



Land off Manor Road, Witchford, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

January 2020

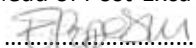
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Land off Manor Road, Witchford, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Between the 7th and the 22nd of October 2019, Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) conducted an archaeological investigation at land off Manor Road, Witchford, Cambridgeshire (centred TL 5036 7927) ahead of residential development. Twenty-five trenches were excavated.

The majority of archaeological remains were identified within the northern field and the eastern half of the southern field. In the northern field, a large boundary ditch, which contained a single residual prehistoric pottery sherd and a ditch containing an undated articulated cow skeleton were uncovered.

Ditches and gullies recognised within the eastern half of the southern field are aligned on two orientations and as such suggest two possible phases of probable medieval agricultural activity, relating to a settlement nearby, but not within the site. These remains were extensive but not intensive in nature, indicating a low level of utilisation of this area.

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The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology East by Liz Muldowney. The fieldwork was directed by Malgorzata Kwiatkowska, who was supported by Steve Graham, Neal Mason, Jo Nastaszyc and Max Jacobs. Survey and digitizing was carried out by Jo Nastaszyc and Isobella Ward. Thank you 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 supervision of Katherine Hamilton. Thanks are extended to the various specialists for their contributions.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology East (OA East) was commissioned by RPS on behalf of Bellway Homes Ltd to undertake a trial trench evaluation at the land off Manor Road, Witchford, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 5036 7927; Fig. 1).
- 1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. 18/00820/OUM). A Brief was set by Kasia Gdaniec of the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC/HET) outlining the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process. A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by OA East (Muldowney 2019) detailing the methods by which OA East proposed to meet the requirements of the Brief. This document outlines how OA East implemented the specific requirements.

1.2 Location, topography and geology

- 1.2.1 The site is located on the north side of Manor Road towards the northern edge of the village of Witchford, Cambridgeshire. It comprises 7.6ha of land which straddles parts of two agricultural fields divided by a drains – Catchwater Drain – aligned south-west to north-east. It is bounded to the south-east by Manor Road, to the south-west by farm buildings and dwellings and elsewhere by arable land south of the A142.
- 1.2.2 The site's geology is mapped as Kimmeridge Clay Formation – Mudstone with overlying deposits of superficial Oadby Member Diamicton Till (British Geological Survey online map viewer: <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>).
- 1.2.3 The site is generally level at approximately 7m OD.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The archaeological and historical background of the site is derived from the information provided by RPS in their WSI dated December 2018 (Thornton 2018) and supplemented by the information from the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). Pertinent records are shown on Figure 2.

Iron Age and Roman

- 1.3.2 Early to Middle Iron Age pits and ditches were recorded in the vicinity of an undated cremation cemetery located 300m to the west of the development area (MCB20482; Blackburn 2018).
- 1.3.3 Iron Age and Romano-British activity comprising north to south and east to west orientated ditches, a curvilinear ditch, pits and postholes, has been recorded 1km to the south-west during evaluation trenching (MCB 25669). Pits, ditches and postholes dating from the 1st to 2nd century AD were also recorded during evaluation 1km to the south-east (ECB 3008). Both are likely to represent settlement areas. Cropmarks of a possible Iron Age enclosure, described as a 'temple' were identified approximately 1km to the north-east (07155). Iron Age artefacts were recovered during fieldwalking

just to the south of this cropmark site (07879). Romano-British artefacts (MCB24307) were recovered 800m to the north of the current development area during the same episode of fieldwalking.

Medieval to modern

- 1.3.4 Witchford is recorded in the Domesday Book (1086) and is likely to have had Late Saxon origins although no direct evidence for activity of this date has been recorded within the vicinity of the development area.
- 1.3.5 An evaluation on land north of 7 Manor Court Road, (MCB 19676), 300m south of the development area uncovered a small boundary ditch with correlated with a boundary marked on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1885.
- 1.3.6 Remnants of ridge and furrow cultivation systems have been recorded to the west of the site (MCB 20498) and further to the south-east from an aerial survey of the former RAF Witchford airfield site.
- 1.3.7 The medieval core of the village lies to the south-west of the development area and remains the focus of the current settlement. A number of evaluations in this core have recovered evidence for medieval and post-medieval ditches and pits. An archaeological evaluation 1km south-west of the development area (MCB 25672) revealed dense activity, with identified features consisting of ditches, gullies, pits and post holes with pottery dating from 10th to 12th century onwards. The most intense period of occupation at this site fell between the 12th to 15th centuries.
- 1.3.8 Historic OS maps from 1885 through to 1949 indicate the present site had been part of an orchard and agricultural land.

2 EVALUATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were as follows:

- i. To 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;
- ii. To provide sufficient coverage to establish the character, condition, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits;
- iii. To set results in the local, regional, and national archaeological context – and, in particular, its wider cultural landscape and past environmental conditions; and
- iv. To 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.

2.1.2 Site specific research objectives of this evaluation prepared by RPS are:

- v. To establish any evidence of inter-relationships between Bronze Age settlements with variation and changes in settlement types (Medlycott 2011, p20);
- vi. To explore patterns of burial practice during the Bronze Age (Medlycott 2011, p20);
- vii. To examine Bronze Age communication networks (Medlycott 2011, p20);
- viii. To explore the scale, rate and nature of the Bronze Age/Iron Age transition (Medlycott 2011, p29);
- ix. To examine the translation between Iron Age and Roman occupation (Medlycott 2011, p31); and
- x. To explore the distribution, density and dynamics of Iron Age and Roman settlement (Medlycott 2011, p31).

2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 A total of 25 trenches; 20 measuring 50m by 2.1m, one measuring 40m by 2.1m, two measuring 33m by 2.1m, one measuring 20m by 2.1m and one measuring 15m by 2.1m were excavated as agreed with the planning archaeologist. During machine stripping, the location and size of Trenches 4 and 5 was altered due to the presence of foul sewage pipes. Trenches 22 and 25 were shortened as they extended beyond limits of the development area and Trench 7 was shortened due to an underground service picked up by the CAT scanner.

2.2.2 Trench 5 flooded soon after excavation. The water was removed from the northern part of the trench which allowed for the recording of the features recognised within this trench.

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

- 2.2.4 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 bucket width of 2.1m was used to excavate the trenches. Overburden was excavated in spits not greater than 0.1m thick.
- 2.2.5 Spoil was stored alongside trenches, unless otherwise specified by the client. Topsoil, subsoil, and archaeological deposits were kept separate during excavation, to allow for sequential backfilling of excavations. Trenches were not backfilled without the approval of CCC/HET.
- 2.2.6 The top of the first archaeological deposit was cleared by machine, then cleaned off by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as necessary, in order to clarify located features and deposits.
- 2.2.7 Records comprised survey, drawn, written, and photographic data.
- 2.2.8 Surveying was carried out using a survey-grade differential GPS (Leica) fitted with "smartnet" technology with an accuracy of 5mm horizontal and 10mm vertical.
- 2.2.9 A register of all trenches, features, and photographs was kept.
- 2.2.10 All features, layers and deposits were issued with unique context numbers. Each feature was individually documented on context sheets, and hand-drawn in section and plan. Written descriptions were recorded on proforma sheets comprising factual data and interpretative elements.
- 2.2.11 Site plans were drawn at 1:50 scale.
- 2.2.12 The photographic record comprised high resolution digital photographs.
- 2.2.13 Photographs included both general site shots and photographs of specific features. Every feature was photographed at least once. Photographs included a scale, north arrow, site code, and feature number (where relevant), unless they are to be used in publications. The photograph register recorded these details, and photograph numbers were listed on corresponding context sheets.
- 2.2.14 Bucket samples of 90 litres of excavated soil was attempted, however due to the heavy clay soil and very wet conditions during the evaluation it was agreed to discontinue this technique.
- 2.2.15 Metal detector searches took place at all stages of the excavation by an experienced metal detector user. Excavated areas were detected immediately before and after mechanical stripping. Both excavated areas and spoil heaps were checked.
- 2.2.16 Metal detectors were not set to discriminate against iron.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

- 3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below, and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches which contained archaeological remains. Full details of each trench, including dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in Appendix A. Finds and environmental reports are presented in Appendix B and C. Figure 3 provides an overall plan of the results of the evaluation. Figures 4-7 provide more detailed plans of the features encountered. Selected sections are presented as Figure 8.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

- 3.2.1 The soil sequence between all trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology of light yellowish brown silty clay (148) and mid greyish blue clay (149) was overlain by a mid reddish brown subsoil (147), which in turn was overlain by topsoil (146). The mid greyish blue clay geology (149) was recognised in the northern part of Trench 19, and within Trenches 20, 21 and 22.
- 3.2.2 Ground conditions in the northern area were challenging, especially in Trench 1 where excavated features flooded during the excavation. However, ground conditions throughout the southern part of evaluation were good, and the trenches remained dry throughout, with the exception of Trench 5 which flooded soon after excavation. 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 revealed in twenty-one trenches. Trenches 4, 9, 10 and 16 were devoid of archaeology and will not be discussed further. All trenches are described from west to east and from north to south.

3.4 Trench 1

- 3.4.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 4, Plate 1) was located in the north-western corner of the northern field. It was orientated on a north-east to south-west alignment. In total, four features were excavated within this trench.
- 3.4.2 Ditch **36** (Fig. 9, Section 11) was located in the southern end of the trench. The ditch was orientated from north-west to south-east with steep sides. This feature was 3.54m wide and excavated to a depth of 0.60m, where the water table was reached and augured to a final depth of 1.70m, without reaching the natural geology. The lowest recognised deposit of this ditch consisted of dark greyish brown silty clay with possible concentration of organic material (43). It was overlaid by further nine backfill deposits (37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 44, 45). Fill (41) contained 20g of animal bone, a prehistoric pottery sherd (4g) and a single worked flint (1g).
- 3.4.3 Ditch **47** (same as **49**) was located to the north of and was found to have drained into ditch **36**. This ditch was orientated from north-east to south-west with steep sides and a concave base. It measured up to 0.48m in width and was 0.16m deep. It was filled

by a single deposit of dark reddish brown clayey silt (46, same as 48). No finds were recovered from this feature.

- 3.4.4 Ditch **71** was located to the north-east of ditch **47**, and was aligned from north-west to south-east. It was 1.34m wide, 0.08m deep with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single disuse deposit (70) of light greyish brown sandy clay. No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 3.4.5 Ditch **73** was located in the north-eastern half of this trench. It was orientated from north-west to south-east and was 0.50m wide, 0.10m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit (72) of light greyish brown clayey silt. No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 3.4.6 Ditch **75** was located towards the north-eastern end of the trench. It was orientated from north-west to south-east and was 0.64m wide, 0.30m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit (74) of light greyish brown clayey silt. No finds were recovered from this feature.

3.5 Trench 2

- 3.5.1 Trench 2 (Fig. 4) was located to the east of Trench 1, and was orientated ENE to WSW. Only a single feature was recognised within this trench.
- 3.5.2 Ditch **32** (Fig. 9, Section 14) was located towards the western end of the trench. It was aligned from north-west to south-east and measured 1.70m in width, 0.68 in depth with very steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by five deposits (33, 100, 101, 102, 103) of alternating mid and light greyish brown silty clay. Deposit (103) contained two worked flints (10g) dated to Late Neolithic or Bronze Age. An articulated cattle skeleton (Plate 2) was recovered from fill (33).

3.6 Trench 3

- 3.6.1 Trench 3 (Fig. 4) was located to the east of Trench 2. It was aligned from north-west to south-east and contained five archaeological features located towards the centre of the trench. All linear features in this trench were aligned from NNW to SSE.
- 3.6.2 The western-most feature was ditch **77**. It had gently sloping sides, a concave base and measured 2.13m in width and 0.16m in depth. It was filled by a single deposit of dark reddish brown sandy clay (76) which did not contain any finds.
- 3.6.3 Pit **93** was located east of ditch **77**. It was sub-circular in plan with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 2.10m in diameter and 0.08m deep and was filled by a light reddish brown clayey sand, which did not contain any finds.
- 3.6.4 Ditch **95**, located to the east of pit **93**, had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It measured 0.80m in width, 0.18m in depth and was filled by a single deposit of dark reddish brown clayey sand (94), which did not contain any finds.
- 3.6.5 Ditch **97**, located to the east of ditch **95**, had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.60m wide, 0.10m deep and was filled by a single deposit of dark reddish brown clayey sand (96), which did not contain any finds.

- 3.6.6 Ditch **99**, located immediately east of ditch **97**, also had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.80m wide, 0.10m deep and was filled by a single deposit of dark reddish brown clayey silt (**98**) which did not contain any finds.

3.7 Trench 5

- 3.7.1 Trench 5 (Fig. 5) was located at the western end of the development area. It was aligned from north-west to south-east, and contained two possible gullies, within the north-western half of the trench. Both these features were orientated from north-east to south-west.
- 3.7.2 Gully **137** was 0.54m wide, 0.26m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit (**138**) of light greyish brown silty clay.
- 3.7.3 Gully **139** was located immediately east of gully **137**. It also measured 0.54m in width and was 0.28m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit (**140**) of light greyish brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from either of these features.

3.8 Trench 6

- 3.8.1 Trench 6 (Fig. 5) was located along the southwestern boundary of the development area. It was aligned from north-west to south-east. A single gully was recognised within this trench.
- 3.8.2 Gully **117** was located in the middle of the trench. It was aligned from NNE to SSW. It measured 0.45m in width, 0.20m in depth and had steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit (**118**) of light greyish brown clayey silt, which did not contain any finds.

3.9 Trench 7

- 3.9.1 Trench 7 (Fig. 5) was located along the south-western boundary of the development area, south-east of Trench 6. It contained a single gully.
- 3.9.2 Gully **119** was located within the north-western half of the trench. It was slightly curvilinear, broadly orientated from north-west to south-east. It measured 0.46m in width, 0.11m in depth and had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit of mid brownish yellow sandy silt (**120**), which did not contain any finds.

3.10 Trench 8

- 3.10.1 Trench 8 (Fig. 7) was located to the north-east of Trench 7 and was aligned from north-east to south-west. This trench contained four gullies and remains of a ditch.
- 3.10.2 Gully **88** was located towards the south-western end of the trench. It was aligned from north-west to south-east, and measured 0.47m in width, 0.16m in depth, with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit of mid greyish brown silty clay (**89**). No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 3.10.3 Gully **106** was located immediately north-east of gully **88**. It was aligned from north-west to south-east, was 0.36m wide, 0.15m deep and had gently sloping sides and a

concave base. It was filled by a single deposit of mid greyish brown silty clay (107). No finds were recovered from this feature.

- 3.10.4 Gully **115** was located towards the centre of trench. It was aligned from north-west to south-east. It was 0.57m wide, 0.16m deep and had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit of mid greyish brown silty clay (116), which did not contain any finds.
- 3.10.5 Ditch **131** (Fig. 9, Section 41, Plate 3) was located towards the north-eastern end of the trench. It was aligned from the north-west to south-east and measured 3.4m in width and 0.34m deep, with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by two deposits. The basal fill of a surface of small sub-rounded stones (132) was overlaid by dark reddish brown clayey silt deposit (133), which did not contain any finds.
- 3.10.6 Gully **22** (same as **24**, **90**, **108**, **113** and **134**) extended across the full length of the trench. It measured 0.36m in width, 0.17m in depth, with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit (23, same as 25, 91, 109, 114, 145) of mid greyish brown silty clay. A single sherd of medieval pottery (8g) was recovered from slot **113** of this gully. This gully truncated all other features within this trench and was also recognised in Trench 14 as gully **84** and Trench 20 as gully **4**.

3.11 Trench 11

- 3.11.1 Trench 11 (Fig. 5) was located north of Trench 6. It was orientated from north-east to south-west. It contained a single gully located towards the centre of the trench.
- 3.11.2 Gully terminus **122** was aligned from north-east to south-west. It was 0.58m wide, 0.10m deep with steep sides and concave base. It was filled by a single deposit of dark reddish brown clayey silt (121), which contained a single fragment of animal bone (4g) and a worked flint (6g) dated to the Late Neolithic or Bronze Age.

3.12 Trench 12

- 3.12.1 Trench 12 (Fig. 5) was located to the west of Trench 11. It was aligned from north-east to south-west and contained four agricultural furrows, one of which covered a pit. All furrows uncovered by this trench were orientated from north-west to south-east.
- 3.12.2 Furrow **124** was located within the south-western half of the trench. It was 2.20m wide, 0.22m deep, had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit of light reddish brown silty clay (123), which did not contain any finds.
- 3.12.3 Furrow **126** was located in the north-eastern half of the trench. It measured 1.60m in width, 0.15m in depth and had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit of light reddish brown clayey sand (125) which did not contain any finds.
- 3.12.4 Furrow **128** (Fig. 9, Section 39) was located to the north of furrow **126**. It was 1.70m wide, 0.20m deep and had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit of light reddish brown sandy clay (127) which did not contain any finds. This furrow concealed pit **130**.
- 3.12.5 Pit **130** (Fig. 9, Section 39) was covered by furrow **128**. This pit was sub-circular in shape with steep sides and a concave base. It measured 0.60m in diameter, was 0.14m deep

and was filled by a single deposit of dark greyish brown clayey silt (129), which contained 12g of calcined bone and a sherd of an undiagnostic ceramic (1g).

- 3.12.6 Furrow **141** was located towards the northern end of the trench. It was 2.26m wide, 0.12m deep with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by a single deposit of light reddish brown clayey sand (142), which did not contain any finds.

3.13 Trench 13

- 3.13.1 Trench 13 (Fig. 5) was located to the north-east of Trenches 11 and 10. It was aligned from north-west to south-east and contained a layer of colluvium (110) excavated by three hand dug test pits. This layer of mid brown clayey silt was 21m wide and 0.08m deep. A single flint flake (3g) was recovered from this deposit.

3.14 Trench 14

- 3.14.1 Trench 14 (Fig. 7) was located to the south-east of Trench 13, and was aligned north-west to south-east. This trench uncovered two gullies.
- 3.14.2 Curvilinear gully **86** was located towards the centre of the trench. It was aligned broadly from north-west to south-east, was 0.40m wide, 0.08m deep, and had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit of mid reddish brown silty clay (87), which did not contain any finds.
- 3.14.3 Gully **84** was located to the south-east of gully **86**. It was aligned from north-east to south-west and measured 0.45m in width and 0.05m in depth. It had gently sloping sides, a concave base and was filled by a single deposit of mid reddish brown silty clay (85) which did not contain any finds. This gully was also recognised as gully **22** in Trench 8 and gully **4** in Trench 20.

3.15 Trench 15

- 3.15.1 Trench 15 (Fig. 7) was located to the north-east of Trench 14. It was aligned from north-east to south-west and uncovered a gully and possible remains of a trackway.
- 3.15.2 Gully **80** was uncovered towards the centre of the trench. It was aligned from north-west to south-east, with steep sides and a flat base. It measured 0.30m in width, 0.15m in depth and was filled by a single deposit of mid greyish brown silty clay (81), which did not contain any finds.
- 3.15.3 A ditch/ possible trackway **82** (Fig. 9, Section 23) was located to the north-east of gully **80**. It was aligned from north-west to south-east, had gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was 1.50m wide, 0.06m deep and was filled by a single deposit of light yellowish brown silty clay with very frequent sub-rounded and sub-angular stones (83), which did not contain any finds.

3.16 Trench 17

- 3.16.1 Trench 17 (Fig. 6, Plate 4) was aligned from north-east to south-west and uncovered a group of pits, post holes and a gully.
- 3.16.2 Pit **6** (Fig. 9, Section 3, Plate 5) was located towards the south-western half of the trench. It measured up to 1.70m in diameter, 0.76m in depth and was sub-circular in

plan with stepped sides and a concave base. It was filled by two deposits. The lower fill, consisted of mid grey silty clay (7), was overlaid by dark grey silty sand (8), which contained a fragment of lava quern (89g) and animal bone (118g). This pit was truncated by posthole 9.

- 3.16.3 Post hole 9 (Fig. 9, Section 3, Plate 5) was located to the south-east of pit 6. It measured up to 0.70m in diameter, 0.44m in depth. It was sub-circular in plan with vertical sides and a concave base. It was filled by two deposits. The lower deposit of light grey silty clay (10) was overlaid by dark grey silty sand (11). No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 3.16.4 Pit 12 (Fig. 9, Section 3, Plate 5) was located to the south of post hole 9, and was truncated by this feature. It measured up to 1.24m in diameter, 0.60m in depth with stepped sides and a flat base. It was filled by three disuse deposits. The basal fill of light greyish brown silty sand (15) was overlaid by a deposit of light greyish yellow silty sand (16), that contained 40g of animal bones. The upper most deposit consisted of dark grey silty sand (17), which contained 1g of animal bone.
- 3.16.5 Pit 50 (Plate 6) was located to the north-east of pits 6, 9 and 12. It was sub-circular in plan with vertical sides, measured 1.24m in diameter and was augured to the depth of 0.86m. It was filled by two deposits. The lower deposit of mid yellowish brown silty clay (51), which contained 6g of animal bone, was overlain by a dark grey silty clay (52), that contained three fragments of medieval pottery (8g), and 475g of animal bone including a fragment of a bone comb (2g).
- 3.16.6 Gully 53 (Plate 6) truncated pit 50 on its northern side. The gully was 0.84m wide, 0.48m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by two deposits. The lower fill of mid yellowish brown silty clay (54) was overlaid by dark brownish grey silty clay (55). No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 3.16.7 Post hole 1 (Plate 6) was located to the north of gully 53. It measured 0.92m in diameter, 0.48m in depth, had vertical sides and a flat base. It was filled by two deposits. A lower fill of mid brownish yellow silty clay (3) was overlain by deposit of mid yellowish brown clayey silt (2), which contained a single abraded sherd of possible Roman pottery.

3.17 Trench 18

- 3.17.1 Trench 18 (Fig. 4) was located to the west of Trench 17. It was aligned WNW to ESE and contained a single sub-circular pit (111) (Fig. 9, Section 44) located towards the western end of the trench. This pit measured 0.58m in diameter, was 0.06m deep, had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit of mid brownish red silty clay (112), which did not contain any finds.

3.18 Trench 19

- 3.18.1 Trench 19 (Fig. 6, Plate 7) was located to the north-east of Trench 18. It was aligned from ENE to WSW and contained two ditches.
- 3.18.2 Ditch 18 was located within the western half of the trench and was orientated from north-west to south-east. It measured 1.20m in width, 0.38m in depth had steep sides

and a flat base. It was filled by a single deposit of mid greyish yellow sandy clay (19) which did not contain any finds.

- 3.18.3 Ditch **104** was located towards the eastern end of the trench. It was aligned from north-east to south-west. It was 0.65m wide, 0.12m deep had gently sloping sides and a concave base. it was filled by a single deposit of mid greyish brown sandy clay (105), which did not contain any finds.

3.19 Trench 20

- 3.19.1 To the south-east Trench 19, Trench 20 (Fig. 6) was aligned west north-west to east south-east. It revealed a pit and a gully terminus.
- 3.19.2 Pit **13** (Fig. 9, Section 42, Plate 8) was located towards the centre of the trench. It was sub-circular in shape with steep sides and a flat base. It measured 1.80m in diameter, 0.68m in depth and was filled by three deposits. The basal fill consisted of mid greyish brown silty clay (14) and contained 1333g of animal bone. It was overlaid by a mid blueish brown clay deposit (135). The uppermost deposit of mid reddish brown clayey silt (136) contained a fragment of iron smithing slag (199g).
- 3.19.3 Gully terminus **4** (Fig. 9, Section 2) was located to the south-east of pit **13**. It was orientated from north-east to south-west, was 0.40m wide, 0.15m deep and had steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit of mid yellowish brown silty clay (5), which contained 83g of animal and fish bone. The environmental remains recovered from this gully included occasional poorly-preserved charred grains and a small fragment of charred hazelnut shell.

3.20 Trench 21

- 3.20.1 Trench 21 (Fig. 6) was located north of Trench 20 on a parallel alignment. A single gully (**20**) was recognised within this trench. It was aligned north-east to south-west, measured 0.40m in width, 0.11m in depth with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a mid greyish brown silty clay (21) which did not contain any finds.

3.21 Trench 22

- 3.21.1 Trench 22 (Fig. 6) was located in the eastern corner of the development area. It was aligned from north-east to south-west and contained a single ditch terminus (**78**). This ditch was 0.74m wide, 0.40m deep with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It was filled by a single deposit (79) of light brownish grey silty clay, which contained three fragments of possible Early-Mid Saxon pottery (2g).

3.22 Trench 23

- 3.22.1 Trench 23 (Fig. 7) was located to the south-west of Trench 22 and contained four gullies and two pits. It was orientated from north-east to south-west.
- 3.22.2 Gully **68** (Fig. 9, Section 20) was uncovered towards the south-western end of this trench. It was aligned from NNE to SSW, had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was 0.55m wide and 0.10m deep and filled by a single deposit of mid brownish grey silty clay (69) which contained a single Late Neolithic or Bronze Age flint (22g) and a sherd of medieval pottery (4g).

- 3.22.3 Gully terminus **66** was uncovered north-east of gully **68**. It aligned from north-west to south-east, measured 0.66m in width, 0.20m in depth and had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit of light brownish grey silty clay (67), which did not contain any finds.
- 3.22.4 Gully **64** was located to the north-east of gully **66**, and was orientated from north-east to south-west. It had gently sloping sides and concave base and measured 0.53m in width and 0.14m in depth. It was filled by a single deposit of mid brownish grey silty clay (65), which did not contain any finds.
- 3.22.5 Pit **62** was uncovered to the north-east of gully **64**. It was sub-circular in plan with gently sloping sides and a concave base. It measured 0.84m in diameter, 0.09m in depth and was filled by a single deposit of dark greyish brown silty clay (63), which did not contain any finds.
- 3.22.6 Gully **58** was located towards the north-eastern end of the trench. It was aligned from east to west, measured 0.51m in width, 0.12m in depth, and had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit of light brownish grey silty clay (59), which did not contain any finds. This gully was truncated by pit **60**.
- 3.22.7 Pit **60** was located north of gully **58** and continued beyond the limit of the trench. It measured 0.50m in diameter, 0.26m in depth, and had steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit of mid greyish brown silty clay (61), which did not contain any finds.

3.23 Trench 24

- 3.23.1 Trench 24 (Fig. 7, Plate 9) was located to the west of Trench 23. It was aligned from north-east to south-west and formed a T-shape with Trench 25. In total three ditches and two gullies were uncovered by this trench.
- 3.23.2 Gully **56** was located towards the south-western end of the trench. It was aligned from north-west to south-east. It was 0.34m wide, 0.06m deep and had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit of mid greyish brown silty clay (57), which did not contain any finds.
- 3.23.3 Ditch **34** was located towards the middle of the trench and continued into Trench 25. It was aligned from north-east to south-west, was 0.75m wide, 0.13m deep and had steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit of mid greyish brown silty clay (35), which did not contain any finds.
- 3.23.4 Gully terminus **30** was located within the north-eastern half of the trench. It was aligned from north-west of east, had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It measured 0.62m in width, 0.10m in depth and was filled by a single deposit of mid yellowish grey silty clay (31), which did not contain any finds.
- 3.23.5 Ditch **28** (Fig. 9, Section 9, Plate 10) was located to the north-east of gully **30**. It was orientated from west to south-east, had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It measured 0.69m in width, 0.16m in depth and was filled by a single deposit of mid greyish brown silty clay (29), which did not contain any finds. Its relationship with ditch terminus **26** could not be recognised.

3.23.6 Ditch terminus **26** (Fig. 9, Section 9, Plate 10) run parallel to ditch **28**. It was 0.75m wide, 0.30m deep, with steep sides and a concave base. It was filled by a single deposit of mid greyish brown silty clay (27), which contained 133g of animal bone. Its relationship with ditch **28** could not be established.

3.24 Trench 25

3.24.1 Trench 25 (Fig. 7) was located to the south-east of, and formed a T-shape with, Trench 24. It was aligned from north-west to south-east and contained a single furrow (**143**), located towards its north-western end. It was orientated from west to east, was 0.80m wide and 0.10m deep. This furrow had gently sloping sides, a flat base and was filled by a single deposit of mid brown clayey silt (144), which did not contain any finds.

3.25 Finds summary

3.25.1 A small number of artefacts were recovered during this evaluation of the site and were derived from Trenches 1, 2, 8, 11, 13, 17, 20, 22, 23 and 24.

3.25.2 A single fragment of iron slag (199g) was recovered from pit **13**, Trench 20.

3.25.3 A fragment of lava quern (89g) was recovered from pit **6**, Trench 17, and four worked Late Neolithic/ Bronze Age flints were recovered from the site.

3.25.4 In general pottery, was extremely rare, totalling 18 sherds and weighing 66g. The pottery included fragments dated to the prehistoric, Roman, possibly the Early-Middle Saxon periods with ten sherds dated to medieval period.

3.26 Environmental summary

3.26.1 Thirteen bulk samples were taken from features encountered within Trenches 1, 2, 11, 12, 17 and 23. The recovery of charred grain, chaff, weed seeds and charcoal indicates that there is good potential for the preservation of plant remains at this site, particularly in area around Trenches 17 and 20, in the eastern part of the southern field. The preserved plant remains are dominated by cereal grains with chaff being virtually absent suggesting that the assemblages represent fully-processed grain that has been accidentally burnt.

3.26.2 A total of 51 fragments (weighing 7kg) of animal bone recovered from pits and ditches were retrieved solely from hand collection. The species represented include cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep/goat (*Ovis/Capra*), pig (*Sus scrofa*) and a single fragment of bird bone.

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Evaluation objectives and results

- 4.1.1 The evaluation of the site has revealed a range of archaeological features, including ditches, gullies, pits and post holes. In total, features and deposits were revealed in 21 out of 25 trenches. The works have revealed a high density of archaeological remains. The majority of archaeological remains were recognised within the northern field and the eastern half of the southern field (Fig. 8).
- 4.1.2 The earliest activity is represented by prehistoric pottery sherds and worked flints. Previous excavations at Field End (Philips and Blackburn 2019; Blackburn 2018; Philips and Green 2014; Fig. 1), c. 400m west of the evaluated area, revealed Middle-Late Bronze Age funerary activity and settlement. The evaluation at Field End produced a small finds assemblage with the majority of the pottery recovered dating from the later Iron Age phase of the site.
- 4.1.3 The majority of the activity at the site can be tentatively dated to the medieval period, with shallow ditches or furrows identified in Trenches 12 and 23-25. The pottery recovered from features identified within these trenches was domestic in nature and probably resulted from manuring spreads (App. B.4.10)
- 4.1.4 More problematic for interpretation is the fact that most excavated features were devoid of finds. The recovered artefact assemblage from the site is remarkably small, with datable finds limited to just 18 small sherds of pottery – indicating some prehistoric, Roman, Early-Middle Saxon and medieval activity, possibly manuring spread, in the vicinity of the evaluation trenches.
- 4.1.5 In general, most archaeological features were relatively slight, with few large or deep examples. Typically, most features were small in dimension, survived to depth of between 0.08m to 0.30m and contained simple, single fills of light to mid brown silty clay. Although the features cannot be securely dated based on artefactual evidence, at least two phases of low level activity, broadly dated to the medieval period, may be discerned from the differing orientations of the linear ditches and gullies.
- 4.1.6 Archaeological features were concentrated towards the eastern half of the site, although, a small number of features were uncovered within the central and northern parts. In the northern field Trench 1 uncovered a large boundary ditch which contained a single, residual prehistoric pottery sherd, and a ditch excavated in Trench 2 uncovered an undated articulated cow skeleton (Plate 2).
- 4.1.7 In total three trenches were of a particular interest in the southern field. Trench 20 uncovered a pit (13), which contained animal and fish bone along with a metalworking debris fragment. Gully 4 was also recognised in Trenches 8, 14 and 20.
- 4.1.8 Trench 17 was of particular interest, as it exposed a series of pits and post holes, all located in its southern half. These features were significant in size, measuring between 0.48m and 0.86m in depth and produced 32g of medieval pottery, 89g of lava quern and 631g of bone. The charred cereal grains recovered from these features suggest medieval crop processing in the area.

- 4.1.9 Trench 8 was also notable, as it uncovered remains of a ditch with a localised deposit suggestive of a possible undated trackway, which was truncated by gully **4**. A single piece of medieval pottery was recovered from this gully, however as it was recognised within a relationship slot with an earlier gully (**115**), this fragment might be residual.
- 4.1.10 The results of this evaluation were not sufficient to address any of the site specific research objectives prepared by RPS (Muldowney 2019) as potentially no prehistoric and Roman remains were uncovered.

4.2 Significance

- 4.2.1 The archaeological remains uncovered throughout the development area represent low density, agricultural activity related to settlement close by but not within the site spanning the medieval period. However, they do not indicate the focus of occupation during this time period. Other datable artefacts, spanning prehistoric, Roman, and Early to Middle Saxon periods are probably residual in nature and worked into feature fills through manuring.

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained four ditches. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
36	Cut	3.54	1.70	Boundary ditch	-	-
37	Fill	-	0.60	Fill of ditch 36	-	-
38	Fill	-	0.60	Fill of ditch 36	-	-
39	Fill	-	0.60	Fill of ditch 36	-	-
40	Fill	-	0.60	Fill of ditch 36	-	-
41	Fill	-	0.60	Fill of ditch 36	Bone, flint, pottery	?Prehistoric
42	Fill	-	0.60	Fill of ditch 36	-	-
43	Fill	-	0.30	Fill of ditch 36	-	-
44	Fill	-	0.60	Fill of ditch 36	-	-
45	Fill	-	0.60	Fill of ditch 36	-	-
46	Fill	0.45	0.05	Fill of ditch 47	-	-
47	Cut	0.45	0.05	Drainage ditch	-	-
48	Fill	0.48	0.16	Fill of ditch 49	-	-
49	Cut	0.48	0.16	Drainage ditch	-	-
70	Fill	1.34	0.08	Fill of ditch 71	-	-
71	Cut	1.34	0.08	Ditch	-	-
72	Fill	0.50	0.10	Fill of ditch 73	-	-
73	Cut	0.50	0.10	Ditch	-	-
74	Fill	0.64	0.30	Fill of ditch 75	-	-
75	Cut	0.64	0.30	Ditch	-	-
146	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
147	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
148	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained a single ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.62
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
32	Cut	1.70	0.68	Ditch	-	-
33	Fill	-	0.14	Fill of ditch 32	Bone	-
100	Fill	-	0.20	Fill of ditch 32	-	-
101	Fill	-	0.20	Fill of ditch 32	-	-
102	Fill	-	0.11	Fill of ditch 32	-	-
103	Fill	-	0.10	Fill of ditch 32	Flint	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained a single ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.62
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
146	Layer	-	0.36	Topsoil	-	-
147	Layer	-	0.26	Subsoil	-	-
148	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained a pit and four ditches. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
76	Fill	2.13	0.16	Fill of ditch 77	-	-
77	Cut	2.13	0.16	Ditch	-	-
92	Fill	2.10	0.08	Fill of pit 93	-	-
93	Cut	2.10	0.08	Pit	-	-
94	Fill	0.80	0.18	Fill of ditch 95	-	-
95	Cut	0.80	0.18	Ditch	-	-
96	Fill	0.60	0.10	Fill of ditch 97	-	-
97	Cut	0.60	0.10	Ditch	-	-
98	Fill	0.80	0.10	Fill of ditch 99	-	-
99	Cut	0.80	0.10	Ditch	-	-
146	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
147	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
148	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	W-E
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	15
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.85
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
146	Layer	-	0.39	Topsoil	-	-
147	Layer	-	0.46	Subsoil	-	-
148	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained two gullies. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	20
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.66
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
137	Cut	0.54	0.26	Gully	-	-
138	Fill	0.54	0.26	Fill of gully 137	-	-
139	Cut	0.54	0.28	Gully	-	-
140	Fill	0.54	0.28	Fill of gully 139	-	-
146	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
147	Layer	-	0.36	Subsoil	-	-
148	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 6						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained a single gully. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.60
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
117	Cut	0.45	0.20	Gully	-	-
118	Fill	0.45	0.20	Fill of gully 117	-	-
146	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
147	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil	-	-
148	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 7						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained a single gully. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	33
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.51
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
119	Cut	0.46	0.11	Gully	-	-
120	Fill	0.46	0.11	Fill of gully 119	-	-
146	Layer	-	0.32	Topsoil	-	-
147	Layer	-	0.19	Subsoil	-	-
148	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 8						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained four gullies and a ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.52
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
22	Cut	0.36	0.12	Gully	-	-
23	Fill	0.36	0.12	Fill of gully 22	-	-
24	Cut	0.36	0.11	Gully	-	-
25	Fill	0.36	0.11	Fill of gully 24	-	-
88	Cut	0.47	0.16	Gully	-	-
89	Fill	0.47	0.16	Fill of gully 88	-	-
90	Cut	0.36	0.16	Gully	-	-
91	Fill	0.36	0.16	Fill of gully 90	-	-
106	Cut	0.36	0.15	Gully	-	-
107	Fill	0.36	0.15	Fill of gully 106	-	-
108	Cut	0.36	0.17	Gully	-	-
109	Fill	0.36	0.17	Fill of gully 108	-	-
113	Cut	0.36	0.16	Gully	-	-
114	Fill	0.36	0.16	Fill of gully 113	Pottery	Medieval
115	Cut	0.57	0.16	Gully	-	-
116	Fill	0.57	0.16	Fill of gully 115	-	-
131	Cut	3.40	0.34	Ditch	-	-
132	Fill	2.80	0.06	Fill of ditch 131	-	-
133	Fill	3.40	0.28	Fill of ditch 131	-	-
134	Cut	0.20	0.14	Gully	-	-
145	Fill	0.20	0.14	Fill of gully 134	-	-
146	Layer	-	0.25	Topsoil	-	-
147	Layer	-	0.27	Subsoil	-	-
148	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 9						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology, contained a single tree throw. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.51
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
146	Layer	-	0.27	Topsoil	-	-
147	Layer	-	0.24	Subsoil	-	-
148	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 10						
General description					Orientation	NNE-SSW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.58
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
146	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
147	Layer	-	0.28	Subsoil	-	-
148	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 11						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained a single gully. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
121	Fill	0.58	0.10	Fill of gully 122	Bone, flint	-
122	Cut	0.58	0.10	Gully	-	-
146	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
147	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
148	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 12						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained four furrows and a single pit. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.60
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
123	Fill	2.20	0.22	Fill of furrow 124	-	-
124	Cut	2.20	0.22	Furrow	-	-
125	Fill	1.60	0.15	Fill of furrow 126	-	-
126	Cut	1.60	0.15	Furrow	-	-
127	Fill	1.70	0.20	Fill of furrow 128	-	-
128	Cut	1.70	0.20	Furrow	-	-
129	Fill	0.60	0.14	Fill of pit	Bone, pottery	-
130	Cut	0.60	0.14	Pit	-	-
141	Cut	2.26	0.12	Furrow	-	-
142	Fill	2.26	0.12	Fill of furrow	-	-
146	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil	-	-
147	Layer	-	0.22	Subsoil	-	-
148	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 13						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench devoid of archaeology, contained a single natural layer. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.62
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
110	Layer	21	0.08	Colluvium	Flint	-
146	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
147	Layer	-	0.34	Subsoil	-	-
148	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 14						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained two gullies. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.53
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
84	Cut	0.45	0.05	Gully	-	-
85	Fill	0.45	0.05	Fill of gully 84	-	-
86	Cut	0.40	0.08	Gully	-	-
87	Fill	0.40	0.08	Fill of gully 86	-	-
146	Layer	-	0.29	Topsoil	-	-
147	Layer	-	0.24	Subsoil	-	-
148	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 15						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained a gully and a possible trackway. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
80	Cut	0.30	0.15	Gully	-	-
81	Fill	0.30	0.15	Fill of gully 80	-	-
82	Cut	1.50	0.06	Trackway	-	-
83	Fill	1.50	0.06	Fill of trackway 82	-	-
146	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
147	Layer	-	0.15	Subsoil	-	-
148	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 16						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench devoid of archaeology. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
146	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
147	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
148	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 17						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained three pits, two post holes and a gully. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.48
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
1	Cut	0.92	0.48	Post hole	-	-
2	Fill	0.76	0.48	Fill of post hole 1	Pottery	?Roman
3	Fill	0.16	0.46	Fill of post hole 1	-	-
6	Cut	1.70	0.76	Pit	-	-
7	Fill	1.70	0.46	Fill of pit 6	Pottery	Early medieval
8	Fill	1.70	0.30	Fill of pit 6	Lava stone, bone, pottery	Roman – Early-medieval
9	Cut	0.70	0.44	Post hole	-	-
10	Fill	0.70	0.24	Fill of post hole 9	-	-
11	Fill	0.70	0.20	Fill of post hole 9	-	-
12	Cut	1.24	0.60	Pit	-	-
15	Fill	1.24	0.24	Fill of pit 12	-	-
16	Fill	1.24	0.24	Fill of pit 12	Bone	-
17	Fill	1.24	0.12	Fill of pit 12	Bone	-
50	Cut	1.24	0.86	Pit	-	-
51	Fill	1.24	0.62	Fill of pit 50	Bone	-
52	Fill	1.24	0.24	Fill of pit 50	Worked bone, bone, pottery	Medieval
53	Cut	0.84	0.48	Gully	-	-
54	Fill	0.30	0.48	Fill of gully 53	-	-
55	Fill	0.52	0.48	Fill of gully 53		
146	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
147	Layer	-	0.10	Subsoil	-	-
148	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 18						
General description					Orientation	WNW-ESE
Trench contained a single pit. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.75
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
111	Cut	0.58	0.06	Pit	-	-
112	Fill	0.58	0.06	Fill of pit 111	-	-
146	Layer	-	0.40	Topsoil	-	-
147	Layer	-	0.18	Subsoil	-	-
148	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 19						
General description					Orientation	ENE-WSW
Trench contained two ditches. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.68
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
18	Cut	1.20	0.38	Ditch	-	-
19	Fill	1.20	0.38	Fill of ditch 18	-	-
104	Cut	0.65	0.12	Ditch	-	-
105	Fill	0.65	0.12	Fill of ditch 104	-	-
146	Layer	-	0.38	Topsoil	-	-
147	Layer	-	0.30	Subsoil	-	-
148	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-
149	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 20						
General description					Orientation	WNW-ESE
Trench contained a gully and a pit. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of mid greyish blue clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.56
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
4	Cut	0.40	0.15	Gully	-	-
5	Fill	0.40	0.15	Fill of gully 4	Bone, fish bone	-
13	Cut	1.80	0.68	Pit	-	-
14	Fill	1.80	0.38	Fill of pit 13	Bone, fish bone	-
135	Fill	1.50	0.16	Fill of pit 13	-	-
136	Fill	1.36	0.30	Fill of pit 13	Iron slag	Post-Iron Age – pre-18th century

Trench 20						
General description					Orientation	WNW-ESE
Trench contained a gully and a pit. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of mid greyish blue clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.56
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
146	Layer	-	0.28	Topsoil	-	-
147	Layer	-	0.28	Subsoil	-	-
149	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 21						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained a single gully. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of mid greyish blue clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.54
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
20	Cut	0.40	0.11	Gully	-	-
21	Fill	0.40	0.11	Fill of gully 20	-	-
146	Layer	-	0.34	Topsoil	-	-
147	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
149	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 22						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained a single ditch. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of mid greyish blue clay.					Length (m)	40
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
78	Cut	0.74	0.08	Ditch	-	-
79	Fill	0.74	0.08	Fill of ditch 78	Pottery	? Early-Mid Saxon
146	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
147	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
149	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 23						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained five gullies and two pits. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.53
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
58	Cut	0.24	0.12	Gully	-	-
59	Fill	0.24	0.12	Fill of gully 58	-	-
60	Cut	0.50	0.26	Pit	-	-
61	Fill	0.50	0.26	Fill of pit 60	-	-
62	Cut	0.84	0.09	Pit	-	-
63	Fill	0.84	0.09	Fill of pit 62	-	-
64	Cut	0.53	0.14	Gully	-	-
65	Fill	0.53	0.14	Fill of gully 64	-	-
66	Cut	0.66	0.20	Gully	-	-
67	Fill	0.66	0.20	Fill of gully 66	-	-
68	Cut	0.55	0.10	Gully	-	-
69	Fill	0.55	0.10	Fill of gully 68	Flint, pottery	Medieval
146	Layer	-	0.27	Topsoil	-	-
147	Layer	-	0.26	Subsoil	-	-
148	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 24						
General description					Orientation	NE-SW
Trench contained three ditches and two gullies. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	50
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.30
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
26	Cut	0.75	0.30	Ditch	-	-
27	Fill	0.75	0.30	Fill of ditch 26	Bone	-
28	Cut	0.69	0.16	Ditch	-	-
29	Fill	0.69	0.16	Fill of ditch 28	-	-
30	Cut	0.62	0.10	Gully	-	-
31	Fill	0.62	0.10	Fill of gully 30	-	-
34	Cut	0.75	0.13	Ditch	-	-
35	Fill	0.75	0.13	Fill of ditch	-	-
56	Cut	0.34	0.06	Gully	-	-
57	Fill	0.34	0.06	Fill of gully	-	-
146	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
147	Layer	-	0.08	Subsoil	-	-
148	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 25						
General description					Orientation	NW-SE
Trench contained a single furrow. Consists of topsoil and subsoil overlying natural geology of silty clay.					Length (m)	33
					Width (m)	2.1
					Avg. depth (m)	0.50
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
143	Cut	0.80	0.10	Furrow	-	-
144	Fill	0.80	0.10	Fill of furrow 143	-	-
146	Layer	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
147	Layer	-	0.20	Subsoil	-	-
148	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Metalworking waste

By Simon Timberlake

Introduction

- B.1.1 A single piece of iron smithing slag weighing 199g was recovered from pit **13**, deposit (136) within Trench 20 of this evaluation.

Methodology

- B.1.2 The slag was examined in the hand under a x10 illuminated magnifying lens and tested with magnet to assess degree of magnetisation, thus the presence of free iron or wustite.

Results

- B.1.3 Part of a smithing hearth base (SHB) associated with secondary iron smithing work (dimensions 80mm x 75mm x 30mm (thick)). The small slag cake formed in the smithing hearth through the re-melting of iron hammer scale and the silicate lining and other debris is typically plano-convex with an uneven bottom and traces of attached clay, chalk and the impressions of charcoal. The upper surface is smooth from liquefaction of the iron silicate but contains traces of gas bubbles. A tuyere hinge break can be seen on one side where this slag cake was broken off its tip and ejected from the hearth. The original diameter of the (unbroken) SHB would have been around 90mm. The SHB is moderately magnetic suggesting the presence of wustite.

Conclusion

- B.1.4 A fairly typical example of an SHB which is difficult to date, but which seems likely to be post-Iron Age but pre-18th century in date.

Further work

- B.1.5 No further work is required on this and following the completion work the slag can be disposed of.

B.2 Worked stone

By Simon Timberlake

Introduction

- B.2.1 A single piece of worked stone weighing 89g was recovered from pit **6**, deposit (8) within Trench 17 of this evaluation.

Methodology

- B.2.2 The stone was examined by hand under a x10 illuminated magnifying lens and tested with dilute HCL to confirm the presence/ absence of limestone or a carbonate cement.

It was also compared with a worked stone reference collection which included quernstone.

Results

- B.2.3 A burnt and fragment of lava quern (65mm x 40mm x 30mm) as a small undiagnostic piece detached from a rotary lava quern handmill. No grinding surface or any area of worked (tooling) survives on this piece, the only evidence which can be determined is that it comes from the cross-section of an upper or lower stone, thus it is most likely to be from a stone that is at least c.60mm thick. The quern came from a basalt quarried at the extraction site of Mayen or Niedermendig nr Andernach in Germany. These were Roman quernstone quarries close to the Rhine and the frontier of the Roman Empire which were active later as well during the Saxon/ early medieval period.

Conclusion

- B.2.4 The lava quern would have been imported into England from Germany via the ports of either Colchester, Ipswich or London. If Roman in date (which seems the most likely option) this would have been part of a trade which began towards the end of the 1st century AD and lasted until the end of the 3rd century AD (Watts 2002). Roman quern arrived via London or Colchester, and from the latter port it may have arrived in Cambridgeshire along the Via Devana.

Further work

- B.2.5 No further work is required on this quern stone and following the completion of this work it can be disposed of.

B.3 Flint

By Lawrence Billington

Introduction

- B.3.1 Four worked flints were recovered during the trial trenching, three from the fills of ditches (ditches **32** and **122**, Trenches 2 and 11 respectively) and one from a colluvial deposit exposed in Trench 13 (Table 1). The flints are all simple unretouched partly cortical flakes, three of which are heavily recorticated (patinated). They are not strongly diagnostic but are probably the product of Late Neolithic to Bronze Age technologies. Similarly small assemblages of flake-based flintwork have been recovered from excavations elsewhere in Witchford, at Field End (Blackbourn 2018, Phillips and Blackbourn 2019), and Stirling Way (Atkins 2011) – and at the latter site some of this material was found associated with Beaker pottery.

Trench	Context	Cut	Context type	Secondary flake	Total worked
2	103	32	Ditch	2	2
11	121	122	Ditch	1	1
13	110	-	Colluvium	1	1

Table 1. Quantification of the flint assemblage

B.4 Pottery

By Carole Fletcher

Introduction

B.4.1 Archaeological works produced a small hand-excavated pottery assemblage of 18 sherds, weighing 0.066kg, from Trenches 1, 8, 12, 17, 22 and 24. The assemblage is multi-period with low sherd numbers of prehistoric, ?Roman and medieval pottery. The condition of the assemblage is abraded, and the average sherd weight is low at approximately 0.004kg.

Methodology

B.4.2 The Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG), Study Group for Roman Pottery (SGRP), The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG), 2016 *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* and the MPRG *A guide to the classification of medieval ceramic forms* (MPRG 1998) act as standards.

B.4.3 Rapid recording was carried out using OA East's in-house system, based on that previously used at the Museum of London. Fabric classification has been carried out for all previously described medieval and post-medieval types named, using the Cambridgeshire fabric types (Spoerry 2016). All sherds have been counted, classified and weighed on a context-by-context basis. Minimum number of vessels (MNV) was not established due to the small size of many of the sherds. A simplified method of recording has been undertaken, with fabric, basic description, weight and count recorded in the text. The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition or dispersal.

Assemblage

B.4.4 Trench 23 produced a single abraded sherd (0.003kg) of an unglazed Medieval Ely ware jug (1150-1400) from gully **68** and an undiagnostic prehistoric flint-tempered abraded body sherd (0.004kg) from Trench 1, ditch **36** from sample 9.

B.4.5 Gully **113** in Trench 8 produced a moderately abraded to abraded, slightly sooted body sherd (0.008kg) from a Medieval Sandy Coarseware vessel (1150-1500).

B.4.6 Sample <13>, taken from the fill of pit **130**, produced a small undiagnostic flint-tempered body sherd (0.001kg) that, as with the sherd from Trench 1, can only be broadly dated as prehistoric.

- B.4.7 Trench 17 produced the bulk of the pottery recovered from the evaluation (10 sherds in total), recovered from three features: post hole **1** and pits **6** and **50**. Sample <2>, taken from the fill of post hole **1**, produced an abraded sherd (0.001kg) of ?Roman Sandy Greyware. Three Lyveden A-type Shelly ware body sherds (0.023kg, 1150-1400), moderately abraded and lightly sooted, two (joining) fine Medieval Sandy Greyware body sherds (0.003kg, 1150-1500), and a single sooted sherd (0.001kg) tentatively identified as Early Medieval ware (1050-1200) were all recovered from pit **6**. Pit **50** also produced two moderately abraded, fine Medieval Sandy Greyware body sherds, both slightly sooted (0.005kg, 1150-1500) and an abraded body sherd (0.003kg) of Medieval Sandy Coarseware (1150-1500).
- B.4.8 Trench 22 produced two abraded, reduced, handmade quartz-tempered sherds (0.002kg) that are not closely datable, although possibly Early-Middle Saxon (E/MSQ).
- B.4.9 A moderately abraded to abraded sherd of a strap handle (East Anglian Redware 1200-1500), very probably from a jug (0.012kg) was recovered as an unstratified find in Trench 24.

Discussion

- B.4.10 The paucity of pottery recovered suggests that the material represents a low background level of pottery, indicating some prehistoric, Roman and Early-Middle Saxon activity in the vicinity of the evaluation trenches. The domestic medieval pottery probably resulted from manuring spreads, further dispersed by later ploughing or other disturbance.

Retention, dispersal or display

- B.4.11 Should further work be undertaken, additional pottery may be recovered although only at low levels. If no further work is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record.

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental Samples

By Rachel Fosberry with Martha Craven and Mary Andrews (small bone identification)

Introduction

- C.1.1 Thirteen bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated area off Manor Road, Witchford, Cambridgeshire in order to assess the quality of preservation of plant remains and their potential to provide useful data as part of further archaeological investigations. Samples were taken from features encountered within Trenches 1, 2, 11, 12, 17 and 23 from deposits that are unknown date.

Methodology

- 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 *Siraf*-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. The initial flotation was not completely successful, and a significant proportion of the charred plant remains remained in the residue necessitating a secondary flotation procedure. The dried residue was added to clean water and the floating component collect in a mesh, dried and combined with the original flot.
- 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 2. 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 (2010) 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
- + = occasional, ++ = moderate, +++ = frequent, ++++ = abundant

Results

- C.1.6 Preservation of plant remains is by carbonisation and is generally poor (possibly due to the high clay content); many of the flots contain rootlets which may have caused movement of material between contexts. The flots also contain large amounts of silt which made examination rather difficult and a significant proportion of the carbonised plant remains were retained in the residue.

Trench 1

- C.1.7 Sample 1, fill 41 of ditch **36** is devoid of any preserved plant remains. Mollusc shells are abundant and are well-preserved.

Trenches 2, 11 and 12

- C.1.8 Samples taken from ditch **22** (Trench 2) and pit **130** (Trench 12) do not contain preserved plant remains other than sparse charcoal. Pit **130** contains occasional small mammal bones that are burnt. Ditch terminus **122** (Trench 11) is completely sterile.

Trench 17

- C.1.9 Samples were taken from three pits (**6**, **12**, **50**), a post hole (**1**) and a gully (**53**) and all contain charred plant remains, mostly cereal grains. The most abundant assemblages are from the upper/overlying deposits of pits **12** (17) and **50** (52). Free-threshing wheat grains (*Triticum aestivum/compactum*) predominate and rye (*Secale cereale*) grains are also abundant in Sample 7, fill 52 of pit **50** which also contains a fragment of rye rachis (cereal ear). Barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and oat (*Avena* sp.) grains are also present. Legumes occur as single specimens of vetch/tare (*Vicia/Lathyrus* sp.) and possibly a large pea (*Pisum* sp.) or small bean (*Vicia* cf. *faba*) fragment. Weed seeds are also extremely rare with only occasional seeds of grass (Poaceae), clover/medick (*Trifolium/Medicago* sp.), cleavers (*Galium aparine*), Stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*) and a sedge (*Carex* sp.). Charcoal volumes are also generally low. Small bones of fish and amphibians were recovered from the sample residues along with a fragment of avian eggshell.

Trench 20

- C.1.10 Sample 1, fill 5 of gully terminus **4** contains occasional poorly-preserved charred grains and a small fragment of charred hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell. Several eel (*Anguilla* sp.) bones were retrieved from the residue of this sample along with a bird bone and small and large mammal bones.

Trench 23

- C.1.11 Sample 12, fill 63 of pit **62** does not contain preserved plant remains.

Trench No.	Sample No.	Context No.	Feature No.	Feature type	Volume processed (L)	Flot Volume (ml)	Cereals	Chaff	Legumes	Weed Seeds	Shells	Charcoal volume (ml)	Pottery	Small mammal bones	Large mammal bones	Fish bones	Bird bones	Amphibian bones	Egg shell	Flint debris
1	9	41	36	Ditch	14	10	0	0	0	0	++++	<1	#	0	0	0	0	0	0	#
2	10	33	22	Ditch	18	10	#	0	0	0	0	<1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	11	121	122	Ditch terminus	14	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12	13	129	130	Pit	10	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	#	##b	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	2	2	1	Pit	20	20	##	0	0	0	0	<1	#	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	3	8	6	Pit	17	30	###	0	#	0	0	3	0	0	0	#	0	0	0	0
17	4	17	12	Pit	15	20	####	0	#	#	+	1	0	0	0	#	0	#	+	0
17	5	16	12	Pit	14	20	#	0	0	0	0	<1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17	7	52	50	Pit	20	150	#####	#	#	#	0	32	#	0	0	##	0	#	0	0
17	8	54	53	Gully	20	25	###	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	1	5	4	Gully terminus	20	15	##	0	0	#	0	<1	0	0	#	#	0	0	0	0
20	6	14	13	Ditch	20	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	#	#	###	#	0	0	0
23	12	63	62	Pit	14	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	#	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 2. Environmental samples

Discussion

C.1.12 The recovery of charred grain, chaff, weed seeds and charcoal indicates that there is good potential for the preservation of plant remains at this site, particularly in area around Trenches 17 and 20. 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.1.13 The preserved plant remains are dominated by cereal grains and chaff is virtually absent suggesting that the assemblages represent fully-processed grain that has been accidentally burnt. The wheat grains have a compact, rounded morphology that is suggestive of club wheat (*Triticum compactum*), a form of bread wheat that is a common cultivar from the Saxon period onwards that could have been sown in winter on the local heavy clay soils. Rye is similarly also a winter-sown crop that only becomes a cultivated crop from the Saxon period. Manorial accounts for the Bishop of Ely estates record both rye and wheat yields from as early as 1318 (Campbell 2007). Rye is more drought-tolerant than bread wheat and it is possible that the two cereals were grown as a maslin crop for insurance. Both bread wheat and rye would have been used for flour for making bread.

C.1.14 Barley is likely to have been a six-row variety that was sown in spring. The relatively low frequency in these assemblages may suggest that it was growing as a relict from the previous year's crop although barley was a valued cereal that would have been cultivated for use as fodder and for human consumption in soups/stews and for brewing. The small quantities of oats present may also be an indicator that these are the wild variety that would have been growing as a crop weed rather than the cultivated form (that was also used as fodder).

- C.1.15 Samples containing abundant hulled barley with wheat, rye and pea/bean were recorded from medieval deposits at Land east of Needhams Farm, Witchford (Barlow 2018) and medieval ridge and furrow has been identified in Field End to the west of this site (Phillips and Green 2014).
- C.1.16 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 Hayley Foster

Introduction and methodology

- C.2.1 The animal bone from Manor Road represents faunal remains weighing 7kg. There were 51 fragments recorded, retrieved solely from hand collection. Bone was recovered from pits and ditches. The species represented include cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep/goat (*Ovis/Capra*), pig (*Sus scrofa*) and a single fragment of bird bone.
- C.2.2 The method used to quantify this assemblage was based on that used for Knowth by McCormick and Murray (2007) which is modified from Albarella and Davis (1996). Identification of the faunal remains was carried out at Oxford Archaeology East. References to Hillson (1992) and Schmid (1972) were used where necessary.
- C.2.3 Ageing was briefly assessed using Grant (1982), Payne (1973), Higham (1967) and Silver (1970).

Results of Analysis

- C.2.4 The assemblage was heavily dominated by cattle making up 86% of the identifiable remains retrieved.
- C.2.5 The condition of the bone is fair with moderate to high levels of fragmentation.
- C.2.6 Ageing data was minimal, however dental wear indicates that cattle aged to 30-31 months of age at death. The epiphyseal fusion data follows a similar trend with unfused long bones ageing to less than 42 months of age at death.
- C.2.7 There appears to be no distinct bias in element distribution as most skeletal elements are represented. Ditch **32** consisted of a partially articulated cattle skeleton, which would have been disposed of due to disease. There is a severe case of potential osteomyelitis, in which inflammation begins in marrow cavity. Extra bone growth is extensive with multiple cloaca, for pus to have been released. There is a severe fracture that could have been caused prior to the infection or the bone loss caused a pathological fracture (Baker and Brothwell 1980). The severity of the infection in the leg would have caused lameness.
- C.2.8 There were no taphonomic changes noted apart from the pathology described above.
- C.2.9 While the volume of bone recovered was not abundant, the remains do indicate that there were signs of domestic activity in those features where bone was recovered. Cattle would have made up the bulk of the resident's diet, not only due to the higher number of fragments, but because cattle yield more meat than both sheep and pig.

Species	NISP	%NISP	MNI	%MNI
Cattle	44	86.3	2	40.0
Sheep/Goat	3	5.9	1	20.0
Pig	3	5.9	1	20.0
Bird	1	2.0	1	20.0
TOTAL	51	100.0	5	100.0

Table 3. Total number of identifiable fragments (NISP) by species for hand-collected material.

C.2.10 There was a small fragment of worked bone from context pit **50**. A series of stripes marked on the anterior surface, potentially making up part of a bone comb.

Recommendation

C.2.11 The assemblage is of a small size and cannot provide any further significant interpretations. Should further faunal remains be recovered from the site, a broader understanding of trends in husbandry practices and spatial distribution would be more viable. The cattle tibia with the noted pathology should be considered for photography.

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APPENDIX E OASIS REPORT FORM

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-374175		
Project Name	Land off Manor Road, Witchford		
Start of Fieldwork	07/10/2019	End of Fieldwork	22/10/2019
Previous Work	No	Future Work	Yes

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	ECB5944	Planning App. No.	18/00820/OUM
HER Number	ECB5944	Related Numbers	n/a

Prompt	Planning condition
Development Type	Rural Residential
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 type="checkbox"/> Annotated Sketch	<input type="checkbox"/> Laser Scanning	<input type="checkbox"/> Survey/Recording of Fabric/Structure
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Test Pits
<input 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
Ditch	Medieval (1066 to 1540)	Bone	Uncertain
Pit	Medieval (1066 to 1540)	Pottery	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
Post hole	Uncertain	Slag	Uncertain
Gully	Uncertain	Quern	Early Medieval (410 to 1066)
Furrow	Uncertain	Flint	Uncertain

Insert more lines as appropriate.

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire	Address (including Postcode) Manor Road Witchford Cambridgeshire CB6 2JB
District	East Cambridgeshire	
Parish	Witchford	
HER office	Cambridgeshire	
Size of Study Area	7.6ha	
National Grid Ref	TL 50367927	

Project Originators

Organisation	Oxford Archaeology East
Project Brief Originator	Kasia Gdaniec
Project Design Originator	Liz Muldowney
Project Manager	Liz Muldowney
Project Supervisor	Malgorzata Kwiatkowska

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	CCC Stores	ECB5944
Digital Archive	OA East	WFDMRD19
Paper Archive	CCC Stores	ECB5944

Physical Contents	Present?	Digital files associated with Finds	Paperwork associated with Finds
Animal Bones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Human Remains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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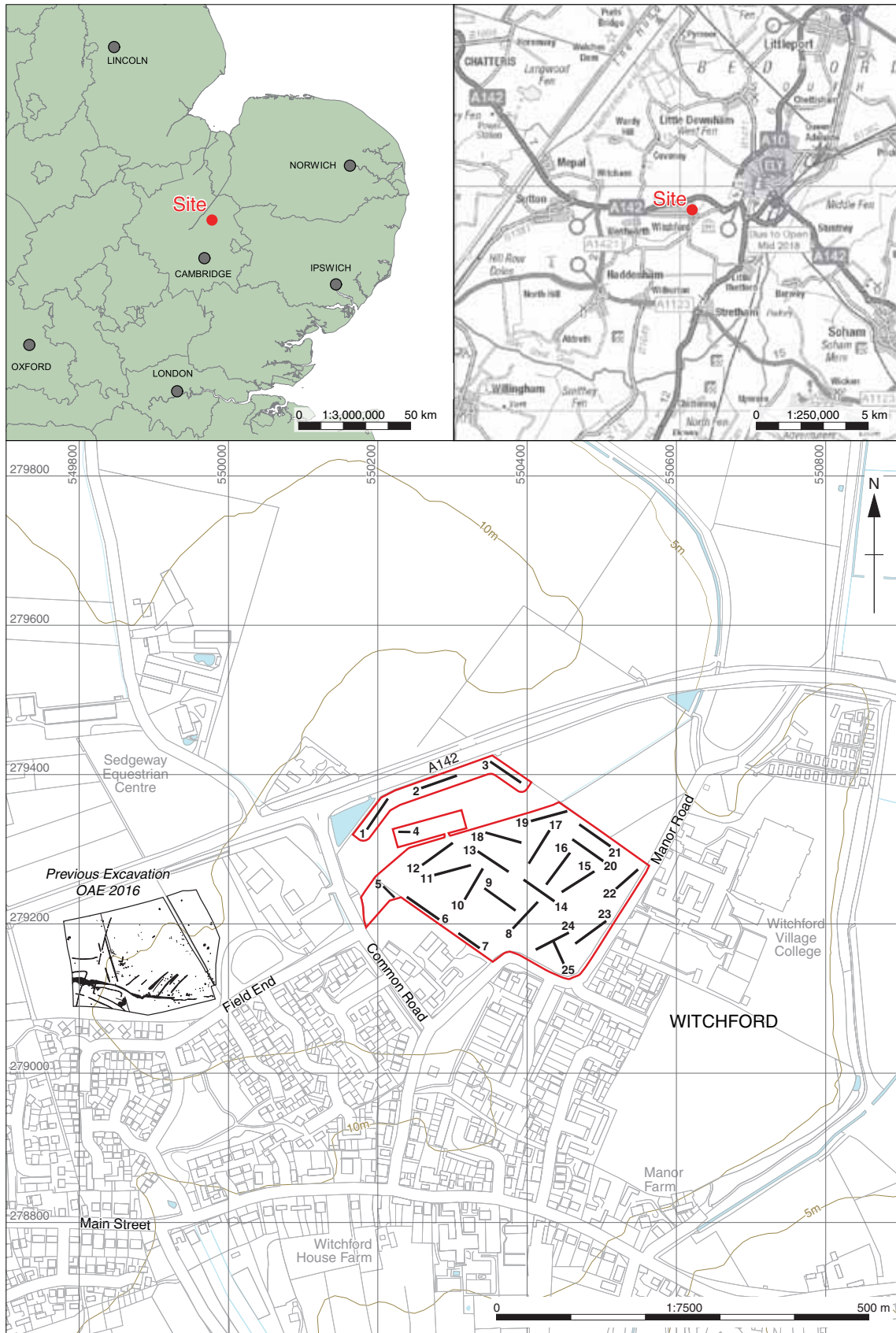
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Plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Report	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sections	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Survey	<input type="checkbox"/>

Further Comments



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

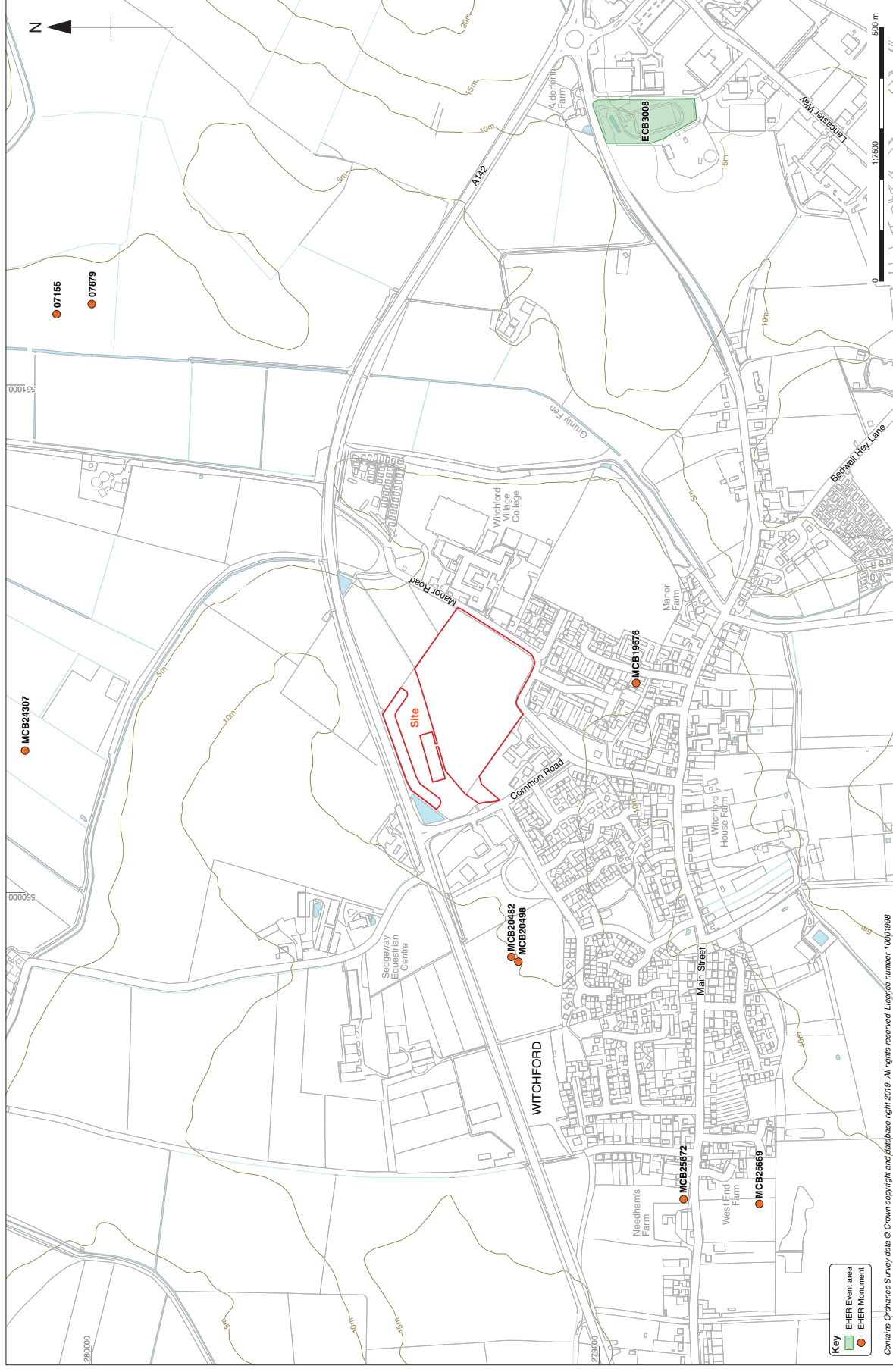


Figure 2: HER data map within the investigated area

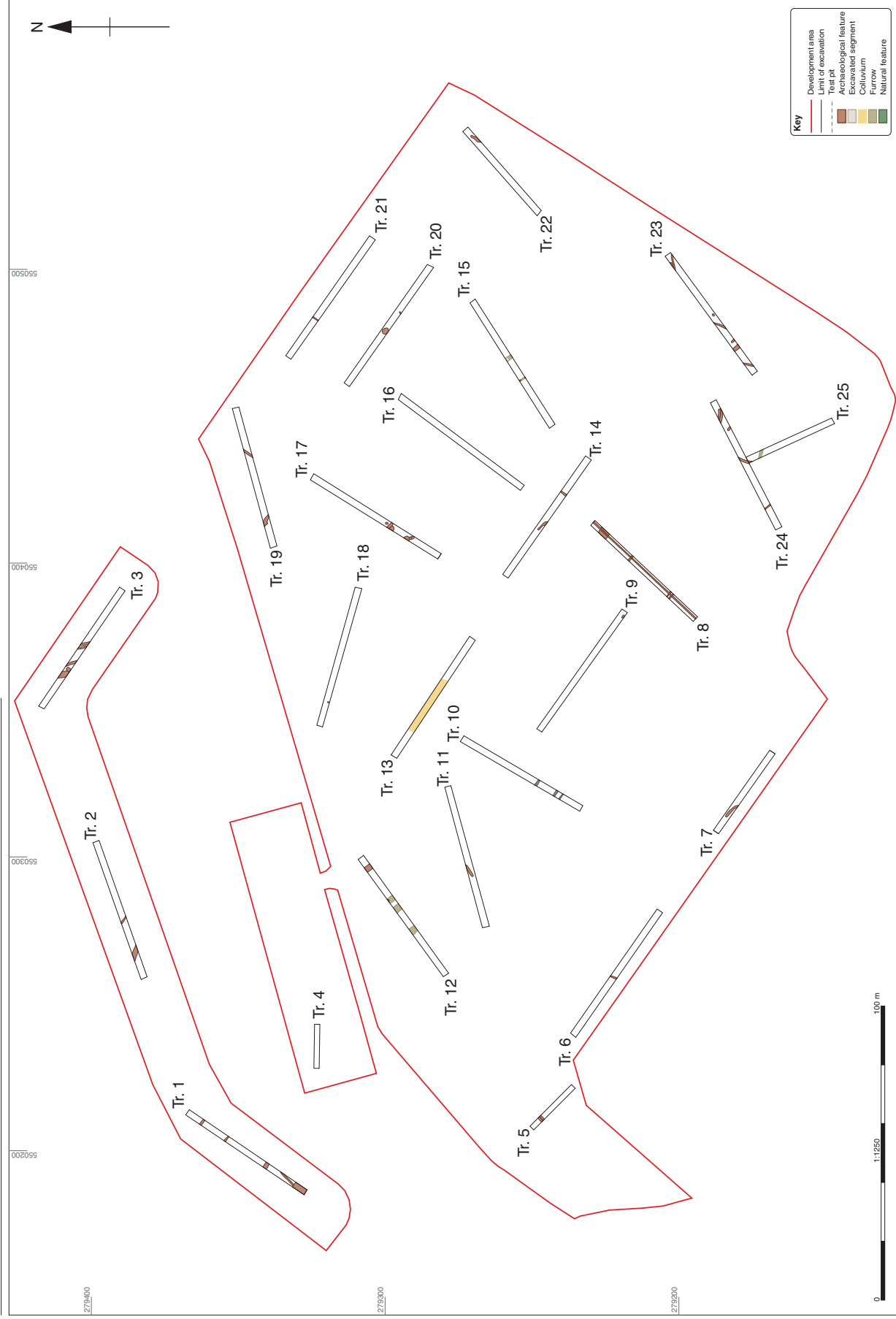


Figure 3: Site plan

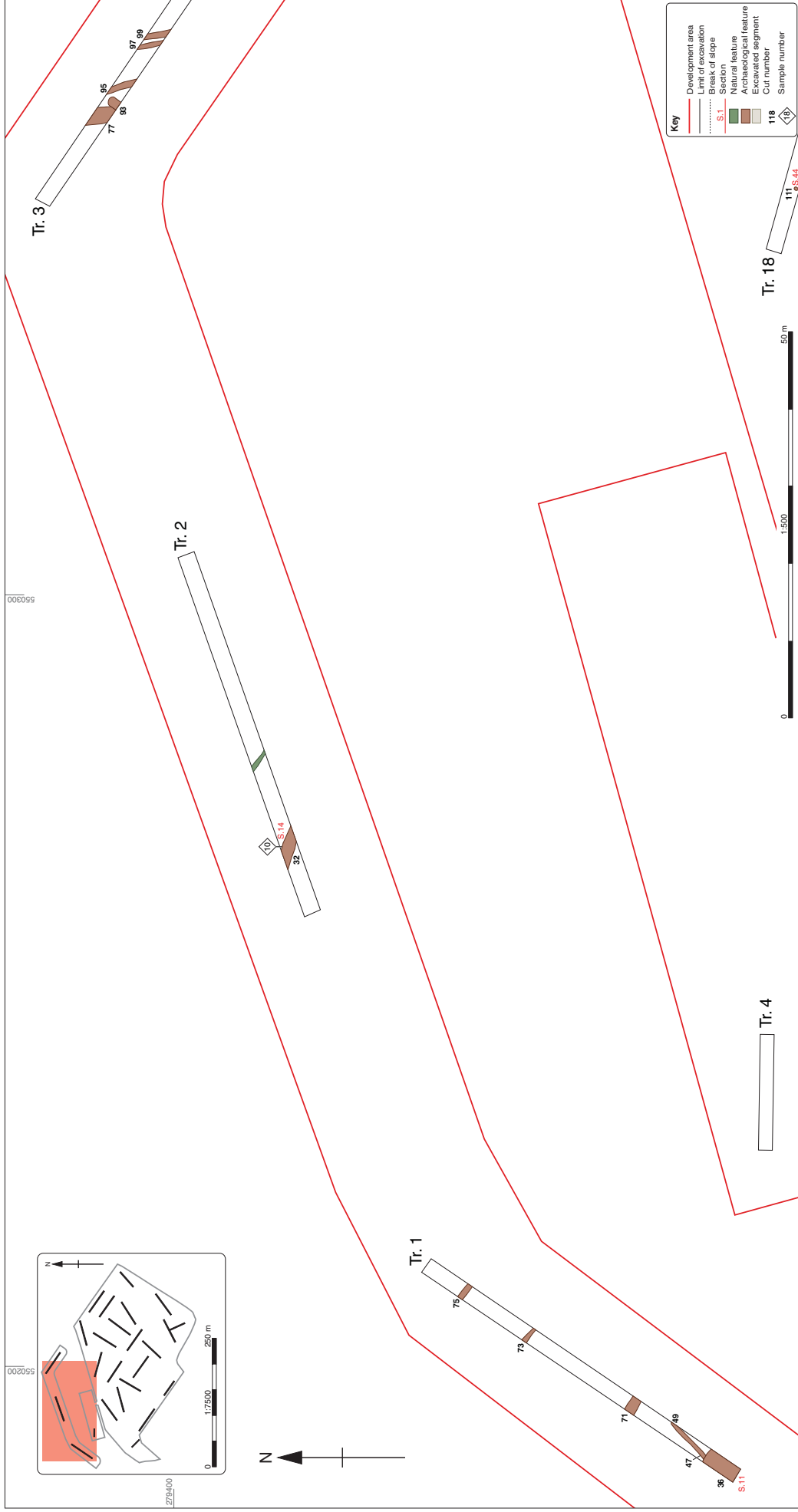


Figure 4: Detailed plan of Trenches 1-4 and 18

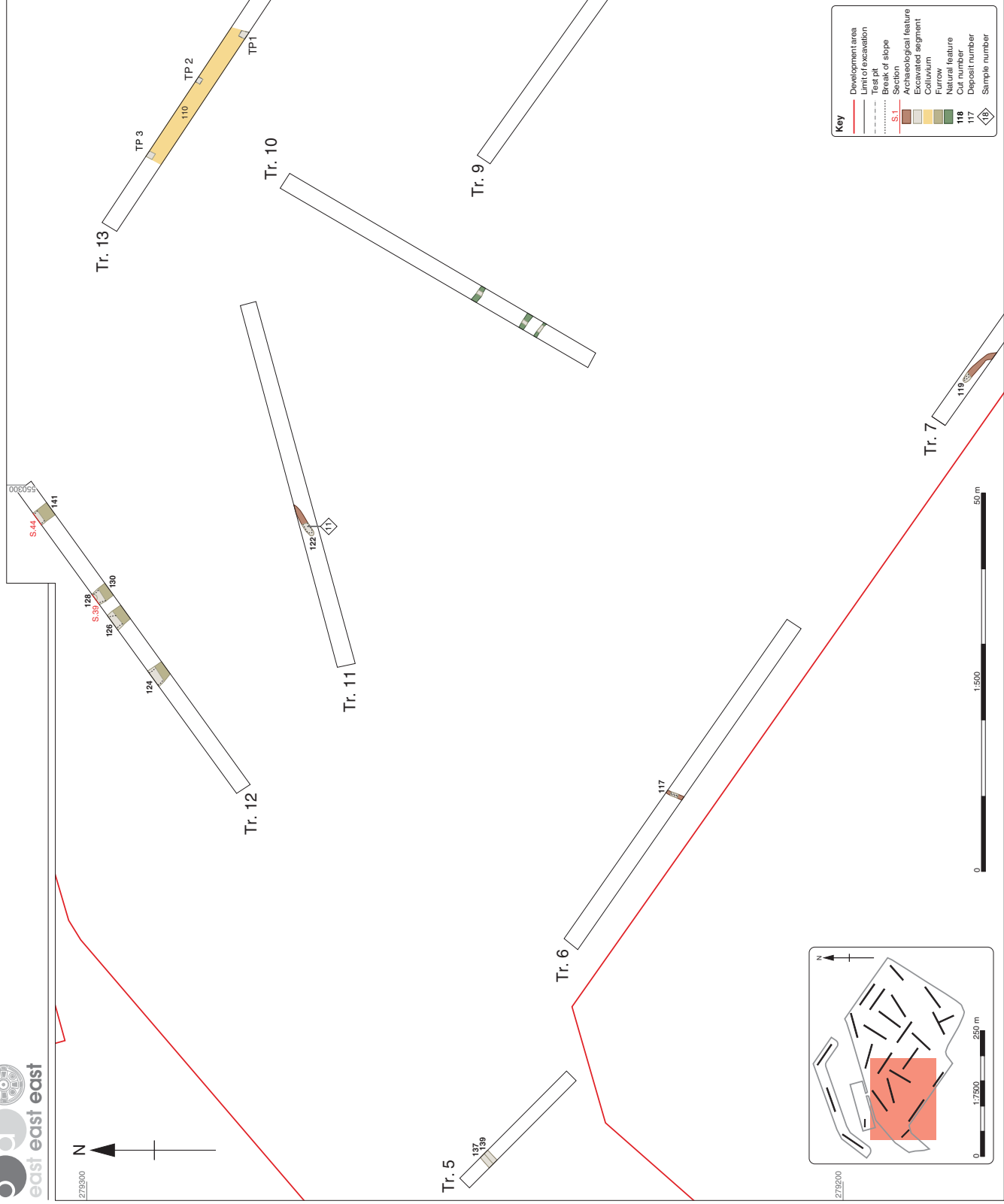
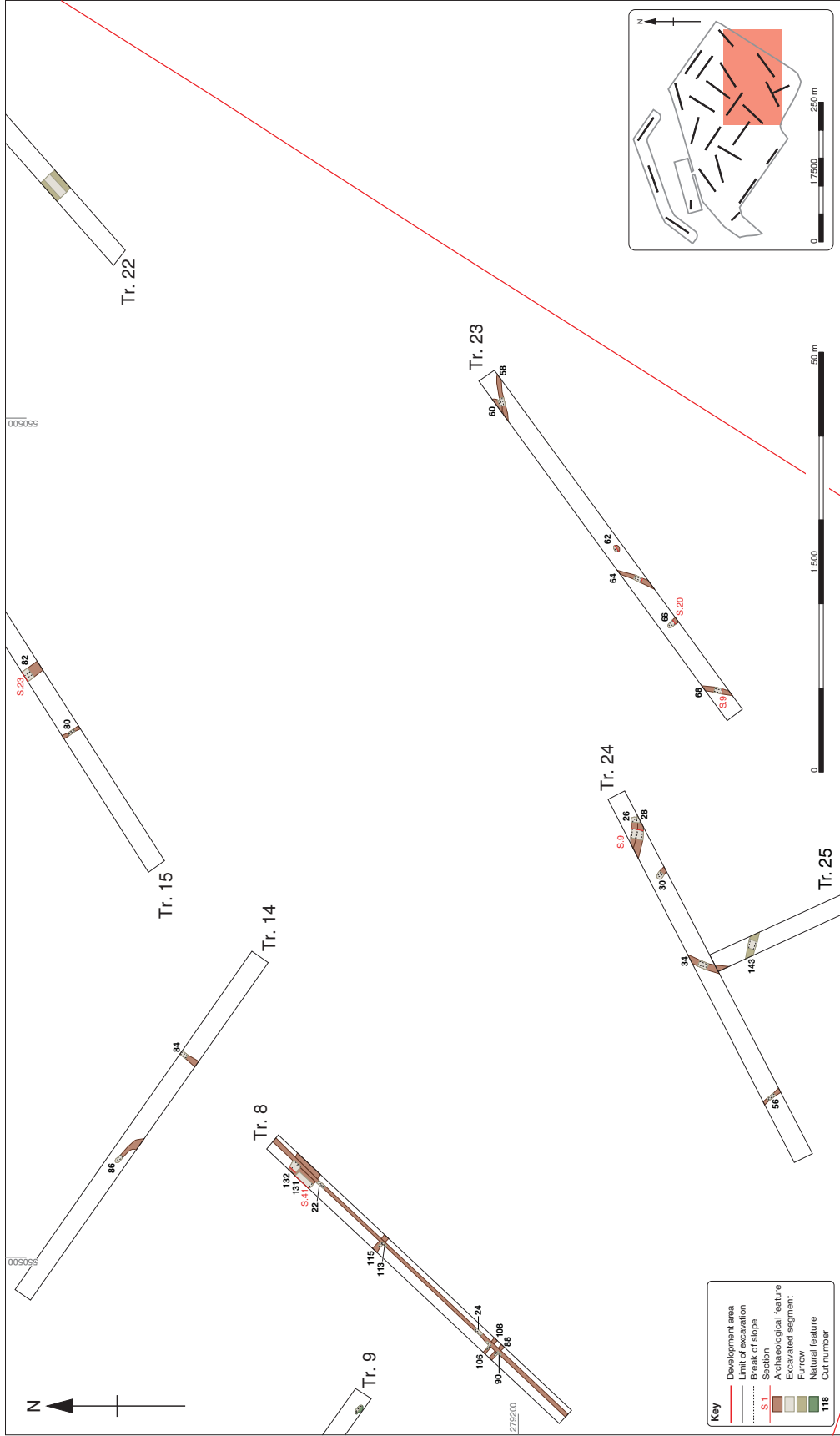


Figure 5: Detailed plan of Trenches 5-7 and 9-13

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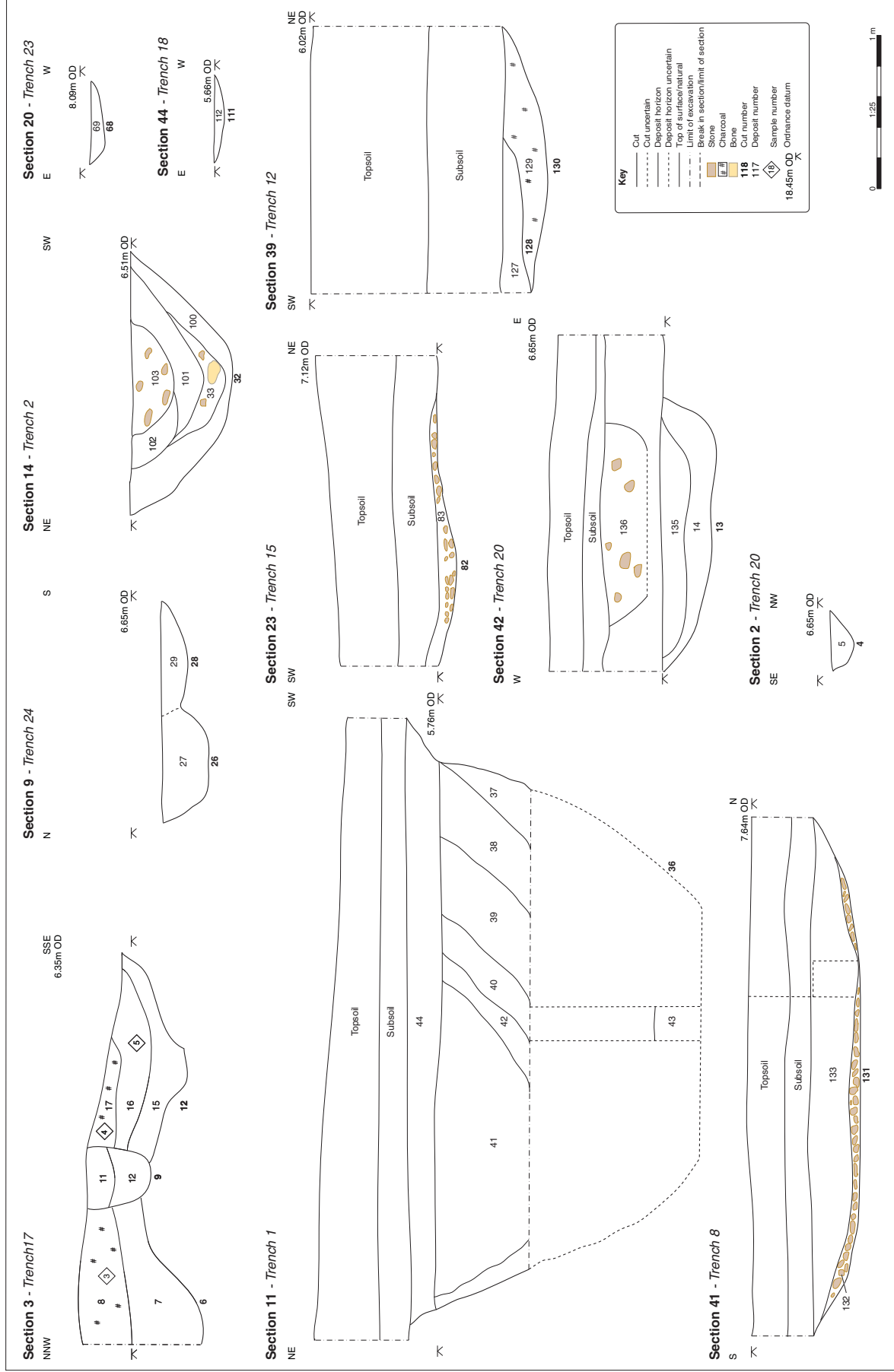


Figure 9: Selected sections



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking north-east



Plate 2: Trench 2, skeleton in ditch **32**, looking north



Plate 3: Trench 8, ditch 131, looking north-west



Plate 4: Trench 17, looking north-east



Plate 5: Trench 17, pits 6, 9 and 12, looking north-east



Plate 6: Trench 17, pit 50, gully 53, and post hole 1, looking north-east



Plate 7: Trench 19, looking north-east



Plate 8: Trench 20, pit 13, looking south



Plate 9: Trench 24, looking south-west



Plate 10: Trench 24, ditches **26** and **28**, looking east



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