Saxon and Medieval ditches at Church End Rampton

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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May 2016

Client: Mr J Hendry c/o Don Proctor

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Saxon and Medieval ditches at Church End, Rampton

Archaeological Evaluation

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Summary

From the 19th April to the 21st April 2016 Oxford Archaeology East undertook an evaluation on land east of The Rectory, Church End, Rampton, Cambridgeshire (TL 4286 6805. This evaluation comprised three trenches, two measured 15m in length and the third measured 30m in length. A soil horizon was seen throughout these trenches and in many cases it sealed ditches which were largely on a north to south or east to west alignment. Test pits were excavated through the soil horizon which was found to contain small quantities of Late Saxon and medieval pottery along with animal bone.

*Most of the ditches excavated were found to contain Late Saxon or medieval pottery, although the majority of the features were assigned a 12th to 13th century date. Most of the ditches were small in size and are thought to relate to a water meadowing system. An exception was Boundary Ditch **4**, excavated at the southern end of the site, and this is thought to represent a roadside boundary ditch. The features uncovered are broadly contemporary with the church to the north and the SMV and Anarchy castle to the east.*

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 An archaeological pre-application evaluation was conducted on land east of the Rectory, Church End, Rampton, Cambridgeshire (Fig. 1). The proposed development area lies immediately adjacent to the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Giant's Hill, the remains of a medieval moated site and possible anarchy period fortification. Historic England have also commented on the proposed development.

1.1.2 This archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC; Pre-Planning Application), 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 Ampthill Clay at approximately 6.5m AOD (http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html). The field is currently rough overgrown pasture and is securely bounded by mature hedgerows to the east and south and fencing to the north and west.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 Very little archaeology pre-dating the medieval period has been found in Rampton, extensive remains have however been found to the west towards Willingham such as at Belsars Hill (Hall 1996) and to the east at Cottenham, where intensive Iron age and Roman remains have been identified, for example at a site just south of Rampton Road where evidence for enclosures and settlement was identified (Atkins 2015). During the construction of the guided busway to the south of the Rampton features dating to the Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron age were uncovered. These comprised four linear features and contemporary pottery (CB15762). A Neolithic axe has also been recovered from Rampton (CHER 05183).

1.3.2 Enclosures and ditches thought to date to the Roman period have been noted near to the junction between Cow Lane and Iram Drove to the north-west of the site (CHER 09515). Quern Stones dating to the Roman period have also been recovered in Rampton (CHER 05209, 05756). Roman pottery has been recovered from the east of How Fen along with human skull fragments (CHER 05584).

1.3.3 Rampton is a small Parish, the village was recorded in 1086 as Ramtona or Rams Farm and this suggests it was a subsidiary settlement almost certainly of Willingham to the north-west. In 1086 there were 19 tenants recorded in Rampton and 23 people paid tax in 1327. There were 31 families in 1563 and 39 households by 1664 (http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/cambs/vol9/pp210-212). It is only during the early medieval period that Rampton appears to have developed as a more permanent, and perhaps even a high status, settlement focus. Fragments of at least five late Anglo-

Saxon grave covers and parts of a probable cross-shaft have been found during the restoration of All Saint's church (Fox 1922).

1.3.4 The 13th/14th C parish church of All Saints is situated at the far eastern edge of the village, though in part this is the result of the village's history and relationship to the shrunken Medieval Village (SMV) remains and Anarchy Castle collectively known as Giants Hill (MCB 2258, NHLE1011778) which lie to the east of the church, immediately adjacent to the proposed development site (Fig. 2).

Giants Hill

1.3.5 Giants Hill is a scheduled monument and probably relates to an unfinished fortification which was constructed on the orders of King Stephen in the mid 12th century during the period known as the Anarchy when King Stephen and Queen Matilda and their followers waged civil war across England. The 'castle' appears to have been built in order to monitor movement along the north-south route historically known as The Portway. Located 1km to the west of Giant's Hill, The Portway was the primary road between Cambridge and Ely throughout the medieval period. Immediately north of Rampton parish, the line of The Portway previously skirted the prehistoric enclosure of Belsar's Hill to join the Aldreth Causeway — one of only three overland routes between Ely and the fen-edge before permanent draining in the post-medieval period. Controlling movement along The Portway and the Aldreth Causeway beyond would thus have been fundamental for any campaign which sought to prevent access to and from the Isle of Ely (Wright *et al* 2015).

1.3.6 Giants Hill, along with other fortifications at Burwell, Wood Walton and potentially Caxton and Swavesey, were constructed to contain the Essex Baron Geoffrey De Mandeville who had seized Cathedral and Abbey at Ely and Ramsey. The death of De Mandeville at Burwell in 1144 would have resulted in the castle no longer being required and construction appears to have ceased, hence the partial completion (Brown & Taylor 1977:97), however the village area cleared for the castle's construction was never re-occupied, hence the isolation of the church on the eastern edge of the village, when it would once have been more central.

1.3.7 The earthwork remains at Giants Hill are thought to consist of an uncompleted castle mound, partially excavated moat, the remains of medieval house platforms/crofts, some of which are partially covered by the material excavated from moat digging. Ridge and furrow and hollow-way trackways are also present (http://www.pastscape.org/hob.aspx?hob_id=371864). To the north, west and south of the moated site, a number of linear field boundary ditches and banks form a series of rectilinear enclosures. These are presumably associated with the medieval/post medieval settlement of Rampton. Many of the boundary ditches appear to also have acted as drains or as part of a complex water management system. These are respected by medieval ridge and furrow and plough headlands (http://www.pastscape.org/hob.aspx?hob_id=371864).

1.3.8 However, problems of identification were encountered in a recent survey where earthworks to the north of the castle ditch which have been repeatedly interpreted as the remains of tofts which were abandoned when the castle was constructed suggests that such an assessment is far from certain. The form of the enclosures does not compare closely with a typical croft and toft arrangement, although it must be considered that medieval settlement character may differ in fen-edge environments such as Rampton (Wright *et al* 2015).

1.3.1 Although a castle was never constructed on the mound, the land was granted to the de Lisle family in the 13th century and there is probably a manor house on the site.

Remains of this house were noted by Evelyn White (rector in the early 20th C) and foundations found during the construction of a trench by the home guard in the second world war. The only excavation that has taken place at Giants Hill was by Major Gordon Fowler under the supervision of the University of Cambridge when a mortar gun emplacement was built in WW2 (CB 15204). The personal account of one of the men mentions the remains of perhaps a 15th century house and a medieval coin was found. Cambridge University rewarded the finder with half a crown.

1.3.2 At both Rampton and Burwell the original twelfth century fortifications were later used as manorial sites, and it may be telling that the stone walling identified at Giant's Hill in the 1940s was believed to be of fifteenth century date. Some of the enclosures at Rampton are thought to be the product of medieval or post-medieval activity associated with the later manor known through written records to have occupied the site. It may be significant that the parkland of the elite residence was located to the north of the castle, and documentary sources indicate that at least one structure named 'Hall Barn' stood somewhere immediately outside of the imparked area in the middle of the eighteenth century (Wright *et al* 2015).

1.3.3 Whilst the original military motivation behind the castle quickly subsided thus leaving the fortification unfinished, the site may never have been entirely abandoned. It is thought possible that the medieval residence may have stimulated the development of a marketplace immediately outside of its gates, probably the consequence of at least a reasonably permanent lordly presence (*ibid*). At some point in the medieval period the village of Rampton appears to have been re-planned, resulting in the distinctive Y-shaped plan of the historic settlement pattern with long thin strip fields still visible emanating to the north and south. Whether this arrangement was arrived at wholesale in a single phase or whether it was reached in more piecemeal fashion is uncertain, but at some point the medieval settlement between church and castle was abandoned and an alternative market site was probably established at the village green (*ibid*).

1.4 Acknowledgements

1.4.1 The author would like to thank the client Mr J Hendry and Don Proctor for commissioning the work. Thanks also to Kasia Gdaniec for monitoring the work, to Richard Mortimer for managing the project and to Duncan Wright for allowing free use of his topographical report. Site work was undertaken by the author with the assistance of Toby Knight and the machine was supplied and driven by Grant Miller.

2 Aims and Methodology

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The main 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. Any archaeological remains recorded would need to be viewed with particular reference to any relationship they may have to the Scheduled site of Giant's Hill immediately adjacent.

2.1.2 A secondary focus for the evaluation would be to identify how any archaeological remains recorded may relate to the church which lies immediately to the north, or to the Medieval village layout.

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The Brief required that three trenches be excavated where the proposed development would be located.

2.2.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a wheeled JCB-type excavator using a toothless ditching bucket.

2.2.3 The site survey was carried out by Gareth Rees using a Leica GS08 GPS

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

2.2.5 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.

2.2.6 Environmental samples were taken from a sample of ditches and from the soil horizon layer at different points across the site.

2.2.7 The water table was reasonably high, all features excavated in trenches 1 and 2 filled partially with water. Trench 3 was wet on the surface prior to excavating features which made excavation difficult.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 A total of three trenches were excavated, two measured 15m in length (Trenches 1 & 3, both aligned north/south) and the third measured 30m in length (Trench 2, aligned west/east). A number of ditches were identified in these trenches, largely on a north to south or east to west alignment (Fig. 3). A soil horizon (14) underlay the subsoil and was recorded as overlying many of these features. This layer represents an accruing land surface both before, during and after the cutting of the features described in the following text, though individual cuts could not be seen within it and it therefore appeared to 'seal' some of the features.

3.2 Trench 1

3.2.1 Trench 1 was the most southern of the trenches and had a north to south alignment. This trench measured 15m in length. A number of ditches were uncovered in this trench. Topsoil measured 0.25m deep and subsoil measured 0.2m deep. Soil horizon 14 could be seen at the northern end of the trench measuring approximately 0.15m deep however it did not continue to the south.

3.2.2 Ditch **4** was located at the southern end of trench 1 and was only partially revealed, extending south beyond the end of the trench. This ditch was steep-sided, aligned east to west and measured 1m wide and 0.44m deep (Plate 1). Its single fill (5) consisted of a dark greenish grey silty clay which contained five relatively large and fresh pottery sherds (86g) dating from the 12th to 13th centuries. The fill was bulk sampled and contained a moderate assemblage of free-threshing wheat grains suggestive of deliberate deposition.

3.2.3 Four metres to the north was ditch **6**, also on an east to west alignment and measuring 0.92m wide and 0.3m deep. Its fill (7) contained scraps of CBM and bird bone.

3.2.4 Ditch **8**, immediately to the north followed the same alignment and measured 0.64m wide and 0.22m deep. Its fill (9) contained a small quantity of animal bone.

3.2.5 Midway down the trench two intercutting sub-circular features were excavated, possibly pits, shallow wells or tree throws. Pit **10** was not fully seen but measured more than 0.5m wide and 0.2m deep. Its fill (11) contained seven sherds (186g) of 12th to 13th century pottery. Pit **12** partly truncated Pit 10 and measured 1.2m wide and 0.36m deep, its single fill (13) consisted of a mid brown grey silty clay which contained six small sherds (29g) of 12th to 14th century pottery and a single mussel shell. This fill was bulk sampled and contained occasional charred wheat and barley grains.

3.2.6 Shallow ditch **17** had an east to west alignment and measured 0.6m wide and 0.25m deep with a u-shape profile. Its fill (18) contained two small and abraded sherds (7g) of Late Saxon pottery a sherd each of St Neots ware and Thetford ware. This feature was truncated by later Ditch **15** (Plate 2). Ditch **15** was located at the northern end of trench 1 and continued into trench 2 (known as **29**). This ditch had a north-east to south-west alignment and measured 0.9m wide and 0.35m deep with steep sides. This was the only ditch on this alignment, its fill (16) consisted of a mid brown grey silty clay. To the north, in Trench 2, the ditch produced sherds of St Neots ware (see below).

3.3 Trench 2

3.3.1 Trench 2 was aligned east to west and measured 30m in length. Topsoil measured between 0.14m and 0.25m deep and subsoil measured 0.18m deep. Soil horizon 14

was identified throughout the trench, it measured between 0.2m and 0.3m deep and appeared to seal a number of features. Four 1m by 1m test pits were excavated through this soil horizon to reveal underlying features which largely consisted of ditches on a north to south or east to west alignment (Plate 3). The ceramic finds from these test pits and from surface collection across the context were relatively few and generally small and abraded but were consistently of 11th to 13th century date (twenty-four sherds weighing 172g, 14 of these from test pits, 10 from surface collection).

3.3.2 Possible post-hole or root-hole **19** was located at the western end of the trench it measured 0.25m wide and 0.15m deep and contained a single fill which contained no finds. Immediately east was possible shallow pit or tree hole **21**. This pit was only partially seen through test pitting and the part exposed measured 0.5m wide and 0.1m deep. Its fill (22) consisted of a mid grey brown silty clay which contained a single small and abraded sherd of St Neots ware (3g). Pit **23** was seen to the east also apparently sealed by soil horizon 14. This pit was not fully exposed and measured 0.4m wide and 0.1m deep. Its fill (24) contained pig bone.

3.3.3 Ditch **29** was the continuation of Ditch **15** from Trench 1. This ditch measured 1m wide and 0.37m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It contained two fills, the basal fill 32 contained animal bone, including an intact cows skull and 2 sherds of St Neots ware (18g) dating from the 10th to 11th century. This fill was bulk sampled and contained occasional charred grains that are poorly preserved. The upper fill (31) contained a further 3 sherds of St Neots ware (11g).

3.3.4 Ditch **25** was aligned north to south and measured 0.5m wide and 0.1m deep, with sloped sides and a concave base. This ditch was visible as a darker area of soil within soil horizon 14. Its fill contained no finds.

3.3.5 Ditch **27** was aligned east to west and measured 0.48m wide and 0.15m deep. Its fill (28) consisted of a mid brown grey silty clay which contained two small and abraded sherds (9g) of pottery dating to the 11th to 13th century and a small quantity of mussel shell. This fill was bulk sampled and contained a small assemblage of charred wheat and barley with occasional vetches, peas and a fragment of bean (Fabaceae). To the east this ditch was seen to continue and then terminate within the trench at terminus **39** where it measured 0.5m wide and 0.14m deep. Its single fill (40) contained three sherds of pottery (14g) dating from the 12th to 13th century.

3.3.6 Ditch **35** was aligned north to south and measured 0.4m wide and 0.1m deep. Its fill (36) consisted of a mid brown grey silty clay which contained one small sherd of pottery (4g) dating to the 12th to 13th century. This ditch was truncated by possible Ditch **33**.

3.3.7 Possible Ditch/tree throw **33** was partially uncovered and was aligned roughly north-east to south-west it measured 0.25m wide and 0.2m deep. Its fill (34) contained no finds. Both these ditches appeared to be sealed by soil horizon 14.

3.3.8 Ditch **37** was aligned north to south and measured 0.7m wide and 0.18m deep with sloped sides and a concave base. Its single fill (38) contained animal bone. This ditch was visible as a darker area of soil within soil horizon (14), as were ditches 41 and 43 below.

3.3.9 Ditch **41** was aligned east to west and measured 0.6m wide and 0.14m deep. Its single fill (42) contained no finds. This ditch was cut by Ditch **43** (Plate 4).

3.3.10 Ditch **43** had a north to south alignment and measured 0.8m wide and 0.3m deep with a u-shape profile. Its single fill (44) consisted of a mid brown grey silty clay which

contained a large quantity of cow bone and a six sherds of pottery (27g) dating from the 10th to 13th century.

3.4 Trench 3

3.4.1 Trench 3 was aligned north to south and was the most northern of the trenches (Plate 5). It measured 15m in length. Topsoil measured 0.15m deep and subsoil measured 0.22m deep. Soil horizon 14 was recorded throughout the southern and central parts of the trench and measured up to 0.35m in depth. The underlying 'Natural' Ampthill Clay could be seen at the northern end of the trench. The water table in the trench was very high, making excavation difficult although two test pits were excavated into the soil horizon which was bulk sampled and found to contain no preserved remains. At least three features were identified in the trench, one of which was partially excavated. A ditch at the northern end with a north to south alignment measured 0.5m wide and approximately 0.15m deep. A possible pit or tree hole could be seen underlying the soil horizon in one of the test pits which measured at least 0.85m wide. Ditch **35** in trench 2 was seen to continue into trench 3 but terminated approximately midway up the trench.

3.5 Finds Summary

3.5.1 The bulk of the pottery assemblage, and the contexts that it comes from, are relatively securely dated to the 12th to 13th centuries, with a little material, and perhaps two ditch features (**15** and **17**), dating slightly earlier, to the 10th to 12th centuries. It should be noted however that most sherds in the assemblage are small and some are reasonably well abraded. Animal bone was also recovered, the most prominent being that of cattle, although sheep/goat, pig and bird bones were also identified. There was a high occurrence of gnawing marks on the animal bone recovered.

3.6 Environmental Summary

3.6.1 Samples were taken from the buried soil layer and four other features across the site. The environmental samples taken have produced evidence of the disposal of burnt food remains. Cereal grains recovered from ditch **4** suggest deliberate deposition whereas the less-frequent remains from features in Trench 2 may be the result of the use of midden material for fertilising agricultural fields.

4 Discussion and Conclusions

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The site was identified as having a high potential for archaeological remains due to its proximity to the main road, the church, the SMV and Anarchy Castle. No remains either pre-dating the Late Saxon period or post-dating the medieval period were recorded, suggesting the site was only being actively used as anything other than pasture between the 11th and 13th centuries. The majority of features comprised narrow, shallow ditches on a north to south or an east to west alignment, with the exception of the potentially early Ditch **15** which was orientated north-east to south-west. Possible pits, water holes or tree holes were also present however none were seen in their entirety.

4.1.2 Comparison between features recorded in this evaluation and those recorded as earthworks within the scheduled area to the east in the original RCHME and recent Exeter University surveys (Brown & Taylor 1977, Wright *et al* 2015) has not proved fruitful. Earthwork surveys record only the largest and potentially most recent of features whereby the evaluation has recorded very minor archaeological features, the alignments of which cannot be certain within narrow trenches.

4.2 Late Saxon: 10th to 12th centuries

4.2.1 Late Saxon pottery was recovered from a number of the features on site with further sherds recovered from the soil horizon signifying a background of activity during this period, however in many cases these sherds are residual. Only Ditches **17** and **15** can be attributed to a Late Saxon phase. The north-east to south-west alignment of the larger Ditch **15** sets it part from all the others on the site and suggests the possibility that Late Saxon plots or field boundaries were negated during a 12th century remodelling, potentially relating to the laying out of the anarchy castle to the east or the construction of the church to the north.

4.3 Medieval: 12th to 13th centuries

4.3.1 Ditches **4**, **6** and **8** were located at the southern end of Trench 1, aligned west to east with the main road to the south and were not seen either to be cut through or sealed by soil horizon 14. The most southerly, Ditch **4** has the potential to be a relatively sizeable boundary ditch running parallel to the road. It contained a small but relatively unabraded pottery assemblage (0.086kg) in comparison to other features on site and the cereal remains recovered from this ditch were indicative of being deliberately deposited. The possible pits located just north of these ditches also contained relatively large unabraded 12th to 13th century pottery sherds, although what purpose the pits may have had is unknown, perhaps small surface wells for stock.

4.3.2 All the other ditches recorded could perhaps be part of a water meadow, paddock or other agricultural system, they are reasonably small in size, averaging at 0.55m wide and very shallow at c. 0.1m deep. The remains recovered from the environmental bulk samples support an agricultural use for this land as only very small amounts of charred grain were noted and may occur as a result of the use of midden material for fertilising the fields. The small quantity and abraded nature of the pottery assemblage from both the ditches and the overlying soils also suggests at least a short period of manuring to improve the fertility and structure of the soils. The water table in this area is currently high, partly due to poor drainage, and will have been similar during the Saxon and medieval periods making the land unsuitable for direct occupation.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The features recorded add to the existing knowledge of this part of Rampton area of Rampton during the Late Saxon and medieval period. A single boundary ditch, on a different alignment to the subsequent medieval layout, suggests plots or fields/paddocks in the Late Saxon period. It seems likely that the area was then re-planned either as part of the 12th century development of Giants Hill to the east or in connection with the construction of the church to the north.

4.5 Recommendations

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

Appendix A. Trench Descriptions and Context Inventory

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench contained a series of ditches most of which were on an E-W alignment. Pits were also present.					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.55
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	15
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.25-0.3	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	'Natural' Ampthill Clay	-	-
4	Cut	1	0.44	Cut of Ditch	-	12th-13th C
5	Fill	1	0.44	Fill of Ditch	Pot and bone	12th-13th C
6	Cut	0.92	0.3	Cut of Ditch	-	12th-13th C
7	Fill	0.92	0.3	Fill of Ditch	CBM and bone	12th-13th C
8	Cut	0.64	0.22	Cut of Ditch	-	
9	Fill	0.64	0.22	Fill of Ditch	Bone	
10	Cut	0.5	0.2	Cut of Pit	-	12th-13th C
11	Fill	0.5	0.2	Fill of Pit	Pot and bone	12th-13th C
12	Cut	1.2	0.36	Cut of Pit	-	13th C
13	Fill	1.2	0.36	Fill of Pit	Pot and shell	12th-14th C
14	Layer	-	0.15	Soil horizon	Pot	10th-13th C
15	Cut	0.9	0.35	Cut of Ditch	-	
16	Fill	0.9	0.35	Fill of Ditch	Bone	
17	Cut	0.6	0.25	Cut of Ditch	-	10th-11th C
18	Fill	0.6	0.25	Fill of Ditch	Pot	10th-11th C
Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench contained a series of ditches largely orientated E-W or N-S. Buried soil layer sealed many of these features					**Avg. depth (m)**	0.62
					Width (m)	1.8
					Length (m)	30
Contexts						
context no	**type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**comment**	**finds**	**date**
1	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-

2	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	'Natural' Ampthill Clay	-	-
14	Layer	-	0.2-0.3	Soil horizon	Pot	12th-13th
19	Cut	0.25	0.13	Cut of post-hole	-	
20	Fill	0.25	0.13	Fill of post-hole	-	
21	Cut	0.5	0.1	Cut of Pit	-	12th C
22	Fill	0.5	0.1	Fill of Pit	Pot	10th-12th C
23	Cut	0.4	0.1	Cut of Pit	-	
24	Fill	0.4	0.1	Fill of Pit	Bone	
25	Cut	0.5	0.1	Cut of Ditch	-	
26	Fill	0.5	0.1	Fill of Ditch	-	
27	Cut	0.48	0.15	Cut of Ditch	-	12th C
28	Fill	0.48	0.15	Fill of Ditch	Pot and shell	10th-13th C
29	Cut	1	0.37	Cut of Ditch	-	12th-13th C
30	Layer	-	0.17	Soil horizon	Pot	12th-13th C
31	Fill	0.8	0.2	Fill of Ditch	Pot	10th-11th C
32	Fill	1	0.17	Fill of Ditch	Pot	10th-11th C
33	Cut	0.25	0.2	Cut of Ditch	-	
34	Fill	0.25	0.2	Fill of Ditch	-	
35	Cut	0.4	0.1	Cut of Ditch	-	12th-13th C
36	Fill	0.4	0.1	Fill of Ditch	Pot	12th-13th C
37	Cut	0.7	0.18	Cut of Ditch	-	
38	Fill	0.7	0.18	Fill of Ditch		
39	Cut	0.5	0.14	Cut of Ditch	-	12th-13th C
40	Fill	0.5	0.14	Fill of Ditch	Pot	12th-13th C
41	Cut	0.6	0.14	Cut of Ditch	-	
42	Fill	0.6	0.14	Fill of Ditch	-	
43	Cut	0.8	0.3	Cut of Ditch	-	12th-13th C
44	Fill	0.8	0.3	Fill of Ditch	Pot and bone	10th-13th C

Trench 3

General description	**Orientation**	N-S
This trench contained a buried soil overlying some ditches similar to those seen in trench 2.	**Avg. depth (m)**	0.75
	Width (m)	1.8
	Length (m)	15

Contexts

context no	type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	comment	finds	date
1	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-

2	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	'Natural' Ampthill Clay	-	-
14	Layer	-	0.38	Soil horizon	Pot	12th-13th C

APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Worked Stone

By Kathryn Nicholls & Richard Mortimer

Introduction and methodology

B.1.1 Two small fragments of Niedermendig or Mayen lava quern measuring 15mm thick were recovered from soil horizon 14. Both are most likely parts of the lower stone. Rhineland Lava querns were imported throughout the Roman, Anglo-Saxon and early medieval periods, however these querns are most likely to date to the 10th-12th centuries.

Context	Cut	Weight (g)	Description
14		0.336	Two fragments of lava, 15mm thick, most likely part of the same quern. Probably a lower stone

Table 1: Worked stone listed by context

B.2 Saxon and Medieval Pottery

By Richard Mortimer

Introduction

B.2.1 A total of 64 sherds of pottery, weighing 0.572kg, were recovered from three trenches, including sherds recovered from soil horizon 14. The majority of the sherds are small in size and abraded with an average sherd weight of less than 9 grams.

Methodology

B.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. Rapid 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 types.

B.2.3 All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed on a context-by-context basis. The assemblage is recorded in the summary catalogue and the full catalogue is recorded in a Microsoft Access database and a copy will be deposited with the archive. The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition

Assemblage

B.2.1 The largest number of sherds came from soil horizon C (14) from which a total of 24 sherds were recovered comprising St Neots ware, Thetford ware, medieval shelly ware, medieval sandy grey wares and a red sandy ware. This included one St Neots ware bowl rim, one sherd of Thetford ware with a missing applied strip, one medieval shelly ware base sherd and a sandy grey ware jar rim.

B.2.2 Ditch **4** in Trench 1 contained 5 sherds of pottery dating to the 12th to 13th century, these included two medieval shelly ware base sherds and a sherd of sandy grey ware with incised decoration.

B.2.3 Pit **10** contained 7 sherds of pottery dating to the 12th to 13th century, including one large sandy grey ware rim and an out turned medieval shelly ware rim. This pit was cut by Pit **12** which contained medieval shelly ware and a single sherd of red sandy ware dating to the 13th to 14th century.

B.2.4 Ditch **17** also in trench 1 contained 1 sherd of St Neots ware and 1 sherd of Thetford ware, both were small fragments but potentially pre-Conquest in date. This is the earliest feature on the site both stratigraphically and by ceramic dating, it was cut by ditch **29** (also known as **15**) whose basal fill contained 2 sherds of St Neots ware.

B.2.5 Some of the shallow ditches in trench 2 yielded pottery fragments. Ditch **35** contained a single sherd of sandy grey ware dating to the 12th to 13th century. Ditch **39** contained 3 sherds of pottery dating to the 12th to 13th century including a medieval shelly ware rim sherd.

B.2.6 Ditch **43** at the eastern end of trench 2 contained four sherds of St Neots ware along with a sandy grey ware rim sherd dating to the 12th to 13th century

Discussion

B.2.7 The bulk of the pottery assemblage, and the contexts that it comes from, are securely dated to the 12th to 13th centuries, with a little material, and perhaps two ditch features, dating slightly earlier, to the 10th to 12th centuries. Most of the sherds are small and abraded and do not represent direct disposal. The material may have been introduced into the site through manuring in an attempt to improve soil fertility. There is a small concentration of larger, fresher sherds at the southern end of trench 1, within the larger medieval ditch features along the roadside.

B.2.8 As would be expected in this part of Cambridgeshire the bulk (over 60%) of the pottery - both the Saxo-Norman St Neots ware and the Medieval shelly wares - comes from industries to the west of the County, with only limited numbers of Thetford-types and later grey sandy wares present.

B.2.9 Pottery Catalogue

Context	Cut no.	Fabric	Sherd count	Sherd weight (kg)	pottery date	Context date
5	**4**	Medieval shelly ware (inc two bases)	3	0.074	12th-13th century	12th-13th century
		Sandy grey wares (one with incised line decoration)	2	0.012	12th-13th century	
11	**10**	Medieval shelly ware (one out turned bowl rim)	6	0.096	12th-13th century	12th-13th century
		Sandy grey ware (rim sherd)	1	0.090	12th-13th century	
13	**12**	Medieval shelly ware	5	0.022	12th-13th century	13th century
		Red sandy ware	1	0.007	13th-14th century	
14		St Neots ware inc one bowl rim	13	0.062	10th- 12th century	12th-13th century
		Thetford ware (one piece	3	0.044	10th- 12th century	

		with missing applied strip)				
		Medieval Shelly ware inc one base sherd	3	0.018	12th-13th century	
		Sandy Grey ware including one jar rim	4	0.041	12th-13th century	
		Red sandy ware	1	0.007	12th-13th century	
18	**17**	St Neots ware	1	0.004	10th-11th century	10th-11th century
		Thetford ware	1	0.003	10th-11th century	
22	**21**	St Neots ware	1	0.003	10th- 12th century	12th century
28	**27**	St Neots ware	1	0.003	10th- 12th century	12th century
		Medieval shelly ware	1	00.06	12-13th century	
30		Medieval shelly ware	1	0.003	12th-13th century	12th-13th century
31	**29**	St Neots ware	3	0.011	10th- 12th century	10th-11th century
32	**29**	St Neots ware (inc out turned jar rim)	2	0.018	10th-11th century	10th-11th century
36	**35**	Sandy grey ware	1	0.004	12th-13th century	12th-13th century
40	**39**	Medieval shelly ware (inc one rim)	2	0.010	12th-13th century	12th-13th century
		Red sandy ware	1	0.004	12th-13th century	
44	**43**	St Neots ware	4	0.013	10th- 12th century	12th-13th century
		Sandy grey ware (rim sherd)	1	0.007	12th-13th century	
		Medieval sandy ware	1	0.007	12th-13th century	
Bucket sampling		Red sandy ware	1	0.003	13th century	13th century
Total			**64**	**0.572**		

Table 2: Saxon and medieval pottery listed by context

APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

C.1.1 Seven bulk samples were taken from features dating to the medieval period, within the evaluated areas at Church End, Rampton, Cambridgeshire in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

Methodology

C.1.2 The total volume (up to 18 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 an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 1. Identification of plant remains is with reference to the *Digital Seed Atlas of the Netherlands* (Cappers et al. 2006) and the authors' own reference collection. Nomenclature is according to Zohary and Hopf (2000) for cereals and Stace (1997) for other plants. Carbonized seeds and grains, by the process of burning and burial, become blackened and often distort and fragment leading to difficulty in identification. Plant remains have been identified to species where possible. The identification of cereals has been based on the characteristic morphology of the grains and chaff as described by Jacomet (2006).

Quantification

C.1.1 For the purpose of this initial assessment, items such as seeds, cereal grains and legumes have been scanned and recorded qualitatively according to the following categories

= 1-5, ## = 6-25, ### = 26-100, #### = 100+ specimens

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

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

Results

C.1.2 Preservation of plant remains is by carbonisation although charcoal is scarce. There was a considerable amount of rooting and intrusive modern seeds within all of the samples.

Trench 1

C.1.3 Samples were taken from ditch **4** and pit **12** within Trench 1. Sample 1, fill 5 of ditch **4** contains a moderate assemblage of free-threshing wheat grains (approximately seventy grains) in addition to a single poorly-preserved free-threshing wheat rachis node. A single barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grain is also present. Occasional small legumes have been tentatively identified as wild pea (*Lathyrus* cf. *praetensi*s). Charred seeds of weed

plants that would commonly be found in cultivated soils include stinking mayweed (*Anthemis cotula*), mustard (*Brassica nigra*-type.), dock (*Rumex* sp.) and clover/medick (*Trifolium medicago*). Sample 2, fill 13 of pit **12** contains occasional wheat and barley grains only.

Trench 2

C.1.4 Three samples were taken from buried soil 14; Sample 3 contained occasional charred wheat grains, a small legume (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) and seeds of stinking mayweed and clover/medick, Sample 5 contains four poorly preserved charred grains and charcoal flecks.

C.1.5 Sample 4, fill 28 of a linear feature **27** contains a small assemblage of charred wheat and barley with occasional vetches, peas and a fragment of bean (Fabaceae). Sample 6, fill 32 of ditch **29** contains occasional charred grains that are poorly preserved.

Trench 3

C.1.6 Sample 7 from buried soil 14 does not contain any preserved remains.

Discussion

C.1.7 The environmental samples taken at Church End have produced evidence of the disposal of burnt food remains. The quantity of cereal grains recovered from ditch **4** is suggestive of deliberate deposition whereas the less-frequent remains in Trench 2 may be the result of the use of midden material for fertilising agricultural fields.

C.1.8 There is good potential for the recovery of plant remains from this site and any further excavations in the area should include environmental sampling.

Sample No.	Context No.	Cut No.	Feature Type	Area/ Trench No.	Volume processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Chaff	Legumes	Weed Seeds	Charcoal	Flot comments	Pottery	Large mammal bones	Mussel	Fired clay
1	5	4	Ditch	1	16	40	###	#	#	#	+	Free-threshing wheat grains, single barley grain	#	#	##	0
2	13	12	Pit	1	9	10	#	0	0	0	+	occasional wheat and barley	#	#	#	0
6	32	29	Ditch	2	9	60	##	0	0	#	+	occasional wheat	#	#	0	0
4	28	27	Linear	2	7	20	##	0	#	#	+	occasional wheat and barley	0	0	#	0
3	14	-	Buried soil	2	18	10	##	0	#	#	+	occasional wheat	#	#	0	0
5	14	-	Buried soil	2	16	20	#	0	0	0	+	occasional indet grain	#	#	#	#
7	14	-	Buried soil	3	17	60	0	0	0	0	0	No preservation	#	#	0	#

Table 3: Environmental samples

C.2 Faunal Remains

By Angelos Hadjikoumis

Introduction

C.2.1 The study of the faunal assemblage yielded 163 fragments of animal remains, identifiable to some degree. All were recovered through hand collection and were studied to evaluate the preservation condition and overall potential of zooarchaeological remains at the site.

Methodology

C.2.2 Identification and full recording was attempted on each specimen. Besides anatomical and taxonomic identification, data on the fusion state of postcranial elements, eruption and wear of dental remains, fragmentation, level of erosion, taphonomy, butchery and biometrical measurements were also recorded, wherever available. Identification was carried out with the use relevant osteological atlases (*e.g.* Barone 1976; Pales and Garcia 1981; Schmid 1972).

C.2.3 Distinguishing between sheep and goat was attempted on postcranial remains mainly following Boessneck *et al.* (1964) and on mandibular cheek teeth following Halstead *et al.* (2002) and Payne (1985). The distinction between equids (i.e. horse, donkey or mule/hinny) was based on criteria from several authors summarised in Johnstone (2004: 165, table 4.1). Besides anatomical and taxonomic identification, age-at-death was estimated based on dental eruption and wear, as well as the epiphyseal fusion state of selected postcranial anatomical elements. Eruption and wear of mandibular dental remains were recorded following Payne (1973; 1987) for sheep and goats, Grigson (1982) and Halstead's (1985) adaptation of Payne for cattle. Age-at-death based on epiphyseal fusion follows Silver (1969) for sheep, goat, cattle and pig.

Quantification

C.2.4 The basic unit for the quantification of this sample is the Number of Identified Specimens (NISP).

Results

C.2.5 Animal remains were recovered from contexts that date from the 10th/11th to the 13th/14t^{h} centuries, while a few remains derived from contexts that have not yet been assigned to a chronological period. All the identified mammal remains from dated contexts are presented in Table 4. More than half of the sample are cattle remains, which is also reflected in the near-absolute dominance of 'large mammals' amongst the remains that could only be assigned to a generic size category. In fact, a large number of 'large mammal' remains are fragments from two cattle skulls identified in contexts 32 and 44. Sheep/goat was the second most abundant taxon. Only sheep was identified amongst the caprine remains, although the presence of goat cannot be excluded when more material comes to light. The only other mammal identified in dated contexts was an equid species. The dental morphology suggests that it was a horse and the absence of a canine tooth suggests that it was female. Besides the species identified by their remains, the high occurrence of gnawing marks. suggests that dogs were also present at the site. Some of the gnawing marks, and especially those on a bird radius, are very small and suggest either a very small-sized dog or a smaller carnivore (e.g. cat, weasel, etc)

C.2.6 Five more mammal remains were identified in undated contexts (Table 5). The only noteworthy point is the presence of pig. Its presence in currently undated contexts suggests, rather expectedly, that this species was also present and played some role in the site's economy.

C.2.7 Besides mammals, birds were also identified at the site in contexts dating from the 10th to the 13th centuries (Table 6). Only the remains of relatively large birds were identified. As far as the species represented are concerned, only tentative identifications can be provided at this stage due to the need for use of a comparative collection to reach reliable identifications. The size 3 ulna, nevertheless, is of galliform morphology and most likely belonged to domestic fowl, while the size 4 radius is broadly compatible with anseriform morphology (goose?).

C.2.8 The age-at-death of the animals represented in the assemblage was estimated both in terms of epiphyseal fusion and mandibular eruption/wear, wherever possible. As far as cattle is concerned, only three postcranial bones yielded relevant information, a fused distal metatarsus (>24-36 months), a fusing proximal humerus (<36-48 months) and a fused calcaneus (>36-48 months). The only two aged mandibles belonged to the same animal, which died between 30 and 60 months of age.

C.2.9 All equid remains recorded were fused or in permanent dentition, thus suggesting the presence of adult animals.

C.2.10 Concerning sheep/goat, a fused scapula (>6-10 months) and a fused distal tibia (>18-28 months) were recorded in terms of postcranial remains, while a loose mandibular M3 belonged to an animal between 24 and 36 months.

C.2.11 Butchery marks were recorded on cattle and sheep/goat remains only, while gnawing marks were present on all identified taxa (including birds), except on the single pig mandible fragment. Moreover, the highly fragmented state of the assemblage and the high occurrence of gnawing marks have restricted the potential for biometric measurements to be taken.

Preservation

C.2.12 The overall preservation of the material is almost perfect and the breakage noted was inflicted by either human butchers or animal scavengers.

Contamination

C.2.13 No obvious contamination was noted in the assemblage.

Sampling Bias

C.2.14 The scarcity of faunal remains at the site and the inevitably small sample size render any results produced tentative and of limited reliability at the present stage. Moreover, the reliability of the predominance of cattle in the assemblage can be tested in the future with the collection of bulk samples, which would reveal whether the numbers of smaller species have been underestimated.

Statement of Research Potential

C.2.15 The study of the faunal sample suggests that the potential of a more detailed study of animal remains from the site is high in terms of its preservation condition, given that a sufficient volume of material from well-dated contexts will be recovered in future excavations at the site. Unless contexts significantly richer in faunal material are located and excavated the faunal assemblage from this site is of limited value in shedding light into human-animal interactions in the area.

10-14th centuries			
Taxon	Hand collection		
	NISP	**NISP%**	**MNI**
Cattle	15	51.7%	2
Equid	4	13.8%	1
Sheep/Goat	10	34.5%	2
Total	30	100.0%	5
Large mammal	125	99.2%	N/A
Medium mammal	1	0.8%	N/A
Total	**126**	**100.0%**	**N/A**

Table 4: Taxonomic composition of all identified faunal remains from dated contexts.

Undated	
Taxon	Hand collection
	NISP
Cattle	2
Pig	1
Total	**3**
Large mammal	1
Medium mammal	1
Total	**2**

Table 5: Faunal remains identified in contexts of currently unknown date.

10-13th centuries	
Bird size	Hand collection
	NISP
Size 4	1
Size 3	1
Size 3-4	1
Total	**3**

Table 6: Bird remains identified. Examples of bird sizes, size 3: chicken/pheasant and size 4: goose/peafowl.

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Geology of Britain - http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html (accessed 26/4/16)

Heritage Gateway - http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/ (accessed 26/6/16)

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Pastscapes - http://www.pastscape.org/hob.aspx?hob_id=371864 (accessed 26/4/16)

APPENDIX E. OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-249886		
Project Name	saxon and medieval ditches at church end, rampton		
Project Dates (fieldwork) Start	19-04-2016	Finish	21-04-2016
Previous Work (by OA East)	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	RAMCHE16	Planning App. No.	pre planning
HER No.	ECB 4710	Related HER/OASIS No.	

Type of Project/Techniques Used

Prompt	Select Prompt (this should be in your brief/spec)...
Development Type	Small Scale (e.g. single house)

Please select all techniques used:

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

Monument Types/Significant Finds & Their Periods

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

Monument	Period	Object	Period
ditch	Early Medieval 410 to 1066	pot	Early Medieval 410 to 1066
ditch	Medieval 1066 to 1540	pot	Medieval 1066 to 1540
buried soil	Medieval 1066 to 1540	animal bone	Medieval 1066 to 1540

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Site Address (including postcode if possible)	
District	south cambridgeshire	Land east of the Rectory Church End Rampton	
Parish	Rampton		
HER	Cambridge		
Study Area	108 sqm	National Grid Reference	TL 4286 6805

Project Originators

Organisation	OA EAST
Project Brief Originator	Kasia Gdaniec
Project Design Originator	Richard Mortimer
Project Manager	Richard Mortimer
Supervisor	Kathryn Nicholls

Project Archives

Physical Archive	Digital Archive	Paper Archive
CCC	OA East	CCC
ECB 4710	RAMCHE16	ECB 4710

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:

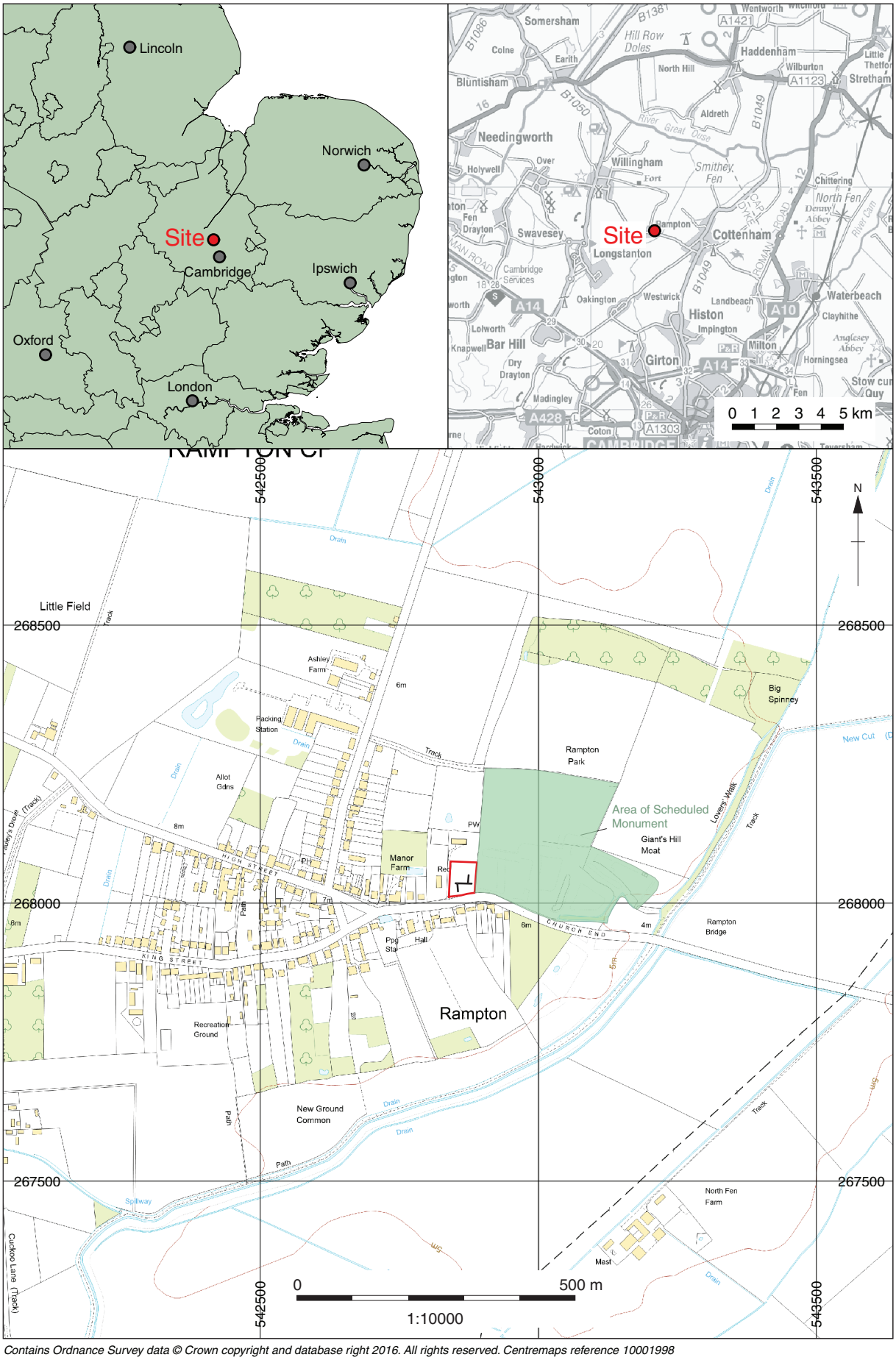

Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red) and Scheduled Monument (green)

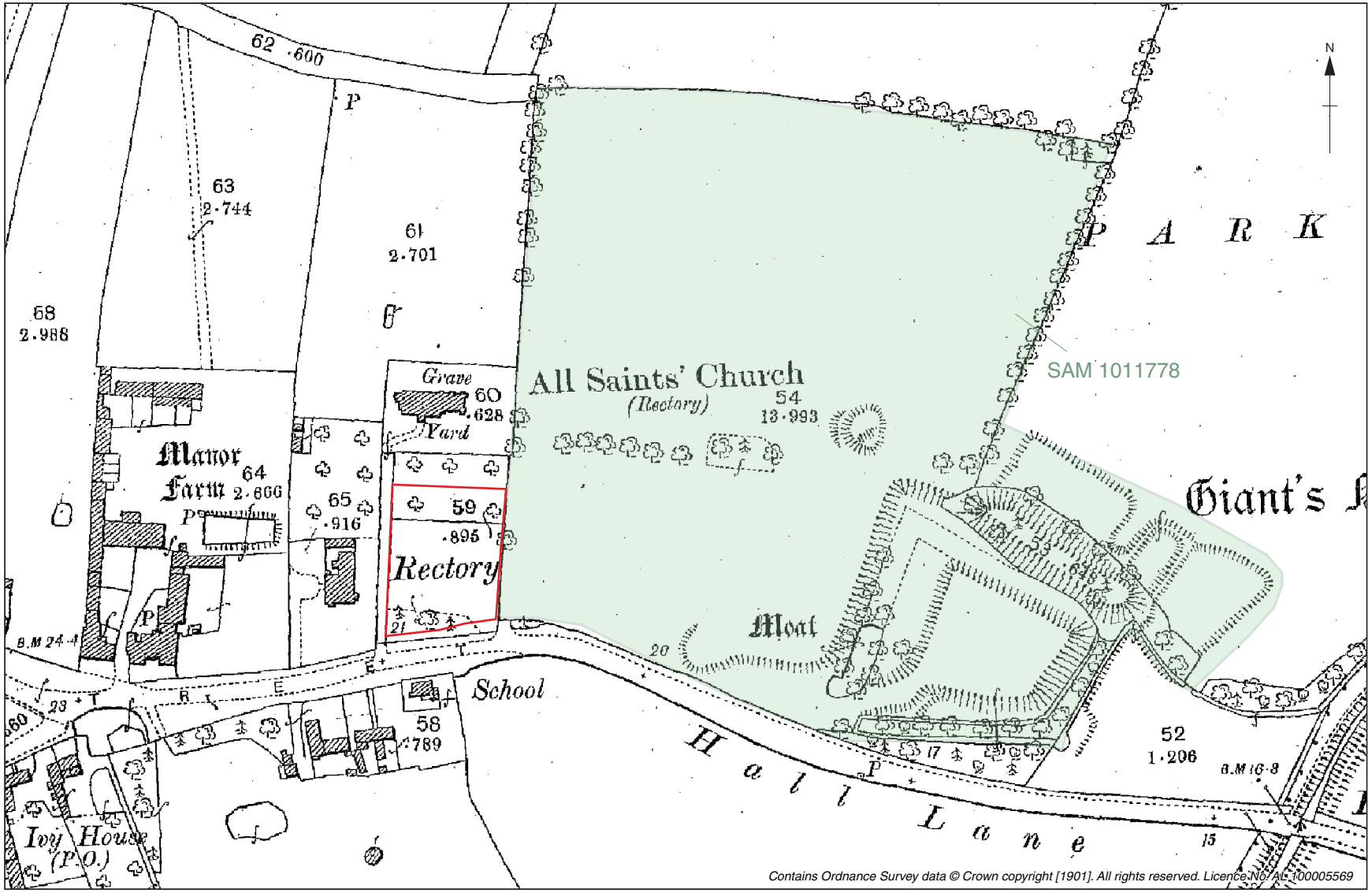

Figure 2: 1901 OS map showing site in relation to the church and Anarchy Castle

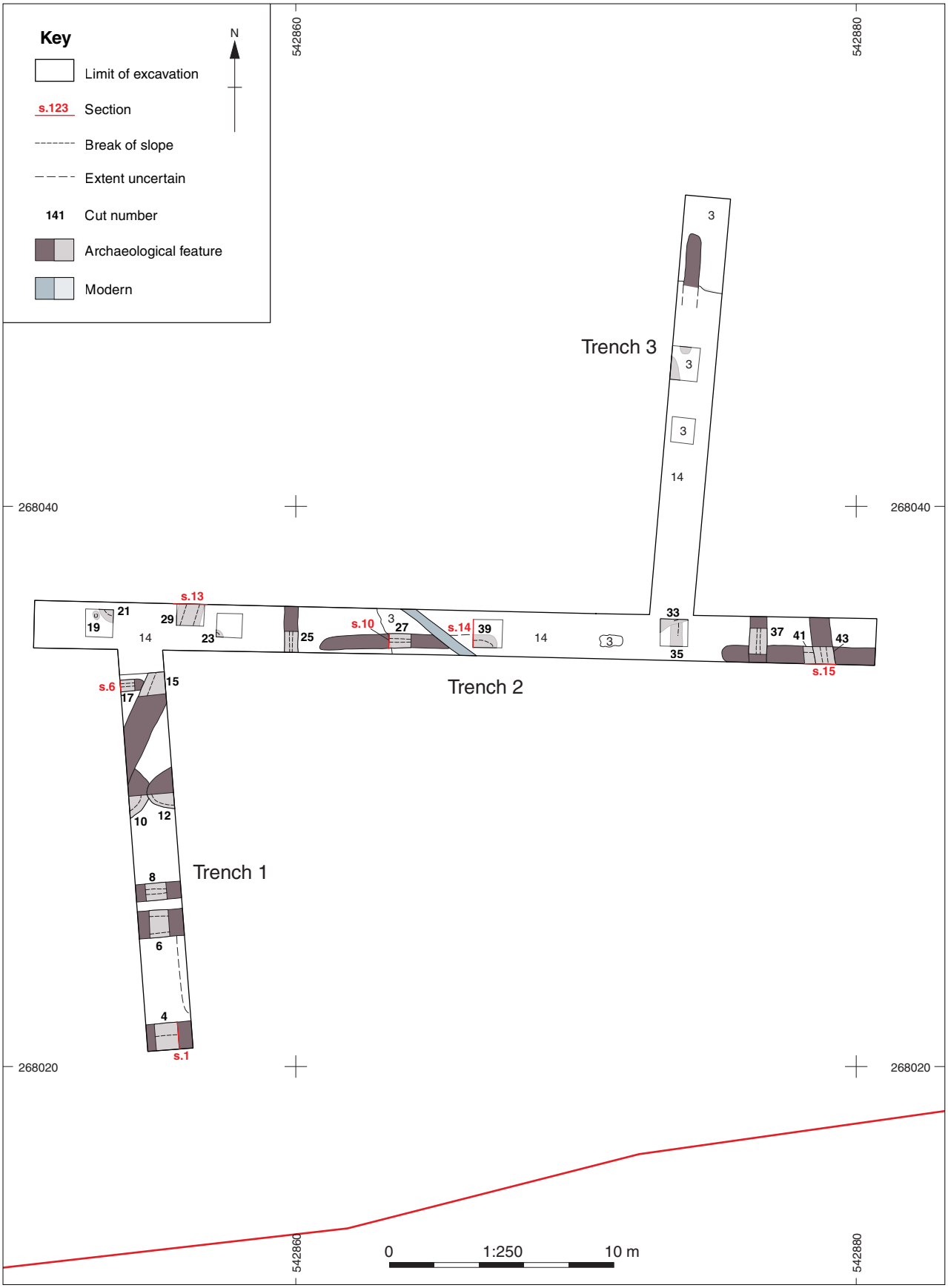

Figure 3: Trench plan

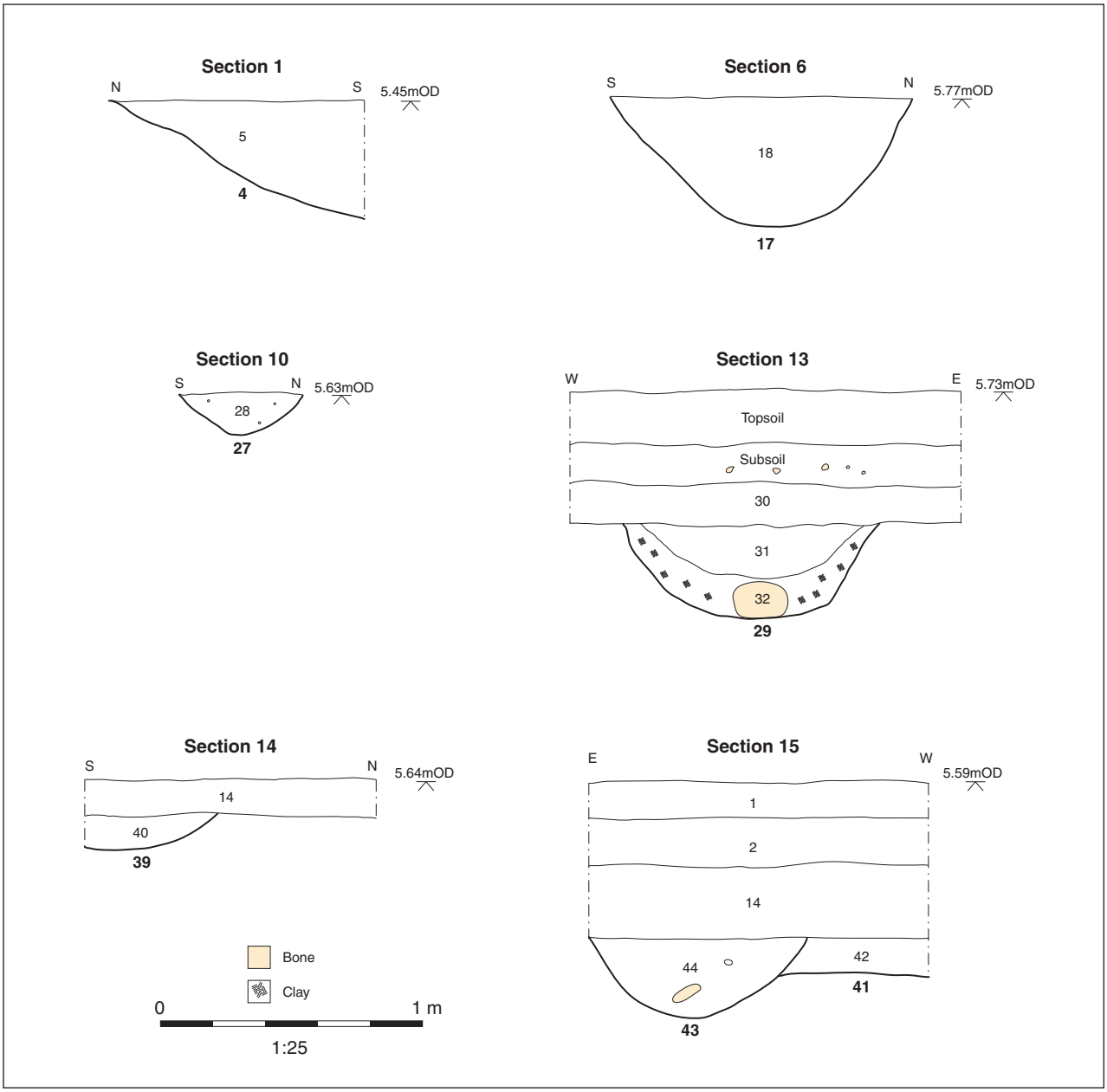

Figure 4: Selected sections

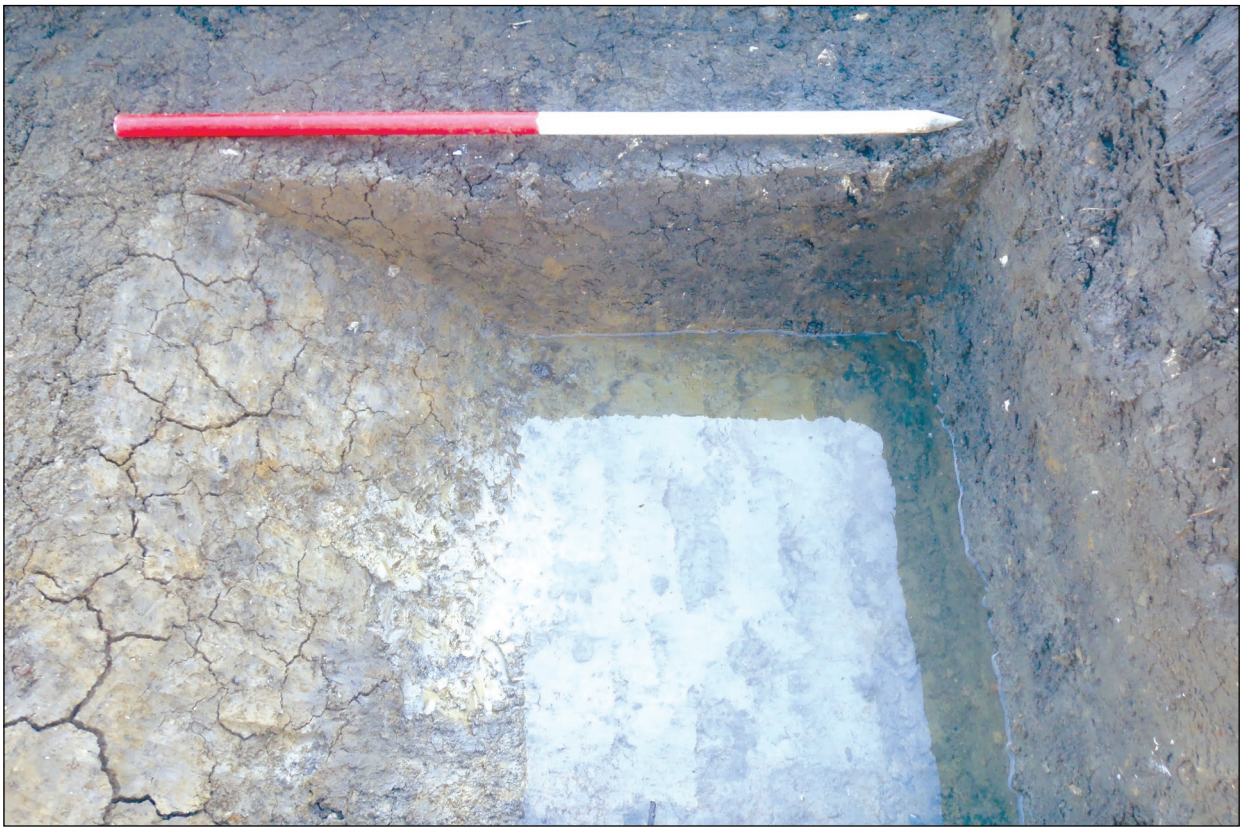

Plate 1: Ditch **4**, looking west

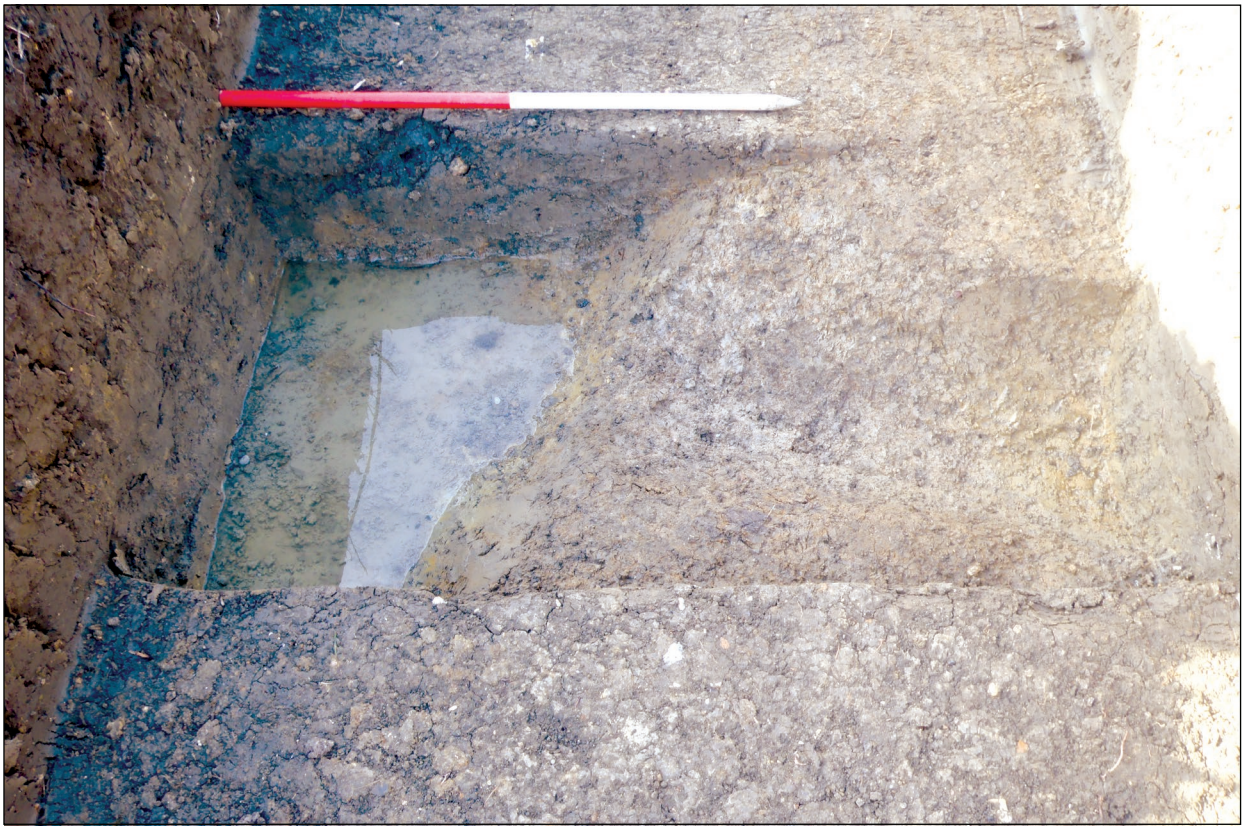

Plate 2: Ditches **15** and **17**, looking south

Plate 3: Trench 2, looking west

Plate 4: Ditches **41** and **43** overlain by soil horizon 14, looking south

Plate 5: Trench 3, looking north

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