

Land adjacent to Askham House Doddington Cambridgeshire



Archaeological
Evaluation Report



September 2015

Client: Fields End Water Ltd.

OA East Report No: 1829

OASIS No: oxfordar3-222065

NGR: 539415, 290950

Land east of Askham House, Doddington, Cambridgeshire


Archaeological Evaluation

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Report Date: September 2015

Report Number: 1829
Site Name: Land east of Askham House, Doddington
HER Event No: ECB 4536
Date of Works: September 2015
Client Name: Fields End Water Ltd.
Client Ref: 18362
Planning Ref: F/YR15/0077/O
Grid Ref: 539415, 290950
Site Code: ECB 4536
Finance Code: DODLAH15
Receiving Body: CCC Stores
OASIS No: oxfordar3-222065
Prepared by: Louise Bush
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Date: September 2015
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Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: September 2015
Signed: 

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Summary

From the 1st to the 2nd of September 2015, Oxford Archaeology East was commissioned to undertake a trial trench evaluation on land to the east of Askham House, Doddington, Cambridgeshire (NGR: 539415, 290950) ahead of the construction of ten houses.

No features of archaeological origin were identified. A small assemblage of finds dating from the Iron Age through to the post-medieval period were recovered from the topsoil and subsoil. These are consistent with the manuring of fields and are unlikely to indicate significant activity on or near the proposed development site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted on land to the east of Askham House, Benwick Road, Doddington, Cambridgeshire (Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Planning Application F/YR15/0077/O), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East (Connor & Bush 2015).
- 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 is situated to the west of the medieval core of Doddington, which is located on the March island within the fen landscape. Situated on Amphthill Clays which are overlain in this location by superficial river terrace deposits of sand and gravel of the Flandrian period. The site itself is broadly flat, situated at a height of 7m OD to the east which gently drops to 6.3m OD to the west.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

Prehistoric

- 1.3.1 Although the March Island generally has, in common with many counterparts in the peat fen, significant later prehistoric and Romano-British remains, very few are known from Doddington parish. Those that are recorded include Neolithic finds to the south-west of the development site (HER 08671) and a Bronze Age beaker found at How Moor just south of Primrose Hill (HER 03748) approximately 1km south of the site. Just over 1km to the south-east a socketed axe head was recovered from Stitches Farm (HER 08261), however these finds were made during the 19th century and no prehistoric remains have been found during more recent work within the area.

Romano-British

- 1.3.2 Only a small number of finds in the area have been dated to the Roman period and there are no known features. A few sherds of Roman pottery (mainly grey wares) were found 1km south-west of the site (HER 10888). Just over 1km to the south-east, four coins were recovered; one of Decentius and Constans, one of Magnentius, and two which were illegible. A gold coin of Theodosius was also uncovered alongside fragments of Roman pottery (HER 05896).

Medieval and later

- 1.3.3 The western part of Doddington has extensive cultivation evidence of the medieval open fields: ploughed out ridge and furrow (MCB 11501). These were associated with a deserted area of village, the remains of which have proven elusive in many local development areas although a large medieval ditch was found with smaller cut feature evidence from land to the south of Benwick Road (MCB 19304) roughly 150m to the south-east of the current development area.
- 1.3.4 The development site is situated between the existing village of Doddington and the remains of a deserted medieval settlement (HER 09675). The Site is surrounded by ridge and furrow, the remnants of medieval farming, and a medieval moat is known to exist to the north of the site (HER 01052).
- 1.3.5 Most of the known activity in the area is dated to the medieval period. A large number of earthworks and a lesser number of features around the village are dated to this period. A measured site survey at Doddington Pocket Park located approximately 500m to the south-west of the proposed development found an area of medieval ridge and furrow (ECB 100 & 13006). Further ridge and furrow can also be found located west of the site (HER 09674).
- 1.3.6 A short distance to the east, trial trenches on land adjacent to Benwick Road were excavated, revealing a gully and a ditch which have been tentatively dated to the medieval period by pottery found dating from the 13th to 15th centuries (ECB 3491).
- 1.3.7 St Mary's church is located in the village centre to the east of the site. The earliest phasing of the church is dated to the 13th century, with evidence for major reconstruction in the 14th century and further additions in the 15th and 19th centuries (MCB 17088).
- 1.3.8 Immediately adjacent to the eastern limit of the site is Doddington Hospital. This location was originally occupied by the North Witchford Union Workhouse, built in 1838. The workhouse is first seen on the OS County Series Map of 1887. In 1930 the workhouse became the Doddington Infirmary and then in 1948, the Doddington County Hospital. The workhouse buildings were demolished in 2003 and replaced by the present hospital buildings.
- 1.3.9 A number of post-medieval finds and features have been located farther east of the site, around the core of the village. An evaluation at Ingles Lane uncovered features believed to be associated with former ancillary buildings of Ingles House (ECB 900). A number of post-medieval houses in Doddington have been listed, including the Doddington Hall Coach House (DCB 1606).
- 1.3.10 Archaeological works at Askham house next door to the site revealed a single undated posthole (ECB 3088). A short distance to the south-west of the site, an evaluation on land between 60a and 62a Benwick Road revealed no archaeological features (ECB 3825). To the south-east, an evaluation on land at 50 Benwick Road identified a gully tentatively dated to medieval period (ECB 3491).

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to extend thanks to Charlie Boughton of Fields End Water Ltd. for commissioning and funding the work. The fieldwork was undertaken by the author with the aid of Mary Andrews. Site survey was carried out by Dave Brown. The site was monitored by Kasia Gdaniec and the project managed by Aileen Connor.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

Aims

- 2.1.1 The objective of this trial trench 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.

Methodology

- 2.1.2 A total of six 30m trenches and three 20m trenches were positioned within the proposed development area on a standard grid array.
- 2.1.3 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a JCB 3CX excavator using a 1.6m wide toothless bucket.
- 2.1.4 The site survey was carried using a Leica GS08 GPS.
- 2.1.5 Spoil and exposed surfaces were scanned visually for finds and with a metal detector. All metal-detected and hand-collected finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.1.6 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 digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

3 RESULTS

Introduction

- 3.1.1 During the evaluation works, no features of archaeological origin were revealed (Fig. 2). Across the site, natural geology (consisting of orange brown silts and gravels) was encountered approximately 0.45m below modern ground level. The topsoil (01) consisted of a mid grey clay silt. The subsoil was made up of a mid brown orange clay silt (02).
- 3.1.2 A comprehensive list of trench depths, descriptions and related context data can be found in Appendix A.

Trench results

- 3.1.3 No archaeological features were identified within any of the trenches (Plates 1 to 9). However a series of parallel linear features were seen across Trenches 2, 4, 5 and 6. These all corresponded with the tractor tramlines on the surface of the field (Plate 10). A number of these features were investigated and found to be between 0.02m and 0.05m in depth. They were filled with a soil which bore a close resemblance to the subsoil.

Finds Summary

- 3.1.4 A very small number of finds were recovered from the topsoil and subsoil during machine excavation. The topsoil across the site was near devoid of finds with almost no modern debris (brick, tile etc.) being encountered. Pottery comprised one each of moderately abraded sherds dated as Iron Age, Roman and medieval, along with a small collection of post-medieval pottery. No other finds were noted.
- 3.1.5 The table below summaries the finds recovered.

Context	Trench	Find	Weight (g)	Approx. date
1	7	Pottery	34	Post-medieval redware C16+
1	2	Pottery	7	Early Roman
1	5	Pottery	8	Post-medieval redware C16+
1	5	Pottery	3	Post-medieval redware C16+
2	7	Pottery	8	East Anglian redware 1200-1500
2	7	Pottery	3	Mid-Late Iron Age

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The evaluation works did not identify any features of archaeological origin. The small number of moderately abraded sherds of pottery from a range of dates are consistent with manuring of fields and do not indicate significant activity on or near the proposed development site.

APPENDIX A. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Trench was devoid of archaeological remains.				Avg. depth (m)		0.44
				Width (m)		1.6
				Length (m)		20
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	layer	-	0.28	topsoil	-	-
2	layer	-	0.16	subsoil	-	-

Trench 2						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench was devoid of archaeological remains.				Avg. depth (m)		0.44
				Width (m)		1.6
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	layer	-	0.28	topsoil	Pottery	Early Roman
2	layer	-	0.16	subsoil	-	-

Trench 3						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench was devoid of archaeological remains.				Avg. depth (m)		0.48
				Width (m)		1.6
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	layer	-	0.4	topsoil	-	-
2	layer	-	0.08	subsoil	-	-

Trench 4						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench was devoid of archaeological remains.				Avg. depth (m)		0.43
				Width (m)		1.6
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	layer	-	0.38	topsoil	-	-
2	layer	-	0.05	subsoil	-	-

Trench 5						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Trench was devoid of archaeological remains.				Avg. depth (m)		0.44
				Width (m)		1.6
				Length (m)		20
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	layer	-	0.33	topsoil	Pottery	Post-medieval
2	layer	-	0.11	subsoil	-	-

Trench 6						
General description				Orientation		NW-SE
Trench was devoid of archaeological remains.				Avg. depth (m)		0.43
				Width (m)		1.6
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	layer	-	0.23	topsoil	-	-
2	layer	-	0.2	subsoil	-	-

Trench 7						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench was devoid of archaeological remains.				Avg. depth (m)		0.43
				Width (m)		1.6
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	layer	-	0.37	topsoil	-	-
2	layer	-	0.06	subsoil	Pottery	Medieval

Trench 8						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Trench was devoid of archaeological remains.				Avg. depth (m)		0.45
				Width (m)		1.6
				Length (m)		30
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	layer	-	0.45	topsoil	-	-
2	layer	-	0.05	subsoil	-	-

Trench 9						
General description				Orientation		N-S
Trench was devoid of archaeological remains.				Avg. depth (m)		0.5
				Width (m)		1.6
				Length (m)		20
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	layer	-	0.3	topsoil	-	-
2	layer	-	0.2	subsoil	-	-

APPENDIX B. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Connor, A. & Bush, L. 2015 *Written Scheme of Investigation: Land adjacent to Askham House, Doddington*. OA East. Unpublished
- Gdaniec, K. 2015 *Brief for archaeological evaluation. Land east of Askham House, Benwick Road, Doddington*. CCC HET. Unpublished
- Dept. for Communities and Local Government 2012 *National Planning Policy Framework*
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf

APPENDIX C. OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-222065		
Project Name	Land east of Askham House, Doddington, Cambridgeshire		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	01-09-2015	Finish	02-09-2015
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	No

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	ECB 4536	Planning App. No.	F/YR15/0077/O
HER No.	ECB 4536	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Development Type	Rural Residential

Please select all techniques used:

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

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

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

Monument	Period	Object	Period
	Select period...	Pottery	Post Medieval 1540 to 1901
	Select period...	Pottery	Roman 43 to 410
	Select period...	Pottery	Iron Age -800 to 43

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	Fenland	Land east of Askham House 13 Benwick Road, Doddington, March PE15 0TX	
Parish	Doddington		
HER	Cambridge		
Study Area	1.5 hectares	National Grid Reference	539415, 290950

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Kasia Gdaniec
Project Design Originator	Aileen Connor
Project Manager	Aileen Connor
Supervisor	Louise Bush

Project Archives

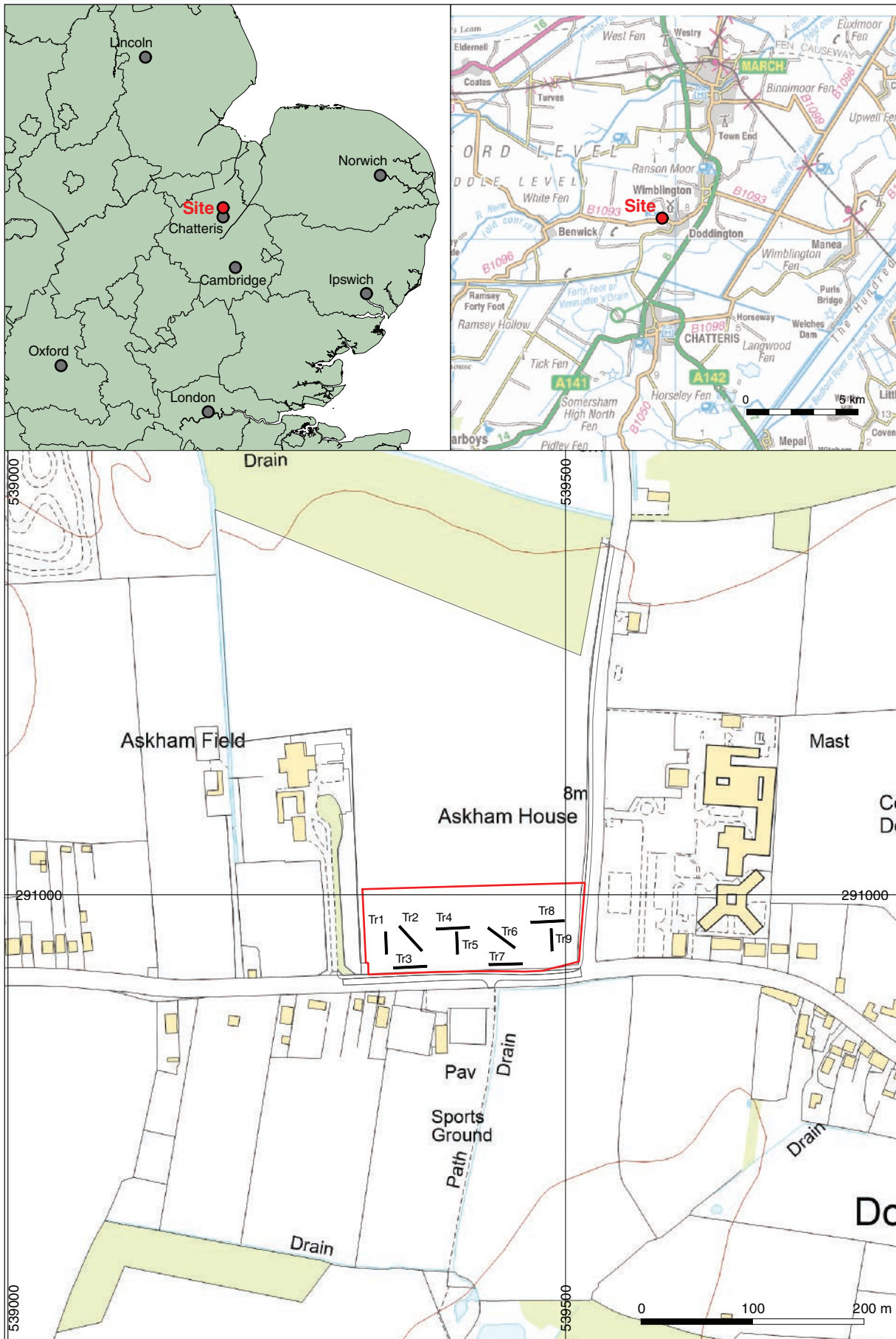
Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
CCC store	OA East	CCC Store
ECB 4536	DODLAH15	ECB 4536

Archive Contents/Media

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Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Worked Stone/Lithic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos
	<input type="checkbox"/> Plans
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sections
	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey

Notes:



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Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red). Scale 1:5000

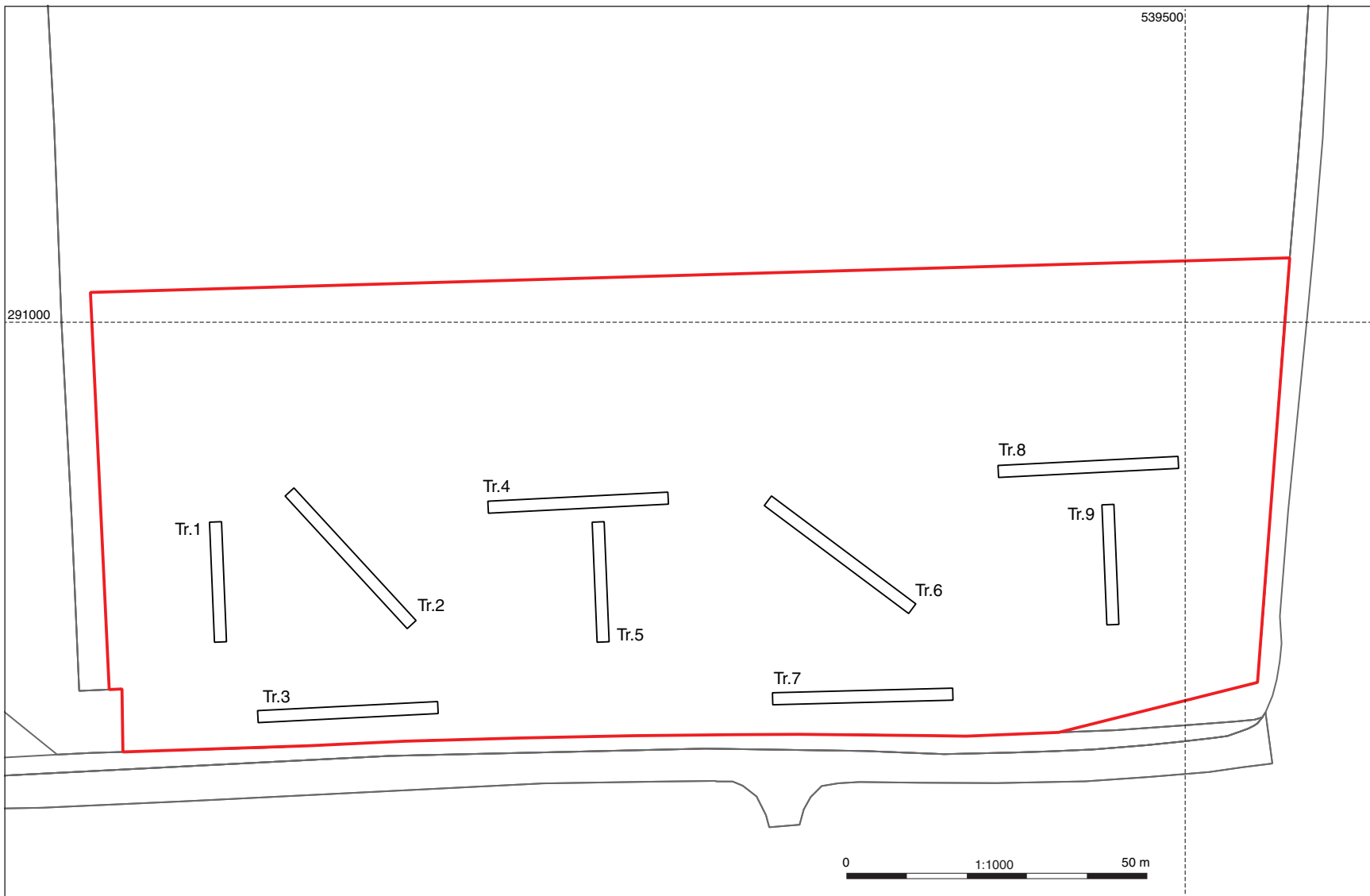


Figure 2: Evaluation trenches. Scale 1:1000



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking north



Plate 2: Trench 2, looking north-west



Plate 3: Trench 3, looking west

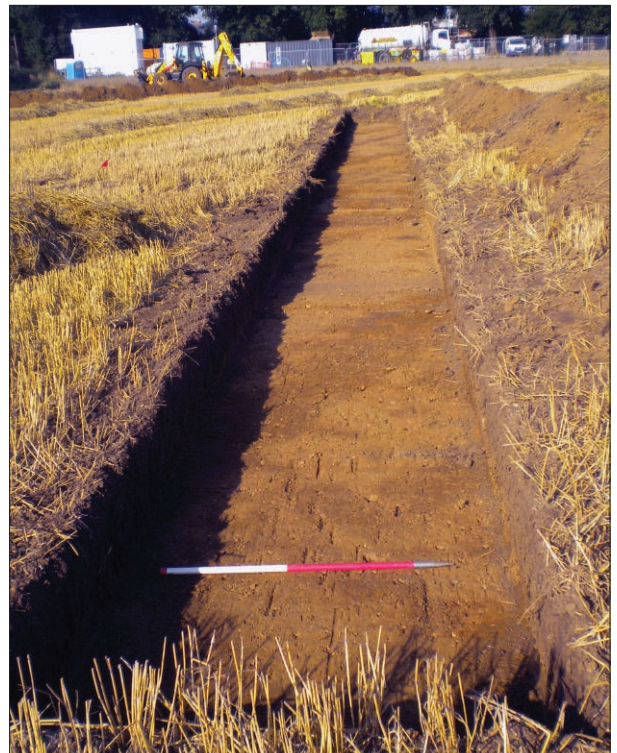


Plate 4: Trench 4, looking west



Plate 5: Trench 5, looking south

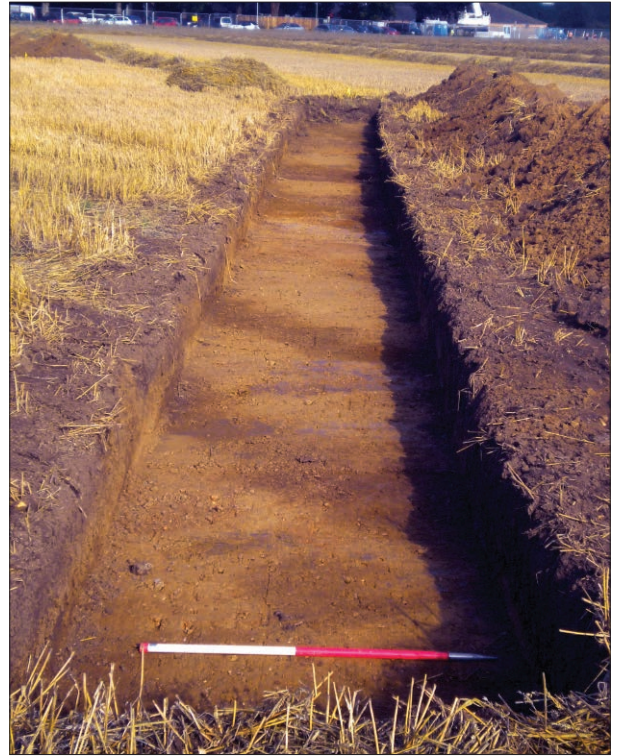


Plate 6: Trench 6, looking north-west



Plate 7: Trench 7, looking east



Plate 8: Trench 8, looking east



Plate 9: Trench 9, looking north



Plate 10: Tramlines through Trench 2, looking east



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