

Land North of Knight's End Road March, Cambridgeshire



Archaeological Evaluation Report



October 2015

Client: Savills for Solar Power Parks Ltd

OA East Report No: 1833

OASIS No: oxfordar3-224932

NGR: TL 3727 9455

Land North of Bradney Farm, Knight's End Road, March, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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Summary

Between the 8th and 15th of September 2015 Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) conducted an archaeological evaluation on land north of Bradney Farm, Knight's End Road, March, Cambridgeshire (TL 3727 9455). The evaluation, comprising 28 evaluation trenches, was carried out prior to the proposed construction of the Benwick Solar Scheme.

Evidence was found for a large roddon (a silted up river channel) – the pre-Roman course of the River Nene – running along the eastern half of the site, across which were cut three shallow linear ditches. No artefacts were recovered from these ditches, although it is possible that they were of Roman date. Two large parallel ditches were identified in the northern half of the site that correspond with post-drainage modern field boundaries shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (1889) of the area. Associated with these were two sets of cultivation furrows on different alignments that extended across most of the field. A more recent ditch was also present that bisected one of the earlier field boundaries and is shown on the 1971 Ordnance Survey map. Four modern machine dug pits were also found in the eastern part of the field, adjacent to the most recent boundary ditch.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted by OA East at Knight's End Road, March (TL 3727 9455; Fig. 1) in an agricultural fenland field adjacent to the River Nene.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological trial trenching was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Kasia Gdaniec of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (CHET; Pre-Planning Application), supplemented by a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by OA East (Macaulay and Drummond-Murray 2015).
- 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 following information is drawn from the Written Scheme of Investigation (Macaulay and Drummond-Murray 2015).
- 1.2.2 The site lies to the south-west of the historic town of March, off the former fen island. The solid geology of the area is Ampthill Clay (mudstone), with the glacially deposited March Gravels lying to the east (British Geological Survey 1980).
- 1.2.3 The proposed development site is located just above sea level within the former Bradney Fen in the fenland basin, where freshwater peats, marine clays and alluvial silts characterise the infilling sequence. Significantly the site lies adjacent and partially on top of the former channel of the River Nene, which by the medieval period had changed course to flow to the north-west of the site. The Fenland Survey (Hall 1987; figs 20-23) shows this as a large curving roddon (silted course of a tidal palaeoriver) extending to the south before passing through the eastern part of the site. Numerous smaller roddons are also shown; roddons are often the focus for earlier settlement, notably in the Roman period.
- 1.2.4 The site is approximately 10 hectares in area, and is currently an arable field.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The following information is drawn from the Written Scheme of Investigation (Macaulay and Drummond-Murray 2015), supplemented by information from the Fenland Survey (Hall 1987) and historic map evidence.
- 1.3.2 No specific evidence of archaeological remains is known in the vicinity of the site, however due to the nature of the deeper fens and extent of peat coverage it is possible that pre-medieval archaeology may be masked by the peat.
- 1.3.3 The fenland can have dense and sometimes exceptional finds of prehistoric and Roman archaeology (e.g. Must Farm, Whittlesey or the Roman Roddon settlement at Apes Hall Farm, Littleport) but this can be deeply buried (in pre-Roman contexts), and not be obvious until revealed by deeper excavation (Murrell 2012).

- 1.3.4 A single find spot (CHER 08453) of medieval pottery is recorded in the Cambridge Historic Environment Record (HER) in the adjacent field to the south-west of the site. Further medieval pottery, located on a large roddon crest, have been recovered from fields further to the west (e.g. MCB10133).
- 1.3.5 The Fenland Survey shows that the current site lay within a meander of the large prehistoric channel of the River Nene (Hall 1987, figs 20-21). Towards the end of the Iron Age period the wide channel appears to have largely silted up and the river followed a new course that cut through the centre of this roddon. By the medieval period the river shifted to the north of the current site to follow its present course. Historic maps from the later 19th century onwards show the proposed development site as being divided into fields with the River Nene to the north, Bradney Farm to the south and a sinuous drain demarcating the boundary to the east and south; presumably following the former river channel (www.old-maps.co.uk; accessed 2/10/15).

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Savills Ltd who commissioned the work on behalf of the client, Solar Power Parks Ltd. The author would also like to thank Graeme Clarke who directed the investigation and also John Diffey who along with the author assisted in the excavation of the site; Dave Brown carried out the site survey. James Drummond-Murray and Stephen Macaulay managed the project for OA East. Thanks should also be extended to Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council who monitored the works.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this archaeological 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 Brief recommended that a total of 3% of the development be sampled. In total, 28 trenches were excavated across the proposed development area. Trenches were positioned to be located on the principal impact areas of the proposed development scheme (sub-station, cable trenches, transformer buildings *etc.*). In all, 28 2m-wide evaluation trenches were opened, totalling 1380 linear metres.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled 360-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried using a Leica GS08 Smartnet GPS.
- 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. Bucket sampling of 90 litres of excavated soil from each trench was also carried out to characterise artefactual remains in the topsoil and any other soil horizons above the archaeological level.
- 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 Twenty litre environmental samples were also taken from all non-modern features.
- 2.2.7 The site conditions were good. The weather was good with occasional heavy showers.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 This section contains descriptions of ground conditions, features identified and artefacts recovered. Further trench and context descriptions with dimensions and elevations (m OD) are given in Appendix A with locations shown in Figure 2.

3.2 Trench Descriptions

General

- 3.2.1 The majority of the trenches contained no archaeological features, other than modern cultivation furrows, and are not further described here. Deposits in general were a geology of Amphill clay (10) overlain by a peat layer (9), which was in turn overlain by two further fen clay layers (8 and then 7) which were sealed by an orange mottled grey fen clay (5). This was then sealed by a topsoil layer with an average depth of 0.35m. In sondages, the natural Amphill clay was encountered at a depth of 2.8m.
- 3.2.2 Running down the eastern side of the site was the line of a roddon (Fig. 2; Plate 1). This was revealed in Trenches 2, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26 and 27, and in the eastern halves of Trenches 1 and 3. The exposed elements of the roddon comprised a lower layer of sandy silts (45 in Trench 12 and 47 in Trench 26), with a thin layer of peat (44 in Trench 12 and 46 in Trench 26) sandwiched within an upper layer of yellow sandy silt (6). Trenches 10, 16, 22 and 28 also contained areas of roddon sands at their north and eastern ends.
- 3.2.3 Three undated ditches cut the main upper roddon deposits in two of the trenches in the eastern part of the site, while several large boundary ditches and associated cultivation furrows of post-medieval to modern date were identified across most of the evaluated area.
- 3.2.4 Along the north-western edge of the field along the line of the river were two layers of weathered peat (3 and 4) overlying the natural that were preserved by a deposit of material (2) dredged out of the river (Plate 2). These were present in Trench 13 and at the north and western ends of Trenches 1, 7 and 8. Small patches of peat (4) also survived in other parts of the site (eg. in Trenches 19 and 20).

Trench 7

- 3.2.5 This trench contained two ditches cut into the top of the roddon sands (6) that were present over the majority of the trench.
- 3.2.6 Ditch **23** ran north to south across the trench at approximately 12.5m from the western end. It was 1.09m wide and 0.25m deep and was filled by a dark blueish grey silty clay (24) that contained no artefacts.
- 3.2.7 Located approximately 25m further east in the trench was a curvilinear ditch (**25**) running in from the north-west and turning towards the south. This measured 1.4m wide and 0.28m deep and was filled by a dark blueish grey clay (26) that also contained no artefacts.
- 3.2.8 Both these features were overlain by thin surviving deposits of peat (4), above which was the topsoil (1).

Trench 11 (Plate 4)

- 3.2.9 The roddon sands (6) were present across the majority of this trench apart from a strip of natural clay (5) 5m wide at the south-western end, which may represent the edge of the roddon, and a second band of clay half way along the trench.
- 3.2.10 A single linear ditch (**27**; Fig. 3, Plate 3) ran east to west diagonally across the trench at approximately 18m from the south-western end, cutting the roddon material. The ditch, which was 1.05m wide and 0.28m deep was filled by a dark yellowish grey silty clay (28) that contained no artefacts.
- 3.2.11 No peat survived in this trench, where the features and rodden deposits were overlain directly by the topsoil (1).

Post-medieval to modern features

- 3.2.12 A number of more recent features were present across the site. The more north-westerly of these was a 1.67m-wide ditch (**17** in Trench 4 and **39** in Trench 1) that ran north-east to south-west through Trenches 1, 3, 4 and 8, parallel to the river line. This marked the south-eastern edge of the dredging deposit (2) and the majority of the surviving peat deposits (3 and 4). It was filled by a dark reddish brown silty clay (18), a black peat (19) and then a dark grey clay (20).
- 3.2.13 Located c.100m to the south-east of this ditch was a second 1.9m-wide parallel ditch (**31**, Plate 2) found in Trenches 6, 16 and 21. This was filled by a yellowish brown clay (32), a dark brown organic silt (33) and a light grey clay (34).
- 3.2.14 Between ditches **17** and **31** was a series of modern furrows all running parallel to the ditches and all with similar vertical-sided and flat-based profiles. Several were excavated (**11** and **13** in Trench 8, **15** in Trench 4 and **21** in Trench 1) and found to measure 0.7m-0.8m wide and approximately 0.12m deep. All were filled with a dark reddish brown weathered peat (12, 14, 16 and 22 respectively).
- 3.2.15 A second series of furrows running on a north-west to south-east alignment, at right angles to the first set, was present to the south of ditch **31**.
- 3.2.16 A more recent boundary ditch (**35**) was located within Trenches 18 and 21 to the south of ditch **31**, and followed a different north-east to south-west alignment. This ditch appears to have completely truncated ditch **31** in Trench 21 and also cut across one of the north-west to south-east furrows in the northern end of Trench 22. It was filled by a light green clay (36), blue-brown silt (37) and dark grey-brown silt (38) which contained various fragments of tile of late 18th to mid 19th century date.
- 3.2.17 The latest features appear to be four sub-rectangular modern pits that were located in Trenches 18 and 19. These form a rough line on the same alignment as ditch **35**. One of these (**48**) was excavated and showed a clearly machine-excavated profile aligned east to west with vertical sides on the north and south. Two of these pits, including **48**, appear to cut field drains.

3.3 Finds Summary

- 3.3.1 Two field drain fragments and four fragments of brick were recovered from the evaluation. The bricks are hand made and date between the late 18th to mid 19th century (Carole Fletcher pers. comm.) and the fragments of field drain probably date to the same period. The finds were recovered from a layer of dredged material found on the northern half of the field (2) and modern ditches **29** (Trench 24), **31** (Trench 16) and

35 (Trench 21). These finds have been quantified and discarded. Weights and dimensions can be found within the archive.

3.4 Environmental Summary

3.4.1 No charred plant remains, other than occasional charcoal, were recovered from the three bulk samples taken from site, indicating that the soil was either not conducive to preservation or that little occupation has taken place in the vicinity.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Roddon

- 4.1.1 Two phases associated with the formation of the roddon along the eastern side of the site were identified. The presence of peat layers (44 and 46) sandwiched between the roddon sands (6, 45 and 47) possibly represent a short period when the river channel was no longer active, allowing peat formation, followed by a further period of silting. This roddon corresponds with the large channel shown on the Fenland Survey maps that was the course of the River Nene during the Neolithic to later Iron Age periods (Hall 1987, figs 20-21). By the Roman period the new, much narrower river cut a course through the silted up prehistoric channel, flowing to the east and south of the current site. By the medieval period the river had changed course again to run along its present line to the immediate north-west of the site.
- 4.1.2 Patches of sand revealed to the west of the main roddon (e.g. in Trenches 16 and 27) may represent smaller subsidiary channels feeding eastwards into the main channel.

4.2 Undated Ditches

- 4.2.1 The only evidence of human activity prior to modern agricultural features are three ditches (**23**, **25** and **27**) cut into the top of roddon in the eastern part of the site.
- 4.2.2 These features contained no dating evidence but were sealed by the remnants of a peat deposit (4) and are on different alignment to the later features on site, suggesting that they belong to an earlier phase of land division and/or drainage. By the Roman period marine flooding had ceased to the north-east and the remainder of the Fens around March were covered by peat (Hall 1987, 41). The three shallow ditches were located on top of the roddon and are therefore of probable Late Iron Age/Roman or post-Roman date: the absence of similar features across the rest of the site re-iterates the importance of roddons as foci of activity prior to the draining of the fens. The lack of artefacts and environmental remains from the ditches indicates that the current site was not directly associated with any nearby settlement.

4.3 Post-medieval to Modern Features

- 4.3.1 Post-drainage modern agricultural activity is represented by parallel boundary ditches **17** and **31** (Plate 2) which follow the alignment of the river to the north-west; peat layers overlain by a dredging deposit (2) were located between the ditches and the river. These ditches demarcated two fields, within each of which were different alignments of cultivation furrows. These ditches are shown as boundaries on first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1889. A second phase of boundary/drainage is represented by later boundary ditch **35** which cuts across earlier ditch **31** and its associated furrows. This later ditch formed part of a new field system that is shown on the 1971 Ordnance Survey map, indicating that it is fairly recent.

4.4 Significance

- 4.4.1 The evaluation of land off Knight's End Road indicates that there was limited activity prior to the modern period within the development area.

4.5 Recommendations

- 4.5.1 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	E-W
Consists of topsoil overlying a natural clay. With one NE-SW modern ditch 39 and two NE-SW modern furrows including 21 . Surface elevation at location of ditch 39 was -0.60m OD, and at furrow 21 it was -1.00m OD.					Avg. depth (m)	0.39
					Width (m)	2.10
					Length (m)	50.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.39	Topsoil	-	-
21	Cut	0.75	0.08	Furrow cut	-	-
22	Fill	-	0.08	Furrow fill	-	-
39	Cut	1.90	0.55	Ditch cut	-	-
40	Fill	-	0.10	Ditch fill	-	-
41	Fill	-	0.04	Ditch fill	-	-
42	Fill	-	0.40	Ditch fill	-	-
5	Layer	-	-	Natural clay	-	-
Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Consists of topsoil overlying a natural clay. With two NE-SW modern furrows.					Avg. depth (m)	0.51
					Width (m)	2.10
					Length (m)	41.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.41	Topsoil	-	-
4	Layer	-	0.15	Peat layer	-	-
5	Layer	-	-	Natural clay	-	-

Trench 3						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Consists of topsoil overlying a natural clay. With two NE-SW modern furrows including 15. Surface elevation at location of furrow 15 was -0.94m OD.				Avg. depth (m)		0.43
				Width (m)		2.10
				Length (m)		50.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.37	Topsoil	-	-
15	Cut	0.75	0.13	Furrow cut	-	-
16	Fill	-	0.13	Furrow fill	-	-
5	Layer	-	-	Natural clay	-	-
Trench 4						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Consists of topsoil, dredged deposit and peat overlying a natural clay. With NE-SW modern boundary ditch 17 and three pairs of NE-SW modern furrows. Surface elevation at location of ditch 17 was -0.94m OD.				Avg. depth (m)		0.41
				Width (m)		2.10
				Length (m)		50.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	Brick	Post-Med
2	Layer	-	0.25	Dredging deposit	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.10	Peat layer	-	-
17	Cut	1.67	0.30	Ditch cut	-	-
18	Fill	-	0.15	Ditch fill	-	-
19	Fill	-	0.02	Ditch fill	-	-
20	Fill	-	0.20	Ditch fill	-	-
5	Layer	-	-	Natural clay	-	-
Trench 5						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and peat overlying a natural clay.				Avg. depth (m)		0.45
				Width (m)		2.10
				Length (m)		50.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
4	Layer	-	0.18	Peat layer	-	-
5	Layer	-	-	Natural clay	-	-

Trench 6						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Consists of topsoil, dredging deposits and peat overlying a natural clay and roddon sands. Contained one NE-SW modern furrow. A sondage into the underlying layers was dug at the west end. Surface elevation at the location of the sondage (Section 14) was -0.73m OD.				Avg. depth (m)		0.45
				Width (m)		2.10
				Length (m)		50.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.10	Dredging deposit	-	-
4	Layer	-	0.10	Peat layer	-	-
5	Layer	-	0.30	Natural clay	-	-
6	Layer	-	0.20	Roddon sands		
7	Layer	-	0.80	Natural clay		
8	Layer	-	0.60	Natural clay		
9	Layer	-	0.40	Peat layer		
10	Layer	-	-	Natural clay		
Trench 7						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Consists of topsoil and peat overlying a natural clay and roddon sands. With two possibly Roman ditches 23 (N-S) and 25 (NW-S). Surface elevation at location of ditch 23 was -0.38m OD, and at ditch 25 it was -0.20m OD.				Avg. depth (m)		0.51
				Width (m)		2.10
				Length (m)		50.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.41	Topsoil	-	-
4	Layer	-	0.15	Peat layer	-	-
23	Cut	1.09	0.25	Ditch cut	-	-
24	Fill	-	0.25	Ditch fill	-	-
25	Cut	1.40	0.28	Ditch cut	-	-
26	Fill	-	0.28	Ditch fill	-	-
6	Layer	-	-	Roddon sands	-	-
5	Layer	-	-	Natural clay	-	-

Trench 8						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
Consists of topsoil and dredging deposits overlying a natural peat and clay. With a modern boundary ditch and two pairs of NE-SW modern furrows including 11 and 13 . Surface elevation at location of furrow 11 was -1.04m OD and that at furrow 13 was -1.04m OD.				Avg. depth (m)	0.51	
				Width (m)	2.10	
				Length (m)	50.00	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.41	Topsoil	-	-
4	Layer	-	0.15	Peat layer	-	-
11	Cut	0.80	0.04	Furrow cut	-	-
12	Fill	-	0.04	Furrow fill	-	-
13	Cut	0.85	0.12	Furrow cut	-	-
14	Fill	-	0.12	Furrow fill	-	-
5	Layer	-	-	Natural clay	-	-
Trench 9						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
Consists of topsoil overlying a natural clay. Wiith two NE-SW modern furrows.				Avg. depth (m)	0.38	
				Width (m)	2.10	
				Length (m)	23.00	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil	-	-
5	Layer	-	-	Natural clay	-	-
Trench 10						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
Consists of topsoil overlying a natural clay and roddon silts. With two NE-SW modern furrows.				Avg. depth (m)	0.38	
				Width (m)	2.10	
				Length (m)	39.00	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil	-	-
5	Layer	-	-	Natural clay	-	-

Trench 11						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Consists of topsoil and peat overlying a natural clay and roddon silts. With a possible NW-SE Roman ditch 27 and four NE-SW modern furrows. Surface elevation at location of ditch 27 was -0.63m OD.				Avg. depth (m)		0.48
				Width (m)		2.10
				Length (m)		42.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.45	Topsoil	-	-
4	Layer	-	0.12	Peat layer	-	-
27	Cut	1.05	0.28	Ditch cut	-	-
28	Fill	-	0.28	Ditch fill	-	-
6	Layer	-	-	Roddon sands	-	-
5	Layer	-	-	Natural clay	-	-
Trench 12						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Consists of topsoil overlying roddon sands. A sondage at the south end revealed a layer of peat within the roddon material. Surface elevation at location of sondage (Section 13) was 0.08m OD and at section 15 at the north end it was -0.08m OD.				Avg. depth (m)		0.37
				Width (m)		2.10
				Length (m)		50.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
6	Layer	-	0.15	Roddon sands	-	-
44	Layer	-	0.10	Peat layer	-	-
45	Layer	-	0.15	Roddon sands	-	-
Trench 13						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Consists of topsoil and dredging deposits overlying natural peat and clay. A sondage was dug into the underlying layers at the southwest end. Surface elevation at location of the sondage (Section 1) was -0.42m OD.				Avg. depth (m)		0.35
				Width (m)		2.10
				Length (m)		50.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.30	Dredging deposit	-	-
3	Layer	-	0.24	Peat layer	-	-
4	Layer	-	0.26	Peat layer	-	-
5	Layer	-	-	Natural clay	-	-

Trench 14						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
Consists of topsoil and dredging deposits overlying a natural clay. With two pairs of NE-SW modern furrows.				Avg. depth (m)	0.46	
				Width (m)	2.10	
				Length (m)	50.00	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.24	Dredging deposit	-	-
5	Layer	-	-	Natural clay	-	-
Trench 15						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Consists of topsoil overlying a natural clay and roddon sands. With a NE-SW modern furrow.				Avg. depth (m)	0.30	
				Width (m)	2.10	
				Length (m)	50.00	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
6	Layer	-	-	Roddon sands	-	-
5	Layer	-	-	Natural clay	-	-
Trench 16						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
Consists of topsoil overlying a natural clay and roddon sands. With NE-SW modern boundary ditch 31 and three pairs of NE-SW modern furrows. Surface elevation at location of ditch 31 was -1.16m OD.				Avg. depth (m)	0.30	
				Width (m)	2.10	
				Length (m)	50.00	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
31	Cut	1.90	0.60	Ditch cut	-	-
32	Fill	-	0.06	Ditch fill	-	-
33	Fill	-	0.06	Ditch fill	-	-
34	Fill	-	0.48	Ditch fill	-	-
6	Layer	-	-	Roddon sands	-	-
5	Layer	-	-	Natural clay	-	-

Trench 17						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Consists of topsoil overlying a natural clay. With seven NW-SE modern furrows.				Avg. depth (m)		0.40
				Width (m)		2.10
				Length (m)		50.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
5	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 18						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Consists of topsoil overlying a natural clay and roddon sands. With a E-W modern boundary ditch and one NW-SE modern furrow.				Avg. depth (m)		0.43
				Width (m)		2.10
				Length (m)		50.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.43	Topsoil	-	-
6	Layer	-	-	Roddon sands	-	-
5	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 19						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
Consists of topsoil and peat overlying a natural clay and roddon sands. With a three modern machine dug pits including 48 . Surface elevation at location of pit 48 was -0.57m OD.				Avg. depth (m)		0.45
				Width (m)		2.10
				Length (m)		50.00
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.43	Topsoil	-	-
4	Layer	-	0.09	Peat layer	-	-
48	Cut	2.60	0.62	Pit cut	-	-
43	Fill	-	0.62	Pit fill	-	-
6	Layer	-	-	Roddon sands	-	-
5	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 20						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
Consists of topsoil and peat overlying a natural clay and roddon sands. With two NW-SE modern furrows.				Avg. depth (m)	0.41	
				Width (m)	2.10	
				Length (m)	50.00	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil	-	-
4	Layer	-	0.09	Peat Layer	-	-
6	Layer	-	-	Roddon sands	-	-
5	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 21						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
Consists of topsoil overlying a natural clay. With a E-W modern boundary ditch 35 and four NE-SW modern furrows. Surface elevation at location of ditch 35 was -1.18m OD.				Avg. depth (m)	0.37	
				Width (m)	2.10	
				Length (m)	50.00	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.37	Topsoil	-	-
35	Cut	2.50	0.68	Ditch cut	-	-
36	Fill	-	0.11	Ditch fill	-	-
37	Fill	-	0.15	Ditch fill	-	-
38	Fill	-	0.60	Ditch fill	CBM	Modern
5	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 22						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
Consists of topsoil overlying a natural clay. With a E-W modern boundary ditch and three NW-SE modern furrows. A sondage into the underlying layers was dug at the south end. Surface elevation at location of the sondage (Sec14) was -1.06m OD.				Avg. depth (m)	0.37	
				Width (m)	2.10	
				Length (m)	55.00	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.37	Topsoil	-	-
5	Layer	-	0.30	Natural clay	-	-
7	Layer	-	0.80	Natural clay	-	-
8	Layer	-	1.00	Natural clay	-	-
9	Layer	-	1.00	Peat layer	-	-
10	Layer	-	-	Natural clay	-	-

Trench 23						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
Consists of topsoil overlying a natural clay. With NW-SE seven modern furrows.				Avg. depth (m)	0.37	
				Width (m)	2.10	
				Length (m)	50.00	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.37	Topsoil	-	-
5	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 24						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
Consists of topsoil overlying a natural clay and roddon sands. With a NW-SE modern ditch 29 with a field drain at the base. Surface elevation at location of ditch 29 was -1.05m OD.				Avg. depth (m)	0.43	
				Width (m)	2.10	
				Length (m)	40.00	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.43	Topsoil	-	-
29	Cut	1.00	0.40	Ditch cut	-	-
30	Fill	-	0.40	Ditch Flll	Tile	Post-Med
6	Layer	-	-	Roddon sands	-	-
5	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 25						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
Consists of topsoil overlying a natural clay and roddon sands. With six NW-SE modern furrows.				Avg. depth (m)	0.37	
				Width (m)	2.10	
				Length (m)	50.00	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.37	Topsoil	-	-
6	Layer	-	-	Roddon sands	-	-
5	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
Trench 26						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying roddon sands and peat.				Avg. depth (m)	0.4	
				Width (m)	2.10	
				Length (m)	50.00	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
6	Layer	-	0.20	Roddon sands	-	-
46	Layer	-	0.20	Natural peat	-	-
47	Layer	-	0.15m	Roddon sands	-	-
Trench 27						
General description				Orientation	E-W	
Consists of topsoil overlying a natural clay and roddon sands. With two NW-SE modern furrows.				Avg. depth (m)	0.41	
				Width (m)	2.10	
				Length (m)	50.00	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.41	Topsoil	-	-
6	Layer	-	-	Roddon sands	-	-
5	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 28

General description	Orientation	WNW-ESE
Consists of topsoil overlying a natural clay and roddon sands. With four NW-SE modern furrows.	Avg. depth (m)	0.37
	Width (m)	2.10
	Length (m)	50.00

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.37	Topsoil	-	-
6	Layer	-	-	Roddon sands	-	-
5	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

APPENDIX B. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

B.1 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

B.1.1 Three bulk samples were taken from features within the excavated areas at Knight's End Road, March 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 samples were taken from two undated ditch fills within Trenches 7 and 11.

Methodology

B.1.2 The total volume (up to 16 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 0.25mm 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 and a complete list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 1.

Quantification

B.1.3 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal have been scored for abundance

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

Results

B.1.4 All of the samples were devoid of plant remains other than modern rootlets and sparse charcoal fragments.

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Trench No.	Volume processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Preservation	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal > 2mm
1	24	23	Ditch	7	16	5	Charred	++	+
2	26	25	Ditch	7	14	5	Charred	+	0
3	28	28	Ditch	11	15	5	None	+	0

Table 1: Environmental samples from ECB4543

Discussion

B.1.5 The environmental samples taken from this site do not contain any preserved plant remains other than sparse charcoal. The lack of charred remains such as cereal grains and other food waste suggests that either the soil conditions were not conducive for preservation or that there was not human occupation within the area studied.

APPENDIX C. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Gdaniec, K 2015 *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation 'Benwick Solar Scheme', land north of Bradney Farm, Knight's End Road, March, Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team. Dated 3rd July 2015 (unpublished)*
- Macaulay, S 2015 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation, Knight's End Road, March, Oxford Archaeology East. Dated 24th August 2015 (unpublished)*
and
Drummond-
Murray, J.
- Murrell, K. 2012 *Must Farm, Whittlesey 2011-2012, Palaeochannel Investigations, Interim Statement.* Cambridge Archaeological Unit: Cambridge Archaeological Unit, CAU Report Number 1136.

Online Resources

British Geological Survey: Geology of Britain Viewer
(<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>) accessed 18/09/15

APPENDIX D. OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-224932		
Project Name	Evaluation at Knights End Road, March, Cambridgeshire		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	08-09-2015	Finish	15-09-2015
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	ECB4543	Planning App. No.	
HER No.	ECB4543	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Select Prompt (this should be in your brief/spec)...
Development Type	Other

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input 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 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
Ditches	Uncertain	CBM and Brick	Modern 1901 to Present
	Select period...		Select period...
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	North-east Cambridgeshire	Knights End Road March Cambridgeshire PE15 9QD
Parish	March	
HER	Cambridgeshire County Council	
Study Area	10ha	National Grid Reference TL 3727 9455

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Kasia Gdaniec
Project Design Originator	Stephen Macaulay
Project Manager	Stephen Macaulay
Supervisor	Graeme Clarke

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
CCC Stores	OA East	CCC Stores
ECB 4543	MARKNR15	ECB4543

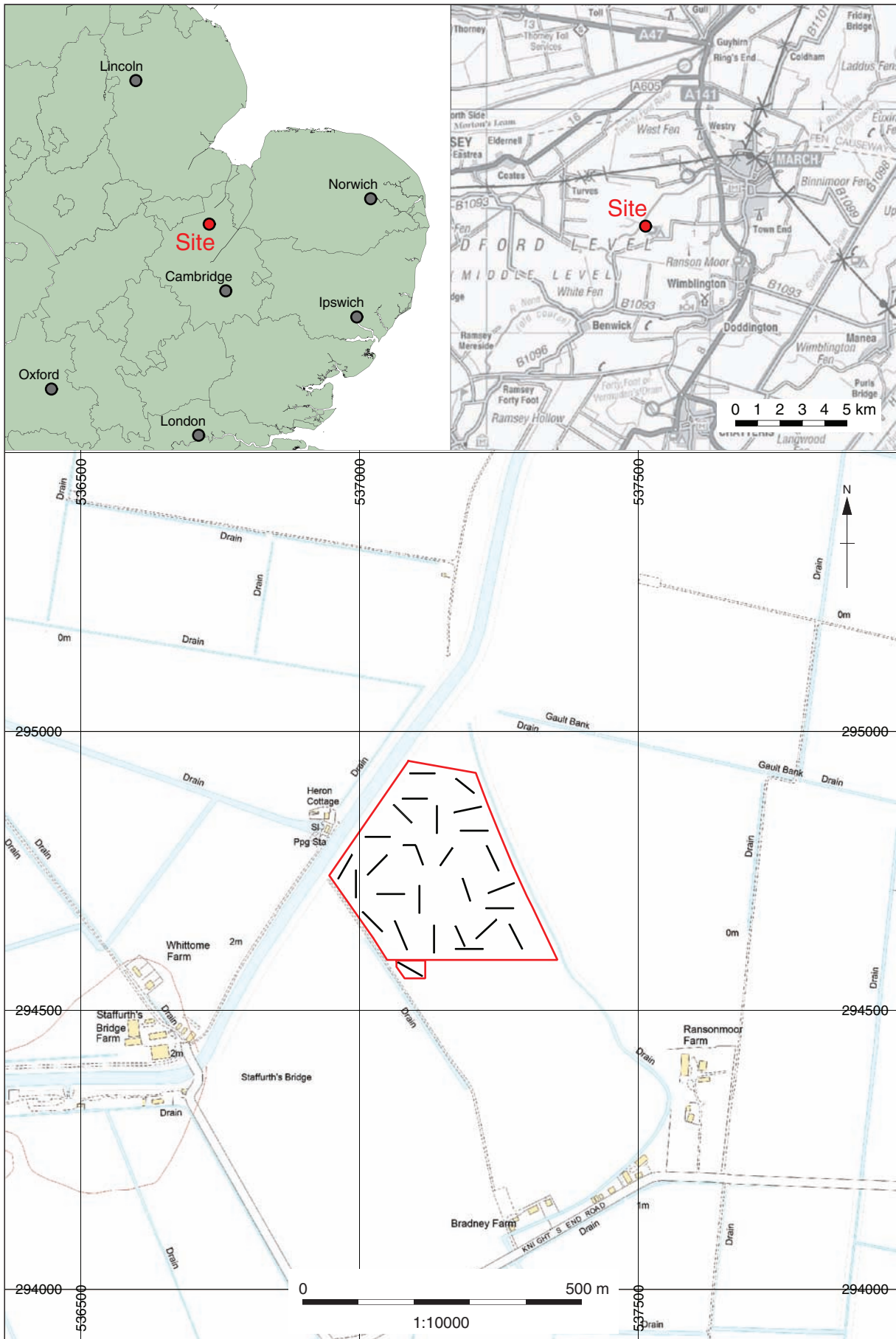
Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
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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"/>
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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"/>

Digital Media	Paper Media
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
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<input type="checkbox"/> Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/> Manuscript
<input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheets	<input type="checkbox"/> Map
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Matrices
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Text	<input type="checkbox"/> Microfilm
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/> Misc.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research/Notes
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:

pre-planning



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

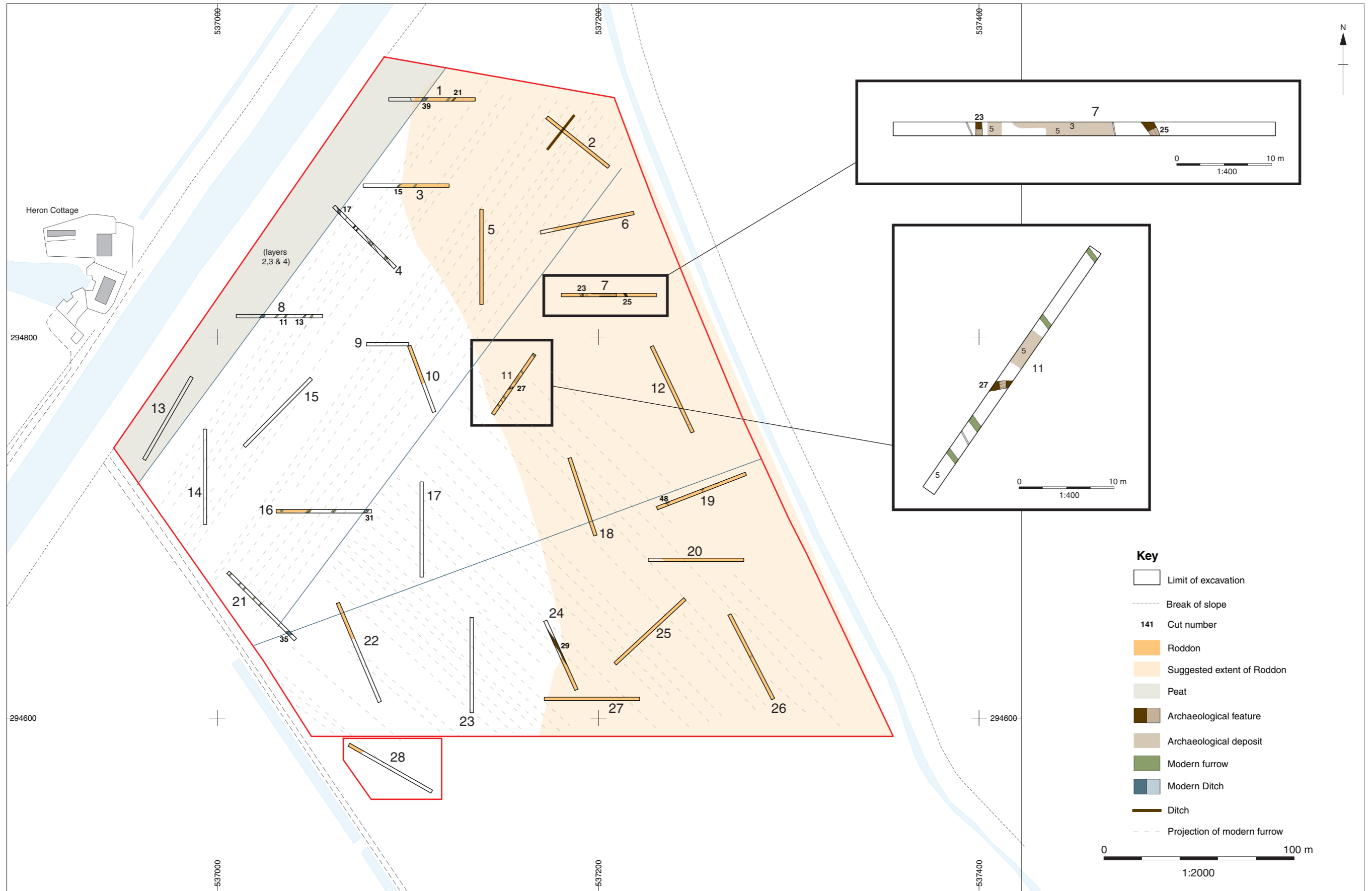


Figure 2: Plan of evaluation trenches.

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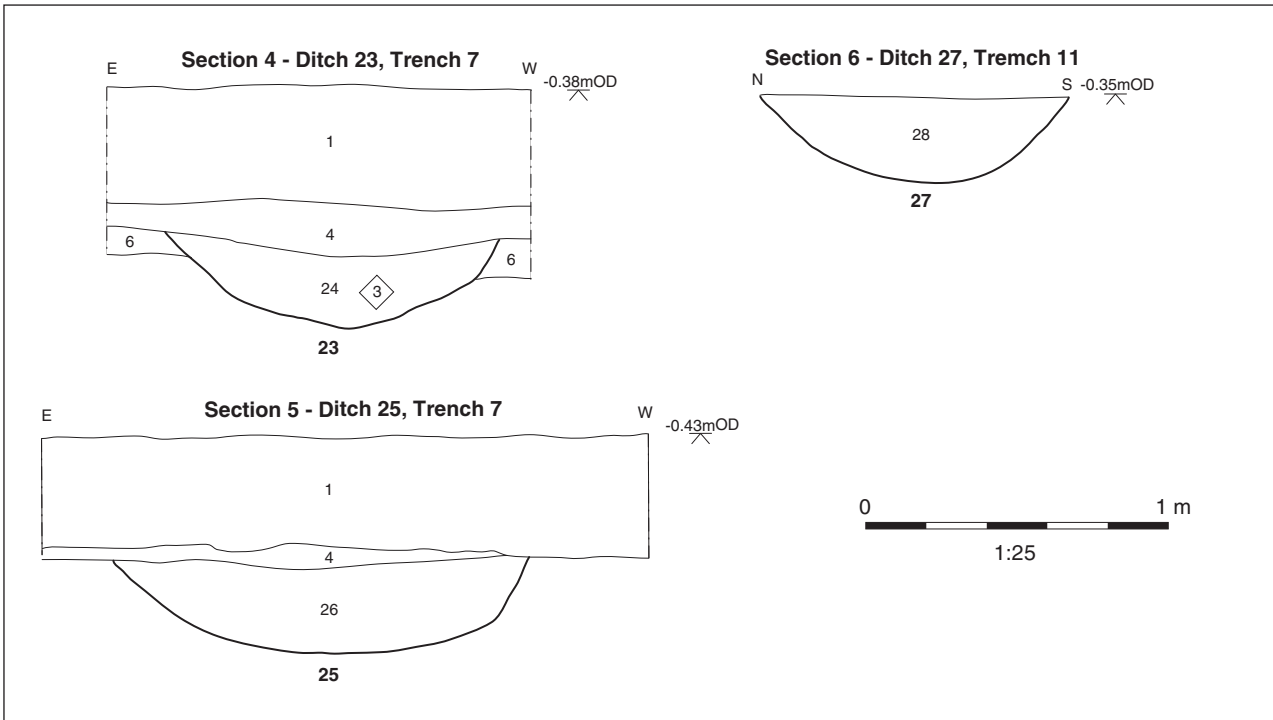


Figure 3: Selected sections



Plate 1: Peat deposit 46 within roddon deposit 6, looking south-east



Plate 2: Baulk section of Trench 13, looking north-west



Plate 3: Ditch 27 cutting through roddon deposit 6, Trench 11, looking west



Plate 4: Trench 11, showing ditch 27 and furrows, looking north-east



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