Cambridge International School Little Abington

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

Cambridge International School, Little Abington

Archaeological Evaluation

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Summary

Between the 11th and the 18th of July 2016, Oxford Archaeology East conducted a trial trench evaluation on land at the Cambridge International School, Little Abington, Cambridgeshire (TL 5226 4960). A total of 12 trenches were excavated across the proposed development site, 5 of which were targeted upon geophysical survey anomalies. The geophysical survey had identified a large circular monument and two north-west to south-east aligned ditches at its north-eastern side.

The fieldwork confirmed the presence of a probable Neolithic henge monument, which had originally been identified by geophysical survey. A further anomaly, interpreted as a possible Neolithic long barrow in the geophysical survey and in an earlier aerial photographic survey, proved to be of natural origin, being a substantial solution hollow within the chalk natural. A small number of north-west to south-east aligned ditches were uncovered on the site, undated but possibly of Middle Bronze Age date, and a broad colluvial spread at the base of the slope.

Artefactual remains from the site consisted of a very small assemblage of abraded pottery dating from the Early Iron Age through to the Early Roman period. An equally small assemblage of Neolithic struck flint and an even lesser quantity of animal bone was also recovered. The majority of the finds were not in contextually secure locations, having come from the uppermost fills of the solution hollow and from the colluvial spread. A small number of struck flints were collected from the uppermost fill of the henge ditch and a very small amount of animal bone from the basal fill of the ditch.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted on land north of Bourn Bridge Road, Little Abington, Cambridgeshire (TL 5226 4960).

1.1.2 These archaeological works were undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET; Thomas 2016), supplemented by a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by OA East (Wiseman 2016).

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 HET 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 proposed site is located just west of the village of Little Abington in South Cambridgeshire District, approximately 7km south-east of Cambridge and 6km north of Great Chesterford

1.2.2 The underlying bedrock geology across the site is chalk of the Holywell Nodular Formation. Extending solely across the south-eastern extent of the site, this is overlain by River Terrace Deposits 1 and 2 of sand and gravel (British Geological Survey 2016).

1.2.3 The proposed development area lies on the northern side of a shallow valley, formed by the River Granta. The highest point of the site (*c*.35m OD) lies in the north-west corner with the land sloping down gently to the south and east, around to 30m OD.

1.2.4 Currently the eastern part of the site is under arable crop and the western part is under grass.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 An in-depth assessment of the archaeological resource has already been undertaken for the site (Clark 2015), upon which the following is based:

Prehistoric

1.3.2 A possible Neolithic long barrow (HER 09356a) interpreted from cropmarks is located within the central part of the proposed site, however no upstanding earthworks of this feature remain. Evidence for Mesolithic and Neolithic activity, in the form of worked stone artefacts (HER 11317), has been found at Bourn Bridge, *c*.0.3km to the west; a single Palaeolithic hand axe (HER 11317B) was also recovered from this location.

1.3.3 There is extensive evidence for Bronze Age funerary monuments in the surrounding area and include two confirmed Bronze Age round barrows and a third probable barrow are recorded to the immediate north (HER 09356); a ring ditch *c*.60m to the south-east (HER 09363) is also most likely to represent a further former round barrow. A group of four other barrows (HER 06281), defined by ring ditches is also known of, located

c.0.9km to the north-east. A further round barrow (HER 06172), which survived as an earthwork until the 1970s, is recorded *c.*0.3km east of the proposed site.

1.3.4 Evidence for Bronze Age settlement and funerary activity has been identified through archaeological investigation *c.*0.3km to the west (HER 11317A).

Iron Age and Roman

1.3.5 A substantial area of Middle Iron Age activity (CB 15306) has been identified at Abington Park, around 0.6km south of the proposed site and included a large number of storage pits. A Late Iron Age/Roman field system (HER 11317C), a Roman droveway, and some sparse Roman settlement evidence (HER 11317D) are also recorded *c*.0.3km to the west of the site.

1.3.6 The road which forms the western site boundary is on the line of a known Roman road (Margary 1973) which runs south-west to Great Chesterford. Cropmarks of a probable Roman D-shaped enclosure and associated ditches (HER 09358) are also known of *c*.0.7km east of the site. Finally, a Roman field boundary (MCB 19813) has also been identified by an evaluation at Blacksmith's Close, Babraham, around 0.9km to the north-west.

Anglo-Saxon

1.3.7 The only known evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity is *c*.0.3km west of the site where remains of a 5th to 7th century settlement (HER 13044) were revealed during excavations at Bourn Bridge. Features consisted of a number of *Grubenhauser* and pits. Further Anglo-Saxon finds and possible evidence for burials have also been identified through metal detecting in this area (CB14745 and MCB17799).

Medieval

1.3.8 Medieval settlement in the area was focused on the villages of Little Abington and Great Abington, both located c.0.6km the south and south-east. St Mary's Church in Little Abington (HER 06215) has been dated to the 11th century and is thought to be slightly earlier in date than Saint Mary the Virgin's Church (CB 14842) in Great Abington.

1.3.9 Abington Hall, *c*.0.6km south-east of the proposed site, is believed to be the location of the medieval manor house (HER 06056a) of the Earls of Oxford, which in around 1350 included a hall and possibly a chapel.

Post-medieval and modern

1.3.10 The present Abington Hall (HER 06056) was constructed around 1800 and incorporates an earlier house (built in 1712) into is structure. The Grade II Listed Temple Café and Restaurant (List Entry No. 1331149) located to the immediate west of the site, within the International School, also dates to the early 19th century and originally formed the north lodge to Abington Hall.

Previous archaeological investigations

1.3.11 The site was included in a wider aerial photograph assessment undertake in 1994 (ECB 1543; Palmer 1994) and in 2004 (ECB 1478; Palmer 2004). These assessments identified a possible Neolithic long barrow within the current proposed site, which is potentially represented by a pair of curved infilled ditches. Further to this, a number of circular and curvilinear cropmarks were recovered on land to the immediate north.

1.3.12 Trial trenching on these cropmarks in 1994 (ECB 7; Barclay & Williams 1994) and 2005 (ECB 2115; Ginns *et al.* 2005) confirmed them to be the ploughed out remains of two Bronze Age barrows.

1.3.13 A geophysical survey to the immediate east of the site (ECB 4472; Masters 2013) recorded the presence of a ring ditch, which had also previously been identified by aerial photographs. Individual anomalies identified within and around the perimeter of the ring ditch have the potential to be cremation/inhumation burials.

1.3.14 A geophysical survey (using magnetic and earth resistance) was undertaken across the current proposed site (Harris 2016) ahead of the evaluation works. An anomaly was identified which correlated with the aerial photography results (see 1.3.11) in the location of the putative long barrow. Further to this a substantial ring ditch was detected to the immediate north-west. A small number of north-west to south-east aligned linear anomalies were also identified, along with a number of natural variations in the soil.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like to extend thanks to Paul Clark of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the archaeological works and for the Cambridge International School for funding them. Machine excavation was undertaken by Anthill Plant Hire. The fieldwork was undertaken by the author with the assistance of Emily Abrehart and Rob Wiseman. The site survey was carried out by Gareth Rees. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer, while Andy Thomas monitored the evaluation on behalf of CCC HET.

2 Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

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

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A total of 12×50m trenches were positioned within the proposed development area, with five of these targeting the results of the geophysical survey (Harris 2016) and the remaining seven evenly distributed across the remainder of the site. Three of the trenches had to be reduced in length slightly, so as to avoid a water access cover (Trench 1) and the protected verge which bounded the southern side of the site (Trenches 5 and 9).

2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360º excavator using a 2.1m wide toothless ditching bucket.

2.2.3 The site survey was carried out using a Leica GS08 GPS.

2.2.4 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. No metal-detected finds were recovered, other than those which were obviously modern.

2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *proforma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales. Digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

2.2.6 A total of 7 bulk environmental samples were taken during the archaeological works in order to investigate the possible survival of micro- and macro- botanical remains. Further to this, systematic bucket sampling (consisting of up to 90 litres) from each soil horizon across all trenches was also undertaken in order to characterise artefactual remains in the soil horizons above the archaeological level.

3 RESULTS

Introduction

3.1.1 Archaeological features and natural deposits were identified across seven of the twelve trenches. Very few artefacts or ecofacts were recovered and what was collected was often abraded and residual in context. The trenches will be discussed numerically. Unless otherwise stated, no finds were recovered from features.

3.1.2 Natural geology of white chalk with flint nodule inclusions was revealed across the north and western areas of the site. The natural geology across the south and eastern parts of the site consisted of mixed orange sands and gravels. A mid brown orange silty sand subsoil (02) was identified across the south and east of the proposed site, measuring between 0.05m and 0.3m in thickness. This was overlain by a 0.2m to 0.35m thick dark brown grey silty sand topsoil (01).

3.1.3 Full details of context and trench descriptions, including orientations, can be found in Appendix A.

Trench 1

3.1.4 A single ditch, which corresponded with the geophysical survey interpretation was identified in Trench 1. Ditch **39** was curvilinear in plan, aligned north-northeast to south-southwest. It measured 1.5m wide and was 0.69m deep with a round-based V-shaped profile. The earliest of the four fills consisted of 0.05m thick light brown grey sandy silt (40) which produced 61g of animal bone. Above this was a 0.17m thick light grey chalky silt (41). This was followed by a 0.1m thick light brown grey sandy silt (51) with chalk inclusions. The final fill (42) consisted of a 0.48m thick mid grey brown sandy silt which produced Neolithic struck flint (64g) and an unidentifiable fragment of prehistoric pottery (1g).

Trench 2

3.1.5 The continuation of the large circular ditch anomaly was identified at the western end of Trench 2. Ditch **23** measured 2.1m wide and 0.75m deep, also with a round-based V-shaped profile. The same fill sequence as in Trench 1 was identified, with a basal fill of a 0.05m thick light brown grey sand (24), followed by a light grey chalky silt (25), which measured 0.15m in thickness. Above this was a 0.15m thick light grey brown sandy silt (50) with chalk inclusions. The final fill was a 0.4m thick mid orange brown sandy silt (26).

Trench 3

3.1.6 Trench 3 was devoid of archaeological remains.

Trench 4

3.1.7 Trench 4 contained the densest number of features, with four ditches being revealed within it; the continuation of the circular feature and three parallel ditches (**11**, **13** and **15**).

3.1.8 Toward its western end, ditch **11** was orientated north-west to south-east (identified on the geophysical survey). It measured 0.52m wide and was 0.07m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled with a mid orange brown sandy silt (10).

3.1.9 Situated *c.*6.5m to the east, was the continuation of the large ring ditch (**19**). Here, it measured 1.4m wide and 0.6m deep with four fills. The basal fill consisted of a 0.04m thick mid grey brown silt (21), which was followed by a 0.22m thick mid brown grey

chalky silt (18) and a 0.14m thick slump of chalk (31). The final fill (17) consisted of a 0.3m thick mid grey brown silt, which contained 3 pieces (9g) of Neolithic flint.

3.1.10 A further north-west to south-east aligned ditch (**13**) was revealed *c.*16m to the east (identified on the geophysical survey). The ditch measured 0.4m wide and was 0.22m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. The earlier of the two fills (12) was made up of a 0.15m thick mid grey brown chalky silt. This was followed by a 0.18m thick mid orange brown sandy silt (16). The final ditch in the trench (**15**) was located 1.5m to the east. It measured 0.5m wide and was 0.2m deep with a U-shaped profile. It was filled with a single mid orange brown sandy silt.

Trench 5

3.1.11 The western end of Trench 5 contained the continuation of the large ring ditch (**38**; as seen in Trenches 1, 2 and 4). Here it measured 0.86m wide and was 0.54m deep with six fills. The basal fill consisted of a 0.04m thick mid grey brown silt (37) which was followed by a 0.2m thick light grey chalky silt (36). Above this was a 0.06m thick slump (35) of mid grey brown chalky silt, which was coming on from the east. A further 0.08m thick slump (34) was identified as coming in from the west and was exactly the same in composition to fill 36. A fill of light grey silty chalk followed (33), which measured 0.16m in thickness and was seen to be coming in from the east. The final fill (32) was made up of a 0.14m thick mid grey brown silt.

3.1.12 The remainder of Trench 5 was dominated by an extensive solution hollow (**20**). This feature corresponded with the geophysical and aerial photograph surveys, where it was interpreted as a possible long barrow. Feature **20** measured 18m wide and was excavated to a depth of 1.4m. It was seen to contain at least six fills, however the base was not found. The earliest of the fills consisted of a 0.15m thick mid brown chalky sand (47) which was seen to be slumping in from the west. Above this was a further 0.07m thick slump of mid orange brown sandy silt (46). This was followed by a 0.1m thick slump of mid brown chalky silt (45), which also came in from the west. A 0.4m thick mid grey brown sandy silt (44) followed and potentially was the remnants of the original topsoil before the collapse of the solution hollow. This fill may represent two fills (a topsoil and subsoil), because the deposit became increasingly light grey toward the horizon with fill 45, however no clear differentiation was identifiable. A fragment of animal bone (21g) and a small and abraded sherd of Late Iron Age pottery (4g) were recovered from this fill. The largest deposit within the feature was 43, which measured 0.8m in thickness and consisted of a mid orange brown silty sand with chalk inclusions. The final infilling of the feature consisted of 0.3m thick mid grey brown sandy silt (22) with chalk inclusions. Finds from this deposit consisted of 78g of Late Iron Age pottery, 10g of Early Roman pottery, 107g of Roman brick and 11g of struck flint. While this assemblage may look reasonably large, particularly in comparison to the rest of the site, it should be noted that many cubic metres of material were excavated.

3.1.13 Located on the eastern edge of feature **20** were a group of five further natural features, two of which were excavated. Feature **28** measured 0.9m long, 0.56m wide and was 0.19m deep with steeply sloping sides and an irregular base. It was filled with a light grey yellow chalky silt (27). Feature **30** measured 1.3m long, 0.75m wide and was 0.15m deep with an irregular profile. It was also filled with a light grey yellow chalky silt (29).

Trench 6

3.1.14 Trench 6 was devoid of archaeological remains.

Trench 7

3.1.15 Trench 7 was devoid of archaeological remains.

Trench 8

3.1.16 Trench 8 was devoid of archaeological remains.

Trench 9

3.1.17 Trench 9 contained the remnants of a natural colluvial spread (09). The dark grey brown sandy silt varied in thickness from 0.1m to 0.18m. Three test pits were excavated through the spread, from which seven sherds of abraded Late Iron Age and Roman pottery were recovered along with a Neolithic flint flake. A Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flint scraper was also recovered from the subsoil of Trench 9.

Trench 10

3.1.18 Trench 10 was devoid of archaeological remains.

Trench 11

3.1.19 A single undated north-west to south-east aligned ditch (**03**) was revealed at the northernmost end of Trench 11. It measured 0.9m wide and 0.22m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled with a mid orange brown sandy silt (04).

3.1.20 The underlying geology changed just to the south of the ditch and the gravels that covered the remainder of the trench base were within a silty-sand matrix (02), perhaps the remains of a B horizon, that contained a small number of mostly abraded flint (2 flakes) and pottery (5 sherds/14g, principally Iron Age)

Trench 12

3.1.21 A further layer of colluvium (05), the same as that uncovered in Trench 9 (to the south-west) was identified across the northern half of Trench 12. Here the dark grey brown sandy silt measured 0.25m in thickness.

Finds Summary (see Appendix B)

3.1.22 A small finds assemblage consisting of pottery, struck flint and animal bone was recovered from across the site. A total of 23 sherds (weighing 135g) dating from the Early Iron Age through to the Early Roman period were collected. All of the sherds were small and abraded. The flint assemblage consisted of 12 Neolithic flakes and one Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age scraper. A small collection (82g) of highly abraded animal bone was also recovered.

Environmental Summary (see Appendix C)

3.1.23 A total of seven bulk soil samples were taken from a variety of features, however none of them produced any environmental remains.

4 Discussion and Conclusions

Ring ditch/Henge monument

4.1.1 The geophysical survey (Harris 2016) identified a large ring ditch across the western side of the proposed development area. The trial trench evaluation has confirmed the presence of a ring ditch some 65m across in this location. This monumental feature is believed to represent a Neolithic henge with an entranceway visible at the north and potentially another opposing at the south, currently under portable buildings.

4.1.2 The excavation of Trench 3 confirmed the presence of an entranceway on the northern side of the monument. The southern extent of the feature was not identified as it extended beyond the limits of the evaluated area, however, it is possible that there could be an opposing entrance on this southern side. This would create two mirrored crescent shapes, rather than a penannular ditch, this potentially corroborated by variations in the size and shape of the two sides of the ditch. The western arc of the monument was notably larger, varying in width from 1.5m to 2.1m and in depth from 0.69m to 0.75m; the eastern arc was smaller in size, measuring 0.86m to 1.4m in width and 0.54m to 0.6m in depth. The lie of the land here, on a flat plateau, does not suggest plough truncation should be a factor, and the fill sequences on both sides look very similar, with no obvious truncation to the eastern side. The profiles of the ditch also varied, the eastern branch being steep sided with a flat base and the western branch a more open bowl shape. Nowhere was there any conclusive evidence to indicate either internal or external banks, and no bank material remained in situ.

4.1.3 The henge, which has an internal diameter of *c*.65m, is situated on a natural plateau in the landscape at around 32.5m OD. It is also located in a known area of Bronze Age funerary activity. Archaeological works (Barclay & Williams 1994) to the immediate north of the present site confirmed the presence of three barrows, with a further two being identified through aerial photography (Palmer 1994) to the north and south-east. It is possible that this feature represents the first (and largest) monument in a sequence from the later Neolithic through to the Middle Bronze Age within the area.

Solution hollow

4.1.4 Both the geophysical survey (Harris 2016, 6) and the aerial photographic survey (Palmer 1994) identified a large anomaly to the immediate south-east of the henge. This was interpreted as a possible Neolithic long barrow, and is recorded in the HER as such (09356a). Unfortunately, the evaluation has disproved this interpretation. The anomaly transpired to be a substantial solution hollow, located in (forming) a natural dip in the landscape. The feature measured 18m wide and was excavated to a depth of 1.4m. The gradient of the side of the hollow would suggest that at its centre the solution hollow could potentially be in excess of 3m deep. It contained a series of natural slumps followed by the original top- and subsoil surface from when the solution hollowed was formed. The upper deposits within the feature were naturally occurring infills. A variety of highly abraded finds were recovered from the original topsoil deposit (44) and from the uppermost and latest fill (22). Context 44 contained 4g of Late Iron Age pottery, a struck flint like and 21g of animal bone. Context 22 contained 88g of Late Iron Age/Early Roman pottery, 107g of Roman brick and two struck flint flakes. The size and abraded nature of the finds suggests that none of it was specifically deposited in this location, rather having been washed in through natural means.

4.1.5 The 'horns' of the putative long barrow, seen extending to the north of the main feature, were not evident within the trench placed to evaluate them.

Ditches

4.1.6 A group of four north-west to south-east aligned ditches were also recorded on the site, three of these were in Trench 4 with one in Trench 11. The ditches ranged in size from 0.5m to 0.9m wide and 0.07m to 0.22m deep and two (**11** & **13**) had been identified on the geophysical survey. No artefacts were recovered from the fills and no relationships with other features were encountered within the trenches, therefore the dating of these features is ambiguous. The fill morphologies would suggest that the ditches were all contemporary with one another and they did not look modern. Their morphology and alignment would suggest they are the remains of a Middle Bronze Age field system, however this cannot yet be confirmed.

Colluvium

4.1.7 The topography across the south and eastern parts of the site dropped away from the plateau and henge, down to a height of around 28.4m OD. Across this area, two natural soil variations aligned north-east to south-east were noted by the geophysical survey (Harris 2016, 7). A layer of colluvium was revealed across Trenches 9 and 12, which corresponded with these soil variations. A small assemblage of Iron Age and Roman pottery (21g) and a broken Neolithic flint blade were recovered from this colluvial layer. The material was all fragmentary and abraded in nature, indicating that none of it was *in situ*.

Conclusion

4.1.8 The trial trench evaluation at the International School has confirmed the presence of archaeological remains, the majority of which are confined to the north-western corner of the site. The most significant remains are the likely Neolithic henge, but the presence of a small number of other ditches implies further low-level activity in this location.

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

Trench 1				
General description			**Orientation**	NNE-SSW
Trench contained western branch of ring ditch. Natural geology consisted of chalk.			**Depth (m)**	0.3-0.5
			Width (m)	2
			Length (m)	35.5
Contexts				
context no	**type**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	layer	topsoil	-	-
2	layer	subsoil	-	-
39	cut	ditch	-	-
40	fill	ditch	animal bone	-
41	fill	ditch	-	-
42	fill	ditch	flint	Neolithic
51	fill	ditch	-	-

Trench 2				
General description			**Orientation**	WNW-ESE
Trench contained western branch of ring ditch. Natural geology consisted of chalk.			**Depth (m)**	0.35-0.45
			Width (m)	2
			Length (m)	50
Contexts				
context no	**type**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	layer	topsoil	-	-
2	layer	subsoil	-	-
23	cut	ditch	-	-
24	fill	ditch	-	-
25	fill	ditch	-	-
26	fill	ditch	-	-
50	fill	ditch	-	-

Trench 3				
General description			**Orientation**	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Natural geology consisted of chalk.			**Depth (m)**	0.22-0.35
			Width (m)	2
			Length (m)	50
Contexts				
context no	**type**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	layer	topsoil	-	-
2	layer	subsoil	-	-

Trench 4				
General description			**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained 4 ditches on two alignments. Natural geology consisted of chalk.			**Depth (m)**	0.2-0.25
			Width (m)	2
			Length (m)	50
Contexts				
context no	**type**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	layer	topsoil	-	-
10	fill	ditch	-	-
11	cut	ditch	-	-
12	fill	ditch	-	-
13	cut	ditch	-	-
14	fill	ditch	-	-
15	cut	ditch	-	-
16	fill	ditch	-	-
17	fill	ditch	flint	Neolithic
18	fill	ditch	-	-
19	cut	ditch	-	-

Trench 5				
General description			**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained one ditch and a large solution hollow. Natural geology consisted of chalk.			**Depth (m)**	0.2
			Width (m)	2
			Length (m)	50
Contexts				
context no	**type**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	layer	topsoil	pottery	Roman
20	cut	solution hollow	-	-
22	fill	solution hollow	pottery	LIA/ERB
27	fill	natural feature	-	-
28	cut	natural feature	-	-
29	fill	natural feature	-	-
30	cut	natural feature	-	-
32	fill	ditch	-	-
33	fill	ditch	-	-
34	fill	ditch	-	-
35	fill	ditch	-	-
36	fill	ditch	-	-
37	fill	ditch	-	-
38	cut	ditch	-	-
43	fill	solution hollow	-	-
44	fill	solution hollow	pottery	LIA
45	fill	solution hollow	-	-
46	fill	solution hollow	-	-
47	fill	solution hollow	-	-

Trench 6				
General description			**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Natural geology consisted of chalk and silty gravels.			**Depth (m)**	0.2-0.4
			Width (m)	2
			Length (m)	50
Contexts				
context no	**type**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	layer	topsoil	-	-
2	layer	subsoil	-	-

Trench 7				
General description			**Orientation**	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Natural geology consisted of chalk and silty gravels.			**Depth (m)**	0.35-0.55
			Width (m)	2
			Length (m)	40
Contexts				
context no	**type**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	layer	topsoil	-	-
2	layer	subsoil	-	-

Trench 8				
General description			**Orientation**	NNE-SSE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Natural geology consisted of chalk.			**Depth (m)**	0.15-0.2
			Width (m)	2
			Length (m)	50
Contexts				
context no	**type**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	layer	topsoil	-	-

Trench 9				
General description			**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained colluvial spread. Natural geology consisted of silty gravel.			**Depth (m)**	0.65-0.7
			Width (m)	2
			Length (m)	50
Contexts				
context no	**type**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	layer	topsoil	-	-
2	layer	subsoil	flint	LN/EBA
9	layer	colluvium	pottery	IA/RB

Trench 10				
General description			**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Natural geology consisted of chalk.			**Depth (m)**	0.3-0.4
			Width (m)	2
			Length (m)	50
Contexts				
context no	**type**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	layer	topsoil	-	-
2	layer	subsoil	-	-

Trench 11				
General description			**Orientation**	NNE-SSW
Trench contained a single ditch and colluvial spread. Natural geology consisted of chalk.			**Depth (m)**	0.35-0.5
			Width (m)	2
			Length (m)	42.5
Contexts				
context no	**type**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	layer	topsoil	-	-
2	layer	subsoil	pottery	E/MIA
3	cut	ditch	-	-
4	fill	ditch	-	-

Trench 12				
General description			**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench contained colluvial spread. Natural geology consisted of silty gravel.			**Depth (m)**	0.35-0.5
			Width (m)	2
			Length (m)	50
Contexts				
context no	**type**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	layer	topsoil	-	-
2	layer	subsoil	-	-
5	layer	colluvium	-	-

Appendix B. Finds Reports

B.1 Pottery, lithics and faunal remains

By Richard Mortimer

Ceramics

B.1.1 A small and mostly very abraded ceramic assemblage was recovered from the evaluation: 23 sherds of pottery weighing 135 grammes and dating to the early Iron Age through to early Roman period. There was also one fragment of abraded Roman brick. None of the pottery represents primary or even secondary deposition, but is all either intrusive (44) or residual material, coming from topsoil (context 01), subsoil (02) & (22) and colluvial buried soil (09). The assemblage indicates little more than the presence of Iron Age to Roman settlement activity somewhere in the vicinity and probably represents material brought out to the fields as part of the manuring process.

Context	*Trench*	*Number*	*Weight (g)*	*ID/condition*	*Date*
1	5	1	4	Very abraded red ware	Roman
2	11	1	8	Unabraded, black, fine grits	E/MIA
		1	3	Abraded, sandy grits	MIA
		3	3	Very abraded tiny fragments	Unid.
9	9	2	8	Unabraded	EIA
		2	11	1 very abraded, 1 abraded	LIA
		1	2	Very abraded grey ware	Roman
		2	3	Very abraded fragmentary	Unid.
22	5	1	7	Lightly abraded, flint tempered	LIA
		1	71	Very abraded, large storage jar	LIA/ERB
		4	10	Small abraded grey ware sherds	ERB
		1	107	Very abraded brick fragment	Roman
42	1	3	1	Very abraded tiny fragments, flint temper	Unid.
44	5	1	4	Abraded	LIA
Total (excl. brick)		**23**	**135**		

Table 1: Ceramic finds

Lithics

4.1.9 A small and mostly abraded and/or re-patinated assemblage of struck flint was recovered: 13 pieces of flint, weighing 190 grammes. The assemblage is broadly datable to the Neolithic period but is scattered and un-homogenous. Only one retouched piece was found, a battered scraper, probably dating to the latest Neolithic. Four pieces were retrieved from sealed contexts, 3 from an upper ditch fill (17), and 1 from the upper fill of a solution hollow (44); the remainder came from subsoil (02) & (22) and colluvial buried soils (09). The assemblage probably originated on the site, and as such represents a very low level of activity. It is possible that some of the material could have been brought in with the ceramic assemblage in the manuring process.

Context	Trench	Number	Weight (g)	ID/condition	Date
2	9	2	23	1 chip, 1 abraded, re-patinated scraper	LN/EBA (scraper)
2	11	2	9	2 flakes, 1 small & fresh, 1 larger and re-patinated	Neolithic
9	9	1	2	Broken flake	Neolithic
17	4	3	9	3 flakes, 2 damaged & re-patinated, 1 fresh	Neolithic
22	5	2	11	2 flakes, 1 fresh, 1 highly abraded & re-patinated	Neolithic
42	1	2	64	2 flakes, 1 large & 1 small and re-patinated	Neolithic
44	5	1	8	Broken flake, highly re-patinated	Neolithic
Total		**13**	**190**		

Table 2: Lithic finds

Faunal remains

B.1.2 A very small and very abraded assemblage of animal bone was recovered: 7 pieces of bone weighing 82 grammes. Only one piece is identifiable to species, the shattered and corroded distal end of a cattle femur (A. Hadjikoumis pers. comm.). None of the material represents *in situ*, deliberate deposition.

Context	Trench	Number	Weight (g)	ID/condition
44	5	5	21	Large mammal longbone. Highly abraded
40	1	2	61	1 large mammal longbone fragment, 1 fragment of cattle femur
Total		**7**	**82**	

Table 3: Faunal finds

Appendix C. Environmental Reports

C.1 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction and methodology

C.1.1 Seven bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated area at the International School, Little Abington, Cambridgeshire in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. The features sampled included a Neolithic ring ditch (**19**, **23**, **39**) and a solution hollow (**20**) that contained Iron Age and Roman pottery.

C.1.2 The total volume (up to 17 litres) of each bulk sample was processed by water flotation (using a modified Siraff three-tank system) for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and 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.

Results

C.1.3 All of the samples were devoid of plant remains other than modern rootlets and small snail shells. Flint debitage and a pottery fragment were recovered from the residue of Sample 5, fill 42 of ditch **39** in Trench 1 (see Tables 1 and 2).

Context	*Trench*	*Sample*	*Cut*	*Feature Type*	*Volume processed (L)*
9	9	1	-	Layer	16
17	4	2	19	Ditch	15
18	4	8	19	Ditch	6
26	2	3	23	Ditch	17
27	5	4	28	Natural feature	7
42	1	5	39	Ditch	17
44	5	6	20	Solution hollow	15

Table 4: Environmental results

Appendix D. Bibliography

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Wiseman, R.	2016	*Written Scheme of Investigation. Archaeological Evaluation: Cambridge International School, Little Abington, Cambridgeshire. OA East. Unpublished*

APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-258029		
Project Name	Cambridge International School, Little Abington		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	07-07-2016	Finish	18-07-2016
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	ECB 47577	Planning App. No.	Pre-application
HER No.	ECB 4757	Related HER/OASIS No.	-

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Rural Commercial

Please select all techniques used:

☐ Aerial Photography - interpretation	☐ Grab-Sampling	☐ Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
☐ Aerial Photography - new	☐ Gravity-Core	☐ Sample Trenches
☐ Annotated Sketch	☐ Laser Scanning	☐ Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure
☐ Augering	☐ Measured Survey	☒ Targeted Trenches
☐ Dendrochronological Survey	☐ Metal Detectors	☐ Test Pits
☐ Documentary Search	☐ Phosphate Survey	☐ Topographic Survey
☒ Environmental Sampling	☐ Photogrammetric Survey	☐ Vibro-core
☐ Fieldwalking	☐ Photographic Survey	☐ Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
☒ Geophysical Survey	☐ 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
Henge	Neolithic -4k to -2k	Flint	Neolithic -4k to -2k
Ditch	Bronze Age -2.5k to -700	Pottery	Iron Age -800 to 43
Solution hollow	None	Pottery	Roman 43 to 410

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	South Cambridgeshire	Land off of Bourn Bridge Road Little Abington CB21 6AN	
Parish	Little Abington		
HER	Cambs CC		
Study Area	5.7 hectares	National Grid Reference	TL 5226 4960

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Andy Thomas
Project Design Originator	CgMs Consulting
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Louise Bush

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
CCC Store	OA East	CCC Store
ECB 4757	ABLCIS16	ECB 4757

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	☒	☐	☐
Ceramics	☒	☐	☐
Environmental	☒	☐	☐
Glass	☐	☐	☐
Human Bones	☐	☐	☐
Industrial	☐	☐	☐
Leather	☐	☐	☐
Metal	☐	☐	☐
Stratigraphic		☐	☐
Survey		☒	☐
Textiles	☐	☐	☐
Wood	☐	☐	☐
Worked Bone	☐	☐	☐
Worked Stone/Lithic	☒	☐	☐
None	☐	☐	☒
Other	☐	☐	☐

Digital Media	Paper Media
☒ Database	☐ Aerial Photos
☒ GIS	☒ Context Sheet
☒ Geophysics	☐ Correspondence
☒ Images	☐ Diary
☒ Illustrations	☐ Drawing
☐ Moving Image	☐ Manuscript
☐ Spreadsheets	☐ Map
☒ Survey	☐ Matrices
☒ Text	☐ Microfilm
☐ Virtual Reality	☐ Misc.
	☐ Research/Notes
	☐ Photos
	☒ Plans
	☒ Report
	☒ Sections
	☐ Survey

Notes:

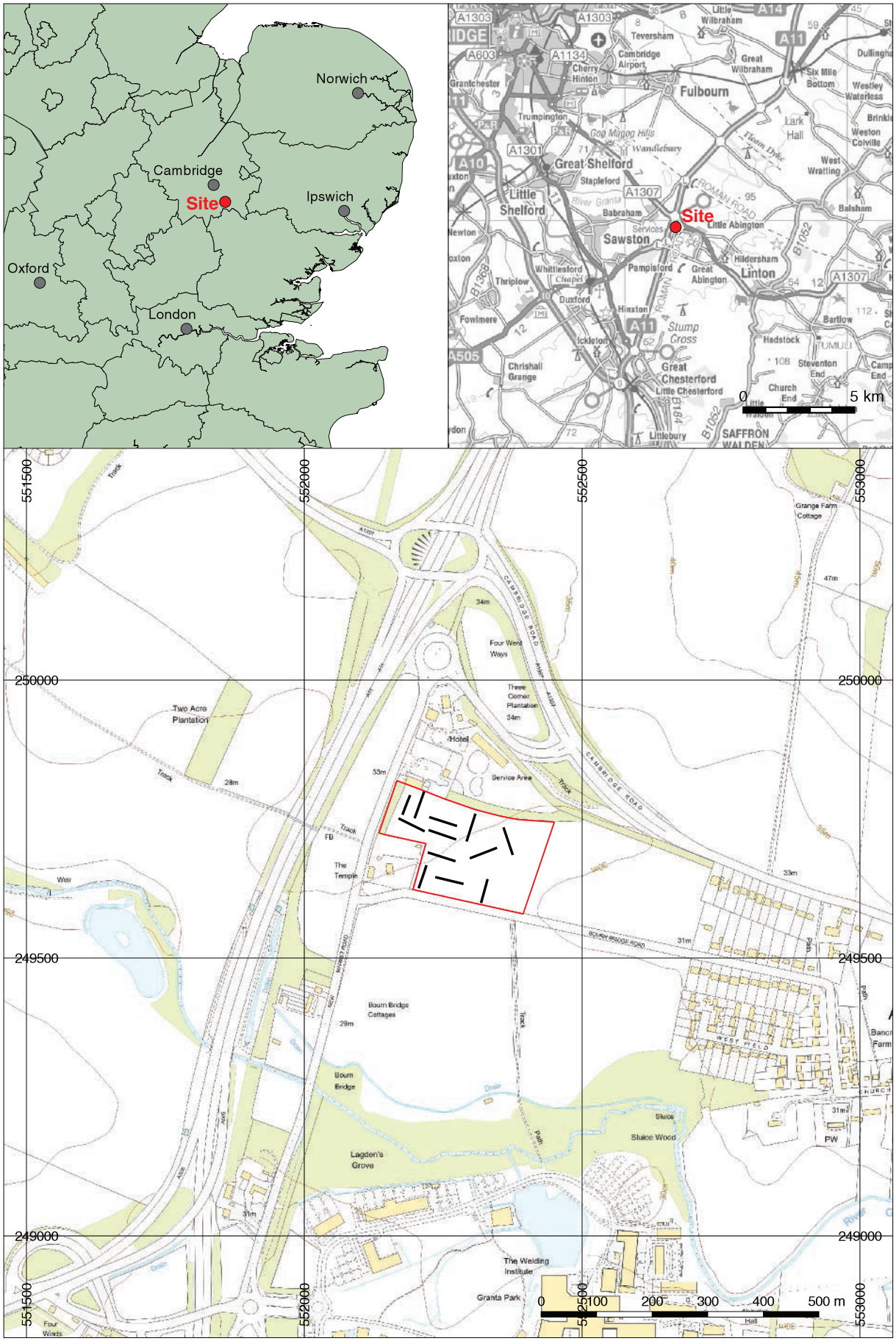


Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red)

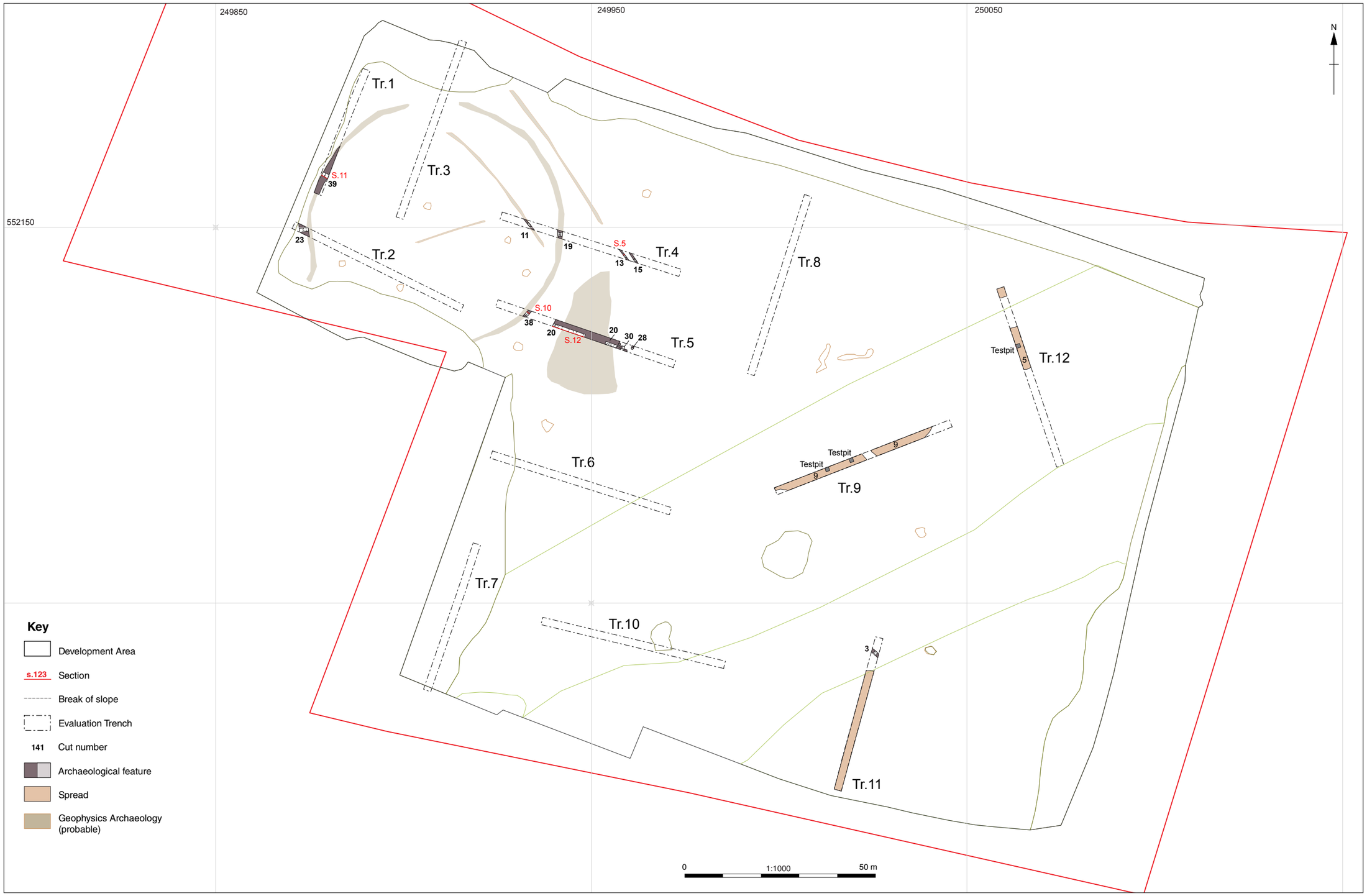


Figure 2: Plan of evaluation trenches with geophysical survey results. Scale 1:1000

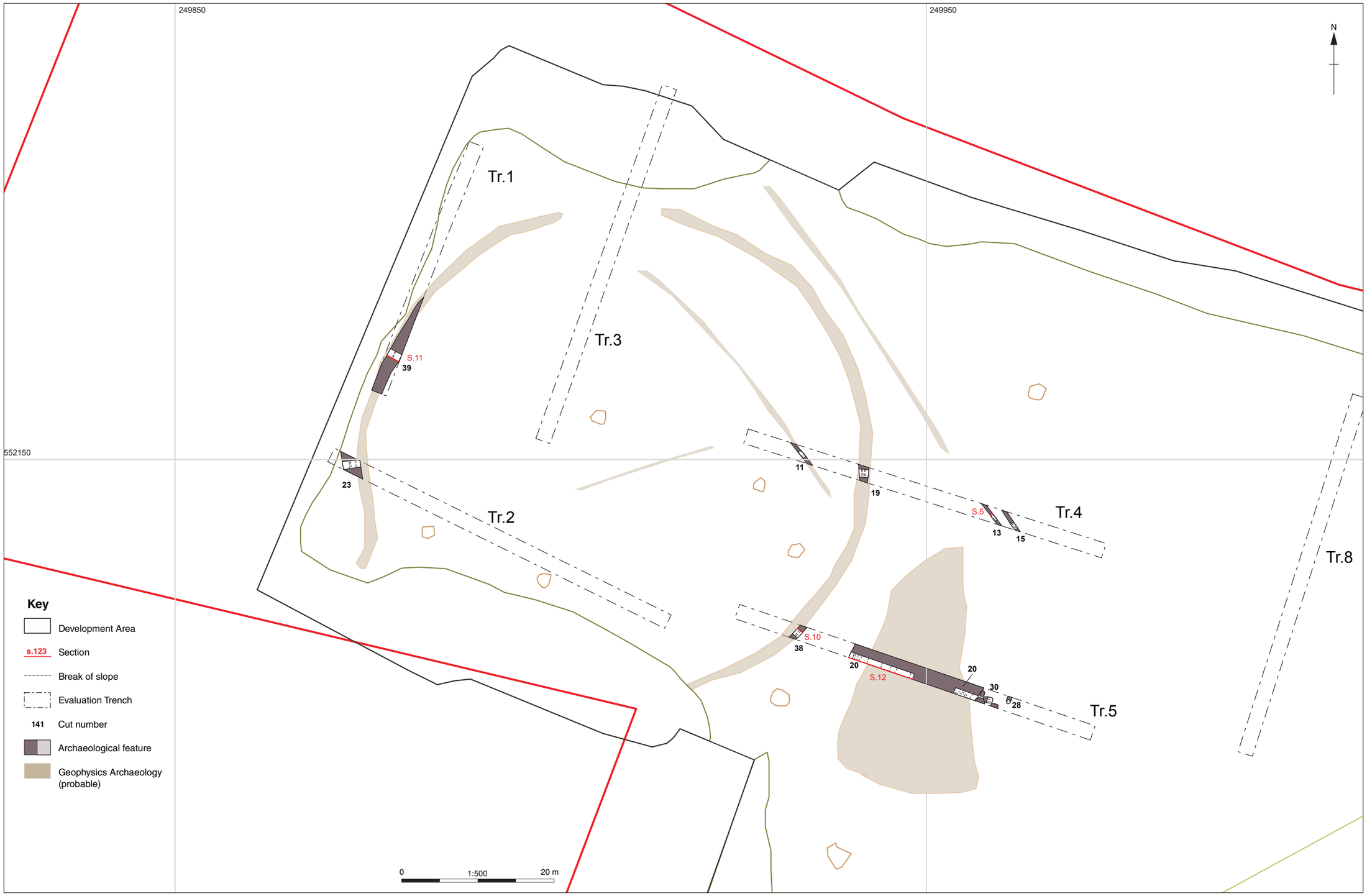
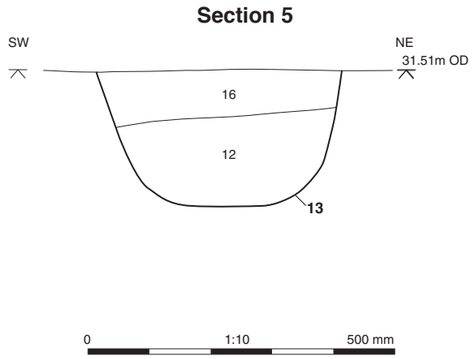
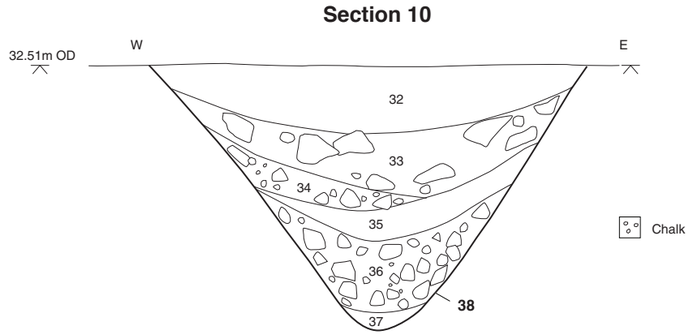
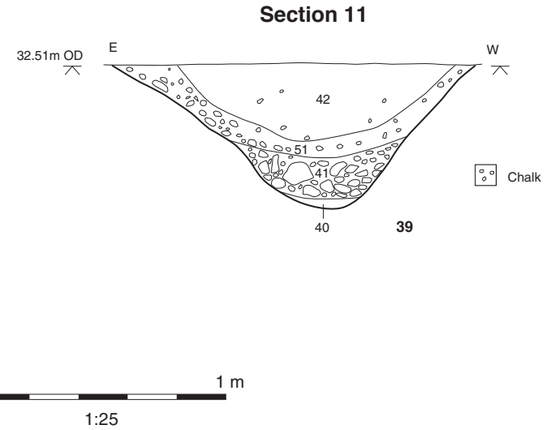


Figure 3: Trenches 1-5. Scale 1:500







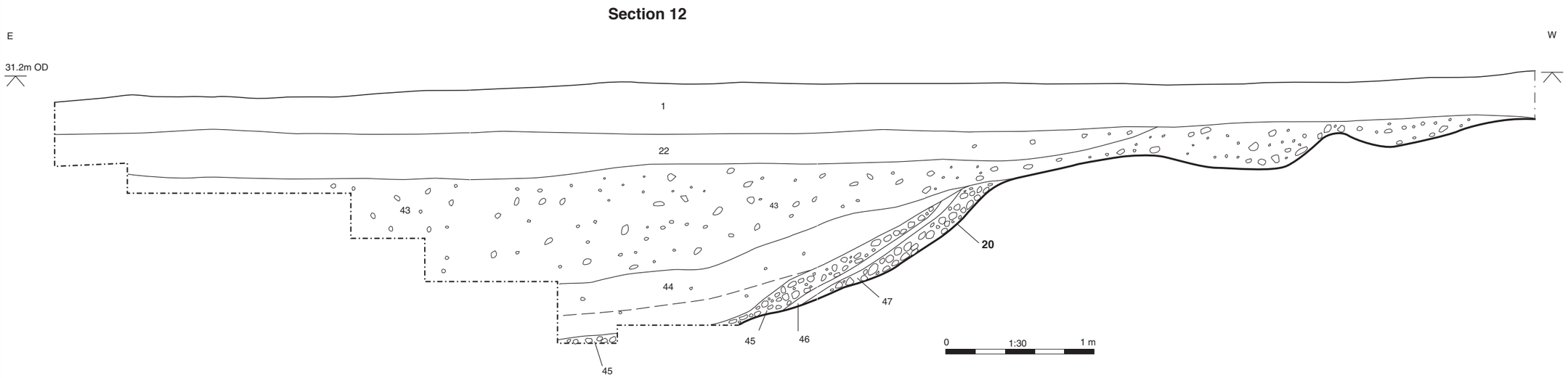


Figure 4: Sections 5, 10, 11 and 12

Plate 1: Trench 1, looking north-northeast

Plate 2: Ditch 23, looking south-southeast

Plate 3: Ditch 19, looking north

Plate 4: Feature 20, pre-excavation, looking north-west

Plate 5: Feature 20, mid-excavation, looking south-west

Plate 6: Feature 20, post-excavation, looking south-east

Plate 7: Trench 7, looking south

Plate 8: Trench 9, looking north-east

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