Iron Age and Medieval Activity at Dimmock's Cote Northern Area

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Iron Age and Medieval Activity at Dimmock's Cote Northern Area

Archaeological Evaluation

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Summary

Between 30th September and 15th October 2010 Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological evaluation, field walking and bucket sampling surveys on land to the North of a lime quarry at Dimmock's Cote, Wicken, Cambridgeshire. This revealed evidence of Early Iron Age occupation, in the form of post holes. Several Middle Iron Age pits were also recorded. Alongside this possible Early Medieval structures were identified. In addition traces of Medieval and Post-Medieval ridge and furrow cultivation and headlands were excavated. Two further postholes may also date to this Medieval phase of activity.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted in the field to the North of Dimmock's Cote Quarry, Wicken, Cambridgeshire.

1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council, supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East.

1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2010). The results will enable decisions to be made by CCC, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.

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

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The lime quarry at Dimmock's Cote lies 2km to the west of the village of Wicken and 8km to the south of Ely. Five hundred metres to the west of the quarry lies the River Cam, while Wicken Fen lies some 2km to the southwest and Soham Lode 2.5km to the north. The quarry lies on the northern side of the A1123 that runs between Stretham and Wicken. In the immediate vicinity of the site lie the farms of Red Barn and High Fen.

1.2.2 The site lies directly to the north of the quarry and encompasses a single field of 7.5ha which extends from High Fen Road to the east and Fodder Fen Drove to the west. A slight ridge is present in the field, running east to west.

1.2.3 In this area, the Jurassic Upware Limestone forms a promontory rising to about 5m OD that reaches out into the Fens (BGS 188). The promontory is surrounded on its north-eastern, western and south-eastern borders by Padney, Stretham, North, Adventurers and Wicken Sedge Fens. To the northeast and west lie the infilled lake basins of Soham and Stretham Mere. Many of these fenland meres survived into the historic period, having once formed significant wetland habitats in the prehistoric and later landscape.

1.2.4 Analysis of the coastal evolution of the Fenlands by Shennan suggests that the Wicken promontory has lain enclosed by fen since at least 4000BP (Shennan 1994: 70). The upland freshwater junction lay at about -lm OD in around 3800BP (Early Bronze Age). Marine and brackish water sediments were deposited less than 10km to the north of the Wicken promontory (Shennan 1994: 71). The surrounding fenland area has been influenced by peat formation since the prehistoric period whilst other areas within the Fens have been affected by recurrent marine incursions.

1.3 Previous Archaeological Excavations

1.3.1 Several excavations have taken place within the quarry, in the area immediately to the south of the current investigation. These have revealed features of Neolithic to

Medieval date (Bray 1992, Schlee 1993, Kemp 2002, Kemp & Kenney 2003, Gilmour 2009). Further to the south of the quarry a 20ha evaluation was carried out in 2009/2010 (Gilmour *et al* 2010) (Fig. 2).

1992 Excavations

1.3.2 In 1992 two trenches (Trenches I and II) 2m wide and 275m long were opened before Phase 1 of quarrying began (Bray 1992; 4). Archaeological remains encountered during these excavations included two parallel ditches, one of which had a series of postholes cut into its base. These ditches were initially believed to be of Bronze Age date; however, following further work in 1993, they were re-interpreted as the boundary ditches to a Roman trackway (Bray 1993). The only other archaeological feature found during this phase of work was a sub-rectangular pit measuring 4m long by 3m wide, however, the feature was not completely exposed (Bray 1992; 9). This work suggested that there was a significant quantity of Bronze Age archaeology in the vicinity to warrant further archaeological excavations.

July 1993 Excavations

1.3.3 In July 1993, Trench III, 10m wide and 272m long was opened (Bray 1993; 6). Excavated features consisted of a series of postholes, sub circular and square pits and a complex of intercutting pits. The two parallel ditches recorded in 1992 continued into this area. Three areas of Bronze Age activity were defined:

1. A series of postholes believed to represent a circular hut and a curvilinear fence lying close to the parallel Roman ditches. These were uncovered within the area of surviving buried soil (Bray 1993; 6).
2. A pit containing fired clay, animal bone and a crucible was interpreted as remains from a funerary or industrial site. This pit lay to the south of the remnants of a buried soil and the main complex of Neolithic and Bronze Age features (Bray 1993; 6).
3. A pit complex which Bray suggests may have been associated with a storage function lay at the southern end of Trench III (Bray 1993; 6).

1.3.4 The two parallel ditches continued across the area enclosed by the circular hut and were therefore presumed to be of a more recent date, possibly Roman. Two undated rectangular pits were also excavated; these were believed to have been overlain by the buried soil and were assumed to be Neolithic in date (Bray 1993; 5).

1.3.5 Apart from the crucible mentioned above, other artefacts recovered during this excavation included animal bone, pottery, flint tools, flint knapping waste and a loom weight. These artefacts are likely to indicate the presence of Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement nearby. A phosphate survey was undertaken across the buried soil that identified high concentrations of phosphates within the ancient soil; high phosphate levels are commonly indicative of domestic or agricultural waste and therefore could indicate the presence of an adjacent settlement.

1.3.6 Bray suggests that artefacts recovered during these excavations were largely retained within archaeological features, and the site, at least where it is overlain by a medieval headland, was in a relatively undisturbed condition (Bray 1994; 5). This headland not only protected archaeological deposits, but also the Bw soil horizon of a buried soil which had formed near the base of the original post-glacial soil profile (French 1993; 9). This Bw horizon is referred to as "the Bronze Age buried soil" by Bray on the

presumption that it formed between the late Neolithic, which is the presumed date of the two pits which it seals, and the Bronze Age, when a number of pits were cut in to this layer (Bray 1993:4).

September 1993 Excavations

1.3.7 Trench IV, opened in September 1993, was an open area 35m wide and 280m long (Schlee 1993). This work continued the analysis of features recorded in Trench III. Three types of Bronze Age arrangements were defined in addition to the continuation of the pit complex in Trench III:

1. Six adjacent pits or postholes that lay to the south of the pit alignment were interpreted as a square structure (Schlee 1993; 2).
2. A semi-circular arrangement of pits that lay within the buried soil was suggested to be the remnants of a small roundhouse (Schlee 1993; 4).
3. Linear pit alignments within the buried soil were interpreted as a fence (Schlee 1993; 4).

1.3.8 The parallel ditches were found to contain Roman as well as Bronze Age pottery, probably indicating a historic but pre-medieval date for the excavation and infilling of these features. Rectangular pits similar to those found in Trench III, although on a different orientation, were found to contain medieval pottery.

1.3.9 Excavation of the buried soil was carried out within eighteen 1m square test pits. Bronze Age pottery was recovered from a depth of up to 0.25m within the buried soil, although the majority of the finds came from the upper 0.05m. Schlee suggests that the Bronze Age buried soil had been disturbed by a combination of bioturbation and later ploughing, and it would seem that the buried soil was preserved and largely incorporated in the headland (Schlee 1993:4). This would suggest that earlier phosphate readings may be misleading and the dating of pits to the Neolithic based on their perceived stratigraphic relationship with the 'buried soil' may be erroneous.

1994, 1996 and 1997 Excavations

1.3.10 Trenches V and VI were excavated in December 1994, October 1996 and May 1997. (Kemp and Kenney 2003). This lead to a re-interpretation of the 'buried soil' found across part of the site. It was shown t that much of what had originally been referred to as the 'buried soil' was in fact disturbed by medieval and later ploughing and only a small area, under the Medieval headland was preserved. This area of buried soil was seen as likely to be the original post-glacial soil (Kemp and Kenney 2003; 24). In addition several prehistoric features were identified:

1. Two pits were found adjacent to each other, one contained a significant quantity of Earlier Neolithic pottery (Kemp and Kenney 2003;12).
2. Two pit complexes, of Neolithic or Bronze Age date (Kemp and Kenney 2003; 8) were thought likely to be related to other pit complexes identified in 1993, although their function remained enigmatic (Kemp and Kenney 2003, 25).
3. An irregular ring ditch was though to be the remains of a ploughed out barrow or possibly a stock enclosure or roundhouse (Kemp and Kenney 2003; 27). Given the presence of a near complete collared urn in the base of the ditch, the former interpretation seems most plausible.
4. Four postholes forming an L shape, were interpreted as potentially the remains of a six post structure of Bronze Age date (Kemp and Kenney 2003;26)

5. A very large shallow pit was interpreted as evidence for Bronze age quarrying activity (Kemp and Kenney 2003;27).

1.3.11 In addition one of the two ditches first identified in 1992 as a possible Roman trackway was found to continue into this area (Kemp and Kenney 2003; 29).

1.3.12 Medieval activity was represented by the remains of a cultivation system; furrows and a headland. On the ridge between two of these furrows, six sub-rectangular pits were recorded. These were seen to have performed a number of functions, including acting as markers within the Medieval field system. This function was later taken on a by a row of posts (Kemp and Kenney 2003;30).

2008 Excavations

1.3.13 The 2008 excavations were located directly the the east of the 1996/97 site (Gilmour 2009). Key features and finds included:

1. Two groups of three Earlier Neolithic Pits, one group containing significantly fewer finds than the other. One pit contained over 1.5kg of Mildenhall pottery and a large assemblage of flint (Gilmour 2009; 20)

2. A short length of ditch and several small undated ditches thought to form part of a larger Bronze Age field system (Gilmour 2009; 20).A single very tightly crouched burial radiocarbon dated to 1130 – 900 BC (95% probability SUERC-21616 (GU-17876) (Gilmour 2009; 21)

3. A Later Iron Age crouch burial, with complete pottery bowl, radiocarbon dated to 350 - 30 BC (95% probability SUERC-21615) (Gilmour 2009; 21)

4. Several ditches dated to the Later Iron Age/Early Roman date appear to be part of a wider field system of this date (Gilmour 2009; 22)

5. An unusual oval Later Iron Age – Early Roman enclosure measuring 7.5m by 5m was located on the western edge of the excavation. The function of the enclosure was uncertain as the ditch was quite substantial but it enclosed a very small area. Various interpretations from an enclosure surrounding a shepherds hut, a hayrick to a barrow/burial mound have been proposed however none of which proved satisfactory (Gilmour 2009; 22).

6. A rectangular enclosure with internal postholes also proved enigmatic. The only finds from within the feature were a single whelk shell, part of a medieval horseshoe and three tiny (less than 1g) fragments of pottery. A medieval structure sited in the middle of fields with no associated finds seams somewhat unlikely. If the horseshoe was intrusive, which could be a possibility bearing in mind the shallow nature of the surrounding ditch the remaining finds are of little help providing a date (Gilmour 2009; 22,23).

2010 Field Walking and Evaluation – Dimmock's Cote, Southern Extension

1.3.14 Field walking and trenching was carried out on 20ha of land to the south of Dimmock's Cote road in December 2009 – January 2010. The evaluation identified surface scatters of earlier prehistoric flintwork and Early Iron Age pottery, an extensive area of Early Iron Age pitting cutting through a buried soil (protected by a medieval headland) and a posthole structure of uncertain date and evidence for medieval Ridge and Furrow agriculture. In more detail:

1. Pre-Iron Age activity was limited to an extensive plough-zone scatter of struck flint and a small number of residual flints. The flint assemblage was heavily

recorticated and is indicative of persistent but low-intensity activity over a long period of time (Gilmour *et al* 2010: 20).

2. The pit group was situated along the top of a ridge and consisted of pits ranging in size from potential post settings to larger more classic Iron Age 'storage pits'. There was however no direct evidence of the settlement focus (Gilmour *et al* 2010: 21).
3. A ditch which extended through the pit group was undated however it is likely that the ditch was cut later than the pits to mark the same boundary (Gilmour *et al* 2010: 21).
4. Twelve sherds of Early Iron Age pottery were recovered from a 1m square test pit through the buried soil which survives beneath the medieval headlands (Gilmour *et al* 2010: 21).
5. A single Middle Iron Age pit was recorded which is of interest as no other MIA material has been recovered from previous interventions within the quarry area. This may represent either continuous settlement or re-settlement following a hiatus (Gilmour *et al* 2010: 22).
6. The post built structure contained fragments of lava quern which can be found in contexts from the Late pre-Roman Iron Age - 12th/13th centuries (Gilmour *et al* 2010: 22).
7. The remains of three north-south headlands that cross the site are the last visible remains of the Medieval ridge and furrow field system. Remnants of furrows were also recorded on the geophysical survey and by trenching though these were slight (Gilmour *et al* 2010: 22).

1.4 Archaeological and historical background

Prehistoric

1.4.1 As well as the Neolithic finds from earlier phases of archaeological investigation in the quarry, several flint scatters and isolated finds of Mesolithic and Neolithic date have been reported in the area around the quarry (e.g. HER 07032, HER 07040).

1.4.2 Later Neolithic and Early Bronze Age activity in the area is suggested by two ring ditches, visible on aerial photographs. One of these lies in the field to the west of the study area and the other in the field to the south west. These may represent prehistoric features or, due to their association with rectangular enclosures, be the result of later activity.

1.4.3 Two further ring ditches and a possible barrow, (HER 07035) have been identified by aerial photography, around 2km to the northeast of the quarry. A flint dagger of the type often associated with Beaker burials was found c.2km to the east (HER 07061a). Further Neolithic activity was identified during excavations in advance of the construction of the Fordham bypass, c.6km to the east (Mortimer forthcoming)

1.4.4 Middle and Later Bronze Age and Iron Age activity is less well represented, although a Late Bronze Age weapon hoard was recovered from Wicken Fen (HER 07029). A Middle to Late Iron Age farmstead has also been identified c.4km to the west of the study area at Wilberton (Haines 2007). Further evidence of Iron Age activity, including a burial of this date, was excavated on the Fordham bypass route (Mortimer forthcoming)

Roman

1.4.5 A scatter of Roman finds, associated with crop marks (HER 06981), is recorded in the field to the south of the A1123 adjacent to the study area. A Roman villa (HER 10525) has also been reported 400m to the west of the study area, although only from aerial photographic evidence, and a scatter of Roman finds. Further afield, a Roman farmstead was also uncovered at Wilberton (Haines 2007).

1.4.6 Four skeletons were found within the quarry in 1951 (HER 06973), unfortunately these were bulldozed and could not be excavated. However, a sherd of Roman pottery was found near to one of the disturbed burials and on this basis they are recorded as possibly of Roman date.

Anglo-Saxon

1.4.7 There have been no definite finds of this date within the area.

Medieval

1.4.8 Domesday (1086) records the name Wicken as Wicha, and a probable derivation of the name is 'dairy-farm(s)'. Dimmock's Cote is probably associated with the family of Hugo Dymmok, recorded in 1394 (Reaney 1943).

1.4.9 Medieval pottery was found during excavation in the quarry in 1993 (SMR 11187B), and to the north-west of the study area lies a series of cropmarks of rectangular enclosures (SMR 10490).

1.5 Aerial Photographic Survey

1.5.1 A aerial photographic survey which covers the study area was carried out by Rog Palmer (Air Photo Services) in 2002 which was subsequently updated in 2009. The full report is appended in Gilmour *et al* 2010.

1.5.2 In summary, the predominant archaeological features in the study area are the headlands remaining from medieval cultivation (Fig 3). The headlands form the usual pattern of regularly spaced strips except for the angled junction visible in the centre of the study area (Dimmock's Cote, Northern Area). The changes in direction may represent changes in topography (Rog Palmer 2009 in Gilmour *et al* 2010: 55).

1.5.3 An area of ditched features surviving as slight earthworks were identified directly to the west. The ditches, forming rectilinear fields/enclosures are on two alignments, a north-south orientation and a northwest-southeast orientation. These features are thought likely to extend into the site. A further area of earthworks situated to the south of Dimmock's Cote Quarry are also on a similar alignment.

1.6 Geophysical Survey

1.6.1 A geophysical survey was conducted by GSB Prospection Ltd on behalf of Andy Josephs. The full report can be found in Pickstone 2010.

1.6.2 In summary, the general level of background magnetic response is low, with many highlighted anomalies being comparatively weak. However, a number of anomalies have been identified as being of possible archaeological interest including possible field systems and enclosures and an area of increased magnetic response suggestive of

more intense settlement. A single circular anomaly measuring 8m in diameter may also be of interest.

1.7 Acknowledgements

1.7.1 The authors would like to thank Francis Flower (Gurney Slade Lime & Stone Co) who funded the evaluation, and Andy Josephs of Andrew Josephs Ltd, who commissioned the work. The specification was produced by Andy Thomas, and the evaluation monitored by Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council. The project was managed by Richard Mortimer for Oxford Archaeology East who also edited the report. Gareth Rees provided the on site survey support. The evaluation was directed by Nick Gilmour with the support of John Diffey.

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 Brief required that a field walking survey was conducted along with bucket sampling and evaluation trenching across the study area. With sufficient trenching being undertaken to characterise the archaeological features and deposits therein. .

Field Walking

2.2.2 The field was divided into 7 separate, lettered lines set out with a GPS. Each line (A to G) ran from west to east 25m apart. Along these transects finds were collected and bagged up at 25m intervals (numbered 1-22). The results of the fieldwalking have been integrated with those of the trench evaluation in this report.

Bucket sampling

2.2.3 Spoil, excavated by machine, was scanned for finds by way of bucket sampling. At each end of every 50m trench, one bucket was filled with spoil for each 10cm of deposit excavated. For each 100m trench an additional set of samples were taken from the middle of the trench. This spoil was then carefully sorted and any finds recorded.

Trenching

2.2.4 The study area was subject to a total of 2360 sq m of evaluation trenching, a 3.1% sample of the proposed development area. This comprised a total of 1180 linear metres with trenches taking into account the presence of geophysical anomalies and features plotted by aerial photography. A further 60m of trenching (0.16%) was subsequently undertaken following the results of the fieldwalking and initial trenching.

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

2.2.6 The site survey was carried out by Gareth Rees using a Leica GPS 1200.

2.2.7 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.

2.2.8 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.

2.2.9 Bulk soil samples were taken from features which contained either charcoal, or well dated assemblages, to assess the preservation and potential of environmental remains.

2.2.10 Site conditions were generally good. The field had recently been planted with a crop of wheat and the trenches were free draining. Weather conditions were good, with only occasional rain showers

3 RESULTS

3.1 Fieldwalking Results

3.1.1 The material found during field walking is quantified in appendix D and presented in figures 3-6.

Flint

3.1.2 A total of 73 struck flints were recovered during the fieldwalking. There was no marked concentration in their distribution (fig. 3). However, there is a visible trend for more flint to occur in the western half of the field.

Prehistoric Pottery

3.1.3 Eighteen sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered during fieldwalking. These were almost all likely to date from the Iron Age (appendix B.1). No distinctive pattern was visible in the distribution of prehistoric pottery finds (fig. 4), although the majority was recovered from towards the south-west corner of the field. It is of note that no pottery was found in the area immediately overlying Iron Age activity identified during the evaluation.

Roman and Medieval pottery

3.1.4 Eight sherds of Roman pottery were found during fieldwalking. No pattern was visible in their distribution (fig. 5).

3.1.5 Thirty-eight sherds of Medieval pottery were recovered from fieldwalking. No obvious pattern was discernible in their distribution (fig. 5).

Post-medieval Pottery

3.1.6 Forty-three sherds of Post-Medieval pottery were found during field walking. Their distribution was seemingly random (fig. 6).

3.2 Bucket Sampling Results

3.2.1 The material recovered from the bucket samples is quantified in appendix E and presented in figure 7.

3.2.2 Very few finds were recovered from the bucket sampling and no pattern is evident in their distribution. It is interesting to note that even in areas where reasonable quantities of material were recovered from field walking, few finds appeared in the bucket samples.

3.3 Trenching Results

3.3.1 Details of each trench, together with any deposits and features they contained, are given in appendix A. Below all the features identified are described by period.

Earlier Iron Age

3.3.2 A small group of postholes at the southern end of Trench 11 can be dated to the Early Iron Age.

Trench 11

3.3.3 Four postholes were identified, three of which were excavated; a further possible post hole was also excavated.

3.3.4 Posthole **61** (fig. 9 S.8) was circular in plan, with a diameter of 0.40m and a depth of 0.16m. It was filled by 60, a mid greyish brown, silty loam which contained 16 sherds of pottery (145g) of Early Iron Age date.

3.3.5 Posthole **63** (fig. 9 S.9) was circular in plan, with a diameter of 0.32m and a depth of 0.15m. It was filled by 62, a mid greyish brown, silty loam which contained no finds.

3.3.6 Posthole **67** (fig 9 S.10) was circular in plan, with a diameter of 0.40m and a depth of 0.18m. It was filled by 66, a mid greyish brown, silty loam which contained a single sherd of pottery (8g).

3.3.7 Possible posthole **69** was sub-circular in plan, with a width of 0.28m, a length of 0.42m and a depth of 0.16m. It was filled by 68, a mid greyish brown, silty loam which contained no finds.

Middle Iron Age

3.3.8 A concentration of features of Middle Iron Age date were recorded on top of the ridge, largely lying beneath the Medieval headland.

Trench 11

3.3.9 Seven pits, two of which were excavated, were recorded in this trench.

3.3.10 Pit **20** (fig. 9 S.6 and plate 4) was circular in plan, with a diameter of 1.45m and a depth of 0.52m. It contained 3 fills: 21 was a mid reddish brown, silty loam, with contained 22 sherds of pottery (584g) and 212g of animal bone. 22 was a pale greyish yellow, sandy loam, with frequent burnt chalk inclusions and no finds. 23 was a mid reddish brown, silty loam, which contained 37 sherds of pottery (200g), 4g of animal bone and 24g of flint.

3.3.11 Probable tree bowl **55** was irregular in plan, measuring 1.50m at its widest point and 0.12m deep. It contained a single fill; 54, a mid brownish grey, clayey loam, which contained a single sherd of pottery (10g).

3.3.12 Pit **98** was circular in plan, with a diameter of 1.70m and a depth of 0.60m. It appeared to truncate up to three earlier, un-excavated pits. It contained 3 fills; 95 was a dark brownish grey, silty loam which contained 19 sherds (112g) of pottery and 83g of animal bone. Fill 96, was a pale brownish white silty loam, with abundant chalk inclusions and no finds. The basal fill was 97, a dark brownish grey sandy loam, which contained 4 sherds of pottery (7g), 7g of bone and one struck flint.

3.3.13 In addition, surface finds were collected from one of the un-excavated pits at the northern end of the trench (plate 1), 44. These included a single sherd of pottery (6g) and 80g of animal bone.

Trench 12

3.3.14 Two features, which may represent truncated pits, were identified and excavated in this trench.

3.3.15 Feature **35** was sub-circular in plan, with a maximum width of 2.15m and depth of 0.14m. It was filled by 36, a mid orangey brown, sandy loam, which contained a single sherd of pottery (1g) and 18g of flint.

3.3.16 Feature **37** was sub-circular in plan, with a maximum width of 2.25m and depth of 0.16m. It was filled by 38, a mid orangey brown, sandy loam, which contained one sherd of pottery (1g).

Trench 18

3.3.17 This trench was opened in an attempt to define a western boundary to the Early and Middle Iron Age archaeology, none of the features identified in this trench were excavated. However, their morphology and location strongly suggest that they can be attributed to the Middle Iron Age.

3.3.18 A large pit, with a diameter of 2.60m was recorded at the eastern end of the trench. Three further pits were recoded in the middle of the trench along with a posthole close to the western end. A single ditch was also recorded running on a northeast to southwest alignment, it was 1.06m wide.

Earlier Medieval

Trench 11

3.3.19 Two possible earlier Medieval structures were recorded, one of which was partially excavated.

3.3.20 Feature **57** (fig. 9 S.20 and plate 3) appeared to be sub-rectangular in plan, but continued outside of the trench. It was 1.90m wide and 0.18m deep, with an irregular flat base. It had very steeply sloping sides on the north and west edges, with more gently sloping sides to the south. It was filled by 56, a mid greyish brown, clayey loam, which contained one sherd of pottery (7g).

3.3.21 Posthole **59** was located in the northwest corner of feature **57**. It was square in plan, with a width of 0.28m and a depth of 0.40m. It had vertical sides and a flat base and was filled by 58, a mid greyish brown, clayey loam, which contained no finds. No difference was visible between the fill of posthole **59** and that of feature **57** and they are almost certainly contemporary.

3.3.22 A feature c.13m to the south of feature **57** was very similar in both plan and fill. It had a width of 2.56m and again continued out of the trench. It was not excavated.

Medieval

Trench 2

3.3.23 Two heavily truncated probable postholes were identified in this trench, both of which were fully excavated.

3.3.24 Posthole **13** (fig. 10) was circular in plan, with a diameter of 0.30m and a depth of 0.03m. It was filled by 14, a dark greyish brown, clayey silt, which contained no finds.

3.3.25 Posthole **15** (fig. 10) was located c.4m to the North of posthole **13**. It was circular in plan, with a diameter of 0.30m and a depth of 0.03m. It was filled by 16, a dark greyish brown, clayey silt, which contained a single sherd of pottery (12g) of 13th - 14th century date.

Medieval/ Post Medieval Ridge and Furrow

3.3.26 Ridge and furrow was recorded across the site, on two perpendicular orientations.

Trench 4

3.3.27 This contained two furrows, which were not excavated. They both ran on an east-northeast to west-southwest orientation and were c.11m apart.

Trench 5

3.3.28 Furrow **73** was the only furrow recorded in this trench. It was 1.90m wide and 0.16m deep and ran on a north to south orientation. It was filled by 72, a mid greyish brown. silty loam, which contained no finds.

Trench 9

3.3.29 Four furrows were identified in this trench. Two at the northern end were on a north-northeast to south-southwest alignment, while two at the southern end were on an east-west alignment. The two furrows in the south were not excavated, they were spaced c.9.5m apart.

3.3.30 Furrow **75** was 4.50m wide and 0.12m deep. It was filled by 74, a mid greyish brown, silty loam, which contained a single fragment of lava quern (51g).

3.3.31 Furrow **77** was 4.50m wide and 0.14m deep. It was filled by 76, a mid greyish brown, silty loam, which contained a single fragment of pottery (9g).

Trench 13

3.3.32 Furrow **24** was the only furrow recoded in this trench. It was 3.07m wide and 0.14m deep and ran on a north-south alignment. It was filled by 25, a mid greyish brown silty loam, which contained 3 sherds of pottery (15g) and 11g of flint.

Trench 14

3.3.33 This trench contained two furrows, both of which were excavated. They were spaced c.8m apart and ran on an east-west alignment.

3.3.34 Furrow **79** was 1.20m wide and 0.08m deep. It was filled by 78, a mid orangey brown, silty loam, which contained 1 sherd of pottery (22g).

3.3.35 Furrow **81** was 2.38m wide and 0.20m deep. It was filled by 80, a mid orangey brown, silty loam, which contained no finds.

Trench 17

3.3.36 This trench contained two furrows, both of which were excavated. They were spaced c.9m apart and ran on a north-south alignment.

3.3.37 Furrow **89** was 1.34m wide and 0.20m deep. It was filled by 88, a mid brownish grey, silty loam, which contained 12g of animal bone.

3.3.38 Furrow **91** was 1.50m wide and 0.08m deep. It was filled by 90, a mid greyish brown, silty loam, which contained 1 sherd of pottery (3g).

Trench 18

3.3.39 This trench contained a single furrow, which was not excavated. It was 1.22m wide and ran on a north-south alignment.

Trench 19

3.3.40 Furrow **85** was the only furrow recoded in this trench. It was 0.48m wide and 0.08m deep and ran on an east-northeast to west-southwest alignment. It was filled by 84, a mid greyish brown, silty loam, which contained a single sherd of pottery (2g).

Headlands

3.3.41 Medieval headlands were plotted from aerial photography (fig. 2) and were evident to a degree in the field surface. Trenches were specifically placed to cross these headlands in order to assess the potential for the survival of buried soils and land surfaces beneath them.

3.3.42 Two areas of subsoil, which made up the headland, were left *in situ* during the machining of the trenches and a series of hand dug test pits were excavated within these areas. These test pits showed that no intact buried soils survived. The subsoil was a mid orangey brown silty loam with occasional gravel inclusions.

Trench 11

3.3.43 Three one metre square test pits were excavated through the subsoil (43) in this trench. One contained no finds, another contained 3 sherds (17g) of Iron Age pottery along with 27g of flint, and the third contained a single sherd of Iron Age pottery (16g) and 15g of animal bone.

Trench 16

3.3.44 A single two meter square test pit was excavated in the subsoil (40) in this trench. It contained 2 sherds (5g) of pottery, one sherd of which was medieval and the other Iron Age. 17g of animal bone and 1g of flint were also recovered,

Natural features

3.3.45 Natural features were identified across the site. The majority of these were periglacial and were not recorded in detail. However, those created by vegetation and those which appeared to have been in-filled during the early habitation of the site are described below.

Trench 1

3.3.46 There were eight natural features, all appeared to be tree bowls or tree throws, four of which were excavated. They were concentrated at the western end of the trench.

3.3.47 Tree bowl **3** was irregular in plan, with a maximum width of 2.50m and depth of 0.25m, it continued outside of the trench. It was filled by 4, a dark blueish black, silty loam, which contained 2g of flint.

3.3.48 Tree bowl **5** was irregular in plan, with a maximum width of 0.65m and depth of 0.23m, it continued outside of the trench. It was filled by 6, a dark blueish black, silty loam, which contained 1g of flint.

3.3.49 Tree bowl **7** was irregular in plan, with a maximum width of 1.30m and depth of 0.36m, it continued outside of the trench. It was filled by 8, a dark blueish black, silty loam, which contained no finds.

3.3.50 Tree bowl **9** was sub-circular in plan, with a maximum width of 0.95m and depth of 0.14m. It was filled by 10, mid greyish brown, silty loam, which contained 15g of flint.

Trench 2

3.3.51 Tree throw **17** was the only natural feature in this trench. It was irregular in plan, with a length of 1.70m, a width of 0.65m and a depth of 0.20m. It contained two fills. Fill 18 was the lower fill, it was a mid reddish brown clayey loam, which contained 1 sherd of pottery (18g) of probable Earlier Neolithic date. Fill 19 was the upper fill, it was a dark brownish grey, clayey loam, which contained no finds.

Trench 3

3.3.52 There were four natural features recorded in this trench, only one of which was excavated.

3.3.53 Tree throw **27** was irregular in plan, with a maximum width of 1.48m and depth of 0.36m, it continued outside of the trench. It was filled by 28, a mid brownish grey, silty loam, which contained no finds.

Trench 5

3.3.54 Tree bowl **71** was the only natural feature in this trench. It was sub-circular in plan, with a diameter of 0.70m and a depth of 0.12m. It was filled by 70, a mid brownish grey silty loam, which contained no finds.

Trench 8

3.3.55 Natural hollow **29** was irregular in plan. It continued out of the trench on three sides, with a minimum length of 9.96m, width of 2.10m and depth of 0.27m. It was filled by 30, a mid greyish brown, silty loam, which contained 5 sherds of pottery (17g) and 11g of flint.

3.3.56 Tree Bowl **33** was sub-circular in plan, with a diameter of 1.15m and depth of 0.30m. It was filled by 34, a mid greyish brown silty loam, which contained no finds

Trench 11

3.3.57 Tree bowl **55** was the only natural feature in this trench. It was irregular in plan, with a length of 1.50m, a width of 1.20m and a depth of 0.12m. It was filled by 54, a mid brownish grey clayey loam, which contained a single sherd of pottery (10g).

Trench 17

3.3.58 Tree bowl **93** was the only natural feature in this trench. It was irregular in plan, with a width of 0.58m and a depth of 0.16m, it continued out of the trench. It was filled by 92, a mid greyish brown silty loam, which contained a single sherd of pottery (8g). It was cut by furrow **91**.

3.4 Finds Summary

3.4.1 Artefacts recovered included pottery, flint and lava. Full reports are presented in the appendices.

Iron Age Pottery

3.4.2 The archaeological investigations at Wicken North Field yielded 142 sherds (1287g) of prehistoric and Iron Age pottery. The diagnostic material from cut features dated to the Early and Middle Iron Age, with a few potential sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery. Most of the ceramics collected from fieldwalking and surface finds are probably of similar date, although some are of Roman and post-Roman origin (K. Anderson pers. comm.).

3.4.3 The datable pottery from Wicken belongs to the Early and Middle Iron Age - the former dated c. 800-350 BC; the latter 350-50 BC. The material is well paralleled in assemblages from surrounding excavations (Brudenell 2009; 2010), and adds to the impression of a densely occupied landscape throughout the first millennium BC. The pottery recovered from the fieldwalking complements that from the cut features, though there is a notable absence of Middle Iron Age-type sandy wares. This is difficult to account for, though it may be due to the different weathering rates of handmade flint and sand fabrics; the former being the more resilient.

Medieval Pottery

3.4.4 A total of 62 sherds of Medieval pottery were recovered during the field walking and evaluation trenching at Wicken. Of these 38 sherds were found during the field-walking, 8 were recovered during the bucket sampling, while a further 12 were found in the topsoil during machining. These consist of a mixed assemblage of abraded sherds of pottery, mostly medieval sandy wares, dating between 1150 and 1500AD.

3.4.5 Three sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from furrows. A single sherd from context 76, is an abraded green glazed Medieval sandy ware, dating from 1200-1350AD. A further sherd from context 78 is the rim of a Medieval Sandy ware jar, dating from 1150-1500.

3.4.6 A single sherd of pottery was also recovered from context 16, fill of posthole **15**. This is a Medieval sandy grey ware, with pinched finger decoration. It is of 13th-14th century date.

Flint

3.4.7 The fieldwalking programme resulted in the recovery of 73 struck flints, with a further 46 struck flints recovered from the field evaluation. The struck flint indicates persistent but relatively low-level activity occurring at the site from the Mesolithic through to the end of the Bronze Age. It is comparable to the assemblages from the earlier phases of activity at Wicken (WICDIC08 and WICDCE09) as well as at other sites located along higher ground within the southern Fens (eg Edmonds *et al.* 1999).

Lava Quern

3.4.8 A single fragment of Niedermendig lava was recovered from fill 74 of furrow **75**. Although this fragment did not retain any worked surfaces, it almost certainly represents a small portion of a quern stone.

3.5 Environmental Summary

3.5.1 Full environmental reports are presented in the appendices.

Environmental Samples

3.5.2 Ten samples were taken from across the evaluated area and seven of these samples were submitted for an initial appraisal in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

3.5.3 The results of sampling within this area of excavation are similar to those from recent excavations at the adjacent site at Dimmock's Cote Quarry (Fosberry 2008, 2009). Preservation of charred plant material is particularly poor and is limited to occasional charred cereal grains and charred weed seeds. It is perhaps of note that the samples from the post-holes were devoid of charred plant remains which may suggest a non-domestic function for the structure.

3.5.4 The plant remains recovered from the samples from the two Iron Age storage pits are dominated by cereal grains. Although they are present in small quantities, they do indicate that cereals were being locally utilised.

Faunal Remains

3.5.5 Twenty-three fragments of animal bone were recovered from the evaluation at Dimmock's Cote Quarry with 11 fragments identifiable to species. Cattle are the most prevalent taxon, with the majority of fragments consisting of loose teeth and portions of the axial skeleton. The remainder of the assemblage consists of sheep/goat remains including lower limb elements and a single mandible from an animal around 2-3 years of age from context **21**. No further conclusions can be drawn from the assemblage although it likely represents general domestic waste.

4 Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Iron Age

4.1.1 This southeastern corner of the Cambridgeshire Fens, bordered by the Soham peninsular to the east, the mainland at Reach and Burwell to the south and the Isle of Ely to the north has of late been producing one of the greatest concentrations of later Bronze Age and earlier Iron Age settlement archaeology in the region. Both the Late Bronze Age assemblages recovered from the mainland at Newmarket Rd, Burwell (Bailey 2006) and Fordham Bypass (Mortimer forthcoming) and the Early Iron Age assemblages from Exning (Caruth pers. comm.), Fordham Landwade Rd (Connor Forthcoming) and Fordham Bypass lie within 5 – 6km of Dimmock's Cote to the south and east. This abundance of early 1st Millennium BC evidence appears to be linked more to the intensity of the settlement in this area at this period than to the scale of the excavations that have taken place. Dimmock's Cote Quarry lies towards the western end of a narrow west-east limestone peninsular that juts out from the chalk mainland between Fordham and Soham. There is deep fen to the south, the former Soham Mere to the north and the River Cam runs north into the Ouse at the western end of the peninsular.

4.1.2 During archaeological evaluation c.800m to the south of the present site, a dense group of pits and possible postholes was identified (Gilmour *et al* 2010). These two groups of features, to the north and south of the current quarry, though parts of separate settlement areas, would have been in sufficient proximity that some relationship must have existed between them. Where large open areas of later Bronze Age and earlier Iron Age settlement have been seen in the region, such as at Broom Quarry (Cooper & Edmonds 2007), roundhouses have been seen both within pit-and-posthole settlement areas and at distances removed from the pit groups in otherwise 'empty' areas. It is therefore likely that both the large pit group identified to the south, and the features identified in the current study area were linked elements within a widely settled landscape.

4.1.3 It is significant that the pits identified here do not appear to be of the same date as the postholes, but somewhat later. Only a single pit of similar middle Iron Age date was identified on the evaluation carried out to the south (Gilmour *et. al.* 2010), suggesting that the main focus of pitting activity may have moved to the North during the Middle Iron Age.

4.1.4 The pits themselves are large and deep enough to represent classic Iron Age 'storage pits'. While it is a matter for debate as to whether they were actually used for storage, and as to how these 'storage' areas fitted into the contemporary field and settlement pattern, they are certainly related to both settlement and agriculture.

4.2 Earlier Medieval

4.2.1 The two sub-rectangular pits identified and potentially dated to the Earlier Medieval period are quite unusual. They are a little small for classic Early/Middle Saxon *Grubenhäuser* or Sunken Featured Buildings, and appear to be of a significantly later date. During excavations in advance of quarrying immediately to the south of the study area six similar pits were identified (Kemp and Kenney 2003, 13). Five of these also had postholes within them, although these were interpreted as later features cutting the pits. A single sherd of prehistoric pottery was recovered from one of these pits (**313**), while four sherds of Medieval pottery and a single sherd of Roman pottery were

recovered from another (**358**). These pits were seen to have performed a number of functions, including acting as markers within the Medieval field system. This function was later taken on a by a row of posts (*ibid*).

4.2.2 While it cannot be categorically ruled out that these pits are boundary markers, it does seem unlikely that quite large but shallow pits would be dug to perform this function, when posts, a ditch, or a hedgeline could perform the function more effectively. It is possible, given their position within a system of ridge and furrow, that they are related to agriculture. Potentially they represent small shelters for animals, pigsties or sheep shelters. It is also possible that they are shielings; small huts used by shepherds while tending their flocks and sometimes stayed in overnight.

4.3 Medieval and Post Medieval

4.3.1 The study area appears to have largely been given over to agriculture by the Medieval period, with ridge and furrow recorded across most of the area. This changed direction across the field, suggesting that it was previously divided into smaller fields.

4.3.2 It is also possible that at least one structure stood within the area, with two truncated postholes identified in Trench 2. One of these contained pottery of 13th-14th century date. With only two postholes it is impossible to say if they belong to a building of some form, or potentially form part of a fence line.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 This evaluation has revealed Earlier and Middle Iron Age archaeology, which has the potential to add to our understanding of the Iron Age in this area. In addition, the unusual, potentially Earlier Medieval structures identified could provide answers to land use during this period.

4.5 Recommendations

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

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Several natural features at west end Consists of topsoil overlying a natural of chalk.					**Max. depth (m)**	0.45
					Width (m)	2.10
					Length (m)	100
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.45	Topsoil	-	-
3	Cut	2.50	0.23	Tree Bowl	-	?
4	Fill	2.50	0.23	Fill of 3	Flint	?
5	Cut	0.65	0.23	Tree Bowl	-	?
6	Fill	0.65	0.23	Fill of 5	Flint	?
7	Cut	1.30	0.36	Tree Bowl	-	-
8	Fill	1.30	0.36	Fill of 7	-	-
9	Cut	0.95	0.14	Tree bowl	-	?
10	Fill	0.95	0.14	Fill of 9	Flint	?
11	Bucket sample	-	-	East end of trench, topsoil		-
12	Bucket sample	-	-	Middle of trench, topsoil		-

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained two possible postholes, one of which contained a sherd of medieval pottery.					**Max. depth (m)**	0.40
					Width (m)	2.10
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	0.00	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
13	Cut	0.30	0.03	Posthole?	-	-
14	Fill	0.30	0.03	Fill of 13	-	-
15	Cut	0.30	0.03	Posthole?	-	Medieval
16	Fill	0.30	0.03	Fill of 15	Pottery, flint	Medieval
17	Cut	1.70	0.20	Tree bowl	-	-
18	Fill	1.00	0.13	Fill of 17	Pottery	
19	Fill	1.30	0.20	Fill if 17	-	

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeological features, several tree bowls at western end.					**Max. depth (m)**	0.35
					Width (m)	2.10
					Length (m)	70
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained two furrows.					**Max. depth (m)**	0.34
					Width (m)	2.10
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained a furrow and a tree bowl.					**Max. depth (m)**	0.36
					Width (m)	2.10
					Length (m)	100
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil	-	-
53	Bucket sample	-	-	West end. Topsoil	Pottery	-
70	Fill	0.70	0.12	Fill of 71	-	-
71	Cut	0.70	0.12	Tree Bowl	-	-
72	Fill	1.90	0.16	Fill of 73	-	Medieval
73	Cut	1.90	0.16	Furrow	-	Medieval

Trench 6						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
No Archaeological features.					**Max. depth (m)**	0.40
					Width (m)	2.10
					Length (m)	100
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
50	Bucket sample	-	-	West end, topsoil		-
51	Bucket sample	-	-	Middle, topsoil		-

Trench 7						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
No archaeological features					**Max. depth (m)**	0.32
					Width (m)	2.10
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
52	Bucket sample	-	-	North end, topsoil		-

Trench 8						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained a large natural hollow and a tree bowl.					**Max. depth (m)**	0.55
					Width (m)	2.10
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-		Topsoil	-	-
29	Cut	>10m	0.27	Natural hollow	-	Prehistoric
30	Fill	>10m	0.27	Fill of 29	Pottery, flint	Prehistoric
33	Cut	1.15	0.30	Tree bowl	-	-
34	Fill	1.15	0.30	Fill of 33	-	-

Trench 9						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained two furrows.					**Max. depth (m)**	0.58
					Width (m)	2.10
					Length (m)	100
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.44	Topsoil	-	-
74	Fill	4.50	0.12	Fill of 75	Lava stone	Medieval
75	Cut	4.50	0.12	Furrow	-	Medieval
76	Fill	4.50	0.14	Fill 77	Pottery	Medieval
77	Cut	4.50	0.14	Furrow	-	Medieval
82	Layer	-	0.14	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 10						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
No archaeological features.					**Max. depth (m)**	0.48
					Width (m)	2.10
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.48	Topsoil	-	-

Trench 11						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained several Early Iron Age pits and post holes. Also a possible structure of Early medieval date was identified.					**Max. depth (m)**	0.71
					Width (m)	2.10
					Length (m)	45
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil	-	-
20	Cut	1.45	0.52	Pit	-	Early Iron Age
21	Fill	1.45	0.10	Basal fill of 20	Pottery, bone, flint	Early Iron Age
22	Fill	1.45	0.09	Fill of 20	-	Early Iron Age
23	Fill	1.45	0.40	Upper fill of 20	Pottery, bone, flint	Early Iron Age

42	Bucket Sample	-	-	South end, topsoil		-
43	Layer	-	0.37	Subsoil / headland	Pottery, flint, CBM	Medieval
44	Fill	-	-	Un-excavated fill of pit	Pottery, bone	Early Iron Age
54	Fill	1.50	0.12	Fill of 55	Pottery	Early Iron Age
55	Cut	1.50	0.12	Tree bowl	-	Early Iron Age
56	Fill	1.80	0.18	Fill of 57	Pottery	Early Medieval
57	Cut	1.80	0.18	Possible structure	-	Early Medieval
58	Fill	0.28	0.40	Fill of 59	-	Early Medieval
59	Cut	0.28	0.40	Posthole	-	Early Medieval
60	Fill	0.40	0.16	Fill of 61	Pottery	Early Iron Age
61	Cut	0.40	0.16	Posthole	-	Early iron Age
62	Fill	0.32	0.15	Fill of 63	-	Early Iron Age?
63	Cut	0.32	0.15	Posthole	-	Early Iron Age?
64	Bucket Sample	-	-	North end, topsoil		-
65	Bucket Sample	-	-	North end, subsoil		-
66	Fill	0.40	0.18	Fill of 67	Pottery	Early Iron Age
67	Cut	0.40	0.18	Posthole	-	Early Iron Age
68	Fill	0.28	0.16	Fill of 69	-	-
69	Cut	0.28	0.16	Posthole?	-	-
95	Fill	-	0.36	Upper fill of 98	Pottery, bone	Early Iron Age
96	Fill	-	0.12	Fill of 98	-	Early Iron Age
97	Fill	-	0.24	Basal fill of 98	Pottery, bone, flint	Early Iron Age
98	Cut	-	0.60	Pit	-	Early Iron Age

Trench 12

General description	**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained two possible pits.	**Max. depth (m)**	0.45
	Width (m)	2.10
	Length (m)	50

Contexts

context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.45	Topsoil	-	-
35	Cut	2.15	0.14	Possible Pit	-	Early Iron Age?
36	Fill	2.15	0.14	Fill of 35	Pottery	Early Iron Age?

37	Cut	2.25	0.16	Possible Pit	-	Early Iron Age?
38	Fill	2.25	0.16	Fill of 37	Pottery	Early Iron Age
39	Bucket Sample	-	-	North end, topsoil		-

Trench 13						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained a furrow.					**Max. depth (m)**	0.35
					Width (m)	2.10
					Length (m)	100
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
24	Cut	3.07	0.14	Furrow	-	Medieval
25	Fill	3.07	0.14	Furrow	Pottery, flint	Medieval
26	Bucket sample	-	-	Middle trench, topsoil		-
27	Bucket sample	-	-	West end, topsoil		-

Trench 14						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained two furrows.					**Max depth (m)**	0.38
					Width (m)	2.10
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil	-	-
78	Fill	1.20	0.08	Fill of 79	Pottery	Medieval
79	Cut	1.20	0.08	Furrow	-	Medieval
80	Fill	2.20	0.20	Fill of 81	-	Medieval
81	Cut	2.20	0.20	Furrow	-	Medieval
83	Bucket sample	-	-	North end, topsoil		-

Trench 15						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
No archaeological features.					**Max. depth (m)**	0.68
					Width (m)	2.10
					Length (m)	100
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
40	Layer	-	0.38	Subsoil / headland	-	Medieval
94	Bucket sample	-	-	West end, topsoil		-

Trench 16						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
No archaeological features.					**Max. depth (m)**	0.67
					Width (m)	2.10
					Length (m)	63.5
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
40	Layer	-	0.37	Subsoil	Pottery, flint, iron	Medieval

Trench 17						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained two furrows and a tree bowl					**Max. depth (m)**	0.54
					Width (m)	2.10
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.54	Topsoil	-	-
88	Fill	1.34	0.20	Fill of 89	Bone	Medieval
89	Cut	1.34	0.20	Furrow	-	Medieval
90	Fill	1.50	0.08	Fill of 91	Pottery	Medieval
91	Cut	1.50	0.08	Furrow	-	Medieval
92	Fill	0.58	0.16	Fill of 93	Pottery	Prehistoric?
93	Cut	0.58	0.16	Tree bowl	-	Prehistoric?

Trench 18						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained several pits and a probable ditch, which were not excavated.					**Max. depth (m)**	0.55
					Width (m)	2.10
					Length (m)	45
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
41	Bucket sample	-	-	West end of trench		-
43	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil / headland	-	Medieval

5

Trench 19						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained a furrow					**Max. depth (m)**	0.54
					Width (m)	2.10
					Length (m)	26
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.46	Topsoil	-	-
84	Fill	0.48	0.08	Fill of 95	Pottery	Medieval
85	Cut	0.48	0.08	Furrow	-	Medieval
86	Bucket sample	-	-	Middle of trench		-
87	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Iron Age Pottery

By Matt Brudenell

Introduction and methodology

B.1.1 The archaeological investigations at Wicken yielded 142 sherds (1287g) of prehistoric and later pottery. The diagnostic material from cut features dated to the Early and Middle Iron Age, with a few potential sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery. Most of the ceramics collected from fieldwalking and surface finds are probably of similar date, although some are definitely of Roman and post-Roman origin (K. Anderson pers. comm.).

B.1.2 All ceramics were fully recorded following the recommendations laid out by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG 1997). For the sake of consistency, sherd fabrics were recorded using the same series as that employed for the Dimmock's Cote Quarry Southern Extension report (Brudenell 2010). Where appropriate, new fabrics types have been added to the series. Sherds weighing less than 1g were recorded as crumbs (6g in total), and were excluded from the following analysis.

Assemblage characteristics – fabrics, forms and surface treatment

B.1.3 A diverse range of fabrics were encountered in the assemblage, reflecting the multi-period character of the pottery (Table 1). By weight, 70.2% of the pottery was tempered with sand, followed by 9.4% with flint and sand; 6.7% with a combination of sand, chalk and flint, and 6.0% with flint. The minor fabrics groups – each constituting less than 5% - were composed of sherds with sand and flint inclusions (3.2%); sand with shell (3.0%); flint and grog (0.7%); shell (0.5%); sand and vegetable matter (0.2%) or shell and sand (0.2%).

B.1.4 Sherds belonging to the Late Bronze Age and/or Early Iron Age were primarily characterised by crushed burnt flint fabrics or a combination of flint-and-sand tempered wares (F, FQ, QF types), all typical of the Post-Deverel Rimbury ceramic tradition across large parts East Anglia (Barrett 1980). These fabrics constituted 19.3% of the pottery; the largest and most closely datable group deriving from posthole 61. However, the bulk of the assemblage was typified by dense handmade sandy wares (Q1-Q6 types) characteristic of the Middle/later Iron Age. Most contained rare or very rare pieces of poorly sorted crushed burnt flint or calcareous chalky 'grits'. By weight these fabrics accounted for 70.2% of the pottery, with Q3 contributing 36.6% alone.

B.1.5 Overall, only 15 sherds in the assemblage were identified as being burnished or carefully smoothed (140g; 10.9% by weight, or 10.6% by sherd count). This form of surface treatment was confined to sandy fabrics Q1, Q2 and Q4, and the fine sand-and-shell fabric QS3; all likely to be of Middle/later Iron Age date. Decoration, by contrast, was only present on six sherds (47g) assigned to the Early Iron Age. These represented a maximum of four vessels: two with rim decoration and two ornamented on the neck and shoulder. Applications included finger-tipping, tool impressing and slashing, and the execution of grooved horizontal lines. The surface of one vessel, which displayed finger-tipped dimples at the shoulder and grooved horizontal lines on the neck, may originally have been burnished (Posthole 61, part of a Class II fineware jar?).

B.1.6 The assemblage contained just nine different vessel rims, and two different bases. No forms could be reconstructed, though Pit 20 contained large parts of the shoulder, lower walls and base of Middle Iron Age jar. Evidence for vessel use was identified in the form of carbonized residues and limescale adhering to sherd surfaces (12 sherds, 498g). These were found on both the interior and exterior of sherds, predominantly un-burnished coarsewares. Residues surviving on sherds from posthole 61 may be sufficient for future radiocarbon dating.

Fabric	Group	No./(wt.) sherds	% of fabric (by wt.)	No./wt. sherds burnished	% of fabric burnished (by wt.)	MNV	MNV burnished
F	Flint	3 (9g)	0.7	-	-	1	-
F1	Flint	5 (11g)	0.9		-	-	-
F2	Flint	6 (56g)	4.4	-	-	1	-
FG1	Flint and grog	3 (9g)	0.7	-	-	-	-
FQ	Flint and sand	8 (21g)	1.6	-	-	-	-
FQ1	Flint and sand	2 (9g)	0.7	-	-	-	-
FQ2	Flint and sand	14 (86g)	6.7	-	-	2	-
FQ3	Flint and sand	1 (5g)	0.4	-	-	-	-
QF1	Sand with flint	2 (6g)	0.5	-	-	-	-
QF2	Sand with flint	3 (35g)	2.7	-	-	-	-
Q	Sand	9 (35g)	2.7	-	-	1	-
Q1	Sand	55 (317g)	24.6	10 (79g)	24.9	4	1
Q2	Sand	2 (17g)	1.3	1 (4g)	23.5	-	-
Q3	Sand	11 (471g)	36.6	-	-	1	-
Q4	Sand	3 (37g)	2.9	3 (37g)	100.0	1	1
Q5	Sand	1 (6g)	0.5	-	-	-	-
Q6	Sand	3 (21g)	1.6	-	-	-	-
QVE1	Sand and veg.	1 (2g)	0.2	-	-	-	-
QCHF1	Sand, chalk and flint	3 (86g)	6.7	-	-	-	-
QS2	Sand and shell	2 (18g)	1.4	-	-	-	-
QS3	Sand and shell	1 (20g)	1.6	1 (20g)	100.0	-	-
S2	Shell	3 (7g)	0.5	-	-	-	-
SQ1	Shell with sand	1 (3g)	0.2	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		142 (1287g)	100.1	15 (140g)	10.9	11	2

Table 1: Quantified pottery. MNV = minimum number of vessels calculated as the total number of different rims and bases identified.

Flint tempered
F1: Moderate to common coarse flint (mainly 2-4mm in size)
F2: Moderate to common medium flint (mainly 1-2mm in size)
F: Small sherds with flint inclusions to fragmented or abraded to assign to a more specific fabric category

Flint and grog tempered fabrics
FG1: Moderate medium and coarse flint (1-3mm in size) and sparse to moderate coarse grog (mainly 2-4mm in size)

Flint and sand tempered fabrics
FQ1: Moderate to common coarse flint (mainly 2-3mm in size) in a sandy clay matrix
FQ2: Moderate to common medium flint (mainly 1-2m in size) in a sandy clay matrix
FQ3: Moderate to common fine flint (under 1mm in size) in a sandy clay matrix
FQ: Small sherds with flint and sand inclusions to fragmented or abraded to assign to a more specific fabric category

Sand with flint fabrics
QF1: Moderate to common sand and sparse coarse flint (mainly 2-4mm in size)

QF2: Moderate to common sand and medium flint (mainly 1-2mm in size)

Sandy fabrics
Q1: Moderate to common sand. May occasionally contained very rare medium or coarse flint or chalk grits (1-3mm in size)
Q2: Sparse sand with rare to spare fine calcareous flecks (shell?)
Q3: Moderate to common sand, and rare partially burnt flint 1-3mm
Q4: Fine sand fabrics with rare mica
Q5: Sparse sand
Q6: Abundant quartz sand
Q: Small sandy to fragmented or abraded to assign to a more specific fabric category

Sand and vegetable matter
QVE1: Moderate sand and spare to moderate linear voids from burnt out vegetable matter

Sand and shell tempered fabrics
QS2: Moderate to common sand and sparse medium and coarse shell (1-3mm in size)
QS3: Moderate to common sand and sparse to moderate shell flecking

Sand, chalk and flint fabrics
QCHF1: Moderate to common sand and rare to sparse medium and coarse chalky grits and flint (1-3mm in size)

Shelly fabrics
S2: Moderate medium and coarse shell (1-3mm in size)

Shell with sand fabrics
SQ1: Moderate medium and coarse shell (mainly 1-3mm) in a sandy clay matrix

The fieldwalking assemblage

B.1.7 The fieldwalking assemblage included 23 sherds, weighing 86g. The pottery was recovered from grids A and C-G (table 2). Unsurprisingly the material was abraded and weather worn, with a low mean sherd weight of 4.3g. All but one of the sherds was classified as small, measuring under 4cm in size (the remaining sherd being of medium size: 4-8cm). The condition of the pottery prevents close dating. However, a total of 15 (45g) sherds contained burnt flint inclusions of fabrics F, FQ and QF, which may be assigned a broad Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date, c.1100-350 BC. These fragments were scattered across the grid (C3, C7, C8, CZ, D7, E8, F2, F3, F4, F5 and G9), with two decorated and probable Early Iron Age rims recovered from squares F2 and G9. Only three other definite prehistoric sherds were recovered (10g) from squares AZ0, C8 and E12. The sherds were of 'generic' Iron Age date (c.800 BC- 50 AD), in fabrics Q6, QS2 and SQ1. The remaining five sherds (31g) were of later origin. These included a single Roman sherd from square C8 (3g; K. Anderson pers. comm.), and four post-Roman sherds from C7 and F5.

Grid	No. sherds	Weight
A	1	2
C	10	42
D	1	3
E	2	6
F	8	31
G	1	2
Total	23	86

Table 2: Pottery totals from fieldwalking.

The excavated assemblage

B.1.8 The excavations yielded 119 sherds of pottery weighing 1201g. The material was recovered from surface/topsoil collections and sub-soil sampling in Trenches 5, 11 and 16 (20 sherds, 102g), plus 13 excavated features (15 contexts) in Trenches 2, 8, 11, 12, 13 and 17 (99 sherds , 1099g). The pottery had a mean sherd weight of 10.1g, and by count, 74% of sherds were classified as small; 23% were classified as medium sized, and 3% were classified as large (over 8cm in size). Based on the minimum number of different rims and bases identified, the assemblage is estimated to include fragments of at least 8 vessels (6 different rims – EVE 0.16; 2 different bases - EVE 0.75). Fabrics frequencies were broadly similar to those in the overall assemblage, and require no further comment.

B.1.9 The pottery from the sub-soil and surface collections was in a marginally better condition than that recovered from the fieldwalking. However, most of the sherds were still small and heavily abraded, displaying a mean sherd weight of just 5.1g (table 3 providing a summary of the dating). As expected, the best preserved assemblages derived from the hand excavated features; each of which is described in turn by trench order.

Trench	Context	Description	no.	Spot date
11	1	Topsoil	2 (17g)	Generic IA (c.800 BC- AD 50)
11	1	Topsoil	2 (11g)	Roman or post-Roman
11	43	Subsoil/headland	10 (32g)	Generic IA (c.800 BC- AD 50)
16	40	Subsoil/headland	1 (2g)	LBA or EIA (c. 1100-350 BC)
16	40	Subsoil/headland	1 (3g)	Roman or post-Roman
11	44	Surface	1 (6g)	Generic IA (c.800 BC- AD 50)
5	53	Bucket sample	1 (2g)	LBA or EIA (c. 1100-350 BC)
11	65	Subsoil bucket sample	2 (29g)	MIA (c. 350-50 BC)

Table 3: Spot dates for find recovered from the surface, topsoil and sub-soil/headland sampling

Trench 2:

B.1.10 A single sherd (2g) of flint tempered pottery was recovered from Pit 17. The sherd possibly dates to the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age (c. 1100-350 BC).

Trench 8:

B.1.11 'Natural feature' 29 yielded four sherds (16g) of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pottery, including a rounded vessel rim.

Trench 11:

B.1.12 The largest and most closely datable groups of ceramics were recovered from excavations in Trench 11. The earliest pottery derived from postholes 61 and 67, and dated to the Early Iron Age (c. 800-350 BC). Posthole 61 yielded 14 sherds (145g) of flint-gritted pottery (fabric groups F, FQ and QF) deriving from three separate vessels (9 sherds refitting). These included four decorated sherds: one from a vessel ornamented with finger-tipped dimples on the shoulder and two grooved horizontal lines on the neck; the other from a jar with a slashed shoulder located immediately below a wide groove/furrow on the neck. The latter may have belonged to the only rim recovered from this features, measuring c.13cm in diameter (16% of the circumference intact), and retaining traces of sooting on the exterior edge. The only other feature sherd recovered from Posthole 61 was a heavily flint-gritted base fragment whose foot measured 8cm in diameter (20% intact).

B.1.13 Posthole 67 yielded only a single sherd of flint-gritted pottery in fabric FQ1 (7g). Though the sherd is a small undiagnostic body fragmented, given the proximity to Posthole 61,

and the similarities in sherd fabrics, it is reasonable to assume that this pot is also of Early Iron Age origin.

B.1.14 The only other sherds of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date were residual in Pit 20 (9 sherds, 20g). This feature yielded the site's largest single pottery assemblage with a combined total of 50 sherds weighing 767g. Forty-one of these (717g) were dated to the Middle Iron Age (c. 350-50 BC), displaying dense sandy fabrics. These included six substantial refitting sherds (448g) belonging to the, shoulder, lower walls and stepped-base of a jar in fabric Q3, whose surface was spalled (base diameter 10cm; 55% intact). The assemblage also included two different vessel rims.

B.1.15 The pottery from Pits 57 (1 sherd, 7g), 98 (21 sherd, 118g) and Tree-throw 55 (1 sherd, 10g) were also assigned to the Middle Iron Age, based on the character of the sandy fabrics, and the presence of a flatten rim in Pit 98. This feature also yielded a number of burnished sherds.

Trench 12:

B.1.16 Two small sherds of possible Iron Age pottery (2g) were recovered from Pit 35 (1g) and Pit 38 (1g).

Trench 13:

B.1.17 Two sherds (14g) of dense Middle Iron Age-type sandy ware pottery were recovered from Trench 13 in 'furrow' 24; both in fabric Q1. The largest sherd (10g) was a weathered rim with a flattened lip, rounded on the exterior edge.

Trench 17:

B.1.18 Two sherds of flint-gritted pottery were recovered from Furrow 91 (3g, 1 crushed sherd) and Tree-throw 93 (8g). The flint fabrics (F and QF) suggest a Late Bronze age or Early Iron Age date, though a Neolithic origin remains a possibility.

Discussion

B.1.19 The datable pottery from Wicken belongs to the Early and Middle Iron Age - the former dated c. 800-350 BC; the later 350-50 BC. The material is well paralleled in assemblages from surrounding excavations (Brudenell 2009; 2010), and adds to the impression of a densely occupied landscape throughout the first millennium BC. The pottery recovered from the fieldwalking complements that from the cut features, though there is a notable absence of Middle Iron Age-type sandy wares. This is difficult to account for, though it may be due to the different weathering rates of handmade flint and sand fabrics; the former being the more resilient.

B.2 Flint

By Barry Bishop

Introduction

B.2.1 A fieldwalking programme conducted at the above site resulted in the recovery of 73 struck flints and a further 46 struck flints were recovered from a subsequent field evaluation (Table 1; also Appendix 1 for a breakdown of the assemblages by context/square). This report quantifies the material, provides a summary description and offers some recommendations for any further work needed for it to attain its full research potential.

Quantification

Context	Decortication Flake	Rejuvenation Flake	Chip	Flake	Flake Fragment	Blade-like Flake	Cortical Blade	Systematic Blade	Unsystematic Blade	Micro-burin	Core	Retouched
Total FW	9	1	6	37	6	4	1	3	0	0	1	5
FW %	12.3	1.4	8.2	50.7	8.2	5.5	1.4	4.1	0.0	0.0	1.4	6.8
Total Eval	6	0	3	21	6	0	2	3	2	1	2	0
Eval %	13.0	0.0	6.5	45.7	13.0	0.0	4.3	6.5	4.3	2.2	4.3	0.0
Total All	15	1	9	58	12	4	3	6	2	1	3	5
All %	12.6	0.8	7.6	48.7	10.1	3.4	2.5	5.0	1.7	0.8	2.5	4.2

Table 1: Quantification of Lithic Material

Raw Materials

B.2.2 The raw materials consisted of a fine-grained black or brown translucent flint with a variably thick rough cortex and with frequent thermal surface scars. The small size of the flakes (the largest measuring less than 50mm in maximum dimension) and the cores (the largest weighing 38g) indicate that the raw materials were obtained as small thermally fractured nodular fragments as would have been present in the glacial tills to the east and the west of the site and which probably extend beneath the surrounding peat.

Fieldwalked Material

B.2.3 The struck flint recovered from fieldwalking is in a variable but predominantly poor condition, with over 90% of the pieces exhibiting some degree of abrasion and over half of the pieces being markedly chipped.

B.2.4 Although no chronologically diagnostic pieces are present, a number of technological traditions can be discerned amongst the material. The earliest industries are blade-based and datable to the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic periods. Blades and blade-like flakes contribute 11% of the assemblage and amongst these are a number of cortical pieces, indicating the primary reduction of raw materials at the site. Blade production is

also indicated by the single core recovered, from grid square B10, which consists of a small 'front' type single platformed blade core weighing 11g. From the same grid square, and indicative of concerns with maintaining core productivity, is a plunged core rejuvenation flake, struck from an opposed platformed blade core. No retouched pieces from these periods were identified, which may, tentatively given the size of the assemblage, suggest that activity at the site focussed more on the raw material working than actual tool use and discard.

B.2.5 The bulk of the assemblage comprised flakes that were competently produced although clearly differing from the earlier blade-based industries. These are individually difficult to confidently date although, taken as a whole, are most characteristic of Later Neolithic and Early Bronze Age industries. Four of the retouched pieces are probably also of a broadly similar date. These include two scrapers from grid squares C3 and D11, an invasively retouched flake from grid square C15 and a discoidal piece from grid square D11. This latter implement is unusual and rather curious, although it exhibits techniques that would be familiar to Later Neolithic flintworkers. It consists of a broad flake that has been bifacially and invasively retouched around its entire perimeter, resulting in a disc-shaped implement. It is reminiscent of both unpolished discoidal knives and certain types of Levallois cores, although with a diameter of 35mm is much smaller than may be expected.

B.2.6 Also present within the assemblage are a number of thick, short flakes with wide and obtuse striking platforms. Again, these are difficult to date with precision but they are most characteristic of Middle Bronze Age to Iron Age industries (cf Martingell 1990). The remaining retouched implement, a squat flake with crude and slightly denticulated retouch from grid square G18, would also be most comfortably placed within these periods.

Material from the Field Evaluation

B.2.7 The evaluation produced 46 struck pieces from a variety of unstratified topsoil deposits and cut features. No notable concentrations or other evidence of *in situ* deposition or working was observed and all of the material may be regarded as residual. Overall it is in a better condition that the fieldwalked material although nearly 75% of the pieces still show some degree of chipping and abrasion, as would be consistent with residual deposition. It is of comparable typological and technological composition to the material recovered through fieldwalking and probably derives from the same broad phases of activity. Notable pieces include a proximal micro-burin from context [32], which is diagnostically Mesolithic in date and indicative of microlith production. Of a similar date is the single platformed 'front and side' type blade core from context [10] and most of the unretouched blades from various contexts are probably also broadly contemporary. No retouched implements are present although the morphology and technological traits of the remaining flakes indicate both Neolithic and Bronze Age material is probably represented. The core, from topsoil deposits, was irregularly reduced using multiple striking platforms and is most characteristic of Bronze Age examples.

Discussion

B.2.8 The struck flint indicates persistent but relatively low-level activity occurring at the site from the Mesolithic through to the end of the Bronze Age. It is comparable to the assemblages from the earlier phases of activity at Wicken (WICDIC and WICDCE) as well as at other sites located along higher ground within the southern Fens (eg Edmonds *et al.* 1999).

Recommendations

B.2.9 Due to its size and paucity of chronologically diagnostic artefacts, this report is all that is required of the material for the purposes of the archive and no further analytical work is proposed. However, the material does contribute to the body of evidence for prehistoric activity in the area and a reference should be made to it in the local Historic Environment Record and a brief description of the assemblage should be included in any published account of the fieldwork.

Appendix C. Environmental Reports

C.1 Environmental Remains

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction and Methods

C.1.1 Ten samples were taken from across the evaluated area and seven of these samples were submitted for an initial appraisal in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

C.1.2 The samples were taken from a variety of features including prehistoric pits and post-holes provisionally dated to the early Iron Age.

C.1.3 Ten litres of each sample were processed by tank flotation for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The flot was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residue were allowed to air dry. The dried residue was passed through 5mm and 2mm sieves and a magnet was dragged through each resulting fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The flot was examined under a binocular microscope at x16 magnification and the presence of any plant remains or other artefacts are noted on Table 1.

Quantification

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

= 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens

Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal, magnetic residues and fragmented bone have been scored for abundance

+ = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant

Results

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Cereals	Weed Seeds	Charcoal
3	56	57	Pit	0	0	0
4	58	59	Post hole	0	0	0
5	21	20	Pit	#	#	+
6	60	61	Post hole	0	0	0
7	62	63	Post hole	0	0	0
8	66	67	Post hole	0	0	0
10	95	98	Pit	#	#	+

Table 1. Results

Preservation

C.1.5 The majority of the samples are devoid of plant remains. Sample 5, pit fill 21 and Sample 10, pit fill 95 both contain plant remains preserved by carbonisation.

Plant Remains

Cereals

C.1.6 Charred cereal grains are present Samples 5 and 10 The grains are all poorly preserved and are abraded and/or fragmented. Less than five specimens occur in each sample.

Weed seeds

C.1.7 Weed seeds are notably rare and only occur as single specimens of grass (Poaceae) seed and vetch (*Vicia* sp.) and occasional seeds of brome (*Bromus* sp.)

Ecofacts and Artefacts

C.1.8 The residues are sterile.

Contamination

C.1.9 Modern seeds of goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.) occur in the majority of the samples along with numerous snail shells.

Discussion

C.1.10 The results of sampling within this area of excavation are similar to those from recent excavations at the adjacent site of Dimmock's Cote (Fosberry 2008, 2010). Preservation of charred plant material is particularly poor and is limited to occasional charred cereal grains and charred weed seeds. It is interesting to note that the samples from the post-holes were devoid of charred plant remains suggesting a non-domestic function for the structure.

C.1.11 The plant remains recovered from the samples from the two pits are dominated by the cereal grains. Although they are present in small quantities, they do indicate that cereals were being locally utilised.

Further Work and Methods Statement

C.1.12 The low density of charred plant macrofossils in this assemblage limits interpretation of any of the features sampled. It is not considered that full analysis would add significantly to this and further work is not recommended

C.1.13 If further excavation is planned in this area, targeted sampling should be undertaken as investigation on the nature of cereal waste and possible weed assemblages is likely to provide an insight into to utilisation of local plant resources, agricultural activity and economic evidence from this period.

C.2 Faunal Remains

By Chris Faine

C.2.1 Twenty-three fragments of animal bone were recovered from the evaluation at Dimmock's Cote Quarry with 11 fragments identifiable to species. Cattle are the most prevalent taxon, with the majority of fragments consisting of loose teeth and portions of the axial skeleton. The remainder of the assemblage consists of sheep/goat remains including lower limb elements and a single mandible from an animal around 2-3 years of age from context **21**. No further conclusions can be drawn from the assemblage although it likely represents general domestic waste.

Appendix D. Field Walking Finds Quantification

Transect	Flint	Burnt flint	Prehistoric pottery	Roman pottery	Medieval pottery	Post-Medieval pottery	Clay pipe	CBM	oyster
A1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A3	1	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	-
A4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A6	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
A7	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-
A8	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A9	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
A10	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1
A11	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-
A12	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
A13	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
A14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A16	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
A17	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	3	-
A18	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	3	-
A19	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-
A20	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-
A21	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-
A22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
B1	1	2	-	1	1	-	-	1	-
B2	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-
B3	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	3	-
B4	1	-	-	-	1	2	-	3	-
B5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
B6	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
B8	-	1	-	-	1	3	-	2	-
B9	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-

Transect	Flint	Burnt flint	Prehistoric pottery	Roman pottery	Medieval pottery	Post-Medieval pottery	Clay pipe	CBM	oyster
B10	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
B11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B12	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	-
B13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
B14	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
B15	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-
B16	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-
B17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
B18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
B20	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
B20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
B22	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
C1	-	2	-	-	1	-	1	2	-
C2	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
C3	3	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	1
C4	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
C5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
C6	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
C7	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	-
C8	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-
C9	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
C10	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
C11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
C12	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
C13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
C14	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
C15	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
C16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
C17	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
C18	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-

Transect	Flint	Burnt flint	Prehistoric pottery	Roman pottery	Medieval pottery	Post-Medieval pottery	Clay pipe	CBM	oyster
C19	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
C20	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
C21	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-
C22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
D1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
D2	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
D3	2	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-
D4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
D5	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
D6									
D7	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-
D8	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
D9	2	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
D10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
D11	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-
D12	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
D13	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
D14	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-
D15	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
D16	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
D17	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
D18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
D19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
D20	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
D21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
D22	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
E1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
E2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
E3	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	-
E4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
E5	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
E6	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-

Transect	Flint	Burnt flint	Prehistoric pottery	Roman pottery	Medieval pottery	Post-Medieval pottery	Clay pipe	CBM	oyster
E7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
E8	1	2	1	-	-	1	1	3	1
E9	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-
E10	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4	1
E11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
E12	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
F1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
F2	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
F3	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
F4	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
F5	1	-	2	-	3	-	-	-	-
G8	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
G9	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
G10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
G11	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
G12	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
G13	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	3	-
G14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
G15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
G16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
G17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
G18	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
G19	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
G20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
G21	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
G22	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

Appendix E. Bucket Sampling Quantification

Trench	location	Context number	Flint	Burnt flint	Prehistoric pottery	Roman pottery	Medieval pottery	Post-Medieval pottery	Clay pipe	CBM
1	East	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	middle	12	-	-	-	-	1 (6g)	-	-	-
1	West	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	North	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	South	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	East	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	West	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	North	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	South	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	East	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	middle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	West	53	-	-	1 (3g)	-	-	-	-	-
6	North	52	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
6	South	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	East	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	middle	51	-	-	-	-	1 (1g)	-	-	-
7	West	50	-	-	-	-	2 (24g)	-	-	-
8	East	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	West	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	North	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	middle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	South	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	East	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	West	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	North	64	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	North subsoil	65	1	-	2 (29g)	-	-	-	-	-
11	South	42	-	-	-	-	2 (12g)	-	-	-
12	North	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 (5g)
12	South	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	East	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Trench	location	Context number	Flint	Burnt flint	Prehistoric pottery	Roman pottery	Medieval pottery	Post-Medieval pottery	Clay pipe	CBM
13	middle	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13	West	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 (26g)
14	North	83	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
14	South	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	East	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	middle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	West	94	-	-	-	-	1 (2g)	-	-	-
16	North	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	Middle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16	South	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	East	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17	West	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18	East	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18	West	41	-	-	-	-	1 (3g)	-	-	-
19	middle	86	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

APPENDIX F. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX G. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-84883		
Project Name	Dimmock's Cote Northern area		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	30-09-2010	Finish	15-10-2010
Previous Work (by OA East)	Yes	Future Work	Yes

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	WICDCN10	Planning App. No.	n/a
HER No.	n/a	Related HER/OASIS No.	n/a

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Research
Development Type	Mineral Extraction

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
pit	Iron Age -800 to 43	flint	Neolithic -4k to -2k
post hole	Iron Age -800 to 43	pottery	Iron Age -800 to 43
sturcture	Medieval 1066 to 1540	animal bone	Iron Age -800 to 43

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	east cambridgeshire	Field to the north of Dimmocks Cote Quarry Wicken, Cambs, CB7 5XL	
Parish	wicken		
HER	Cambridgeshire		
Study Area	7.5ha	National Grid Reference	TL 5450 7260

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Andy Thomas
Project Design Originator	Richard Mortimer
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Nick Gilmour

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
ccc stores	OA East, Bar Hill	CCC stores
WICDCN10	WICDCN10	WICDCN10

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:

Drawing Conventions

Plans

Limit of Excavation

Deposit - Conjectured

Natural Features

Sondages/Machine Strip

Intrusion/Truncation

Illustrated Section S.14

Archaeological Deposit

Excavated Slot

Modern Deposit

Cut Number **118**

Sections

Limit of Excavation

Cut

Cut-Conjectured

Deposit Horizon

Deposit Horizon - Conjectured

Intrusion/Truncation

Top Surface/Top of Natural

Break in Section/
Limit of Section Drawing

Cut Number **118**

Deposit Number 117

Ordnance Datum 18.45m OD

Inclusions

Convention Key

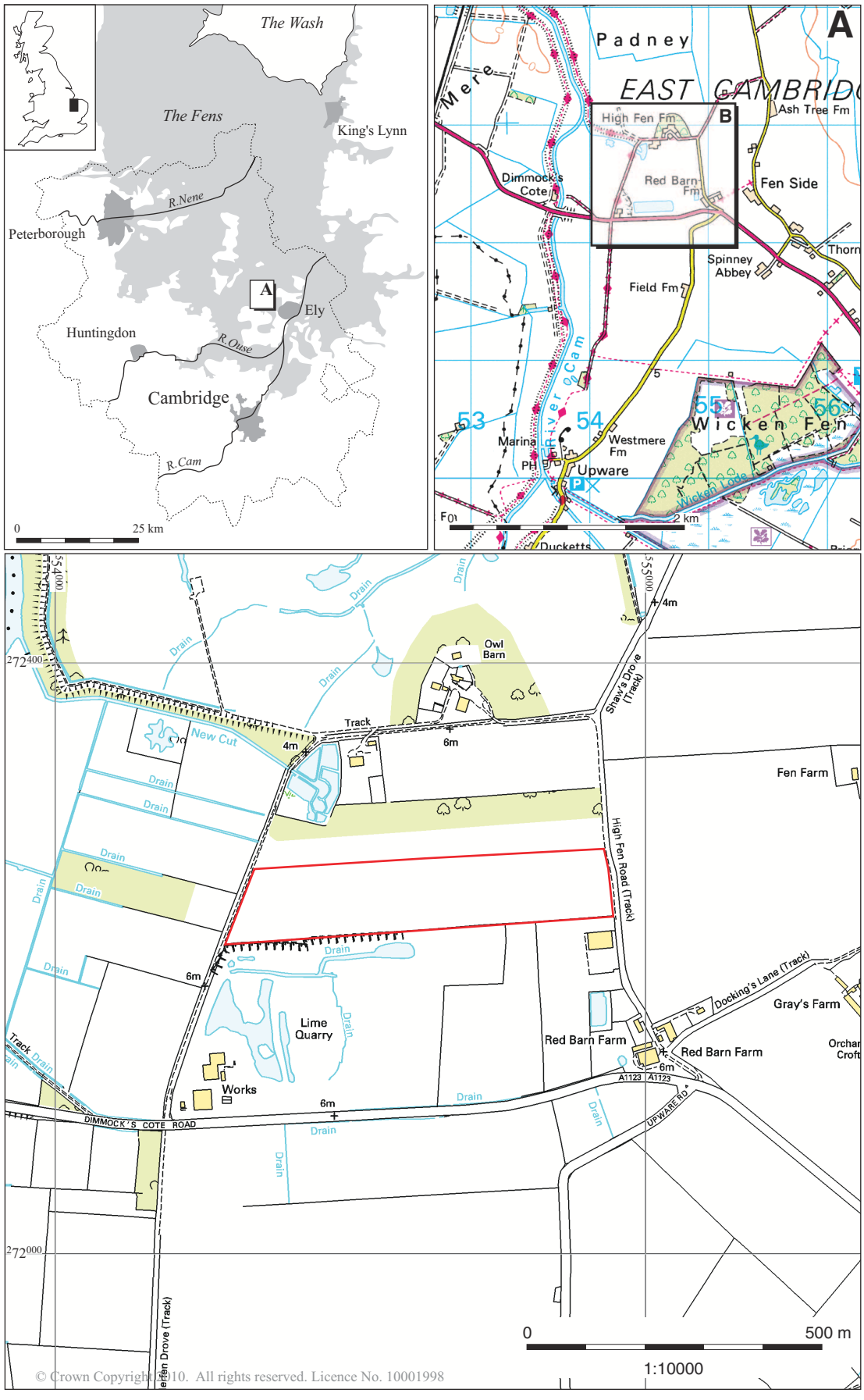

Figure 1: Location of the proposed development area (red)

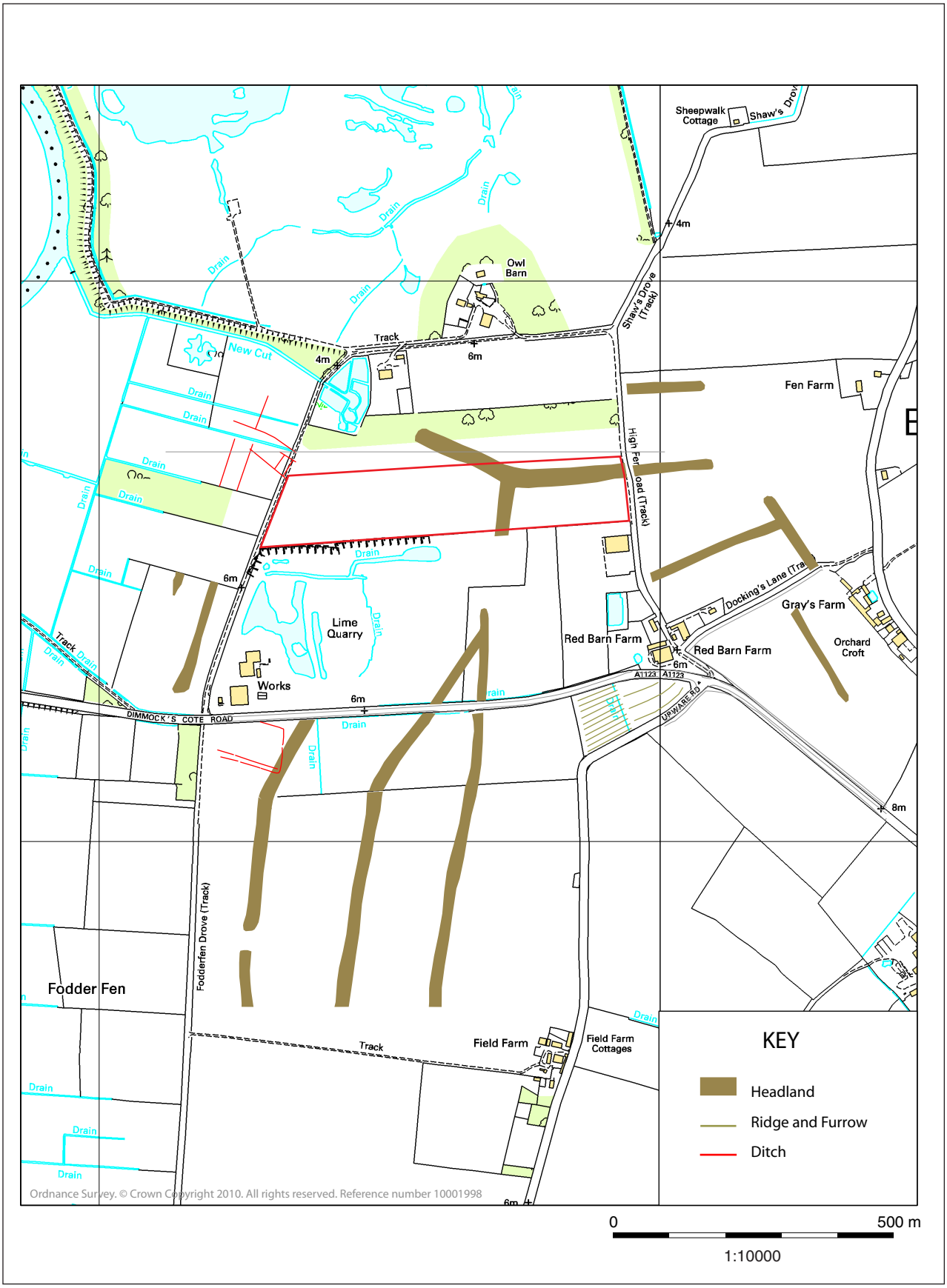

Figure 2: Aerial Photo Interpretation (Aerial Photo Services 2002)

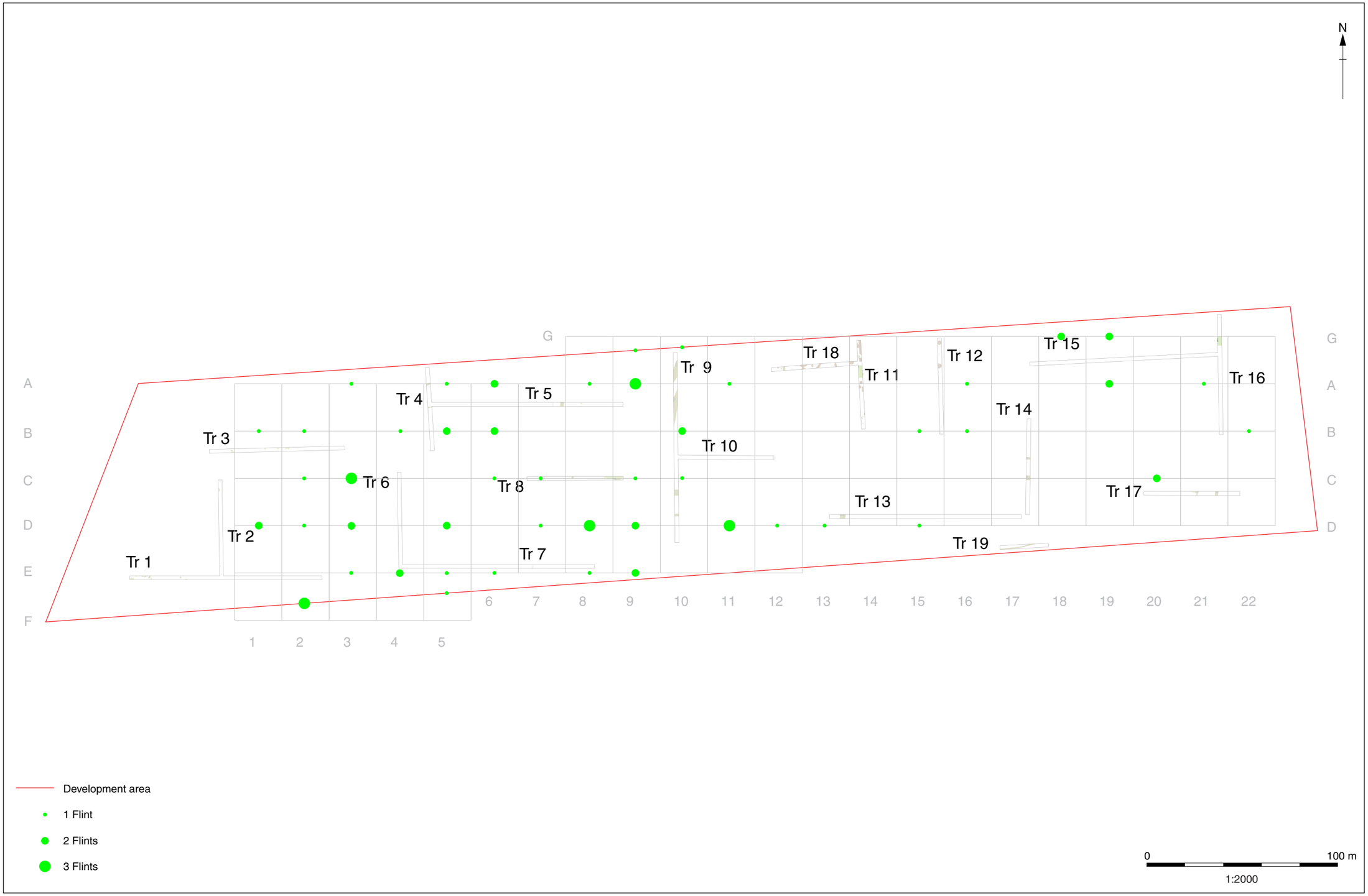

Figure 3 Distribution of flint from field walking. Scale 1:2000

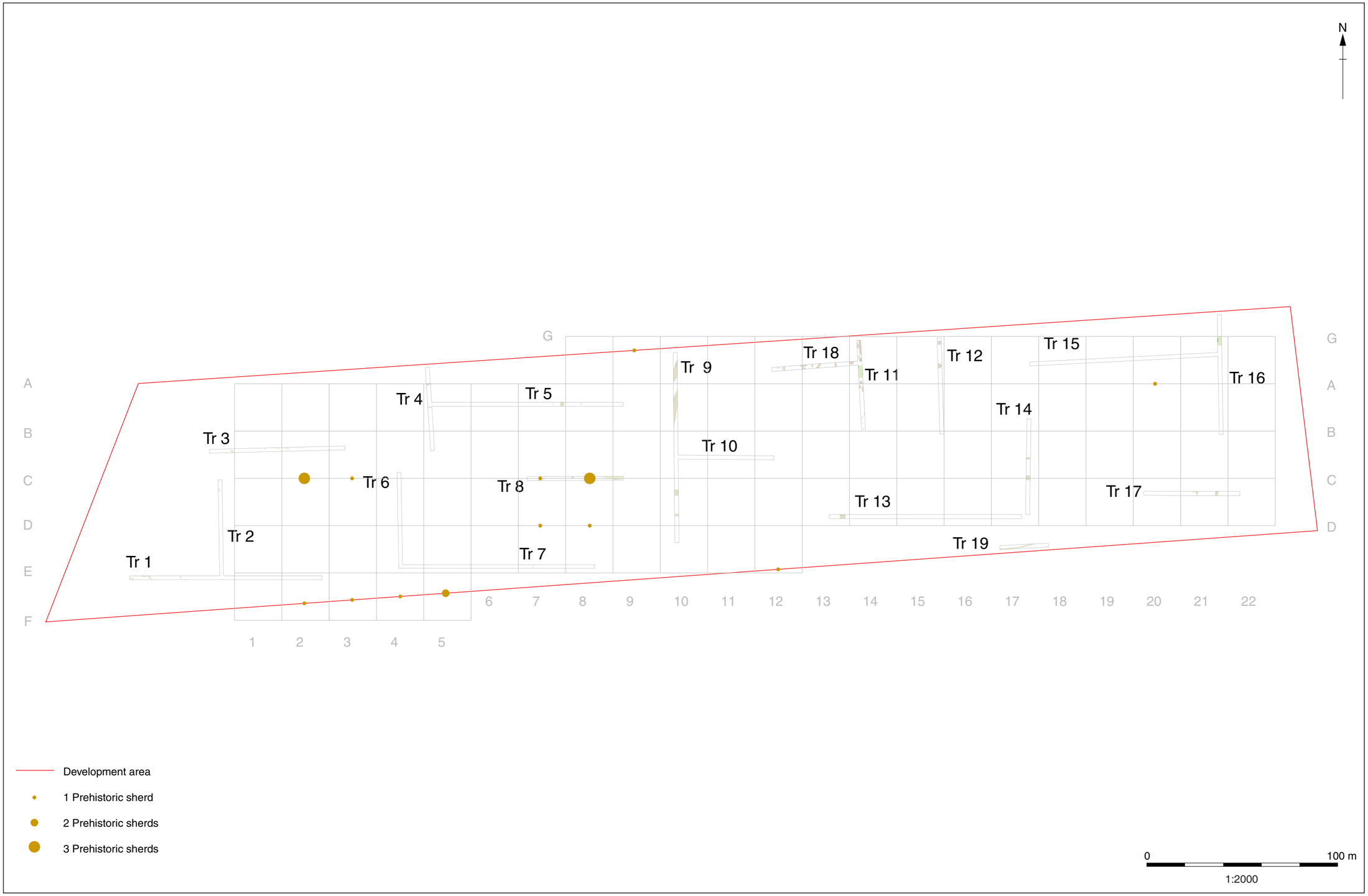

Figure 4: Distribution of Prehistoric Pottery from field walking. Scale 1:2000

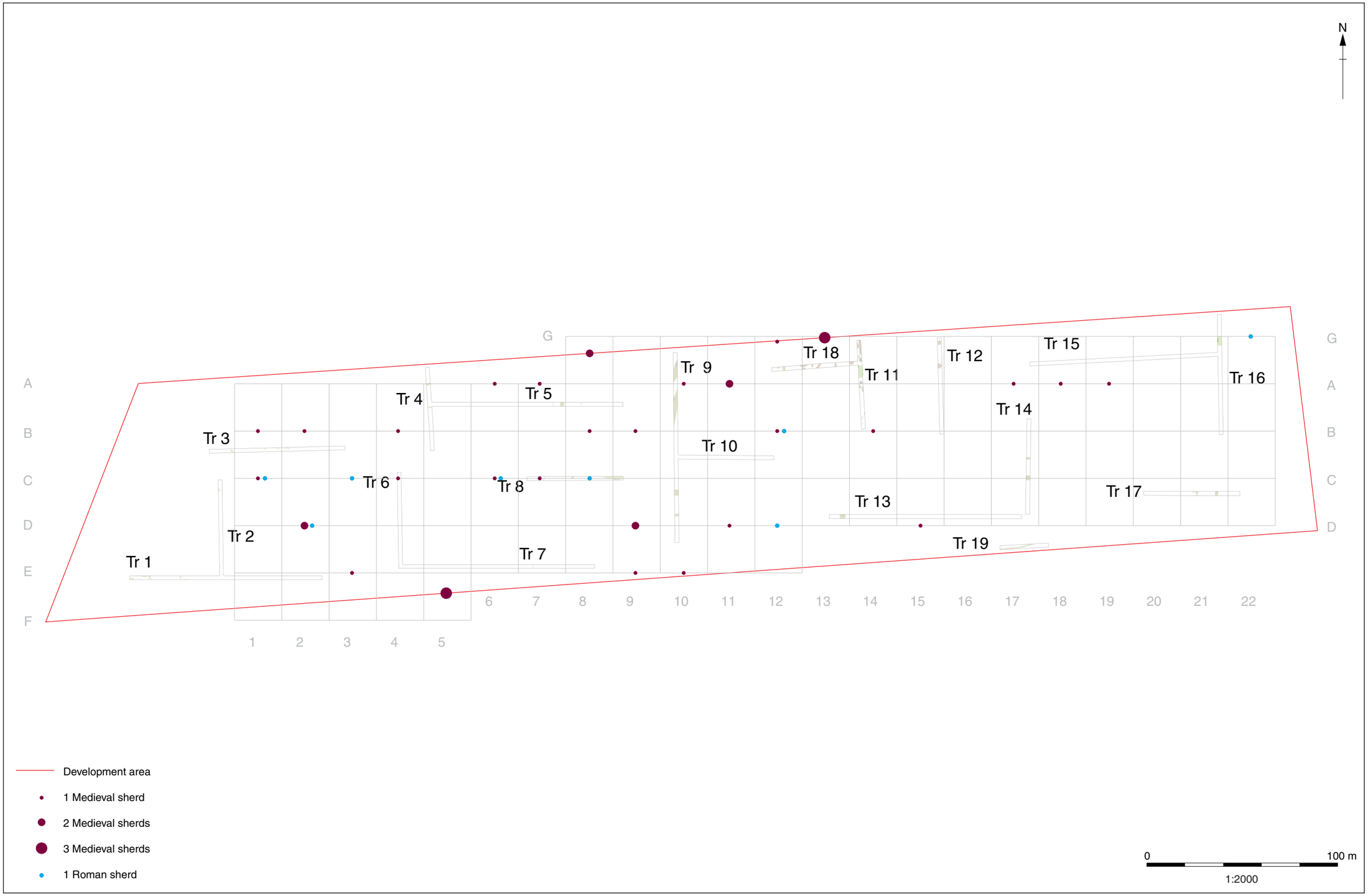

Figure 5: Distribution of Roman and Medieval Pottery from field walking. Scale 1:2000

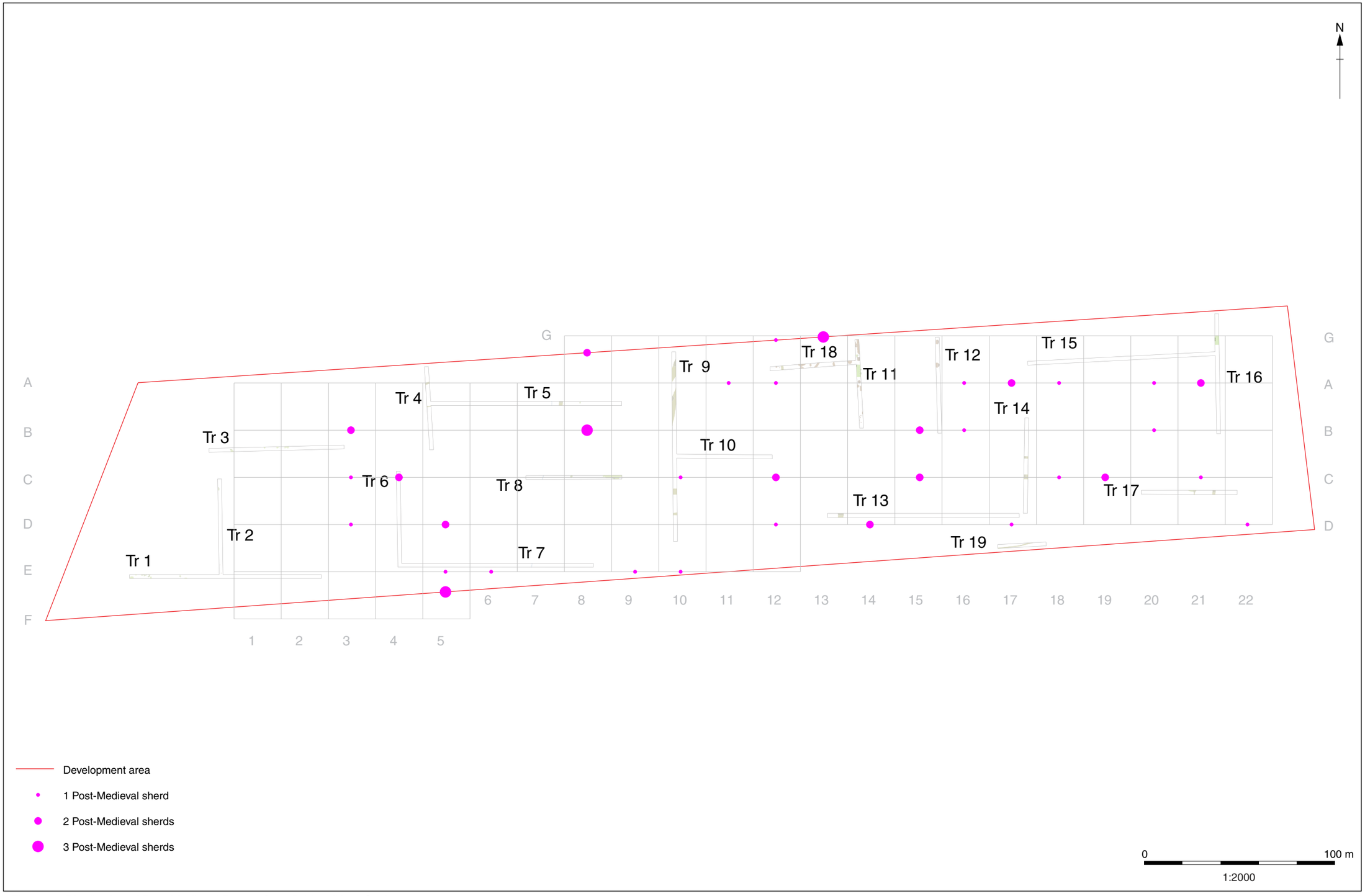

Figure 6: Distribution of Post-Medieval Pottery from field walking. Scale 1:2000

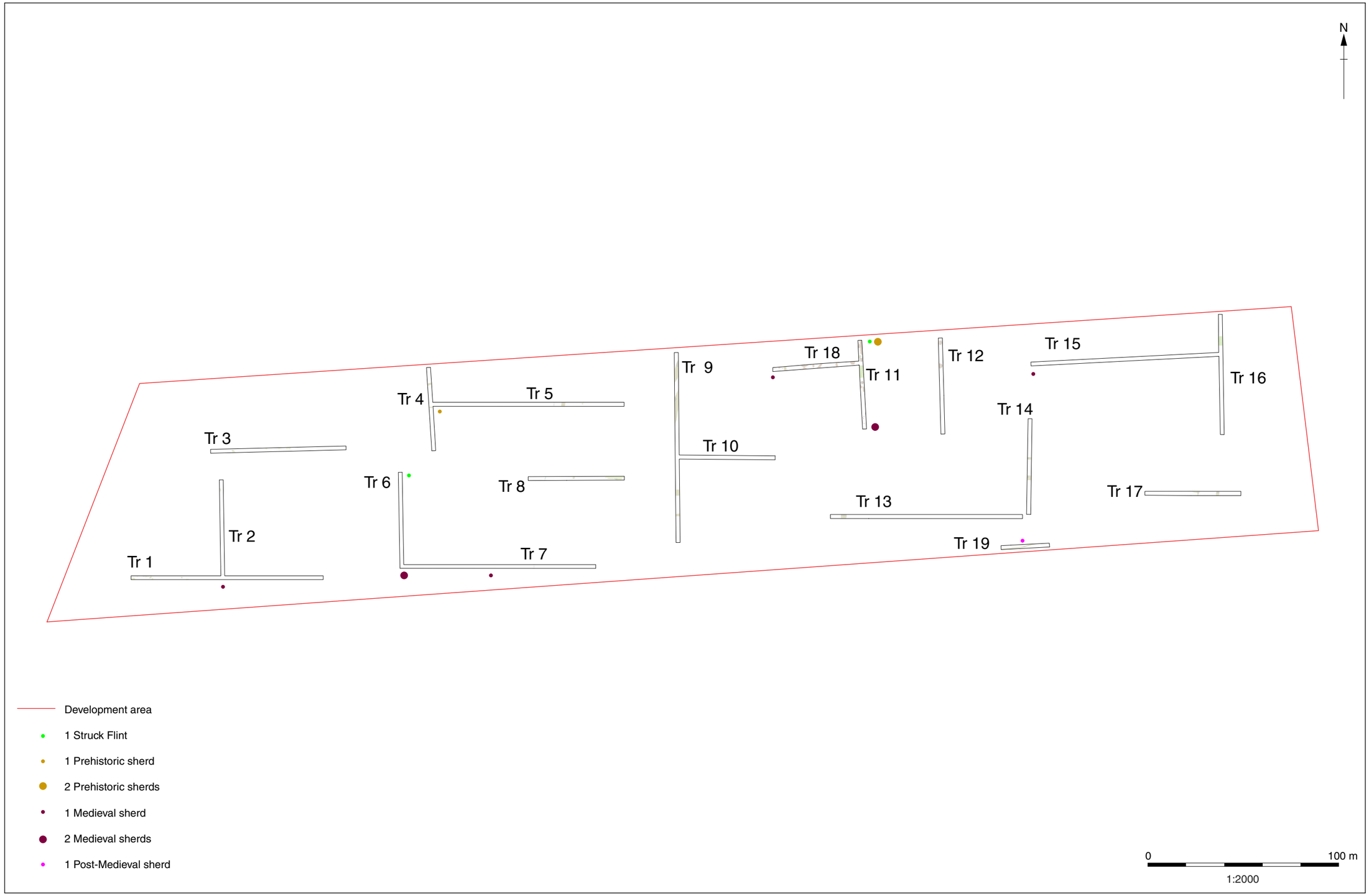

Figure 7: Distribution of finds from Bucket Samples. Scale 1:2000

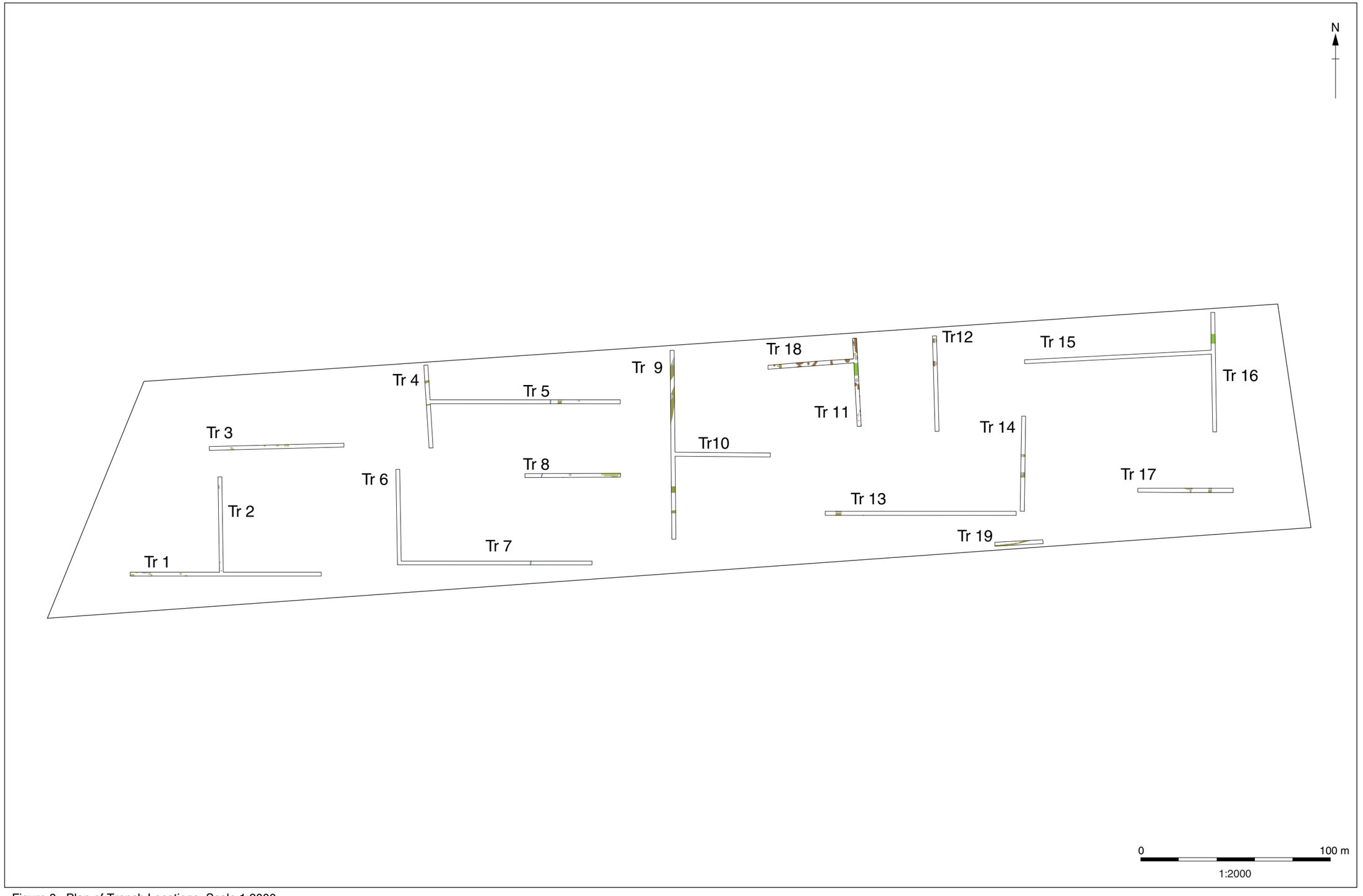

Figure 8: Plan of Trench Locations. Scale 1:2000

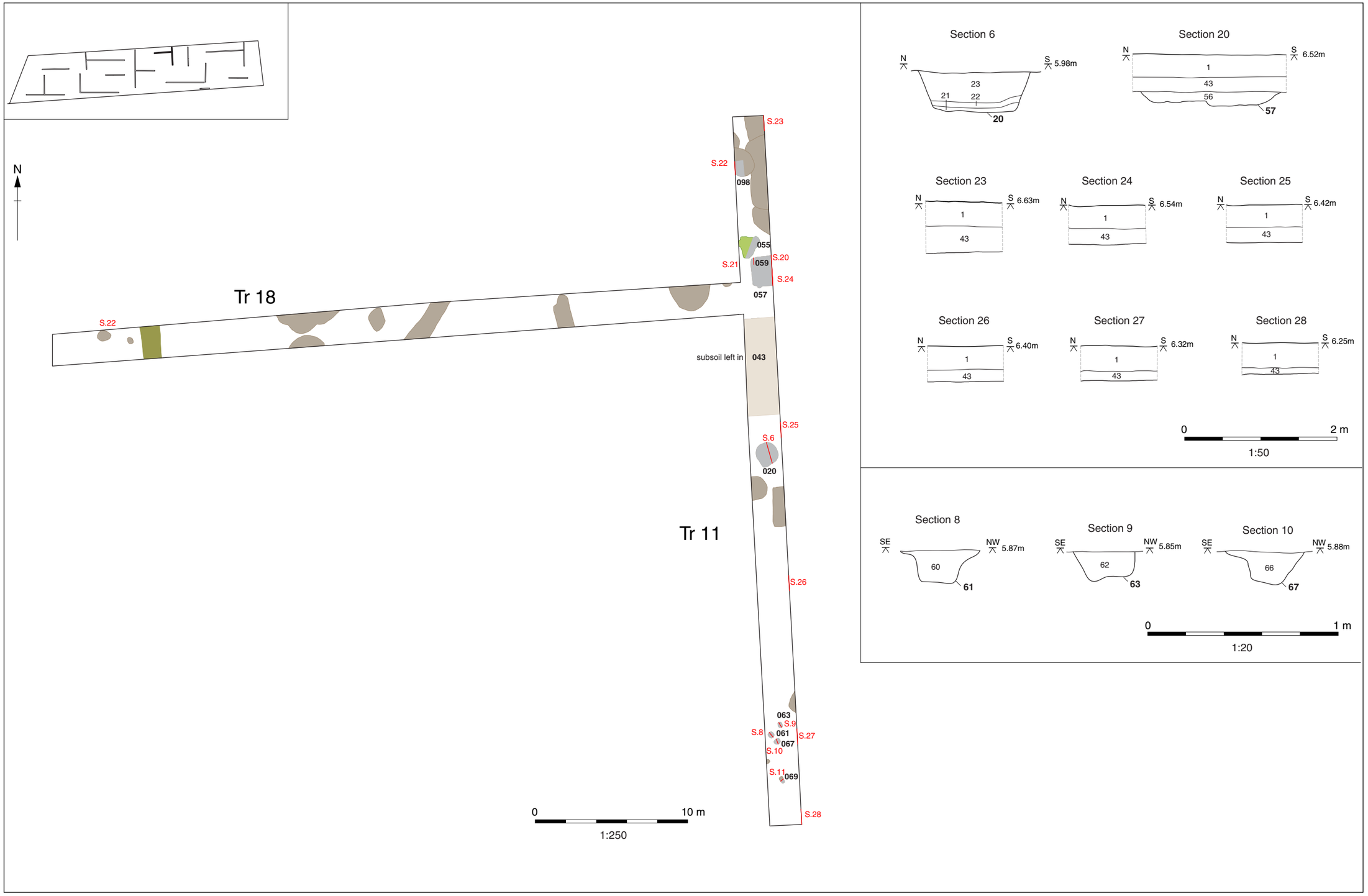

Figure 9: Plan and Sections of Trenches 11 and 18

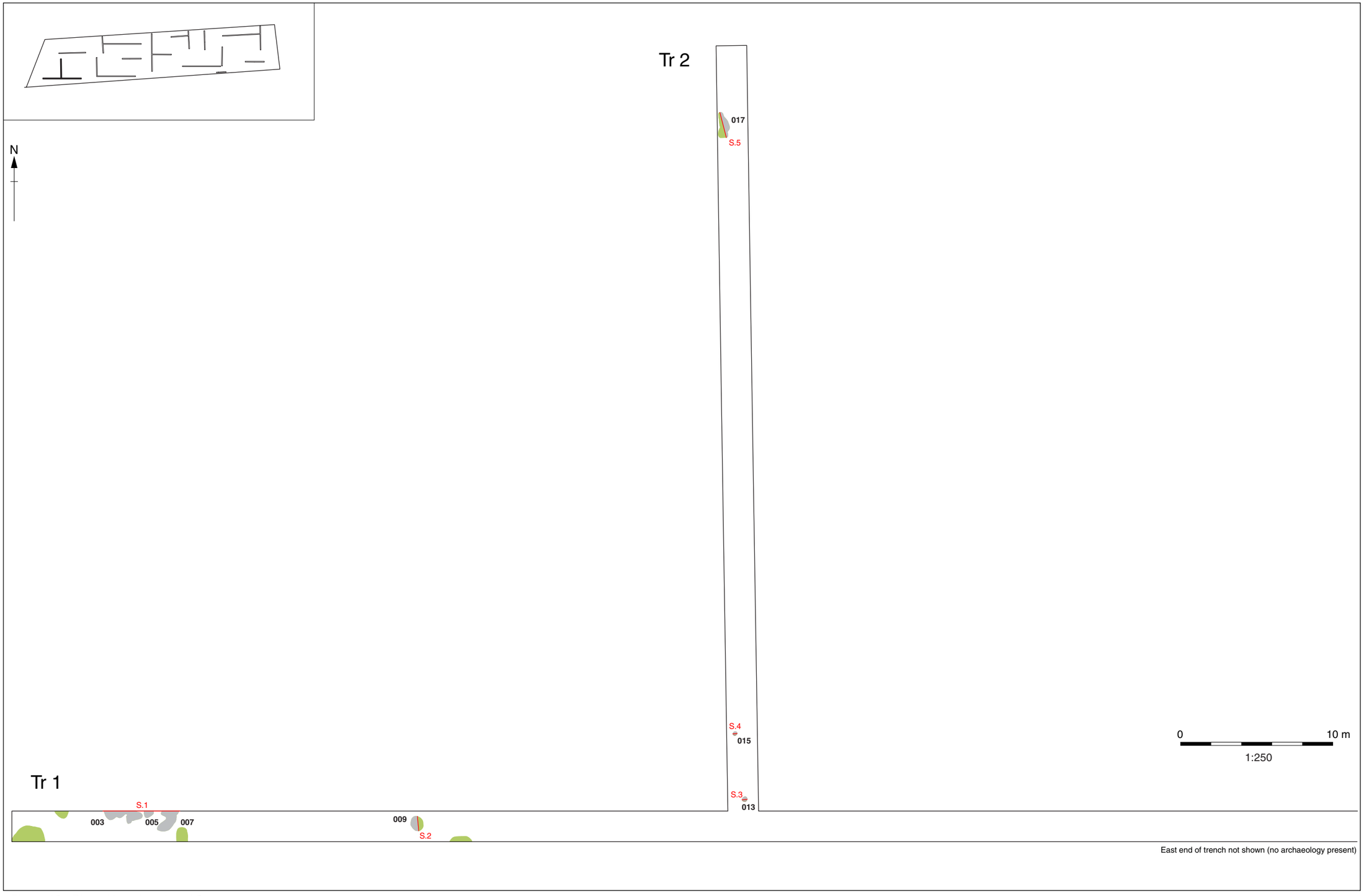

Figure 10: Plan of trenches 1 and 2.

Plate 1: Trench 11 from the North

Plate 2: Trench 18 from the East

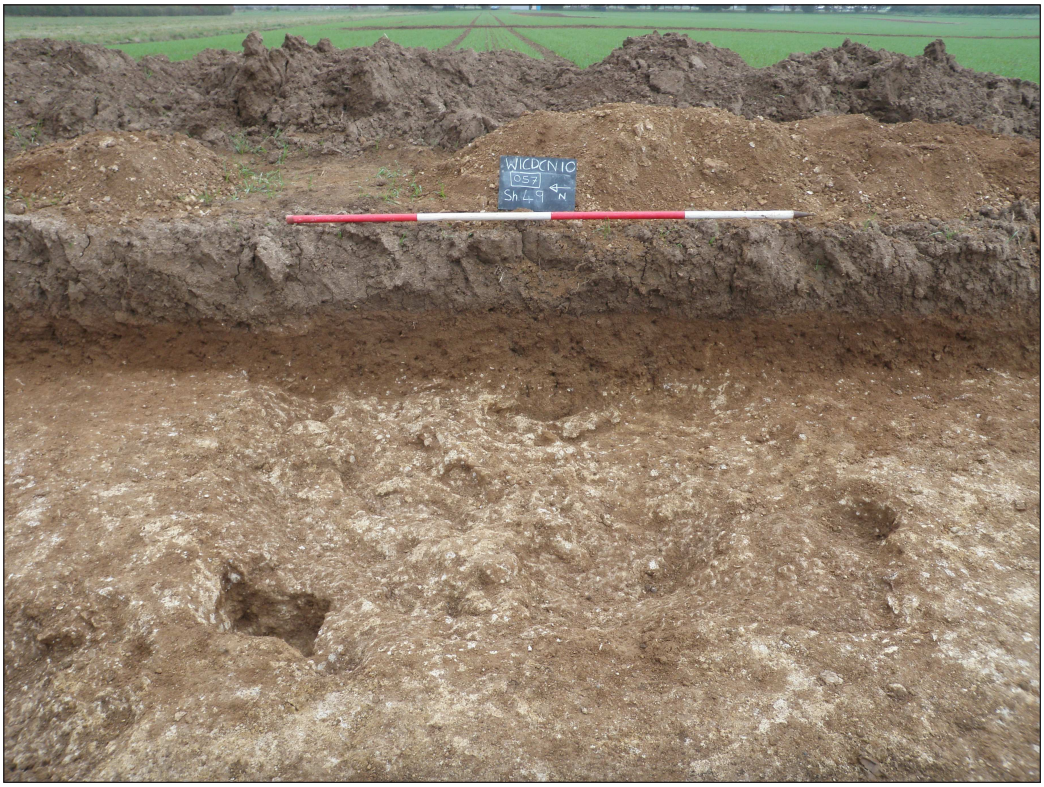

Plate 3: Feature 57 after excavation

Plate 4: Feature 20 after excavation

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