Iron Age and Roman Activity on land adjacent to No. 38 March Road Wimblington Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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July 2014

Client: Savills on behalf of George Scarborough Ltd.

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

Iron Age and Roman Activity on land adjacent to No. 38 March Road, Wimblington, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation

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Summary

Between 8th July and 16th July 2014, Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to No. 38 March Road, Wimblington, Cambridgeshire (TL4138 9277). This was in advance of the proposed construction of residential properties. The evaluation revealed the presence of several Iron Age and Roman ditches, along with pits and postholes.

The Iron Age activity comprised ditches and a possible large waterhole. These features were dated by the pottery they contained to the Middle to Late Iron Age, although some pottery may be of Early Iron Age date. Roman activity comprised ditches and pits containing pottery, animal bone and ceramic building material. A geophysical survey of the site appears to show a sub-square enclosure, which the evaluation has shown to be of Roman date. A deep, well-like feature was identified c.90m to the east of this enclosure. The presence of ceramic building material, including a fragment of box flue tile, suggests a Roman building somewhere in the vicinity.

The evaluation appears to show that the site was occupied from the Middle Iron Age until the 3rd to 4th century AD, with pottery of Iron Age, Late pre-Roman Iron Age, Early Roman and Late Roman date recovered. The environmental samples show that there is potential for the recovery of both charred and waterlogged plant remains that can provide information on the diet, economy and the local environment of the site

1 Introduction

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted by Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) on land adjacent to 38 March Road, Wimblington, Cambridgeshire (TL 4138 9277). This work, which was commissioned by Savills on behalf of George Scarborough Ltd, was carried out in advance of the proposed construction of residential properties in fields on the north side of Wimblington. The total proposed development area mesures ha.3.5ha.

1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application F/YR14/0232/O), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East.

1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed 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 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 the March island. The underlying geology here is Ampthill clay overlain by boulder clay. The central part of the island is capped by March gravels and the subject site is situated to the north of these (BGS 173).

1.2.2 The proposed development site is on one of the fenland gravel 'islands', lying on relatively flat ground at between *c*.4m and *c*.5m OD in an area of high archaeological potential. Bounded to the south by residential properties and to the west by March Road, much of the site is currently under grass, although it was previously used for arable cultivation, and as a plant nursery prior to this.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

Prehistoric

1.3.1 The earliest remains in the area include a flint axe recovered from Curf Fen (CHER 03686) and flint of Mesolithic date from an excavation at Norfolk Street, Wimblington (MCB 16492). Later Bronze Age remains are known from the vicinity, for example, a socketed axe from Stitches Farm (CHER 08261). Iron Age settlements are known from the area, most significantly the Fort at Stonea Camp (Scheduled Monument 20453) to the east and also at Bridge Lane, Wimblington (CHER 11416, 11416a and 10006a).

Roman

1.3.2 Whilst the most significant remains of Roman date in the vicinity are clearly the Roman town of Stonea Grange to the east, background remains from this date are also recorded in the area. A settlement is known from cropmarks just north of Wimblington (CHER 08984), to the east of Manor Farm (CHER 08968 and within Wimblington (CHER 11646). Other remains include pottery scatters (CHER 10006) and a Roman flagon found in the immediate vicinity of the site in the garden of No. 38 March Road (MCB 15647). In addition, recent investigations to the north, undertaken by OA East in 2013, have identified Roman features (CHER ECB4047)..

1.3.3 Roman ditches and associated features were excavated by OA East (by the author) in the field to the south of No. 1 Bridge Lane in advance of an Anglian Water pipeline in 2005-6 (CHER MCB 17533 & MCB 17554 to the esouth-east). These represent the only excavation evidence for this area (CHER ECB2090).

Medieval

1.3.4 The Scheduled Monument (SM 33272) of the Bishop's Palace, Manor Farm (HER 01063), lies to the east of the village of Doddington. Known to have been a grange of the Bishops of Ely, it was recorded in 1086 as a manor of five hides and fisheries totalling 27,150 eels and was from 1109 one of the main residences of the Bishopric. Wimblington has a wide range of known archaeological remains from the medieval period, including ridge and furrow (for example CHER 02742, MCB14519). Of particular significance for the subject site is the Deserted Medieval Village of Eastwood End to the north-east of the village of Wimblington (CHER 11416b).

Post-medieval and Modern

1.3.5 A number of historic buildings are recorded in and around Wimblington, for example, the Old Toll House (CHER 05914/MCB 15647) and New Corn Mill (MCB 7195/CHER05913). Other features include the Great Northern and Great Eastern Joint Railway line, which ran from south-west to north-east on the east side of Wimblington and Doddington and now forms part of the A14. Historic maps such as the first edition (1886) Ordnance Survey map (www.old-maps.co.uk) indictate that current landscape of Wimblington , is little changed from that of the later post-medieval period, , being characterised as a largely rural settlement with scattered dwellings and a number of public houses).

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like to thank Andrew Hodgson of Savills Ltd, who commissioned the work on behalf of George Scarborough Ltd. The fieldwork was directed by the author, with the assistance of Matt Brooks, Daria Tsabaeva and Tam Webster; Stephen Macaulay managed the project. The site survey was carried out by Gareth Rees, while the 360º excavator was provided by Anthill Plant Ltd. The work was monitored by Andy Thomas, on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council.

2 Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

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

2.1.2 In the event that archaeological remains are present the evaluation will seek to consider appropriate methodologies and suitable resourcing levels for excavation.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The Brief and corresponding Specification required that 14 trenches, each 50m long, were excavated. Due to the presence of services and trees on the site, and in consultation with CCC HET, the length of some trenches was altered. Thus a total of 682.9m of trenching was achieved.

2.2.2 The trenches were targeted to investigate a number features identified by a geophysical survey of the site (Masters 2014;) as well as seemingly 'blank' areas between these. Features identified by the geophysical survey include ditches (including a probable square enclosure in the north-western part of the proposed development), ridge and furrow and areas of possible quarrying or modern disturbance (Fig. 2).

2.2.3 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360^0 excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.

2.2.4 The site survey was carried out using a Leica GS08 with live correctional data provided by SmartNET.

2.2.5 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.

2.2.6 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.

2.2.7 Environmental samples were taken from a range of features, including a waterlogged deposit and several ditches.

2.2.8 Site conditions were generally good, although heavy rain prevented work on one day.

3 Results

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The dimensions of each trench, together with the depth of the topsoil and subsoil (where present) are given in Appendix A. A context inventory is given in Appendix B. Details of the features uncovered are given below, by trench, followed by artefact and environmental summaries supplemented by specialists reports included as Appendix D and E.

3.2 Trench 1

(Figs 3a and 4)

3.2.1 Ditch **9** crossed the northern end of Trench 1 on an east to west orientation. It was 2.52m wide and 0.56m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by a single deposit (11), which was a dark brownish grey, silty clay. Nineteen sherds (186g) of Roman pottery, a single fragment (45g) of ceramic building material, along with 149g of animal bone were recovered from this feature.

3.2.2 To the south of ditch **9**, and continuing on the same alignment, was ditch **7** (Fig. 4, S.2). This feature was 2.54m wide and 0.64m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. A single deposit (8) filled ditch **7**,, consisting of a dark brownish grey silty clay. Finds from this feature comprise 16 sherds (352g) of Roman pottery, four fragments of ceramic building material (700g), a single piece of daub (56g), and 230g of animal bone.

3.2.3 Between ditches **7** and **9** was a large pit (**4**), which was only partly exposed within the trench. Pit **4** had vertical sides and a flat base, it was 7.30m long and 0.62m deep. This feature contained two fills (5 and 6) with the basal fill (6) being a dark greyish brown silty clay. The upper fill (5) was a mid greyish brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from this feature and it is possible that it represents a medieval or post-medieval gravel quarry pit.

3.3 Trench 2

(Figs 3a and 4)

3.3.1 Towards the eastern end of Trench 2, located to the immediate east of Trench 1, ditch **16** crossed on a north-south alignment. It had steeply sloping sides and a flat base, with a width of 1.18m and a depth of 0.36m. Two deposits filled this feature, the primary deposit (17) was a dark yellowish grey, clayey sand. This was overlain by deposit 18, which was a very dark brownish grey, clayey loam. Four sherds (20g) of 2nd to 4th century AD pottery were recovered from fill 18, along with a significant assemblage of charred plant remains.

3.3.2 To the west of ditch **16** were three inter-cutting features (**31**, **33**, **37**, Fig. 4, S.10). The earliest of these appeared to be pit **37**, which was 2.80m wide, 1.10m deep and continued out of the trench to the north and south. It had steeply sloping sides and a concave base. The earlier of the two deposits which filled this feature (38) was a pale grey, sandy silt. This was overlain by 39, which filled the majority of the pit: it was a pale greyish brown, clayey loam. No finds were recovered from this feature.

3.3.3 Possible pit **31** was located on the eastern edge of pit **37** and may have been part of the same feature, however the relationship was removed by later ditch **33** . Pit **31** survived to a depth of 0.34m and a width of 1.40m. It had an irregular side and was

filled by a single deposit (32). Fill 32 was a mid reddish brown, clayey sand. No finds were recovered from this feature.

3.3.4 Ditch **33** cut both features **31** and **37**. It was 1.60m wide and 0.70m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. Three deposits filled this feature (34, 35 and 36). The basal fill (34) was a dark yellowish grey, sandy loam. This was overlain by 35, a dark brownish grey, silty loam, which appears to represent a dump of burnt material and was found to contain charred plant remains and small fragments of bone. The final fill of this ditch (36) was a mid greyish brown, clayey loam. The finds assemblage from this ditch comprised a total of 41 sherds (702g) of pottery and 38g of animal bone.

3.3.5 Closer to the western end of Trench 2 were two possible pits (**12** and **14**). Pit **12** was circular in plan, with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It had a diameter of 1.10m and was 0.10m deep. Deposit 13 filled the entirety of this feature and comprised a pale reddish grey, clayey sand, which contained no finds.

3.3.6 Pit **14** had steeply sloping sides, with a V-shaped base and was sub-circular in plan. It was 0.60m long, 0.42m wide and 0.12m deep. The single deposit which filled this feature (15) was a dark greyish brown, clayey sand.

3.4 Trench 3

(Fig. 3a)

3.4.1 A single ditch (**19**) crossed the northern end of this trench, which lay at right angles to Trench 2, on an east to west alignment. This ditch was 1.48m wide and 0.36m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. A single deposit (20) filled this feature: a mid greyish brown, silty clay. A total of sixteen sherds (139g) of Roman pottery and 20g of animal bone was recovered from this feature.

3.5 Trench 4

(Fig. 3b)

3.5.1 A single small possible pit (**82**) was located in this trench. Pit **82** was sub-circular in plan, with steeply sloping sides and a V-shaped base. It was 0.73m long, 0.50m wide and 0.22m. It was filled by a single deposit (83), which was a dark greyish brown, clayey sand. No finds were recovered from this feature.

3.6 Trench 5

(Figs 3a, 3b and 4)

3.6.1 Located in the middle of Trench 5 was a large feature (**26**) (Fig.4, S.9; Plate 1) that measured 14.5m long and may actually represent several inter-cutting features, or possibly a large water hole. Feature **26** was 1.20m deep, with steeply sloping sides and was filled by a series of five deposits. The basal fill (67) was a waterlogged, dark brownish grey, clayey silt that contained plant remains preserved through the anoxic conditions. This was overlain by two similar fills: a mid grey clayey loam (66), and a mid greyish brown clayey loam (30). Above the latter was a pale greyish brown, silty sand (28), while the final fill (27) comprised a mid brownish grey sandy loam. No finds were recovered from this feature.

3.6.2 Feature **26** was cut by a ditch (**68**; Fig. 4, S.9), with crossed the trench on a north to south alignment. It had gently sloping sides, with a concave base and was filled by a single deposit (29), a dark brownish grey sandy loam. Two sherds (27g) of pottery, datable to the 2nd to 4th century AD date, were recovered from this feature.

3.6.3 At the north-eastern end of the trench were a posthole (**78**) and a gully or slot (80). The posthole was circular in plan, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.34m deep, with a diameter of 0.66m and was filled by a single deposit (77). Its single fill (77) was a dark brownish grey, silty sand, which contained no finds. Gully **80** appeared to be contemporary with posthole **78** and it is possible that they are the remains of a structure. Gully **80** crossed the trench on and east to west alignment, with a width of 0.26m and a depth of 0.14m. It had steeply sloping sides and a V-shaped base. The single fill of this feature (79) was very similar to the fill of posthole **78**, being a dark brownish grey, silty sand; neither produced any finds.

3.6.4 At the south-west end of the trench was an area of inter-cutting features (**21**, **23**), which appears to represent quarry pits. Although no dating evidence was recovered from them, their morphology and the fills they contained suggest that they may be of medieval or post-medieval date. Pit **21** was heavily truncated by pit **23**, but survived to a maximum width of 0.68m and depth of 0.28m. Pit **21** had gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by a single deposit (22), which was a mid brownish grey, silty sand. No finds were recovered from this feature.

3.6.5 Pit **23**was sub-circular in plan, with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It had a maximum visible width of 5.60m and was 0.68m deep. Pit **23** was filled by a series of four deposits. The basal fill (41) was a mid orangey brown, sandy loam. This was overlain by a mid brownish grey, clayey loam (40), above which was a mid greyish brown, silty sand (25). The final fill (24) was a dark brownish grey, silty loam. No finds were discovered within this feature.

3.7 Trench 6

(Fig. 3b)

3.7.1 At the southern end of Trench 6 was a large feature (**63**) which appears to be of geological origin. Feature **63** had an irregular profile and continued beyond the trench edges to both the east and west. It was 4.50m wide, with a depth of 0.62m and was filled by four deposits (62, 87, 88, 111). The basal fill was a mid yellowish brown silty clay (111), overlain by a mid grey silt (88), above which was a mid greyish brown clayey silt (87). The final fill (62) was a pale brownish grey, silty clay. Nine sherds (14g) of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery were recovered from fill 88, along with a single fragment (275g) of Roman tegula. Two further fragments (217g) of ceramic building material, including a piece of a box flue tile (161g), were recovered from the final fill (62). A bulk soil sample from deposit 88 was devoid of environmental remains. It is likely that these finds accumulated in a gradually in-filling hollow, created by the geology in this location.

3.7.2 At the southern end of Trench 6 was a pit (**65)** that was sub-circular in plan, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.50m wide, with a depth of 0.28m and was filled by a single deposit (64): a pale grey silty clay, which contained no finds.

3.7.3 A group of seven features (**49**, **51**, **53**, **55**, **57**, **59** and **61**) was located to the north of hollow **63**. These features were all small pits or postholes with diameters between 0.30m and 0.92m, and depths between 0.06m and 0.34m; were filled by similar pale grey, silty clay deposits (48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60). The only finds recovered from any of these features came from fill 52 of posthole **53** and comprised a single sherd (7g) of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery and 2g of animal bone.

3.7.4 Ditch **47** crossed Trench 6 on an east to west alignment. It had steeply sloping sides and a flat base, with a width of 0.65m and a depth of 0.28m. It was filled by a single deposit (46), which was a mid brownish grey, sandy loam. A total of 33g of animal bone

was recovered from this feature, although a bulk soil sample from fill 46 did not contain any preserved plant remains. Ditch **47** was cut by a modern pipe trench (**43**, filled by 42).

3.7.5 A possible posthole (**45**) was visible in the base of ditch **47** and may have been contemporary with it. It was circular in plan, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It had a diameter of 0.31m and was 0.21m deep. Posthole **45** contained a single fill (44), which was a mid brownish grey, sandy loam. No finds were recovered from this feature.

3.7.6 To the north of ditch **47** was a further ditch, which was not excavated in this trench as it continued into Trench 7, where it was excavated as ditch **70** (see below).

3.8 Trench 7

(Figs 3b and 4)

3.8.1 Ditch **70** crossed Trench 7 on an east to west alignment. It was 0.56m wide and 0.20m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. This feature was entirely filled by deposit 69, which was a pale brownish grey, sandy loam. A single sherd (13g) of Mid to Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from this feature.

3.8.2 A pit/well (**76**, Fig.4, S.20; Plate 2) was located against the northern edge of the trench and continued beyond its limits. Pit **76** was circular in plan with vertical sides and may represent a well. The base of this feature could not be reached during excavation, due to the depth exceeding safe working levels. However it was excavated to a depth of 0.90m from the top of natural and the base was reached with an auger. Pit/well **76** was 1.23m deep, with a diameter of 2.20m and was filled by series of four deposits. The basal fill (126), which was only identified by auger, was a waterlogged, dark brownish grey silty sand. Above this was fill 75, a mid brownish grey silty loam. A single large fragment (602g) of Roman floor tile was recovered from this fill, along with 69g of animal bone and sparse charcoal flecks. This was overlain by deposit 74, a mid to dark brownish grey, silty loam, which contained 75g of animal bone. The final fill (73) was a mid brownish grey silty loam, which contained no finds.

3.8.3 Four furrows crossed Trench 7, all on north to south alignments, one of which (**72**) was excavated. Furrow **72** was 1.34m wide and 0.08m deep, with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by a single deposit (71), which was a pale reddish brown sandy loam. No finds were recovered from this furrow.

3.9 Trench 8

(Fig. 3b)

3.9.1 At the north-eastern end of Trench 8 were two perpendicular ditches (**89** and**91**). Ditch **91** crossed the trench on an east to west orientation and measured 0.90m wide, with a depth of 0.20m. It had gently sloping sides, with a concave base and was filled by deposit 92, which was a mid greyish brown, clayey sand. A total of 83g of animal bone was recovered from this feature.

3.9.2 Ditch **89** may have cut ditch **91**, although the relationship was not clear and it is possible that they were contemporary. Ditch **89** had steeply sloping sides and a concave base, with a width of 0.60m and a depth of 0.16m. If was filled by 90, a dark yellowish brown, silty sand. A single fragment (9g) of ceramic building material, which may be of post-medieval date, was recovered from this fill.

3.9.3 Four furrows, two of which were excavated (**93** and **95**), crossed this trench on a north-south alignment. Furrow **93** was 0.70m wide and 0.15m deep, with gently sloping sides

and a concave base. It was filled by deposit 94, a dark greyish brown, clayey sand. Furrow **95** had a similar profile and was filled by an identical deposit (96). No finds were recovered from either of these furrows.

3.10 Trench 9

(Figs 3b and 4)

3.10.1 At the western end of Trench 9 was a pit (**119**) that appeared to be sub-rectangular in plan, but was not fully revealed within the trench. Pit **119** had gently sloping sides and a flat base, with a depth of 0.12m. It was filled by 118, a mid brownish grey clayey loam. No finds were recovered from this feature and its function is unclear. It is possible that it had a structural origin, or may have been a working hollow.

3.10.2 To the east of this were three inter-cutting ditches (**113**, **115** and **117**,Fig. 4, S.31; Plate 3). Ditch **113** was truncated by ditch **115** and only survived to a width of 0.28m and a depth of 0.47m. It had steeply sloping sides with a concave base and was filled by a single deposit (112): a pale to mid brownish grey silty clay from which no finds were recovered.

3.10.3 Ditch **117**, which was also cut by ditch **115,** survived to a width of 1.58m and was 0.84m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by a single mid brownish grey, silty clay deposit (116), from which no finds or environmental remains were recovered.

3.10.4 Ditch **115**, which cut both ditches **113** and **117** was the only one of these ditches to contain any finds. It was 1.64m wide and 0.78m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single mid greyish brown, silty clay deposit (114), which produced a total of six sherds (45g) of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery, although a bulk sample did not produce any environmental remains.

3.10.5 Five furrows, two of which were excavated (**101** and **103**), also crossed this trench on a north to south alignment. Furrow **101** was 1.40m wide and 0.07m deep, with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by a single deposit (102), which was a dark yellowish grey, clayey sand. Furrow **103** had an identical profile and measured 1.50m wide and 0.06m deep. It was also filled by a single deposit (104), which was a dark reddish brown, clayey sand. No finds were retrieved from these furrows.

3.10.6 A single modern plough scar (**105**) was recorded cutting across all of the furrows on an east to west orientation.

3.11 Trench 10

3.11.1 No archaeological finds or features were recorded in this trench.

3.12 Trench 11

(Fig. 3b)

3.12.1 A single ditch (**100**) was present in the northern part of Trench 11. Ditch **100** continued from the western edge of the trench on a north-west to south-east orientation and possibly curved slightly. It had a width of 0.48m, with a depth of 0.18m and was filled by a single deposit (99). Fill 99 was a dark brownish grey sandy loam, which contained no finds or environmental remains.

3.13 Trench 12

(Figs 3a and 4)

3.13.1 Ditch **122** (S.29 Fig.4) crossed Trench 12 on a north tosouth orientation. It was 1.50m wide and 0.64m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. Ditch **122** was filled by two deposits: the basal fill (121) was a mid brownish grey clayey loam while the upper fill (120) was a dark brownish grey clayey loam. Three sherds (35g) of pottery were recovered from the upper fill, one of which (3g) is earlier Iron Age, while the rest is Middle to Late Iron Age. No environmental remains were present.

3.13.2 At the south-eastern end of the trench was large pit (**123**) that had gently sloping sides and a flat base. Pit **123** continued beyond both sides and the end of the trench and had a maximum visible width of 4.05m, with a depth of 0.40m. Two deposits filled this feature (124, 125). The basal fill (124) was a dark greyish brown clayey silt, overlain by a mid reddish brown silty clay(125). A single fragment of ceramic building material (42g) was found within the basal fill (124) of this feature.

3.14 Trench 13

(Fig. 3a)

3.14.1 A single small ditch (**86**) crossed this trench on a north-west to south-east alignment. Ditch **86** had gently sloping sides and a concave base, with a width of 0.46m and a depth of just 0.08m. A single deposit filled this feature (85): a mid brownish grey silty loam. Two sherds (12g) of pottery were recovered from this feature, one of which (3g) was of Late Pre-Roman Iron Age date, while the other (9g) was of 1st to 3rd century AD date.

3.15 Trench 14

(Fig. 3a)

3.15.1 Trench 14 was an L-shaped trench in an area currently used as a garden. Much of the trench was disturbed by modern activity, including the presence of a large uncapped well in the eastern edge of the trench. Much of the rest of the trench was taken up by post-medieval quarrying.

3.15.2 Feature **108** contained no finds, but probably represents post-medieval quarrying, as the material that filled it was extremely soft and dark. This possible quarry was 0.50m deep, with an irregular base. and measured at least 10.5m wide, continuing beyond the trench in three directions. The deposit which filled it (107) was a dark brownish grey silty loam.

3.15.3 Feature **110** was not excavated, as it also appeared to be a large quarry pit. A single sherd of pottery (9g) of 15th to 18th century AD date was recovered from the surface of this feature.

3.16 Finds Summary

3.16.1 Full reports on the prehistoric and Roman pottery are given in Appendix D, with a summary of these, together with a description of the post-medieval pottery and ceramic building material recovered, given below.

Prehistoric pottery (Sarah Percival)

3.16.2 A total of 23 sherds weighing 116g was collected from six contexts. The sherds are small and mostly of undiagnostic form, however the range of fabrics suggests that the majority of the sherds are of mid to later Iron Age date (350-100/50BC).

Roman pottery (Stephen Macaulay)

3.16.3 A total of 97 sherds weighing 1,562g was collected from eight contexts. The sherds are range in size from small to large with many being diagnostic. The assemblage represents activity on the site from the late Pre-Roman Iron Age (*c*.100BC) through and into the 4th century AD.

Post-medieval pottery

3.16.4 Two sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered during the evaluation. One sherd (21g) from context 109 (fill of pit **110** in Trench 14) is a green glazed post-medieval redware, produced during the 15th to 18th centuries AD (Carole Fletcher pers. comm.). The second (3g), from context 102 (fill of furrow **101** in Trench 9) is a stoneware, with sprigged decoration, of 17th century date (Carole Fletcher pers. comm.).

Ceramic Building Material

3.16.5 A small, but significant, quantity (14 pieces, weighing 2262g) of ceramic building material (CBM) was recovered. It is almost all of Roman date and includes roof tile (both tegula and imbrex), floor tile and box flue tile. The presence of this material suggests a Roman building of some substance may have existed in the vicinity.

Context	Trench	Cut	Feature type	Quantity	Weight (g)	Description
8	1	7	Ditch	4	700	Imbrex
				1	56	Daub
11	1	9	Ditch	1	45	Tegula
62	6	63	Natural hollow	1	161	Box flue
				1	58	Abraded lump
75	7	76	Pit	1	602	Floor tile
84	7	-	Topsoil finds	1	239	Tegula
88	6	63	Natural hollow	1	275	Tegula
90	8	89	Ditch	1	9	Highly fired fragment, post-medieval
96	8	95	Furrow	1	75	Abraded lump
124	12	123	Pit	1	42	Imbrex
TOTAL				14	2262	

Table 1: Ceramic Building Material

3.17 Environmental Summary

3.17.1 A full report on the environmental samples is given in Appendix E, with a summary of this, together with details of the faunal remains recovered, given below.

Faunal remains (Chris Faine)

3.17.2 Twenty-six fragments of animal bone were recovered with the (0.752kg) of which five were identifiable, recovered from five contexts. Contexts 20, 34, 36, 52, 46 & 114 contained no identifiable fragments. The remaining assemblage consists almost entirely of adult cattle remains, with butchered metapodia being recovered from contexts 8 (ditch **7**, Trench 1) & 92 (ditch **91**, Trench 8). Contexts 74 & 75 (pit **76**, Trench 7) contained a partial mandible and tibia respectively. A single horse fragment was recovered from context 11 (ditch 9, Trench 1) in the form of a partial metacarpal.

Environmental samples

3.17.3 Ten bulk samples were taken from features including ditches and pits dating predominantly from the Iron Age through to the Roman period. These samples showed that there is potential for the recovery of both charred and waterlogged plant remains that can provide information on the diet, economy and the local environment of the site.

4 Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Iron Age

4.1.1 Two ditches (**70 and 122**), along with a group of inter-cutting ditches (**113**, **115**, **117**) are of Iron Age date. In addition, possible water hole **26** was cut by a Roman feature and is also likely to be of Iron Age origin. Together these features suggest activity on the site during the Middle to Late Iron Age period (350-50BC).

4.1.2 Although no structural features definitely dated to the Iron Age period were identified, it is possible that ditch **100** (Trench 11) represents a drip gully, or perhaps part of a small enclosure. Given the proximity of this feature to others of Iron Age date, ditch **100** may also be of this date. In addition, a single sherd of Iron Age pottery was recovered from a group of small pits and postholes (**49**, **51**, **53**, **55**, **57**, **59**, **61**) in Trench 6, which may be further evidence of Iron Age structures.

4.1.3 Even if these features are not the remains of Iron Age structures, it seems likely that there was occupation on the site during this period. This was probably focused around the suspected water hole (**26**) in Trench 5, although Iron Age features were located up to 110m to the south of the water hole. This feature is also of some interest as the basal fill was waterlogged, which potentially provides the opportunity for the recovery not only of preserved environmental remains, but also of organic objects.

4.2 Roman

4.2.1 The majority of the Roman features identified were ditches, although a probable well, pits and possible postholes were also present. The geophysical survey (Fig. 2) appears to show that ditches **7** (Trench 1), **16** (Trench 2) and **19** (Trench 3) join to form a sub-square enclosure. This enclosure was situated on a slightly higher area of the site and probably indicates the primary area of Roman activity. However, pit **76** (Trench 7) probably represents a Roman well and was situated *c.*90m to the east of this enclosure.

4.2.2 Although no definite remains of Roman structures were identified, there was evidence of occupation of the site during this period. Deposit 35, within ditch **33** (Trench 2), appears to represent a dump of domestic material, including 507g of pottery and a broad array of charred plan remains; spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) grains, spelt wheat chaff (glume bases and rachis fragments), grains of oats (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), sedge (*Carex* sp.) seeds and also charred nutlets of Great Fen sedge (*Cladium mariscus*). The presence of probable well **76** in Trench 7, and the recovery of 2253g of Roman ceramic building material, also strongly suggest occupation on the site in this period.

4.2.3 The nature of the Roman material recovered does not suggest high status occupation, although the CBM may derive from a building of some substance. The majority of the pottery is of standard local production, with several examples from the large production sites in the Nene Valley. It is probable that this site represents a small farming community, which existed throughout the Roman period.

4.3 Site continuity and the Fenland region

4.3.1 The presence of Middle to Late Iron Age, Late Pre-Roman Iron Age, Early Roman and Later Roman pottery, suggests continuity of use on the site from the Iron Age and throughout the Roman period. Thus this site could provide the opportunity to study the transition from the Iron Age to the Roman periods in the Fenland region. In addition, the potential occupation of the site until at least the 4th century AD could allow for further

investigation of the 2nd century AD realignment of the landscape, often noted across the Fenland region.

4.3.2 This site fits within a growing corpus of sites located on former gravel islands in the Fenland region and on the March island specifically (*e.g.* Atkins 2004; Jones 2006). Such sites appear to have been situated to take advantage of both the light gravel soils for farming and the wide variety of resources available within the wet fen environment. Such sites were located within a complex Roman transport network, including roads (such as the Fen causeway which passes March on route from Peterborough towards Norfolk) and probably also water transport along rivers and, potentially, canals (such as the Cambridgeshire Car Dyke). This transport network allowed agricultural produce to be exported from the region, while goods could also be brought in.

4.4 Medieval and post-medieval

4.4.1 During the medieval period, the site appears to have been given over to agriculture. Evidence for ridge and furrow cultivation was found in several trenches and is visible on the geophysical survey. In addition, parts of the site were subjected to quarrying. Although the natural gravel present on site was generally mixed with clay and silt, it could still have been of use for repairing tracks and other similar functions.

4.5 Significance

4.5.1 This evaluation has shown that activity took place of the site during the Iron Age and Roman periods. During the medieval and post-medieval periods the area appears to have been under cultivation, although several large pits may have been dug as quarries.

4.5.2 It should be noted that there was relatively little correlation between the geophysical results and the features identified by the evaluation (Fig. 2), although the square enclosure in the north-west part of the development area was identified and appears to be of Roman date. A number of furrows and ditches shown on the geophysical survey were also recorded, in addition to quarries, although the majority of the latter were found in the northern part of the site in an area interpreted as being modern ferrous disturbance on the geophysical survey.

4.5.3 The site has the potential to provide an insight into both the Iron Age to Roman transition and the 2nd century AD re-alignment of the Fenland landscape. In addition, the environmental samples show that there is potential for the recovery of both charred and waterlogged plant remains that can provide information on the diet, economy and the local environment of the site

4.6 Recommendations

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

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions

Trench No	Length (m)	Max. Depth (m)	Max topsoil depth (m)	Max subsoil depth (m)
1	48	0.58	0.36	0.12
2	46.5	0.47	0.33	0.14
3	49	0.90	0.50	0.40
4	49	0.47	0.37	0.10
5	48	0.57	0.54	0.18
6	48	0.48	0.48	-
7	43.4	0.54	0.54	0.08
8	50.0	0.58	0.46	0.12
9	49.0	0.42	0.15	0.57
10	49.8	0.50	0.08	0.58
11	49.3	0.60	0.12	0.66
12	46.5	0.65	0.55	0.10
13	25.1	0.50	0.30	0.20
14	14.7 x18.6	0.44	0.44	-

Appendix B. Context Inventory

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type
1			layer	topsoil
2			layer	subsoil
3	0		layer	natural
4	4	1	cut	pit
5	4	1	fill	pit
6	4	1	fill	pit
7	7	1	cut	ditch
8	7	1	fill	ditch
9	9	1	cut	ditch
10	0		VOID	
11	9		fill	ditch
12	12	2	cut	pit
13	12	2	fill	pit
14	14	2	cut	pit
15	14	2	fill	pit
16	16	2	cut	ditch
17	16	2	fill	ditch
18	16	2	fill	ditch
19	19	3	cut	ditch
20	19	3	fill	ditch
21	21	5	cut	pit
22	21	5	fill	pit
23	23	5	cut	pit
24	23	5	fill	pit
25	23	5	fill	pit
26	26	5	cut	pit
27	26	5	fill	pit
28	26	5	fill	pit
29	68	5	fill	ditch
30	26	5	fill	pit
31	31	2	cut	pit
32	31	2	fill	pit
33	33	2	cut	ditch
34	33	2	fill	ditch
35	33	2	fill	ditch
36	33	2	fill	ditch
37	37	2	cut	pit
38	37	2	fill	pit
39	37	2	fill	pit
40	23	5	fill	pit
41	23	5	fill	pit
42	43	6	fill	pipe trench
43	43	6	cut	pipe trench

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type
44	45	6	fill	post hole
45	45	6	cut	post hole
46	47	6	fill	ditch
47	47	6	cut	ditch
48	48	6	fill	pit
49	49	6	cut	pit
50	51	6	fill	post hole
51	51	6	cut	post hole
52	53	6	fill	pit
53	53	6	cut	pit
54	55	6	fill	post hole
55	55	6	cut	post hole
56	57	6	fill	post hole
57	57	6	cut	post hole
58	59	6	fill	post hole
59	59	6	cut	post hole
60	61	6	fill	natural
61	61	6	cut	natural
62	63	6	fill	natural
63	63	6	cut	natural
64	0	6	fill	post hole
65	65	6	cut	post hole
66	26	5	fill	pit
67	26	5	fill	pit
68	68	5	cut	ditch
69	70	7	fill	ditch
70	70	7	cut	ditch
71	72	7	fill	furrow
72	72	7	cut	furrow
73	76	7	fill	pit
74	76	7	fill	pit
75	76	7	fill	pit
76	76	7	cut	pit
77	78	5	fill	post hole
78	78	5	cut	post hole
79	80	5	fill	gully
80	80	5	cut	gully
81	33	2	fill	ditch
82	82	4	cut	pit
83	82	4	fill	pit
84	0	7	finds unit	subsoil
85	86	13	fill	ditch
86	86	13	cut	ditch
87	63	6	fill	natural
88	88	6	fill	natural

Context	Cut	Trench	Category	Feature Type
89	89	8	cut	ditch
90	89	8	fill	ditch
91	91	8	cut	ditch
92	92	8	fill	ditch
93	93	8	cut	furrow
94	93	8	fill	furrow
95	95	8	cut	furrow
96	95	8	fill	furrow
97	0		VOID	
98	0		VOID	
99	100	11	fill	ditch
100	100	11	cut	ditch
101	101	9	cut	furrow
102	101	9	fill	furrow
103	103	9	cut	furrow
104	103	9	fill	furrow
105	105		cut	plough scar
106	105	9	fill	plough scar
107	108	14	fill	pit
108	108	14	cut	pit
109	110	14	fill	pit
110	110	14	cut	pit
111	63	6	fill	natural
112	113	9	fill	ditch
113	113	9	cut	ditch
114	115	9	fill	ditch
115	115	9	cut	ditch
116	117	9	fill	ditch
117	117	9	cut	ditch
118	119	9	fill	pit
119	119	9	cut	pit
120	122	12	fill	ditch
121	122	12	fill	ditch
122	122	12	cut	ditch
123	123	12	cut	pit
124	123	12	fill	pit
125	123	12	fill	pit
126	76	7	fill	pit

Appendix C. Finds Quantification

Context	Material	Object Name	Weight in kg
8	Ceramic	Vessel	0.349
8	Bone	Bone	0.230
8	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.689
8	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.055
11	Ceramic	Vessel	0.181
11	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.047
11	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.002
11	Bone	Bone	0.149
15	Flint		0.013
18	Ceramic	Vessel	0.019
20	Ceramic	Vessel	0.144
20	Bone	Bone	0.020
29	Ceramic	Vessel	0.027
34	Ceramic	Vessel	0.002
34	Bone	Bone	0.001
35	Ceramic	Vessel	0.507
35	Ceramic	Fired clay	0.073
36	Stone		0.101
36	Ceramic	Vessel	0.171
36	Bone	Bone	0.037
46	Bone	Bone	0.033
52	Ceramic	Vessel	0.006
52	Bone	Bone	0.002
62	Flint		0.054
62	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.217
69	Ceramic	Vessel	0.012
74	Bone	Bone	0.075
75	Bone	Bone	0.069
75	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.595
84	Ceramic	Roofing tile	0.236
85	Ceramic	Vessel	0.012
88	Flint		0.012
88	Ceramic	Vessel	0.014
88	Ceramic	Roofing tile	0.275
90	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.009

Context	Material	Object Name	Weight in kg
92	Bone	Bone	0.083
96	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.075
98	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.002
102	Ceramic	Vessel	0.003
109	Ceramic	Vessel	0.021
109	Flint		0.016
114	Flint		0.010
114	Bone	Bone	0.007
114	Ceramic	Vessel	0.045
116	Flint		0.023
116	Ceramic	Vessel	0.003
120	Ceramic	Vessel	0.034
124	Ceramic	Ceramic Building Material	0.042

Appendix D. Finds Reports

D.1 Prehistoric Pottery

By Sarah Percival

Introduction

D.1.1 A total of 23 sherds weighing 116g was collected from six contexts. The sherds are small and mostly of undiagnostic form however the range of fabrics suggests that the majority of the sherds are of mid to later Iron Age date (350-100/50BC).

Methodology

D.1.2 The assemblage was analysed in accordance with the guidelines for analysis and publication laid down by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (PCRG 2010 Methodology.doc). 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 present (F representing flint, G grog and Q quartz). Vessel form was recorded; R representing rim sherds, B base sherds, D decorated sherds and U undecorated body sherds. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Decoration and abrasion were also noted. The pottery and archive are curated by OA East.

Trench	Feature type	Context	Feature	Spot date	Quantity	Weight (g)
2	Ditch	34	33	Not closely datable	3	2
6	Natural hollow	88	63	Mid /later Iron Age	9	14
	Pit	52	53	Later Iron Age	1	7
7	Ditch	69	70	Mid /later Iron Age	1	13
9	Ditch	114	115	Mid /later Iron Age	6	45
12	Ditch	120	122	Earlier Iron Age	1	3
				Mid /later Iron Age	2	32
Total					23	116

Table 2: Quantity and weight of Iron Age sherds by trench and feature

Trench 2

D.1.3 Three scraps in sandy reduced ware weighing 2g were recovered from ditch **33**. The sherds may be Iron Age but are too small to be accurately identified.

Trench 6

D.1.4 Two contexts from Trench 6 contained prehistoric pottery. Natural hollow **63** contained nine body sherds in sandy fabric, Q1, weighing 14g.

D.1.5 Pit **53** contained a grog-tempered base sherd of Latest Iron Age date, 100/50 BC – 50AD.

Trench 7

D.1.6 A single flint-tempered base sherd weighing 13g came from context (69), ditch **70**. The sherd is Early Iron Age.

Trench 9

D.1.7 A small assemblage of six later Iron Age sherds weighing 45g, in sandy reduced ware with smoothed surfaces, was recovered from fill (114) of ditch **115**.

Trench 12

D.1.8 Three sherds weighing 35g came from the fill (120) of ditch **122**. One small sherd in flint-tempered fabric may be from the base of an Earlier Iron Age vessel. Two sherds, in sandy reduced fabric weighing 32g, have a corrugated form similar to Late Iron Age examples found at Wardy Hill (Evans 2003, fig. 79, F.25, 6).

Discussion

D.1.9 The presence of the small assemblage suggests activity in the later Iron Age, *c.* 350-100/50BC, with some residual flint-tempered sherds which may be earlier Iron Age.

Fabric Descriptions

Fabric	Description	Quantity	Weight (g)
Q1	Sandy reduced ware with moderate organic and sparse quartz grains >2mm	20	93
F1	Common small angular flint	1	3
FQ	Sparse flint, common white sub-rounded quartzite.	1	13
GTW	Common sub-angular pale grog	1	7
Total		**23**	**116**

D.2 Roman Pottery

By Stephen Macaulay with contributions from Steve Wadeson

Introduction

D.2.1 A total of 97 sherds weighing 1,562g was collected from eight contexts. The sherds are range in size from small to large with many being diagnostic. The assemblage represents activity on the site from the late Pre-Roman Iron Age (*c.*100BC) through and into the 4th century AD.

Trench	Feature type	Context	Fabric	Description	Spot date	Quantity	Weight (g)
1	Ditch	8	NVCC	Nene Valley Colour Coat	4 C	2	89
1	Ditch	8	NVGW	Nene Valley Grey Ware	2-3 C	5	148
1	Ditch	8	RW	Reduced Ware	Roman	4	73
1	Ditch	8	SGW	Sandy Grey Ware	Roman	4	33
1	Ditch	8	GBW	Gritty Buff Ware	2 C	1	9
1	Ditch	11	SGW	Sandy Grey Ware (Camuldoum copy)	1-2 C	1	14
1	Ditch	11	GBW	Gritty Buff Ware	2 C	1	5
1	Ditch	11	Ver	Verulamium Ware	1-2 C	1	4
1	Ditch	11	NVGW	Nene Valley Grey Ware	2-3 C	1	3
1	Ditch	11	SGW	Sandy grey Ware	Roman	1	52
1	Ditch	11	SRW	Sandy Reduced Ware	LRP IA/1C	1	14
1	Ditch	11	SOW	Sandy Oxdised Ware	2-4 C	1	18
1	Ditch	11	SW	Shelly Ware	Roman	1	8
1	Ditch	11	BSRW	Black Surfaced Red Ware	2 C	5	43
1	Ditch	11	GWF	Fine Grey Ware	2-4 C	2	3
1	Ditch	11	RW	Reduced Ware	1-3 C	4	22
2	Ditch	18	GWF	Fine Grey Ware	2-4 C	4	20
3	Ditch	20	RW	Reduced Ware	2-4 C	12	110
3	Ditch	20	SGW	Sandy Grey Ware	1-2 C	3	10
3	Ditch	20	SGW	Sandy Grey Ware (grog)	1 C	1	19

Trench	Feature type	Context	Fabric	Description	Spot date	Quantity	Weight (g)
5	Ditch	29	GWF	Fine Grey Ware	2-4 C	2	27
2	Ditch	35	RW	Reduced Ware	1-3 C	16	351
2	Ditch	35	SRW	Sandy Reduced Ware	LRP IA/1C	3	74
2	Ditch	35	GWF	Fine Grey Ware	2-4 C	4	24
2	Ditch	35	SGW	Sandy Grey Ware	Roman	8	67
2	Ditch	36	NVGW	Nene Valley Grey Ware	2-4 C	1	15
2	Ditch	36	SW	Shelly Ware (large storage jar)	1-2 C	1	143
2	Ditch	36	SRW	Reduced Ware	Roman	2	7
2	Ditch	36	RW	Sandy Reduced Ware	LRP IA/1C	3	19
13	Ditch	85	RW	Sandy Reduced Ware	LRP IA/1C	1	3
13	Ditch	85	SGW	Sandy grey Ware	1-3 C	1	9
	Total					97	1,562

Table 3: Quantity and weight of Roman sherds by trench and feature

Methodology

D.2.2 The assemblage was analysed in accordance with the Guidelines for analysis and publication laid down by the Study group for Roman Pottery (SGRP). The total assemblage was studied and a full catalogue was prepared. Fabric codes and vessel form were recorded. The sherds were counted and weighed to the nearest whole gramme. Decoration and abrasion were also noted. The pottery and archive are currently curated by OA East until formal deposition.

Trench 1

D.2.3 Sixteen sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from context 8 in ditch **7**. The sherds are all Roman and included a shallow plain rimmed dish (NVGW). A further nineteen sherds were recovered from fill 11 of ditch **9**, including a grey ware Camulodunum imitation, along with possible Verulamium ware.

Trench 2

D.2.4 Three contexts from Trench 2 contained Roman pottery. Contexts 35 and 36 are fills of the same enclosure ditch, whilst context 18 is possibly the continuation of Ditch 7 from Trench 1 and is also an enclosure ditch. Pottery recovered dated to the Late pre-Roman Iron Age through to the end of the 4th century AD. Forms include a large shelly ware storage jar.

Trench 3

D.2.5 A single context (20) produced pottery from a ditch, considered to be the continuation of the ditch in Trenches 1 and 2. Roman pottery was recovered.

Trench 5

D.2.6 A single context (29) produced pottery from a ditch, considered to be the continuation of the ditch in Trenches 1, 2 and 3. Fine grey ware pottery was recovered, a material not present in the Roman Fens until the 2nd century AD.

Trench 13

D.2.7 A single context (ditch fill 85) produced pottery, including both Roman and Late pre-Roman Iron Age material.

Discussion

D.2.8 The nature of the assemblage suggests activity from the later Iron Age, *c.* 350-100/50BC (see above) through the Early Roman period but continuing through and into the 2nd century Romanisation of the Fens. The assemblage is fairly well preserved and is derived from a rural domestic kitchen assemblage.

D.2.9 The assemblage is similar to other nearby Roman assemblages *e.g*. Wimblington Road, March (Lyons,& Percival 2004) and the March to Chatteris Anglian Water Pipeline (Lyons,& Percival 2006). These assemblages contain a sizeable transitional Iron Age to Roman assemblage indicating continuous occupation of the site throughout the 1st centuries BC to AD, with activity continuing into the early 4th century at least.

Appendix E. Environmental Reports

E.1 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

E.1.1 Ten bulk samples were taken 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 ditches and pits dating predominantly from the Iron Age through to the Roman period.

Methodology

E.1.2 A sub-sample (one bucket) 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).

Results

E.1.3 The results if the environmental analysis are presented in the table below:

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Sample Size (L)	Trench	Volume processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Chaff	Charred Weed Seeds	Waterlogged weed Seeds	Charcoal <2mm	Large animal bones	Pottery
1	18	16	ditch	20	2	10	60	###	###	##	0	###	0	0
2	35	33	ditch	20	2	19	80	###	##	###	0	###	#	#
3	67	26	pit	20	5	8	90	0	0	0	##	#	0	0
4	46	47	ditch	20	6	8	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	75	76	pit	20	7	9	15	0	0	0	0	#	#	#
6	99	100	ditch	20	11	9	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	88	63	ditch	20	6	8	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	120	122	ditch	20	12	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	114	115	ditch	20	9	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	116	117	ditch	20	9	10	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 4: Environmental samples

Discussion

E.1.4 The samples taken from Trenches 6, 7, 9 11 and 12 are devoid of preserved plant remains which may indicate that these areas were not inhabited.

E.1.5 The two samples from Trench 2 (Sample 1, fill 18 of ditch **16** and Sample 2, fill 35 of ditch **33**) both contain significant quantities of charred plant remains that include spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) grains in addition to spelt wheat chaff (glume bases and rachis fragments) as well as occasional grains of oats (*Avena* sp.) and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*). The charred weed seed component of the two assemblages is quite different. Sample 1 contains seeds of plants that are commonly found growing amongst cereals such as bromes (*Bromus* sp.) and stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*) which is a plant that grows on heavy clay soils. Sample 2 does not contain crop weed seeds but has a large number of burnt sedge (*Carex* sp.) seeds and also charred nutlets of Great Fen sedge (*Cladium mariscus*). Both samples also contain wood charcoal (no leaf fragments of Great Fen sedge noted).

E.1.6 Sample 3 was taken from the basal fill 67 of an Iron Age pit or pond **26**. It contains roots, stems and seeds of plants that have been preserved by waterlogging due to the feature being dug below the water table. Many of the seeds can be identified as originating from plants that would have been growing around this feature such as sedges, brambles (*Rubus* sp.), pale persicaria (*Persicaria lapathifolia*), knotgrass (*Polygonum lapathifolia*), buttercup (*Ranunculus acris/repens/bulbosus*), dock (*Rumex* sp.), small nettle (*Urtica urens*), chickweed (*Stellaria media*) and stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*). A type of water cress (*Rorippa* sp.) would have been growing within the wet feature and there is evidence of Cladocera such as the water-flea (*Daphnia* sp.) through the presence of egg-cases (ephiphia).

Conclusion

E.1.7 The environmental samples show that there is potential for the recovery of both charred and waterlogged plant remains that can provide information on the diet, economy and the local environment of the site. Charred plant assemblages such as those recovered from Trench 2 are indicative of the processing of cereal crops taking place on site and the subsequent burning of the waste materials. The presence of burnt sedges indicates the collection of this wetland resource which had a number of uses such as for thatching, flooring material and, ultimately, as fuel. The waterlogged seeds from the Iron Age feature in Trench 5 show that, despite the occasional bramble seed, the surrounding area was not particularly overgrown.

E.1.8 If further work is intended for this area, it is recommended that a sampling strategy for the recovery of environmental samples is included along with the assessment of pollen samples from deeper features, particularly those that contain waterlogged deposits.

Appendix F. Bibliography

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Appendix G. OASIS Report Form

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-185694		
Project Name	Iron Age and Roman activity on land adjacent to 38 march Road, Wimblington, cambridgeshire		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	08-07-2014	Finish	16-07-2014
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	WIMMAR14	Planning App. No.	F/YR14/0232/O
HER No.	ECB1497	Related HER/OASIS No.	n/a

Type of Project/Techniques Used

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

Please select all techniques used:

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

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

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

Monument	Period	Object	Period
ditch	Iron Age -800 to 43	pottery	Roman 43 to 410
ditch	Roman 43 to 410	pottery	Iron Age -800 to 43
pit	Roman 43 to 410	ceramic building mat	Roman 43 to 410

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Fenland	land east of 38 March Road, Wimblington Cambridgeshire	
Parish	Wimblington		
HER	Cambridgeshire		
Study Area	3.5ha	National Grid Reference	TL 4138 9277

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Andy Thomas
Project Design Originator	Rob Bourne
Project Manager	James Drummond-Murray
Supervisor	Nick Gilmour

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
CCC stores	OA East office, Bar Hill	CCC stores
CAMPET13	CAMPET13	CAMPET13

Archive Contents/Media

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

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

Notes:

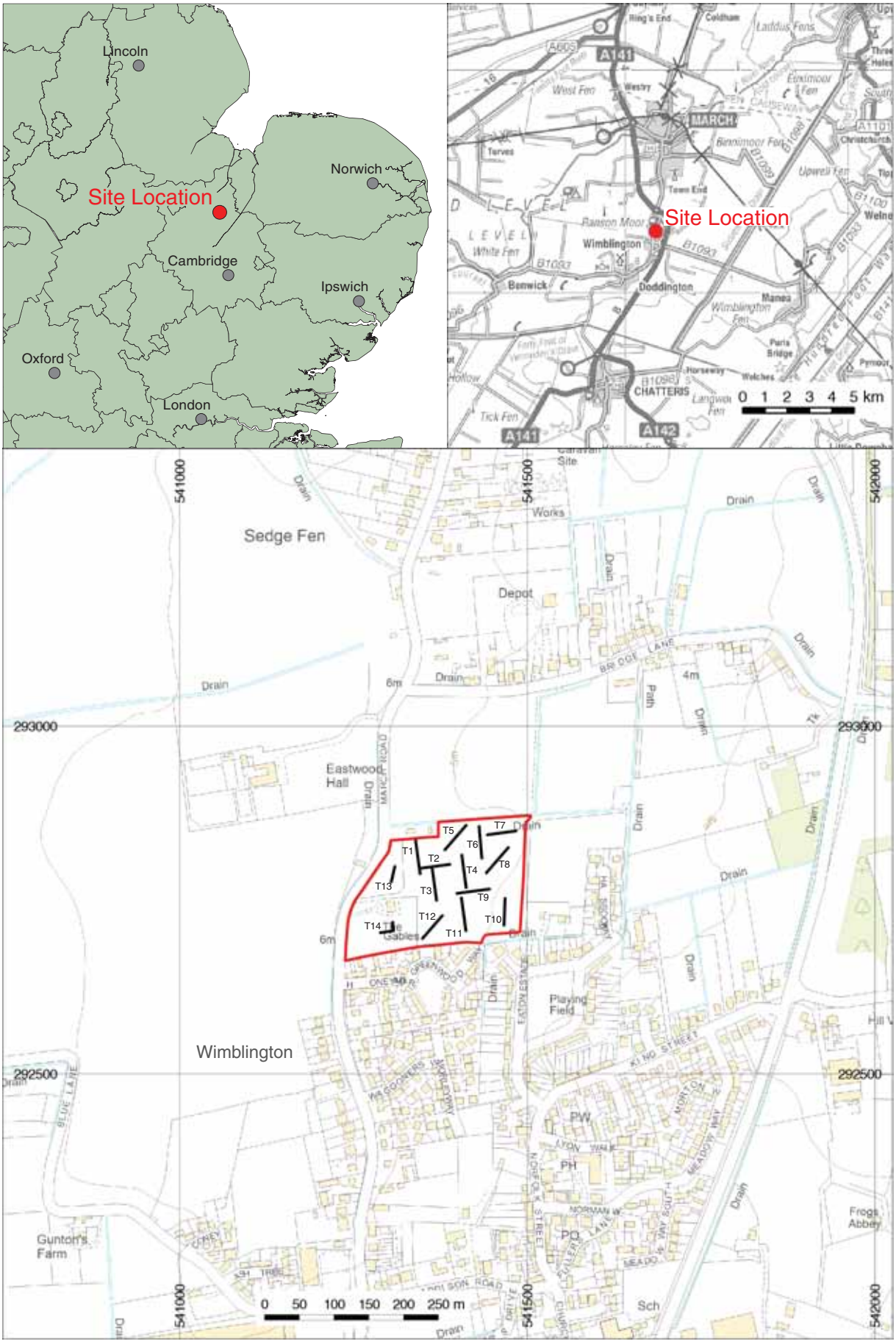
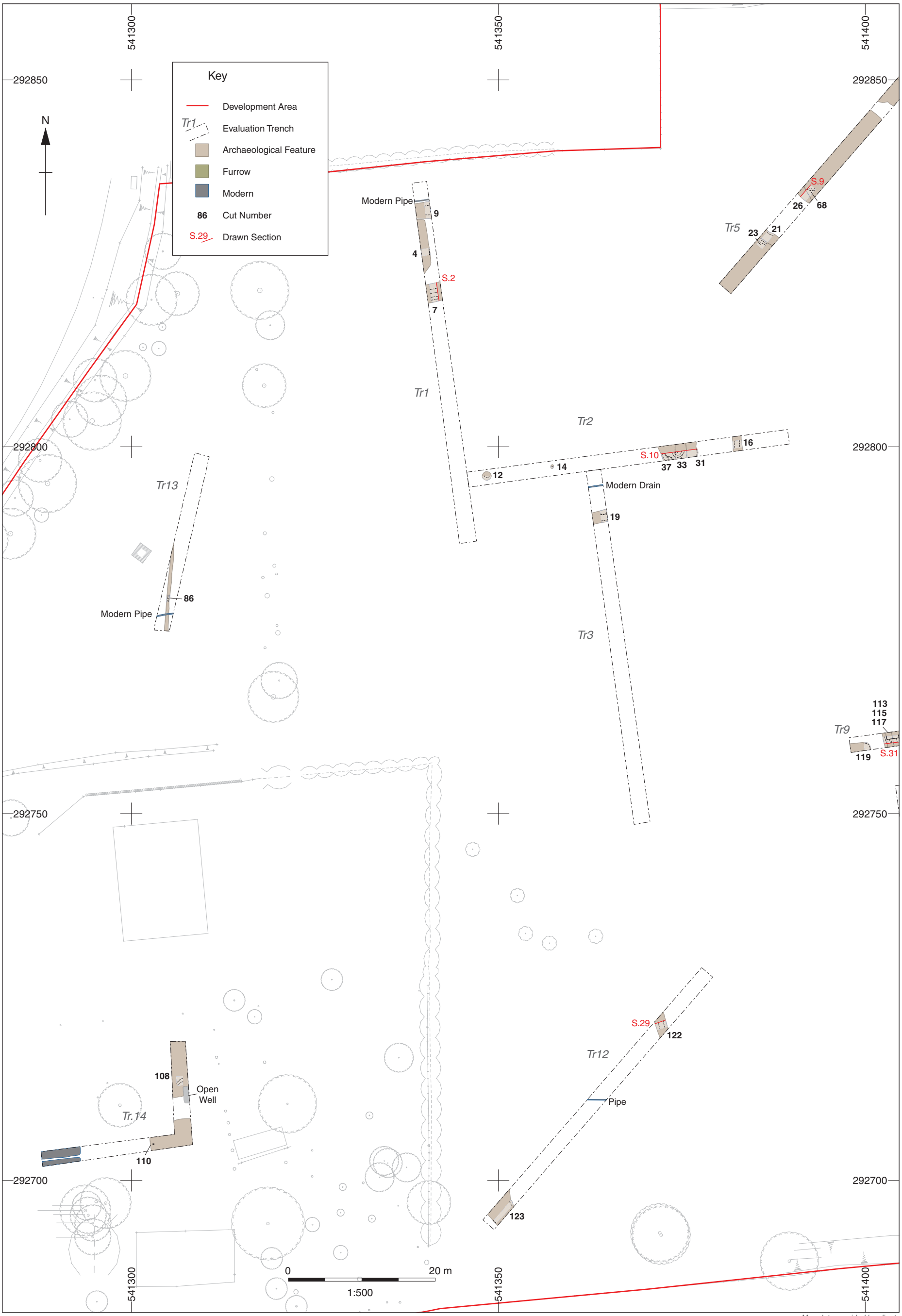


Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red)

Figure 2: Excavated features in relation to geophysical survey



Map data provided by client.

Figure 3a: Trench plan (west)

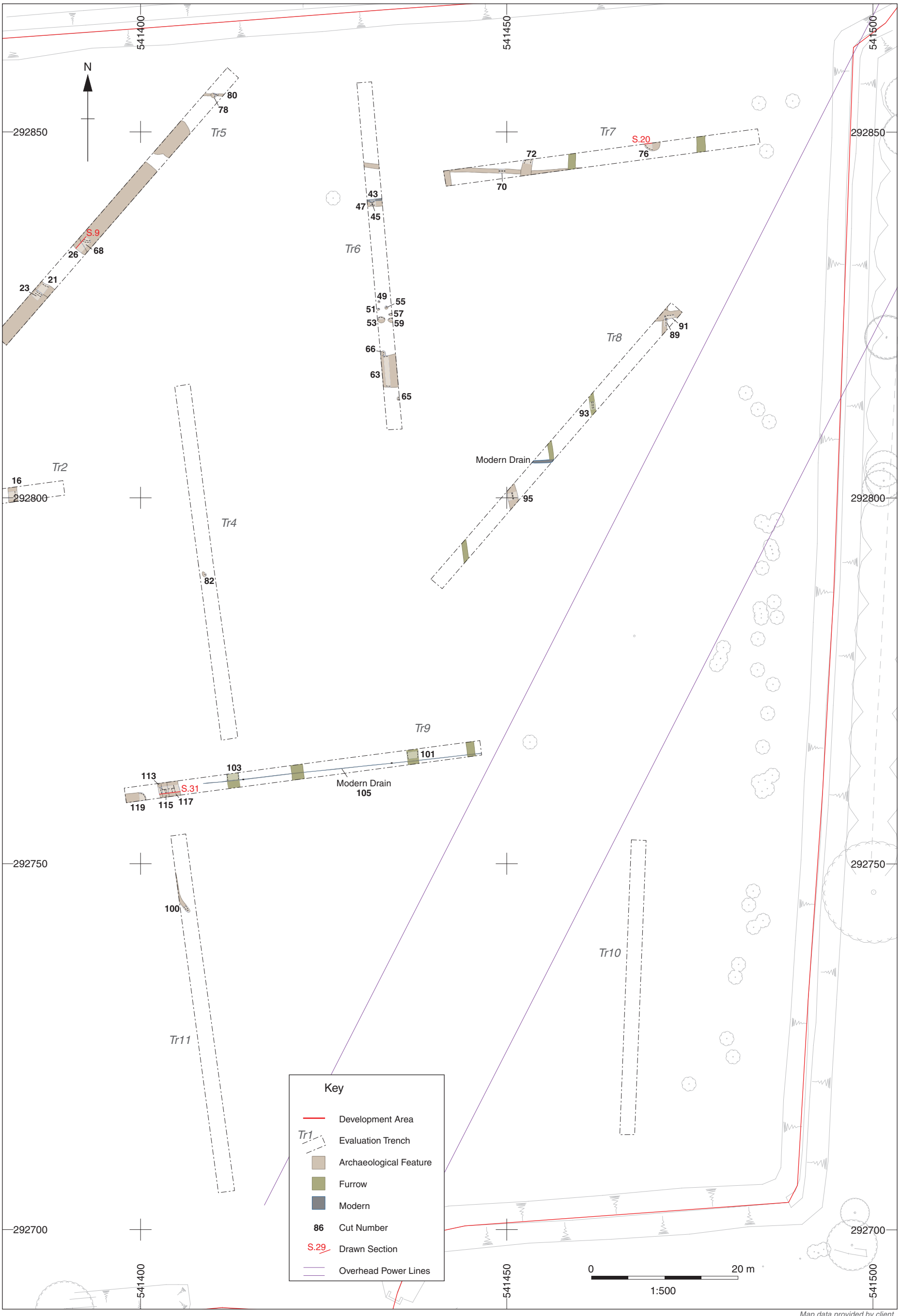


Figure 3b: Trench plan (East)

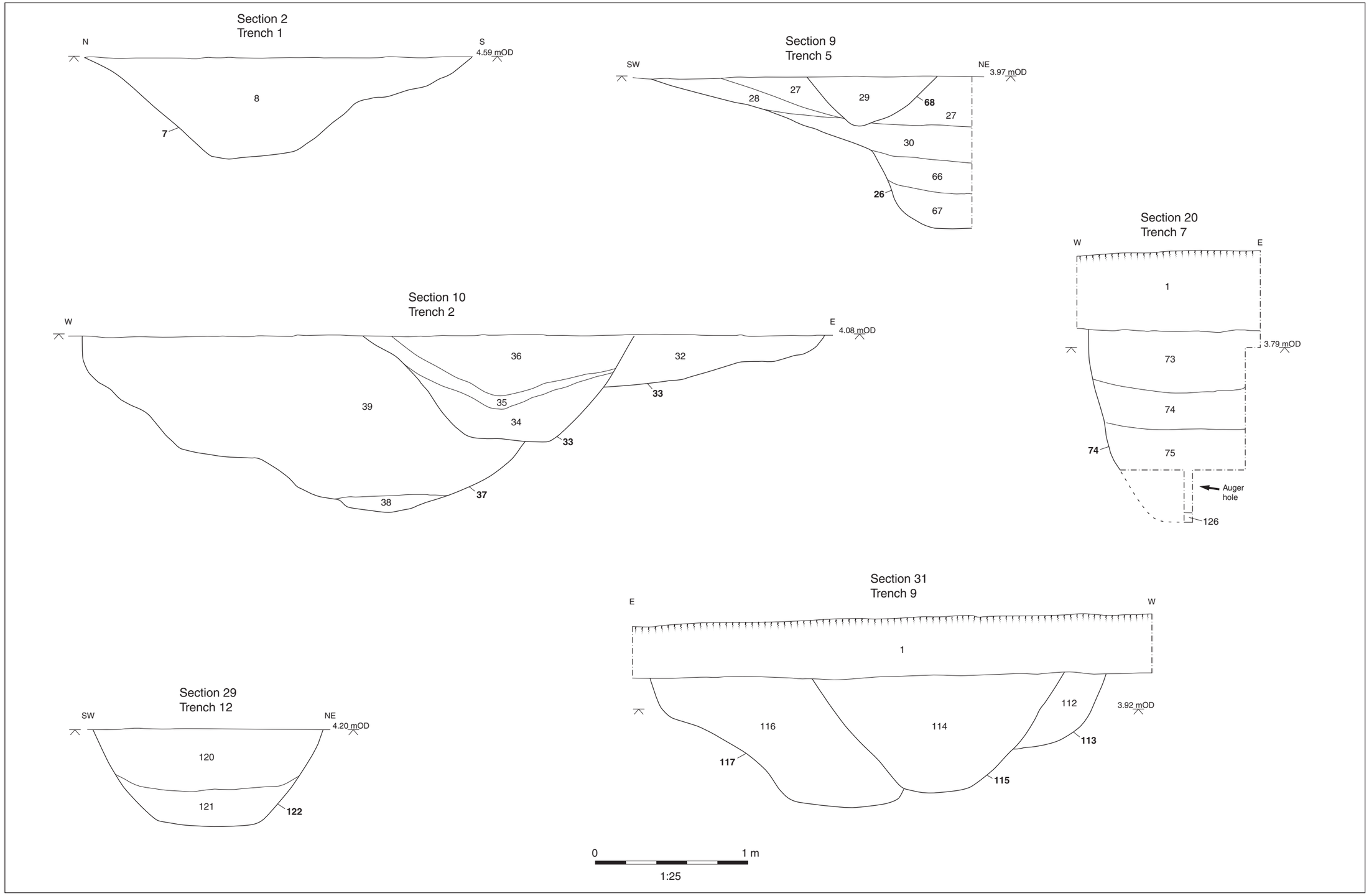


Figure 4: Selected sections

Plate 1: Feature **26** from the South-East

Plate 2: Well **76** from the South-West

Plate 3: Ditches **113**, **115** and **117** from the North

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