Land off Eriswell Road

Lakenheath

Suffolk

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

Land off Eriswell Road, Lakenheath, Suffolk

Archaeological Evaluation

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on land off Eriswell Road, Lakenheath, Suffolk. Two fields were subject to the investigation, known as L25 and L26 in the local development plan and designated respectively as LKH360 and LKH361 by the Suffolk Historic Environment Record. A total of twelve trenches were opened in field LKH360, on land east of Eriswell Road (TL 7226 8131). Fifteen trenches were opened within LKH361, on land to the west of Eriswell Road (TL 7182 8187). The fieldwork took place between the 12/11/13 and 26/11/13.

One undated posthole and a modern pit were recorded in LKH360.

Two palaeochannels were recorded in LKH361, these revealed a series of basal sediments associated with a period of active water flow. Later peat growth was recorded when water flow significantly reduced, suggesting changing environmental conditions.

Early Neolithic activity was in evidence as shown by the recovery of several flint tools in both *in-situ* deposits within the palaeochannels and as residual material in later features. A colluvial (hill-wash) deposit also contained Early Neolithic flint tools.

A concentration of medieval / post-medieval quarry pits was found in trenches along the east side of the site, near to the Eriswell road, suggesting that exploitation of the land has occurred here since the medieval period.

The palaeochannels can still be seen as visible depressions in the landscape and appear to have been subsequently utilised to help drainage during the post-medieval period. Additional attempts to aid drainage in the post-medieval period are clear from the presence of two curvilinear ditches of this date.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted on two fields (LKH360 and LKH361). LKH360 was on land to the east of Eriswell Road (centred on TL 7226 8131; Figure 1). LKH361 was on land to the west of Eriswell road (centred on TL 7182 8187; Figure 1).

1.1.2 This archaeological trenching was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of investigation (Connor 2013) submitted by CgMS Consulting on behalf of their client Elveden Farms. The work was undertaken in order to provide information in support of a planning application to the local Planning Authority (LPA).

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).

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 LKH 360 is located to the south of Lakenheath Village centre. The site is mostly level, but to the south the ground slopes downwards. The superficial geology consists of Chalk (Holywell and New Pit formations).

1.2.2 LKH 361 is located to the south-east of Lakenheath Village centre. The site is mostly level, but several localised depressions, some the result of palaeochannels, were noted within the field. The superficial geology consists of River Terrace Sand and Gravel deposits on a bedrock of Chalk (Holywell and New Pit formations; British Geological Survey).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 Archaeological information from within one kilometre of the sites has been collected and reviewed below. A thorough background was recently written for the desk based assessment for the site (Gailey 2013) and has been replicated in parts below.

Palaeolithic and Mesolithic

1.3.2 There are a number of Palaeolithic worked stone tools found near the study site, including a hand axe (MSF9419) and two other worked flints (MSF7903 and SF-AAAED5). A flint blade of possible Mesolithic date was also recorded nearby (SF-AADC26).

1.3.3 Bytham River, a major Pleistocene river that once flowed through the English Midlands and East Anglia is thought to have flown through Lakenheath. The associated River Terrace Gravels recorded at the top of Maidscross Hill, 750m to the northeast of site LKH360, have been found to contain a large amount of Palaeolithic implements. The site itself does not lie on these terrace gravels however.

Neolithic and Bronze Age

1.3.4 LKH361 lies on the edge of the south-eastern fens at approximately 7m OD, which was prone to intermittent flooding since the Neolithic times until drainage of the Fens began in the 16th century.

1.3.5 Just to the east of LKH361 (approximately 150m), an archaeological evaluation recorded a single prehistoric pit (MSF23530). Further activity, such as burnt flint features, was recorded during archaeological investigations at Smeeth approximately 200m northwest of LKH361 (MSF14653).

1.3.6 A large number of prehistoric findspots have been recorded near the sites, including a Neolithic leaf shaped arrowhead (MSF7752), Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead (MSF7753) and a Bronze Age palstave (MSF9537) approximately 1km to the south (MSF7919).

Iron Age

1.3.7 An Iron Age double cremation urn was found in the early 20th century 100m to the south of LKH360 (MSF9420) just to the east of Eriswell Road. A number of Iron Age silver coins have been recovered from the vicinity of site, indicating a possible ploughed-out coin hoard (SF-BD6383, SF-CB636, SF-CD1E26, SF-CD5ED5, SF-CDAFF1).

1.3.8 Several phases of archaeological investigation on RAF Lakenheath recorded evidence of Iron Age settlement activity, approximately 1km to the south-east of site (MSF 17814, MSF19306, MSF19310, MSF20181, MSF2559, MSF19306).

Roman

1.3.9 Evidence of Roman activity is located 500m to the south of LKH360, just to the west of the RAF Lakenheath boundary, where cropmarks of enclosures have been observed (MSF10698).

1.3.10 A very large number of Roman findspots have been recorded nearby to site, including three Roman brooches directly to the north of LKH360 (MSF9624) and several coins (SF-BBE396, SF-BC0D56).

Anglo-Saxon

1.3.11 Roughly 1km to the south-east a large Anglo-Saxon cemetery was recorded during excavations on RAF Lakenheath (MSF17813). Closer to the subject site, there is limited evidence for Anglo-Saxon activity. Possible ditches of this date were recorded in an archaeological excavation 800m to the east of site (MSF19090) and a watching brief in a similar area recovered a number of finds of this date (MSF16822).

1.3.12 Metal detecting 200m to the south of the subject site includes finds such as a Saxon disc brooch and coin (MSF1844) and cropmarks associated with this area may represent Anglo-Saxon activity (MSF10698). Similarly, metal detecting finds 350m to the north of LKH360 include a Saxon bronze dress fastener (MSF9625) and a bronze disc brooch (MSF9627).

Medieval

1.3.13 Lakenheath is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 and a market was granted in 1201, with a further market and fair documented in 1309 (MSF22767). The Church of St Mary was constructed in the 12th century, possibly on the site of an earlier church. This area became the focus of historic settlement of Lakenheath, which lies roughly 1500m north of the subject site.

1.3.14 Roughly 1km to the south-west of the site was the historic settlement of Eriswell St Peter (MSF25669). The church, built in the 13th century was converted to a dovecote in the 18th century. The only remains of the church is part of the eastern end, now integrated into a farm building (MSF2654).

1.3.15 A large variety of medieval finds have been recorded near to the subject site. Pottery sherds were found 600m to the north of LKH360 (MSF9541) and fieldwalking finds from nearby include coins, seals, pottery and metalwork (MSF 9626, MSF15082, SF-31E665, SF-DE3272 etc.).

1.3.16 Lakenheath Warren was located a short distance to the east of the subject site, it was set up by the prior of Ely in 1251 to breed rabbits for the table and was a good use of land that was otherwise unsuitable for crops or pasture. Over-grazing by the rabbits led to soil erosion and in the 1660s sand dunes are recorded as spreading over 1000 acres at this warren. A Terrier of 1649 refers to 'three small lodges standing in and upon the conneynger for the warreners…' (http://www.brecsoc.org.uk/projects/warrens-project/warrens/lakenheath).

1.3.17 The location of LKH360 and LKH361 (between Lakenheath's historic core to the north, Eriswell St Peter to the south, fen to the west and warren to the east) suggests that the land was most likely within common lands in the Medieval period.

Post Medieval and Modern

1.3.18 Historical maps indicate that LKH360 was part of enclosed fields and Caudle Farm was in existence by the time the 1851 Tithe map was drawn up and the warren is still shown to the east of LKH360 on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. In LKH361 the curving line of palaeochannels can be seen on the 1851 Tithe map, this field remained largely unchanged until the Cut-Off Channel was constructed in 1964 running along the western edge of the field and straightening its boundary.

1.3.19 An Archaeological evaluation nearby recorded three post-medieval ditches (MSF24590).

1.3.20 The site of the warren is now Lakenheath airfield, built for the RAF in 1941. In 1948 the Americans moved B-29 bombers in, and they took over the administration of the airfield in 1951. Today Lakenheath is home to the 48th Fighter Wing of the USAF, England's largest USAF operated fighter base.

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like to thank CgMs Consulting and their client Elveden Farms who commissioned the archaeological work. Thanks are also extended to John Diffey, Steve Graham, Katherine Hamilton, Toby Knight, Pat Moan, Kathryn Nicholls and Michael Webster who helped with the fieldwork. Rachel Clarke and Pat Moan carried out the on-site survey. The project was managed by Aileen Connor and monitored by Matt Brudenell of Suffolk County Council.

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 Prior to the trenching exercise a magnetometer survey was carried out across the whole site by Durham University (Hale 2013). Magnetometer readings were collected along transects 1m apart using Bartington 1m fluxgate gradiometers and were plotted at 25cm intervals along each transect. The interpreted results of the survey are presented in figure 3 overlain by the targeted trenching. No magnetic anomalies were identified within LKH360 (Field L25) which were thought to represent archaeological remains. Within LKH361 (Field L26) two broad curvilinear anomalies, becoming narrower to the north were identified within the field. These are interpreted as palaeochannels which have been later reworked as drainage channels. An area of discrete anomalies had been identified to the south-east of the field and interpreted as possible pits.

2.2.2 Twelve trenches were excavated within LKH360. These trenches were located to ensure coverage of of all parts of potential development. As the geophysical survey highlighted no anomalies within the field, there were no targeted trenches.

2.2.3 Fifteen trenches were opened within LKH361 and all archaeological remains excavated where appropriate. Trenches were located to ensure coverage of all parts of the site and to sample the potential palaeochannel and anomalies identified in the magnetometer survey. Additionally trenches were positioned to test the discrete magnetic anomalies deemed to have potential archaeological significance.

2.2.4 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360 excavator using a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket.

2.2.5 The site survey was carried out using a Leica GPS fitted with *Smartnet* technology.

2.2.6 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.

2.2.7 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 monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

2.2.8 Five environmental samples were taken from contexts to assess environmental potential.

2.2.9 Site conditions were cold and dry.

3 Results

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The trenches are presented below by field and then in numerical order (see Fig. 2 for trench locations in LKH 360 and Fig. 3 for LKH 361).

3.1.2 The archaeological remains recorded during the evaluation corresponded well with the geophysics results, with all interpreted linear anomalies reflecting archaeological features. However several excavated small pits, postholes and gullies were not found by the geophysical survey, suggesting some limitations. In addition, where discrete pit-like anomalies were investigated these do, however, appear for the most part to derive from magnetically enhanced fills of archaeological features, whether pits or segments of ditches.

3.2 LKH360 (Field L25)

3.2.1 All the trenches excavated were 30m in length and 2m wide. The natural geology was chalk unless otherwise stated. A subsoil layer, approximately 0.1m thick was encountered in the eastern part of the field, with no subsoil present to the west. Topsoil comprising a dark greyish brown silty sand, 0.4m thick, was recorded in all trenches.

Trench 1 - 8

3.2.2 No archaeological features were recorded in these trenches.

Trench 9

3.2.3 Located to the eastern end of the trench was a pit (**5**), which was rectangular in plan with vertical sides and a flat base. It measured 0.8m wide and 0.4m deep. To the south an extension to this pit created a step down into the main pit, measuring 0.45m wide and 0.6m long. The pit was filled by a secondary deposits (7) overlain by a tertiary fill (6) 0.25m thick.

Trench 10

3.2.4 To the western end of the trench lay a small posthole (**3**), measuring 0.2m in diameter and 0.3m deep. The posthole was square in plan, with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled with a dark brown silty sand (4) which contained no finds.

Trench 11 - 13

3.2.5 No archaeological features were recorded in these trenches

3.3 LKH361 (Field L26)

3.3.1 The trenches were 30m in length and 2m wide. The natural geology was yellow sand unless otherwise stated. A subsoil layer, approximately 0.1m thick was encountered in the southern part of the field, with no subsoil present to the north. Topsoil comprising a dark greyish brown silty sand, 0.4m thick, was recorded in all trenches.

Trench 1

3.3.2 Trench 1 was located at the northern end of the field to test an anomaly recorded by the geophysical survey. The trench was located at the base of a slope, with the eastern end on the lower ground rising towards the west. A patchy, thin lens of dark blackish grey

sand (100) 0.05m thick was found sitting at the base of the slope and continuing up-slope westwards, possibly a buried soil. Above it was as layer of greyish-white sand, (99), 0.43m thick in places and possibly the result of soil washing down-slope (colluvium).

3.3.3 A ditch (**78**) cut through the colluvium layer, it crossed the centre of the trench and coincided with the geophysical anomaly. The ditch was aligned north to south and had vertical sides and a concave base, measuring 2.4m wide and 0.6m deep. It was filled by a mid grey sandy silt (77). The geophysical survey showed it to continue both to the north and south. To the south it merged into a much wider linear anomaly, excavated in Trench 3 and thought to be a palaeochannel. It is likely that ditch **78** was cut to aid drainage towards the palaeochannel.

Trench 2

3.3.4 Trench 2 was aligned north to south and located in a low lying area of the site.

3.3.5 At the north end of the trench was a sub-circular pit (**68**), which had vertical sides and a flat base, measuring 1m in diameter and 0.4m deep. It was filled by a dark grey sandy silt (67) which contained a sherd of post-medieval redware (mid 16th-late 18th century).

3.3.6 Adjacent and to the south lay an oval pit (**70**) which had near vertical sides and a concave base. It measured 1.6m long, 0.8m wide and 0.8m deep and contained a dark brown sandy silt fill (69) which contained a flint blade.

3.3.7 Immediately to the south again lay a further sub-circular pit (**72**) 1.5m long, 1.4m wide and 0.3m deep. This pit was filled with a similar dark brown sandy silt (71) which contained a sherd of bone china (late 18th-late 19th century)and an iron object.

3.3.8 A probable palaeochannel (112) at the southern end of the trench was partially filled with a series of flood deposits, consisting of white clays, black sand and white leached sand (113,119,118,117,120) (fig 5 for section).

3.3.9 The partially filled channel then went through a relatively stable period during which time a possible pit (**116**) was cut into the fills of the channel at its southern end, seen in section it had vertical sides and a flat base. This pit measured 0.65m wide and 0.25m deep and contained a mid reddish brown silty sand (115).

3.3.10 Subsequently a period of peat formation (97, 98) took place which filled in the channel further, leaving just a slight hollow in the modern ground surface.

3.3.11 Cutting these peat deposits and seen in section, was a pit (**123**) with a similar dark brown sandy silt fill (122) to the pits excavated within the northern end of the trench. This pit had vertical sides and a flat base, and measured 0.6m wide and 0.6m deep.

Trench 3

3.3.12 Trench 3 was aligned east to west and located to test a north-south geophysical anomaly interpreted as a palaeochannel.

3.3.13 At the west end of the trench were three rectangular pits (**73**, **83**, **85**), all of which had vertical sides and a flat base. These measured an average of 1.3m long, 0.6m wide and 0.4m deep and were filled with a dark greyish brown silty sand. Two of which (74, 84) contained post-medieval pottery (late 18th-late 19th century). Given the similar morphology and fills to these pits it is reasonable to assume they are contemporary.

3.3.14 Truncating pit **73** was a sub-circular pit (**75**) which had stepped sides and a concave base, measuring 1m in diameter and 0.7m deep. It contained a dark brownish grey silty

sand (76) which contained a sherd of post-medieval pottery (late 18th-late 19th century) and residual struck flint.

3.3.15 In the centre of the trench was a palaeochannel (**112**) aligned north to south and coinciding with the geophysical anomaly. The full width of the channel was 10m and its excavated depth was 1.2m (fig 5 for section). Excavation stopped at this depth for safety. The lowest fill recorded was a black peat deposit (95) 0.25m thick which had formed on the western side of the channel. Overlying this was a layer of whitish grey granular peaty material (96, 129), which was suggestive of decomposed plant material. Overlying this were further peat layers (124, 128, 127, 131); the earliest layer (95) contained two early Neolithic flint scrapers. All the fills encountered within the palaeochannel is indicative of a time when there is reduced water flow and plant material has been able to accumulate and form peat. The uppermost fill (127) contained a small sherd of post-medieval pottery (late 18th-late 19th century) which is thought to be intrusive.

3.3.16 At the southern end of the trench was a sub-circular pit (**87**) with steep sides and a concave base. It measured 1m in diameter and 0.45m deep and had a single fill (86).

Trench 4

3.3.17 Trench 4 was aligned east to west and located to test a narrow linear north to south geophysical anomaly.

3.3.18 Two ditches were found within this trench, neither of which seemed to directly correspond with the geophysical anomaly although both were on the same alignment.

3.3.19 At the western end of the trench ditch (**43**) aligned north-east to south-west had concave sides and a flat base, measuring 0.9m wide and 0.18m deep. It was filled by a dark blackish grey silty sand (42). Parallel to this, 10m further east lay ditch **45,** 0.6m wide and 0.25m deep. The ditch had vertical sides and a concave base and was filled with a mid grey silty sand (44) which contained two sherds of post-medieval pottery (late 18th-19th century). It is likely that ditch **45** is the same as the geophysical anomaly and continued southwards where it was recorded as ditch **49** in Trench 5.

Trench 5

3.3.20 Trench 5 was aligned north-west to south-east and located to test two linear geophysical anomalies.

3.3.21 Two ditches were located in this trench, both at the north-western end of the trench and both corresponding reasonably well with geophysical anomalies.

3.3.22 The north-east to south-west ditch (**47**) had steep sides and a concave base, measuring 0.7m wide and 0.25m deep, with a dark grey silty sand fill (46). Immediately to the south-east lay another ditch (**49**) aligned north to south. This ditch had stepped sides and a concave base, measuring 1.2m wide and 0.3m deep. It contained a mid grey silty sand (48).

Trench 6

3.3.23 This trench was aligned north to south and located to test absence of geophysical anomalies. No archaeological features were recorded in this trench.

Trench 7

3.3.24 Trench 7 was aligned east to west and located to the south of Trench 5 to test the same curvilinear geophysical anomaly.

3.3.25 A ditch (**51**) was located at the west end of the trench it was aligned north-west to south-east with concave sides and a concave base. It measured 0.9m wide and 0.25m deep and contained a mid greyish brown silty sand (50). This ditch is almost certainly the same as that recorded as **49** in Trench 5.

3.3.26 A shallow (0.12m deep) irregular pit (**53**) was located adjacent and to the east of the ditch (**51**). It was approximately 0.6m wide and is likely to be a natural feature, probably a tree-throw.

Trench 8

3.3.27 Trench 8 was aligned north to south and located to test a curvilinear geophysical anomaly.

3.3.28 Ditch (**54**) aligned east to west corresponds with the geophysical anomaly and the 1851 tithe map (see figure 6 for plan). It had steep sides and a concave base, measuring 0.8m wide and 0.35m deep. It was re-cut by a similar ditch (**28**) on the same alignment also with steep sides and a flattish base, measuring 1m wide and 0.2m deep. Both of the ditches had a similar greyish brown sandy silt fill. This ditch is probably the same as ditch **26** in Trench 9.

Trench 9

3.3.29 Trench 9 was aligned east to west and located to test two roughly parallel linear geophysical anomalies.

3.3.30 At the west end of the trench was north-west to south-east aligned ditch (**26**). This ditch corresponds with the more westerly of the geophysical anomalies and is probably the same as ditch **54**/**28** in Trench 8. It had steep sides and a rounded V shape base and measured 1m wide and 0.35m deep, (fig 5 for section). It had a dark greyish brown silty sand fill (27) containing post-medieval redware (mid 16th-18th century).

3.3.31 Five metres to the east were two intercutting pits (**24**, **40**) both of which, were sub-circular in plan with steep sides and a concave base. The earliest pit (**24**) was 0.65m wide and 0.25m deep and the later pit (**40**) was 0.45m wide and 0.17m deep. These pits were both filled with a mid grey disuse fill and were undated. Truncating these pits was a ditch (**22**), aligned north-east to south-west. This ditch had steep sides and and flat base, measuring 0.75m wide and 0.07m deep and was visibly truncated by modern activity. It contained a light grey silty sand (23)

3.3.32 Immediately to the east was a pit (**20**) which was square in plan with vertical sides and a flat base, measuring 0.5m wide and 0.05m deep. It had a dark greyish brown silty sand (21) containing a shard of post-medieval glass. Directly south was a ditch (**18**) aligned north-north-west to south-south-east and corresponding to a geophysical anomaly. This ditch had steep sides and a concave base, measuring 1m wide and 0.25m deep with a mid greyish brown fill (19).

Trench 10

3.3.33 Tench 10 was aligned north to south and located to test a group of geophysical anomalies interpreted as possible pits (see figure 4 for plan). The trench revealed several pit-like features that broadly correspond with the geophysical anomalies.

3.3.34 The natural geology within this trench consisted of white chalk with pockets of glacial orange sand deposits. The re were several natural features present in the trench which relate to natural glacial anomalies. These were irregular in shape and had a mid orange sandy fill.

3.3.35 At north end of the trench was a sub-circular pit (**39**) with steep sides and a flat base. Its exposed diameter was 1.05m, it was 0.2m deep and contained a single mid brown sandy silt fill (38). Directly south of this was a small circular posthole (**37**), 0.6m in diameter and 0.2m deep. It had concave sides and a concave base and contained a mid brown sandy silt (36) that contained a struck flint.

3.3.36 Towards the centre of the trench was pit (**35**), it had steep sides and a flat base but its full shape and form was unclear as it extended outside of the trench. Its exposed width was 2.2m and it was 0.4m deep with a mid brown sandy silt fill (34). Immediately to its south lay a small sub-circular pit (**33**) which had vertical sides and a concave base (fig 5 for section). This pit measured 0.65m wide and 0.25m deep and had a mid greyish brown sandy silt fill (32) that contained a sherd of Sible Hedingham pottery (mid 12th-14th century).

3.3.37 At the southern end to the trench was a further pit (**31**) which extended outside the trench. Its observed measured width was 0.8m and it was 0.2m deep with steep sides and a concave base. This pit was filled by a single mid brown silty sand (30).

3.3.38 Only limited dating evidence was recovered from the pits but all were filled with a similar mid brown sandy silt and as such are likely to be contemporary.

Trench 11

3.3.39 Trench 11 was aligned east to west and located to test a broad linear geophysical anomaly, probably a palaeochannel.

3.3.40 At the west end of the trench was ditch **57** aligned north to south. The ditch had steep sides and a flat base, measuring 1.2m wide and 0.25m deep with a mid brown silty sand (56). This ditch is probably a continuation of **4** as seen in Trench 12 to the south.

3.3.41 The geophysical anomaly corresponds with a wide palaeochannel (**64**) aligned south-south-east to north-north-east. The full width of the palaeochannel was 15m and a slot 5.5m wide was excavated on the western side of the palaeochannel (fig 5 for section). The exposed depth of the palaeochannel was 1.2m deep and had gradual sides and a flattish base. An initial filling of mixed whitish sand (63) was present 0.3m thick against the western side, which is likely to represent a period of deposition when water was flowing within the channel.

3.3.42 The channel was then gradually in-filled by a sequence of peat deposits (59, 60, 61, 62), 1m thick in total, which would have accumulated when there was a significant reduction in the water flow, allowing plant material to grow and decompose. The peat deposits present had visibly dried out and starting to degrade significantly. The uppermost fill of the palaeochannel was a mid reddish brown silty sand, likely to represent material washing from higher ground (colluvium) into the partially filled channel. A flint flake indicative of Early Neolithic technology was recovered from this layer, but is likely to be residual.

Trench 12

3.3.43 Trench 12 was aligned east to west and located to test a broad linear geophysical anomaly interpreted as a probable palaeochannel.

3.3.44 At the west end of the trench was a north to south aligned ditch (**4**). The ditch had vertical sides and a concave base, measuring 1.6m wide and 0.3m deep and had a mid brown sandy silt fill (3).

3.3.45 A probable palaeochannel (**130**) was recorded at the west end of the trench and corresponded with the geophysical anomaly. The palaeochannel was also observed in Trench 11 to the north where it was excavated and recorded as **64**. In Trench 12 the palaeochannel was approximately 18m wide with a maximum depth of 1.3m. Its initial fills were sandy deposits (15, 16) 0.2m thick which represent accumulation from active water flow. Following this standing water allowed the growth of peat (12, 13, 14). Finally a layer of dark reddish brown sandy silt (2), 0.3m thick, was probably the result of hillwash (colluvium) filling the depression left by the palaeochannel.

Trench 13

3.3.46 Trench 13 was aligned NNW-SSE and located to test an area in which no geophysical anomalies were present. There was a slight rise in ground level here becoming gradually more pronounced to the south. No archaeological features were recorded in this trench.

Trench 14

3.3.47 Trench 14 was aligned north-west to south-east and located to test an area in which no geophysical anomalies were present. This was also the highest part of the field.

3.3.48 At the south-eastern end of the trench was a small sub-circular pit (**89**), it had steep sides and a concave base, measuring 0.5m in diameter and 0.3m deep. This pit was filled by a dark brown silty sand (90) which contained no datable material.

Trench 15

3.3.49 Trench 15 was aligned NNW-SSE and located to test an area in which no geophysical anomalies were present. It was positioned on the southern slope of an area of higher ground.

3.3.50 Overlying the natural was a layer of probable hillwash (111), 0.22m thick, comprising a mid greyish brown sand. Four struck flints were recovered from this layer, indicative of Neolithic working.

3.3.51 The hillwash was cut by three large pits, (see figure 4 for plan) probably dug as quarries; at the northern end of the trench was pit **103**. This pit had vertical sides and a undulating base, measuring 1.5m wide and 1m deep. It was filled by a series of disuse fills (104, 105, 106). To the south of this pit was a large pit (**109**) which was sub-circular in plan with stepped sides and a concave base. The pit measured 2.8m wide and 1.2m deep and was filled by a mid brown sand (110). Truncating this pit was another large sub-circular pit (**107**). It had vertical sides and a flat base, measured 4m wide and 1m deep and was filled by mid yellowish brown silty sand (108).

3.4 Finds Summary

3.4.1 A small assemblage of 10 sherds, weighing 0.06kg, was retrieved during the evaluation. This assemblage mainly dates to the post-medieval period with one sherd of medieval pottery. One shard of post-medieval glass was retrieved from a pit.

3.4.2 A total of 12 struck flints were recovered from this site, including scrapers and some flint working debris. Their form is indicative of Early Neolithic flint working.

3.5 Environmental Summary

3.5.1 A total of *c.*0.03kg of shell of marine molluscs were collected. The shell from context 38 is broken but not does not appear to have been deliberately crushed.

3.5.2 Five bulk samples were taken from peat deposits, filling fen edge palaeochannels and hillwash deposits. None of the flots contained preserved plant remains due to dewatering. Charcoal is present in four of the five sample residues and is of reasonable size and quality to have potential for radiocarbon dating.

3.5.3 A sample from peat within the palaeochannels was submitted to test for pollen preservation and found to have moderate potential in spite of the degraded nature of the deposits. This was a visual appraisal carried out by Elizabeth Huckerby (Environmental Manager) of Oxford Archaeology North.

4 Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Introduction

The discussion concentrates on features that are dated and can be grouped. It is presented as an overall chronological discussion to help establish the findings in the context of its wider landscape setting. Little archaeology was found within LKH360 (Field L25) so the discussion focuses on the remains encountered in LKH361 (Field L26) (See fig. 6 for interpretation of archaeological features).

4.2 Prehistoric

4.2.1 LKH 361 (Field L26) lies on a promontory at the edge of the south-eastern fens. These were areas of dry land with channels that drained water into the fen, to the west. Both the palaeochannels (**64**, **112**) follow this pattern, curving from the north towards the west. An initial period of deposition associated with their use as active water channels was recorded in both of the major palaeochannel features.

4.2.2 Pollen sequences collected from the peat fens suggest a period of marine inundation beginning in the Early Neolithic when the sea level rose from 5m below current levels in c. 4500BC to 1-2m below current levels by c. 1500BC (Brown and Murphy, 1997). This inundation would have submerged parts of the fen basin to the west and also made channels draining onto the fens more sluggish.

4.2.3 It is possible that the change in water flow observed on this site was a result of these more widespread climate changes; after initial silting up, subsequent accumulations of peat suggests a period when water flow significantly reduced. Further evidence for a prehistoric date for these changes comes from the presence of two flints indicative of Early Neolithic flint working in the earliest peat growth within one of the palaeochannels (95).

4.2.4 A small assemblage of worked flints has been recovered from across the site. Perhaps significantly all 12 flints (including scrapers) are consistent with an Early Neolithic technology. Whilst the majority were found as residual and in no particular concentrations their presence does at least indicate that the site was visited, perhaps on a seasonal basis in the Early Neolithic period.

4.2.5 The presence of hillwash (colluvium) found on the eastern edge of the field may indicate a period when the site was subject to cultivation, and thus destabilisation of the soil. Neolithic struck flints from within this layer could indicate a prehistoric date for such activity, although it is possible that they are residual here.

4.3 Medieval and Post-Medieval

4.3.1 Along the eastern side of LKH361 there was a concentration of large pits, probably quarries for sand (**103**, **107**, **109**) and smaller pits (**31**, **33**, **35**). A single sherd of medieval pottery may date them to the medieval period and their proximity to Eriswell Road, which is a known medieval routeway, perhaps supports this date. However, there is otherwise no known medieval settlement here and the pits could equally date to a later period.

4.3.2 The majority of the small assemblage of pottery and other finds dates to the later part of this period. Several curvilinear features were recorded on the geophysical survey which when evaluated were revealed to be post-medieval drainage channels (**26**, **54**). These ditches included two ditches (**18**, **78**) that utilised the depressions left by the palaeochannels, effectively using them to drain into. Clearly this activity indicates that the land was actively farmed and managed, possibly as pasture although the effort to drain the ground perhaps indicates attempts to bring it into arable cultivation.

4.3.3 At the south end of the field a north to south ditch (**4**, **57**) was encountered in trenches eleven and twelve. Further to the north a set of two parallel ditches (**43**, **45**) on a north-east to south-west alignment was present within trench four and also curvilinear features which are possibly drainage channels (**49**, **51**). These ditches are undated at present but their proximity and general alignment suggests that they may have formed part of drainage system seen in the post-medieval period as they run alongside the palaeochannels.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The earliest occupation of the site dates to the Neolithic when the land would have been a dry promontory adjacent to the fens, the channels would have attracted activity.

4.4.2 The peat deposits have visibly dried out caused by the cutting of a new river to the west in the 1960's. This drying out will limit the environmental potential, both for environment reconstruction and also of organic remains associated with occupation, although there is potential for pollen survival. The palaeochannels will have acted as a focus for deposition of material culture and non-organic material will have collected within the deposits, allowing a rare glimpse into Early Neolithic occupation.

4.4.3 The eastern part of the site was clearly exploited at some time from the 12th century onwards although the exact date is unclear.

4.4.4 The site has been subject to prolonged drainage throughout the post-medieval period with the digging of curvilinear channels and the reworking of the depressions left by the palaeochannels.

Appendix A. LKH 360 Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a natural of chalk.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.38
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
9	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil	-	-
Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a natural of chalk.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.40
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
9	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil	-	-
Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a natural of chalk.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.36
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
9	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil	-	-
Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a natural of chalk.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.4
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
9	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil	-	-
Trench 5						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W

Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalk.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.51
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
9	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil	-	-
10	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 6

General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalk.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.43
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
9	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
10	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 7

General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalk.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.36
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
9	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	Flint	-
10	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 8

General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a natural of chalk.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.32
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
9	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 9						
General description					**Orientation**	ENE-WSW
Trench contained one pit. Consists of topsoil overlying a natural of chalk.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.40
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	29.7
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
5	Cut	0.8	0.40	Pit	-	Modern
6	Fill	0.8	0.25	Fill of pit 5	Coal	Modern
7	Fill	0.8	0.15	Fill of pit 5		Modern
8	Fill	0.7	0.12	Pit	Iron object	Modern
9	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 10						
General description					**Orientation**	ENE-WSW
Trench contained one posthole. Consists of topsoil overlying a natural of chalk.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.38
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
3	Cut	0.2	0.3	Posthole	-	-
4	Fill	0.2	0.3	Fill of posthole 3	-	-
9	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 11						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained one possible posthole. Consists of topsoil overlying a natural of chalk.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.32
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Cut	0.4	0.28	Natural feature	-	-
2	Fill	0.4	0.28	Natural feature	-	-
9	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 12						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalk.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.38
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30

Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
9	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil	-	-
10	Layer	-	0.07	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 13						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a natural of chalk.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.39
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
9	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-

Appendix B. LKH 361 Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained one ditch. Consists of topsoil overlying a natural of yellow sand.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.36
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	28.8
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil	-	-
77	Fill	2.4	0.6	Fill of ditch 77	-	-
78	Cut	2.4	0.6	Ditch	-	-
79	void	-	-	void	-	-
99	Layer	-	0.43	Hill wash	-	-
100	Layer	-	0.05	Flood deposits	-	-
101	Layer	-	-	Natural sand	-	-
Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained five pits and flood deposits. Consists of topsoil overlying a natural of yellow sand.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.4
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	28.8
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
65	Layer	-	0.2	Same as 98	-	-
66	Layer	-	0.35	Same as 97	-	-
67	Fill	1	0.4	Fill of pit 68	pottery	Post-medieval
68	Cut	1	0.4	Pit	-	Post-medieval
69	Fill	0.8	0.8	Fill of pit 70	-	-
70	Cut	0.8	0.8	Pit	Flint	-
71	Fill	1.4	0.3	Fill of pit 72	Pottery, Fe object	Post-medieval
72	Cut	1.4	0.3	Pit	-	Post-medieval
80	layer	-	0.2	Same as 117	-	-
97	Layer	-	0.25	Flood deposits	-	-
98	Layer	-	0	Flood deposits	-	-
113	Layer	-	0.1	Flood deposits	-	-

114	Layer	-	0.2	Flood deposits	-	-
115	Fill	0.65	0.25	Fill of pit 116	-	-
116	Cut	0.65	0.25	Pit	-	-
117	Layer	-	0.2	Flood deposits	-	-
118	Layer	-	0.05	Flood deposits	-	-
119	Layer	-	0.15	Flood deposits	-	-
120	Layer	-	0.2	Flood deposits	-	-
121	Layer	-	0.1	Flood deposits	-	-
122	Fill	0.6	0.6	Fill of pit 123	-	-
123	Cut	0.6	0.6	Pit	-	-

Trench 3

General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained six pits and a palaeochannel. Consists of topsoil overlying a natural of yellow sand.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.4
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
73	Cut	0.6	0.4	Pit	-	Post-medieval
74	Fill	0.6	0.4	Fill of pit 73	Flint, Pottery	Post-medieval
75	Cut	1	0.7	Pit	-	Post-medieval
76	Fill	1	0.7	Fill of pit 75	Pottery	Post-medieval
81	Cut	1	0.35	Pit	-	-
82	Fill	1	0.35	Fill of pit 81	-	-
83	Cut	1.4	0.1	Pit	-	Post-medieval
84	Fill	1.4	0.1	Fill of pit 83	pottery	Post-medieval
85	Cut	0.7	0.4	Pit	-	-
86	Fill	0.7	0.4	Fill of pit 85	-	-
87	Cut	1	0.45	Pit	-	-
88	Fill	1	0.45	Fill of pit 87	-	-
95	Fill	-	0.25	Palaeochannel	Flint	Neolithic
96	Fill	-	0.45	Palaeochannel	-	-
112	Cut	10	1.2	Palaeochannel	-	-
124	Fill	-	0.2	Palaeochannel	-	-
125	Fill	-	0.3	Palaeochannel	-	-
126	Fill	-	0.4	Palaeochannel	-	-
127	Fill	-	0.5	Palaeochannel	-	-

128	Fill	-	0.4	Palaeochannel	-	-
129	Fill	-	0.4	Palaeochannel	-	-
131	Fill	-	0.45	Palaeochannel	Pottery	Post-medieval

Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained two ditches. Consists of topsoil overlying a natural of yellow sand.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.34
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	29.7
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
42	Fill	0.9	0.18	Fill of ditch 43	-	-
43	Cut	0.9	0.18	Ditch	-	-
44	Fill	0.6	0.25	Fill of ditch 45	pottery	Post-medieval
45	Cut	0.6	0.25	Ditch	-	Post-medieval

Trench 5						
General description					**Orientation**	NW-SE
Trench contained two ditches. Consists of topsoil overlying a natural of yellow sand.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.32
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	29.3
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
46	Fill	0.7	0.25	Fill of ditch 47	-	-
47	Cut	0.7	0.25	Ditch	-	-
48	Fill	1.2	0.3	Fill of ditch 49	-	-
49	Cut	1.2	0.3	Ditch	-	-

Trench 6						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying a natural of yellow sand.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.33
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 7						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W

Trench contained one ditch and a tree-throw. Consists of topsoil overlying a natural of yellow sand.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.33
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	29.4

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.33	Topsoil	-	-
50	Fill	0.9	0.25	Fill of ditch 51	-	-
51	Cut	0.9	0.25	Ditch	-	-
52	Fill	0.6	0.12	Fill of tree-throw 53	-	-
53	Cut	0.6	0.12	Tree-throw	-	-

Trench 8

General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained two ditches. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of yellow sand.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.45
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.41	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil	-	-
28	Cut	1	0.2	Ditch	-	-
29	Fill	1	0.2	Fill of ditch 28	-	-
54	Cut	0.8	0.35	Ditch	-	-
55	Fill	0.8	0.35	Fill of ditch 54	-	-

Trench 9

General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained three ditches and two pits. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of yellow sand.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.48
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.44	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-
18	Cut	1	0.25	Ditch	-	-
19	Fill	1	0.25	Fill of ditch 18	-	-
20	Cut	0.5	0.05	Pit	-	Post-medieval
21	Fill	0.5	0.05	Fill of pit 20	Iron object	Post-medieval
22	Cut	0.75	0.07	Ditch	-	-

23	Fill	0.75	0.07	Fill of ditch 22	-	-
24	Cut	0.65	0.25	Pit	-	-
25	Fill	0.65	0.25	Fill of pit 24	-	-
26	Cut	1	0.35	Ditch	-	Post-medieval
27	Fill	1	0.35	Fill of ditch 26	pottery	Post-medieval
40	Cut	0.45	0.17	Pit	-	-
41	Fill	0.45	0.17	Fill of pit 40	-	-

Trench 10

General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained five pits. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of chalk	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.40
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	28.5

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
30	Fill	0.8	0.2	Fill of pit 31	-	-
31	Cut	0.8	0.2	Pit	-	-
32	Fill	0.65	0.25	Fill of pit 33	pottery	Post-medieval
33	Cut	0.65	0.25	Pit	-	Post-medieval
34	Fill	2.2	0.4	Fill of pit 35	-	-
35	Cut	2.2	0.4	Pit	-	-
36	Fill	0.6	0.2	Fill of pit 37	flint	-
37	Cut	0.6	0.2	Pit	-	-
38	Fill	1.05	0.2	Fill of pit 39	-	-
39	Cut	1.05	0.2	Pit	-	-

Trench 11

General description	**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained one ditch and a palaeochannel. Consists of topsoil overlying a natural of yellow sand.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.34
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	31.5

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil	Flint	-
56	Fill	1.2	0.25	Fill of ditch 57	-	-
57	Cut	1.2	0.25	Ditch	-	-
58	Fill	-	0.3	Fill of palaeochannel 64	flint	Neolithic

59	Fill	-	14	Fill of palaeochannel 64	-	-
60	Fill	-	0.1	Fill of palaeochannel 64	-	-
61	Fill	-	0.1	Fill of palaeochannel 64	-	-
62	Fill	-	0.25	Fill of palaeochannel 64	-	-
63	Fill	-	0.3	Fill of palaeochannel 64	-	-
64	Cut	15	1.2	Palaeochannel	-	-
Trench 12						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained one ditch and a palaeochannel. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of yellow sand.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.36
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	29
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-
3	Fill	1.6	0.3	Fill of ditch 4	-	-
4	Cut	1.6	0.3	Ditch	-	-
5	Fill	-	0.1	Fill of palaeochannel 130	-	-
6	Fill	-	0.1	Fill of palaeochannel 130	-	-
7	Fill	-	0.1	Fill of palaeochannel 130	-	-
8	Fill	-	0.15	Fill of palaeochannel 130	-	-
9	Fill	-	0.1	Fill of palaeochannel 130	-	-
10	Fill	-	0.1	Fill of palaeochannel 130	-	-
11	Fill	-	0.1	Fill of palaeochannel 130	-	-
12	Fill	-	0.1	Fill of palaeochannel 130	-	-
13	Fill	-	0.1	Fill of palaeochannel 130	-	-
14	Fill	-	0.1	Fill of palaeochannel 130	-	-
15	Fill	-	0.1	Fill of palaeochannel 130	-	-
16	Fill	-	0.15	Fill of palaeochannel 130	-	-
17	Fill	-	0.1	Fill of palaeochannel 130	-	-
130	Cut	18	1.3	Palaeochannel	-	-
Trench 13						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained one pit. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of yellow sand.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.55
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context	**type**	**Width**	**Depth**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**

no		(m)	(m)			
1	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil	-	-
91	Void	-	-	Void	-	-
92	Void	-	-	Void	-	-
93	Fill	0.4	0.16	Fill of tree throw 102	-	-
94	Fill	0.4	0.18	Fill of tree throw 102	-	-
102	Cut	0.4	0.18	Tree throw	-	-

Trench 14

General description	Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained one posthole. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying a natural of yellow sand.	Avg. depth (m)	0.40
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-
89	Cut	0.55	0.34	Fill of tree throw 90	-	-
90	Fill	0.55	0.34	Tree throw	-	-

Trench 15

General description	Orientation	N-S
Trench contained three pits. Consists of topsoil and hillwash overlying a natural of yellow sand.	Avg. depth (m)	0.4
	Width (m)	2
	Length (m)	30

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
103	Cut	1.5	1	Pit	-	-
104	Fill	1.5	0.2	Fill of pit 103	-	-
105	Fill	1.5	0.4	Fill of pit 103	-	-
106	Fill	1.5	0.5	Fill of pit 103	-	-
107	Cut	4	1	Pit	-	-
108	Fill	4	1	Fill of pit 107	-	-
109	Cut	2.8	1.2	Pit	-	-
110	Fill	2.8	1.2	Fill of pit 109	-	-
111	Layer	-	0.25	Hillwash	Flint	Neolithic

APPENDIX C. FINDS REPORTS

C.1 Metalwork

By Helen Stocks-Morgan

context	Trench	Material	Description
21	9	Fe (Iron)	
71	2	Fe (Iron)	
71	2	Fe (Iron)	

Table 1: Metalwork

C.2 Flint

By Anthony Haskins

Introduction

C.2.1 An assemblage of 12 struck lithics were submitted for assessment from Eriswell Road, Lakenheath. This report describes the preliminary quantification of the assemblage and assesses its technological traits and chronological indicators.

Methodology

C.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 2). 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.2.3 None of the submitted material was burnt or naturally formed. The assemblage contained a high proportion of scrapers three of the twelve recovered artefacts.

Assessment

C.2.4 A number of different raw materials were used to create this small assemblage they included poor quality light greyish-brown flint with a creamy chalky cortex which had started to be recortificated and a light grey opaque flint with Iron staining on the ventral surface. Three better quality flints were also used a dark reddish-brown semi translucent flint, light greyish-brown translucent flint and a mid blueish grey opaque poorly struck flint and light blueish white partially recorticated flint with a thick white chalky cortex. Finally one of the scrapers was made on a mid blueish grey semi opaque flint.

C.2.5 The small assemblage contained five recognisable tool forms. Two retouched flakes and three side and end scrapers. The scrapers are all characteristic of a Neolithic form on large thick squat flakes, one of which could be described as a horseshoe scraper (L26? Trench 7) (Butler 2005). Of the two retouched flakes the larger from (74 trench 3)

is an expedient tool and the smaller, from (111), is invasively retouched along one lateral edge and may be an incomplete blank for producing a leaf shaped arrowhead.

C.2.6 Aspects of the small amount of debitage present suggests manufacture was aimed at the production of small narrow flakes and blades indicative of Early Neolithic working.

Site	CONTEXT NO.	Trench	CLASSIFICATION	TYPE	flakes (>50mm)	flakes (>25mm <50mm)		blades (all sizes)	retouched tools		Totals
				SUB TYPE	*broken*	*secondary*	*tertiary*	*tertiary*	Retouched Flake	side and end scraper	
LKH 360	9	7								1	1
LKH 361	36	10				1					1
LKH 361	58	11				1					1
LKH 361	70	2						1			1
LKH 361	74	3							1		1
LKH 361	95	3								2	2
LKH 361	111	15			1		2		1		4
LKH 361	1	11					1				1
	Totals				1	2	3	1	2	3	12

Table 2: - Flint quantification catalogue

Conclusion

C.2.7 In conclusion this assemblage contains a number of tool forms that can be attributed to the Neolithic with a small debitage assemblage suggesting a similar date range.

C.3 Glass

By Carole Fletcher

C.3.1 LKH361 (Field L26) generated a single shard of clear, colourless vessel glass. The shard shows no weathering and is not closely datable but most likely from a 20th century or later glass or bottle.

Context	*Form*	*Count*	*Weight (kg)*	*Date*

21	Vessel	1	0.002	20th century or later

Table 3: Glass

C.4 Pottery

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction

C.4.1 The evaluation of LKH 361 (Field L26) produced a small pottery assemblage of 10 sherds, weighing approximately 0.062kg, recovered from nine features. The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded. The average sherd weight is low at approximately 6g.

Methodology

C.4.2 The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) documents *A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms* (MPRG, 1998) and *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics* (MPRG, 2001) act as a standard.

C.4.3 Dating was carried out using OA East's in-house system based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described medieval and post-medieval types. All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed. All the pottery has been recorded and dated on a context-by-context basis. The archives are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition.

Assemblage

C.4.4 Ditch **26** produced a single sherd from a post-medieval Redware jar while pit 33 contained the only medieval pottery recovered from the evaluation trenches, a sherd from a Hedingham ware vessel.

C.4.5 Two sherds of pottery were recovered from ditch 45, a base sherd from a post-medieval Iron-Glazed Blackware drinking vessel and from a Refined White earthenware vessel, which dates the context to the late 18th-end of the 19th century.

C.4.6 Pits in Trench 2 produced a rim sherd from a post-medieval Redware bowl and a transfer-printed Refined White earthenware vessel. Pottery was also recovered from trench 3 from three pits and the surface of a palaeochannel (112) from which was recovered a small abraded sherd of Refined White earthenware that weighs less than 1g and most likely originates from the overlying topsoil.

C.4.7 From pit 73 was recovered a sherd from a brown glazed, English Stoneware bottle, pit 75 produced a single sherd of Refined White Earthenware either pearlware or flow blue. Finally, pit 83 produced a small sherd of transfer-print decorated bone china or possibly porcelain.

C.4.8 The assemblage is domestic in origin and these sherds represents rubbish disposal on the site, with a small amount of mid 12th-mid 14th century pottery alongside mid 16th, 17th and 18th century pottery. Finally a small number of early modern and Refined White earthenware sherds from late 18th-end of the 19th century features.

Context	Cut	Trench	Full name	Basic Form	Sherd Count	Weight (kg)	Pottery Date Range	Context Date Range
27	**26**	9	Post-medieval Redware	Jar	1	0.003	1550-1800	Mid 16th- to the end of the 18th century
32	**33**	10	Hedingham ware		1	0.006	1150-1350	Mid 12th-mid 14th century
44	**45**	4	Iron-Glazed Blackware	Drinking vessel	1	0.012	1600-1700	Late 18th-end of the 19th century
			Refined White Earthenware		1	<0.001	1770-1900	
67	**68**	2	Post-medieval Redware	Bowl	1	0.024	1550-1800	Mid 16th- to the end of the 18th century
71	**72**	2	Bone China (transfer-printed)	Bowl	1	0.002	1770-1900	Late 18th-end of the 19th century
74	**73**	3	English Stoneware	Bottle	1	0.008	1700-1900	Late 18th-end of the 19th century
76	**75**	3	Refined White Earthenware	Bowl	1	0.004	1770-1900	Late 18th-end of the 19th century
84	**83**	3	Porcelain/Bone China (transfer-printed)	Bowl	1	0.003	1770-1900	Late 18th-end of the 19th century
127	**112**	3	Refined White Earthenware		1	<0.001	1770-1900	Late 18th-end of the 19th century

Table 4: Pottery Dating Summary Catalogue

Appendix D. Environmental Reports

D.1 Marine Molluscs

By Carole Fletcher

D.1.1 A total of *c.*0.03kg of shell of marine molluscs were collected. The shell from context 38 is broken but not does not appear to have been deliberately crushed.

Context	***Type***	***Weight (kg)***
34	Mussel:*Mytilus edulis*	0.002
38	Mussel:*Mytilus edulis*	<0.001

Table 5: Shell

D.2 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

D.2.1 Five bulk samples were taken from features excavated within evaluation trenches in Field L26 at Eriswell Road, Lakenheath, 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 include fen edge palaeochannels cutting through the sand filled with peat deposits.

Methodology

D.2.2 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. One bucket of each sample was retained for further analysis if required. 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.	Trench	Feature Type	Volume processed (L)	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal > 2mm	Large animal bones	Flake hammersc ale
1	95	112	3	palaeochannel	8	+	+	0	0
2	96	112	3	palaeochannel	10	0	+	0	0
3	98		2	buried soil filling depression	10	+++	++	0	0
4	99		1	possible hillwash	9	0	+	0	#
5	62	64	11	palaeochannel	9	0	0	#	0

Table 6: environmental samples from LKH361

D.2.3 Dewatering and desiccation of the organic deposits has occurred in all of the palaeochannel deposits sampled and has probably resulted in shrinkage of these deposits. None of the flots contained preserved plant remains although charcoal Charcoal is present in four of the five sample residues and is of reasonable size and quality to have potential for radiocarbon dating. Sample 5, fill 62 of palaeochannel **64** did not contain any preserved plant remains but a fragment of animal bone would be suitable for radiocarbon dating.

D.2.4 The sample of buried soil 98 (Sample 4) contains a moderate amount of charcoal that is evidence of burning but it is not possible to determine if this is due to natural or anthropogenic causes.

Appendix E. Bibliography

Brown, N & Murphy, P.	1997	'*Neolithic and Bronze Age*' in Glazebrook, J, 1997, Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties. East Anglian Archaeology occ paper 3
Butler, C.	2005	'*Prehistoric Flintwork*'. Tempus: London
Connor, A.	2013	Written Scheme of Investigation. Oxford Tender Ref no16247
Gailey, S.	2013	Archaeological Desk-based Assessment: Land at Lakenheath (L25) Suffolk. CgMs
Gailey, S.	2013	Archaeological Desk-based Assessment: Land at Lakenheath (L26) Suffolk. CgMs
Medieval Pottery Research Group	1998	*A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms.* Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper I
Medieval Pottery Research Group	2001	*Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics* Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

Maps consulted

British Geological Survey, 1993 Sheet 174, England and Wales 1:50,000

Appendix F. OASIS Report Form

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-163595		
Project Name	Land off Eriswell Road, Lakenheath,		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	12-11-2013	Finish	26-11-2013
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	LKH 360, LKH 361	Planning App. No.	
HER No.	LKH 360, LKH 361	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

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

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
palaeochannel	Neolithic -4k to -2k	flint	Neolithic -4k to -2k
ditch	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901	pottery	Medieval 1066 to 1540
pit	Medieval 1066 to 1540	pottery	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901

Project Location

County	suffolk	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Forest Heath	LAnd off Eriswell Road Lakenheath Suffolk	
Parish	lakenheath		
HER	LKH 360, LKH 361		
Study Area		National Grid Reference	TL 7226 8131

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	
Project Design Originator	Aileen Connor
Project Manager	Aileen Connor
Supervisor	Helen Stocks-Morgan

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
OA East	OA East	OA East
Accession ID ...	Accession ID ...	Accession ID ...

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:

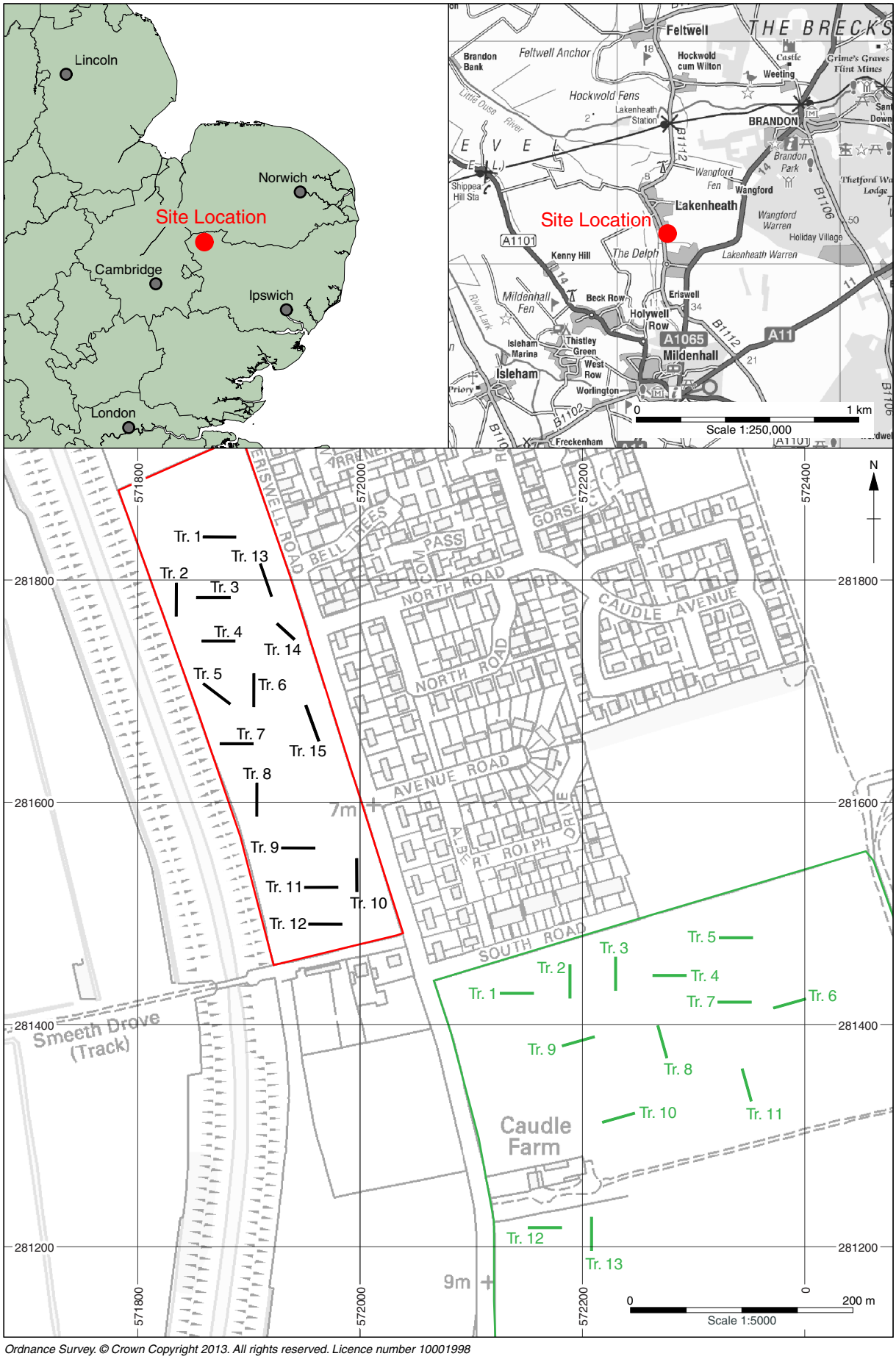

Figure 1: Location of site LKH360 (outlined green) and LKH361 (oulined red) showing archaeological trenches

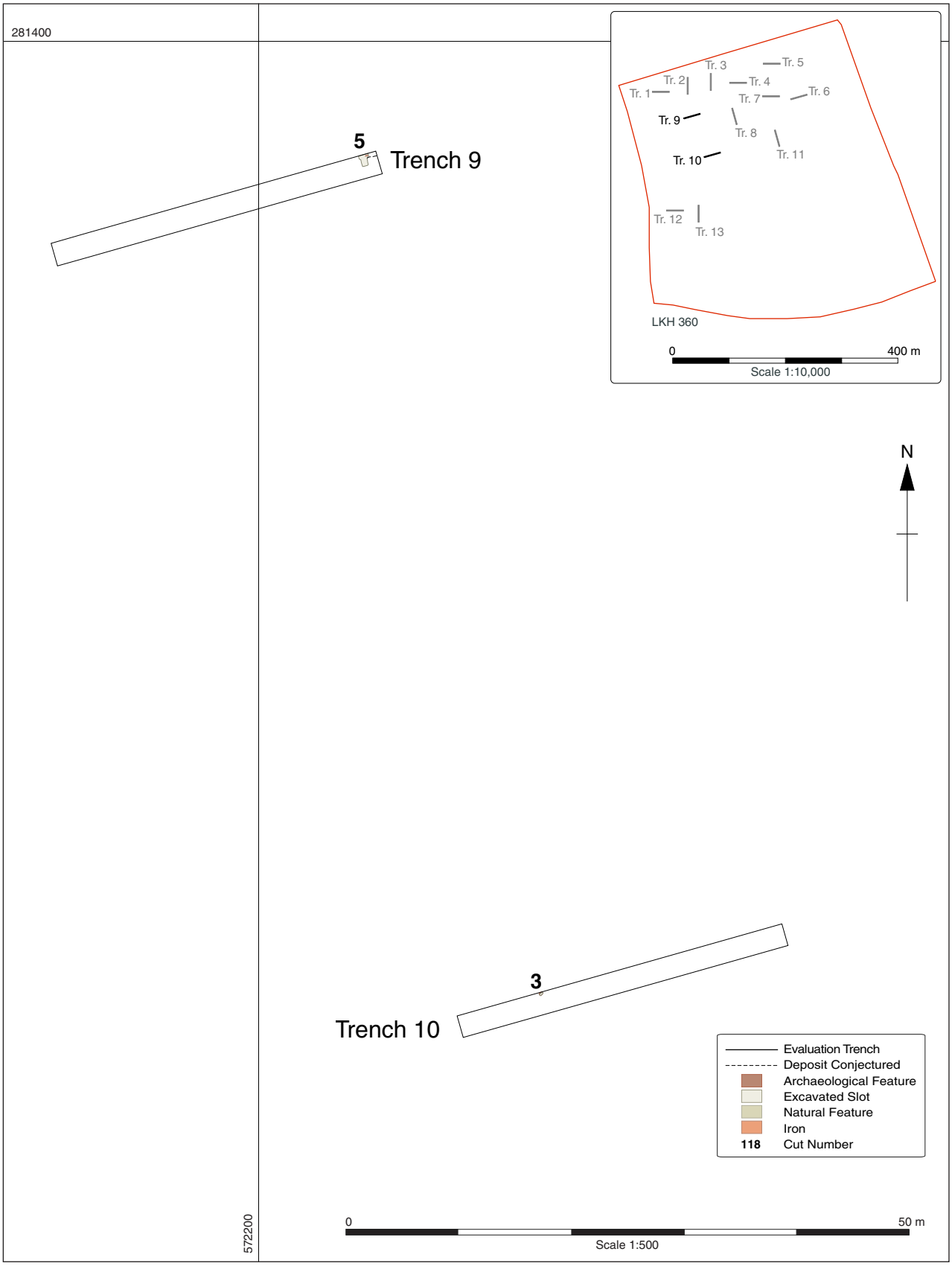

Figure 2: LKH 360 Trench location

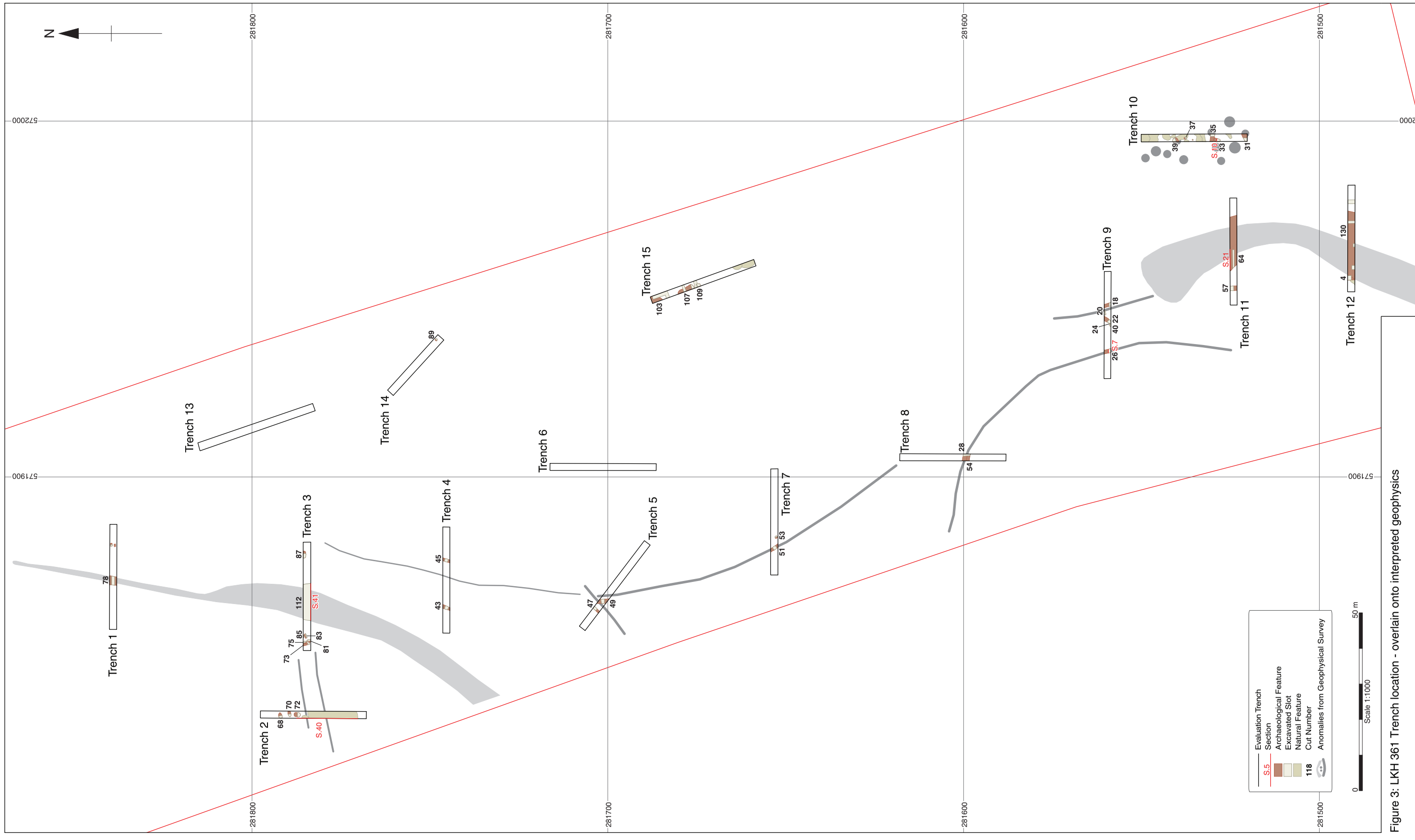

Figure 3: LKH 361 Trench location - overlain onto interpreted geophysics

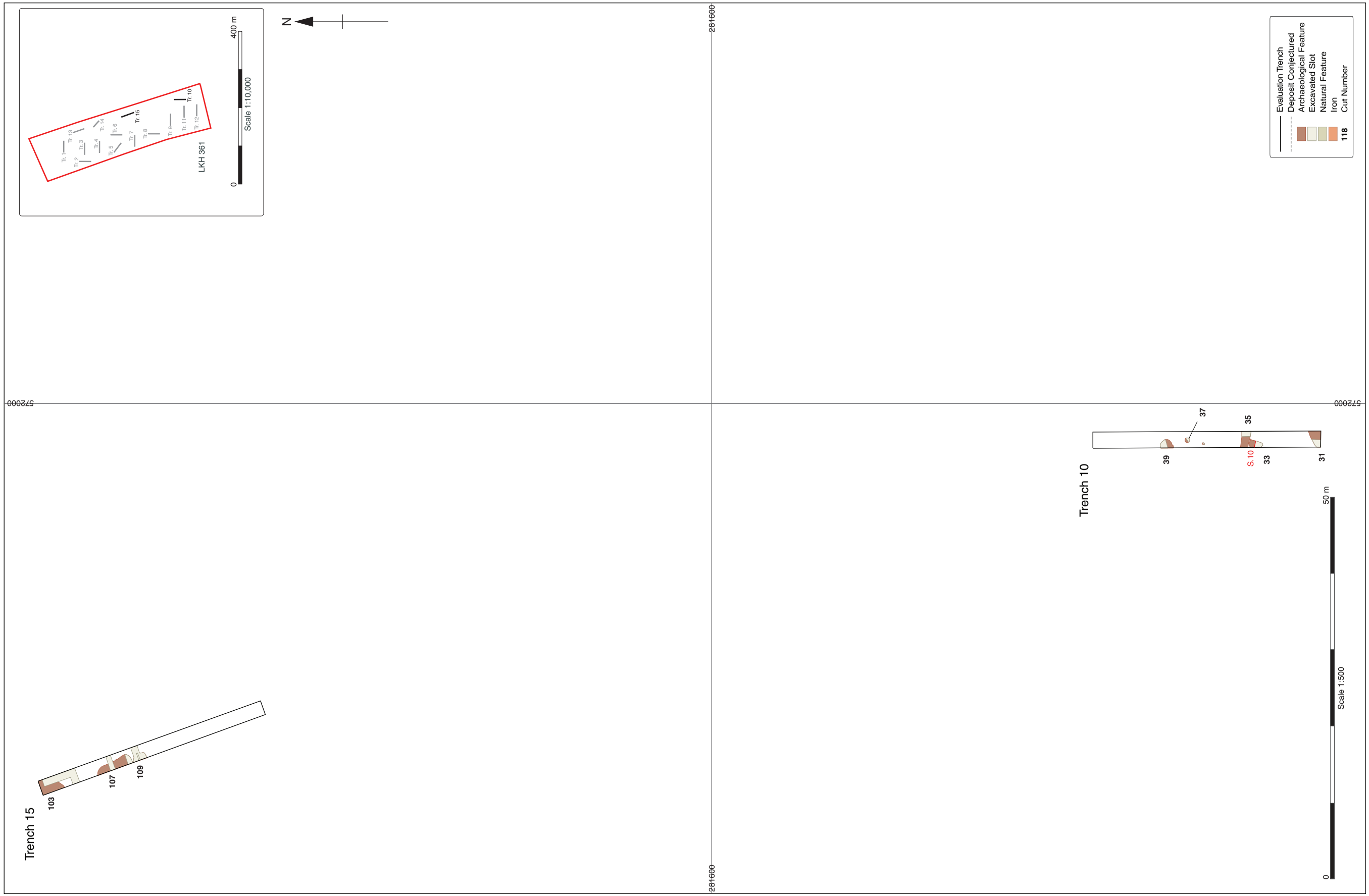

Figure 4: LKH361 Trenches 10 and 15

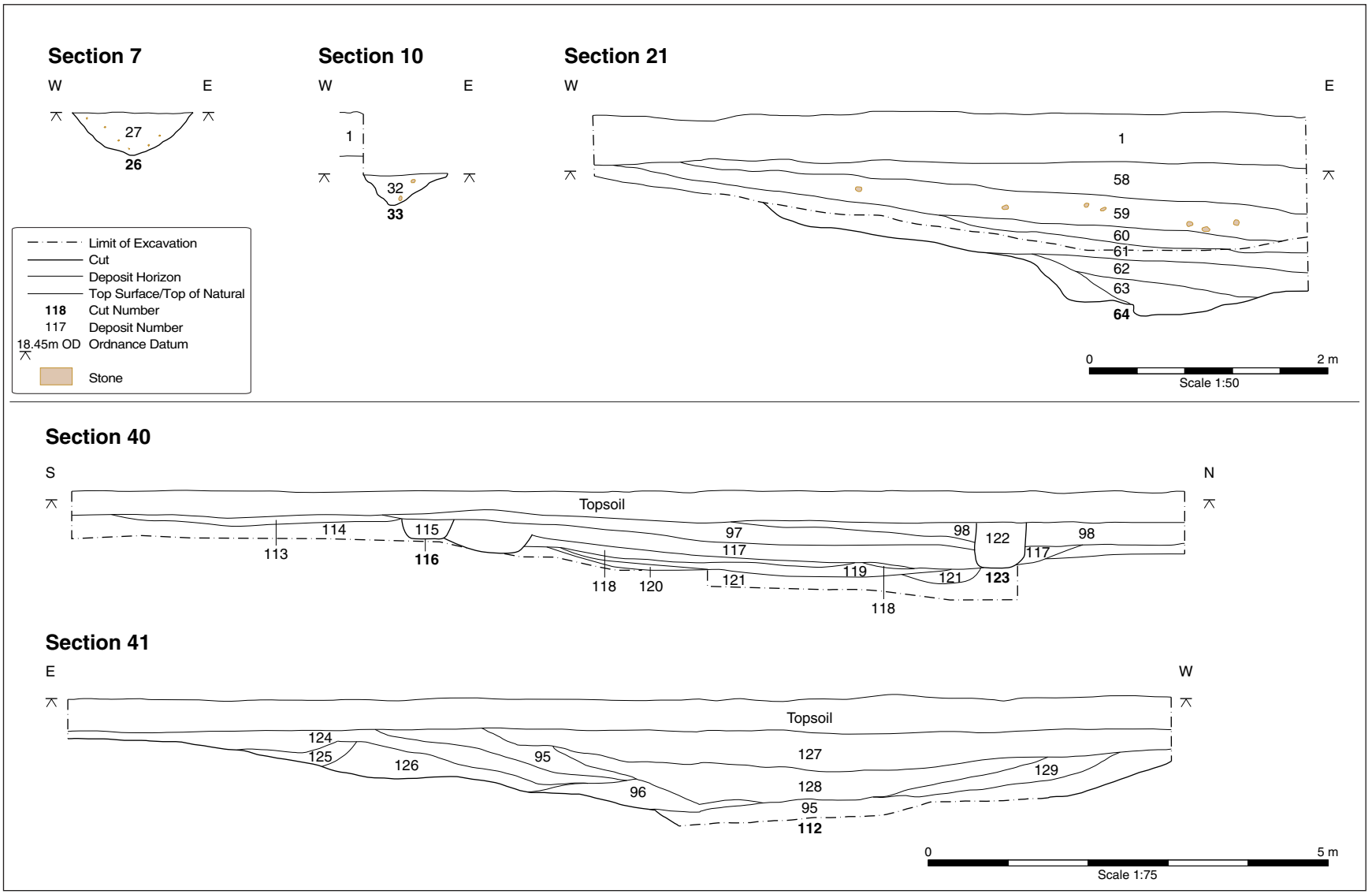

Figure 5: Selected sections

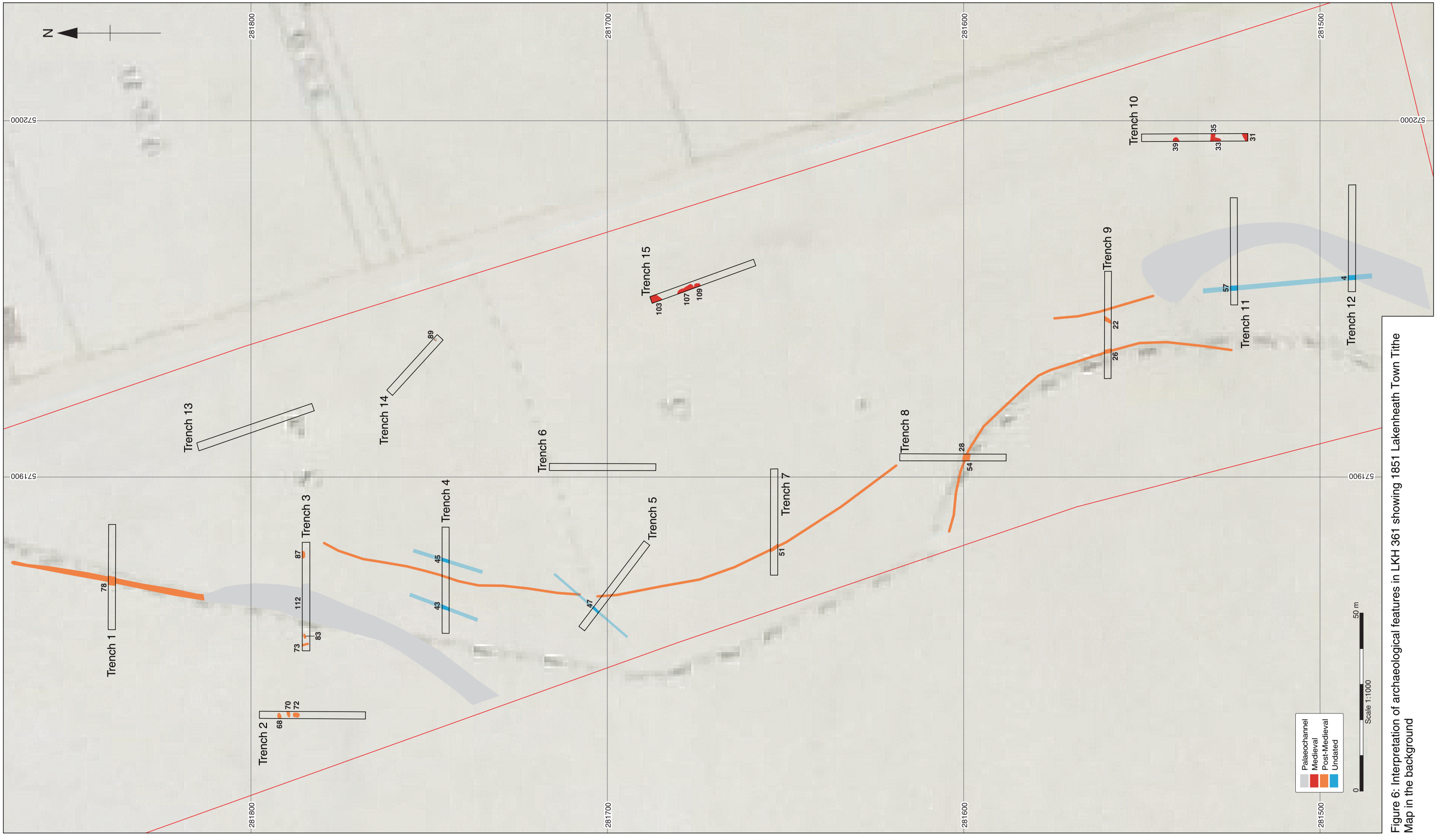

Figure 6: Interpretation of archaeological features in LKH 361 showing 1851 Lakenheath Town Tithe Map in the background

Plate 1: Palaeochannel **64**

Plate 2: Ditch **78**

Plate 3: Hillwash (111) and pits **103**, **107**, **109**

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