# Progress Power Project
# Yaxley, Suffolk

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

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**September 2014**

**Client: Parsons Brinckerhoff for Progress Power Ltd**

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

# Progress Power Project, Yaxley, Suffolk

*Archaeological Evaluation*

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## *Summary*

*On the 22nd August 2014 Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) carried out a metal detecting survey at the Progress Power Project, Yaxley, Suffolk. This survey was carried out to establish the presence of further Anglo-Saxon metalwork finds close to two known areas recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme to the north of the village, and to establish the presence of a possible ring-ditch as indicated by geophysical survey on land at Eye Airfield Industrial Estate. Unfortunately no artefacts were found to indicate the presence of Anglo-Saxon activity on the site. The metal artefacts recovered were associated with casual loss from agricultural workers and their equipment, or the disused airfield.*

*Subsequently, on the 8th to 12th September 2014, Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological evaluation on the site. The area evaluated covered approximately 10 hectares. Five evaluation trenches were opened (30m x 2m) in fields to the north of the village, close to the areas of Anglo-Saxon metalwork finds (Area 2). A further trench was located on land south of the Eye Airfield Industrial Estate (Area 1).*

*The evaluation has demonstrated that there are no significant archaeological deposits or artefacts present in the development area on the fields to the north of the village of Yaxley, despite the proximity of a possible Anglo-Saxon cemetery to the north of the electrical connection corridor. A tree throw hole in Trench 1, a shallow pit in trench 3 and a post-medieval ditch in Trench 6, on the alignment of extant field boundaries, were the only remains identified in Area 2. Evidence for early medieval remains were present in Area 1 on land at Eye Airfield Industrial Estate, with a shallow ditch terminus in Trench 5. In addition, anomalies identified by the geophysical survey may indicate the presence of further early medieval remains in this part of the development area.*

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An archaeological investigation was conducted by Oxford Archaeology East at the Progress Power Project, Yaxley, Suffolk. This involved a gridded metal detecting survey on the 22nd August 2014 and subsequently an archaeological trial trench evaluation from the 8th to 12th September (centred on TM 117 748; Fig. 1).

1.1.2 This archaeological metal detecting survey and evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Jess Tipper of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (Tipper 2013)(SCCAS/CT; Planning Application: to be arranged), supplemented by a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Parsons Brinckerhoff (Parsons Brinckerhoff 2014b).

1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed redevelopment area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by Suffolk County Council, 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 comprises two areas of flat agricultural fields in the parish of Yaxley. Area 2 lies to the north of the village of Yaxley either side of Leys Lane at approximately 49m OD. Area 1 to lies to the east of the village on land at Eye Airfield Industrial Estate at approximately 48m OD (Fig. 1).

1.2.2 The underlying geology of the proposed development site comprises Crag Group Bedrock - Sand. Superficial deposits are indicated to comprise Lowestoft Formation - Diamicton (till with outwash sand and gravel deposits) (http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html accessed 5th September 2014).

## 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 An archaeological desk-based assessment, including a geophysical survey, was carried out by Parsons Brinckerhoff for the Progress Power Project Environmental Statement in March 2014 (Parsons Brinckerhoff 2014a) which details the archaeological potential of the site and should be referred to for full background. The following is a brief summary:

1.3.2 The archaeology in the surrounding area of the proposed development includes a range of heritage assets dating from the Neolithic period onwards. These are present as surface finds including a Neolithic flint artefact, a scatter of Roman pottery sherds and medieval pottery and metalwork. The fields immediately to the north of the development have recently yielded finds including: Roman pottery, tile and glass; Anglo-Saxon pottery; and medieval artefacts including a gold coin. The most significant surface find is a collection of metalwork from the Anglo-Saxon period and may be indicative of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery. Further assets include the field boundaries some of which may have been in continual use since prehistory and medieval settlement activity in the vicinity which may encroach onto the development area. The

proposed development also extends over part of the former Second World War Eye airfield (Parsons Brinckerhoff 2014a).

1.3.3 Previous work undertaken for the project include a geophysical survey of the development area. This identified areas of archaeological concern in the northwestern and southeastern corners of the development area (Bartlett 2014). A historic field boundary survey was also carried out. It was concluded that the field system pre-dated the Roman Road (A140) and so may have its origins in prehistory (Ladd 2014).

1.3.4 The orientation and path of the disused boundary targeted by trench 6 is on the same layout as the surrounding extant field boundaries surveyed during the historic field boundary survey (Ladd 2014). The Act of Enclosure for the parish of Yaxley is dated to AD1808 (http://www.legislation.gov.uk/changes/chron-tables/private/24). A search of old Ordnance Survey maps of the site shows that the disused boundary dates back to at least AD1896, was in use to AD1958 and disused by AD1970 (http://www.old-maps.co.uk).

## 1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like to thank Parsons Brinckerhoff who commissioned the work, Stephen Macaulay of OA East who managed the project and Jess Tipper who monitored the works on behalf of Suffolk County Council. Pat Moan carried out the survey. Thanks should also be extended to Steve Critchley and Pat Moan who carried out the metal detecting survey with the author. David Browne and the author undertook the excavation of the evaluation trenches. Also thanks to Les Cotton who provided the plant.

# 2 Metal Detecting Survey

## 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 On the 22nd August 2014 Oxford Archaeology East carried out a metal detecting survey at the Progress Power Project, Eye, Suffolk. This survey was carried to meet objectives set out in the Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (Parsons Brinckerhoff 2014a):

1) to establish the presence of further Anglo-Saxon metalwork finds close to two known areas as recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme;

2) to establish the presence or absence of any buried remains relating to an Anglo-Saxon period cemetery, as indicated by the presence of metalwork finds;

3) to establish the presence of a possible ring-ditch as indicated by geophysical survey.

## 2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 Two areas were surveyed (Fig. 1): Area 1 to meet objective 3 and Area 2 to meet objectives 1 and 2. The survey was carried out by a team of three archaeologists all experienced in metal detector survey. The investigation areas were gridded at 10m spaced transects across the two areas to give a minimum of 10% ground coverage. The location of each metal artefact was surveyed using a Leica GPS 1200. In addition to walking the transects, the surveyors also walked more parts of the site to maximise coverage.

## 2.3 Results

2.3.1 Nineteen metal small finds were recovered (see Table 1 below and Fig. 2 & 3), with all iron objects being unidentifiable agricultural or architectural fittings (most likely post-medieval/modern). The majority of copper alloy finds were unidentifiable fittings. A variety of personal items of post-medieval/modern date were recovered; such as suspension rings (SF 5) or thimbles (SF 11). One piece that could be identified as medieval/post-medieval is SF 14. This is a copper alloy openwork dagger chape, with a trefoil and bar design on the front surface. The backplate is missing. A copper alloy trefoil door or furniture fitting (SF 13) is most likely post-medieval in date. Two coins were recovered. SF 12 is an illegible copper halfpenny. However, the size and milling suggests a George III “third issue” halfpenny dating from 1799 onwards. It is extremely unlikely to be earlier. SF 19 is a Victorian halfpenny dating from around 1860-1894. A single definitively modern object was recovered in the form of an aluminium fragment (SF 9), which may be a piece of airframe given the site's previous use.

## 2.4 Conclusions

The artefacts from Area 1 are probably associated with the site's past use as an airfield. The finds from Area 2 can all be associated with casual loss from agricultural workers and their equipment. Unfortunately no artefacts were found to indicate the presence of Anglo-Saxon activity on the site.

| Small Find No. | Area No. | Description | Date |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Copper alloy vessel rim | Post-Med/Modern |
| 2 | 1 | Unid. Iron fragment | Uncertain |
| 3 | 1 | Unid. Iron fragment | Uncertain |
| 4 | 1 | Unid. Copper alloy fragment | Uncertain |
| 5 | 1 | Copper alloy suspension ring | Uncertain |
| 6 | 1 | Copper alloy fitting | Uncertain |
| 7 | 1 | Unid. Iron fragment | Uncertain |
| 8 | 1 | Unid. Copper alloy fragment | Uncertain |
| 9 | 1 | Unid. Fragment. Possibly aluminium? | Modern |
| 10 | 2 | Unid. Copper alloy fragment | Uncertain |
| 11 | 2 | Copper alloy thimble | Post-Med/Modern |
| 12 | 2 | Copper alloy halfpenny (George 3rd?) | 1799-1806 |
| 13 | 2 | Copper alloy architectural fitting | Post-Medieval |
| 14 | 2 | Copper alloy dagger chape | Med/Post -Med (1400-1700) |
| 15 | 2 | Unid. Iron fragment | Uncertain |
| 16 | 2 | Unid. Iron fragment | Uncertain |
| 17 | 2 | Tin alloy cast button | Post-Med/Modern |
| 18 | 2 | Copper cast button | Post-Medieval |
| 19 | 2 | Copper alloy halfpenny (Victorian) | 1860-1894 |

Table 1: Results of metal detecting survey

# 3 Archaeological Evaluation

## 3.1 Aims

3.1.1 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.

Specific Objectives will be:

- To establish the presence or absence of any buried remains relating to the Anglo-Saxon artefacts recovered and highlighted in the desk-based assessment possibly relating to a cemetery in the area of the electrical connection corridor (Area 2); and
- To establish the presence of a possible ring ditch indicated by the geophysical survey on land at Eye Airfield Industrial Estate (Area 1).

## 3.2 Methodology

3.2.1 The Brief required that a programme of linear trial trenching be carried out to adequately sample the area and conform with the aims of the investigation. Six 30m x 2m trial trenches were opened, representing a 1% sample of the 10 ha development area. Five trenches were located on the electrical connection corridor to meet objective 1 and one trench was located on Eye Airfield Industrial Estate to meet objective 2 (Fig. 1).

3.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked back-hoe type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.

3.2.3 The site survey was carried out using a Leica GPS 1200.

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

3.2.5 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and colour and monochrome photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

3.2.6 Four bulk environmental samples were taken from features within the excavated areas. Samples were taken from: fill (4) of possible tree pit **5**, fill (6) of ditch **7**, fill (8) of pit **10** and fill (14) of ditch **15**.

3.2.7 The site conditions were good with dry weather.

# 4 RESULTS

## 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Descriptions of the ground conditions encountered, features identified and artefacts recovered are given in this section. Full descriptions with dimensions are given in Appendix A, with locations and elevations (m OD) shown in Fig. 4 & 5.

## 4.2 Trench Descriptions

4.2.1 Excavation of the trial trenches revealed consistent deposits across the proposed development area.

4.2.2 The natural Lowestoft Formation - Diamicton (3) in all the trial trenches was at a depth of between 0.2 and 0.4m below ground level. This deposit comprised firm orange brown and grey sandy clay with some chalk and flint gravel inclusions.

4.2.3 The natural deposits were overlain by a cultivated topsoil (1) comprised of firm grey sandy clay with some flint gravel inclusions, measuring between 0.2m and 0.4m thick.

## 4.3 Features Encountered

***Ditches***

4.3.1 Ditches cut the natural deposits in trial trenches 5 and 6.

4.3.2 Ditch **7** in trench 5 comprised the terminus of a shallow linear feature extending southwest to northeast, with a U shape profile. The fill (6) consisted of firm brown sandy clay with occasional gravel and charcoal inclusions (Fig. 4 & Plate 4). It contained three sherds of pottery dating to the early medieval period and a sherd of pottery dating to the Roman period, however this is considered residual.

4.3.3 Ditch **15** in trench 6 comprised a linear feature running north to south with a V shape profile (Fig. 5 and Plates 3 & 5). It contained four fills. The primary fill (14) extended down the eastern side and consisted of firm yellowish brown sandy clay with rare flint gravel inclusions, which yielded one fragment of tile. This was overlain by tree root disturbance (13), which consisted of loose dark grey clayey sand with fragments of rotted roots. This disturbance was overlain by firm yellow brown and dark brown sandy clay (12 & 11 respectively). Fill (11) yielded one small and heavily abraded pottery sherd and a post-medieval roof tile.

***Pit***

4.3.4 Pit **10** in trench 3 was circular in plan with a U shape profile and extended beyond the southern baulk of trench 3. It contained two fills (8 & 9) consisting of firm greyish brown and dark grey sandy clay with gravel and charcoal inclusions. The upper fill (8) yielded some cattle bone fragments (Plate 6).

***Possible Natural Tree Pit Feature***

4.3.5 One possible natural tree pit feature (**5**) was encountered in trench 1. This comprised an irregular shaped feature with one fill (4), which consisted of brown clayey sand with some flint gravel inclusions (Plate 1).

## 4.4 Finds Summary

4.4.1 Ceramic artefacts were recovered from features in trenches 5 and 6 (Appendix B). Three pottery sherds dating from the early medieval period (11th-12th century) were recovered from the fill of ditch **7** in trench 5 with one residual sherd of pottery dating to the Roman period. One fragment of roof tile dating to the post-medieval period (17th-18th century) was recovered from the primary fill of ditch **15** and one abraded pottery sherd dating from the medieval period (12th-13th century) was recovered from the uppermost fill suggesting this fragment to be residual.

## 4.5 Environmental Summary

***Faunal Remains (Appendix C.1)***

4.5.1 Animal bone fragments were recovered from pit feature **10** in trench 3. These represented the left cattle humerus (upper leg bone) from an adult animal.

***Environmental samples (Appendix C.2)***

4.5.2 Four bulk samples were taken from features within the excavated areas in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. The only sample to produce an archaeobotanical assemblage of any significance was from early medieval ditch terminus **7**. The recovery of charred plant remains is indicative of the use of cereals for consumption. Wheat, barley and rye were common cereals of cultivation during the early medieval period, particularly in the East of England. Wheat and rye were used for flour for making bread and barley was most often used for brewing.

# 5 Discussion and Conclusions

## 5.1 Discussion

***Area 1 (Trench 5)***

5.1.1 The archaeological remains in this area date to the early medieval period. The previous geophysical survey results indicated magnetic anomalies in the vicinity of Area 1 that were interpreted as possibly archaeological (Bartlett 2014). The excavation of Trench 5 did not encounter the possible ring ditch the survey identified but did reveal a shallow linear ditch of early medieval date. Ditch **7** and the pottery it yielded represent evidence for early medieval occupation in the vicinity of Area 1. This raises the possibility that the further linear anomalies identified by the survey to the west of trench 5 and described as possible former field boundaries may possibly date back to the early medieval period.

***Area 2 (Trenches 1-4 & 6)***

5.1.2 No buried remains relating to the Anglo-Saxon period were encountered. Shallow pit **10** encountered in Trench 3 may relate to farming activity such as burying waste material and is of uncertain date.

5.1.3 The excavation of ditch **15** in trench 6 has provided the first direct dating evidence of former field boundaries known only from the geophysical survey. The ceramic tile fragment recovered from the primary fill of ditch **15** would suggest a date for this boundary of 17th-18th centuries at the earliest. Although no evidence for the re-cutting of this boundary was observed at this location, the landowner Mr Talbot stated that the boundary was 'cleaned out' regularly up to its disuse in the 1950s. The fragment of roof tile recovered may therefore be considered residual rather than directly dating evidence for the ditch. Taken with the map evidence described in section 1.3.4, ditch **15** and the surrounding extant field system may pre-date the Act of Enclosure of AD1808 but this remains uncertain until more data can be retrieved.

## 5.2 Significance

5.2.1 The evaluation at the Progress Power Project, Eye, Suffolk has demonstrated that no archaeological deposits or artefacts of significance exist in the evaluation trenches within the fields to the north of the village of Yaxley (Area 2), despite the proximity of a possible Anglo-Saxon cemetery to the north of the electrical connection corridor. However, as this was a very small sample of the proposed development area, this cannot at this stage be taken as proof that no archaeological remains are likely to survive within the area.

5.2.2 Early medieval remains are present on land at Eye Airfield Industrial Estate and this taken together with anomalies identified by the geophysical survey may indicate the presence of further early medieval remains in this part of the development area (Area 1).

## 5.3 Recommendations

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

# Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

| Trench 1 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **General description** | | | | | **Orientation** | E-W |
| Consisted of topsoil overlying natural clay till with one natural tree pit. | | | | | **Avg. depth (m)** | |
| | | | | | **Width (m)** | 2 |
| | | | | | **Length (m)** | 30 |
| **Contexts** | | | | | | |
| **context no** | **type** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **comment** | **finds** | **date** |
| 1 | Layer | - | 0.4 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 4 | Fill | - | - | Fill of natural tree pit | - | - |
| 5 | Cut | 0.5 | 0.12 | Cut of natural tree pit | - | - |
| 3 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |

| Trench 2 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **General description** | | | | | **Orientation** | E-W |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural clay till. | | | | | **Avg. depth (m)** | |
| | | | | | **Width (m)** | 2 |
| | | | | | **Length (m)** | 30 |
| **Contexts** | | | | | | |
| **context no** | **type** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **comment** | **finds** | **date** |
| 1 | Layer | - | 0.35 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 3 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |

| Trench 3 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **General description** | | | | | **Orientation** | E-W |
| Consisted of topsoil overlying natural clay till with one modern pit. | | | | | **Avg. depth (m)** | |
| | | | | | **Width (m)** | 2 |
| | | | | | **Length (m)** | 30 |
| **Contexts** | | | | | | |
| **context no** | **type** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **comment** | **finds** | **date** |
| 1 | Layer | - | 0.4 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 8 | Fill | - | - | Fill of Pit | Cattle bone | Unknown |
| 9 | Fill | - | - | Fill of Pit | - | Unknown |
| 10 | Cut | 0.6 | 0.2 | Cut of Pit | - | Unknown |
| 3 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |

| Trench 4 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **General description** | | | | | **Orientation** | E-W |
| Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural clay till. | | | | | **Avg. depth (m)** | |
| | | | | | **Width (m)** | 2 |
| | | | | | **Length (m)** | 30 |
| **Contexts** | | | | | | |
| **context no** | **type** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **comment** | **finds** | **date** |
| 1 | Layer | - | 0.4 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 3 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |

| Trench 5 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **General description** | | | | | **Orientation** | NW-SE |
| Consisted of topsoil overlying natural clay till with one Saxon ditch. | | | | | **Avg. depth (m)** | |
| | | | | | **Width (m)** | 2 |
| | | | | | **Length (m)** | 30 |
| **Contexts** | | | | | | |
| **context no** | **type** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **comment** | **finds** | **date** |
| 1 | Layer | - | 0.3 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 6 | Fill | - | - | Fill of Ditch | pottery | Early medieval |
| 7 | Cut | 0.7 | 0.2 | Cut of Ditch | - | Early Medieval |
| 3 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |

| Trench 6 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **General description** | | | | | **Orientation** | E-W |
| Consisted of topsoil overlying natural clay till with one post-medieval ditch. | | | | | **Avg. depth (m)** | |
| | | | | | **Width (m)** | 2 |
| | | | | | **Length (m)** | 30 |
| **Contexts** | | | | | | |
| **context no** | **type** | **Width (m)** | **Depth (m)** | **comment** | **finds** | **date** |
| 1 | Layer | - | 0.35 | Topsoil | - | - |
| 11 | Fill | - | - | Fill of ditch | pottery | Medieval |
| 12 | Fill | - | - | Fill of ditch | - | - |
| 13 | Fill | - | - | Fill of ditch | - | - |
| 14 | Fill | - | - | Fill of ditch | tile | Post-medieval |
| 15 | Cut | 2.6 | 0.75 | Cut of ditch | - | Post-medieval |
| 3 | Layer | - | - | Natural | - | - |

# APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

## B.1 Pottery and Ceramic Building Material

*by Carole Fletcher with Roman pottery identified by Stephen Wadeson and ceramic building material by Robert Atkins*

***Introduction***

B.1.1 Archaeological works produced a pottery assemblage of five sherds, weighing 0.019kg, all from ditches **7** and **15**. A single fragment from a glazed 17th-18th century roof tile was recovered from ditch **15**. The condition of the overall assemblage is abraded and the mean pottery sherd weight is low at approximately 0.004kg.

***Methodology***

B.1.2 The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG) 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.1.3* Recording 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 using Suffolk's unpublished type series. All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed on a context-by-context basis. The assemblage is recorded in the summary catalogue. The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition.

B.1.4 The assemblage is domestic in nature, indicating low levels of deposition. An unabraded sherd of early medieval ware was recovered from ditch **7**, which also produced three abraded sherds from sample 2; these sherds are heavily abraded and while the two smaller fragments have been identified as Early medieval ware, the third sherd has tentatively been identified as a Romano-British sandy greyware. An oxidised, highly micaceous, somewhat abraded sherd was recovered from ditch **15** and identified as a sherd of medieval Hedingham ware. A moderately abraded fragment from a glazed roof tile was recovered from context 14, ditch **15** and dates to the 17th-18th century which suggests that the fragment of Hedingham ware from ditch **15** is residual.

| Context | Cut No. | Fabric | Basic Form | Sherd Count | Weight (kg) | Context Date Range |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **6** | 7 | Early medieval ware | Jar body sherd | 1 | 0.013 | 11th-12th century |
| **Sample 2** | | Early medieval ware | Body sherd | 2 | <0.001 | |
| **Sample 2** | | Roman Sandy Greyware (oxidised surfaces) | Body sherd | 1 | 0.003 | |
| **11** | 15 | Hedingham ware (unglazed) | Body sherd | 1 | 0.003 | Mid 12th-mid 13th century |
| **Total** | | | | **5** | **0.019** | |

*Table 2: Pottery*

| Context | Cut No. | Form | Count | Weight (kg) | Context Date Range |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **14** | 7 | Roof Tile | 0.057 | 0.010 | 17th-18th century |

*Table 3: Ceramic Building Material*

# APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

## C.1 Faunal remains

*By Chris Faine*

C.1.1 Ten fragments of animal bone were recovered from the excavation with 6 fragments identifiable to species. The total weight of the assemblage is 221g. All fragments were recovered from the upper fill (8) of pit **10** in trench 3, consisting of a heavily fragmented left cattle humerus from an adult animal.

## C.2 Environmental remains

*By Rachel Fosberry*

### *Introduction*

C.2.1 Four bulk samples were taken from features within the excavated areas in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

C.2.2 Features sampled include ditches and pits dating from the early medieval through to the post-medieval period.

### *Methodology*

C.2.3 The total volume (up to 20 litres) of each bulk sample was processed by water flotation (using a modified Siraff three-tank system) for the recovery of charred plant remains, dating evidence and any other artefactual evidence that might be present. The floating component (flot) of the samples was collected in a 0.3mm nylon mesh and the residue was washed through 10mm, 5mm, 2mm and a 0.5mm sieve. Both flot and residues were allowed to air dry. A magnet was dragged through each residue fraction prior to sorting for artefacts. Any artefacts present were noted and reintegrated with the hand-excavated finds. The dried flots were subsequently sorted using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 60 and a complete list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 4. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands* and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (1997) for other plants. Carbonized seeds and grains, by the process of burning and burial, become blackened and often distort and fragment leading to difficulty in identification. Plant remains have been identified to species where possible. The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

### *Quantification*

C.2.4 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and legumes have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories

# = 1-10, ## = 11-50, ### = 51+ specimens #### = 100+ specimens

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

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

***Results***

| Sample No. | Context No. | Cut No. | Feature Type | Volume processed (L) | Cereals | Legumes | Small Bones | Charcoal <2mm | Charcoal > 2mm | Contents |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 4 | 5 | possibleTree-Bole | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | + | Moderate charcoal |
| 2 | 6 | 7 | Ditch | 20 | ## | # | 0 | ++ | + | small assemblage of charred barley, wheat and possibly rye grains. Pottery |
| 3 | 8 | 10 | Pit | 10 | # | 0 | ## | +++ | ++ | occasional charred wheat grains. Small bones. |
| 4 | 14 | 15 | Ditch | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | + | + | sparse charcoal, hammerscale |

*Table 4: Environmental samples from YAX035*

C.2.5 Preservation is by carbonisation. Charcoal fragments are present in all of the samples as evidence of the burning of wood. Sample 1 from fill 4 of possible tree pit **5** produced a small amount of charcoal consistent with findings during excavation. It is unlikely that this represents a deliberate deposit and is likely to have accumulated naturally. Similarly Sample 4, fill 14 of medieval ditch **15**, contains sparse charcoal and also contains a single flake and spheroid of hammerscale. Both are likely to have been accidentally included in the backfill of this feature.

C.2.6 Sample 2, fill 6 of ditch terminus **7** contains a small assemblage of charred cereal grains that include wheat (*Triticum* sp.) barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and possibly rye (*Secale cereale*). Preservation is poor resulting in tentative identification to species level. No chaff elements are present. A small legume likely to be a vetch (*Vicia* sp.) cotyledon was also noted.

C.2.7 Sample 3, fill 8 of pit **10** was thought during excavation to be possibly modern. It contains six poorly preserved charred grains, probably wheat grains, that cannot be assigned to a particular date. Small bones are also present.

***Discussion***

C.2.8 Of the four samples taken during these excavations, the only sample to produce an archaeobotanical assemblage of any significance is from early medieval ditch terminus **7**. The recovery of charred plant remains is indicative of the use of cereals for consumption. Wheat, barley and rye were common cereals of cultivation during the early medieval period, particularly in the East of England. Wheat and rye were used for flour for making bread and barley was most often used for brewing.

C.2.9 The samples have been processed in full and none of the assemblages produced are worthy of any further work.

## Appendix D. Bibliography


| | | |
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# APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

## *Project Details*

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OASIS Number | oxfordar3-187889 | | |
| Project Name | Progress Power Project, Yaxley, Suffolk. Archaeological Evaluation | | |
| Project Dates (fieldwork) Start | 08-09-2014 | Finish | 08-09-2014 |
| Previous Work (by OA East) | Yes | Future Work | Yes |

**Project Reference Codes**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Site Code | XSFEAF14 | Planning App. No. | to be arranged |
| HER No. | YAX 035 | Related HER/OASIS No. | |

**Type of Project/Techniques Used**

| | |
|---|---|
| Prompt | Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS 5 |
| Development Type | Rural Commercial |

***Please select all techniques used:***

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

**Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods**

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

| Monument | Period | Object | Period |
|---|---|---|---|
| ditch | Early Medieval 410 to 1066 | pottery | Early Medieval 410 to 1066 |
| ditch | Post Medieval 1540 to 190 | pottery | Roman 43 to 410 |
| pit | Uncertain | tile | Post Medieval 1540 to 190 |

## Project Location

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| County | Suffolk | Site Address (including postcode if possible) | |
| District | Mid Suffolk | Progress Power Project at Ley's Lane & Eye Airfield, Yaxley, Suffolk | |
| Parish | Yaxley | | |
| HER | Suffolk Museums | | |
| Study Area | 10 ha | National Grid Reference | centred on TM 117 748 |

## Project Originators

| | |
|---|---|
| Organisation | OA EAST |
| Project Brief Originator | Jess Tipper (SCCAS/CT) |
| Project Design Originator | Stephen Macaulay (OA East) |
| Project Manager | Stephen Macaulay (OA East) |
| Supervisor | Graeme Clarke (OA East) |

## Project Archives

| Physical Archive | Digital Archive | Paper Archive |
|---|---|---|
| Suffolk Museums | OA East | Suffolk Museums |
| YAX035 | XSFEAF14 | YAX035 |

### Archive Contents/Media

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

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

**Notes:**

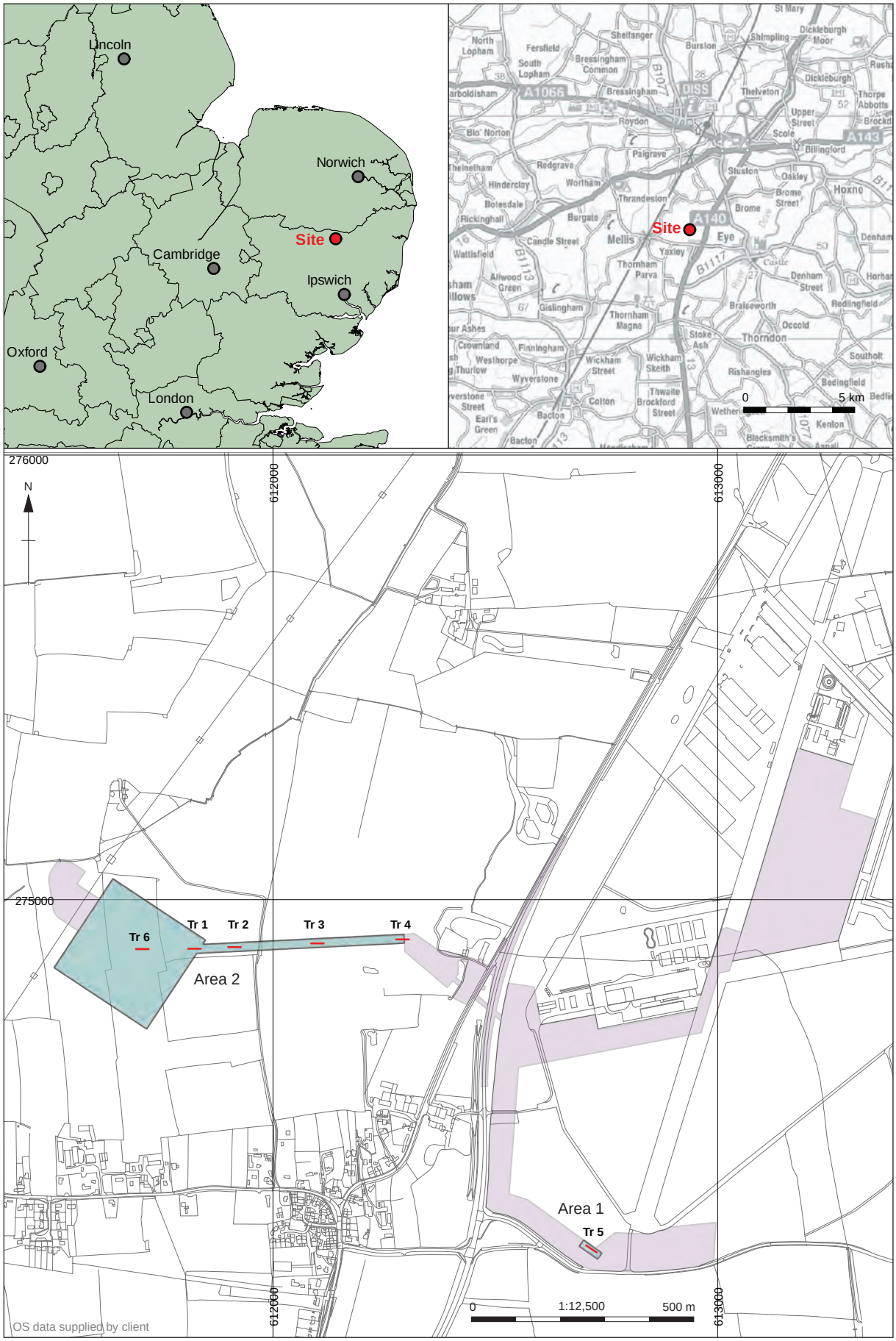


Figure 1: Location of evaluation trenches (red) and metal detecting areas (blue). Scale 1:12500

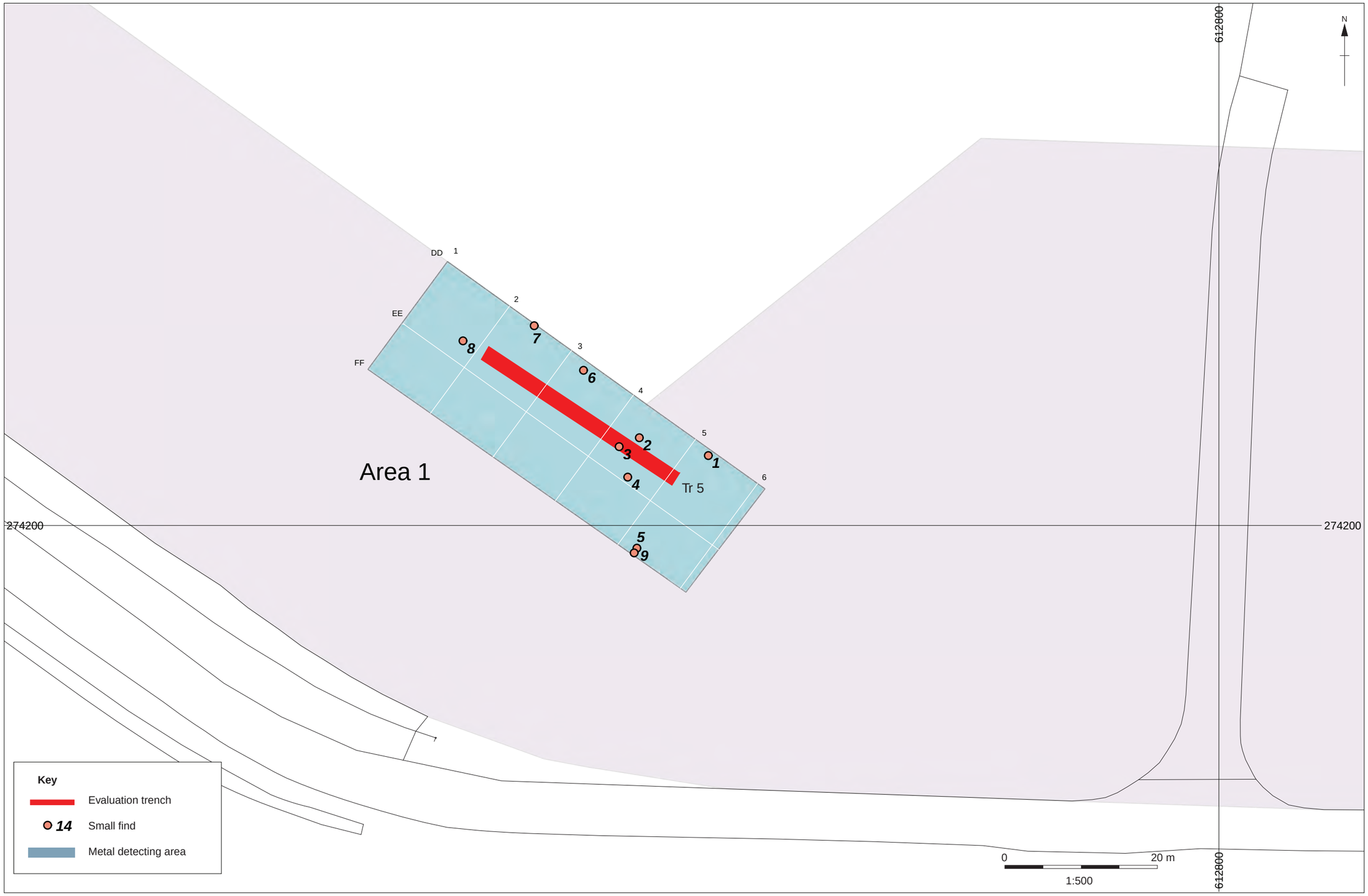


Figure 2: Site layout plan with plot of finds from metal detecting survey (Area 1) Scale 1:500

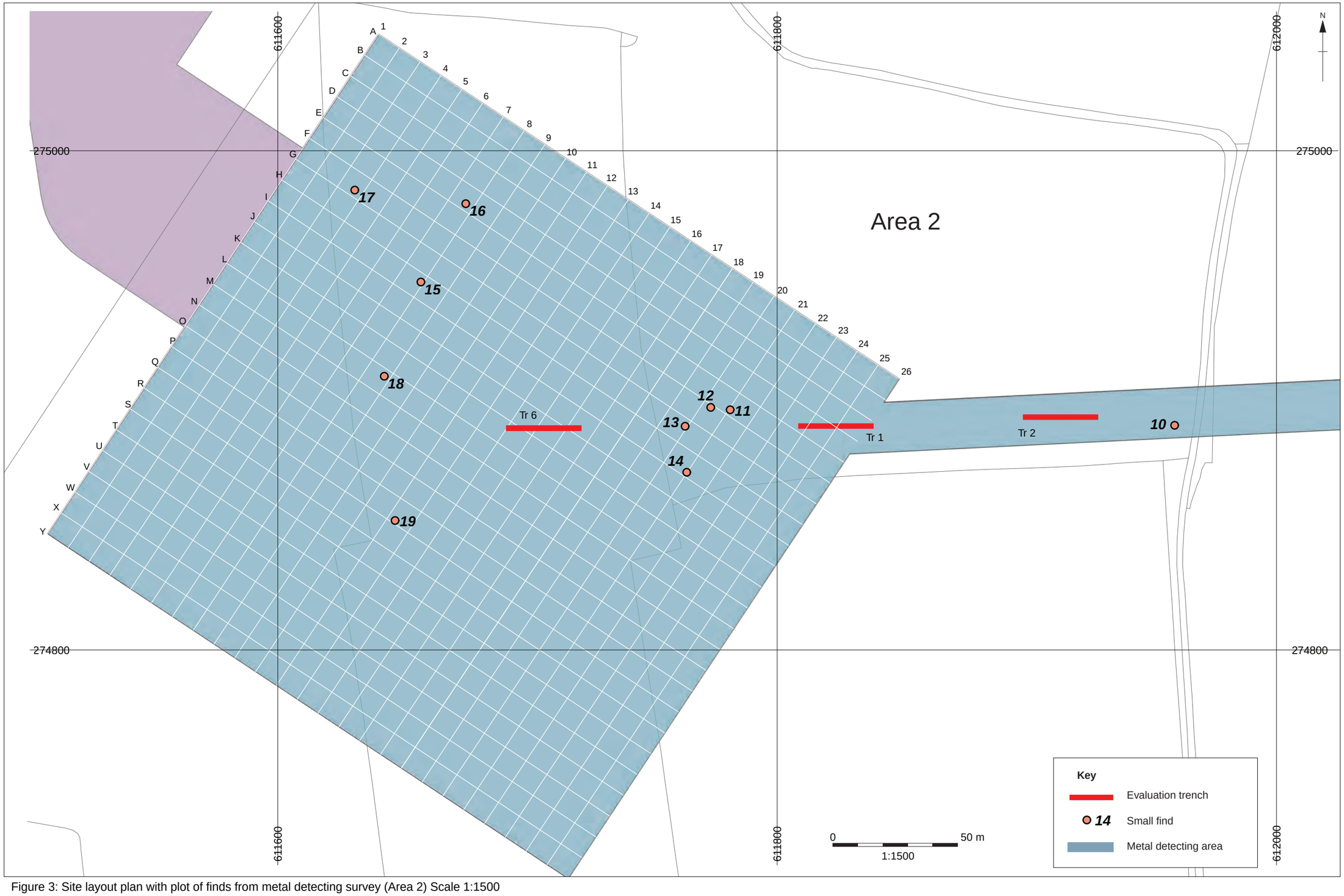


Figure 3: Site layout plan with plot of finds from metal detecting survey (Area 2) Scale 1:1500

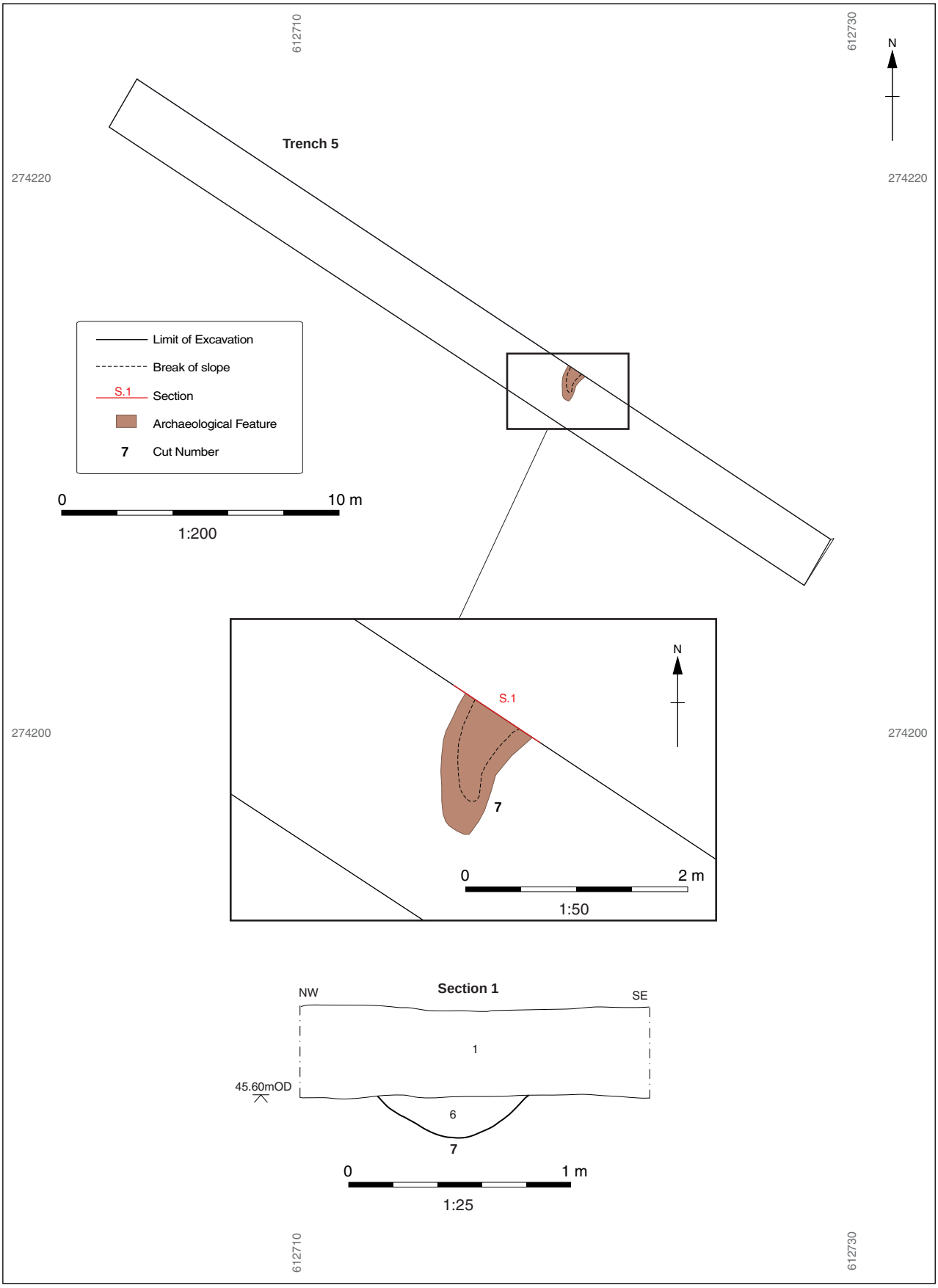


Figure 4: Plan and section of ditch 7 in trench 5

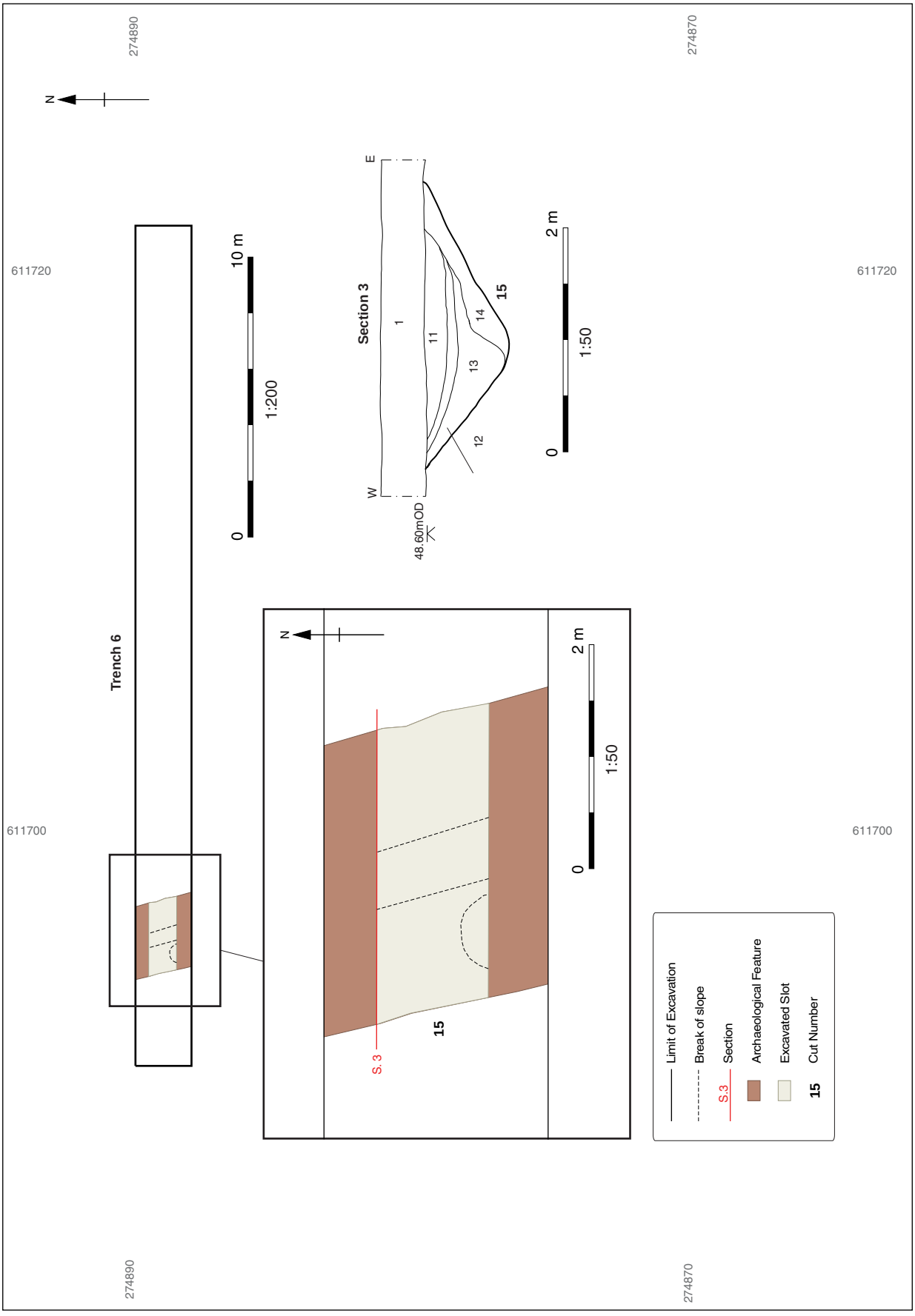


Figure 5: Plan and section of ditch 15 in trench 6

Plate 1: Trench 1 looking east with treebole 5

Plate 2: Trench 5 looking northwest


Plate 3: Trench 6 looking west with ditch 15

Plate 4: Section of ditch 7 looking northeast (0.5m scale)

Plate 5: Section of ditch 15 looking north (2m scale)

Plate 6: Section of pit **10** looking south (0.5m scale)

Plate 7: Working shot of trench 4


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