

Early medieval and Iron Age activity on land at the proposed East Bilney quarry extension, Norfolk



Archaeological Evaluation Report



September 2014

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**Early medieval and Iron Age activity on land at the proposed East Bilney
quarry extension, Norfolk**

Archaeological Evaluation

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Summary

Between the 4th and 14th August 2014 Oxford Archaeology East conducted an archaeological evaluation on land to the south of East Bilney at the site of a proposed quarry extension (centred on TF 964 183).

The investigated area lay in three adjacent fields between Field Lane and School Road. A geophysical survey undertaken prior to the archaeological works had identified several linear and discrete anomalies which were interpreted as furrows and ditches which may have formed an enclosure at the north of the site. A total of 30 trial trenches were excavated over a 1.9ha area. These trenches were targeted over the geophysical anomalies as well as in areas where no anomalies were identified in order to test the reliability of the geophysics results.

All but one of the linear features identified by the geophysical survey were uncovered during the evaluation. Several postholes as well as large pits thought to be quarries, were also uncovered. A small ditched enclosure located to the north of the central field dated to the early medieval period and appeared to bound an area of quarrying.

A second area of activity was located at the south-west of the central field in Trench 11. This consisted of four postholes, which may have been part of a round house, and a pit. All of these features dated to the Iron Age and may have been part of a settlement from this period.

The proposed limit of gravel extraction is located to the east of the investigated area, taking in part of the western field and the south-western part of the middle field. This area includes Trench 1 to 15. The vast majority of archaeology identified in the evaluation trenches lies within the area that will now be outside the revised limits of extraction (Trenches 16-29).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 An archaeological evaluation was conducted on land to the south of East Bilney, Norfolk, in the location of a proposed quarry extension (Figure 1; centred on TF 964 183).
- 1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Ken Hamilton of Norfolk Environment Service (NES), supplemented by a Specification prepared by OA East.
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area, in accordance with the guidelines set out in *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government March 2012). The results will enable decisions to be made by NES, on behalf of the Local Planning Authority, with regard to the treatment of any archaeological remains found.
- 1.1.4 The limits of the proposed area of gravel extraction were revised after the archaeological work to include an area at the west of the total investigated area encompassing the majority of the western field and the western part of the central field. (Figure 6).
- 1.1.5 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 proposed area of quarry extension lies on a geology of Britton's Lane Sand and Gravel overlying a bedrock of Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation (B.G.S.). At the time of the work all three fields had been harvested and scarified leaving no obstacles to excavation. The site lay on a gradual slope from south to north from a maximum height of 51.57m O.D. to a minimum of 45.14m O.D.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 Background information for this site has been supplemented by a search of the Norfolk Historic Environment Record (NHER) for all sites within 1km of the proposed quarry extension. The results of this search are presented below in chronological order. Although no finds or features are known from the proposed development area numerous sites and find spots have been located within the broader search area (Figure 2).

Prehistoric

- 1.3.2 The earliest artefacts located within the vicinity of the site date from the Palaeolithic period and consist of a handaxe (NHER59589) recovered from the field to the north of the site and a flint cleaver (NHER2780) from 1km to the south-west.
- 1.3.3 Scatters of prehistoric worked flints have been found 660m to the north-east of the site (NHER1064) and 1km to the south-west (NHER32789).
- 1.3.4 No sites dating to the Mesolithic period have been identified, however, several pits and a hollow containing pottery and flint artefacts from the early Neolithic have been uncovered from Hungary Hill to the north of then site (NHER39348). Two Neolithic flint

axe heads have also been recovered, one 500m to the east (NHER28492) and one 130m to the north (NHER31224). Further evidence of Neolithic activity was recovered from 700m to the west at Rawhall Lane, East Bilney, where worked flints and pot boilers were found (NHER30089).

- 1.3.5 A barbed and tanged arrowhead recovered, dating from the late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age was recovered 530 to the east (NHER35849). This find may be associated with a number of crop marks, thought to relate to Early Bronze Age burial mounds, seen in several fields surrounding the site (NHER11547, 715m west; NHER11548 250m north; NHER31437, south-west; and NHER50629, 930m south-west).
- 1.3.6 No direct evidence of settlement dating the Bronze Age has been uncovered in the vicinity of the site, however a mound of burnt flint at Hungry Hill to the north may be an indication of domestic activities taking place nearby (NHER39348).
- 1.3.7 There is good evidence of settlement during the Iron Age from Hungry Hill where 125 sherds of pottery were recovered from eight pits, ditches and three large hollows (NHER39348). Iron Age pottery has also been recovered from fieldwalking 750 to the south-west (NHER32609). Pottery of this date was also recovered from Rawhall Lane, 700m to the west (NHER30089).

Roman

- 1.3.8 The Fen Causeway Roman road (NHER2796) runs from the junction of Ermine Street and Kings Street near Peterborough across the Cambridgeshire and Norfolk fens, passing 270m to the south of the proposed development area, possibly following the course of Stoney Lane and High House Road north of Beetley. The course of the road can be traced from Upwell in Norfolk, heading eastwards towards Venta Icenorum and the Roman town at Brampton. Excavation of part of the road uncovered a cambered metalled surface and roadside ditches.
- 1.3.9 Artefacts and features, including pits and ditches, dating to the Roman period have been recovered from the field to the north of the proposed development area (NHER39348), along with a hoard of Roman coins 130m to the north (NHER31224). Other evidence of Roman occupation in the area comes from a pit containing Roman artefacts 700m to the west (NHER30089), and pottery and a figuring recovered from fieldwalking to the south-west (NHER32609; NHER32789; NHER56178).

Saxon and Medieval

- 1.3.10 The names of villages close to the proposed development area give a clue to the Saxon occupation in this area. Both the names East Bilney (Bila's island) and Beetley or *Betely* (Beet forest\clearing or pasture) are indicative of old English origins (<http://kepn.nottingham.ac.uk/>). East Bilney appears in the Domesday Book as being 'accounted for under the Earl Warren's lordship of Gressenhale and that of the Bishop of Norwich's of Elmham' (Blomefield 1808, 460). *Betely* was referred to as a 'beruite' (a little manor) depending on the Bishop of the East-Angles' capital manor of Elmham and was held by *William Beaufoe*, Bishop of Thetford in 1085 (ibid, 466). The Saxon origins of these villages are supported by numerous Saxon finds and features in the vicinity. Notably the churchyard of the former St. Nicholas' chapel, Gressenhall which appeared to pre-date the parish boundary, is indicative of a Saxon origin (NHER2816).
- 1.3.11 Artefacts dating to the Middle and Late Saxon period have been recovered from metal-detecting 540m to the east (NHER2812) whilst Late Saxon pottery has been found during field walking 1km to the south-west (NHER32789). An evaluation at Orchard Cottage, Church Road, Beetley (NHER35805) recovered Saxon pottery, whilst a deposit of possible Early Saxon sherds was recovered from excavations on Rawhall Lane to the west (NHER30089).

- 1.3.12 Evaluation and subsequent (on-going) excavations at Hungry Hill, East Bilney (NHER39348), directly to the north of the proposed development area have uncovered early and middle Saxon artefacts and features including numerous sunken-featured buildings with pot, spindle whorls, copper wire, fired clay and metal working debris. This settlement was associated with a cemetery.
- 1.3.13 Medieval pottery and artefacts have been recovered during fieldwalking and metal-detecting in several surrounding fields (NHER2812, 540m east; NHER2812; NHER2813, 600m east; NHER12444, 710m north-east; NHER30566, 470m north; NHER32609, 750m south-west; NHER32789, 1km south-west; NHER34273, 645m south-west; NHER56178, 150m south-west; NHER 56383). Some of these artefacts, such as rings and coins, may have been due to casual loss whilst pottery may have been deposited during midden spreading.
- 1.3.14 Several buildings in Beetley village attest to its medieval occupation; parts of the current building St. Mary Magdalen's church (NHER2831), which may have Saxon origins, date from 1320, whilst Beetley Hall (NHER31222) and Old Hall (NHER31222) may have their origins in the late medieval period.
- 1.3.15 Excavations in Beetley have uncovered medieval pottery, a quernstone (NHER12756) and floor layers, a ditch, postholes as well as a clay lined cooking pit (NHER35849).

Post-Medieval and modern

- 1.3.16 Place name 'Deadmans Close' in 1847 Tithe map may refer to burials or suicide burials at the cross roads directly to the west of the site (NHER14172).
- 1.3.17 Two post-medieval ditches were uncovered on Rawhall Lane to the west (NHER30089), whilst finds were recovered from metal-detecting 650m to the south-west (NHER34273). Post-medieval pottery and a quarry pit were uncovered during evaluation adjacent to Orchard Cottage, Church Road, Beetley (NHER35805).
- 1.3.18 A WWII underground bunker was located 890m to the south-east (NHER32590).

Aerial photographs (Figure 2)

- 1.3.19 A survey of aerial photographic evidence carried out by the National Mapping Programme (NMP) identified eight cropmarks within 1km of the proposed development area. These predominantly located to the south-west of the site.
- 1.3.20 Five ring ditches, thought to be Bronze Age burials mounds, were identified. Feature NHER11548 located to the north of the site was sub-circular with a ditch c.2.5m wide and a diameter of c.28m. Other records were less specific on the character of the features, however a pit was identified associated with a ring ditch to the west (NHER11547). Three others were located to the south-west, two of which were in the same field (NHER50629; NHER31437).
- 1.3.21 An 'L' shaped boundary recorded to the west (NHER50628) may represent an early field-system in this area, prior to the post-medieval layout.
- 1.3.22 The course of a medieval road was speculated for linear features observed to the south-west (NHER50630; NHER50631; NHER50632). This feature could be seen to head towards the proposed development area.

Geophysical Survey (Figure 3)

- 1.3.23 A geophysical survey of the proposed site development area was conducted from the 1st to 7th May 2014 (Bartlett 2014). A magnetometer survey was carried out. The survey detected one or more ditched enclosures and a group of magnetic disturbances

which were thought to indicate the possible location of a settlement at the north of the area. Field boundaries and evidence of recent cultivation were also identified.

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 The author would like to thank Stephen M. Daw and Middleton Aggregates for commissioning and funding the works. Kelly Powell monitored the site on behalf of Ken Hamilton of Norfolk Environment Service (NES). Anj Beckham of NES carried out the HER and NMP searches. . The project was managed by Paul Spoerry and fieldwork was directed by Gareth Rees. Excavation and recording of archaeological features was carried out by the author, Chris Swain and Zoë Clarke. The figures were produced by David Brown and Gillian Greer.

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 A supplementary aim was to test the results of the geophysical survey.

2.2 Methodology

- 2.2.1 The Brief required that a 3% sample of the the total proposed development area was investigated.
- 2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a tracked 360-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket 1.85m wide.
- 2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by the author using Leica GS08 dGPS system.
- 2.2.4 All finds were retained for inspection, other than those which were obviously modern.
- 2.2.5 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 photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.2.6 Environmental sampling was carried out on a variety of features and was targeted on basal deposits or those with visible charred remains. Due to the nature of the deposits a maximum of 20L was taken for processing.
- 2.2.7 The site was located in three adjacent fields from which crops had been removed prior to the start of the works. Only one trench was located in the eastern-most field, 17 in the middle field and 12 in the western-most field.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The results are presented below by field, from west to east, on a trench-by-trench basis (Figure 2). All trenches measured 1.85m wide and were 50m wide. A comprehensive listing of trench depths, orientations, descriptions and related context data can be found in Appendix A.

3.2 Western Field

Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

- 3.2.1 These trenches were located at the western side of the western field. No archaeological features were uncovered in these trenches. An average of 0.35m of topsoil covered a sand and gravel natural. A mid orange brown sand, measuring up to 0.40m deep, was uncovered in Trench 1. This deposit may have been related to periglacial processes. A similar deposit was uncovered in Trench 2. This deposit, measuring 33m wide and 0.70m deep, may have been the infill in a palaeochannel, although it is possible that it was backfill in a quarry pit. No artefacts or ecofacts were recovered from these features.

Trench 6, 7 and 12 (Figure 4c)

- 3.2.2 The geophysical survey identified two curvi-linear features orientated north-north-west to south-south-east over which these trenches were targeted. The westernmost feature, uncovered in Trenches 6 and 7, comprised a flat based cut (**61**), measuring 2.2m wide and 0.3m deep with gradually sloping sides. It was filled by a light orange brown soft silty sand from which no artefacts were recovered. The character of this feature is indicative of it being a furrow, probably dating to the medieval period.
- 3.2.3 The second linear feature was uncovered 31m to the east of furrow **61**. This feature (**65**), measuring 2.40m wide and 0.78m deep, followed the same course as the western feature and had steep sides with a concave base. The depth of this feature is indicative of it being used as a field boundary rather than a furrow. This ditch contained three fills, the uppermost of which contained post medieval pottery and a fragment of clay pipe.

Trench 8, 9, 10 and 13

- 3.2.4 No archaeological features were uncovered in these trenches. The topsoil over these trenches measured on average 0.35m deep. A layer of sand, measuring up to 0.2m deep may have been a subsoil or periglacial deposit.

3.3 Central Field

Trench 11 (Figure 4c)

- 3.3.1 Located at the south-west of the central field, this trench contained five features three of which contained pottery dating to the Early Iron Age period (Appendix B1). A pit (**25**), located at the southern end of the trench, had a flat base sloping from west to east and contained a dark orange-brown soft sand from which pottery and charcoal were recovered (Figure 5, Section 14; Appendix B1; C1). The pit measured in excess 1.85m in diameter and 0.60m deep.

- 3.3.2 Four postholes (**27**, **29**, **31**, **33**) were located at the northern end of the trench and may be part of a semi-circular/circular arrangement (Plate 1). The postholes, measuring between 0.60m and 0.90m in diameter and 0.15m and 0.25m deep, were sub-circular in plan and contained dark reddish brown friable silty sand fills, two of which (**28** and **30**) contained Early Iron Age pottery (Figure 5, Sections 16 and 18). The northern most posthole (**33**) contained pottery dating to the late pre-Roman Iron Age. If these postholes were part of a circular structure, such as a roundhouse, the structure would have had a diameter of between 10m and 12m. Environmental samples from two of these postholes produced charcoal (Appendix C1).

Trench 14, 15, 16 and 18

- 3.3.3 No archaeological features were uncovered in these trenches located at the western side of the central field. The topsoil over these trenches measured on average 0.35m deep overlying sand and gravel natural geological deposits.

Trench 17, 21 and 22 (Figure 4a)

- 3.3.4 These trenches were located at the north-west of the central field and were targeted over linear geophysical anomalies thought to relate to a medieval settlement (Bartlett 2014). A ditch was encountered running from east to west through each of these trenches. Its location in Trenches 17 and 22 was not identified by the geophysical survey. The ditch (**68=41=51**), measuring up to 1.9m wide and 0.72m deep, contained a mid grey-brown soft to friable silty sand from which pottery dating to the early medieval period was recovered (Figure 5, Section 24; Appendix B2). An environmental sample from the segment of this ditch in Trench 21 produced a single charred grain, charcoal and hammer scale, suggesting that this ditch may have been used for general waste disposal after its disuse as a boundary.
- 3.3.5 A pit (**67**) was located to the east, inside of the ditched enclosure. This pit, measuring in excess of 1.85m wide and 0.68m deep, contained a mid orange-brown silty-sand fill with no artefacts. It may have been part of a series of quarry pits following a seam of shallow gravel, measuring up to 18m wide in Trench 17 and possibly forming the north-south linear anomaly seen on the geophysics plot (Figure 3).
- 3.3.6 Two features uncovered in Trench 22 may also have been quarry pits. A pit (**45**) truncated by the ditch (**51**) measured 17.5m wide and 0.28m deep and may have targeted a shallow seam of gravel. A sherd of early medieval pottery was recovered from this feature (Appendix B2). A deeper pit (**19**), measuring 2.80m wide and in excess of 1.02m deep, was located inside the ditched enclosure to the east (Figure 5, Section 11). The pit had steep sides and the total depth could not be established during this phase of work. Two sherds of pottery dating from the 11th to 14th century were recovered from the upper fill (**17**) whilst an environmental sample produced charcoal, three charred cereal grains and a dock seed (Appendix C1).
- 3.3.7 An undated flint filled ditch (**43**) was uncovered 3m to the west of the quarry pit (**19**). This ditch was sealed by topsoil and is likely to have been a post-medieval or modern drainage feature. A furrow (**37**), measuring 0.36m wide and 0.18m deep, was located adjacent to the quarry pit and contained a single sherd of abraded pottery dating from the 12th to 14th century.
- 3.3.8 A feature (**39**), measuring 23.5m wide and 0.60m deep was located to the south of the ditch in Trench 21. This feature contained a mid grey-brown friable silty sand from which charcoal and 19 charred grains of wheat and barley were recovered (Appendix C1). It is possible that this feature was a natural hollow or pond that silted up over time.

Trench 19 and 20 (Figure 4b)

- 3.3.9 Both of these trenches were located to the west of centre of the central field and orientated from east-north-east to west-south-west. These trenches were targeted on a linear geophysical anomaly which was uncovered during excavation. Two intercutting ditches, aligned north-north-west to south-south-east, were uncovered in these trenches (Figure 5, Section 28). The earliest ditch (**47 & 59**) measured 1m wide and 0.45m deep in Trench 19 and 1.60m wide and 0.95m deep in Trench 20. It contained a mid grey soft sandy fill from which no artefacts were recovered. This ditch appeared to terminate in Trench 20. The later ditch (**49 and 56**), measuring up to 3m wide and 0.80m deep, contained three sandy fills in Trench 20, from which a sherd of modern glass was recovered. This ditch is likely to be part of a post-medieval boundary probably associated with that uncovered in the western field.

Trench 23 (Figure 4a)

- 3.3.10 This trench was located in the centre of the central field. It contained a single feature at its southern end (Plate 2). A ditch (**12**), measuring 1.5m wide and 0.36m deep, was orientated east to west and was filled by a mid orange-brown soft silty-sand from which no artefacts were recovered. This ditch was not detected during the geophysical survey.

Trench 24 (Figure 4a)

- 3.3.11 Five features were uncovered in this trench targeted over three linear and one discrete geophysical anomaly. Three of these features were furrows aligned north-north-east to south-south-west. The westernmost furrow (**21**), measuring 2m wide and 0.20m deep, contained an abraded fragment of green glazed pottery dating to the 12th to 14th century.
- 3.3.12 A ditch (**23**), located at the western end of the trench, measured 1.80m wide and 0.30m deep. This ditch was orientated from north to south and contained a light greyish-brown friable silty clay from which no artefacts were recovered.
- 3.3.13 At the eastern end of the trench a large pit (**35**) was uncovered (Plate 4). This pit, measuring in excess of 11m from east to west and in excess of 1.30m deep, contained a single mid grey-brown friable silty sand fill from which two small sherds of undated pottery were recovered. It was not possible to find the base of the feature during the current phase of excavations for safety reasons.

Trench 25 (Figure 4b)

- 3.3.14 Located three meters from the eastern end of the trench, a single feature was uncovered here. This feature, a pit (**10**), measuring 0.85m wide and 0.35m deep, was sub-rectangular in plan with a flat base and steep sides (Plate 3). No artefacts were recovered from this feature.

Trench 26

- 3.3.15 This trench was located at the south-east of the central field. It was covered by up to 0.40m of topsoil and contained no archaeological features. The geological deposits consisted of mottled yellow-orange sand.

Trench 27

- 3.3.16 A single feature was located in this trench positioned to the east of the central field. The trench was targeted over several linear geophysical anomalies, one of which was uncovered. This feature, a ditch (6), measuring 1.35m wide and 0.4m deep, was orientated north-south and formed of a steep sided cut with a concave base. No artefacts were recovered from the mid reddish-brown friable silty sand fill (5).

Trench 28

- 3.3.17 At the eastern corner of the central field, this trench contained no archaeological features. Three areas of darker sands (7 and 8) were investigated but proved to be irregular and probably formed by natural phenomena.

Trench 29

- 3.3.18 This trench was targeted over two linear geophysical anomalies. Excavation uncovered four furrows, a pit and a ditch. The pit (16), located at the western end of the trench, measured 0.36m wide and 0.42m deep and contained a mid brown-grey soft silty sand fill from which no artefacts were recovered. This pit was truncated by the westernmost ditch (14) (Figure 5, Section 10). This ditch, measuring 1.08m wide and 0.36m deep, formed by a cut with gently sloping sides and a concave base contained a mid brown orange soft silty sand from which no artefacts were recovered. An environmental sample produced a single charred grain of barley.
- 3.3.19 A furrow (4), measuring 1.7m wide and 0.08m deep, was excavated at the eastern end of the trench. No artefacts were recovered from it fill (3).

3.4 Eastern Field

Trench 30

- 3.4.1 Only a single trench was located in the eastern field. Several subsoil features, probably relating to natural phenomena (2 and 3) were investigated. A ditch (1) located at the southern end of the trench measured in excess of 2.28m wide and 0.36m deep. No artefacts were recovered from this feature.

3.5 Finds Summary

- 3.5.1 Pottery: A total of 28 sherds of Iron Age pottery, weighing 249g were recovered from four features in Trench 11. The assemblage comprises earlier Iron Pottery (c.800-350BC), Iron Age (500-350BC) and later Iron Age sherds (50BC to 100AD: Table 1). The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded and the mean sherd weight is 8g.
- A.1.1 A total of 11 sherds of medieval pottery to modern, weighing 0.138kg, was recovered. The assemblage spans the 11th to the 20th century, with the majority of the assemblage being recovered from Trench 22. The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded and the mean sherd weight is low at approximately 0.012kg.

3.6 Environmental Summary

- 3.6.1 Nine bulk samples were taken from features 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 from the Iron Age to the medieval period. Poorly preserved cereal grains and charcoal were recovered. Hammerscale was also recovered from several samples.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Iron Age settlement

- 4.1.1 The earliest activity uncovered on the site of the proposed extension to East Bilney quarry dated from the Early Iron Age and was located at the south-west of the central field in Trench 11. This consisted of four postholes and a single pit. The postholes lay in two groups of two both 2m apart. Their locations and character is strongly indicative of them being part of the footings for a circular or sub-circular structure measuring approximately 10m in diameter, typical of settlement in the Early Iron Age period. Pottery fragments and charcoal recovered from the pit may be indicative its backfilling with refuse. Later Iron Age pottery in one of these features may be intrusive or could suggest two phases of Iron Age activity in this location.
- 4.1.2 The only other evidence of prehistoric activity on the site may have come from Trench 25. A single undated pit in this trench, located at the south of the central field, is similar in character to those found both in the Neolithic and Iron Age in this region.
- 4.1.3 The prehistoric settlement features were all located at the south of the central field. None of these features were identified specifically by the geophysical survey however, areas of anomalies thought to be natural, over which these trenches were located may in fact have been archaeological.
- 4.1.4 The features identified in Trench 11 current lie within the proposed limit of extraction (Figure 6)

4.2 Early medieval activity

- 4.2.1 The geophysical survey detected a high density of anomalies, interpreted as archaeological, at the north of the central field. On investigation all of those anomalies targeted were located and found to be archaeological in nature and most likely dating to the Late Saxon or early medieval period. An enclosure ditch was identified by the geophysical survey and uncovered in Trenches 17, 21 and 22. The south-eastern segment of the southern boundary of this enclosure was located where the geophysics had predicted, however the south-western part continued in the the western end on Trench 17 with no evidence of a northward return. This return, seen on the plot of the geophysical survey, may have been obscured or truncated by the quarry pits dug in this area. Early medieval pottery was recovered from this enclosure ditch.
- 4.2.2 Several linear features uncovered in Trenches 23, 24 and 27 may have formed part of a separate field or enclosure. These ditches were undated but the plot of the geophysical survey showed the westernmost ditch to continue to an intersection with the northern enclosure. A ditch on a similar alignment in Trench 29 may also be part of this field-system.
- 4.2.3 Quarry pits were generally found to the north of the northern enclosure ditch in Trenches 17 and 22, however a large pit identified at the eastern end of Trench 24 appears to lay outside of this enclosure. It may have been associated with the southern enclosure. This feature was most likely a quarry pit, but its location in an enclosure may indicate that it was a waterhole.
- 4.2.4 These features current lie outside of the proposed limit of extraction.

4.3 Medieval and Post-medieval boundaries

- 4.3.1 Furrows were identified by the geophysical survey and uncovered during trenching in the central and western field. These tended to be spaced between 15m and 20m apart.

The boundary ditch, aligned with the furrows, uncovered in Trenches 7 and 12 along with the boundary feature uncovered in Trench 30, may relate to the medieval road and landscape layout identified by aerial photographs (see section 1.3.22 above). The anomalies depicted on the geophysical survey plot align well with the projected course of the medieval road seen on the APs.

- 4.3.2 The post-medieval artefacts recovered from these features give an indication of when this landscape was altered to its present layout.

4.4 Significance

- 4.4.1 Evaluation of targeted trenches at the site of the proposed East Bilney quarry extension has uncovered several areas of archaeology dating from the Early Iron Age to the post-medieval period. The findings are of varying significance. Early Iron Age open settlements are rarely identified and so a site of this type is of regional significance adding to narratives of the prehistoric development of Norfolk and East Anglia.
- 4.4.2 The significance of the early medieval activity should be seen in relation to the on-going fieldwork to the north at Hungry Hill where features from this period are currently being excavated.
- 4.4.3 Nonetheless, the vast majority of archaeology identified in the evaluation trenches lies within the area that will now be outside the revised limits of extraction (Trenches 16-29).

4.5 Recommendations

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

APPENDIX B. TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1							
General description					Orientation		E-W
No archaeological features uncovered. Layer of sand under topsoil may be a subsoil but more likely a periglacial deposit overlying gravels.					Avg. depth (m)		0.65
					Width (m)		1.85
					Length (m)		50
Contexts							
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date	
-	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-	
-	Layer	-	0.4	Subsoil	-	-	

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	E-W
No archaeological features uncovered. A large hollow was uncovered in the centre of this trench. Filled with sub-soil type material. Could have been a quarry pit or a palaeochannel.					Avg. depth (m)	0.7
					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.35	Subsoil	-	-
-	Layer	33	0.7	Periglacial feature	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	E-W
No archaeological features uncovered. Geology consisted of sand and gravel.					Avg. depth (m)	0.37
					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil/Natural	-	-

Trench 4						
General description				Orientation	N-S	
No archaeological features uncovered. Geology consisted of dark reddish brown sand and gravel.				Avg. depth (m)	0.4	

					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil/Natural	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	N-S
No archaeological features uncovered. Geology consisted of mid orange brown sand and gravel.					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil/Natural	-	-

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	E-W
One furrow uncovered at the east end of the trench. No other archaeological features were uncovered. Geology consisted of mid orange brown sand and gravel.					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil	-	-
60	Fill	2.2	0.3	Fill of 61	-	-
61	Cut	2.2	0.3	Furrow	-	-

Trench 7						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Two features uncovered in this trench. A furrow was located to the west. A ditch, aligned with the furrow was uncovered to the east. The geology consisted of 60% gravel.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil\Natural	-	-

62	Fill	2.4	0.5	Fill of 65	Ceramic and clay pipe	Post-med
63	Fill	1.85	0.6	Fill of 65	-	-
64	Fill	1.1	0.6	Fill of 65	-	-
65	Cut	2.4	0.78	Cut of ditch	-	-

Trench 8						
General description					Orientation	N-S
No archaeological features uncovered in this trench. Geology was gravel overlain by patches of sand.					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil\Natural	-	-

Trench 9						
General description					Orientation	E-W
No archaeological features uncovered in this trench. Geology was gravel overlain by patches of sand.					Avg. depth (m)	0.42
					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil\Natural	-	-

Trench 10						
General description					Orientation	N-S
No archaeological features uncovered in this trench. Geology was gravel overlain by patches of sand.					Avg. depth (m)	0.48
					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil\Natural	-	-

Trench 11						
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General description					Orientation	N-S
Five archaeological features uncovered in this trench. One pit at the south and four postholes at the north. The posthole may have been part of a prehistoric roundhouse.					Avg. depth (m)	0.32
					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
24	Fill	1.85	0.6	Fill of 25	-	-
25	Cut	1.85	0.6	Cut of pit	Pot	Early Iron Age?
26	Fill	0.6	0.15	Fill of 27	-	-
27	Cut	0.6	0.15	Cut of posthole	-	-
28	Fill	0.6	0.25	Fill of 29	Pot	Early Iron Age?
29	Cut	0.6	0.25	Cut of posthole	-	-
30	Fill	0.9	0.2	Fill of 31	Pot	Early Iron Age?
31	Cut	0.9	0.2	Cut of posthole	-	-
32	Fill	0.75	0.2	Fill of 33	Pot	Early Iron Age?
33	Cut	0.75	0.2	Cut of posthole	-	-

Trench 12						
General description					Orientation	E-W
A post-med boundary ditch was uncovered in this trench. It was excavated in Trench 7. The geology consisted of sand and gravel.					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil\Natural	-	-

Trench 13						
General description					Orientation	N-S
No archaeological features uncovered. Geology consisted of dark reddish brown sand and gravel.					Avg. depth (m)	0.43
					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil\Natural	-	-

Trench 14						
General description					Orientation	E-W
No archaeological features uncovered. Geology consisted of mid orange brown sand and gravel.					Avg. depth (m)	0.36
					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil\Natural	-	-

Trench 15						
General description					Orientation	N-S
No archaeological features uncovered. Geology consisted of mid orange brown sand and gravel. A subsoil appeared to present in this trench although it may have been an expansive area of dark natural sand. The trench was extended to the west in order to investigate this deposit.					Avg. depth (m)	0.6
					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	50m N-S & 8m E-W
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.4	Subsoil/Natural	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.15	Natural	-	-

Trench 16						
General description					Orientation	E-W
No archaeological features uncovered. Geology consisted of dark reddish brown sand and gravel.					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil\Natural	-	-

Trench 17						
General description				Orientation		E-W
Two archaeological features were uncovered in this trench. One quarry pit and one segment of ditch. The ditch had previously been investigated in Trenches 21 and 22. The geology consisted of mid yellow brown sand and gravel. No artefacts were recovered.				Avg. depth (m)		0.38
				Width (m)		1.85
				Length (m)		50

Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil\Natural	-	-
66	Fill	1.85	0.7	Fill of 67	-	-
67	Cut	1.85	0.7	Quarry pit	-	-
68	Cut	1.45	-	Ditch	-	-

Trench 18						
General description					Orientation	E-W
No archaeological features uncovered. Geology consisted of dark reddish brown sand and gravel.					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.05	Subsoil\Natural	-	-

Trench 19						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Two archaeological features were uncovered in this trench, both were ditches intercutting in the same location. The latest ditch contained post-medieval/modern glass. The natural consisted of sand and gravel.					Avg. depth (m)	0.58
					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil\Natural	-	-
46	Fill	0.45	1	Fill of 47	-	-
47	Cut	0.45	1	Ditch	-	-
48	Fill	0.5	2	Fill of 49	Glass	Modern (discarded)
49	Cut	0.5	2	Ditch	-	-

Trench 20						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Two archaeological features were uncovered in this trench, both were ditches intercutting in the same location. No artefacts were recovered from this trench. The natural consisted of sand and gravel.					Avg. depth (m)	0.48
					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	50

Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil\Natural	-	-
53	Fill	1.7	0.25	Fill of 56	-	-
54	Fill	1.7	0.7	Fill of 56	-	-
55	Fill	1.2	0.8	Fill of 56	-	-
56	Cut	2.5	0.8	Ditch	-	-
57	Fill	1.6	0.6	Fill of 59	-	-
58	Fill	0.8	0.6	Fill of 59	-	-
59	Cut	1.6	0.95	Ditch\Pit	-	-

Trench 21						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Two archaeological features were uncovered in this trench, a quarry or pond and a ditch. The ditch was seen to continue into Trench 22 and Trench 17. Trench was extended to the west to investigate the hollow\pond. Natural consisted of sand and gravel.					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	50m N-S & 4m E-W
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil\Natural	-	-
38	Fill	5.6	0.4	Pond 39 fill	-	-
39	Cut			Pond cut	-	-
40	Fill	1.9	0.6	Fill of 41	-	-
41	Cut	1.9	0.6	Ditch	-	-
52	Layer	-	0.2	Layer sealing ditch	-	-

Trench 22						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Dense archaeology encountered at the east end of this trench. Two quarry pits, a flint filled drain and a ditch (continued in to Trench 21 and Trench 17).Geology consisted of sand.					Avg. depth (m)	0.38
					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil\Natural	-	-

17	Fill	2.8	1.02	Fill of 19	Pot	E. Med
18	Fill	1.9	>0.5	Fill of 19	-	-
19	Cut	2.8	>1.02	Quarry Pit	-	-
36	Fill	2.4	0.18	Fill of 37	Pot	Med
37	Cut	2.4	0.18	Furrow?	-	-
42	Fill	0.9	0.64	Fill of 43	-	-
43	Cut	0.9	0.64	Drain	-	-
44	Fill	>3.2	0.28	Fill of 45	-	-
45	Cut	>3.2	0.28	Furrow\quarry	-	-
50	Fill	>1.5	0.72	Fill of 51	Pot	Med
51	Cut	>1.5	0.72	Ditch	-	-

Trench 23						
General description					Orientation	N-S
One feature, a ditch, was uncovered in this trench. Geology consisted of sand.					Avg. depth (m)	0.58
					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.26	Subsoil\Natural	-	-
11	Fill	1.25	0.36	Fill of 12	-	-
12	Cut	1.25	0.36	Ditch	-	-

Trench 24						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Three features were uncovered in this trench; a ditch, a quarry and a ditch\pit which was partially exposed a the west end of the trench. The geology consisted of sand and gravel.					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil\Natural	-	-
20	Fill	>2	0.2	Fill of 21	Pot	Med
21	Cut	>2	0.2	Ditch\Pit	-	-
22	Fill	1.8	0.3	Fill of 23	-	-
23	Cut	1.8	0.3	Ditch	-	-
34	Fill	>11	>1.3	Fill of 35	Pot	Med

35	Cut	>11	>1.3	Quarry	-	-
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Trench 25						
General description A pit was the only feature uncovered in this trench. Two shallow linear subsoil features probably related to agricultural use of the land. The natural consisted of sand overlying gravel.					Orientation	E-W
					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.23	Subsoil\Natural	-	-
9	Fill	0.35	0.85	Fill of 10	-	-
10	Cut	0.35	0.85	Pit	-	-

Trench 26						
General description No archaeological features were uncovered in this trench. The natural consisted of sand and gravel.					Orientation	N-S
					Avg. depth (m)	0.62
					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.16	Subsoil\Natural	-	-
-	Layer	-	>0.17	Natural	-	-

Trench 27						
General description A ditch and two furrows were uncovered in this trench. The natural consisted of compacted sand over gravel.					Orientation	E-W
					Avg. depth (m)	0.44
					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	51.5
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.11	Subsoil\Natural	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.03	Natural	-	-
5	Fill	1.35	0.4	Fill of 6	-	-
6	Cut	1.35	0.4	Ditch	-	-

Trench 28						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Several subsoil features were uncovered in this trench which may have been related to agriculture or vegetation. No artefacts were recovered. The natural was formed of sand and gravel.					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	Layer	-	0.4	Topsoil	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil\Natural	-	-
7	Layer	2.5	0.2	Subsoil feature	-	-
8	Layer	2.5	0.2	Subsoil feature	-	-

Trench 29						
General description					Orientation	E-W
This trench contained four furrows, a ditch and pit. The geology consisted of compacted sand, clayey sand and gravel.					Avg. depth (m)	0.48
					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	51.6
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil\Natural	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.25	Natural	-	-
4	Layer	1.7	0.08	Furrow	-	-
13	Fill	1.08	0.36	Fill of 14	-	-
14	Cut	1.08	0.36	Ditch	-	-
15	Fill	0.36	0.42	Fill of 16	-	-
16	Cut	0.36	0.42	Pit?	-	-

Trench 30						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Three subsoil features were uncovered in this trench. No artefacts were recovered. The natural consisted of Comp-acted clayey sand with gravel.					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
					Width (m)	1.85
					Length (m)	50
Contexts						
context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
-	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
-	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil\Natural	-	-

1	Layer	>2.28	0.36	Subsoil feature	-	-
2	Layer	>2.18	0.16	Subsoil feature	-	-
3	Layer	1.8	0.1	Subsoil feature	-	-

APPENDIX C. FINDS REPORTS

C.1 Prehistoric Pottery

by Sarah Percival

Introduction

- C.1.1 A total of 28 sherds, weighing 249g were recovered from four features in Trench 11. The assemblage comprises earlier Iron Pottery (c.800-350BC), Iron Age (500-350BC) and later Iron Age sherds (50BC to 100AD: Table 1). The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded and the mean sherd weight is 8g.

Spotdate	Quantity	Weight (g)
Early Iron Age	22	173
Iron Age	5	49
Late Iron Age	1	27
Total	28	249

Table 1: Quantity and weight of pottery by period

Methodology

- C.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 OAE.

Early Iron Age Pottery

- C.1.3 The early Iron pottery is characterised by the presence of profuse flint temper in a sandy clay matrix. Two fabrics were identified one, F1, containing abundant angular flint pieces up to 3mm the other smaller less numerous. All the sherds are undecorated body sherds.
- C.1.4 Early Iron Age pottery was found in three features, pit **25** and postholes **29** and **31**.

Iron Age and Late Iron Age Pottery

- C.1.5 The remainder of the assemblage, six sherds weighing 76g, were all recovered from posthole **33**. The sherds represent three vessels and include a large rim sherd from a corrugated necked jar (Thompson 1982 type B2) in grog-tempered fabric, dated to 50BC century BC to AD100, a small sandy body sherd which is not closely datable, and four sherds (44g) from a single vessel in vesicular fabric

with sparse angular flint.

Context	Feature	Feature Type	Fabric	Spotdate	Quantity	Weight (g)
24	25	Pit	F1	EIA	13	108
			F2	EIA	4	21
28	29	Posthole	F1	EIA	1	13
			F2	EIA	3	27
30	31	Posthole	F2	EIA	1	4
32	33	Posthole	F3	IA	4	44
			GTW	LIA	1	27
			Q1	IA	1	5
Total					28	249

Table 2: Quantity and weight of prehistoric pottery by context

Fabric Descriptions

F1: Common angular flint up to 3mm; moderate rounded quartz sand

F2: Moderate angular flint less than 3mm; moderate rounded quartz sand

F3: Moderate sub-rounded voids; sparse angular flint

Q1: Common rounded quartz sand

GTW: Moderate grey and pale buff grog in fine sandy matrix

- C.1.1 No earlier prehistoric pottery was recovered. The prehistoric assemblage suggests low level activity at the site from the earlier to latest Iron Age.

C.2 Medieval Pottery

by Carole Fletcher

Introduction

- C.2.1 Archaeological works produced a pottery assemblage of 11 sherds, weighing 0.138kg. The assemblage spans the 11th to the 20th century, with the majority of the assemblage being recovered from Trench 22. The condition of the overall assemblage is moderately abraded and the mean sherd weight is low at approximately 0.012kg.

Methodology

- C.2.2 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.
- C.2.3 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 Norfolk'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.
- C.2.4 The assemblage is domestic in nature, indicating low levels of pottery deposition from the 11th century onwards.
- C.2.5 In Trench 7, ditch **65** produced a single unabraded sherd of English stoneware, possibly London-type, dating from the mid 17th-early 20th century.
- C.2.6 Four features in Trench 22 produced pottery. From the fill of quarry pit **19** (context 17), were recovered two sherds of pottery, a rim sherd from what appears to be an Early Medieval ware jar, the neck of which has been externally thickened below the rim, and a base sherd from a Local Medieval Unglazed ware jar. Context 36, the fill of linear **37**, produced a moderately abraded sherd from the strap handle of a Grimston ware jug.
- C.2.7 A furrow (**45**) fill, context 44, produced a moderately abraded sherd of Early Medieval ware. From ditch **51** were recovered a single residual sherd of Early Medieval ware and three sherds of a mainly unglazed fabric, which was lightly sooted with a single spot of glaze on one sherd. The fabric initially appears to be Grimston-type ware, however the spot of glaze is clear rather than green and it is possible that these sherds are from Barton Bendish, which lies approximately 32 km to the south west of the village of East Bilney, while Grimston lies approximately 25 km to the west. Although the identification of the fabric is not clear, Grimston-type ware and pottery from Barton Bendish are both medieval.
- C.2.8 Two features in Trench 24 produced medieval pottery. From context 20, a fill of linear **21**, a small abraded glazed Grimston-type ware jug sherd was recovered. The level of abrasion suggests this sherd's condition is a result of plough disturbance. Quarry pit (**35**) context 34 produced a small, abraded, undiagnostic sherd, the origins of which are uncertain and which cannot be closely dated.
- C.2.9 The small number of sherds recovered from the trenches suggests low levels of deposition, possibly as a result of manuring spreads. The overall date of the assemblage is medieval, with a single example of post-medieval material recovered from context 62 in Trench 7.

Context	Fabric	Basic Form	Sherd Count	Weight (kg)	Context Date Range
17	Early medieval ware	Jar rim sherd	1	0.027	11th-14th century
	Local medieval unglazed	Jar base sherd	1	0.010	
20	Grimston-type ware	Jug body sherd	1	0.003	Late 12th-14th century
34	Unidentified	Body sherd	1	0.002	Not closely datable
36	Grimston-type ware	Jug strap handle	1	0.030	Late 12th-14th century
44	Early Medieval ware	Body sherd	1	0.003	
50	Early Medieval ware	Jar rim sherd	1	0.005	
	Grimston-type or ?Barton Bendish	Jug body sherd	3	0.043	
62	English stoneware London-type	Jug body sherd	1	0.015	Mid 17th-early 20th century
Total			11	0.138	

Table 3: Medieval pottery

APPENDIX D. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

D.1 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

D.1.1 Nine bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated areas at East Bilney quarry extension in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

D.1.2 Features sampled include ditches and pits dating from the Iron Age to the medieval period.

Methodology

D.1.1 The total volume (up to eighteen 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

D.1.2 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds and cereal grains 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 and magnetic residues have been scored for abundance

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

Results

D.1.3 Preservation of plant remains is by carbonisation (charring) and is generally poor. Most of the samples contain a high proportion of sand which may have affected preservation. Modern roots are also frequently present which may have resulted in movement of material between contexts.

D.1.4 Cereal grains are present in several of the samples from medieval features and include barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.). The grains are poorly preserved precluding further identification. The three samples from Iron Age pits and post holes **25**, **29** and **33** contain charcoal only. Fill 38 of pond **39** contains the largest assemblage

of nineteen charred grains and does not include any waterlogged material suggesting that the feature had completely dried prior or soon after deposition.

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Type	Volume processed (L)	Flot Vol (ml)	Cereals	Weed Seeds	Charcoal <2mm	Charcoal > 2mm	Flot comments	Pot	Flake hammerscale
1	13	14	ditch	12	60	#	0	+	0	Single charred barley grain	0	0
2	17	19	quarry	14	60	#	#	+	0	Three charred indet grains, dock seed	#	+
3	36	37	ditch	18	80	0	0	++	+	Charcoal only	#	+
4	24	25	pit?	14	80	0	0	+	+	Charcoal only	0	0
5	28	29	post hole	18	40	0	0	+	++	Charcoal only	#	++
6	32	33	post hole	18	30	0	0	0	+	Charcoal only	#	0
7	34	35	quarry	14	110	0	0	0	N		0	0
8	38	39	pond	16	100	##	0	+	++	19 charred grains – wheat and barley	0	++
9	40	41	ditch	16	20	#	0	+	0	Single indet charred grain	0	++

Table 4: Environmental samples from ENF134824

Discussion

- D.1.1 In general the samples were poor in terms of identifiable material. The charred plant remains consist mainly of cereal grains that were all poorly preserved, either because of taphonomic factors or because they had been charred at a high temperature. The poor preservation did not allow detailed identifications and most of the grains have been identified simply as cereals. It is possible that 'pond' 39 has been used for the disposal of burnt food waste but the small quantities recovered from the other features are unlikely to be indicative of deliberate deposition.
- D.1.2 Flakes of hammerscale were recovered from the residues of several of the samples and are found in deposits of both medieval and Iron Age date. Whilst blacksmithing activities would be expected to occur in both periods, it is possible that intrusive medieval hammerscale flakes have been incorporated into earlier deposits through bioturbation.
- D.1.3 The recovery of this small assemblage of plant remains does indicate that preservation has occurred at this site. If further work is intended for this area, it is recommended that a targeted sampling strategy is employed to improve understanding of the palaeoeconomy and the local and regional landscape as detailed in the *East Midlands Resource Assessment and Research Agenda*.

APPENDIX E. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- | | | |
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APPENDIX F. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project Details

OASIS Number	<input type="text"/>
Project Name	<input type="text"/>
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	<input type="text"/> Finish <input type="text"/>
Previous Work (by OA East)	<input type="text"/> Future Work <input type="text"/>

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	<input type="text"/>	Planning App. No.	<input type="text"/>
HER No.	<input type="text"/>	Related HER/OASIS No.	<input type="text"/>

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	<input type="text"/>
Development Type	<input type="text"/>

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 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
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HER	<input type="text"/>	
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Project Originators

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Project Manager	<input type="text"/>
Supervisor	<input type="text"/>

Project Archives

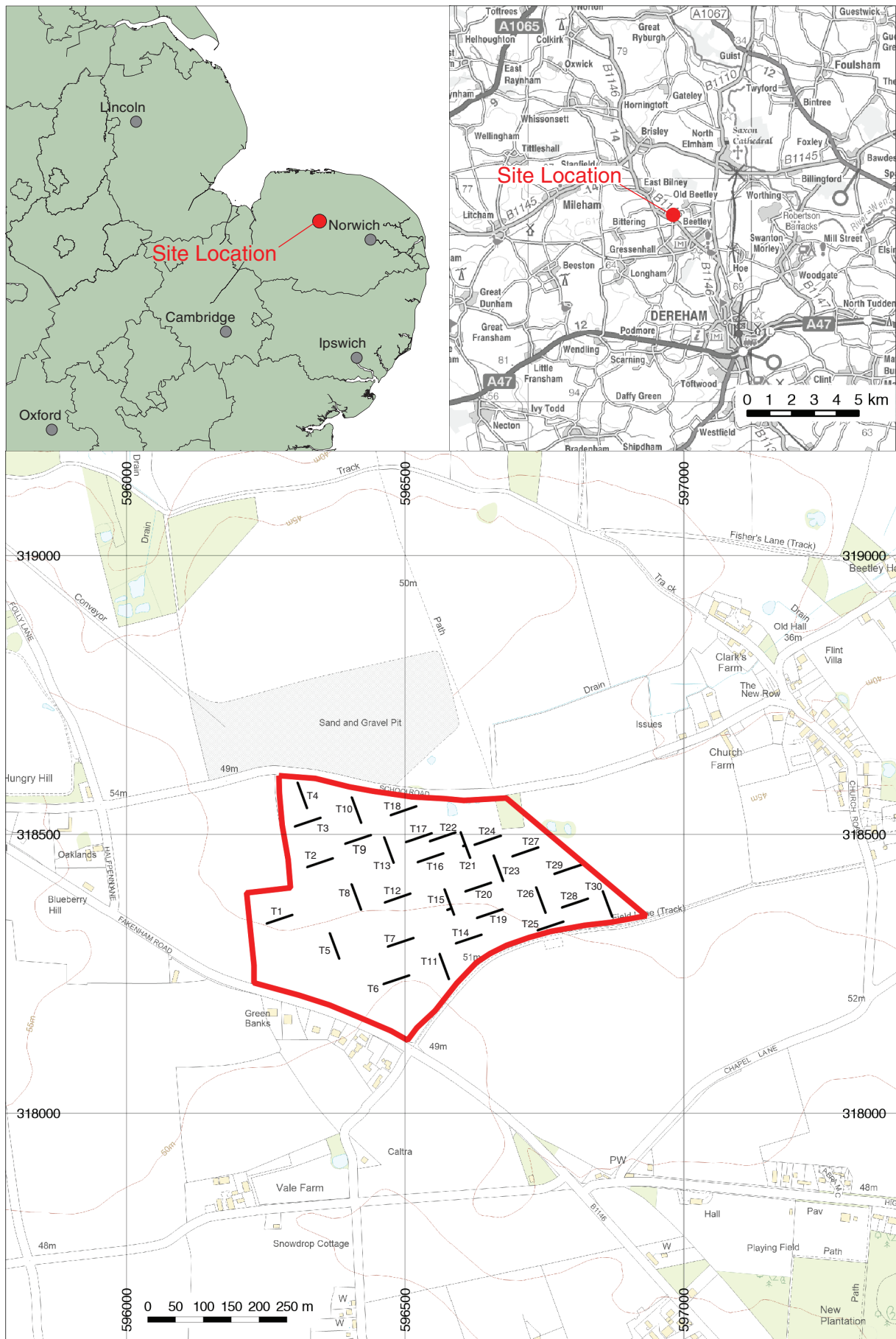
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Archive Contents/Media

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Notes:





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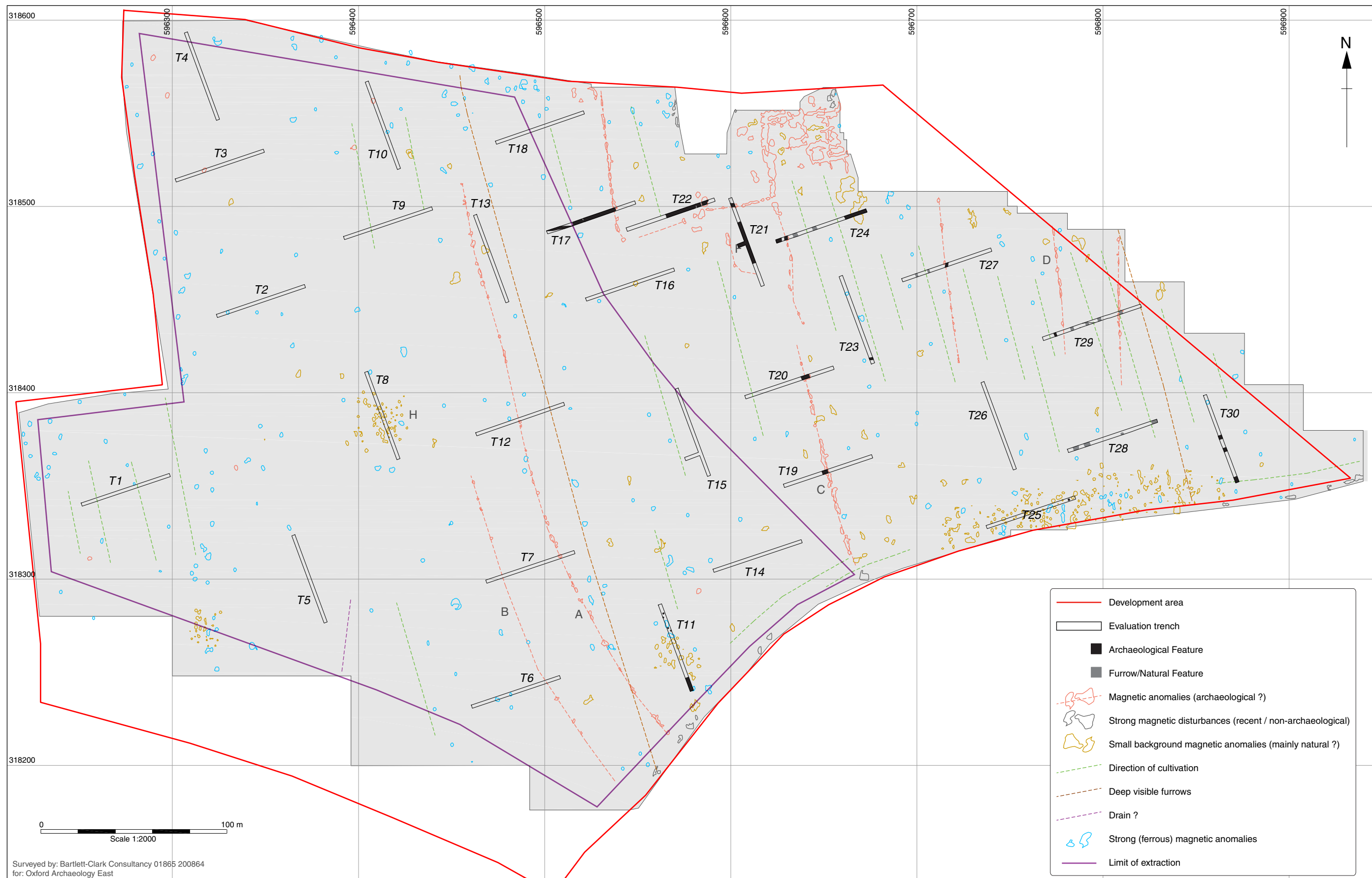


Figure 3: Plot of geophysical survey results

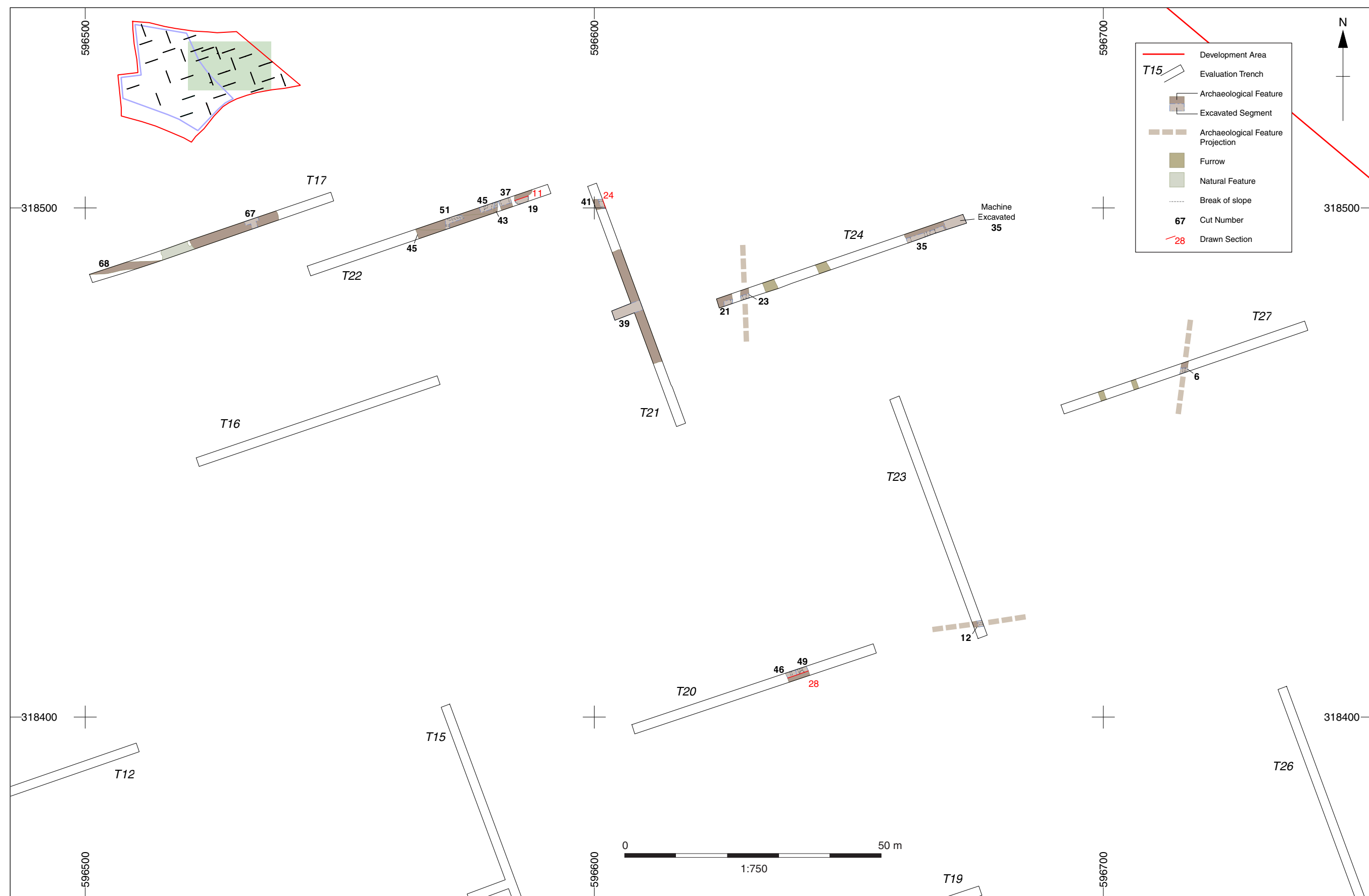


Figure 4a: Trench plans

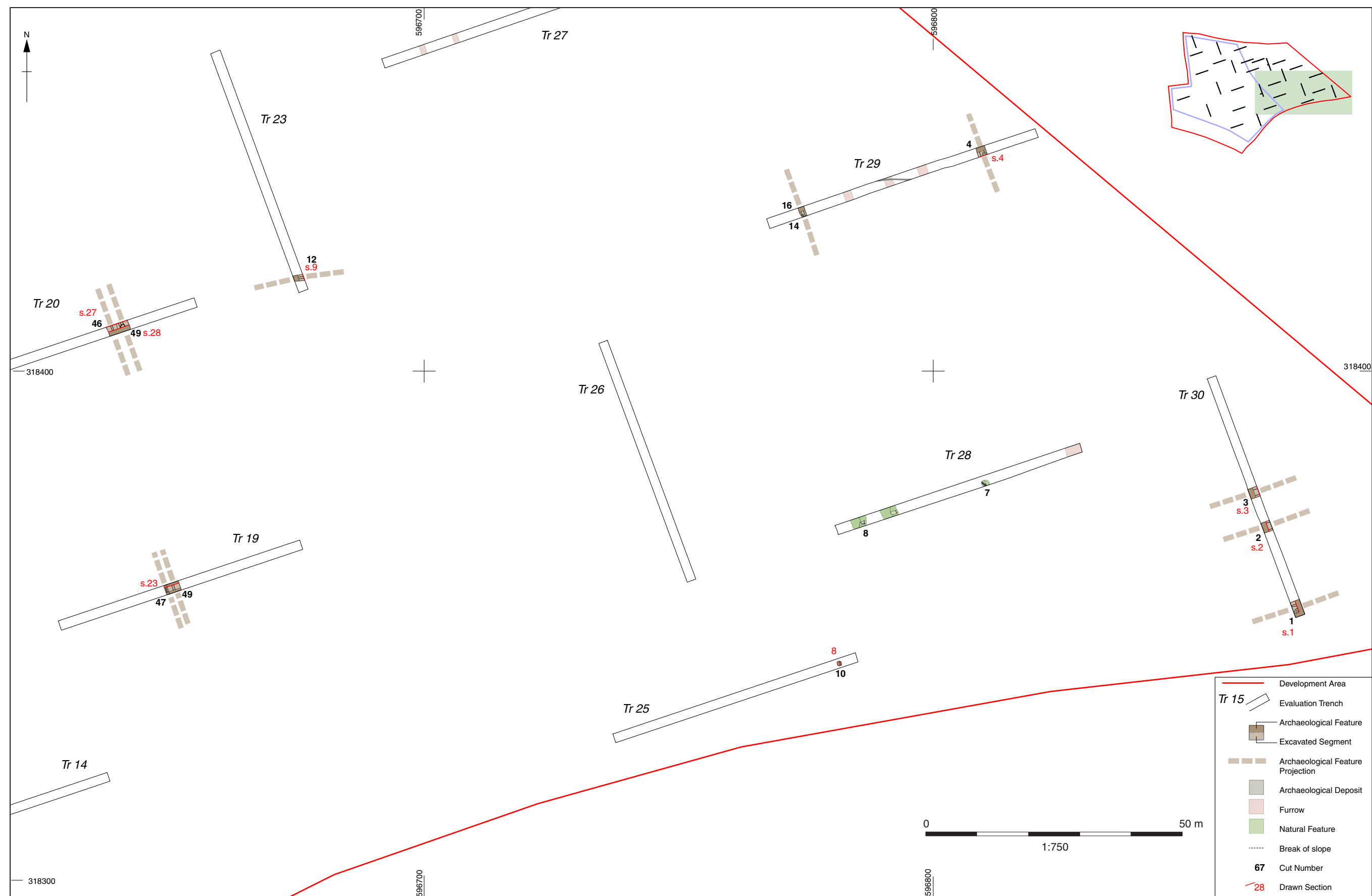


Figure 4b:

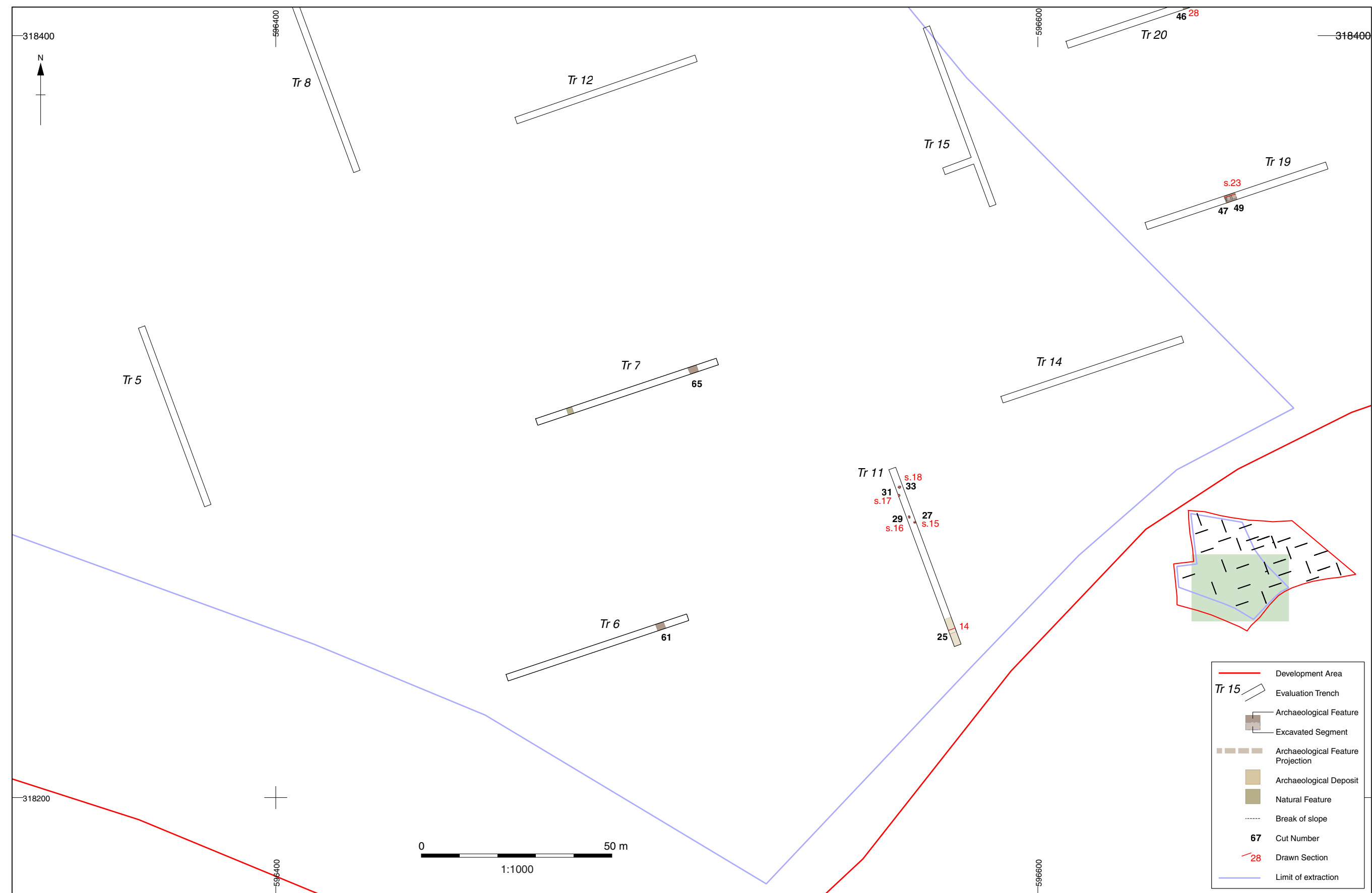


Figure 4c: Trench plans

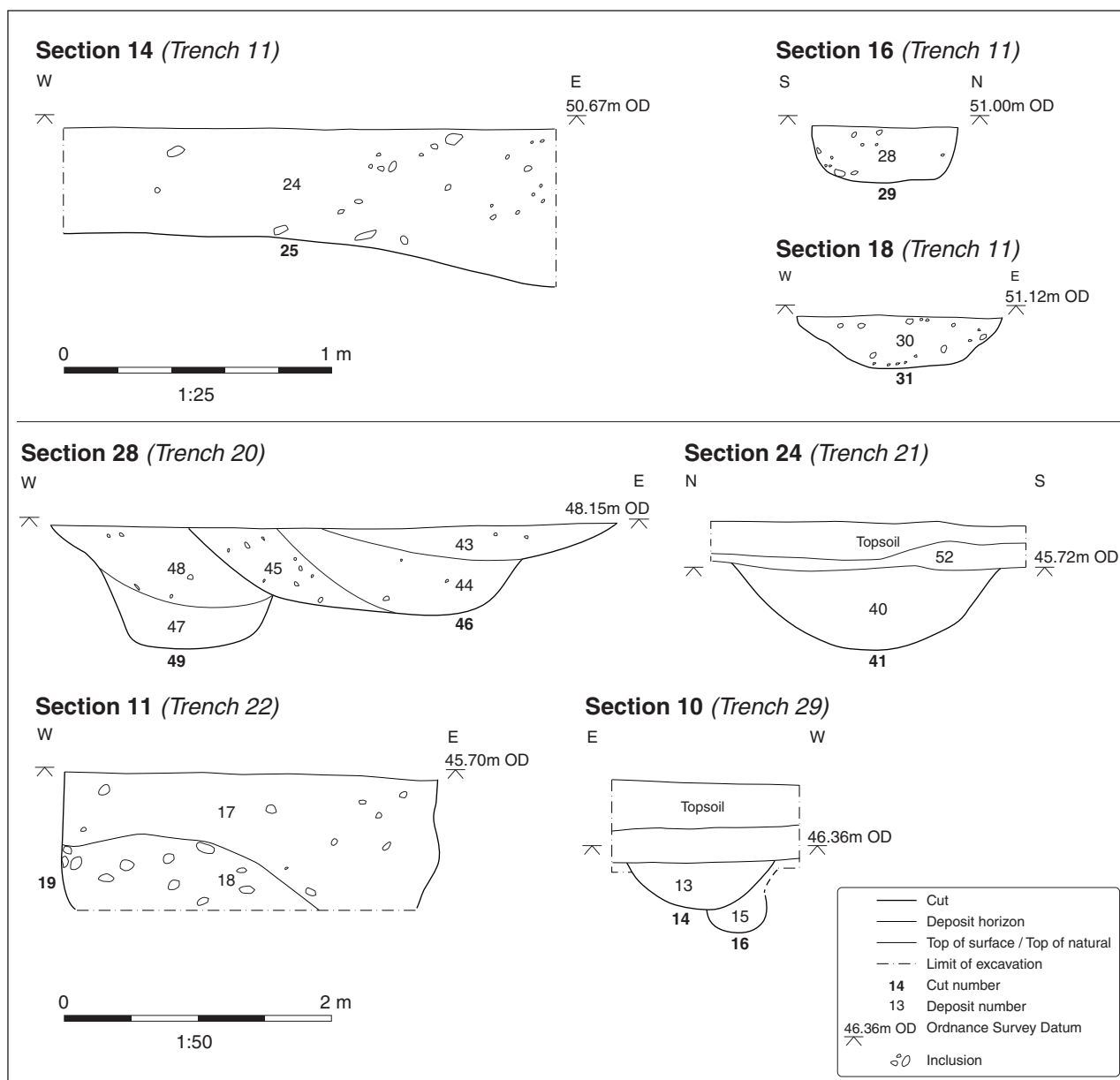


Figure 5: Selected sections

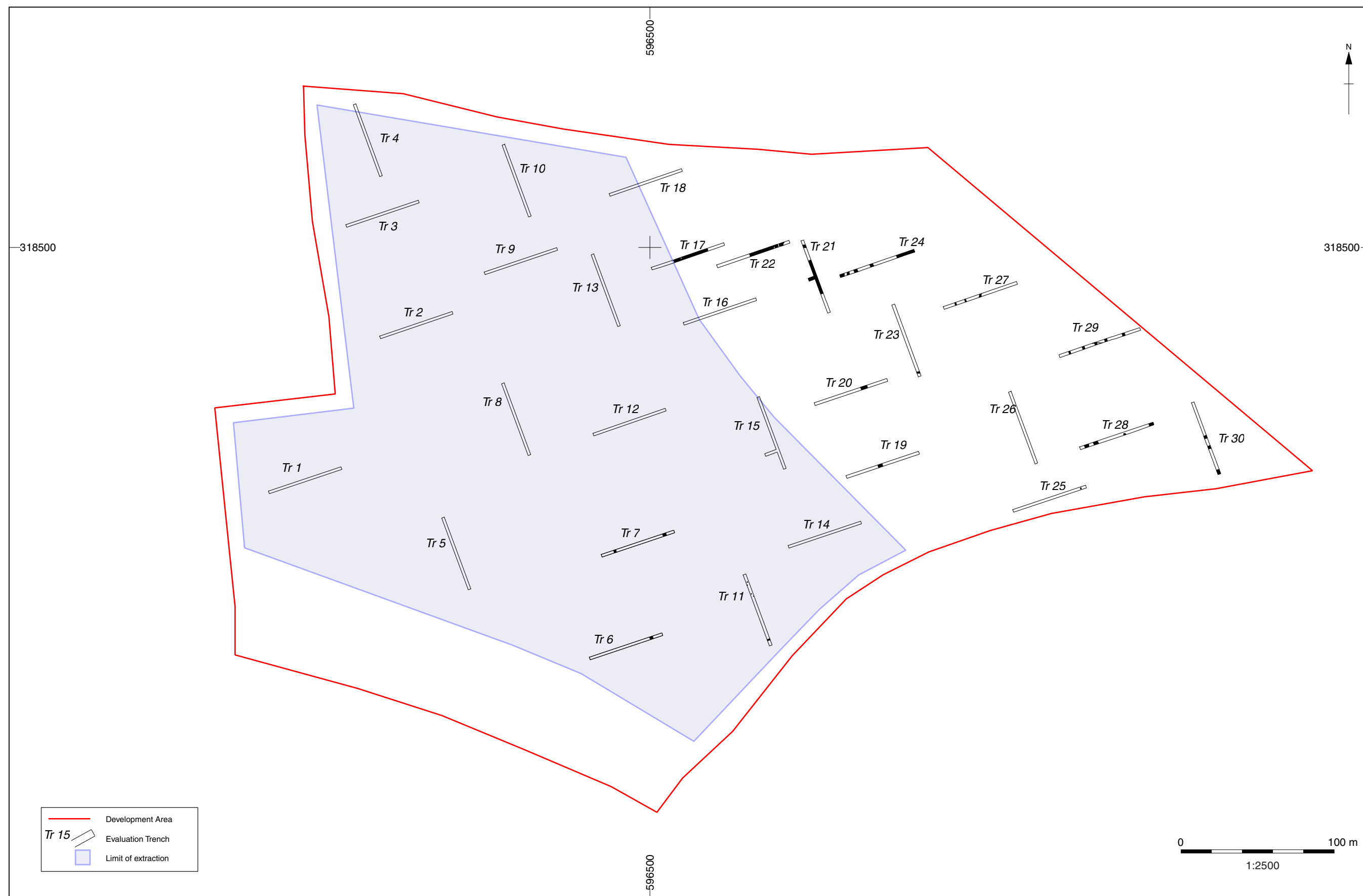


Figure 6: Proposed limits of extraction



Plate 1: Postholes 27, 29, 31, 33, Trench 11, facing south



Plate 2: Ditch 12, Trench 23, facing east



Plate 3: Pit 10, Trench 25, facing west



Plate 4: Quarry pit 35, Trench 24, facing west



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