



Land West of Five Acres Farm, Harrison Way, St Ives, Cambridgeshire

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Land West of Five Acres Farm, Harrison Way, St Ives, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Between 20th and 24th March 2017 Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) carried out a trenched evaluation at Land West of Five Acres Farm, Harrison Way, St Ives, Cambridgeshire (TL3239 7202). This work was commissioned by SLR Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client. The evaluation comprised the excavation of 11 trenches across the site, these were located on a random grid array so as to enable sufficient coverage of the development area. The trenching provided evidence for the presence of agricultural features in the form of two slightly differently aligned ditch systems and a system of Ridge and Furrow cultivation. The ditch systems are undated other than the presence of probably residual tiny fragments of prehistoric pottery in one and a sherd of medieval pottery in the other. One ditch belonging to the latter system is depicted on an Estate map of 1753 and the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map (1887). The Ridge and Furrow is assumed to be medieval based on its morphology.

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Aileen Connor. The fieldwork was directed by Simon Birnie, who was supported by Paddy Lambert and Anne-Marie Woolley. Survey and digitizing was carried out by David Brown.

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 East was commissioned by SLR Consulting Ltd on behalf of their client to undertake a trial trench evaluation at Land West of Five Acres Farm, Harrison Way, St Ives, Cambridgeshire (TL 3239 7202; Fig. 1). The c.2.7ha site has been granted planning permission for the construction of a new supermarket with related access, servicing, petrol station, parking and landscaping.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. 16/01924/FUL). A brief was set by CCCHET (Thomas 2017) detailing the first stage of the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to discharge the Condition. A written scheme of investigation was produced by OA East (Bush 2017) detailing how OA East proposed to implement the specified requirements.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies to the north-eastern edge of St Ives, in the parish of Holywell-cum-Needlingworth (Fig. 1). It is located on a bedrock geology of Oxford Clay Formation, mudstone, with superficial deposits of Alluvium clay, silt sand and gravel across its southern extents (British Geological Survey online map viewer: <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html> (accessed 24th October 2016)).

1.2.2 The site is located on a gently south facing slope at a height of between 6.9m and 8.2m OD. At present the land is under agricultural use and the site is bounded on the eastern and western sides by mature hedgerows (Bush 2016, 2). To the west of the site is situated Harrison Way (A1096).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 An in-depth Desk-based Assessment of the site has previously been undertaken (Coates and Richmond 2013, 10-20), therefore only a brief summary of known archaeological remains in the immediate area is provided below.

Prehistoric

1.3.2 Flintwork (CHER 02029) of Bronze Age date and Iron Age pottery (CHER 02916) has been recovered from a location 0.6km south of the site. Geophysical and aerial photographic surveys have been undertaken on land 200m to the east of the site which identified a concentration of linear anomalies, square and D-shaped enclosures and pits (MCB 20481 & 20495) of likely Bronze Age and Iron Age date.

Roman

1.3.3 The cropmark remains of a purported Roman enclosure (CHER 01490) have been recorded 0.5km to the north-east of the site. Other Roman remains consist of a findspot (CHER 03601) 0.8km to the south-west. Excavations for the Needlingworth

bypass around 0.7km east of the site, have revealed a well preserved Roman settlement with palisaded circular enclosure and associated finds assemblages (CHER 11668).

Anglo-Saxon

1.3.4 Two findspots form the only remains of Anglo-Saxon date in the immediate area and consist of cruciform brooch (CHER 11011) and square headed brooch and human remains (CHER 01489), all of which were recovered between 0.7km and 0.9km to the south of the site.

Medieval

1.3.5 Medieval remains in the form of ridge and furrow have been identified 0.5km to the east of site (CB 15347 & CHER 08272).

Post-medieval and modern

1.3.6 There are numerous remains of post-medieval and modern date within the immediate area, including a stone milestone obelisk (CHER 03575) dating from 1773 which was uncovered during road widening works around 150m to the west of the site. Cartographic sources show that the site has been under cultivation since at least the middle of the 18th century.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The main aim of the evaluation was to establish the character, date and state of preservation of archaeological remains within the proposed development area. The specific project aims and objectives were as follows:

- *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*
- *provide sufficient coverage to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking deposits*
- *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:

- *Research and Archaeology Revisited: A Revised Framework for the East of England (Medlycott 2011, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 24)*
- *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)*

2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 The proposed archaeological excavation and analysis was conducted in accordance with current best archaeological practice and the appropriate national and regional standards and guidelines. A full methodology is outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Bush 2016, Section 5).

2.3.2 All work was conducted in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*.

2.3.3 Eleven trenches were positioned across the site on a standard grid array except to avoid obstructions. All trenches were 1.8m wide, ten trenches were 50m long, one (Trench 5) was shortened and interrupted (giving a total length of 30m) to maintain access across the site.

2.3.4 During machine stripping three trenches were repositioned to avoid obstructions. Trench 1 was moved due to the presence of a gas substation. Trench 4 was moved due to heavy modern truncation, and Trench 6 was moved due to it encroaching upon a trackway in public use.

2.3.5 Service plans were checked before the work commenced on site. Before trenching, the footprint of each trench was scanned by a qualified and experienced operator using a CAT and Genny with a valid calibration certificate.

2.3.6 All machine excavation took place under the supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.

2.3.7 Trial trenches were excavated by a mechanical excavator to the depth of geological horizons, or to the upper interface of archaeological features or deposits, whichever was encountered first. A toothless ditching bucket with a width of 1.8m was used to excavate all trenches. Overburden was excavated in spits not greater than 0.1m thick.

2.3.8 Spoil was stored alongside trenches. Topsoil, subsoil, and archaeological deposits were kept separate during excavation, this allowed for sequential backfilling of excavations. Trenches were not backfilled until the approval the CHET was granted.

2.3.9 The top of the first archaeological deposit was cleared by machine, then cleaned off by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe, this enabled the clarification of all located features and deposits.

2.3.10 All excavation of archaeological deposits was done by hand. Sufficient excavation was undertaken to give clear evidence for the period, depth, and nature of all archaeological deposits. Investigation slots through all five of the linear features were 1m in width. Both discrete features were half-sectioned. A sample of the numerous furrow features were investigated sufficiently to establish their character.

Recording of archaeological deposits and features

2.3.11 Surveying of the trenches and archaeological features was undertaken using a survey-grade differential GPS (Leica CS10/GS08) fitted with "Smartnet" technology with an accuracy of 5mm horizontal and 10mm vertical.

2.3.12 Bucket Samples (90L) were taken from each end of every trench, these were hand sorted for artefacts.

2.3.13 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 colour photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

2.3.14 Environmental samples were taken from two separate ditches, totalling 40L and were processed by flotation at OA's environmental processing facility at Bourn.

2.3.15 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector.

2.3.16 Site conditions were generally wet, with frequent rain, which to some extent compromised the quality of the photographic record in Trenches 1 and 2 in particular.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, the full details of all trenches with trench and feature dimensions with depths of all deposits form the content of Appendix A. Finds data are tabulated in Appendix B and environmental information can be found in Appendix C.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence within all trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology of sand and gravels, and occasional alluvial deposits, was overlain by a subsoil consisting of a light to mid greyish brown fairly firm silty sand with occasional gravel inclusions (apart from Trench 9, see below). This in turn was overlain by ploughsoil consisting of a mid to dark greyish brown fairly loose silty sand.

3.2.2 Trenches 1 and 2 were machined to a depth which was equal to the existing water table and made excavation of the archaeology within these trenches difficult, however, ground conditions throughout the remainder of the evaluation were generally good, and the trenches remained dry. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in six of the 11 trenches excavated (Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8). The five trenches with no archaeology (5, 6, 9, 10 and 11) were all located in the eastern and southern parts of the site and are not described further (Fig. 2). Furrows were identified in Trenches 2, 3 and 4, these furrows in general measured 0.7m wide and were spaced approximately 4.8m apart and were aligned north-east to south-west (Trench 2), east to west (Trench 3 and Trench 4).

3.4 Trenches 1 and 2

3.4.1 A south-west to north-east aligned ditch (**110**) was identified in both Trenches 1 and 2 (Fig 2), located in the north-western corner of the site, which was investigated in Trench 1. Although no finds were made during the excavation of this feature, two very small (2g) undiagnostic sherds of possibly prehistoric pottery were recovered from the environmental sample taken from the ditch fill (**111**). A posthole (**112**) was also identified at the north-western extent of Trench 2 but no dating was recovered from this feature. Four north-east to south-west aligned furrows were identified within Trench 2.

3.4.2 Bucket sampling produced no additional artefacts.

3.5 Trench 3

3.5.1 Trench 3 (Plate 1), located to the south-east of Trenches 1 and 2, contained a solitary pit (**108**) at its northern end, from which no dating evidence was recovered. Approximately 18m to the south of this was a north-west to south-east aligned ditch **116** (Plate 2), which produced four (4g) of possibly Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age

pottery sherds from upper fill 117. Six east-west aligned furrows were identified within Trench 3.

3.5.2 Bucket sampling produced no additional artefacts.

3.6 Trench 4

3.6.1 Trench 4, located to the east of Trench 3, contained an east-west aligned ditch (114) (Plate 3) which produced a sherd of medieval pottery from its single fill (115). A 15L sample was taken from this deposit and processed producing a single charred wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grain having the morphological appearance of spelt (*T. spelta*). Three east-west aligned furrows were identified within Trench 4.

3.6.2 Bucket sampling produced no additional artefacts.

3.7 Trenches 5 and 6

3.7.1 No archaeological features or finds were recovered, bucket sampling did not produce any artefacts.

3.8 Trench 7

3.8.1 Trench 7 to the immediate west of Trench 4 contained a roughly north-south aligned ditch (**105**), which produced no finds.

3.8.2 Bucket sampling produced no additional artefacts.

3.9 Trench 8

3.9.1 Trench 8 to the east contained a south-west to north-east aligned ditch (**103**) (Plate 4), which also produced no finds. It is unclear if these ditches were associated with any other ditches revealed within the trenches on the site, however, ditch **105** and ditch **103** are of very similar widths and display very similar profiles. But it should be noted If ditch **105** in Trench 7 was associated with ditch **103** in Trench 8 it would presumably have been present within in blank Trench 10 and/or 11.

3.9.2 Bucket sampling produced no additional artefacts.

3.10 Trenches, 9, 10 and 11

3.10.1 Trench 7 to the immediate west of Trench 4 contained a roughly north-south aligned ditch (**105**), which produced no finds.

3.10.2 Bucket sampling produced no additional artefacts.

3.11 Finds and environmental summary

3.11.1 A very small assemblage of finds was recovered from features within three of the 11 trenches excavated. These comprise abraded sherds of prehistoric pottery, possibly Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age flint tempered body sherds and a single sherd of medieval pottery.

3.11.2 Two environmental samples produced very poorly preserved plant remains resulting in the recovery of just a single charred wheat grain.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 The archaeological features were clearly visible within the evaluation trenches. The natural geological horizon beneath the topsoil and subsoil overburden into which features were cut was also clearly identifiable. Although ground water was very high in Trenches 1 and 2, this did not hamper the identification of features.

4.1.2 Therefore, the results of the evaluation trenching are considered to have a good level of reliability.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The evaluation aims have been addressed as follows:

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

This objective has been achieved, the evaluation has established that a very low level of archaeological remains is present on the site in the form of two ditch systems. The quantity and quality of artefacts associated with these features is very poor, with only seven sherds recovered and an average sherd weight of 1g for possible prehistoric pottery and one sherd (13g) of medieval pottery. Environmental remains are equally poorly preserved. Whilst the presence of prehistoric pottery indicates some level of activity during the broad period it is insufficient to suggest settlement and may be residual and a result of manuring.

provide sufficient coverage to evaluate the likely impact of past land uses, and the possible presence of masking deposits

The evaluation trenches have provided sufficient coverage of the area of development and deposits were tested to assess whether they masked any underlying archaeology. Testing proved negative and there is a high level of confidence that no archaeology has been masked on the site by overlying deposits.

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.

Those archaeological remains that have been found have been fully recorded and there is sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy should it be required.

4.3 Interpretation

4.3.1 The evaluation has clearly shown that there is no evidence for settlement related activity on the site. The remains of two ditch systems on different alignments indicates probable agricultural activity at different periods.

4.3.2 Ditches **110**, **112** and **116** may represent a field system on a north-west to south-east and south-west to north-east alignment. The presence of tiny prehistoric pottery

sherds in two of the ditches implies a possible prehistoric date for the ditches although their poor condition suggests the pottery is most likely residual and the ditches are therefore undated.

4.3.3 The c. east-west/north-south ditch system (**114**, **103** and **105**) produced one small sherd of medieval pottery (from Ditch **114**). A ditch in the same position and alignment as Ditch **114** is depicted on an Estate Map of 1764 (Coates and Richmond 2013, 15) and is also shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map dated 1887 (Coates and Richmond 2013, 17). A second parallel boundary is shown on the 1764 map and this could be the same as Ditch **103**. The ditch system represented by Ditches **114**, **103** and **105** must, therefore predate the middle of the 18th century and may have been a surviving remnant of an earlier (?medieval) field system.

4.3.4 Evidence for a former Ridge and Furrow cultivation system was present (in Trenches 2, 3 and 4). The alignment of the Ridge and Furrow coincides with that of the possible medieval field system (4.3.3). Some details of Ridge and Furrow are not widely understood, such as the date of when they were formed. Ridge and Furrow is generally regarded as 'medieval' but the age of surviving remnants is strictly the date when they were last ploughed, that is when a *township* was enclosed. For most areas this was in the period 1730 - 1840, with examples known as late as 1895 and 1901. Land in Holywell was listed for Inclosure in 1800 (Coates and Richmond 2013, 13). No relationship was observed between any of the archaeological features and the furrows on site.

4.3.5 Two isolated features (posthole **112** in Trench 2 and Pit **108** in Trench 3) produced no artefacts and were otherwise unremarkable.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The evaluation has shown that there is no evidence for significant archaeological activity on the site. Whilst there is evidence for some activity in the prehistoric and medieval/post-medieval periods this is low level and relates to

Appendix A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravels. A SW-NE aligned ditch was investigated.					Length (m)	42
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.33
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer		0.21	Topsoil	None	
101	Layer		0.10	Subsoil	None	
102	Layer			Natural	None	
110	Cut	0.94	0.36	Cut for a SW-NW aligned ditch with a concaved base. A probable boundary ditch containing sole fill 111 This feature was also observed in Trench 2 but was not investigated.		Uncertain
111	Deposit	0.94	0.36	Sole fill contained within ditch 110 . A dark greyish brown loose silty sand with moderate gravel content.	Two small sherds of prehistoric pottery were recovered from sample 100.	Uncertain

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravels. A SW-NE aligned ditch was identified as being the same as ditch 110 in Trench 1 but was not investigated. A posthole was identified and investigated at the North-Western extent of the Trench. A total four NE to SW aligned furrows were identified.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.35
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer		0.12	Topsoil	None	
101	Layer		0.20	Subsoil	None	
102	Layer		-	Natural	None	
112	Cut	0.26 NW-SE 0.25 SW-NE	0.08	Cut for a shallow posthole with a concaved base, contains sole fill 113.		Uncertain
113	Deposit	0.26 NW-SE	0.08	Sole fill contained within posthole 112 . A dark yellowish brown loose	None	Uncertain

		0.25 SW- NE		sandy clay containing rare charcoal flecks.		
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Trench 3

General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravels. A total of 6 E-W aligned furrows were identified. A solitary pit and a NW-SE aligned ditch were identified and investigated within the trench.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.60
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer		0.33	Topsoil	None	
101	Layer		0.22	Subsoil	None	
102	Layer			Natural	None	
108	Cut	0.56 SW- NE	0.11	Cut for a shallow pit with a concaved base, contains sole fill 109.	-	Uncertain
109	Deposit	0.56 SW- NE	0.11	Sole fill contained within pit 108 . A dark yellowish brown loose sandy clay with rare gravel inclusions.	None	Uncertain
116	Cut	0.60m	0.30	Cut for NW-SE aligned ditch with an irregular base. 116 contained fills 117 and 118.		Uncertain
117	Deposit	0.60	0.23	Upper fill contained within ditch 116 . A dark greyish brown loose silty clay with moderate gravel inclusions.	Four small sherds of Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age pottery.	Uncertain
118	Deposit	0.46	0.07	Lower fill contained within ditch 116 . A light greyish brown loose silty clay with a high gravel content.	None	Uncertain

Trench 4

General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay. A total of 3 E-W aligned furrows were identified. A solitary E-W aligned ditch was identified and investigated within the trench.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.37
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer		0.28	Topsoil	None	
101	Layer		0.10	Subsoil	None	
102	Layer		-	Natural	None	

114	Cut	0.70	0.20	Cut for an E-W aligned ditch with a flat base. A probable boundary ditch containing sole fill 115. This feature can be observed on the First Edition Ordnance Survey 1887 (Coates and Richmond 2013, 17).	-	?Post-Medieval
115	Deposit	0.70	0.20	Sole fill contained within ditch 114. A dark brown firm silty clay with rare gravel inclusions.	One sherd of Early Medieval pottery.	?Post-Medieval

Trench 5 North

General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clayey sand.					Length (m)	15.75
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer		0.36	Topsoil	None	
101	Layer		0.12	Subsoil	None	
102	Layer			Natural	None	

Trench 5 South

General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clayey sand.					Length (m)	14.3
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer		0.36	Topsoil	None	
101	Layer		0.12	Subsoil	None	
102	Layer			Natural	None	

Trench 6

General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravels.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.40
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer		0.22	Topsoil	None	
101	Layer		0.18	Subsoil	None	
102	Layer			Natural	None	

Trench 7						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty sand and gravels, it contained a SW-NE aligned ditch.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.34
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer		0.26	Topsoil	None	
101	Layer		0.08	Subsoil	None	
102	Layer			Natural	None	
105	Cut	0.96	0.28	Cut for a N-S aligned ditch with a concaved base, containing sole fill 106.		Uncertain
106	Deposit	0.96	0.28	Sole fill contained within ditch 105. A dark brown loose silty sand with some gravel content.	None	Uncertain

Trench 8						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sand and gravels, it contained a SW- NE aligned ditch.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.65
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer		0.30	Topsoil	None	
101	Layer		0.20	Subsoil	None	
102	Layer			Natural	None	
103	Cut	0.9	0.44	Cut for a NE-SW aligned ditch with an irregular base, containing sole fill 104.	-	Uncertain
104	Deposit	0.9	0.44	Sole fill contained within ditch 103. A dark greyish brown loose silty clay with occasional gravel inclusions.	None	Uncertain

Trench 9						
General description					Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench consisted of modern made-up ground.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
				Modern made-up ground	None	Modern

Trench 10						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer		0.20	Topsoil	None	
101	Layer		0.27	Subsoil	None	
102	Layer			Natural	None	

Trench 11						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench consisted of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of sandy clay, it contained two E-W aligned furrows only.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	1.8
					Avg. depth (m)	0.48
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
100	Layer		0.25	Topsoil	None	
101	Layer		0.35	Subsoil	None	
102	Layer			Natural	None	

Appendix B FINDS REPORTS

By Carole Fletcher, prehistoric pottery identification by Matt Brudenell

B.1 Pottery

B.1.1 A small assemblage of prehistoric and post-Roman pottery was recovered from three evaluation trenches. Two small, abraded and leached shelly ware sherds were recovered from ditch 110 in Trench 1. Other than to describe them as prehistoric, the sherds are not closely dateable. Trench 3, Ditch **116**, consists of fragmentary possible Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age flint-tempered sherds. Trench 4 produced pottery from Ditch **114**, a rim sherd from an Early Medieval South-West Cambridgeshire Sandy ware vessel, with a possible repair hole on the wall of the body.

B.1.2 The small sherd size indicates that there has been significant reworking of the deposits. The prehistoric pottery in particular has a very low average sherd weight possibly suggesting that it is residual. The medieval pottery is also likely to be residual and a result of manuring and ploughing.

B.1.3 The following catalogue acts as a full record of this assemblage and the pottery may be deselected prior to archival deposition.

Trench	Context	Cut	Fabric	MNV	No. of Sherds	Weight (kg)	Pottery Date
Trench 1	111	110	Abraded sherds of Shelly ware (leached)	1	2	0.002	Prehistoric
Trench 4	115	114	South-West Cambridgeshire Sandy ware externally thickened and rounded rim, most likely from a bowl (of uncertain diameter) with a possible repair hole.	1	1	0.013	1050–1250
Trench 3	117	116	Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age flint-tempered body sherds.	1	4	0.004	Late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age (1100–350BC)
Total				3	7	0.019	

Table 1: Pottery (MNV=minimum number of vessels)

Appendix C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

By Rachel Fosberry

Introduction

- C.1.1 Two bulk samples were taken from ditch fills within the evaluated area at Five Acres Farm in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations.

Methodology

- C.1.2 The total volume (up to 17L) 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 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 has been scored for abundance: + = rare, ++ = moderate, +++ = abundant

Results

- C.1.6 Preservation of plant remains is extremely poor. The flots are mainly comprised of rootlets with no visible charcoal. Untransformed seeds of bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) are present and are probably modern. A single charred wheat (*Triticum* sp.) grain recovered from fill 115 of ditch 114 has the morphological appearance of spelt (*T. spelta*).

Sample No.	Context No.	Feature No.	Feature Type	% context sampled	Area/trench No.	Volume processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Untransformed seeds	Charcoal
1	111	110	Ditch	<10%	1	15	60	0	#	0
2	115	114	Ditch	<20%	1	17	30	#	##	0

Table 1: Environmental samples***Discussion***

- C.1.7 The recovery of a single charred cereal grain cannot be considered significant. The ubiquity of rootlets, untransformed seeds suggests contamination of the deposits through bioturbation although the grain recovered does have the morphology of a wheat variety that has not been in cultivation since approximately 500 AD.

Appendix D BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX A

OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	Oxfordar3-282603		
Project Name	Land West of Five Acres Farm, Harrison Way, St Ives, Cambridgeshire		
Start of Fieldwork	20.3.17	End of Fieldwork	24.3.17
Previous Work	No	Future Work	Unknown

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	STIFAF16	Planning App. No.	16/01924/FUL
HER Number	ECB4850	Related Numbers	

Prompt	Planning Condition
Development Type	Urban commercial
Place in Planning Process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

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

Monument	Period	Object	Period
Post hole	Uncertain	Pottery	Late Prehistoric (- 4000 to 43)
Pit	Uncertain	Pottery	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
Field System	Uncertain		Choose an item.
Field System	Medieval		
Ridge and Furrow	Medieval		

Insert more lines as appropriate.

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Address (including Postcode) Land West of Five Acres Farm, Harrison Way, St Ives, Cambridgeshire.
District	Huntingdonshire	
Parish	Holywell cum Needingworth	
HER office	Cambridge	
Size of Study Area	2.7 hectares	
National Grid Ref	TL 3239 7202	

Project Originators

Organisation	OA East
Project Brief Originator	CCC HET
Project Design Originator	Andy Thomas
Project Manager	Aileen Connor
Project Supervisor	Simon Birnie

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	CCC Stores	ECB 4850
Digital Archive	OA East	ECB 4850
Paper Archive	CCC Stores	ECB 4850

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

Digital Media

Database	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 type="checkbox"/>
Survey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Text	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Virtual Reality	<input type="checkbox"/>

Paper Media

Aerial Photos	<input type="checkbox"/>
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"/>
Microfiche	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miscellaneous	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research/Notes	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Plans	<input type="checkbox"/>
Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

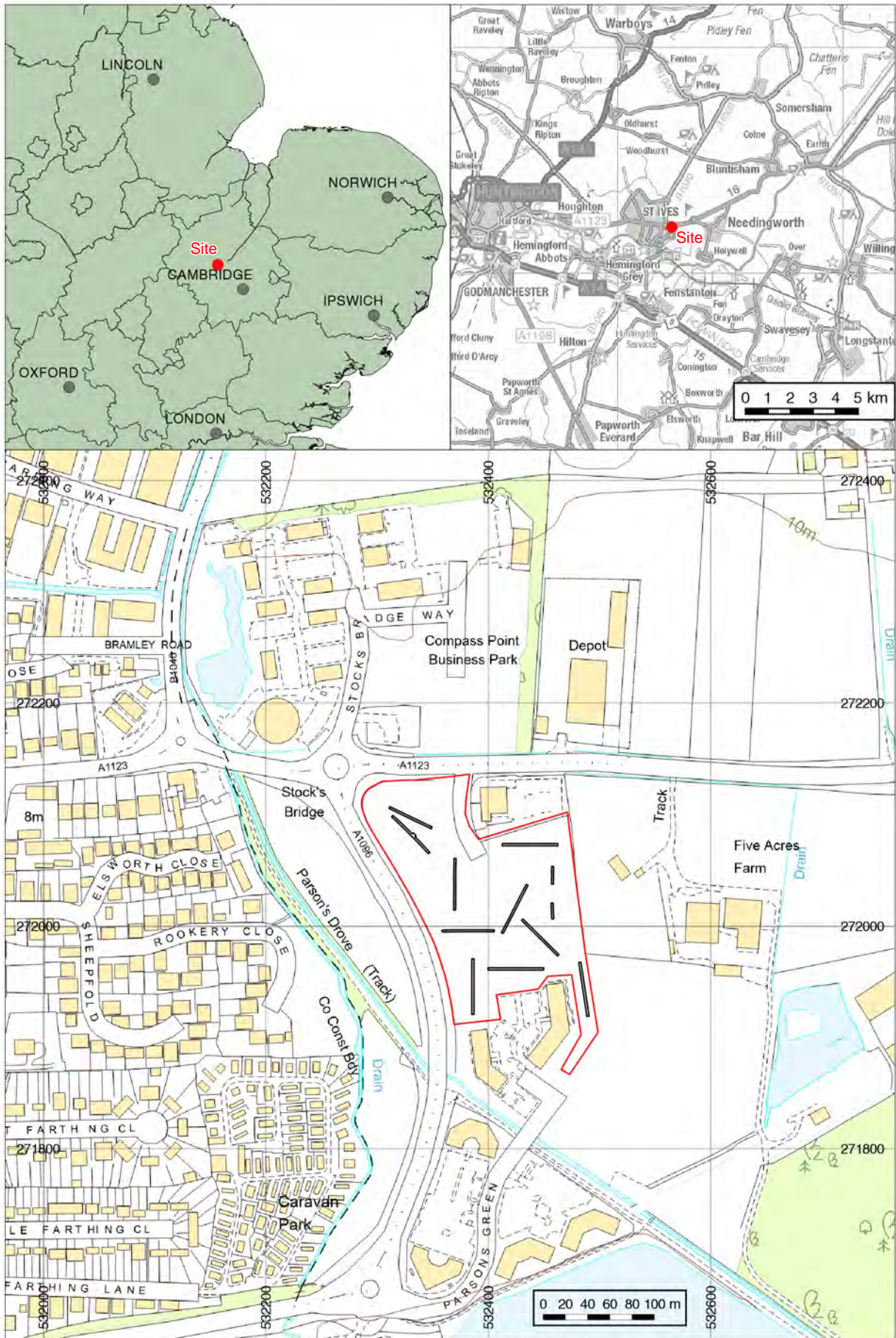
Sections



Survey



Further Comments



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

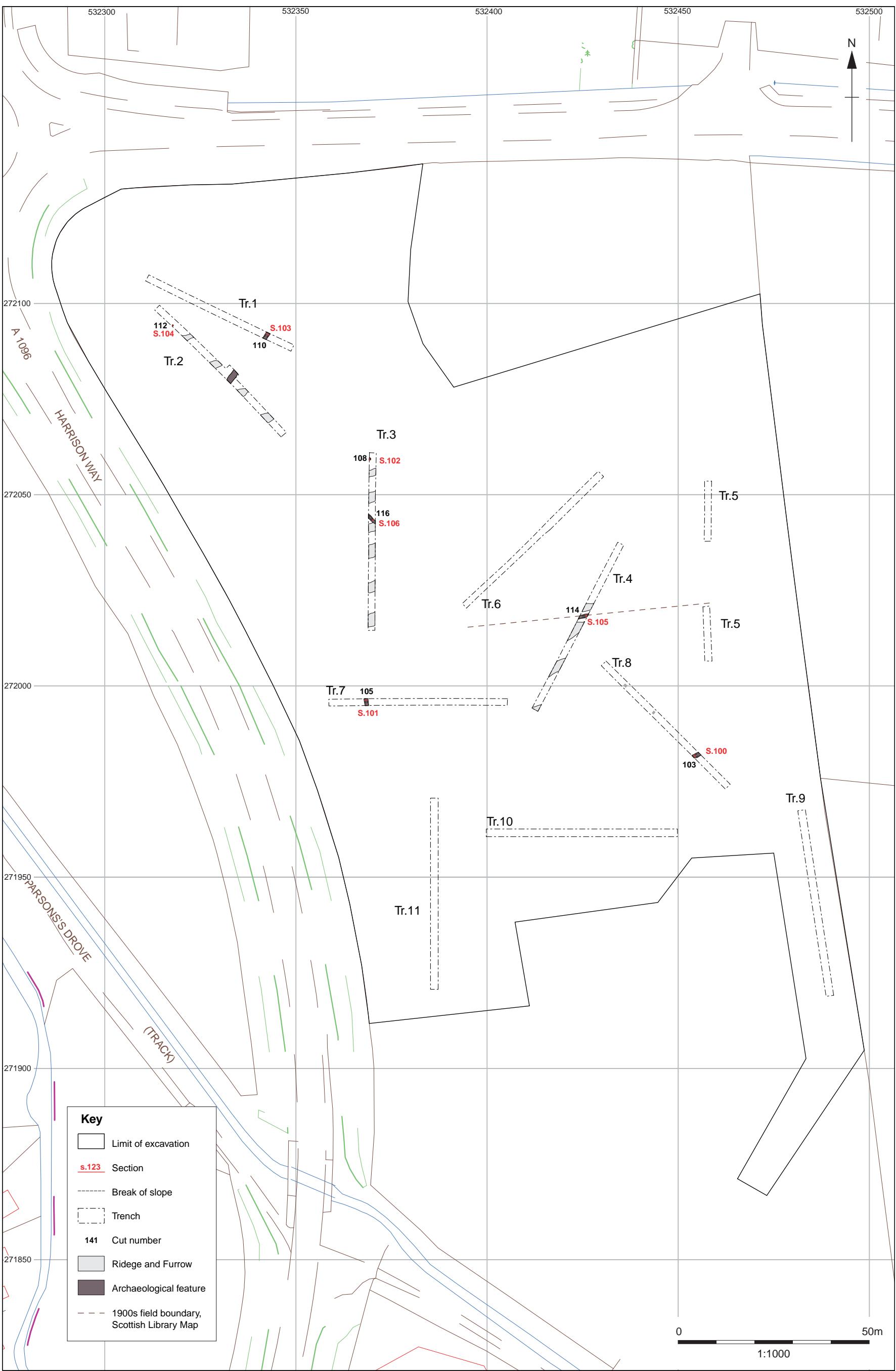


Figure 2: Trench plan



Plate 1: View of trench 3 from the South showing furrows



Plate 2: Ditch 116 in Trench 3, from the North



Plate 3: Ditch 114 in Trench 4, from the East



Plate 4: Ditch 103 in Trench 8, from the East



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