

# Land at Greetwell Hall Farm Messingham Quarry, Manton North Lincolnshire



## Archaeological Monitoring of Phase 3



July 2016

**Client: Andrew Josephs Associates  
for Sibelco UK**

OA East Report No: 1948

OASIS No: oxfordar3-255731

NGR: SE 9312 0429

**Land at Greetwell Hall Farm, Messingham Quarry, Manton, North Lincolnshire**

*Archaeological Monitoring of Phase 3*

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*Report Date: July 2016*

**Report Number:** 1948  
**Site Name:** Land at Greetwell Hall Farm, Messingham Quarry, Manton, North Lincolnshire  
**HER Event No:** MTDM  
**Date of Works:** May to June 2016  
**Client Name:** Andrew Josephs Associates for Sibelco UK  
**Client Ref:** na  
**Planning Ref:** MIN/2009/0356  
**Grid Ref:** centred on SE 9312 0429  
**Site Code:** MTDM  
**Finance Code:** XLIMES14  
**Receiving Body:** North Lincolnshire Museum Service  
**Accession No:** MTDM  
**Prepared by:** Graeme Clarke  
**Position:** Project Officer  
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## Summary

*Between the 18th May and 13th June 2016, Oxford Archaeology East carried out archaeological monitoring at Land at Greetwell Hall Farm, Messingham Quarry, Manton, North Lincolnshire (centred on SE 9312 0429). The monitoring was carried out during the ground works associated with sand extraction.*

*This phase of work follows the monitoring of sand extraction undertaken in March 2016 on a strip of land immediately to the west of the current area of investigation which did not reveal any archaeological features or artefacts. Previous archaeological work undertaken by OA East in 2014 for this phase of sand extraction included the excavation of significant iron smelting remains on the plot of land immediately to the west of the current area of investigation. These remains comprised an iron smelting furnace with a plume of discarded waste material and a second slag accumulation nearby solely within the topsoil.*

*The topsoil of the current 420m x 80m sand extraction area was excavated and revealed modern land drains, part of a modern ditched enclosure and fourteen natural tree-boles cutting the natural geology. The fill of the enclosure contained modern pottery sherds. Seven of the natural tree-boles were excavated but did not yield any artefacts.*

*The monitoring of sand extraction at Messingham Quarry has demonstrated that no further archaeological deposits or artefacts of significance are present on this part of the sand extraction site, south of Greetwell Hall Farm, despite the proximity of significant Iron Age smelting remains.*



## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Archaeological monitoring was conducted at Land at Greetwell Hall Farm, Messingham Quarry, Manton, North Lincolnshire (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological monitoring was undertaken in accordance with a Mitigation Strategy (Pouncett 2009) for the project approved by Alison Williams of North Lincolnshire Unitary Council (LNUC; Planning Application MIN/2009/0356), updated by a Supplement to the approved Mitigation Strategy (Mortimer 2014) prepared by OA East.
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in National Planning Policy Framework (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by LNUC, 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 comprised a plot of rough grassland resulting from intermittent pasture, ploughing and cultivation. This is part of a low lying and relatively flat expanse of grassland at approximately 20m AOD with the Lincoln Edge rising immediately to the east. This landscape has been heavily quarried for the underlying sand.
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology comprises Charmouth Mudstone Formation - Mudstone overlain by Sutton Sand Formation - Sand (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>, accessed 6th July 2016).

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 Manton, including the hamlet of Cleatham, is a parish immediately on the west of the Lincoln Edge in North Lincolnshire District, situated c.8km to the south of Scunthorpe. It is described as 'Malmetune' (meaning farmstead on sandy ground) in the Domesday book (<http://www.domesdaybook.co.uk/lincolnshire4.html>). The parish church of St Hybald's dates to the medieval period.
- 1.3.2 The site lies to the north of the shrunken medieval village of Manton on a flat expanse of farmed heathland described as common land when the parish was subject to an Act of Inclosure in 1829 (Lincolnshire Archives reference: MANTON PAR 01). This common land is also described as a past nesting site for thousands of black headed gulls. This may also have been the described location of a nesting site for thousands of migratory plovers whose eggs were harvested in the parish and sold as a delicacy in London (<http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/LIN/Manton>). These activities are indicative of a wetter past environment than the relatively well drained fields encountered at the site today.



## 1.4 Previous phases of work on Phase 3 of the scheme

### ***ASE Ltd investigations***

- 1.4.1 A desk-based assessment (Gowans & Pouncett 2009a), surface artefact survey (Gowans & Pouncett 2009b), geophysical survey (Dobson & Pouncett 2009), and trial trench evaluation (Gowans & Pouncett 2009c) for the extension of Messingham Quarry was carried out by ASE Ltd. These detail the archaeological potential of the site, within Phase 3 of the scheme, and should be referred to for the full background.

### ***OA East excavation of Iron Age smelting furnace and post-medieval enclosure***

- 1.4.2 In January 2015 an excavation took place to the west of the current site of archaeological monitoring (Fig. 1; centred on SE 9300 0420; Clarke 2015). Two slag accumulations/heaps were identified. The remains of iron smelting furnace 215 were excavated with its associated plume of discarded waste slag material. The date range for the iron smelting activity on the site was determined to be between 776-590BC. The second slag accumulation was revealed to lie solely within the disturbed topsoil with no trace of an associated furnace.
- 1.4.3 A ditch excavated during the earlier evaluation conducted by ASE Ltd was found to represent part of a large enclosure (Enclosure 117) of probable post-medieval origins. This defined a lower, and previously wetter, area drained by the Manton Sewer.

### ***OA East continued archaeological monitoring***

- 1.4.4 In March 2015 intermittent archaeological monitoring took place to the east of the iron-working remains encountered during the evaluation (Fig. 1; Nicholls 2016). No archaeological deposits or artefacts were present on this part of the scheme.

## 1.5 Acknowledgements

- 1.5.1 The authors would like to thank Andy Josephs Associates and Maria Cotton for commissioning the work on behalf of Sibelco Uk. Richard Mortimer managed the project and Alison Williams of North Lincolnshire Unitary Council monitored the works. The fieldwork was supervised by Dave Browne. The site survey was conducted by Dave Brown with illustrations produced by Charlotte Walton.

## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this archaeological monitoring 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 Phase 3 of the quarry extension works.

### 2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required the monitoring of sand extraction works, that have the potential to damage any archaeological deposits that exist.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation of topsoil was carried out under archaeological supervision with a tracked 360o type excavator using a 2m wide flat bladed ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out using a Leica GPS GS08/CS10 fitted with “smartnet”.
- 2.2.4 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.
- 2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's pro-forma sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.6 No features or layers were encountered that had potential for environmental sampling.
- 2.2.7 The site conditions were good with intermittent showers.

### 3 RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 Descriptions of the ground conditions encountered, features identified and artefacts recovered are given in this section, full descriptions with dimensions are given in appendix A. The site layout is given in Figure 2.
- 3.1.2 The site was overlain by a loose dark greyish brown silty sand topsoil up to 0.3m thick. This overlay the natural sand geology comprising loose light yellowish orange brown sand (Plate 1).
- 3.1.3 In addition to the natural features, two periods of activity were identified, and phased corresponding to the periods outlined in the previous excavation on this phase of the sand extraction works (Clarke 2015):

##### ***Period 1: Early Iron Age (c.800BC – 400BC)***

- 3.1.4 The archaeological monitoring demonstrated no archaeological deposits or artefacts of the period were present in this part of the site.

##### ***Period 2: post-medieval (AD1500 – AD1800)***

- 3.1.5 The eastern part a post-medieval enclosure, similar to that described from the previous excavation (Clarke 2015), was encountered at the north-eastern corner of the site.

##### ***Period 3: modern (AD1800– present day)***

- 3.1.6 A series of linear ditches running from east-northeast to west-southwest were found to be modern land drains.

#### 3.2 Period 2: Post-medieval (AD1500 – AD1800)

##### ***Enclosure 284***

- 3.2.1 This feature formed the eastern part of a sub-rectangular ditched enclosure in the north-eastern corner of the site, and encompassed an area of at least 80m x 65m. The western part presumably extended beyond the limit of the current archaeological monitoring area. However, the enclosure was not observed during the previous phase of monitoring (Nicholls 2016). Two sections of this ditch cut (**284** & **286**) were excavated across the ditch, measuring up to 1m wide and 0.3m deep, with a U shape profile. Each section contained a single fill (285 & 287 respectively) comprising of mid-greyish brown sand. The fill (287) of ditch **286** yielded two sherds (9g) of refined white earthenware.

#### 3.3 Period 3: Modern (AD1800 – present day)

- 3.3.1 Multiple narrow linear cuts for land drains were identified. These ran east-northeast to west-southwest across the excavation, measuring approximately 0.7m wide with a square cut profile.

### **3.4 Natural features**

#### ***Tree-boles***

- 3.4.1 Fourteen tree-boles/tree root systems (Fig 2) were encountered during the archaeological monitoring. These were generally sub-circular in plan, measured up to 1.5m in diameter by 0.3m deep, and contained single fills consisting of loose grey or brown sand containing no finds.

### **3.5 Finds Summary**

- 3.5.1 Two refined white earthenware pottery sherds (9g) were recovered from the fill of Enclosure **284** (not retained). These date from the late 18th and 19th centuries, spanning the post-medieval and modern periods.

### **3.6 Environmental Summary**

- 3.6.1 No deposits were identified with potential for environmental sampling.

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

### 4.1 Post-medieval Enclosure 284

- 4.1.1 The enclosure is probably of post-medieval origin with similar morphology to the larger Enclosure 117 excavated by OA East in 2015 (Clarke 2015). Enclosure 284 may have served the same purpose, defining a lower and previously wetter area on the heathland. These enclosures on the heathland may therefore be associated with wetland management of the bird nesting sites described as an important resource for egg harvesting in the parish from the post-medieval period (See Section 1.3.2).

### 4.2 Significance

- 4.2.1 The monitoring of sand extraction at Messingham Quarry has demonstrated that no further archaeological deposits or artefacts of significance are present on this part of the sand extraction site, south of Greetwell Hall Farm, despite the proximity of significant Iron Age smelting remains.

### 4.3 Recommendations

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

## APPENDIX A. CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Cut	Period	Category	Group	Feature Type	Colour	Fine component	Coarse component	Profile
284	284	2	cut	Enclosure 284	ditch				U-shape
285	284	2	fill	Enclosure 284	ditch	mid grey brown	sand		
286	286	2	cut	Enclosure 284	ditch				U-shape
287	286	2	fill	Enclosure 284	ditch	mid grey brown	sand		

## APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Clarke, G 2015 *Land at Greetwell Hall Farm, Messingham Quarry, Manton, North Lincolnshire. Archaeological Excavation Interim Report.* Oxford Archaeology East Report No. 1696, dated April 2015 (unpublished)
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- Mortimer, R 2014 *Supplement to the approved Archaeology Mitigation Strategy (2009): Excavation and Watching Brief of Quarry Extension Phase 3.* Oxford Archaeology East, dated 17<sup>th</sup> November 2014 (unpublished)
- Nicholls, K 2016 *Watching Brief at Messingham Quarry: Phase 3.* Oxford Archaeology East Report No. 1905, dated March 2016 (unpublished)
- Pouncett, J 2009 *Land at Greetwell Hall Farm, Messingham Quarry, Manton, Mitigation Strategy.* ASE Ltd, dated October 2009 (unpublished)

## APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

### Project Details

OASIS Number	<input type="text"/>		
Project Name	<input type="text"/>		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	<input type="text"/>	Finish	<input type="text"/>
Previous Work (by OA East)	<input type="text"/>	Future Work	<input type="text"/>

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	<input type="text"/>	Planning App. No.	<input type="text"/>
HER No.	<input type="text"/>	Related HER/OASIS No.	<input type="text"/>

### Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt

### Please select all techniques used:

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

### Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

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

Monument	Period	Object	Period
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<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

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Parish	<input type="text"/>	
HER	<input type="text"/>	
Study Area	<input type="text"/>	National Grid Reference <input type="text"/>



### Project Originators

Organisation	<input type="text"/>
Project Brief Originator	<input type="text"/>
Project Design Originator	<input type="text"/>
Project Manager	<input type="text"/>
Supervisor	<input type="text"/>

### Project Archives

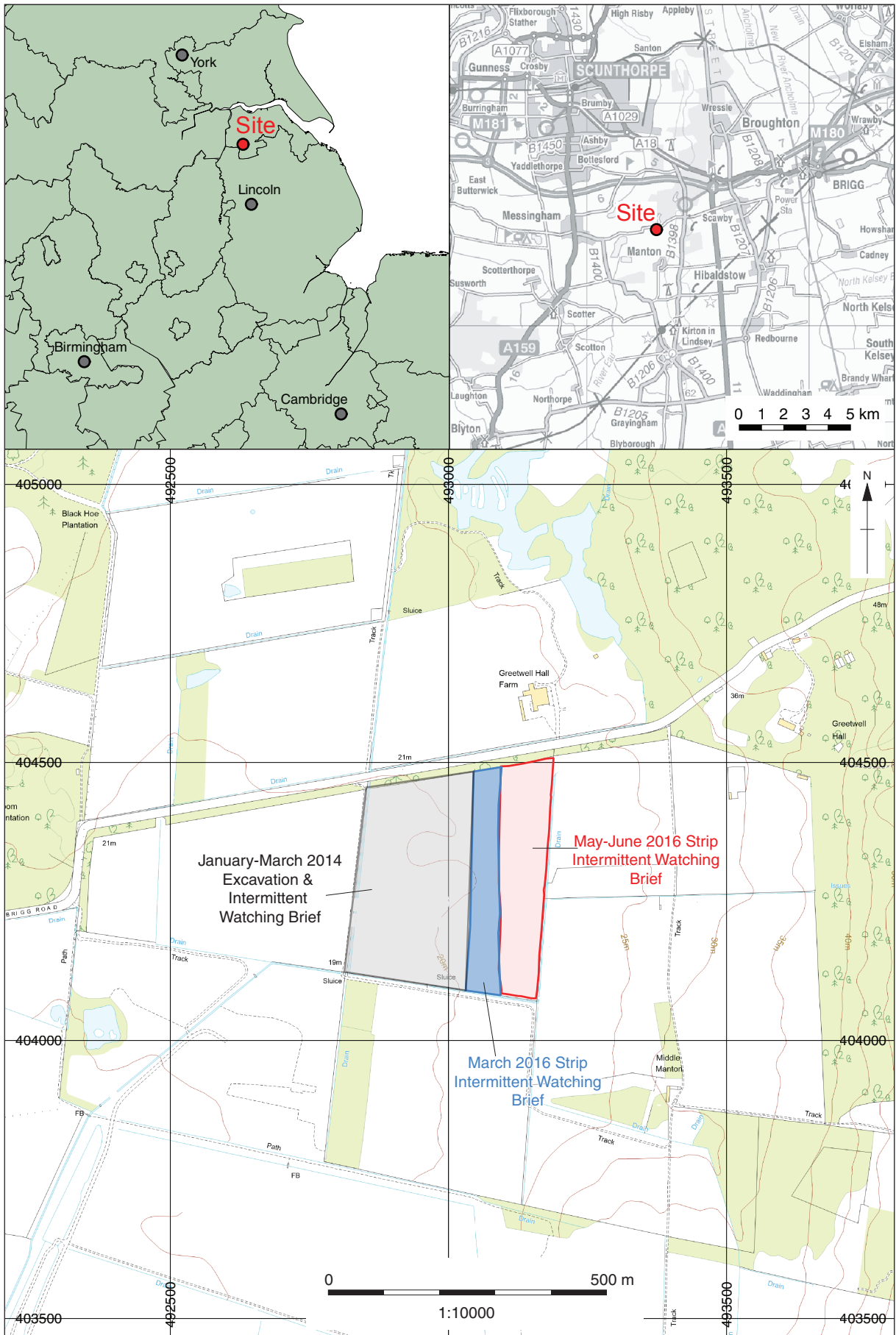
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<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

### Archive Contents/Media

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Ceramics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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<input type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
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<input type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
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<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

### Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location

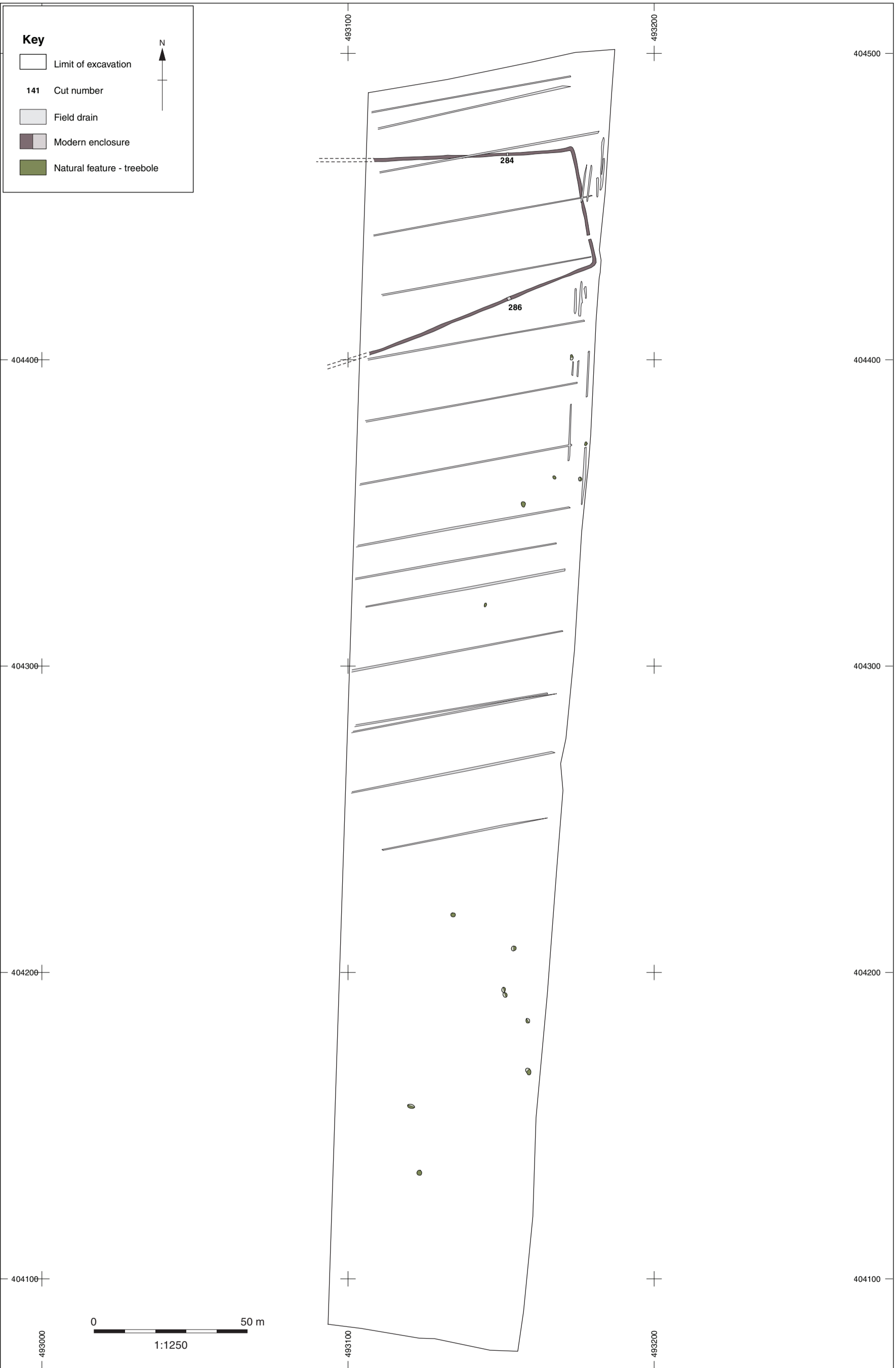


Figure 2: Site plan



Plate 1: Watching brief area, looking north-west



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