described in section 3.3.305 for Trench 13.

- 3.3.44 Pit (**83**) was a large linear feature, 4m wide and extending east to west across the trench. Excavation revealed a gradual side and flat base. The fill (84) consisted of soft dark brownish grey sandy silt with frequent flint gravel inclusions.

Trench 18

- 3.3.45 No archaeological features were recorded within this trench.

Trench 19

- 3.3.46 This trench contained a linear ditch (**139**) which ran west/north-west to east/south-east with a U-shaped profile. The fill (140) consisted of soft greyish brown sandy silt with occasional gravel.

Trench 20 (Fig. 4b)

- 3.3.47 This trench formed a T-junction with Trench 11 and contained a series of three parallel ditches that ran from west/north-west to east/south-east and two postholes.

- 3.3.48 The ditches (**9**, **11** and **13**) were all shallow and narrow with U-shaped profiles. The fills consisted of soft greyish brown silty sands with occasional gravel. Fill 10 of ditch **9** contained animal bone and flint artefacts, fill 12 of ditch **11** yielded a sherd of medieval pottery and fill 14 of ditch **13** contained medieval pottery and animal bone. These ditches continue to the east in Trench 10 where they are recorded as ditches **65**, **63** and **69** respectively.

- 3.3.49 The two postholes **4** and **6** lay to the north and to the south of ditch **13**. These were both circular in plan with U-shaped profiles. The fills (5 and 7/8 respectively) consisted of soft greyish brown sandy silt. Fill 5 contained a small amount of animal bone.

Trench 21

- 3.3.50 This trench formed a T-junction with Trench 5. No archaeological features were recorded within this trench.

3.4 Finds Summary

Introduction

- 3.4.1 Finds were recovered from many of the features encountered and consisted of: Early Saxon and medieval pottery; ceramic building material (CBM) dating from the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods; iron objects including nails dating from the post-medieval period; and stone artefacts including quern/mill stone fragments. Faunal remains were also recovered from features dating from the Early Saxon to medieval periods.

Metalwork (Appendix B.1)

- 3.4.1 A small collection of iron and copper-alloy objects was recovered, most of which are of medieval/post-medieval to modern date or are not closely datable.

Lithic Assessment (Appendix B.2)

- 3.4.1 Twenty-five struck flints were recovered from topsoil and as residual finds, perhaps the most notable of which is a finely worked transverse axe or adze, that can be dated to the Mesolithic period. The remainder of the assemblage is dominated by blades and blade-like flakes, which provide over three-quarters of the total and date to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic periods.

Quern and Millstones (Appendix B.3)

- 3.4.2 A total of 14 pieces of lava weighing 2570g was collected, all of which are extremely worn and abraded. It is likely that the fragments are Roman although lava continued to be imported into Britain throughout the Late Saxon and medieval periods.

Pottery (Appendix B.4)

- 3.4.3 A small pottery assemblage of 211 sherds from 16 contexts, weighing 3.037kg was recovered. The majority of the assemblage is Anglo-Saxon or early medieval, with some 'high' medieval material. The vessels present in the assemblage are primarily domestic in nature, comprised mainly of jars with a few jugs. Both the Anglo-Saxon pottery and the medieval pottery includes heavily sooted domestic vessels suggesting a primary occupation / kitchen assemblage is present.

Ceramic Building Material (Appendix B.5) and Baked Clay (Appendix B.6)

- 3.4.4 A total of 28 pieces of CBM weighing 1.704kg was collected from excavated contexts and from unstratified surface collection. Unstratified material forms 41% of the total assemblage by weight. The CBM is fragmentary and mostly small and poorly preserved. A little over 91% of the assemblage by weight is of Roman date. A small quantity of medieval/post-medieval scraps are also present. Seven scraps of baked clay were also recovered that are undiagnostic and undatable.

3.5 Environmental Summary

Faunal remains (Appendix C.1)

- 3.5.1 A total of 4.7kg of faunal material was recovered from Early Saxon and medieval contexts. The largest numbers of identifiable fragments came from the fills of SFB **15** and medieval ditch **103**, with cattle being the dominant taxon in both periods, along with sheep and pigs. There is no evidence of cattle or sheep breeding taking place on site, although juvenile pigs were at least present. Domestic birds were raised for meat and eggs, while rabbits would have provided meat and skins. This is a small assemblage that most likely represents general settlement waste rather than any specialist husbandry practice

Environmental samples (Appendix C.2)

- 3.5.2 Twenty-six samples were taken from a range of features, including an Early Saxon SFB and associated features and medieval pits. The results have shown that there is excellent potential for the recovery of charred and mineralised plant and insect remains from Saxon and medieval deposits. SFB **15** produced interesting results, including charred remains of food plants, while nearby pit **21** contained charred food remains and mineralised cysts which probably indicates that it was used for the disposal of mixed refuse including latrine waste. Similar evidence was found in the medieval samples.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion

4.1.1 Features dating to the prehistoric, Roman, Saxon, medieval and post-medieval periods were present across the site. A surface scatter of prehistoric flint work mostly dating to the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic periods was found in the field to the south of Bartlow Road, closer towards the River Granta. A surface scatter of Roman CBM was also found across this field. Similar material had also been incorporated as residual finds in some of the fills from the Saxon and medieval features. Saxon settlement activity was identified in the north-western part of the field to the south of Bartlow Road. The majority of the features identified across the site were pits, quarries (presumably targeting the underlying chalk and flint gravel), and ditched boundaries for enclosures dating to the medieval period, indicative of settlement in the vicinity in this period possibly adjacent to the former trackway identified in Trenches 6 and 7. A set of small modern linear ditched and hedged boundaries were also present in the north-western part of the site.

Prehistoric Remains

4.1.2 The surface flint scatter recovered from the southern field proved to be Mesolithic and Early Neolithic in date. The transverse axe or adze is very similar to others recovered from along the Cam valley, including at the Hinxton Genome Complex and at the 'Spicers' site in Sawston (Bishop in press.), and it is at least feasible that these were all made by the same community. The presence of Mesolithic flintwork continuing into the Early Neolithic is also recorded at numerous other sites along the Cam valley. The later flint, characteristic of Later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age industries, can also be compared to the material recovered from the Grooved Ware pits excavated at Linton Village College (Dickson 2011).

Roman Remains

4.1.3 A scatter of Roman CBM was present across the surface of the field to the south of Bartlow Road. However, no features dating to the Roman period were present in any of the trenches excavated on the site. It is assumed that this material derived from the high status Roman villa site (CHER 09841) located immediately to the south of the site on the other side of the River Granta. Some of this material had also worked its way into the Saxon and medieval features as residual finds.

Early Saxon Remains

4.1.4 Settlement activity was identified in the form of Saxon SFB **15**, in the north-western corner of the field to the south of Bartlow Road. The pottery, including decorated sherds, dates this activity to around the 6th century AD. Animal bone from the fills of the SFB is dominated by cattle remains along with smaller numbers of sheep and pig. Postholes **4**, **6**, **23** and **25** were also identified in the near vicinity that may comprise parts of further structures or fence lines associated with this phase of settlement. Although pit **21** yielded a small fragment of Roman pottery, the similarity of its fill and proximity to SFB **15** makes it highly likely this feature was also of Saxon origin.

Medieval Remains

4.1.5 The majority of the possible archaeological anomalies identified during the magnetometer survey in the field to the south of Bartlow Road were found to be pits and linear ditched boundaries of medieval origin.

- 4.1.6 The gravel surface (31/105) that ran north-west to south-east across Trenches 6 & 7 is considered to be the remains of a metalled trackway. No finds were recovered from this layer. However, a series of linear ditches (**32/95**, **35**, **38** and **137**) ran parallel to the southern edge of this road. Ditch **38** yielded a medieval pottery sherd and post-medieval CBM fragments were recovered from ditch **35**. These ditches are probably boundary and drainage ditches associated with a road/track way that may have been in use through the medieval and post-medieval periods. This confirms the interpretation of the DBA and aerial photographic survey, which suggested that the medieval route linking Linton and Bartlow was located here.
- 4.1.7 The ditched boundaries **79**, **93**, **98**, **115** & **120** revealed in Trenches 6, 13 to 16 confirmed the layout indicated in the magnetometer survey of ditched enclosures in this part of the field. The pottery recovered from the fills indicate a medieval date for these enclosures.
- 4.1.8 Ditch **141** encountered in the field to the north of Bartlow Road was also found to be of medieval date from the CBM recovered.
- 4.1.9 Discrete pits **46**, **106**, **131** and **134** that cut the chalk natural in the field to the south of Bartlow Road are considered to be chalk quarry pits. Similarly pits **75**, **77**, **83**, **116**, **118**, **111**, **126**, **128**, **134** and **147** that cut the underlying gravel natural are considered to be gravel quarry pits. The pottery recovered from the fills of some of these pits indicate a medieval date for these features. One of these pits (**111**), however, produced a moderately large pottery assemblage along with charred wheat and peas that indicates that some of the pits were located close to domestic activity in this period. Taken together these activities may account for many of the discrete anomalies interpreted as geological in origin during the magnetometer survey.

Modern Remains

- 4.1.10 A parallel set of five shallow linear ditched boundaries (**9/65**, **11/63**, **13/69**, **52** & **61**) and a former hedge line (**54**) were excavated in Trenches 10 & 20. Small fragments of Roman, Saxon and post-medieval pottery were recovered from ditch **11** and iron objects dating to the post-medieval period were recovered from ditch **52** and the hedge line. These finds are considered to be residual. The ditches are therefore thought to represent boundaries for small plots of land, or perhaps allotment gardens extending across this part of the site in the modern period. This may account for the thicker subsoil encountered in this part of the site that protected the Saxon SFB **15**.
- 4.1.11 Two shallow modern trenches **50/105** & **108** were found to run parallel with and truncate medieval trackway 31/105. These features probably represent hollows described in the aerial photograph survey as part of the desk-study.

4.2 Significance

- 4.2.1 Despite the proximity of the Roman villa and cemetery, and Saxon inhumation cemetery, the evaluation of the site has indicated that no archaeological features directly relating to these monuments are present on this site. However, a background scatter of Roman CBM was present across the southern field that probably related to the villa. The presence of Saxon settlement activity dating to the 6th century, represented by the SFB and associated features, revealed adjacent and to the south of Bartlow Road is of particular significance and may indicate that similar remains may lie in the vicinity, especially given the presence of an SFB to the south of the river, and the Saxon cemetery that was previously found to the north of Bartlow Road. Perhaps more unexpected is the extent of medieval activity identified to the south of Bartlow Road. This appears to have included pits/quarries, some containing finds indicative of

domestic activity in the vicinity, enclosures and other ditched boundaries. This settlement evidence may possibly have been associated with the trackway that once linked the villages of Bartlow and Linton, which was identified by the archaeological works, and perhaps the deserted medieval village of Barham, located 300m to the south-east. The flint work assemblage provides further evidence of activity along the River Granta in the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic periods.

4.3 Recommendations

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

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description				Orientation		WNW-ESE
Consisted of topsoil overlying natural chalk with one medieval ditch.				Avg. depth (m)		0.3
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		40
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
149	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
141	Cut	0.8	0.15	Cut of ditch	-	Medieval
142	Fill	-	0.15	Fill of ditch	CBM	Medieval
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 2						
General description				Orientation		NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil overlying natural chalk.				Avg. depth (m)		0.3
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		25
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
149	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 3						
General description				Orientation		NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil overlying natural chalk.				Avg. depth (m)		0.3
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		25
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
149	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 4						
General description				Orientation	NNE-SSW	
Consisted of topsoil overlying chalk with one undated pit.				Avg. depth (m)	0.3	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	22	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
149	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
143	Cut	0.8	0.15	Cut of pit	-	Unknown
144	Fill	-	0.1	Fill of pit	-	Unknown
145	Fill	-	0.2	Fill of pit	-	Unknown
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 5						
General description				Orientation	NNE-SSW	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil overlying natural chalk.				Avg. depth (m)	0.3	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	35	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
149	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 6						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural chalk with four ditches, one pit and a gravel road surface.				Avg. depth (m)	0.5	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
95	Cut	0.9	0.45	Cut of ditch	-	Unknown
96	Fill	-	0.13	Fill of ditch	-	Unknown
97	Fill	-	0.32	Fill of ditch	-	Unknown
98	Cut	3.7	1.12	Cut of ditch	-	Medieval
99	Fill	-	0.3	Fill of ditch	Animal	Medieval

					bone	
100	Fill	-	0.38	Fill of ditch	Animal bone	Medieval
101	Fill	-	0.4	Fill of ditch	-	Medieval
102	Fill	-	0.44	Fill of ditch	Pottery, CBM, animal bone	Medieval
103	Cut	4.1	0.2	Cut of ditch	-	Medieval
104	Fill	-	0.2	Fill of ditch	Pottery, CBM, animal bone	Medieval
105	Layer	1.9	0.11	Gravel road surface	-	Medieval?
106	Cut	4.75	0.26	Cut of pit	-	Unknown
107	Fill	-	0.26	Fill of pit	-	Unknown
108	Cut	3.5	0.28	Cut of ditch	-	Modern
109	Fill	-	0.28	Fill of ditch	Metal objects, animal bone	Modern
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 7						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural chalk with five ditches, one pit, two post holes and a gravel road surface.				Avg. depth (m)	0.5	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
31	Layer	3.95	0.19	Gravel road surface	-	Medieval?
32	Cut	1.8	0.62	Cut of ditch	-	Medieval
33	Fill	-	0.3	Fill of ditch	CBM, animal bone	Medieval
34		-	0.34	Fill of ditch	Pottery, CBM, animal bone	Medieval
35	Cut	1.5	0.42	Cut of ditch	-	Medieval
36	Fill	-	0.19	Fill of ditch	-	Medieval

37	Fill	-	0.23	Fill of ditch	CBM, animal bone	Medieval
38	Cut	1.9	0.55	Cut of ditch	-	Medieval
39	Fill	-	0.07	Fill of ditch	-	Medieval
40	Fill	-	0.26	Fill of ditch	Oyster shell	Medieval
41	Fill	-	0.23	Fill of ditch	Pottery, animal bone	Medieval
42	Cut	0.32	0.15	Cut of post	-	Unknown
43	Fill	-	0.15	Fill of post	-	Unknown
44	Cut			Cut of post	-	Unknown
45	Fill			Fill of post	-	Unknown
46	Cut	1.7	0.55	Cut of pit	-	Medieval
47	Fill	-	0.1	Fill of pit	-	Medieval
48	Fill	-	0.37	Fill of pit	CBM	Medieval
49	Fill	-	0.15	Fill of pit	Pottery	Medieval
50	Cut	2.5	0.15	Cut of ditch	-	Modern
51	Fill	-	0.15	Fill of ditch	CBM	Modern
137	Cut	0.25	0.09	Cut of ditch	-	Medieval?
138	Fill	-	0.09	Fill of ditch	-	Medieval?
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 8						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural chalk with three treeboles.				Avg. depth (m)		0.4
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-
85	Cut	0.6	0.32	Cut of treebole	-	-
86	Fill	-	0.12	Fill of treebole	-	-
87	Fill	-	0.2	Fill of treebole	Pottery, bone	-
88	Cut	0.23	0.32	Cut of treebole	-	-
89	Fill	-	0.2	Fill of treebole	-	-
90	Fill	-	0.12	Fill of treebole	Pottery, bone	-

91	Cut	0.61	0.2	Cut of treebole	-	-
92	Fill	-	0.2	Fill of treebole	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 9						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural chalk with two pits.				Avg. depth (m)		0.45
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-
131	Cut	1.25	0.4	Cut of pit	-	Medieval
132	Fill	-	0.4	Fill of pit	Pottery	Medieval
133	Fill	-	0.22	Fill of pit	-	Medieval
134	Cut	1.36	0.42	Cut of pit	-	Medieval
135	Fill	-	0.36	Fill of pit	Pottery	Medieval
136	Fill	-	0.06	Fill of pit	Animal bone	Medieval
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 10						
General description				Orientation		NNE-SSW
Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural chalk with seven ditches.				Avg. depth (m)		0.6
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil	-	-
52	Cut	0.6	0.1	Cut of ditch	-	Medieval
53	Fill	-	0.1	Fill of ditch	Iron object	Medieval
54	Cut	1.17	0.27	Cut of hedge	-	Medieval
55	Fill	-	0.25	Fill of hedge	Iron object	Medieval
56	Fill	-	0.2	Fill of hedge	-	Medieval
57	Fill	-	0.03	Fill of hedge	-	Medieval
58	Cut	0.7	0.3	Cut of hedge	-	Medieval

59	Fill	-	0.3	Fill of hedge	-	Medieval
60	Fill	-	0.15	Fill of hedge	-	Medieval
61	Cut	0.9	0.14	Cut of ditch	-	Medieval?
62	Fill	-	0.14	Fill of ditch	-	Medieval?
63	Cut	0.4	0.09	Cut of ditch	-	Medieval?
64	Fill	-	0.09	Fill of ditch	-	Medieval?
65	Cut	0.52	0.19	Cut of ditch	-	Medieval
66	Fill	-	0.1	Fill of ditch	-	Medieval
67	Fill	-	0.06	Fill of ditch	-	Medieval
68	Fill	-	0.04	Fill of ditch	Pottery	Medieval
69	Cut	0.3	0.07	Cut of ditch	-	Medieval?
70	Fill	-	0.07	Fill of ditch	Animal bone	Medieval?
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 11						
General description				Orientation		WNW-ESE
Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural chalk with one sunken floored building (SFB), three post holes and one pit.				Avg. depth (m)		0.65
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		29
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.4	Subsoil	-	-
15	Cut	3.5	0.35	Cut of SFB	-	Early Saxon
16	Fill	-	0.15	Fill of SFB	Pottery, CBM, animal bone	Early Saxon
17	Fill	-	0.2	Fill of SFB	-	Early Saxon
18	Fill	-	0.2	Fill of SFB	Pottery, stone, animal bone	Early Saxon
19	Cut	0.2	0.35	Cut of SFB post	-	Early Saxon
20	Fill	-	0.35	Fill of SFB post	Animal bone	Early Saxon
21	Cut	1.15	0.2	Cut of pit	-	Early Saxon?
22	Fill	-	0.2	Fill of pit	CBM, animal bone	Early Saxon?
23	Cut	0.45	0.14	Cut of post	-	Early Saxon?

24	Fill	-	0.14	Fill of post	-	Early Saxon?
25	Cut	0.4	0.08	Cut of post	-	Early Saxon?
26	Fill	-	0.08	Fill of post	-	Early Saxon?
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 12						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural gravel with four pits.				Avg. depth (m)		0.65
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-
124	Cut	0.58	0.13	Cut of pit	-	Unknown
125	Fill	-	0.13	Fill of pit	Flint	Unknown
126	Cut	0.83	0.17	Cut of pit	-	Unknown
127	Fill	-	0.17	Fill of pit	Animal bone	Unknown
128	Cut	1.1	0.27	Cut of pit	-	Medieval
129	Fill	-	0.27	Fill of pit	Pottery, animal bone	Medieval
147	Cut	11.85	0.5	Cut of pit	-	Medieval
148	Fill	-	0.5	Fill of pit	-	Medieval
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 13						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural gravel with one ditch, two pits, two treeboles and a natural pond.				Avg. depth (m)		0.6
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
27	Cut	0.5	0.65	Cut of treebole	-	-
28	Fill	-	0.65	Fill of treebole	-	-
29	Cut	0.4	0.6	Cut of treebole	-	-

30	Fill	-	0.6	Fill of treebole	-	-
75	Cut	8	?	Cut of pit	-	Medieval?
76	Fill	-	?	Fill of pit	-	Medieval?
77	Cut	1.5	0.3	Cut of pit	-	Medieval
78	Fill	-	0.3	Fill of pit	Pottery, CBM	Medieval
79	Cut	2.1	0.4	Cut of ditch	-	Medieval?
80	Fill	-	0.4	Fill of ditch	-	Medieval?
81	Cut	6.5	0.25	Cut of pond	-	-
82	Fill	-	0.25	Fill of pond	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 14						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural gravel with one ditch.				Avg. depth (m)	0.3	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-
93	Cut	1.4	0.25	Cut of ditch	-	Medieval?
94	Fill	-	0.25	Fill of ditch	-	Medieval?
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 15						
General description				Orientation	WNW-ESE	
Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural gravel with one ditch and two pits.				Avg. depth (m)	0.6	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	50	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
116	Cut	2.2	0.4	Cut of pit	-	Medieval
117	Fill	-	0.4	Fill of pit	Pottery, animal bone	Medieval
118	Cut	2.5	0.4	Cut of pit	-	Medieval

119	Fill	-	0.4	Fill of pit	Animal bone, oyster shell	Medieval
120	Cut	2.7	0.64	Cut of ditch	-	Medieval
121	Fill	-	0.64	Fill of ditch	CBM, animal bone	Medieval
122	Fill	-	0.4	Fill of ditch	-	Medieval
123	Fill	-	0.3	Fill of ditch	-	Medieval
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 16						
General description				Orientation		NNE-SSW
Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural gravel with one ditch and one pit.				Avg. depth (m)		0.45
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		25
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
110	Fill	-	0.25	Fill of pit	Pottery, animal bone, stone	Medieval
111	Cut	3.13	0.25	Cut of pit	-	Medieval
112	Fill	-	0.46	Fill of ditch	Pottery, animal bone	Medieval
113	Fill	-	0.4	Fill of ditch	-	Medieval
114	Fill	-	0.07	Fill of ditch	-	Medieval
115	Cut	1.26	0.48	Cut of ditch	-	Medieval
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 17						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural gravel with one pit and one natural pond.				Avg. depth (m)		0.5
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		25
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date

1	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
81	Cut	6.5	0.25	Cut of pond	-	-
82	Fill	-	0.25	Fill of pond	-	-
83	Cut	4	0.4	Cut of pit	-	Medieval?
84	Fill	-	0.4	Fill of pit	-	Medieval?
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 18						
General description				Orientation		NNW-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural gravel.				Avg. depth (m)		0.5
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		33
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 19						
General description				Orientation		NNE-SSW
Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural gravel with one ditch.				Avg. depth (m)		0.55
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		60
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
139	Cut	0.7	0.19	Cut of ditch	-	Unknown
140	Fill	-	0.19	Fill of ditch	-	Unknown
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 20						
General description				Orientation		NNE-SSW
Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural chalk with three ditches and two post holes.				Avg. depth (m)		0.9
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		25
Contexts						

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.6	Subsoil	-	-
4	Cut	0.4	0.23	Cut of post	-	Early Saxon?
5	Fill	-	0.23	Fill of post	Animal bone	Early Saxon?
6	Cut	0.3	0.15	Cut of post	-	Early Saxon?
7	Fill	-	0.1	Fill of post	-	Early Saxon?
8	Fill	-	0.05	Fill of post	-	Early Saxon?
9	Cut	0.63	0.22	Cut of ditch	-	Medieval?
10	Fill	-	0.22	Fill of ditch	Animal bone	Medieval?
11	Cut	0.3	0.11	Cut of ditch	-	Medieval
12	Fill	-	0.11	Fill of ditch	Pottery	Medieval
13	Cut	0.58	0.2	Cut of ditch	-	Medieval
14	Fill	-	0.2	Fill of ditch	Pottery, animal bone	Medieval
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 21						
General description					Orientation	WNW-ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil overlying natural chalk.					Avg. depth (m)	0.3
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	13
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
149	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Metalwork

By Chris Faine

- B.1.1 A small group of metal finds was recovered, most of which are of medieval to post-medieval date or are not closely datable.

SF 1 (Context 1) Cast copper alloy pin. Spherical head (diameter: 13mm), with single concentric line decoration on the lower hemisphere. Square section shank 4.4mm in width. Date uncertain. The head diameter and shank widths are far larger than the majority of Roman and Medieval examples, and the head is far plainer than is usual for Saxon pins. This example may have been a larger gauge pin for heavy clothing rather than a hair ornament and is most likely medieval/post-medieval (Egan & Pritchard, 1997).

SF 2 (Context 1) Iron key. Length: 124mm. Internal kidney-shaped bow, with sold stem in line with an integrated bit (diameter: 8.8mm). Late Medieval. (Margeson, 1993).

SF 13 (Context 53). Unidentified iron fragment. Date unknown.

SF 14 (Context 55). Collection of 8 unidentified iron fragments. Date unknown. Probably architectural/agricultural.

SF 18 (Context 18). Collection of 3 figure-of-eight shaped iron wire objects. Length: 230mm. Gauge: 6.8mm.

B.2 Lithic Assessment

By Barry Bishop

Introduction

- B.2.1 The archaeological evaluation resulted in the recovery of 25 struck flints. This report describes the assemblage and discusses its archaeological significance. The report should be read in conjunction with the catalogue, which provides further details of each piece including its contextual origin, raw material, condition and, where possible, suggests a possible date of manufacture (Table 2). All metrical descriptions follow the methodology of Saville (1980).

Quantification and Context

- B.2.1 The majority of the struck flints were recovered from topsoil deposits, mostly from the south of the site, with the remainder coming from medieval features; all can be regarded as residually deposited.

Type	Flake	Blade-like flake	Prismatic Blade	Non-prismatic blade	Transverse Axe
No.	5	5	13	1	1

Table 1: Quantification of lithic material

Description

- B.2.1 The assemblage was made from a fine-grained translucent black or dark grey flint of good knapping quality. Cortex is present on many pieces and this is of variable thickness but mostly rough. The relatively unweathered state of the cortex combined with the presence of thermal surfaces and flaws indicate the raw materials were obtained from derived sources located close to the local chalk. The most likely sources

are either surface exposed eroded flint seams as can be found in the surrounding hills or alluvially re-worked deposits such as the terrace gravels underlying the site. The condition of the pieces is variable but, as would be consistent with a re-deposited assemblage, most show some degree of edge chipping and/or abrasion and in some cases this is quite severe.

- B.2.2 Perhaps the most notable piece is a finely worked transverse axe or adze that can be dated to the Mesolithic period. Although recovered from the topsoil it is in an only slight chipped condition and had been made from what was probably an elongated nodule of good quality translucent black flint. There are remnants of cortex remaining on its butt which provide a comfortable hand-hold, and there is no evidence for wear that would suggest it had been hafted. It has a rounded-D shaped cross-section that remains relatively consistent along its length but it becomes slightly thicker and wider towards its butt. Its two lateral edges are slightly sinuous and both faces have been carefully and competently shaped by the removal of thinning flakes. Its cutting edge is formed by fine radial flaking on its flatter face and it has small and characteristic tranchet-sharpening flake scars on its rounded face. The cutting edge is convex and shows moderate edge damage from its presumed use as a chopping implement. It measures 126mm long by a maximum of 43mm wide and 30mm thick, and weighs 169g. Transverse axes / adzes vary quite considerably in size and shape as well as in the quality of their flaking. This example is relatively small and lies at the better end of the scale in terms of the quality of its production. It is very similar to others recovered from along the Cam valley, including at the Hinxton Genome Complex and at the 'Spicers' site in Sawston (Bishop in press.), and it is at least feasible that these were all made by the same community.
- B.2.3 The remainder of the assemblage is dominated by blades and blade-like flakes, which provide over three-quarters of the total. Nearly all of these are prismatic and produced by carefully shaped and reduced cores that enabled the repeated removal of standardized blanks, mostly from platforms worked from a single direction. No cores were recovered, however. The largest of the blades measures over 90mm long although this is not prismatic; the largest systematically produced example measures 70mm and many others are also relatively large. No retouched implements are present but the degree of post-depositional damage on many pieces means any such traces will have been masked. One of the blades may possibly have been formed into a burin as it has a number of narrow spalls removed longitudinally from its distal end, but later damage makes this identification very tentative.
- B.2.4 Blade-based industries can be dated to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic period and the former is certainly indicated by the axe / adze and possibly by the putative burin. Many of the blades are very finely made and to a high degree of standardization and these can easily be placed within the former period. Nevertheless, some technological variation is apparent and some of the blades are relatively chunky and have thicker and less-carefully formed striking platforms. This slight reduction in skill, or at least in the desire to produce blades systematically, raises the possibility that that flintworking may have continued at the site into the Early Neolithic period, a situation recorded at numerous other sites along the Cam valley.
- B.2.5 The possibility of later flintworking at the site is also suggested by the flakes, some of which are broad and one is 'Levallois-like', having a faceted striking platform and multi-directional dorsal scars. Whilst not easy to place, these and particularly the latter piece are most characteristic of Later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age industries and can be compared to the material from the Grooved Ware pits at Linton Village College (Dickson 2011).

Context	Flake	Blade-like flake	Prismatic Blade	bladeNon-prismatic	Transverse Axe	Colour	Cortex	Condition	Recortication	Suggested Date	Comments
1			1			Translucent black	None	Chipped	Blue-white	Meso/ENE o	Well made, distal missing >30x12x3mm
1			1			Translucent black	None	Very chipped	Blue-white	Meso/ENE o	Large, distal missing, possibly a burin but extensive post-depositional damage. >70x27x9mm
1			1			Translucent dark grey	None	Chipped	None	Meso/ENE o	43x18x6mm
1		1				Translucent black	Thin worn	Slightly chipped	None	Meso/ENE o	Proximal end of a possible blade. Thick wide striking platform and multiple points of percussion
10	1					Translucent dark grey	None	Chipped	Incipient	Meso-EBA	Wide thin flake with a faceted striking platform and multi-direction flake scars cf Levallois flake. 45x41x5mm
18			1			Translucent black	Rough, thick	Chipped	Blue-white	Meso/ENE o	Thick, core re-shaping flake retaining part of orthogonal platform on distal. 46x19x12mm
94			1			Unknown	None	Chipped	Blue-white	Meso/ENE o	Hinged distal termination. 23x11x3mm
94			1			Unknown	None	Chipped	Blue-white	Meso/ENE o	Distal missing / stepped. >38x16x6mm
94			1			Translucent black	Thin, rough	Very chipped	Blue-white	Meso/ENE o	42x20x7mm

Context	Flake	Blade-like flake	Prismatic Blade	bladeNon-prismatic	Transverse Axe	Colour	Cortex	Condition	Recortication	Suggested Date	Comments
125			1			Unknown	None	Slightly chipped	Blue-white	Meso/ENE o	52x15x5mm
1 SF19					1	Translucent black	Thin, rough	Slightly chipped	Blue-white	Meso	Finely made transverse axe see text for details
1 South		1				Translucent black	Rough, thick	Chipped	Incipient	Meso-EBA	Wide, possible light retouch around distal end. 37x43x7mm
1 South	1					Translucent black	None	Chipped	None	Meso-EBA	Proximal end missing, multi-directional dorsal scars
1 South			1			Translucent black	Rough, thick	Very chipped	None	Meso-EBA	Distal missing. >27x12x4mm
1 South			1			Translucent black	None	Chipped	Blue-white	Meso/ENE o	Distal end missing. >54x17x7mm
1 South		1				Translucent black	Rough, thick	Chipped	Blue-white	Meso/ENE o	Possibly struck to rejuvenate core face. 49x35x11mm
1 South		1				Translucent black	Thermal	Chipped	Incipient	Meso/ENE o	35x18x5mm
1 South			1			Translucent black	None	Chipped	Light	Meso/ENE o	Proximal and distal ends missing. >48x21x5mm
1 South			1			Translucent black	None	Slightly chipped	Light	Meso/ENE o	Distal end missing. >24x11x3mm
1 South	1					Translucent dark grey	Rough, thick	Chipped	None	Meso/ENE o	Proximal end missing, probably originally a blade. >43x24x5mm
1 South		1				Semi-translucent speckled black	Rough, thick	Chipped	None	Meso/ENE o	45x25x5mm
1 South			1			Translucent black	None	Slightly chipped	None	Meso/ENE	27x8x2mm

B.3 Quern and Millstones

By Sarah Percival

Description and Discussion

- B.3.1 A total of 14 pieces of lava weighing 2570g were collected from three excavated contexts and from topsoil (Table 3). All are extremely worn and abraded. A fragment from a lower quern stone was recovered from topsoil in Trench 13. The quern is 28mm thick and has a drilled central spindle, 30mm in diameter, which pierces the body of the quern. A small area of surviving edge suggests an original diameter was c.400mm. The upper grinding surface is smoothed. A second quern fragment, from pit 111, has one surviving flat surface.
- B.3.2 It is likely that the fragments are Roman as other material of the this date has been found at the site, however, as lava continued to be imported into Britain throughout the late Saxon and medieval periods and dating must remain tentative.
- B.3.1 Three pieces of natural, unworked stone were also collected during the evaluation and these were subsequently discarded.

Context	Feature	Feature type	Trench	Material	Quantity	Weight	Comments
18	15	Structure	11	Lava	8	10	Scraps
102	98	Ditch	6	Lava	3	54	Scraps
110	111	Pit	16	Lava	2	206	X 1 flat surface. Abraded
Total					13	270	

Table 3: Quantity and weight of lava pieces by feature

B.4 Pottery

By Paul Spoerry

Introduction

- B.4.1 The evaluation produced a small pottery assemblage of 211 sherds from 16 contexts, weighing 3.037kg (Table 4). The condition of the overall assemblage is good with only Roman sherds and some softer or Brittle Saxon and prehistoric pottery being moderately abraded to abraded. The average sherd weight is high to medium for rural sites, at approximately 14.4g.
- B.4.2 Ceramic fabric abbreviations used in the text are:

Anglo-Saxon hand-made fabrics, with suffixes relating to commonest inclusions	AS
Flint	F
Igneous rock	I
Limestone	L
Mica	M
Quartz	Q
Quartzite	Qt
Vegetable tempers	V
Developed St Neots Type Ware	DNEOT

East Anglian Redwares	EAR
Early Medieval Essex micaceous sandy wares	EMEMS
Essex early medieval sand and shell tempered ware	ESEMSSH
Sible Hedingham Ware	HEDI
Medieval Essex micaceous sandy wares	MEMS
Post-medieval redware	PMR
Prehistoric pottery with inclusions as noted	PPot QtGV
Roman pottery (generic)	Rpot
South Cambs grog-tempered ware	SCAGS

Methodology

- B.4.3 The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) documents *A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG 1998) and *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics* (MPRG 2001) act as a standard.
- B.4.4 Dating was carried out using OA East's in-house system based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described medieval and post-medieval types. All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed. All the pottery has been recorded and dated on a context-by-context basis.
- B.4.5 The pottery and archive are currently curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition.

Assemblage

- B.4.6 The pottery derives from most phases/areas of the site and represents several domestic Anglo-Saxon and medieval vessels alongside a background of generally-derived sherds from a number of periods.
- B.4.7 The vessels present in the assemblage are primarily domestic in nature, comprising mainly of jars with a few jugs. Both the Anglo-Saxon pottery and the medieval pottery includes heavily sooted domestic vessels suggesting a primary occupation / kitchen assemblage is present.
- B.4.8 Fabrics present are a mixture of a small number of wares of local and non-local origin. The Anglo-Saxon pottery includes a range of hand-made fabrics typical of the region, including examples showing affinity with the primarily quartz sand and vegetable tempered wares seen to the south and east, alongside igneous rock tempered vessels with more affinity north and westwards into the midland counties. The early medieval and medieval pottery is all of comparatively local origin, from south Cambridgeshire and north Essex.
- B.4.9 The majority of the assemblage is Anglo-Saxon or early medieval, with some 'high' medieval material. One context includes hand-made Anglo-Saxon pottery alongside a hand-made vessel with a distinctive rusticated external surface. There are no known comparative vessels of Anglo-Saxon date and it is suggested that this vessel may be Iron Age, and thereby residual in this context. Sarah Percival commented on this vessel, and indicated this date was certainly possible, but not certain (pers. comm.).

B.4.10 The Anglo-Saxon pottery includes both vegetable tempered wares and stamped quartzite and igneous tempered vessels. The former would normally have a 5th to 6th century date in this region, whilst the latter is more likely to be of 6th to 7th century in date. Generally, the Anglo-Saxon activity here may therefore be of 6th century date.

Statement of Research Potential and Further Work

B.4.11 An assemblage of this size provides only basic dating information for a site, however, the presence of large fragments of unabraded Saxon pottery suggests a significant assemblage would be recovered if further work took place.

CONTEXT	FABRIC	Date	Sherd count	Sherd weight	Basic form	Rim	Deposit external/internal	Surface treatment external/internal	Decoration	Comments
1	DNEOT	1050-1250	2	0.02						Base
1	SCAGS	1100-1200	1	0.01					Wavy line dec	
1	EMEMS MEMS	1050-1400	11	0.08						Various vessels
1	MEMS	1200-1400	1	0.02	Jar	Ft, thickened				Buff fab
12	DNEOT	1050-1250	1	0.00						
12	RPOT	50-400	1	0.00						
12	ASQV	450-650	1	0.01						Black fabric
12	ASQ	450-850	1	0.01						Black w buff wipe surface
16	ASQL	450-800	2	0.01						Black, thin walled from sample 4
16	ASQ	450-800	1	0.01						Black from sample 3
16	ASQIM	450-800	1	0.03						Black with mid gre=brown ext surf sf 6
16	ASQL	450-800	1	0.02	Jar					Black with buff ext surf sf 11
16	ASIQ	450-800	1	0.03						Dark gre core, red-br int and dk grey ext. Xfit with 18; sf 9
16	ASQT	500-800	1	0.04					Grid stamps and inc lines	Dk grey with brown ext surf; zone of grdi stamps delineated by lines
18	ASQT	450-800	1	0.02						Dk brown
18	ASQVL	450-600	2	0.01						Dk brown
18	ASIQ	450-800	4	0.05	Jar	Upright f-t		Wiped	Incised lines and circular stamp	Dk grey with black and brown surfaces
18	ASIQ	450-800	9	0.21						Dark grey core, red-br int and dk grey ext. Xfit with 16
18	ASQT	450-800	3	0.03	Jar	Upright ext thick		Wiped	Wheel stamp	Black

CONTEXT	FABRIC	Date	Sherd count	Sherd weight	Basic form	Rim	Deposit external/internal	Surface treatment external/internal	Decoration	Comments
22	RPOT	50-400	1	0.02						Off-white jar rim, abraded
41	EAR	1300-1500	2	0.00						
49	HEDI	1150-1350	2	0.00	Jug			Glaze and slip		
49	ASQ	450-850	4	0.02						Black fabric, abundant q
49	MEMS	1200-1400	1	0.00						
78	PMR	1600-1800	2	0.06	Bowl	Y				
78	MEMS	1200-1400	1	0.01						
78	DNEOT	1050-1250	1	0.00						
87	MEMS	1200-1400	2	0.02	Jar	Upr ext thick	Soot			
87	PMR	1600-1800	1	0.00						
87	BCHIN	1780-1900	1	0.00						
90	EMEMS/MEMS	1100-1300	1	0.02	Jug	Simple rounded				
102	EMEMS	1050-1225	2	0.03	Pitcher	Out turned			Wavy line	
102	EMEMS/MEMS	1150-1300	6	0.08	Jar	O/t impressed				
102	EMEMS/MEMS	1150-1300	14	0.19	Jar	Upright/thickened				+1 vessels
102	ESEMSSH	1000-1300	1	0.00						
102	HEDI	1150-1350	2	0.01	Jug			Gg		
110	MEMS	1200-1400	39	0.95	Jar	Right angled, rounded thumbed	Soot			

CONTEXT	FABRIC	Date	Sherd count	Sherd weight	Basic form	Rim	Deposit external/internal	Surface treatment external/internal	Decoration	Comments
110	MEMS	1200-1400	44	0.56	Jug	Rounded				Strap handle
110	MEMS	1200-1400	12	0.06						Various vessels
110	ASQF	450-850	1	0.01						Thick wall
110	EAR	1200-1400	4	0.02	Jug			Ext glaze		Various vessels
112	ASQL	450-800	1	0.06				Int wiped		Blck with brown surfaces, int sooting and wiping/burnish
112	ASQT	450-800	1	0.04			Soot	Ext wiped	Combing	Mid brown with dk brown surfaces
112	PPQTGV	800bc-50ad	9	0.16				Rustication		Thick walled, coarse, large dark browb vessel with coarse rustication
117	EMEMS	1050-1225	6	0.07	Jar		Soot			
117	EMEMS	1050-1225	1	0.02	Jar	Upright, f/t				
129	EMEMS	1050-1225	1	0.00						
132	EMEMS	1050-1225	2	0.01						
135	EMEMS	1050-1225	1	0.00						

Table 5: Pottery dating

B.5 Ceramic Building Material

By Sarah Percival

Introduction

- B.5.1 A total of 28 pieces of ceramic building material weighing 1.704kg was collected from fifteen excavated contexts and from unstratified surface collection. Unstratified material forms 41% of the total assemblage by weight. The CBM is fragmentary and mostly small and poorly preserved.
- B.5.2 A little over 91% of the assemblage by weight is of Roman date. A small quantity of medieval/ post medieval scraps and some undatable flecks were also collected (Table 6).

Trench	Context	Feature	Feature Type	CBM Spot Date	Quantity	Weight (g)
0	1	1	Topsoil	Roman	4	691
1	142	141	Ditch	Med./ Post Med.	2	8
				Roman	1	45
6	102	98	Ditch	Roman	1	63
				Not closely datable	1	34
	104	103	Ditch	Roman	2	279
7	33	32	Ditch	Roman	1	48
	34	32	Ditch	Not closely datable	1	14
				Roman	1	60
	37	35	Ditch	Post Med.	1	55
	48	46	Pit	Roman	1	183
51	50	Ditch	Post Med.	3	25	
10	68	65	Ditch	Not closely datable	1	1
11	16	15	Structure	Roman	1	21
12	129	128	Pit	Not closely datable	1	3
15	117	116	Pit	Roman	1	27
	121	120	Ditch	Roman	1	73
16	110	111	Pit	Not closely datable	1	6
				Roman	2	55
20	14	13	Ditch	Roman	1	13
Total					28	1704

Table 6: Quantity and weight of ceramic building material by trench and feature

Methodology

- B.5.3 The CBM was counted and weighed by form and fabric and any complete dimensions measured. Abrasion, re-use and burning were also recorded following guidelines laid down by the Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group (ACBMG 2002). Terminology follows Brodrigg (1987).

Fabric

- B.5.4 The Roman fabrics are characterised by soft, orange to red fine clay or silt rich fabrics with a variety of inclusions including flint pieces, fine chalk and soft red grog pellets.

The medieval/ post-medieval CBM is made of dense, hard-fired, red to orange sandy fabric (Table 7).

B.5.5 The range of Roman fabrics compare well with those recovered from Roman contexts at Linton Village Collage (Gilmour 2011, table 17).

Spot Date	Fabric	Quantity	Weight (g)	% weight
Roman	Dense silty fabric dark grey brown few visible inclusions	2	286	17%
	Red orange sandy fabric with sparse flint inclusions	5	583	34%
	Sandy orange with numerous small fine chalk inclusions	5	325	19%
	Soft orange silty fabric with red grog pellets	5	364	21%
Med Post Med	Orange sandy	2	8	0%
Post Med	Dense orange sandy fabric	3	25	1%
Not closely datable	Orange sandy	4	44	3%
	Soft orange silty fabric with red clay pellets	1	14	1%
	Soft orange silty fabric	1	55	3%
Total		28	1704	100%

Table 7: Quantity and weight of ceramic building material by fabric

Forms

B.5.6 The Roman assemblage includes two pieces of combed flue tile, three pieces of bonding tile with an average thickness of 32mm of which one has a finger swiped signature mark, and two fragments of tegula. The remainder of the assemblage consists of flat roof tile fragments. Thickness of the roof tile varies between 17mm and 23mm with most being 22mm thick. One roof tile fragment has a finger swiped signature.

B.5.7 The post-Roman material comprises undiagnostic scraps of roof tile.

Spot date	Type	Surface	Quantity	Weight (g)	% Weight
Roman	Tile		1	45	3%
	Roof tile	Signature	2	55	3%
			7	753	44%
	Bonding tile	Signature	2	197	12%
			1	60	4%
	Flue tile	Combed	2	111	7%
Tegula		2	337	20%	
Med./ Post Med.	Roof tile		2	8	0%
Post Med.	Roof tile		4	80	5%
Not closely datable	Brick		2	40	2%
	Roof tile		3	18	1%
Total			28	1704	100%

Table 8: Quantity and weight of ceramic building material by type

Deposition

B.5.8 Ceramic building material was principally recovered from ditch fills and topsoil (Table 6). Smaller quantities were also collected in small quantities from the fills of four pits (46,

111, 116 and 128). One fragment of Roman bonding tile was found in association with SFB 15.

Discussion

- B.5.9 This small assemblage is in poor condition. The small size of the fragments combined with the context of recovery (principally from ditches and topsoil) suggests that the ceramic building material is redeposited and had been subject to high levels of post-depositional disturbance possibly the result of middening and/or manuring. A similar poor and abraded assemblage found at Linton Village College was considered to have derived from debris spread by waste management during the Roman period (Gilmour 2011, 25).
- B.5.10 The presence of both flue tile and roofing material within the assemblage does however suggest that a high status building must have been located nearby.

B.6 Baked Clay

By Sarah Percival

Description and Discussion

- B.6.1 A total of seven scraps of baked clay weighing 7g were collected from two excavated contexts (Table 9). All are extremely worn and abraded. The undiagnostic assemblage is not closely datable.

Context	Feature	Feature type	Trench	Fabric	Form	Quantity	Weight in kg
102	98	Ditch	6	Poorly mixed orange fabric with black core some elongated voids	scrap	1	4
110	111	Pit	16	Poorly mixed orange fabric with sparse flint	scrap	6	3
Total						7	7

Table 9: Quantity and weight of baked clay by feature

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Faunal Remains

By Chris Faine

Introduction

- C.1.1 A total of 4.7kg of faunal material was recovered, yielding 66 “countable” bones (see below). All bones were collected by hand apart from those recovered from environmental samples; hence a bias towards smaller fragments is to be expected. Residuality appears not to be an issue and there is no evidence of later contamination of any context. Ninety-one fragments of animal bone were recovered with 33 identifiable to species (36% of the total sample). Faunal material was recovered from Early Saxon and medieval contexts, with the largest numbers of identifiable fragments being recovered from fills of SFB **15** and medieval ditch **103**.

Methodology

- C.1.2 All data was initially recorded using a specially written MS Access database. Bones were recorded using a version of the criteria described in Davis (1992) and Albarella & Davis (1994). Initially all elements were assessed in terms of siding (where appropriate), completeness, tooth wear stages (also where applicable) and epiphyseal fusion. Completeness was assessed in terms of percentage and zones present (after Dobney & Reilly 1988). Initially the whole identifiable assemblage was quantified in terms of number of individual fragments (NISP) and minimum numbers of individuals MNI (see Tables 10 & 11). The ageing of the population was largely achieved by examining the wear stages of cheek teeth of cattle, sheep/goat and pig (after Grant 1982). Wear stages were recorded for lower molars of cattle, sheep/goat and pig, both isolated and in mandibles. The states of epiphyseal fusion for all relevant bones were recorded to give a broad age range for the major domesticates (after Getty 1975). Measurements were largely carried out according to the conventions of von den Driesch (1976). Measurements were either carried out using a 150mm sliding calliper or an osteometric board in the case of larger bones.

The Assemblage

- C.1.3 Tables 10 & 11 show the species distribution for the entire assemblage in terms of number of fragments and individuals respectively. The Early Saxon sample is dominated by cattle remains along with smaller numbers of sheep and pig. Cattle remains consist largely of lower limbs and carpal/tarsal bones, with a single measurable metacarpal being recovered from context 18 from a possible steer around 1.24m at the shoulder. No juvenile elements were recovered. Sheep remains also consist largely of lower limb elements along with three mandibles (from contexts 16 & 18), from animals around 4-6 years of age at death. Again no juvenile animals were recovered. Pig remains were limited to a partial tibia and juvenile mandible (6 months-1 year old), from context 18.
- C.1.4 Cattle is the dominant taxon in the medieval assemblage, consisting of largely of partial scapulae and lower limb elements (radii, tibiae etc.), along with a heavily shattered adult cranium from context 104. Sheep remains show the same body part distribution, with neither it nor the cattle sample containing juvenile elements. Pig remains are limited to a partial ulna and a mandible from a female around 1-2 years of age, from

contexts 104 and 37 respectively. Other species are limited to a rabbit tibia from context 121 and a domestic fowl ulna from context 104.

Conclusions

- C.1.5 Faunal material from both phases suggests initial processing of complete carcasses with secondary butchery taking place elsewhere. There is no evidence of cattle or sheep breeding taking place on site, although juvenile pigs were at least present. Domestic birds were raised for meat and eggs. Rabbits would have provided meat and skins although it is possible that the tibia from context 121 is intrusive. This is a small assemblage that most likely represents general settlement waste rather than any specialist husbandry practice.

	Early Saxon		Medieval	
	NISP	NISP %	NISP	NISP %
Cattle (<i>Bos</i>)	9	33.3	9	50
Sheep/Goat (<i>Ovis/Capra</i>)	8	53.4	5	27.7
Pig (<i>Sus scrofa</i>)	2	13.3	2	11.1
Domestic Fowl (<i>Gallus sp.</i>)	0	0	1	5.6
Rabbit (<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>)	0	0	1	5.6
Total:	19	100	18	100

Table 10: Species distribution for the assemblage (NISP)

	Early Saxon		Medieval	
	MNI	MNI %	MNI	MNI %
Cattle (<i>Bos</i>)	4	22.2	3	30
Sheep/Goat (<i>Ovis/Capra</i>)	5	55.6	3	30
Pig (<i>Sus scrofa</i>)	2	22.2	2	20
Domestic Fowl (<i>Gallus sp.</i>)	0	0	1	10
Rabbit (<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>)	0	0	1	10
Total:	9	100	10	100

Table 11: Species distribution for the assemblage (MNI)

C.2 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

- C.2.1 Twenty-six bulk samples were taken from features within ten of the evaluation trenches in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.
- C.2.2 Features sampled include pits dating from the prehistoric period, a Saxon sunken feature building (SFB) with associated features, medieval pits and undated deposits

Methodology

- C.2.3 For this initial assessment a single bucket (up to ten litres) of the bulk samples 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 total volume of soil from SFB **15** (up to 40L) and of pit **143** was processed to maximise finds retrieval. The floating component (flot) of the samples was

collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve. Both flots and residues 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 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 12. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands* and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (1997) for other plants. Carbonized seeds and grains, by the process of burning and burial, become blackened and often distort and fragment leading to difficulty in identification. Plant remains have been identified to species where possible. The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

Quantification

- C.2.4 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and legumes have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories

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

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance

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

Results

- C.2.5 The results are presented by trench. Preservation is predominantly by carbonisation with occasional mineralised remains. Hammerscale was recovered from most of the deposits within all of the trenches and appears to be spread evenly over both fields. It is possible that this is the result of mixed midden and blacksmithing waste being used as manure/fertiliser at some point. Hammerscale fragments are microscopic and can easily work through deposits by bioturbation.

Trench 4

- C.2.6 Samples were taken from two (144 and 145) of the three fills of rectangular pit **143**. Burnt flint was abundant in each sample but charcoal volumes were relatively small (approximately 1ml in each). Sample 23, upper fill 144 contains a single charred barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grain and five poorly-preserved indeterminate cereal grains.

Trench 6

- C.2.7 A single sample taken from fill 104 of shallow linear ditch **103** contains a single charred barley grain that is likely to have been wind-blown into the feature.

Trench 8

- C.2.8 This trench contained three natural treeboles, two of which were sampled (**85** and **88**) and both contained charred grains of free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum sensu lato*) that are consistent with a medieval date for these deposits.

Trench 9

- C.2.9 A single sample was taken from pit **131** and contained only a single charred oat (*Avena* sp.) grain.

Trench 10

- C.2.10 A sample taken from fill of former hedge line **54** did not contain any preserved remains.

Trench 11

- C.2.11 Five samples were taken from the fills and posthole of SFB **15**. Charred cereal grains were recovered from all samples and are most common in Sample 2, upper tertiary fill 18. Charred barley and wheat grains are present along with evidence of cereal straw in the form of a culm node. Single charred specimens of cleaver (*Galium aparine*), a small legume (*Vicia* sp) and a fragment of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell are also present. Seventeen mineralised cysts/nodules were noted in the flot. This sample also contained the greatest volume (20ml) of charcoal (charcoal volumes of all of the samples was less than 1ml). The other samples from deposits 16 and 17 of SFB **15** also contain charred barley, wheat and oat grains but in small quantities. A further single mineralised cyst is present in Sample 4, fill 16. The posthole **19** incorporated within structure SFB **15** contains a single indeterminate charred grain.
- C.2.12 Samples from two postholes **23** and **25** to the west of SFB **15** did not contain any charcoal although fill 26 of posthole **25** contains a single indeterminate charred grain.
- C.2.13 Sample 10, fill 22 of pit **21** which was located to the east of SFB **15** contains occasional charred barley and wheat grains in addition to two seeds preserved by mineralisation; a seed of corn gromwell (*Lithospermum arvense*) and the inner seed of a cherry or sloe (*Prunus* sp.) stone. Mineralised remains of fly pupae are also present.

Trench 13

- C.2.14 Four samples were taken from features within Trench 13. Fill 78 of linear ditch **79** did not contain any preserved plant remains and two adjacent treeboles **27** and **29** contain only occasional charred oat and wheat grains. Fill 78 of pit **77** was more productive and contains a moderate assemblage of charred cereal grains that are predominantly wheat with occasional oat and barley grains. There are no preserved seeds or legumes present but occasional mineralised fly pupae were noted.

Trench 15

- C.2.15 Pit **118** was one of two very similar adjacent pits within Trench 15. Sample 25 fill 119 contains occasional charred cereals and a fragment of charred bean (*Vicia* cf. *faba*).

Trench 16

- C.2.16 Two samples were taken from fill 110 of pit **111**. Sample 21 was taken from the general fill of the pit whilst Sample 22 was taken from an area in which a substantial amount of pottery appeared to have been deliberately placed. Both samples contain moderate assemblages of charred wheat and peas (*Pisum* cf. *sativum*) with Sample 22 containing the greater quantity. Sample 22 also contains charred oats along with charred seeds of corn gromwell and a seed of cleaver.

Trench 20

- C.2.17 Two samples taken from posthole **4** and ditch **13** did not contain preserved plant remains other than sparse charcoal.

Trench	Feature Type	Function	Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Volume processed (L)	Flot volume (ml)	Cereals	Legumes	Weed Seeds	hammerscale	hammerscale	mineralised insects	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal > 2mm	Large animal bones	Pottery	Metal	Burnt flint
4	pit	disuse	23	144	143	pit	18	15	#	0	0	#	#	0	++	+	0	0	0	###
4	pit	disuse	24	145	143	pit	20	20	0	0	0	##	#	0	+	+	0	0	0	###
6	ditch	disuse	18	104	103	hollo way	10	2	#	0	0	#	#	0	+	0	##	0	0	0
8	natural	treebole	19	87	85	pit	10	10	#	0	0	#	#	0	+	0	#	#	0	0
8	natural	treebole	20	90	88	pit	10	1	#	0	0	#	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
9	pit	quarry	26	132	131	pit	10	10	#	0	0	##	0	0	+	0	0	#	0	0
10	ditch	disuse	13	57	54	boun dary	4	1	0	0	0	##	#	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
11	structur e	disuse	2	18	15	SFB	40	300	##	#	#	###	#	0	+++	++	###	#	0	0
11	struct ure	disuse	3	17	15	SFB	16	75	#	0	0	##	#	0	++	++	##	#	0	0
11	struct ure	primar y fill	4	16	15	SFB	10	40	#	#	0	##	#	0	+	+	#	0	#	#
11	struct ure	primar y fill	5	16	15	SFB	10	20	#	0	0	##	#	0	+	+	#	#	0	0
11	struct ure	primar y fill	6	16	15	SFB	10	10	#	0	0	##	#	0	+	0	#	#	0	0
11	struct ure	primar y fill	7	16	15	SFB	10	30	#	#	0	##	#	0	+	+	#	0	0	0
11	post hole	disuse	9	20	19	SFB post	20	5	#	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	#	0	0	0
11	pit	disuse	10	22	21	pit	10	20	#	0	0	0	0	++	+	0	0	0	0	0
11	post hole	disuse	11	24	23	post	8	2	0	0	0	#	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	post hole	disuse	12	26	25	post	6	2	#	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	natural	treebole	14	28	27	natur al	8	5	#	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	###
13	natural	treebole	15	30	29	natur al	8	5	#	0	0	#	#	0	+	+	0	0	0	###
13	pit	disuse	16	78	77	pit	10	30	#	0	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	#	0	0
13	ditch	disuse	17	80	79	ditch	8	1	0	0	0	#	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
15	pit	quarry	25	119	118	pit	8	10	#	#	0	#	#	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
16	pit	disuse	21	110	111	pit	10	60	##	#	0	#	#	0	++	+	0	#	0	0
16	pit	disuse	22	110	111	pit	10	10	##	#	#	##	#	0	+	0	0	#	0	0
20	post hole	disuse	1	5	4	post hole	10	30	0	0	0	##	#	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
20	ditch	disuse	8	14	13	trenc h	10	15	0	0	0	##	#	0	+	0	#	0	0	0

Table 12: Environmental samples

Discussion

- C.2.18 Environmental sampling undertaken from both the smaller northern field and the larger southern field has shown that plant remains have been preserved by both carbonisation and mineralisation. The carbonised material comprises cereal grains and weed seeds in addition to charcoal. Preservation is quite variable with most of the cereals, particularly those occurring in small quantities, appearing abraded and/or fragmented. This is likely to be the result of the cereals having been wind-blown into features rather than through deliberate deposition. The deliberate disposal of burnt food waste is more likely in some of the pits which may have been dug specifically for this purpose. Food waste is likely to be noisome and attract vermin and was frequently buried along with latrine waste. The disposal of latrine waste often produces mineralised plant and insect remains because the phosphates in the sewage replace the organic components leading to a form of semi-fossilization.
- C.2.19 SFB **15** has produced interesting results in that the charred remains of food plants are distributed throughout the three deposits that had been back-filled in the feature. The remains are relatively sparse in density and diversity which may suggest that they were incorporated accidentally when the feature was backfilled but there is also a theory that charred grains found in primary fills of SFBs may have fallen through the floor boards during the use of the building (Tipper 2004, 154). Pit 21 was undated but is located close to SFB 15 and may be contemporary. It contained charred food remains and mineralised cysts which probably indicates that it was used for mixed refuse including latrine waste. The presence of the cysts in SFB 15 fills 16 and 18 pose a conundrum as these unidentified objects often occur in samples, usually associated with cess deposits although not exclusively so. Attempts to identify them have failed although suggestions of tapeworm cysts and fungi have been proposed (Carruthers 1996).
- C.2.20 There is continuing evidence of the disposal of mixed food and latrine waste into the medieval period. Mineralisation appears to have occurred primarily in the more robust, woody plant remains such as fruit kernels which may have passed through the human digestive system. The remains of fly pupae and insect fragments is further indication of rotting waste that would need to be buried or removed from an area of occupation.

Statement of potential

- C.2.21 The environmental samples from Land at Bartlow Road, Linton have shown that there is excellent potential for the recovery of charred and mineralised plant and insect remains from Saxon and medieval deposits. A Roman villa site lies in close proximity to the southern area but the samples from this field did not produce any plant remains that might be considered to date to the Roman period (such as hulled wheat species). If further excavations are planned for this area, it is recommended that a schedule for environmental sampling should be appended to the updated project design. This should include aims such as characterising settlement and economy in the Saxon and medieval periods, with reference to the research topics in the revised framework for this region (Medlycott 2011).

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APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-202141		
Project Name	Land at Bartlow Road, Linton, Cambridgeshire.		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	27-11-2014	Finish	10-12-2014
Previous Work (by OA East)	Yes	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	LINBAR14	Planning App. No.	na
HER No.	ECB4331	Related HER/OASIS No.	ECB4290/oxfordar3-191509

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Voluntary/self-interest
Development Type	Housing Estate

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 type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
<input type="checkbox"/> Augering	<input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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
SFB	Early Medieval 410 to 1066	pottery, bone	Early Medieval 410 to 1066
metalled road	Medieval 1066 to 1540	pottery, bone, shell	Medieval 1066 to 1540
ditches, pits	Medieval 1066 to 1540	tile, CBM	Roman 43 to 410

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	South Cambridgeshire	Land at Bartlow Road, Linton, Cambridgeshire	
Parish	Linton		
HER	Cambridgeshire		
Study Area	4.5ha	National Grid Reference	TL 57242 46443

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Kasia Gdaniec (CCC HET)
Project Design Originator	Paul Spoerry (OA East)
Project Manager	Paul Spoerry (OA East)
Supervisor	Graeme Clarke (OA East)

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Cambs. County Store	OA East	Cambs. County Store
LINBAR14	LINBAR14	LINBAR14

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/> Correspondence
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:

APPENDIX F. GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY REPORT

**LAND AT BARTLOW ROAD
LINTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**Archaeological Geophysical Survey
2015**

Report by:

A.D.H. Bartlett

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Land at Bartlow Road Linton, Cambridgeshire

Geophysical Survey 2015

Abstract

This report describes a geophysical survey which has been undertaken as part of an archaeological field evaluation of a proposed housing development site on the eastern edge of Linton, Cambridgeshire.

The site is considered (on the basis of cropmarks and previous findings) to be of high archaeological potential, and the survey has produced a number of positive findings. These include linear markings which correspond to a probable former roadway identified in aerial photographs, and enclosures which could be of post-medieval (or earlier) date. There is also a relatively high level of background magnetic activity, much of which is likely to be of natural origin.

1. Introduction

The survey was commissioned from Bartlett Clark Consultancy, Specialists in Archaeogeophysics of Oxford, by Oxford Archaeology East on behalf of Bidwells. Fieldwork for the survey was done on 10 November 2014.

Plans showing the survey findings were supplied to Oxford Archaeology shortly after completion of the survey, and in advance of the subsequent trial trenching. These are now included for the record in this report.

The proposed development area (PDA) covers two arable fields located to the north and south of Bartlow Road to the east of Linton, and with a total area of 4.67ha. The surveyable area (excluding boundaries and woodland) is outlined in blue in figure 3, and amounts to 4.08ha. The larger southern field (labelled field 2 on plans in this report) is centred approximately at NGR TL 571464.

The conditions at the site, and its archaeological potential, are described in the Desk Based Assessment (DBA) prepared as part of this evaluation by Oxford Archaeology East [1]. The site has also been the subject of an aerial photographic (AP) assessment [2]. The notes in the following sections are summarised in part from these documents.

2. Topography and Geology

The site is on an underlying chalk bedrock. River terrace sand and gravel, and alluvial deposits, are indicated on BGS mapping in the vicinity of the River Granta, which forms the

southern boundary to the site. Soils on chalk and gravel usually respond favourably to magnetometer surveys, although natural variations in the distribution of alluvial material may give rise to detectable magnetic anomalies, as appear to be present in parts of the survey.

3. Archaeological Background

It is mentioned in the DBA that the site has high potential for archaeological remains of prehistoric, Roman and Saxon or later date. The most substantial nearby archaeological finding is the Linton Roman villa (CHER 09841), which has been identified through aerial photographs and excavations (in the 1850s and 1990s), and is located c. 150m to the south of the PDA. The excavations showed that the villa was an extensive stone building with outbuildings. Iron Age pits and ditches were also found during excavations at the villa site.

The remains of a walled Roman cemetery, probably associated with the villa, are thought to be present in the southern part of the PDA (CHER 06198). Findings from the site, including inhumations, were recorded in 1852 and 1926. The exact location of the cemetery, however, remains uncertain, and it is possible that it lies close to the villa outside the PDA. The magnetometer survey alone is unlikely to resolve this question because stone walls and graves are not usually good targets for detection by this technique (which responds preferentially to such findings as ditches or enclosures, or features associated with settlement activity). It is possible also that archaeological features at the site have been disturbed or eroded by cultivation and previous excavations.

Findings identified in the aerial photographic interpretation [2] are shown on the plan inset in figure 3. They include a possible former roadway which appears in older aerial photographs as a linear hollow, and a number of enclosures or field boundaries.

4. Objectives of the Survey

The purpose of the survey was to test for evidence of archaeological sites or remains, and to provide information which may inform further stages of the archaeological evaluation.

A geophysical survey is usually able to identify the extent and character of any archaeological remains capable of producing a magnetic response. The magnetometer will detect cut features such as ditches and pits when they are silted with an increased depth of topsoil, which usually responds more strongly than the underlying natural subsoil. Fired materials, including baked clay structures such as kilns or hearths are also likely to produce a localised enhancement of the magnetic field strength, and the survey therefore responds preferentially to the presence of ancient settlement or industrial remains. The survey is also strongly affected by ferrous and other debris of recent origin.

5. Survey Procedure

The procedure used for the investigation was a fluxgate gradiometer survey across the evaluation area. Results are presented as described below.

A survey grid was set out at the required locations, and tied to the OS grid using a GPS system with VRS correction to provide 0.1m or greater accuracy. The plans are therefore geo-referenced, and OS co-ordinates of map locations can be read from the AutoCAD version of the plans.

The magnetometer readings were collected along transects 1m apart using Bartington 1m fluxgate gradiometers, and are plotted at 25cm intervals along each transect. The results of the survey are presented as grey a scale plot (at 1:2000 scale) in figure 1, and as a graphical (x-y trace) plot in figure 2 (at 1:1250 at A3). Inclusion of both types of presentation allows the detected magnetic anomalies to be examined in plan and profile respectively.

The graphical (x-y) plot represents minimally pre-processed magnetometer readings, as recommended for initial presentation of survey data in the 2008 English Heritage geophysical guidelines document [3]. Adjustments are made for irregularities in line spacing caused by variations in the instrument zero setting (as is required for legibility in gradiometer data), but no further filtering or other process which could affect the anomaly profiles or influence the interpretation of the data has been applied. A weak additional 2D low pass filter has been applied to the grey scale plot to adjust background noise levels.

An interpretation of the findings is shown in figure 2 and is reproduced separately to provide a summary of the findings in figure 3. Colour coding has been used in the interpretation to distinguish different effects. The interpretation is intended to categorize most of the identifiable magnetic anomalies, but cannot reproduce the detail of the grey scale plots.

Features as marked include magnetic anomalies which may show characteristics to be expected from features of potential archaeological significance (in red), and stronger (perhaps recent) disturbances in grey. Small (and mainly natural) background magnetic anomalies are outlined in light brown, and larger natural disturbances in light green. Some of the more conspicuous ferrous objects (identifiable as narrow spikes in the graphical plots) are outlined in light blue, and possible cultivation effects are also marked.

6. Results

This survey plots indicate the presence both of archaeological features, particularly in the southern field (field 2), and other magnetic disturbances.

Field 1

No archaeological features were identified in the northern field in the aerial photography report, and the survey plots are similarly blank. There is a large pipe at the east side of the field (as indicated in blue in figure 3), together with uncertain and indistinct linear markings (green), which could be cultivation effects. Some possible small pit-like features have been outlined in red, but these are not clearly distinguishable from the (slightly noisy) background magnetic activity. They are isolated, and do not represent strong evidence for the presence of archaeological features.

Field 2

Findings in the southern field include a number of distinct ditch-like linear markings, some of which relate clearly to cropmarks. The parallel linear features at A (as labelled in figure 3) are likely to represent ditches alongside the road mentioned in the aerial photography report. Part of a rectilinear ditched enclosure at B, and a linear disturbance at C are also identifiable in the AP plan. A possible earthwork or enclosure at D does not appear to be represented in the AP plan, and a cropmark (E) is not identifiable in the survey. These ditches and enclosures are described in the aerial photography report as probably representing post-medieval boundaries, although similar magnetic anomalies often indicate field systems in the vicinity of Iron Age or Roman settlements.

Other findings include strong (recent) magnetic anomalies at F and G, and numbers of broad amorphous magnetic anomalies of a kind commonly seen on alluvial or wetland soils (as outlined in light green). These are most concentrated around H, and are likely to result from alluvial deposition close to the river.

It is difficult to distinguish any smaller or more distinct pit-like features among these disturbances. It is not impossible that such features could be present, but the overall characteristics of the magnetic activity do not suggest the presence of any dense concentrations of settlement features or remains. Ferrous objects (blue outlines) are scattered across the site, but there do not appear to be any abnormal clusters or concentrations.

7. Conclusions

The survey has produced findings which compare well with the AP interpretation, although with some detailed variation. Both interpretations suggest the presence of a roadway and ditched enclosures in the southern field, together with an absence of archaeological findings in the northern field. It remains uncertain whether the (relatively high) level of natural and other background magnetic activity in the larger field could obscure (or contain) additional archaeological findings. There are a few isolated magnetic anomalies which could perhaps represent pits containing magnetic fill (as marked in the northern field), but they are dispersed and isolated. There are no groups or clusters of such features in either field of a kind which would suggest the presence of concentrations of settlement remains.

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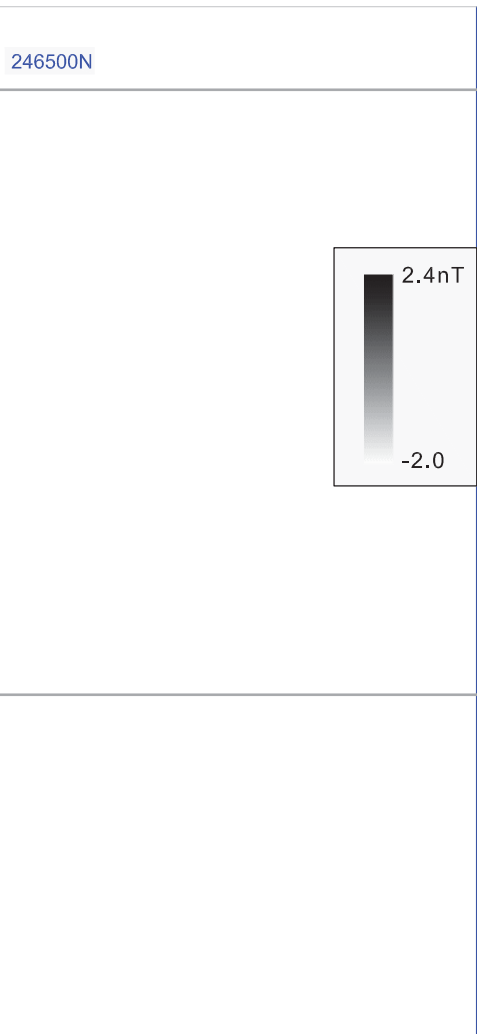
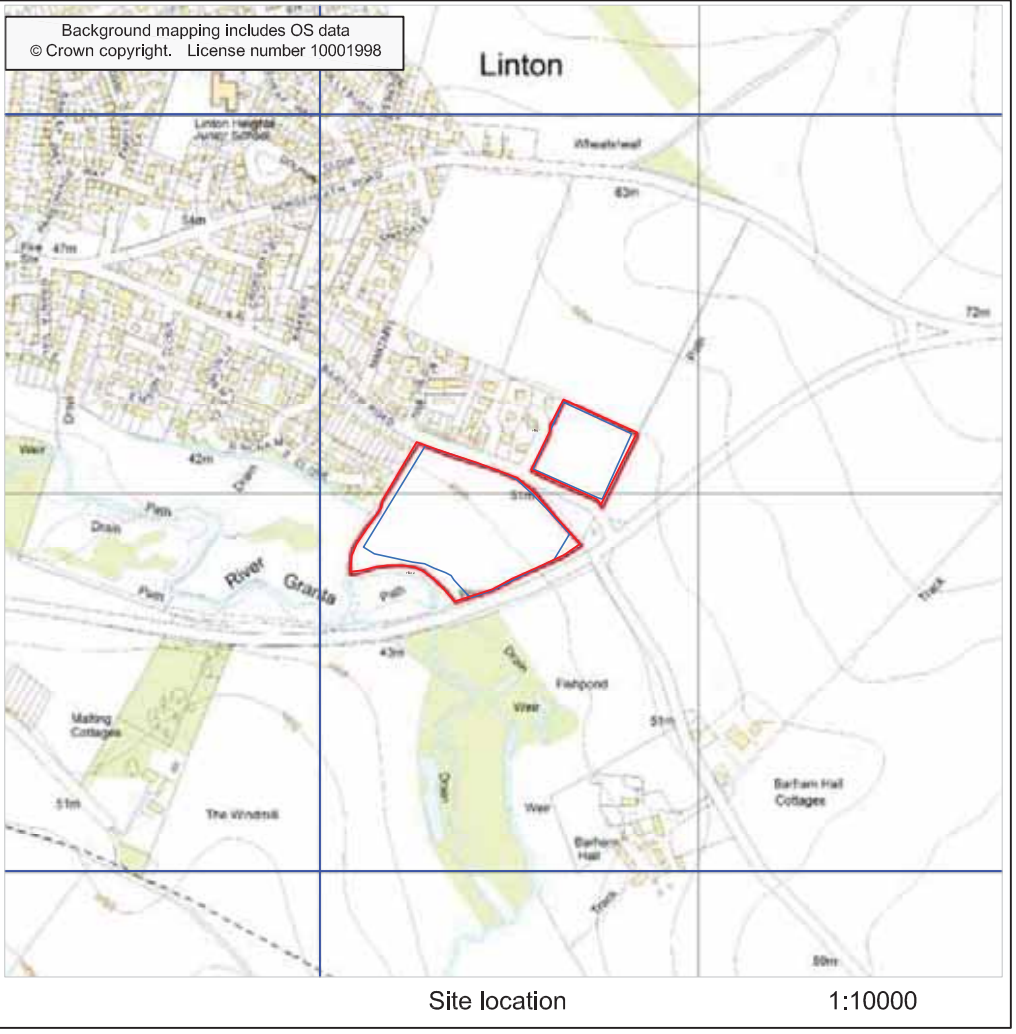
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1 April 2015

The fieldwork for this project was done by N. Paveley and P. Heykoop.

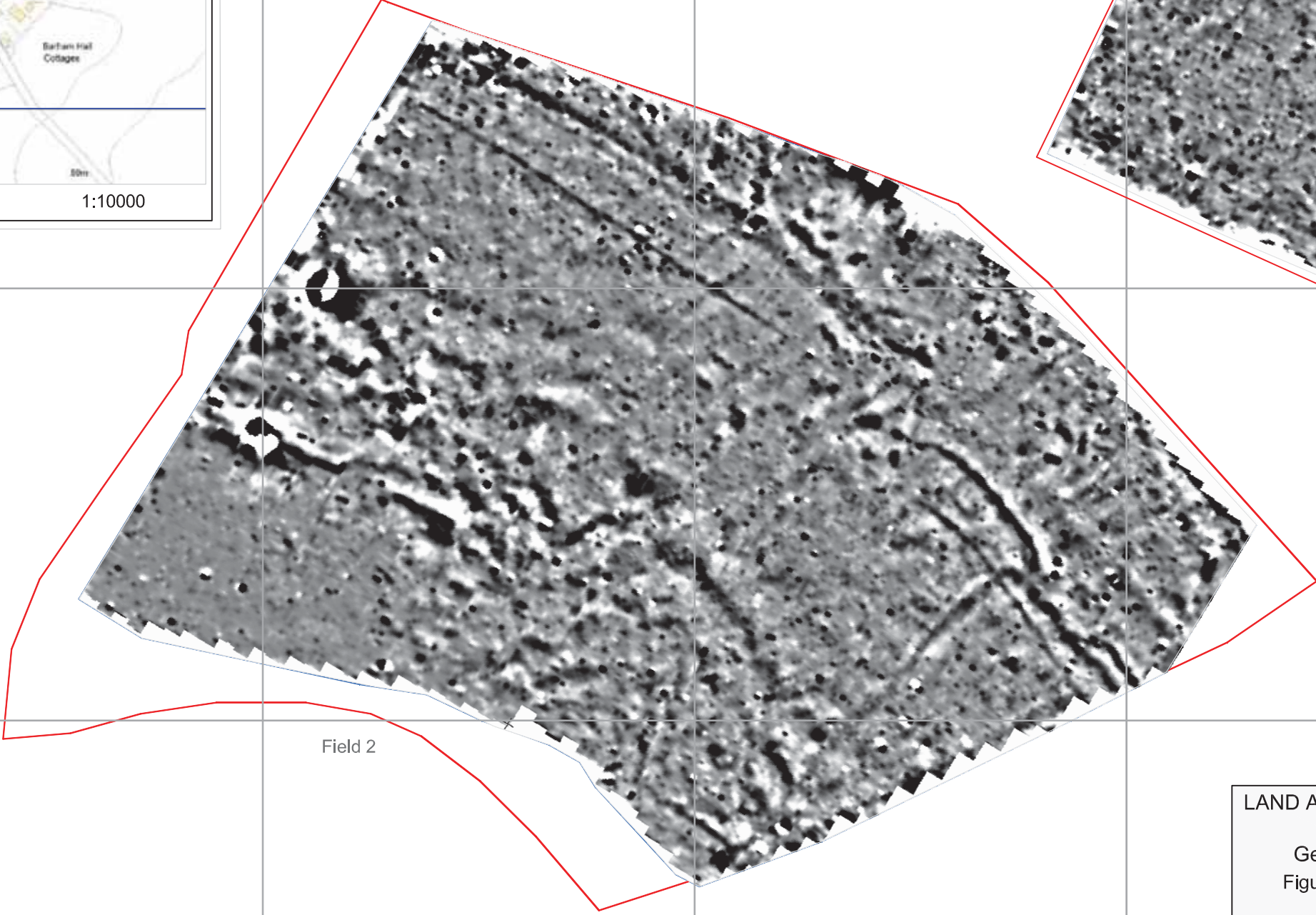
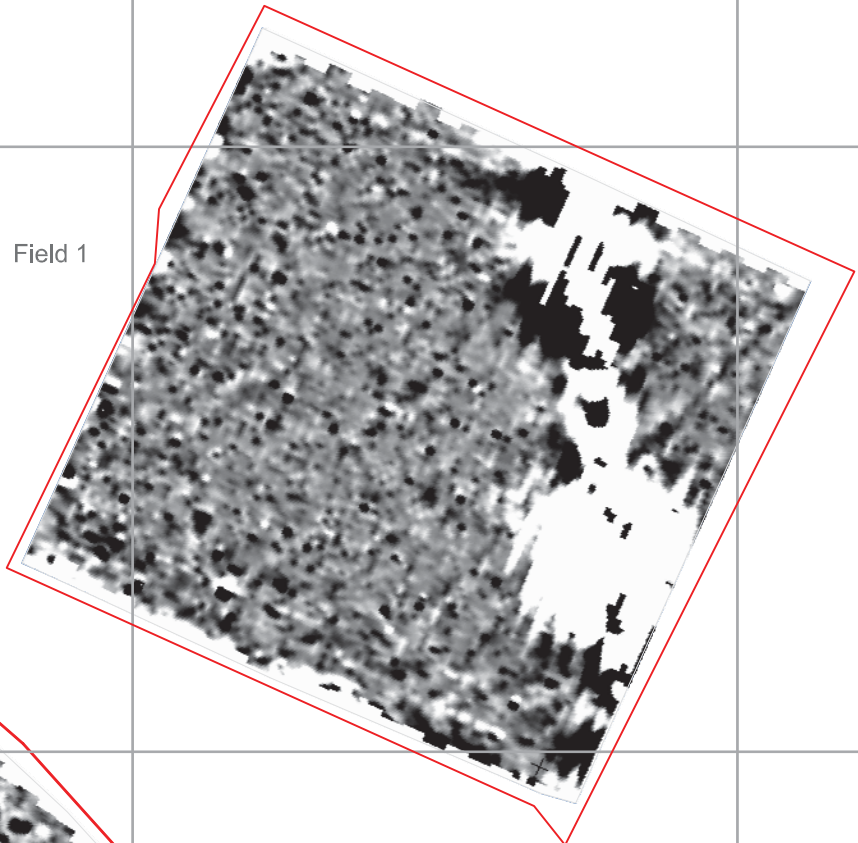
References

- [1] *Land at Bartlow Road, Linton: Desk Based Assessment.* Oxford Archaeology East Report No. 1678; October 2014.
- [2] *Land at Linton, Cambridgeshire: Aerial Photographic Assessment.* Report No. 2014/5; October 2014. Air Photo Services, Cambridge.
- [3] English Heritage 2008 *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation* [online facsimile] (English Heritage: Swindon, 2008), English Heritage Research.



Surveyed by: Bartlett-Clark Consultancy 01865 200864
for: Oxford Archaeology East








557200E



LAND AT BARTLOW ROAD, LINTON,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE
Geophysical Survey 2014
Figure 1: Magnetometer survey
(grey scale plot)

0 1:1250 @ A3 50m



-  magnetic anomalies (archaeological ?)
-  recent magnetic disturbances ?
-  irregular / weak magnetic anomalies (wetland / geology ?)
-  pipe
-  cultivation
-  strong (ferrous) magnetic anomalies
-  small background magnetic anomalies (mainly natural ?)

246500N

557200E



Field 2

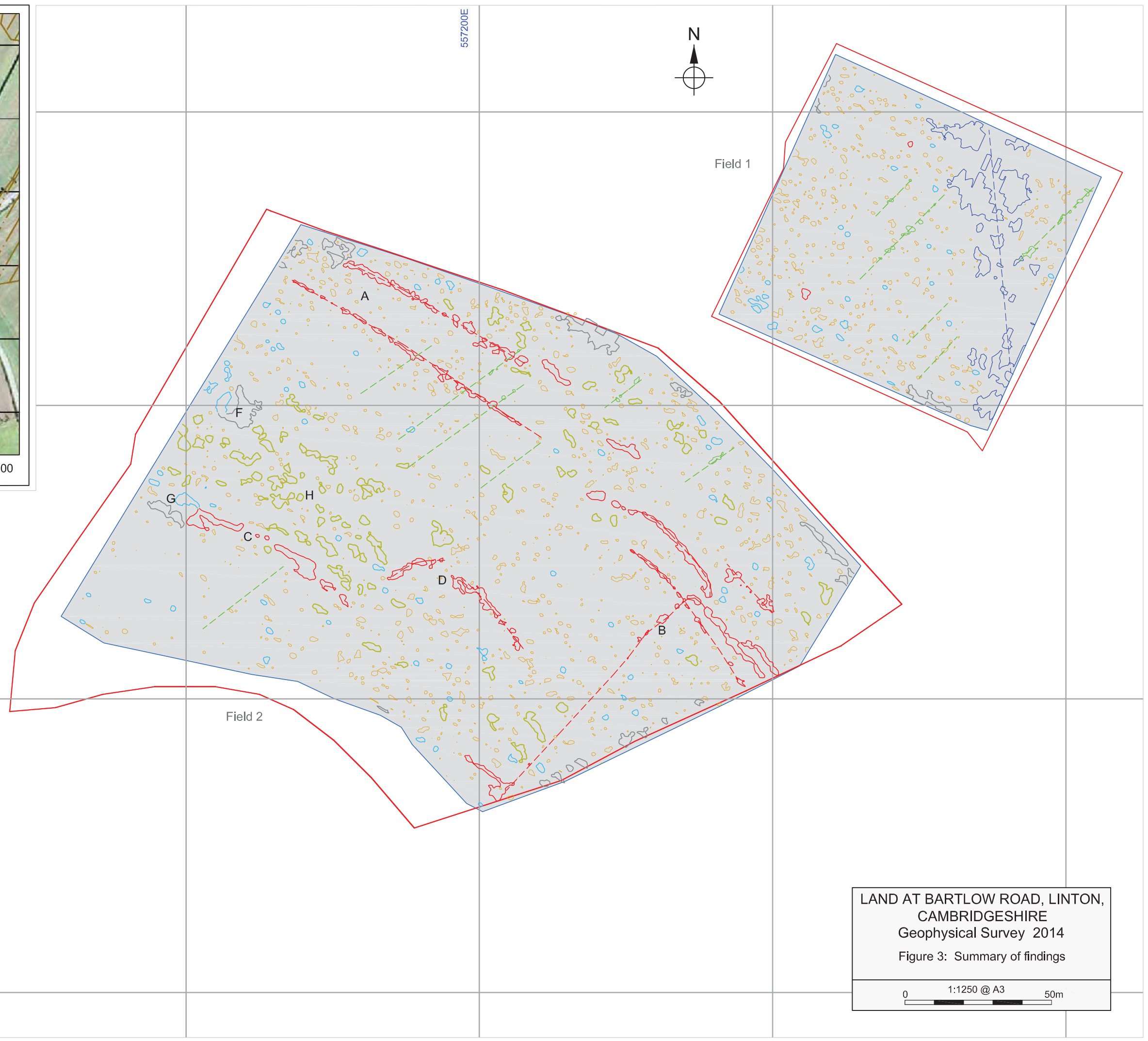
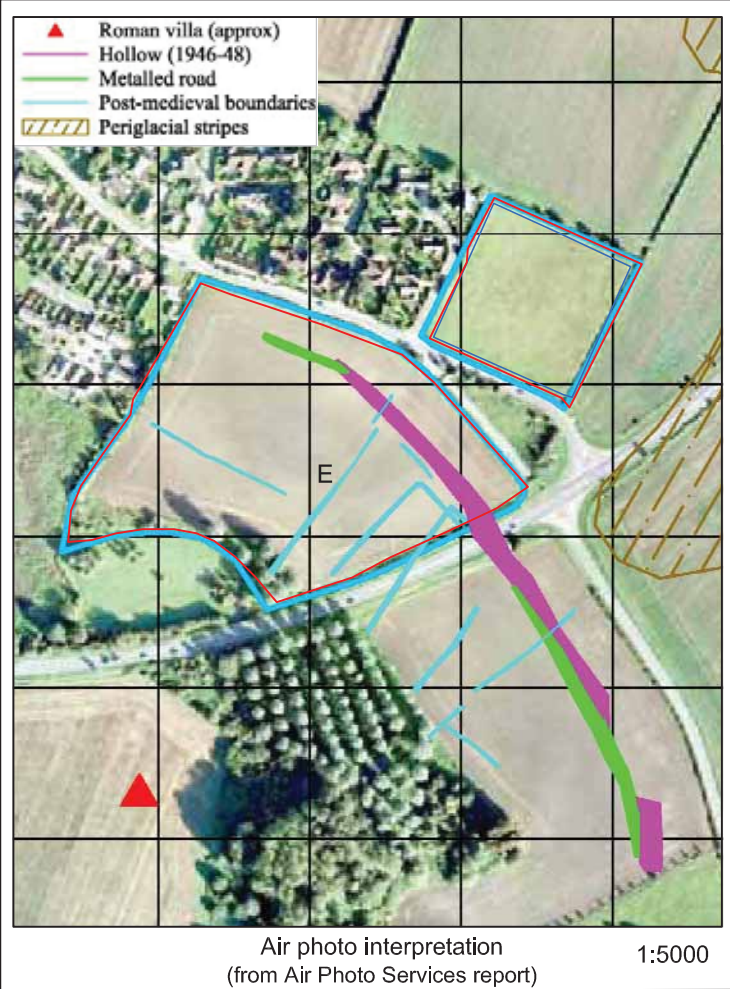
Field 1

50 mT

LAND AT BARTLOW ROAD, LINTON,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE
Geophysical Survey 2014
Figure 2: Magnetometer survey
(with interpretation)

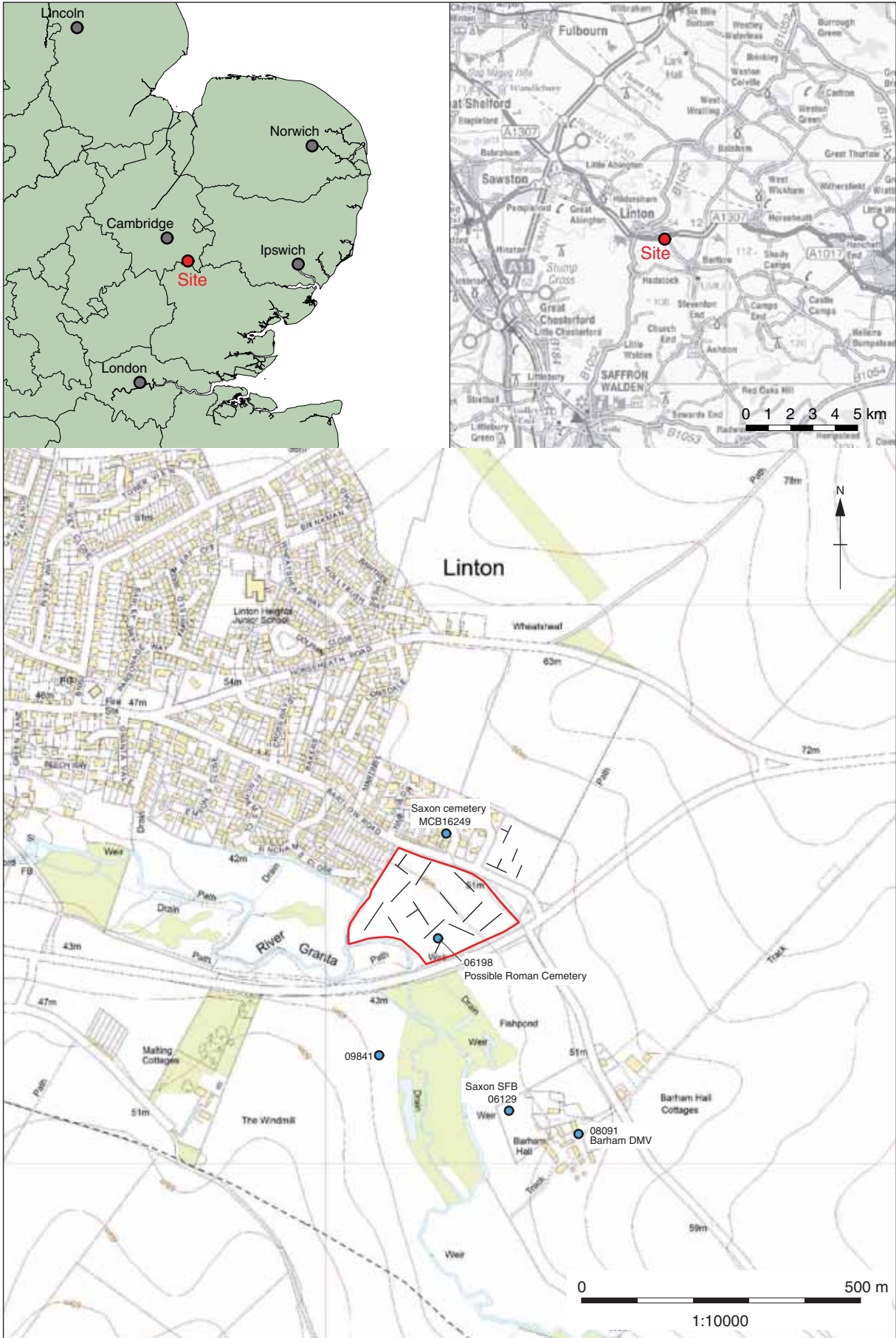
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for: Oxford Archaeology East



- magnetic anomalies (archaeological ?)
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- irregular / weak magnetic anomalies (wetland / geology ?)
- pipe
- cultivation
- strong (ferrous) magnetic anomalies
- small background magnetic anomalies (mainly natural ?)

LAND AT BARTLOW ROAD, LINTON,
 CAMBRIDGESHIRE
 Geophysical Survey 2014
 Figure 3: Summary of findings
 0 1:1250 @ A3 50m



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



Figure 2: Trench layout overlain on the results of the geophysical survey

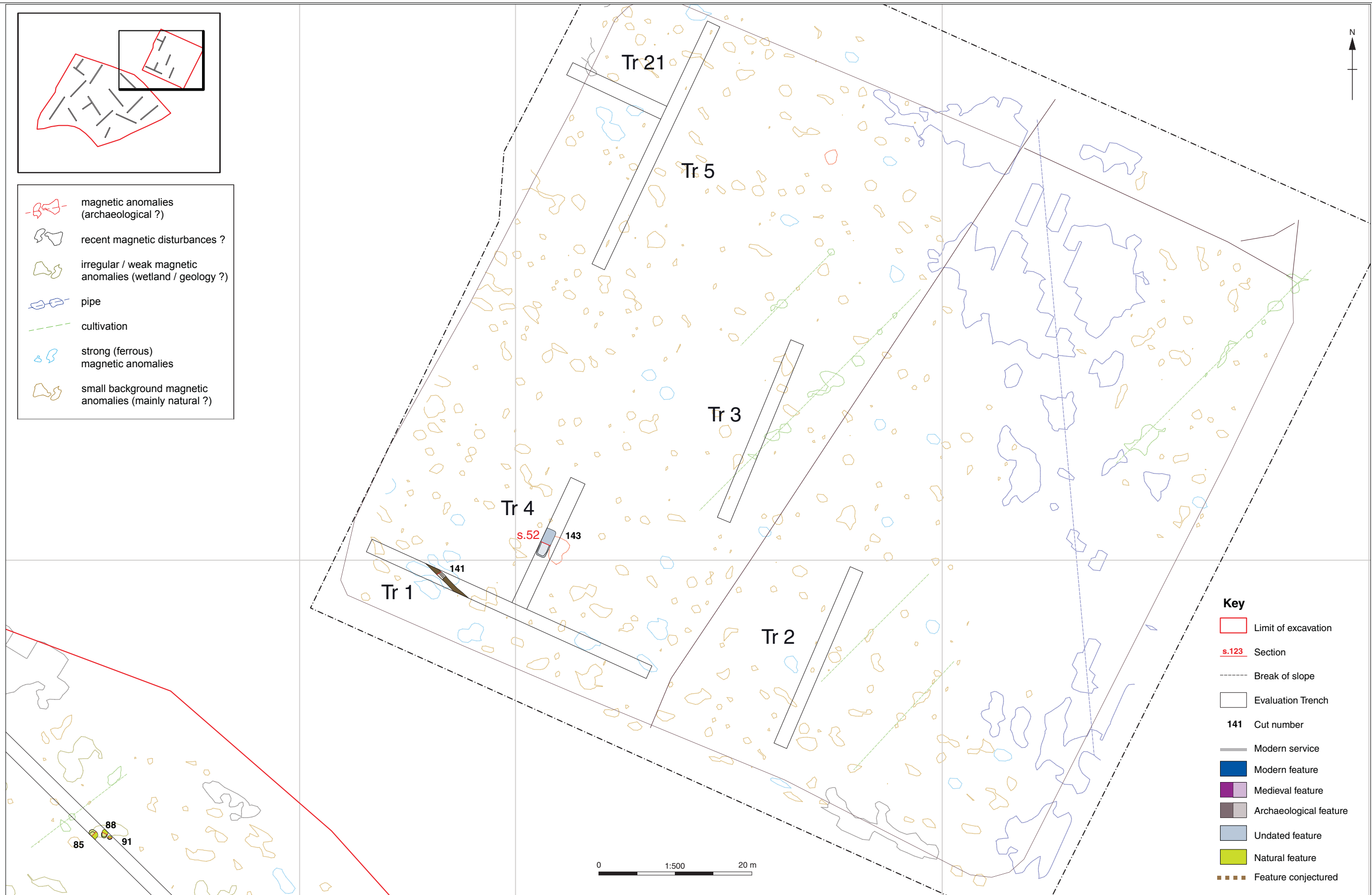


Figure 3: Results of evaluation in field north of Bartlow Road

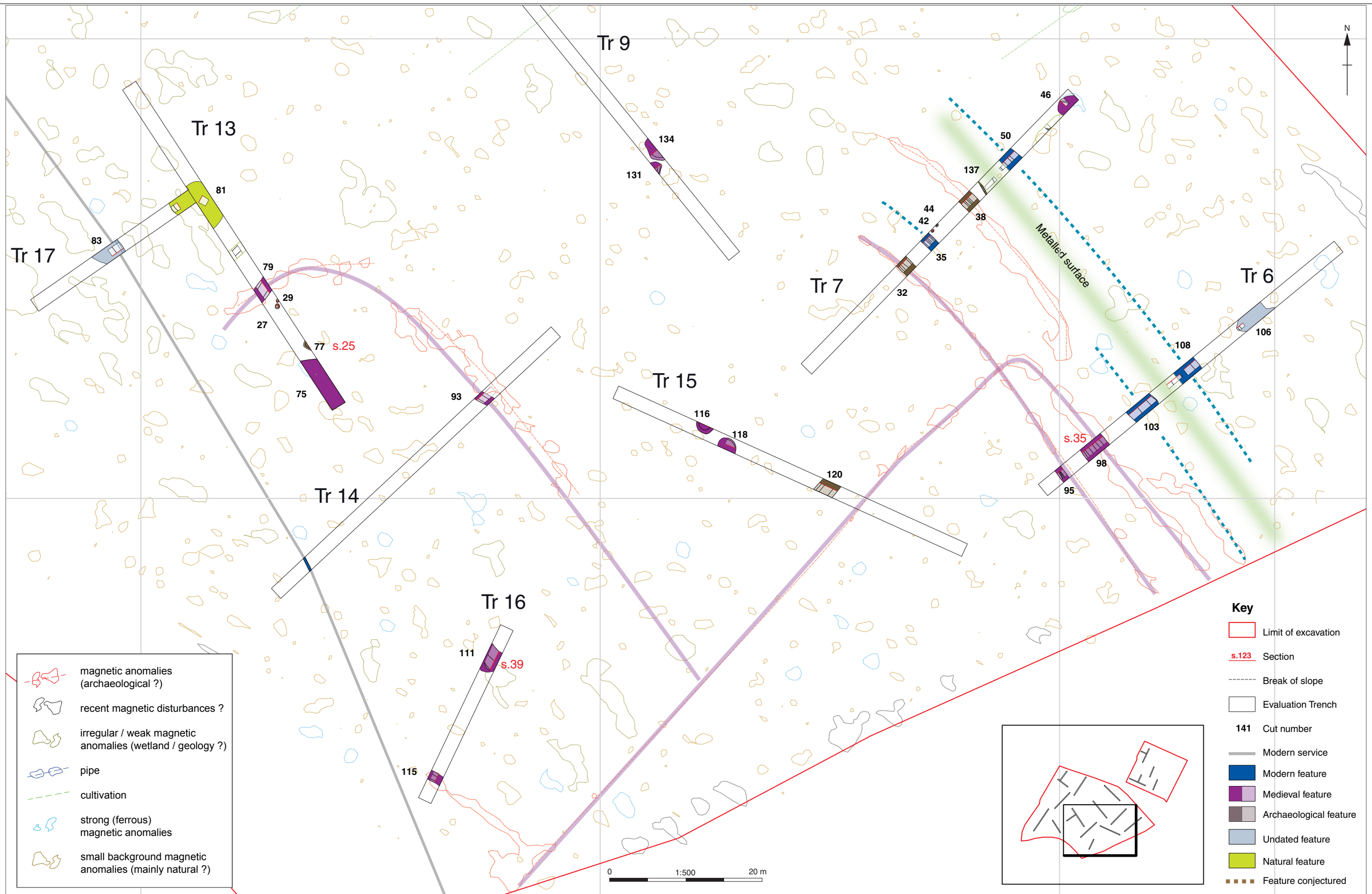


Figure 4a: Results of evaluation in field south of Bartlow Road

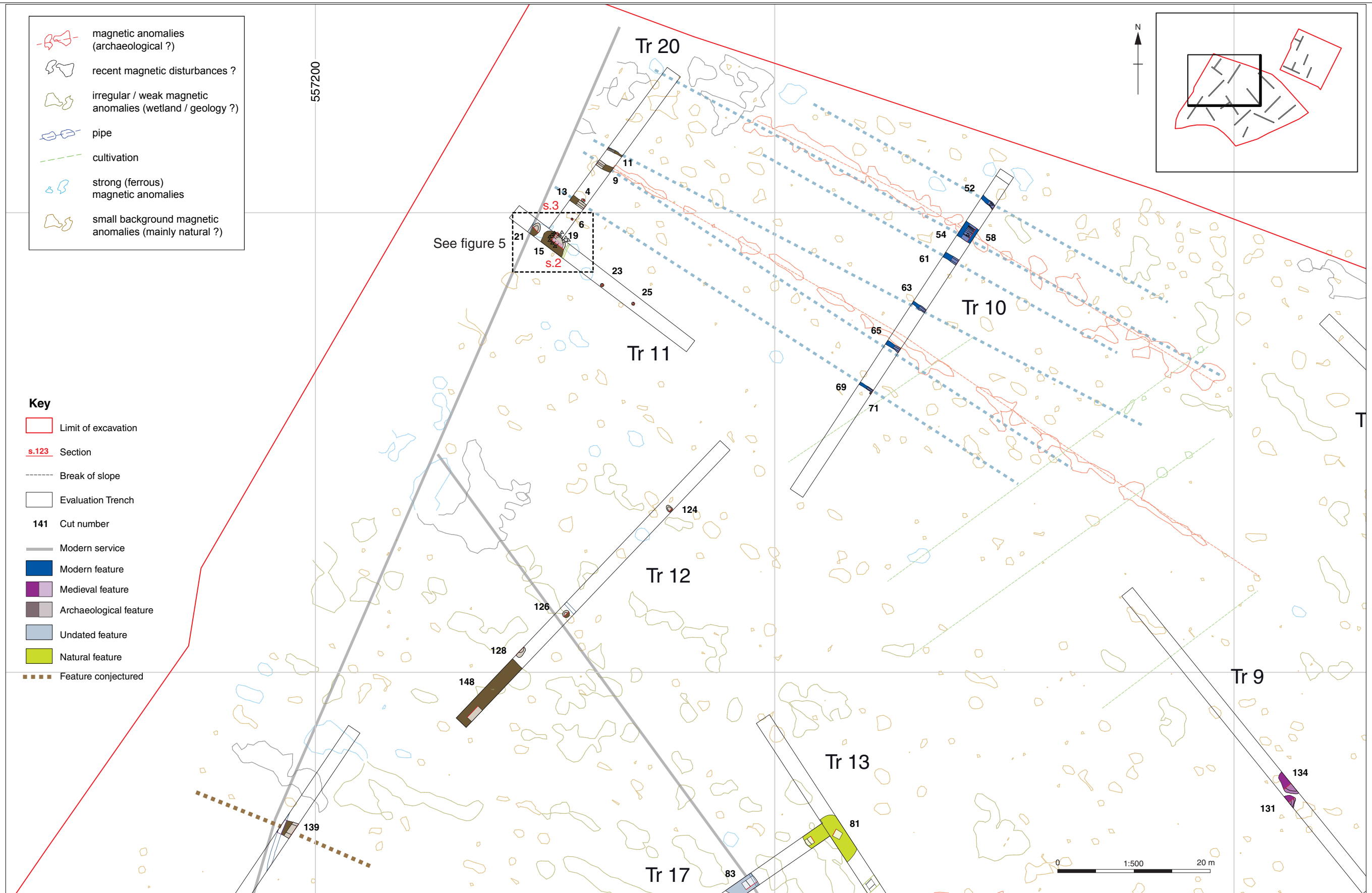


Figure 4b: Results of evaluation in field south of Bartlow Road

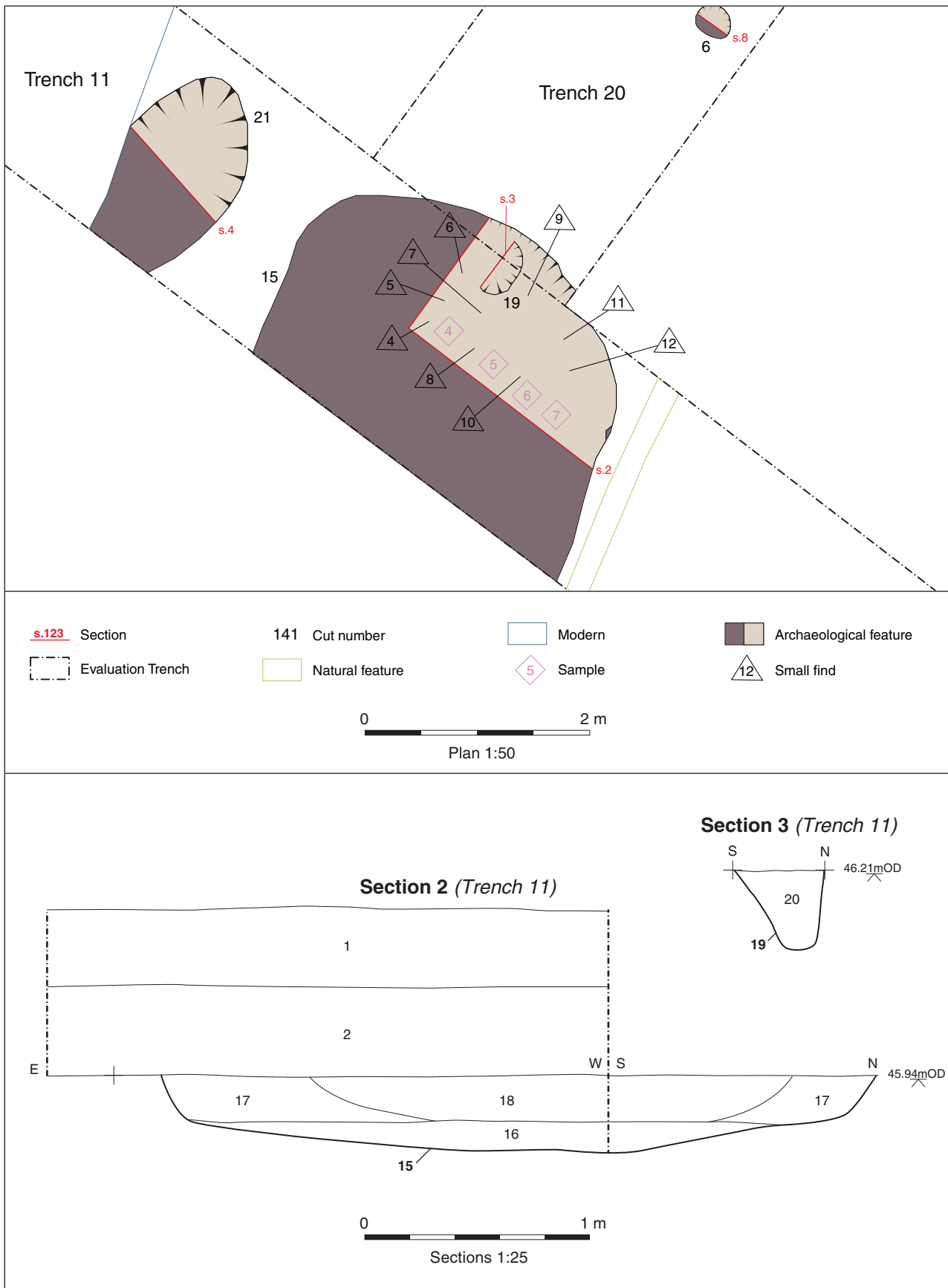


Figure 5: Plan and section of SFB 15 in Trench 11

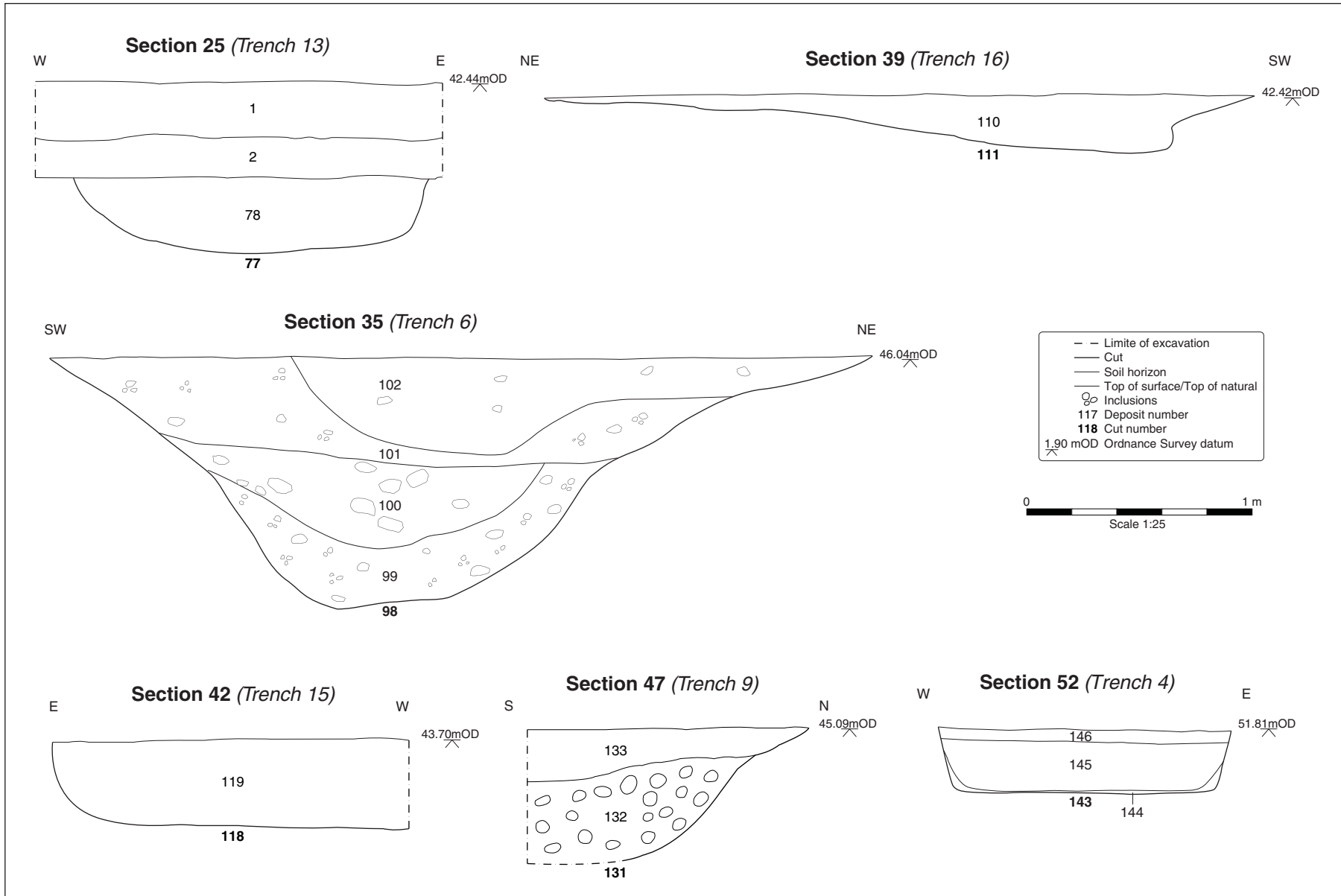


Figure 6: Selected sections



Plate 1: Pit **143** in Trench 4, looking north



Plate 2: Modern ditch **103** in Trench 6, looking north-west



Plate 3: Ditch **98** in Trench 6, looking north-west



Plate 4: Metalled road **31** in Trench 7, looking west



Plate 5: Pits **131**, **134** in Trench 9, looking west



Plate 6: SFB **15** in Trench 11, looking west



Plate 7: Working shot, looking north from Trench 13



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