



# Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation – LGC Site, Newmarket Road, Fordham

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

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## **Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation – LGC Site, Newmarket Road, Fordham**

### ***Archaeological Evaluation Report***

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## Summary

In August and September 2017, Oxford Archaeology East undertook an evaluation at land to the east of Newmarket Road, Fordham, Cambridgeshire (centred on TL6330 6874). Thirty-three trenches were opened across five grassed fields, in part targeted on features identified by a geophysical survey.

The northern three fields (1-3) contained limited archaeological remains and were much disturbed by later activity.

Field 4, although largely disturbed and containing little in the way of archaeological activity, did provide one area of archaeological interest. This ran along the southern edge of the field and comprised two Late Bronze Age pits and an early Roman crouched burial within a natural hollow.

Trenches excavated in the south-eastern part of the development area (Field 5) revealed floodplain deposits from which worked flint, dating mostly to the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age was recovered. The edge of the peat deposits was marked by a boundary ditch dug into the sand, and gravel deposits that remained dry during its lifetime and contained only animal bone.

The activity identified on the current site appears to have been on a smaller scale and intensity compared to the activity that has been identified both further upstream on the River Snail (Neolithic and Bronze Age), and on the higher ground investigated ahead of the Fordham bypass and Turners Yard (Bronze Age).

The artefacts recovered during the evaluation included articulated human remains from an early Roman crouched burial; two fragments of hand-forged nails; a shard of 19th century glass bottle; 13 fragments of 19th-20th century CBM and 1 of a Roman *tegula*; 55 worked flints (13 from peat deposits, 14 from the subsoil and 28 from cut features), primarily dating to the Neolithic and Bronze Age; 5 sherds of prehistoric pottery, 1 of Roman pottery and 1 of post-medieval pottery; and 17 fragments of largely cattle and horse bone.

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Aileen Connor. The fieldwork was directed by Robin Webb, who was supported by Ro Booth, Adele Lord, Steve Graham, Carlotta Marchetto and Rebecca Pridmore. Survey and digitizing was carried out by Dave Brown and Gareth Rees. Thanks are also extended to Laura James, who visited the site to examine the waterlogged wood, and Zoë Ui Choileáin for excavation of the human skeletal remains. Thanks are also extended to the teams of OA staff that cleaned and packaged the finds under the management of Natasha Dodwell, processed the environmental remains under the management of Rachel Fosberry, and prepared the archive under the management of Katherine Hamilton.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by Waterman Environment and Infrastructure Ltd on behalf of Hermes Property Unit Trust to undertake a trial trench evaluation on land at the Horse Racing Forensic Laboratory, Newmarket Road, Fordham (centred on TL 6330 6874; Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a Brief issued by Cambridge County Council Historic Environment Team (CCCHET; Gdaniec 2017) and an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by OA East (Wiseman 2017).
- 1.1.3 The work was designed to assist in defining the character and extent of archaeological remains within the proposed development site, in accordance with guidelines set out in National Planning Policy Framework (Department for Communities and Local Government, March 2017). The results will enable decisions to be made by CCCHET with regard to the treatment of archaeological remains.
- 1.1.4 This document outlines how OA East implemented the specified requirements of the Brief in line with the approved WSI.

### 1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site lies to the east of the A142, about one and a half miles south of Fordham (centered on TL 6330 6874). The site is currently occupied by LGC, with the proposal for development including an extension to its facilities. The eastern edge of the site is bounded by the River Snail. The site lies within the parish of Fordham and the district of East Cambridgeshire (Fig. 1).
- 1.2.2 The area of investigation consists of five fields (Fields 1-5) covering an area of 5.6ha between the A142 to the west and the River Snail to the east. Currently, buildings and roads cover the central-northern third of the site. The remainder of the site includes: areas of grass around carparking (Field 1), and a pasture paddock (Field 2) both in the north; an area of grass between the buildings (Field 3); an overgrown grass field on the edge of the current carpark (Field 4); and an area of former pasture paddocks in the south, now overgrown with thistles (Field 5).
- 1.2.3 The bedrock geology of the area is mapped as straddling the boundary between the White and Grey chalk, represented by the Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation, Melbourn Rock Formation, Zig Zag Formation, Tottenhoe Stone member, and West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation.
- 1.2.4 On the eastern half of the site, along the River Snail, the chalk bedrock is overlain by gravels and sands of River Terrace Deposits 1 and alluvium (Figs. 4 and 7). (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>; accessed 19/09/2017).
- 1.2.5 The soils on the western half of the site are free draining coarse chalky loams of the Moulton Complex, while on the lower eastern side of the site, the soils consist of lake marl over peat belonging to the Pading Association. To the west of the site, towards Chippenham, is a large area of peat soil (Wiseman 2017, 3).

- 1.2.6 The ground level on parts of the site has been altered by previous construction works associated with the laboratory, creating areas of made ground – notably, banks created along the River Snail, and the ground surface around the buildings and roads.
- 1.2.7 The site lies on the eastern edge of a broad ridge of high ground between the River Snail to the east and New River to the west. The land slopes from 16m OD on its western edge down to 11m OD on the eastern edge, at the river's edge.

### **1.3 Archaeological and historical background**

- 1.3.1 The following archaeological and historical background of the site is drawn from the desk-based assessment (Parker 2015), the WSI (Wiseman 2017), alongside data drawn from the County Council Historic Environment Record.

#### ***Mesolithic, Neolithic and Early Bronze Age***

- 1.3.2 Mesolithic worked flints were recovered 100m west of the site (CHER 07442, 0743a). A Neolithic axe was found 700m west of the site (CHER 07737).
- 1.3.3 Two ring ditches dating to the Neolithic/Early Bronze Age (EBA) were excavated 80m to the west of the site (MCB 19626). One contained a human burial, and the ring ditches contained flint, animal bone and pottery (including EBA Beaker pottery).
- 1.3.4 Excavations along the Fordham Bypass uncovered an extensive area of buried land surface. This included Neolithic burials, 80m to the northwest of the site, and a subsequent EBA cremation cemetery (CB14997). Further northwest, excavations discovered a large area of dense prehistoric remains, interpreted as midden deposits (MCB16947, also MCB 16948).
- 1.3.5 Early Bronze Age pottery was also recovered during an evaluation 80m southwest of the site (MCB16109)

#### ***Middle Bronze Age and Iron Age***

- 1.3.6 During the Later Bronze Age, there was intense use of the wider Fordham region, with large numbers of metal hoards and individual metal objects recovered, numerous burial mounds, and possible field systems.
- 1.3.7 Middle Bronze Age field systems were recorded on the Fordham Bypass excavations, 490m to the northwest of the site (MCB 16947). The same site also produced a small circular post-built structure, along with Iron Age pottery. A number of other enclosures or palisade trenches were also found, and appeared to have separated the higher ground from the fen to the west (MCB16948). Although these ditches were undated, they were interpreted as Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age in date.
- 1.3.8 A Late Bronze Age spearhead was discovered 1km to the west of the site (CHER 07432).
- 1.3.9 Excavations 80m southwest of the site (MCB16109) identified a number of large boundary ditches, dating from the Middle Bronze Age. This field system was succeeded by a series of six parallel ditches, probably Iron Age in date. To the north of these, the excavators found pits and postholes containing Iron Age pottery, indicating settlement activity around the sixth century BC.

1.3.10 An Iron Age child's burial was excavated 80m west of the site (CB 14997).

1.3.11 Fieldwalking east of the site produced Iron Age pottery (07745A).

### ***Roman***

1.3.12 There is a scheduled Roman villa site south of Snailwell Fen, approximately 100m to the south of the site (DCB390). Ploughing of the scheduled site has produced a large quantity of ceramic building material, including remains of a hypocaust, as well as painted wall plaster. Pottery suggests the villa was in use during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD.

1.3.13 Two Roman roads were found during excavations on the Fordham Bypass, approximately 130m northwest of the site. The first ran north to south, parallel to the modern Fordham Road, and consisted of a metalled surface and probable roadside ditch (MCB16946). The second metalled road ran north-north-east to south-south-west, and dated to the late Roman period or possibly the fifth/sixth centuries AD (MCB16946). A possible Roman burial was also excavated on the same site, as well as Roman ditches.

1.3.14 Metal detecting nearby has produced Roman finds, including pottery, coins, a bead and a fibula brooch. (CHER 07435, 11533).

### ***Medieval***

1.3.15 There are no certain Anglo-Saxon remains in the immediate area, although the names *Fordham* and *Snailwell* are both Saxon in origin.

1.3.16 Fordham is mentioned in the Domesday Book. A monastery was under construction by 1227, and surviving documents report that, in addition to its lands, it held a mill, and rights to common, pasture and peat-cutting. The monastery was succeeded by Fordham Abbey (DCB591), 400m north of the site.

1.3.17 The site was likely to have been in open fields during the Middle Ages. Aerial photographs indicate medieval furlong boundaries 670m northwest of the site.

### ***Post-medieval and modern***

1.3.18 After the Dissolution, Fordham Abbey was converted to a large three-storey house, rebuilt around 1710, and now a Grade II listed building (Fordham Abbey). The associated park and pasture extended over 61 acres.

1.3.19 The land was enclosed in 1820. The Fordham Enclosure map shows the site was open fields at the time. It remained agricultural land after enclosure, until the construction of the laboratory in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century.

## 2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

2.1.1 This evaluation will seek to establish the character, date, state of preservation of archaeological remains within the proposed development area. The scheme of works detailed below aims to:

- i. ground truth geophysical results, by testing a range of anomalies of likely archaeological origin, and areas where no anomalies registered
- ii. establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains on the site, characterise where they are found (location, depth and extent), and establish the quality of preservation of any archaeology and environmental remains
- iii. provide sufficient coverage to establish the character, condition, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits
- iv. provide sufficient coverage to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking deposits
- v. set results in the local, regional, and national archaeological context – and, in particular, its wider cultural landscape and past environmental conditions
- vi. provide – in the event that archaeological remains are found – sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables, and orders of cost.

### 2.2 Research Frameworks

2.2.1 This evaluation took place within, and will contribute to the goals of, Regional Research Frameworks relevant to this area:

- i. *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England* (Medlycott 2011, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24);
- ii. *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern counties: 1. Resource Assessment* (Glazebrook 1997, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 3);
- iii. *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern counties: 2. Research Agenda and Strategy* (Brown & Glazebrook 2000, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8).

### 2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 A total of thirty-three trenches were excavated across five fields within the development area, achieving a 4% sample (Fig. 3). The location of the trenches targeted areas of anomalies identified during the geophysical survey (Bartlett 2017) as well as areas where no anomalies registered. The trenches varied in length, measuring 50x2m (Trenches 18, 30), 40x2m (Trenches 1, 6, 10, 12-14, 16, 21, 23, 26, 28-29, 33), 30x2m (Trenches 2-5, 7-9, 11, 15, 17, 20, 22, 24, 31-32) and 20x2m (Trenches 19, 25, 27). The layout of the trenches varied slightly from the original trench plan, with

Trench 15 moving from the eastern side of Field 3 to forming a cross shape with Trench 14, and Trench 30 being lengthened.

- 2.3.2 Machine excavation was carried out under constant archaeological supervision with a 360° tracked excavator using a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket. Trenches were excavated to the depth of geological horizons, or the upper interface of archaeological features, whichever was encountered first. In Fields 1 and 3 peat deposits were exposed which were cut by archaeological features. As such, machine excavation stopped at this level, with hand excavation of features cutting the peat alongside hand excavation of test pits to establish the depth of the peat. In two trenches (22 and 24) sondages were excavated using the machine to examine the peat and sand layers (see sections 32 and 33 in Fig. 14b).
- 2.3.3 Features of uncertain origin were excavated to establish whether they were the result of natural processes (such as former river channels or rooting) or from modern disturbance.
- 2.3.4 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.
- 2.3.5 Trenches were surveyed using a Leica GPS GS08 with SmartNET live correctional data feed.
- 2.3.6 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.
- 2.3.7 Initial bucket samples were taken from each trench to characterise the artefactual remains in the topsoil, subsoil and peat. Following advice from Kasia Gdaniec (Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team), this was amended to thorough scanning of the upcast topsoil, subsoil and peat to look for worked flint. The results of this sampling are presented in Section 3.9.
- 2.3.8 A total of fourteen environmental samples were taken in order to establish the presence and preservation of plant remains. Three of these were taken from peat deposits to establish the preservation of remains in the wet conditions of the peat, and one from a waterlogged deposit within a ditch (ditch **140**). Two monolith samples were taken, allowing for assessment and analysis of pollen from the floodplain sequence, but have not been processed at this stage of work. Two bulk samples were taken solely for the collection of any flint micro-debitage/microliths from peat deposits which had yielded hand-collected flint. A single sample was taken for the analysis of snails within the peat. Four samples were taken from around the hands and feet of the human skeletal remains for the retention of all small bones.



## 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds and environmental reports are presented in Appendices B and C. The trenches are described numerically by field and then by trench, and are illustrated on Figs. 7-11.

### 3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The basic soil sequence varied across the site from east to west. Across the eastern side of the proposed development area (Field 1 and most of Field 5; Trenches 1-5, 8, 16-19, 27, 29, 30) the natural geology was a soft light grey sand (3) that was overlain by a soft black peat deposit (65), which in turn was overlain by a mid-brown alluvial layer (35), a friable mid yellow brown subsoil (10, 34), and a friable dark brown grey topsoil (1).
- 3.2.2 Further to the west, within Field 5 (Trenches 20, 21, 22, 23, 28), the peat and alluvial deposits were not present and the basic soil sequence consisted of a natural geology of compact yellow sand and gravel, overlain by a friable mid yellow brown subsoil (34). This in turn was overlain by a friable dark brown grey topsoil (33). Within this area there were patches of peat preserved within hollows/lower lying areas in several of the trenches (24, 25, 26, 31-33)
- 3.2.3 Along the western, and higher, side of the proposed development area (Fields 2-4; Trenches 6, 7, 9-15) the natural geology was chalk, overlain by a friable mid yellow brown subsoil (193), which in turn was overlain by a compact mid brown grey sand silt layer (182), and a friable dark brown grey topsoil (183). The subsoil was largely absent where the later deposit (182) was present, except down the southern side of the field (Trenches 12 and 15) where the natural chalk was overlain by just the subsoil and topsoil.
- 3.2.4 The trenches were opened in a mixture of damp and sunny conditions, with hand excavation carried out in a range of conditions from sunny and warm to cold and wet. Ground conditions varied depending on the natural geologies, with the trenches containing peat deposits on the eastern side of the site becoming damp and retaining water after periods of rain, whilst the trenches without peat remained firm and dry underfoot. Archaeological features, where present, were relatively easy to identify against the underlying natural geology, and where they cut through the peat. Some archaeological features bore a resemblance to river channels, and where there was uncertainty, the features were excavated to determine whether they were natural or man-made.

### 3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

- 3.3.1 Archaeological features were present across the proposed development area, although with varying degrees of concentration. The north-eastern end of Field 1



(Trenches 1-4) contained no archaeological features, but were disturbed by modern activity. These trenches encountered the peat deposits across the entire lengths of the trenches. Further to the south-west within this field (Trenches 5 and 8) ditches were encountered, as well as the peat deposits, and a natural channel.

- 3.3.2 Field 2 (Trench 6) contained only colluvium and modern layers.
- 3.3.3 Field 3 (Trench 7) contained only modern disturbance.
- 3.3.4 Field 4 (Trenches 9-15) contained an inhumation burial (**143**) cut into a natural hollow, and two pits. There was, however, heavy disturbance from modern activity for the building of the A142 within the north-western part of this field, which was also identified by the geophysical survey.
- 3.3.5 Field 5 (Trenches 16-33) saw the largest amount of archaeological activity and did not suffer from the modern intrusions of the other fields. The features included ditches and pits that cut into the peat along the eastern and southern edges of the field, as well as ditches that were cut into the natural sands and gravels to the west of the peat. The majority of these ditches aligned with anomalies that had been identified during the geophysical survey (Bartlett 2017), and that had been recorded as cropmarks.

### 3.4 Trenches in Field 1 (Figs 7 and 9)

- 3.4.1 Field 1 covered the northern third of the proposed development area. This area was partially disturbed by a car park and services. The eastern four trenches in this field (Trenches 1-4) all contained modern disturbance.
- 3.4.2 Six trenches (1-5, 8) were excavated in Field 1, with Trench 8 targeted on a geophysical/cropmark feature. The other trenches in this field (1-5) covered areas of general anomalies from the geophysical survey.

#### Trench 1

- 3.4.3 Trench 1 was located in the north-eastern corner of Field 1 and was aligned north-east to south-west. The trench contained part of the floodplain and a modern pit. The layers of the trench consisted of a firm mid orange brown sand silt modern build-up layer (2) overlain by a firm dark grey brown clay silt topsoil (1).
- 3.4.4 The south-eastern edge of the trench contained a soft black peat (4) that overlay the natural sand and gravels. This in turn was overlain by a modern build-up layer that comprised of a firm mid orange brown sand silt (7). Located 0.8m to the north-east was a sub-circular modern pit that contained a firm light grey brown clay (5). This deposit contained a single shard (0.009kg) of bottle glass likely to be from the 19th century and a fragment (0.008kg) of 19th-20th century CBM.

#### Trench 2

- 3.4.5 Trench 2 was located to the south of Trench 1 on the opposite side of a car park and aligned north-east to south-west. This trench contained no archaeological features other than a modern pit, containing a plastic container and a service trench. A soft black peat deposit (9, 84) was exposed along the length of the trench and was overlain by a firm mid brown clay silt subsoil (10), that contained a single sherd (0.009kg) of post-medieval pottery. A test pit was excavated into the peat to the compact light grey

chalk sand (3) underlying it, a depth of 0.14m. This trench contained a single worked flint (0.001kg) in peat deposit 84.

### Trench 3

- 3.4.6 Trench 3 was located just to the south of Trench 2 and aligned east to west. It contained a modern service trench at the western end, as well as a modern ditch cutting across the middle. To the both sides of the modern ditch was a black peat deposit (11) with a depth of 0.1m, and that was overlain on the eastern side of the modern ditch by a soft mid brown grey clay sand (12) that was 0.2m deep, and was probably a stabilisation layer and contained a fragment (0.076kg) of 20th century CBM.

### Trench 4

- 3.4.7 Trench 4 was located to the south of Trench 3 and aligned north-west to south-east. The northern end of the trench was heavily disturbed by a modern pit. This cut into soft black peat deposit 84, which was overlain by a soft light yellow brown peat deposit (85). The southern end of the trench contained a soft light yellow brown clay sand (86) river channel deposit. A sample (10) was taken from this later alluvial deposit.

### Trench 5

- 3.4.8 Trench 5 was located to the west of Trench 4 and aligned north-east to south-west. The entire length of the trench contained the floodplain peat and sand inwash layers. A test pit excavated towards the south-western end of the trench revealed a sequence of peat and sand layers: a soft black peat (194, 0.2m deep) overlain by a band of soft light grey sand (195, 0.2m deep), a soft black peat (196, 0.1m deep), a soft light grey sand (17, 0.06m deep), and a soft black peat (16, 0.3m deep). These were sealed by the subsoil (10), which in this trench was overlain by a loose dark yellow sand (18) modern levelling layer and the topsoil (1).
- 3.4.9 On a north-west to south-east alignment across the middle of the trench was a single ditch (13). This measured 0.4m wide and 0.25m deep. It had steep sides, a flat base, and was filled by a firm mid blue grey silt clay (14). This ditch was fully excavated to try to find dateable material, but none was recovered.

### Trench 8

- 3.4.10 Trench 8 was located to the south-west of Trench 5 and aligned north-east to south-west. It contained three narrow ditches/gullies, all aligned north to south, a possible post-hole, and a natural channel. The north-eastern end of the trench contained the floodplain deposits.
- 3.4.11 The floodplain deposit was a soft black peat (26). This was cut into by ditch 24. This ditch measured 0.28m wide and 0.14m deep. It had steep sides, a concave base, and was filled by a soft mid grey brown clay silt (25). Located 3.2m to the south-west, and just beyond the limit of the peat deposit, was ditch 20 which measured 0.28m wide and 0.24m deep. This ditch had steep sides, a concave base, and was filled by a soft dark brown grey clay silt (21). Immediately to the south-west again was ditch 22 which measured 0.33m wide and 0.18m deep. This ditch had steep sides, a concave base, and contained a soft dark brown grey clay silt (23) that was heavily disturbed by rooting.

- 3.4.12 Located 3.5m from the south-west end of the trench was a natural channel (39) on a north-west to south-east alignment. This measured 2.46m wide and 0.16m deep. It had gentle sides, an undulating base, and was filled by a soft dark brown grey clay sand (40). Cutting into the north-western end of this channel was a possible posthole (41) that had a sub-circular shape in plan, gentle sides and a concave base. It was filled by a soft light brown grey clay silt.

### 3.5 Trench 6 in Field 2 (Fig. 8)

- 3.5.1 Field 2 was a paddock in the north-west corner of the proposed development area. The field sloped down slightly from 14.75m OD at the south-western end to 14.07m OD at the north-eastern end. A single trench (6) was located in this field and was aligned on a north-east to south-west orientation. There was a degree of modern disturbance within this field with a layer of rubble and gravel forming an old yard surface just below the topsoil (1). Below the yard surface was the subsoil (100) and a firm light red brown sand (19) deposit that overlay the natural chalk geology. Contained within the topsoil (1) was a fragment (0.022kg) of 20th century CBM.

### 3.6 Trench 7 in Field 3 (Fig. 8)

- 3.6.1 Field 3 was located amongst the laboratory buildings, between Fields 1 and 2, on an area of raised ground at 11.2m OD immediately to the east of the site of a former portable building. Trench 7 was very heavily disturbed with modern material making up the bulk of the trench.
- 3.6.2 The trench was aligned north-west to south-east and only the northern 2.2m had not been subject to substantial modern disturbance. The natural geology here was chalk, and this was overlain by subsoil (10) where the modern disturbance was not present, and topsoil (1).

### 3.7 Trenches in Field 4 (Fig. 10)

- 3.7.1 Field 4 was located on the western edge of the proposed development area on land that sloped down from 16.49m OD on the western edge to 12.68m OD at its eastern edge. This soil sequence in this field consisted of a natural geology of chalk with sand and gravel patches, was overlain by a friable mid brown clay silt subsoil (193). This in turn was overlain by a friable dark grey brown silt topsoil (183) that retained long grass, weeds, and low vegetation. This field had also been disturbed by recent activity, as represented by a compact mid brown grey sand silt (182) levelling layer. This layer contained fragments of CBM where it was excavated in Trench 14.
- 3.7.2 Seven trenches were excavated within this field, targeted on possible cultivation ditches and to clarify the nature of other anomalies identified in the geophysical survey.

#### Trench 9

- 3.7.3 Trench 9 was located in the north-west corner of the field, to the south of Trench 8, and aligned north-west to south-east. This trench contained only a modern service cutting across at its north-western end. It consisted of the chalk natural overlain by a modern levelling layer (182) and the topsoil (183).

### Trench 10

- 3.7.4 Trench 10 was located to the south of Trench 9 on a north-east to south-west alignment. This trench was again devoid of archaeological features, and again consisted of the natural chalk overlain by the modern levelling layer (182) and topsoil (183). The south-western end, though, did retain subsoil (193).

### Trench 11

- 3.7.5 Trench 11 was located to the south of Trench 10 in the south-western corner of the field. It was aligned north-east to south-west. This trench exposed natural chalk geology overlain by a thin subsoil (193) at the northern end, a modern levelling layer (182) and topsoil (183); the latter contained two fragments (0.091kg) of late 19th-20th century CBM.
- 3.7.6 Located 19m from the south-west end of the trench, were two pits (**176** and **184**). The southern one of these (**176**) had a circular shape in plan with steep sides and a slightly concave base. It measured 0.86m in diameter and 0.3m deep. It was filled by a compact mid brown sand silt (177) that contained a single fragment (0.032kg) of horse bone, and four sherds (0.051kg) of Late Bronze Age pottery. Within this deposit was a small amount of plastic light grey clay.
- 3.7.7 Directly to the south of pit **176** was a sub circular pit (**184**) that had steep sides and a concave base. This pit measured 1.5m in diameter and 0.32m deep. It was filled by a compact light red brown clay sand (185) that was overlain by a compact dark red brown clay silt (186).

### Trench 12

- 3.7.8 Running perpendicular to Trench 11 and at its north-eastern end was Trench 12. This trench contained no archaeological features, but consisted of the natural geology of chalk overlain by subsoil (193) and topsoil (183) at the south-eastern end. The majority of the trench consisted of the natural chalk overlain by the modern levelling layer (182) overlain by the topsoil (183).

### Trench 13

- 3.7.9 Trench 13 lay at the northern edge of Field 3, to the east of Trench 10, on a north-west to south-east alignment. This trench was devoid of archaeological features, and consisted of the natural geology of chalk overlain by the subsoil (193), modern levelling layer (182) and topsoil (183).

### Trenches 14 and 15

- 3.7.10 Trench 14 was located on the southern edge of Field 4, to the east of Trench 12 and aligned east-north-east to west-south-west. Trench 15 was located across Trench 14, 6.5m from its eastern end, forming a cross shape. It was opened to establish whether more burials were in the vicinity of the one revealed in Trench 14. These trenches exposed a large natural hollow (**178**) and a grave (**143**) containing skeleton 145.
- 3.7.11 The natural hollow (**178**) was located 7.7m from the western end of Trench 14 and 7m from the southern end of Trench 15. It then extended for the remaining 32.3m to the east along Trench 14 and beyond the end of the trench, and covered 21m to the north

in Trench 15. This hollow cut into the natural chalk, had gentle sides and an undulating base where it was excavated on its southern edge, with a depth of 0.2m. It was filled by a firm mid red brown silt sand (179) that was overlain by a firm mid yellow brown silt sand (180).

- 3.7.12 The upper deposit of the hollow (180) was cut by grave **143** which had a sub-circular shape in plan, and measured 1.1m on its north-south axis, 0.52m on its east-west axis, and had a depth of 0.19m. The body within the grave cut was aligned south to north in a crouched position with the head looking to the east. The bulk of the skull was missing, with only the lower jaw surviving. The grave was overlain filled by a firm mid brown silt sand (144) that contained a residual worked flint (0.001kg). The skeleton belonged to a male aged between 44 and 52 and has been radiocarbon dated to the 1st or 2nd century AD (App. C1).
- 3.7.13 The fill of the burial (144) was sealed by a series of deposits (S.64 and 65, Figure 14a): a compact mid grey brown sand silt (181) containing a single sherd (0.018kg) of residual Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pottery and a fragment (0.006kg) of late 19th-20th century CBM. This was overlain by a compact mid brown grey sand silt (182) that contained 3 fragments (0.007kg) of not closely datable CBM. This was overlain by a friable dark brown grey silt topsoil (183). These layers probably represent later landscaping.

### 3.8 Trenches in Field 5 (Figs 9 and 11)

- 3.8.1 Field 5 was on the eastern side of the proposed development area covering an area of former paddocks. This field contained 18 of the trenches, some of which were targeted on potential features identified through cropmarks and geophysical survey. This field lay at 10.7m OD at the northern end and sloped up to 11.6m OD at the southern end, with a slight camber from 11m OD on the eastern edge up to 11.3m OD on the western edge. The natural geology of this field varied from a soft light grey sand overlain by peat (68) along the middle and eastern side, to sands and gravels along the western edge. Overlying both of these, was a firm dark brown silt clay subsoil (34) that was overlain by a friable mid grey brown clay silt topsoil (33).

#### Trench 16

- 3.8.2 Trench 16 was located at the northern end of Field 5 and aligned north-east to south-west. It covered an area where no potential archaeological features had been identified in the geophysical survey. This trench exposed a soft black peat (68) along with two overlying inwash deposits: a soft light grey sand (38); overlain by a firm light orange brown sand clay (35). Deposit 38 contained seven fragments of cattle bone and one of horse (weighing 0.848kg in total), the weathering on which suggests they had been exposed to the elements for an extended period of time. Cut into the peat was a single pit or ditch terminus (**31**) that extended beyond the southern edge of the trench. This feature had a sub-rectangular shape in plan with steep sides and a flat base. It measured 0.82m in width and 0.4m deep. It was filled by a compact light orange brown clay (32) that contained two corroded fragments (less than 0.001kg) of not closely dateable hand-forged nails, although they are likely to be no later than the early 20th century. This pit also contained a lot of root disturbance.

- 3.8.3 Where the peat was absent, and the natural sand and gravels were exposed towards the south-western end of the trench, two pits or ditch termini (**27** and **29**) both extended beyond the edges of the trench. The southern of these (**27**) measured 0.9m wide and 0.5m deep with steep sides and a flat base. It was filled by a compact mid brown organic deposit (**28**). Opposite this, and extending beyond the northern edge of the trench was a further feature (**29**) that measured 0.74m wide and 0.32m deep. This was filled by a compact mid brown sand clay (**30**) that contained a single burnt flint (0.001kg), and fragments of roots.

#### **Trench 17**

- 3.8.4 Trench 17 was located to the south-west of Trench 16 and aligned north-west to south-east. This was located over a geophysical anomaly at its south-eastern end, but contained no archaeological features. The trench exposed a peat deposit (**89**) with a depth of 0.3m that was overlain by topsoil (**33**) with some root disturbance within the peat. A test pit was excavated into the peat, and this revealed two later Neolithic worked flints (0.053kg). The north-western end of the trench and a band across the middle were slightly raised and here no peat was present, with natural sands and gravels being exposed (see Figure 9).

#### **Trenches 18 and 19**

- 3.8.5 Trench 18 was located to the south of Trench 17 and aligned north-east to south-west. Located 15m from the western end, and on a north-east to south-west alignment, Trench 19 was located over the edge of a geophysical anomaly to the south of Trench 18 and ran from its southern edge.
- 3.8.6 These trenches contained a series of peat and sand deposits. These took the form of a soft black peat (**65** = **68**) overlain by soft light yellow brown sand deposits (**66**, **67**) across the middle and a soft mid grey sand clay (**69**) at the eastern end. Moving south into Trench 19, there was a ridge of higher sand and gravel at the southern edge of the peat deposit (**65**) that then dropped down and revealed a soft black peat (**71**), overlain by a patch of loose mid grey silt sand (**70**).
- 3.8.7 The western end of Trench 18 consisted of natural sands and gravels with a dip that contained a plastic mid brown grey sand clay (**63**) deposit. A single archaeological feature cut through the western end of the peat deposit **65**. This was a ditch (**59**) that measured 0.62m wide and 0.56m deep. This had steep sides, a flat base, and was filled by soft black peat (**60**) overlain by a plastic mid blue grey sand clay (**61**) and a soft light yellow brown sand silt (**62**).

#### **Trench 20**

- 3.8.8 Trench 20 was located to the south-west of Trench 19 and aligned north-east to south-west. This trench exposed the edge of the floodplain peat (**55**), which covered the north-eastern end of the trench. Along most of the trench, to the south-west, the natural geology of sands and gravel was exposed. It was on this slightly higher ground (11.2m OD as opposed to 10.85m OD for the peat) that archaeological features were identified.



- 3.8.9 Moving towards the south-west and away from the peat, was a north to south aligned ditch (**53**) that measured 0.75m wide and 0.3m deep. This ditch had steep, nearly vertical sides, a flat base, and contained a plastic dark grey brown clay silt (54).
- 3.8.10 Further to the south-west was a ditch (**49**) that measured 0.72m wide and 0.1m deep. This had gentle sides, a concave base, and was filled by a loose mid brown grey sand silt (50). Cut into the north-eastern end of this ditch was a pit (**51**) that had a 0.68m diameter and was 0.63m deep. This pit had steep sides, a concave base, and was filled by a friable mid grey brown clay silt (58) that was overlain by a compact mid brown grey silt sand (52) (Section 20, Fig. 14b). The upper fill (52) contained a single sherd (0.002kg) of an earlier Roman red colour coat beaker.
- 3.8.11 The south-western end of the trench contained a ditch (**43**) on a north to south alignment that also showed up as a cropmark. This ditch measured 1.9m wide and 0.62m deep, had steep sides, a slightly concave base, and was filled by a sequence of deposits. These deposits consisted of a soft dark brown clay silt (44) tip layer overlain by a hard light brown grey silt sand (45), a soft light brown grey silt (46) containing a single fragment (0.005kg) of large mammal rib, a plastic light grey sand clay (47) and a soft mid grey brown silt (48). From these, a large mammal bone (0.005kg) was recovered from fill 46.

#### **Trench 21**

- 3.8.12 Trench 21 was located to the south of Trench 20 and was aligned east-north-east to west-south-west. This trench contained natural geology of silts and gravels and was on the slightly higher land at 11.45m aOD with five ditches all on a north-north-west to south-south-east orientation.
- 3.8.13 Two ditches (**79** and **81**) cut across the middle of the trench. These measured 0.7m and 0.8m wide and 0.04m and 0.37m deep respectively. They had gentle sides and concave bases, and were filled by a soft mid grey brown clay silt (78 and 80 respectively). These followed the alignment of possible cultivation ditches identified in the geophysical survey, but only the western of the two matches the location of the identified anomalies (see Fig. 6).
- 3.8.14 The western end of the trench contained a broadly north to south aligned ditch (**77**) measuring 1m wide and 0.5m deep. This ditch had steep sides, a concave base, and was filled by a soft mid grey brown clay silt (76).
- 3.8.15 To the west of this ditch was a parallel ditch (**75**) measuring 0.98m wide and 0.5m deep. This ditch had steep sides, a concave base, and was filled by a soft light grey clay silt (74) which was overlain by a soft dark brown grey silt (87) and a soft dark red brown sand silt (88) containing a single fragment (0.013kg) of large mammal rib. This was truncated by parallel ditch (**73**), which measured 4m wide and 0.14m deep. This later ditch had gentle sides, a concave base, and was filled by a soft light grey brown silt sand (72). The earlier of these two ditches (**75**) was a continuation of the ditch (**43**) identified in the cropmarks and at the western end of Trench 20.

#### **Trenches 22 and 23**

- 3.8.16 Trench 22 was located to the south of Trench 19 and east of Trench 21 on a north-west to south-east orientation. This trench formed a 'T' shape with Trench 23 which ran on

a north-east to south-west orientation from the middle of the eastern side of Trench 22. The north-western 9.9m of Trench 22 was excavated onto natural sands and gravels before sand and peat layers were exposed along the north eastern part of the trench.

- 3.8.17 A machine sondage (S.32, Figure 14b) was cut through the south-eastern end of the trench to examine the peat deposits that had accumulated on the floodplain edge. This sondage was excavated until the trench sides became unstable due to water inundation at a depth of 1.8m. These deposits consisted of a plastic mid grey sand clay (152) that was overlain by a 0.1m deep band of soft black peat (153), a soft murky white sand (37), a soft light grey sand (36), a soft black peat (154), a 0.1m deep band of soft mid grey sand (155), a soft black peat (156), and a soft dark brown peat (157). This peat was then sealed at the north-western end by a friable mid yellow brown sand silt (187) that was overlain by the subsoil (34) and topsoil (33).
- 3.8.18 Cut into the natural sand of Trench 22 was a ditch (**82**) on a north to south alignment that measured 0.62m wide and 0.37m deep. This ditch had steep sides, a flat base, and was filled by a friable dark grey brown silt clay (83). This ditch also aligned with a possible cultivation ditch identified in the geophysical survey.
- 3.8.19 The natural geology of sand and gravels continued at the south-western end of Trench 23, before the peat deposits were encountered 12.2m to the north-east. A ditch (**95**) was cut into the gravels on a north to south orientation that measured 0.9m wide and 0.29m deep. This ditch had gentle sides, a concave base, and was filled by a compact mid brown grey clay (96). This ditch again aligned with a possible cultivation ditch identified in the geophysical survey.

#### Trenches 24 and 25

- 3.8.20 Trenches 24 and 25 formed another 'T' shape on the western edge of Field 5, to the south of Trench 21. Trench 24 was aligned north-east to south-west with Trench 25 aligned north-west to south-east and extending from 7.2m from the south-western end of Trench 24. On the slightly higher ground (11.3m OD) at the south-western end of Trench 24 and north-western end of Trench 25 natural sand and gravels were exposed, whilst the lower area (11m OD) of the trenches contained peat deposits.
- 3.8.21 The eastern end of Trench 24 contained the floodplain peat deposits through which a machine sondage was excavated to a depth of 1.4m where water inundation made it impossible to see deposits any lower (S.33, Figure 14b). These deposits consisted of a soft light grey sand (188) overlain by a loose mid yellow brown sand (189); a soft mid yellow sand (190), a soft black peat (191); and a soft mid yellow brown sand (192) before the subsoil (34) and topsoil (33). To the west of the peat deposits was a sub-circular hollow (**124**) that measured 8.2m wide and 0.27m deep. It had irregular sides, a concave base, and was filled by soft dark red brown clay silt (125) overlain by a soft light brown grey clay silt (126) containing two fragments of cattle bone and part of a large mammal scapula (0.318kg). This hollow may have been part of the anomalies picked up in the geophysical survey in this area.
- 3.8.22 To the south-west of the hollow was a ditch or channel (**120**) that measured 1.4m wide and 0.5m deep, and was orientated north to south, continuing through the northern end of Trench 25. This ditch had steep sides, a concave base, and was filled by a soft



dark blue grey clay silt (121), overlain by a soft dark orange brown sand clay (122) and a soft mid grey brown clay silt (123).

- 3.8.23 The south-western end of the trench contained a ditch (**127**) on a north-west to south-east orientation that aligned with the ditch identified in the cropmarks and continuing to the north-west in Trenches 21 (ditch **75**), and Trench 20 (ditch **43**). This ditch measured 1m wide and 0.52m deep. It had steep sides, a concave base, and was filled by a soft mid grey brown clay silt (128), that was overlain by a soft dark grey brown clay silt (129) and a soft light grey brown clay silt (130).
- 3.8.24 The main bulk of Trench 25 consisted of a hollow (**108**) that measured 0.7m deep and contained a series of deposits excavated in a test pit (S.39, Figure 14b). These deposits were a soft dark blue grey peat (111) that was overlain by a soft dark orange brown sand clay (112), a soft dark blue grey clay silt (113), a soft dark red brown peat (114), a soft light grey sand clay (115) and a soft light brown grey clay silt (116). Deposit 115 contained two fragments of cattle bone (0.262kg).

### Trench 26

- 3.8.25 Trench 26 was located to the south of Trench 22 on the eastern edge of Field 5 and was aligned north-east to south-west. This trench contained no archaeological features, and consisted of a mixture of natural geology that included sands and gravels, with a band of peat and river channel sands which crossed the centre of the trench. The subsoil (34) contained a single worked flint (0.139kg)

### Trench 27

- 3.8.26 Trench 27, to the south of Trench 26 on the eastern edge of Field 5, was aligned north-west to south-east and was targeted over a cropmark at the north-western end. The bulk of the trench consisted of peat (137) that contained four Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age worked flints (0.184kg), overlain by subsoil (34) and topsoil (33). Within the trench were three ditches that cut into the peat.
- 3.8.27 The south-eastern end of the trench contained a ditch (**93**) on a north-east to south-west orientation that measured 0.9m wide and 0.12m deep. This ditch had gentle sides, a concave base, and was filled by a firm light brown grey silt clay (94) that contained four worked flints (0.099kg). This was cut across at its south-western end by a ditch (**91**) that was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 0.63m wide and 0.11m deep. This ditch had gentle sides, a concave base, and was filled by a firm light brown grey silt clay (92) that contained a worked flint (0.001kg).
- 3.8.28 The north-western end of the trench was a ditch (**134**), cut into the peat, on a north-east to south-west orientation that measured 3.35m wide and 0.5m deep. This ditch had gentle sides, a concave base, and was filled by a firm light blue grey clay (135) that was overlain by a firm light grey brown silt clay (136) that contained four Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age worked flints (0.067kg).

### Trench 28

- 3.8.29 Trench 28 was located to the south of Trench 25 on a north-west to south-east orientation. The south-eastern half of the trench was marked by a notable slope (**172**) that defined the floodplain edge (dropping from 11.3m OD at the north-west end to

11.0m OD at the south-eastern end). Observed in a test pit was a sequence of deposits: a soft dark blue grey clay (173) that was overlain by a soft dark red brown peat (174) and sealed by a soft mid grey brown clay silt (175).

- 3.8.30 Cut into the natural sands and gravels were two ditches (**164** and **168**), the easternmost of these (**168**) was orientated north to south and measured 1.44m wide and 0.5m deep. This ditch had steep sides, a concave base, and was filled by a soft mid grey brown clay silt (169) containing a single fragment (0.132kg) of a large mammal tibia, and that was overlain by a soft dark orange brown clay sand (170). This ditch aligned with the cropmark ditch that was also picked up in Trenches 24 (**127**), 21 (ditch **75**) and 20 (ditch **43**).
- 3.8.31 To the north-west was another ditch (**164**) which had an east to west orientation and measured 1.3m wide and 0.5m deep. This ditch had steep sides, a concave base, and was filled by a soft dark grey sand silt (165) that was overlain by a soft dark orange brown clay sand (166) and a soft mid grey brown silt sand (167) that contained a single fragment (0.198kg) of a Roman *tegula*. This ditch aligned with a possible feature that was identified in the geophysical survey.
- 3.8.32 The subsoil (34) of this trench contained a single worked flint (0.001kg).

#### Trench 29

- 3.8.33 Trench 29 was located on the eastern side of Field 5 and to the south-west of Trench 27. A peat deposit (90) was exposed along its entire length with an area of inwash sand at the south-western end. Overlying the peat was a soft mid blue brown sand clay (147) alluvial deposit. This deposit was cut into by a single ditch (**138**) that was orientated north-west to south-east, and measured 0.8m wide and 0.25m deep. This ditch had gentle sides, a concave base, and was filled by a soft mid grey brown silt sand (139). The peat deposit (90) contained five fragments (0.006kg) of Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age burnt flint and 2 worked flints (0.001kg).

#### Trench 30

- 3.8.34 Trench 30 was located along the eastern edge of Field 5 and extended to form an 'L' shape with the southern end of Trench 29. This trench was aligned north-west to south-east and peat deposits (65, 106), from which a single worked flint was recovered, with two patches of alluvial sand towards the eastern end. Cutting into the natural deposits were a ditch (**97**) and two pits (**100** and **102**).
- 3.8.35 The south-eastern end of the trench contained a ditch (**97**) on a north-east to south-west orientation that measured 0.72m wide and 0.11m deep. This ditch had gentle sides, a concave base, and was filled by a soft dark grey brown peat (98) that was overlain by a soft mid grey brown sand silt (99).
- 3.8.36 To the north-west was a rectangular pit (**102**) that extended to the south of the trench. This pit measured 1.52m wide within the trench and 0.28m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled by a soft mid grey brown silt (103) that was cut through by a rectangular pit (**100**) that also continued to the south of the trench. This later pit measured 1.4m wide within the trench and 0.44m deep. This pit also had vertical sides and a flat base, and was filled by a soft dark brown clay (101).

- 3.8.37 The overlying topsoil deposit (33) contained a single fragment (0.001kg) of not closely datable CBM.

### **Trenches 31 and 32**

- 3.8.38 Trench 31 was located in the south-western corner of Field 5 on a north-east to south-west orientation. It formed an 'L' shape with Trench 32 extending in a south-easterly direction from its south-western end. Trench 31 was mainly on the higher (11.3m OD) ground where sands and gravels were exposed, with only the south-western 3.2m containing peat, where the trench was at a level of 11.15m OD. This peat deposit continued to the east along the western half of Trench 32 before an alluvial deposit of sand began the transition to sand and gravels, as the level of the natural surface rose again to 11.54m OD.
- 3.8.39 A single ditch (**140**) was revealed in Trench 31, on a north-west to south-east orientation and measuring 1.38m wide and 0.44m deep. This ditch had gentle sides, a flat base, and was filled by a soft mid grey silt sand (141) that was overlain by a soft black peat (146). This ditch aligns with a feature identified in the cropmarks.
- 3.8.40 Trench 32 also contained a single ditch (**158**) on a north-east to south-west orientation and measuring 1.48m wide and 0.5m deep, just beyond the edge of the peat. This ditch had steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by a soft light green grey sand (163) that was overlain by a firm dark grey brown clay sand (159), a soft mid green grey clay sand (160), a firm dark brown clay (161) and a firm mid brown clay silt (162). Of these fills, deposit 160 contained a single worked flint (0.001kg), deposit 161 also contained a single worked flint (0.047kg), and deposit 162 contained an assemblage of 16 worked flints (0.225kg) which included refitting material and is likely to date to the Middle/Late Bronze Age.
- 3.8.41 The overlying subsoil deposit (34) contained 12 worked flints (0.111kg) and a single fragment of late 19th-20th century CBM.

### **Trench 33**

- 3.8.42 Trench 33 was located in the south-eastern corner of Field 5 on a north-east to south-west alignment. The southern 8.6m consisted of sands and gravels, with a test pit excavated to the south of ditch **131** revealing a sequence of deposits: a soft dark brown peat (109) containing two Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age worked flints (0.031kg), that was overlain by a soft black peat (110) containing a single fragment of burnt flint (0.036kg) and a single Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age worked flint (0.404kg). The peat was again at a point where the more solid natural geology dropped down, with the sands and gravels at 11.6m OD and the surface of the peat at 11.2m OD.
- 3.8.43 Cutting into the peat at the north-eastern end of the trench was a single ditch (**131**) on a north to south orientation and measuring 0.33m wide and 0.09m deep. This ditch had gentle sides, a concave base, and was filled by a soft mid brown sand clay (132).

## **3.9 Finds summary**

### **Unstratified finds**

3.9.1 Bucket sampling and thorough investigation of the upcast topsoil and subsoils produced 14 worked flints, a single sherd (0.009kg) of post-medieval pottery and one fragment (0.051kg) of late 19th-20th century CBM from the subsoil; and a fragment (0.022kg) of 20th century, two fragments (0.091kg) of late 19th-20th century, and one fragment (0.001kg) of not closely datable CBM from the topsoil.

3.9.2 No artefacts were recovered from a metal detector search across the evaluation trenches and spoil heaps, although two fragments of iron were recovered from a pit (31).

#### Finds from stratified deposits

3.9.3 A single, 50% complete, human skeleton of a male aged between 44 and 52 was recovered from the evaluation. This was from a shallow grave (143) in Field 4 and had no associated artefacts, although a single worked flint was recovered from the fill this is not thought to have been deliberately deposited within the grave.

3.9.4 The evaluation produced a total of 55 worked flints (1.402kg) and 7 fragments of burnt flint (0.0422kg) dating to the Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age. Of the worked flint, 13 were recovered from peat deposits, 14 from the subsoil, 1 from the grave, 27 from ditches. One fragment of burnt flint was recovered from a ditch, with the remaining six from peat deposits.

3.9.5 In addition, four sherds (0.051kg) of Late Bronze Age pottery were recovered from a single pit (176) on the western edge of the development area (Field 4), a single sherd (0.018kg) of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age pottery from a disturbed layer, again in Field 4. An earlier Roman abraded sherd (0.002kg) of pottery was recovered from a pit (51) in the north-western corner of Field 5. Obviously modern material such as plastic and iron bars that were recovered from Trenches 1-4 were not retained.

3.9.6 Two fragments of not closely datable hand-forged iron nail were recovered from a pit (31) in Trench 16, Field 5.

3.9.7 A single shard (0.010kg) from a 19th century glass bottle was recovered from a modern deposit in Trench 1.

3.9.8 An assemblage of 13 (0.270kg) of mostly 19th-20th century CBM was recovered from seven of the evaluated trenches. These were recovered from modern disturbance layers (6 fragments, 0.097kg), subsoil (1 fragment, 0.051kg) and topsoil (4 fragments, 0.114kg) within the trenches. The only exception was a fragment (0.198kg) of Roman *tegula* recovered from ditch 164 that is likely to have come from the Roman villa 100m to the south of site through ploughing.

3.9.9 A total of 17 fragments (1.6kg) of animal bone were recovered from 7 trenches across the evaluation area, with 13 of them identifiable to species, representing cattle and horse. Of these, seven fragments of cattle and one of horse were recovered from a sand deposit (38) that is likely to represent a river channel, and were exposed to the elements for an extended period of time. Of the other remains, three fragments (0.150kg) of large mammal came from ditches, one fragment (0.032kg) of horse from a pit, and five fragments (0.580kg) of cattle from a pond or hollow. Of these, only the single fragment of horse bone from a dated feature – Late Bronze Age pit 176.

### **Environmental samples**

- 3.9.10 A total of fourteen bulk samples were taken from within the evaluated trenches in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and to sieve for worked flints.
- 3.9.11 The sampling revealed that the preservation of waterlogged plant remains was variable, with Trenches 2, 4, 5, 8, 17 and 20 (all towards the north-east of the development area in Fields 1 and 5) generally comprising degraded humic material. In contrast, Trenches 16, 29 and 31 (all within Field 5) had better preservation and contained waterlogged seeds. These were dominated by plant taxa that are generally found in damp or wet soils, and would be expected in this floodplain environment. The exceptions were a single cereal grain and a fragment of legume preserved by carbonization in Trenches 5 and 28, which are thought to be intrusive.
- 3.9.12 Molluscs were preserved with a good density and diversity in Trenches 8, 16 and 20.
- 3.9.13 A total of two worked flints were recovered through samples, along with six burnt flints.

## 4 DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Comparison of results with the geophysical survey

- 4.1.1 The majority of features, based on the geophysical survey (Bartlett 2017), were confirmed on the ground. Although no direct dating evidence was produced from these features, it would be expected that the features with the strongest signal were back-filled more recently, and that those features that were not identified in the geophysical survey were earlier still. Where large spreads of anomalies were identified in the survey results these were identified in the ground – Field 1 was through modern dumps of material and matting under the grass in Trenches 2-4; Field 2 was through a modern pit covering the majority of Trench 7; and Field 4 was a compacted layer, with Trench 15 (targeting the particularly dense area in the eastern corner of the field) not opened following advice from Kasia Gdaniec. This trench was instead moved to investigate the area around the burial (**143**) in Trench 14.
- 4.1.2 The fragmented cultivation ditches identified across Field 5 were partially identified on the ground, although those suggested in Field 4 were not evident. This may have been a variation caused by the difference in the natural geologies – Field 4 had chalk deposits underlying the topsoil and subsoil, whilst Field 5 had sands, gravels and peat.
- 4.1.3 The excavation revealed several features that were not detected by the survey, and this is confirmed even with retrospective re-examination of the grey-scale plot (see Fig. 6)).

### 4.2 Aims and objectives

#### Evaluation aims

- 4.2.1 With respect to the aims set out in Section 2 and the WSI, the evaluation has identified and characterised areas of archaeology, as well as establishing its condition and extents. The majority of features have not been able to be confidently dated, although the earliest recovered material was a single Mesolithic/earlier Neolithic flint from within the peat deposits (84), with the majority of the artefacts dating to the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age, both in the peat deposits and features around the peat. These flints are likely to be residual, with the exception being the 16 recovered from ditch **158** (Trench 32). These flints were less finely struck, and suggest a prehistoric date, probably Middle Bronze Age, and may be broadly equivalent to the Middle Bronze Age ditches/field system excavated on the Fordham bypass.
- 4.2.2 The burial was dated by radiocarbon dating to the latest Iron Age or, more likely, the early Roman period (20-140 cal AD at 95% confidence or 60-130 cal AD at 68% confidence; SUERC-75682; see App. C.1). Two fragments of Roman material (one of pottery and one CBM) were recovered and are likely to have been residual/redeposited, perhaps deriving from activity associated with the Roman villa located 100m to the south of the site. Post-medieval CBM was recovered from consolidation layers above the peat as well as from the topsoil, and may be indicative of the later disturbance most notable in Fields 1-4.
- 4.2.3 The areas in the northern part of the development area (Fields 1-3) were disturbed by modern activity with only limited archaeological remains. Field 4 was heavily disturbed



by modern activity to the extent that the burial was truncated. Field 5 did not reveal much disturbance and showed the majority of archaeological features to the western edge, on the drier ground.

- 4.2.4 Environmental evidence had mixed survival, with only two carbonised remains, the rest from waterlogged deposits. The better preserved remains came from Field 5. There were only moderate quantities, for the deposits sampled.

#### **Regional research questions**

- 4.2.5 The evaluation links into research questions on patterns of early Roman burial practice and the possibility for continuation of burial practices within the same area from prehistory, given the proximity to Middle Bronze Age barrows (Gilmour 2015) to the north-west and further burials identified during work for the A142 (Mortimer 2005).
- 4.2.6 Linked to the research potential associated with examining palaeochannel/floodplain deposits, this evaluation has been able to map some of the peat and former river channel routes through the floodplain of the River Snail. A relatively small number of worked (55) and burnt (7) flints were recovered during the evaluation, which contrast to some extent with the results of investigations further upstream of the River Snail (Gdaniec *et al* 2007), suggesting that there may have been a lower intensity to the character of the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age activity, but this may also relate to the limited scale of sampling of these deposits.

### **4.3 River Snail floodplain deposits**

- 4.3.1 Relict channels of the Mesolithic-Bronze Age palaeochannel system of the River Snail lie adjacent to the line of the present Crooked Drain to the north of the proposed development area. These channels lie along the edge of the chalk dry land to the south-west of the Isleham peninsula (Gdaniec *et al* 2007, 44). Parts of the River Snail palaeochannel system were mapped during the Fenland Survey (Hall 1996). Agricultural erosion of riverside sites in the area around the River Snail has been noted before (Gdaniec *et al* 2007, 44), and was evident with plough-scarred natural subsoil in the current evaluation. The youngest course of the River Snail bounds the eastern edge of the site, whilst well preserved palaeochannel deposits had been identified to the north-west (Gdaniec *et al* 2007, 44). Where machine sondages were excavated in the current evaluation, any stone/gravel that was visible were recovered before it became inundated and examined by a lithics specialist to establish whether they were worked. The results were that only natural alluvial gravel clasts were recovered.
- 4.3.2 Where previous work along the Snail palaeochannel has been carried out (Gdaniec *et al* 2007, 5, 54), Early Neolithic flint blades, knapping debris and pottery were recovered from sticky silt clay deposits in the eastern edge of the channel. Analogous deposits were not identified during the current work. It is also notable that the majority of the major flint scatters identified in the Fenland Survey, around Soham to the north-west (Hall 1996; Gdaniec 2007), were been found on peninsulas and islands of higher and drier ground, which may also explain the relatively low levels of flint that were recovered from the current, low-lying, site. The eastern edge of the current site appears to have been the floodplain with traces of former routes of the River Snail,

floodplain peats and inwash sandier deposits resulting from flooding events. These deposits were mapped across the site (see Fig. 4-5).

#### 4.4 Overview of the evaluation archaeological results

- 4.4.1 Archaeological trial trenching targeting anomalies identified during geophysical survey (Bartlett 2017) and from cropmarks has largely confirmed the interpretations of the survey, with the addition only of smaller features that were filled by soft deposits comparable with the surrounding peat deposits, which may explain their 'invisibility' in the geophysical survey. The exception was Field 4 on the western edge of the development area, where possible cultivation strips were not revealed in the evaluation trenches. Instead, these are likely to have been part of the more recent layers (181, 182) underlying the topsoil.
- 4.4.2 Modern disturbance/truncation associated with the laboratory buildings appears to have affected the peat in the north-east of the proposed development area (Fields 1 and 3), and was comparable with the made ground identified in the 2012 trial trench evaluation (Clarke 2012), a former stable yard was visible in Field 2, and works for the A142 appear to have affected the western edge of the site (Field 4).
- 4.4.3 In contrast to the northern and western parts of the proposed development area, the south-eastern corner had largely escaped works that truncated the archaeological deposits, with only a raised bank visible running around near the edges of Field 5. The trenches within this field contained the majority of archaeological features, which were focused on the slightly higher and drier ground off the peat deposits, towards the western side of Field 5. Where archaeological features were identified within the peat in the evaluation trenches, these were predominantly ditches.
- 4.4.4 The northern half of the proposed development area (Fields 1-3) contained only four narrow ditches, all followed the same north-west to south-east alignment and were a maximum of 0.4m wide and seem likely to have been dug for drainage purposes. Otherwise, these fields only revealed modern disturbance.
- 4.4.5 Field 4, on the western edge of the proposed development area was also heavily affected by modern disturbance, leaving only three archaeological features – two pits and the inhumation burial.
- 4.4.6 Field 5 contained the majority of archaeological features, which were focused upon the drier sands and gravels of the western side of the field. The peat deposits mainly covered the eastern and southern areas of the field, although, and with peat filling some low lying hollows on the western side of the field. Test pits were excavated into these hollows to establish their depths and whether there were worked wood or flint within the deposits.
- 4.4.7 The trenches in this field contained six pits and twenty-two ditches. Of the pits, three cut into the peat deposits and three into sandier natural geology. Of the ditches, fifteen cut through the sandier natural geology and seven cut through the peat.
- 4.4.8 The evaluation has determined the character, distribution and preservation of archaeological deposits on the site. Moreover, the recovery and analysis of the modest artefactual and ecofactual assemblages suggests a prehistoric use for the landscape,



especially when seen in the context of documented prehistoric activity to the north-west (i.e. Mortimer 2005; Gilmour 2015; see Figure 13). Roman activity appears to be focused away from the current area, presumably around and towards the villa to the south.

## 4.5 Interpretation

### Features within the floodplain

- 4.5.1 Based on current evidence most of the features cutting into the peat are likely to represent part of drainage systems. During excavation, no worked wood was identified within these shallow ditches. However, some of the features cutting into the peat may represent part of the former cultivation of the area with the identified cuts being the bases of the ditches from either medieval ridge and furrow from when the site was within fields that formed part of the open fields of the medieval and post-medieval periods (Parker 2015, 7-8) – Ditch **82** in Trench 22 and ditch **95** in Trench 23 matched with probable cultivation ditches identified in the geophysical survey. The narrowness of other ditches, such as ditch **24** in Trench 8 and ditch **59** in Trench 18, suggest that they were drainage channels, matching ditches the scale and alignment of ditches that were also cut into more solid ground (such as ditches **20** and **22** in Trench 8).

Eight ditches and three pits were identified cutting into the peat, all in trenches along the eastern edge of Field 5.

### The immediate floodplain edge

- 4.5.2 Broader magnetic anomalies identified in the geophysical survey appear to align with areas of sands and gravels identified during the evaluation, notably a large anomaly with its eastern edge in Trench 19 aligning with an area of sands and gravels in a generally peaty area.
- 4.5.3 Features identified through the geophysical survey and cropmarks to the west of the peat were identified during the evaluation. The linear feature down the western side of Field 5 was picked up in Trenches 20, 21, 24 and 28, but provided only animal bone. This ditch remained dry throughout its life, and is likely to have been a boundary ditch marking the split between the higher and drier land to the west and the floodplain to the east.
- 4.5.4 Additional ditches on a north-west to south-east orientation are likely to have been part of the medieval and post-medieval open field cultivation system. Only one feature within this area provided pottery for an earliest date – pit **51** in Trench 20. This provided a single sherd of earlier Roman (70-200AD) pottery, although it is likely that this is residual.
- 4.5.5 On a north-west to south-east alignment, and to the south of the probable boundary ditch, was a ditch (**140**) that had a waterlogged deposit within it, suggesting that it may have been utilised for drainage of the area. This feature was previously identified through cropmarks, and may have been related to ditch **134** in Trench 27 which was linked in the cropmarks. It was not, though, picked up in Trench 28.

### Early Roman burial and prehistoric pits on the chalk slope

- 4.5.6 Although works on the A142 took place to the west, the deposit (182) identified in Field 4 suggests that there was disturbance and truncation in this area from the construction of the A142. This is likely to have been through the stripping of the topsoil, with only a thin subsoil layer protecting the archaeological deposits. The result has been the truncation of archaeological activity that may have been visible on the chalk slope, leaving an early Roman burial that had the main body of the skull missing and two prehistoric pits. One of these pits (**176**) can be dated to the Late Bronze Age from the pottery recovered from it. This pit (**176**) contained the only notable group of pottery on the site and its Late Bronze Age origin parallels assemblages from the Fordham bypass (Brudenell 2012; Mortimer 2005) and Turners Yard (Gilmour 2015) excavations to the north-west. The burial, radiocarbon dated to 20-140 cal AD (95% confidence SUERC-75682) is likely to represent the continuation of local burial traditions into the Roman period before later Romano-British burial rites were introduced (Lyons 2011, 118). It may have been related to the area of Iron Age to Roman settlement that is represented by the scheduled Roman villa (DCB390, 07483, SAM 80) located 100m to the south of the site, and that is likely to have been occupied during the 1st and 2nd centuries AD (Craven 2012 ,4)
- 4.5.7 Within this area, to the west of the floodplain, the pits indicate that prehistoric activity was taking place, although they provide limited scope as to what the activity was. The burial, however, fits within the funerary landscape identified in other archaeological works in the vicinity, adding an early Roman crouched burial, possibly deliberately placed within a natural hollow, to the corpus of Neolithic and Bronze Age burials..

## 4.6 Conclusion

- 4.6.1 The evaluation has identified significant archaeological deposits, principally consisting of buried human remains (sk.145). The archaeological horizon lies at a shallow depth, in places immediately below the topsoil, at a depth of 0.3-0.5m below ground-level. The majority of archaeological features that were identified match with anomalies identified in the geophysical survey and cropmarks, and confirmed the areas of expected modern disturbance in the north of the site. However, in some areas, notably Fields 1-3, there was increased truncation from modern activities – a combination of services and landscaping to protect from the River Snail in Field 1, for a modern yard in Field 2, and for the construction of the A142 in Field 3.
- 4.6.2 Across the eastern side of the site a layer of peat (65) was encountered, and where this was excavated undisturbed natural geological horizons were encountered below the peat. These peat deposits contained only a small amount of worked flint (13 pieces) and, although no dense flint scatters were identified, this may indicate that formation of peat on the floodplain was occurring from the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. Although no flint scatters were identifiable within the peat, an assemblage of Middle/Late Bronze Age knapping waste may have been deposited within ditch **158** in Trench 32, in the south-western corner of Field 5. The presence of this on the edge of the peat deposits suggests that there may have been more activity further to the west where the ground was drier. No worked wood was encountered, only roots and other

natural pieces. The sondages cut through the natural layers revealed a sequence of peat and sand floodplain deposits with no evidence of human activity within them.

- 4.6.3 The main zone of activity within the proposed development area is the southern edge of Field 4 and the western edge of Field 5, most notable for being the dry area of the site away from the peat deposits. Few features were identified within the peat, with Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age flint in some of these features and within the peat deposits suggesting that there was a limited amount of prehistoric activity on the floodplain edge. Those features identified outside the peat represent a boundary ditch separating the dryland from the wetland and cultivation strips near the peat edge. The only exception is where the natural geology is chalk, where two prehistoric pits were present to the west of an early Roman crouched burial.
- 4.6.4 The low level of pottery recovered from the site compared to the Fordham bypass and Turners Yard investigations are matched by the low levels of flint surviving compared to other investigations further upstream of the River Snail, suggesting that this was an area with a lower concentration of activity.
- 4.6.5 The hollow in which the burial (**143**) was cut is thought to have been a natural hollow that was filled through natural processes such as windblown deposition. This may have allowed for the utilisation of a natural feature – perhaps recognised through the differential in the vegetation growing in the hollow – rather than having a bank surrounding a slightly dished central area (Field 2011, 3). It may represent a continuation of the local burial traditions into the early Roman period, as occurred on a natural chalk knoll at Duxford (Lyons 2011, 114). This hollow and subsequent burial were on a much lower point on the peninsula above the floodplain edge – 13m OD as opposed to 17.5m OD for the barrows to the north-west. These burials form a band on a north-west to south-east axis, following the line of the high ground.
- 4.6.6 Dating of the activity that has been identified is hampered by the small quantities of datable finds recovered – five sherds of prehistoric pottery, one of Roman and one of post-medieval in conjunction with 55 worked flints – indicating that the majority of the activity may have been prehistoric with later disturbance from the post-medieval arable open field cultivation suggested through the 13 fragments of CBM.
- 4.6.7 Other than as a funerary area, perhaps continuing the landscape of prehistoric burials through time, the proposed development area appears to lie on an area of floodplain edge that has seen limited activity. The activity that has taken place over the majority of the area has focused on cultivation.

## APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Trench contained a single modern pit. Consists of topsoil and a modern build-up layer overlying natural geology of peat, sands and gravels.					<b>Length (m)</b>	26
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.55
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil (same as 10)	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	White sand natural geology	-	-
4	Layer	-	0.28	Peat (same as 8, 9, 84)	-	Mesolithic-Early Neolithic
5	Layer	-	0.2	Modern layer	CBM, glass	19-20 <sup>th</sup> century
6	Layer	-	-	Natural geology	-	-
7	Layer	-	0.4	Build-up layer	-	Modern
8	Layer	-	0.5	Peat (same as 4, 9, 84)	-	Mesolithic-Early Neolithic

Trench 2						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Trench contains modern disturbance. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural the peat and alluvial deposits.					<b>Length (m)</b>	30
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.54
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
3	Layer	-	-	Natural geology	-	-
9	Layer	-	0.12	Peat (same as 4, 8, 84)	-	Mesolithic-Early Neolithic
10	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil (same as 2)	CBM, pottery	Post-medieval
84	Layer	-	0.19	Peat (same as 4, 8, 9)	Flint	Mesolithic-Early Neolithic

Trench 3						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	E-W
Trench contains modern disturbance. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying the peat and alluvial deposits.					<b>Length (m)</b>	30
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.36

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.24	Subsoil	-	-
6	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
11	Layer	-	0.1	Peat	-	-
12	Layer	-	0.2	Build-up layer	CBM	20 <sup>th</sup> century

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contains only modern disturbance. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying the peat and alluvial deposits.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.60
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil	-	-
84	Layer	-	-	Peat	-	-
85	Layer	-	0.11	Peat	-	-
86	Layer	-	0.15	Alluvial	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contains a single ditch. Consists of topsoil overlying a modern sand layer, subsoil and the peat and alluvial layers.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.56
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.26	Subsoil	-	-
13	Cut	0.4	0.25	Cut of ditch	-	-
14	Fill	0.4	0.25	Fill of ditch <b>13</b>	-	
15	Layer	-	0.4	Alluvial	-	-
16	Layer	-	0.3	Peat	-	-
17	Layer	-	0.06	Peat	-	-
18	Layer	-	0.04	Levelling sand	-	Modern
194	Layer	-	0.2	Peat	-	-
195	Layer	-	0.2	Alluvial	-	-
196	Layer	-	0.1	Peat	-	-

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil, a modern gravel layer and subsoil and colluvial deposit overlying natural geology of chalk.					Length (m)	40
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.83
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

1	Layer	-	0.46	Topsoil	CBM	20 <sup>th</sup> century
10	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-
19	Layer	-	0.35	Colluvium	-	-

#### Trench 7

General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contains only modern activity. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.55
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
2	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-

#### Trench 8

General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contains three ditches, a natural channel and a posthole. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand and peat.					Length (m)	20
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.49
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
20	Cut	0.28	0.24	Cut of ditch	-	-
21	Fill	0.28	0.24	Fill of ditch <b>20</b>	-	-
22	Cut	0.33	0.18	Cut of ditch	-	-
23	Fill	0.33	0.18	Fill of ditch <b>22</b>	-	-
24	Cut	0.28	0.14	Cut of ditch	-	-
25	Fill	0.28	0.14	Fill of ditch <b>24</b>	-	-
26	Layer	-	0.12	Peat	-	-
39	Cut	2.46	0.16	Cut of natural channel	-	-
40	Fill	2.46	0.16	Fill of channel <b>39</b>	-	-
41	Cut	0.24	0.1	Cut of posthole	-	-
42	Fill	0.24	0.1	Fill of posthole <b>41</b>	-	-
56	Layer	-	0.21	Subsoil	-	-
57	Layer	0.21	0.03	Alluvial layer	-	-

#### Trench 9

General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and a levelling layer overlying natural geology of chalk.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.60
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
182	Layer	-	0.26	Levelling layer	-	-
183	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-

#### Trench 10

General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil, a levelling layer and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk.					Length (m)	40
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.73
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
182	Layer	-	0.39	Levelling layer	-	-
183	Layer	-	0.29	Topsoil	-	-
193	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 11						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contains two pits. Consists of topsoil, a levelling layer and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
176	Cut	0.86	0.3	Cut of pit	-	Late Bronze Age
177	Fill	0.86	0.3	Fill of pit <b>176</b>	Animal bone, pottery	
182	Layer	-	0.3	Levelling layer	-	-
183	Layer	-	0.17	Topsoil	CBM	20 <sup>th</sup> century
184	Cut	1.5	0.32	Cut of pit	-	-
185	Fill	-	0.1	Fill of pit <b>184</b>	-	
186	Fill	1.5	0.22	Fill of pit <b>184</b>	-	
193	Layer	-	0.3	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 12						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil, a levelling layer and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk.					Length (m)	40
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.43
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
182	Layer	-	0.25	Levelling layer	-	-
183	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
193	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-

Trench 13						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil, a levelling layer and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk.					Length (m)	40
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.68
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
182	Layer	-	0.29	Levelling layer	-	-
183	Layer	-	0.27	Topsoil	-	-

193	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil	-	-
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#### Trench 14

General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contains a natural hollow with a burial cut in. Consists of topsoil, levelling layers and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk.					Length (m)	40
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.77
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
143	Cut	0.52	0.2	Cut of grave	-	Prehistoric
144	Fill	0.52	0.2	Fill of grave	HSR	
145	Skeleton	-	-	Skeleton	-	
178	Cut	21	0.2	Natural hollow/pond	-	-
179	Fill	-	0.2	Fill of hollow/pond <b>178</b>	-	
180	Fill	21	0.25	Fill of hollow/pond <b>178</b>	-	
181	Layer	-	0.45	Levelling layer	CBM, pottery	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century
182	Layer	-	0.35	Levelling layer	CBM	Modern
183	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-

#### Trench 15

General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contains a natural hollow with a burial cut in. Consists of topsoil, levelling layers and subsoil overlying natural geology of chalk.					Length (m)	36.5
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.82
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
143	Cut	0.52	0.2	Cut of grave	-	Prehistoric
144	Fill	0.52	0.2	Fill of grave	-	
145	Skeleton	-	-	Skeleton	-	
178	Cut	21	0.2	Natural hollow/pond	-	-
179	Fill	-	0.2	Fill of hollow/pond <b>178</b>	-	
180	Fill	21	0.25	Fill of hollow/pond <b>178</b>	-	
181	Layer	-	0.45	Levelling layer	-	-
182	Layer	-	0.47	Levelling layer	-	-
183	Layer	-	0.35	Topsoil	-	-
193	Layer	-	0.1	Subsoil	-	-

#### Trench 16

General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contains three ditches. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying alluvial deposits and peat.					Length (m)	40
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.49
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
27	Cut	0.9	0.5	Cut of ditch	-	-
28	Fill	0.9	0.5	Fill of ditch <b>27</b>	-	



29	Cut	0.74	0.32	Cut of ditch	-	Later Neolithic- Early Bronze Age
30	Fill	0.74	0.32	Fill of ditch <b>29</b>	Flint	
31	Cut	0.82	0.4	Cut of ditch	-	-
32	Fill	0.82	0.4	Fill of ditch <b>31</b>	Fe	
33	Layer	-	0.37	Topsoil	-	-
34	Layer	-	0.13	Subsoil	-	-
35	Layer	-	0.16	Alluvial	-	-
38	Layer	-	0.26	Alluvial	Animal bone	-
68	Layer	-	-	Peat	-	-

### Trench 17

<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil overlying natural peat.					<b>Length (m)</b>	30
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.50
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
33	Layer	-	0.48	Topsoil	-	-
89	Layer	-	0.3	Peat	Flint	Later Neolithic

### Trench 18

<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Trench contains a single ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying peat and alluvial deposits.					<b>Length (m)</b>	50
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.39
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
33	Layer	-	0.22	Topsoil	-	-
34	Layer	-	0.17	Subsoil	-	-
59	Cut	0.62	0.56	Cut of ditch	-	-
60	Fill	0.54	0.32	Fill of ditch <b>59</b>	-	
61	Fill	0.54	0.1	Fill of ditch <b>59</b>	-	
62	Fill	0.62	0.14	Fill of ditch <b>59</b>	-	
63	Layer	1.5	0.2	Natural layer	-	-
64	Layer	-	0.1	Peat	-	-
65	Layer	-	0.1	Peat	-	-
66	Layer	-	-	Alluvial sand	-	-
67	Layer	-	-	Alluvial sand	-	-
68	Layer	-	-	Peat	-	-
69	Layer	-	-	Alluvial clay	-	-

### Trench 19

<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE
					<b>Length (m)</b>	15

Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying peat and alluvial deposits.					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.38
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
33	Layer	-	0.23	Topsoil	-	-
34	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
65	Layer	-	-	Peat	-	-
70	Layer	-	-	Alluvial sand	-	-
71	Layer	-	-	Peat	-	-

<b>Trench 20</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Trench contains three ditches and a pit. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand and peat.					<b>Length (m)</b>	30
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.40
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
33	Layer	-	0.23	Topsoil	-	-
34	Layer	-	0.13	Subsoil	-	-
43	Cut	1.9	0.62	Cut of ditch	-	-
44	Fill	0.2	0.18	Fill of ditch <b>43</b>	-	
45	Fill	1.3	0.2	Fill of ditch <b>43</b>	-	
46	Fill	1.74	0.2	Fill of ditch <b>43</b>	Animal bone	
47	Fill	1.04	0.1	Fill of ditch <b>43</b>	-	
48	Fill	0.64	0.1	Fill of ditch <b>43</b>	-	
49	Cut	0.72	0.1	Cut of ditch	-	-
50	Fill	0.72	0.1	Fill of ditch <b>49</b>	-	
51	Cut	0.68	0.63	Cut of pit	-	Earlier Roman
52	Fill	0.68	0.34	Fill of pit <b>51</b>	Pottery	
53	Cut	0.75	0.3	Cut of ditch	-	-
54	Fill	0.75	0.3	Fill of ditch <b>53</b>	-	
55	Layer	-	-	Peat	-	-
58	Fill	0.65	0.33	Fill of pit <b>51</b>	-	Earlier Roman

<b>Trench 21</b>						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
Trench contains five ditches. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand.					<b>Length (m)</b>	40
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.40
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
33	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
34	Layer	-	0.12	Subsoil	-	-
72	Fill	4	0.18	Fill of ditch <b>73</b>	-	-
73	Cut	4	0.18	Cut of ditch	-	
74	Fill	0.98	0.2	Fill of ditch <b>75</b>	-	-
75	Cut	0.98	0.2	Cut of ditch	-	

76	Fill	1	0.5	Fill of ditch <b>77</b>	-	-
77	Cut	1	0.5	Cut of ditch	-	-
78	Fill	0.7	0.04	Fill of ditch <b>79</b>	-	-
79	Cut	0.7	0.04	Cut of ditch	-	-
80	Fill	0.8	0.37	Fill of ditch <b>81</b>	-	-
81	Cut	0.8	0.37	Cut of ditch	-	-
87	Fill	-	0.22	Fill of ditch <b>75</b>	-	-
88	Fill	0.98	0.22	Fill of ditch <b>75</b>	Animal bone	-

### Trench 22

#### General description

Trench contains a single ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying peat and alluvial sand.

<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE
<b>Length (m)</b>	30
<b>Width (m)</b>	2
<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	1.1

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
33	Layer	-	0.3	Topsoil	-	-
34	Layer	-	0.25	Subsoil	-	-
36	Layer	-	0.25	Alluvial sand	-	-
37	Layer	-	-	Alluvial sand	-	-
82	Cut	0.62	0.37	Cut of ditch	-	-
83	Fill	0.62	0.37	Fill of ditch <b>82</b>	-	-
152	Layer	-	0.17	Alluvial clay	-	-
153	Layer	-	0.1	Peat	-	-
154	Layer	-	0.35	Peat	-	-
155	Layer	-	0.1	Alluvial sand	-	-
156	Layer	-	0.32	Peat	-	-
157	Layer	-	0.25	Peat	-	-
187	Layer	-	0.2	Alluvial sand and gravel	-	-

### Trench 23

#### General description

Trench contains a single ditch. Consists of topsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand and peat.

<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
<b>Length (m)</b>	40
<b>Width (m)</b>	2
<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.46

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
33	Layer	-	0.46	Topsoil	-	-
95	Cut	0.9	0.29	Cut of ditch	-	-
96	Fill	0.9	0.29	Fill of ditch <b>95</b>	-	-

### Trench 24

#### General description

Trench contains a single ditch, and a natural hollow and channel. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand and peat.

<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
<b>Length (m)</b>	30
<b>Width (m)</b>	2
<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.39

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
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33	Layer	-	0.17	Topsoil	-	-
34	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
120	Cut	1.4	0.5	Cut of natural channel	-	-
121	Fill	1.26	0.2	Fill of channel <b>120</b>	-	
122	Fill	1.4	0.1	Fill of channel <b>120</b>	-	
123	Fill	1.1	0.21	Fill of channel <b>120</b>	-	
124	Cut	-	0.27	Cut of natural hollow	-	-
125	Fill	-	0.09	Fill of hollow <b>124</b>	-	
126	Fill	-	0.14	Fill of hollow <b>124</b>	Animal bone	
127	Cut	1	0.52	Cut of ditch	-	-
128	Fill	0.74	0.22	Fill of ditch <b>127</b>	-	
129	Fill	1	0.3	Fill of ditch <b>127</b>	-	
130	Fill	0.86	0.2	Fill of ditch <b>127</b>	-	
188	Layer	-	0.25	Alluvial deposit	-	-
189	Layer	-	0.1	Alluvial deposit	-	-
190	Layer	-	0.15	Alluvial deposit	-	-
191	Layer	-	0.45	Peat	-	-
192	Layer	-	0.07	Alluvial	-	-

#### Trench 25

##### General description

Trench contains a natural hollow and channel. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand and peat.

##### Orientation

NW-SE

##### Length (m)

18.2

##### Width (m)

2

##### Avg. depth (m)

0.46

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
33	Layer	-	0.17	Topsoil	-	-
34	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
108	Cut	-	0.7	Cut of hollow/pond (same as <b>117</b> )	-	-
111	Fill	-	0.24	Fill of hollow <b>108</b> (same as 118)	-	
112	Fill	-	0.06	Fill of hollow <b>108</b> (same as 119)	-	
113	Fill	-	0.1	Fill of hollow <b>108</b>	-	
114	Fill	-	0.16	Fill of hollow <b>108</b>	-	
115	Fill	-	0.2	Fill of hollow <b>108</b>	Animal bone	
116	Fill	-	0.04	Fill of hollow <b>108</b>	-	
117	Cut	-	0.5	Cut of hollow/pond (same as <b>108</b> )	-	-
118	Fill	-	0.2	Fill of hollow <b>117</b> (same as 111)	-	
119	Fill	-	0.06	Fill of hollow <b>117</b> (same as 112)	-	
142	Fill	-	0.1	Fill of hollow <b>117</b>	-	

#### Trench 26

##### General description

##### Orientation

NE-SW

Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand and peat.					<b>Length (m)</b>	40
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
33	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
34	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	Flint	-

Trench 27						
<b>General description</b> Trench contains three ditches. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand and peat.					<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE
					<b>Length (m)</b>	20
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.38
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
33	Layer	-	0.2	Topsoil	-	-
34	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil	-	-
91	Cut	0.63	0.11	Cut of ditch	-	Later Neolithic- Early Bronze Age
92	Fill	0.63	0.11	Fill of ditch <b>91</b>	Flint	
93	Cut	0.9	0.12	Cut of ditch	-	
94	Fill	0.9	0.12	Fill of ditch <b>93</b>	Flint	
134	Cut	3.35	0.5	Cut of ditch	-	
135	Fill	3.35	0.04	Fill of ditch <b>134</b>	-	
136	Fill	3.35	0.14	Fill of ditch <b>134</b>	Flint	Early Bronze Age
137	Layer	-	-	Peat	Flint	

Trench 28						
<b>General description</b> Trench contains two ditches. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand and peat.					<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE
					<b>Length (m)</b>	40
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2
					<b>Avg. depth (m)</b>	0.39
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
33	Layer	-	0.16	Topsoil	-	-
34	Layer	-	0.23	Subsoil	Flint	-
164	Cut	1.3	0.5	Cut of ditch	-	-
165	Fill	0.6	0.1	Fill of ditch <b>164</b>	-	
166	Fill	0.74	0.14	Fill of ditch <b>164</b>	-	
167	Fill	1.18	0.26	Fill of ditch <b>164</b>	CBM	
168	Cut	1.44	0.5	Cut of ditch	-	-
169	Fill	1.34	0.3	Fill of ditch <b>168</b>	Animal bone	
170	Fill	1.26	0.1	Fill of ditch <b>168</b>	-	
171	Fill	1.2	0.16	Fill of ditch <b>168</b>	-	
172	Cut	-	0.32	Cut of hollow	-	-
173	Fill	-	0.12	Fill of hollow <b>172</b>	-	
174	Fill	-	0.08	Fill of hollow <b>172</b>	-	

175	Fill	-	0.14	Fill of hollow <b>172</b>	-	
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#### Trench 29

General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contains a single ditch. Consists of topsoil, subsoil and a marl layer overlying natural peat.					Length (m)	40
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.36
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
33	Layer	-	0.14	Topsoil	-	-
34	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
90	Layer	-	-	Peat	Burnt flint	Neolithic- Early Bronze Age
138	Cut	0.8	0.25	Cut of ditch	-	-
139	Fill	0.8	0.25	Fill of ditch <b>138</b>	-	-
147	Layer	-	0.08	Alluvial	-	-

#### Trench 30

General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contains a ditch and two pits. Consists of topsoil, subsoil and a marl layer overlying natural peat.					Length (m)	49.4
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
33	Layer	-	0.19	Topsoil	CBM	-
34	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
97	Cut	0.72	0.11	Cut of ditch	-	-
98	Fill	0.63	0.11	Fill of ditch <b>97</b>	-	-
99	Fill	0.41	0.06	Fill of ditch <b>97</b>	-	-
100	Cut	1.4	0.44	Cut of pit (same as <b>104</b> )	-	-
101	Fill	1.4	0.44	Fill of pit <b>100</b> (same as 105)	-	-
102	Cut	1.52	0.28	Cut of pit	-	-
103	Fill	1.52	0.28	Fill of pit <b>102</b>	-	-
104	Cut	0.52	0.18	Cut of pit (same as <b>100</b> )	-	-
105	Fill	0.52	0.18	Fill of pit <b>104</b> (same as 101)	-	-
106	Layer	-	0.3	Peat	Flint	-
107	Layer	-	0.11	Alluvial (same as 148)	-	-
148	Layer	-	0.11	Alluvial (same as 107)	-	-

#### Trench 31

General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contains a single ditch and a natural hollow. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand and peat.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.42
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date

33	Layer	-	0.21	Topsoil	-	-
34	Layer	-	0.2	Subsoil	-	-
140	Cut	1.38	0.44	Cut of ditch	-	-
141	Fill	0.34	0.1	Fill of ditch <b>140</b>	-	-
146	Fill	1.38	0.34	Fill of ditch <b>140</b>	-	-

### Trench 32

General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contains a single ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand and peat.					Length (m)	30
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.51
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
33	Layer	-	0.18	Topsoil	-	-
34	Layer	-	0.24	Subsoil	CBM, flint	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> century
158	Cut	1.48	0.59	Cut of ditch	-	Mid-Late Bronze Age
159	Fill	1.48	0.5	Fill of ditch <b>158</b>	-	
160	Fill	0.68	0.41	Fill of ditch <b>158</b>	-	
161	Fill	0.6	0.32	Fill of ditch <b>158</b>	Flint	
162	Fill	1.26	0.28	Fill of ditch <b>158</b>	Flint	
163	Fill	0.38	0.59	Fill of ditch <b>158</b>	-	

### Trench 33

General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contains a single ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural peat.					Length (m)	40
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.37
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
33	Layer	-	0.15	Topsoil	-	-
34	Layer	-	0.19	Subsoil	-	-
109	Layer	-	0.16	Peat	Flint	Neolithic
110	Layer	-	0.16	Peat	Flint	Neolithic
131	Cut	0.33	0.09	Cut of ditch	-	-
132	Fill	0.33	0.09	Fill of ditch <b>131</b>	-	-
133	Layer	-	0.08	Alluvial (same as 151)	-	-
109	Layer	-	0.16	Peat (same as 149)	-	-
110	Layer	-	0.16	Peat (same as 150)	-	-
149	Layer	-	0.16	Peat (same as 109)	-	-
150	Layer	-	0.16	Peat (same as 110)	-	-
151	Layer	-	0.08	Alluvial (same as 133)	-	-

Table 1: Trench and context information



## APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

### B.1 Ironwork

*By Carole Fletcher*

#### *Introduction and Methodology*

- B.1.1 The evaluation produced two fragments of ironwork (SF2), from Trench 16, feature **31**, described as a pit or ditch terminus. The feature is undated and the ironwork cannot be closely dated. The functional category used in the report is defined by Crummy in 1983 and 1988: Category 11 fastenings and fittings.

#### *Assemblage*

- B.1.2 The corroded fragments appear to be from nails, possibly hand-forged with a tapering, square sectioned shank; both nails are missing their heads. The first has a relatively straight shank, 30mm long, 3mm section tapering to a rounded point. The second has a curved shank due to use, 18mm long 3mm section tapering to a rounded point.

#### *Discussion*

- B.1.3 Hand-forged nails are a long-lived form and dating is problematic, other than to say the nails are likely to be no later than early 20th century.

#### *Retention, Dispersal and Display*

- B.1.4 The nail shanks are not closely datable and if no further work is undertaken, the above statement acts as a full record and the ironwork may be deselected prior to archival deposition.

### B.2 Flint

*By Lawrence Billington*

#### *Introduction*

- B.2.1 A total of 55 worked flints and seven fragments of unworked burnt flint (42.2g) were recovered during the trenching. The assemblage is quantified by type and context in Table 2. Slightly over half of the total of worked flint was recovered from the fills of cut features excavated in Trenches 14, 27 and 32, with the remainder of the assemblage deriving either from subsoil deposits or from peat deposits exposed and sampled in the lower lying trenches close to the River Snail. Although relatively small, the assemblage provides good evidence for activity at the site during the Neolithic and Bronze Age and highlights the potential for any further and more extensive investigations at the site to recover substantial lithic assemblages, both from the fills of cut features and, perhaps more significantly, from well preserved sub-surface deposits on the floodplain of the Snail.

Trench	Context	Cut	Sample	Type	Chip	Irregular Waste	Primary Flake	Secondary Flake	Tertiary Flake	Secondary Blade like	Tertiary Bld	Scraper	Fabricator	Core	Core fragment	Total worked	BF count	BF weight
2	84			Peat							1					1		
14	144	143	20	Grave				1								1		
16	30	29	5	Ditch													1	1
17	89			Peat									1	1		2		
26	34			Subsoil										1		1		
27	92	91		Ditch	1											1		
27	94	93		Ditch			1	1	1					1		4		
27	136	134		Ditch			1	1	1					1		4		
27	137			Peat				1						2	1	4		
28	34			Subsoil				1								1		
29	90		11	Peat													5	6
29	90			Peat			1	1								2		
30	106			Peat					1							1		
32	34			Subsoil				8						1		9		
32	160	158	14	Ditch			1									1		
32	161	158		Ditch		1										1		
32	162	158		Ditch				12	2					2		16		
33	109			Peat				1				1				2		
33	110			Peat				1								1	1	36
32	34			Subsoil				1	1	1						3		
<b>Totals</b>					<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>42</b>

Table 2: Quantification of the flint assemblage.

### Raw materials and condition

B.2.2 The entire assemblage is made up of flint, generally fine grained and dark in colour. Where cortical surfaces survive to allow a characterisation of the form of raw materials the flint appears to mostly derive from small to medium sized nodules of flint with a thin weathered cortex and stained/recorticated thermal surfaces. This material is likely to derive from secondary sources, probably including the local fluvial gravels of the Snail valley. Although there was no definite evidence for the use of flint derived from sources more closely associated with the primary chalk, some of the non-cortical pieces in the assemblage could well derive from high quality 'chalk' flint of the kind that forms an important component of Later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age assemblages in the area (e.g. Edmonds *et al* 1999; Gdaniec *et al* 2007, 16). The condition of the assemblage is generally good, with little evidence for severe edge damage, although slight edge rounding/chipping is present on some pieces. A small proportion of the assemblage is recorticated, varying from a light blue clouding through to heavy opaque white. This recortication does not appear to have any clear chronological significance.

### Features

- B.2.3 Worked flint was recovered from five ditches (**29**, **91**, **93**, **134**, and **158**). The small assemblages of worked flint from ditches **29**, **91**, **93** and **134** (totals of one, one, four and four pieces respectively) are disparate in terms of raw material and condition and probably represent residual material inadvertently caught up in the fills of these features. This material consists of simple unretouched flakes alongside a minimally worked core/tested piece and a multiplatform core. None of this is strongly diagnostic, but does include relatively systematically worked material suggestive of a Later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date.
- B.2.4 A more substantial assemblage of 16 worked flints were recovered from 162, the upper fill of ditch **158**. This material is dominated by small, squat secondary flakes together with two simple single platform cores. Both cores have been made on naturally (thermally) split cobbles, with the flat thermal surface being used as striking platform for the removal of squat flakes. Individual flakes from the assemblage can be refitted to both of the cores, whilst several other flakes appear likely to derive from the same raw material, and the assemblage as a whole appears to represent either *in situ* working or a dump of knapping waste deriving from the reduction of a small number of cores. The technology of this small assemblage is very simple, with the use of unprepared platforms to remove squat, often somewhat irregular partly cortical flakes via direct hard hammer percussion. Evidence for a lack of control or care over reduction is displayed by frequent incipient cones of percussion on the striking platforms of several of the flakes and one of the cores. Although not strictly diagnostic, this kind of expediently/unskilfully produced material is characteristic of later prehistoric flint assemblages, dating from the Middle Bronze Age onwards (e.g. Ford *et al* 1984; McLaren 2010). As the assemblage includes refitting pieces and appears to represent a coherent dump or knapping scatter it provides a useful, if imprecise, *terminus ante quem* for the cutting and infilling of ditch 158, and suggests that the feature is certainly prehistoric – perhaps most probably of Middle or Late Bronze Age date.
- B.2.5 A single small secondary flake was recovered from a soil sample taken around the feet of the inhumation burial excavated in Trench 14 (grave cut **143**). This piece measures less than 20mm in length and seems likely to be residual, having been inadvertently caught up in the grave fill.

### **Subsoil deposits**

- B.2.6 A total of 14 flints were derived from subsoil deposits encountered in Trenches 26, 28 and 32 (see Table 2). Trenches 26, 28 and 32 produced small numbers of worked flints which derive from a simple flake based technology and which include expediently worked pieces, comparable to the assemblage from ditch **158** discussed above, alongside somewhat more systematically produced flakes which are more likely to represent Later Neolithic and/or Early Bronze Age activity. The same observations apply equally to the larger number of worked flints (nine) recovered from subsoil deposits in Trench 32, although here there is a notably high proportion of more expediently produced material, including flakes struck from cortical striking platforms and a minimally worked core which are closely comparable, in technological terms,

with the material from ditch **158**, also located in Trench 32, and might reflect broadly contemporary activity.

### *Peat deposits*

- B.2.7 The 13 worked flints recovered from peat deposits were thinly distributed, deriving from seven individual contexts encountered in six of the trenches. This notwithstanding, the assemblage includes a high proportion of technologically or typologically distinctive pieces and contrasts with the material recovered from ditches and subsoil deposits in appearing to be dominated by Neolithic and Early Bronze Age material, with correspondingly less evidence for later prehistoric flintwork.
- B.2.8 Deposits 90 and 106 (Trenches 29 and 30) produced only small, undiagnostic hard hammer struck flakes. Individual pieces collected from deposits 84 (Trench 2) and 110 (Trench 33) were more distinctive; a fine Mesolithic or Early Neolithic blade was recovered from 84 whilst 110 yielded a fine flake, probably either produced during thinning of a bifacial tool or from a levallois-like/discoidal core, and hence probably of Neolithic date. Four worked flints were recovered from deposit 137 (Trench 27), consisting of two minimally worked cores and two secondary flakes, not strongly diagnostic but consistent with a date in the Early Bronze Age or later.
- B.2.9 Peat deposit 109 (Trench 33) yielded two worked flints, a secondary flake and an elongated end scraper which, unusually, has very heavy retouch and/or 'bruising' use along both lateral edges, bifacial in places and elsewhere restricted to the ventral side. Deposit 89 (Trench 17) also produced two worked flints. One of these is a small Levallois-like core of probable Later Neolithic date (Ballin 2011a; 2011b), which bears the scar of a fine preferential removal on its flaking face and a faceted striking platform. The second piece recovered from this context is a fabricator – an elongated but robust piece (l = 105mm, w = 21mm, t = 15mm), made on a large blade/narrow-flake blank with steep dorsal retouch giving a rod-like form and carrying characteristic traces of heavy use at its distal end in the form of rounding/polishing. Based largely on use-wear and residue analysis of analogous artefacts recovered elsewhere in north-west Europe, fabricators are now generally interpreted as strike-a-lights, used in conjunction with iron pyrites as part of fire making kits. Fabricators of this general rod-like form occur, fairly rarely, in the Early Neolithic, but appear to become somewhat more common in the later Neolithic and Early Bronze Age (see, e.g. Healey and Robertson-Mackay 1983; Healy 1984) and were sometimes selected as grave goods to accompany Early Bronze Age burials (Teather and Chamberlain 2016).
- B.2.10 Bulk samples of peat taken from Trenches 2, 17 and 29 were wet sieved with the explicit aim of recovering any micro-debitage present in these deposits. No struck flint was recovered from any of these samples, although a small quantity of unworked heavily burnt flint (5.7g, five fragments) was recovered from deposit 90 in Trench 29.

### *Discussion*

- B.2.11 Taken as a whole, the flint assemblage clearly indicates activity at the site from at least the Early Neolithic through into later prehistory. The scatter or dump of freshly knapped material recovered from the upper fill of ditch **158** is of some significance in

representing a discrete episode of probably Middle or Late Bronze Age flintworking, and in providing some dating evidence for the infilling of this feature. Arguably of more importance is the small assemblage derived from peat deposits encountered during the trenching. These flints appear to be dominated by later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age forms, with a single Mesolithic/earlier Neolithic blade recovered. Although the size of the assemblage precludes detailed characterisation of the activities undertaken at the site, they seem likely to reflect the same kind of spectrum of activities and occupation represented by the intensively sampled flint scatters known from lower reaches of the Snail Valley and adjacent parts of the fen edge (Brown 1996; Hall 1996; Edmonds et al 1999; Gdaniec *et al* 2007), as well as the series of substantial Mesolithic-Early Bronze Age flint assemblages recovered along the route of the Fordham Bypass (Mortimer 2005, Connor and Mortimer in prep). Although the number of flints recovered from the peat deposits during the trenching was small, this should be seen in the context of the acknowledged difficulties in recovering lithic scatters during evaluation trenching, with the possibility for further work to encounter well-preserved and potentially extensive lithic scatters preserved within or under the various peat deposits.

- B.2.12 One particular point of interest is the relative dearth of burnt flint in the assemblage discussed here, with a very small amount coming from the peat deposits excavated and sampled in Trenches 29 and 33. This contrasts with the results of extensive fieldwork in the lower reaches of the Snail where burnt flint (much of it previously worked) was found in substantial quantities adjacent to the original course of the river (Gdaniec *et al* 2007). Although the purpose of such heated flint remains somewhat obscure, this clearly attests to intensive processing or domestic type activity, much of which probably dates to the later Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. Whether the relative lack of burnt flint at the current site reflects the limited scale of the investigations, or a genuine difference in the intensity or character of activity in the more upstream parts of the Snail during this period remains an open question which could be usefully addressed by future fieldwork.

### B.3 Glass

*By Carole Fletcher*

#### **Assemblage**

- B.3.1 A single sub-rectangular shard (0.010kg) from a dark olive green glass vessel was recovered from clay, context 5, within what is described as a modern pit, in Trench 1. The glass surface is weathered and pitted, with bubbles within the glass.

#### **Discussion**

- B.3.2 The shard is from a bottle and is not closely datable, however, the condition of the glass suggests it is likely to be 19th century. It was recovered alongside 19th-20th century ceramic building material and subject to reworking. It is likely to be the result of casual disposal of a broken vessel.

#### **Retention, dispersal or display**

- B.3.3 If no further work is undertaken, the above statement acts as a full record and the glass may be deselected prior to archival deposition.

## B.4 Pottery

*By Matt Brudenell with Carole Fletcher and Katie Anderson*

### Introduction

- B.4.1 The evaluation yielded seven sherds of pottery (80g) dating from the Late Bronze Age through to the post-medieval period. The pottery was recovered from four contexts relating to two pits (**51** and **176**), a layer truncating the grave (**143**), and the subsoil in Trenches 2, 11, 14 and 20 (Table 1).
- B.4.2 The pottery is in stable condition, though most sherds are small and abraded. The only context containing more than one sherds was context 177 from pit **176**, Trench 13.

Trench	Cut	Context	Feature type	No. sherds	Weight (g)	Spot date
11	176	177	Pit	4	51	Late Bronze Age, c. 1100-800 BC
2	-	10	Subsoil	1	9	Post-medieval c. AD 1700-1900
14	-	181	Disturbed layer	1	18	Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age, c. 1100-350 BC
20	51	52	Pit	1	2	Earlier Roman, c. AD 70-200
TOTAL	-	-	-	7	80	-

Table 3: Quantification of pottery by context

### Late Bronze Age and Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery

- B.4.3 Five sherds (69g) have been assigned to the Post Deverel-Rimbury (PDR) ceramic tradition (Barrett 1980), dating to the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age (Brudenell 2012). Four sherds (41g) from context 177, pit **176**, Trench 11 can be confidently assigned to the Late Bronze Age, c. 1100-800 BC. These comprise coarse flint-tempered wares including a plain rounded shoulder sherd (11g) and a base sherd with heavy gritting on the underside (28g). The fabrics of the sherds are identical to those recovered from the Fordham Bypass (Brudenell 2012; Mortimer 2005), and Turners Yard excavations, Fordham (Brudenell 2015).

### Roman pottery

- B.4.4 A single abraded rim sherd (2g) belonging to an earlier Roman coloured coated Beaker was recovered from context 52, pit **51**, Trench 20. The sherd is likely to date AD 70-200 (K. Anderson pers. comm.)

### Post-Medieval pottery

- B.4.5 A single body sherd (9) derived from an English Stoneware vessel dated AD 1700-1900 was recovered from context 10, subsoil, Trench 2 (C. Fletcher pers. comm.).

### Discussion



- B.4.6 The small pottery assemblage recovered from the evaluation includes sherds dating from the Late Bronze Age through to the post-medieval period. The only notable group of material was that derived from context 177, which is of Late Bronze Age origin, and is paralleled by well-dated local assemblages from the Fordham Bypass (Brudenell 2012; Mortimer 2005) and Turners Yard excavations, Fordham (Brudenell 2015).

## B.5 Ceramic Building Material

*By Carole Fletcher*

### *Introduction and Methodology*

- B.5.1 A fragmentary and mostly late 19th-20th century assemblage of ceramic building material (CBM), 14 sherds weighing 0.468kg, was recovered from topsoil, subsoil, layers, a pit and a ditch, across eight of the evaluated trenches.
- B.5.2 The assemblage was quantified by context, counted, weighed, and fabric and form recorded where this was identifiable. Only complete dimensions were recorded, which was most commonly thickness. Fabrics are briefly described and Woodforde (1976) and McComish (2015) form the basis for identification and dating.

### *Assemblage*

- B.5.3 The small assemblage of CBM is all moderately abraded and includes late 19th-20th century roof tile and 20th century extruded ceramic pipe, from topsoil in Trenches 6 and 11. Subsoil in Trench 32 produced fragments of late 19th-20th machine-made brick. Similar material was recovered from a levelling layer in Trench 14, alongside formless fragments that could not be dated.
- B.5.4 Two features produced CBM. In Trench 1, context 5 contained an irregular fragment of post-medieval tile (most likely roof tile), alongside a formless fragment of late 19th-20th century brick fabric. Ditch **164** in Trench 28 produced a fragment from a Romano-British *Tegula* with an incomplete flange; no other Roman CBM was recovered from the site.

### *Discussion*

- B.5.5 A fragmentary and mostly modern assemblage of CBM was recovered from the site. The single fragment of Romano-British *tegula* is most likely related to the Roman villa 100m to the south of the site, and present here as the result of plough disturbance. The small fragment of post-medieval CBM is again likely to be the result of plough disturbance.

The late 19th-20th tile and machine-made brick may be fragments of hardcore used on farm tracks or in gateway areas and subsequently redistributed by ploughing.

### *Retention, dispersal or display*

- B.5.6 The plain and fragmentary nature of the total assemblage means it is of little significance. If no further work on the site is undertaken, the catalogue acts as a full record and the CBM may be deselected prior to archival deposition.



Trench	Context	Cut	CBM Description and Form	No. of fragments	Weight (kg)	Date
1	5		Irregular fragment of tile, upper and lower surfaces survive, 16mm thick. Dull red-orange hard fired fine quartz-tempered fabric, some small voids	1	0.007	Post-medieval
1	5		Formless fragment, hard fired mixed fabric, quartz-tempered, occasional calcareous material, hackly fracture. Probably brick	1	0.008	Mid-19th-20th century
3	12		Irregular fragment of brick or cement moulded (?) tile, impressed or moulded numbers on the upper surface: 4 and ?8. Ridged lower surface, possibly a cover tile for electrical or other services	1	0.076	20th century
6	1		Irregular fragment of extruded ceramic pipe, high fired, almost stoneware fabric. Orange-buff surfaces, pale grey core, cement-like matrix. 12mm thick	1	0.022	20th century
11	183		Two moderately abraded fragments of modern roof tile, curved pantile like form one has surviving rounded edge and both upper and lower surfaces. in hard fired fine moulded or extruded clay, fine well-mixed clay with few inclusions. Red-orange (terracotta) coloured fabric. 14-16mm thick	2	0.091	Late 19th-20th century+
14	181		Edge fragment of a machine-made brick, hard fired with very hackly fracture. Pale, smooth, dull orange surfaces, mixed pink and some yellow lumps, hackly fracture	1	0.006	Late 19th-20th century+
	182		Formless fragments, hard fired red-orange fabric, quartz-tempered, poorly sorted	3	0.007	Not closely datable
28	167	164	Tegula fragment, incomplete flange hard fired quartz-tempered fabric, red-orange surfaces and thick margin with grey-brown core. Surviving height 44mm, 26mm thick excluding flange. Lightly sanded external surfaces	1	0.198	Roman
30	33		Formless fragments relatively hard fired red- orange fabric	1	0.001	Not closely datable
32	34		Fragment of a machine-made brick, hard fired with very hackly fracture. Pale, smooth dull orange surfaces, mixed pink and some yellow lumps	1	0.051	Late 19th-20th century+
<b>Total</b>				<b>14</b>	<b>0.468</b>	

Table 4: CBM catalogue by Trench

## APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

### C.1 Human Skeletal Remains

*By Zoë Uí Choileáin*

#### **Introduction**

- C.1.1 A single crouched burial was recovered from the evaluation at Fordham Horse Racing Laboratory. Although no grave goods were present with which to date the material, radiocarbon dating has put the skeleton as early Roman. With the crouched position of the body suggesting a Prehistoric date, the burial is likely to represent a continuation of local tradition into the early Roman period.

#### **Provenance of the Material**

- C.1.2 The burial was identified in trench 14 and the skeleton was crouched on his right side, aligned South to North (skull in south end of grave). The grave was shallow (0.13m deep) and small being 0.88m in length and 0.61m wide

#### **Methodology**

- C.1.3 The human remains were excavated in accordance with the IFA guidelines (McKinley and Roberts, 1993).
- C.1.4 The condition of the cortical bone was assessed using the grading system devised by McKinley where grade 0 indicates no erosion and grade 5 indicates that the surface of the bone is completely eroded (Brickley and McKinley 2004, 16. Fig.6).
- C.1.5 Age was determined based on observations of the auricular surface (Lovejoy *et al* 1985, Buckberry & Chamberlain 2002) and dental attrition (Brothwell 1981 and Miles 1963). The sex of the individual was ascertained from sexually dimorphic traits on the pelvis and mandible (Buikstra and Uberlaker 1994, 16-21). An estimate of living stature was calculated based on methods devised by Trotter (1970) and any pathology was assessed with reference to standard texts (Rogers and Waldron 1995 and Aufferheide *et al*. 1998).

#### **Preservation of the Material**

- C.1.6 The skeleton was partially truncated by later activity meaning that the left leg and part of the left arm and pelvis were lost. In spite of this, fragmentation levels were fairly low allowing measurements to be taken on several long bones. The condition of the cortical bone represented a 3-4 on McKinley's scale (Brickley and McKinley 2004, 16. Fig.6).

#### **Results**

- C.1.7 These are summarised in tabular form below. Analysis based on the methods above suggests that this is a male individual between 44-52 years of age. Measurements of the right femur suggest a stature of around 166 cm (Trotter 1970) and the strong muscle attachments (most prominent on the right tibia) suggest that the individual

was reasonably robust. Sacralisation of the 5<sup>th</sup> lumbar vertebra, a congenital anomaly where the 5<sup>th</sup> vertebra and sacrum are fused was recorded. This condition is asymptomatic (Auferheide *et al* 1998, 65). There are dental caries present on the mandibular 1<sup>st</sup> molars and 2<sup>nd</sup> premolars. Two teeth had been lost ante mortem (the mandibular right 1<sup>st</sup> incisor and left canine) and periodontitis or gum disease was recorded in both jaws. Marginal osteophytes, most notably on the bodies of the lumbar vertebrae, are indicative of degenerative joint disease in the spine and, osteoarthritis, characterised by marginal osteophytes and eburnation on the facets of cervical vertebrae (C2-C4), was recorded in the neck.

### ***Statement of Potential***

The practice of crouched burial occurs throughout Prehistory and indeed in the Roman and Saxon periods and so it is therefore it is strongly recommended that carbon dating is undertaken on this skeleton. This is particularly important both for the site itself which produced little datable material and for placing the burial within the context of the wider landscape; once a date for the skeleton is determined then its relationship with the nearby Bronze Age barrow excavated in Turners Yard (Gilmour 2015) can be explored. No further analysis on the skeletal material is required.

Skeleton no.	Burial position	Orientation	Age	Sex	Stature (cm)	Pathology
145	Crouched	S-N	44-52	M	166	Sacralisation of 5 <sup>th</sup> lumbar. Spinal joint disease including (osteoarthritis in neck). Periodontitis, AMTL and caries

Table 5: HSR summary



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Director: Professor F M Stuart Tel: +44 (0)1355 223332 Fax: +44 (0)1355 229898 www.glasgow.ac.uk/suerc



### RADIOCARBON DATING CERTIFICATE

01 November 2017

**Laboratory Code** SUERC-75682 (GU45602R)

**Submitter** Zoe Ui Choileain  
Oxford Archaeology East  
15 Trafalgar Way  
Bar Hill  
Cambridgeshire  
CB23 8SQ

**Site Reference** FORLAB17

**Context Reference** 145

**Material** HSR: R. Tibia

**$\delta^{13}\text{C}$  relative to VPDB** -20.0 ‰

**$\delta^{15}\text{N}$  relative to air** 10.8 ‰

**C/N ratio (Molar)** 3.3

**Radiocarbon Age BP** 1916  $\pm$  27


**N.B.** The above  $^{14}\text{C}$  age is quoted in conventional years BP (before 1950 AD) and requires calibration to the calendar timescale. The error, expressed at the one sigma level of confidence, includes components from the counting statistics on the sample, modern reference standard and blank and the random machine error.

Samples with a SUERC coding are measured at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre AMS Facility and should be quoted as such in any reports within the scientific literature. The laboratory GU coding should also be given in parentheses after the SUERC code.

Detailed descriptions of the methods employed by the SUERC Radiocarbon Laboratory can be found in Dunbar et al. (2016) *Radiocarbon* 58(1) pp.9-23.

For any queries relating to this certificate, the laboratory can be contacted at [suerc-cl4lab@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:suerc-cl4lab@glasgow.ac.uk)

Conventional age and calibration age ranges calculated by :



Checked and signed off by :

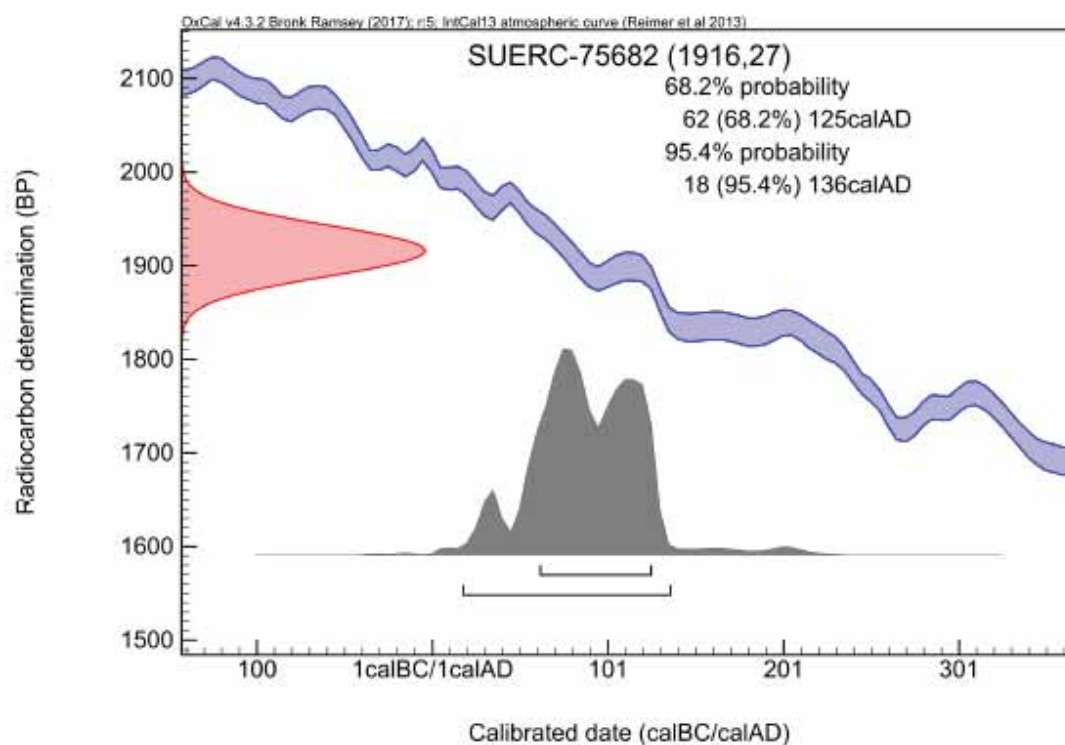


University  
of Glasgow

The University of Glasgow, charity number SC034401



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registered in Scotland, with registration number SC005336



The radiocarbon age given overleaf is calibrated to the calendar timescale using the Oxford Radiocarbon Accelerator Unit calibration program OxCal 4.\*

The above date ranges have been calibrated using the IntCal13 atmospheric calibration curve†

Please contact the laboratory if you wish to discuss this further.

\* Bronk Ramsey (2009) *Radiocarbon* 51(1) pp.337-60

† Reimer et al. (2013) *Radiocarbon* 55(4) pp.1869-87

## C.2 Faunal Remains

### *Introduction and Methodology*

- C.2.1 The animal bone from Fordham represents faunal remains weighing 1.6 kg in total. There were 17 fragments recorded, 13 of which were identifiable to species. Bone was hand collected from 7 trenches. The species represented include cattle (*Bos taurus*) and horse (*Equus caballus*). It is probable that some of the faunal remains are pre-historic in date.
- C.2.2 The method used to quantify this assemblage was based on that used for Knowth by McCormick and Murray (2007) which is modified from Albarella and Davis (1996). Identification of the faunal remains was carried out at Oxford Archaeology East. References to Hillson (1992), Schmid (1972), von den Driesch (1976) were used where necessary.

### *Results of Analysis*

- C.2.3 Cattle were the most common species in the assemblage followed by horse. There were four fragments that were categorised as large mammal, yet are likely to have been horse or cattle. The condition of the bone ranged from fair to poor, with half of the fragments recovered exhibiting signs of taphonomy in the form of moderate to heavy weathering. Fragmentation was low as several large fragments of long bone were recovered. There were no indication of butchery, burning or gnawing however much of the bone was stained by the soil.
- C.2.4 Dental wear aging for the cattle mandible indicates an animal of 8-13 months of age at death. A cattle distal tibia has a fused epiphysis indicating an animal over 24-36 months, and a cattle fused proximal radius indicating an animal over 12-18 months of age at death. None of the long bones recovered were from juvenile animals.
- C.2.5 The weathering on the bone surfaces, exhibited by cracking, flaking and splintering indicates that bone would have exposed to the elements for an extended period of time without been buried. The presence of cattle of different ages is an indication of husbandry practices. While the volume of bone recovered is minimal, the remains do indicate that there were signs of domestic activity in those trenches where bone was recovered.

Context	Trench	Species	Element	# of Fragments
38	16	Cattle	Tibia	1
38	16	Cattle	Calcaneus	1
38	16	Cattle	Metatarsal	1
38	16	Cattle	Astragalus	1
38	16	Cattle	Mandible	1
38	16	Cattle	Radius	1
38	16	Cattle	Scafocuboid	1
38	16	Horse	Scapula	1
46	20	Lrg Mammal	Rib	1

88	21	Lrg Mammal	Rib	1
115	25	Cattle	Metatarsal	1
115	25	Cattle	Tibia	1
126	24	Cattle	Metatarsal	1
126	24	Cattle	Humerus	1
126	24	Lrg Mammal	Scapula	1
169	28	Lrg Mammal	Tibia	1
177	11	Horse	Astragalus	1

Table 6: Total number of identifiable fragments (NISP) by species

### ***Recommendations for Further Work***

- C.2.6 The assemblage is small therefore no meaningful interpretations can be made unless further remains are recovered from the site. Should dating of contexts with bone be carried out and indicate the remains are pre-historic, the remains may be of more significance as faunal assemblages are less common from the period.

## **C.3 Environmental Remains**

*By Rachel Fosberry*

### ***Introduction***

- C.3.1 Fourteen bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated area at Land at the Horse Racing Forensic Laboratory, Newmarket Road, Fordham 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.3.2 A sub-sample of each of the bulk samples was processed by tank flotation using modified Siraff-type equipment for the recovery of preserved 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. Selected samples that were taken for artefact retrieval had the remaining volume of soil wet-sieved through a stack of 2mm, 5mm and 10mm sieves.
- C.3.3 The dried flots were scanned 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. 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.3.4 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:

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

C.3.5 Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal and molluscs have been scored for abundance

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

Key to tables:

U=untransformed, w=waterlogged, f=fragmented

## Results

C.3.6 Most of the samples were taken from peat deposits which contain plant remains that have been preserved through waterlogging (survival in an anoxic environment in which oxygen is excluded). The quality of preservation of waterlogged plant remains is variable; Samples from Trenches 2, 4, 5, 8, 17 and 20 are generally comprised of degraded, humic material whereas samples from Trenches 16, 29, 31 have better preservation and contain waterlogged seeds. Most of the plant taxa represented are wetland plants that are generally found growing in damp/wet soils such as sedges (*Carex* sp.), common reed (*Phragmites australis*), water mint (*Mentha aquatica*), cinquefoils (*Potentilla* sp.), rushes (*Juncus* sp.), lesser spearwort (*Ranunculus flammula*), spike-rush (*Eleocharis* sp.) and amphibious bistort (*Persicaria amphibia*). Tubers of marsh horsetail (*Equisetum palustre*) are present in two of the samples but their mode of preservation is unclear. The internal structure of the starchy tubers is pure white in colour which probably suggests that they are modern. Occasional seeds of dryland plants include thistles (*Carduus/Cirsium* sp.), goosefoots (*Chenopodium* sp.), elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*), nettles (*Urtica dioica*) and buttercups (*Ranunculus repens/bulbosus*). Samples from Trenches 29 and 31 also contain seeds of obligate aquatic plants such as horned pondweed (*Zannichellia pallustris*), water-crowfoot (*Ranunculus* subgenus *BATRACHIUM*), pondweed (*Potamogeton* sp.) and duckweed (*Lemna* sp.). Other aquatic organisms include charophytes (*Chara* sp.) and cladoceran ephippia.

C.3.7 A single cereal grain and a fragment of a legume have been preserved through carbonisation in Trench 5 and 28 but they are likely to be intrusive.

C.3.8 Molluscs have been preserved with good density and diversity in samples from Trenches 8, 16 and 20.

	9	84	85	16	25	28	30	89	52	111	90	160	161	146
Feature No.	-	-	-	-	24	27	29	-	51	108	-	158	158	140
Sample No.	1	9	10	2	3	4	5	12	8	16	11	14	15	17
Feature Type	Test pit	Peat layer	Peat layer	Test pit	Gully	Ditch	Ditch/pit	Test pit	Pit	Pit/pond	Peat layer	Ditch	Ditch	Ditch
Trench No.	2	2	4	5	8	16	16	17	20	28	29	31	31	31
Volume processed (L)	9	31	6	10	17	9	9	40	19	4	30	9	8	8
Volume of flot (mls)	80	20	75	300	70	350	100	210	100	95	280	80	10	130
Charred remains:														
<i>Triticum</i> sp. caryopsis										#				

Legumes 2-4mm					#f												
Dry land herbs																	
<i>Carduus/Cirsium</i> sp. achene	Thistles							#w									
Chenopodiaceae indet. seed	Goosefoot Family										#w				#u		
<i>Ranunculus</i> cf. <i>repens</i> L./ <i>bulbosus</i> L. achene	cf. Creeping/Bulbous Buttercup										#w	#w					
<i>Urtica dioica</i> L. seed	Common Nettle										#w						
<b>Wetland plants:</b>																	
<i>Carex</i> sp. achene	sedges						#w						#w		#w		
<i>Eleocharis</i> sp. achene	Spike rush													#w	#w		
<i>Equisetum palustre</i> L. tuber	marsh horsetail						#u								#u		
<i>Juncus</i> sp. seed	Rushes										#w						
<i>Mentha aquatica</i> L. seed	Water-mint							#w					#w		##w		
<i>Persicaria amhibia</i> (L.) Gray achene	Amphibious Bistort							#w									
<i>Potentilla</i> sp. Seed	Cinquefoils						#w	#w									
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i> L. achene	Lesser Spearwort												#w				
<b>Aquatic plants:</b>																	
<i>Lemna</i> sp. seed	Duckweed										#w			##w			
cf. <i>Phragmites</i> sp. Stem	Reeds		+		++		+++		+f	+	+		+++			+++	
<i>Potamogeton</i> sp. achene	Pondweed												#w				
<i>Ranunculus</i> subgenus <i>Batrachium</i> L. achene	Water-crowfoot												#w		#w		
<i>Zannichellia palustris</i> L. seed	horned pondweed												#w				
<b>Tree/shrub macrofossils:</b>																	
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> l. seed	Elder												#w				
<b>Other plant macrofossils:</b>																	
Charcoal <2mm						+				+							
Charcoal >2mm										+							
Waterlogged root/stem		+++	+++	+++	+++		+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
<b>Other remains:</b>																	
Molluscs		+		+			+++	+	++	+	+++		+	+	++		
<i>Chara</i> sp. Oogonia	Stoneworts						##w				##w		##w	##w	##w		
Cladoceran ephippia	Egg cases of water-fleas														#w		

Table 7: Environmental samples from ECB 5202

## Discussion

C.3.9 The environmental samples taken from this site indicate that there is good potential for the recovery of waterlogged plant remains which can provide information on the local environment. Pollen survival has not been assessed but is likely to be preserved in waterlogged deposits and has the potential to provide information on vegetation of a broader landscape. Molluscs are well preserved in the more calcareous deposits and also have potential for environmental reconstruction.

C.3.10 If further excavation is planned for this area, it is recommended that environmental sampling is carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines (2011).

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## APPENDIX E OASIS REPORT FORM

### Project Details

OASIS Number	Oxfordar3-293333		
Project Name	Land at the Horse Racing Forensic Laboratory, Newmarket Road, Fordham		
Start of Fieldwork	30/08/2017	End of Fieldwork	15/09/2017
Previous Work	No	Future Work	Unknown

### Project Reference Codes

Site Code	FORLAB17	Planning App. No.	Pre-application
HER Number	ECB5202	Related Numbers	-

Prompt	Development
Development Type	Business Park
Place in Planning Process	Pre-application

### Techniques used (tick all that apply)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography – interpretation	<input type="checkbox"/> Grab-sampling	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote Operated Vehicle Survey
<input type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photography - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Gravity-core	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sample Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording of Fabric/Structure
<input type="checkbox"/> Augering	<input type="checkbox"/> Measured Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Targeted Trenches
<input type="checkbox"/> Dendrochronological Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Metal Detectors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Test Pits
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Documentary Search	<input type="checkbox"/> Phosphate Survey	<input type="checkbox"/> Topographic Survey
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geophysical Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rectified Photography	

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Burial	Roman (43 to 410)	Iron pin	Uncertain
Ditch	Late Prehistoric ( - 4000 to 43)	Pottery	Late Prehistoric ( - 4000 to 43)
Ditch	Uncertain	Pottery	Roman (43-410)
Pit	Late Prehistoric ( - 4000 to 43)	Human bone	Late Prehistoric ( - 4000 to 43)
Pit	Uncertain	Animal bone	Late Prehistoric ( - 4000 to 43)
		Animal bone	Uncertain
		Worked flint	Late Prehistoric ( - 4000 to 43)

Insert more lines as appropriate.

### Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Address (including Postcode) Land east of Newmarket Road,
District	East Cambridge	
Parish	Fordham	

HER office	Cambs Historic Environment Record	Newmarket Road, Fordham, CB7 5WW
Size of Study Area	2260 sq m	
National Grid Ref	TL 6330 6874	

## Project Originators

Organisation	OA East
Project Brief Originator	Cambridgeshire County Council
Project Design Originator	Cambridgeshire County Council
Project Manager	Aileen Connor
Project Supervisor	Robin Webb

## Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	CCC Stores	ECB5202
Digital Archive	OA East	ECB5202
Paper Archive	CCC Stores	ECB5202

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Glass	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Human Remains	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leather	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Metal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Stratigraphic		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Survey		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Wood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Bone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worked Stone/Lithic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
None	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Digital Media

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Geophysics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Images (Digital photos)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Illustrations (Figures/Plates)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Moving Image	<input type="checkbox"/>
Spreadsheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Paper Media

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Context Sheets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Correspondence	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drawing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Manuscript	<input type="checkbox"/>
Map	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matrices	<input type="checkbox"/>



Text	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Microfiche	<input type="checkbox"/>
Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/>	Miscellaneous	<input type="checkbox"/>
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		Plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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		Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Further Comments



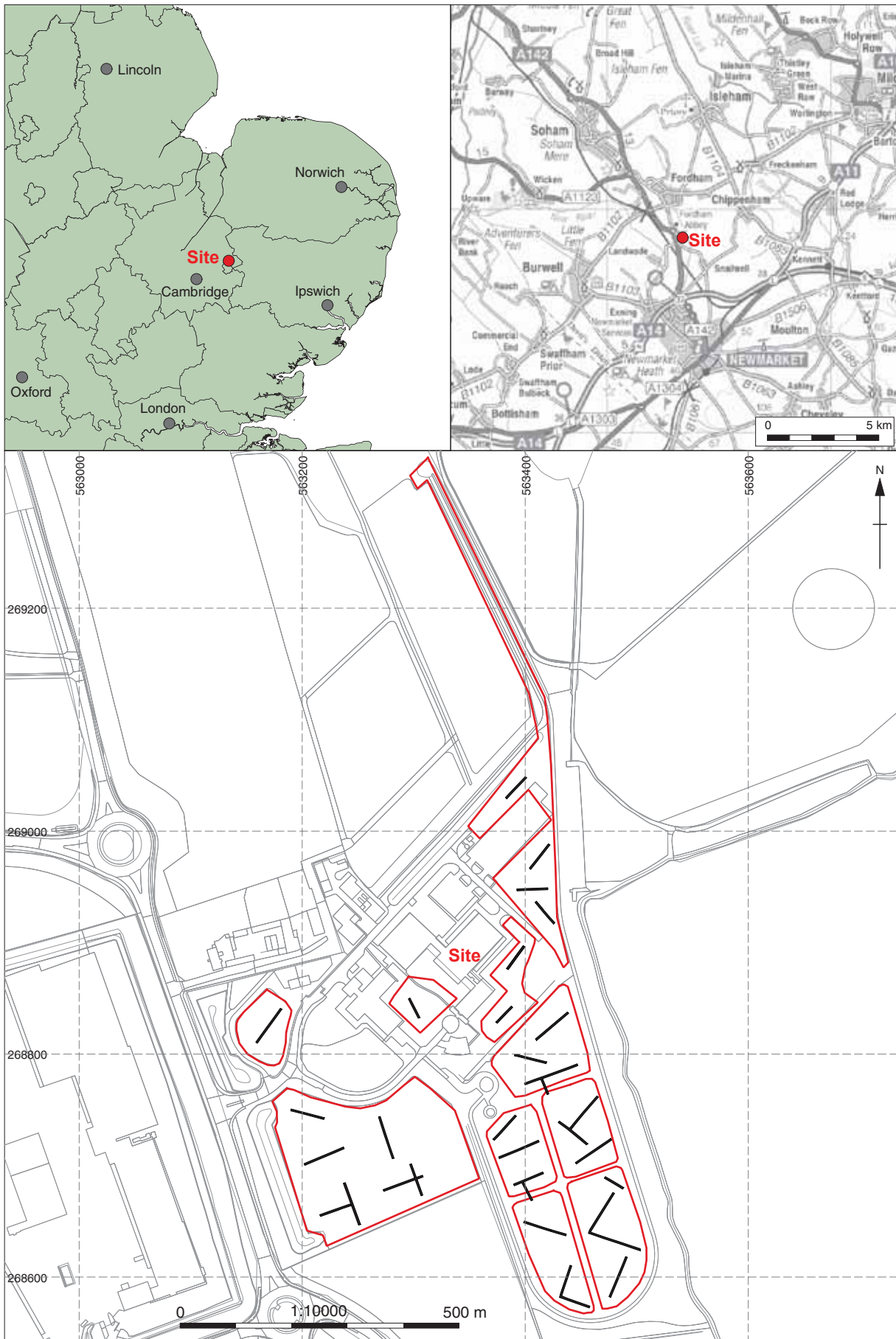


Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red)  
Scale 1:10000

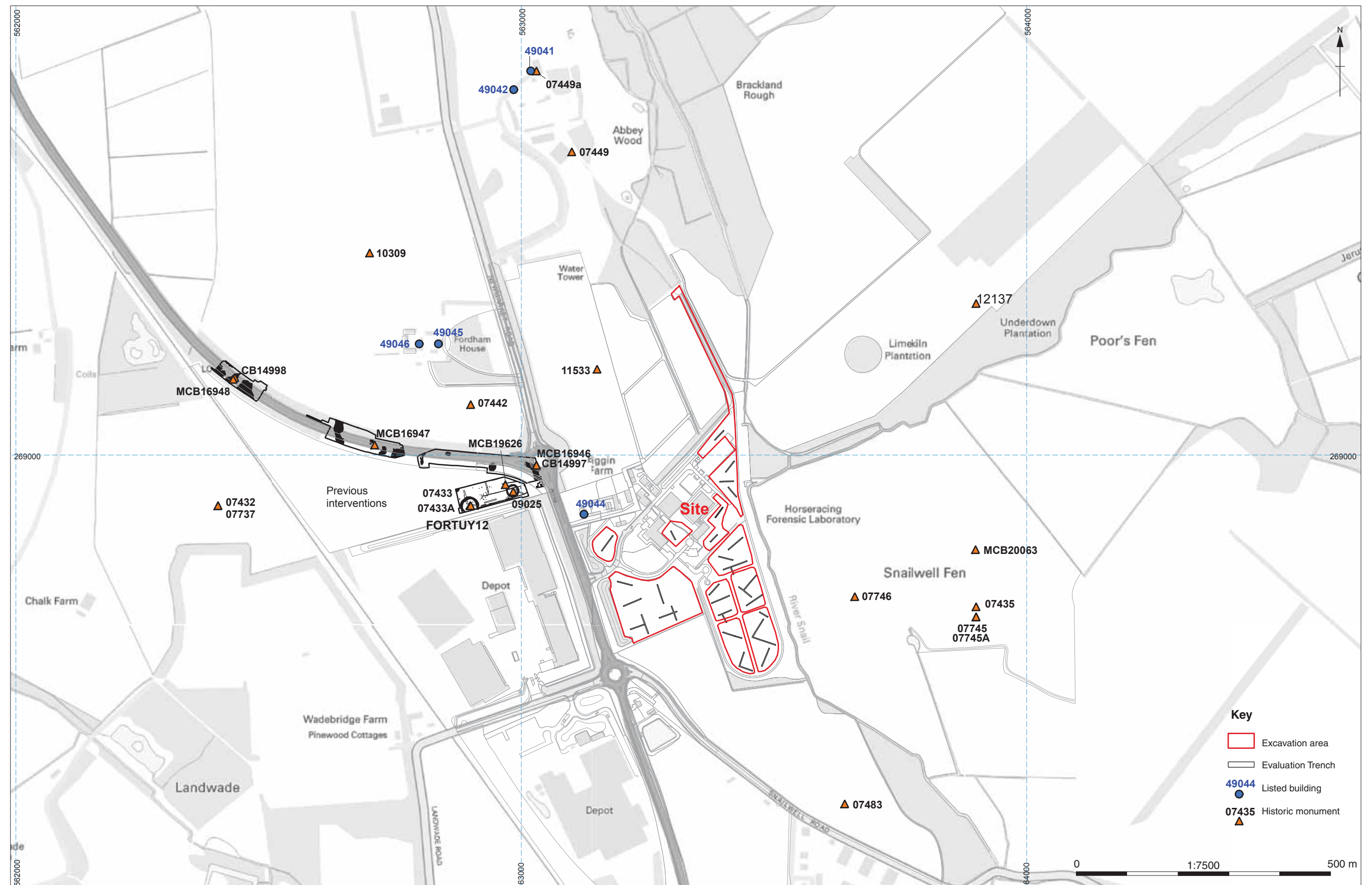
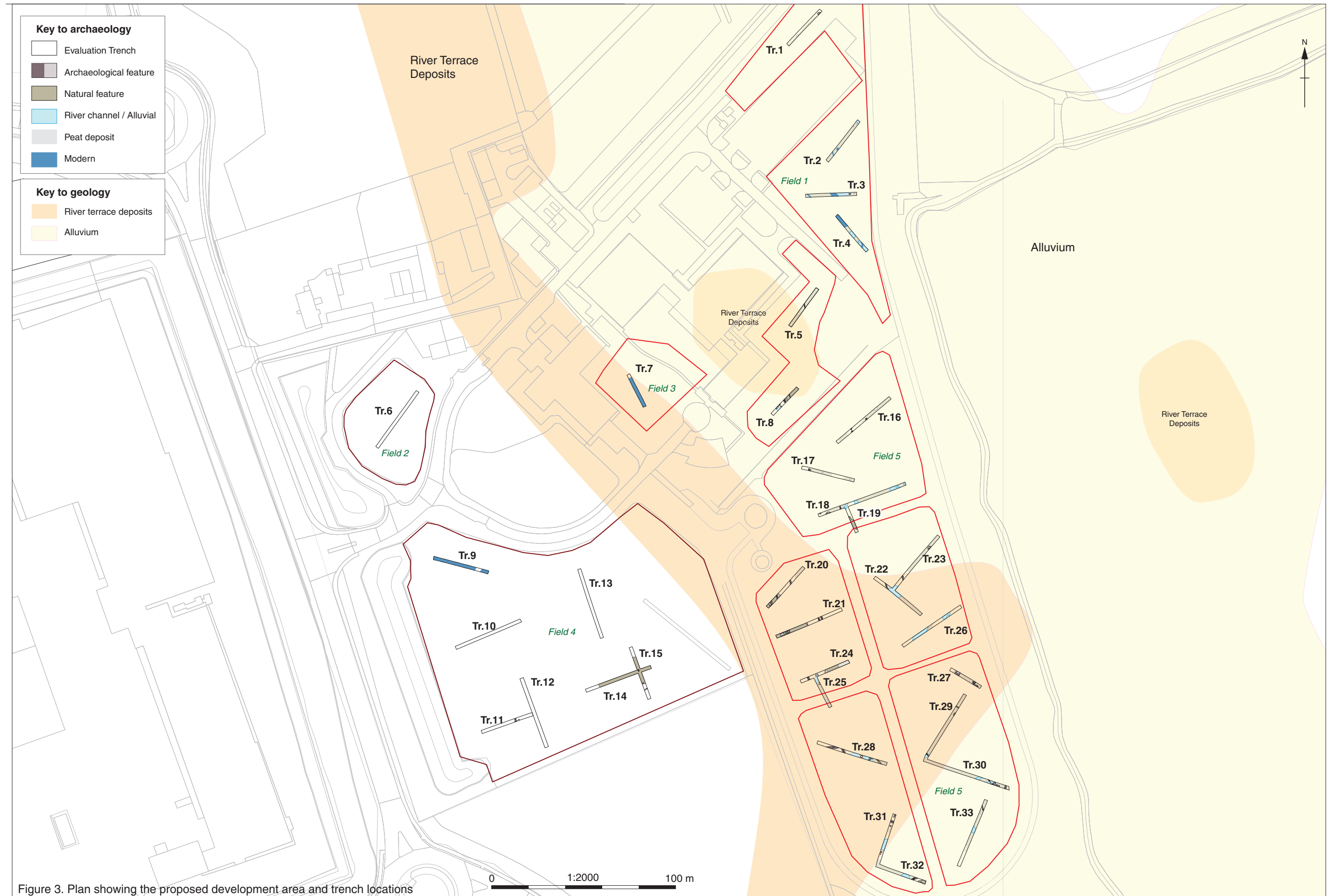


Figure 2: HER map showing previous interventions and current evaluation trenches. Scale 1:7500





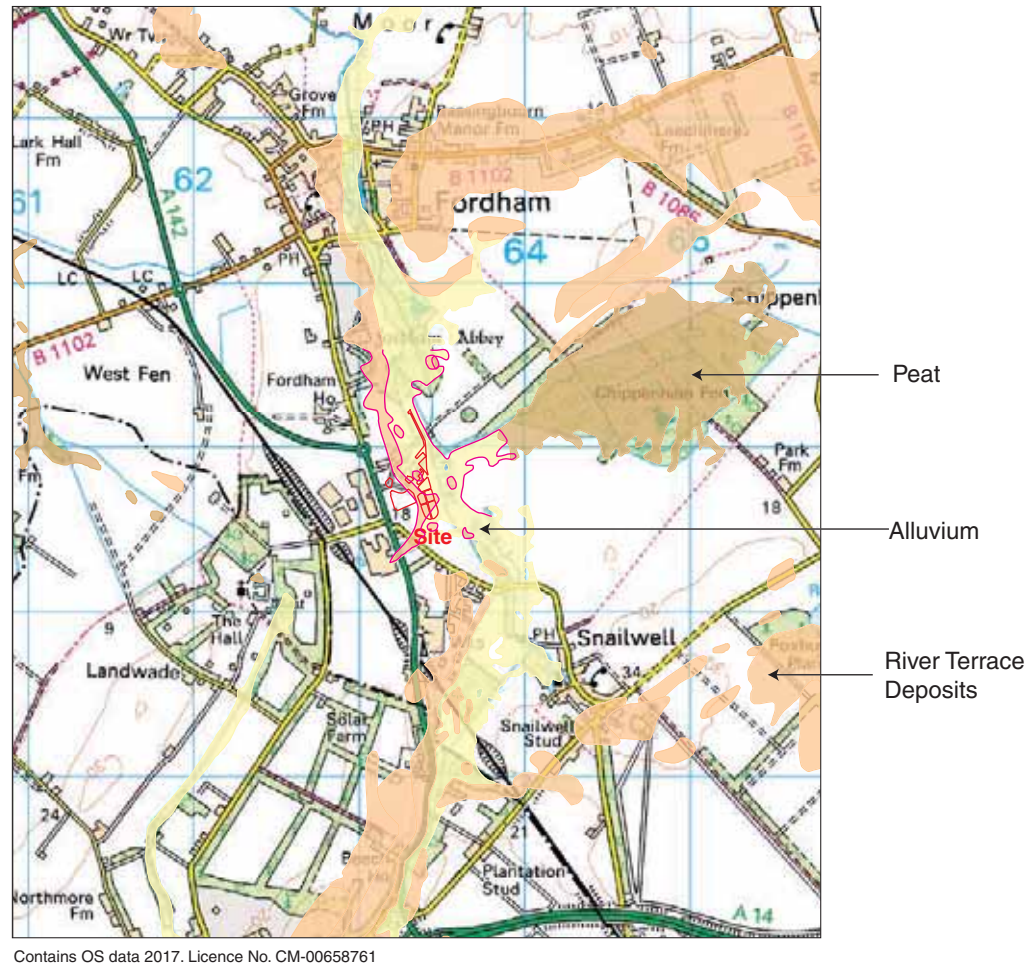


Figure 4: Geological mapping of the peats and river channels between Fordham and Snailwell







Figure 6: Plot of archaeological features with the geophysical results. Scale 1:2500

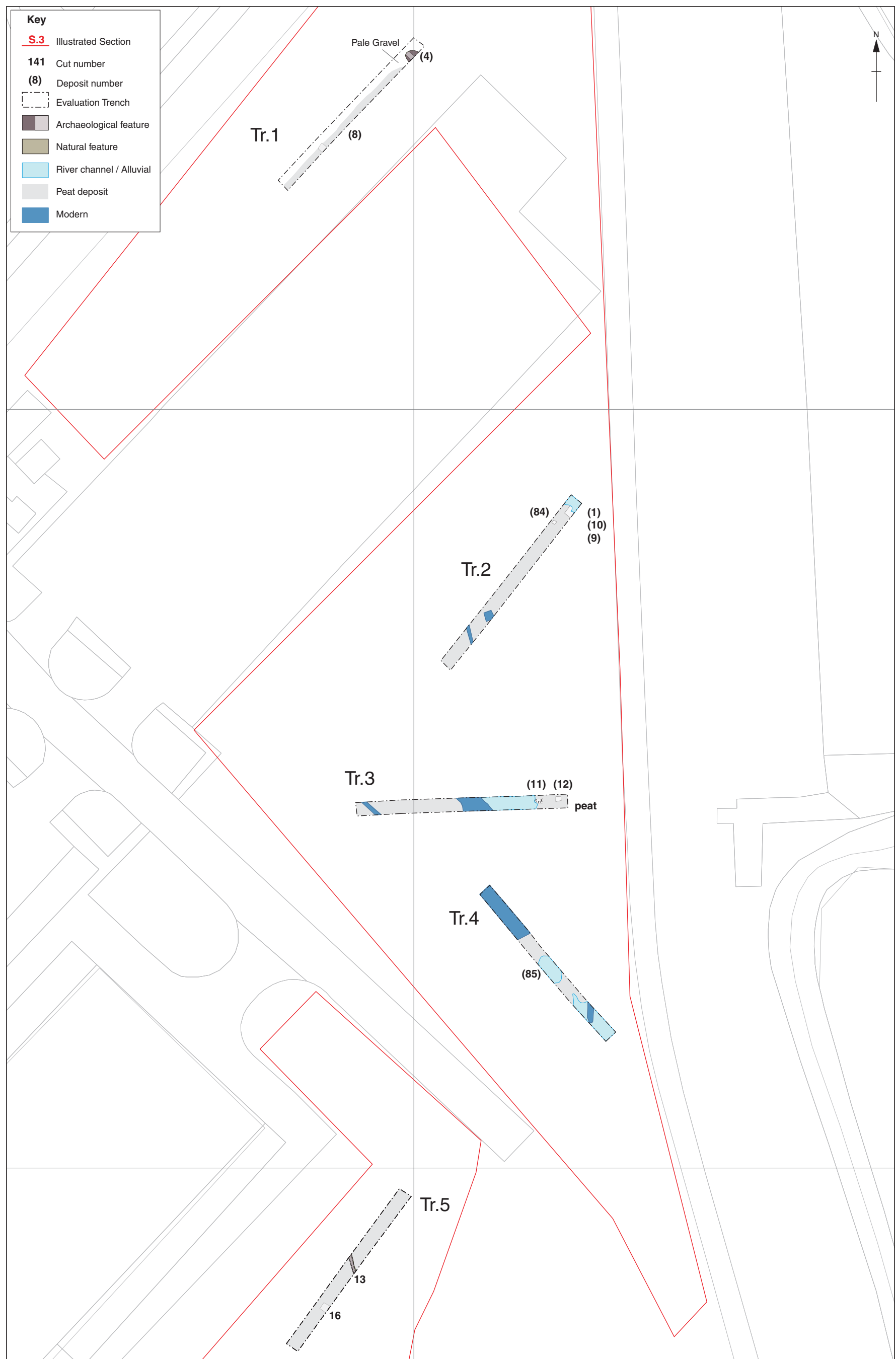


Figure 7: Plan of archaeological Trenches 1-5. Scale 1:500



Figure 8: Plan of archaeological Trenches 6-7. Scale 1:500

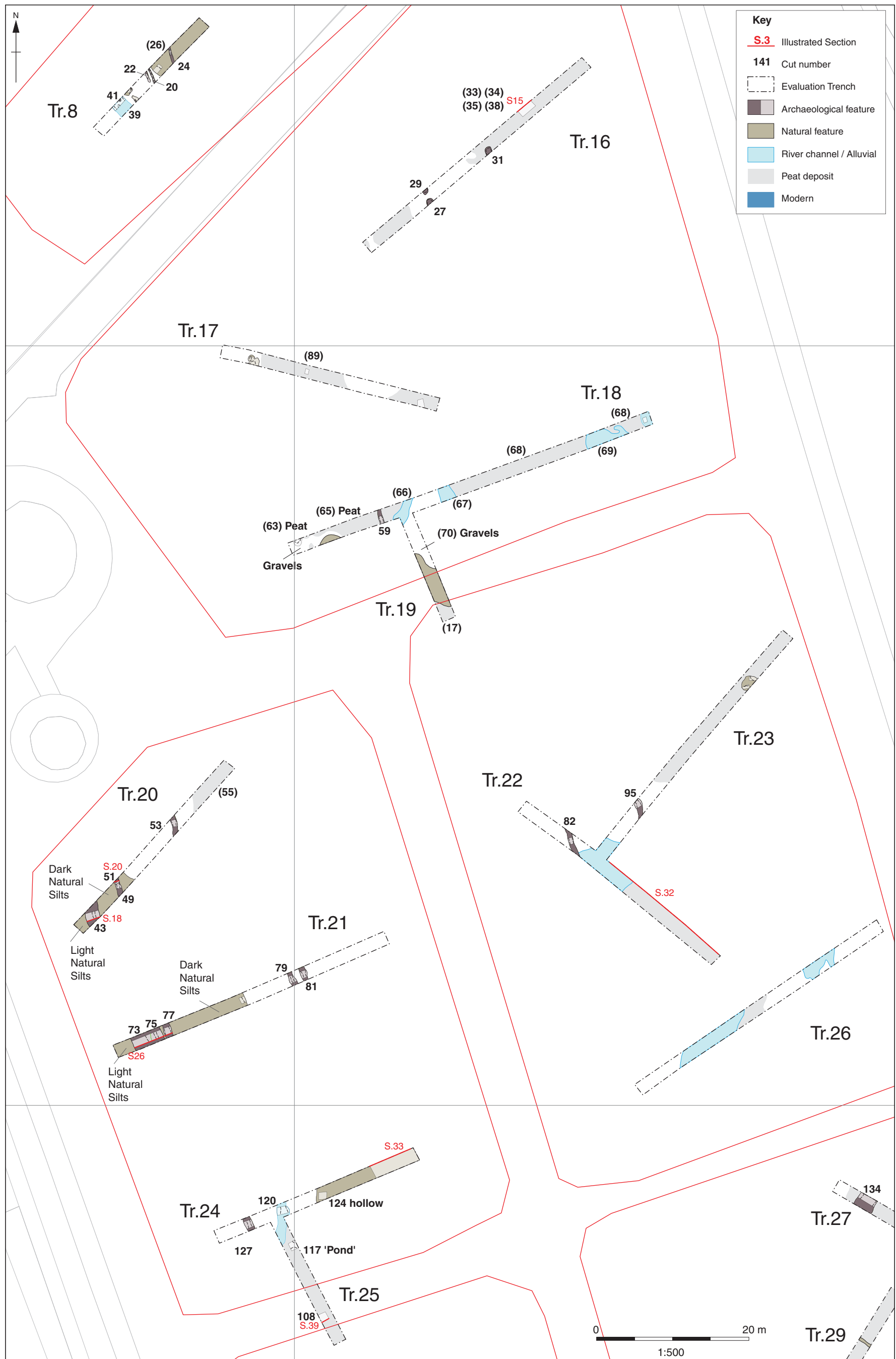


Figure 9: Plan of archaeological Trenches 8, 16-26. Scale 1:500



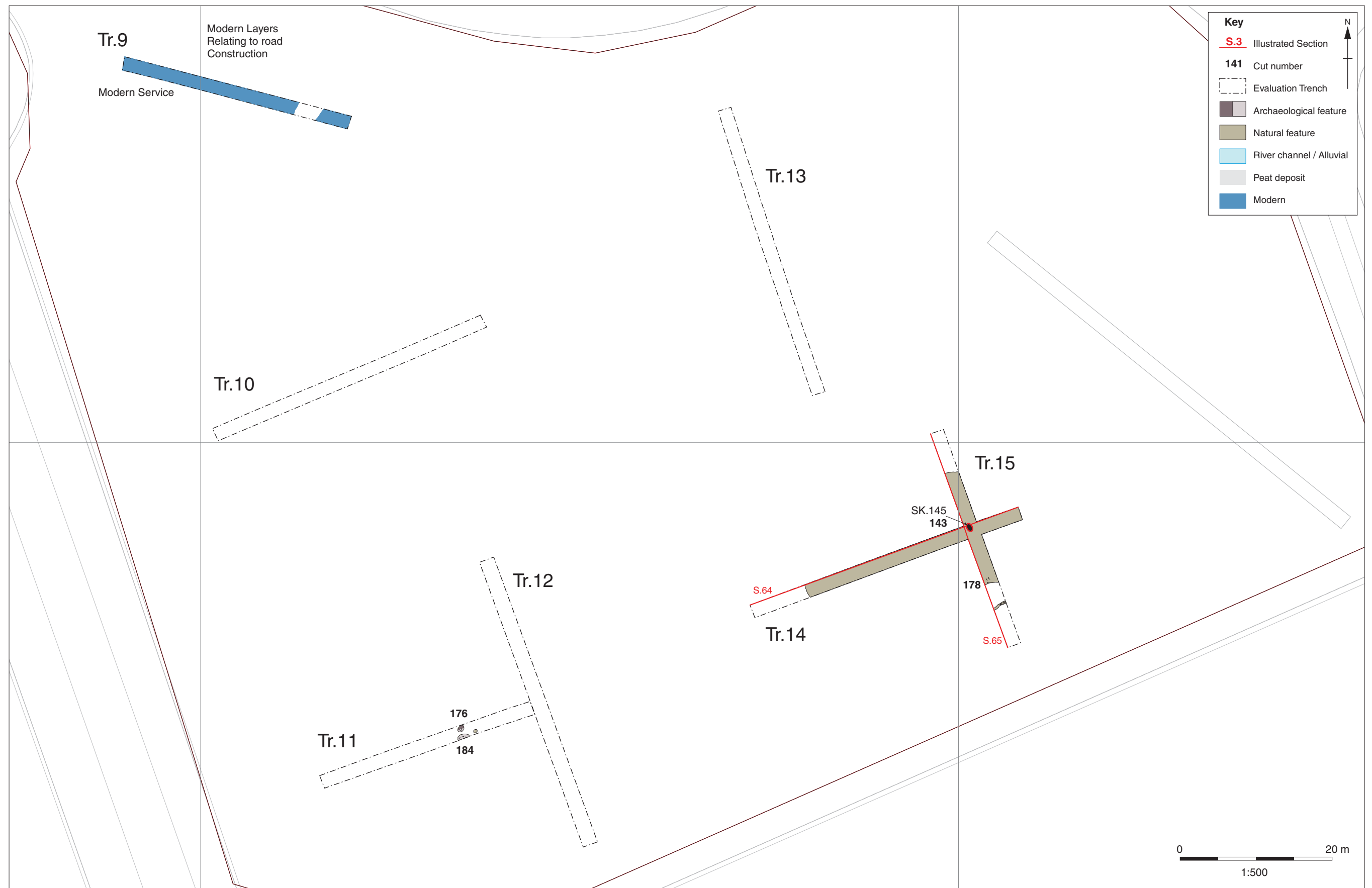


Figure 10: Plan of evaluation trenches 9-15. Scale 1:500

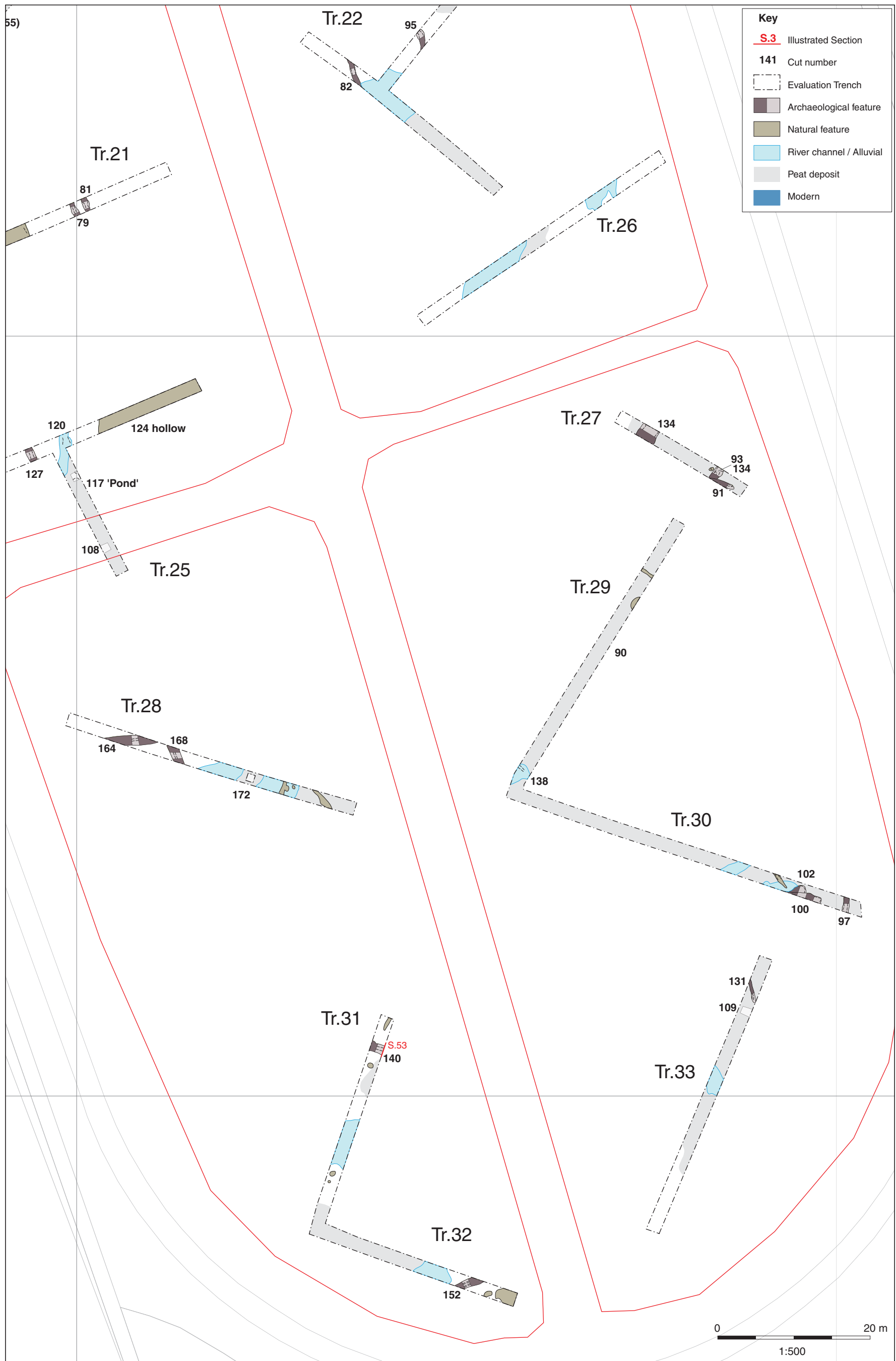


Figure 11: Plan of archaeological Trenches 27-33. Scale 1:500



Figure 12: Inhumation burial: Skeleton 145



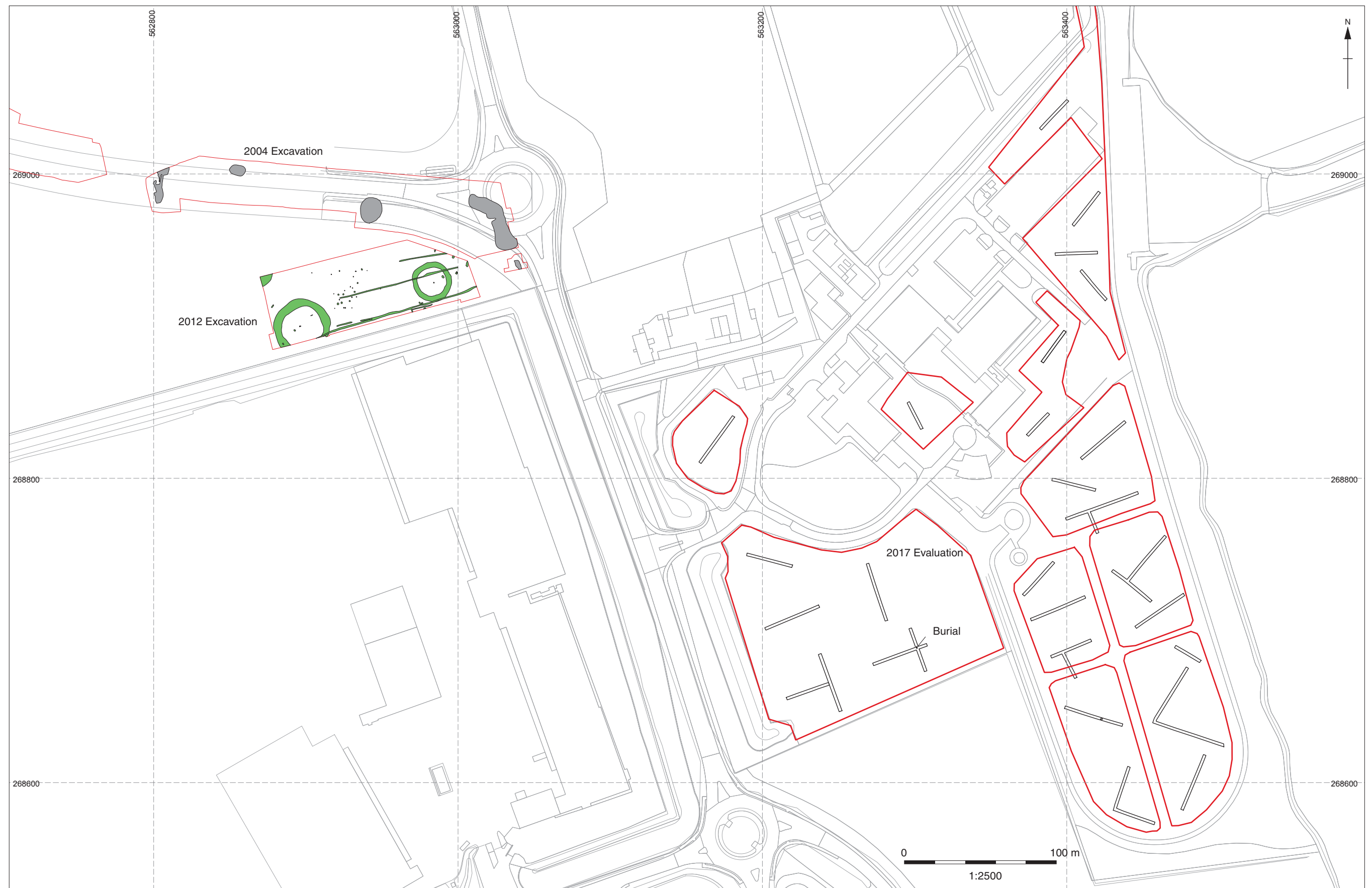


Figure 13: Previous Archaeological interventions. Scale 1:2500

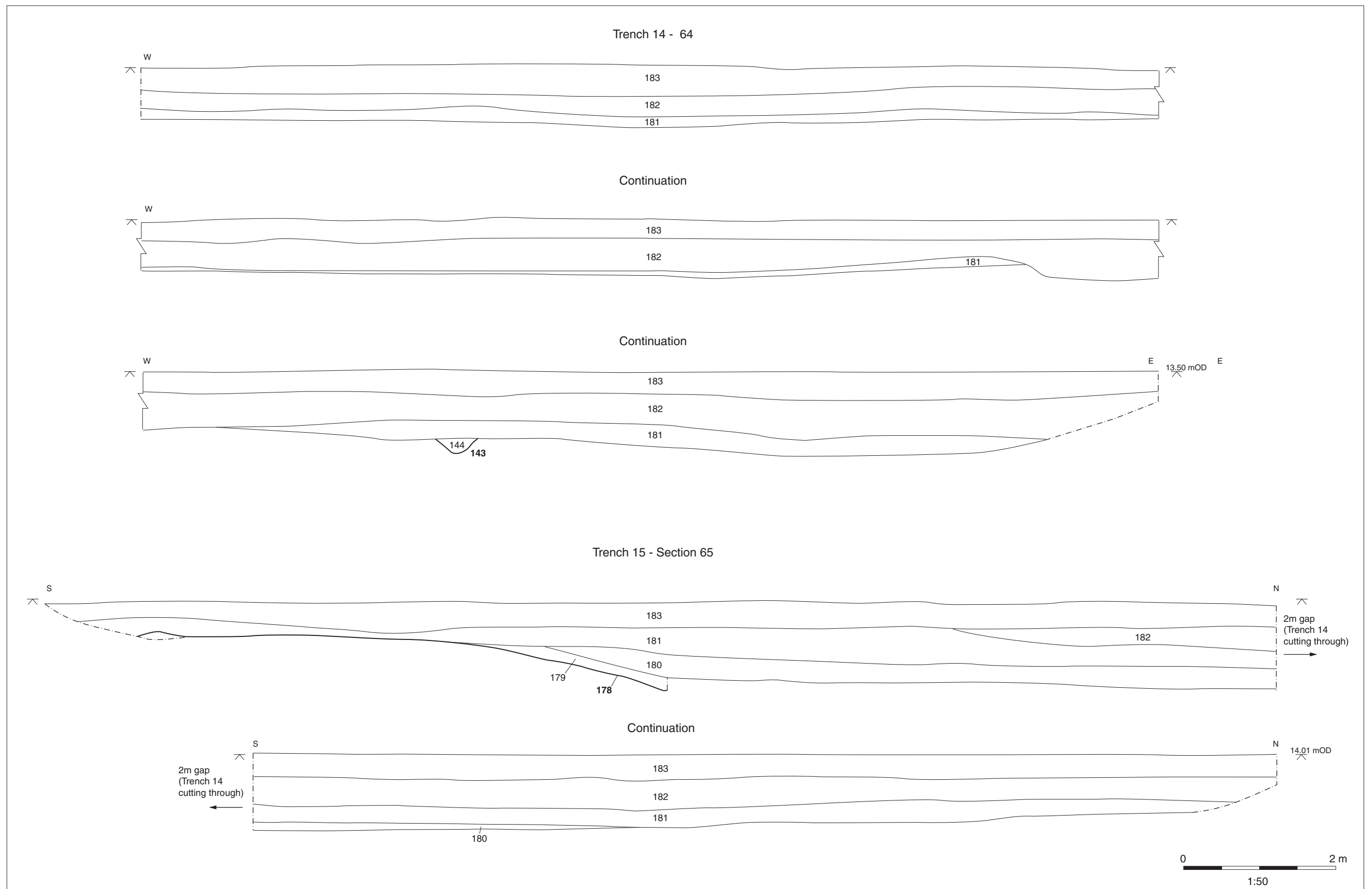


Figure 14a: Selected Sections

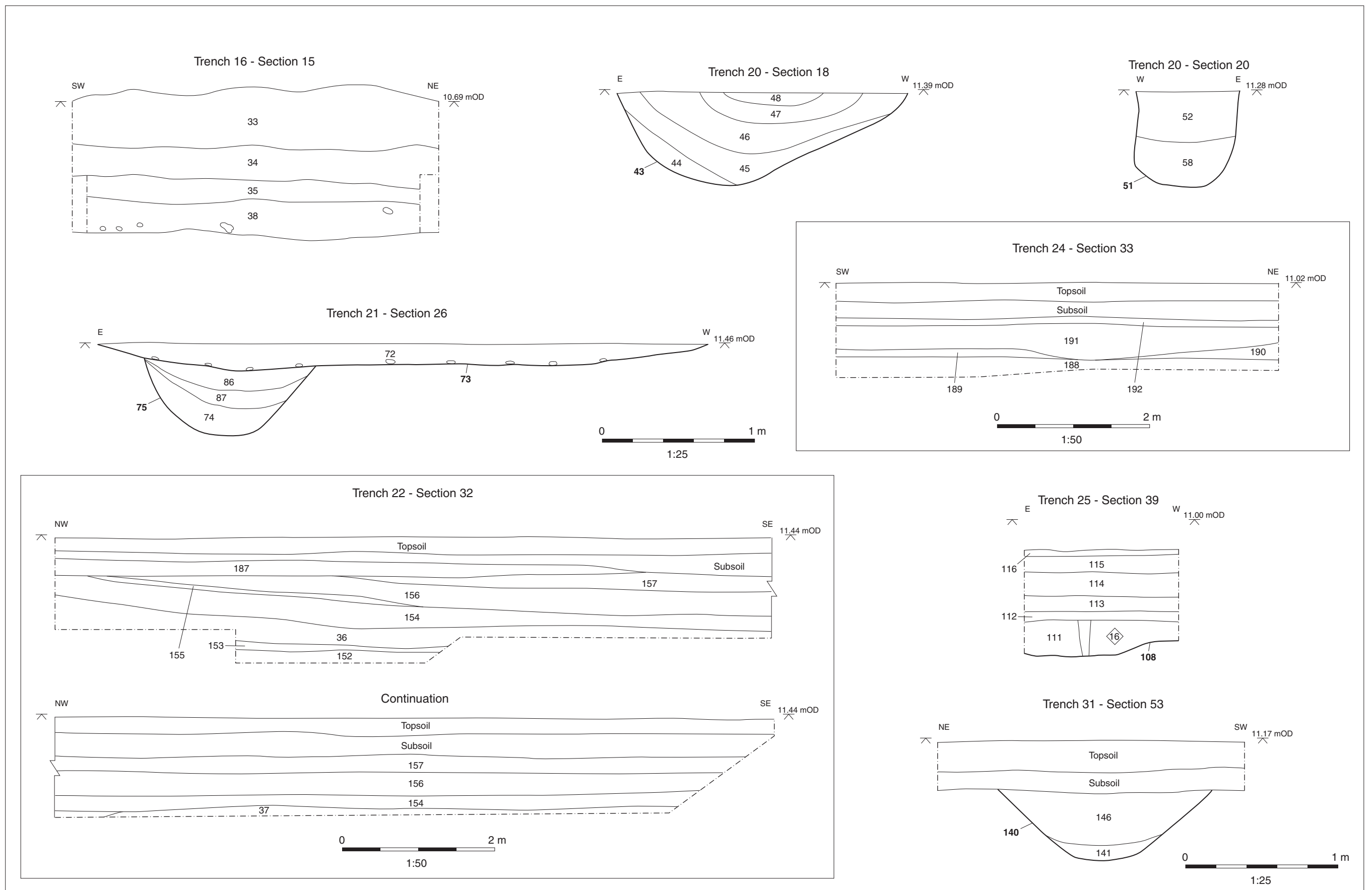


Figure 14b: Selected Sections



Plate 1: The peat and river channel in Trench 3, looking west



Plate 2: The peat deposits and modern service in Trench 4, looking north-west



Plate 3: The peat and sand layers in Trench 5, looking north-west





Plate 4: Skeleton 145, Trench 14, looking west



Plate 5: Hollow 178 into which burial 143 was cut, in Trench 15, looking north





Plate 6: The peat layers in Trench 16, looking north-west



Plate 7: Pit 31 in Trench 16, looking south-east





Plate 8: The edge of the peat showing the sands and gravel with the peat in Trench 18, looking north-east



Plate 9: Ditch 43 in Trench 20, looking south





Plate 10: Sand and gravel natural in Trench 21, looking south-west



Plate 11: Test pit in Trench 25 showing the peat deposits, looking south-east



Plate 12: Ditch **97** and pits **100** and **102** cutting through the peat deposits in Trench 30, looking north-west



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