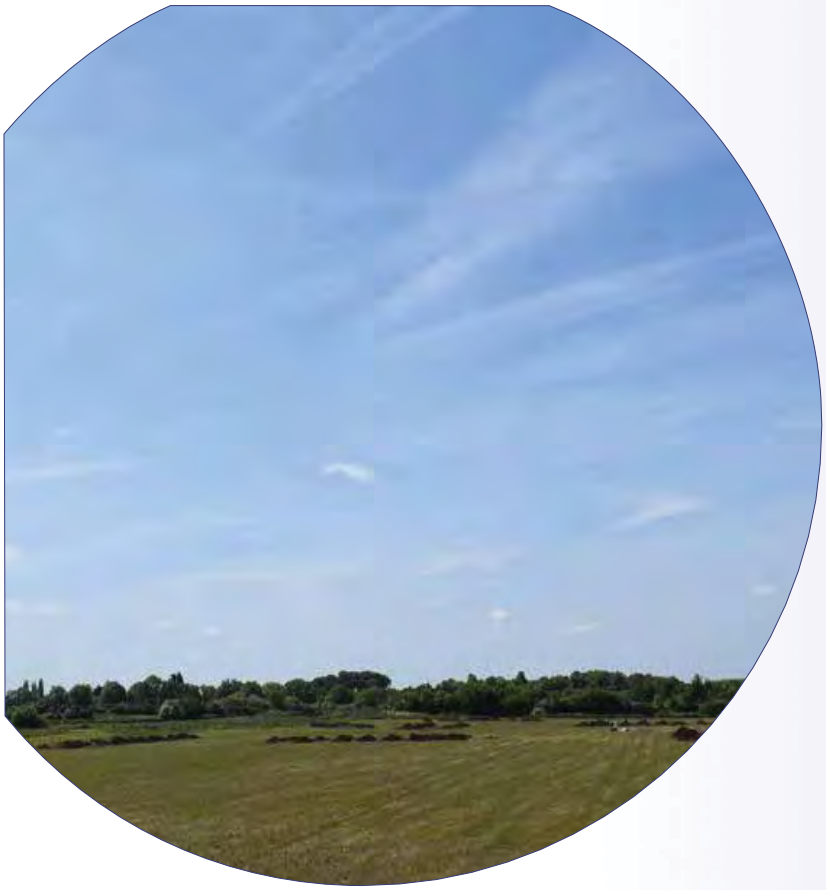

Plot 400, Great Haddon, Peterborough

Archaeological Evaluation Report

May 2018

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Plot 400, Great Haddon, Peterborough

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Between 14th and 18th May 2018, Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) undertook a 29-trench evaluation on land north of Haddon Road, Peterborough (TL 15007 93420) to aid in identifying the preservation and extent of any non-designated heritage assets within the development area for a new industrial warehouse unit, following on from a geophysical survey undertaken by Stratascan (Richardson 2016).

Archaeological features were present within two thirds of the trenches, the most significant of which were within the northern half of the area, where large enclosure ditches that were identified on the geophysical survey as relating to two distinct enclosures were also revealed in the trenches, along with features associated with activity within the enclosures. South of this Iron Age activity, a number of broadly north to south ditches were identified that, despite containing no dateable artefacts, are thought to represent a Romano-British field system, similar in form to bedding trenches regularly found within the eastern region.

The results of the evaluation indicate Middle to Late Iron Age settlement activity within the northern half of the development area, situated on a gravel outcrop, overlooking lower ground to the south and west. Trenching indicated that the geophysical survey results were relatively accurate, with the majority of larger features (such as the enclosure ditches) being found within the trenches where expected.

The finds assemblage from the trenching was relatively small, with 332g of predominantly Middle Iron Age pottery being recovered from features within the northern half of the site, along with 654g of animal bone, mostly cattle. Environmental sampling of features found that preservation of ecofacts was poor, with only one sample being productive, containing single charred grains of wheat and barley, along with seeds of henbane and duckweed.

Acknowledgements

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by James Drummond-Murray. The fieldwork was directed by the author, who was supported by Andrew Baldwin, Peter Dearlove, Matt Edwards and Katherine Whitehouse. Steve Critchley undertook a metal detector survey of all trench spoil and features. Survey and digitising was carried out by Sarita Louzolo and figures prepared by Charlotte Walton. This report was edited by Lawrence Billington.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) was commissioned by CgMs on behalf of Roxhill to undertake a trial trench evaluation at Plot 400, Great Haddon, Peterborough (TL 15007 93420; Fig. 1). A total of 29 trenches were excavated in a grid pattern, following on from a geophysical survey undertaken by Stratascan (Richardson 2016).

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission for the Great Haddon Development Area (planning ref. 10/00320/REM) and to inform the Planning Authority of any non-designated heritage assets within the proposed development area and aid in developing a mitigation strategy for any remains present. A Written Scheme of Investigation was set by CgMs (Bedford 2011) outlining the requirements and methodologies for work necessary to inform the planning process.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The subject site is located west of Yaxley and Hampton Hargate and east of Haddon, at the southern end of Peterborough. The field was bounded to the west by the A1M motorway and to the south by Haddon road. Directly east lies a public bridleway and to the north is the ongoing construction of industrial units.

1.2.2 The area of proposed development is approximately 6.75ha and currently consists of unused arable farmland that had turned to grassland. The north-eastern quadrant of the subject site is situated on gravel ridge sitting at approximately 26mOD, which gradually slopes south-westwards towards the modern A1M motorway, with the south-western corner of the area located at approximately 24mOD.

1.2.3 The subject site is situated on the edge of the Oxford Clay formation bedrock geology of the Cambridgeshire Fens, overlain by superficial deposits of River Terrace Gravels, the majority of which survive within the northern half of the development area as a ridge of higher ground (British Geological Survey Geology of Britain viewer: http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html, accessed 21/05/18).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site is discussed in the desk-based assessment (CgMs 2005) and a summary is detailed below. A more thorough description of Iron Age sites within the vicinity of the subject site is also included.

1.3.2 Evidence for Neolithic and Bronze Age activity in the study area is sparse and restricted to find spots of flint tools. These include a scraper and four flakes recovered during a field walking survey undertaken to the south of the site (PHER 51896, Newboult & Gregson, 2007). Several phases of work including fieldwalking and excavation on the site of the Late Iron Age and Roman farmstead/settlement at Haddon, c. 1km west of the Site (CHER 09748) recovered a small assemblage of around 250 struck flints, a proportion of which has been suggested to be of Early Bronze Age date (French 1994; Hinman 2003).

1.3.3 Evidence for Iron Age activity in the immediate study area has been revealed just north of the subject site, the other side of Alwalton Hill, where a Middle to Late Iron Age farmstead was excavated in 2014 (Stocks-Morgan 2018) as well as at Haddon, where a farmstead/settlement (CHER 09748) was established during the mid-1st century AD (Hinman 2003). Similarly, approximately 2km south of the subject site, and just outside of the study area proper, extensive evaluation trenching has revealed traces of at least four areas of Middle to Late Iron Age settlement between the modern A1(M) and the village of Yaxley (Ingham 2008; PHER 51898 & 51899).

1.3.4 Occupation at the Late Iron Age settlement at Haddon (CHER 09748) continued in the Roman period, where a large farmstead developed, continuing in use into the mid to late 4th century AD (Hinman 2003). A roman bathhouse and associated features was excavated in the early 1990s, a kilometre south west of the Site (Upex 1994; CHER 10384), and has since been suggested to have formed part of a small villa or high-status farmstead (Hinman 2003, 6).

1.3.5 This site also provides evidence for 5th to 6th century Saxon occupation within the study area, in the form of a possible timber post-built building on the site of the earlier Roman bath house together with a 6th century inhumation burial (Upex 1994).

1.3.6 There is no evidence for settlement from the medieval period onwards, with the land given over to arable farming evidenced by ridge and furrow seen in aerial photographs (Schofield & Williams, 2006). To the north-east of the subject site, a small assemblage of post-medieval tile, pottery and an iron stud were found during fieldwalking – probably representing material introduced through manuring of arable fields (CHER 51897).

Iron Age Sites within the vicinity

1.3.7 In the lower Nene Valley, Middle to Late Iron Age sites have been identified at Orton Longueville, Werrington, Yaxley and Fengate; specifically, Vicarage Farm and Cats Water.

1.3.8 The remains of a farmstead and associated occupation features were encountered at Orton Longueville, 2.5km to the north-east (Mackreth 2001). Werrington, 8km to the north, comprised a square enclosure, approximately 70m by 70m which contained a roundhouse and large penannular ditch (Mackreth 1988). The settlement at Broadway, Yaxley, located 3km to the south-east, consisted of a smaller square enclosure which contained a roundhouse and a possible metal-working area, with an outlying field system (Phillips 2014).

1.3.9 The site at Cats Water revealed remains of a significant farmstead, while at Vicarage Farm a smaller settlement mainly comprising ditches and pits was recorded (Pryor 1984).

1.4 Aims

1.4.1 The overall project aims and objectives were to establish the character, date and state of preservation of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area. In particular, the scheme of works aimed to:

- Assess the ground truth of the geophysical survey results.
- Establish the extent of any remains and their preservation.
- Identify any possible masking deposits overlying archaeological features.
- Set the results with their local, regional and national contexts.
- Provide enough information on any heritage assets within the proposed development area to aid in the construction of an archaeological mitigation strategy, dealing with the preservation and recording of features and the costs of any further works.

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

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

1.5 Methodology

1.5.1 A total of 28 30m and 1 15m trenches were excavated using a 14-tonne tracked 360°-type excavator with a 1.8m wide bladed ditching bucket. The trenches were excavated to a depth where natural geology or archaeological deposits were encountered. A total of 28 trenches were 30m long and 1.8m wide and one was 15m long and 1.8m wide, totalling a 2% sample of the subject site.

1.5.2 All archaeological features or deposits revealed were hand excavated, drawn and photographed, with 50% of discrete features and a 1m wide intervention in linear features being dug. All features were plotted using a Leica GS08 GPS with smartnet capabilities. Upon excavation some trenches were found to flood with groundwater, resulting in the features located under water not being excavated, but they were plotted (Trenches 15, 26, 27 and 28)

1.5.3 All archaeological deposits and topsoil were scanned with a metal detector and any finds retained except for those clearly modern in date. Environmental samples were taken for flotation processing in order to recover any charred or mineralised ecofacts (plant remains) and so assess their preservation quality.

1.5.4 Monitoring of geotechnical test pits excavated across the development area was also required, undertaken by a suitably experienced and qualified archaeologist.

2 RESULTS

2.1 Introduction and presentation of results

2.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below with stratigraphic descriptions of deposits by trench, focusing on those targeting the enclosure identified on the geophysical survey (Figs 2 & 3). Any trenches devoid of archaeological features are not described and a short summary of results for the southern half of the field is also included. Full dimensions of all trenches and deposits can be found in Appendix A.

2.2 General soils and ground conditions

2.2.1 The soil sequence between all trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology of Oxford Clay with superficial gravel deposits was overlain by a silty clay ploughsoil, with very little subsoil observed in any trenches. Colluvium (hill wash) was present at the base of the slope (Trench 28).

2.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, and most trenches remained dry throughout, apart from trenches near the base of the slope on the site (Trenches 15, 26, 27 and 28) which flooded with ground water. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

2.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

2.3.1 Archaeology was present in two thirds of trenches, with 10 (trenches 1, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19, 20, 23 and 29) being devoid of archaeological features. Features present within the northern trenches (Trenches 1 to 14) related to a pair of enclosures (hereafter referred to as the western or eastern enclosure: Fig. 4) and associated internal features (pits and ditches), the majority of which were identified during the geophysical survey (Fig. 2). This evaluation has identified these features to be of Mid/Late Iron Age date. A small number of other ditches were identified in the western trenches (2, 8 and 9) which related to a different, undated field system which extended into and across the southern half of the development area. Apart from the large enclosure ditches, the other features were all heavily truncated by modern agricultural practices, with the majority of the archaeological deposits being sealed by *c*. 0.35m of topsoil, with no subsoil present.

2.3.2 Within the southern half of the subject site (Fig. 3), on the lower ground, features located in the trenches (15 to 29) mostly appeared to relate to a possible Romano-British agricultural field system, not dissimilar in form to bedding rows often encountered on Roman sites throughout the eastern region, although these examples appear to be quite widely space and may represent some form of small water-meadow strip fields. The only features not associated with this field system were found in Trenches 8 and 22, which may be parts of a field system associated with the Iron Age enclosures. This slightly lower ground was relatively wet and trenches 15, 26, 27 and 28 were at least partially flooded with groundwater once opened, preventing the excavation of some features. Furthermore, at the base of the slope a relatively thick layer of colluvium (hill wash) was identified, measuring 0.4m at its thickest within Trench 28.

2.4 Trenches located over the Enclosures

2.4.1 These trenches were the most productive in archaeological terms (Figs 3 & 4), with moderate finds assemblages being recovered from the enclosure ditch where excavated (Trenches 5 and 14), as well as from features associated with the enclosures. Other features forming part of an undated field system were also identified (Trenches 2, 8 and 9).

Trench 2

2.4.2 This trench was located in the north-western corner of the subject site and a single ditch (**64**) was revealed within it on a north-east to south-west alignment and measuring 0.48m wide and 0.08m deep with a U-shaped profile. The sole fill (65) was a mid greyish brown silty clay that contained no finds.

Trench 3

2.4.3 East of Trench 2, this trench contained a pair of gullies and a pit (**40**, **42** and **44** respectively) within its northern half. No evidence for the large internal as was seen, possibly due to the geophysical results geo-referencing being slightly inaccurate.

2.4.4 The pair of gullies were on a north-east to south-west alignment and, although intercutting, had no visible relationships. The eastern-most of the two (**40**) was 0.26m wide and 0.08m deep with a U-shaped profile. its fill (41) was a mid brownish grey silty clay with rare charcoal inclusions that contained 19g of Middle Iron Age pottery. Gully **42** was 0.5m wide and 0.14m deep with a wide U-shaped profile. Its only fill (43) was a dark brownish grey silty clay with occasional charcoal inclusions.

2.4.5 To the north, pit **44** was 0.4m in diameter and 0.06m deep with a wide U-shaped profile, filled with a sterile mid brown silty clay (45).

Trench 4

2.4.6 Eastwards again, this trench contained a single very large ditch (**46**), also identified on the geophysical survey, which would have formed the eastern arm of a sub-square enclosure (Figs 2 & 3). A small sub-circular pit was also revealed within the trench and left unexcavated.

2.4.7 Ditch **46** (Fig. 5, S.11, Plate 1) was on a broadly north to south alignment and measured 6.45m wide. It was hand excavated to a depth of 0.41m, before being augered (due to water ingress) to a total depth of 0.79m. Slumping was evident on both edges of the ditch (47 and 48) which consisted of a 0.1m thick mid yellowish brown silt with a high gravel content, overlain by the main mid brownish grey silty clay fill of the ditch (49), which contained a small assemblage of Middle Iron Age pottery (21g) and cattle bone (22g).

Trench 5

2.4.8 This trench (Plate 5) was located across the north-western corner of the larger enclosure (Figs 2 & 3), and the ditch was revealed running through the length of the

trench for most of its 30m, again suggesting the geophysical survey was slightly misaligned.

2.4.9 The ditch (**66**; Fig. 5, S.16, Plate 3) was 3.24m wide and 0.97m deep with a U-shaped profile. Its lowest fill (67) was a light grey silty clay with occasional charcoal inclusions, 0.2m thick which contained cattle and sheep/goat bone (163g) along with Middle Iron Age pottery (107g) along with a single rim sherd of a Late Iron Age vessel (7g). The sample taken from the fill also contained a large number of duckweed seeds along with a number of ostracos; both evidence for standing water within the feature. Above this fill was a 0.57m thick band of mid brownish grey silty clay with rare charcoal and stone inclusions (68) that also contained Middle Iron Age pottery (70g) as well as hose and sheep/goat bone (163g). Finally, the upper fill was a dark grey silty clay with occasional stone inclusions, 0.2m thick.

Trench 6

2.4.10 This trench was located within the north-eastern quadrant of the eastern enclosure identified on the geophysical survey (Fig. 2) and contained two ditches (**6** & **3**), a subsoiling scar (**6**) and a pit (**1**), all of which were extremely truncated.

2.4.11 Starting from the western end of the trench, ditch **8** was on a north-north-west to south-south-east alignment and measured 0.7m wide and 0.16m deep with a wide U-shaped profile. Its sole fill (9) was a mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional stone and charcoal inclusions.

2.4.12 East of this was a on a subsoiling scar on an east-north-east to west-south-west alignment (**6**) which measured 1.2m wide and contained two V-shaped scars 0.18m deep. The fill (7) was a mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional stone inclusions. This feature was interpreted as being a modern sub-soiling scar.

2.4.13 Again to the east, ditch **3** was on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment, measuring 0.7m wide and 0.1m deep with a wide-shaped profile. Its lower fill (4) was a mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional stone inclusions, 0.1m thick. Overlying this was a mid brownish grey silty clay with occasional stone inclusions, which contained 10g of Middle Iron Age pottery. Pit **1** was located directly east of this ditch and measured at least 0.95m in diameter and was 0.07m deep. Its sole fill (2) was a mid brownish grey silty clay with occasional charcoal and stone inclusions.

Trench 7

2.4.14 This trench was located in the north-eastern corner of the development area (Fig. 3), and contained a ditch (**10**) and possible pit/tree throw (**12**).

2.4.15 Ditch **10** was located centrally within the trench and was on a broadly east to west alignment, most probably running off the eastern arm of the enclosure to the west, where it lines up well with a linear anomaly within the enclosure (Fig. 3). The ditch was 2.2m wide and 0.46m deep with a wide U-shaped profile. Its single fill (11) was a mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional stone inclusions and rare charcoal fragments. A small assemblage of cattle and sheep/goat bone (130g) and Middle Iron Age pottery (36g) was recovered from the fill.

2.4.16 Within the northern end of the trench, possible pit/tree throw **12** was sub-circular in plan, 0.82m in diameter and 0.17m deep with a wide U-shaped profile and filled with a mid brownish grey silty clay with occasional stone inclusions. No finds were recovered from the fill.

Trench 14

2.4.17 South of Trench 7, this trench contained a ditch on a north-east to south-west alignment (**30**) and three pits, one of which was excavated (**28**). The ditch (Plate 4) was 2m wide and 0.78m deep with a wide U-shaped profile. Its sole fill (31) was a mid blueish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal inclusions which contained two dog teeth (5g) and prehistoric pottery (3g). To the east, pit **28** was 0.57m in diameter and 0.16m deep with a U-shaped profile. Its backfill (29) was a mid brownish grey silty clay with rare stone inclusions.

Trench 13

2.4.18 Directly west of Trench 14, and located within the internal area of the eastern enclosure, this trench contained a ditch, pit and curvilinear gully (**16**, **18** and **14** respectively). Beginning at the northern end of the trench, ditch **14** was 0.7m wide and 0.24m deep with a U-shaped profile, infilled with a mid yellowish grey silty clay (15) that contained Middle Iron Age pottery (12g) and sheep/goat bone (5g). To the south, gully **16** was curvilinear in plan, and terminated at both end within the trench, suggesting it may not be a ring gully for a roundhouse. This gully was 0.7m wide and 0.16m deep with a wide U-shaped profile, infilled with a dark greyish brown silty clay (17) with charcoal inclusions, which contained cattle and pig bone (59g) and 50g of Middle Iron Age pottery. The environmental samples retrieved from the feature was the most productive from the evaluation, with single grains of charred barley and wheat along with a number of weed seeds present.

2.4.19 Finally, pit **18** was located at the southern end of the trench and interpreted as a firepit, measuring 1.2m in diameter and 0.24m deep. Its lower fill (19) was a very dark grey silty clay with common charcoal inclusions and a large quantity of burnt quartzite stones, overlain by a mid yellowish brown silty clay with regular stone inclusions (20).

Trench 12

2.4.20 Trench 12 was located west of Trench 13, and is worthy of mention despite being devoid of archaeological features. This trench was located between the geophysical anomalies forming the two enclosures and within the area of what appears to be a route leading northward (Fig. 3). No evidence for metalling or other form of track (*e.g.* a hollow way) was evident within the trench. This may be due to modern ploughing destroying this type of feature, which are often quite shallow.

Trench 9

2.4.21 To the west of the area of archaeological activity seen on the geophysical survey, Trench 9 was located over a geophysical anomaly thought to possibly represent part of a relict field system. The anomaly was not found within the trench, although three other ditches were identified (**34**, **36** and **38**). At the southern end of the trench, ditch

34 was on a broadly east to west alignment, measuring 0.8m wide and 0.4m deep with a flat base and near vertical sides. It was filled with a mid grey silty clay with rare flint inclusions and lenses of redeposited natural gravels.

2.4.22 In the northern half of the trench, ditch **36** was on a north to south alignment, measuring 0.7m wide and 0.2m deep with a U-shaped profile, infilled with a light grey silty clay (37). Despite containing no finds, it was thought on-site this ditch may relate to the Iron Age activity to the east.

2.4.23 Cutting over this ditch was ditch or furrow **38**. This feature was 1.6m wide and 0.2m deep with a wide U-shaped profile, filled with a dark brown silty clay (39) that contained no finds. This feature was different in form to any of the other linear feature on site, and may represent a surviving section of a furrow.

Trench 8

2.4.24 To the west, Trench 8 contained a pair of parallel ditch (**58** & **62**) spaced approximately 4m apart on an east-north-east to west-south-west alignment. The western-most (ditch **58**; Fig. 5, S.12) was 1.34m wide and 0.58m deep with a wide U-shaped profile. Its sole fill (59) was a mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional stone inclusions. The eastern ditch (**62**) was 0.87m wide and 0.24m deep with a flat base and near vertical sides, infilled with a mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional natural gravel lenses (63).

2.4.25 Between these two ditches was a further ditch on an east to west alignment (**60**), measuring 0.34m wide and 0.21m deep with a U-shaped profile. The infilling (61) was a mid greyish brown silty clay with rare stone inclusions.

2.4.26 Ditch **58** and **62** appear to relate to the wider field system of possible Roman date; although ditch **58** is different in form than the others and may represent the northern-most boundary for the field system of possible bedding trenches (see below).

2.5 Trenches in the Southern Half of the Site

2.5.1 These trenches (15 to 29) contained features with limited archaeological potential. Ditches forming part of a large field system on a broadly north-north-west to south-south-east/east-north-east to west-south-west axis were identified within trenches 21, 22, 26, 27 and 28. Two of the ditches within Trench 8 (**58** & **62**) in the northern half of the area also most probably relate to this field system.

2.5.2 These ditches were all flat based with near vertical sides and clearly backfilled relatively quickly once originally dug. Full dimensions for each ditch can be found in Appendix A. None of the features contained any artefacts to aid in their dating.

2.5.3 Trench 29 was found to be located over an area heavily disturbed by modern construction activity, and machine excavation was halted after 15m as the modern disturbance was over 1m in depth and contained large quantities of building rubble (concrete *etc*.).

2.5.4 Other ditches not related to this field system were identified (Trench 22 and 24) and are described below.

Trench 22

2.5.5 This trench contained a ditch identified as possibly Iron Age in date (**21**), cut by a pair of ditches forming part of the wider field system identified in the southern half of the site (**24** & **26**).

2.5.6 Ditch **21** (Plate 5) was on a broadly north to south alignment and measured 0.88m wide and 0.27m deep with a wide U-shaped profile. Its lower fill (22) was a light grey silty clay with rare charcoal inclusions, 0.23m thick, overlain by a dark grey silty clay (23) rich in manganese, indicating a water-lain deposition.

2.5.7 Ditches **24** and **26** (Plate 6) were contemporary and infilled at the same time, forming the intersection of two ditches that were part of the wider field system within the area. Ditch **24** was aligned east-north-east to west-south-west, 0.7m wide and 0.25m deep with a flat base and near vertical sides, filled with a mid brown silty clay with rare flint inclusions (25). Ditch **26** was perpendicular to **24**, on a north-north-west to south-south-east alignment. This ditch measured 0.7m wide and 0.25m deep with a flat base and near vertical sides, also infilled with mid brown silty clay with rare flint inclusions (27).

Trench 24

2.5.8 To the east, Trench 24 contained two ditches, one of which was excavated (**70**). This ditch was on a broadly east to west alignment, measuring 1m wide and 0.3m deep with a wide U-shaped profile, infilled with a sterile light yellowish brown silty clay (71).

2.6 Monitoring of Geotechnical Test Pits

2.6.1 A total of seven geotechnical test pits were excavated across the development area, which were monitored by a qualified archaeologist. No deposits of archaeological merit were revealed during their excavation.

2.7 Further Mitigation

2.7.1 Further mitigation to excavate and record the heritage assets within the development area was agreed whilst on-site during monitoring with the Peterborough City Council Historic Environment Team and the proposed excavation area is highlighted on Fig. 1.

2.8 Finds & Environmental summary

2.8.1 The artefacts assemblage from the evaluation was very small, with only 332g of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery being recovered (Appendix B.1) along with 654g of animal bone (Appendix C.2), predominantly cattle, although horse, sheep/goat, pig and dog remains were also present. No other finds were recovered, with metal detecting of all spoil and features producing no objects of archaeological merit.

2.8.2 The environmental samples (Appendix C.1) were similarly poor, with only a single sample (sample 1, ditch **16**, Trench 13) which contained charred grains of wheat and barley along with varying weed seed varieties. Other samples contained duckweed seeds and were particularly abundant in ditch **66**, Trench 5.

3 DISCUSSION

3.1 Reliability of field investigation

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation can be considered reliable; the horizon between the geology and topsoil or subsoil was clear within all trenches, whilst the dark silty fills of the archaeological features contrasted well with the blue clay and orange gravel geology. Water ingress into certain trenches was a moderate issue, with standing being within the trenches at the southern end of the subject site.

3.2 Evaluation objectives and results

3.2.1 The evaluation was successful in establishing the extent of non-designated archaeological remains within the development area; confirming the presence of a concentrated area of features within the north-eastern to central part of the site which clearly related to a pair of enclosures of Middle to Late Iron Age date. Similarly, the results have revealed a wider field system in the southern half of the area of probable Early Romano-British date. Overall the evaluation provides enough information on the heritage assets within the development area to aid in the construction of a mitigation strategy dealing with the preservation by record of the enclosures and associated features (Fig. 1; proposed excavation area)

Ground Truth of Geophysical Results

3.2.2 The results of the geophysics were relatively accurate, with most features identified on it also identified within the trenches. The plotting of the survey may have been slightly less accurate than thought however, with certain features appearing in different parts of the trenches than expected or not seen at all, possibly due to the trenches just missing them.

3.2.3 Of particular note is the large anomaly identified within the centre of the western enclosure (Figs 2 & 3) – Trench 3 was located just to the west of it and was meant to overlie the anomaly at the trench's southern end. No evidence for what was causing the anomaly was revealed within the trench however, so its form is still unknown, although due to the truncation by ploughing across site, it can be surmised the anomaly was not caused by any deposits of stone, which would not have survived ploughing for such a long period.

3.3 Interpretation

A Middle to Late Iron Age farmstead?

3.3.1 The results of the geophysical survey and evaluation have demonstrated the presence of two enclosures and a possible trackway running between them (Figs 2 & 3). Originally, a Romano-British date for the remains was postulated, due to their form being quite typical of ladder enclosures of the period. The evaluation phase however has identified all the features related to the enclosures to be of Middle to Late Iron Age date, with a moderate assemblage of shell-tempered pottery being recovered from many of the features. Iron Age activity within the area is well attested to, with remains of a farmstead and associated occupation features being encountered at

Orton Longueville, 2.5km to the north-east (Mackreth 2001) and a relatively large Iron Age into Early Roman settlement being excavated at Yaxley, *c*. 3km south-east (Phillips 2014). Furthermore, just 1km north of the subject site, within the same development ('The Employment Area'), a Middle to Late Iron Age settlement was revealed during excavations by OA East in 2014 (Stocks-Morgan 2018).

3.3.2 The features within the subject site would appear to be contemporary with the activity seen on the Employment Area excavation (*ibid*.) although the artefact assemblages recovered from features during evaluation would suggest limited occupation activity within the vicinity – there was simply too little material recovered from the features. For example, 11049g of Middle to Late Iron Age pottery was recovered from 70 contexts during the 2014 excavation to the north (*ibid*. p. 24) whilst this evaluation has only produced 332g of pottery from 10 contexts. This may purely be due to where features were excavated during the evaluation, possibly being 'cleaner' in their infilling in these locations than may be the case along other lengths of the ditches. Further mitigation will enable greater interpretation of the enclosure's function and if settlement activity is located in the vicinity.

3.3.3 The internal features identified within the enclosure were all heavily truncated by modern ploughing, with most not surviving to a depth greater than 0.2m. Within the eastern enclosure, one feature was thought to represent the truncated remains of a roundhouse gully (feature **16**, Trench 13) and one pit was identified as a firepit (pit **18**, Trench 13). Within the western enclosure, a pair of gullies (**40** & **42**, Trench 3) may represent another ring gully, although they appeared quite linear in form within the trench.

A prehistoric precursor to Ermine Street

3.3.4 The geophysical results clearly show some form of route or track leading through the site, with the two enclosures located either side of it. No evidence for a track of hollow-way was revealed during the evaluation, but evidence for this may become apparent during any further mitigation works. The identification of this route is of importance however, and may well be indicative of an Iron Age (if not earlier) precursor to the Roman Ermine Street, located directly west of the subject site.

A Romano-British Field System

3.3.5 Within the western and southern half of the development area, a number of ditches/trenches were identified that all have flat bases and near vertical sides, and infilled with material which suggested a very quick backfilling of the features after their original excavation (seen in trenches 8, 9, 15, 18, 21, 22, 26, 27 & 28). The form of this field system is very similar to numerous other Early Romano-British field systems that have been revealed across the eastern region of the past 10 to 15 years, with regular rows of trenches/ditches being recorded, with square profiles and evidence for quick infillings. Interpretation of these features is often difficult, as they rarely have any dateable artefacts and environmental remains are extremely rare. The current consensus on the features is that they could be for the viticulture. They are often found on the lower ground within the hinterlands of settlements, often utilising the land that is not of use for arable or pastoral farming. Examples of these types of field system

have recently been found at Ely (Moan 2017), South Cambridge (Phillips 2015) and along the route of the new A14 (Mortimer pers. comm.).

3.3.6 The examples found on the subject site appear to differ from these comparable field systems to some degree however, with wider spacing between the ditches, and clearly some ditches converging, apparently forming a more regular rectilinear field system than would be expected. The fields are located off the gravel ridge however, on ground that was (and still is) quick wet and would flood seasonally. It could well be that these ditches form part of a system of strip fields within the wetter ground – possibly in use as water meadow.

3.4 Conclusion

3.4.1 The results of the evaluation have aided in the interpretation of the non-designated heritage assets identified through the geophysical survey, with a Middle to Late Iron Age date being confirmed for the enclosures through the pottery assemblage, and internal features being suggestive of settlement activity, despite the lack of cultural material recovered from them. The other features within the development area are less well dated, principally the field system located in the southern and western half. A Romano-British date for the system is probable however, with similar examples known throughout the region. Further mitigation works would hopefully aid in the dating of the features through stratigraphic analysis.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil (0.4m) overlying natural geology of clay & gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	WNW-ESE
Trench contained one ditch. Consists of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.17m) overlying natural geology of clay & gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.47
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
64	Cut	0.48	0.08	Ditch	-	-
65	Fill	-	0.08	Ditch	-	-
Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	NNE-SSW
Trench contained two ditches and a gully. Consists of topsoil (0.34m) and subsoil (0.1m) overlying natural geology of clay and gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
40	Cut	0.26	0.08	Gully	-	-
41	Fill	-	0.08	Gully	pottery	M/LIA
42	Cut	0.5	0.14	Ditch	-	-
43	Fill	-	0.14	Ditch	-	-
44	Cut	0.4	0.06	Ditch	-	-
45	Fill	-	0.06	Ditch	Animal bone	-
Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	WNW-ESE
Trench contained one ditch. Consists of topsoil (0.29m) overlying natural geology of clay and gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.29
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
46	Cut	6.45	0.79	Ditch	-	-
47	Fill	-	0.1	Ditch	-	-
48	Fill	-	0.09	Ditch	-	-
49	Fill	-	0.79	Ditch	Pottery & animal bone	M/LIA
Trench 5						
General description					**Orientation**	NNE-SSW
Trench contained one ditch. Consists of topsoil (0.29m) overlying natural geology of clay and gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.29
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**

66	Cut	2.2	0.97	Ditch	-	-
67	Fill	-	0.2	Ditch	Pottery & animal bone	M/LIA
68	Fill	-	0.57	Ditch	Pottery & animal bone	M/LIA
69	Fill	-	0.2	Ditch	-	-
Trench 6						
General description					**Orientation**	WNW-ESE
Trench contained three ditches and a pit. Consists of topsoil (0.43m) overlying natural geology of clay and gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.43
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1	Cut	0.95	0.07	Pit	-	-
2	Fill	-	0.07	Pit	-	-
3	Cut	0.7	0.1	Ditch	-	-
4	Fill	-	0.1	Ditch	Pottery	MIA
5	Fill	-	0.07	Ditch	Pottery	MIA
6	Cut	1.2	0.18	Ditch	-	-
7	Fill	-	0.18	Ditch	-	-
8	Cut	0.7	0.16	Ditch	-	-
9	Fill	-	0.16	Ditch	-	-
Trench 7						
General description					**Orientation**	NNE-SSW
Trench contained a ditch and possible pit. Consists of topsoil (0.33m) and subsoil (0.09m) overlying natural geology of clay and gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.42
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
10	Cut	2.2	0.46	Ditch	-	-
11	Fill	-	0.46	Ditch	Pottery & animal bone	MIA
12	Cut	0.82	0.17	Pit	-	-
13	Fill	-	0.17	Pit	-	-
Trench 8						
General description					**Orientation**	WNW-ESE
Trench contained three ditches. Consists of topsoil (0.4m) and subsoil (0.07m) overlying natural geology of clay and gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.47
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
58	Cut	1.34	0.58	Ditch	-	-
59	Fill	-	0.58	Ditch	-	-
60	Cut	0.34	0.21	Ditch	-	-
61	Fill	-	0.21	Ditch	-	-
62	Cut	0.87	0.24	Ditch	-	-
63	Fill	-	0.24	Ditch	-	-

Trench 9						
General description					**Orientation**	NNE-SSW
Trench contained two ditches and a possible furrow. Consists of topsoil (0.31m) overlying natural geology of clay and gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
34	Cut	0.8	0.4	Ditch	-	-
35	Fill	-	0.4	Ditch	-	-
36	Cut	0.7	0.2	Ditch	-	-
37	Fill	-	0.2	Ditch	-	-
38	Cut	1.6	0.2	?Furrow	-	-
39	Fill	-	0.2	?Furrow	-	-
Trench 10						
General description					**Orientation**	WNW-ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil (0.33m) overlying natural geology of clay and gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.33
Trench 11						
General description					**Orientation**	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil (0.31m) overlying natural geology of clay and gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.31
Trench 12						
General description					**Orientation**	WNW-ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil (0.27m) overlying natural geology of clay and gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.27
Trench 13						
General description					**Orientation**	NNE-SSW
Trench contained a pit, ditch and possible ring gully. Consists of topsoil (0.26m) and subsoil (0.05m) overlying natural geology of clay and gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.31
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
14	Cut	0.7	0.24	Ditch	-	-
15	Fill	-	0.24	Ditch	Pottery & animal bone	MIA
16	Cut	0.7	0.16	?Ring gully	-	-
17	Fill	-	0.16	?Ring gully	Pottery & animal bone	MIA
18	Cut	1.2	0.24	Pit	-	-
19	Fill	-	0.16	Pit	-	-
20	Fill	-	0.2	Pit	-	-
Trench 14						
General description					**Orientation**	NNW-SSE
Trench contained a ditch and three pits (one excavated). Consists of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.04m) overlying natural geology of clay and gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.34

Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
28	Cut	0.57	0.16	Pit	-	-
29	Fill	-	0.16	Pit	-	-
30	Cut	2	0.78	Ditch	-	-
31	Fill	-	0.78	Ditch	Pottery & animal bone	<IA
Trench 15						
General description					**Orientation**	NNE-SSW
Trench contained two ditches (one unexcavated). Consists of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.1m) overlying natural geology of clay and gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
50	Cut	0.9	0.4	Ditch	-	-
51	Fill	-	0.4	Ditch	-	-
Trench 16						
General description					**Orientation**	WNW-ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil (0.33m) overlying natural geology of clay and gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.33
Trench 17						
General description					**Orientation**	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil (0.31m) and subsoil (0.2m) overlying natural geology of clay and gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.51
Trench 18						
General description					**Orientation**	WNW-ESE
Trench contained a single ditch. Consists of topsoil (0.33m) overlying natural geology of clay and gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.33
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
32	Cut	1.3	0.48	Ditch	-	-
33	Fill	-	0.48	Ditch	-	-
Trench 19						
General description					**Orientation**	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil (0.35m) overlying natural geology of clay and gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Trench 20						
General description					**Orientation**	WNW-ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil (0.33m) overlying natural geology of clay and gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.33
Trench 21						
General description					**Orientation**	WNW-ESE
Trench contained three ditches. Consists of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.2m) overlying natural geology of clay and gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8

					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
52	Cut	0.68	0.25	Ditch	-	-
53	Fill	-	0.25	Ditch	-	-
54	Cut	0.6	0.25	Ditch	-	-
55	Fill	-	0.25	Ditch	-	-
56	Cut	0.8	0.35	Ditch		
57	Fill	-	0.35	Ditch		
Trench 22						
General description					**Orientation**	NNE-SSW
Trench contained three ditches. Consists of topsoil (0.3m) and subsoil (0.1m) overlying natural geology of clay and gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.4
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
21	Cut	0.88	0.27	Ditch	-	IA?
22	Fill	-	0.23	Ditch	-	-
23	Fill	-	0.04	Ditch	-	-
24	Cut	0.7	0.25	Ditch	-	-
25	Fill	-	0.25	Ditch	-	-
26	Cut	0.8	0.27	Ditch	-	-
27	Fill	-	0.27	Ditch	-	-
Trench 23						
General description					**Orientation**	WNW-ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil (0.33m) overlying natural geology of clay and gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.33
Trench 24						
General description					**Orientation**	NNE-SSW
Trench contained two ditches (one unexcavated). Consists of topsoil (0.34m) overlying natural geology of clay and gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
70	Cut	1	0.3	Ditch	-	-
71	Fill	-	0.3	Ditch	-	-
Trench 25						
General description					**Orientation**	WNW-ESE
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil (0.27m) overlying natural geology of clay and gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.27
Trench 26						
General description					**Orientation**	NNE-SSW
Trench contained one ditch (unexcavated; same as ditch in Tr27). Consists of topsoil (0.31m) and subsoil (0.1m) overlying natural geology of clay and gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.41

Trench 27						
General description					**Orientation**	WNW-ESE
Trench contained five ditches (three unexcavated). Consists of topsoil (0.38m) and subsoil (0.12m) overlying natural geology of clay and gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.5
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
72	Cut	0.54	0.27	Ditch	-	-
73	Fill		0.27	Ditch	-	-
74	Cut	0.58	0.18	Ditch	-	-
75	Fill		0.18	Ditch	-	-
Trench 28						
General description					**Orientation**	NNE-SSW
Trench contained two ditches (unexcavated due to flooding). Consists of topsoil (0.31m) and colluvium (0.3m) overlying natural geology of clay and gravels.					**Length (m)**	30
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.61
Trench 29						
General description					**Orientation**	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of modern backfill to a depth of 1m+					**Length (m)**	15
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	1

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Prehistoric Pottery

By Pat Moan

Introduction

B.1.1 The evaluation yielded a total of 48 sherds (332g) of Iron Age pottery, with a mean sherd weight (MSW) of 6.9g. The pottery was recovered from ditches and pits within trenches 3, 4, 5, 6, 13 and 14. The vast majority of the assemblage comprises hand-made Middle Iron Age-type ceramics, dating to between *c*. 350BC – AD50 within the local region. A single rim of Middle Iron Age pottery was recovered, typical in form with a simple rim and slack shouldered form. A single rim-sherd of a diagnostically Late Iron Age vessel was recovered from the enclosure ditch in Trench 5 (**66**) although such a small amount makes interpretation of the sites historic use difficult (*i.e.* if the activity did indeed continue into the Late Iron Age).

Trench	Context	Cut	Feature Type	Weight (g)	Sherd no.
6	5	3	ditch	10	2
7	11	10	ditch	36	6
13	15	14	ditch	12	2
13	17	16	ring ditch?	50	7
14	31	30	pit	2	n/a
3	41	40	gully	19	9
4	49	46	enclosure ditch	21	1
5	67	66	enclosure ditch	114	16
5	68	66	enclosure ditch	70	5
	Grand Total			**332**	**48**

Table 1: Pottery by context from the evaluation

Methodology

B.1.2 All the pottery has been fully recorded following the recommendations laid out by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (2011). After a full inspection of the assemblage, fabric groups were devised on the basis of dominant inclusion types, their density and modal size. Sherds from all contexts were counted, weighed (to the nearest whole gram) and assigned to a fabric group. Sherd type was recorded, along with technology (wheel-made or handmade), evidence for surface treatment, decoration, and the presence of soot and/or residue. Rim and base forms were described using a codified system recorded in the catalogue, and were assigned vessel numbers. Where possible, rim and base diameters were measured, and surviving percentages noted. In cases where a sherd or groups of refitting sherds retained portions of the rim and shoulder, the vessel was also categorised by form. The Middle Iron Age-type forms were codified using the series developed by JD Hill (Hill and Horne 2003, 174; Hill and Braddock 2006, 155-156). All pottery was subject to sherd size analysis. Sherds less than 4cm in

diameter were classified as 'small' (43 sherds); sherds measuring 4-8cm were classified as 'medium' (5 sherds), and sherds over 8cm in diameter will be classified as 'large' (0 sherds). The quantified data is presented on an Excel data sheet held with the site archive.

Fabrics

Fabric code	Group	Description
S1	shell	common fine shell (<1mm in size)
S2	shell	common fine to medium shell (mainly 1-2mm in size)
S3	shell	rare medium shell (mainly 2-3mm in size)
SG1	shell	common shell (dissolved) and fine grog pellets moderate
G1	grog	spare fine grog pellets
Q1	sand	fine sand matrix, no visible temper

Fabric Type	Fabric Group	Weight (g)	Sherd no.
G1	Grog	26	11
Q1	Sand	28	7
S1	Shell	70	9
S2	Shell	153	16
S3	Shell	43	3
SG1	Shell	12	2
Grand Total		**332**	**48**

Table 2: Quantification of pottery by fabric

Assemblages description by context

Fill 5, Ditch 3

This context yielded 2 body sherds (10g) of pottery with a fine shell temper (S1).

Fill 11, Ditch 10

This context yielded 2 body sherds (8g) of Q1 fabric pottery and 4 body sherds (28g) of S2 pottery.

Fill 15, Ditch 14

This context yielded 2 body sherds (12g) of shell tempered (SG1) pottery.

Fill 17, Ring ditch 16

This context yielded 7 body sherds (50g) of S2 fabric pottery.

Fill 31, Pit 30

This context yielded 2.5g of extremely small fragments of prehistoric pottery.

Fill 41, Gully 40

This context yielded 9 body sherds (19g of G1 pottery), all of which had been burnt.

Fill 49, Enclosure ditch 46

This context yielded 1 base sherd (21g) of S1 fabric pottery, with a surviving internal soot residue.

Fill 67, Enclosure ditch 66

This context yielded 5 body sherds (31g) of S1 fabric pottery, 3 body sherds (32g) of S2 pottery, 5 body sherds (20g) of Q1 fabric pottery, 1 rim sherd (24g) of S2 pottery, with a direct, rounded rim, and 2 rim sherds (7g) of G1 pottery, with an everted, rounded rim.

Fill 68, Enclosure ditch 66

This context yielded 3 body sherds (43g) of S3 pottery, 1 body sherd (19g) of S2 fabric pottery, and 1 body sherd (8g) of S1 fabric pottery.

Discussion

B.1.3 This evaluation yielded a small assemblage of handmade Middle Iron Age-type pottery. The sherds have shell or sand in the fabric – inclusions common to Middle/later Iron Age pottery groups from this part of Cambridgeshire along with a few sherds with grog temper within the fabric (rarer for the period). The pottery belongs to the handmade Middle Iron Age potting tradition which had a currency spanning the period between *c*. 350 BC - AD 50. This tradition persisted alongside the introduction of Late Iron Age-type wares from *c*. 50 BC, and lasted up until the period immediately following the Roman conquest. The recovery a single sherd of diagnostically Late Iron Age pottery may suggest a site narrative within the later Iron Age (*c*. 100BC – AD50), although due to the small assemblage size, it would be unwise to date the site closer. Further mitigation works would provide a larger assemblage from which further interpretive value would be gained.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Samples

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction & Methodology

C.1.1 Eight bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated area at land north of Haddon Road, Peterborough in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. Samples were taken from features encountered within Trenches 5, 6, 8, 13, 14, 22 and 27

C.1.2 The samples were soaked in a solution of sodium carbonate for 24hrs prior to processing to break down the heavy clay matrix. The total volume (up to 20L) of each of the 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.

C.1.3 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.1.4 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.1.5 Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal and molluscs have been scored for abundance

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

Results

C.1.6 Preservation of plant remains is generally poor. The flots are all small in volume with sparse or no charcoal and frequent rootlets that are probably modern.

C.1.7 Sample 1, fill 13 of ditch **11** (Trench 13) contains single charred grains of wheat (*Triticum* sp.) and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) along with single charred seeds of henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*), mouse-ear (*Cerastium* sp.), pale persicaria (*Persicaria lapathifolia*) and rush (*Juncus* sp.). Duckweed (*Lemna* sp.) seeds were also noted.

C.1.8 The remaining samples are devoid of preserved plant remains other than duckweed seeds which are particularly abundant in fill 59 of ditch **66** within Trench 5. This deposit also contains ostracods as evidence that the feature contained water.

Sample No.	Context No.	Feature No.	Feature Type	Trench No.	Vol. processed (L)	Flot Vol. (ml)	Cereals	Weed Seeds	Charcoal	Molluscs	Pottery	Small mam. bones	Large mam. bones
1	17	16	Ditch	13	18	25	#	##	+	0	#	0	#
2	19	18	Pit	13	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	23	21	Ditch	22	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	31	30	Ditch	15	18	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	##
5	67	66	Ditch	5	18	10	0	#	+	#	#	#	##
6	59	58	Ditch	8	17	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	#
7	9	8	Ditch	6	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	#
8	73	72	Ditch	27	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 3: Environmental Samples from PETPOT18

Discussion

C.1.9 The recovery of charred grain and weed seeds indicates that there is the potential for the preservation of plant remains at this site, particularly in the area around Trench 13 which is located within an enclosure and probably relates to settlement. Future excavation has the potential to recover larger, more meaningful assemblages that would contribute to the evidence of diet and economy at this site.

C.1.10 The presence of duckweed and ostracods is indicative of water-filled features, albeit possibly seasonally wet. It is possible that some of the ditches/gullies were functional for drainage/water management. No waterlogged plant remains are present within the samples but this does not preclude the possibility of waterlogged preservation at greater depths. Molluscs in the form of snail shells are only likely to have been preserved in deposits that have remained wet.

C.1.11 If further excavation is planned for this area, it is recommended that environmental sampling is carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines (2011).

C.2 Animal Bone

By Zoë Uí Choileáin

Introduction & Methodology

C.2.1 A small assemblage of animal bone weighing 795g and totalling 34 countable fragments was recovered from the evaluation at Peterborough. The material belongs to the Late Iron age period and was primarily recovered from ditches. All material recorded is hand collected. The fragmentation levels are high however it is possible to identify 21 of the specimens to taxon. The remaining fragments were recorded as large or medium mammal but have not been included in this report.

C.2.2 All bone was identified using Schmid (1972). Preservation condition was evaluated using the 0-5 scale devised by Brickley and McKinley (2004 14-15).

Results

C.2.3 The surface condition of the bone is varied but on average represents 2-3 on the scale devised by Brickley and McKinley (*ibid.*). Fifty-two percent of the material represented is cattle. Sheep goat dominates the remainder of the assemblage with a single example of horse, pig and dog identified. NISP (Number of identifiable specimens) and MNI (Minimum Number of Individuals) are summarised for each taxon in tables X & X, below.

Species	NISP	NISP Percentage	MNI	MNI percentage
cattle	11	52.38	1	20
Horse	1	4.76	1	20
Sheep/goat	7	33.33	1	20
Pig	1	4.76	1	20
Dog	1	4.76	1	20
Total	**21**	**100**	**5**	**100**

Table 4: NISP (Number of identifiable specimens) and MNI (Minimum number of individuals) of the assemblage

C.2.4 The majority of the bone was recovered from ditch **66**, Trench 5 and contained cattle, sheep/goat and horse. The rest of the assemblage also came primarily from ditches and represented cattle, sheep/goat, pig and dog. The MNI for all species is one. There are no butchery marks observable on the bone, however the high level of fragmentation is likely to mask evidence of butchery or pathology. All of the material present is adult or older juvenile suggesting that animals were not being reared on site.

Trench	Cut	Context	Feature	Taxon	Weight	Number of frags
7	10	11	Ditch	Cattle	119	1
7	10	11	Ditch	Sheep/Goat	11	1
13	14	15	Ditch	Sheep/Goat	5	1
13	16	17	Ring Gully	Cattle	25	1
13	16	17	Ring Gully	Pig	34	1
14	30	31	Pit	Dog	5	1
4	46	49	Ditch	Cattle	22	2

Trench	Cut	Context	Feature	Taxon	Weight	Number of frags
5	66	67	Ditch	Cattle	138	4
5	66	67	Ditch	Sheep/Goat	25	4
5	66	68	Ditch	Cattle	107	3
5	66	68	Ditch	Equid	158	1
5	66	68	Ditch	Sheep/Goat	5	1
Total					**654**	**21**

Table 5: Total weight, count & taxons present per-feature

Conclusions

C.2.5 While this is a small assemblage it is a fairly typical representation of Middle to Late Iron age faunal assemblages. Due to the high fragmentation it is not possible to estimate withers height or take measurements of any specimens. There is high potential for extracting information on age at death from tooth wear patterns. It is recommended that should further excavations take place, the tooth wear patterns from this material be recorded and incorporated into any larger analysis.

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APPENDIX E OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-317603
Project Name	Plot 400, Great Haddon

Start of Fieldwork	14/05/18	End of Fieldwork	18/05/18
Previous Work	No	Future Work	Yes

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	PETPOT18	Planning App. No.	
HER Number	PETPOT18	Related Numbers	

Prompt	NPPF
Development Type	Industrial
Place in Planning Process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

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

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Ditch	Iron Age (- 800 to 43)	pottery	Middle Iron Age (- 400 to - 100)
Pit	Iron Age (- 800 to 43)	Animal bone	Iron Age (- 800 to 43)
Ditch	Uncertain		Choose an item.

Insert more lines as appropriate.

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire
District	Peterborough
Parish	Great Haddon
HER office	Peterborough
Size of Study Area	8ha
National Grid Ref	TL 15007 93240

Address (including Postcode)

Haddon Rd
Peterborough
PE7 3TN

Project Originators

Organisation	Oxford Archaeology East
Project Brief Originator	Rebecca Casa-Hatton
Project Design Originator	Will Bedford

Project Manager	James Drummond-Murray
Project Supervisor	Pat Moan

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	Peterborough Council Stores	PETPOT18
Digital Archive	OA East Office	PETPOT18
Paper Archive	Peterborough Council Stores	PETPOT18

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	☒	☐	☐
Ceramics	☒	☐	☐
Environmental	☒	☐	☐
Glass	☐	☐	☐
Human Remains	☐	☐	☐
Industrial	☐	☐	☐
Leather	☐	☐	☐
Metal	☐	☐	☐
Stratigraphic		☐	☐
Survey		☐	☐
Textiles	☐	☐	☐
Wood	☐	☐	☐
Worked Bone	☐	☐	☐
Worked Stone/Lithic	☐	☐	☐
None	☐	☒	☒
Other	☐	☐	☐

Digital Media		Paper Media	
Database	☒	Aerial Photos	☐
GIS	☒	Context Sheets	☒
Geophysics	☐	Correspondence	☐
Images (Digital photos)	☒	Diary	☐
Illustrations (Figures/Plates)	☐	Drawing	☒
Moving Image	☐	Manuscript	☐
Spreadsheets	☐	Map	☐
Survey	☒	Matrices	☐
Text	☒	Microfiche	☐
Virtual Reality	☐	Miscellaneous	☐
		Research/Notes	☐
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		Plans	☐
		Report	☒
		Sections	☒
		Survey	☐

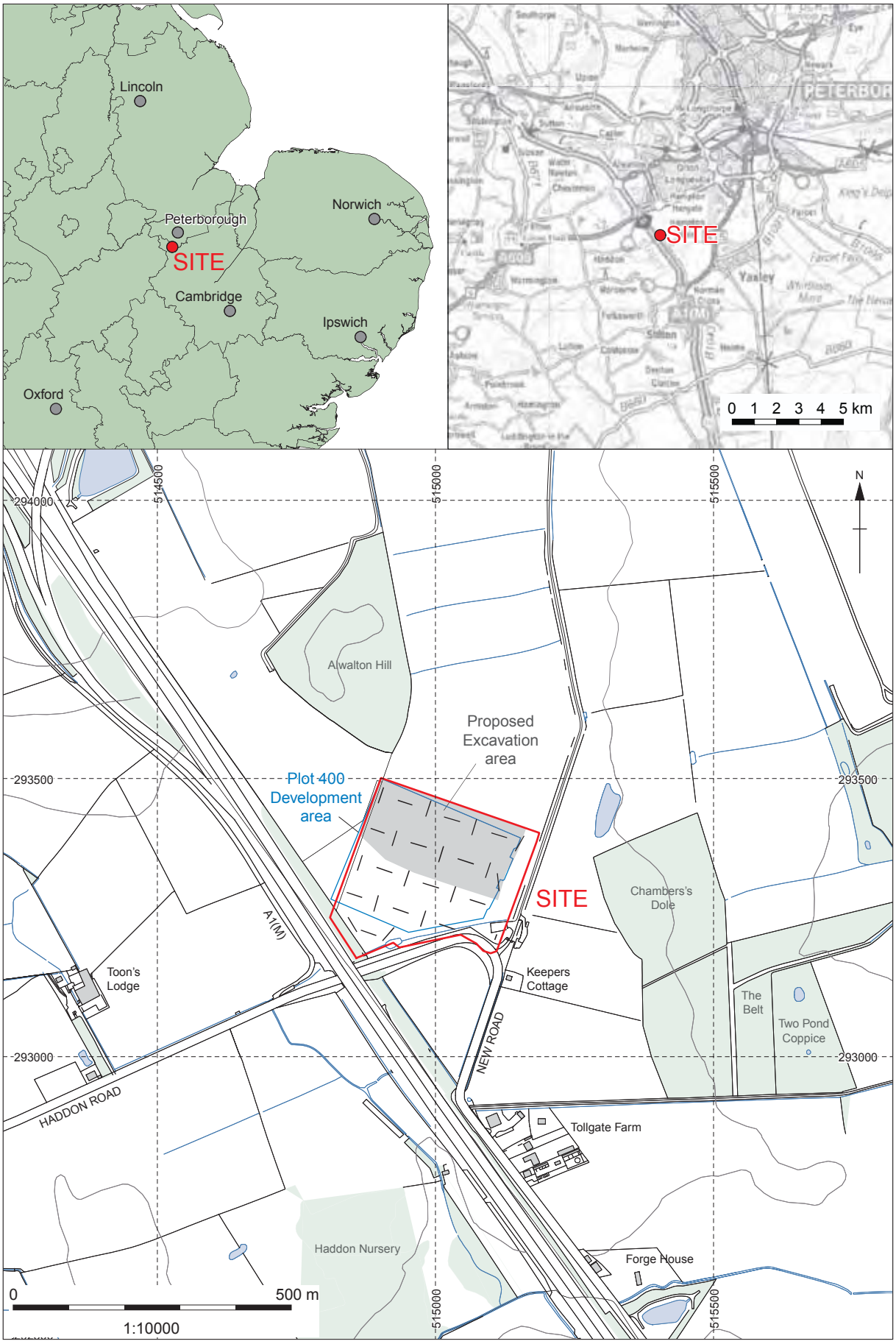

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Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Trenching overlain on geophysical results (greyscale)

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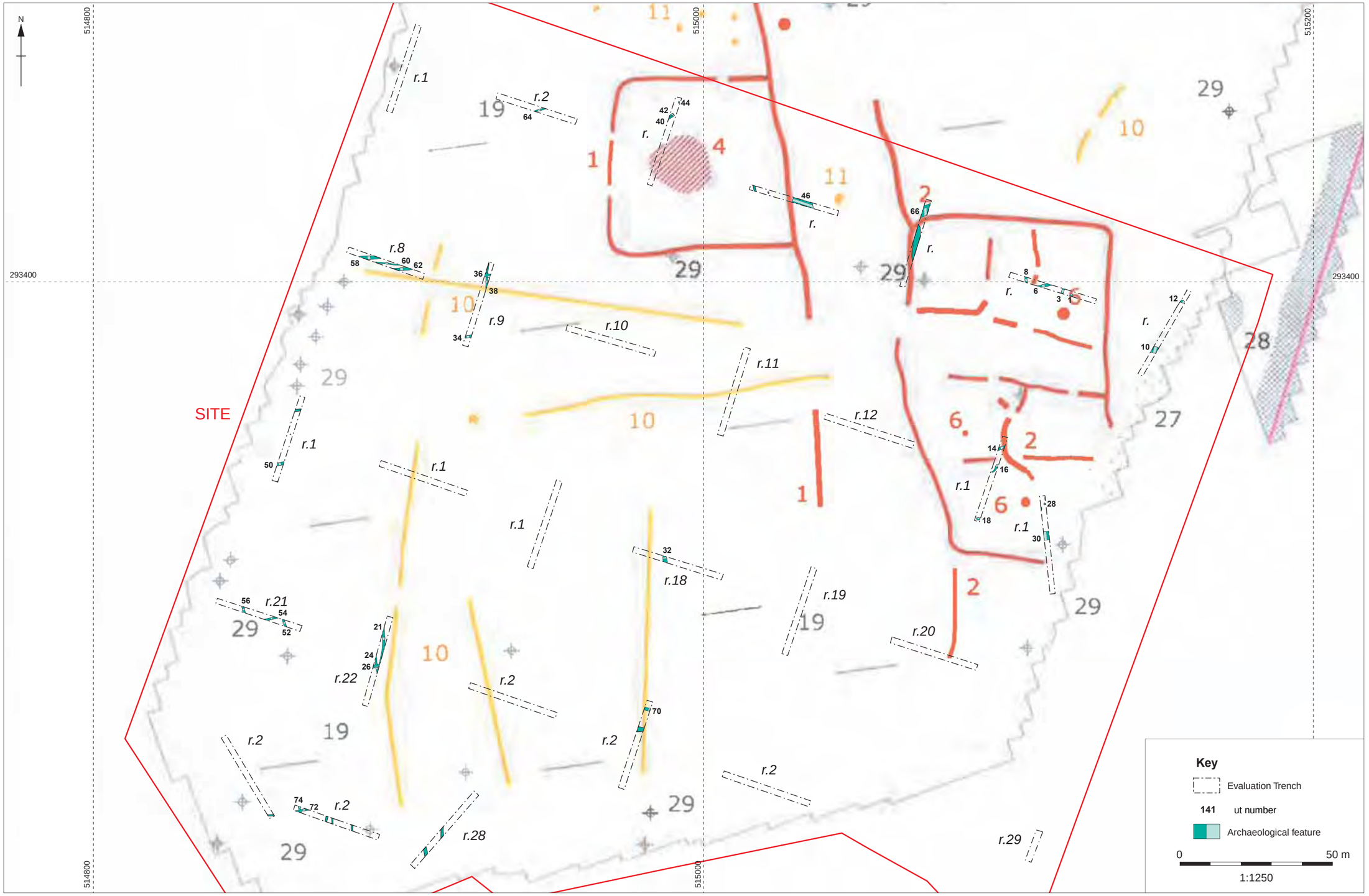

Figure 3: Trenching results overlain on geophysical interpretation

Figure 4: Detail plan of trenches located across the Iron Age enclosures

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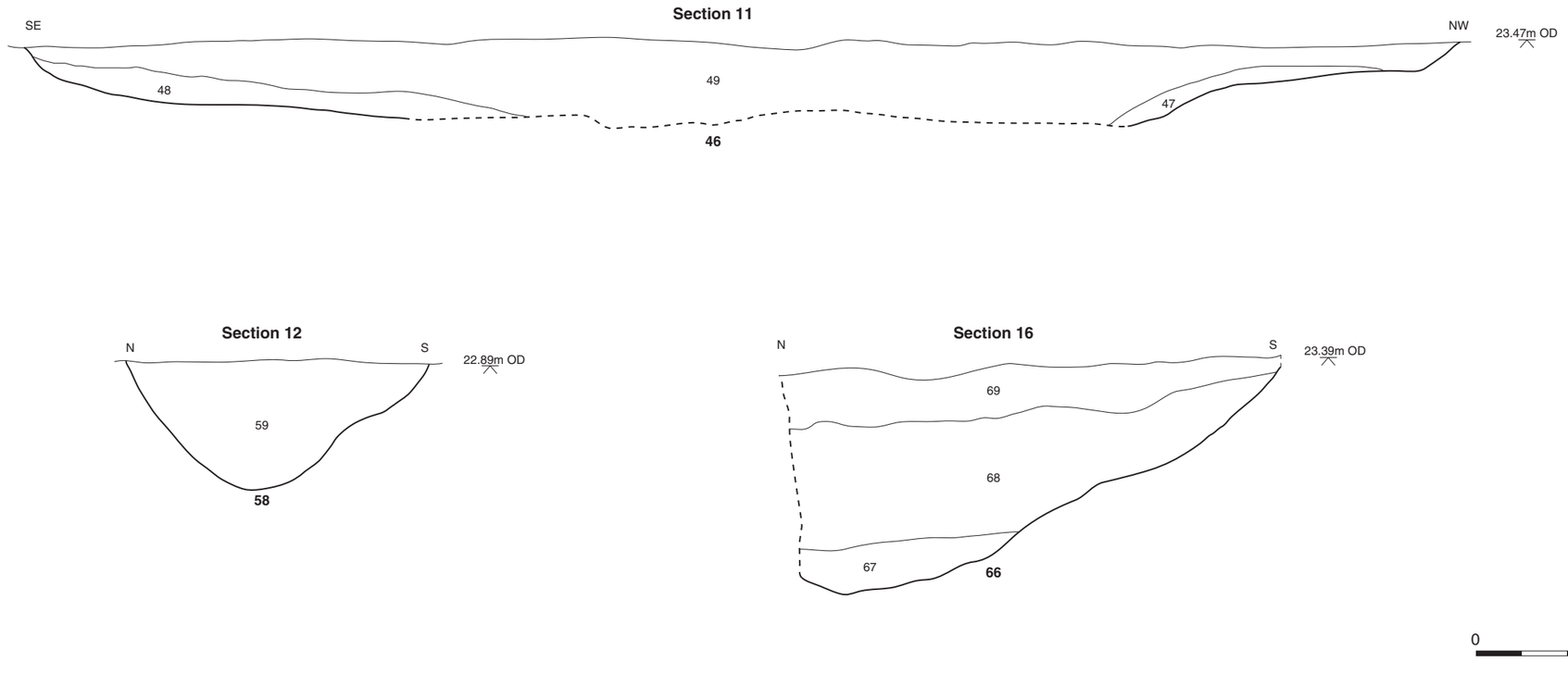

Figure 5: Selected sections

Plate 1:Trench 4, Ditch **46**, looking south-east

Plate 2: Trench 5, looking south-south-west

Plate 3: Trench 5, ditch **66**, looking east-south-east

Plate 4: Trench 14, ditch **30**, looking west

Plate 5: Trench 22, ditch **21**, looking north

Plate 6: Trench 22, ditches **24** & **26**, looking north-west

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