

A Probable Prehistoric Field System at Solar Farm, Thetford Road, Fakenham Magna, Suffolk



Archaeological Evaluation Report



October 2013

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***A probable prehistoric field system at Solar Farm, Thetford Road, Fakenham Magna,
Suffolk***


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Summary

Between the 20th of August and the 3rd of September 2013 OA East conducted an evaluation on 22ha of land off Thetford Road, Fakenham Magna, Suffolk (centred on TL900 749) in advance of a new Solar Farm. This work followed a geophysical survey (Schofield 2012) and a contour survey (Landtech Surveys Ltd). Eighty-one evaluation trenches were excavated across two fields representing a c.3.5% sample.

Evidence for activity relating to an agricultural landscape associated with residual worked flints and possibly contemporary Early Iron Age pottery (although this is uncertain) was found. In addition there were scatters of worked flints indicating that the area was (probably seasonally) utilised in the Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic and Early Bronze Age periods.

A small assemblage of mostly Earlier Neolithic flints including some burnt were residual within probable Early Iron Age features in two trenches in the south-west corner of Field 2. Elsewhere across the site was a sparse scatter of unstratified flints dating from the Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic to Early Bronze Age periods.

Ditches (some large) of probable Early Iron Age date and perhaps enclosing fields or paddocks, were found in the south-western corner of Field 2. These fields or paddocks were generally rectangular and estimated to have been up to 50m in length and between c.13m to 18m wide.

No structures were found, although given the presence of a small assemblage of Early Iron Age pottery, domestic occupation is likely to have been located somewhere in the vicinity; probably beyond the confines of the development area to the south or west.

A single abraded Roman pottery sherd may indicate manuring of the fields during the Roman period.

Both Fields appear to have continued in use for agriculture until the present day.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted on two fields (Fields 1 and 2) off Thetford Road, Fakenham Magna, Suffolk in advance of a proposed Solar Farm.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Rachel Monk of Suffolk County Council (Monk 2012); Planning Application SE/12/1069/FUL, supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (Atkins and Connor 2013).
- 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 SCC, 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.
- 1.1.5 A short interim report was provided for SCCAS/CT on the 6th September (Atkins 2013) in order to provide information to assist with decisions relating to any further work that might be required. After consideration SCCAS/CT decided that no further archaeological work was required as part of the development.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The site is located in an area dominated by agriculture, although a housing estate lies to the west and Honington RAF Air Base is located to adjacent to its western and northern boundaries, a farm track, accessed from Thetford Road to the east, bisects the two fields.
- 1.2.2 The British Geological Survey records that the Solid Geology for the site is mostly on Upper Chalk of the Cretaceous Period, although a minority of the site is on Head (BGS 1982).
- 1.2.3 Superficial deposits are described as Lowestoft Formation Diamicton, deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment was dominated by ice age conditions, glaciers scoured the landscape depositing moraines of till. Outwash sands and gravels were deposited during seasonal and post-glacial meltwaters. Head clay, silt, sand and gravel originating from deposits located on subaerial slopes have also accumulated down slope deposited during landslides, debris flow, solifluction, soil creep and hill wash (BGS 2012).
- 1.2.4 A contour survey of both fields was carried out on behalf of the client by Landtech Surveys Ltd (Fig. 2). In Field 1, the ground fell steadily from 44.5mOD to 40.6mOD north to south. Field 2 rests at c.45.5m OD at its highest on the western and eastern edges falling gently to c.42m OD, in the centre of the field which forms a north to south linear “channel”, approximately 150m wide. This “channel” was filled with gravel, in contrast to the sandy silts observed elsewhere (see comments on geology of areas in Section 3 below), it is likely to have formed in the Quaternary Period as described above (Section 1.2.3).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 A 1km search around the site was carried out of the SHER (a c.2.5km by 2.3km area) and the results are shown in Fig. 1 and listed in Appendix B (Table 6). The figure shows that prehistoric features and find spots (as well as modern WWII remains) have been found around the development area on higher ground to the west of the Black Bourn stream, whilst in the area of the stream all periods of use have been uncovered (prehistoric, Roman, Saxon, medieval etc.). Listed buildings are all located over 0.5km away from the site and have not been included in this report.

Palaeolithic

- 1.3.2 A single Lower Palaeolithic (500, 000 BC -10,000 BC) flint scatter (FKM 012; Basil Brown) was found 0.5km to the north-east of Field 2.

Mesolithic

- 1.3.3 Residual Mesolithic flints including an axehead have been found in an excavation at Sapiston Bridge, 1km to the east of Field 1 (HNN 004; Fell 1952).

Neolithic

- 1.3.4 Approximately 1km to the east of Field 1 at Sapiston Bridge during 1938 and 1939, C.S. Leaf found possible Neolithic huts and small pits at c.75 feet AOD, adjacent to the west of the Black Bourn (Fell 1952). Finds from the se features included Late Neolithic Grooved ware pottery, a stone axehead, a large quantity of flint objects and burnt stones. Elsewhere within the study area two Neolithic axes were found less than 0.4km to the east of Field 1 (FKM 003) and a polished Neolithic axe at Hall Farm, 0.2km to the south of Field 2 (HNN 001).

Bronze Age

- 1.3.5 There were several burial mounds and find spots found near to the development area, although most are noted from antiquarian observations and their exact locations are uncertain (see below).
- 1.3.6 Directly to the north of Field 2 two tumuli (HNN 002 and FKM 006) are shown on the c.1837 1" Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 11). The northern tumulus (FKM 006) is also shown on later Ordnance Survey maps (1st, 2nd and 3rd editions) and is accurately located. In contrast the more southerly tumulus (HNN 002) appears to have disappeared by the time of the 1st edition Ordnance Survey. Basil Brown, however, made a note of its location on map 15 of his unpublished documents and the SHER records two possible locations (TL 9050 7550 and TL 9002 7506). Further discussion regarding the possible location of this barrow monument is given below (Section 4). The more northerly barrow monument (FKM 006) was excavated by Basil Brown (1936 and 1943) and was recorded as being upstanding to a height about 6 feet with a diameter of 120 feet. No trace of an intact burial was found although a human femur was recovered from the NE quadrant and the rim and neck of a beaker was found during levelling the barrow after excavation (Grimes 1960, 247). A Bronze Age Beaker pottery scatter (FKM 008) that may be associated with FKM 006 was found on a runway extension in 1955, its approximate location was given as TL 8972 7515, and it was suggested that the pottery may have come from barrow FKM 006.
- 1.3.7 Tumuli HNN 002 is recorded in as being visible as a cropmark in young corn in 1936 but was not an upstanding monument. The barrow could not be traced in 1951 (SHER record), and during the erection of a new perimeter fence by Ed Martin in 1992 no trace

was found. Beaker pottery drawn by Basil Brown may have come from HN 002, although the same pottery is also recorded as CRN 00046 and HNN 003, the latter being located directly to the west of Field 2 at TL 8952 7498.

- 1.3.8 About 0.7km to the south of Field 2, an upstanding round barrow is recorded at Troston Mount (TRS 004) and this is a Scheduled Monument (no. 31088).
- 1.3.9 An excavation at Sapiston Bridge, c.1km to the east, found a number of Deverel-Rimbury type bucket urns c.7 feet apart, one or possibly two with internal cremations, as well as three unurned cremations which cut Neolithic deposits. The Bronze Age deposits were within a large mound of natural origin (HNN 004; Fell 1952).

Later Prehistoric

- 1.3.10 A small quantity of undiagnostic later prehistoric flint flakes were recovered in residual contexts during an evaluation at Honington primary school (HNN 020), c.1km to the east of the site (Brooks 2012).

Roman

- 1.3.11 A Roman settlement and two find spots are recorded. At Sapiston Bridge, 1km to the east of the site, a probable Roman settlement was found (HNN 004). Excavation uncovered field boundaries as well as an unstratified silvered Hod Hill type brooch and a scatter of Romano-British pottery sherds dating to the 1st to the 3rd+ century AD from the top spit of humus underlying the modern turf (Fell 1952, 41).
- 1.3.12 A scatter of Roman pottery was recorded by Basil Brown in 1955 1km to the east of the site (FKM 013). A second Roman scatter of 15 Roman pottery sherds and one imbrex tile were found in three fields and these were discovered during field walking in 1993, 1km to the north-east of the site (FKM 020).

Saxon

- 1.3.13 Two Saxon sites have been found within 1km of the site. These comprise a settlement at Sapiston Bridge, 1km to the east, where two sunken featured buildings were excavated that contained a range of artefacts (pottery sherds, bone comb and a stone spindle whorl (HNN 004; Fell 1952)). Anglo-Saxon pottery (some ornamented with crude concentric circles) was found in a gravel pit north of Taylor's Grove 1km to the north-east on at least two occasions (late 1930s and 1977), but details of their discovery are very vague (FKM 014).

Medieval

- 1.3.14 Honington village (HNN 018), 1km to the east of the site, is recorded in the Domesday Book (1086). Prior to the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII the land in the village formed part of the holdings of the Abbot of the great monastery at Bury St Edmunds.
- 1.3.15 Within the village, All Saints Church; (HNN 005) is medieval, and features and artefacts dating to the medieval period were found during an evaluation (HNN 014; Everett 2008) as well as chance miscellaneous finds dating to the period (HNN misc x 2).

Post-medieval

- 1.3.16 Euston Hall and Estate (which now includes the subject site) first appeared in the Domesday Book in 1087 as a manor belonging to the Abbey at Bury St Edmunds.

- 1.3.17 The Estate was in near ruin when it was purchased in 1666 by Henry Bennet (Earl of Arlington and Secretary of State to Charles II). It was inherited in 1685 by his daughter and son-in-law, the First Duke and Duchess of Grafton and is still in the ownership of the Graftons. Unfortunately Most of the estate records (including maps) were lost in a fire.
- 1.3.18 A post-medieval boundary ditch was found during an evaluation at RAF Honington, c.0.5km to the west of the subject site (HNN 016; Brooks 2008). Manor Farm (HNN 013), 0.6km to the south-east of the subject site, is a grade II listed 16th century farm with 18th century stable, 19th century barn and shed.

Modern

- 1.3.19 The subject site is first shown on the 1783 Joseph Hodkinson map of Suffolk (which is at a very small scale and comprises the whole of the county) (not illustrated). This map shows most of the subject site as open land with a road aligned north-east to south-west along its western edge. To the east of the road a relatively small field extends eastwards about midway into Field 2 where it meets a north to south boundary (a ditch found in Trenches **33** and **38** of the evaluation corresponds with this boundary). Directly to the south of this field a north-east to south-west aligned trackway is shown and this is still in use. To the north, the field is shown as continuing just beyond the development area into the modern air field.
- 1.3.20 The 1" Ordnance Survey Map (Sheet 55, Eye), which was published around 1837 (Fig. 11), shows some changes took place on the subject site after Hodkinson's survey. 11). The western boundary of Field 2 is still shown as a road, now with a building (called "Field Barn") shown adjacent to it and to the north of the trackway. The small field in the western part of Field 2 seems unaltered, although a tumulus is located partly within the northern extent of the development area and a further tumulus directly to the north of it. The north-east to south-west aligned trackway has been extended eastwards to join the present A1088 with the whole of Fields 1 and 2 of the subject site lying on either side of it. The eastern area of Field 2 and the whole of Field 1 lie within large open fields.
- 1.3.21 The 1886 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map (not illustrated) shows significant changes to much of the development area (and the area around it). The former north to south boundary recorded in the middle of Field 2 on both the 1783 and c.1837 maps is no longer shown and the field extends to the east (to the current boundary) and north beyond the development area. Three large pits are shown within Field 2, these are likely to be "marl pit" quarried. Other isolated pits are also shown on the map within fields adjacent to the east and south of the site. The building in the extreme south-western corner of Field 2 is still shown. To the south of the long maintained north-east to south-west aligned trackway, the large open field has been sub-divided into relatively smaller parcels and Field 1 has taken on its modern shape. No changes are shown on the 1904 2nd Edition Ordnance survey (not illustrated).
- 1.3.22 Directly to the north of Field 2, RAF Honington (HNN 017) was opened on May 3, 1937 and was one of six operational airfields within No 3 Group Bomber Command. The airfield was attacked during WWII by the Luftwaffe on 16 occasions (website accessed 13/8/13 www.raf.mod.uk/rafhonington/aboutus/history.cfm). After WWII it continued to be used during the Cold War.
- 1.3.23 The 1952 Ordnance Survey map shows the area of the airfield blanked out and the words Honington airfield typed over it, no other changes are shown.

- 1.3.24 The 1975 Ordnance Survey map shows no changes to the fields within the development area, although RAF Honington is now shown in detail.
- 1.3.25 Within the RAF base, The SHER notes two pillbox buildings (FKM 027 and 028) and a small arms range (HNN 022) as having historical significance.

Unknown date

- 1.3.26 At Hall Farm, c.0.4km to the south-east of Field 1 (HNN 006), Basil Brown found a possible road which comprised many large stones. An 'old' well, a pottery sherd and part of a lava quern were found next to the road but Brown noted that he could not see any remains of buildings within this area. Approximately 0.5km to the south of Field 2 he recorded another possible old road (HNN 007) aligned north-west to south-east. An undated pit or post hole was found in an evaluation at Honington Primary School, nearly 1km to south-east of the site (HNN 020).

1.4 Geophysical Survey

- 1.4.1 A geophysical survey has been carried out at the proposed development site (Schofield 2012; Figs. 3-5) and the information here has been taken from this report.
- 1.4.2 The survey recorded that six positive discrete anomalies were clustered in the central third of Field 1 on the the eastern (smaller field) and it was though these may be rubbish pits of archaeological origin although a modern or geological origin was not ruled out. Twenty seven weakly positive linear anomalies were prospected, they lie on four different orientations and have been interpreted as a series of land drains.
- 1.4.3 In Field 2 there was a series of anomalies. These comprised fifty-four discrete positive anomalies (possibly of archaeological origin, although a geological cause could not be ruled out). A single broad positive curvi-linear anomaly was thought probably of natural origin. Nine weakly positive linear anomalies on the extreme south-eastern and south-western sides of the field were thought to be probable drains). Three strong dipolar linear trends were service pipes heading towards the RAF base. Abundant areas of magnetic disturbance were found across the site with some being relatively large and they were thought likely to be modern and associated with the RAF base, although a geological cause could not be ruled out. A plethora of dipolar 'iron-spike' responses were considered to be of natural origin.

1.5 Acknowledgements

- 1.5.1 The author would like to thank WHEB Infrastructure Partners on behalf of the Euston Estates who commissioned, funded and help organise the archaeological work especially to Andrew Blenkiron, Matthew Hammond and Tom Williams. The project was managed and this report was edited by Aileen Connor. Rachel Monk and Dr Matthew Brudenell of Suffolk County Council monitored the archaeological work on behalf of the planning authority. James Rolfe, Assistant Archaeological Officer (SHER) supplied data for the site. I am grateful for interesting discussions and possible comparisons for Early Iron Age fields/paddocks by Matthew Brudenell, Aileen Connor and Sarah Percival.
- 1.5.2 Specialist analysis was carried out by Rachel Fosberry, Anthony Haskins and Sarah Percival. Stuart Ladd and Gareth Rees carried out the survey with Gareth also re-assessing the geophysical survey results. Report illustrations were by David Brown and Lucy Gane. The site work was carried out by Rob Atkins, John Diffey, Katherine Hamilton, Stephen Morgan, Kathryn Nicholls, Edmund Palka, Rhiannon Phip, Gareth Rees, Helen Stocks-Morgan and Michael Webster.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The Brief (Monk 2013) and Specification for the evaluation (Atkins and Connor 2013) stated that the work would seek to establish the following information about the site:

- Presence/absence of archaeological remains
- Date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological remains
- Predicted extent, localised depth and quality of preservation of the remains.
- Likely impact of past land uses,
- Presence of masking colluvial/alluvial deposits.
- Potential for the survival of environmental evidence

2.1.2 The purpose of the evaluation was to provide sufficient information to construct an archaeological conservation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables and orders of cost.

2.1.3 The specification stated that a suitable level of documentary research would be undertaken in order to determine the expected archaeological character of the site. For this report the Suffolk HER has been consulted and existing information from historical sources and previous archaeological finds and investigations in the vicinity has been collated. The likely archaeological potential of the site has been assessed with regard to current regional and national research issues and preservation criteria.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A 3.5% trial trench sample of the 22 ha site using a mechanical excavator with a minimum bucket size of 1.8m was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision. The trenches were positioned to test the geophysical survey, and provide a representative sample across the development area. Their location was limited by the presence of a 7.5m wide exclusion zone around overhead electricity cables which ran through both Fields 1 and 2, two large in-connecting drains which went from the RAF airfield through Field 2 (Fig. 3), and three large former quarry pits within Field 2 which are wildlife havens and will not be affected by the proposed development.

2.2.2 The trench locations were agreed with the Suffolk County Archaeological Service before the start of the evaluation. They were laid out across the site targeting possible geophysical anomalies that were recorded as possible archaeological features. Otherwise the trench plan was designed to provide a representative sample across the whole of the development area, with the trenches being placed in a grid format (Fig. 3). The trenching initially comprised 77 trenches each 50m long and 2.1m wide. The evaluation found evidence for prehistoric fields in the south-western corner of the development area and after a site meeting with Dr Matthew Brudenell (SCCAS) on Thursday 29th August, it was decided that Trench 6 should be lengthened and an additional four trenches (78-81) excavated to establish the extents of the field system and further assess whether any settlement evidence was present.

2.2.3 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with two 360° tracked JCB-type excavators.

2.2.4 The site survey was carried out by Stuart Ladd and Gareth Rees using a Leica 1200 series GPS combined with Leica Smartnet.

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- 2.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.6 Seven environmental baulk samples were taken from six ditch and a pit fills. Five of the samples were 10L in size and one at 20 L and 60L respectively.
- 2.2.7 The evaluation was undertaken during an exceptionally sunny and dry summer.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 Eighty-one evaluation trenches were excavated; 16 trenches were located in Field 1 and 70 Trenches in Field 2. No finds or features of archaeological significance were found within Field 1, evidence for a prehistoric field system was found within the far south-western corner of Field 2.
- 3.1.2 The natural geology varied across the site and it is recorded below by area. Subsoil (2) was found in parts of the site and it overlay both these features and areas of undisturbed natural. It was invariably a sterile light to mid orange brown silt which contained very few inclusions. The subsoil was sealed by topsoil (1) which was also given this number for the whole site. It was a mid to dark brown silt with rare small stones; a small quantity of worked flint was recovered from the topsoil.
- 3.1.3 The site is described in Field and Trench order, trenches that contained no archaeologically significant evidence are recorded in tabular form. The area of the prehistoric site is described in detail by trench. A full context list appears in Appendix A (Table 5).

3.2 Field 1

- 3.2.1 Field 1 was 3.5ha in size and was in the south-eastern part of the site (Fig. 3). Sixteen 50m long Trenches (nos. 62-77) were located within the field, evenly spaced on either side of an overhead cable which crossed the field in a north-west to south-east alignment. Only modern drains were found cutting the natural geology and all the possible anomalies found in the geophysical survey proved to be of natural origin. The drift geology comprised patches of clean orange sandy silt, light orangey red clay silt and rare small patches of degraded chalk. Three worked flint flakes were found within the topsoil in two of the trenches.

Trench No.	Alignment of trench	Depth of topsoil and any artefacts	Depth of subsoil
62	North-west to south-east	0.2m/ none	0.1m-0.15m
63	East to west	0.25m-0.3m/	0.15m-0.2m
64	North to south	0.17m-0.2m	0.15m-0.2m
65	East to west	0.2m-0.25m	0.05m-0.1m
66	North to south	0.2m-0.25m	0.1m-0.2m
67	North to south	0.2m-0.25m	0.1m-0.15m
68	North to south	0.2m-0.3m	0.15m-0.2m
69	North-west to south-east	0.25m	0.1m
70	East to west	0.25m	0.15m
71	East to west	0.2m-0.25m/ one flake	0.1m
72	North to south	0.2m	0.1m-0.15m
73	North to south	0.2m	0.1m
74	East to west	0.2m-0.22m	0.1m-0.15m
75	North-west to south-east	0.2m-0.25m/ two flint flakes	0.1m-0.15m

76	North to south	0.2m-0.25m	0.1m-0.15m
77	East to west	0.2m	0.15m

Table 1: *Trenches within Field 1*

3.3 Field 2

- 3.3.1 Field 2 was 18.5ha in size, roughly rectangular in shape c.800m by 200m+. For this report, the field has been divided into four sections due to geological and archaeological reasons (the area of the prehistoric ditches, trenches with no archaeological remains on the western side, area of former “channel” in the centre and trenches with no archaeological remains on the eastern side).

Prehistoric ditches (main area: Trenches 5, 6, 15, 16, 78 and 79; peripheral area: Trenches 4 and 9)

- 3.3.2 The evaluation found a series of ditches at between c.44m and 45m OD on a slight east facing slope within the far south-western part of the proposed development area. Trench 6 was extended and Trenches 78-81 added to the original trenching design in order to better define and characterise the “site” (Fig. 3). The results of the evaluation trenching for this area are best seen in conjunction with the geophysical survey results (Fig. 5).

- 3.3.3 The natural geology within the area here was extremely mixed and included; orange sandy silts with a little gravel, orange/red silty clay patches, patches of grey to white sandy silts with moderate quantities of chalk nodules and areas of white chalky sand.

3.3.4 Trench 4 (Fig. 6)

- 3.3.5 Trench 4 was 50m long and aligned roughly north to south. A single undated pit (**17**) was found in the southern half of the trench. It was 0.7m in diameter and 0.22m deep with steep sides and a slightly irregular base (Fig. 6, S. 6). It was filled with a mid to dark brown silt. The darker patches may have been decayed charcoal? It had rare small stones and occasional chalk flecks. To the north of the pit was the mid 20th service water pit trench (**15**) with ?modern CBM in its backfill. The natural was sealed by a 0.05m thick subsoil layer (20) and a 0.35m thick topsoil (1) from which there were two flint flakes.

Trench 5 (Fig. 6)

- 3.3.6 Trench 5 was 50m long and aligned north-east to south-west. The trench was placed to test possible linear feature(s) shown on the geophysical survey running north-west to south-east (Figs. 3 to 5).

- 3.3.7 Ditch **74** was the most northerly of the features found in this trench. It was undated, 0.95m wide and 0.3m deep with steep sides and a flat base. It was filled with a light grey brown sandy silt with few inclusions and very rare small charcoal flecks.

- 3.3.8 To the south of ditch **74** were two or possibly three slightly irregular gullies, the southernmost of these (**28**, **30** and **50**) was undated, it entered the trench at its south-western end, and was aligned north-east to south-west for 6m, it then began to curve northwards for 2.2m before running into the trench baulk. It was between 0.4m and 0.48m wide and 0.14m to 0.19m deep with moderate to steep sides and a slightly rounded base (Fig. 6, S. 9). All three excavated sections were filled with a sterile mid brown sandy silt with occasional sand lenses and rare natural flint inclusions. Nine metres to the north-east of this feature was a second gully (**32**, **34**, **52** and **54**) which ran eastwards from the trench baulk for 1m before turning north-east for 12.5m where it

exited the trench (Plate 4). The gully was between 0.31m and 0.47m wide and 0.11m to 0.18m deep (Fig. 5, S. 21). The profile varied from a slightly 'V' shape section (**54**) to more 'U' shape (**32**, **34** and **52**). All four sections were filled by a mid brown sandy silt with some sand lenses and a few chalk and flint inclusions. One Iron Age and a Roman pottery sherd as well as a worked flint flake were found within gully section **54**. A possible undated gully (**36**) was seen c.0.5m to the north of gully section (**34**), but this may have been a slight variation in the natural. If it was a gully, it ran for c.3m, starting in a north to south alignment before curving north-east to south-west and exiting the trench. It was 0.4m wide and 0.13m deep with moderate sides and a slightly rounded base. A single backfill deposit comprised a pale brown silty sand with some chalk lump inclusions.

- 3.3.9 All features in this trench were sealed by a 0.15m to 0.18m thick subsoil (2), a secondary flint blade was found in the topsoil which was between 0.22m and 0.26m thick. A service trench containing an iron pipe (and also recorded in Trenches 2 and 4) cut the southernmost gully (**28**, **30** and **50**).

Trench 6 (Fig. 6)

- 3.3.10 Trench 6 was 62m long and aligned north-east to south-west. It was placed to test possible linear features shown on the geophysical survey running north-west to south-east (Figs. 3 to 5). The trench found six ditches (**41**, **19**, **45**, **26**, **15** and **57**), all aligned north-west to south-east, and a possible pit (**55**).
- 3.3.11 The southernmost feature was an undated ditch (**41**), 0.83m wide and 0.22m deep with moderate sides and a concave base (Fig. 6, S17). It contained a light orange brown silty sand with some natural flint inclusions.
- 3.3.12 Parallel with and thirteen metres to the north-east of ditch **41** was ditch **19**. It was 1.1m wide and 0.45m deep with moderate sides and a concave base (Fig. 6, S. 7). It was filled with a mid brown sandy silt with occasional flint nodule. Four Early Iron Age pottery sherds (26g), one burnt flint and a small fragment of burnt bone were recovered from this deposit. An environmental sample (3) found no charred plant remains.
- 3.3.13 Four metres to the north-east was ditch (**45**), which was 1.24m wide and 0.3m deep with moderate sides and a slightly rounded base (Fig. 6, S.18). It was filled with a light to mid grey brown sandy silt with frequent angular and sub-angular natural flints and occasional chalk flints. Two Early Iron Age pottery sherds (4g), two struck flakes and 16 burnt flint were recovered.
- 3.3.14 Directly to the north-east was ditch **26**, which was 0.66m wide and 0.33m deep with moderate sides and a concave base (Fig. 6, S. 8). It was filled with a light to mid brown sandy silt with occasional natural flint inclusions. Six Early Iron Age pottery sherds (23g) and three burnt flints were found within the deposit. An environmental sample (4) from the deposit recovered no charred plant remains.
- 3.3.15 Seven metres to the north-east was ditch **13** which was 1.38m wide and 0.45m deep with moderate to steep sides and a slightly roundish base (Fig. 6, S. 5). The lower backfill (12), 0.25m thick, was a dark orange brown sandy silt with occasional grit and gravel and contained three small pottery sherds (5g). A bulk environmental sample (2) found no charred plant remains. The upper deposit (11), 0.2m thick was a mid yellow brown sandy silt with occasional grit and gravel. Four Early Iron Age pottery sherds (8g), one notched flint blade, two flakes and four burnt flints were recovered from this fill.

- 3.3.16 Over 10m to the north-east of ditch **13** lay a relatively large ditch (**57**), 1.62m wide and 0.7m deep (Fig. 6, S.24). This was on a subtly different alignment to the other five ditches in Trench 6. It had steep sides and a slightly irregular base sloping slightly to the south-west. Its primary fill (58) was 0.28m thick and comprised a dark orange brown sand with occasional chalk and flint pieces and some charcoal flecks. Two small pottery scraps (3g) and two flint flakes were recovered. A bulk environmental sample (7) from this deposit found no charred plant remains. Sealing this deposit against both ditch sides were slumped soil lenses which were given the same context number (59). These lenses comprised a mid brownish-orange sandy clay which contained a single pottery sherd (5g) and a flint flake. These lenses were overlaid by deposit (60) which was a light yellowish sand with occasional charcoal flecks and one pottery sherd (3g), a flint flake and a burnt flint. The upper deposit (61) was a mid brown sandy silt with some natural flint and occasional charcoal flecks. Within this deposit was a pottery sherd (3g), six flint flakes and a burnt flint fragment.
- 3.3.17 Directly to the north-east of ditch (**57**) was undated pit **55**, which was oval in shape measuring 1.8m by 1m and 0.28m deep with moderate to steep sides and a flat base (Fig.6, S. 23). It was filled with a light grey brown silt with frequent natural flint pieces.
- 3.3.18 Overlaying all features was a 0.1m to 0.12m thick subsoil (2) and a 0.26m to 0.3m thick topsoil (1), from which a worked flint flake was recovered.
- Trench 7 (Fig. 7)*
- 3.3.19 Trench 7 was 50m long and lay roughly north to south. Within the trench there were two ditches (**40**) and (**48**) aligned north-west to south-east. Ditch **40** was 1.05m wide and 0.36m deep with moderate to steep sides with a slightly rounded base (Fig. 7, S.16). It was filled with a light to mid brown silt with a few small stone inclusions and extremely rare small charcoal flecks. Two pottery scraps (1g) were found near the base, and five worked flints and two burnt were recovered from elsewhere within the fill. Ditch **48** was 0.97m wide and 0.38m deep with moderate sides and a flat base (Fig. 7, S.19). It contained a mixed deposit which comprised a light grey silty sand and a light grey brown silt containing four pottery scraps (5g) and four worked flint flakes.
- 3.3.20 All features were overlaid by subsoil (1), 0.08m thick and topsoil (2), 0.36m thick.
- Trench 9 (Fig. 7)*
- 3.3.21 Trench 9 was 50m long and aligned north-west to south-east. A single pit (**10**) was found at the northern end of the trench, it was sub-circular in shape 1.3m by 1.2m and 0.2m deep (Fig. 7, S. 4). It had gentle to moderate sides and a flat base and was filled with a mid orange brown sandy silt. Three small pottery sherds (8g), two flint flakes and a burnt flint were recovered from the deposit. An environmental sample (1) found a single charred grain of hulled wheat spelt or emmer (*Triticum spelta/dicoccum*) and a degraded glume base along with a single charred seed of dock (*Rumex* sp.). The pit was sealed by an 0.28m thick topsoil (1) layer. No other features were present in this trench.
- Trench 79 (Fig. 7)*
- 3.3.22 Trench 79 was 17.8m long and was aligned north-west to south-east. There were two undated ditches (**67** and **69**) within the trench. Ditch **69** was the earliest and was on a north-west to south-east alignment, it may have continued into Trench 7 to the north (as ditch **40**). It was 1.3m wide and 0.31m deep with moderate to steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 7, S. 25). A single backfill deposit consisted of a mid orangey grey sandy silt. Ditch **67** was 2.7m wide and 0.39m deep with moderate side. It was filled with a mid

orangey brown sandy silt with rare chalk flecks. It was on the same line as ditches **22** and **65** (Trenches 16 and 78) but was much wider than both.

- 3.3.23 The subsoil (2), 0.08m thick, sealed both ditches and was overlaid by a topsoil (1), 0.3m thick.

Trench 15 (Fig. 8)

- 3.3.24 Trench 15 was 50m long and aligned north-west to south-east. A single north-east to south-west aligned undated ditch (**76**) was found in the southern part of the trench and seems to be a continuation of ditches (**37** and **70**) recorded to the south-west in Trenches 16 and 78 respectively. It was 1.6m wide, 0.42m deep with moderate sides and a slightly rounded base. It was filled with a sterile orangey brown sandy silt with contained rare small stone inclusions.

- 3.3.25 Ditch **76** was sealed by a 0.05m thick subsoil (2) and a 0.25m to 0.30m thick topsoil (1).

Trench 16 (Fig. 8)

- 3.3.26 Trench 16 was 50m long and aligned north-west to south-east. It was placed to test a possible linear feature shown on the geophysical survey running north-east to south-west (Figs. 4 and 5). Ditch (**37**) was shown to continue for c.80m by the geophysical survey and within two other Trenches (15 and 78; ditches **70** and **76**). It was 1.25m wide, 0.35m deep and had a loosely 'V' shaped profile (Fig. 8, S.15). It had moderate sides and a concave base and was filled with a sterile mid brown sandy silt with occasional sub-angular flint inclusions.

- 3.3.27 Ditch **22** lay at the northern end of the trench and was aligned north-east to south-west. It was probably the same as ditches **65** and **67** in Trenches 78 and 79. The ditch was 2.45m wide and 0.74m deep with moderate sides and a rounded base (Fig. 8, S.14; Plate 3). It had two backfill deposits, both undated. The primary fill (23) was 0.28m thick and comprised a mid brown fine sandy silt with occasional angular flints less than 50mm in length. The upper deposit (24) was 0.5m thick and was a mid reddish brown sandy silt with both occasional angular flints and chalk flecks.

- 3.3.28 A modern 20th century pit (not excavated), at least 6m in length, was located partly within the far southern part of the trench. Large quantities of brick were found within the backfill, but these were not retained.

- 3.3.29 All features were sealed by a subsoil (1), 0.1m thick and a topsoil (2) 0.2m thick.

Trench 78 (Fig. 8)

- 3.3.30 Trench 78 was 30.6m long and aligned roughly north to south. At the far southern side of the trench there was a north-east to south-west ditch (**70**), which was also recorded in Trenches 15 and 16 (ditches **76** and **37** respectively). It was 1.7m wide and 0.66m deep with steep sides and a rounded base (Fig. 8, S.26; Plate 2). The ditch had two backfill deposits which were both undated. The lower deposit (71) was 0.28m thick, and comprised a mid orangey grey sandy silt with occasional chalk flecks. This was sealed by a 0.4m thick fill (72) which was a mid/dark orangey grey sandy silt with very rare charcoal flecks.

- 3.3.31 At the northern end of the trench there were two ditches (**63** and **65**), but their backfills were similar so the relationship between them could not be established and they may have been open and/or backfilled at the same time. Ditch **63** was aligned north-west to south-east and was probably the same ditch (**48**) recorded in Trench 7 to the north-west. It was 0.82m wide and 0.25m deep with moderate sides and a rounded base. It

was filled with a light-mid grey brown sandy silt which contained two worked flint flakes. Ditch **65** was aligned north-east to south-west and was on the same line as Trenches ditches **22** and **67** (in Trenches 16 and 79) although, all three sections of ditch were different in character. It was 1.04m wide, 0.25m deep and filled with a sterile light to mid grey brown sandy silt.

- 3.3.32 The three ditches in the trench were sealed by a subsoil layer (2), 0.2m thick, and a 0.32m thick topsoil (1) layer.

Western side of Field 2

- 3.3.33 There were 27 trenches wholly or partly to the west of the former “channel”. None contained significant archaeological remains. A 20th century water pipe was located in Trench 2 and an undated possible pit (**5**) in Trench 28 (Table 2; Fig. 9). All trenches were 50m long except Trenches 80 and 81 which were 17m and 25m respectively.
- 3.3.34 The natural geology in this area comprised orange silty sands/light brown sands with some/rare gravels in the eastern area becoming more mixed westwards with orange sandy silts with a little gravel, orange/red silty clay patches, patches of grey to white sandy silts with moderate quantities of chalk nodules and areas of white chalky sand. An undated possible pit (**5**) found in Trench 28 was sub-circular 0.85m-0.9m in diameter and 0.35m deep with irregular sides varying from gentle to slightly undercutting and it had an irregular base (Fig. 9, S. 2). It is possible this feature had been caused by a burrowing animal.

Trench No.	Alignment of trench	Depth of topsoil and any artefacts/features	Depth of subsoil/artefacts
1	North-west to south-east	0.24m-0.26m	0.16m-0.2m
2	North-east to south-west	0.25m-0.3m/20th century water pipe (21)	0.1m-0.22m
3	East to south	0.32m-0.34m/a flint flake	0.04m-0.05m
8	North-east to south-west	0.22m-0.29m	0.07m-0.10m
10	North-west to south-east	0.3m-0.36m	0.04m-0.18m
11	East to west	0.28m-0.33m	0.07m
12	North to south	0.25m-0.26m	0.04m-0.05m
13	East to west	0.28m-0.34m	0.02m-0.08m
14	East to west	0.25m-0.3m	0.05m
17	North-east to south-west	0.22m-0.28m	0.05m-0.08m
18	North-west to south-east	0.26m-0.27m	0.06m-0.07m
19	North to south	0.21m-0.22m	0.13m-0.14m
20	North to south	0.25m-0.3m	0.06m-0.11m
21	East to west	0.2m-0.25m	0.10m-0.11m
22	North to south	0.35m	0.05m-0.07m
23	North to south	0.22m-0.27m	0.08m-0.09m
24	East to west	0.24m-0.3m	0.03m-0.07m
25	East to west	0.227m-0.29m	0.04m-0.1m

Trench No.	Alignment of trench	Depth of topsoil and any artefacts/features	Depth of subsoil/arteifacts
26	North to south	0.25m-0.35m	0.05m-0.08m
27	East to west	0.26m	0.04m/worked flint
28	East to west	0.33m-0.35m/ undated pit 5	0.06m-0.07m
29	East to west	0.2m	0.1m
30	North to south	0.25m	0.1m
31	East to west	0.25m	0.1m
32	North to south	0.2m-0.25m	0.1m
80	North-west to south-east	0.34-0.37m	0.08m-0.1m
81	East to west	0.33m	0.08m-0.1m

Table 2: Area of western side of Field 2 where no archaeological remains were present

Channel" area

- 3.3.35 In the centre of the Field 2 there was a c. 150m wide linear depression that may have been a glacial river channel. This entire area was c.2.5m-3.5m lower than the rest of the field (Fig. 2). The natural here comprised gravel/small stones which diminished and became siltier towards its edges.
- 3.3.36 Ten evaluation trenches were located here (Table 3), no archaeologically significant features were found.
- 3.3.37 A linear north-west to south-east field boundary was found within Trenches 33 (3) and 38 (not excavated) and this coincides with a boundary feature shown on the c.1837 map (Figs. 2 and 11). It was 1m wide and 0.4m deep with steep sides and a flat base (Fig. 9, S.1). It contained a single light grey sandy silt deposit (4) within which there was a large part of an early to mid 19th century bottle (see Fletcher Section C.3).
- 3.3.38 In the northern 10m of Trench 38 there was the remains of a possible post-medieval/modern quarry pit but a slight depression in surrounding ground to the north, east and west suggests it had originally extended further, perhaps as much as 50m in diameter. A machine sondage was excavated through its backfill at the northern end to a depth of c.2m, although the sondage did not reach the bottom of the pit. Brick flecks were present in the backfill. An undated pit (7) was found in Trench 39. It was at least 0.6m long, 0.3m wide and 0.3m deep with moderate sides and a flat base (Fig. 9, S.3). Two large modern drains ran through this part of the site (Fig. 3).

Trench No.	Alignment of trench	Depth of topsoil and any artefacts/features	Depth of subsoil/arteifacts
c.half 27	East to west	0.34m	0.06m
33	North-east to south-west	0.2m-0.26m	0.07m-0.14m
34	North-west to south-east	0.2m	0.07m-0.1m
c.half 35	East to west	0.22m	0.09m
36	North-west to south-east	0.25m	0.09m-0.12m
37	North-east to south-west	0.24m-0.25m	0.1m-0.16m
38	North-west to south-east	0.4m (18th/19th century boundary ditch and quarry)	0.1m

Trench No.	Alignment of trench	Depth of topsoil and any artefacts/features	Depth of subsoil/arteifacts
39	North-east to south-west	0.4m	-
41	North to south	0.35m	-
c.third 42	East to west	0.25m	0.05m

Table 3: *Trenches within 'former river channel' within Field 2*

Eastern side of Field 2

- 3.3.39 There were 22 trenches wholly or partly to the east of the “channel” area (Table 4). These trenches were all 50m long. No features were present in this area and only three worked flints were found in the topsoil of three of the trenches.

Trench No.	Alignment of trench	Depth of topsoil and any artefacts	Depth of subsoil
35	East to west	0.22m	0.12m
40	East to west	0.2m-0.3m	0.1m-0.2m
42	East to west	0.25m-0.3m/ a core trimming fragment	0.05m-0.1m
43	East to west	0.25m-0.3m	up to 0.1m
44	North to south	0.3m-0.35m	up to 0.05m
45	North to south	0.2m-0.25m	0.05m-0.1m
46	North-east to south-west	0.3m	0.05m-0.1m
47	North-west to south-east	0.3m	up to 0.1m
48	North-west to south-east	0.3m	up to 0.05m
49	North to south	0.3m	up to 0.05m
50	North-west to south-east	0.3m	0.05m-0.1m
51	North-east to south-west	0.28m-0.3m	up to 0.05m
52	East to west	0.3m	up to 0.1m
53	North-east to south-west	0.3m	up to 0.05m
54	North-west to south-east	0.33m-0.35m/ a flint flake	0.15m
55	North-west to south-east	0.3m	up to 0.1m
56	North-east to south-west	0.3m	up to 0.1m
57	East to west	0.3m	up to 0.1m
58	East to west	0.3m	up to 0.1m
59	North-west to south-east	0.3m	up to 0.05m
60	North to south	0.3m	0.1m
61	East to west	0.3m / a secondary flake	up to 0.05m

Table 4: *Area to east of 'river channel' within Field 2*

3.4 Finds Summary

- 3.4.1 A very small assemblage of artefacts was recovered from this evaluation.
- 3.4.2 Seventy-two struck or burnt flints included a few diagnostic pieces dating from the Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic to Early Bronze Age, although most were probably Neolithic

in date. The assemblage largely showed signs of edge wear a characteristic of being rolled before being, in the main, deposited in features likely to date to the ?Early Iron Age.

- 3.4.3 Thirty-three small abraded pottery sherds, likely to date to the Early Iron Age (94g), and a single Roman sherd (7g) were found in the backfills of features relating to a possible field system. A fragment of CBM seems to have been contemporary with this pottery assemblage. An early to middle 19th century bottle was found in a field boundary.

3.5 Environmental Summary

- 3.5.1 The environmental remains were significantly affected by the acidic soil conditions of the site. A single small burnt animal bone from a feature within the possible Early Iron Age field system and three charred plant grains were the only remains recovered from the site.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Eighty-one evaluation trenches were excavated across the site with 16 trenches located in Field 1 and 70 Trenches within Field 2. The western half of Field 2 had some features of interest, but its eastern half and the whole of Field 1 were devoid of archaeological remains.
- 4.1.2 The results from the western half of Field 2, including the geophysical survey, contour survey and nearby SHER records have been analysed to explore how the site evolved over time.

4.2 Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic-Early Bronze Age

- 4.2.1 No archaeological features of the earlier prehistoric periods were uncovered, but there was a small concentration of residual flint largely located within features of a probable Early Iron Age field system within the far south-western part of Field 2 at the top of a slight east facing slope at c.45m OD.(see below). From Trench 6, forty-three flints (one notched blade, 16 flakes, a chunk and 26 which had been burnt), were found as residual in later features and topsoil. These flints comprise more than half the overall flint assemblage and nearly all the burnt flint. They were concentrated in features located in the northern and middle parts of the trench possibly suggesting they had derived from two sources. A small concentration of 11 flints was also found within two features in Trench 7, directly to the east of Trench 6, whereas no other trench had more than three flints.
- 4.2.2 Elsewhere a very sparse scatter of worked flint of Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date was found, including a Neolithic scraper (see Haskins Appendix C.1).
- 4.2.3 The evidence indicates that this area was presumably visited only sporadically, perhaps on hunting trips or seasonally. It is possible that areas of higher ground (the subject site is around 45m AOD), away from water sources (the nearest river is the Black Bourn c. 1km to the east), were not attractive to settlement during these periods. It is noticeable that there only two Neolithic findspots (both axes) recorded near the subject site (FKM 003 and HNN 001; see Section 1.35) whilst Neolithic settlement has been found adjacent to the Black Bourn (Fell 1952; SHER HNN 004). A similar pattern has been noted in the nearby Thetford area where earlier prehistoric sites apparently gravitated to the lower lying area close to rivers (Atkins and Connor 2010, 107).

Bronze Age

- 4.2.4 Even fewer flints from this site are likely to be Early Bronze Age in date (Haskins Appendix C.1). Whilst the lack of Bronze Age remains within the site appears to contrast with finds dating to this period recorded in the SHER in the vicinity, it is worth noting that these largely relate to burial mounds (see Section 1.3.6-1.3.10) and not settlement or farming.
- 4.2.5 A tumulus (HNN 002) is recorded in the SHER as possibly located at the northern boundary of the site, but this position is based on inaccurate data (the very small scale c.1837 1" map; Section 1.3.20; Figs. 2 and 11). Significantly, the c.1837 map records this barrow well to the west of a north to south field boundary which appears to correspond with a ditch found in Trenches 33 and 38 placing the barrow approximately 100m to the west, of its currently recorded position in the SHER record.

4.3 Early Iron Age

- 4.3.1 No Iron Age features or artefacts have previously been recorded within a 1km radius of the subject site, although this may be due to a lack of archaeological investigation rather than an accurate reflection of past land-use. The discovery of Early Iron Age ceramics apparently associated with a ditch system is therefore a particularly valuable addition to the land-use history of this area.
- 4.3.2 A series of ditches associated with ?Early Iron Age pottery have been found that seem to form a pattern of small rectangular fields in a relatively well defined area at the south-western end of the development area. There is some evidence to suggest more than one phase of activity (inter-cutting ditches and subtle variations in alignment). There is insufficient evidence to allow an assessment of the size and specific chronology of the individual fields other than the pottery is likely to be Early Iron Age (see Percival Appendix C.2).
- 4.3.3 The features in the majority of the site consisted of medium sized ditches up to 2.45m wide and 0.78m deep. The longest ditch traced within the site ran for more than 80m and continued further in both directions (it was recorded in the geophysical survey and in three of the evaluation Trenches (15, 16 and 78; Fig. 5). Along the length of this ditch there are at least two or three other ditches perpendicular to it. Figure 5 traces the known ditches, and measuring the distances apart between them, it is likely the fields had been up to 50m in length. The possible width of the fields (ignoring ditches close together as they probably represent different phases of use), were between c.13m to 18m apart.
- 4.3.4 Whilst the majority of the features can be described as ditches there were two other feature categories; slightly irregular gullies found only in Trench 5 and small pits in Trenches 4 and 9. It is possible that the gullies represent a different period and/or type of field boundary.
- 4.3.5 The two pits (in Trenches 4 and 9), were both more than 50m from the projected limits to this ditch/enclosure system, and they are therefore likely to represent marginal activity outside the main site area. In one of the pits three poorly surviving charred grains of cereal and dock and three very small abraded sherds of pottery also hint that more than just pastoral farming had taken place in and around the site (see Fosberry Appendix D. 1).
- 4.3.6 There was no evidence from the trench evaluation or from the geophysics survey of any areas where there had been 'habitation' within the subjectsite, although the presence of pottery indicates some form of settlement nearby.

Dating

- 4.3.7 The date of the field system is difficult to determine. Taken at face value, the presence of Early Iron Age pottery in the fills of the ditches suggests this as the most likely date. However, since all thirty-three pottery sherds (94g) found in these features were very abraded (see Percival Appendix C.2), it is quite possible that the pottery is residual and the ditches are later in date. Alternatively the ditches may have already been open for some time when pottery started to collect in them. It is unlikely that the ditches are as late as the Late Iron Age/Roman period since only a single abraded Roman sherd (7g) was found within Trench 5. This pottery sherd was presumably either intrusive or from the top of the backfill of gully 54. Apart from this one sherd, the lack of any Mid or Late Iron Age pottery seems to suggest the features were backfilled by the end of the Early Iron Age. The lack of pottery from these periods is probably significant as Mid and Late

Iron Age pottery is far more robust and seem to have been produced in larger quantities than those from the Early Iron Age.

Comparisons

- 4.3.8 If the ditches date to the Early Iron Age, it would be unusual as in this period field boundaries are extremely rare with unenclosed settlement much more typical for the eastern region (Champion 1994, 131). Early Iron Age settlements were mostly open and consisted largely of post-built round-houses, two and four-post structures and pits (Bryant 1997, 25). The Early Iron Age therefore marked a time when people were not, on the whole, using ditches to enclose fields or settlements in this area. The Bronze Age/Iron Age transition in East Anglia usually sees a marked change with the abandonment of many Late Bronze Age field systems and population/settlement contraction (Medlycott 2011, 29). Medlycott goes on to state that the scale, rate and nature of these changes are poorly understood.
- 4.3.9 A possible parallel for this field system may be Little Melton, Norfolk where a complex multi-phase series of interlinked Early Iron Age stock enclosures were found comprising a patchwork of small fields (Watkins 2008a). A number of EIA pit groups were also identified here as well as a variety of more isolated pits and post-holes and burials. In contrast long parallel ditches dating to the Early Iron Age were uncovered at the Honeypots Plantation site, Shropham (Norfolk) which seems to relate to animal movement and this site later became a settlement in the Middle and Late Iron Age (Watkins 2008b). There are later parallels for the site in parts of Mid and Late Iron Age Cambridgeshire where, "the trading of animals may be postulated for the clay settlements where small settlement enclosures are associated with numerous paddocks and animal pens either in association with the settlement or as isolated corrals/enclosures a short distance away (Medlycott 2011, 23).

Remains of former alignments of prehistoric fields in the landscape around the site

- 4.3.10 It is possible that this early field system is evidence for a much wider pattern that can still be recognised in the modern farmed landscape. Many of the adjacent fields and some of the roads are on the same orientation as this field system (this can be seen clearly on the 1783 and the c.1837 1" map (Fig. 11)). The relict survival of field alignments of this period has been suggested by archaeologists and historians for several other parts of East Anglia. In South Norfolk and North Suffolk, for example, it has been argued that on boulder clays there had been extensive co-axial arable fields systems of probable later prehistoric origin with an Iron Age date likely, and these extended over an area between 10 and 35km² (Williamson 1987, 419 and 429-430). It should also be noted that co-axial field systems have been found across Britain dating from the Bronze Age onwards (for instance, fields in Dartmoor are likely to date from the Bronze Age (Fleming 1984)).

4.4 Post-Iron Age

- 4.4.1 The site was apparently 'unoccupied' after the Early Iron with no artefacts (apart from a single Roman sherd) suggesting that domestic activity was well away from the development area. This is not unexpected as most of the Roman occupation activity (and nearly all of the Saxon evidence) was located along the rivers (Fig. 10).
- 4.4.2 There is no evidence for medieval or post-medieval activity on the site and it is likely the site was part of the open field system of Honington in this period. The 1783 and c.1837 1" map shows the site and the area around it is in large open fields (Fig. 11). This is likely to represent the remains of at least part of the former field system for the

area. Suffolk and parts of Norfolk had extensive areas of irregular open fields in the medieval period (Williamson 1987, 421).

- 4.4.3 The sub-division of the open fields seem to have started in at least the 18th century within the western part of Field 2. A north to south boundary ditch cutting through Field 2 was recorded within Trenches **33** and **38** and it is shown as a boundary on the 1783 Hodkinson and c.1837 1" maps (Fig. 11), but not on the 1886 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map. The end date for the ditch between c.1837 and 1886 ties in with the archaeological evidence as an early to mid 19th century bottle was found its backfill.
- 4.4.4 Progressively through the 19th century the former open areas were divided into relatively small fields within the site and the area around it. By the 1st Edition 1886 Ordnance Survey map this process had finished and Field 1 and most of the surrounding fields in the last c.150 years have not changed. The main exception has been Field 2 which has been affected by the construction of the adjacent airfield since 1937.
- 4.4.5 There was small scale quarrying within Field 2 in the 19th century with three pits shown on the 1886 map and all three survive as large sub-circular depressions within the site. A further quarry pit was uncovered within Trench 3, but this had been backfilled.

4.5 Significance

- 4.5.1 The evaluation has found possible evidence for an Early Iron Age field system, which, if of this date would be unusual in this region.

4.6 Recommendations

- 4.6.1 An interim report on the results of the site was sent to SCCAS/CT on the 6th September 2013 (Atkins 2013). After consideration the County Archaeology Office have recommended no further archaeological work is required on this site.

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Context	Trench	Same as	Cut	Category	Feature type	Length(m)	Width(m)	Depth (m)
1	All	-	-	Layer	Topsoil			
2	Most	-	-	Layer	Subsoil			
3	33	Unnumbered Tr.38	3	Cut	Ditch		1	0.4
4	33	-	3	Fill	Ditch		1	0.4
5	28	-	5	Cut	?Pit	0.9	0.85	0.35
6	28	-	5	Fill	?Pit	0.9	0.85	0.35
7	39	-	7	Cut	Pit		0.6	0.3
8	39	-	7	Fill	Pit		0.6	0.3
9	9	-	9	Cut	Pit	1.3	1.25	0.2
10	9	-	9	Fill	Pit	1.3	1.25	0.2
11	6	-	13	Fill	Ditch		1.38	0.2
12	6	-	13	Fill	Ditch		1.1	0.25
13	6	-	13	Cut	Ditch		1.38	0.45
14	4		15	Fill	Service trench		0.75	0.3+
15	4	(21) and un-numbered Tr 5)	15	Cut	Service trench		0.75	0.3+
16	4	-	17	Fill	Pit	0.7	0.6	0.22
17	4	-	17	Cut	Pit	0.7	0.6	0.22
18	6	-	19	Fill	Ditch		1.1	0.45
19	6	-	19	Cut	Ditch		1.1	0.45
20	2		21	Fill	Service trench			
21	2	(15) and un-numbered Tr 5)	21	Cut	Service trench			
22	16	65 and 67	22	Cut	Ditch		2.45	0.74
23	16		22	Fill	Ditch			0.28
24	16		22	Fill	Ditch			0.5
25	6	-	25	Fill	Ditch		0.66	0.33
26	6	-	25	Cut	Ditch		0.66	0.33
27	5		28	Fill	Gully		0.37	0.17
28	5	30 and 50	28	Cut	Gully		0.37	0.17
29	5		30	Fill	Gully		0.46	0.15
30	5	28 and 50	30	Cut	Gully		0.46	0.15
31	5		32	Fill	Gully		0.31	0.11
32	5	34, 52 and 54	32	Cut	Gully		0.31	0.11
33	5		34	Fill	Gully		0.39	0.18

Context	Trench	Same as	Cut	Category	Feature type	Length(m)	Width(m)	Depth (m)
34	5	32, 52 and 54	34	Cut	Gully		0.39	0.18
35	5	-	36	Fill	?Gully		0.4	0.13
36	5	-	36	Cut	?Gully		0.4	0.13
37	16	70 and 76	37	Cut	Ditch		1.25	0.35
38	16		37	Fill	Ditch		1.25	0.35
39	7		40	Fill	Ditch		1.05	0.36
40	7	63	40	Cut	Ditch		1.05	0.36
41	6	-	41	Cut	Ditch		0.83	0.22
42	6	-	41	Fill	Ditch		0.83	0.22
43	16	-	43	Cut	Pit -20th Century	6.5	1.5	Not Ex
44	16	-	43	Fill	Pit	6.5	1.54	Not Ex
45	6	?74	45	Cut	Ditch		1.24	0.3
46	6		45	Fill	Ditch		1.24	0.3
47	7		48	Fill	Ditch		0.97	0.38
48	7	69	48	Cut	Ditch		0.97	0.38
49	5		50	Fill	Gully		0.4	0.2
50	5	28 and 30	50	Cut	Gully		0.4	0.2
51	5		52	Fill	Gully		0.48	0.18
52	5	32, 34 and 54	52	Cut	Gully		0.48	0.18
53	5		54	Fill	Gully		0.42	0.16
54	5	32, 34 and 52	54	Cut	Gully		0.42	0.16
55	6	-	55	Cut	Pit	1.8	1	0.28
56	6	-	55	Fill	Pit	1.8	1	0.28
57	6	-	57	Cut	Ditch		1.62	0.7
58	6	-	57	Fill	Ditch			0.28
59	6	-	57	Fill	Ditch			
60	6	-	57	Fill	Ditch			
61	6	-	57	Fill	Ditch			
62	78		63	Fill	Ditch		0.82	0.25
63	78	40	63	Cut	Ditch		0.82	0.25
64	78		65	Fill	Ditch		1.04	0.25
65	78	22 and 67	65	Cut	Ditch		1.04	0.25
66	79		67	Fill	Ditch		2.7	0.39
67	79	22 and 65	67	Cut	Ditch		2.7	0.39
68	79		69	Fill	Ditch		1.3	0.31
69	79	48	69	Cut	Ditch		1.3	0.31
70	78	37 and 76	70	Cut	Ditch		1.7	0.66
71	78		70	Fill	Ditch			0.28
72	78		70	Fill	Ditch			0.4

Context	Trench	Same as	Cut	Category	Feature type	Length(m)	Width(m)	Depth (m)
73	5		74	Fill	Ditch		0.95	0.3
74	5	?45	74	Cut	Ditch		0.95	0.3
75	15		76	Fill	Ditch		1.6	0.42
76	15	37 and 70	76	Cut	Ditch		1.6	0.42

Table 5: *Context list*

APPENDIX B. SHER RECORDS

SHER No.	Site Name	Function	Co-ordinates
FKM 012	Early Palaeoliths, Chalkpit, Fakenham's No. 2, Newport's	Find spot	TL 9085 7535
HNN 004	Mesolithic flints, Sapiston Bridge	Find spots	TL 9155 7485
FKM 003	Two Neolithic axes, west of A1088	Find spot	TL 9150 7550
HNN 001	Neolithic, polished axe, Hall Farm	Find spot	TL 8955 7455
HNN 004	Neolithic, Sapiston Bridge	Settlement	TL 9155 7485
FKM 006	Tumuli, Honington airfield	Tumuli	TL 8995 7517
FKM 008	BA artefact scatter, Honington airfield	Find spot	TL 8972 7517
HNN 002	?Beaker from ?Tumuli	Tumuli	?TL 9050 7550/ or TL 9002 7506
HNN 003	?Beaker pottery	Find spot	TL 8952 7498
HNN 004	Bronze Age urns, Sapiston Bridge	Cremations from ? barrow	TL 9155 7485
TRS 004; Scheduled Monument (no. 31088)	Round barrow, Troston Mount	Round barrow	TL 8966 7414
HNN 020	Prehistoric flints, Honnington primary school	Find spot	TL 9126 7455
FKM 013	Roman pottery	Find spot	TL 9145 7535
FKM 020	Roman remains	Find spot?+	TL 9065 7605
HNN 004	Roman remains, Sapiston Bridge	?Settlement	TL 9155 7485
FKM 014	Saxon remains, N of Taylor's Grove	Find spot	TL 9068 7586
HNN 004	Saxon remains, Sapiston Bridge	Settlement	TL 9155 7485
HNN 005	All Saints Church	Building	TL 9135 7457
HNN 014	Settlement, 8 Troston Rd, Honnington	Settlement	TL 9103 7447
HNN 018	Settlement, Honnington	Settlement	TL 9127 7464
HNN misc X2	Two medieval findspots, Honnington	Find spots	TL 9095 7445; 9131 7487
HNN 013	Manor Farm Barns, Honnington	18th-mid 19th century buildings	TL 9116 7467
HNN 016	Post-med field boundary, Junior Ranks Mess, RAF Honington	Boundary ditch	TL 8906 7487
FKM 027	Pillbox, Honington Airfield	Building	TL 8918 7520
FKM 028	Pillbox, Honington Airfield	Building	TL 8938 7587
HNN 017	RAF Honington	WWII airfield	TL 8866 7535
HNN 022	Small Arms Range, RAF Honington	Building	TL 8882 7464
HNN 006	?road and other undated features, Hall Farm	Road	TL 9095 7453
HNN 007	Trackway or road	Trackway	TL 8820 7496
HNN 020	Undated features, Honington Primary school	Settlement	TL 9126 7455

Table 6: *SHER list*

APPENDIX C. FINDS REPORTS

C.1 Flint

By Anthony Haskins

Introduction

- C.1.1 An assemblage of 72 struck lithics were found (Table 7). This report describes the preliminary quantification of the assemblage and assesses its technological traits and chronological indicators.

Methodology

- C.1.2 For the purposes of this report individual artefacts were scanned and then assigned to a category within a simple lithic classification system (Table 7). Unmodified flakes were assigned to an arbitrary size scale in order to identify the range of debitage present within the assemblage. Edge retouched and utilised pieces were also characterised. Beyond this no detailed metrical or technological recording was undertaken during the preliminary analysis. The results of this report are therefore based on a rapid assessment of the assemblage and could change if further work is undertaken.

Quantification

- C.1.3 29 Fragments of heavily burnt flint were recorded from the assemblage. These were recovered from contexts (10), (11), (18), (25), (39), (46), (60), and (61). Of these context (46) contained the most with 16 fragments.
- C.1.4 Two of the recovered flints were either plough struck or natural and will be ignored for the rest of this report. The remainder of the assemblage is comprised of debitage flakes and blades with three recognised tool forms.

Assessment

- C.1.5 The assemblage was struck from a semi-translucent blueish-grey flint with a thick off-white cortex, examples of a greyer flint with a cream cortex were also present. The thickness and state of the cortex would suggest that the flint was recovered from a primary source, probably mined.
- C.1.6 No fragments of core were recovered. Although a single patinated core trimming flake of a Late Mesolithic or Early Neolithic blade core was recovered from the topsoil of trench 42.
- C.1.7 The range of debitage present, some of which shows signs of patination, suggests the assemblage contains some early material, such as the core trimming flake, and some later material of Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age date, such as the large flakes from the topsoil (1).
- C.1.8 The only tool forms were recovered from ditch fills (11) and (39). The retouched blade from (11) is formed on a good quality flint with cortex present on the right side of the dorsal surface and semi-abrupt retouch on the left proximal lateral edge around the bulb of percussion applied from the dorsal onto the ventral surface and running into the small notch formed of abrupt retouch applied from the ventral surface. Notched pieces tend to be seen as tools of expedience and are known from the Early Neolithic to as late as the Early Bronze Age (Butler 2005).

CONTEXT NO. and Cut	Trench	TYPE	core technology	flakes (>50mm)	flakes (>25mm <50mm)	flakes (>10mm <25mm)	blades (all sizes)	chunks/angular shatter (<50mm)	retouched tools	Notched blade	Notched flake	side and end scraper	burnt flint (all types)	Natural and plough struck	Totals
		SUB TYPE	core trimming	secondary	tertiary	broken	Primary	secondary	tertiary	broken	secondary	tertiary	secondary		
1	3									1					1
1	4			1				1							2
1	5													1	2
1	6									1					1
1	42		1												1
1	54									1					1
1	61							1							1
1	68													1	1
1	71							1							1
1	75							1	1						2
2									1						1
10 (9)	9							2					1		3
11 (13)	6								2		1		4		7
18 (19)	6												1		1
25 (26)	6												3		3
39 (40)	7							3			1	1	2		7
46 (45)	6						1	1					16		18
47 (48)	7			1				3							4
53 (54)	5								1						1
58 (57)	6								2						2
59 (57)	6					1									1
60 (57)	6							1					1		2
61 (57)	6			1				3		1	1		1		9
62 (63)	78							2							2
Totals			1	2	1	1	1	18	3	3	6	1	1	1	74

Table 7: Flint quantification table

- C.1.9 Two tools forms were recovered from context (39). A single notched flake similar to the notched blade from (11), which is again likely to be a tool of expedience, and a well made side scraper. The side scraper is made on a good quality flint flake with semi-abrupt and invasive retouch down the left lateral edge forming the scraping edge. No cortex is present on this hard hammer struck flake. The well made scraper is likely to be of Neolithic date.
- C.1.10 The majority of the assemblage shows signs of edge wear characteristic of being rolled and therefore is probably residual material from nearby that has worked it's way into the excavated features.

Conclusion

- C.1.11 In conclusion this assemblage contains a multi period mix of pieces ranging from the Late Mesolithic/Early Neolithic through to the Early Bronze Age, although the majority of the material is likely to be of Late Neolithic date.
- C.1.12 The material seems to be largely residual and not directly related to any of the features uncovered during the evaluation works.

C.2 Pottery and CBM

By Sarah Percival

Introduction and methodology

- C.2.1 A small assemblage of 34 sherds weighing 101g was collected from nine features, mostly ditches, across four trenches. The majority of the assemblage is of probable Earlier Iron Age date with the exception of a single sherd of Roman date (Table 8). The pottery is small and abraded consistent with material recovered from ditch fills.

Trench	Feature type	Feature	Pot date	Quantity	Weight (g)
5	Gully	54	Iron Age	1	5
			Roman	1	7
6	Ditch	13	Iron Age	7	13
		19	Iron Age	4	26
		26	Iron Age	6	23
		45	Iron Age	2	4
		57	Iron Age	4	9
7	Ditch	40	Iron Age	2	1
		48	Iron Age	4	5
9	Pit	9	Iron Age	3	8
Total				34	101

Table 8: Quantity and weight of pottery by trench and feature

Early Iron Age

- C.2.2 A total of 33 sherds weighing 94g are Iron Age. Most are undecorated body sherds, the majority in flint-tempered fabrics, which contain fine to medium-sized, angular flint pieces, in a dense or sandy clay matrix and make up 97% of the total assemblage. A small number of sherds are in sandy fabrics, some with moderate, sub-round voids indicating a now absent inclusion, perhaps chalk.

Context	fabric	f2	dsc	No. sherds	Wt (g)	Surf	Ab
10	F1	F	Uncertain	1	3		Y
10	F1	F	Uncertain	2	5		Y
11	F1	F	Uncertain	2	6		Y
11	F2	F	Uncertain	2	2	S	
12	F2	F	Uncertain	3	5		Y
14	CBM			2	3		
18	F1	F	Base	1	21	S	

Context	fabric	f2	dsc	No. sherds	Wt (g)	Surf	Ab
18	F1	F	Uncertain	2	4		V
18	F1	F	Uncertain	1	1		V
25	F1	F	Uncertain	2	4		Y
25	QF	F	Uncertain	1	1	S	Y
25	QFv	F	Uncertain	3	18		
39	QF	F	Uncertain	2	1		V
46	QFv	F	Uncertain	1	3	S	Y
46	QFv	F	Uncertain	1	1		V
47	F2	F	Uncertain	4	5	S	Y
53	F2	F	Uncertain	1	5		Y
53	MSGW	Q	Uncertain	1	7		Y
58	QFv	F	Uncertain	2	3		V
59	Q	Q	Uncertain	1	5		V
60	Q1	Q	Uncertain	1	3	S	
61	QF	F	Uncertain	1	3	S	Y
				37	109		

Table 9: *Pottery by fabric type and context*

C.2.3

Pottery date	f2	fabric	No. of sherds	Sum of wt (g)	Sum of wt2
Iron Age	F	F1	11	44	46.81%
		F2	10	17	18.09%
		QF	4	5	5.32%
		QFv	7	25	26.60%
	F Total		32	91	96.81%
	Q	Q1	1	3	3.19%
	Q Total		1	3	3.19%
Iron Age total			33	94	100.00%

Table 10: *Percentage of pottery by fabric type*

- C.2.4 The flint-tempered fabrics are similar to those from Thetford, Fison Way and are comparable to Gregory's HM10 (Gregory 1991, 155). Flint-tempered sherds are also found in northern Suffolk within the Iron Age assemblage from Barnham (Martin 1993, 15) and the earlier Iron Age pottery from Sapiston SAP012 (Percival 2007) as well as pottery from Barham, Burgh and West Stow to the south east (Martin 1993, 1988 & 1990). A fragment from a vessel base found in ditch [19], Trench 6 is similar to earlier Iron Age examples from Barham BRH015 (Martin 1993, fig 18, 27).
- C.2.5 The high proportion of flint fabrics indicates an earlier Iron Age date for the assemblage. The small size and poor condition of the sherds suggest that they have been redeposited in the ditch fills.

Recommendations for further work

- C.2.6 No further work is required. No sherds require illustration.

Roman Pottery

- C.2.7 A single sherd weighing 7g was found in the fill of gully [54], Trench 5. The sherd is made of micaceous sandy grey ware, typical of vessels produced in the vicinity of the

Waveney Valley and is not closely dateable (Gregory 1992, 155 (MGW); Tomber and Dore 1998, 184).

Recommendations for further work

C.2.8 No further work is required. No sherds require illustration.

Other Finds

C.2.9 A small piece of light brown, vacuous baked clay from ditch [57], Trench 6, is not closely dateable. Two scraps of orange sandy CBM from modern service trench [15], Trench 4, are post medieval.

Recommendations for further work

C.2.10 No further work is required.

C.3 Glass

By Carole Fletcher

Results

C.3.1 Fragments from a single natural black/olive green glass bottle (0.449kg) were recovered from field boundary (3) within Trench 33, comprising rim, neck, body and base fragments, the base has a shallow kick with traces of a sand pontil mark possibly from a sand pontil. The bottle is early to mid 19th century.

C.3.2 The vessel has been discarded after examination.

APPENDIX D. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

D.1 Environmental Remains

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction and Methods

- D.1.1 Seven bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluation in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. Features sampled include prehistoric ditches and a pit.
- D.1.2 One bucket (up to ten litres) of each bulk sample was processed by water flotation (using a modified Siraff three-tank system) for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve. The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60.

Results

- D.1.3 All of the samples taken from ditch fills were devoid of plant remains other than modern rootlets and seeds. Sample 1, fill 10 of pit **9** contains a single charred grain of hulled wheat spelt or emmer (*Triticum spelta/dicoccum*) and a degraded glume base along with a single charred seed of dock (*Rumex* sp.).

Discussion

- D.1.4 Assessment of the seven samples taken from the evaluation of this site indicate that preservation of plant remains is low which may be due to poor preservation in sandy soils but may also suggest a lack of occupation in this area. The samples from the ditch fills were all sterile in terms of plant remains although most of them contained fragments of pottery. The only charred food remains recovered came from the single pit that was sampled. Hulled wheats such as emmer and spelt are found in prehistoric assemblages which is consistent with the dating of the site.

Further Work and Methods Statement

- D.1.5 No further processing or work is recommended on the assemblage.

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- Watkins, P., 2007 *An Archaeological Excavation at Howlett Way, Thetford, Norfolk, NHER 38138 THD* NAU Archaeology Report No. 1321 (unpublished)
- Watkins, P., 2008a *An Archaeological Field Survey and Excavation at Little Melton – Assessment Report and Update Project Design* NAU Archaeology Report 1511 (unpublished)
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- Williamson, T., 1987 Early co-axial field systems on the East Anglian boulder clays *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* 53, 419-431

APPENDIX F. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-156889		
Project Name	A probable Early Iron Age field system at Solar Farm, Thetford Road, Fakenham Magna, Suffolk		
Project Dates (fieldwork)	Start	20-08-2013	Finish 03-09-2013
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	FKM 051	Planning App. No.	SE/12/1069/FUL
HER No.	FKM 051	Related HER/OASIS No.	N/A

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Other

Please select all techniques used:

<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/> Grab-Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-Core	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors	<input type="checkbox"/> Test Pits
<input type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search	<input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Photogrammetric Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Vibro-core
<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldwalking	<input type="checkbox"/> Photographic Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual Inspection (Initial Site Visit)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography	

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

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

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Ditches and pits	Late Prehistoric -4k to 43	Flint, pottery + bon	Late Prehistoric -4k to 43
Ditch and marl pits	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901	Glass	Modern 1901 to Present
	Select period...		Select period...

Project Location

County	Suffolk	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	St Edmundsbury Borough	Solar Farm Thetford Rd Fakenham Magna
Parish	Fakenham Magna/Honnington	
HER	Suffolk	
Study Area	22 ha	National Grid Reference TL 900 749

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Rachel Monk, Suffolk County Council
Project Design Originator	Rob Atkins and Aileen Connor, OA East
Project Manager	Aileen Connor
Supervisor	Rob Atkins

Project Archives

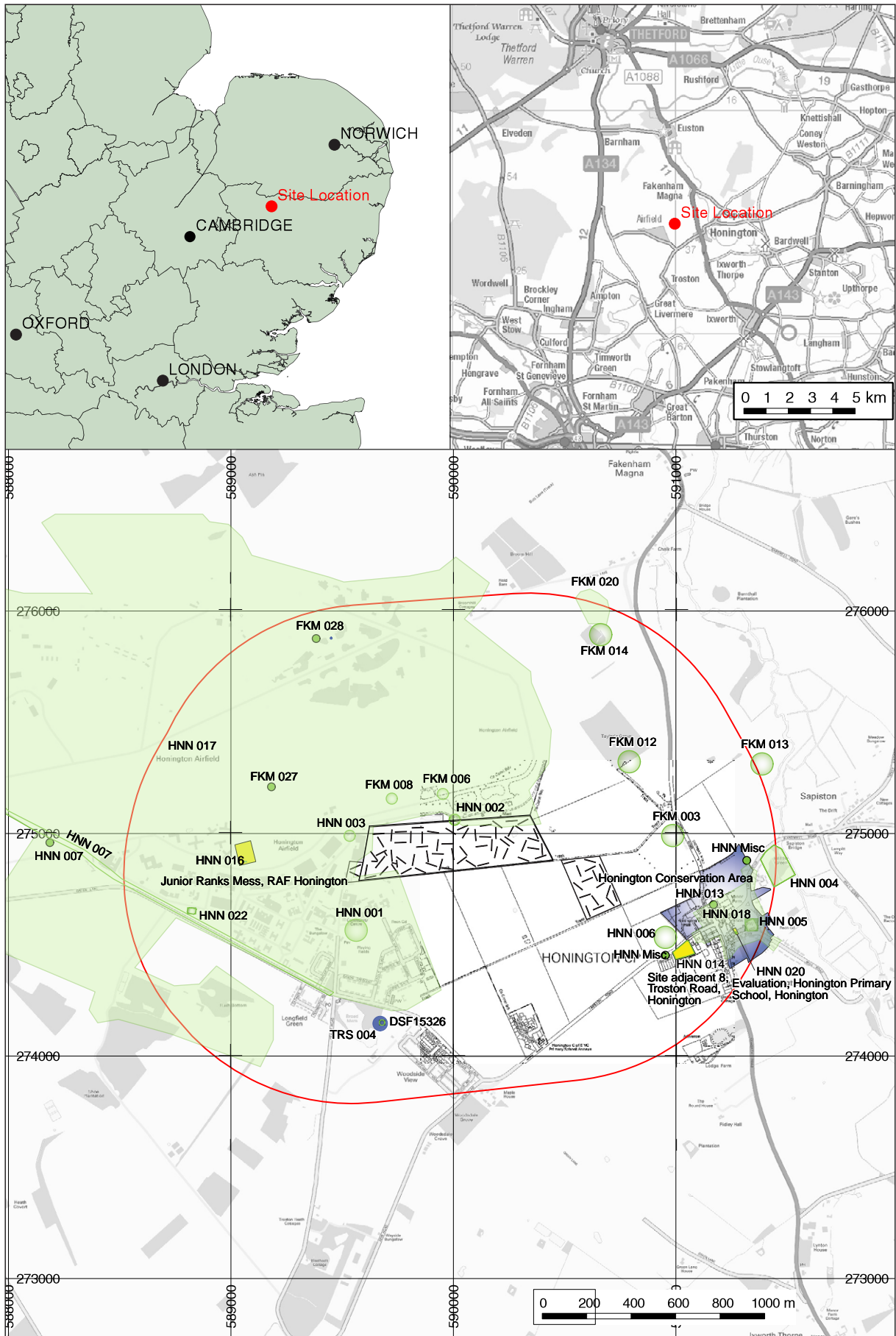
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
Suffolk County Council	OA East	Suffolk County Council
FKM 051	FKM 051	FKM 051

Archive Contents/Media

	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents
Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Bones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Textiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location and surrounding SHER sites

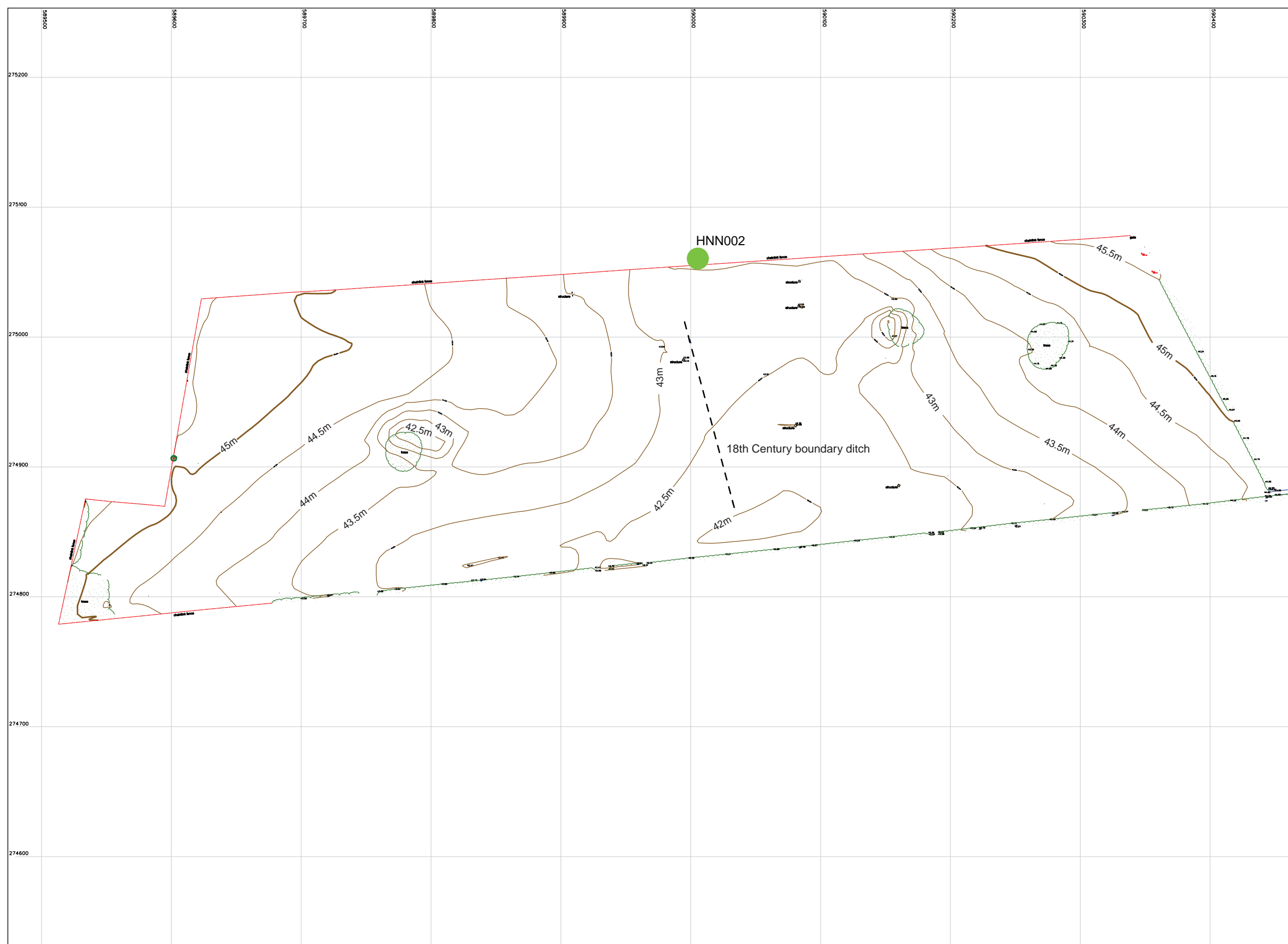


Figure 2: Contour survey of Field 2, (from data supplied by Landtech Surveys Ltd) with 18th Century boundary ditch and barrow HNN002 located.

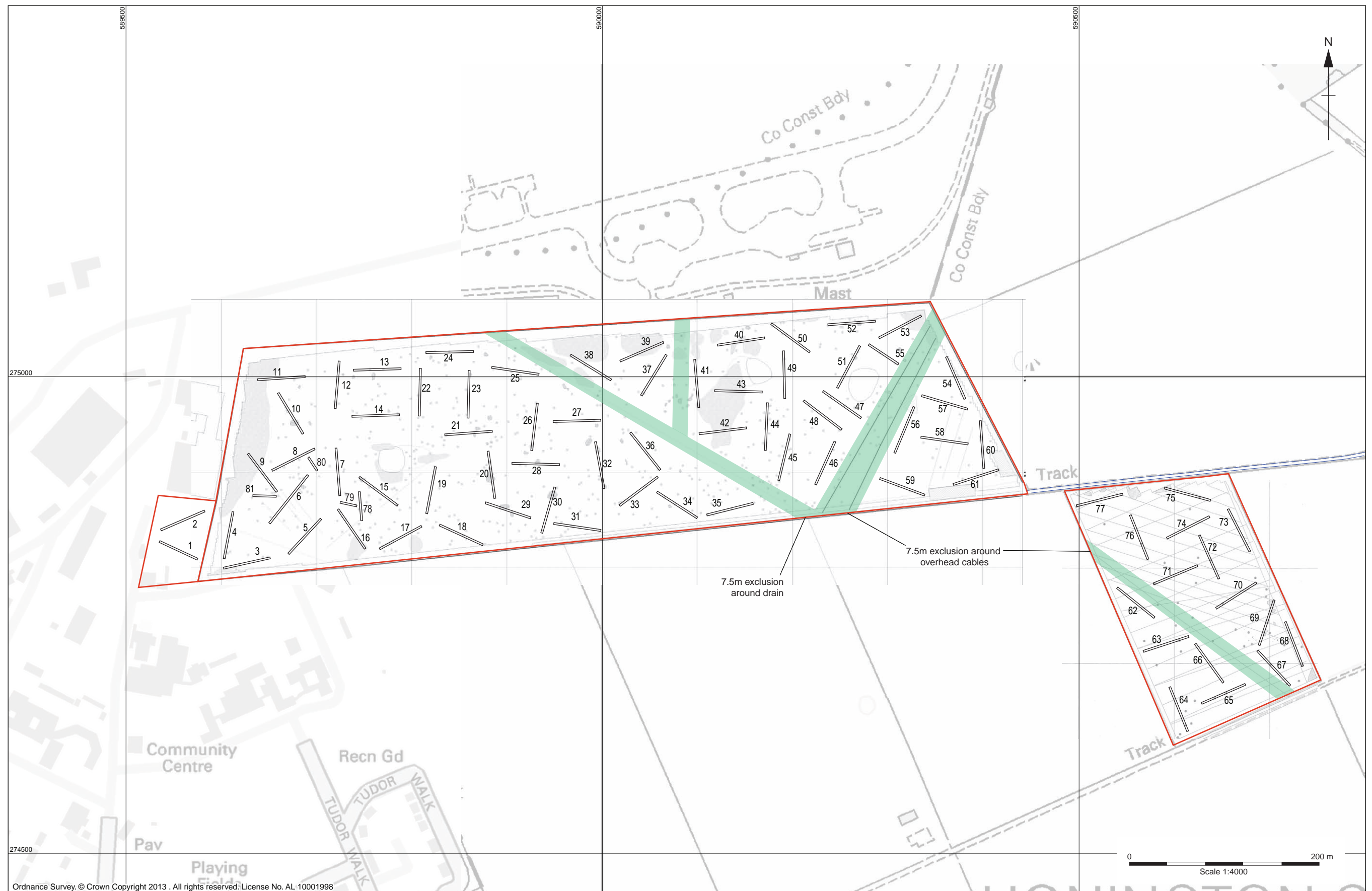


Figure 3: Archaeological trench plan overlaying geophysical survey.

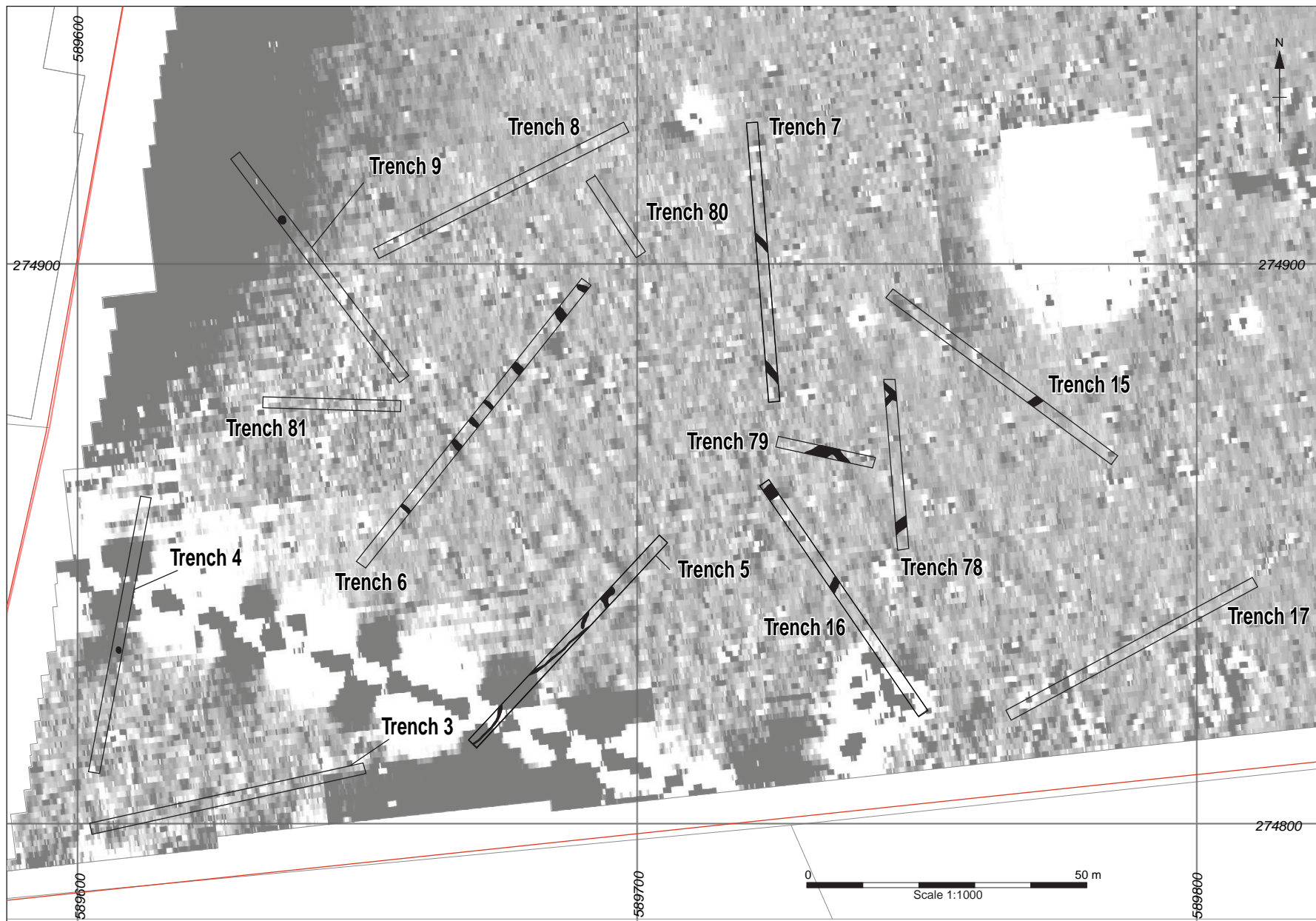


Figure 4: Detailed plan of trenches within South-Western side of Field 2 with archaeological features overlaying geophysical survey

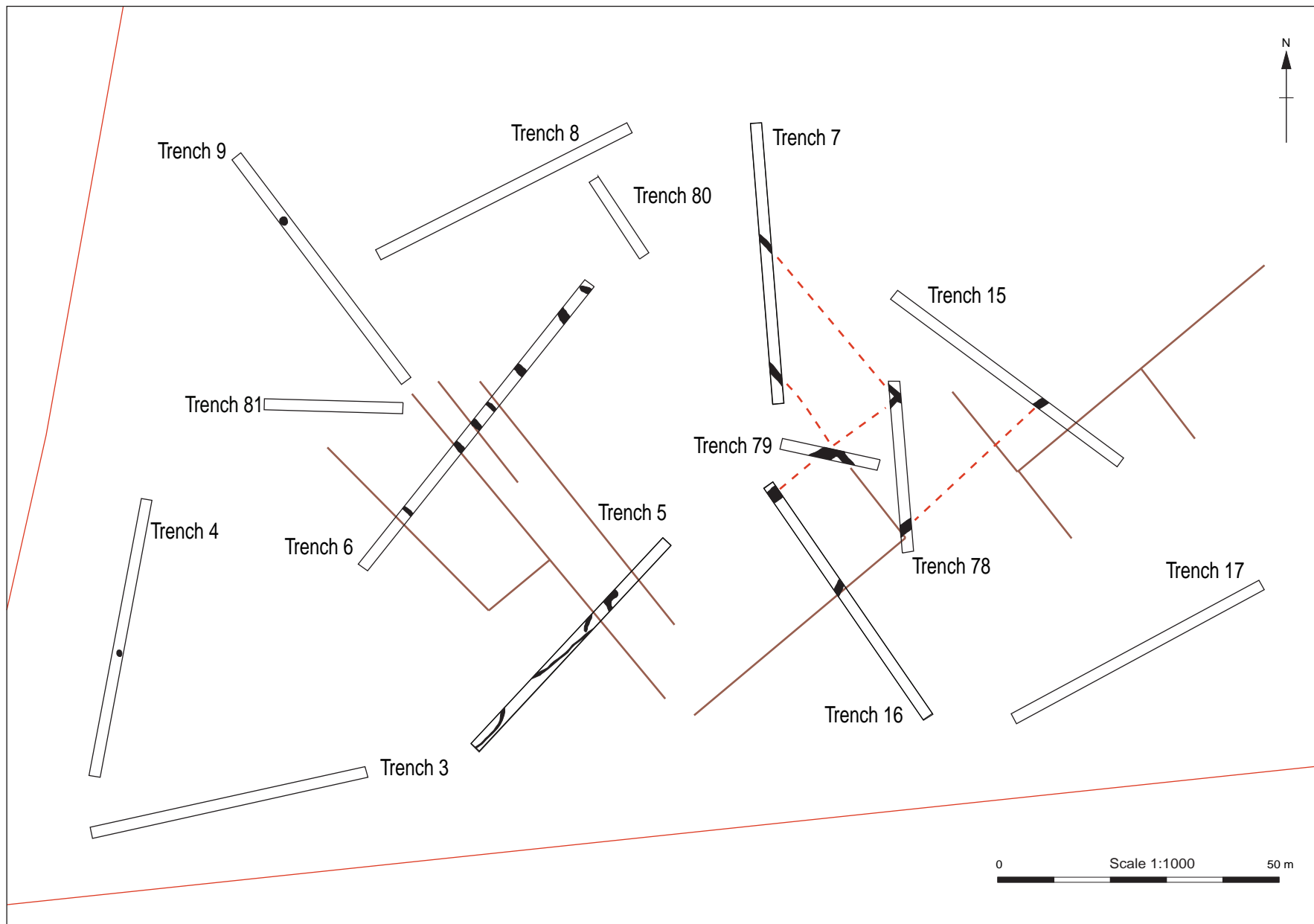


Figure 5: Detailed plan of trenches within South-Western side of Field 2 with archaeological features overlaying re-interpretation of geophysical survey (brown) and possible continuations (dashed red)

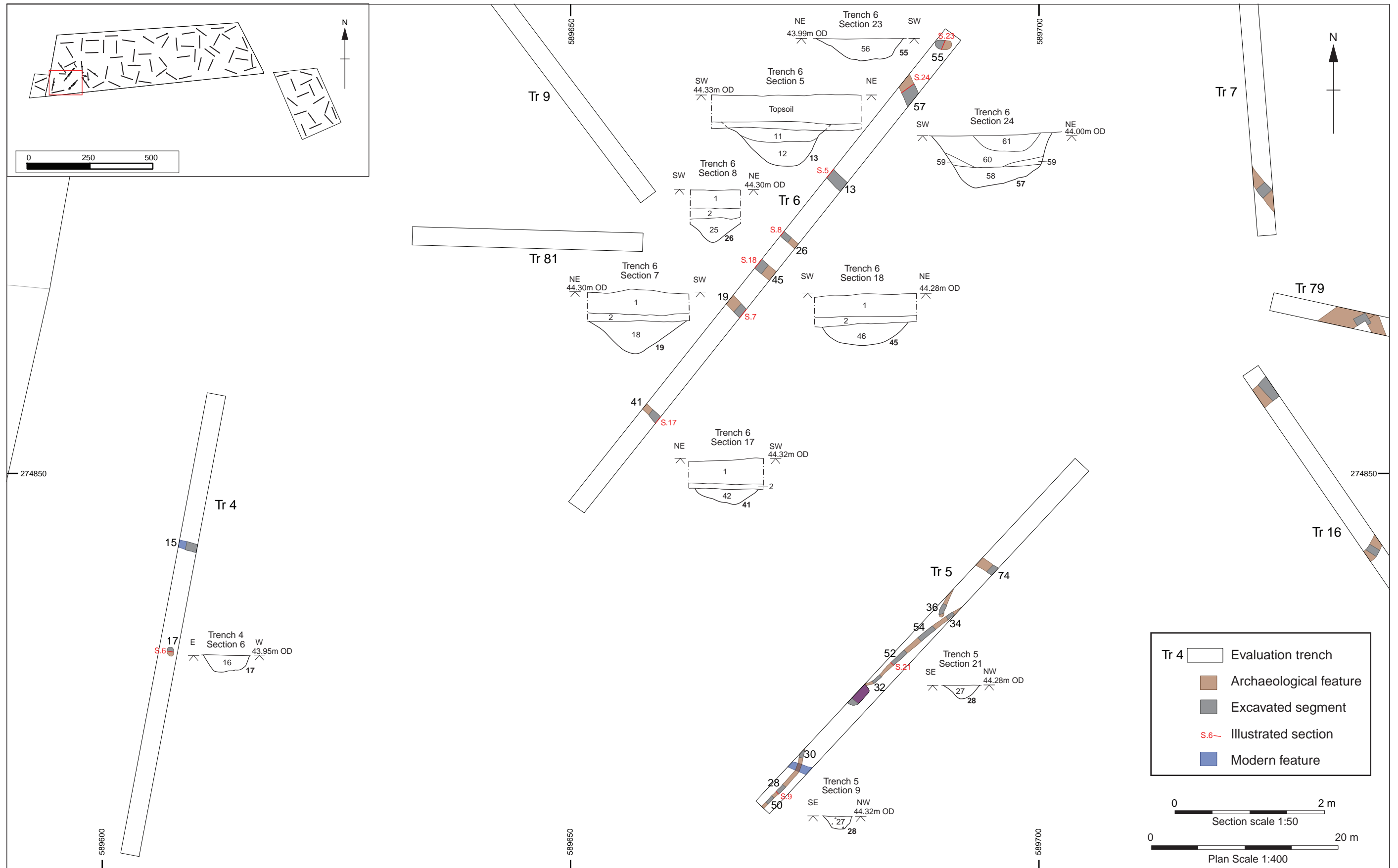


Figure 6: Plan and sections of trenches 4, 5 and 6

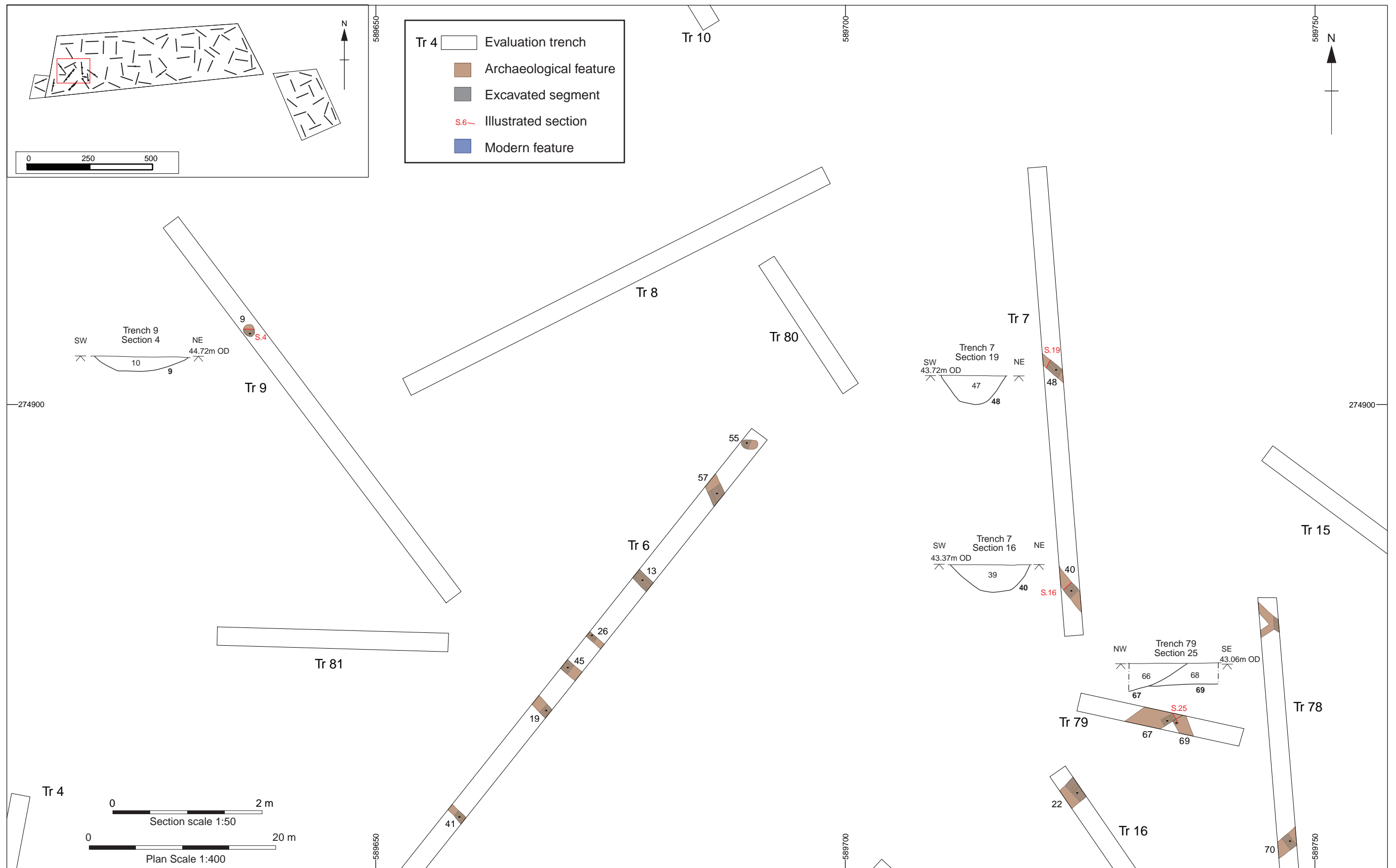


Figure 7: Plan and sections of trenches 7, 78 and 9

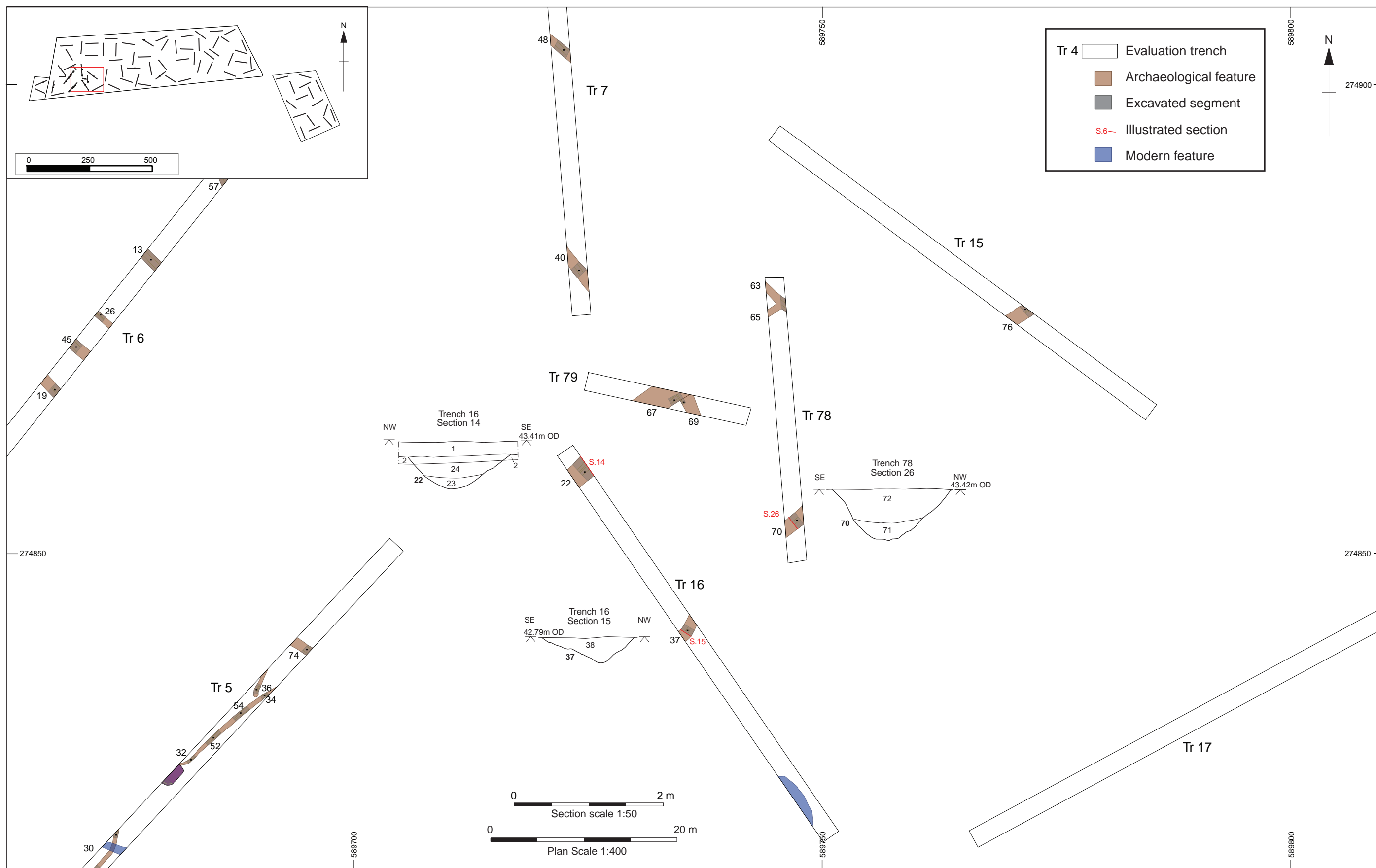


Figure 8: Plan and sections of Trenches 16 and 78

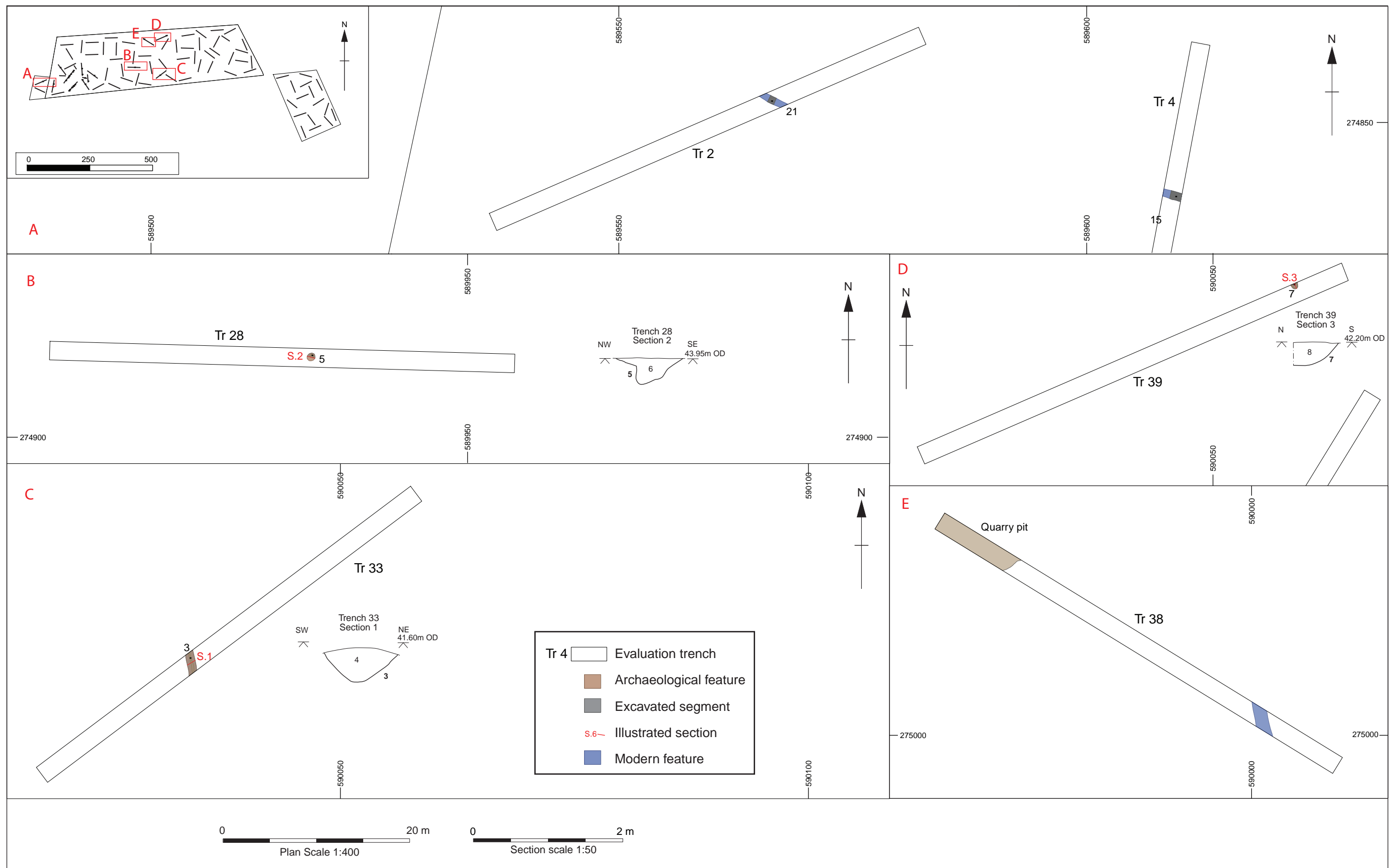


Figure 9: Plans and sections of Trenches 2, 4, 28, 33 and 39

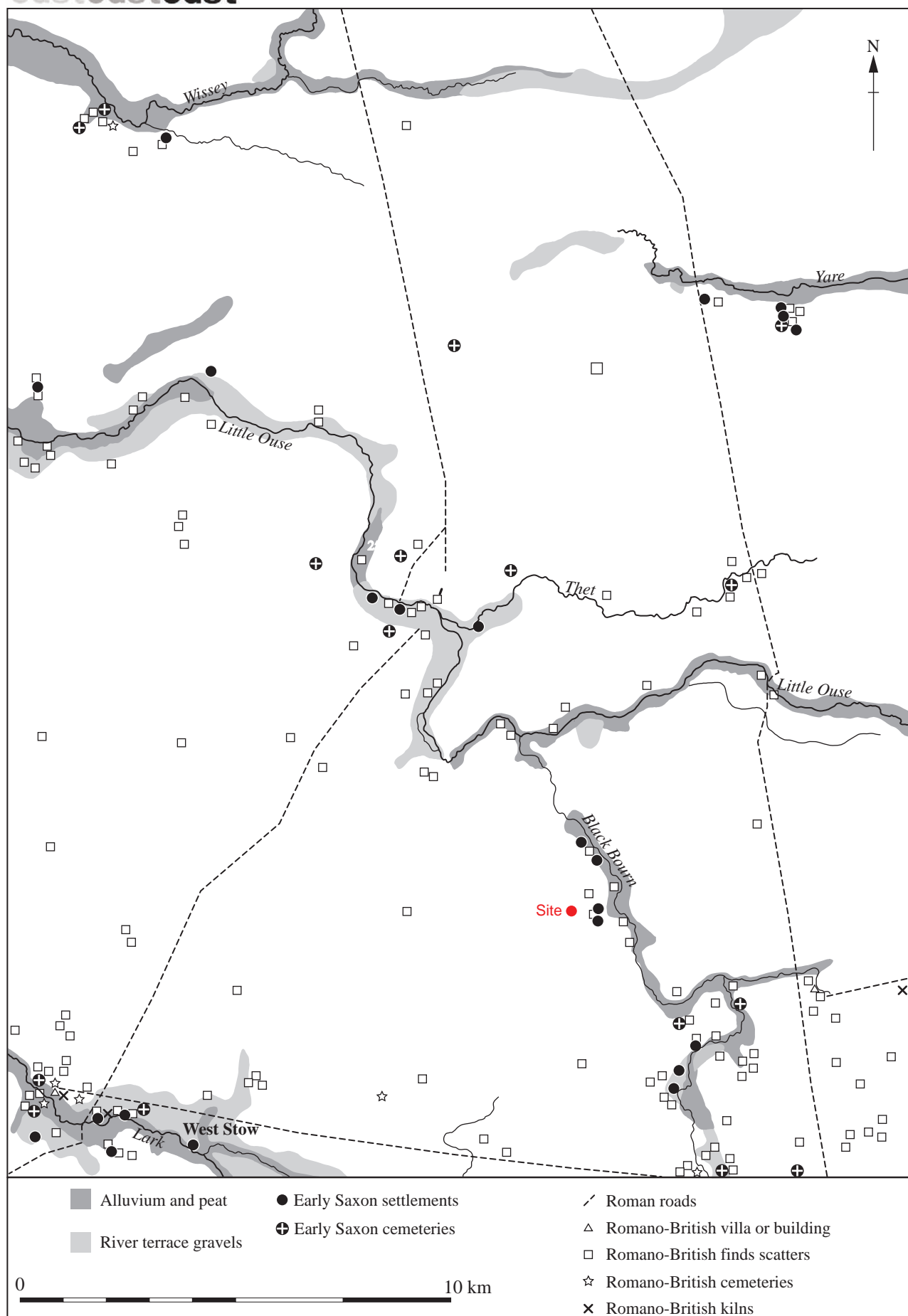


Figure 10: Romano-British and Early Saxon sites in the Thetford area. Information from Norfolk and Suffolk HER's. Stray finds not included (after Atkins and Connor 2010, fig. 3).

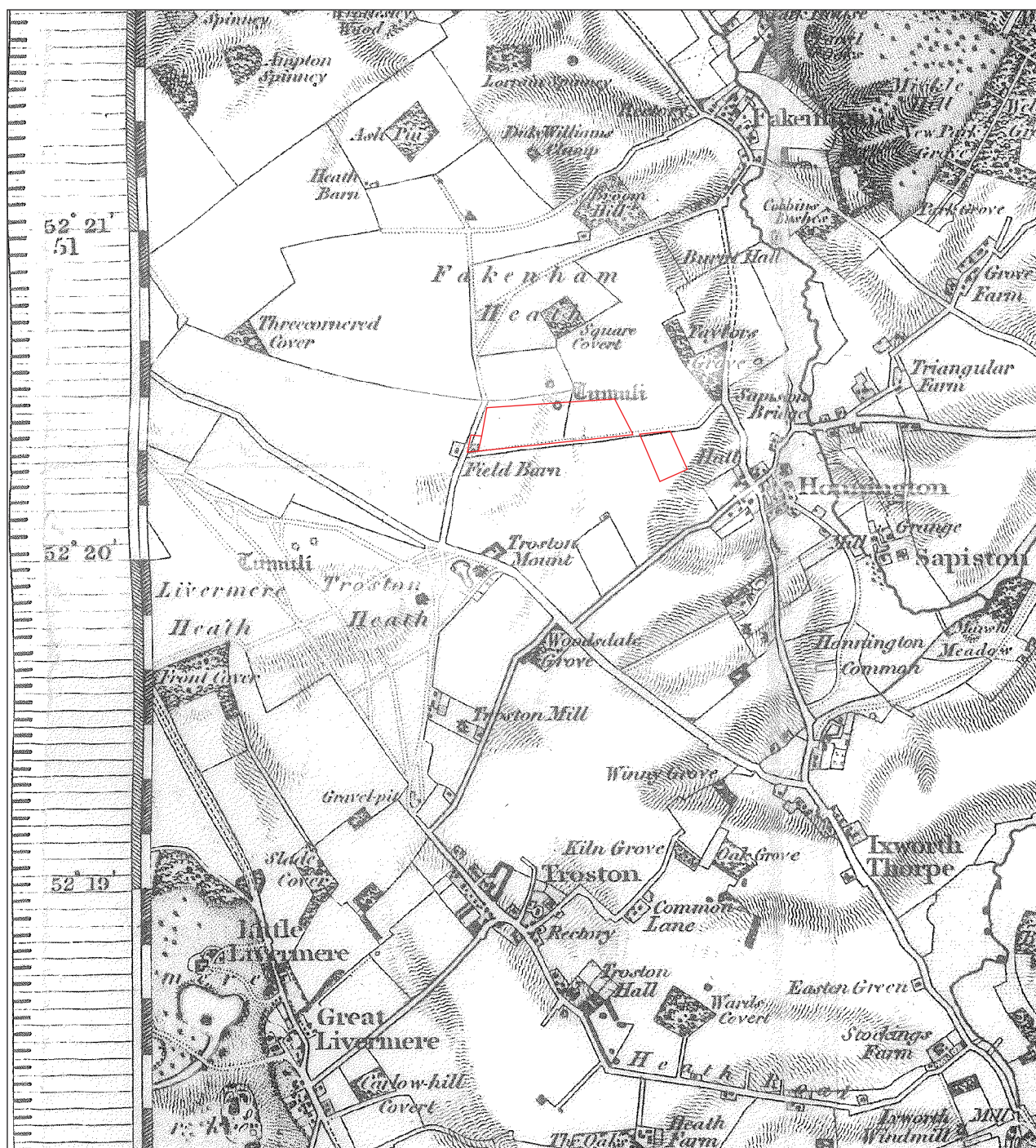


Figure 11: 1" Ordnance Survey Map Sheet 55 Eye (C.1837)



Plate 1: Machineing trenches within Field 2 looking west. Prehistoric site is at the western part of the field



Plate 2: Ditch 70 (Trench 78) looking west



Plate 3: Ditch 22 (Trench 16) looking south-east



Plate 4: Curvilinear gully within Trench 5 looking south-west



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