

Prehistoric and Medieval
remains at Cromwell
Community College,
Chatteris, Cambridgeshire



Archaeological
Evaluation Report



October 2011

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**Prehistoric and Medieval remains at Cromwell Community College, Chatteris,
Cambridgeshire**

By Thomas Lyons BA

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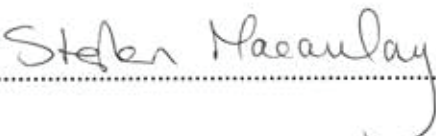
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Summary

Oxford Archaeology East was commissioned by Kier Eastern on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council, to undertake Archaeological Investigations in the grounds of, and on land adjacent to, Cromwell Community College, Chatteris. This was within the footprints of proposed new buildings (Phase 1) and sports pitches (Phase 2). The fieldwork took place in two separate phases with six Trenches located immediately to the south of the existing school buildings and eleven Trenches on arable land south of the southern boundary of the school playing field.

During the first phase of work archaeological features were encountered within two of the trenches with Trench 2 containing what appeared to be several large pits. Following consultation with the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Office Trench 2 was widened to reveal the full extent of the archaeology visible in the trench. A further (much smaller) extension to Trench 3 was necessary to fully reveal an animal burial uncovered in the Trench. Within the widened area of Trench 2 further substantial pits were discovered, as well as a small number of post holes and linear features. These were dated to the late medieval and post medieval periods; an assemblage of post medieval pottery as well as a small number of residual and moderately abraded medieval sherds was recovered from the excavated features. A large sub-circular pit or pond was uncovered near the centre of the excavation area. This contained a large quantity of modern material including glass, china, brick & tile, slate and metal objects.

The second phase of work took place on arable land (formerly part of Tithe Barn Farm) located to the south of the school premises. Eleven trenches were excavated, at least two of which contained evidence for prehistoric settlement, in the immediate vicinity: a pit cluster, dated to the Early Iron Age, was discovered in Trench 14 and a curvilinear gully was revealed in Trench 15. Again, following consultation with the Cambridgeshire CC Archaeological Advice Team both trenches were extended to reveal, within reasonable limits, the full extent of the archaeology. Three other trenches contained undated features which may be prehistoric in date. Towards the east side of the evaluation a headland of ridge and furrow agriculture was present in the field. Three trenches were positioned over this feature. It was excavated both by hand and machine and was found to contain no artefacts; there was no evidence for further archaeological features beneath it.

Ahead of the laying of a power cable in the field to the south of the school, a watching brief was undertaken. No further archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were revealed.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted at Cromwell Community College, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire. Fieldwork was conducted in two separate phases: Phase One (New Build) comprised trenches 1-6 immediately to the south of the school buildings, while Phase 2 (Sports Pitches) was located at the southern boundary of the school property and comprised trenches 7 – 16. This report is based on all ground works ; it will need updating after the completion of further watching briefs on site.
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council (A. Thomas, 25/3/11) supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (S.P. Macaulay 6/4/11). The investigation was carried out on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council and was commissioned by Kier Eastern.
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *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 site lies on West Walton and Ampthill Clay overlain by sands and gravels close to the south eastern edge of the Chatteris island.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

Earlier prehistoric

- 1.3.1 CHER 08795 - At Block Fen, to the south east of the proposed development area there was found during excavations ahead of aggregate extractions several late Neolithic/ Early Bronze Age flint artefacts; a programme of Aerial Photographic reconnaissance, field walking, geophysical survey and trench evaluation discovered a barrow as well as a substantial ring ditch and an associated pit containing charcoal, burnt bone, flint artefacts and pottery sherds, some of which was interpreted as feasting debris.
- 1.3.2 'Flint implements' were recorded during fieldwalking in advance of the construction of the A142 in the 1980s to the south and east of the development area (08771B). They were described as "prehistoric" only.
- 1.3.3 During the Neolithic period a major river channel ran north to south approximately 1km to the south and west of the site, and its associated tributaries came within a few hundred metres (Hall 1992, fig. 52). To the south of the site, a Neolithic axe was found at Wood Farm (Fig. 1, CHER 3699).
- 1.3.4 The majority of the earlier prehistoric settlement and finds evidence has been found in the southern and eastern part of Chatteris parish, more than c.1km away from the subject site (Hall 1992, fig. 52). These sites include scheduled Neolithic enclosures (DCB 163), located on a slight rise within a small tongue of fen on the east side of

subject site. A flint scatter and Neolithic axe have been found to the west of the modern settlement of Chatteris and a polished axe was found at Delve Terrace.

Bronze Age

- 1.3.5 During the Bronze Age, peat fen encroached on the area covering some of the lower lying marine sediments. Chatteris is mostly located on relatively high land, several metres above sea level, and this relative dryness of much of the area appears to have led to more extensive occupation of the island (Hall 1992). The proposed development area is located within the higher land with the postulated Fen edge being c.1.5km to the west and south (Hall 1992 fig. 53).
- 1.3.6 Fieldwalking uncovered a possible Bronze Age settlement to the south of the proposed development area (Hall 1992, Chatteris site 28; Fig. x, CHER 10901). Evidence included pottery, worked flints (including a single scraper) and fire cracked flints. Directly to the west of the site a Middle to Late Bronze Age shield and socketed bronze spear-head were found in 1870 (Fig. x, CHER 3697). Near to this point a Bronze Age dugout canoe and rapier were also recovered in the 19th century (Fig. x, CHER 3777). Their location is vague but was probably several hundred metres further away to the west, nearer to the Fen edge and the postulated river. Other evidence of settlement in the immediate vicinity of the site is indicated by surface finds uncovered during fieldwalking along the route of the Chatteris bypass, c.50m to the east (Fig. x, CHER 08771B) and c.280m to the east of the site where Bronze Age arrowheads were found (Fig. x, CHER 05804).
- 1.3.7 In addition to the possible settlement, the presence of another two Bronze Age domestic sites has been suggested within the parish (Hall 1992, 90). Numerous artefacts have also been recovered, indicating widespread activity during the Bronze Age. This evidence includes flint-working sites, and a considerable amount of Bronze Age metalwork; although the latter may derive from disturbed cemeteries it also demonstrates occupation (Hall 1992). Burials of this period are relatively numerous in the parish and include a dispersed cemetery of at least 15 barrows occupying the eastern half of the island towards the Fen edge (Hall 1992). In addition to these barrows, a recent excavation 1km to the north of Tithe Barn Farm recorded three cremations, one of which was contained within a pottery urn (Thatcher 2008; CHER MCB 17496). These were dated to the Middle Bronze Age but no associated contemporary settlement features were found. This separation of burial and settlement sites is a pattern that has been observed throughout the region with many burial sites being located along the Fen edge (Hall 1992).
- 1.3.8 Late prehistoric field systems and enclosures have been seen in aerial photographs to the west of the proposed development area at TL 420 855 (CHER 08792).

Iron Age and Roman

- 1.3.9 By the Iron Age, and persisting into the Roman period, Chatteris had become an island surrounded by peat due to a rise in the water table in the Middle and Late Bronze Age period (Weaver 2006, 9). In Chatteris parish, Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age pottery has been found together on several sites suggesting continuity of settlement into the Iron Age period (Hall 1992).
- 1.3.10 Late Iron Age and Roman pottery sherds were recovered across the fields to the south of the proposed development area, suggesting long term occupation (Hall 1992, Chatteris site 29; Fig. 1, CHER 08803). An undated cropmark on the south did not produce any finds from fieldwalking (Weaver 2006, 8; Fig. 1, CHER 10664) but

geophysical (magnetometer) survey in this area found two probable round houses and a small ditched enclosure possibly dating to the late prehistoric or Roman period (Walford 2008).

- 1.3.11 Hall has emphasised that Chatteris is remarkable for its Iron Age sites, with six areas of occupational remains and a further two cropmark sites which could be from this period being identified. These were located predominantly to the east (c.1km) and north-east (c.3km) of Cromwell Community College (Hall 1992, fig. 54). The two largest sites (Chatteris sites 26 and 10), covered ten and twenty five hectares respectively and produced pottery dating from the Late Bronze Age (*ibid*, 93). Several of these postulated Iron Age sites may have continued into the Roman period. Excavations 1km to the north of Tithe Barn Farm (© Oxford Archaeology East Page 11 of 94 Report Number 1297) have found a previously unknown Early Iron Age to Early Roman settlement at New road (Cooper 2004; Thatcher 2008; CHER MCB 17496).
- 1.3.12 Chatteris appears to have been an important area in the Roman period with evidence for settlement and a local economy based on stock rearing (Hall 1992, 94). Near to the subject site a Roman pottery scatter, indicative of further settlement, was found at what would have been Fen edge in the Burrow Lands (MCB 10577). The settlements in Chatteris parish vary from a high status Roman villa at Langwood Farm more than a kilometre away at TL 420853 (Evans 2003; CHER 09567) to the average status small farms such as that at New Road, Chatteris (Cooper 2004; Thatcher 2008; CHER MC 17496).

Saxon

- 1.3.13 Fieldwalking tentatively identified possible Saxon pottery within the subject site alongside Bronze Age pottery, suggesting the potential for Saxon remains to be present on the site (Hall 1992, Chatteris site 28; Fig. 1, CHER 10901A). A few (13) probably Early Saxon pottery sherds and some Middle Saxon Ipswich Ware was found in a few features on a site approximately 1km to the north (Thatcher 2008) also indicative of settlement here in this period.

Medieval & Post Medieval

- 1.3.14 Further evidence for post medieval activity has been recorded in the vicinity of the development area around the southern fringe of the Chatteris island: The site of a windmill is recorded at Blackmill Road, to the west of the proposed development area (03679); an archaeological evaluation at London Road, Chatteris, revealed evidence for probable post medieval quarrying with a large no of large pits discovered containing abraded (presumed to be residual) medieval pottery. The site of a medieval manor house and associated (surviving) moat is located to the south of the development area close to the Fen edge. This manor belonged to Ramsey Abbey.
- 1.3.15 An evaluation conducted to the rear of 23 South Park Street (CHER 19264) revealed the presence of possible medieval structural features towards the back of the property but the frontage was disturbed by 19th and 20th century drains.
- 1.3.16 Archaeological evaluation at 32 West Park Street revealed several pits, post holes, gullies and quarry pits dating to the medieval and post medieval periods; this site lies at the western limit of the precinct of Chatteris Priory (MCB 17368).
- 1.3.17 To the west of Cromwell Community College an archaeological evaluation uncovered a number of large pits which were interpreted as evidence for late post-medieval sand and gravel extraction (Peachey 2006; Fig. 1, CHER MCB 17442).

- 1.3.18 A 16th century Grade II listed Tithe Barn is located within the southern part of the site (Fig. 1, CHER MCB 19434; listed building 48012). The barn is described as having five symmetrical bays and contains some of the original 16th century timber and a threshing floor (Edis 2010). The Tithe Barn now appears to be isolated although it may originally have belonged to a manorial farm.
- 1.3.19 Part of Chatteris (the extreme northern, north-eastern and western part of the parish) was given to Ramsey Abbey by Athelstan Mannesson; this gift was confirmed by King Edgar in 974 (Hampson 1967, 105 and fig. on p.3). The remainder of the parish was the soke (central, southern and most of the eastern areas) and belonged to the Abbot of Ely (Hampson 1967, 105 and fig. on p.3). The subject site lay within this latter manor.
- 1.3.20 The Ely manor was recorded in the Domesday book as being 2 hides and a virgate with land for 3 ploughs (*ibid*, 105) and worth 40 shillings. Half a virgate was in demesne and there were 6 villeins, 2 bordars and 2 cottars. The land consisted of meadow for 3 plough teams, woodland for 20 pigs, and fisheries providing 1,500 eels. This manor was later given to Chatteris Nunnery, which was founded by Eadnoth, former Abbot of Ramsey, between AD 1006 and 1008 (Hall 1992). The 15th century cartulary of the Nunnery shows a very large number of small grants, usually up to an acre of land (Hampson 1967, 105). The manor and rectory were granted in 1551 to Lords Clinton and Saye (*ibid*, 105). The manor then passed through several families. The Tithe Barn is located within the lands of the manor and a moated site, possibly manorial, is located approximately 200m to the south of it (Fig. 1, CHER 1097). A 17th century house and brick kiln sit within this moated site (Fig. 1, CHER 1097A).
- 1.3.21 An extensive system of ploughed-out ridge and furrow exists across much of the site but can only be seen as cropmarks and by geophysical survey (Walford 2008; Fig. 1, CHER 8911 and 11443). It is Midland-type strip cultivation, and a reconstruction of the medieval field pattern has been illustrated by Hall (1992, fig. 56). This shows fields on both east-to-west and north-to-south alignments within the subject site. The geophysical survey shows similar arrangements but with more north-to-south furrows (Walford 2008, fig. 3). © Oxford Archaeology East Page 12 of 94 Report Number 1297
- 1.3.22 The medieval Fen edge was tentatively postulated by David Hall to start around Hill Road and extend eastwards into the eastern edge of the subject site (Hall 1992). The earliest surviving map of the subject site is probably the 1819 Enclosure Map (Weaver 2006, 13, fig. 4; not illustrated). This and later maps indicate that the proposed development area remained within agricultural use, probably within Horselode Field and marked as Impropiator (this refers to Charles Cholmondeley who was returned as impropiator in 1819 (Hampson 1967, 107)). An impropiator is a layman in possession of church property - presumably a relict name from when the site belonged to Chatteris nunnery. The 16th century Tithe barn does not appear on this map - presumably this was a mistake as the barn timber clearly dates to this late medieval/early post-medieval period and is clearly shown on the roughly contemporary 1" Ordnance Survey map (see below). The barn may have been referred to in the Victoria County History under Nunns manor when in 1624 the great tithes, a barn and an acre of land was conveyed (Hampson 1967, 106). This 1819 map recorded that strip farming still prevailed within the extreme south western side for a time after enclosure.

1.3.23 *Summary of excavations at Tithe Barn Farm*

- 1.3.24 Running concurrently with the evaluation of the proposed development area a large-scale evaluation (covering 60ha) was undertaken by OA East on land to the south of Cromwell Community College around Tithe Barn Farm (TL 3980 8480 (centre point); Atkins, 2011).
- 1.3.25 The most significant discovery was extensive evidence for Middle Bronze Age settlement with associated field system (Figure 1). Post hole structures, pits and ditches were revealed which contained a substantial assemblage of pottery (272 sherds). Ring ditches may also represent the remains of barrows or perhaps round houses.
- 1.3.26 Later settlements were founded in the Middle / Late Iron Age (c.500-100 BC) which continued in to the Late Roman period. Again, these comprised possible round houses and other post built structures as well as a single cremation burial and associated pits and enclosure ditches. Also of significance is evidence for copper and iron smithing in the Middle/Late Iron Age
- 1.3.27 An Anglo-Saxon presence is also indicated by the presence of an apparently isolated sunken floored building.
- 1.3.28 During the medieval period the site was largely under cultivation; no evidence was observed for any activity associated with the 16th century Tithe barn.

1.4 **Acknowledgements**

- 1.4.1 These archaeological works were commissioned by Kier Eastern, on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council; Paul Whistler and Steve Randall were the Kier project managers based on site. The project was managed by Stephen Macaulay and monitored by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Office. On site fieldwork was conducted by Stuart Ladd, John Diffey, Steve Porter, Jules Newman, Steve Graham, Gareth Rees and supervised by Tom Lyons.

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 an archaeological evaluation be undertaken to assess the nature of any surviving archaeological deposits or features and their potential for further investigation. The site was investigated in two separate stages – Phase 1 (New Build) and Phase 2 (New Sports Pitches).
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a rubber tracked JCB-type excavator using a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket (Phase 1, New Build) then a tracked 360 20 ton machine using a 1.8m wide ditching bucket (Phase 2, New Sports Pitches). A total of 550m of trench was opened in Phase 2 of the evaluation (New Sports Pitches).
- 2.2.3 After the initial excavation of the trial Trenches, the investigation areas in both Phase 1 and Phase 2 were widened (mitigation) to investigate archaeology revealed in the initial evaluation trenches.
- 2.2.4 OA East conducted a Watching brief of all Kier ground works during the duration of the project. A further Watching Brief was carried out during the excavation of a trench for the purpose of burying an electric cable across the sports pitches area (Phase 2, New Sports Pitches).
- 2.2.5 The site survey was carried out by Gareth Rees using a Leica GPS 1200.
- 2.2.6 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.2.7 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.8 Environmental samples were taken from the bases of several deep and waterlogged features within Phase 1 of the evaluation; those features which yielded no or little ceramic evidence, or which were patently modern features, were excluded from this sampling strategy. More substantial environmental samples were taken from features in Phase 2 of the evaluation: these also produced a more diagnostic ceramic assemblage.
- 2.2.9 Conditions for excavation on site were generally good; full excavation of some features during Phase 1 was hampered by a relatively high water table.

3 RESULTS

Introduction

There were two separate phases of work: Phase 1 (New Build) involved the excavation of 6 trenches (Nos. 1 to 6), which were adjacent to existing school buildings; this phase also included an extension around Trench 2. Phase 2 (New Sports Pitches) took place on arable land immediately south of the school playing field and to the north of Tithe Barn Farm; this consisted of the excavation of 11 trenches (nos. 7 – 17), two of which had minor extensions. Full context information can be found in Appendix A.

3.1 Phase 1 (New Build)

3.1.1 Evaluation trenches were placed within three separate areas due to be impacted by ground works during the construction of new school buildings and associated infrastructure (access & drainage). Trenches 1-4 were within the proposed building footprint immediately south of the current sports hall and at the western limit of the school site. Trenches 5 and 6 were to the south of the current school buildings on the northern limit of the playing fields.

3.1.2 Once the evaluation trenches had been opened, cleaned and archaeological features excavated, it was agreed (further mitigation) during a site inspection by Andy Thomas (Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Office) that an area around Trench 2 be widened to fully expose all archaeological features contained within.

Trench 1

3.1.3 Trench 1 was located in the south west part of the proposed development area. It was 15m long and contained no archaeological features. Natural sandy gravel geology was reached at a depth of 0.8m; topsoil was 0.25m deep while the subsoil was 0.55m deep; no truncation of these layers had occurred. (Further information can be found in Appendix A).

Trench 2

3.1.4 Trench 2 was located near the centre of the proposed building footprint immediately north of a tennis court. It was 14.3m long and orientated east-west (Figures 1 & 4). The east end of the trench contained several intercutting features which extended beyond the limits of excavation to the north and south. These were investigated in a metre wide slot located in the centre of the trench, so as to leave a step between the trench edge and hand dug slot; it extended from the eastern edge of the features for approximately 3m to the west (Plate1).

3.1.5 Pit **203** was visible in the north facing section of Trench 2, at the east end. It was present in plan for only 0.5m with the remaining part of the feature apparently extending beyond the baulk. It was 0.8m deep and contained a single fill, 202, which was a dark brown silt with gravel inclusions. No finds were recovered from 202 within the evaluation trench.

3.1.6 Pit **207** truncated Pit **203** on its western side (Section 1). It was clearly visible in section but less conspicuous in plan. It was present in the trench for 0.5m, against the north facing section, and excavated to a depth of 0.8m whereupon the water table hampered further constructive excavation. It was filled by a yellowish brown moderately compact gravel, 209, from which no finds were recovered. A wooden stake had been inserted through gravel deposit 209 which had only survived beneath the

level of the water table. It was revealed in half section and extended down through the entire pit fill and was seen to continue in to the thick clay deposits at the base of pit **207**.

- 3.1.7 Pit **204** was located at the south facing edge of Trench 2, immediately opposite and exposed at the same time as pit **203**. The two features had no discernible relationship, with the bases of the cuts separated by only 0.2m. Pit **204** was excavated to a depth of 0.8m deep beneath the subsoil at which point the water table was reached; a spade dug sondage was excavated in to the lower deposits of waterlogged grey clay silts (206) to retrieve an environmental sample, with an auger reaching the underlying natural geological deposits of thick clay and gravel a further 0.3m beneath. The total depth of pit **204** from ground level was 1.5m
- 3.1.8 To the west of pit **204** in the south facing section of Trench 2 was what looked to be the fill of a another feature which was visible in plan at the base of the trench. This was tentatively recorded in section as pit **210**.
- 3.1.9 A wooden post was inserted through Pit **210**; the cut was not visible in plan or section and it was only the level of preservation (beneath the level of the water table only) which alerted the excavator to its presence. No finds were recovered from it and as it post dated the infilling of Pit 210 it was presumed to date from the Late medieval period at the earliest.
- 3.1.10 Immediately west of the intercutting pits was an area of fill which extended for 5m. This was investigated in a sondage dug across the evaluation trench. A cut, **222**, was revealed at the south facing trench edge. This was dug in to the natural gravels and contained a pale brown clay silt fill (221) from which no finds were recovered. Deposit 221 was truncated by cut **212** which was visible in plan at the base of the trench; it was filled by a dark brown clay (213) and contained much clearly modern material including bricks, china, slate and metal objects. Cut **212** was excavated down to the water table, 0.8m below the base of the trench, at which point a very dark grey waterlogged clay silt fill (223) was revealed; this was the same as 206 seen in the base of pit **204**.
- 3.1.11 A second slot through fill 221 was excavated 2m to the west, equivalent to **222**.
- 3.1.12 A modern sub-rectangular pit was excavated at the west end of Trench 2; it was filled by a greyish brown silty clay and contained modern pottery, glass and nails.

Trench 2 extension

- 3.1.13 Evaluation Trench 2 was extended to the north, for nearly 4m, and 7m to the south (Plates 2 & 3); further extension on the north side was prevented by the presence of a foul sewer drain while the southern extension went to the limit of the existing tennis court. Only the westernmost 5m of the trench was not extended.
- 3.1.14 Pits
- To the north, intercutting features were revealed which extended from pits **204** and **210**, continuing to the limit of excavation.
- 3.1.15 Feature **235** looked in plan to be a linear series of intercutting pits, or conceivably a ditch. It was 3m wide, orientated north-south, and excavated to a depth of 0.5m from the machined level. It contained two fills: lower fill 234 was a waterlogged dark grey sandy silt and 0.25m deep; 233 was a pale greyish brown sandy silt and was 0.25m deep. Feature **235** appeared to be truncated by both pits **204** and **210** to the south. No pottery was recovered from Feature **235**.

- 3.1.16 Feature **235** was truncated by Feature **232** which was presumed to be a pit. It was sub-circular in plan but not visible to its full extent as it extended beyond the south facing baulk. Pit **232** contained two fills, 230 & 229; as with the fill of **235**, these were a dark grey and brown sandy silt, respectively, and contained two sherds of Late Medieval pottery.
- 3.1.17 Towards the north east corner of the trench was a pair of small intercutting features: **239** and **242**. Pit **239** was a relatively shallow sub-circular feature which appeared to be truncated by a relatively deep post hole **242**. Pit **239** measured 0.5m by 0.5m and was 0.2m deep; post hole **242** was circular in plan, 0.65m in diameter and 0.5m deep. No artefacts were recovered from either feature; pit **239** was probably associated with either the insertion or removal of a post within **242**.
- 3.1.18 Linear Features
- Adjacent to feature **235**, in the north west corner of the trench, were a pair of what appeared to be linear features oriented north-south: **244** and **225**. This material was possibly the remains of agricultural furrows or perhaps remnants of upcast from features **232/235** or others beyond the limits of excavation. Feature **244** was located immediately west of feature **235** and was 3m long and 1.5m wide. It extended from the south facing limit of excavation towards the centre of the trench and upon excavation was found to be only 0.05m deep; it was filled by a light greyish brown silty clay which yielded a single sherd of medieval pottery. Feature **225** was located in the corner of the trench just west of **244**; it was 2m wide and almost 3m long and 0.08m deep. Its fill was similar to 243 but no artefacts were recovered from it.
- 3.1.19 Retting Pit **203**
- Pit **203** extended beyond the initial north facing limit of Trench 2 for 4m and was fully revealed in plan (Plates 2 & 4). It was sub-rectangular and measured 4.5m x 3m and was excavated longitudinally on its east side for most of its length. The sides were moderately steep and it was 0.7m deep, containing two fills, 273 and 272 (equivalent to 202). Primary fill 273, a dark grey silty clay, contained a single sherd of medieval pottery; this was an orange sandy ware and particularly difficult to assign a definitive date to, 1200AD-1500AD, being the general date range. Secondary fill 272 was a lighter greyish brown clay silt but was devoid of any artefacts; it was truncated by Post Hole **263** which was 0.4m in diameter and 0.4m deep and contained two fills: primary fill 262 was a dark grey clay silt, as was secondary fill 263.
- 3.1.20 Post Medieval Features
- 3.1.21 Cut through Pit **203** were two circular silty gravel filled post holes; they were located within the eastern half of Pit **203** so were removed during excavation of that feature. Both were found to be at least 0.3m deep (not fully excavated) and one contained a nail; were presumed to date to the post medieval period along with the in-situ stake seen in the original evaluation Trench 2.
- Ditch **248** extended from the south end of pit **203** for 2m to the north facing limit of excavation where it continued; it was shallow sided, up to 1.5m wide and 0.4m deep and truncated the upper part of Pit **203**. It was filled by a brown clay silt, 249, from which was recovered post medieval pottery and ceramic building material, with a dates ranging between the 16th and 18th centuries.
- 3.1.22 Immediately to the west of Ditch **248** were several features. Burial **245** contained the remains of a sheep and measured 1.1m by 0.6m and was 0.3m deep. Its fill was a blueish grey silty clay from which a single piece of late or post medieval brick fragment

was recovered. The upper part of the burial cut had been disturbed by the west edge of Ditch **248**. Immediately adjacent to burial **245** on the west side were features **253** and **257**. Post hole **253** was sub-circular in plan, 0.35m in diameter and 0.22m deep; it contained a single sherd of Late/Post medieval pottery. Feature **257** was sub-circular but not fully visible in plan as truncated by Ditch **248** on its east side. It contained a dark brown sandy silt which was fully excavated but contained no artefacts. Feature **257** apparently truncated small post hole **255** which measured 0.15m in diameter and was 0.1m deep.

- 3.1.23 Feature **250** was located at the north facing limit of excavation and immediately west of Ditch **248**. It was assumed to be the termination of a ditch, the rest of which extended beneath the baulk. It was 0.8m long, 0.75m wide and 0.7m deep and contained two fills: 252 was a dark blueish grey clay and 251 was a grey silty clay; no artefacts were recovered from either deposit.
- 3.1.24 Pits **228** and **237** were intercutting modern features containing brick, tile and 19th century pottery. Pit **228** was 0.75m deep and pit **237** was 0.3m deep.
- 3.1.25 Feature **222** occupied much of the central and east part of the trench. It was a very large sub-circular modern feature which showed signs of being deliberately backfilled, possibly as late as the 20th century. It measured up to 6m in diameter and was initially investigated in a 1m sondage within evaluation Trench 2; it was further excavated in a machine dug slot on its east side and then augured to a final depth of almost 1.5m beneath the base of the trench. The feature was filled by a series of brown and greyish brown silts and clays containing frequent bricks, tile, china, metal objects, glass and charcoal. Within the centre of the feature was a much darker deposit which might represent a separate cut or perhaps more likely a later phase of deliberate infilling. This was numbered **212** and was investigated within the machine slot and further excavated by hand; it too contained substantial quantities of modern material.

Trench 3

- 3.1.26 Trench 3 was located within the northern part of the main building footprint. It was 13m long and orientated east west. Natural sandy gravel geology was reached at a depth of 0.6m, topsoil was 0.15m deep and subsoil was 0.45m deep. Some truncation had occurred towards the east end of the trench: topsoil was disturbed and contained brick and charcoal to a depth of 0.5m; concrete was also present beneath topsoil at the east end of the trench.
- 3.1.27 Trench 3 contained a complete burial of a cow, in a pit close to its west end, **303** (Figure 4). The majority of the burial was revealed during the initial digging of the evaluation trench; a second phase of machine excavation (to the south of the trench) was able to reveal its full extent. It measured 1.8m by 0.8m and was placed in a shallow cut which survived to a depth of about 0.1m. The fill of the burial (304) was a light brownish grey silty sand which contained in its upper levels two small and abraded medieval pottery sherds as well as a piece of glass. These artefacts could have been worked in to the feature by plough action and therefore do not provide a secure enough basis on which to accurately date the burial. As the burial was sealed by the subsoil layer (301) it can conclusively be stated that it is not modern and is perhaps likely to date to the Post Medieval period.

Trench 4

- 3.1.28 Trench 4 was located in the eastern part of the proposed building footprint. It was 16m long and contained no archaeological features. Topsoil was 0.2m deep and subsoil

was 0.5m deep; no signs of truncation were present and the natural geology was a sandy gravel with some patches of clay.

Trench 5

- 3.1.29 Trench 5 was located to the south of the main school buildings and to the north of the synthetic playing surface (Figure 2). It was orientated east – west and was 19m long; topsoil was 0.2m deep and subsoil was up to 0.35m deep. Two modern post holes were observed towards the west end of the trench; one was present in the east facing baulk and clearly cut from immediately beneath the turf while the other contained part of the wooden post; both were approximately 0.2m in diameter and neither were excavated.

Trench 6

- 3.1.30 Trench 6 was located to the east of Trench 5 and orientated east-west (Figure 2). It was 19m long and positioned over a deposit of reused concrete and hardcore (up to 0.25m thick) associated with previous Kier ground works on the site of the school. This sealed the original soil sequences which survived without truncation: subsoil was up to 0.4m deep and topsoil was 0.2m thick.
- 3.1.31 Three post holes were revealed towards the west end of the trench: [215], [217] & [219]. These were sub-circular in plan and up to 0.3m in diameter and 0.08m deep; they were filled by a dark greyish brown clay. All the features were 100% excavated but found to contain no artefacts (Figure 3).
- 3.1.32 Trench 6 was extended at the west end in order to reveal any further archaeological features associated with post holes 215, 217 & 219. A further 2m of overburden was stripped to the north until the location of a service trench; the west end of the trench was extended for 3m: no further archaeological features were revealed.

3.2 Phase 2 (New Sports Pitches)

These works comprised eleven trenches (nos. 7-17) located immediately to the south of the existing school boundary, in land purchased for the construction of new sports pitches for the college. All trenches were 50m in length with fills of features being very compact in all cases.

Trench 7

- 3.2.1 Trench 7 was located in the north east west of the proposed development area and oriented east-west (Figure 5). No archaeology was revealed in the trench.

Trench 8

- 3.2.2 Trench 8 was located in the northern part of the proposed development area and oriented east-west (Figure 5; Section 800)). It contained a single post hole or small Pit, **803**, near the east end of the trench. This was 0.6m in diameter and 0.14m deep and was filled by a pale brown silt, 802. No artefacts were recovered from **803** or the remainder of the trench.

Trench 9

- 3.2.3 Trench 9 was located in the north east of the proposed development area and was oriented north-east-east south-west-west (Figure 5). Beneath the subsoil was a headland deposit of sandy silt formed by ridge and furrow agriculture (902; Section

900). This was investigated by hand and found to be a maximum of 0.25m deep; no artefacts were recovered from it.

Trench 10

- 3.2.4 Trench 10 was located in the south east part of the proposed development area and was oriented north west-south east (Figure 5; Section 1001). It contained a wide ditch or possible quarry pit, **1007** (Section 1000); the feature was oriented north-south and excavated against the north facing trench edge. It was 3m wide, 0.7m deep and steep sided. Examination of the trench section showed no indication that **1007** was cut through the subsoil; indeed, ceramic evidence and the presence of clay pipes suggest an early post medieval date for Feature **1007**.

Trench 11

- 3.2.5 Trench 11 was located in the south east part of the proposed development area and was oriented east-west (Figure 5; Section 1101). Immediately beneath a thin subsoil was a fine silt which was interpreted as headland material from ridge & furrow agriculture; it was not removed.

Trench 12

- 3.2.6 Trench 12 was located in the centre of the proposed development area and was oriented north west- south east (Figure 5). Two parallel features were present at the south end of the trench. Furrow **1203** was oriented north-south, 0.12m deep with a shallow profile; post medieval pottery was recovered from the fill. Ditch **1205** terminated adjacent to the south-west facing baulk of the trench; it was 0.9m wide and 0.12m deep and filled by a pale brown clay silt. No artefacts were recovered from **1205** despite it's being excavated 100%.

Trench 13

- 3.2.7 Trench 13 was located in the southern part of the proposed development area and was oriented east-west (Figure 5). A Furrow, **1303**, was located towards the west end of the trench; it was oriented north-south and was the equivalent of feature **1203** in Trench 12, immediately to the north.

Trench 14

- 3.2.8 Trench 14 was located in the centre of the proposed development area and oriented north-south (Figure 5 & 6). It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.8m.

- 3.2.9 Pit Cluster

At least two probable pits, located towards the north end of the trench, were identified immediately after machining of the trench. Following half-sectioning of pit **1405** (Plate 7) it was agreed that the trench should be extended from the east baulk, where archaeological features could be seen to continue, in order to fully expose those features (Plates 5 & 6).

- 3.2.10 Pit **1405** was circular and measured 1.6m in diameter and was 0.6m deep. It contained three fills: lower fill 1404 was a dark greyish brown sandy silt from which was recovered a substantial assemblage of Iron Age pottery, frequent charcoal flecks as well as some burnt bone, thought to be animal. Secondary fill 1403 was a greyish brown silty sand and also contained Iron Age pottery, as did upper fill 1402, a paler greyish brown.

- 3.2.11 Immediately to the south of pit **1405** were what appeared to be two further intercutting pits: **1414** & **1416**. No relationship was visible in plan; upon excavation they were found to be sub-circular and slightly irregular in shape, measuring no greater than 0.5m in diameter; both were 0.3m deep. Pit **1416** contained a shallow light greyish brown sandy silt primary or weathered fill, 1417; secondary fill 1415 was a greyish brown sandy silt which contained some charcoal flecks and 13 sherds of Iron Age pottery. Pit **1414** was located immediately north of the **1416**, but the two had no discernible relationship. It contained a single fill, 1413, a greyish brown sandy silt which yielded a few very small fragments of unidentified pottery.
- 3.2.12 Located immediately to the east of Pits **1414** & **1416** was another pair of poorly defined and intercutting pits: **1410** & **1412**. They were filled by a homogeneous greyish brown sandy silt; no relationship was visible in either plan or section; a single sherd of pottery was recovered from context 1409.
- 3.2.13 Pit **1408** was the only discrete feature within the pit cluster. It was located to the north and east of the other pits and sub-circular in plan. It contained two fairly homogeneous sandy silt fills, the uppermost of which (1406) contained two sherds of Iron Age pottery.
- 3.2.14 Feature **1419** was a relatively shallow cut and possible represents the base of a heavily truncated pit. It was sub-rectangular in plan and measured 0.3m by 0.15m and was 0.2m deep. No artefacts were recovered from Pit **1419**.

Trench 15

- 3.2.15 Trench 15 was located in the western part of the development area and oriented north east-south west (Figure 5 & 7). It was excavated to a depth of 0.6m beneath topsoil and subsoil.
- 3.2.16 Post Holes
- Towards the southern end of the trench three post holes were revealed.
- 3.2.17 Post hole **1508** was circular in plan and measured 0.65m in diameter; it was 0.12m deep and filled by a pale brown silt, 1507. A single sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered from 1507.
- 3.2.18 Immediately to the south was post hole **1510**. This was circular in plan and measured 0.5m in diameter. It was truncated on its east side by a modern field drain. It was filled by a pale brown silt, 1509, and yielded a single (broken) sherd of Iron Age pottery.
- 3.2.19 Post hole **1512** was located to the south of **1508** & **1510**. It was circular in plan, 0.4m in diameter and 0.07m deep; no artefacts were recovered from **1512**.

3.2.20 Fence Line / Enclosure

Towards the north of the trench was a narrow curvilinear gully or shallow ditch. Both ends extended beyond the western limit of the trench at a distance apart of 7.5m. It was agreed that the trench be extended to the west to reveal more of the gully and any features contained within, or enclosed by, it. Upon enlargement of the trench the ditch was seen to extend further to the south and west and formed a right angle (Plate 8). No features were present within the enclosed area .

- 3.2.21 Three slots were dug through the ditch: **1504**, **1506** and **1514**. It was filled by a relatively fine brown silt and consistently 0.25m wide and between 0.1m and 0.2m deep. The eastern extent was poorly defined and was difficult to identify; it may have terminated or have been truncated prior to machining. The only artefacts recovered from the ditch were a piece of oyster shell from **1506** and a sherd of medieval pottery found during cleaning of **1514**; this might have come from the base of the subsoil and, as such, does not definitively date the feature.

Trench 16

- 3.2.22 Trench 16 was located in the south west part of the proposed development area and was oriented east-west (Figure 5). It contained a single undated post hole towards the west end, **1603**; this was 0.25m in diameter and 0.1m deep; no artefacts were recovered from it.

Trench 17

- 3.2.23 Trench 17 was located in the east part of the proposed development area and was oriented north-south (Figure 5). A relatively wide furrow, oriented east-west, was located near the north end, **1703**. Three sherds of post medieval glazed pottery were recovered from the fill, a compact brown silty sand; it was overlain by subsoil 1701.

Watching Brief

- 3.2.24 Following the second phase of evaluation in the field to the south of the school a watching brief was conducted on the excavation of a cable trench. This was located to the south of Trenches 7, 8 & 9 and oriented east-west; it was 0.5m wide and at least 1m deep; no archaeological deposits, features or artefacts were seen during the excavation.

3.3 Finds Summary

Ceramics

Phase 1 (New Build)

- 3.3.1 There was a small medieval and post medieval ceramic assemblage from the six evaluation trenches opened in Phase 1. The majority of the sherds were small and relatively abraded and most of the medieval pottery was thought to be residual as it was found in context with later medieval or post medieval pottery (with only one exception. Some Roman pottery was recovered but this was clearly residual.
- 3.3.2 Two pieces of worked flint were recovered from the excavation of Pit **203** in evaluation Trench 2; these probably dated to the Bronze Age (2nd or 3rd millennium BC) and were residual.

Phase 2 (New Sports Pitches)

- 3.3.3 Excavated features in Trenches 14 and 15 produced Iron Age pottery. The majority of the assemblage was found in Pit **1405**: this was mostly shell or sand-with-shell tempered which is frequently found in mid to late Iron Age assemblages (3rd to 1st century BC); indeed, shell tempered pot is common in west Cambridgeshire and the Fenland basin (see Appendix B).

- 3.3.4 A single ceramic sherd may date from the Early Iron Age (c.5th century BC): this was recovered from Post Hole **1510** and is similar to fabrics from Langwood Farm, Chatteris (Evans, 2003); it was tempered with fine flints in contrast to the coarser Iron Age fabrics recovered at Tithe Barn Farm, Chatteris (Atkins, 2011).

Faunal Remains

- 3.3.5 Faunal remains were only recovered from Phase 1 of the Evaluation; the majority came from two complete burials, of a cow (305) and a sheep (247). They showed no obvious signs of disease or trauma but add credence to the argument that the development area was primarily pastoral. Both are thought to date from the post medieval period.

3.4 Environmental Summary

Phase 1 (New Build)

- 3.4.1 The plant assemblage was generally pretty sparse with the quality and quantity of the recovered sample material deemed insufficient to provide definitive conclusions (see Appendix C).

Phase 2 (New Sports Pitches)

- 3.4.2 The sampled remains from Pit **1405**, part of the pit cluster in Trench 14, were conspicuous because of the absence of any charred grains or plant remains from them. These fills contained cremated animal bone, small fragments of pottery as well as significant quantities of wood charcoal and burnt material. This is perhaps notable when considering the results from archaeological evaluation at Tithe Barn Farm to the south. The only Iron Age feature encountered there was an unurned cremation in a pit.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Phase 1

Pits / Retting pits

- 4.1.1 Aside from the clearly modern activity, most of the archaeological features were located on the east side of the trench where there was a notable alignment of feature(s) oriented north-south. Pit **203** was the only feature to be wholly visible in plan; others were either obscured, truncated or extended beyond the limits of excavation.
- 4.1.2 The shape, depth and profile of Pit **203** is suggestive of a retting pit or pond i.e. for the purposes of soaking flax plants in water in order to separate the fibres necessary for textile manufacture. This would have resulted in a potent and unpleasant smell and would typically be confined to marginal land and away from settlement. Indeed, textile manufacture might have been one of the activities undertaken by the Nunnery (or their tenants) attached to Chatteris Abbey, the precinct of which lies to the north of the site. The late 19th century enclosure map for Chatteris shows the location of the excavated area at the rear of tenements on Wenny Road, which is the southern limit of settlement on the island.
- 4.1.3 Such activity is dependent on water and it must be no coincidence that the majority of the features were dug below the water table, usually up to about 0.4m beneath the upper level of water. In fact, it is possible that the siting of the pits deliberately took advantage of a locally high water table: the augering of the bases of the waterlogged

features revealed the presence of thick natural clay immediately beneath the gravel through which the pits were dug, which would obviously retain water.

- 4.1.4 Although features **232** and **235** have been described separately features (indeed, **232** looked circular in plan) it is perhaps more appropriate to think of them as part of the same general linear feature supplying water to Pit **203** or perhaps another pit altogether. The edges in the excavated slot were very straight. However, if not specifically for craft production purposes, then these pits might simply be watering holes for cattle.
- 4.1.5 Pits **204** and **210** have an inconclusive relationship with **232** and **235** to the north (the drawn record showing only tentative interpretations). It is possible that evidence for a further cut was revealed in the excavated slot with the base of another cut lower than the others in to the clay (Feature **271**).

Ditch & discrete features

- 4.1.6 Ditch **248**, located in the south east corner of the trench, was clearly seen to truncate the upper fill of Pit **203** (see Section 12) and possibly post dates the infilling of all intercutting features on site. This is supported by the ceramic evidence: several sherds of post medieval red wares were recovered from fill 249 as well as some residual medieval sandy wares.
- 4.1.7 Other features located immediately to the south of Ditch **248** are likely to be relatively, if not directly, contemporary: Post Hole **253** yielded a single sherd of probable 16th century pottery and animal burial **245** contained a fragment of post medieval brick.
- 4.1.8 The presence of two animal burials reinforces the interpretation of the area as marginal and/or pastoral land. The stakes or posts which were erected prior to the infilling of Pit **203** might represent an enclosure or corral, around an existing watering hole in the post medieval or modern period(s).

Modern Feature

- 4.1.9 The large cuts within the central part of the trench (**212** & **222** as well as smaller pit **228**) probably represents a pond, or large watering hole. The material found within the fill was modern and suggests not only that it was deliberately backfilled, but also that it might have occurred as late as the 20th century, and conceivably during the construction of the first school on the site in the 1930s. Like the previous pits its primary function was probably a watering hole, sufficiently far away from any settlement areas.

4.2 Phase 2

Prehistoric Settlement & Activity in Trenches 14 & 15

- 4.2.1 Evaluation of arable land immediately to the south of the school revealed a concentration of prehistoric archaeology around Trenches 14 and 15; Trenches 8, 16 and 12 also contained archaeological features of an unknown, and therefore conceivably prehistoric, date. Pit **1405** in Trench 14 contained a significant Iron Age pottery assemblage as well as small amounts of cremated bone. The pottery was particularly fresh and it is plausible to suggest that it was deposited deliberately within the pit rather than simply being refuse. Interestingly, soil samples taken from within the fills of Pit **1405** are devoid of any charred grains; this is particularly unusual, especially considering that the samples contained charcoal and cremated bone, indicative of domestic activities.

- 4.2.2 The pits recorded in Trench 15 both contained Iron Age pottery with one of the sherds conceivably being Early Iron Age (however this perhaps should be considered unlikely considering the remainder of the site assemblage is Middle (or later) Iron Age). The gully within the extended part of Trench 15 either represents a small bedding trench for a fence line or the base of a shallow enclosure ditch. It was not conclusively dated: the single sherd of pottery, broadly identified to the medieval period, was found in the upper part of the fill in slot **514** where the feature could be seen to truncate the surrounding subsoil (Plate 8), so was not from a secure location. The absence of any material or features from within the enclosed area as well as the relatively insubstantial size of the gully suggests that it was not primarily for settlement.
- 4.2.3 The presence of the pit cluster in Trench 14, as well as post holes at the south end of Trench 15 conforms to patterns already recorded in fieldwork located immediately to the south of the proposed development area around Tithe Barn Farm (Atkins, 2011). Here concentrations of Iron Age (and later) activity were revealed across a large area.
- 4.2.4 In the light of these discoveries the undated post holes revealed in Trench 6 of the first phase of evaluation could also conceivably be prehistoric in date (Figure 3).

The Surrounding Settlement Context

- 4.2.5 Archaeological evidence for prehistoric settlement is best understood when it is analysed in context. To this end it is useful to highlight some of the archaeology found during the recent Tithe Barn Farm evaluation which is pertinent to the results of this evaluation.
- 4.2.6 A cluster of five pits was discovered c.200m to the north of Tithe Barn Farm; these were interpreted as watering holes; three of these were dated to the Middle Bronze Age while the remaining two were assigned an Iron Age date. Two further pits were found nearby, one of which was charcoal rich and yielded 20 sherds of Middle Bronze Age pottery, a relatively large assemblage. These features are similar in character, if not in function, to those pits discovered in Trench 14.
- 4.2.7 It can be stated, with reasonable confidence (from the results of both Evaluations), that there exists evidence for Bronze and Iron Age settlement (and later) along the west edge of an extant north-south oriented palaeochannel located to the east of both Cromwell Community College and Tithe Barn Farm. This former water course was revealed by geophysical survey (Figure 1) and it's estimated that at the time of prehistoric activity this would have been largely inactive and partially silted up; seasonal or occasional running water might have been attractive to prehistoric communities (providing field drainage and access to water) and could possibly have influenced the siting of any settlement, funerary activity and field systems.
- 4.2.8 The archaeology revealed within the proposed development area represents another discrete area of Iron Age settlement, less than 1km north of that identified in the Tithe Barn Farm Evaluation to the south.

Ridge and Furrow

- 4.2.9 Trenches 9, 10 and 11 were located over a wide rise in ground level, approximately 50m wide and 0.5m high. This was oriented north – south and represents the remains of a headland of material created by ridge & furrow agricultural methods. It cannot be conclusively dated but is likely to date to the medieval or post medieval periods. This has the potential to mask known existing Roman and prehistoric archaeology in the vicinity but none was revealed beneath the headland.

4.3 Significance

Phase 1

- 4.3.1 The results of this evaluation suggest that textile production (or at least part of the process) was occurring on marginal fen land during the medieval period. This had ceased by the late medieval or early post medieval period as the features used had been left to infill. This interpretation does not significantly alter previous assumptions made about this part of the Chatteris island: that the location was marginal throughout the medieval period when settlement was concentrated to the north with the Fen edge being devoid of evidence for anything but ridge and furrow agriculture. No evidence for Roman or prehistoric activity (other than two pieces of residual prehistoric flint) was revealed during the excavation.
- 4.3.2 The results of this evaluation contribute to the picture of this part of the Chatteris island during the late and post medieval periods. Several other pieces of fieldwork have already noted activity from this date within the vicinity of the proposed development area (CHERs 19264; 17442; MCB 17368 -see Paragraph 1.3)

Phase 2

- 4.3.3 This evaluation has revealed evidence for probable Iron Age settlement, in the form of pits and post holes, close to the Fen Edge, on the southern side of the Island of Chatteris. The recent large scale evaluation of land surrounding Tithe Barn Farm recovered evidence for Middle Bronze Age, and later activity, (this comprises all land immediately to the south and east of the proposed development area; Atkins, 2011). Considered together, the results of both evaluations can shed light on the nature, size, date and frequency of prehistoric settlement on the south part of the Chatteris island.
- 4.3.4 Further remains of ridge and furrow agriculture has been recorded which has the potential to mask known existing Roman and prehistoric archaeology; however none was revealed beneath the headland in the eastern part of the proposed development area.

4.4 Recommendations

- 4.4.1 Further watching briefs and mitigation work will depend on the impact depth of the new sports pitches and associated drainage (Phase 2, MUGA).
- 4.4.2 Recommendations for all future work will be made by the Cambridgeshire County Archaeology Office.

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of sandy gravel				Avg. depth (m)		0.8
				Width (m)		1.6
				Length (m)		16
Contexts						
Context	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
100	Layer	-	0.24	Topsoil	-	-
101	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil, brown sandy silt	-	-

Trench 2						
General description				Orientation		NWW-SEE
Trench contained archaeological features at the centre and east end. These were investigated, after which the trench was extended to form a small open area excavation.				Avg. depth (m)		0.8
				Width (m)		1.6
				Length (m)		14
Context	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
200						
201	Layer		0.1	Topsoil	Pot	
202	fill	2	0.85	Fill of Pit 203; <i>Sample 1</i>	Pot, bone	
203	cut			Pit, filled by 202		
204	cut	2.5	1	Pit		
205	fill	2	0.8	Fill of Pit 204; <i>Sample 2</i>	flint	
206	fill		0.25	Fill of Pit 204; <i>Sample 3</i>		
207	cut	1.5	1	Pit		
208	fill		0.1	Fill of Pit 207		
209	fill		0.8	Fill of Pit 207		
210	cut			Pit		
211	fill			Fill of Pit 210	CBM	
212	cut	3	1.15	Pit		
213	fill		1.15	Fill of Pit 212	CBM, pot, bone, fired clay	
214	fill	0.3	0.08	Fill of Post hole 215		
215	cut	0.3	0.08	Post hole		
216	fill		0.05	Fill of Post hole 217		
217	cut	0.2	0.05	Post hole		
218	fill		0.05	Fill of Post hole 219		
219	cut	0.3	0.05	Post hole		
220	fill			Grey fill in base of sondage	flint	

Context	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
221	fill			Fill of Pit 222	CBM	
222	cut			Pit		
223	fill			Grey clay around stake		
224	fill	2	0.08	Fill of Furrow 225	pot	Post Medieval
225	cut	2	0.08	Furrow		
226	fill		0.3	Fill of Pit 228	pot	
227	fill	2.1	0.45	Fill of Pit 228		
228	cut	1.8	0.75	Pit		
229	fill			Fill of Pit 232	pot	Medieval – C14th?
230	fill			Fill of Pit 232; <i>Sample 4</i>		
231	fill			Fill of Pit 232		
232	cut			Cut		
233	fill			Fill of Feature 235		
234	fill			Fill of Feature 235		
235	cut			Cut		
236	fill	0.75	0.3	Fill of Post hole 237		
237	cut	0.75	0.3	Post hole		
238	fill		0.2	Fill of Pit 239		
239	cut	0.48	0.2	Pit		
240	fill		0.38	Fill of Post hole 242	bone	
241	fill		0.1	Fill of Post hole 242		
242	cut	0.65	0.48	Post hole		
243	fill	1.45	0.05	Fill of Furrow 244	pot	Medieval (12 th /13 th century)
244	cut			Furrow		
245	cut	0.45	0.3	Grave	CBM, pot	Post medieval (with residual Med pot)
246	fill	0.45	0.3	Fill of Grave 245		
247				Skeleton	bone	
248	cut	1.7	0.4	Ditch		
249		1.7	0.4	Fill of Ditch 248	CBM, bone	Post medieval
250	cut	0.7	0.7	Ditch		
251	fill		0.4	Fill of Ditch 250; <i>Sample 5</i>		
252	fill		0.3	Fill of Ditch 250		
253	cut		0.22	Post hole		
254	fill		0.22	Fill of Post hole 253; <i>Sample 6</i>	Pot, slag	Late/Post Medieval – C16th?
255	cut	0.15	0.1	Post hole		
256	fill		0.1	Fill of Post hole 255		
257	cut	0.5	0.25			
258	fill			Fill of 257		

Context	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	Finds	Date
259	cut			Pit		
260	fill			Fill of pit 259	Pot	
261	fill		0.36	Fill of Post hole 263; <i>Sample 7</i>		
262	fill		0.1	Fill of Post hole 263		
263	cut	0.4	0.46	Post hole		
264	cut	0.8	0.35	Ditch		
266	fill	1.05	0.29	Pit		
267	fill	1.06	0.25	Pit	Pot, bone	
268	fill	1.66	0.58	Pit	bone	
269	fill	0.44	0.45	Pit	pot	Late Medieval (C14th) small Post Med sherd
270	fill	1.9	0.16	Pit		
271	cut	0.3	0.06	Pit		
272	fill		0.1	Pit 203	bone	
273	fill			Pit 203	Pot, bone	Medieval 1200-1500
274	fill			Fill of Ditch 203; <i>Sample 8</i>		

Trench 3						
General description				Orientation	NNW-SSE	
Trench contained a cow inhumation towards the north end, otherwise contained no archaeological deposits.				Avg. depth (m)	0.6	
				Width (m)	1.6	
				Length (m)	13	
Contexts						
Context	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	finds	date
301	Layer		0.15	Topsoil		
302	Layer		0.26	Subsoil		
303	Cut	0.8	0.1	Grave		
304	Fill	0.8		Fill of [303]	Pot , glass	Post Medieval?
305	Skeleton			Cow Skeleton	bone	

Trench 4						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of sandy gravel with occasional clay patches.				Avg. depth (m)		0.7
				Width (m)		1.6
				Length (m)		16
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
400	Layer		0.2	Topsoil		
401	Layer		0.5	Subsoil		

Trench 5						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of soil and subsoil overlying a natural of silty clay.				Avg. depth (m)		0.7
				Width (m)		1.6
				Length (m)		19
Context	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Commnet	Finds	Date
500	Layer		0.3	Topsoil		
501	Layer		0.4	Subsoil		

Trench 7						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Geology consisted of gravel with clay patches.				Avg. depth (m)		0.5
				Width (m)		2
				Length (m)		50
Context	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	finds	date
700	Layer		0.36	Topsoil		
701	Layer		0.22	Subsoil		

Trench 8						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained a single post hole. Geology consisted of gravel with clay patches.					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Context	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	finds	date
800	Layer		0.34	Topsoil		
801	Layer		0.2	Subsoil		
802	Fill			Fill of 803	-	Unknown
803	Cut	0.6		Cut of post hole		Unknown

Trench 9						
General description					Orientation	SW-NE
Trench located over silty Ridge & Furrow headland. No other archaeology was revealed.					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Context	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	finds	date
900	Layer		0.4	Topsoil		
901	Layer		0.1	Subsoil		
902	Layer		0.2	Headland material		Post medieval

Trench 10						
General description					Orientation	SE-NW
Trench located over Ridge & Furrow headland but machined to sandy gravel geology. Contained a possible ditch [1007].					Avg. depth (m)	0.6
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Context	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	finds	date
1000	Layer		0.4	Topsoil		
1001	Layer		0.3	Subsoil		
1002	Fill			Fill of 1003		Post - medieval
1003	Cut	0.8	0.12	Cut of ditch?		Post - medieval
1004	Fill			Fill of 1007	Pot	17 th century
1005	Fill			Fill of 1007		Post - medieval
1006	Fill			Fill of 1007		Post - medieval
1007	Cut	3	0.7	Cut of ditch		Post - medieval

Trench 11						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology and located on Ridge & Furrow headland.					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Context	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	finds	date
1100	Layer		0.4	Topsoil		
1101	Layer		0.12	Subsoil		

Trench 12						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained a linear ditch and furrow. Geology consisted of silty, sandy gravels.					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Context	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	finds	date
1200	Layer		0.2	Topsoil		
1201	Layer		0.3	Subsoil		
1202	Fill			Fill of 1203	-	Post - medieval
1203	Cut	1	0.15	Cut of Furrow		Post - medieval
1204	Fill			Fill of 1205	-	Unknown / Prehistoric?
1205	Cut	0.7	0.1	Cut of Ditch		Unknown / Prehistoric?

Trench 13						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Geology consisted of silty sands and gravels.					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Context	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	finds	date
1300	Layer		0.4			
1301	Layer		0.16m			

Trench 14						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contained a 'pit cluster'. Geology consisted of silty & sandy gravels.					Avg. depth (m)	0.7
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Context	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	finds	date
1400	Layer		0.4	Topsoil		
1401	Layer		0.4	Subsoil		
1402	Fill		0.18	Fill of 1405	Pottery	Iron Age
1403	Fill		0.28	Fill of 1405; <i>Sample 103</i>	Pottery	Iron Age
1404	Fill		0.2	Fill of 1405; <i>Sample 102</i>	Pottery & burnt bone	Iron Age
1405	Cut	0.65	0.62	Cut of Pit		Iron Age
1406	Fill			Fill of 1408; <i>Sample 105</i>	Pottery	Iron Age
1407	Fill			Fill of 1408		Iron Age
1408	Cut	0.9	0.3	Cut of Pit		Iron Age
1409	Fill			Fill of 1410; <i>Sample 104</i>		Iron Age
1410	Cut	1.2	0.17	Cut of Pit		Iron Age
1411	Fill			Fill of 1412		Iron Age
1412	Cut	0.7	0.15	Cut of Pit		Iron Age
1413	Fill			Fill of 1414	Pottery	Iron Age
1414	Cut	0.6	0.16	Cut of Pit		Iron Age
1415	Fill			Fill of 1417; <i>Sample 106</i>	Pottery	Iron Age
1416	Cut		0.32	Cut of Pit		Iron Age
1417	Fill		0.1	Fill of Pit 1416		Iron Age
1418	Fill			Fill of 1419		Iron Age
1419	Cut	0.5	0.1	Cut of Pit		Iron Age

Trench 15						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained two post holes and a fence line or enclosure ditch. Geology consisted of sandy gravels.					Avg. depth (m)	0.6
					Width (m)	2m
					Length (m)	50
Context	Type	Width	Depth	Comment	finds	date
1500	Layer		0.35	Topsoil		
1501	Layer		0.25	Subsoil		
1502	Fill	0.6	0.11	Fill of 1508	-	
1503	Fill	0.25	0.1	Fill of 1504	-	
1504	Cut	0.25	0.1	Cut of Gully		

1505	Fill	0.25	0.05	Fill of 1506	-	
1506	Cut	0.25	0.05	Cut of Gully		
1507	Fill	0.5	0.12	Fill of 1508; <i>Sample 101</i>	Pottery (1 sherd)	Iron Age
1508	Cut	0.6	0.23	Cut of Post Hole		
1509	Fill	0.4	0.09	Fill of 1510	Pottery	Iron Age
1510	Cut	0.4	0.09	Cut of Post Hole		
1511	Fill	0.25	0.07	Fill of 1512	-	
1512	Cut	0.25	0.07	Cut of Post Hole		
1513	Fill	0.25	0.11	Fill of 1514	Pottery	?
1514	Cut	0.25	0.11	Cut of Gully		

Trench 16						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained single post hole. Geology consisted of sandy gravels with clay patches.					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Context	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	finds	date
1600	Layer		0.3	Topsoil		
1601	Layer		0.25	Subsoil		
1602	Fill		0.2	Fill of 1603		
1603	Cut	0.28	0.2	Cut of Pit		

Trench 17						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Blank trench save for one furrow. Geology consisted of gravel with clay patches.					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
					Width (m)	2
					Length (m)	50
Context	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Comment	finds	date
1700	Layer		0.3	Topsoil		
1701	Layer		0.2	Subsoil		
1702	Fill	3.2	0.2	Fill of 1703	Pottery	Post-Medieval
1703	Cut	3.2	0.2	Cut of Furrow		Post - medieval

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

Post Roman Pottery – Phase 1 (New Sports Pitches)

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction and methodology

B.1.1 Archaeological evaluation produced a small pottery assemblage of 63 sherds, weighing 1.666kg. This total incorporates material from topsoil and unstratified contexts. The assemblage is discussed by Trench and includes material from both Phase 1 and 2 of the evaluation.

Ceramic Fabric Abbreviations used in the text and summary dating table are as follows:

<i>Fabric</i>	<i>Fabric name</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Weight (kg)</i>
BCHIN	Bone China	1	0.085
EMWT	Early Medieval Type ware	1	0.004
HEDI	Sible Hedingham Ware	1	0.007
LMO	Late Medieval Oxidised Ware	1	0.032
LMR/LMRT	Late Medieval Reduced Ware/Late Medieval Reduced Ware Type	3	0.09
LYST	Lyveden-Stanion Ware	1	0.001
MEL	Medieval Ely Ware	1	0.004
MSW	Medieval Sandy Ware	5	0.070
PEARL	Pearl Ware	2	0.115
PMBL	Post Medieval Black Glazed Ware	6	0.555
PMR	Post Medieval Redware	16	0.356
RFE (CBODY)	Refined EarthenWare (Coloured Body)	1	0.007
RFEW	Refined White Earthenware	13	0.171
RFWE	Refined White Earthenware	1	0.004
ROSW	Roman Oxidised Sandy Ware	2	0.004
ROW	Roman Oxidised Ware	1	0.003
RSHW	Roman Shelly Ware	1	0.003
RSW	Reduced Sandy Ware	1	0.005
RSW	Sandy Grey Ware	1	0.004
STMO	Staffordshire Mottled Ware	1	0.046
TGW	Tin Glazed Earthenware	1	0.003
TRAN	Transitional Redware	1	0.035
YELL	Yellow Ware	1	0.059

Table 1

The total stratified assemblage comprises 63 sherds, weighing 1.666kg. Material is recorded in the context summary dating table (Table 1).

B.1.2 The material recovered is domestic in nature and the bulk of the assemblage is post-medieval and late 18th-19th century in date. A single sherd of early medieval pottery (mid 11th - end of 12th century) was identified, while medieval pottery (mid 12th - to mid 14th century) and late medieval sherds (mid 14th - end of 15th century) were also present.

- B.1.3 Much of the medieval material is residual; a small number of Roman sherds were present in the assemblage, again, residual in nature, in the cow burial **303**, as well as a single abraded sherd of oxidised sandy ware (the only pottery recovered) from Pit **259**.
- B.1.4 The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) documents *A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG, 1998) and *Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics* (MPRG, 2001) act as a standard.
- B.1.5 Dating was carried out using OA East's in-house system based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described medieval and post-medieval types. All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed. All the pottery has been recorded and dated on a context-by-context basis.

The pottery and archive are curated by OA East until formal deposition.

Assemblage

Phase 1: Trench 2 & Extension

- B.1.6 From the topsoil in Trench 2 were recovered post medieval pottery sherds, a bowl rim from a PMBL vessel and the base sherd from a PMR jar, alongside two small abraded Roman sherds. Pit **259** also produced a small sherd of abraded Roman pottery.
- B.1.7 Trench 2 and its extension also contained a number of features that produced medieval and later pottery. Pit **203** produced the only sherd of early medieval pottery (EMTW) recovered from the excavation, alongside a sherd of medieval sandy ware which can only be broadly dated to the medieval period (mid 12th to to late 15th century). Late medieval pottery was recovered from Pit **204**, which contained a flat base sherd from an LMRT vessel (mid 14th to late 15th century) and Pit **232** which also produced unabraded late medieval pottery, a rim sherd from an LMR bowl and a base sherd from TRAN bowl.
- B.1.8 Pit **210** produced a rim sherd from a late medieval bowl and a small sherd (0.002kg) from a PMBL drinking vessel (17th century). It is possible that the PMBL sherd is intrusive and that the feature may date to the mid 14th to late 15th century. Furrow **244** produced a rim sherd from medieval sandy ware jar (12th - mid 13th century)
- B.1.9 The remainder of the post-Roman assemblage from Trench 2 was recovered from post-medieval features. Pit **212** produced 30 sherds of post-medieval and late 18th - 19th century pottery. This included sherds from three PMBL vessels (17th - 18th century) including a large rim sherd from a handled jar and PMR jar sherds. Also present was a base sherd from a Staffordshire mottled ware drinking vessel (18th century) and a small abraded sherd of tin-glazed earthenware (17th or 18th century). The pit assemblage also produced a mixture of refined earthenwares including CREA, PEARL, transfer printed RFWE, a bone china saucer with blue sprigged decoration (19th century) and a rim sherd from a moulded yellow ware mixing bowl. The overall date for the feature is early to mid 19th century.
- B.1.10 Pit **228** produced two sherds from PMR vessels, a handle from a RFWE cup and a small sherd from a 19th century teapot, a body sherd pierced to allow the liquid to be poured through the now missing spout.

- B.1.11 Ditch **248** produced a mixed assemblage of medieval, late medieval, post-medieval pottery and a small intrusive sherd of 19th century RFWE. Medieval pottery recovered was an abraded sherd of reduced sandy ware which is not closely datable, a glazed body sherd from a MEL jug, a small fragment of unglazed LYST and HEDI. A single sherd of LMR was also recovered alongside post-medieval redware sherds. The features fills can be dated to the 16th to the end of the 18th century. Post hole **253** produced a single sherd of PMR

Phase 1 (New Build): Trench 3

- B.1.12 A single feature from Trench 3, Pit **303**, which contained a complete cow skeleton, produced a sherd of medieval sandy ware which can only be broadly dated to the medieval period (mid 12th to to late 15th century) alongside two residual abraded Roman sherds.

Phase 2 (New Sports Pitches): Trenches 10, 12 & 15

- B.1.13 Ditch **1007** in Trench 10 produced a splayed base sherd from a 17th century PMBL drinking vessel.
- B.1.14 Furrow **1203**, in Trench 12, produced a sherd of medieval sandy ware which can only be broadly dated to the medieval period (mid 12th to the late 15th century) alongside a rim sherd from a PMR jar.
- B.1.15 In Trench 15 Gully **1514** also produced a sherd of medieval sandy ware which can only be broadly dated to the medieval period (mid 12th to late 15th century).

Provenance, fabric and form

- B.1.16 The assemblage is a mix of medieval local fabrics MSW, MEL and pottery from the surrounding counties, including, HEDI (Essex) and LYST (Northamptonshire). Late medieval fabrics present are LMR and LMO (Northamptonshire) the post-medieval PMR may have originated in Essex or from the post-medieval redware kilns at Ely and the PMBL from similar sources. The STOMO later refined earthenwares are from the Staffordshire potteries and other production areas in and around the Midlands industrial heartland.
- B.1.17 Forms recognised are jars and jugs and a number of bowls, while also present are drinking vessels and a teapot.

Discussion

- B.1.18 Although the assemblage is domestic in nature the site appears not to have been occupied during any phase of post-Roman activity. The low levels of early medieval, medieval and late medieval pottery indicates that the domestic activity represented by this pottery was occurring outside the area of excavation. The abraded nature of many of the sherds suggests the site was used for non-domestic purposes with some degree of rubbish deposition or pottery redistributed by middening and manuring throughout the medieval period into the post-medieval period, with renewed activity in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Assessment Dating by Context

Context	Fabric	Form	Count	Weight (kg)	Date range
200	PMBL	Bowl	1	0.046	Topsoil Not closely datable
	PMR	Jar	1	0.037	
	RSHW		1	0.003	
	RSW	Jar	1	0.005	
202	EMWT	Jar	1	0.004	Mid 11th to end of 12th century
213	BCHIN	Bowl	1	0.085	Early to Mid 19th century
	PEARL	Bowl	2	0.115	
	PMBL	Bowl	2	0.05	
	PMBL	Jar	1	0.434	
	PMR		2	0.026	
	PMR	Jar	7	0.203	
	RFEW		1	0.009	
	RFEW	Bowl	11	0.161	
	STMO	Drinking Vessel	1	0.046	
	TGW	Bowl	1	0.003	
	YELL	Bowl	1	0.059	
226	PMR		1	0.01	19th century
	PMR	Jar	1	0.024	
	RFE (CBODY)	Tea pot	1	0.007	
	RFWE	Drinking Vessel	1	0.004	
229	TRAN	Bowl	1	0.035	15th to 16th century
230	LMR	Bowl	1	0.07	Mid 14th to late 15th century
243	MSW	Jar	1	0.026	Mid 12th to mid 13th century
249	HEDI		1	0.007	16th to 18th century
	LMR		1	0.007	
	LYST		1	0.001	
	MEL	Jug	1	0.004	
	PMR		1	0.004	
	PMR	Jar	1	0.02	
	RFEW		1	0.001	
	RSW	Jar	1	0.004	
254	PMR		1	0.005	16th to 18th century
260	ROSW		1	0.002	Roman
267	LMRT		1	0.016	Mid 14th to late 15th century
269	LMO	Bowl	1	0.032	17th century or Mid 14th to late 15th century
	PMBL	Drinking Vessel	1	0.002	
273	MSW		1	0.024	Mid 12th to late 15th century
304	MSW		1	0.003	Mid 12th to late 15th century
	ROSW		1	0.002	
	ROW		1	0.003	

1004	PMBL	Drinking Vessel	1	0.023	17th century
1202	MSW		1	0.002	16th to 18th century
1202	PMR	Jar	1	0.027	16th to 18th century
1513	MSW		1	0.015	Mid 12th to late 15th century

Table 2: Pottery Dating by Context

Bibliography

Medieval Pottery Research Group	1	<i>A Guide to the Classification of Medieval Ceramic Forms.</i> Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 1
Medieval Pottery Research Group	2	<i>Minimum Standards for the Processing, Recording, Analysis and Publication of Post-Roman Ceramics</i> Medieval Pottery Research Group Occasional Paper 2

B.2 Prehistoric Pottery – Phase 2

By Sarah Percival

Introduction

- B.2.1 A small assemblage of Iron Age pottery was recovered from evaluation trenches 14 and 15. A total of 150 sherds weighing 999g, were found in the fills of six features mostly pits and postholes. A single sherd of possible Iron Age date weighing 1g came from Trench 12 and two pieces of non-prehistoric pottery and a scrap of fired clay came from Trench 17.

Methodology

- B.2.2 The assemblage was analysed in accordance with recommendations suggested in *The Study of Prehistoric Pottery: General Policies and Guidelines for Analysis and Publication* specified by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (PCRG 2010). The total assemblage was studied and a full catalogue was prepared. The sherds were examined using a binocular microscope (x10 magnification) and were divided into fabric groups defined on the basis of inclusion types. Fabric codes were prefixed by a letter code representing the main inclusion type (F representing flint, G grog, S shell and Q quartz). Vessel form was recorded; R representing rim sherds, B base sherds, D decorated sherds. PP partial profile, CP complete profile and U undecorated body sherds. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Decoration, surface treatment, residues and abrasion were also noted. The pottery and archive are curated by OAE.

Fabric

- B.2.3 Three main fabric types were identified (Table 3). A fine, flint-tempered fabric may be earlier Iron Age. The single flint-tempered sherd, broken into three pieces, came from a posthole in Trench 15. Previous excavations at Langwood Farm, Chatteris have recovered substantial assemblages of earlier Iron Age pottery in similar flint-tempered fabric (Cathie and Hill, 2000). The fabric contains fine flint pieces and is unlike the PDR sherds found at Chatteris Tithe Barn Farm.

B.2.4 The majority of the assemblage, from the pit group in Trench 14, is shell or sand-with-shell tempered (Table 1). Previous mid to later Iron Age assemblages found in Chatteris are predominantly shell-tempered (Cathie and Hill, 2000). The underlying geology around Chatteris comprises Ampthill clays which naturally contain fossil shell and most likely provide the source for the shell-tempered wares. Shell-tempering is ubiquitous within Iron Age assemblages from the west of Cambridgeshire and around the Fen basin, in keeping with the areas of shelly clay geology.

Fabric Code	Description	Quantity	Weight (g)
F1	Dense fine flint pieces in a sandy matrix	3	20
Q	Undiagnostic sand tempered	1	
QSI	Common rounded quartz sand with moderate fine-to-medium shell & platy voids	83	
S1	Dense fine-to-medium shell pieces	49	
S2	Dense medium-to-large shell pieces	15	
Total		151	1000

Table 3. Quantity & Weight of Pottery by Fabric

Form

B.2.5 The assemblage contains rims from two vessels and bases from six. The rim sherds both have rounded rim endings. One is from a closed jar with medium-length, upright neck and rounded shoulder, The shoulder is enhanced with an applied cordon decorated with sparse fingertip impressions similar to examples from Wandlebury (Hartley 1957, fig.8, 45). The second rim is from an open vessel with medium upright neck (Hartley 1957, fig.7, 2). Base forms include three undecorated, simple base angles, two pinched-out or flared examples and one foot-ring base (Hartley 1957, fig.7, 34). The sixth base has no surviving base angle and cannot be assigned to a type. Pedestal bases are found at Wandlebury (Hartley 1957, fig.7, 16) and Linton (Fell 1953, Fig. 4, 28) and are believed to have been in use until the 4th century BC (Sealy undated). One sherd, from a closed globular vessel, has an applied un-pierced lug. The lug again finds parallel within the Wandlybury assemblage, although these examples are pierced (Hartly 1957, fig.8, 68). Lugs are also found at Linton (Fell 1953, fig.5, 32) Fordham Bypass (S Percival forthcoming) and Langwade Road, Fordham (Braddock and Hill forthcoming). Lugs are found on contemporary assemblages from Suffolk but have not been widely found in Norfolk.

Distribution

B.2.6 The bulk of pottery was found in the fills of four pits in Trench 14, with over 82% coming from a single pit [1405] (Table 4). The deposition of the pottery is typical of many Iron Age sites in East Anglia comprising incomplete, fragmentary vessels derived from domestic occupation. The pottery does not represent the complete assemblage as used at the site and may represent a sample selected from a primary deposit, perhaps a midden. The pattern seen here, with one pit containing a substantial assemblage whilst others contain little or no pottery is repeated at many sites and may reflect slight differences in the time between when the pottery was used and its eventual deposition within the pit fills, similar to that postulated for the earlier prehistoric pit groups at Kilverstone, Norfolk (Garrow *et al* 2006).

Feature	Quantity	Quantity (%)	Weight (g)	Weight (%)
1405	117	77.48	827	82.7
1408	7	4.64	41	4.1
1410	9	5.96	44	4.4
1416	13	8.61	55	5.5
1508	1	0.66	12	1.2
1510	3	1.99	20	2
1204	1	0.66	1	0.1
Total	151	100	1000	100

Table 4. Quantity & Weight of Pottery by Feature

Discussion

- B.2.7 The assemblage contains a small flint-tempered component which is likely to be of earlier Iron Age date comparable with the other early pottery found in the parish (Cathie and Hill, 2000). The majority of the sherds, found within the pit group in Trench 14, are similar to pottery from Wandlebury, one of the site types for Cunliffe's Chinnor-Wandlebury group and dated by him to the fifth to third centuries BC (Cunliffe 2010, fig A:12). The presence of the pottery suggests domestic activity at the site during the mid/late Iron Age culminating in the digging and infilling of pits with selected domestic debris.

Recommendations for further work

- B.2.8 No further work is required on the assemblage however further excavations at the site would almost certainly produce pottery of interest.

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B.3 Faunal Remains – Phase 1

Introduction

- B.3.1 Twelve kilograms of faunal material was recovered from the first phase of evaluation at Cromwell Community College, Chatteris yielding 275 “countable” bones (see below) with 200 identifiable to species (72% of the total sample). All bones were collected by hand apart from those recovered from environmental samples; hence a bias towards smaller fragments is to be expected. Residuality appears not to be an issue and there is no evidence of later contamination of any context. Faunal material was mostly recovered from pits and layers largely dated to the mid to late Medieval and post medieval periods.

Methodology

- B.3.2 All data was initially recorded using a specially written MS Access database. Bones were recorded using a version of the criteria described in Davis (1992) and Albarella & Davis (1994). Initially all elements were assessed in terms of siding (where appropriate), completeness, tooth wear stages (also where applicable) and epiphyseal fusion. Completeness was assessed in terms of percentage and zones present (after Dobney & Reilly, 1988). Initially the whole identifiable assemblage was quantified in terms of number of individual fragments (NISP) and minimum numbers of individuals MNI. The ageing of the population was largely achieved by examining the wear stages of cheek teeth of cattle, sheep/goat and pig (after Grant, 1982). Wear stages were recorded for lower molars of cattle, sheep/goat and pig, both isolated and in mandibles. The states of epiphyseal fusion for all relevant bones were recorded to give a broad age range for the major domesticates (after Getty, 1975). Measurements were largely carried out according to the conventions of von den Driesch (1976). Measurements were either carried out using a 150mm sliding calliper or an osteometric board in the case of larger bones.

The Assemblage

- B.3.3 The majority of the identifiable material comprises intact cattle and sheep burials from contexts **305** and **247** respectively. Although no head was recovered, the cattle burial was of an adult steer around 1.2m at the shoulder. The sheep from context **247** was a polled (hornless) female around 4-6 years of age at death, with a withers height of around 64cm. A fragmentary pig burial was recovered from context **202**, consisting of cranial and lower limb fragments from a juvenile animal around 2-6 months old.

Other identifiable remains were scarce, consisting of fragmentary cattle and sheep lower limb elements. Two horse metapodials were recovered from contexts **240** and **273**, from animals 15 ½ and 14 hands high respectively.

Conclusion

- B.3.4 Aside from the burials this is a small assemblage that most likely represents general occupation debris. The animal burials are probably of post medieval date and possibly represent casualties of disease.

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APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

C.1 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction and Methods

- 4.4.1 Environmental soil samples were taken from two phases of excavation at Cromwell College, Chatteris. Eight bulk samples were in Phase 1 and a further six samples were taken from Phase 2 from features within the excavated areas of the site in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. Features sampled include pits, post holes and a ditch dating to the medieval and post medieval period in Phase 1 and Iron Age pits in Phase 2.
- 4.4.2 One bucket (up to ten litres of each sample were processed by water flotation (using a modified Siraff three-tank system) for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The 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 Tables below. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands and the authors' own reference collection.

4.5 Results

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Flot Contents	Residue Contents
1	202	203	Pit	Occasional elderberry seeds	Animal bone
2	205	204	Pit	Single charred wheat grain	No finds
3	206	204	Pit	Sparse charcoal only	Small bone (amphibian, rodent or fish)
4	230	232	Pit	Two charred wheat grains, fragment of legume, sparse charcoal	Small bones
5	252	250	Pit	Elderberry seeds, waterlogged roots	Animal bone, small bones
6	254	253	Post hole	Elderberry, duckweed and blackberry seeds	Animal bones, small bones
7	261	263	Post hole	Single indeterminate charred grain, elderberry seeds, waterlogged roots	Animal bones, pottery
8	274	203	Ditch	Elderberry, and blackberry seeds	Small bones

Table 5. Environmental Results from Phase 1

Sample No.	Context	Cut	Feature Type	Flot Contents	Residue Contents
------------	---------	-----	--------------	---------------	------------------

	No.	No.			
101	1507	1508	Pit / Post Hole	charcoal	Pottery, charcoal
102	1404	1405	Pit	charcoal	Pottery, animal bone, calcined bone, charcoal
103	1403	1405	Pit	charcoal	Pottery, animal bone, calcined bone, charcoal
104	1409	1410	Pit	Sparse charcoal	No finds
105	1406	1408	Pit	charcoal	No finds, charcoal
106	1415	1416	Pit	charcoal	Pottery, charcoal

Table 6. Environmental Results from Phase 2

Phase 1

- 4.5.1 Flot volumes are small with the majority of the samples producing flots of less than 1ml. The deposits were identified on site as being waterlogged although they did not produce significant amounts of waterlogged plant material; only Samples 5 (fill 252 of pit **250**) and 7 (fill 261 of Pit **263**) contain a small quantity of waterlogged roots and stems. Sparse small fragments of charcoal were noted in many of the samples. Occasional charred grains were recovered and have been tentatively identified as free-threshing wheat (*Triticum* sp.) based on their compact, rounded morphology. A fragment of charred legume was identified in Sample 4 (fill 230 of Pit **232**) based on the characteristic internal structure.
- 4.5.2 Elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*) and blackberry (*Rubus* sp.) seeds were noted in several of the samples. It is not clear at this stage whether the seeds are contemporary with the deposits sampled or whether they are modern contaminants. The outer coat (testa) of these seeds are known to be extremely durable and contain toxins that make them more resistant to microbial decay. If these deposits are dated to the post-medieval period it is highly likely that they are contemporary.
- 4.5.3 The presence of duckweed (*Lemna* sp.) seeds indicates standing water found in ponds or wet ditches. These seeds may also be either modern or contemporary.

Phase 2

- 4.5.4 Five of the six samples from Phase 2 are charcoal rich. The exception is Sample 104 which contains sparse charcoal only. The charcoal appears to be of wood and no other plant remains are present. Burnt bone was recovered from Samples 102 and 103 from Pit **1405** along with fragments of unburnt bone.

4.6 Discussion

- 4.6.1 The samples from Phase 1 are more productive in that plant remains are present, albeit in low quantities. The samples from Phase 2 contain evidence of burning in the form of wood charcoal. The presence of animal bone and pottery in these deposits suggests the refuse of domestic waste and the absence of charred plant remains such as grain, pulses etc. is unusual. This area is next to excavations carried out at Tithe Barn Farm (Atkins, forthcoming) where the only Iron Age feature encountered was a cremation.

4.7 Further Work and Methods Statement

- 4.7.1 The quantity and quality of the recovered material is insufficient for any firm conclusions to be drawn. The presence of charred grain indicates that there is the potential to recover evidence of domestic activity and, if future excavations are planned, it is recommended that that a schedule for environmental sampling should be appended to the updated project design. Further sampling could provide an insight into to utilisation of local plant resources, agricultural activity and economic evidence from this period.#

4.8 Bibliography

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APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-105925		
Project Name	Cromwell Community College, Chatteris		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	11-07-2011	Finish	
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	CHACCC11	Planning App. No.	
HER No.		Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5
Development Type	Public Building

Please select all techniques used:

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

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

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

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Pits	Medieval 1066 to 1540		Select period...
Pits	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901		Select period...
Post Holes	Medieval 1066 to 1540		Select period...

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)
District	Fenland	Cromwell Community College, Wenny Road, Chatteris PE16 6UT
Parish	Chatteris	
HER	Cambridge	
Study Area		National Grid Reference TL 396 854

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Andy Thomas
Project Design Originator	Stephen Macaulay
Project Manager	Stephen Macaulay
Supervisor	Tom Lyons

Project Archives

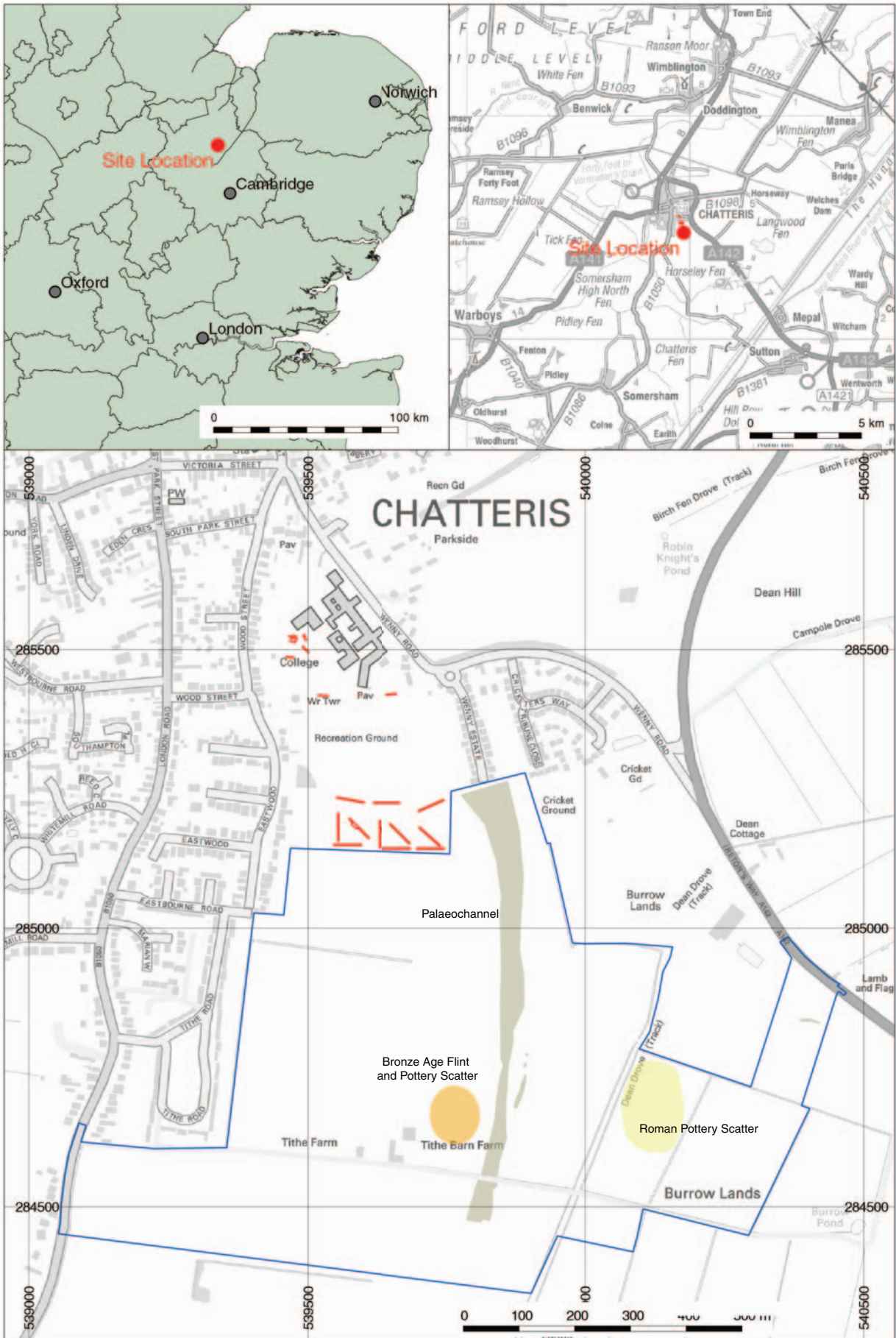
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OA EAST	OA EAST	OA EAST
CHACCC11	CHACCC11	CHACCC11

Archive Contents/Media

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location showing trenches in red and previous works outlined in blue

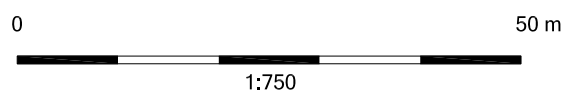
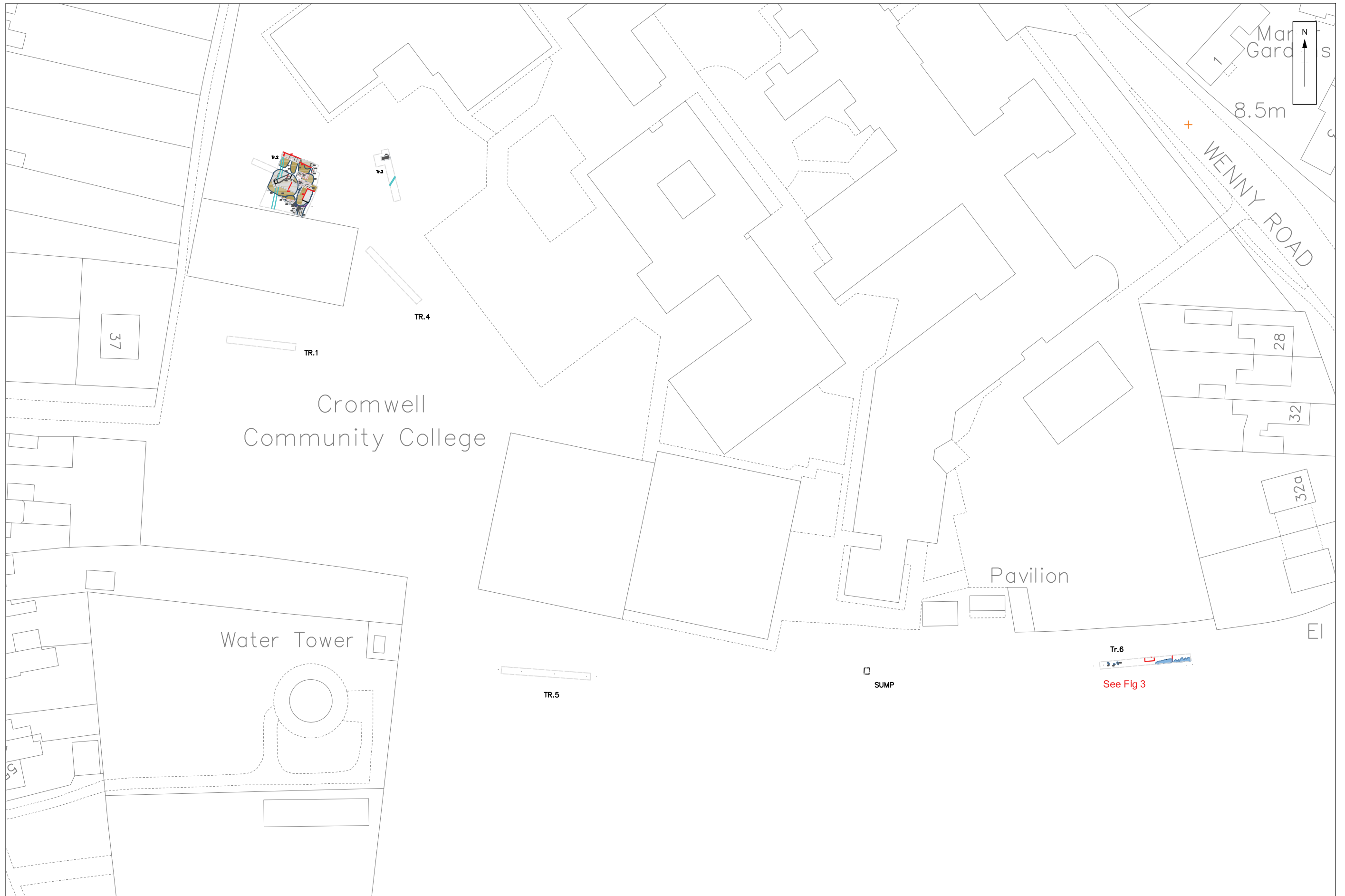
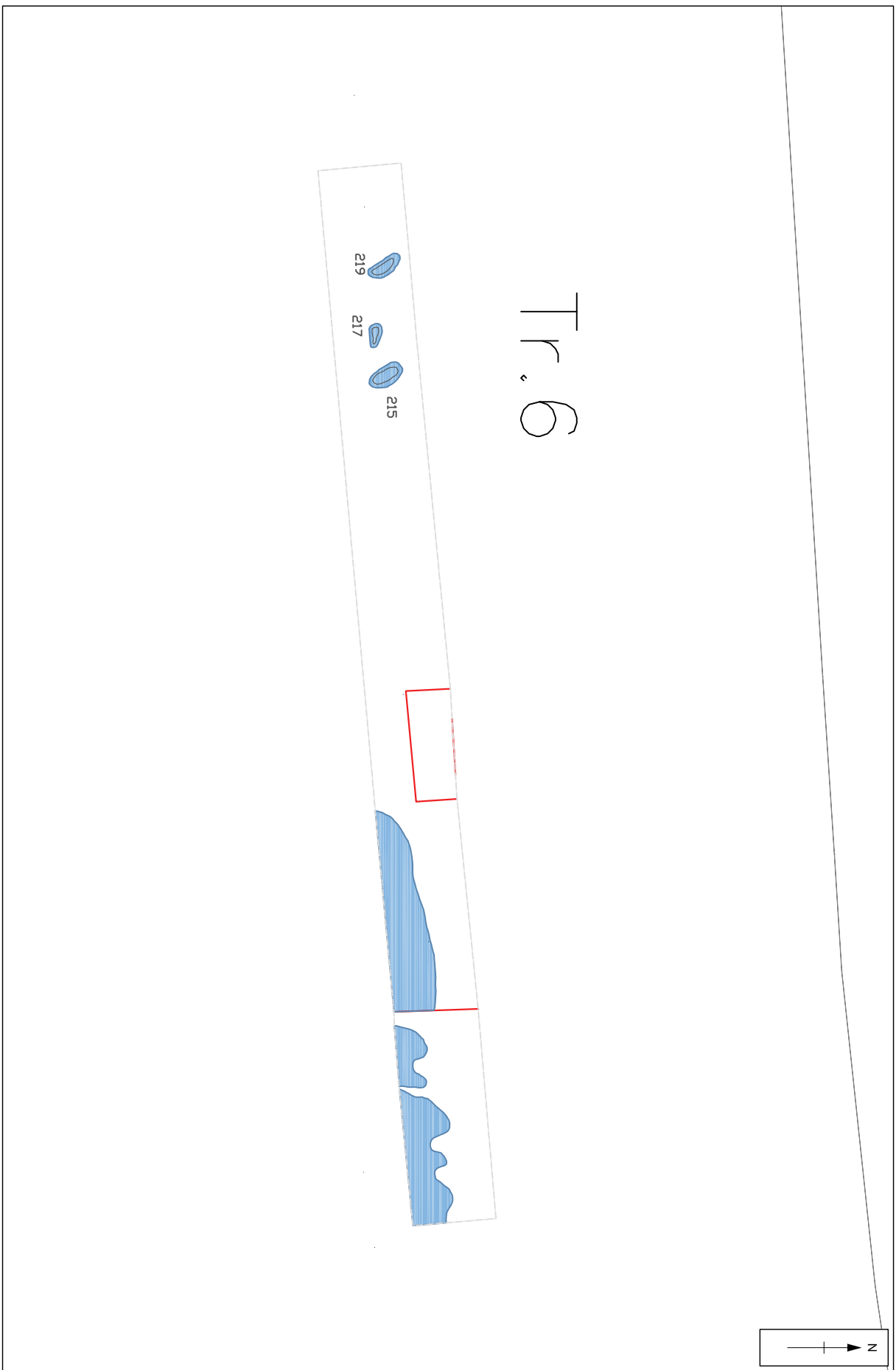


Figure 2 Trenches 1 to 6 Phase 1



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Figure 3 Trench 6 Phase 1

CHECKED BY:

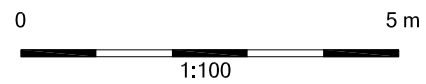
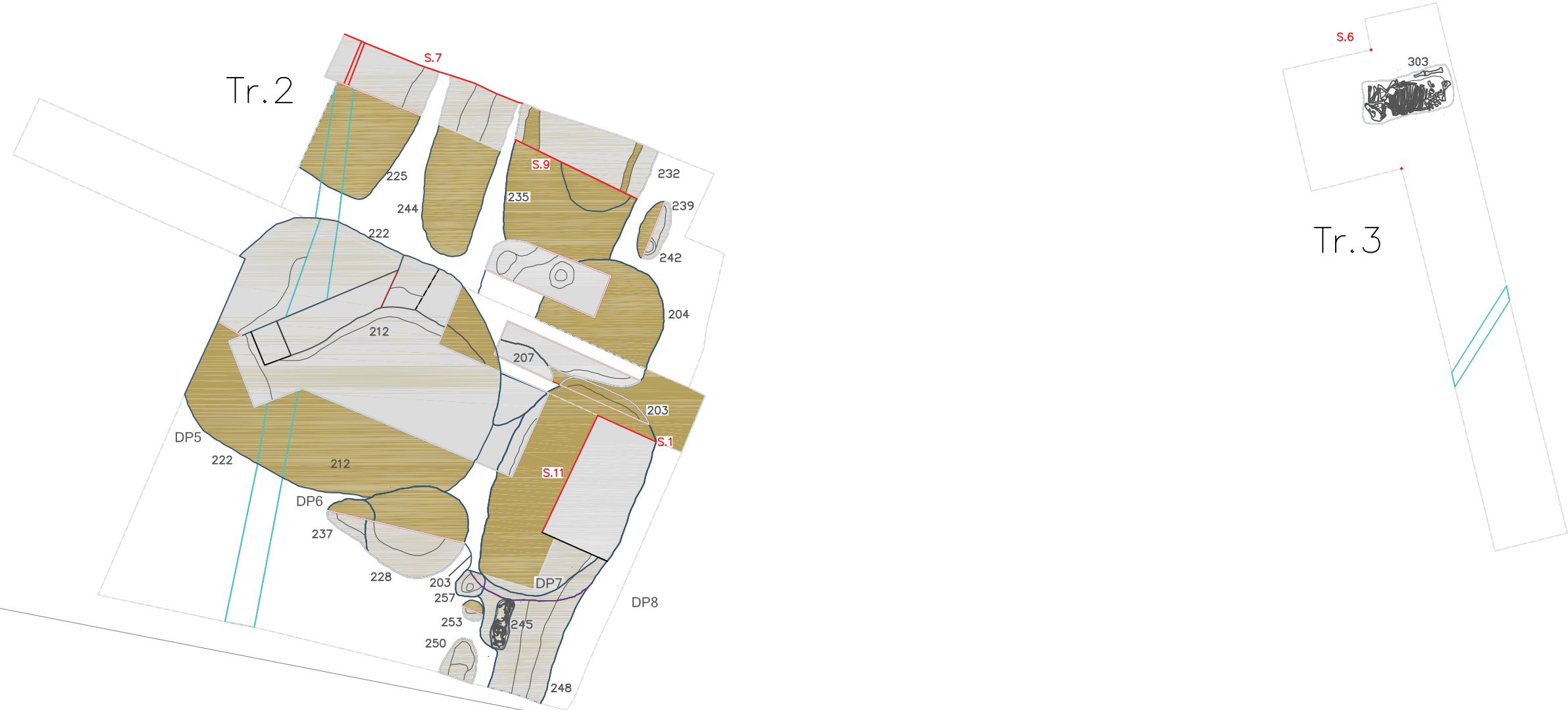


Figure 4 Trenches 2 and 3 with extensions Phase 1



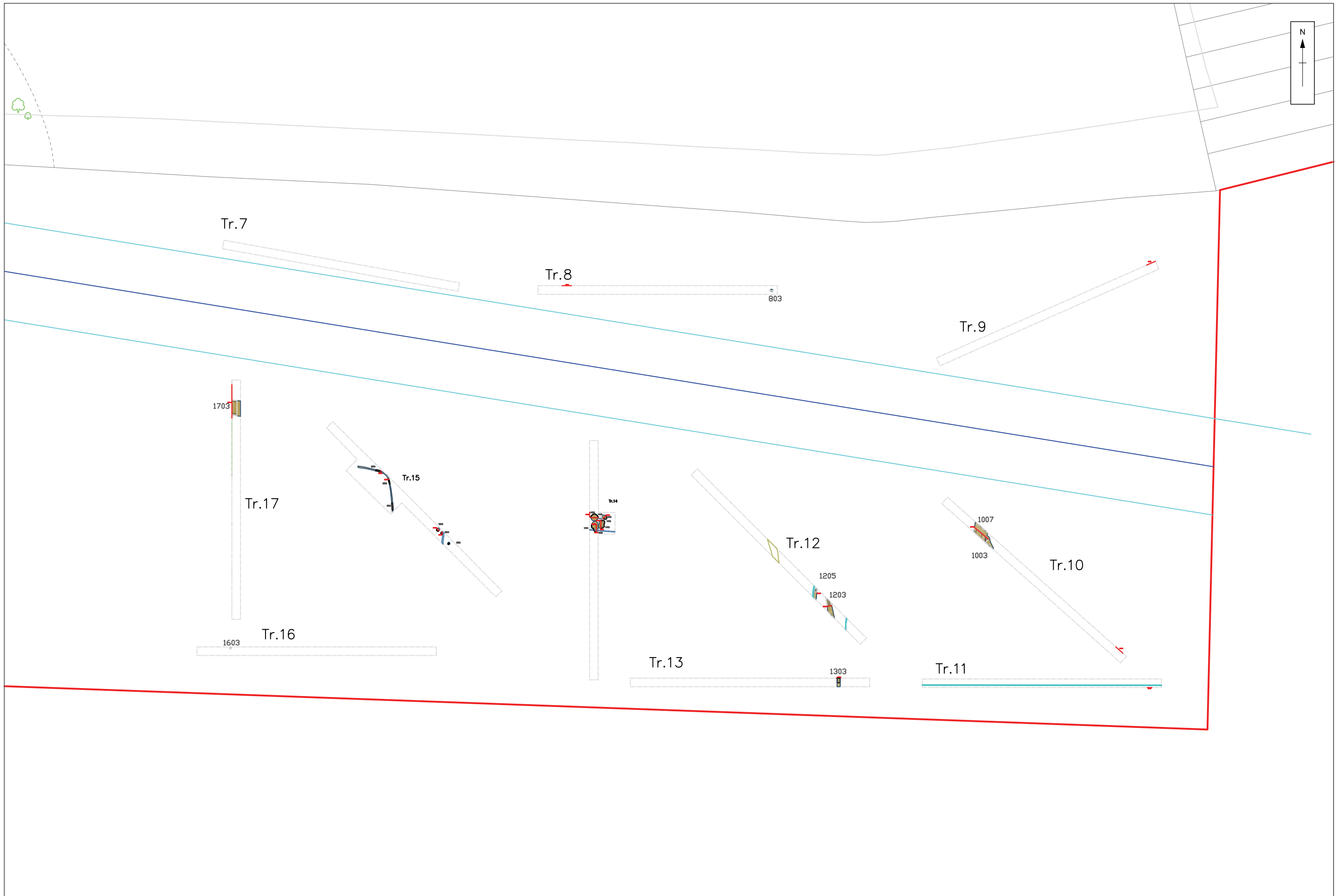
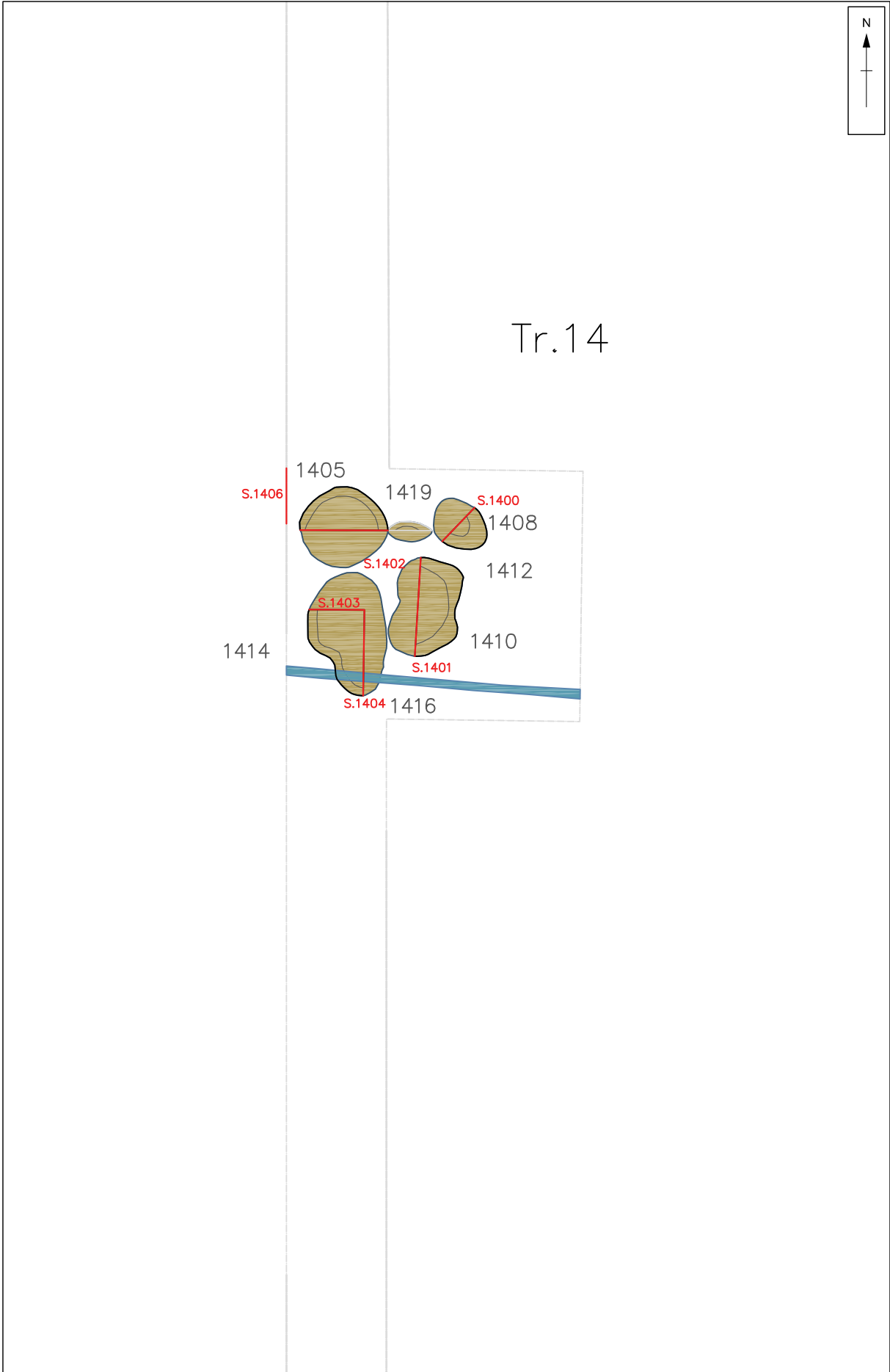


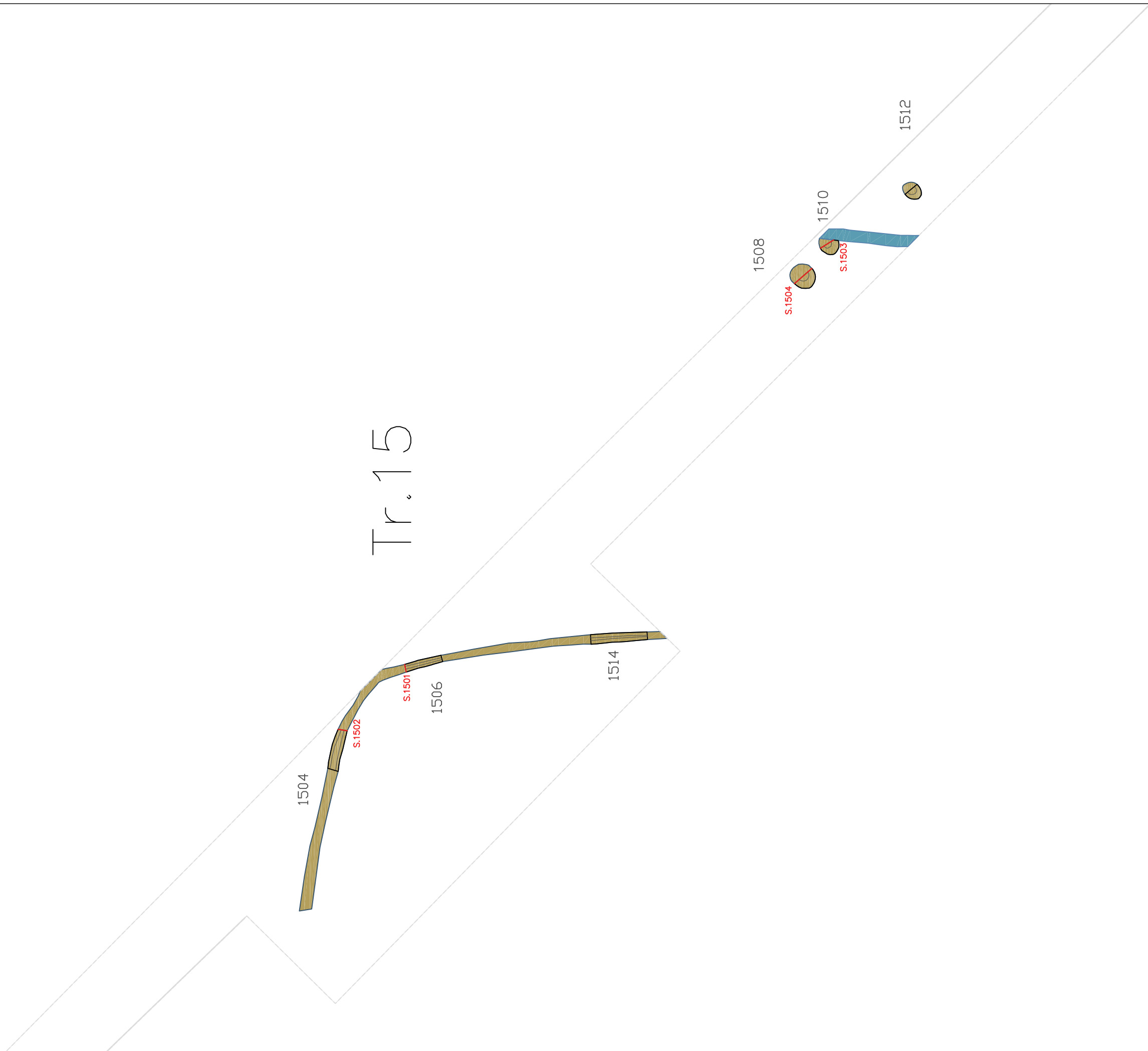
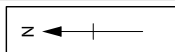
Figure 5: Trenches 7 to 16 Phase 2, 'New Sports Pitches' showing electricity line in blue and buffer zone in turquoise



Tr.14



Figure 6 Trench 14 Phase 1



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1:100

Figure 7 Trench 15 with extension

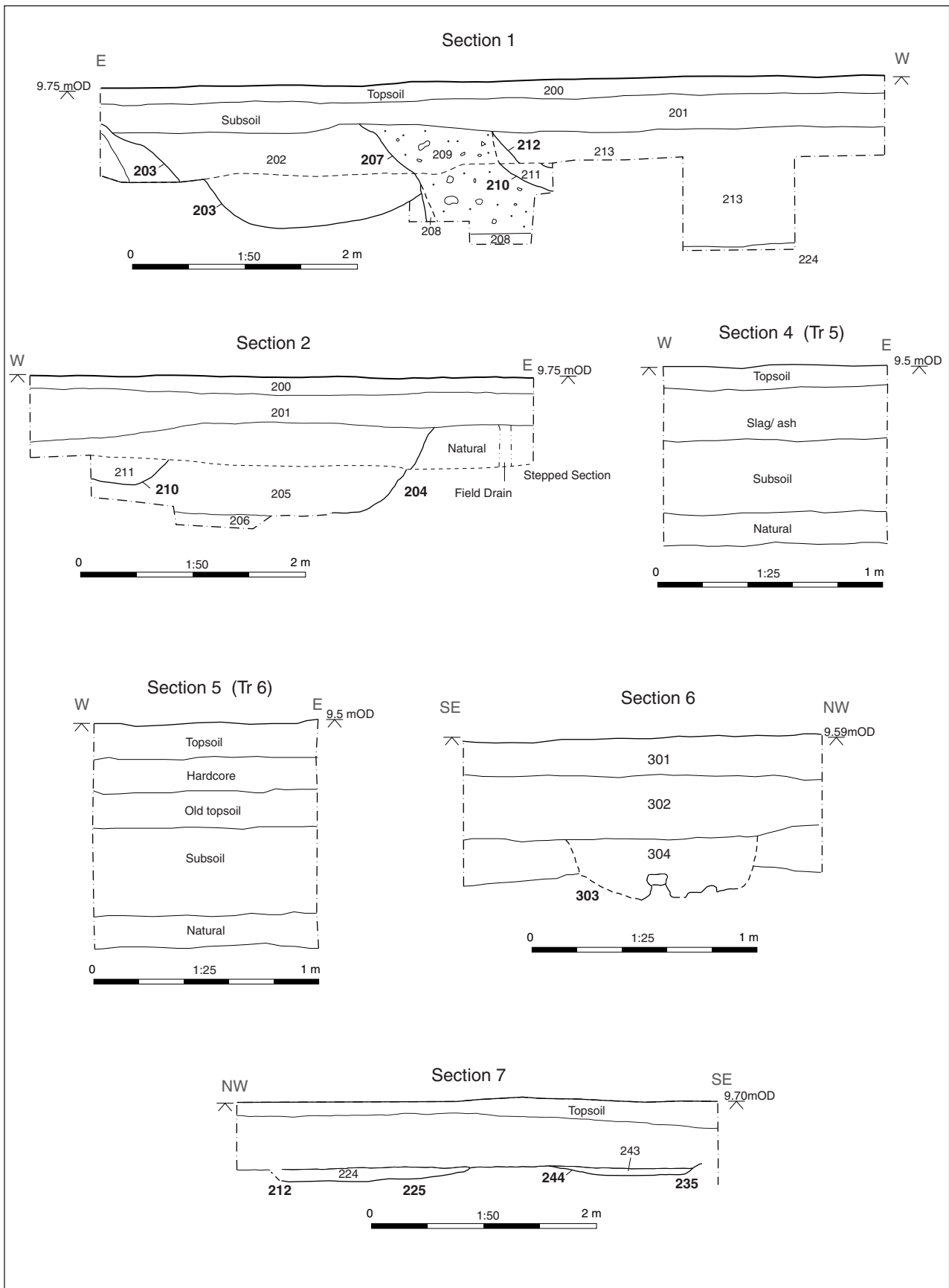


Figure 8: Selected Sections. Scale 1:25, 1:50

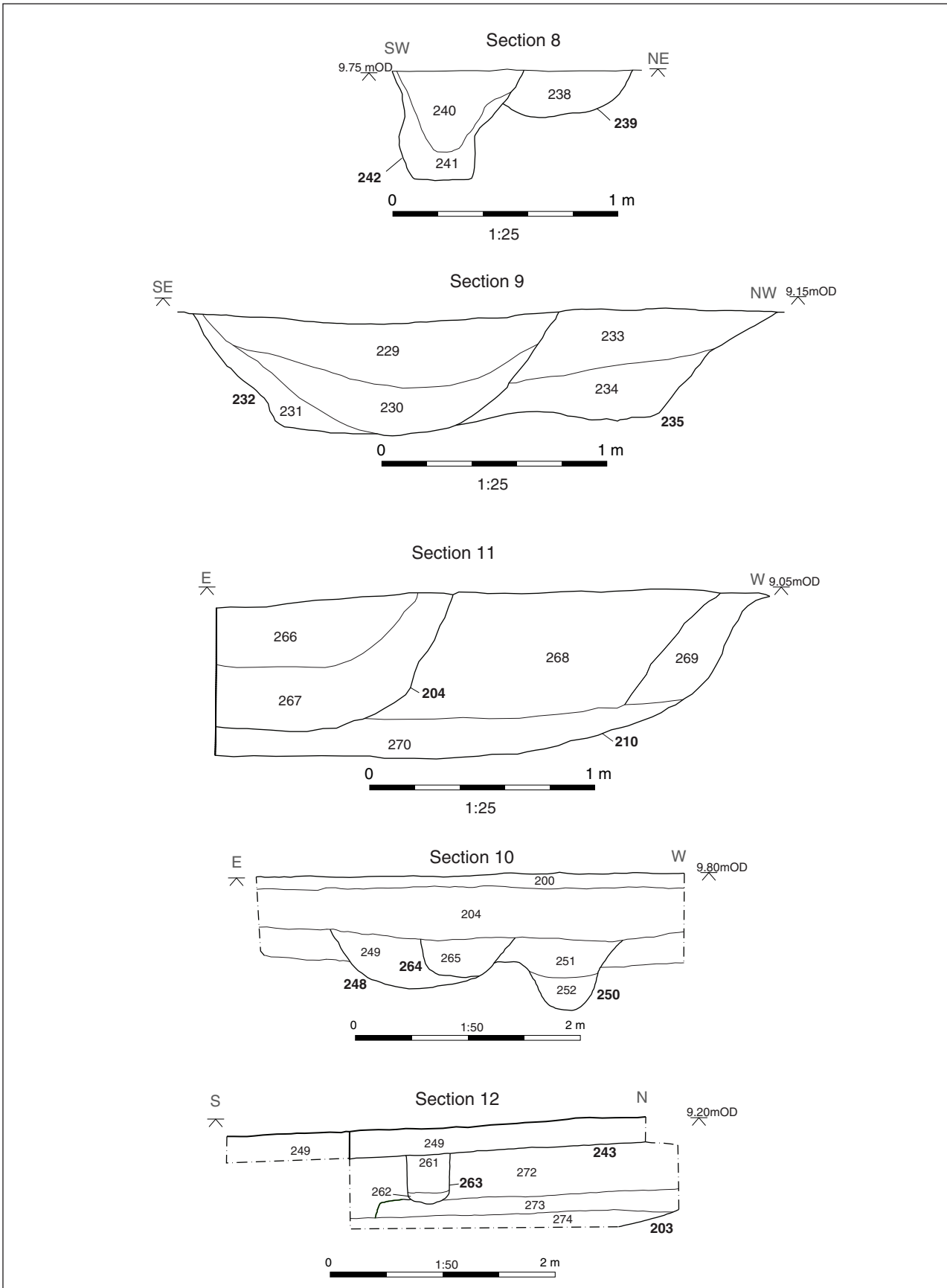


Figure 9: Selected Sections. Scale 1:25, 1:50

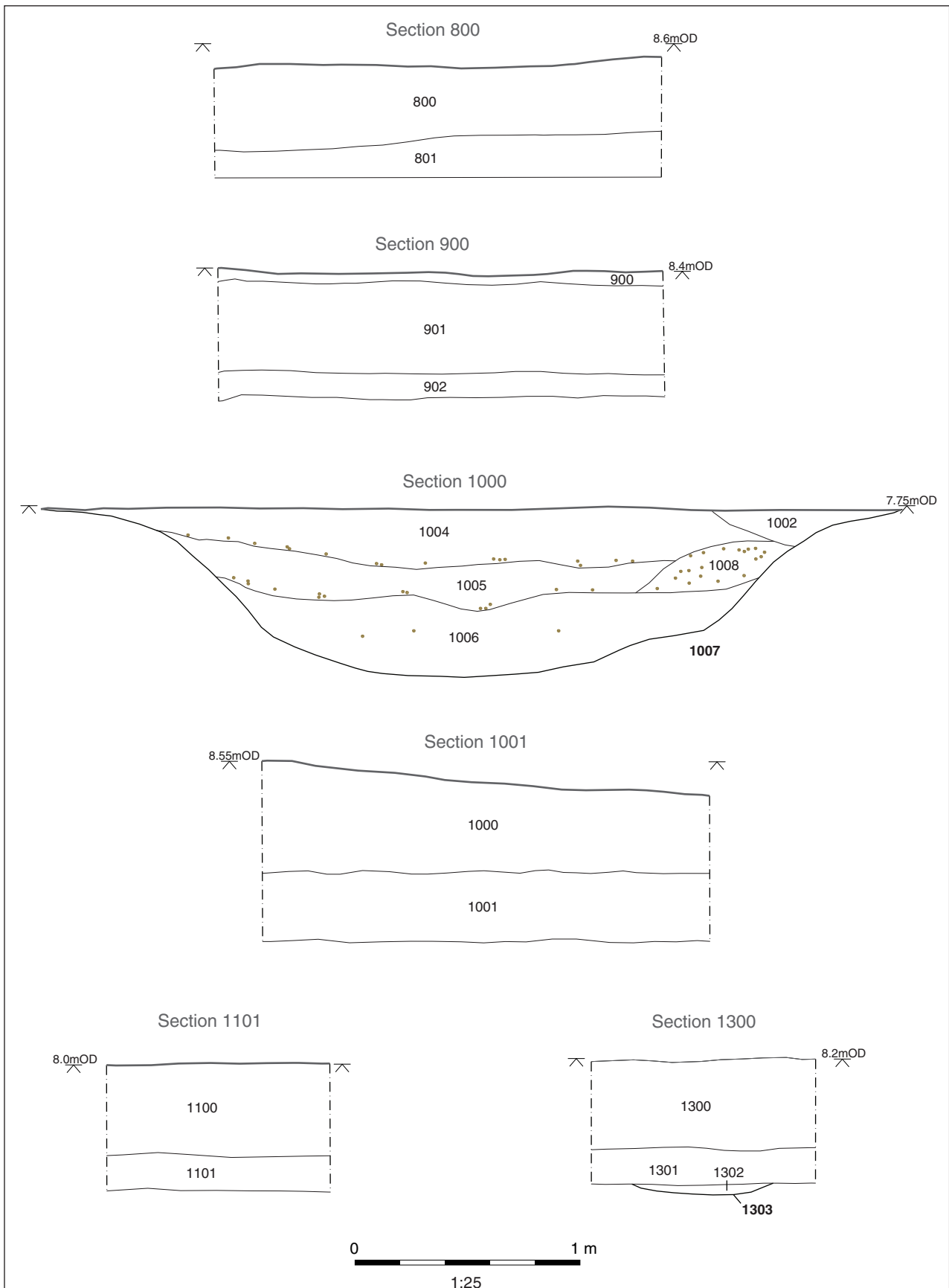


Figure 10: Selected Sections. Scale 1:25

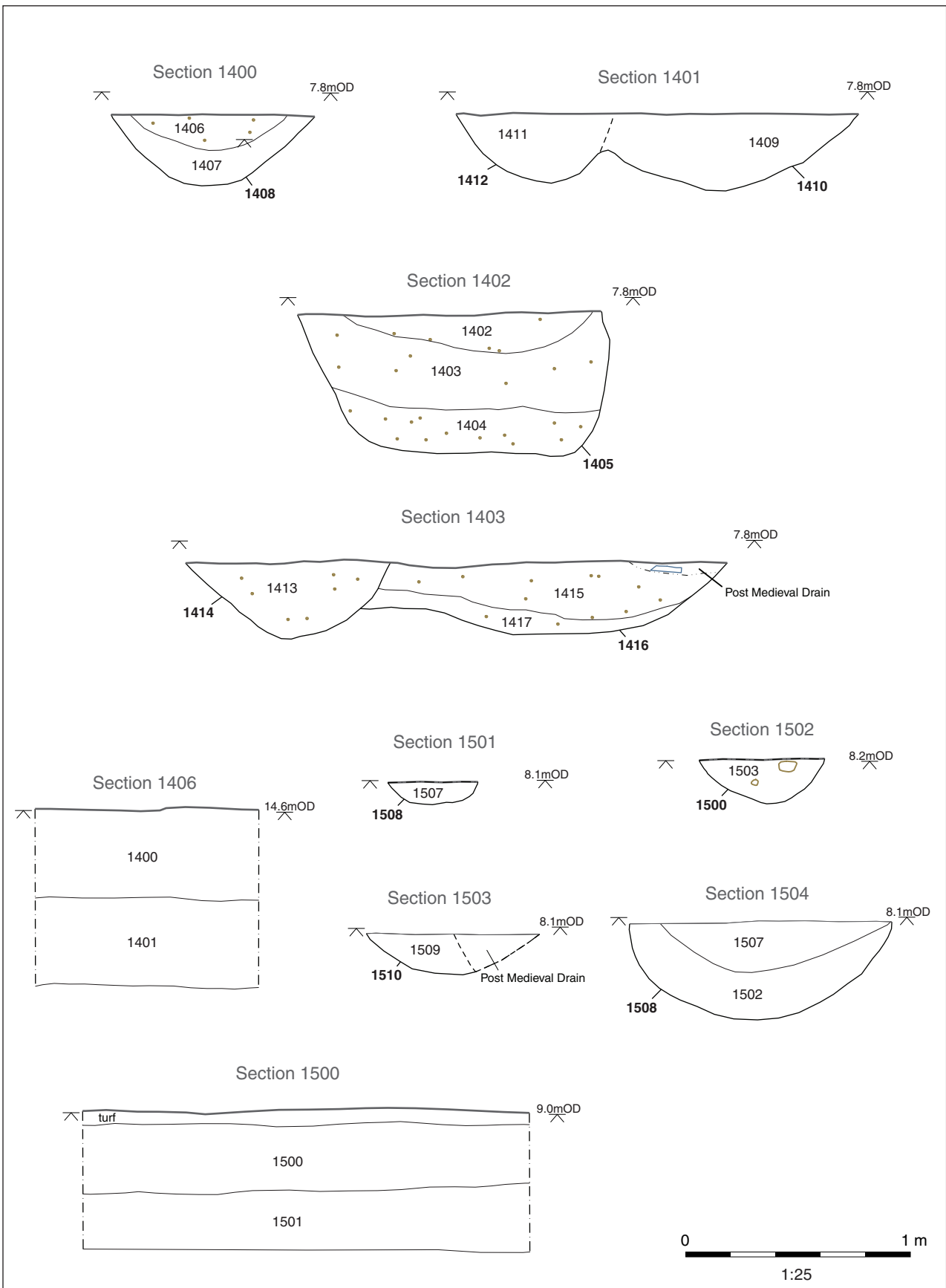


Figure 11: Selected Sections. Scale 1:25



Plate 1: Evaluation Trench 2 from east



Plate 2: Extended Trench 2 from east



Plate 3: Extended Trench 2 from north



Plate 4: Retting Pit from north

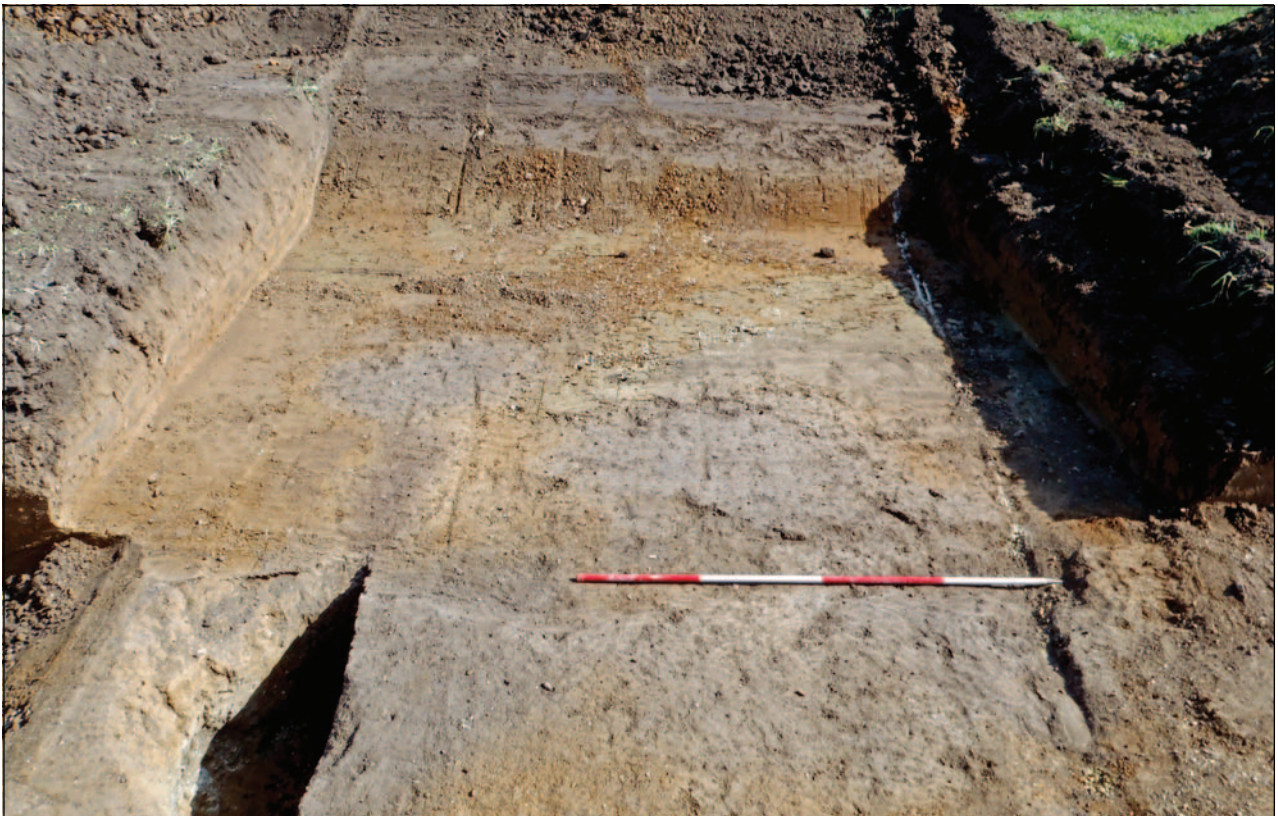


Plate 5: Trench 14 Extension & Pit Cluster (pre-ex)



Plate 6: Trench 14 Extension & Pit Cluster (post-ex)



Plate 7: Pit 1405



Plate 8: Trench 15 with extension (post excavation)



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