Archaeological Evaluation on Land South of Boughton Road, Moulton, Northamptonshire



Archaeological Evaluation Report



April 2013

Client: CgMS

OA East Report No: 1459 OASIS No: oxfordar3-148663

NGR: SP7757 6604



Archaeological Evaluation on Land South of Boughton Road, Moulton, Northamptonshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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Report Date: April 2013

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Report Number: 1459

Site Name: Land South of Boughton Road

HER Event No:

Date of Works: April 2013

Client Name: CgMS

Client Ref: n/a

Planning Ref: n/a

Grid Ref: SP 7757 6604

Site Code: XNNBRM13

Finance Code: XNNBRM13

Receiving Body: Northamptonshire county store

Accession No:

Prepared by: Nick Gilmour Position: Project Officer Date: 22/4/13

Checked by: Stephen Macaulay
Position: Senior Project Manager

Date: 22/4/13

Signed:

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Plate 2: Ditch 23 in trench 43, from the east

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Summary

Between 4th April and 11th April 2013 Oxford Archaeology East carried out an evaluation on land south of Boughton Road, Moulton, Northamptonshire. The evaluation was carried out after a geophysical survey had been undertaken. A total of 47 trenches, each 40m long were excavated, these only revealed evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation and several small undated ditches.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Between 4th and 11th April 2013 an archaeological evaluation was conducted on land south of Boughton Road, Moulton, Northamptonshire (SP 7757 6604).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Northamptonshire County Council (NCC), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (Macaulay 2013). The work was undertaken on behalf of CgMS (Rob Bourn) on behalf of Hallam Land Management.
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by NCC, 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 underlying geology of the site is Rutland Formation (Mudstone) overlain with mid-Pleistocene Till deposits. The site lies on a northwest facing slope dropping from c.115m AoD on its southern boundary to c.105m AoD beside Broughton Lane. The site comprises of three fields with slight traces of ridge and furrow in the southwest field.
- 1.2.2 The site was divided into three fields; field 1, 2 and 3 (Fig. 2). Field 1 was the smallest, and was directly to the south of Boughton Road. Field 2 was to the south of this, with field 3 to the east of field 2.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment has been undertaken by the clients agents CgMS (Bourn 2012). The results of this report are not be repeated here.
- 1.3.2 In summary of the desk-based assessment, although no archaeological remains were recorded within the site itself, the site lies in an area of relatively extensive cropmarks of funerary, settlement and agricultural nature, dating to the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman periods. Predominately these remains lie to the north, northwest and northeast of the development site. However, the lack of evidence on the site may be the result of recording and investigation bias.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like to thank CgMs consulting, who commissioned the work on behalf of Hallam Land Management. The project was managed by Stephen Macaulay and directed by the author, with the assistance of Nick Cox, Toby Knight and Steve Morgan. The survey was carried out by Taleyna Fletcher and Stuart Ladd. The mechanical excavator was provided by LOC plant hire and driven by Nick Richardson.

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2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

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

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The specification required that 47 trenches, each 2m wide and 40m long, be excavated. Some of these had to be moved from their intended position, due to overhead cables and access issues. Nevertheless, all 47 trenches were excavated.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a 20 ton, 360° tracked excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by Taleyna Fletcher and Stuart Ladd using a Leica 1200 GPS, with smartnet.
- 2.2.4 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metaldetected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.6 No environmental samples were taken, as no suitable deposits were identified.
- 2.2.7 Site conditions were generally good, with overcast dry days.

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3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The results are presented below by field, as described above. Within each field, the trenches containing archaeological features are listed first, followed by those containing furrows. Trenches are described in numerical order within this framework. Blank trenches are not discussed, however, descriptions, including topsoil and subsoil depths are given in Appendix A and a context inventory is given in Appendix B.

3.2 Field 1; Trenches 1-18 (Fig. 3)

3.2.1 Two small parallel ditches were recorded in this field, which are likely to be post-medieval or modern with one ditch containing a piece of coal. A single square post-hole was also identified, along with several furrows.

Trenches 2 and 3

3.2.2 A single small ditch (27 and 24) was recorded passing through trenches 2 and 3. This was 0.90m wide and 0.10m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a mid yellowish brown, silty clay (deposits 26 and 25). No finds were recovered from this feature, but it was on a different alignment to the ridge and furrow.

Trenches 5 and 7

- 3.2.3 A further small ditch (4 and 5) passed through trenches 5 and 7 on a north-east to south-west alignment. It was up to 0.95m wide and 0.28m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit (3 and 6), which was a mid brownish grey, silty clay. A single piece of coal (15g) was recovered from ditch 5 in trench 7.
- 3.2.4 A single furrow (7) was excavated in trench 7. It was 2.02m wide and 0.10m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit (8) which was a mid yellowish brown, silty clay. A small assemblage of animal bone (39g) was recovered from this deposit.

Trench 9

3.2.5 A single square posthole (**10**) was identified at the north-western end of trench 9. It was 0.30m wide and 0.25m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. A single deposit (9) filled this feature, it was a pale yellowish brown, silty caly. No finds were retrieved from the posthole.

Trench 12

- 3.2.6 Underlying the subsoil in part of Trench 12 was a layer of slightly different material (11). this extended over 4.95m of the trench and was up to 0.08m thick. Deposit 11 was a mid yellowish brown, silty clay. A single sawn fragment of cattle rib was found within this layer.
- 3.2.7 In addition a single furrow was recorded, crossing the trench on a north-north-west to south-south-east alignment.

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Trenches 10 and 13

3.2.8 As well as the furrows recorded in trenches 7 and 12 (discussed above), furrows were recorded in trenches 10 and 13. These were all on a similar north-north-west to south-south-east alignment.

3.3 Field 2; Trenches 19-29 (Fig. 4)

3.3.1 A small ditch, along with a second possible ditch were excavated in field 2. Several furrows were also noted crossing the trenches.

Trench 21

3.3.2 A possible ditch (**16**) entered trench 21 close to the south-west end and continued on a north-north-east to south-south-west orientation for 7m before terminating. It was 0.45m wide and 0.07m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by deposit 17, which was a mid yellowish brown, silty clay. No finds were recovered from this feature and it is possible that if represents a furrow.

Trench 29

3.3.3 A single ditch (14) was recorded continuing along the length of trench 21 on a north-east to south-west alignment for 11m, before being cut by a furrow. It was 0.70m wide an 0.23m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. A single deposit (15) filled this ditch, which was a pale brownish yellow, silty clay. No finds were retrieved from this feature.

Trenches 20, 23, 24, 26, 27

3.3.4 In addition to the furrow noted in trench 29, one or more furrows, each on a north-north-west to south-south-east alignment, were recorded crossing trenches 20, 23, 24, 26 and 27.

3.4 Field 3; Trenches 30-47 (Fig. 5)

3.4.1 The only features identified in field 3 were a single small ditch and a possible posthole.

Trench 43 (Plate 2)

3.4.2 A small, possibly slightly curving, ditch (23) crossed trench 43 on an almost east to west alignment. It was 0.95m wide and 0.20m deep, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. A single deposit (22) filled this ditch, which was a pale greyish brown, silty clay. Nothing was found within this feature. As well as this ditch, two furrow were noted passing through this trench.

Trench 44

3.4.3 A single possible posthole (18) was excavated close to the south-western end of trench 44. It was sub-circular in plan with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It had a diameter of 0.45m, with a depth of 0.06m and was filled by a single deposit (19), which was a mid greyish brown, silty clay.

Trenches 40, 42 and 47

3.4.4 As well as the furrows recorded in trenches 43 and 44, one or more furrows were seen in trenches 40, 42 and 47.



3.5 Finds Summary

3.5.1 A single sherd (5g) of 17th century post-medieval black glazed earthenware was recovered from the topsoil (12) in trench 21. A single piece of coal (15g) was also found in fill 6 of ditch 5.

3.6 Environmental Summary

3.6.1 Three fragments of bone from a large mammal (34g) along with a single fragment of sheep tibia (5g) were recovered from deposit 8, which filled furrow **7**. In addition, a single fragment of sawn cattle rib (56g) was found in layer 11.

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4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Ridge and Furrow

- 4.1.1 Although relatively little evidence for ridge and furrow was visible in the base of the evaluation trenches, it is clearly shown on the geophysical survey (Cooper 2012). The furrows generally run on a north-north-west to south-south-east alignment, on a similar alignment to the current field boundaries and perpendicular to Boughton Road.
- 4.1.2 Ridge and furrow is a largely medieval and post-medieval cultivation system. The furrows are largely created by strip cultivation, although sometimes they were deliberately created to improve drainage or for other agricultural benefit.

4.2 Undated Ditches

4.2.1 Several small undated ditches were identified across the evaluated area although one of these contained a piece of coal, suggesting a post-medieval or modern date. They were largely on different orientations to the current field boundaries and the ridge and furrow. The lack of a dating for these ditches precludes detailed discussion, however, the very wet conditions on site may suggest that they were dug to aid drainage.

4.3 Significance

4.3.1 This evaluation has shown that little archaeologically visible activity took place on this site, apart for ridge and furrow cultivation. The anomalies previously identified by geophysical survey (Cooper 2012) were most likely caused by variations in the underlying geology, as the glacial clay deposits did contain bands of sand and gravel.

4.4 Recommendations

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

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APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Field No.	Max. Topsoil Depth (m)	Max. Subsoil depth (m)	Features present
1	1	0.30	0.50	none
2	1	0.30	0.40	Ditch 27
3	1	0.30	0.40	Ditch 24
4	1	0.30	0.70	none
5	1	0.35	0.55	Ditch 4
6	1	0.30	0.20	None
7	1	0.30	0.16	Ditch 5, Furrow 7
8	1	0.25	0.15	None
9	1	0.20	0.25	Posthole 10
10	1	0.25	0.25	Furrow
11	1	0.25	0.20	None
12	1	0.35	0.30	Layer 11, furrows
13	1	0.30	0.15	Furrows
14	1	0.30	0.32	None
15	1	0.30	0.25	None
16	1	0.32	0.28	None
17	1	0.28	0.25	None
18	1	0.30	0.30	None
19	2	0.20	0.35	None
20	2	0.40	0.10	Furrows
21	2	0.33	0.28	Ditch 16
22	2	0.27	0.30	None
23	2	0.45	0.30	Furrows
24	2	0.40	0.10	Furrows
25	2	0.40	0.40	None
26	2	0.30	0.25	Furrows
27	2	0.25	0.20	Furrow
28	2	0.25	0.35	None
29	2	0.33	0.32	Ditch 14, furrow
30	3	0.30	0.20	None
31	3	0.40	0.40	None
32	3	0.35	0.20	None
33	3	0.30	0.15	None
34	3	0.40	0.15	None



Trench No.	Field No.	Max. Topsoil Depth (m)	Max. Subsoil depth (m)	Features present
35	3	0.30	0.18	None
36	3	0.30	0.10	None
37	3	0.35	0.25	None
38	3	0.25	0.23	None
39	3	0.25	0.25	None
40	3	0.3	0.15	Furrows
41	3	0.25	0.25	None
42	3	0.25	0.20	Furrows
43	3	0.30	0.10	Ditch 23. furrows
44	3	0.28	0.19	Posthole 18, furrow
45	3	0.25	0.20	None
46	3	0.30	0.20	None
47	3	0.30	0.10	Furrows

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APPENDIX B. CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Cut	Category	Trench	Field	Feature Type
1	-	Layer	1-18	1	Topsoil
2	-	Layer	1-18	1	Subsoil
3	4	Fill	5	1	Ditch
4	4	Cut	5	1	Ditch
5	5	Cut	7	1	Ditch
6	5	Fill	7	1	Ditch
7	7	Cut	7	1	Furrow
8	7	Fill	7	1	Furrow
9	10	Fill	9	1	Post hole
10	10	Cut	9	1	Post hole
11	-	Layer	11	1	Layer
12	-	Layer	19-29	2	Topsoil
13	-	Layer	19-29	2	Subsoil
14	14	Cut	29	2	Ditch
15	14	Fill	29	2	Ditch
16	16	Cut	21	2	Ditch
17	16	Fill	21	2	Ditch
18	18	Cut	44	3	Posthole?
19	18	Fill	44	3	Posthole?
20	-	Layer	30-47	3	Topsoil
21	-	Layer	30-47	3	Subsoil
22	23	Fill	43	3	Ditch
23	23	Cut	43	3	Ditch
24	24	Cut	3	1	Ditch
25	24	Fill	3	1	Ditch
26	27	Fill	2	1	Ditch
27	27	Cut	2	1	Ditch

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APPENDIX C. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bourn, R. 2012. Land at Broughton Lane, Moulton, Northamptonshire – Archaeological Desk Based Assessment, CgMS report.

Cooper, A. 2012. *Geophysical Survey Report on land at Boughton road, Moulton, Northants.* Stratoscan report J3214

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APPENDIX D. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project De	etails										
OASIS Number oxfordar3			ar3-148663								
Project Name Evaluation		tion on land	d South of Boug	ghton Roa	ad, Moulto	n					
Project Date	es (field	work)	Start	04-11-2013			Finish	11-	11-04-2013		
Previous Wo	ork (by	OA Ea	ast)	No			Future	Wo	rk Ur	nknown	
Project Refe	erence	Code	S								<u></u>
Site Code					Planning App. No.				n/a		
HER No.					Relate	ed HER/	OASIS	No.			
Type of Project/Techniques Use Prompt Select Prompt Development Type Housing Esta		ect Prompt	(this should be	e in your b	orief/spec)	l					
Please sele	ect all	tech	niques	used:							
Aerial Photo	ography -	interpr	etation	Grab-Saı	mpling				Rem	ote Operated Vehicle	Survey
Aerial Photo	graphy -	new		Gravity-C	Core			X	Sample Trenches		
Annotated S	Sketch			Laser Scanning			Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure				
Augering				Measured Survey		×					
Dendrochro	nological	Survey	/	Metal Detectors				Test Pits			
☐ Documentar	ry Search	1		Phosphate Survey				Topographic Survey			
	tal Samp	ling		☐ Photogrammetric Survey				☐ Vibro-core			
Fieldwalking	9			Photogram				al Inspection (Initial Si	te Visit)		
Geophysica	I Survey			Rectified	Rectified Photography						
Monument List feature type together with th	es using t	the NM	R Monume	ent Type Thesau	urus and	significant			MDA	A Object type Th	iesaurus
ridge and furro	W		Post Med	lieval 1540 to 1	901	pottery	pottery			Post Medieval 1540	to 1901
ditch			Uncertain	1					Select period		
Select peri			riod	iod				Select period			
Project Lo	ocatio	n									
County Northamptonshire					Site Ac	ldress (i	nclud	ding p	oostcode if possib	ole)	
District Daventry					Land off Boughton Road Moulton						
Parish Moulton					Northa	mptonshir	9				
HER Northamptonshire											
Study Area 15.3ha				Nation	al Grid F	Refer	ence	SP 7757 6604			



Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Northamptonshire County Council
Project Design Originator	Stephen Macaulay
Project Manager	Stephen macaulay
Supervisor	Nick Gilmour

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive	
Northamptonshire county store	OA East Office Bar hill	Northamtonshire County Store	
XNNBRM13	XNNBRM13	XNNBRM13	

Archive Contents/Media

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

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

Notes:

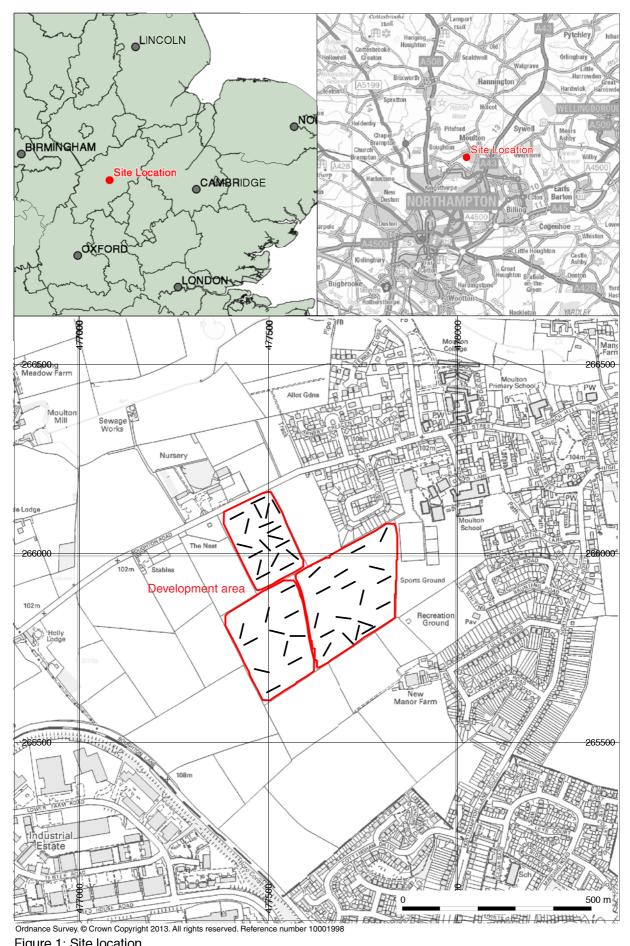


Figure 1: Site location



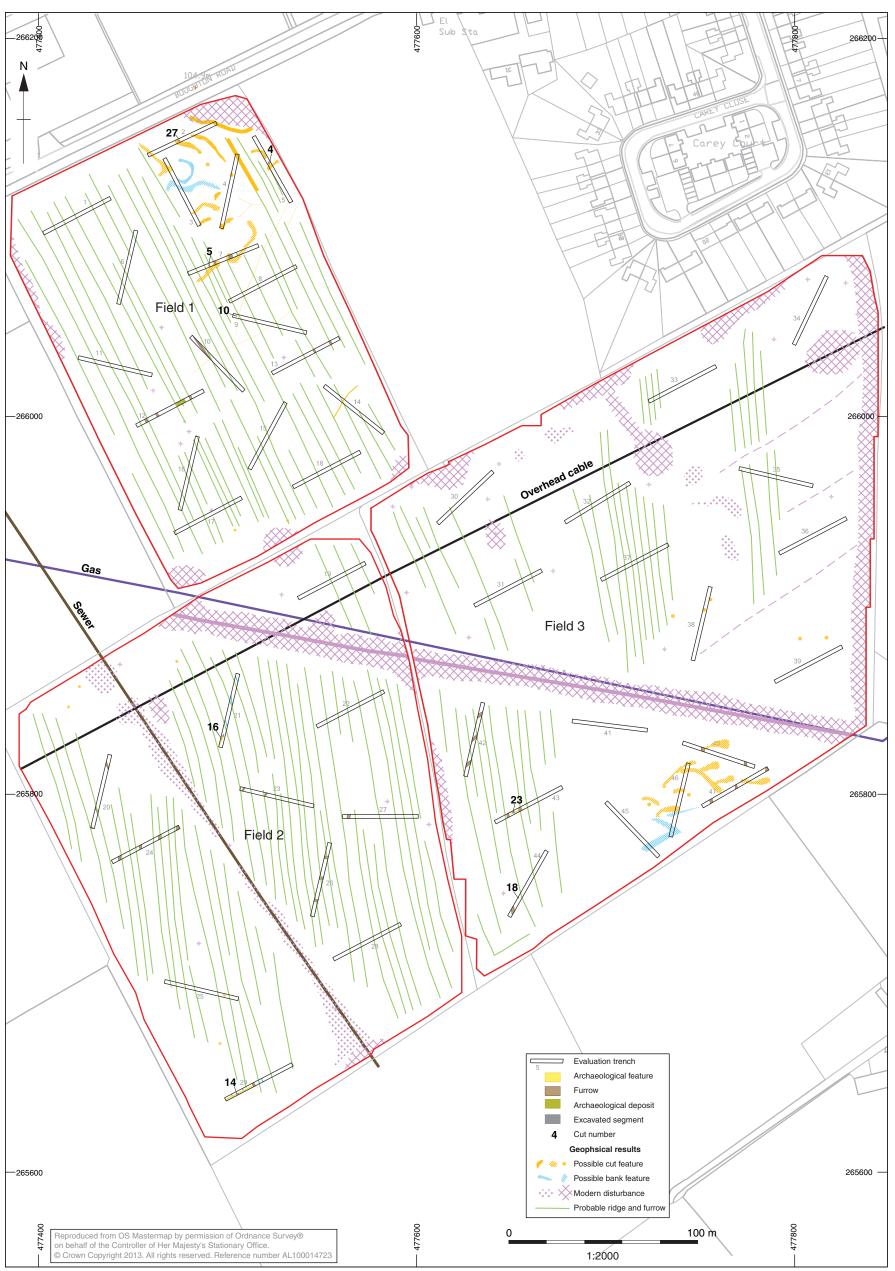


Figure 2: Trench plan in relation to geophysical survey results



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Figure 3: Trench plan of field 1, showing excavated features

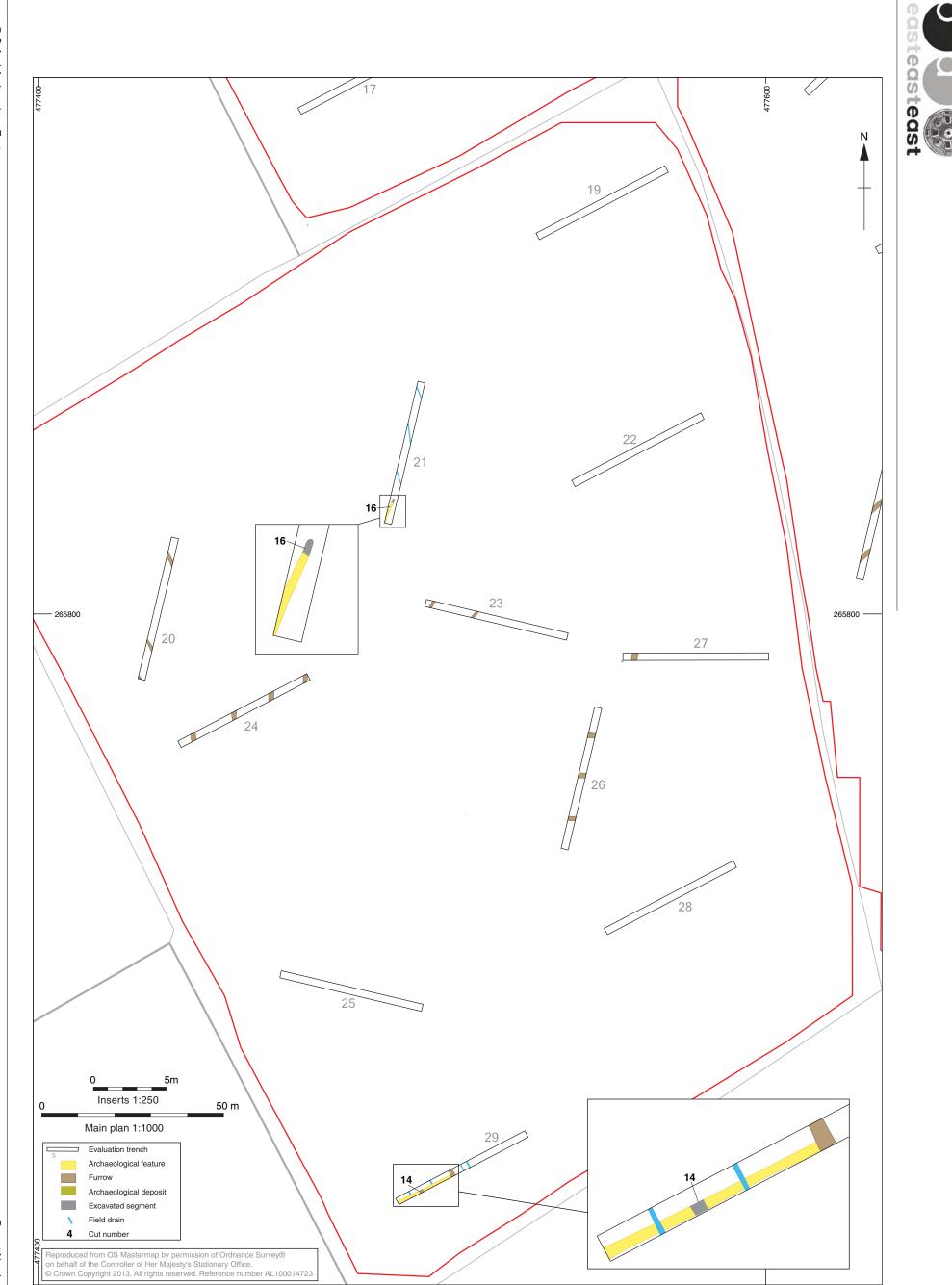


Figure 4: Trench plan of field 2, showing excavated features

- 266000

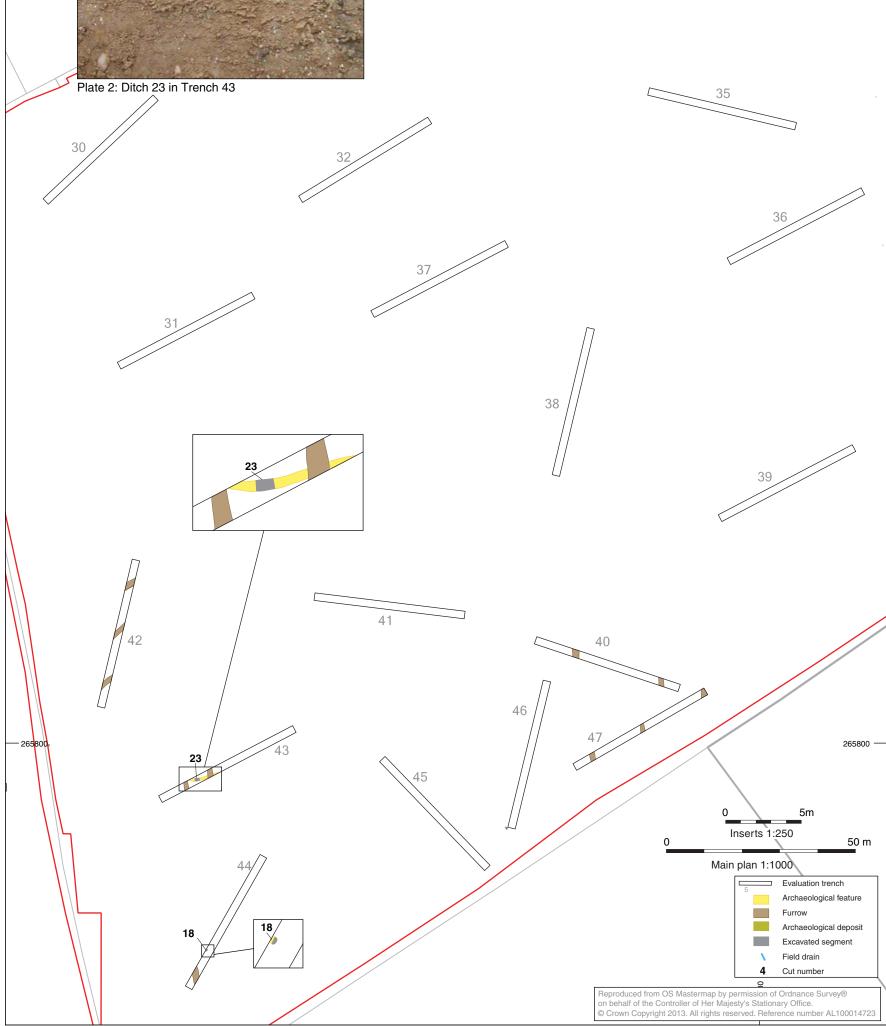


Figure 5: Trench plan of field 3, showing excavated features



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