Cromwell Community College, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Cromwell Community College, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

From the 26th to the 28th of June 2019, Oxford Archaeology East undertook an archaeological evaluation at Cromwell Community College, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire (TL 3963 8536).

A total of six trenches were excavated across the development area, with five of these measuring 30m in length and the final trench measuring only 20m in length due to modern disturbances. Three of the trenches (1, 3 and 6) were devoid of archaeology. Within the remaining three trenches (2, 4 and 5) a series of furrows were identified with an east to west alignment, thought to be of a medieval to post-medieval date. A single quarry pit, of a contemporary date was also observed in Trench 2 towards the northern end of the site.

Small quantities of finds were recovered from these features and included abraded medieval and post-medieval pottery alongside clay pipe, ceramic building material, glass and animal bone. A single residual worked flint was also recorded within furrow **4**. A carbonised single rye grain, a single weed seed of clover/medick and a small quantity of duck weed was recovered from quarry pit **12** indicating the feature most likely held water at some point and that human activity was present within the vicinity.

Although very few features have been identified during this phase of work the site aids in identifying the limits of earlier settlements excavated within the immediate area.

Acknowledgements

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Nick Gilmour. The fieldwork was directed by Kathryn Blackbourn, who was supported by Kelly Sinclair. Survey and digitising was carried out by Matt Edwards. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the supervision of Natasha Dodwell and processed the environmental remains under the supervision of Rachel Fosberry.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Morgan Sindall to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the site of Cromwell Community College, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire (Fig. 1).

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. F/2003/19/CC). A brief/specification was set by Andy Thomas and a written scheme of investigation was produced by OA detailing the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process/discharge the planning condition. This document outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies on the southern side of the town of Chatteris on flat land between 8.5m and 9m OD. The natural geology consists of West Walton and Ampthill Clay Formations, overlain by sands and gravels belonging to the March Gravels Member (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html).

1.2.2 The site is currently part of Cromwell Community College, with five of the trenches located on the sports playing field and the sixth trench located to the west of the sports courts between the School and the Leisure Centre.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 A Historic Environment Record (HER) search was undertaken for a 1km radius for the site and surrounding area, with the most pertinent records discussed below and illustrated on Fig. 1.

Previous work at the site

1.3.2 Previous evaluations and excavations have taken place at Cromwell Community College. In 2011 two phases of trial trenching were undertaken (Lyons 2011, CHER 3572). The first was conducted in the northern part of the school and revealed medieval and post-medieval activity, largely consisting of pits. The second phase took place towards the south of the school and identified Iron Age features. Following this later phase of work was an excavation conducted in 2012 (Atkins 2012; CHER 3740) which revealed a small Early Iron Age settlement at the site.

Mesolithic/Neolithic

1.3.3 During the Neolithic period a major river channel ran north to south approximately 1km to the west. Its associated tributaries passed within a few hundred metres of the site (Hall 1992, fig. 52). An evaluation conducted at Tithe Barn, 500m to the south of the site, recorded a possible Early Neolithic post-hole containing a flint blade and a number of residual Mesolithic to Early Neolithic flints including a leaf shaped arrowhead (Atkins 2011; ECB 3632).

1.3.4 A Neolithic axe was recorded at Wood Farm (CHER 3699, not illustrated on Fig. 1), 1km south of the site.

Bronze Age

1.3.5 The work at Tithe Barn also uncovered two minor Early Bronze Age sites and two substantial Middle Bronze Age settlements and associated field systems (Atkins 2011; ECB 3632). The Early Bronze Age site comprised a well containing burnt flint and a hollow containing flint and Early Bronze Age pottery.

1.3.6 One of the Middle Bronze Age settlements had previously been identified during fieldwalking (Hall 1992; CHER 10901), where pottery and worked and burnt flint had been recovered. The excavation revealed evidence for several houses, pits and associated field system extending over a 200m area, lying to the west of a palaeochannel (Atkins 2012). The second Middle Bronze Age site was 300m to the west of this site within an area of circular cropmarks which were either roundhouses or barrows (Atkins 2011). Three watering holes were also recorded at this site.

1.3.7 To the north of the development area an excavation revealed three Middle Bronze Age cremations, one of which was contained within an urn (Thatcher 2008; MCB 17496). Burials dating to this period are relatively common in the area and include a dispersed barrow field on the fen edge some distance from the site (Hall 1992). The Fenland Survey has identified potentially two further Bronze Age domestic sites within the Parish (Hall 1992).

Iron Age and Roman

1.3.8 By the Iron Age period, Chatteris had become an island surrounded by peat and a number of settlements dating to this period have been recorded. Late Iron Age and Roman pottery were recovered 800m to the south-east of the site (CHER 08803) and excavation at Tithe Barn identified ditches and pits dating from the Late Iron Age to the Late Roman period (Atkins 2011; ECB 3632).

1.3.9 A potential Iron Age or Roman settlement has been identified via cropmarks and a geophysical survey 800m to the south of the site (CHER 10664). An evaluation across this site revealed a Mid to Late Iron Age to Roman farmstead comprising enclosures, houses, ditches and pits (Atkins 2011; ECB 3632). A cremation and watering hole was also recorded at this site. Settlement dating from the Early Iron Age to Roman period have also been recorded 1km north of the site (MCB 18461, 18462 and 17496).

1.3.10 A Roman pottery scatter was recorded near to the development site and may indicate the presence of further settlement (MCB 10577, not illustrated on Fig. 1).

Anglo-Saxon and medieval

1.3.11 There is very little evidence for Saxon activity within Chatteris; probable sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery, including Ipswich ware, were recovered 1km north of the site (Thatcher 2008; MCB 17496). A possible sunken featured building was recorded 800m to the south-east (Atkins 2011; ECB 3632).

1.3.12 A Tithe Barn is located 800m to the south of the site and a moated site, possibly manorial, as located 1km to the south (CHER 1097).

Post-medieval and modern

1.3.13 To the west of the subject site an evaluation uncovered a number of large pits which were interpreted as evidence for late post-medieval sand and gravel extraction (MCB 17442).

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

i. establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site, characterise where they are found (location, depth and extent), and establish the quality of preservation of any archaeology and environmental remains
ii. provide sufficient coverage to establish the character, condition, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits
iii. provide sufficient coverage to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking deposits
iv. set results in the local and regional archaeological context – and, in particular, its wider cultural landscape and past environmental conditions
v. provide – in the event that archaeological remains are found – sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables, and orders of cost.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A total of six trenches, five measuring 30m in length and one measuring 20m in length due to modern disturbances, were excavated across the development area.

2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out by a 20 tonne 360˚excavator using a 2m wide ditching bucket. All excavation work was monitored by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.

2.2.3 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's pro-forma sheets and plans and sections were drawn at appropriate scales. Photographs were taken of all features and trenches. Site survey was carried out using a Leica GS08 GPS system.

2.2.4 All spoil heaps and trenches were metal detected and identified no metal finds. Bucket sampling was conducted within every trench with 90L of both the topsoil and subsoil of each trench being collected and sorted for finds. No finds were recovered via bucket sampling.

2.2.5 Only a single environmental sample was taken from the site as the majority of features recorded were furrows.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds data and spot dates are tabulated in Appendix B.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence in the trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology (3) of clay and gravel was overlain by a light to mid orangey brown sandy silt subsoil (2), which in turn was overlain by topsoil (1) which consisted of a mid grey brown clayey silt (Plate 1).

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and the site remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Of the six trenches excavated, only three contained archaeological features (Trenches 2, 4 and 5). The majority of the features identified were furrows on an east to west alignment, although a single quarry pit was also recorded (Fig. 2). Only those trenches containing archaeology will be described below.

3.4 Trenches containing archaeology

Trench 2

3.4.1 Trench 2 was located towards the north of the site with a north-east to south-west orientation. This trench contained a single furrow and a quarry pit.

3.4.2 Quarry pit **12** was located at the north-east end of the trench and continued beyond the limits of excavation. The pit measured at least 1.4m wide and 0.54m deep with steep sides (Fig. 3, Section 5; Plate 2); it was not fully excavated due to reaching a depth of 1.2m against the baulk. This pit contained two fills, the basal fill (13) measured 0.38m thick and consisted of a mid grey brown sandy clayey silt. Overlying it was fill 14, which measured 0.16m thick and consisted of a mid brown grey sandy silt and contained three abraded sherds (10g) of pottery dating from AD 1150 to 1500. This fill was also environmentally sampled and contained a carbonised single rye grain, a single weed seed of clover/medick and a small quantity of duck weed.

3.4.3 This pit was truncated on its southern side by furrow **15** which had an east to west alignment and measured 1.15m wide and 0.08m deep with gently sloped sides and a slightly concave base. Its single fill (16) consisted of a mid brown grey clayey silt that contained two fragments (14g) of post-medieval brick.

Trench 4

3.4.4 In the eastern part of the site was Trench 4 which had a north-east to south-west orientation and contained two furrows with an east to west alignment (Plate 3).

3.4.5 The most north-easterly was furrow **10** which measured 1.55m wide and 0.08m deep with gently sloped sides and a fairly flat base. Its single fill (11) consisted of a mid brown grey sandy silt and contained a fragment (5g) of clay pipe, a single fragment (6g) of post-medieval brick and a cattle mandibular molar (weighing 9g). Approximately 9m to the south was furrow **8** which measured 1.1m wide and 0.08m deep with gently sloped sides and a fairly flat base (Fig. 3, Section 3). Its single fill (9) consisted of a mid brown grey sandy silt that contained a single sherd (3g) of East Anglian Redware which dates from AD 1200 to 1500.

Trench 5

3.4.6 Within the centre of the development area was Trench 5, which had a north to south orientation and contained a single furrow and a field drain.

3.4.7 Furrow **4** was located at the southern end of the trench with an east to west alignment. This furrow measured 2.4m wide and 0.16m deep with sloped sides and a concave base (Plate 4; Fig. 3, Section 1). Its single fill (5) consisted of a mid brown grey sandy silt that contained seven sherds (85g) of medieval and post-medieval pottery and two fragments (5g) of clay pipe. A residual worked tertiary flint flake (1g) was also recovered from this fill (Lawrence Billington *pers comm*).

3.4.8 Immediately to the north was field drain **6,** which also had an east to west alignment and measured 0.8m wide and 0.25m deep with steep sides and a concave base. Its single fill (7) consisted of a mid brown grey sandy silt that contained 27g of modern glass, a fragment of field drain (121g) and a fragment of sheep/goat (weighing 17g).

3.5 Finds Summary

3.5.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered from features across the site. The pottery assemblage comprised 14 sherds (weighing 98g) of medieval and post-medieval pottery, including East Anglian Redware sherds and Lyveden A-type shelly ware. Many of the sherds were small and abraded but provides dating evidence for many of the features excavated. Modern fragments of glass were recovered from field drain **6**. Three fragments of clay pipe were recovered from two furrows, indicative of a post-medieval date, and contemporary ceramic building material was also recovered from two furrows and a field drain.

3.6 Environmental summary

3.6.1 A single sample was taken from pit **12** and identified a carbonised single rye grain, a single weed seed of clover/medick and a small quantity of duck weed.

3.6.2 Two fragments (26g) of animal bone were recovered from furrow **10** and field drain **6**; although both fragments were identifiable to species (cattle and sheep/goat) the bone provides little information about the site.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 All features present were easy to identify against the natural geology and the weather remained good throughout the work leading to very reliable results.

4.2 Interpretation

4.2.1 The evaluation has identified a series of furrows on an east to west alignment which date from the medieval to post-medieval period. A single quarry pit was also identified within Trench 2, most likely of a similar date. The natural geology at the site consists of gravel patches which would have been quarried during these periods. Similar features were identified during previous works at the site (Lyons 2011; Atkins 2012).

4.3 Significance

4.3.1 Although the evaluation has produced very few archaeological features it does aid in providing a better understanding of the extent and limits of the nearby Iron Age sites that have previously been excavated (Atkins 2012).

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of gravel and clay.					**Length (m)**	20
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.57
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1	Layer	-	0.33-0.44	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.33-0.4	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained a quarry pit and a furrow cutting the natural geology of gravel and clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.57
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1	Layer	-	0.25-0.29	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.26-0.33	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
12	Cut	1.4	0.54	Quarry pit	-	AD 1150-1500
13	Fill	1.4	0.38	Quarry pit	-	AD 1150-1500
14	Fill	1.4	0.16	Quarry pit	Pottery	AD 1150-1500
15	Cut	1.15	0.08	Furrow	-	Post-med
16	Fill	1.15	0.08	Furrow	CBM	Post-med

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of gravel and clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.63
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1	Layer	-	0.2-0.25	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.32-0.44	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench contained two furrows on an east to west alignment cutting into a natural geology of clay and gravel.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.52
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1	Layer	-	0.22-0.25	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.28-0.3	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
8	Cut	1.1	0.08	Furrow	-	AD 1200-1500
9	Fill	1.1	0.08	Furrow	Pottery	AD 1200-1500
10	Cut	1.55	0.08	Furrow	-	Post-med
11	Fill	1.55	0.08	Furrow	Clay pipe, CBM, animal bone	Post-med

Trench 5						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained a furrow and a field drain with an east to west alignment, cutting into a geology of clay and gravel.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.48
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1	Layer	-	0.2-0.22	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.22-0.32	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
4	Cut	2.4	0.16	Furrow	-	Post-med
5	Fill	2.4	0.16	Furrow	Pottery, Clay pipe	AD 1150-1800
6	Cut	0.8	0.25	Field Drain	-	Modern
7	Fill	0.8	0.25	Field Drain	Glass, CBM, animal bone	19th/20th C

Trench 6						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of gravel and clay.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.52
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1	Layer	-	0.2-0.25	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.28-0.3	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Glass

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction and Methodology

B.1.1 Three fragments of glass were recovered from field drain **6**. The glass was scanned and recorded by form, colour, count and weight, and dated where possible. The results are recorded in the text. The glass and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition or dispersal.

Assemblage and Discussion

B.1.2 Field drain **6** in Trench 5, produced a triangular fragment (2g) of mid olive-green bottle glass, not closely datable, and two shards (neck and rim/lip and body sherd, 25g) from a three-part moulded utility bottle in clear glass with a green cast. The body sherd has a faint mould seam at the joint between shoulder and body and vertically up the shoulder, as found on Ricketts-type bottles and indicating an 19th-early 20th century date. The surviving section of neck is cylindrical with a two-part applied finish and a bore designed to take a stopper, most likely a cork. The glass was recovered alongside a fragment of field drain and may have been thrown into the drain cut as the drain was laid.

Retention, dispersal or display

B.1.3 The glass assemblage is fragmentary and not significant. Should further work be undertaken, more glass may be recovered, although only at low levels. If no further work on the site is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record and the glass may be deselected prior to archival deposition.

B.2 Pottery

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction

B.2.1 Archaeological works produced a small assemblage of pottery, a mixture of medieval and post-medieval sherds, mostly recovered from furrows, but also from a single pit. In total, 14 sherds, weighing 98g, were recovered (Table 1). The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded to abraded, and the average sherd weight is low at approximately 7g.

Methodology

B.2.2 The Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG), Study Group for Roman Pottery (SGRP), The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG), 2016 *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* and the MPRG *A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic*

forms (MPRG 1998) act as standards. Rapid recording was carried out using OA East's in-house system, based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described types, using the Museum of London fabric series (MoLA 2014) as a basis for post-1700 fabrics. All sherds have been counted, classified, and weighed on a context-by-context basis and recorded in the summary catalogue in this report. The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition or dispersal.

Assemblage and Discussion

B.2.3 Pit **12** in Trench 2 produced small abraded body sherds from three medieval vessels, including a glazed East Anglian Redware jug. Furrow **8** in Trench 4 produced a single abraded sherd from an unglazed East Anglian Redware vessel, however, the bulk of the assemblage was recovered from furrow **4** in Trench 5. The furrow's pottery assemblage includes leached and abraded shelly ware, possibly a Lyveden A-type Shelly ware, and medieval sandy coarseware, alongside post-medieval redware and post-medieval black ware sherds, suggesting the last phase of disturbance could be at the end of the 18th or early 19th century.

B.2.4 The assemblage is fragmentary and represents low levels of pottery distribution both medieval and later, very probably representing material spread by manuring.

Retention, dispersal or display

B.2.5 Should further work be undertaken, pottery may be recovered, although only at low levels. This statement acts as a full record and if no further work is undertaken, the pottery may be dispersed for educational use, or deselected prior to archival deposition.

Trench	Context	Cut	Fabric and form	MNV	No. of Sherds	Weight (g)	Pottery Date
2	14	**12**	East Anglian Redware jug, small abraded body sherd, externally glazed over off-white slip	1	1	1	1200-1500
			Medieval Sandy Greyware, abraded body sherds	1	2	5	1150-1500
			Medieval Sandy Coarseware, abraded body sherds	1	3	4	1150-1500
4	9	**8**	East Anglian Redware abraded unglazed body sherd	1	1	3	1200-1500
5	5	**4**	Medieval Sandy Coarseware moderately abraded jar rim, everted, externally thickened and rounded, diameter 200mm, EVE 14%	1	1	22	1150-1500
			Lyveden A-type Shelly ware, heavily leached, abraded jar rim. Rim everted, internally thickened and beveled, diameter 200mm, EVE 5%	1	1	19	1150-1400
			East Anglian Redware jar rim sherd, everted, externally thickened, somewhat rounded, diameter 160mm, EVE 5%	1	1	12	1200-1500
			Post-medieval Black-Glazed ware, small abraded body sherd from a drinking vessel, with external and external black glaze	1	1	1	1600-1700
			Post-medieval Redware abraded bowl body sherd with internal clear glaze	1	1	18	1550-1800
			Post-medieval Redware abraded bowl base sherd with internal clear glaze	1	1	8	1550-1800
			Post-medieval Redware abraded base angle sherd with external and internal greenish-brown glaze	1	1	5	1550-1800
Total				**11**	**14**	**98**	

Table 1: Pottery by context (EVE= Estimated Vessel Equivalent, MNV= Minimum number of vessels)

B.3 Clay Pipe

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction and Methodology

B.3.1 During the evaluation, three fragments of white ball clay tobacco pipe, weighing 10g, were recovered from Trenches 4 and 5. Simplified recording only has been undertaken, with basic description and weight recorded in the text. Terminology used in this report is taken from Oswald's simplified general typology (Oswald 1975, 37–41), and Crummy and Hind (Crummy 1988, 47-66). The clay tobacco pipe and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition or dispersal.

Assemblage and Discussion

B.3.2 Trench 4, furrow **10**, produced a single fragment 36mm long and 10.7-11.4 mm in diameter from a plain, undecorated clay tobacco pipe stem, the end just beginning to flare where it would have joined with the heel, if present, or the bowl. Internally it is somewhat grey, indicating use and/or burning to clean the pipe bore, which was relatively large and slightly off-centre.

B.3.3 Trench 5, furrow **4**, produced two fragments of plain, undecorated clay tobacco pipe stem from two separate pipes. The first fragment (4g), is moderately abraded and 39mm long, 9.5mm in diameter, tapering very slightly over its short length to 9.3mm diameter, with an off-centre bore. The second shorter fragment is 18.5mm long (1g), somewhat oval, 6.8-6.1mm in diameter with a small, oval, relatively centrally placed bore. The fragments of clay pipe stem from furrow **4** were recovered alongside medieval and post medieval pottery.

B.3.4 Plain stems, such as these fragments recovered from furrows, are not closely datable and represent what are most probably casually discarded pipes. The pipe fragments do little, other than to indicate the consumption of tobacco on, or near, the site, from the introduction of tobacco smoking to the 19th century.

Retention, dispersal or display

B.3.5 The assemblage is fragmentary and is of little significance. If no further work is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record and the clay tobacco pipe stem may be deselected prior to archival deposition.

B.4 Ceramic Building Material

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction and Methodology

B.4.1 A fragmentary assemblage of ceramic building material (CBM), consisting of brick or tile fragments and a piece of field drain, was recovered from Trenches 2, 4 and 5. In total, four CBM fragments, weighing 141g, were retrieved. No complete examples

were recovered, and all are moderately abraded or abraded. The material recovered is post-medieval.

B.4.2 The assemblage was quantified by context, counted, weighed, and form recorded, where this was identifiable. Fabrics are noted and dating is necessarily broad. Only complete dimensions were recorded, which was most commonly thickness. The results are recorded in the text. Archaeological Ceramic Building Materials Group *Ceramic Building Material, Minimum Standards for Recovery, Curation, Analysis and Publication* (2002) forms the basis for recording, and Woodforde (1976) and McComish (2015) form the basis for identification. The CBM and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition or dispersal.

Assemblage and Discussion

B.4.3 The small assemblage of CBM was dispersed across three trenches. Trench 2, furrow **15**, produced two irregular fragments (14g) of brick, with a small area of surface surviving on one fragment. The fabric is lightly quartz-tempered, dull brick red with mid grey patches and swirls internally, the occasional buff clay streak and a very hackly fracture. Trench 4, furrow **10**, produced a single irregular fragment of brick (6g) with a small area of surface surviving, in the same fabric as the fragments from furrow **15**. The fragments from both furrows can only be broadly dated as post-medieval and may be the result of more recent ploughing distributing post-medieval material across the site, perhaps relating to the laying of field drains, sometime after the mid 19th century.

B.4.4 A field drain (**6**), in Trench 5, produced a moderately abraded fragment of field drain (121g), approximately 100mm in diameter externally and 74m internally. The inner surface of the drain is un-sanded and drag marks on the external surface suggest it is part of an extruded pipe. Pipes of this variety became available in the mid-nineteenth century, when the extrusion method of machine-making tile-pipes was invented http://newsletters.hadas.org.uk/newsletter-index/newsletter-037-march-1974#TOC-History-of-Field-Drainage. The field drain fragment was recovered alongside fragments from a 19th-early 20th century glass bottle, which may have been deposited as a casual breakage/loss when the drain was laid sometime after the mid 19th century.

Retention, dispersal or display

B.4.5 The plain and fragmentary nature of the total assemblage means it is of little interest. However, it does indicate that, if further work is undertaken, CBM is likely to be produced, although only at low levels. This statement acts as a full record and the CBM may be deselected prior to archival deposition. Should further work be undertaken, the CBM report should be incorporated into any later archive.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Samples

By Martha Craven

Introduction

C.1.1 One bulk sample was taken from a feature within the evaluated area at Cromwell Community College, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. A single sample was taken from feature **12** encountered within Trench 2 from a deposit that is thought to be medieval in date.

Methodology

C.1.2 The total volume,16 L, of the sample was processed by tank flotation using modified *Sīraf*-type equipment for the recovery of preserved 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.

C.1.3 The dried flot was scanned using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 2. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands (Cappers et al. 2006) and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (1997) for other plants. Plant remains have been identified to species where possible. The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

Quantification

C.1.4 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds and cereal grains have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories:

= 1-5, ## = 6-25, ### = 26-100, #### = 100+ specimens

Key to tables:

U=untransformed

Results

C.1.5 Preservation of plant remains is primarily by carbonisation and is poor to moderate. The flot contained rootlets which may have caused movement of material between contexts.

C.1.6 Sample 1, fill 14 of quarry pit **12** (Trench 2), contained a carbonised single rye grain (*Secale cereale*) and a carbonised single weed seed of clover/ medick (*Trifolium* sp./ *Medicago* sp.). The sample also contained a small quantity of duckweed (*Lemna* sp.).

C.1.7 The single sample from this site contained no molluscs.

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut no.	Trench no.	Feature type	Volume processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Weed Seeds	Wetland /aquatic	Charcoal volume (ml)	Pottery
1	14	12	2	Quarry Pit	16	20	#	#	#U	<1	#

Table 2: Environmental samples

Discussion

C.1.8 The recovery of duckweed, an aquatic plant, in Sample 1 is indicative of this feature having contained water, at some point. No other waterlogged plant remains have been preserved. The presence of two carbonised seeds in this sample cannot be considered a significant assemblage but are an indication of human activity.

C.1.9 If further excavation is planned for this area, it is recommended that environmental sampling is carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines (2011).

C.2 Animal Bone

By Zoe Ui Choileáin

Introduction and Results

C.2.1 Two fragments of bone were recovered from the site; a sheep/goat pelvis (weighing 17g) from field drain **6** and a cattle mandibular molar (weighing 9g) from furrow **10**. All bone was highly fragmented and weathered (grade 2-4; Brickley and McKinley 2004 14-15). This is a small assemblage which provides little information as to the nature of the site and no further work is required.

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APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS / OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	Oxfordar3-361530
Project Name	Cromwell Community College, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire

Start of Fieldwork	26/6/19	End of Fieldwork	28/6/19
Previous Work	yes	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	CHACCC19	Planning App. No.	F/2003/19/CC
HER Number	ECB 5936	Related Numbers	N/A

Prompt	
Development Type	School
Place in Planning Process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

☐	Aerial Photography – interpretation	☐	Grab-sampling	☐	Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
☐	Aerial Photography - new	☐	Gravity-core	☒	Sample Trenches
☐	Annotated Sketch	☐	Laser Scanning	☐	Survey/Recording of Fabric/Structure
☐	Augering	☐	Measured Survey	☐	Targeted Trenches
☐	Dendrochonological Survey	☒	Metal Detectors	☐	Test Pits
☐	Documentary Search	☐	Phosphate Survey	☐	Topographic Survey
☒	Environmental Sampling	☐	Photogrammetric Survey	☐	Vibro-core
☐	Fieldwalking	☐	Photographic Survey	☐	Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
☐	Geophysical Survey	☐	Rectified Photography		

Monument	Period
furrow	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
pit	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
	Choose an item.

Object	Period
pot	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
Clay pipe	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
glass	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire
District	Fenland
Parish	Chatteris
HER office	Cambridge
Size of Study Area	0.8ha
National Grid Ref	TL 3966 8567

Address (including Postcode)

Cromwell Community College
Wenny Road
Chatteris
PE16 6UU

Project Originators

Organisation	OA East
Project Brief Originator	Andy Thomas
Project Design Originator	Nick Gilmour

Project Manager	Nick Gilmour
Project Supervisor	Kathryn Blackbourn

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	CCC	ECB 5936
Digital Archive	OA East	CHACCC19
Paper Archive	CCC	ECB 5936

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	☒	☒	☒
Ceramics	☒	☒	☒
Environmental	☒	☒	☒
Glass	☒	☒	☒
Human Remains	☐	☐	☐
Industrial	☐	☐	☐
Leather	☐	☐	☐
Metal	☐	☐	☐
Stratigraphic		☒	☒
Survey		☒	☒
Textiles	☐	☐	☐
Wood	☐	☐	☐
Worked Bone	☐	☐	☐
Worked Stone/Lithic	☒	☒	☒
None	☐	☐	☐
Other	☐	☐	☐

Digital Media		Paper Media	
Database	☒	Aerial Photos	☐
GIS	☐	Context Sheets	☒
Geophysics	☐	Correspondence	☐
Images (Digital photos)	☒	Diary	☐
Illustrations (Figures/Plates)	☒	Drawing	☒
Moving Image	☐	Manuscript	☐
Spreadsheets	☒	Map	☐
Survey	☒	Matrices	☒
Text	☒	Microfiche	☐
Virtual Reality	☐	Miscellaneous	☐
		Research/Notes	☐
		Photos (negatives/prints/slides)	☐
		Plans	☒
		Report	☒
		Sections	☒
		Survey	☒

Further Comments

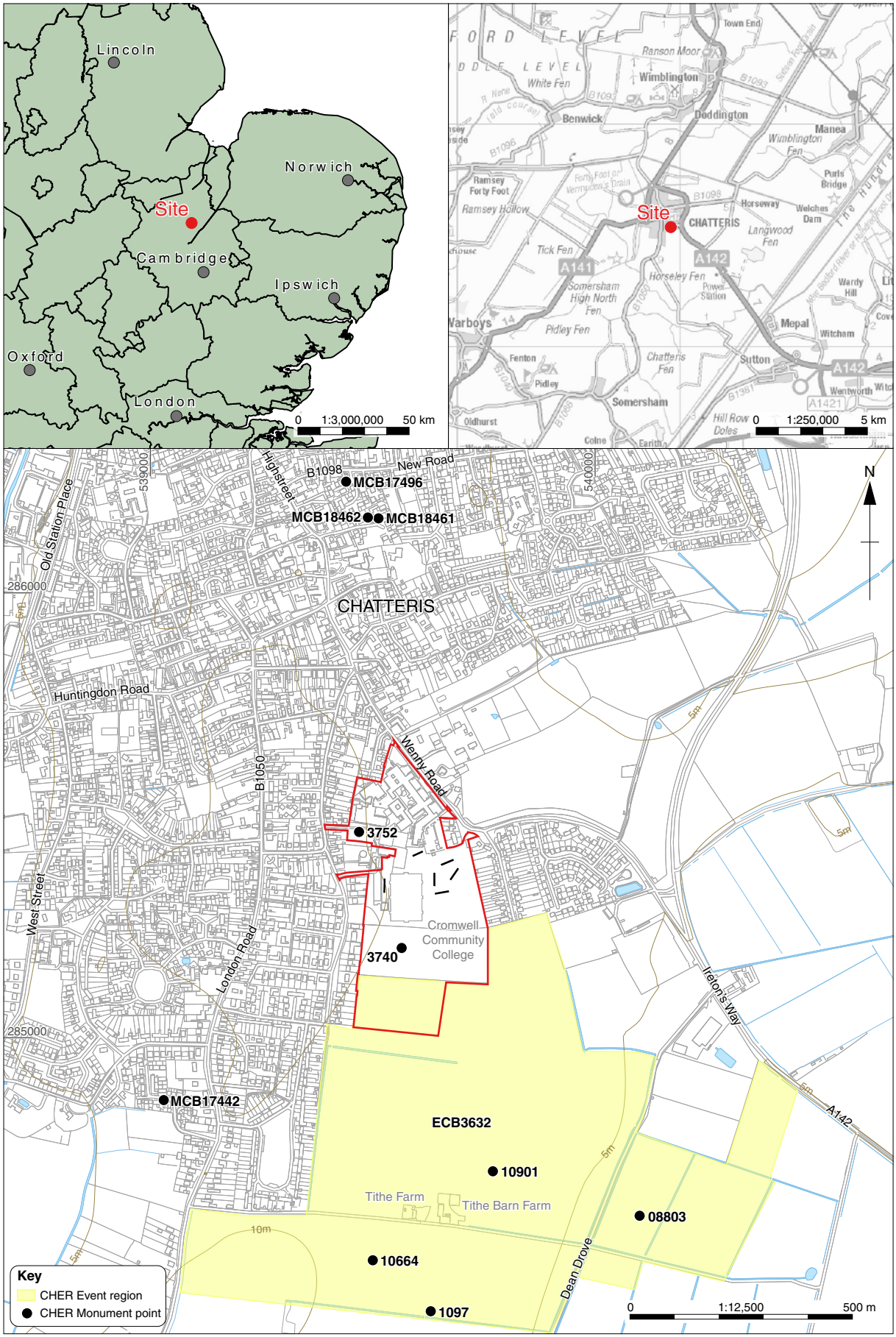

Figure 1: Site location map with trenches (black), development area outlined (red) and HER data

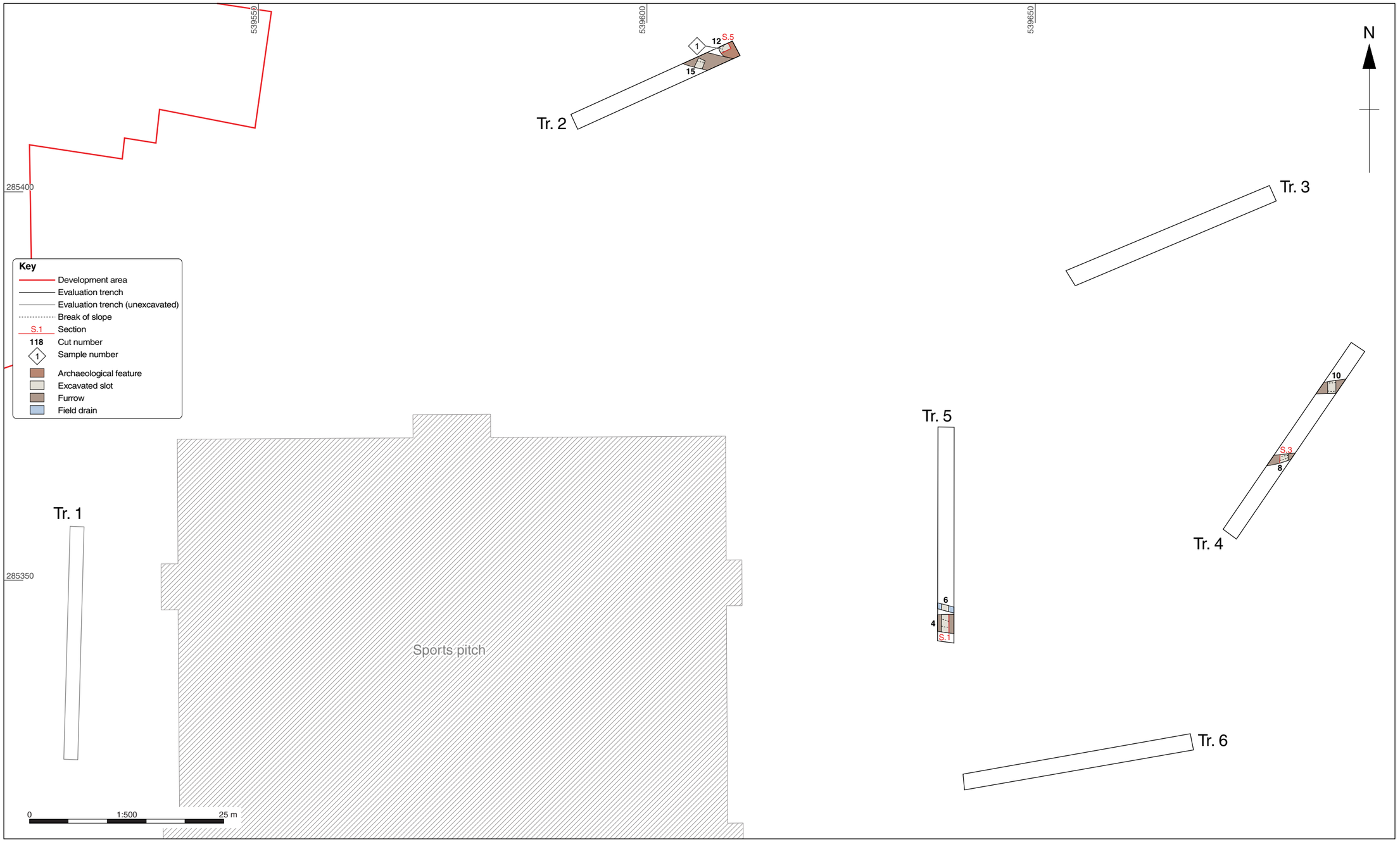

Figure 2: All trench plan

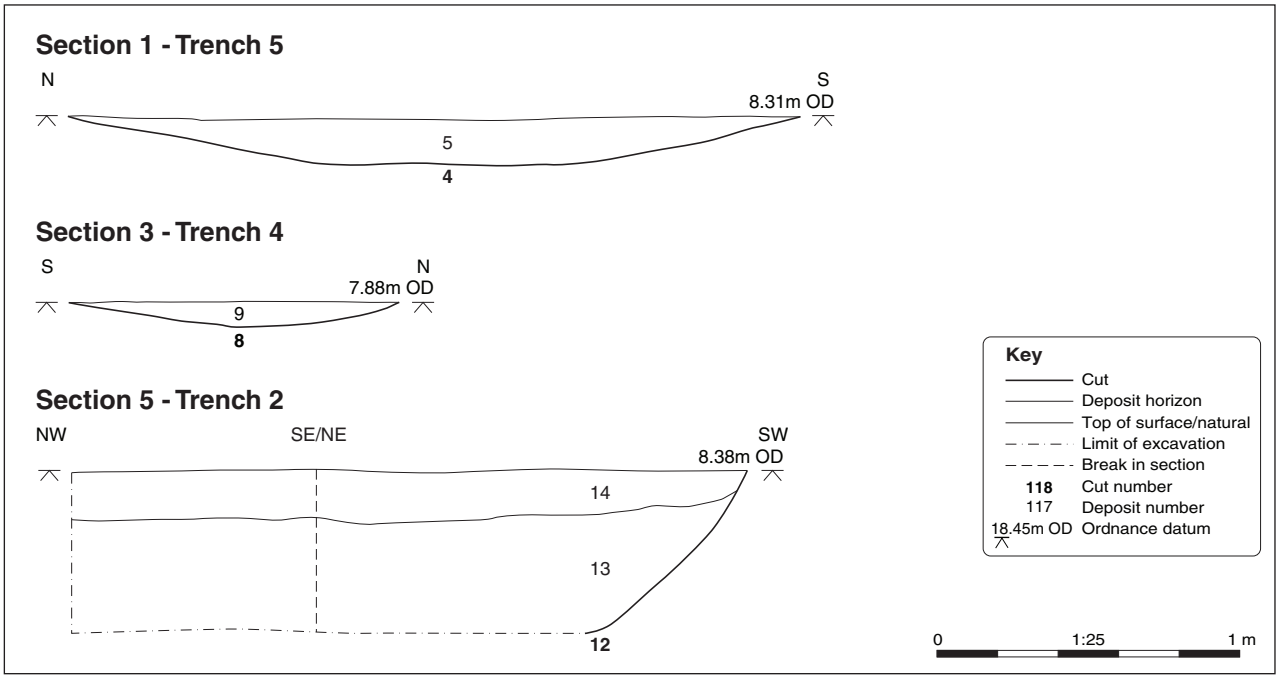

Figure 3: Selected sections

Plate 1: Trench 3, looking north-east

Plate 2: Pit **12**, Trench 2, looking east

Plate 3: Trench 4, looking south-west

Plate 4: Furrow **4**, Trench 5, looking east

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