Prehistoric activty at Avenue Farm Icklingham Suffolk

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Prehistoric activty at Avenue Farm, Icklingham, Suffolk

Archaeological Evaluation

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Summary

Between the 21st and 30th October 2013 Oxford Archaeology East undertook an archaeological evaluation on land at Avenue Farm, Icklingham, Suffolk (TL 755 747) in advance of the proposed development of a solar farm and associated services. The works consisted of forty-six linear trial trenches with a total length of 1344m.

The proposed development area consists of two major impact zones. That located to the north-east (Site A) consists of agricultural land and coniferous forest whilst that to south-west (Site B) was covered almost entirely by a modern planted coniferous forest. Earthworks were present to the east and south of Site B. These earthworks appear to relate to medieval or post-medieval use of the land in this area.

Archaeology was uncovered in both zones, with a concentration of features and artefacts located to the south and west of Site B. The south-western part of Site A had previously been truncated by large modern pits and topsoil and subsoil stripping associated with silage management. Flint artefacts were recovered from several features in Site A as well as two features which produced later Neolithic\Early Bronze Age pottery.

Several pits and shallow ditches were uncovered in Trenches 34, 35, 38 and 39 in Site B. These produced fragments of prehistoric and Romano-British pottery as well as burnt and worked flint. A pit in Trench 41 contained prehistoric pottery and flint whilst a dark soil accumulation in a hollow in Trench 46 produced worked flint.

The distribution of Early Bronze Age Beaker pottery along with associated lithics may indicate that this was an area of occupation at this time. Several shallow linear features indicate the development of an enclosed Bronze Age landscape. The character of the features uncovered by this evaluation is consistent with those uncovered elsewhere on the Fen edge where early Bronze Age activty has developed into more permanent middle Bronze Age occupation and land enclosure.

Features in Trenches 25 and 35 relate to a later period of land enclosure. A small assemblage of Romano-British pottery may be indicative of rural activity during this period in the area.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Avenue Farm, Icklingham, Suffolk (TL 755 747; Figure 1) in advance of the proposed development of a solar farm.

1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by CgMs (2013) in response to Condition s 8 and 9 in the planning permission F/2013/0258/ESF.

1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by SCCAS, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

1.1.4 The site archive is currently held by OA East and will be deposited with the appropriate county stores in due course.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The site lies on Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation and New Pit Chalk Formation (B.G.S.). The land within the proposed development area is generally flat, sloping gradually from 22.20m in the north-east to 14.65m in the south-west. The River Lark lies 650m to the south-west of the site, whilst the Fen edge is located 8km to 10km to the north and west. Half of the area of Site A was covered with coniferous forest whilst the majority of the area of Site B was covered with coniferous trees.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 A desk-based assessment of the proposed development area was conducted prior to the start of works by CgMs (Dicks 2013). This included a search of the Suffolk Historic Environment Record for all archaeological and historical sites within a 1km radius of the site. A summary of this background research is produced below.

Prehistoric

1.3.2 During the Mesolithic period, the Fen edge was formed of numerous islands and peninsulas, which were periodically occupied by small groups of hunter-gatherers. From the Fen edge, these small groups were able to exploit resources within the Fenland environment and the adjacent woodland landscape.

1.3.3 Mesolithic flint cores, flakes and a scraper were found during excavations for a North Sea gas pipeline on Icklingham Plains to the south of the study site (HER IKL 006, IKL 032, IKL 035, IKL 051, IKL 055, IKL 139 and IKL 143).

1.3.4 Examination of regional assessments of the Neolithic period (Hall and Coles 1994) suggests that woodland was initially cleared in areas along the fen-edge and on the fen islands and peninsulas.

1.3.5 Evidence of Neolithic activity within the study area is represented by a Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead found in the plough soil c. 350m south-west of the study site (HER

IKL 036 at TL 759 740) and a scatter of Neolithic cores and flakes found *c*.520m south-east of the study site (HER IKL 013 at TL 761 738). In addition, worked and waste flint was found at two sites during excavations for a North Sea gas pipeline on Icklingham Plains; one c.500m south-east of the study site (HER IKL139 at TL 76 24) and the other 1km south-west of the study site (HER IKL143 at TL 7370 7396).

1.3.6 By the Bronze Age, settlement and related burial monuments were relatively densely scattered along the fen-edge and on the fen islands and peninsulas (Hall and Coles 1994). A Bronze Age barrow cemetery was excavated at Three Hills, Warren Hill c. 560m west of the study site (HER MNL 001 at TL 744 742). Also the HER records two possible Bronze Age barrows in the form of cropmark/soil mark ring ditches; one c.250m west of the study site (HER IKL 175 at TL 75 01) and the other 1km east of the study site (HER IKL 075 at TL 76 91).

1.3.7 The HER records the discovery of an Early Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead at Avenue Farm c. 516m east of the study site (HER IKL 050 at TL 7638 7420) and a fragment of a Bronze Age socketed axe during metal detecting at a site c. 560m east of the study site (HER IKL178 at TL 76 78).

1.3.8 Within the study area, the HER only records a single Iron Age entry, which relates to the discovery of Iron Age pottery at a site *c*.1km south-west of the study site (HER IKL1954 at TL 7678).

Roman

1.3.9 During the Roman period, the water table was generally lower than in the Iron Age, and there was much settlement on the fen-edge, fen islands and peninsulas (Hall and Coles 1994). A possible Roman roadside settlement has been identified at Icklingham *c*.1.2km south-east of the study site (HER IKL 180 at TL 7738 7275).

1.3.10 Roman pottery and artefact scatters were discovered at a number of locations during excavations along the route of a North Sea pipeline on Icklingham Plains to the south of the study site (HER IKL 006, IKL 032, IKL 035, IKL 051, IKL 055, IKL 139 and IKL 143).

1.3.11 During the salvage of a crashed bomber at a site *c*.1.3km south-west of the study site, Roman pottery and bronze and pewter vessels were recovered (HER IKL 023 at TL 7374 7387). In addition, the HER records the discovery of a Roman coin c.1.2km south of the study site (HER TDD 002 at TL 7494 7302).

1.3.12 The HER records the discovery of Roman metalwork during metal detecting at a site c. 560m east of the study site (HER IKL 178 at TL 76 78).

Saxon and Medieval

1.3.13 A settlement at Icklingham over 1.2km south-west of the study site is thought to have been in existence by the Late Saxon period (HER IKL 180 at TL 7738 7275).

1.3.14 A Saxon inhumation cemetery and secondary graves were found on and around the barrow cemetery at Three Hills, Warren Hill *c*.560m west of the study site (HER MNL 001 at TL 744 742). A Saxon bronze toilet set and Saxon pottery were also found on Warren Hill (HER MNL214 at TL 744 743).

1.3.15 The HER records the discovery of a Saxon finger ring during metal detecting c. 560m east of the study site (HER IKL178 at TL 76 78).

1.3.16 In addition, Saxon pottery and artefact scatters were discovered at a number of locations during excavations along the route of a North Sea gas pipeline on Icklingham

Plains to the south of the study site (HER IKL 006, IKL 032, IKL 035, IKL 051, IKL 055, IKL 139 and IKL 143).

1.3.17 During the Saxon, early medieval and medieval periods the study site lay beyond the limits of nearby settlements, probably within Icklingham Field, an open field under a cycle of arable and pasture.

Post-medieval and modern

1.3.18 The 1813 Ordnance Survey (Old Series) shows the study site within Icklingham Fields.

1.3.19 The 1839 Icklingham Tithe Map shows the study site in more detail. The Tithe Map and Award records the majority of Site A occupying Arable Land (Plot 156), Site B occupying Heath (Plot 154) and two pieces of *Plantation*; one circular and the other linear (Plot 152 and 152a).

1.3.20 The 1881 Ordnance Survey shows a circular-shaped plantation with two concentric boundaries within Site B. This plantation is called *Round Clump* and is larger than that shown on the Tithe Map. In addition, the rectangular-shaped plantation on the Tithe Map is not shown on the 1881 Ordnance Survey and the linear plantation is called *Burntpin Plantation.*

1.3.21 The 1903 Ordnance Survey shows little change to the layout of the study site.

1.3.22 By the 1950s parts of Site A had been covered by plantation. Little changes to the layout of Site B, although the plantation known as Round Clump appears to have reduced in size (1950 OS and 1958 OS).

1.3.23 The map regression exercise demonstrates that the study site lay within heathland and plantation woodland throughout the post-medieval and more recent periods

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like to thank Sally Dicks of CgMs who commissioned and funded the work on behalf of Jim Rudderham of Elveden Farms Limited. The project was managed by Aileen Connor and the brief for archaeological works was written by Rachel Monk, who also monitored the site. Excavation assistance was provided by Michael Green, Robin Webb, Matt Brooks, Kathryn Nicholls and Tam Webster. Chris Faine, Rachel Fosberry, Sarah Percival and Anthony Haskins carried out specialist artefact and ecofact analysis. Stuart Ladd produced the illustrations.

2 Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

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

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The Specification (CgMs 2013) required that forty-six 30m long by 1.8m wide trenches were excavated, twenty-six in Site A and twenty in Site B (Figure 2). The Site names were set out in the Specification; Site A laying to the north-east and Site B to the south-west.

2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360 excavator using a toothless ditching bucket 1.8m wide.

2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by Gareth Rees and Tam Webster using Leica 1200 dGPS and a Leica TCR705 total station.

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

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 A total of eleven environmental soil samples were taken during excavation-in order to test for charred archaeobotanical remains and macro-fossils.

2.2.7 The site conditions were generally good. Trench locations in Site A were all easily accessible. The locations of several trenches were moved in order to maintain access routes around the fields. On commencement of topsoil stripping it was clear that the land to the south-west of the Site A (Trenches 1-8) had been altered in the recent past with highly variable depths of topsoil and subsoil present as well as large pits filled with modern waste material.

2.2.8 In Site B, access to Trenches 32-45 required the clearing of trees as well as the repositioning of several of the trenches. These were later located during the TST survey. The topsoil and subsoil depth varied greatly due to the presence of earthworks in the east and south of this Site.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The results of the archaeological evaluation are presented below on a trench-by-trench basis (Figure 3). All trenches measured 1.8m wide and varied in length from 20m to 30m. A comprehensive listing of trench depths, orientations, descriptions and related context data can be found in Appendix A.

3.2 Site A

3.2.1 The ground conditions varied across Site A. In the most highly disturbed area (Trenches 1-8) the topsoil depth varied from 0.1m to 0.9m. Subsoil, where it was encountered, had also been disturbed. Aerial photos of the area from the past 10 years as well as modern O.S. mapping shows that this area had been stripped down to the natural underlying chalk and four ponds had been excavated to the south-east of the agricultural reservoir.

3.2.2 Some modern ground alteration had also taken place in the area where Trenches 9 to 16 were located. This was evidenced by variable depths of topsoil (0.18-0.30m) and subsoil (0-0.27m) as well as modern pits and artefacts encountered during excavation.

3.2.3 The area where trenches 17 to 26 were located had not been disturbed and a natural subsoil was encountered of between 0.05 to 0.1m thick. No subsoil was uncovered in Trenches 19, 27, 28, 29, 30 or 31.

3.2.4 The natural geological deposits consisted of chalk in all areas of Site A. This was overlain in places by sand of increasing depth from Trench 18 to Trench 26.

Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 (Figure 3a)

3.2.5 These trenches were alternately orientated east to west and north to south. No archaeological features were uncovered in these trenches. Modern features were encountered in all of the trenches with modern refuse uncovered at the base of the overburden. This is consistent with this area having been highly disturbed in recent times and then levelled with mixed subsoil and topsoil as well as agricultural waste.

Trench 9 (Figure 3a)

3.2.6 Orientated east to west, this trench contained a single feature. This feature (**3**), measuring 1m wide and 1.35m long, was originally interpreted as the terminal of a possible linear or ring-ditch. The trench was extended 3m to the south around this feature in order to clarify its function (Plate 1). The feature was revealed to be a pit or tree throw, irregular in plan, containing burnt flint, flint working flakes and a worked stone that may have been used as a rubber (Appendix B3).

Trench 10 (Figure 3a)

3.2.7 This trench, orientated north-east to south-west, contained no archaeological features. The topsoil measured a maximum depth of 0.23m. No subsoil was encountered.

Trench 11

3.2.8 This trench, orientated north to south, contained no archaeological features. The topsoil measured a maximum depth of 0.28m. The subsoil varied in depth from 0.08m to 0.27m.

Trench 12 (Figure 3a)

3.2.9 Three archaeological features were uncovered in this trench. A linear feature (**14**), measuring 0.78m wide and 0.36m deep, was located at the western end of the trench. This feature contained no datable artefacts.

3.2.10 In the centre of the trench another linear feature (**16**) ran parallel with and was 10m from feature **14**. This feature, measuring 4.25m wide and 0.28m deep, contained pottery dating to the Late Neolithic\Early Bronze Age in its upper fill (17) (Appendix B1). An environmental sample from this feature produced a small amount of charcoal (Appendix C1).

3.2.11 Located at the eastern end of the trench, a feature (**34**) with irregular sides and base, measured in excess of 0.76m wide and 0.30m deep. No datable artefacts were recovered from this feature.

Trench 13 (Figure 3a)

3.2.12 Orientated north to south, this trench uncovered a modern pit, measuring 4m wide, which contained organic waste. No archaeological features were uncovered.

Trench 14 (Figure 3a)

3.2.13 This trench was orientated east to west. A single tree throw or geological feature was uncovered at the eastern end. No archaeological features were uncovered.

Trench 15 (Figure 3a)

3.2.14 No archaeological features were encountered in this trench. Two modern pits containing organic waste were uncovered at the western end whilst plough scars and two geological\natural features were uncovered at the eastern end of the trench.

Trench 16 (Figure 3a)

3.2.15 This trench, orientated north-west to south-east, contained a single archaeological feature along with a modern feature. Feature **12**, measuring 0.8m wide, 0.39m deep and 1.3m long, was curvilinear in plan and contained a large quantity of burnt unworked flint. An environmental sample from this feature produced a small amount of charcoal. A 3m by 3m trench extension was excavated in order to clarify the character of this feature (Plate 2). This extension uncovered the remaining portion of feature **12** proving it to be a curvilinear pit which may have been natural in origin.

Trench 17

3.2.16 Orientated north to south this trench contained no archaeological features. Natural tree bowl features were uncovered measuring up to 5m wide.

Trench 18

3.2.17 No archaeological features were uncovered in this trench. A large amount of rooting disturbance as well as the trench for a modern service was uncovered.

Trench 19

3.2.18 This trench was orientated north to south and contained no archaeological features. A modern pit was located at the southern end of the trench.

Trench 20

3.2.19 Orientated north to south this trench, contained no archaeological features.

Trench 21

3.2.20 No archaeological features were uncovered in this trench. Three natural tree bowl features were uncovered at the northern end of the trench.

Trench 22 (Figure 3b)

3.2.21 Orientated north to south, this trench contained no archaeological features. Three features were investigated and these proved to be natural and geological in origin.

Trench 23 (Figure 3b)

3.2.22 This trench, orientated east to west, contained seven features, all of of which may have been natural in origin. Four of these features were investigated due to the presence of dark fills possibly indicating reuse. Feature **29**, located at the western end of the trench, measured 0.42m wide and 0.15m deep. It was filled with light grey silty sand and contained no artefacts. Trench 23 was extended 3m to the south at the western end in order to clarify the character of this feature. This extension uncovered the full extent of the feature which had an irregular plan and was 0.57m in length.

3.2.23 Feature **26**, measuring 1m wide and 0.28m deep, was also irregular in plan and contained no artefacts.

3.2.24 Located to the east of feature **26**, feature **23** contained a mid grey brown friable silt. Measuring 0.68m in diameter and 0.13m deep, it was irregular in plan and contained no artefacts.

3.2.25 A tree bowl pit (**21**) located 8.6m from the western end of the trench contained a mid reddish-brown silty sand. Measuring 2.05m in length, 1.65m wide and 0.2m deep, a flint working flake was recovered from the fill of this feature.

Trench 24 (Figure 3b)

3.2.26 This trench was orientated north-west to south-east and contained no archaeological features. A tree bowl pit was located at the northern end of the trench.

Trench 25 (Figure 3b)

3.2.27 Two features were uncovered in this north-east to south-west orientated trench. A ditch (**32**), orientated north-west to south-east, was located at the eastern end of the trench.

This ditch, measuring 2.2m wide and 0.4m deep, contained a mid reddish-brown soft silty-sand fill; ten worked flints were found at the top of the fill. The ditch had steep sides and a concave base (Figure 4, Section 12).

3.2.28 Located 3.5m from the western end of the trench a ditch (**30**) with an irregular 'V' shaped profile ran from east to west (Figure 4, Section 11). This ditch, measuring 1.3m wide and 0.36m deep, contained a dark grey-brown soft sandy-silt fill and no artefacts. This ditch appeared to truncate a natural feature below. This feature ran perpendicular to ditch **30** and may have been part of a former hedged boundary which this ditch replaced.

Trench 26

3.2.29 This trench was orientated north-west to south-east and contained no archaeological features. Two tree bowls were located in this trench.

Trench 27 (Figure 3c)

3.2.30 Orientated north-west to south-east, this trench contained several natural tree bowl features. No archaeological features were uncovered.

Trench 28 (Figure 3c)

3.2.31 A single posthole was uncovered at the south-western end of this trench. This posthole (**39**) measured 0.25m in diameter and 0.20m deep. It contained a loose mid brown sandy-silt and no artefacts.

Trench 29 (Figure 3c)

3.2.32 No archaeological features were uncovered in this north to south orientated trench.

Trench 30 (Figure 3c)

3.2.33 This trench was orientated east to west and contained a single pit. The pit (**37**), measuring 0.6m in diameter and 0.30m deep, contained a loose dark grey sandy-silt fill (Plate 3). Worked flints including cores and flakes as well as a relatively large amount (30g) of pottery was recovered from this feature. The pottery fragments formed part of a single Beaker vessel dating to the Late Neolithic\Early Bronze Age. An environmental sample from this feature produced pottery and burnt flint and no charred remains.

Trench 31 (Figure 3c)

3.2.34 Three features were uncovered at the northern end of this trench (Plate 4). A linear feature (**41**), measuring 0.92m long, 0.33m wide and 0.12m deep contained a dark grey brown loose sandy silt. Feature (**43**), measuring 0.45m in diameter and 0.03m deep, contained a mid grey-brown sandy-silt. This feature may have been the remains of a posthole which contained no artefacts.

3.2.35 Located 0.5m to the south of posthole (**43**), feature **45** measured 0.67m long, 0.40m wide and 0.09m deep. This feature contained a mid grey-brown sandy-silt and no artefacts. These features may represent shallow postholes being dug and re-dug into the sand in this area.

3.3 Site B

3.3.1 Trenches 32 to 45 were located entirely or partially in woodland. Access to these trenches was hampered by the trees, some of which were removed or thinned in order for the excavations to proceed. Tree roots were prevalent in the trenches in this area, both in the overburden material as well as in the natural deposits. Topsoil varied in depth from 0.12m to 0.40m, whilst subsoil varied in depth from 0.10m to 0.60m in areas where earthworks were present.

Trench 32 (Figure 3d)

3.3.2 This trench was located in an area of mature trees which could not be removed prior to excavation. The trench was relocated in order to fit it in around the trees. The north-eastern end of the trench was orientated north-east to south-west, after 12.7m the trench turned to the east for 5.80m before turning to the south-west for 9.80m.

3.3.3 No archaeological features were uncovered in this trench. The subsoil depth increased from 0m at the north-east to 0.20m at the south-west.

Trench 33 (Figure 3d)

3.3.4 Orientated north-west to south-east, this trench contained one archaeological feature associated with an earthwork that ran across the south-eastern end of the trench.

3.3.5 The feature (**60**), measuring 7m across from the south-eastern end of the trench and up to 0.60m deep, was filled with a mid brown soft silty-sand similar to the sub-soil material. This feature was associated with an earthwork visible on the surface. This earthwork ran from south-west to north-east and stood to a maximum height of 0.75m within the proposed development area.

Trench 34 (Figure 3d)

3.3.6 Two archaeological features were uncovered in this trench. Both were ditches running north-west to south-east, located 20m apart. The north-eastern ditch (**53**), measuring 3.10m wide and 0.36m deep, was filled by a dark reddish-brown loose silty-sand (Plate 5). This deposit contained worked flint and a single sherd of Late Bronze Age\Early Iron Age pottery. The ditch had a concave base and gradually sloping sides (Figure 4, Section 16). An environmental sample from this feature produced a small amount of charcoal and flint debitage.

3.3.7 Ditch **55**, measuring 2.40m wide and 0.30m deep, had a similar profile and fill and contained worked flint (Figure 4, Section 17).

Trench 35 (Figure 3d)

3.3.8 Located 30m to the north-west of Trench 34, this trench contained three archaeological features: two pits and a ditch.

3.3.9 Pit **74**, located at the south-western end of the trench, had an irregular linear plan and an irregular, concave base which had been effected by root action (Plate 6). Measuring 5.30m wide and 0.30m deep, it contained a mid grey-brown loose silty-sand fill which included pottery dating to the Romano-British period (Appendix B1.8).

3.3.10 At the north-eastern end of the trench a linear feature (**76**) ran east to west across the trench. This ditch, measuring 0.88m wide and 0.30m deep, contained a mid yellow-brown loose silty-sand including a flint core which may date from the Neolithic period.

3.3.11 This ditch was largely truncated by pit **78** which measured 6.6m wide and 0.36m deep. It had an irregular shape and gradually sloping sides. This feature contained a mid grey-brown loose silty-sand.

Trench 36

3.3.12 Orientated north-east to south-west, this trench contained no archaeological features. Three natural and geological features were uncovered.

Trench 37

3.3.13 Orientated north-east to south-west, this trench contained no archaeological features. Three natural and geological features were uncovered.

Trench 38 (Figure 3d)

3.3.14 Two archaeological features were uncovered in this trench. Feature **46**, located a the south-western end of the trench, measured in excess of 1.40m wide and 0.22m deep (Plate 8). It contained a mid yellow-brown soft sand including flint working flakes. This feature may have been a ditch, partially exposed in this trench, that ran north-west to south-east with gradually sloping sides and an irregular base. A pit (**48**), measuring 2m wide and 0.17m deep, was located 10m to the north-east. It contained flint flakes, angular shatter and burnt flint in a dark grey soft silty-sand. The pit was sub-circular in plan, with an irregular base and gently sloping sides. An environmental sample from this feature produced a small amount of charcoal and flint debitage.

Trench 39 (Figure 3d)

3.3.15 This trench was orientated north-west to south-east and contained a single archaeological feature. This feature, measuring 3.50m wide and 0.5m deep, was a ditch (**50**) orientated north-west to south-east which contained a mid yellow-brown soft silty-sand with flint working flakes, burnt flint and two sherds from a Beaker vessel (Plate 7). An environmental sample from this feature produced no results.

Trench 40 (Figure 3e)

3.3.16 Located at the south-eastern corner of Site B, this trench was orientated north-east to south-west. This trench contained nine linear gullies. These features, measuring 0.5m wide and 0.2m deep on average, were spaced between 0.5 and 1.5m part. These gullies appeared to be aligned with individual trees and may have been related to the laying out or maintenance of the forest. They contained dark orange-brown silty-sand fills and no artefacts.

Trench 41 (Figure 3e)

3.3.17 This trench was located in a clearing to the east of the forest. One archaeological feature was uncovered in this trench. Pit **59**, measuring 0.35m in diameter and 0.16m deep, was sub-circular in plan with a concave base and gradually sloping sides. It was

filled by dark grey-brown loose silty-sand containing pottery dating to the Roman period and burnt flint. An environmental sample from this feature produced a moderate amount of charcoal as well as burnt flint. No other features were present in this trench.

Trench 42 (Figure 3e)

3.3.18 Orientated north-south in the clearing to the east of the forest, this trench contained a single possible archaeological feature. This feature was a tree-bowl (**57**) that may have been reused. It measured 0.85m long, 0.31m wide and 0.1m deep. An environmental sample produced a large amount of charcoal and burnt flint. The subsoil in this trench was substantially thicker than that in Trench 43, to the south, indicating the location of an earthwork, although its overall form could not be established within the forest.

Trench 43 (Figure 3e)

3.3.19 No archaeological features were uncovered in this trench. It was orientated north-east to south-west and located to the south of the clearing at the east of the forest.

Trench 44 (Figure 3e)

3.3.20 No archaeological features were uncovered in this trench. It was orientated north-east to south-west and located at the eastern side of the forest with the north-east half being in a strip of managed pasture. Several natural features were uncovered in this trench.

Trench 45 (Figure 3e)

3.3.21 This trench, located 25m to the north-west of Trench 44, was orientated north-east to south-west. It contained a concave pit (**62**), measuring 1.50m wide and 0.20m deep, that was filled by a dark brown-grey soft sandy-silt. No datable artefacts were recovered from this feature but a small amount of charcoal was recovered from an environmental sample. Two sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from the base of the subsoil.

Trench 46 (Figure 3e)

3.3.22 Located entirely in the managed pasture at the north-east of Site B, this trench was orientated north-east to south-west. Four cut features and a layer were uncovered at the south-western end of the trench.

3.3.23 The earliest features were an elongated feature that may have originally been a posthole, and a pit. The elongated feature (**65**) appeared to have been sealed by layer 68. This feature, measuring 0.6m long, 0.25m wide and 0.16m deep, contained a single flint flake in a mid grey-brown sandy-silt fill. This feature could have been the result of post removal from a posthole.

3.3.24 Adjacent to this posthole a pit (**67**), measuring 1.15m in diameter and 0.10m deep, contained a mid grey-brown loose sandy-silt and no datable artefacts.

3.3.25 Layer 68, measuring 5m wide and 0.18m deep, consisted of a dark grey-brown loose sandy-silt containing a flint flake. It may have been filling a natural hollow. An environmental sample produced a small amount of charcoal and burnt flint.

3.3.26 Two postholes were cut into this layer. Posthole **72**, measuring 0.52m deep and 0.06m wide, was filled with a mid grey-brown sandy silt containing flint flakes and burnt flint.

Located 0.2m to the east, posthole **70** measured 0.42m in diameter and 0.08m deep and contained flint flakes as well as burnt flint. More flint as well as a small amount of charcoal was recovered from an environmental sample taken from this feature.

3.4 Finds Summary

3.4.1 *Pottery*: Three sherds of Romano-British pottery weighing 27g and twelve prehistoric sherds weighing 48g were recovered from excavated features in four trenches. The assemblage comprises eleven sherds of Late Neolithic\Early Bronze Age Beaker found in Trenches 12, 30 and 39, and a single sherd of flint-tempered pottery from ditch **53**, Trench 34, which may be Iron Age. The assemblage is fragmentary, comprising small broken-up sherds with an average weight of only 4g.

3.4.2 *Flint*: An assemblage of 173 flints was recovered from the site. The struck flints represent a multi-period assemblage. Early Neolithic material is present, however the majority of the material seems to be of later date, most likely Bronze Age. The worked assemblage consists mainly of flakes and a single core. A large number of burnt flints are also present.

3.4.3 *Stone*: A single piece of worked stone was recovered from the evaluation. This may have been a fragment of a stone used as a rubber.

3.5 Environmental Summary

3.5.1 *Environmental Samples*: Eleven bulk samples were taken from features during the evaluation. Features sampled are dated to the prehistoric period and include Neolithic/early Bronze Age deposits. The samples did not contain any plant remains that can aid interpretation. Such scarcity of preserved remains is common for sites of a Neolithic date and suggests that any later activity did not include occupation.

3.5.2 Preservation in Site B may have been effected by overlying acid sandy soils, however the lime rich, alkaline bedrock may have counter-acted the effects of this.

4 Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Discussion

4.1.1 The evaluation of land at Avenue Farm, Icklingham has uncovered dispersed activty dating from the Neolithic to the Roman periods in both Site A and Site B.

4.1.2 Pottery and flint dating to the Late Neolithic\Early Bronze Age was found in four areas, two in each site. A significant deposit of Beaker pottery and flint work was recovered from a pit in Trench 30 in the north of Site A. This type of deposit strongly indicates occupation in this area rather than residuality or loss. Another sherd of Beaker pottery was found in a pit\ditch in Trench 39 to the north of Site B as well as in Trench 12. This distribution of Late Neolithic\Early Bronze Age features and artefacts is unusual given the generally sparse character of archaeologically-visible occupation during this period. It is notable that the proposed development area lies within a kilometre of four areas of Early Bronze Age burial mounds; these barrow cemeteries are often associated with low level Early Bronze Age occupation and increasing landscape organisation and settlement into the Middle Bronze Age.

4.1.3 Features which may have been boundary ditches were uncovered in Trenches 12, 25, 34, 38 and 39 implying that this Early\Middle Bronze Age landscape division and organisation can be seen in both Sites A and B. Flint recovered from features and those pieces recovered residually in natural features are indicative of tree clearance and later prehistoric occupation in this area.

4.1.4 The ditched features tend towards a north-west to south-east alignment, however feature **30** in Trench 25 and ditch **78** in Trench 35 appear to have been cut on north-south to east-west alignments indicating that there may have been a second period of enclosure in this area. These boundaries may have been associated with Roman activity evidenced by several sherds of pottery dating to this period. The small number of Romano-British sherds recovered indicates that settlement in this period was located well beyond the limits of the site, however field systems relating to the Roman road side settlement at Icklingham may have spread in to this area.

4.1.5 Extant earthworks to the east and south of Site B relate to previous land-use. No datable artefacts were recovered from these features. Those to the south do appear to correspond with features seen on the historic mapping and so are probably associated with post-medieval land division.

4.2 Significance

4.2.1 The presence of a Beaker pottery deposit within a pit with associated lithic artefacts is of great significance given that no Beaker period deposits have been found previously within a kilometre of the site. The distribution, albeit sparse, of Late Neolithic\Early Bronze Age artefacts and features across Sites A and B is of significance for the study of a period where domestic activity areas tend to be elusive. These finds are given further significance by the presence of barrow cemeteries in several locations nearby. The development of Bronze Age Fen edge landscapes with similar characteristics has been recorded nearby at Fordham (Mortimer and Connor forthcoming; Gilmour forthcoming) and Wicken Fen (Gilmour 2009).

4.2.2 Evidence of Roman field systems in this area would be of local and regional significance and would add to the narratives of Roman rural occupation within the Fen edge landscape.

4.2.3 There was a great variation in preservation across the site with modern truncation affecting the southern half of Site A which may diminish the significance of the remains in this area. The presence of earthworks in Site B may have led to a greater level of preservation below these features which may have protected them from bioturbation. These thick overlying sandy soils may have had a detrimental impact on organic remains such as bone and plant macrofossils.

4.3 Recommendations

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

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
This trench contained no archaeological features. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.5m. There was no subsoil. Multiple modern intrusions. The natural geology consisted of chalk.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.45
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	25.4
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.5	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
This trench contained no archaeological features. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.25m. The subsoil was a maximum of 0.20m deep. Multiple modern intrusions. The natural geology consisted of chalk.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.38
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
2	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
This trench contained no archaeological features. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.22m. The subsoil was a maximum of 0.22m deep. Multiple modern intrusions. The natural geology consisted of chalk.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.35
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
5	Layer	11.25	0.2	Redeposited chalk	CBM	modern
6	Fill	1.2	0.24	Fill of 7	CBM	modern
7	Cut	1.2	0.24	Pit	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
This trench contained no archaeological features. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.26m. The subsoil was a maximum of 0.06m deep. Modern pit over 0.68m deep. The natural geology consisted of chalk.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.32
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30

Trench 5		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
This trench contained no archaeological features. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.45m. The subsoil was a maximum of 0.05m deep. Multiple modern intrusions. The natural geology consisted of chalk.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.37
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	30

Trench 6		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
This trench contained no archaeological features. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.4m. The subsoil was a maximum of 0.04m deep. Modern pit and a geological feature. The natural geology consisted of chalk.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.32
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	30

Trench 7		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
This trench contained no archaeological features. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.26m. The subsoil was a maximum of 0.20m deep. Multiple ploughs cars and natural features. The natural geology consisted of chalk.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.42
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	30

Trench 8		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
This trench contained no archaeological features. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.9m. There was no subsoil in this trench. Multiple modern intrusions as well as geological features. The natural geology consisted of chalk.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.68
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	30

Trench 9		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
This trench contained a pit, that may have been natural in origin, containing burnt flint. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.23m. The subsoil was a maximum of 0.02m deep. A 3mx3m extension was excavated around the feature. The natural geology consisted of chalk.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.22
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
3	Cut	1.01	0.42	Tree bowl?	-	-
4	Fill	1.01	0.42	Fill of 3	Flint	?

Trench 10		
General description	**Orientation**	NE-SW
This trench contained no archaeological features. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.23m. There was no subsoil in this trench. Two modern features and one geological feature. The natural geology	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.22
	Width (m)	1.8

consisted of chalk.	**Length (m)**	30

Trench 11		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
This trench contained no archaeological features. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.28m. The subsoil was a maximum of 0.27m deep. Multiple natural features, probably tree bowls. The natural geology consisted of chalk.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.41
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	29

Trench 12		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.30m. The subsoil was a maximum of 0.19m deep. Three features which may have been natural in origin were uncovered in this trench. These were excavated and recorded due to the presence of prehistoric pottery in feature **16**. The natural geology consisted of chalk.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.37
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
14	Cut	0.78	0.36	Pit/Ditch	-	-
15	Fill	0.78	0.36	Fill of 14	-	-
16	Cut	4.35	0.65	Linear feature, maybe natural tree bowl.	-	-
17	Fill	4.35	0.28	Fill of 16	Pot	Late Neolithic\early Bronze Age
18	Fill	2.4	0.4	Fill of 16	-	-
19	Fill	1.5	0.4	Fill of 16	-	-
34	Cut	0.76	0.3	Pit/Ditch	-	-
35	Fill	0.76	0.3	Fill of 34	-	-

Trench 13		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
This trench contained no archaeological features. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.21m. The subsoil was a maximum of 0.02m deep. One modern pit.. The natural geology consisted of chalk.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.18
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	30

Trench 14		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
This trench contained no archaeological features. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.30m. The subsoil was a maximum of 0.05m deep. One natural tree bowl was uncovered. The natural geology consisted of chalk.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.28
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	30

Trench 15

General description	Orientation	E-W
This trench contained no archaeological features. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.26m. The subsoil was a maximum of 0.02m deep. Modern pits and plough scars as well as two tree bowls at the eastern end. The natural geology consisted of chalk.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.24
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	30

Trench 16						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
This trench contained a pit, that may have been natural in origin, containing burnt flint. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.26m. The subsoil was a maximum of 0.08m deep. A 3mx3m extension was excavated around the feature. The natural geology consisted of chalk.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.27
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
12	cut	0.8	0.39	Pit?	-	-
13	fill	0.8	0.39	Fill of 12	Burnt flint	-

Trench 17		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
This trench contained no archaeological features. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.26m. The subsoil was a maximum of 0.08m deep. Three tree bowls. The natural geology consisted of chalk.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.32
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	29.5

Trench 18		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
This trench contained no archaeological features. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.27m. The subsoil was a maximum of 0.09m deep. Root disturbance and geological features. The natural geology consisted of chalk.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.34
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	29.6

Trench 19		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
This trench contained no archaeological features. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.27m. There was no subsoil. One modern pit at the southern end truncating a geological feature. The natural geology consisted of chalk.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.25
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	22

Trench 20		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
This trench contained no archaeological features. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.2m. The subsoil was a maximum of 0.05m deep. Root disturbance and geological features. The natural geology consisted of chalk.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.25
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	30

Trench 21		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
This trench contained no archaeological features. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.28m. The subsoil was a maximum of 0.09m deep. Three tree bowl features.. The natural geology consisted of chalk.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.34
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	30

Trench 22		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
This trench contained no archaeological features. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.34m. The subsoil was a maximum of 0.1m deep. One tree bowl and geological features. The natural geology consisted of chalk.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.37
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	28

Trench 23		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
This trench one possible archaeological feature. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.24m. The subsoil was a maximum of 0.11m deep. Root disturbance and geological features.. Seven features were uncovered, these were geological and natural features, four of which were excavated. One feature contained flint flakes. The trench was extended in a 3mx3m box at the western end in order to investigate the character of one of the features. The natural geology consisted of chalk.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.31
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	24

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
20	fill	1.65	0.2	Fill of 21	Flint	-
21	cut	1.65	0.2	Tree bowl	-	-
22	fill	0.68	0.13	Fill of 23	-	-
23	cut	0.68	0.13	Tree Bowl	-	-
24	fill	1	0.23	Fill of 26	-	-
25	fill	1	0.28	Fill of 26	-	-
26	cut	1	0.28	Tree bowl	-	-
27	fill	0.67	0.4	Fill of 28	-	-
28	fill	0.57	0.5	Fill of 28	-	-
29	cut	0.67	0.58	Cut of tree bowl	-	-

Trench 24		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
This trench contained no archaeological features. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.24m. The subsoil was a maximum of 0.1m deep. One tree bowl and geological features. The natural geology consisted of chalk.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.29
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	34

Trench 25						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Two features were uncovered in this trench. One ditch at the north-eastern end of the trench and one hedge\ditch type features at the south-western end. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.30m. The subsoil was a maximum of 0.1m deep. The natural geology consisted of chalk.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.36
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	20
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
30	cut	1.3	0.36	Hedge\ditch	-	-
31	fill	1.3	0.36	Fill of 30	-	-
32	cut	2.2	0.4	Ditch	-	-
33	fill	2.2	0.4	Fill of 32	Flint	-

Trench 26		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
This trench contained no archaeological features. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.22m. The subsoil was a maximum of 0.08m deep. Tree bowl and geological features. The natural geology consisted of chalk.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.24
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	31

Trench 27		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
This trench contained no archaeological features. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.18m. There was no subsoil. Tree bowl and geological features. The natural geology consisted of chalk and sand.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.16
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	29

Trench 28						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
This trench contained one archaeological feature. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.20m. There was no subsoil. A posthole was located at the southern end of the trench. The natural geology consisted of chalk and sand.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.18
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
38	fill	0.25	0.2	Fill of 39	-	-
39	cut	0.25	0.2	posthole	-	-

Trench 29		
General description	**Orientation**	N-S
This trench contained no archaeological features. The topsoil was a	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.16

maximum depth of 0.18m. There was no subsoil. Tree bowl and geological features. The natural geology consisted of chalk and sand.	**Width (m)**	1.8
	Length (m)	30

Trench 30						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
This trench contained one archaeological feature. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.20m. There was no subsoil. A pit was located in the centre of the trench. This pit contained burnt flint and Beaker pottery. The natural geology consisted of chalk and sand.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.17
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
36	fill	0.6	0.3	Fill of 37	Pot and Flint	Late Neolithic\early Bronze Age
37	cut	0.6	0.3	pit	-	-

Trench 31						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Three postholes were uncovered in this trench. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.24m. There was no subsoil. The natural geology consisted of chalk and sand.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.17
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
40	fill	0.44	0.12	Fill of 41	-	-
41	cut	0.44	0.12	Posthole	-	-
42	fill	0.45	0.03	Fill of 43	-	-
43	cut	0.45	0.03	Posthole	-	-
44	fill	0.67	0.09	Fill of 45	-	-
45	cut	0.67	0.09	Posthole	-	-

Trench 32		
General description	**Orientation**	E-W
This trench contained no archaeological features. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.40m. The subsoil was a maximum of 0.20m deep. The natural geology consisted of chalk and sand. Subsoil increased to the west where an earthwork was present.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.45
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	29

Trench 33		
General description	**Orientation**	NW-SE
The soil profile exposed by this trench showed a substantial earthwork at the south-eastern end. The trench depth varied from 0.56m at the north-western end to 0.98m at the south-eastern end.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.7
	Width (m)	1.8

The earthwork was associated with a cut feature. The natural geology consisted of chalk and sand.	**Length (m)**	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
60	cut	0.6	0.25	Boundary?	-	-
61	fill	0.6	0.25	Fill of of 60	-	-

Trench 34

General description	Orientation	SW-NE
Two archaeological features were uncovered in this trench. These were both shallow ditches aligned north-west to south-east that contained pottery and flint dating to the late Bronze Age\early Iron Age. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.28m and the subsoil measured a maximum depth of 0.28m. The natural geology consisted of chalk and sand.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.48
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	35

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
52	fill	3.1	0.36	Fill of 53	Flint and Pot	LBA\EIA
53	cut	3.1	0.36	Ditch	-	
54	fill	2.4	0.3	Fill of 55	Flint	Early Neolithic?
55	cut	2.4	0.3	Ditch	-	

Trench 35

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Three archaeological features were uncovered in this trench. These were ditches\pits, aligned east to west and north to south. They contained flint and pottery dating to the Romano-British period. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.14m and the subsoil measured a maximum depth of 0.42m. The natural geology consisted of chalk and sand.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.54
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	25

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
74	cut	5.3	0.36	Pit\Treebowl?	-	-
75	fill	5.3	0.36	Fill of 74	Pot	Romano-British?
76	cut	0.88	-	pit	-	-
77	fill	0.88	-	Fill of 76	Flint	Early Neolithic?
78	cut	6.6	0.36	Natural\ditch	-	-
79	fill	6.6	0.36	Fill of 78	Animal Bone	Modern?
80	fill	-	0.12	Fill of 74	-	-

Trench 36		
General description	**Orientation**	NE-SW
This trench contained no archaeological features. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.30m. The subsoil was a maximum of 0.20m deep. The natural geology consisted of chalk.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.47
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	29

Trench 37		
General description	**Orientation**	NE-SW
This trench contained no archaeological features. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.30m. The subsoil was a maximum of 0.10m deep. The natural geology consisted of chalk and sand.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.4
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	32

Trench 38		
General description	**Orientation**	NE-SW
This trench contained two archaeological features. One ditch and one pit\tree bowl. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.30m. The subsoil was a maximum of 0.10m deep. The natural geology consisted of chalk and sand.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.57
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	28

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
46	cut	1.4	0.22	Ditch?	-	-
47	fill	1.4	0.22	Fill of 46	Flint	-
48	cut	0.85	0.17	Pit?	-	-
49	fill	0.85	0.17	Fill of 48	Flint	-

Trench 39		
General description	**Orientation**	NE-SW
This trench contained one archaeological feature. This was a ditch. There was a large amount of root disturbance in this trench. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.40m. The subsoil was a maximum of 0.150m deep. The natural geology consisted of chalk and sand.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.45
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	26

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
50	cut	3.5	0.5	Ditch?	-	-
51	fill	3.5	0.5	Fill of 50	Flint and Pot	EBA- Beaker

Trench 40		
General description	**Orientation**	NE-SW
This trench contained no archaeological features. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.20m. The subsoil was a maximum of 0.30m	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.47

deep. The natural geology consisted of chalk and sand. Nine linear features may have been associated with soil improvement prior to planting trees.	**Width (m)**	1.8
	Length (m)	30

Trench 41						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
This trench contained one archaeological feature. This was a small pit containing a burnt deposit. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.34m. The subsoil was a maximum of 0.38m deep. The trench depth increased from 0.41m in the west to 0.71m in the east where an earthwork could be seen. The natural geology consisted of chalk and sand.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.5
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
58	fill	0.35	0.16	Fill of 59	Flint and Pot	Romano-British
59	cut	0.35	0.16	pit	-	-

Trench 42						
General description					**Orientation**	NNW-SSE
This trench contained one possible archaeological feature. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.30m. The subsoil was a maximum of 0.54m deep. The natural geology consisted of chalk and sand. A large amount of intrusive rooting activity could be seen in the sand. One of these features was investigated and recorded. The trench depth varied from 0.55m to 0.84m where an earthwork could be seen on the surface.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.75
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	28
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
56	cut	0.31	0.1	tree-bowl	-	-
57	fill	0.31	0.1	Fill of 56	-	-

Trench 43		
General description	**Orientation**	NE-SW
This trench contained no archaeological features. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.15m. The subsoil was a maximum of 0.22m deep. The natural geology consisted of chalk and sand.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.3
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	33

Trench 44		
General description	**Orientation**	NE-SW
This trench contained no archaeological features. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.27m. The subsoil was a maximum of 0.40m deep. The natural geology consisted of chalk and sand. Several large tree-bowls were uncovered	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.55
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	29

Trench 45						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
This trench contained one archaeological feature. This was a pit located a the south-western end of the trench. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.17m. The subsoil was a maximum of 0.35m deep. The natural geology consisted of chalk and sand.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.48
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
62	fill	1.5	0.2	Fill of 63	-	-
63	cut	1.5	0.2	Pit	-	-

Trench 46						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Four cut features and a layer were uncovered in this trench. Two postholes were sealed by the layer, which may have been filling a natural hollow. A pit and posthole were cut into this layer. The topsoil was a maximum depth of 0.32m. The subsoil was a maximum of 0.30m deep. The natural geology consisted of chalk and sand.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.57
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	26
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
64	fill	0.25	0.16	Fill of 65	Flint	-
65	cut	0.25	0.16	posthole	-	-
66	fill	1.15	0.1	Fill of 67	Flint	-
67	cut	1.15	0.1	pit	-	-
68	Layer	5	0.18	Fill of natural hollow?	Flint	-
69	fill	0.42	0.08	Fill of 70	-	-
70	cut	0.42	0.08	posthole	-	-
71	fill	0.52	0.06	Fill of 72	Flint	-
72	cut	0.52	0.06	posthole	-	-
73	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-

Appendix B. Finds Reports

B.1 Prehistoric Pottery

By Sarah Percival

Introduction

B.1.1 A small assemblage of twelve prehistoric sherds weighing 48g was recovered from excavated features in four trenches. The assemblage comprises eleven sherds of Later Neolithic\Early Bronze Age Beaker found in Trenches 12, 30 and 39, and a single sherd of flint-tempered pottery from ditch **53**, Trench 34, which may be Iron Age. The assemblage is fragmentary, comprising small broken-up sherds with an average weight of only 4g.

Trench	Feature	Feature type	Spot date	Quantity	Weight (g)
12	16	Ditch\ geology	Later Neolithic Early Bronze Age	2	13
30	37	Pit	Later Neolithic Early Bronze Age	7	30
34	53	Ditch	?Iron Age	1	4
39	50	Ditch?	Later Neolithic Early Bronze Age	2	1
Total				12	48

Table 1: Quantity and weight of sherds by trench and feature

Methodology

B.1.2 The assemblage was analysed in accordance with recommendations suggested in *The Study of Prehistoric Pottery: General Policies and Guidelines for Analysis and Publication* specified by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (PCRG 2010). The total assemblage was studied and a full catalogue was prepared. The sherds were examined using a binocular microscope (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types (Table 2). Fabric codes were prefixed by a letter code representing the main inclusion type (F representing flint, G grog, S shell and Q quartz). Vessel form was recorded; R representing rim sherds, B base sherds, D decorated sherds. PP partial profile, CP complete profile and U undecorated body sherds. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Decoration, surface treatment, residues and abrasion were also noted. The pottery and archive are curated by OAE.

Spot date	Fabric	Description	Quantity	Weight (g)
Later Neolithic early Bronze Age	Q1	Quartz sand with sparse, small, rounded quartzite	2	13
	QG	Common, small, blocky, dark-grey grog inclusions within a sandy clay matrix	9	31
?Iron Age	F1	Moderate small angular white flint pieces in clean clay matrix	1	4
Total			12	48

Table 2: Fabric descriptions

Results

Later Neolithic Early Bronze Age

B.1.3 A total of eleven sherds weighing 44g are Beaker of Later Neolithic\Early Bronze Age date. Two fabric types were identified. The first is sandy with sparse, small rounded quartzite and the second contains small, blocky, dark-grey grog inclusions within a

sandy clay matrix. Both are entirely consistent with Beaker fabrics found at other Beaker sites in the region (Healy 1992, 149; Martin 1993, 51). One base sherd, from possible ditch **16**, Trench 12, is decorated with single fingernail impressions, a common decorative technique within domestic Beaker assemblages found locally at sites such as Fison Way, Thetford (Healy 1992, 150). Decorated sherds were also found in pit **37**, Trench 20. These sherds all appear to be from a single vessel in sand and grog-tempered fabric and feature incised decorated forming a motif of filled lozenges, possibly within a border of horizontal bands. Incised decorated Beaker often forms a component of domestic Beaker assemblages such as that found at Hockwold cum Wilton on the Fen edge (Healy 1996, fig.78. P64).

Iron Age

B.1.4 A single sherd in sparse flint-tempered fabric from ditch **53**, Trench 34, may be Iron Age.

Discussion

B.1.5 The small, fragmented Beaker assemblage is likely to be non-funerary. Healy's recent work has suggested that 'domestic' Beaker began to used and deposited in England around 2490-2200 cal. BC and probably continued to be used until *c*. 1800-1620 cal. BC (both at 95% probability Healy 2012, 154). This small assemblage suggests occupation in the area in the Later Neolithic\Early Bronze Age, perhaps an outlier to the more densely occupied Fen edge sites to the west.

B.1.6 The use of flint-temper in the sherd from Trench 34 indicates a possible earlier Iron Age date, perhaps c.800-350BC. Both Thetford to the north-east and Mildenhall / Lakenheath to the west have produced numerous Iron Age sites, including some with earlier Iron Age activity.

B.1.7 No further work is required on this assemblage however it should be considered with any pottery recovered should further archaeological work take place at the site. No sherds require illustration.

B.1.8 Romano-British Pottery

Identified by Stephen Wadeson

B.1.9 A total of two domestic coarseware body sherds weighing 25g was collected from two contexts. The first, a sherd from a 2nd to 3rd century combed jar in Sandy Oxidised Ware, was found in subsoil layer (2) and the second, a sherd in micaceous sandy greyware with incised decoration, came from tree throw **74**. This sherd is not closely datable.

B.2 Flint

By Anthony Haskins

Introduction

B.2.1 An assemblage of 173 flints were recovered from Avenue Farm, Icklingham, Suffolk. This report comprises a rapid quantification and analysis aimed at identifying typological and chronological indicators.

Methodology

B.2.2 For the purposes of this report individual artefacts were scanned and then assigned to a category within a simple lithic classification system (Table 3). 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

CONTEXT NO.	Trench No	TYPE	core technology				flakes (>50mm)			flakes (>25mm <50mm)				flakes (>10mm <25mm)			small flakes (<10mm)	blades (all sizes)	chunks/angular shatter (>50mm)	chunks/angular shatter (<50mm)	retouched tools		burnt flint (all types)	other	
		SUB TYPE	Core	Core	Core	Core	secondary	tertiary	broken	primary	secondary	tertiary	broken	secondary	tertiary	broken		secondary							
		CLASSIFICATION	single platform blade	single platform flake	amorphous	core fragment															edge wear	scraper		natural flint and stone	Totals
4											2			1									2		5
13																							28		33
20	23										1														1
33							3				2		1		1	1	1						1		10
36				2	1	2		1		1	8	3			1					1		1	5	3	29
47							1				1	2		1					2				1		8
49											3	1								2			3		9
51											2	1											3		6
52	34								1			2				1					1				

54	34																	1						1
58																						18	4	22
64											1												2	3
66																							3	3
68											1												8	9
69												2							1			6	15	24
71											2											3	1	6
77			1																				1	2
99999	41																	1						1
99999	42										1													1
Totals			1	2	1	2	4	1	1	1	24	11	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	4	1	1	70	37	173

Table 3. Flint Catalogue

B.2.3 A large proportion of the recovered assemblage was composed of burnt flint, contexts 13 and 58 containing the majority of the material (46 fragments 70% of the burnt flint). A smaller portion of the recovered assemblage is made up of natural flint, 37 fragments (21% of the recovered material). These will be ignored for the purposes of this report.

Results

B.2.4 A selection of different flints has been used to create this assemblage: a mid grey to light grey opaque flint of poor quality, a dark semi-translucent greyish-brown flint with a thin grey cortex, a light grey opaque flint with indications of heating and a mix of pieces in various stages of re-cortification ranging from off-white to a mid blueish white colour and generally with a thick white chalky cortex (where present).

B.2.5 The mix of flint types and the varying thickness of the surviving cortex suggest that some of the material present was recovered from secondary sources, the dark semi-translucent greyish-brown flint for example, whilst the material with the thicker chalky cortex may have been recovered from primary sources.

B.2.6 Various cores and core fragments were recovered from the assemblage, these range from a well formed and structured single platform blade core from context 77, to some poorly formed and badly struck material from context 36.

B.2.7 Debitage recovered from the site is biased towards medium flakes between 25 and 50mm, although of variable form with some narrow flakes and some short squat flakes. The majority of the debitage seems to be hard hammer struck.

B.2.8 Two recognisably utilised pieces were identified in the assemblage, an end scraper formed on a large flake with minimal retouch to the distal portion and along the distal right lateral side from context 36, and a large flake with a utilised edge from context 52.

B.2.9 The material from contexts 13 and 58 are heavily burnt and may be pot boilers or stones used to line fire pits.

Discussion

B.2.10 From the recovered material it is clear that the struck flints represent a multi-period assemblage. Early Neolithic material is present in a generally heavily cortificated state such as the core from context 77 and the large utilised flake from context 52. However, the majority of the material which shows little or no sign of recortification seems to be of later date, most likely a Bronze Age assemblage as reflected by the poorly worked material in context 36.

B.3 Stone

By .Sarah Percival

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B.3.1 A river rounded quartzitic cobble weighing 531g was found in pit/natural feature **3**. The cobble has possible wear to one face, causing the surface to become smoothed and slightly striated. This wear may suggest that the cobble had been utilised as a rubber, though this interpretation should remain tentative.

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

C.1.1 Eleven bulk samples were taken from features during the evaluation at Avenue Farm, Icklingham, Suffolk 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 are dated to the prehistoric period and include possible Neolithic/Early Bronze Age deposits.

Methodology

C.1.2 The total volume (up to twenty 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. Both flot and residues were allowed to air dry. A magnet was dragged through each residue fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60

Results

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Volume processed (L)	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal > 2mm	Pottery	Burnt flint	Flint debitage
1	13	12	gully	17	+	0	0	0	0
2	17	16	geological	27	+	+	0	0	0
3	36	37	pit	9	0	0	#	##	0
4	52	53	ditch	20	+	+	0	0	#
5	49	48	pit	20	+	+	0	0	#
6	51	50	ditch	20	0	0	0	0	0
7	56	57	tree root	10	++	++	0	##	0
8	58	59	post hole/ root	5	+++	+++	0	#	0
9	63	62	pit	8	+	+	0	0	0
10	69	70	pit	5	+	+	0	#	0
11	68			17	+	+	0	#	0

Table 4: Environmental samples from IKL197

C.1.3 All of the samples were devoid of plant remains other than modern rootlets and sparse charcoal fragments. Pottery fragments are present in Sample 3 fill 36 of pit 37. Several of the samples contain burnt flint and charcoal as evidence of burning.

Discussion

C.1.4 The environmental samples from Avenue Farm, Icklingham did not contain and plant remains that can aid interpretation. Such scarcity of preserved remains is common for sites of a Neolithic date and suggests that any later activity did not include occupation.

APPENDIX D. BIBLIOGRAPHY

CgMs	2013	*WSI: Land west of Avenue Farm, Icklingham, Suffolk*. CgMs ref. SD/15037
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Mortimer, R. and Connor, A.	forthcoming	*Prehistoric and Roman occupation from the Fordham by-pass, Cambridgeshire*. EAA occasional paper.

APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-161743		
Project Name	Evalaution at Avenue Farm, Icklingham, Suffolk		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	21-10-2013	Finish	30-10-2013
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	IKL197	Planning App. No.	F/2013/0258/ESF
HER No.	IKL197	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Service Infrastructure

Please select all techniques used:

☐ 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
☐ Dendrochronological 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 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	Bronze Age -2.5k to -700	Ceramic	Bronze Age -2.5k to -700
Pits	Bronze Age -2.5k to -700	Ceramic	Roman 43 to 410
Ditch	Roman 43 to 410	Flint	Late Prehistoric -4k to 43

Project Location

County	Suffolk	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Forest Heath	Avenue Farm, Bury St Edmunds, Icklington Road, IP28 6TB Suffolk	
Parish	Icklingham		
HER	Suffolk		
Study Area	18.4ha	National Grid Reference	TL 755 747

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Rachel Monk
Project Design Originator	Sally Dicks
Project Manager	Aileen Connor
Supervisor	Gareth Rees

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
OA East	OA East	OA East
IKL197	IKL197	IKL197

Archive Contents/Media

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

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

Notes:

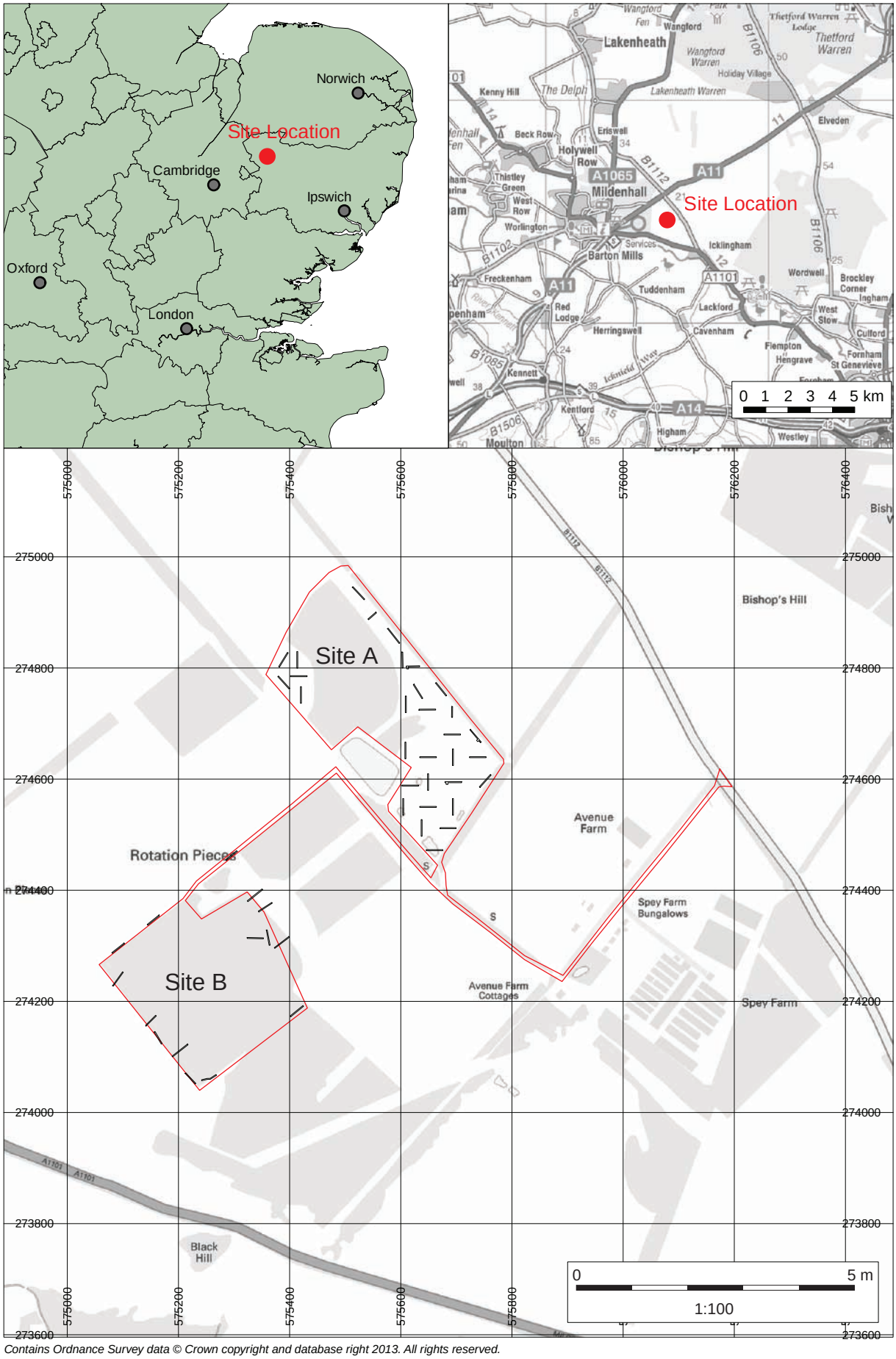

Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red)

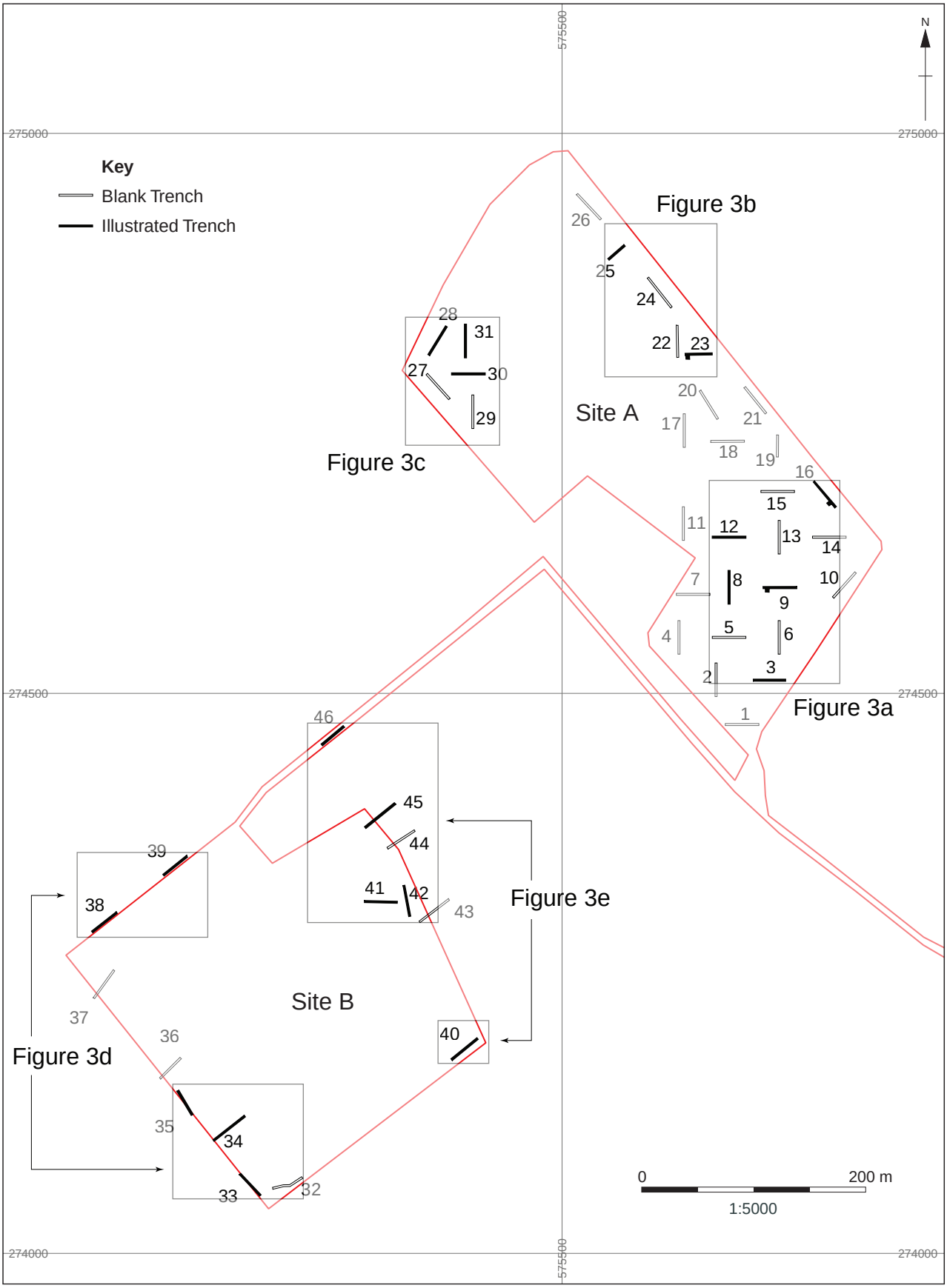

Figure 2: Trench layout within development area (red)

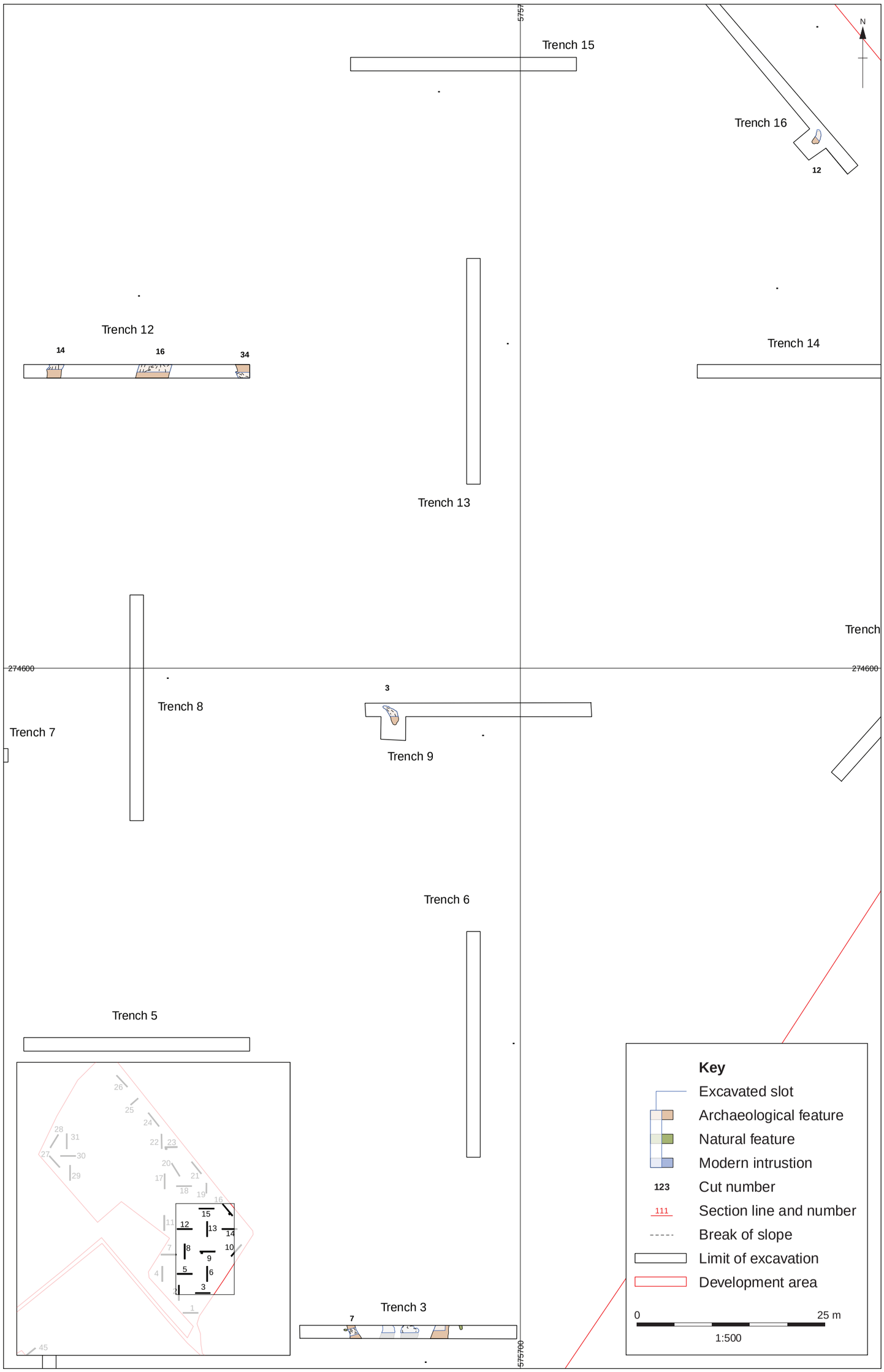

Figure 3a: Plan of trenches 3-16

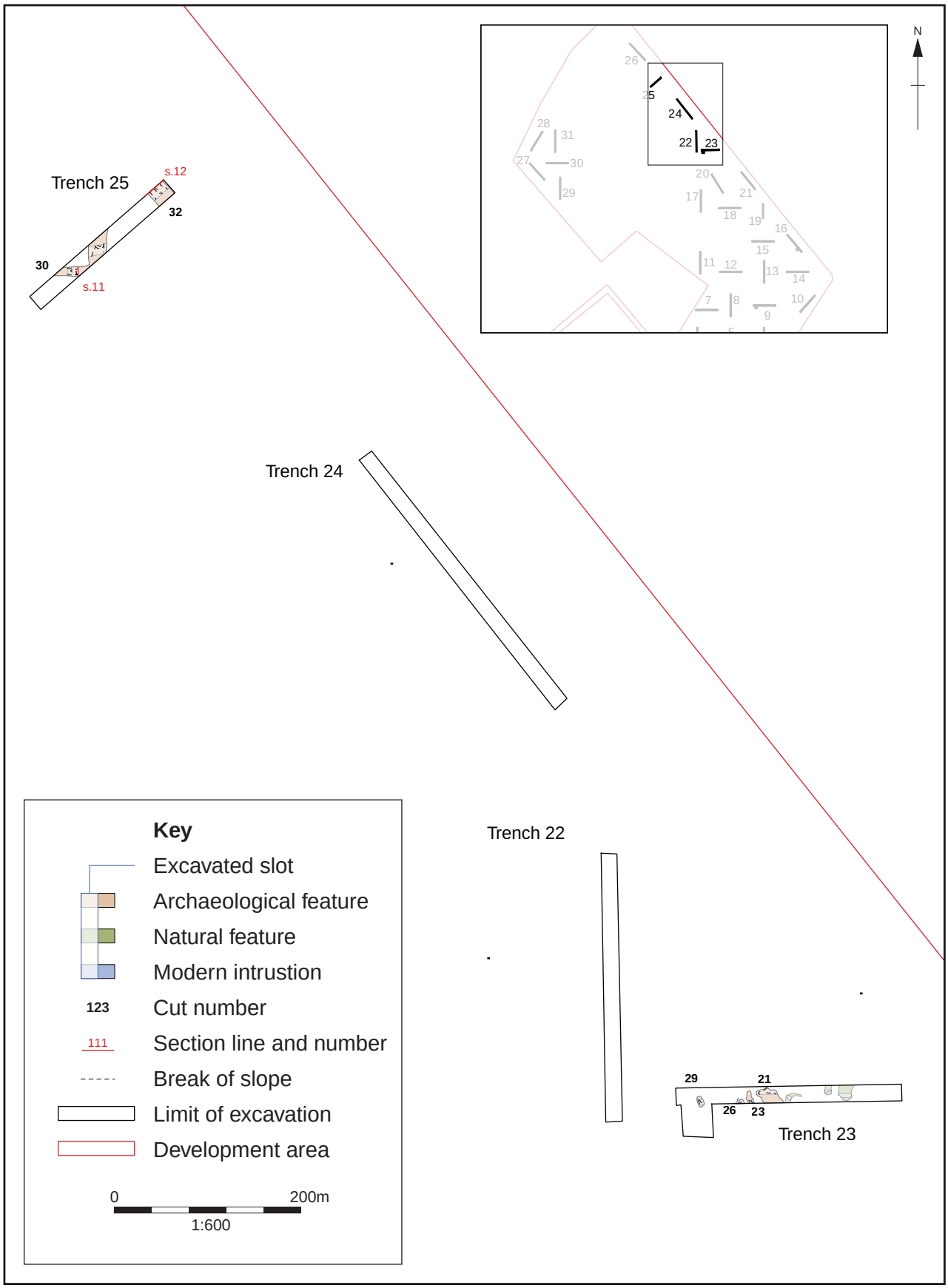

Figure 3b: Plan of trenches 22-25

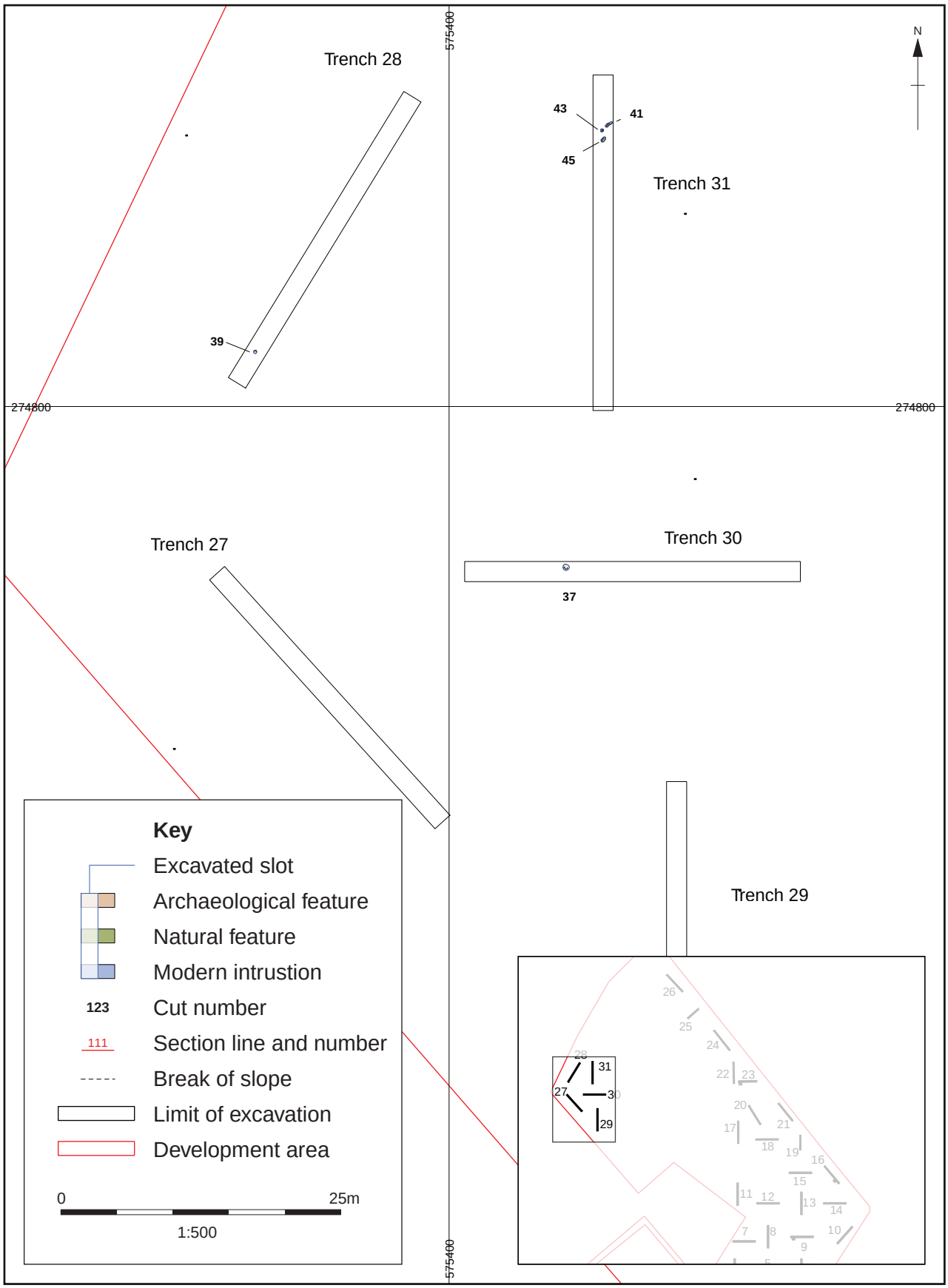

Figure 3c: Plan of trenches 27-31

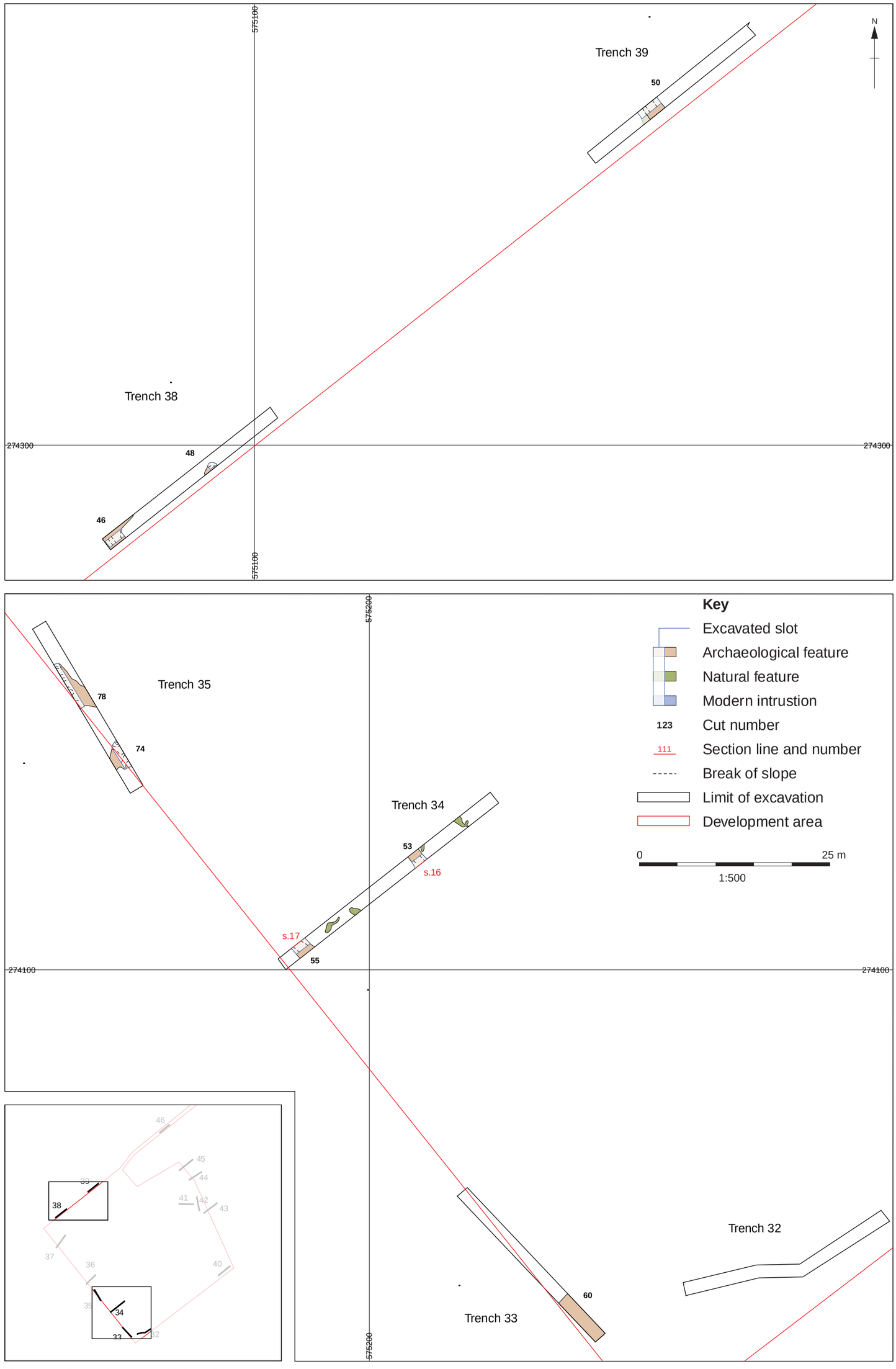

Figure 3d: Plan of trenches 32-35, 38 & 39

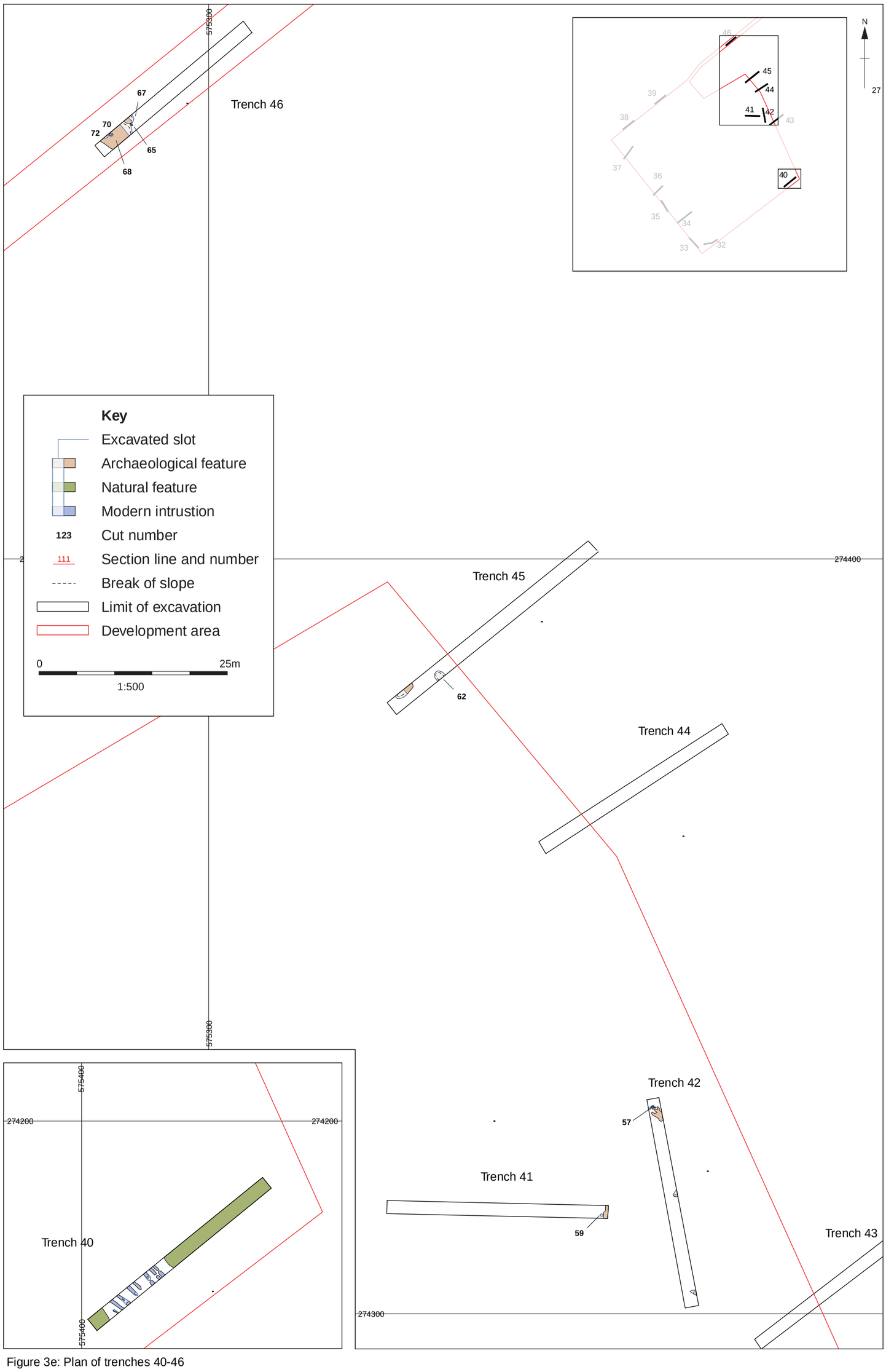

Figure 3e: Plan of trenches 40-46

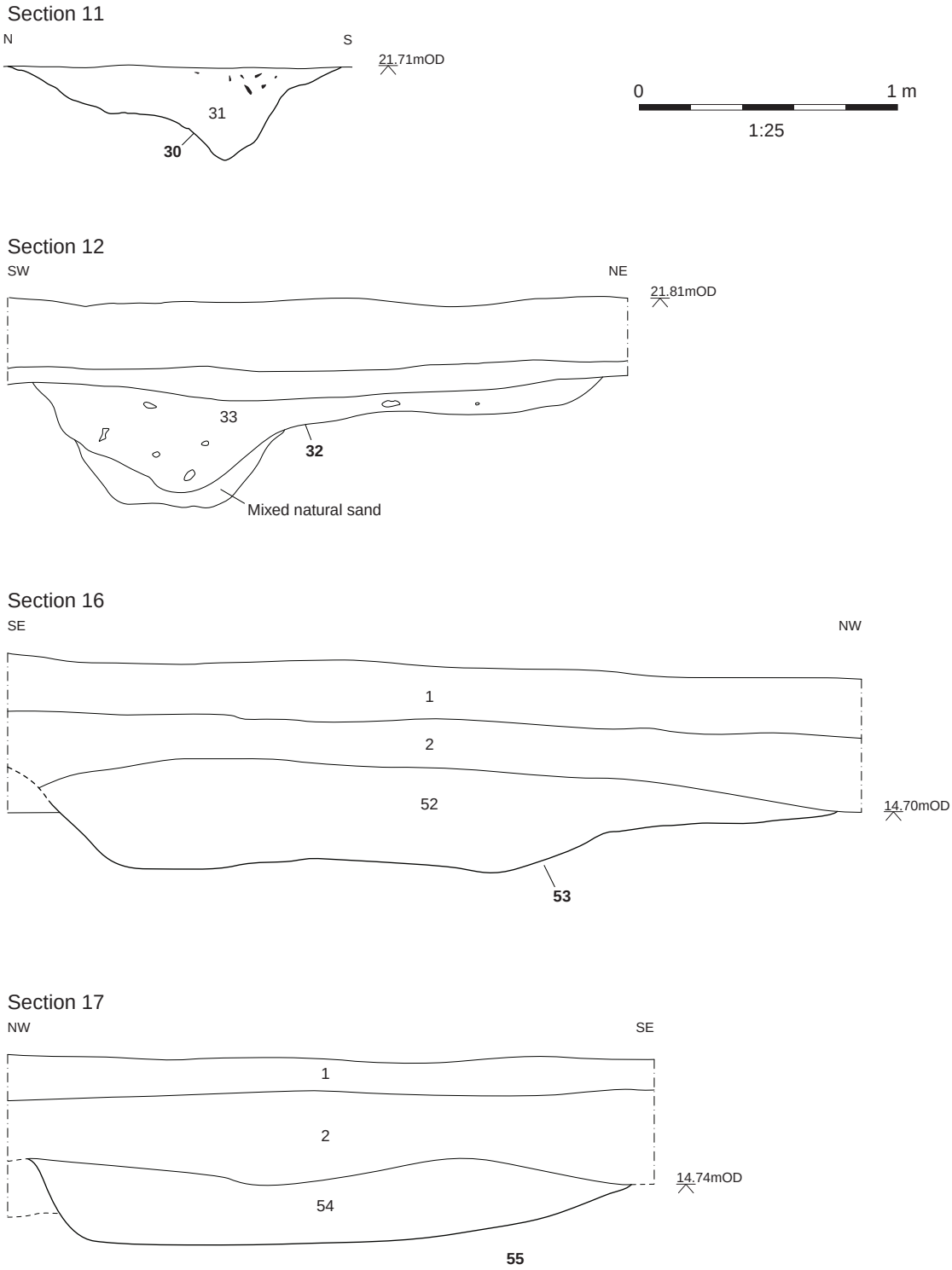

Figure 4: Selected section drawings

Plate 1: Feature **3**, Trench 9. Facing south

Plate 2: Feature **12**, Trench 16. Facing south-west

Plate 3: Pit **37**, Trench 30. Facing north

Plate 4: Postholes **41**, **43** and **45**, Trench 31. Facing north

Plate 5: Ditch **53**, Trench 34. Facing south-east

Plate 6: Feature **74**, Trench 35. Facing north-east

Plate 7: Feature **50**, Trench 39. Facing north-west

Plate 8: Feature **46**, Trench 48. Facing south-east

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