

Late Iron Age Remains at Alconbury Weald, Cambridgeshire



Archaeological Evaluation Report



November 2014

**Client: CgMs Consulting on behalf
of Urban and Civic**

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Late Iron Age Remains at Alconbury Weald, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Alconbury Weald Enterprise Zone, Cambridgeshire (TL 2010 7660) as a separate phase of the Alconbury Airfield development. The fieldwork took place between the 11th and 20th November 2014. A total of forty-two trenches were excavated within the proposed development area.

Archaeological remains dating to the Late Iron Age were present in the southern and eastern side of the development area and included features relating to nearby settlement. The settlement features comprised one substantial posthole, one rectangular pit and a system of field enclosure ditches, aligned north-east to south-west.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Alconbury Weald Enterprise Zone (Alconbury Airfield) TL 2010 7660, between the 11th and 18th November 2014 (see fig. 1). This work was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of Urban and Civic.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application 1201158OUT), supplemented by a Specification 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 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 proposed development of the Alconbury Airfield complex comprises a 47.26 hectare area. There are no natural watercourses on the site with the land generally draining towards Alconbury Brook, c.1km to the south-west. The ground level at the extreme western end of the site at Trenches 1 and 2 lies at 46.4 to 47.3m OD whereas Trench 3 in the middle was at 49.1m and Trench 12 at the extreme eastern side at 49.2m OD with no area within this centre of the site below 48.9m or above 49.5m. The two trenches on the western side were at the periphery of the former airfield whereas the central 10 trenches, where the area is remarkably flat, were all located near the centre of the airfield and it is possible to achieve this, there was a levelling of the ground area in this location.
- 1.2.2 The British Geological Survey (BGS 1972) records the Drift geology in the site as Boulder Clay and this overlies Solid geology of Oxford Clay.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The current archaeological work took place within the southern part of Alconbury airfield. This evaluation forms part of a series of archaeological works within the site with a desk-based assessment undertaken prior to commencement of intrusive archaeological work (Dicks and Chadwick 2011).
- 1.3.2 The following (below) has been taken from the 2011 desk-based assessment (Dicks and Chadwick 2011) Figure 2 shows the location of the main Historic Environment Record numbers as referenced below:

Earlier Prehistoric

- 1.3.3 No Palaeolithic sites or artefacts were recorded on the Cambridgeshire HER within 1km zone around the site (Dicks and Chadwick 2011, 12). A perforated macehead was the only Mesolithic artefact and this was found 1km to the south-east (CHER 00805). Neolithic to Bronze Age artefacts comprise a flint scraper c.300m to the north-west of the study site (CHER 00834) and flint implements 100m to the south (CHER 00827).

Further away a Bronze Age settlement has been found less than 3km to the south-east at Northbridge where a large evaluation uncovered a concentration of pits, gullies and post holes in the centre of the site, some containing quantities of Late Bronze Age finds, indicating occupation in the vicinity (Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record MCB16363; Cullen 2004).

Iron Age/Roman

- 1.3.4 During the Roman period the study site lay adjacent to Ermine Street, a Roman road linking the Roman towns of Durovigutum (Godmanchester: 7km south of the study site) and Durobrivae (Water Newton: 16km to the north).
- 1.3.5 Within 1km of the subject site there were several Iron Age and Roman records suggesting an intensely occupied area in this period. A geophysical survey has taken place partly within the evaluation area (GSB 2000) and this uncovered a few possible pit like features as well as some ditches. A subsequent evaluation within this geophysical area in 2001, directly to the east of the present evaluation, found six linear ditches, four post holes and a gully/slot which were dated to two phases (late Middle Iron Age and a small late pre-Belgic Iron Age enclosure (found in the geophysics survey); Macaulay and Casa Hatton 2001).
- 1.3.6 A Roman building was identified c.1km north of the evaluation (CHER 00836). Two Roman barrows are located close to Ermine Street in Great Stukeley, approximately 1km to the south and south-west of the site (Scheduled Monuments 33351 and 33352). The CHER also records the discovery of a Roman pit c.0.5km to the north-west (CHER 00831). An aerial photographic assessment identified a rectilinear enclosure c.250m to the north (Palmer 1998) and it is possible the pit related to this settlement. A Roman coffin and quern stone c.200m to the south of the study site (CHER 00826). In addition, Roman finds at six sites within the 1km search area comprising Roman coin (CHER 00828), Roman finds (CHER 00808), Roman pottery and brooch (CHERs 00809 and 00830) and Roman pottery (CHER 00817) and a Roman coin (CHER 01572).
- 1.3.7 In the area beyond the 1km search area, an archaeological evaluation in 2000 uncovered two separate settlements (Macaulay 2000). About 2km to east an Early to Middle Iron Age settlement is suggested by five ditches found in a single trench, and c.3km to the east, an Early/Middle Iron Age to Roman settlement was found with pottery recovered from 13 ditches and a pit within five adjacent trenches.
- 1.3.8 At the site of Ermine Business Park c.3km to the south-east of the site (ECB 3078), an evaluation of two fields comprising 70 trenches was undertaken in 2008 (Philips 2009). Field A was interpreted as a Middle Iron Age industrial area consisting of one or more large pits which included metal working waste. Also in Field A were several ditches representing field boundaries or land divisions, part of a co-axial field system. One of these may have extended, although not continuously, for 200m as it was encountered in three trenches. Field B consisted of an area of Middle Iron Age settlement. Features included several boundary ditches, some of a considerable size, two possible water holes, a pit and a curvilinear gully which could have been part of a roundhouse. The settlement was restricted to a relatively small area, approximately 1ha.
- 1.3.9 At Bob's Wood, Hinchbrook, 4km to the south-east, a farmstead originating in the Middle Iron Age grew in to a settlement of several hectares by the Roman period (CHER 13033; Hinman 2005). Among the findings were houses and associated structures, enclosures and water management features, a smithy, cremations, inhumations and significant assemblages of metalwork, pottery and animal bone

(Hinman 2005). To the immediate west of Bobs Wood, at Parkway School, an excavation in 2004 (Fletcher 2004) revealed the presence of a ditch and the remaining half of a pit previously identified in the evaluation both dating to the Later Iron Age. The north-eastern excavation area revealed possible Bronze Age pits, a Later Iron Age roundhouse and a drainage ditch with evidence of maintenance, also dating to the Later Iron Age.

- 1.3.10 At Northbridge, 4km to the south-west of the site, a square enclosure was identified through aerial photographs and geophysical survey. Evaluation proved this to be a double ditched enclosure containing quantities of Roman artefacts (CHER 16364). An agricultural function was the most likely interpretation. In addition Roman field systems were identified to the east of the enclosure and a water hole to the south. Directly to the west of the Northbridge evaluation cropmarks and geophysics have revealed further enclosures and field systems on a similar alignment to the square enclosure, suggesting a Roman date (CHER MCB16939). The Northbridge evaluation extended to the Roman Road, Ermine Street, directly to the south of the subject site. No evidence of the road was encountered, nor was any trace found of field systems extending from the route of it (Cullen 2004).
- 1.3.11 The Fenland survey records a hill top Iron Age into Roman settlement at Abbots Ripton, c.3km to the north (not illustrated; Hall and Coles 1994, no.RN4 and 5, ABR S1 and S5). In addition Iron Age pottery was discovered 2km to the north (not illustrated).

Anglo-Saxon to modern

- 1.3.12 There are no Early to Middle Saxon CHER records within the 1km study zone of the site. The Late Saxon and later settlement of Little Stukeley is located 1km to the east. The site is within the medieval parish of Alconbury. The air photograph assessment and geophysical surveys identifies ridge and furrow around Alconbury Airfield and it is therefore assumed that the site was under arable cultivation.
- 1.3.13 In 1791, land within the parish of Alconbury was enclosed to create a pattern of roughly rectangular hedged fields. The 1887 Ordnance Survey shows little change to the field pattern. The 1902 map shows 'Common Farm' lying within the study site. The site became an air force base in WWII and the station was closed in 1994 although the USAF have retained an enclave base to the east of the study area.

1.3.14 Previous archaeological work

- 1.3.15 Evaluation work undertaken on the airfield site (ECB 254-Macaulay 2000, ECB541 – Macaulay & Casa-Hatton 2001) identified the remains of a Belgic/early Roman field system to the east of the airfield and potential settlement areas of an Early/Middle Iron Age date both within and to the east of the site. Archaeological remains including pits, postholes and enclosure ditches were located within the airfield. Those trenches within the airfield, which did not contain any archaeological remains, had been disturbed by 20th century activity, so potentially any undisturbed areas might contain preserved deposits.
- 1.3.16 An AP assessment suggested small areas of ridge and furrow in arable fields (ECB1139 – Palmer 1998)
- 1.3.17 Geophysical surveys (Gradiometer) were undertaken as part of the Stage 1 evaluation project (GSB Prospection 2000). This covered 12 areas (of open grass), and potential archaeological remains (pits, ditches or enclosures) were recorded in two of them.
- 1.3.18 A further survey (ECB2874 – Archaeological Services, University of Durham 2006) revealed little of significance.

- 1.3.19 An evaluation to the south of the current site, adjacent to the Ermine Business Park (ECB 3078 – Phillips 2009) revealed a Middle Iron Age settlement with an associated Middle Iron Age industrial area.
- 1.3.20 Further evaluation (ECB 3741 – Fletcher 2012) within the Masterplan site but outside the Enterprise Zone has revealed further localised evidence for Mid-Late Iron Age settlement.
- 1.3.21 The site itself has been the subject of programmes of archaeological evaluation and excavation.
- 1.3.22 A twelve trench evaluation by Oxford Archaeology East (STUALZ12) took place on the line of the access road. Five trenches contained no archaeological features and seven trenches, over a 350m distance, found features dating to between c. 2nd century BC and c. late 2nd century AD. The density of features in the seven trenches ranged from a single feature to densely inter-cutting remains across an entire trench.
- 1.3.23 Iron Age features were encountered in five Trenches (6, 7, 8, 11 and 12) over a 300m by 150m area with domestic type assemblages recovered from two different areas (Trenches 6/7 and Trenches 11/12), c.300m apart. The Late Iron Age remains found in the 2001 evaluation was located c.300m and c.400m distance respectively from these two 'domestic' areas suggesting that these three areas represent different farmsteads or different family groupings within an agglomerate type settlement.
- 1.3.24 Early to Middle Roman remains were found in two locations (Trenches 5 and 9), more than 200m apart. Trench 5 was located c.100m to the west of one of the Latest Iron Age domestic foci (Trench 6) and contained a very dense area of features (either pits and/or ditches) dating up to at least the end of the 2nd century AD. The second area of Roman remains (Trench 9) was located between the other two Latest Iron Age domestic areas found in the evaluation.
- 1.3.25 An excavation by Cotswold Archaeology took place on the site of the incubator building (STUALZ13a) The site represents a fragment of a transitional Late Iron Age-early Romano-British landscape. Iron Age occupation or activity constitutes a boundary ditch, with a metallated surface on the south side, with various sub-enclosure gullies. On the north side of the ditch is a quarried area, creating material for constructing buildings and a system of gullies leading away to the north, and a curvilinear enclosure, possibly incorporating the ring gully. This had two entrances, which may be unusual for a dwelling and thus point towards a different use. In the Romano-British period the boundary ditch is reworked, with an entrance put in, and the curvilinear enclosure associated with the ring gully gradually formalised into a rectilinear pattern with recurring realignments. A new enclosure is created, possibly for keeping animals in. The whole Roman layout here is probably adjacent to a settlement focus to the south and may represent animal husbandry, pens, light industrial activity and rubbish disposal. The strength of the layout pattern is such that the boundary is preserved in the landscape into the medieval period and the ridge and furrow follows this linear trend.
- 1.3.26 An evaluation carried out by Oxford Archaeology East in August 2014 uncovered a buried soil dating to the Iron Age and Roman period, a series of pits, post holes and ring ditches, of possible Iron Age date, later furrows and much later field drains. A single pit filled with a burnt charcoal deposit fill contained pottery dating to the late Iron Age period.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Sally Dicks of CgMs who commissioned the archaeological evaluation and who, with Andrew Brading of Savills, helped the project to run smoothly. The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray who also wrote the Specification and Method Statement. The fieldwork was carried out by Nick Cox, John Diffey, Adele Lord and Kathryn Nicholls. David Brown carried out the on-site survey. Thanks are also extended to each of the contributing specialists and Markus Dylewski the illustrator.

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 proposed that 45 evaluation trenches totalling 1350m were to be excavated and this report incorporated an agreed trench plan for the site (Drummond-Murray 2014).

2.2.2 On the morning of the evaluation, due to the risk from weapons ordnance being encountered etc. within the former WWII and Cold War airfield, BACTEC inducted the staff on recognition of such objects. Andrew Brading supplied a plan of the known services for the part of the airfield. A CAT was also used to identify services. As a result of this, some of the trenches were moved (if possible or reduced in size).

2.2.3 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a 14 tonne 360 using a toothless ditching bucket.

2.2.4 The site survey was carried out by David Brown using a Leica GS08 with smartnet capabilities.

2.2.5 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.

2.2.6 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

2.2.7 One environmental sample was taken for analysis from a pit fill.

2.2.8 Site conditions were dry in the first week. During the intervening weekend torrential rain occurred which along with a high water table meant the excavated trenches were waterlogged.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The trenches are presented below in numerical order (see Fig. 2 for trench locations). The natural geology was a yellowish grey clay. A subsoil layer (2), composed of a mid greyish brown, which was overlain by topsoil (1) consisted of a dark greyish brown silty clay, 0.15m. Variations in this soil matrix is discussed in individual trench results. Full details of trench and context data are given in Appendix A.
- 3.1.2 Trenches 1,7,21 and 41 were not excavated as modern services were present and no adjustments to their locations were suitable. Trench 15 was not excavated as it lay on an area of visible make up known by previous trenches to be greater than 1.4m. Therefore excavation was deemed to be unsafe.

3.2 Results

Trench 2

- 3.2.1 Trench 2 was aligned north-east to south-west and measured 28.5m in length. One ditch on a north-west to south-east alignment was noted in the trench during the machining. However despite the use of a pump, subsequent flooding, meant excavation and recording of this feature was not possible.

Trench 3

- 3.2.2 Trench 3 was aligned north-west to south-east, measuring 18.2m in length due to the presence of modern services at the south-east of the proposed trench location.
- 3.2.3 At the north-western end of the trench lay a north-east to south west ditch (**46**). The ditch had stepped sides and a concave base, measuring 1.05m wide and 0.35m deep. It was filled by a mid grey silty clay (45).

Trench 4

- 3.2.4 Trench 4 was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 29.5m long. In the centre of the trench a ditch was encountered aligned north-east to south-west, the fill was visibly modern and it was in the correct position for a known service pipe. Therefore the feature was not excavated.
- 3.2.5 A north-west to south-east ditch (**44**) was encountered in the southern corner of the trench. This ditch had gradual sides and a concave base, measuring 0.9m wide and 0.09m deep. It was filled by mid grey silty clay (43).

Trench 5

- 3.2.6 Trench 5 lay to the south of trench 4, measuring 26.5m in length and aligned west-southwest to east-northeast. A ditch was recorded aligned north-west to south-east in the centre of the trench. This was truncated by a modern service pipe and as it is thought to be the same ditch seen in trench 4 it was left unexcavated.
- 3.2.7 To the east lay a north to south ditch (**42**), which had gradual sides and a flat base. It measured 0.56m wide and 0.05m deep and was filled by a mid brownish grey silty clay (41).

Trench 6

- 3.2.8 Trench 6 was aligned north-west to south-east and lay to the north of a military hanger. The natural geology was exposed at a depth of 0.6m to the north-western end of the

trench and 0.95m deep to the south-eastern end. This was due to a modern make up, 0.40m thick associated with build up, which overlay the subsoil layer (2).

- 3.2.9 In the centre of the trench lay a ditch (51) aligned north-west to south-west. The ditch had gradual sides and a flat base, measuring 0.8m wide and 0.12m deep. It was filled by a mid greyish brown silty clay (50).

Trench 8

- 3.2.10 Trench 8 contained no archaeological remains. Two modern services ran across the trench.

Trench 9

- 3.2.11 Trench 8 contained no archaeological remains. A modern service trench ran through the northern part of the trench.

Trench 10

- 3.2.12 Trench 10 was split into two separate trenches due to known services running through the centre of the trench. No archaeological remains were encountered within these trenches.

Trench 11

- 3.2.13 Trench 11 was aligned north-east to south-west and was shortened to 27m long due to services to the north-east. A posthole (47) was encountered at the north-eastern end of the trench. This posthole was circular in plan, with vertical sides and flat base. It measured 0.6m in diameter and 0.55m deep. The lower fill comprised a mid brownish grey silty clay (48), 0.36m thick which was overlain by a mid greyish brown silty clay (49).

Trench 12

- 3.2.14 No archaeological remains were present within this trench.

Trench 13

- 3.2.15 Trench 13 contained no archaeological remains. The trench was shortened to 16m long due to known modern services.

Trench 14

- 3.2.16 Trench 14 was excavated to a depth of 1.4m revealing a series of modern make up layers associated with the military hangers and runways. The deposits below the depth of 0.8m was seen to be contaminated with petrol / diesel. Further excavation was stopped due to the concerns over depth and contamination.

Trench 16

- 3.2.17 Trench 16 was machined to a depth of 1.2m and the natural geology was not exposed, due to the presence of modern make up layers (57,58), associated with the construction of a military hanger. Further excavation was stopped due to health and safety concerns.

Trench 17

- 3.2.18 Trench 17 was split into two separate trenches due to known services running through the centre of the trench. No archaeological remains were encountered within these trenches. The subsoil layer had noticeable variations in thickness, in the centre of the trench it measured 0.55m thick and towards the south-western end of the trench it had increased to 0.9m thick.

Trench 18

- 3.2.19 Trench 18 contained no archaeological remains. A modern service trench ran through the centre of the trench.

Trench 19

- 3.2.20 Trench 19 contained no archaeological remains. A modern service trench ran through the centre of the trench.

Trench 20

- 3.2.21 Trench 20 was split into two separate trenches due to known services running through the centre of the trench. No archaeological remains were encountered within these trenches. A further service trench was encountered at the western end of the trench.

Trench 22

- 3.2.22 Trench 22 was machined to a depth of 1m and the natural geology was not exposed, due to the presence of subsoil (2). Further excavation was stopped due to health and safety concerns. The trench lay in a natural hollow and this is thought to have been levelled at some point, most likely to be when the airfield was constructed.

Trench 23

- 3.2.23 Trench 23 contained no archaeological remains. A modern service trench ran through the centre of the trench.

Trench 24

- 3.2.24 No archaeological remains were present within this trench.

Trench 25

- 3.2.25 Trench 25 contained no archaeological remains. The trench was shortened to 22m long due to known modern services.

Trench 26

- 3.2.26 In the centre of the trench lay a north-east to south-west ditch (**39**) which terminated to the north-east. It had gradual sides and a flat base, measuring 1.25m wide and 0.2m deep. The ditch contained a mid brown silty clay fill (40).
- 3.2.27 Immediately to the north-east a circular pit (**37**) was encountered. The pit had steep sides and a concave base, measuring 0.7m in diameter and 0.17m deep. It was filled by a mid yellowish brown silty clay (38).

Trench 27

- 3.2.28 At the northern end of the trench lay a ditch (**8**) aligned north-west to south-east. The ditch had a flat bottomed V shape profile, measuring 1.4m wide and 0.28m deep. It had an initial fill of light brownish yellow silty clay lining the sides of the ditch, which was overlain by a mid brownish grey silty clay (9), 0.28m thick.
- 3.2.29 Perpendicular to this ditch lay a similar ditch (**4**). It had steep sides and a flat base, measuring 1m wide and 0.35m deep. The ditch had an initial dark blueish grey fill (5), 0.03m thick, with a further episode of slumpage on both sides of the ditch cut, comprising a light yellowish brown fill (6) both of which likely to have occurred when the ditch was in use. A final tertiary fill was present when the ditch was made redundant, this fill consisted of a mid brownish grey silty clay (7), 0.33m thick.
- 3.2.30 Immediately to the south lay a north-east to south-west ditch (**11**), with concave sides and a flat base. It measured 0.65m wide and 0.08m deep and was filled by a mid

yellowish brown silty clay. The ditch was seen to terminate to the north-east, however given its depth this may be due to truncation.

3.2.31 Immediately south lay a circular posthole (**13**), 0.6m in diameter and 0.1m deep. This posthole had gentle sides and a flattish base and was filled by a mid greyish brown silty clay (14).

3.2.32 At the southern end of the trench lay an east to west ditch (**15**) which had steep side as and a V shaped base. The ditch measured 1.3m wide and 0.58m deep. A mid brownish yellow silty clay (16) was seen up against the northern side of the ditch, 0.15m wide, which is thought to be due to slumpage of the surrounding natural. This was overlain by a dark blueish grey silty clay fill (17), 0.25m thick. A final tertiary fill (18) capped the feature, which comprised a mid yellowish brown silty clay (18), 0.35m thick.

Trench 28

3.2.33 Trench 28 contained no archaeological remains. A modern service trench was encountered in the south-eastern end of the trench.

Trench 29

3.2.34 At the northern end of the trench lay a sub-circular pit (**23**), 1.3m in diameter and 0.35m deep. It had gradual sides and a concave base and contained a mid brownish grey silty clay fill (24). This pit was truncated by a later ditch (21) which was aligned north to south. The ditch had steep sides and a concave base, measuring 1.3m wide and 0.46m deep. It was filled by a mid yellowish brown silty clay (22).

3.2.35 Directly south-east lay a north-east to south-west ditch (**25**), with steepish sides and a flat base. It measured 1.3m wide and 0.34m deep and contained a mid greyish brown clay (26).

Trench 30

3.2.36 Trench 30 contained no archaeological remains. A modern service trench was encountered in the north-eastern end of the trench.

Trench 31

3.2.37 In the centre of the trench a north-east to south-west ditch was present. The fill contained 20th century pottery and is thought to be part of a service trench. Six metres to the south-east lay a parallel ditch (**19**) with steep sides and a concave base. This ditch was 0.6m wide and 0.3m deep and filled by a mid yellowish brown silty clay (20).

Trench 32

3.2.38 Trench 32 contained no archaeological remains. The trench contained several services.

Trench 33

3.2.39 Trench 33 was machined to a depth of 1.2m and the natural geology was not exposed, due to the presence of a modern make up layer (61), associated with the construction of a military hanger. Further excavation was stopped due to health and safety concerns.

Trench 34

3.2.40 An east to west ditch (**52**) was present in the northern end of the trench. The ditch had steep sides and a flat base, measuring 0.85m wide and 0.1m deep. It was filled by a mid greyish brown silty clay (53). The ditch as seen to end to the east, though this is likely caused by truncation.

Trench 35

- 3.2.41 Trench 35 contained no archaeological remains. A modern service trench was encountered in the north-eastern end of the trench.

Trench 36

- 3.2.42 Trench 20 was split into two separate trenches due to known services running through the centre of the trench. Within the southern portion of the trench was a north-west to south-east ditch (**34**), which had steepish sides and a concave base. It measured 0.95m wide and 0.35m deep. The initial fill (**35**) comprised a mid brownish yellow an. The ditch then had a tertiary fill 0.1m thick consisting of a mid yellowish grey silty clay (**36**).

Trench 37

- 3.2.43 Trench 37 contained no archaeological remains. The trench was shortened to 18m long due to known modern services. A further service trench was present in the western end of the trench.

Trench 38

- 3.2.44 Trench 38 contained no archaeological remains. A modern service trench was encountered in the north-eastern end of the trench.

Trench 39

- 3.2.45 Trench 39 contained no archaeological remains. The trench was shortened to 6m long due to known modern services. A make up layer (**63**), 0.25m thick, consisting of hardcore and crushed concrete was present overlying the subsoil (**2**)

Trench 40

- 3.2.46 Trench 40 contained no archaeological remains. The trench was shortened to 19m long due to known modern services. A further service trench was present in the northern end of the trench.

Trench 42

- 3.2.47 A north-east to south-west ditch (**32**) was encountered in the north-west of the trench. This ditch had step sides and a V shaped base, measuring 0.65m wide and 0.25m deep. The fill consisted of a mid brownish yellow silty clay (**33**). The trench was shortened to 18m long due to known modern services. A further service trench was present in the western end of the trench.

Trench 43

- 3.2.48 Trench 43 contained no archaeological remains. The trench contained several services.

Trench 44

- 3.2.49 In the centre of the trench lay a sub-circular posthole (**27**), which had vertical sides and a flat base. It measured 0.75m in diameter and 0.35m deep. This posthole was filled by a mid brownish yellow silty clay (**28**) which contained a large assemblage of burnt stone, thought to have been reused as packing to keep a post in place.
- 3.2.50 Immediately adjacent lay a sub-rectangular pit (**29**) with vertical sides and a flat base. It measured 1.1m long, 0.8m wide and 0.45m deep. The lower fill (0.27m thick) comprised a dark greyish brown silty clay (**30**) containing ten sherds of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery and some burnt stone fragments. This was overlain by a tertiary deposit, composed of a mid yellowish brown silty clay (**32**), 0.18m thick.

Trench 45

3.2.51 No archaeological remains were present within this trench.

3.3 Finds Summary

3.3.1 Ten sherds of pottery was recovered from one feature. These sherds dated to the Middle to Late Iron Age. A further two fragments of baked clay was recovered from the same pit fill.

3.4 Environmental Summary

3.4.1 One sample was taken during the evaluation, which contained charcoal.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Discussion

4.1.1 The discussion concentrates on features that are dated and can be grouped. It is presented as an overall chronological format to help set the findings into context within their wider landscape setting.

4.2 Middle to Late Iron Age

4.2.1 The earliest phase of archaeology on site dates to the Middle to Late Iron Age and is associated with settlement. These remains comprise a posthole (27) and a pit (29). The posthole is substantial and was filled with burnt stone used as packing for the post. These burnt stones are likely to have been brought in from a nearby limestone area, possibly the Barnack area. There is no suggestion of burning within the posthole itself and they have probably been reused.

4.2.2 The pit had a distinctive sub-rectangular shape and contained a concentration of burnt stones within the fill. These stones are not thought to have been burnt during a previous use and either are incidental to the pits use or may have been reused as packing.

4.3 Undated

4.3.1 To the south of the evaluation area several ditches (4,8,11,25,39), possibly part of an agricultural field system was encountered, laid out on a north-east to south-west axis. These are all undated at present but given the same alignment likely to date to the same period (See fig. 3).

4.3.2 A further concentration of archaeological remains, comprising three ditches (42,44,46) was present in the north-east of the development area. These ditches are also undated but it is feasible to ascribe them to the same period as the ditches seen to the south. These ditches can be putatively ascribed to the Iron Age due to the presence of similarly aligned ditches to the east (Macaulay,2000).

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The evaluation was severely affected by the high number of services and modern construction being present. Therefore it is doubtful that this evaluation was able to fully characterise the archaeology present on site.

4.4.2 Two concentrations of archaeological remains were present on site, both of which are presumed to date to the Iron Age. To the south-east of the evaluation area, between the foci of archaeology the topography was noticed to dip and form a natural hollow, which would of limited the lands potential for settlement.

4.4.3 The site lies between two areas of known Middle Iron Age settlement, one located to the south-west, below the Modern Hub building at Alconbury (Cotswolds, 2013). A further settlement lay to the east, recorded during an evaluation conducted in 2000 (Macaulay, 2000). To the east numerous ditches on a north-east to south-west alignment was noted, each with a similar V shaped profile.

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	-	
Trench not excavated due to modern services				Avg. depth (m)	-	
				Width (m)	-	
				Length (m)	-	
Trench 2						
General description				Orientation	NE-SW	
Trench contained one ditch. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.				Avg. depth (m)	0.4	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	28.5	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
54	Cut	c. 1.2	-	Ditch	-	-
1	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 3						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench contained one ditch. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.				Avg. depth (m)	0.45	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	18.2	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
45	Fill	1.05	0.35	Ditch	-	-
46	Cut	1.05	0.35	Ditch	-	-
1	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 4						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench contained two ditches. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.				Avg. depth (m)	0.7	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	29.5	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
43	Fill	0.9	0.09	Ditch	-	-
44	Cut	0.9	0.09	Ditch	-	-

55	Cut	2.5	-	Ditch	-	modern
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.4	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained one ditch. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.8
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	26.5
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
41	Fill	0.56	0.04	Ditch	-	-
42	Cut	0.56	0.04	Ditch	-	-
1	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained one ditch. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	18.4
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
50	Fill	0.8	0.12	Ditch	-	-
51	Cut	0.8	0.12	Ditch	-	-
1	Layer	-	0.6	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 7						
General description					Orientation	-
Trench not excavated due to modern services					Avg. depth (m)	-
					Width (m)	-
					Length (m)	-
Trench 8						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.65
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	27.5
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date

1	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.42	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 9						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.6
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	27
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.4	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 10						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	38.5
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.28	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 11						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained one posthole. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	27
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
47	Cut	0.6	0.55	Posthole	-	-
48	Fill	0.46	0.36	Posthole	-	-
49	Fill	0.6	0.18	Posthole	-	-
1	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.27	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 12						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30

Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
1	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil	-	-	
2	Layer	-	0.4	Subsoil	-	-	
Trench 13							
General description					Orientation		
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.					NW-SE		
					Avg. depth (m)		0.5
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		16
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
1	Layer	-	0.17	Topsoil	-	-	
2	Layer	-	0.6	Subsoil	-	-	
Trench 14							
General description					Orientation		
Depth of natural / archaeological features not reached. Consists of soil, subsoil and make up.					N-S		
					Avg. depth (m)		1.4
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		8
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
56	Layer	-	1	make up	-	-	
1	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-	
2	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-	
Trench 15							
General description					Orientation		
Trench not excavated due to amount of make up on ground							
					Avg. depth (m)		
					Width (m)		
					Length (m)		
Trench 16							
General description					Orientation		
Depth of natural / archaeological features not reached. Consists of soil, subsoil and make up.					NE-SW		
					Avg. depth (m)		1.2
					Width (m)		2
					Length (m)		8
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
57	Layer	-	0.2	Make up			

58	Layer	-	0.2	Make up		
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.5	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 17						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.6
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	23.5
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
59	Layer	-	0.3	Colluvium	-	-
1	Layer	-	0.12	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 18						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	18
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 19						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	15.5
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 20						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.42
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.4	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 21						
General description					Orientation	
Trench not excavated due to modern services					Avg. depth (m)	
					Width (m)	
					Length (m)	
Trench 22						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Depth of natural / archaeological features not reached. Consists of soil, subsoil and colluvium.					Avg. depth (m)	1
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	6
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
60	Layer	-	0.7	Colluvium	-	-
1	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 23						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	26.7
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 24						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 25						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.				Avg. depth (m)		0.45
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		23
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.4	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 26						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench contained one ditch and one pit. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay				Avg. depth (m)		0.4
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		17.2
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
37	Cut	0.8	0.35	Pit	-	-
38	Fill	0.8	0.35	Pit	-	-
39	Cut	1.25	0.2	Ditch	-	-
40	Fill	1.25	0.2	Ditch	-	-
1	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 27						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Trench contained four ditches and one posthole. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.				Avg. depth (m)		0.5
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		28.5
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
4	Cut	1	0.35	Ditch	-	-
5	Fill	1	0.03	Ditch	-	-
6	Fill	0.5	0.16	Ditch	-	-
7	Fill	1	0.33	Ditch	-	-
8	Cut	1.3	0.28	Ditch	-	-
9	Fill	1.3	0.28	Ditch	-	-
10	Fill	0.5	0.13	Ditch	-	-
11	Cut	0.65	0.08	Ditch	-	-

12	Fill	0.65	0.08	Ditch	-	-
13	Cut	0.7	0.17	Posthole	-	-
14	Fill	0.7	0.17	Posthole	-	-
15	Cut	1.3	0.58	Ditch	-	-
16	Fill	0.15	0.58	Ditch	-	-
17	Fill	0.65	0.25	Ditch	-	-
18	Fill	1.3	0.35	Ditch	-	-
1	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 28						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	27.5
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 29						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained three ditches. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
					Width (m)	29.5
					Length (m)	2
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
21	Cut	1.3	0.46	Ditch	-	-
22	Fill	1.3	0.46	Ditch	-	-
23	Cut	1.1	0.35	Ditch	-	-
24	Fill	1.1	0.35	Ditch	-	-
25	Cut	1.3	0.34	Ditch	-	-
26	Fill	1.3	0.34	Ditch	-	-
1	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 30						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	2

					Length (m)	25
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 31						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained one ditch. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	27
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
19	Cut	0.6	0.3	Ditch	-	-
20	Fill	0.6	0.3	Ditch	-	-
1	Layer	-		Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-		Subsoil	-	-
Trench 32						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	21.5
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.45	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 33						
General description					Orientation	2
Depth of natural / archaeological features not reached. Consists of soil and make up.					Avg. depth (m)	1.2
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	6
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
61	Layer	-	2	Make up	-	-
1	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
Trench 34						
General description					Orientation	N-S

Trench contained one ditch. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.		Avg. depth (m)		0.6		
		Width (m)		2		
		Length (m)		15.3		
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
52	Cut	0.85	0.1	Ditch	-	-
53	Fill	0.85	0.1	Ditch	-	-
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 35						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.				Avg. depth (m)		0.55
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		25
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-		Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-		Subsoil	-	-
Trench 36						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Trench contained one ditch. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.				Avg. depth (m)		0.45
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
34	Cut	0.95	0.3	Ditch	-	-
35	Fill	0.95	0.2	Ditch	-	-
36	Fill	0.65	0.1	Ditch	-	-
1	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 37						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.				Avg. depth (m)		0.4
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		18
Contexts						

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 38						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	22
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.38	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 39						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.7
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	6
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
63	Layer	-	0.25	Make up	-	-
1	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 40						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	19
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 41						
General description					Orientation	
Trench not excavated due to modern services					Avg. depth (m)	
					Width (m)	
					Length (m)	

Trench 42						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench contained one ditch. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.				Avg. depth (m)		0.5
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		16
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
32	Cut	0.65	0.25	Ditch	-	-
33	Fill	0.65	0.25	Ditch	-	-
1	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.42	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 43						
General description				Orientation		NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.				Avg. depth (m)		0.5
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		26.5
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil	-	-
Trench 44						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Trench contained two pits. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.				Avg. depth (m)		0.4
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		17.6
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
27	Cut	0.7	0.35	Pit	-	-
28	Fill	0.7	0.35	Pit	burnt stone	-
29	Cut	0.8	0.44	Pit	-	Middle to Late Iron Age
30	Fill	0.8	0.27	Pit	pottery, burnt stone	Middle to Late Iron Age
31	Fill	0.8	0.18	Pit	pottery, burnt stone	Middle to Late Iron Age
1	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 45						
General description				Orientation	NW-SE	
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of grey clay.				Avg. depth (m)	0.5	
				Width (m)	2	
				Length (m)	26.2	
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil	-	-

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Pottery

By Sarah Percival

- B.1.1 A total of ten sherds of prehistoric pottery weighing 34g were collected from two contexts, 30 and 31. Two fabrics were identified, one containing moderate medium shell pieces in a sandy clay matrix, the other sparse shell in sandy clay with sparse rounded quartz up to 1mm.
- B.1.2 A fine, beaded rim sherd in sandy fabric with sparse shell from a small jar or cup. The remainder of the assemblage comprises undecorated body sherds. All the pottery is of mid to later Iron Age date (350-100BC).

B.2 Baked Clay

By Sarah Percival

- B.2.1 Two small pieces of baked clay weighing 9g were collected from context 30. The fragments are made from poorly mixed fine silty clay with no visible inclusions. The exterior surfaces are brown and the interior orange and cream swirls. The hard fired fragments may be from hearth lining or similar.

B.3 Stone

By Sarah Percival

- B.3.1 A total of eight pieces of heat effected stone weighing 3,993g were collected from context 28. The assemblage comprises five quartzitic cobble fragments and single pieces of sandstone, greenstone and a possible iron stained granite fragment. Many of the pieces have been reddened through contact with heat and have fractured. No pieces are worked. The assemblage is not closely datable.

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

C.1.1 A single bulk sample was taken from fill 29 of middle Iron Age pit **30** within Trench 44 of the evaluated areas at Alconbury Weald in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

C.1.2 Methodology

C.1.3 The total volume (18 litres) of the 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 sample 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 residue 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.

Results

C.1.4 The sample from fill 29 of pit **30** contains a small volume (approximately 5ml) of small charcoal fragments and a single fragment of pottery.

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Flot contents	Residue contents
1	29	30	pit	Charcoal	Pottery

Table 1: Environmental samples from STUALK14

Discussion

C.1.5 The single sample from Alconbury Weald contains preserved plant remains in the form of charcoal only. Whilst this is not particularly informative, it does serve to show that there is preservation by carbonisation and, if future excavations are planned for the area, a targeted sampling strategy should be included.

APPENDIX D. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------|---|
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Maps Consulted

British Geological Survey 2014 *Sheet 172: Huntingdon.*

APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-197796			
Project Name	Middle to Late Iron Age remains at Alconbury Weald Enterprise Zone, Alconbury Airfield, Cambridgeshire			
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	11-11-2014	Finish	18-11-2014
Previous Work (by OA East)	Yes		Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	STU ALK 14	Planning App. No.	1201158OUT
HER No.	ECB 4321	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG15
Development Type	Housing Estate

Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/> Grab-Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-Core	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits
<input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search	<input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
<input 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
ditch	Uncertain	pottery	Iron Age -800 to 43
pit	Iron Age -800 to 43	burnt stone	Iron Age -800 to 43
posthole	Iron Age -800 to 43		Select period...

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	Huntingdon	Alconbury Weald Alconbury Airfield Huntingdon PE28 4WX
Parish	Stukeley	
HER		
Study Area		National Grid Reference TL 2010 7660

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Andy Thomas (CCC)
Project Design Originator	Sally Dicks (CgMs)
Project Manager	James Drummond-Murray (OA East)
Supervisor	Helen Stocks-Morgan (OA East)

Project Archives

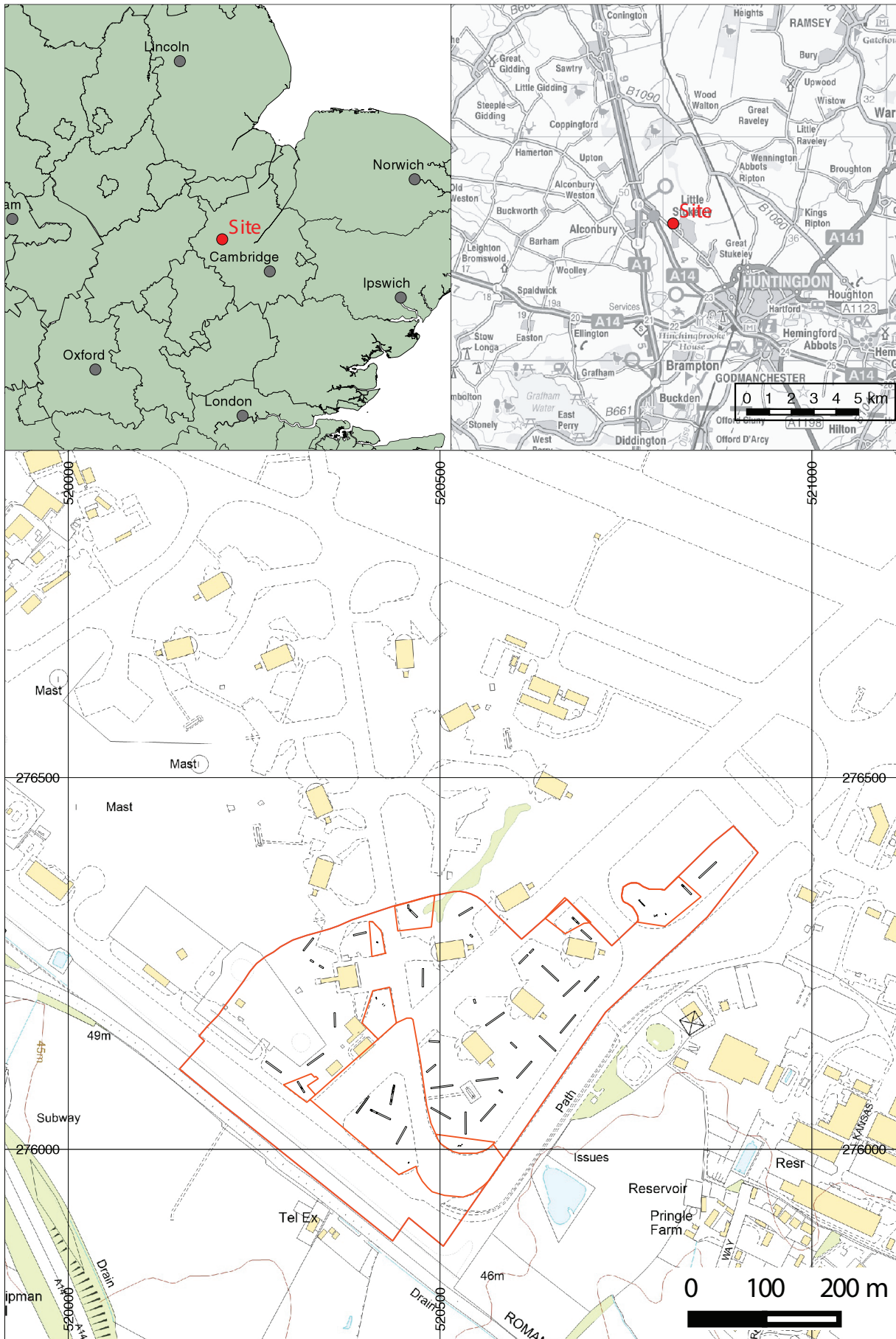
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Cambridgeshire County Stores	OA East	Cambridgeshire County Stores
STU ALK 14	STU ALK 14	STU ALK 14

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
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Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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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 type="checkbox"/> GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Sheet
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location showing development area (red) and evaluation trenches (black). Scale 1:7500

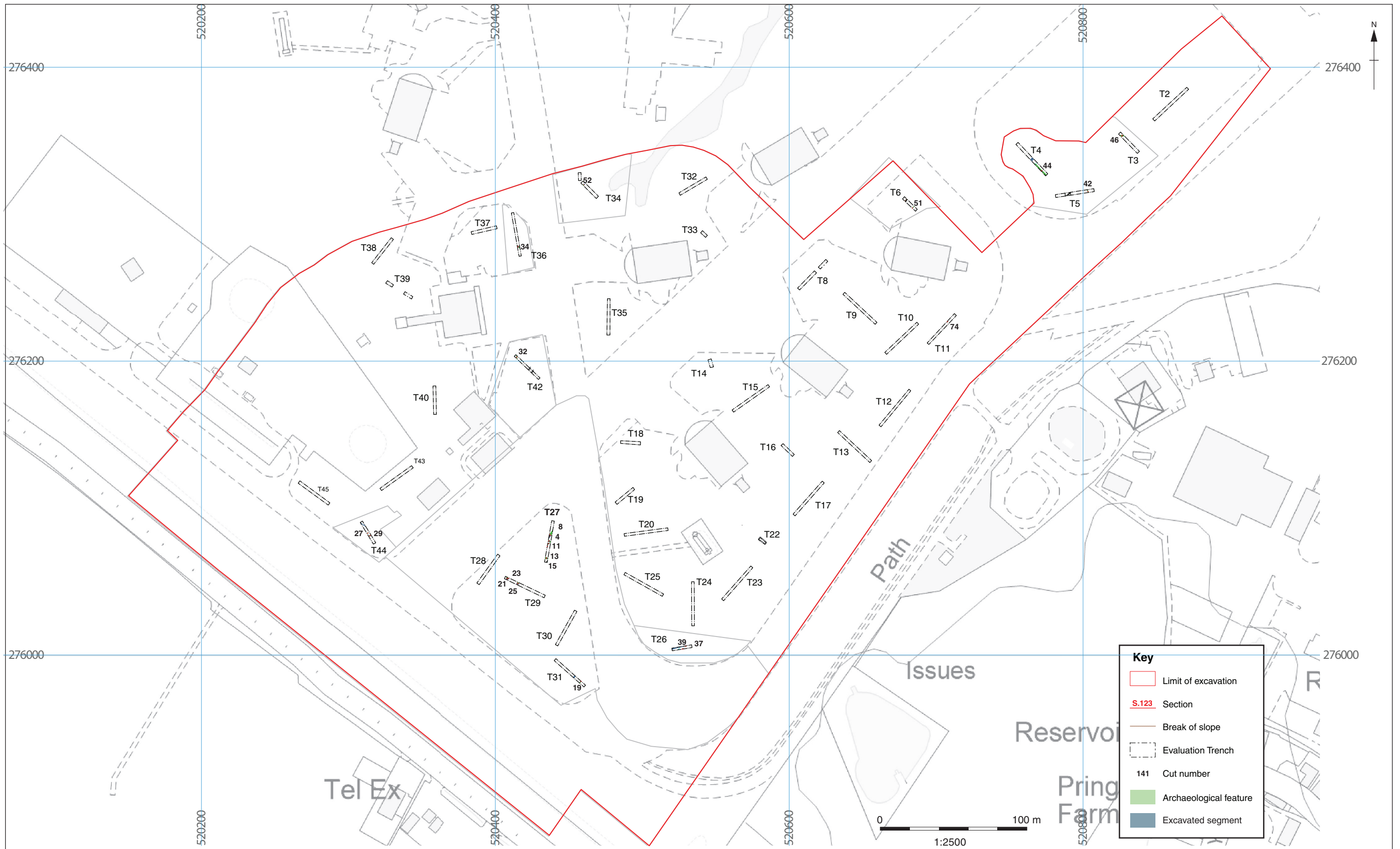


Figure 2: Trench location map

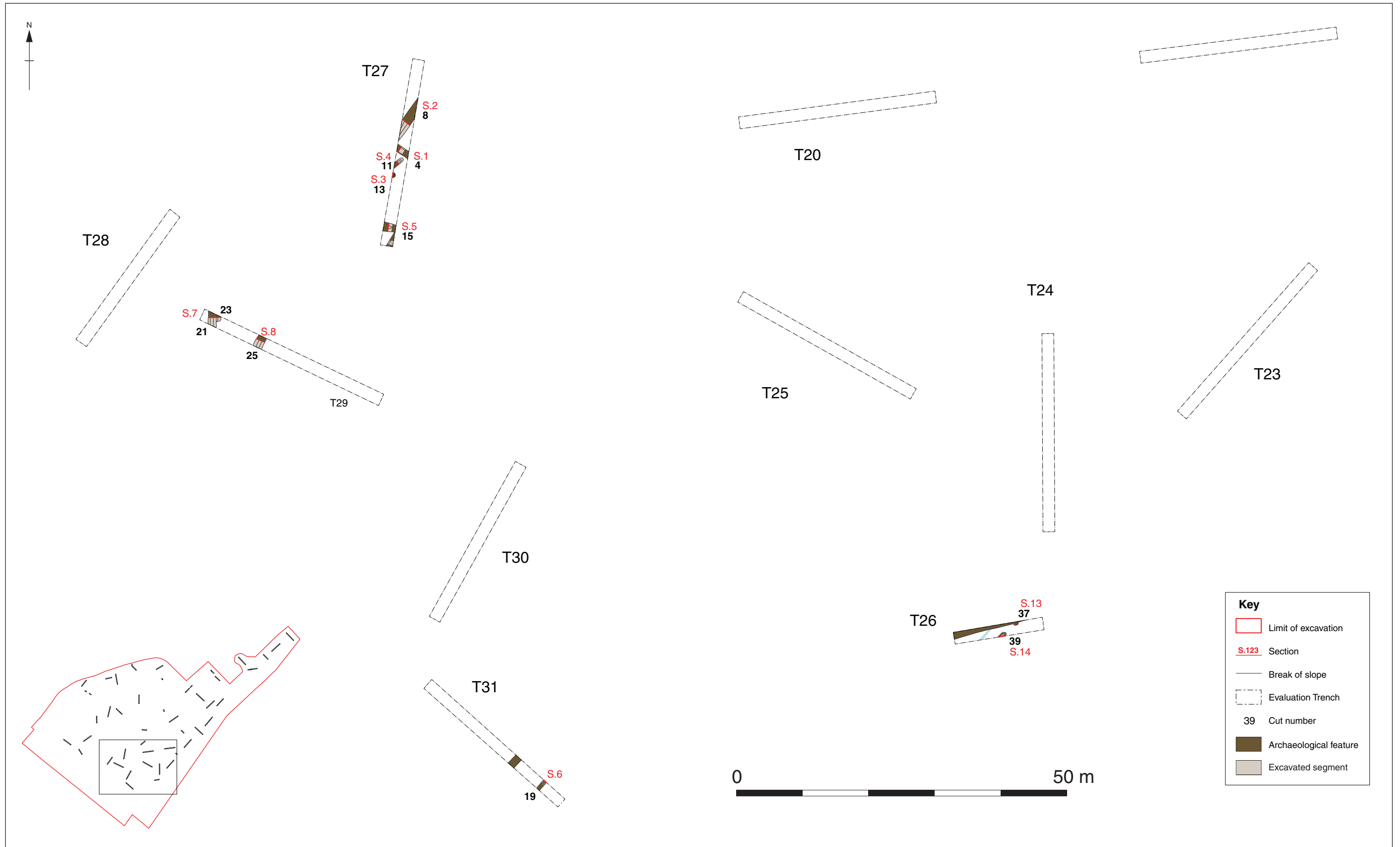


Figure 3: Close up of trenches

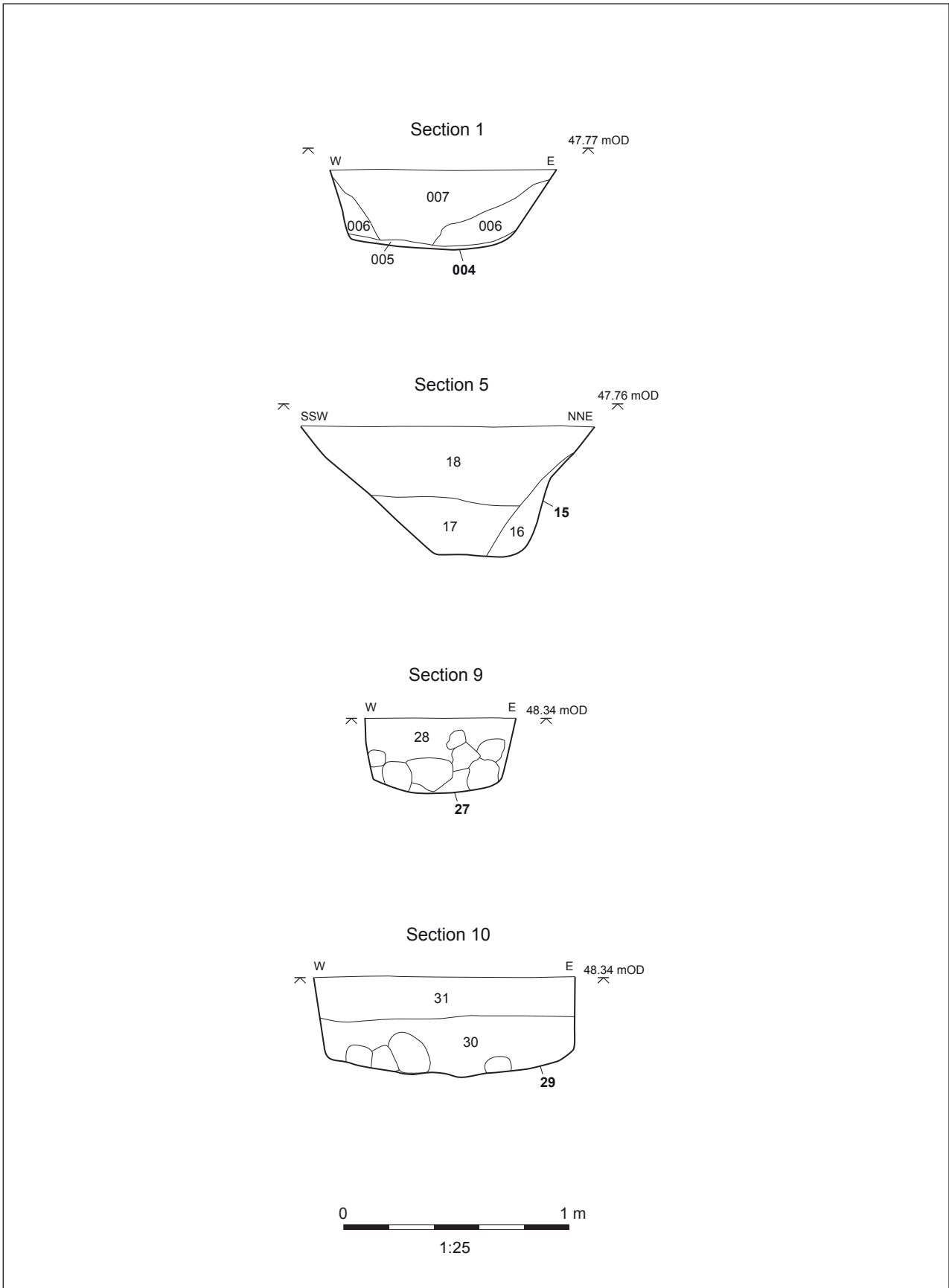


Figure 4: Sections



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