Land Rear of 9 West End, Wilburton, Cambridgeshire, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Land Rear of 9 West End, Wilburton, Cambridgeshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Between the 13th and 17th of May 2019 Oxford Archaeology East conducted an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land to the rear of 9 West End, Wilburton, Cambridgeshire (centred on TL 4775 7495).

The evaluation consisted of five trenches that were excavated within the area of a proposed residential development, covering 5% of the c.0.90ha area. The site was located on a ridge of high ground at the western edge of the village. The ground sloped down into the valley base to the south and into the core of the village to the east. The trenches revealed a fairly dense concentration of Early Romano-British ditches in the central and north-eastern part of the site that indicated the presence of Roman (and possibly earlier) activity that had ended by c.AD70. In addition, three post-medieval ditches were identified in the same area representing a post-medieval field system on the edge of the village. Further undated ditches and pits spread across the evaluated area (probably part of the Romano-British or post-medieval field system) and a single posthole was present in the western half of the site. The south-eastern corner of the site was in a slight depression, overlooked by trees that have been on the site since the mid-19th century. A layer of colluvium filled the depression.

The features towards the north-eastern corner of the site (especially the central part of Trench 3 and northern part of Trench 4), as well as the topsoil and subsoil overburden, yielded a fairly sizeable assemblage of finds, including an iron nail and a fragment of a modern pitchfork tine, 2846g of Romano-British pottery, 84g of medieval pottery and 357g of post-medieval pottery; 1609g of late medieval to post-medieval ceramic building material; 500g of possibly Late Iron Age or Early Romano-British fired clay and 250g of undiagnostic fired clay; 11g of clay tobacco pipe stem from the subsoil and topsoil; and 637g of cattle, sheep/goat, fish and large, medium and small mammal bone. The pottery assemblage possibly represents material discarded into middens that were then used to infill the ditches.

Environmental sampling of features across the site produced two heavily abraded weed seeds and a small amount of charcoal, with the heavy clay matrix of the natural geology affecting preservation of seed remains.

Overall the archaeological works have confirmed the presence of preserved remains across the northern two thirds of the site, with a particular concentration towards the north-east. The results of the evaluation provide further evidence of Romano-British activity on the islands of the Cambridgeshire fenland and post-medieval field systems which pre-date 19th century enclosure.

Acknowledgements

Oxford Archaeology would like to thank the Trustees of B.S. Pell for commissioning this project. Thanks are also extended to Gemma Stewart who monitored the work on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).

The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Nick Gilmour. The fieldwork was directed by Robin Webb, who was supported by Rory Coduri and Jamie Hirst. Survey and digitising were carried out by Katie Hutton. 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 (OA East) was commissioned by the Trustees of B.S. Pell to undertake a trial trench evaluation on land to the rear of 9 West End, Wilburton ahead of a proposed new residential development.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning ref. 18/00986/OUT). A brief (Stewart 2019) was set by Gemma Stewart of CCC HET outlining the Local Authority's requirements for work necessary to inform the planning process, and a written scheme of investigation (WSI; Webb 2019) was produced by OA East detailing the methods by which OA East proposed to meet the requirements specified in the brief and the requirements of the EAA Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003).

1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The site lies to the south of West End Road (A1123), on the western edge of Wilburton (NGR TL 4775 7495) and covers an area of *c*.0.90ha (Fig. 1). The field slopes up from 27.7m OD along the northern edge to 31.3m OD on the southern edge. The south-eastern corner of the field drops down to 27.6m OD. To the south, and into the next field, lies a ridge of high ground, before it slopes down to the valley base to the south.

1.2.2 The area of proposed development consists of an open field covered in thistles and grasses, that has previously been arable farmland and has been left fallow. The northern edge is bounded by the road (A1123), the eastern and western edges by properties, and the southern edge by a ploughed and planted field with a newly planted hedge. The proposed development is for a small number of residential properties with their associated infrastructure.

1.2.3 The geology of the area is mapped as Gault Formation mudstone and Woburn Sands Formation sandstone with no superficial deposits recorded (BGS 2019).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

Introduction

1.3.1 The following archaeological and historical background of the site is based on the background provided in the WSI (Webb 2019) and a full 1km radius search of the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) centred on the evaluation site that was commissioned from CCC HET (under licence number 18-3864). Pertinent nearby records are shown on Fig. 2 and in **bold** in the text.

1.3.2 No archaeological work has previously been undertaken on the site, but it lies between an area of photographic assessment (**ECB 2987**) to the west and geophysical and archaeological evaluation (**ECB 2329** and **2795**) to the east. A brief outline of the archaeological and historical background of the site is, however, provided below.

Prehistoric (pre-c.800BC)

1.3.3 Earlier prehistoric activity for the study area is limited to findspots, although an animal burial containing later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age pottery was uncovered 870m to the east of the application site (ECB 4264). Worked flint has been found *c.*850m to the south (02085). Additional late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age artefacts located on the south-eastern edge of the search area (identified during the evaluation; **ECB 2329**) may have been redeposited through colluvial processes. Approximately 670m to the east, Late Bronze Age – Early Iron Age flint and pottery scatters were identified (**MCB 17366**).

Iron Age and Roman c.(800BC-AD410)

1.3.4 There is a small amount of evidence for Iron Age activity in the area, with an Iron Age urn containing adult human teeth, nuts and a stag's horn (05870) found *c.*850m to the south of the study site in a gravel pit. A mid Iron Age farmstead was identified just over 1km to the south (**ECB 2329**) along with late Neolithic and Bronze Age flints that had been moved by colluvial deposits. This area, through geophysical survey and limited evaluation trenching, is thought to have comprised rectilinear enclosures, trackways, curvilinear ditches, pit alignments and clusters of large pits that made up a Middle Iron Age farmstead, which either contracted or went out of use before being re-used in the later Roman period (Hiller 2007, 16).

1.3.5 Further Late Iron Age and Romano-British activity includes enclosures and boundaries that suggest occupation and cultivation in the vicinity. One (**ECB 4166**) located 870m to the west of the current site, included a Romano-British sub-rectangular enclosure on the highest part of the site (the same ridge as the current site), with a pit in the low-lying area that contained preserved spelt wheat characteristic of Roman farming (Diffey 2014, 19-20). Another site, identified during an evaluation (**ECB 2551**) 610m to the east, included boundary and enclosure ditches dating to the 1st century BC and 1st century AD, indicating that Romano-British settlement activity took place in the immediate vicinity – probably to the east – of that site (Saunders 2007, 15-16).

1.3.6 A group of mounds *c.*350m to the south-east have been interpreted as possible Roman barrows (**05939**), although it has also been suggested as being the site of archery butts from the time of Queen Elizabeth I. A Roman hut (**05795B**) was identified *c.*950m to the north-west in conjunction with two sherds of Ipswich ware during excavations at the hall in 1969 (Hall 1996, 68). This was on a site occupied through the Saxo-Norman (**05795A**), medieval (**05795**) and post-medieval **(MCB 16166**) periods.

1.3.7 Other Roman findspots include two sites where a fibula and pottery were recovered, *c.*735m (**MCB 16760**) and *c.*785m (**05755**) to the south-east respectively. A scatter of multi-period pottery *c.*950m to the north-west (**08651**) included a small number of Roman sherds.

Saxon and Medieval (c.AD410-1500)

1.3.8 Wilburton lies within the South Witchford Hundred. The church (**05869**), lying 255m to the north-east of the site, is dedicated to St Peter and dates from the 13th century. By the time of the Domesday Book (1086), Wilburton was considered quite a large

village with 30 households and was under the lordship of St Etheldreda's Abbey, Ely (Open Domesday, available: https://opendomesday.org/place/TL4774/wilburton/ accessed 21 May 2019).

1.3.9 Saxo-Norman activity was identified during excavation at Hinton Hall (**05795**), 950m to the north-east of the site. This comprised the remains of two timber outbuildings from the 11th century, with occupation continuing during the medieval period with the manor house subsequently replaced. Further medieval activity includes a single 12th-14th century pit, thought to be part of backyard activity, that was uncovered during an evaluation (**ECB 5382**) 1km to the west (Moan 2018, 6). In addition, 12th-14th century plots, a possible structure on the road frontage, and pits and ditches were identified during an evaluation at Mitchell's Farm (**ECB 445**, **ECB 2375**; Cooper and Connor 2000, 9; Ashworth 2005, 5-6 respectively) 660m to the south-east. A 13th-14th century boundary ditch identified during an evaluation on Carpond Lane (**ECB 2551**) continued in use into the 19th century (Saunders 2007, 15-16).

1.3.10 Evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation has been identified *c.*350m to the south-east (**05939**) and 850m to the west (**MCB 24720**; Walford and Davey 2014, 2).

1.3.11 Findspots of medieval date have been located in the vicinity of the site, with stonework (**05462**) from a gothic stone window of an old chantry chapel recovered *c.*120m to the east of the site, and a whetstone (**05624**) *c.*215m to the south-east.

Post Medieval and Modern (AD1500 onwards)

1.3.12 The post-medieval activity continued that from the medieval core of the village, with the occupation and cultivation identified at Mitchell's Farm (**ECB 445**, **ECB 2375**) continuing with the addition of a trackway, as well as the continuation of the boundary ditch identified on Carpond Lane (**ECB 2551**; Saunders 2007, 15-16). The ridge and furrow cultivation identified 850m to the west of the site (**MCB 24720**; Walford and Davey 2014, 2) continued.

1.3.13 Wilburton continued to grow during the post-medieval period with a railway station on the LNER Ely-Sutton line opened in 1866, but for goods only from 1931 (Pugh 1967, 168). In addition, Wilburton had a blacksmith's (**MCB 22594**) 575m to the east, a school (**MCB 22596**) 700m to the east (now offices and housing), park and garden (**MCB 19198**) 950m to the north-east of the site, and the site of a mill identified (**05719**) 1km to the north-west of the site.

1.3.14 Hinton Hall (**05795**) saw modification of the house and earthworks during the 17th and 18th centuries, whilst 1km to the north-east of the application site is Wilburton Manor House (**07748**), built in 1848. The site of an infectious disease hospital has been identified (**05660**) 980m to the west of the application site.

1.3.15 A large area (807 acres) of Wilburton was enclosed in 1855 under the general Act of 1845, with six open fields in the parish – Little Field to the north-west, Flexon Field to the north-east, Mill Field to the east, Towns End Field to the south-east, Dog House Field to the south-west, and New Ditch Field to the south (with the current site to the north of Dog House Field). Although 65 proprietors participated in the award, over half of the land went to two families – Pell and Camps. In the case of the Pell family (owners

of the current field), this included 2½ acres as lady of the manor, 131 as a freeholder, and 70 as a lessee of the Archdeacon of Ely (Pugh 1967, 168).

1.3.16 Ordnance Survey mapping since 1887 shows the site as a single field between a former vicarage (to the west of the site), a rectory and cemetery (to the east of the site) and a grove of trees (Walker's Grove) just beyond the south-eastern corner of the site.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The project aims and objectives were to seek to establish the character, date and state of preservation of archaeological remains within the proposed development area. These are detailed below:

i. 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. provide sufficient coverage to establish the character, condition, date and purpose of any archaeological deposits

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

iv. provide – in the event that archaeological remains are found – sufficient information to construct an archaeological mitigation strategy, dealing with preservation, the recording of archaeological deposits, working practices, timetables, and orders of cost.

2.2 Research Frameworks

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

i. Glazebrook J. (1997). *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern counties: 1. Resource Assessment*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 3.

ii. Brown, N. and Glazebrook, J. (2000). *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern counties: 2. Research Agenda and Strategy.* East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Papers 8; and

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

2.3 Methodology

2.3.1 A total of five trenches measuring 50m by 2m were opened, providing a 5% sample of the *c*.0.90ha development area and distributed across the site (Fig. 3). Where trenches were close to hedges (Trench 3) or the footpath going around the western side of the field (Trench 1) they were moved or shortened slightly so that there was room for excavation and spoil, and the trench locations re-surveyed. The footprints of the trenches were scanned using a CAT and Genny with a valid calibration certificate. All machine excavation took place under the constant supervision of a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist.

2.3.2 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 2m was used

to excavate the trenches. Overburden was excavated in spits not greater than 0.1m thick.

2.3.3 Spoil was stored alongside trenches. Topsoil, subsoil, and archaeological deposits were kept separate during excavation, to allow for sequential backfilling of excavations. Trenches were backfilled once approved by CCC HET.

2.3.4 All features were investigated by hand excavation and recorded to provide an accurate evaluation of archaeological potential, with relationships between features established and recorded. All excavated slots in linear features were at least 1m in width and discrete features were half sectioned, except those on the edge of trenches where they were excavated to the edge of the trench. Only one natural feature was identified during the evaluation, and a test slot put in to sufficiently establish its nature (an undulation in the level of the natural).

2.3.5 Spoil, exposed surfaces and features were scanned with a metal detector and metal artefacts given individual small find numbers. A bucket sampling exercise was also undertaken whereby 90 litres of soil from each soil horizon was hand sorted to characterise the artefact content. The results of both of these are presented in the finds summary in Section 3.9 below.

2.3.6 Environmental samples (up to 40 litres) were taken from features and deposits to aid the recovery of plant remains, fish, bird, small mammal and amphibian bone and other small artefacts, with a summary provided in Section 3.10 below.

2.3.7 All archaeological features were recorded using OA East pro-forma sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and high-resolution digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

2.3.8 A register was kept of the trenches, features and photographs. All features and deposits have been issued with unique context numbers. All site drawings include the following information: site code, scale, section number, orientation, date and initials of the archaeologist who prepared the drawing.

2.3.9 Sections of features were drawn at scales of 1:10 or 1:20, with the long section showing the deposit (4) in the depression in the south-eastern corner of the site drawn at 1:50. Site survey was carried out using a survey-grade differential GPS (Lecia GS08) fitted with “Smartnet” technology with accuracy of 5mm horizontal and 10mm vertical. All sections were tied in to Ordnance Datum and the site plan was tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the evaluation are presented below and include a stratigraphic description of the trenches that contained archaeological remains. Trench plans and selected sections illustrating the findings can be found in Figures 3-7. The setting of the archaeology can be seen in Plate 1, and a selection of photographs of trenches and excavated features can be seen in Plates 2-11. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits form the content of Appendix A. Finds data, reports and spot dates can be found in Appendix B, and environmental data and reports in Appendix C.

3.1.2 Context numbers reflect the order in which features were excavated and are largely (though not exclusively) grouped by trench. These begin at 1.

3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The soil sequence between all the trenches was fairly uniform. The natural geology of plastic dark yellow brown sand clay with mid brown grey areas (1) was overlain by a plastic mid grey brown silt clay subsoil (2) measuring between 0.08 and 0.5m thick, and which was in turn overlain by a friable dark grey brown clay silt topsoil (3) that had a constant thickness of 0.3m. Trench 5 was the only trench to contain a layer (4) sitting within a depression in the natural geology. This took the form of a plastic light yellow brown sand clay that extended for 12.7m into the trench from the eastern end (Fig. 7, section 1). Located where there was a slope in the surface level in the south-eastern corner of the proposed development area, the layer may represent colluvium moving downslope.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good with strong sunshine on four of the five days, and the site remained dry throughout. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology. However, some features became less visible as they baked in the sun. Features were marked with flags when first identified.

3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present in all five trenches and are described below. The majority of features were ditches that were orientated perpendicular to the trenches, although four pits and one posthole were also encountered. The main concentration of features was in the northern part of the site, especially Trenches 3 and 4, but spread to the west in Trenches 1 and 2. Trench 5 contained a single pit but was in an area of the site sloping down towards the east. Only two features could confidently be described as continuing between two trenches: ditch **16** (Trench 3) that continued into Trench 4 (ditch **72**), and ditch **66** (Trench 1) that continued into Trench 2 (ditch **40**).

3.3.2 Roman features were concentrated in the north-eastern corner of the site – at the north-eastern end of Trench 2 and along the lengths of Trenches 3 and 4. These features comprised almost exclusively ditches, a total of 14, with the only exception being pit **21** in Trench 3.

3.3.3 Post-medieval features were concentrated throughout Trench 3 and the northern end of Trench 4 and comprised three ditches (**13**, **28** and **70**) on a north to south, north-east to south-west and east to west orientation respectively.

3.3.4 The trenches are described in numerical order below, with features described spatially from either the northern or eastern end of the trench depending on the orientation of the trench. Where features intersect they have been described with the stratigraphically earlier feature first.

3.4 Trench 1

3.4.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 4; Plate 2) was located near the western edge of the proposed development area and contained four ditches on the same east to west orientation and a pit. Two fragments (68g) of late medieval to post-medieval CBM were recovered from the topsoil (3) during bucket sampling.

3.4.2 At the northern end of the trench, ditch **68** had gentle sides and a slightly concave base, measuring 1.3m wide and 0.18m deep. It was filled by a friable mid red brown clay silt (69) that contained no artefacts.

3.4.3 Located 1.5m to the south, ditch **66** (which continued to the east in Trench 2 as ditch **40**) had the same form as ditch **68** but was half the width (0.68m rather than 1.3m) and slightly shallower (0.13m deep). This ditch was filled by a plastic mid grey brown silt clay (67) that did not contain any artefacts.

3.4.4 A further 10.4m to the south, pit **64** had a circular shape, steep sides, concave base and extended beyond the edge of the trench to the east (Fig. 7, section 22). It measured 1.1m wide and 0.27m deep and was filled by a plastic dark grey brown silt clay (65) that did not contain any artefacts.

3.4.5 Ditch **61** (Plate 3) was 1.4m further south and was the widest ditch revealed on the site at 4.2m. This ditch had a steep northern edge and stepped southern edge, a flat base and measured 0.43m deep. It was filled by a plastic mid red brown silt clay (62) that was overlain by a friable mid red brown clay silt (63) and did not contain any artefacts. The sample <5> taken from the lower fill (62) of the ditch contained a small quantity of relatively well-preserved molluscs.

3.4.6 Located 0.5m from the southern end of the trench, ditch **59** had steep sides, a concave base, measured 0.4m wide and 0.2m deep, and was filled by a plastic dark grey brown silt clay (60) that contained no artefacts (Fig. 7, section 20).

3.5 Trench 2

3.5.1 Trench 2 (Fig. 4; Plate 4) was located across the centre of the proposed development area, to the east of Trench 1, and contained eight ditches, a pit and a posthole. The ditches were of different dimensions and orientations and could not clearly be related to each other. During bucket sampling, eight fragments (245g) of late medieval to post-medieval CBM and 71g of unidentifiable animal bone were recovered from the subsoil (2) and three fragments (60g) of late medieval to post-medieval CBM from the topsoil (3).

3.5.2 Located 4.2m from the north-eastern end of the trench and on an east to west orientation, was a ditch (**40** and extended to the west to Trench 1 ditch **66**) that measured 0.38m wide and 0.17m deep, had gentle sides and a concave base (Fig. 7, section 10). This was filled by a plastic mid brown grey silt clay (41) that did not contain any artefacts. This ditch was truncated at its eastern end by a ditch (**38**) that was on a north-west to south-east orientation, measured 1.5m wide and 0.17m deep with gentle sides and a flat base. This later ditch was filled by a plastic mid grey brown silt clay (39) that contained two fragments (12g) of amorphous undiagnostic fired clay and four sherds (35g) of 1st century AD (AD40-70) pottery.

3.5.3 Located 4.5m to the south-west, ditch **44** measured 0.92m wide and 0.22m deep, had steep sides, a concave base and was filled by a friable dark grey brown clay silt (45) that contained three sherds (18g) of 1st century AD (AD40-100) pottery, three sherds (18g) of 11th-14th century pottery, and two fragments (1g) of small mammal bone. This ditch was on an east to west orientation that began turning towards its eastern end to a north-east to south-west orientation. It was truncated at the point where it began turning by a linear ditch (**42**) that was on a north-west to south-east orientation. This later ditch measured 1.1m wide and 0.2m deep, had gentle sides and a concave base. It was filled by a plastic mid grey brown silt clay (43) that contained one sherd (2g) of 1st century AD (AD0-50) pottery.

3.5.4 A further 2.2m to the south-west, ditch **46** was on a north-west to south-east orientation and measured 2.54m wide and 0.42m deep with steep sides and a slightly concave base (Fig. 7, section 12). This ditch was filled by a plastic dark grey brown silt clay (47) that was overlain by a friable mid grey brown clay silt (48). Neither of these deposits contained any artefacts. The sample <4> taken from the upper fill (48) of the ditch contained a small quantity of relatively well-preserved molluscs.

3.5.5 Pit **49** was located 2.3m to the south-west, measured 1.4m wide and 0.23m deep, and had gentle sides, a slightly concave base, and was filled by a plastic dark grey brown silt clay (50) that contained a single fragment (3g) of amorphous undiagnostic fired clay.

3.5.6 Located 6.8m to the south-west, ditch **55** measured 0.4m wide and 0.18m deep, had steep sides, a slightly concave base, and was filled by a plastic dark grey brown silt clay (56) that contained no artefacts. Only 0.5m to the south-west of this ditch was a ditch terminus (**76**) that extended 1.7m into the trench (from its southern edge) on a north to south orientation and had steep sides and a concave base (Fig. 7, section 28). This ditch terminus measured 0.37m wide and 0.15m deep, and was filled by a plastic dark grey brown silt clay (77) that contained no artefacts.

3.5.7 A further 1.2m to the south-west was the only posthole (**78**) identified on the site. This had a circular shape in plan, measuring 0.46m in diameter and 0.15m deep with steep sides and a concave base (Fig. 7, section 29). It was filled by a plastic mid grey brown silt clay (79) that contained no artefacts.

3.5.8 Located 0.7m from the south-western end of the trench was a linear ditch (**57**) that measured 0.43m wide and 0.25m deep, had steep sides, a concave base and that was filled by a plastic mid grey brown silt clay (58) that contained no artefacts.

3.6 Trench 3

3.6.1 Located towards the north-eastern corner of the proposed development area, to the north of Trenches 2 and 4, Trench 3 (Fig. 5) revealed nine ditches and a pit. The ditches were spread across the trench and of different dimensions. Bucket sampling from this trench revealed 11 sherds (39g) of 1st century AD (AD40-70) pottery, eleven sherds (27g) of 9th-13th century pottery, three (94g) of 16th-17th century pottery, one fragment (57g) of late medieval to post-medieval CBM, and a single fragment of clay pipe stem from the subsoil (2). The topsoil (3) produced a single sherd (6g) of 1st century AD (AD30-70) pottery and one sherd (7g) of 16th-17th century pottery, two fragments (96g) of undiagnostic and late medieval to post-medieval CBM, and a single fragment of clay pipe stem.

3.6.2 The eastern end of the trench contained a linear ditch (**8**) on a north-west to south-east orientation, measuring 0.43m wide and 0.2m deep with steep sides and a concave base (Fig. 7, section 2). This ditch was filled by a plastic dark green brown sand clay (9) that contained a single sherd (7g) of 1st century AD (AD30-70) pottery. This ditch was only partially visible where it extended to beyond the northern baulk as it was cut at the eastern end of the trench by ditch **5**. This later ditch measured 0.76m wide and 0.42m deep, had steep sides, a concave base and was on a north-east to south-west orientation. It was filled by a plastic mid green brown silt clay (6) that was overlain by a plastic dark green brown sand clay (7). This ditch contained six sherds (30g) of 1st century AD (AD40-70) pottery and a fragment (4g) of fish bone in the upper fill (7). Sample <6> taken from the upper fill (7) contained less than 1ml of charcoal.

3.6.3 Located 6.9m to the west was a linear ditch (**10**) that was aligned north-east to south-west with steep sides, a concave base and measuring 1.13m wide and 0.38m deep (Fig. 7, section 3). This ditch was filled by a plastic mid yellow brown sand clay (11) that was overlain by a plastic mid grey brown clay silt (12). The earlier deposit contained a single sherd (16g) of 1st century AD (AD40-100) pottery, whilst the later contained a single sherd (4g) of 1st century AD (AD40-100) pottery and a fragment (17g) of sheep/goat bone showing evidence of butchery.

3.6.4 A further 6.7m to the west, ditch **13** (Plate 5) was on a north-south orientation, measured 0.78m across and 0.38m deep with steep sides and a slightly concave base. This ditch was filled by a plastic mid yellow brown sand clay (14), overlain by a friable dark grey brown clay silt (15) which contained a single nail (SF 1) that was not closely datable, two sherds (4g) of 11th-14th century and 11 sherds (71g) of 16th-17th century pottery. This was the only feature on the site that cut through the subsoil (2).

3.6.5 Ditch **19** (Plate 6), on a north-east to south-west orientation, was located 10.8m to the west with gentle sides and a concave base. It measured 0.8m across and 0.26m deep, and was filled by a plastic dark yellow brown clay silt (20) that contained one sherd (5g) of 1st century AD (AD30-70) pottery, one sherd (5g) of pottery from AD1200-1500, three fragments (33g) of late medieval to post-medieval CBM and one fragment (42g) of sheep/goat bone. This ditch was truncated by ditch **16**, which was orientated north-west to south-east, measured 1m across and 0.46m deep with steep sides and a slightly concave base. It was filled by a plastic mid yellow brown sand clay (17), overlain by a plastic mid grey brown silt clay (18). Finds included four sherds (22g) of 1st century

AD (AD30-70) pottery and a single fragment (94g) of large mammal bone in the lower deposit (17) and three sherds (31g) of 1st century AD (AD30-60) pottery and three fragments (26g) of unidentifiable animal bone in the upper deposit (18). Ditch **16** was cut by a pit (**21**) that had a circular shape in plan, measured 1.1m across and 0.12m deep with gentle sides, slightly concave base, and was filled by a plastic dark grey brown silt clay (22) that did not contain any artefacts.

3.6.6 A further 1m to the west was a linear ditch (**23**) on a north-west to south-east orientation measuring 0.6m wide and 0.2m deep with steep sides and a slightly concave base. This ditch was filled by a friable dark grey brown clay silt (24) that contained four fragments (112g) of 1st century AD (AD30-70) pottery.

3.6.7 Ditch **25** (Plate 7), on a north to south orientation, was a further 2.7m to the west with a steep western edge and stepped eastern edge, and a concave base. The ditch measured 1.88m wide and 0.42m deep and was filled by a friable dark grey brown clay silt (26) that was overlain by a plastic mid grey brown silt clay (27) and contained four sherds (81g) of 1st century AD (AD30-70) pottery and two fragments (4g) of unidentifiable animal bone. The environmental sample taken from the lower fill of this ditch (26, sample <1>) contained a small quantity of relatively well-preserved molluscs and less than 1ml of charcoal.

3.6.8 The western end of the trench contained a ditch (**28**) on a north-west to south-east orientation, which displayed gentle sides and a concave base and that measured 0.64m wide and 0.2m deep. It was filled by a plastic mid grey brown silt clay (29) that contained a single fragment (16g) of late medieval to post-medieval CBM.

3.7 Trench 4

3.7.1 Trench 4 (Fig. 5; Plate 8) was located to the south of Trench 3 and east of Trench 2, towards the eastern edge of the proposed development. This trench contained eleven ditches on differing alignments. Bucket sampling yielded two fragments (321g) of late medieval to post-medieval CBM from the subsoil (2) and one sherd (62g) of 16th-17th century pottery and two fragments (50g) of late medieval to post-medieval CBM from the topsoil (3). Metal detecting of the spoil heaps revealed a fragment of a modern pitchfork tine (SF 2).

3.7.2 At the northern end of the trench, ditch **72** was on a north-west to south-east orientation and measured 1.6m wide and 0.3m deep with gentle sides and a slightly concave base (Fig. 7, section 26), filled by a firm mid brown grey silt clay (73) that did not contain any artefacts. Truncated by ditch **70** towards its southern side, the later ditch had gentle sides, a concave base, measured 1.46m wide and 0.2m deep, and was filled by a firm dark grey brown silt clay (71). Finds comprised two sherds (26g) of 1st century AD (AD30-70) pottery and one sherd (19g) of 17th century pottery, two fragments (346g) of late medieval to post-medieval CBM, five fragments (500g) of possibly Late Iron Age or Early Romano-British fired clay (possibly an oven plate), and two fragments (50g) of cattle and three fragments (50g) of medium mammal bone. The Early Roman pottery and fired clay recovered from this ditch was likely to have been deposited in this ditch from the disturbance of earlier features.

3.7.3 Located 5.1m to the south, ditch **30** (Plate 9) was on an east to west orientation with a steep southern side and stepped northern side, and a concave base (Fig. 7, section 25). It measured 2.52m wide and 0.61m deep and was filled by a concrete light brown grey silt clay (31) over the step on the northern side. This was overlain by a firm dark grey brown silt clay (33) in the centre of the ditch, which in turn was overlain by a concrete mid grey brown silt clay (32). The ditch contained 20 sherds (502g) of 1st century AD (AD40-70) pottery, four fragments (87g) of amorphous and 'structural' fired clay and one fragment (64g) of cattle bone in the lower deposit over the step (31); 34 sherds (885g) of 1st century AD (AD40-70) pottery, three fragments (92g) of 'structural' fired clay and one fragment (23g) of sheep/goat bone in the middle fill (33); 20 sherds (561g) of 1st century AD (AD40-70) pottery, two fragments (42g) of 'structural' fired clay and three fragments (159g) of cattle and sheep/goat bone in the upper fill (32). The environmental sample <2> taken from the main fill (which also contained the most finds) in the middle of the ditch (33) contained two heavily abraded weed seeds, a small quantity of relatively well-preserved molluscs and a fragment (23g) of large mammal bone, as well as small fragments of pottery and fired clay (incorporated into the totals). Ditch **30** was truncated on its southern edge by another ditch (**34**) on an east to west orientation. This later ditch measured 1.5m wide and 0.42m deep, had steep sides, a concave base and was filled by a concrete mid grey brown silt clay (35) that contained 13 sherds (358g) of 1st century AD (AD40-70) pottery.

3.7.4 Ditch **86**, also on an east to west orientation, was a further 0.8m to the south with steep sides and a flat base. It measured 1.7m wide and 0.22m deep and was filled by a firm mid brown grey silt clay (87) that did not contain any artefacts.

3.7.5 Located 0.5m to the south, on a north-east to south-west orientation, ditch **82** measured 0.77m wide and 0.2m deep, had steep sides and a slightly concave base. Filled by a friable dark yellow brown clay silt (83), it contained two sherds (30g) of 1st century AD (AD0-50) pottery and two sherds (31g) of mid-11th to mid-13th century pottery.

3.7.6 A further 0.4m to the south was a linear ditch (**74**; Plate 10) on an east to west orientation with gentle sides and a concave base. This ditch measured 2.08m wide and 0.32m deep and was filled by a firm mid grey brown silt clay (75) that contained no artefacts.

3.7.7 Ditch **80** was a further 1.7m to the south on an east to west orientation, with gentle sides and a concave base. It measured 1.22m wide and 0.36m deep and was filled by a firm mid grey brown silt clay (81) that contained no artefacts.

3.7.8 Entering the trench a further 2.6m to the south, ditch **51** extended on a north-north-east to south-south-west orientation for 5.1m before terminating. The ditch measured 0.6m wide and 0.24m deep, had gentle sides, a concave base and was filled by a firm mid grey brown silt clay (52) that contained a single sherd (4g) of 1st century AD (AD40-70) pottery (Fig. 7, section 14). The terminus of this ditch was cut by ditch **53**, which was aligned north-east to south-west measured 1.5m wide and 0.35m deep with gentle sides and a concave base (Fig. 7, section 15). The terminal of ditch **53** extended just beyond the eastern edge of the trench. Filled by a firm mid grey brown silt clay

(54), the ditch contained 16 sherds (72g) of 1st century AD (AD40-70) pottery, two fragments (14g) of amorphous undiagnostic fired clay and one fragment (30g) of cattle bone.

3.7.9 Ditch **84**, on a north-east to south-west orientation, was located 6.2m to the south and had gentle sides and a flat base. It measured 0.55m wide and 0.14m deep and was filled by a firm mid grey brown silt clay (85) that contained no artefacts.

3.8 Trench 5

3.8.1 Trench 5 (Fig. 6; Plate 11), located in the south-eastern corner of the proposed development area, to the south-east of Trench 4, contained a single archaeological feature. This was a partially exposed sub-circular pit (**36**) located 14m from the eastern end of the trench. The pit measured 1.45m across and 0.3m deep, had gentle sides, a concave base and was filled by a firm mid grey brown sand clay (37) that did not contain any artefacts. However, bucket sampling from this trench revealed three sherds (96g) of 16th-17th century pottery and one fragment (17g) of late medieval to post-medieval CBM from the subsoil (2), and a single sherd (7g) of 11th-14th century pottery and two fragments (66g) of late medieval to post-medieval CBM from the topsoil (3).

3.8.2 A sample <3> was taken from the possible colluvial deposit (4; described above in Paragraph 3.2.1) at the eastern end of the trench, and within this no seed, charcoal or mollusc remains were identified.

3.9 Finds summary

3.9.1 A range of artefacts, including metalwork, pottery, CBM, fired clay, clay pipe stem, and animal and fish bone, were recovered from the central part of the site (Trenches 2-4), with none recovered from Trenches 1 or 5. Finds recovered dated to the Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval periods. The quantity of finds, in conjunction with their condition, indicates that Romano-British domestic activity took place in the vicinity of the central portion of the site, with post-medieval activity relating to a pre-enclosure field system.

3.9.2 Metal detecting recovered two pieces of ironwork: a medieval-modern nail (SF 1) from the upper fill (15) of ditch **13**, and a fragment of a modern pitchfork tine (SF 2) from the topsoil (3) of Trench 4 (Appendix B.1).

3.9.3 A total of 193 sherds (3287g) of pottery (Appendix B.2 and B.3) were recovered from across of the site. Of this, 141 sherds (2801g) was Early Romano-British (*c*.AD0-100; Appendix B.2) and was recovered from 16 ditches within Trenches 2, 3 and 4, with Trench 4 containing the majority (108 sherds, 2438g) of the assemblage.

3.9.4 In addition, a total of eight sherds (58g) of medieval (11th-14th century) pottery were recovered from four ditches in Trenches 3 and 4, and 12 sherds (90g) of post-medieval (16th-17th century) pottery were recovered from two ditches in the north-eastern corner of the site (Appendix B.3).

3.9.5 Pottery recovered during bucket sampling totaled 28 sherds (256g) from the subsoil in Trenches 3, 4 and 5 (the eastern half of the site) and four sherds (82g) from the topsoil (3) of the same trenches. These sherds dated to the Romano-British, medieval and

post-medieval periods and accounted for 7.2% of the pottery assemblage recovered from the site.

3.9.6 Two clay pipe stem fragments were recovered – one (6g) from the subsoil (2) and one (5g) from the topsoil (3) of Trench 3 (Appendix B.4).

3.9.7 A small assemblage of CBM, consisting of 29 fragments (1,609g), was recovered from across the site (Appendix B.5), of which 23 fragments (1214g; 75%) were recovered during bucket sampling of the subsoil and topsoil. Of this, 12 fragments (874g) were recovered from the subsoil (2) and 11 fragments (340g) were recovered from the topsoil (3). Three features contained CBM: ditches **19** and **28** in Trench 3 and ditch **70** in Trench 4. All of the CBM recovered from the site is late medieval to post-medieval in date.

3.9.8 A total of 19 fragments (750g) of fired clay were recovered from features within Trenches 2 and 4 in the centre of the site (Appendix B.6). Although some (7%) of this was amorphous fragments, the majority was recorded as 'structural'. Within this 'structural' element, five fragments (500g) were from a single ditch (**70**) and related to Late Iron Age or Early Romano-British activity, possibly an oven plate. Other than the material recovered from within ditch **70** the fired clay was not closely dateable.

3.10 Environmental summary

3.10.1 The animal bone assemblage (Appendix C.1) comprises 17 identifiable fragments and 36 unidentifiable fragments (637g). Of these only one fragment (71g) of unidentifiable animal bone was recovered during bucket sampling of the subsoil (2) in Trench 4. Of the remains recovered from within archaeological features, five fragments (194g) were cattle, five fragments (192g) were sheep/goat, one fragment (94g) was large mammal, three fragments (50g) were medium mammal, two fragments (1g) were small mammal and one fragment (less than 1g) was fish bone. These were all recovered from ditches in the centre of the site (Trenches 3 and 4), with the only exception being two fragments (1g) of small mammal bone in Trench 2. Only one fragment of sheep/goat bone (from the upper fill of ditch **10**) shows any sign of butchery. The faunal assemblage indicates that domestic activity took place, with the remains being the result of food waste.

3.10.2 A total of six environmental samples (Appendix C.2) were taken from across the site. These were taken from five features and a possible colluvial deposit in the south-eastern corner of the site. These samples were found to contain two heavily abraded weed seeds – that could not be more accurately identified – in ditch **30** (Trench 4), and a small quantity (less than 1ml in each case) of charcoal in ditches **5** and **25** (Trench 3). These remains were poorly preserved, probably as a result of the heavy clay matrix of the natural geology. In addition, a small quantity of well-preserved molluscs was recovered from ditches **25** (Trench 3), **30** (Trench 4), **46** (Trench 2), and **61** (Trench 1).

4 DISCUSSION

4.1 Reliability of field investigation

4.1.1 Archaeological features were clearly visible when trenches were first opened, showing as darker patches against the pale natural geology. However, due to the sunny and warm conditions during the first four days of the works the ground baked solid, with features becoming less distinguishable during the course of the fieldwork. Features were marked by flags when they were first identified in order to ensure that they did not become lost by weathering. The overlying soil horizons were clearly visible against the natural geology (1) when trenches were first opened, but again as the subsoil (2) dried it became more akin to the natural geology, whilst the topsoil (3) remained distinctive. The dry conditions during the works and relatively shallow depths of features meant that water was not an issue. The results of the evaluation trenching, therefore, are considered to have a good level of reliability.

4.2 Evaluation objectives and results

4.2.1 The aim of the evaluation was to establish the character, date and state of preservation of any archaeological remains within the proposed development area as set out within the WSI (see Section2.1.1 above; Webb 2019).

4.2.2 The evaluation revealed a dense concentration of archaeology across the centre of the site, including evidence of Early Romano-British activity, possibly the edge of a settlement or area of field system. In addition, part of a post-medieval field system was also evident in the centre of the site. The south-eastern corner of the site was much sparser in terms of the archaeology revealed with only a single pit that contained no artefacts. The focus of activity and/or boundaries was towards the north – the road and the sites of extant properties.

4.2.3 The artefacts that were recovered indicate that there was a reasonable state of preservation across the site, with features at a great enough depth below the plough level that they have not been heavily truncated. The absence of artefacts recovered from features at the western edge of the development area suggest a lack of previous land use.

4.2.4 No features could be definitively classed as either medieval or post-medieval ridge and furrow, and only a single ditch (**13**) cut through the subsoil, indicating that there has been little later activity, beyond ploughing, to disturb features.

4.3 Interpretation

Colluvial deposit

4.3.1 The drop in the ground level in the south-eastern corner of the site enabled a 0.3m thick deposit of colluvium (layer 4 in Trench 5) to form. This corner of the site was in a slight depression and was covered in trees (Walker's Grove to the south and areas of trees or orchard from the former rectory to the east) until the 1950s when map regression suggests that the trees began to be thinned out.

Romano-British

4.3.2 Part of an undated field system was visible in the western half of the development area with shallow ditches **57**, **59**, **66**=**40** and **76** in Trenches 1 and 2 following the same east to west and north to south alignments. This field system may have been a pre-cursor to the Early Roman field system although the rectilinear appearance of the layout suggests they too could have been of Early Roman date.

4.3.3 Within the centre and north-east of the site was an area of Early Romano-British field system, formed by larger ditches measuring up to 2.52m wide and 0.61m deep on the dominant north to south and east to west axis (ditches **25**, **30**, **34** and **44**). Two of the undated ditches (**61** in Trench 1 and **86** in Trench 4) could also be part of this system. Also of Early Romano-British date, but on a north-west to south-east and north-east to south-west axis was a series of smaller ditches (**5**, **8**, **10**, **16**, **19**, **23**, **38**, **42**, **51**, **53** and **82**) that may signify more than one phase to this system. All the ceramic evidence points to 1st century AD activity, predominantly Pre-Flavian (*c*.AD40-70; Appendix B.2).

4.3.4 There was no evidence for structures, but the amount of Early Roman pottery recovered (141 sherds, 2801g) suggests settlement nearby, if not within the area of the evaluation. This pottery assemblage consisted largely of coarseware jars of a Romanising rather than fully developed Roman form, with the earlier date supported by the presence of the Late Iron Age or Early Romano-British fired clay possible oven plate. In addition, the higher than average sherd weight and refitting of sherds between contexts suggests that material from different depositional events became incorporated together, possibly from 'clearing out' events and middens. The narrow dating (a few decades in the mid-1st century AD) suggest a short-lived period of occupation followed by a shift of focus to elsewhere, possibly to where activity has been identified to the west (**ECB 4166**) and to the east (**ECB 2329**, **ECB 2551**).

Medieval and post-medieval

4.3.5 In the eastern half of the proposed development area medieval and post-medieval activity was noted. The medieval pottery, due to its small and abraded nature, is likely to be residual material that has become mixed into the fills of the ditches.

4.3.6 Post-medieval activity within the proposed development area is likely to have been part of a field system with only a small assemblage (357g) of pottery recovered. The ditches forming part of this field system (ditches **13** and **28** in Trench 3 and ditch **70** in Trench 4) had gone out of use by the time of Ordnance Survey maps (from 1887). This in conjunction with the 16th-17th century date for the majority of the post-medieval pottery suggests that this area had further field divisions during this period that were then infilled with the enclosures of 1855 (see Paragraph 1.3.15).

4.3.7 Historic mapping indicates the presence of a former rectory to the west of the site which had an ornamental garden. However, the low level of activity on the western edge of the site, and the presence of a wall bounding the property, indicates that this did not extend within the current site. Groves that were present on the Historic maps retained a uniform size and shape and do not appear to have extended into the proposed development area.

4.3.8 The widespread presence of CBM across the evaluation area, with no clear concentration, indicates the background presence of late medieval and post-medieval activity in the area.

4.4 Significance

4.4.1 The evaluation identified an area of dense Early Romano-British activity in the centre and north-eastern corner of the development. This consisted of a ditched field system and a single pit. In addition, there was evidence of post-medieval activity with three ditches, which in conjunction with map regression suggests that this area had early post-medieval fields on the edge of the village that became part of larger enclosures in 1855. The character and composition of the Romano-British pottery assemblage recovered from features indicates a small-scale, rural, domestic site, but with sherds of a larger size than average for rural settlements. This material was not heavily truncated. The pottery suggests that there was a short-lived settlement in the vicinity of the site in the mid-1st century AD that was either completely abandoned or shifted beyond the scope of the proposed development area after *c*.AD70.

4.4.2 The presence of Roman, medieval and post-medieval remains within the current site is not unexpected due to the presence of activity from all these periods in the local area, with the site lying on the western edge of one village (Wilburton) and less than 1km from the eastern edge of another (Haddenham).

APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench 1 contained four ditches and a pit. Features were overlain by a topsoil and subsoil that also overlay the natural geology of the site.					**Length (m)**	35.6
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.53
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1	layer	-	-	natural geology	-	-
2	layer	-	0.23	subsoil	-	-
3	layer	-	0.3	topsoil	CBM	-
59	cut	0.4	0.2	cut of ditch	-	-
60	fill	0.4	0.2	fill of ditch **59**	-	-
61	cut	4.2	0.43	cut of ditch	-	-
62	fill	2.77	0.2	lower fill of ditch **61**	-	-
63	fill	4.2	0.23	upper fill of ditch **61**	-	-
64	cut	1.1	0.27	cut of pit	-	-
65	fill	1.1	0.27	fill of pit **64**	-	-
66	cut	0.68	0.13	cut of ditch	-	-
67	fill	0.68	0.13	fill of ditch **66**	-	-
68	cut	1.3	0.18	cut of ditch	-	-
69	fill	1.3	0.18	fill of ditch **68**	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					**Orientation**	NE-SW
Trench 2 revealed eight ditches, a pit and a single posthole. Features were overlain by a topsoil and subsoil that also overlay the natural geology.					**Length (m)**	46.7
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.51
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1	layer	-	-	natural geology	-	-
2	layer	-	0.24	subsoil	CBM	-
3	layer	-	0.27	topsoil	CBM	-
38	cut	1.5	0.17	cut of ditch	-	1st C AD
39	fill	1.5	0.17	fill of ditch **38**	fired clay; pottery	1st C AD
40	cut	0.4	0.17	cut of ditch	-	-
41	fill	0.4	0.17	fill of ditch **40**	-	-
42	cut	1.1	0.2	cut of ditch	-	1st C AD
43	fill	1.1	0.2	fill of ditch **42**	pottery	1st C AD
44	cut	0.92	0.22	cut of ditch	-	1st C AD
45	fill	0.92	0.22	fill of ditch **44**	pottery; small mammal bone	1st C AD
46	cut	2.54	0.42	cut of ditch	-	-
47	fill	2.44	0.21	lower fill of ditch **46**	-	-
48	fill	2.54	0.21	upper fill of ditch **46**	-	-
49	cut	1.4	0.23	cut of pit	-	-
50	fill	1.4	0.23	fill of pit **49**	fired clay	-

55	cut	0.4	0.18	cut of ditch	-	-
56	fill	0.4	0.18	fill of ditch **55**	-	-
57	cut	0.43	0.25	cut of ditch	-	-
58	fill	0.43	0.25	fill of ditch **57**	-	-
76	cut	0.37	0.15	cut of ditch terminus	-	-
77	fill	0.37	0.15	fill of ditch **76**	-	-
78	cut	0.47	0.15	cut of posthole	-	-
79	fill	0.47	0.15	fill of posthole **78**	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench 3 contained nine ditches and a pit. With the exception of ditch **13**, features were overlain by a topsoil and subsoil that also overlay the natural geology of the site. Ditch **13** cut through the subsoil and was overlain by the topsoil.					**Length (m)**	47.3
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.52
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1	layer	-	-	natural geology	-	-
2	layer	-	0.22	subsoil	CBM, clay pipe, pottery	-
3	layer	-	0.3	topsoil	CBM, clay pipe	-
5	cut	0.76	0.42	cut of ditch	-	1st C AD
6	fill	-	0.13	lower fill of ditch **5**	-	1st C AD
7	fill	0.76	0.29	upper fill of ditch **5**	animal bone; pottery	1st C AD
8	cut	0.43	0.2	cut of ditch	-	1st C AD
9	fill	0.43	0.2	fill of ditch **8**	pottery	1st C AD
10	cut	1.13	0.38	cut of ditch	-	1st C AD
11	fill	0.82	0.16	lower fill of ditch **10**	pottery	1st C AD
12	fill	1.13	0.22	upper fill of ditch **10**	pottery; sheep/goat bone	1st C AD
13	cut	0.78	0.38	cut of ditch	-	post-medieval
14	fill	0.5	0.15	lower fill of ditch **13**	-	post-medieval
15	fill	0.78	0.23	upper fill of ditch **13**	pottery; SF 1 (iron)	post-medieval
16	cut	1	0.46	cut of ditch	-	1st C AD
17	fill	0.8	0.13	lower fill of ditch **16**	large mammal and fish bone; pottery	1st C AD
18	fill	1	0.33	upper fill of ditch **16**	animal bone; pottery	1st C AD
19	cut	0.8	0.26	cut of ditch	-	1st C AD
20	fill	0.8	0.26	fill of ditch **19**	CBM; pottery; sheep/goat bone	1st C AD
21	cut	1.1	0.12	cut of pit	-	-
22	fill	1.1	0.12	fill of pit **21**	-	-
23	cut	0.6	0.2	cut of ditch	-	1st C AD

24	fill	0.6	0.2	fill of ditch **23**	pottery	1st C AD
25	cut	1.88	0.42	cut of ditch	-	1st C AD
26	fill	1	0.14	lower fill of ditch **25**	-	1st C AD
27	fill	1.88	0.28	upper fill of ditch **25**	animal bone; pottery	1st C AD
28	cut	0.64	0.2	cut of ditch	-	late medieval – post-medieval
29	fill	0.64	0.2	fill of ditch **28**	CBM	late medieval – post-medieval

Trench 4						
General description					**Orientation**	N-S
Trench 4 revealed eleven ditches. Features were overlain by a topsoil and subsoil that also overlay the natural geology.					**Length (m)**	50.2
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.48
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1	layer	-	-	natural geology	-	-
2	layer	-	0.18	subsoil	CBM	-
3	layer	-	0.3	topsoil	SF 2 (iron); CBM, pottery	-
30	cut	2.52	0.61	cut of ditch	-	1st C AD
31	fill	1.12	0.3	lower fill of ditch **30**	cattle bone; fired clay; pottery	1st C AD
32	fill	2.2	0.34	upper fill of ditch **30**	cattle and sheep/goat bone; fired clay; pottery	1st C AD
33	fill	2.01	0.38	middle fill of ditch **30**	fired clay; pottery; sheep/goat bone	1st C AD
34	cut	1.5	0.42	cut of ditch	-	1st C AD
35	fill	1.5	0.42	fill of ditch **34**	pottery	1st C AD
51	cut	0.6	0.24	cut of ditch	-	1st C AD
52	fill	0.6	0.24	fill of ditch **51**	pottery	1st C AD
53	cut	1.5	0.35	cut of ditch	-	-
54	fill	1.5	0.35	fill of ditch **53**	cattle bone; fired clay	-
70	cut	1.46	0.2	cut of ditch	-	17th C
71	fill	1.46	0.2	fill of ditch **70**	cattle bone; CBM; fired clay; pottery	17th C
72	cut	1.6	0.3	cut of ditch	-	1st C AD
73	fill	1.6	0.3	fill of ditch **72**	-	1st C AD
74	cut	2.08	0.32	cut of ditch	-	-
75	fill	2.08	0.32	fill of ditch **74**	-	-
80	cut	1.22	0.36	cut of ditch	-	-

81	fill	1.22	0.36	fill of ditch **80**	-	-
82	cut	0.77	0.2	cut of ditch	-	1st C AD
83	fill	0.77	0.2	fill of ditch **82**	pottery	1st C AD
84	cut	0.55	0.14	cut of ditch	-	-
85	fill	0.55	0.14	fill of ditch **84**	-	-
86	cut	1.7	0.22	cut of ditch	-	-
87	fill	1.7	0.22	fill of ditch **86**	-	-

Trench 5						
General description					**Orientation**	E-W
Trench 5 contained a single archaeological feature – a pit. This pit was overlain by a topsoil and subsoil that also overlay the natural geology, and at the eastern end of the trench a damp deposit in a depression in the natural geology.					**Length (m)**	45.8
					Width (m)	2
					Avg. depth (m)	0.83
Context No.	**Type**	**Width (m)**	**Depth (m)**	**Description**	**Finds**	**Date**
1	layer	-	-	natural geology	-	-
2	layer	-	0.43	subsoil	CBM	-
3	layer	-	0.3	topsoil	CBM	-
4	layer	-	0.3	natural colluvial deposit	-	-
36	cut	1.45	0.3	cut of pit	-	-
37	fill	1.45	0.3	fill of pit	-	-

Table 1: Trench summaries. N.B. where animal bone is identifiable its species is noted

APPENDIX B FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Metalwork

By Denis Sami (PhD)

Introduction

B.1.1 Only two incomplete metal artefacts were recovered from deposits dating to the medieval/post-medieval periods.

Methodology

B.1.2 The metalwork was assessed according to the Oxford Archaeology East metalwork finds standard, following the suggestions of the Historical Metallurgy Society (HMS; Davis and Starley 2012; Dungworth 2012), the *Archaeometallurgy Guidelines for best practice* (Dungworth 2015) and the *Guidelines for the Storage and Display of Archaeological Metalwork* (Rimmer *et al* 2013).

B.1.3 Given their preservation and undiagnostic character, the two metal artefacts were dated according to the associated ceramic material. The catalogue reports context details, full identification, measurements and chronology (Table 2: Metalwork catalogue

B.1.4).

The Assemblage

B.1.5 The two iron artefacts are incomplete and heavily oxidised. Small find (SF) 1 was recovered from ditch **13** in Trench 3 together with pottery dating from the 11th to the 17th centuries, while SF 2 was recovered from the topsoil (3) in Trench 4.

Discussion

B.1.6 An assemblage of this size provides little contribution to the project research questions as well as only limited information about the chronology and character of the site. It highlights possible agricultural activity between the medieval and modern periods.

Catalogue

SF	Context	Trench	Object	Description	Length (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Date
1	15	3	nail	short, incomplete and slightly curved tapering shaft of a nail with sub-square cross-section	27.4	7.2	medieval - modern
2	3	4	pitchfork tine	long and slightly curved, tapering at the end. Pitchfork tine with sub-circular cross-section	159.3	10.4	modern

Table 2: Metalwork catalogue

B.2 Late Iron Age and Early Roman Pottery

By Katie Anderson (BA MA)

Introduction

B.2.1 The evaluation recovered an assemblage of Late Iron Age and Early Roman pottery totalling 153 sherds (2846g) and representing 1.66 estimated vessel equivalent (EVEs) and a minimum of 14 vessels (MNV). All of the pottery was analysed and recorded in accordance with the Study Group for Roman Pottery guidelines (Perrin 2011) and the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group guidelines (2009). This report provides quantification and characterisation of the pottery, as well as a brief discussion on the distribution of material.

Context	Cut	Feature Type	Tr.	No.	Wt(g)	MNV	EVE	Context Date
2	-	subsoil	3	11	39	0	0	AD40-70
3	-	topsoil	4	1	6	0	0	AD30-70
7	**5**	ditch	3	6	30	0	0	AD40-70
9	**8**	ditch	3	1	7	0	0	AD30-70
11	**10**	ditch	3	1	16	0	0	AD40-100
12	**10**	ditch	3	1	4	0	0	AD40-100
17	**16**	ditch	3	4	22	0	0	AD30-70
18	**16**	ditch	3	3	31	0	0.1	AD30-60
20	**19**	ditch	3	1	5	0	0	AD30-70 with 1 post med
24	**23**	ditch	3	4	112	2	0.28	AD30-70
27	**25**	ditch	3	4	81	0	0	AD30-70
31	**30**	ditch	4	20	502	1	0.3	AD40-70
32	**30**	ditch	4	20	561	4	0.39	AD40-70
33	**30**	ditch	4	34	885	3	0.29	AD40-70
35	**34**	ditch	4	13	358	2	0.2	AD40-70
39	**38**	ditch	2	4	35	1	0	AD30-60
43	**42**	ditch	2	1	2	0	0	AD0-50
45	**44**	ditch	2	3	18	0	0	AD40-100
52	**51**	ditch	4	1	4	0	0	AD40-70
54	**53**	ditch	4	16	72	1	0.1	AD40-70
71	**70**	ditch	4	2	26	0	0	AD30-70 with 1 post med
83	**82**	ditch	4	2	30	0	0	AD0-50
TOTAL	-	-	-	**153**	**2846**	**14**	**1.66**	-

Table 3: Quantification of Late Iron Age and early Roman pottery by context

Assemblage Chronology

B.2.2 The pottery is Late Iron Age and Early Roman in date, with the fabrics and forms suggesting that most of the material dates to the mid-1st century AD. The majority of the assemblage is wheel-made (87.5% of the 72 sherds where manufacturing technique could be determined), with the likelihood that the majority of the assemblage is Pre-Flavian (*c*.AD40-70). That said, there are a small number of sherds which are Late Iron Age in character (a total of 14 sherds, 284g); however, these almost always occur alongside earliest/Early Roman material, suggesting that although they are Late Iron Age forms and/or fabrics, they are likely to be contemporary with the

Roman sherds rather than reflecting residual material. Two contexts contained exclusively Late Iron Age pottery (fill 43, ditch **42**, Trench 2; fill 83, ditch **82**, Trench 4). However, these reflect just one and two sherds respectively and given the remainder of the assemblage is mid-1st century AD in date, it is likely that this material also dates to the same period. The pottery assemblage suggests that activity at this site had ceased by *c*.AD70.

Assemblage Character

B.2.3 The pottery comprises primarily small to medium-sized sherds, with a small number of larger sherds. The assemblage mean weight is 18.6g, which is slightly higher than the average rural settlement. This suggests that material had not been heavily truncated after initial breakage. This is supported by a number of refitting sherds within contexts, as well as several examples of refitting or at least sherds which derive from the same vessels within fills (31), (32) and (33) of ditch **30**, Trench 4.

B.2.4 Sandy fabrics dominated the assemblage, representing 88.9% by sherd count and 94.3% by weight. Within this category there are a number of different fabric types, varying primarily in the coarseness and frequency of the quartz as well as the presence or absence of silver mica (Table 4). The most commonly occurring fabric overall is QM1, a moderately coarse sandy ware with common silver mica, totalling 50 sherds weighing 990g. A coarser variant of this fabric (QM2) was also well represented totalling 20 sherds weighing 855g. Shelly fabrics account for a further 7.2% (by sherd count, 1.1% by weight), with the remaining 3.9% (sherd count, 4.6% by weight) represented by sand and grog-tempered sherds.

B.2.5 None of the fabrics were identified as deriving exclusively from the Late Iron Age element of the assemblage, suggesting similar sources of clay were being exploited. The Late Iron Age material was dominated by fabrics QM1 and QM2, which also feature highly in the Romanised component of the assemblage. That said, there is certainly more diversity within the early Roman pottery fabrics, with the sand and grog-tempered sherds occurring, as well as Romanising coarse sandy greywares, oxidised wares, reduced wares and black-slipped wares.

Fabric Code	Fabric	No.	Wt(g)	MNV	EVE
BLKSL	Black-slipped ware (unsourced)	14	80	1	0.1
CSGW	Coarse sandy greyware (unsourced)	3	29	0	0
CSMOX	Coarse sandy micaceous oxidised ware (unsourced)	12	307	0	0
CSMRDU	Coarse sandy micaceous reduced ware (unsourced)	1	4	0	0
CSOX	Coarse sandy oxidised ware (unsourced)	16	89	0	0
CSRDU	Coarse sandy reduced ware (unsourced)	1	4	0	0
Q1	Moderately coarse sandy fabric with common to frequent quartz	4	59	1	0.1
Q2	Coarse sandy ware with frequent small quartz and rare to occasional larger quartz up to 1mm	14	240	1	0.28
QC2	as Q1 but with moderate small chalk inclusions – poorly sorted.	1	26	0	0
QG1	Medium sandy fabric with moderate to common small to very small grog inclusions	1	30	1	0.1

QG2	Coarse sandy ware with moderate to common medium grog	5	102	1	0.09
QM1	as Q1 but with common silver mica	50	990	7	0.78
QM2	As Q2 but with common silver mica	20	855	2	0.21
QS1	Coarse sandy ware with moderate small shell? And rare larger shell	1	4	0	0
SHELL	Shell-tempered ware	10	27	0	0

Table 4: Quantification of Late Iron Age and early Roman pottery by fabric

B.2.6 A minimum of 14 vessels were identified, based on the number of unique rim sherds present, of which 11 could be assigned a vessel form. Jars are the most commonly occurring form, with nine examples in total (16 sherds, 574g), comprising primarily medium and larger varieties, with rim diameters ranging from 18cm to 30cm. Rim types include everted rim and beaded rim forms, most of which typologically, can be considered as Romanising, rather than fully developed Roman forms. There is also one example of a Late Iron Age slack-shouldered jar from context (35), Trench 4, dating AD0-50 based on the fabric and its occurrence alongside Romanising sherds. Two beakers were also identified, comprising an early Roman, black-slipped vessel from context (54) with a beaded rim and internal lip (13 sherds, 64g) and a QG2 vessel with a long neck, everted rim and tooled line decoration from context (35).

B.2.7 Thirty-three percent of the assemblage is decorated (by sherd count, 47.1% by weight), including vessels which had been burnished or smoothed. Other decorative techniques include tooling, combing and cordons.

Distribution of the Pottery

B.2.8 Pottery was recovered from a total of 22 contexts representing 18 cut features (Table 3 and 5). Twenty-one contexts contained small assemblages of 30 or fewer sherds, with one context containing a medium-sized assemblage (31-99 sherds). The features were spread across three of the evaluation trenches. The pottery from features within Trench 2 represents 5.2% of the total assemblage (by sherd count, eight sherds, 55g), while 23.5% of the pottery was from features within Trench 3 (36 sherds, 347g). The majority of the assemblage was recovered from features within Trench 4, totalling 109 sherds (2444g), thus representing 71.3% of the overall assemblage. Twelve sherds (45g) were collected from the topsoil and subsoil within Trenches 3 and 4, with the remainder of the assemblage deriving exclusively from ditches.

Trench	No.	Wt (g)	MNV	EVE
2	8	55	1	0
3	36	347	2	0.38
4	109	2444	11	1..28
TOTAL	**153**	**2846**	**14**	**0.38**

Table 5: Quantification of Late Iron Age and Roman pottery by trench

B.2.9 Three fills within ditch **30**, Trench 4, produced the largest assemblage from a feature, totalling 74 sherds (1948g). It is of note that there are several examples of refitting sherds from the different fills, and further examples of sherds which are clearly from the same vessels. This implies that the pottery may have been redeposited from elsewhere – possibly some sort of surface midden, or else that there may have been several 'cleaning out' events which meant pottery from different depositional events

was incorporated together. It is uncertain which of these events accounts for the nature of the pottery deposited in this feature. However, the material suggests this feature was filled within a relatively short period of time.

Discussion

B.2.10 The ceramic evidence suggests a short-lived period of occupation, perhaps spanning no more than a few decades in the mid-1st century AD. The lack of any material dating beyond *c*.AD70 is of interest, although whether this reflects complete abandonment or a shift in settlement focus beyond the area of evaluation is uncertain.

B.2.11 The fabrics and forms present are indicative of a small-scale, rural, domestic site, dominated by coarseware vessels, with jars in particular well-represented. The majority of contexts contain a combination of Late Iron Age tradition pottery and earliest Roman material, which is not uncommon in Cambridgeshire, potentially occurring as late as AD70. This demonstrates that the Roman conquest did not cause immediate changes to the ceramic repertoire, but rather that the two traditions continued alongside one another for a least a few decades after the conquest.

B.3 Post-Roman Pottery

By Carole Fletcher (HND BA ACIfA)

Methodology

B.3.1 The Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (PCRG), Study Group for Roman Pottery (SGRP), and 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. The pottery and archive are curated by Oxford Archaeology East until formal deposition or dispersal.

Assemblage and Discussion

B.3.2 Archaeological works produced a small assemblage (37 sherds, weighing 0.340kg) of moderately abraded to abraded post-Roman pottery, recorded in Table 6. The medieval and post-medieval pottery recovered from the topsoil and subsoil in Trench 3 were found alongside clay tobacco pipe stem fragments (Appendix B.4). However, the medieval pottery from ditch **44** in Trench 2 was recovered with residual Roman sherds, as was the pottery recovered from ditch **19** in Trench 3, and from ditches **71** and **83** in Trench 4.

B.3.3 The assemblage is fragmentary and indicates a low level of medieval and post-medieval pottery, dispersed across a small number of areas, and found mostly in ditch fills. Post-medieval glazed red earthenwares and post-medieval Blackwares are by far the most common vessel fabrics. The overall paucity of material across the evaluated area suggests that the bulk of the pottery recovered represents later redistribution of medieval and post-medieval pottery.

Retention, dispersal or display

B.3.4 Should further work be undertaken, the pottery report should be incorporated into any later catalogue. Further work is likely to produce additional post-Roman pottery, although the sherds are likely to be sparsely distributed. If no further work is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record and the assemblage may be dispersed prior to archive deposition.

Pottery catalogue

Trench	Context	Cut	Fabric and description	Count	Weight (g)	Date
2	45	**44**	Medieval Ely ware, abraded body sherd	1	2	1150-1350
			Medieval Sandy coarseware, abraded body sherd	1	8	1150-1500
			East Anglian Redware sherd, abraded fragment from a handle	1	8	1200-1400
3	2		Developed St Neots, abraded body sherds	11	27	1050-1250
			Post-medieval redware bowl, moderately abraded body sherds	2	45	1550-1800
			Post-medieval redware, moderately abraded body sherd	1	49	1550-1800
	3		Post-medieval redware, moderately abraded body sherd	1	7	1550-1800
	15	**13**	Medieval Sandy coarseware, abraded body sherd	1	2	1150-1500
			Medieval Sandy coarseware, abraded rim sherd	1	2	1150-1500
			Post-medieval redware, moderately abraded body sherd	4	11	1550-1650
			Post-medieval black-glazed ware body sherds and handle from a drinking vessel	7	60	1600-1700
	20	**19**	East Anglian redware, moderately abraded-abraded body sherd	1	5	1200-1500
4	3		Post-medieval redware, moderately abraded body sherd	1	62	1550-1800
	71	**70**	Post-medieval black-glazed ware body sherds from a drinking vessel	1	19	1600-1700
	83	**82**	Medieval Ely ware, moderately abraded body sherds	2	31	1150-1350
5	3		Medieval Sandy coarseware, abraded body sherd	1	2	1150-1500
Total				**37**	**340**	

Table 6: Pottery by trench, context and cut

B.4 Clay Tobacco Pipe

By Carole Fletcher (HND BA ACIfA)

Introduction and Methodology

B.4.1 During the evaluation, two fragments of white ball clay tobacco pipe were recovered from Trench 3, one from the topsoil (3), one from the subsoil (2). Simplified recording

only has been undertaken, with basic description and weight recorded in the text. Terminology used in this report is taken from Oswald's simplified general typology (Oswald 1975, 37–41), and Crummy and Hind (Crummy 1988, 47-66).

Assemblage

B.4.2 Topsoil (3) in Trench 3 produced a slightly abraded length of clay tobacco pipe stem (weighing 4g), approximately 10mm in diameter and 33mm in length, with a flattened surface where the mould seam has been trimmed. From the subsoil (2) a 45mm length of slightly curved stem was recovered (10.5mm in diameter, 6g).

Discussion

B.4.3 The fragments of clay tobacco pipe recovered represent what were, most likely, casually discarded pipes. The pipe fragments do little, other than to indicate the consumption of tobacco on, or near, the site. The stem fragment from the subsoil is slightly curved and "stems were straight until the late eighteenth century, when curved varieties were introduced" (The National Pipe Archive http://www.pipearchive.co.uk/howto/date.html accessed 18 June 2019). This may indicate a post-late 18th century date, perhaps for both stem fragments.

Retention, dispersal or display

B.4.4 The assemblage is fragmentary and is of little significance. If no further work is undertaken, this statement acts as a full record and the clay tobacco pipe stem may be deselected prior to archival deposition.

B.5 Ceramic Building Material

By Ted Levermore (BA)

Introduction

B.5.1 Archaeological evaluation work recovered twenty-nine fragments (1609g) of ceramic building material (CBM), collected from features in all five trenches. The assemblage was moderately to severely abraded, containing late medieval to post-medieval brick and tile. Some of the assemblage was too heavily abraded for identification (three fragments, 62g). The majority of the material was gathered from bucket sampling of the topsoil and subsoil of these trenches (23 fragments, 1214g) and therefore provides limited archaeological information. The stratified material was collected in Trenches 2 and 3.

Methodology

B.5.2 The assemblage was quantified by context, fabric and form and counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Width, length and thickness were recorded where possible. Woodforde (1976) and McComish (2015) formed the basis of reference material for identification and dating. The quantified data and fabric descriptions are presented on a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet held with the site archive.

Results of Analysis

Fabrics

B.5.3 A wide array of fabrics was present in this assemblage. These fabrics were found across the site and appear to represent a variety of sources for this material, as well as dates and production techniques. The fabrics recorded were all typical CBM recipes, with preferences towards large and unsorted inclusions in the earlier forms and refined fabrics for the later post-medieval and early modern material. Full fabric descriptions can be found with the site archive.

Assemblage

B.5.4 The portion of the assemblage collected from features will be described here. The unstratified material is summarised in Table 7. None of the material presents much useful archaeological data.

Trench 3

B.5.5 Ditch **19** produced a fragment of ½ inch late medieval to post-medieval flat tile (17g) made in a dull orange porous silty fabric with a grey core and characterised by rare coarse flint chunks. A small severely undiagnostic piece of CBM (16g) was also collected. Ditch **28** produced a single fragment of ½ inch late medieval to post-medieval tile with a discernible peg hole. It was made in a mid-orange-pink silt fabric with few to no visible inclusions.

Trench 4

B.5.6 Ditch **70** produced a fragment of brick (320g) made in a dull orange sandy clay with common fine to coarse brown quartz and calcareous pellets and rare very coarse flint. The brick was a typical 2¼ inch Essex/East Anglian medieval orange brick. This feature also produced a fragment of ½ inch late medieval flat tile (26g) made in light brown porous silty fabric.

Statement of Potential

B.5.7 This assemblage has little archaeological significance. The material was heavily abraded and therefore may have travelled some way before being deposited.

Recommendations for Further Work

B.5.8 This material has been fully recorded. This material and report should be consulted if/when excavation work produces more CBM. After that it should be discarded.

Trench	Context	Cut	Feature	Form	Description	Date	Count	Weight (g)	Abrasion	Th (mm)	Comment
1	3	-	topsoil	tile	flat	post-medieval	1	41	moderate	12	Burwell yellow coloured ½ inch brick.
1	3	-	topsoil	tile	flat	late medieval –	1	27	moderate	12	fragment of abraded flat tile. Fairly neat finish.

Trench	Context	Cut	Feature	Form	Description	Date	Count	Weight (g)	Abrasion	Th (mm)	Comment
						post-medieval					
2	2	-	subsoil	brick		late medieval – post-medieval	3	234	severe		abraded fragments of a brick. Made in compact fine sandy fabric. No diagnostic features.
2	2	-	subsoil	tile	flat	late medieval – post-medieval	1	24	severe	12	fragment of a ½ inch flat tile. Abraded.
2	2	-	subsoil	tile	peg	late medieval – post-medieval	2	150	slight	12	fragments of two neatly formed Burwell yellow type tiles. Both have red streaks in body clay. Smoothed uppers and finely sanded bases.
2	2	-	subsoil	tile	peg	late medieval – post-medieval	2	71	moderate	12	fragment of a ½ inch peg tile. Abraded.
2	3	-	topsoil	tile	flat	late medieval – post-medieval	2	28	moderate	12	fragment of a ½ inch flat tile. Abraded.
2	3	-	topsoil	tile	peg	late medieval – post-medieval	1	32	moderate	12	fragment of a ½ inch peg tile. Abraded.
3	2	-	subsoil	tile	flat	late medieval – post-medieval	1	57	slight	11	fragment of thin flat tile. Very neatly made.
3	3	-	topsoil	tile	peg	late medieval – post-medieval	1	50	moderate	12	fragment of a ½ inch peg tile. More porous version of H. Like tile in (20)
3	3	-	topsoil	undiagnostic	undiagnostic	undiagnostic	1	46	severe		
3	20	19	ditch	tile	flat	late medieval – post-medieval	1	17	moderate	12	fragment of a ½ inch peg tile. More porous version of H.
3	20	19	ditch	undiagnostic	undiagnostic	undiagnostic	2	16	severe		
3	29	28	ditch	tile	peg	late medieval – post-medieval	1	16	severe	12	with mortar.

Trench	Context	Cut	Feature	Form	Description	Date	Count	Weight (g)	Abrasion	Th (mm)	Comment
4	2	-	subsoil	brick		late medieval – post-medieval	1	265	moderate	57	fragment of 2¼ inch brick. One very smooth and neat bed face, obverse is irregular, stretcher is pockmarked. Dark reds and oxidised browns. High fired.
4	2	-	subsoil	tile	?flat	late medieval – post-medieval	1	56	slight	14	fragment of a ½ inch peg tile. Remains of body is bowed, could be a curved tile (i.e. med imbrex).
4	3	-	topsoil	tile	flat	late medieval – post-medieval	1	35	moderate	12	fragment of a ½ inch flat tile. Abraded.
4	3	-	topsoil	tile	flat	late medieval – post-medieval	1	15	severe	12	fragment of a ½ inch flat tile. Abraded.
4	71	70	ditch	brick		late medieval – post-medieval	1	320	moderate	56	fragment of a 2¼ inch brick. Typical Essex/East Anglian med orange brick with large stone inclusions.
4	71	70	ditch	tile	flat	late medieval	1	26	moderate	14	fragment of a ½ inch flat tile. Abraded.
5	2	-	subsoil	tile	flat	late medieval – post-medieval	1	17	slight	9	fragment of thin flat tile.
5	3	-	topsoil	tile	flat	late medieval – post-medieval	2	66	moderate	12	fragment of a ½ inch flat tile. More porous version of F.

Table 7: Summary CBM catalogue

B.6 Fired clay

By Ted Levermore (BA)

Introduction

B.6.1 Archaeological evaluation work recovered 19 fragments (750g) of fired clay from features within Trenches 2 and 4. Much of the material was amorphous (six fragments, 51g) and a portion was recorded as 'structural' (thirteen fragments, 699g). The largest of the structural pieces formed part of a thick plate-type object (five fragments, 500g),

probably used in an oven-type feature. The assemblage offers little archaeological information due to its limited size.

Methodology

B.6.2 The assemblage was quantified by context, fabric and form and counted and weighed to the nearest whole gram. Fabrics were examined using a x20 hand lens and were described by main inclusions present. The quantified data and fabric descriptions are presented on a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet held with the site archive. A summary of the fired clay catalogue is in Table 8.

Results of Analysis

Assemblage

B.6.3 As stated above, the material is of little archaeological significance. It can only be considered as the detrital remains of prehistoric to medieval domestic and light industrial activity. The fabrics and spread of the material imply a local origin. The structural material suggests the presence of larger hand-formed objects probably oven plates or weights, but this conclusion should not be overstated. Fragments of note were the structural pieces from ditch **70** in Trench 2 and ditch **30** in Trench 4.

Statement of Potential

B.6.4 The material was largely undiagnostic and therefore has little archaeological significance. The presence of this material in Trenches 2 and 4 may indicate a concentration of activity.

Recommendations for Further Work

B.6.5 This material has been fully recorded. This material and report should be consulted if/when excavation work produces more fired clay. After that it should be considered for discard.

Trench	Context	Cut	Feature Type	Fragment type	Structural type	Object Class	Object Form	Date/Period	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	No. refits	Count	Weight (g)	Notes
2	39	38	ditch	a								2	12	
2	50	49	pit	a								1	3	
4	31	30	ditch	s	fs							3	65	
4	31	30	ditch	a								1	22	
4	32	30	ditch	s	hf/w							2	42	fragments of a hand formed object, possible wattle impression or perforation. Probably derives from the same

Trench	Context	Cut	Feature Type	Fragment type	Structural type	Object Class	Object Form	Date/Period	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	No. refits	Count	Weight (g)	Notes
														object as seen in (33)
4	33	30	ditch	s	fs/c						2	3	92	refitting fragments of a moderate sized object characterised by rounded smoothed faces. No clear diagnostic features.
4	54	53	ditch	a								2	14	
4	71	70	ditch	s	object	?oven related	bar or plate	LIA/ERB?	>80	55	4	5	500	refitting fragments of a large plate-type object or bar. Refit to form 145mm length of a much larger object. Probably an oven plate, but could be narrower and bar shaped. Fairly neat, rounded arrises and flattened faces. Rare grass and grain impressions

Table 8: Summary fired clay catalogue

APPENDIX C ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Animal Bone

By Hayley Foster (BA MA PhD)

Introduction and methodology

C.1.1 The animal bone from Wilburton represents faunal remains weighing 640g (Table 9). There were 17 fragments recorded that were retrieved from hand collection and environmental samples. Bone was recovered solely from ditches. The species represented include cattle (*Bos taurus*), sheep/goat (*Ovis/Capra*), fish, and large, medium and small mammals.

C.1.2 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.

Results of Analysis

C.1.3 The faunal remains consisted of only 17 identifiable fragments, consisting primarily of the main domesticates. An additional fish vertebrae and small mammal ulna and pelvis were also retrieved.

C.1.4 The assemblage was in good condition with moderate to high levels of fragmentation.

C.1.5 The only taphonomic changes noted were cut marks on a sheep/goat distal anterior shaft. Ageing data was minimal with only a few fused epiphyses noted.

C.1.6 While the volume of bone recovered was not abundant, the remains do suggest that there were signs of domestic activity around those ditches where bone was recovered. The co-mingled remains are likely to be food waste.

Trench	Context	Sheep/Goat	Cattle	Small Mammal	Medium Mammal	Large Mammal	Fish	Butchery	Comments	Total
3	7						1		enviro <6>	1
3	12	1						Yes		1
3	17					1				1
3	20	1								1
4	31		1							1
4	32	2	1							3
4	33	1							enviro <2>	1
2	45			2						2
4	54		1							1
4	71		2		3					5
	TOTAL	5	5	2	3	1	1			**17**

Table 9: Animal bone quantification table (list). Total number of identifiable fragments (NISP) by species for hand-collected and environmental samples

Recommendations for Further Work

C.1.7 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.

C.2 Environmental Samples

By Martha Craven

Introduction

C.2.1 Six bulk samples were taken from features within the evaluated area 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 1-5 from a natural layer (4), undated ditches (**61**, **46**) and from Roman ditches (**5**, **25**, **30**).

Methodology

C.2.2 The samples were soaked in a solution of sodium carbonate for 24 hours 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 Sīraf-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 0.5mm sieves.

C.2.3 The dried flots were scanned using a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x60, and an abbreviated list of the recorded remains are presented in Table 10. 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.2.4 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.2.5 Items that cannot be easily quantified such as charcoal and molluscs have been scored for abundance

+ = occasional, ++ = moderate, +++ = frequent, ++++ = abundant

Results

C.2.6 Preservation of plant remains is by carbonisation and is generally poor; many of the flots contain rootlets which may have caused movement of material between contexts.

C.2.7 Sample 2, fill 33 of ditch **30** (Trench 4) contained two seeds that were unfortunately too heavily abraded for positive identification. Sample 1, fill 26 of ditch **25** (Trench 3) and Sample 6, fill 7 of ditch **5** (Trench 3) contained a small quantity of charcoal.

C.2.8 The majority of the samples contained a small quantity of relatively well-preserved molluscs.

C.2.9 Pottery fragments were recovered from Sample 2, which may be suitable for dating.

Trench no.	Sample no.	Context no.	Cut no.	Feature type	Volume processed (L)	Flot volume (ml)	Weed Seeds	Snails from flot	Charcoal volumes (ml)	Pottery	Large mammal	Fish bones	Fired clay
1	5	62	**61**	Ditch	20	2	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
2	4	48	**46**	Ditch	20	10	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
3	1	26	**25**	Ditch	20	10	0	+	<1	0	0	0	0
3	6	7	**5**	Ditch	18	5	0	0	<1	0	0	#	0
4	2	33	**30**	Ditch	16	5	#	+	0	#	#	0	#
5	3	4	N/A	Deposit/layer	19	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 10: Environmental samples from the evaluated area at the rear of 9 West End, Wilburton

Discussion

C.2.10 The recovery of such a small amount of weed seeds and charcoal indicates that there is limited potential for the preservation of plant remains at this site. The poor preservation of plant remains at this site is likely the result of the clay matrix.

C.2.11 If further excavation is planned for this area, it is recommended that environmental sampling is carried out in accordance with Historic England guidelines (2011).

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Ordnance Survey maps:

Map	Date	Scale
Ordnance Survey County Series	1887-1888	1:2,500
	1890-1891	1:10,560
	1902	1:2,500
	1903	1:10,560
	1952	1:10,560
	1958	1:10,560
Ordnance Survey Plan	1976	1:2,500

Table 11: Maps consulted

APPENDIX E SITE SUMMARY DETAILS / OASIS REPORT FORM

Site name:	Land Rear of 9 West End, Wilburton, Cambridgeshire
Site code:	ECB5883
Grid Reference	TL 4775 7495
Type:	Evaluation
Date and duration:	13-14 May 2019
Area of Site	9284.162 sq m (development area)
Location of archive:	The archive is currently held at OA East, (15 Traffalgar Way, Bar Hill, Cambridgeshire, CB23 8SQ), and will be deposited with Cambridgeshire County Stores in due course, under the following accession number: ECB5883.
Summary of Results:	The five trenches revealed a concentration of 1st century AD Romano-British ditches indicating the presence of Romano-British settlement in the vicinity of the evaluation trenches. In addition, three ditches representing part of a post-medieval field system, a small number of pits and a single posthole were encountered. The features yielded a small assemblage of finds, including an iron nail and a modern pitchfork tine, Romano-British, medieval and post-medieval pottery, late medieval to post-medieval CBM, Late Iron Age or Early Romano-British fired clay, post-medieval clay tobacco pipe and animal bone.

Project Details

OASIS Number	oxfordar3-351818
Project Name	Land Rear of 9 West End, Wilburton

Start of Fieldwork	13 May 2019	End of Fieldwork	17 May 2019
Previous Work	No	Future Work	

Project Reference Codes

Site Code	ECB5883	Planning App. No.	18/00986/OUT
HER Number	ECB5883	Related Numbers	-

Prompt	NPPF
Development Type	Residential
Place in Planning Process	After outline determination (eg. A a reserved matter)

Techniques used (tick all that apply)

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

Monument	Period
Ditch	Roman (43 to 410)
Ditch	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
Pit	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
Pit	Uncertain
Posthole	Uncertain

Object	Period
Pottery	Roman (43 to 410)
Pottery	Medieval (1066 to 1540)
Pottery	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901
CBM	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)
Animal bone	Uncertain
Fired clay	Late Iron Age (- 100 to 43)
Fired clay	Uncertain
Clay tobacco pipe	Post Medieval (1540 to 1901)

Project Location

County	Cambridgeshire
District	East Cambridge
Parish	Wilburton
HER office	CCC HET
Size of Study Area	9284.162 sq m
National Grid Ref	TL 4775 7495

Address (including Postcode)

Land Rear of 9 West End
Wilburton
Cambridge
CB6 3RE

Project Originators

Organisation	OA East
Project Brief Originator	CCC HET
Project Design Originator	OA East
Project Manager	Nick Gilmour
Project Supervisor	Robin Webb

Project Archives

	Location	ID
Physical Archive (Finds)	CCC HET	ECB5883
Digital Archive	OA East	ECB5883
Paper Archive	CCC HET	ECB5883

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

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

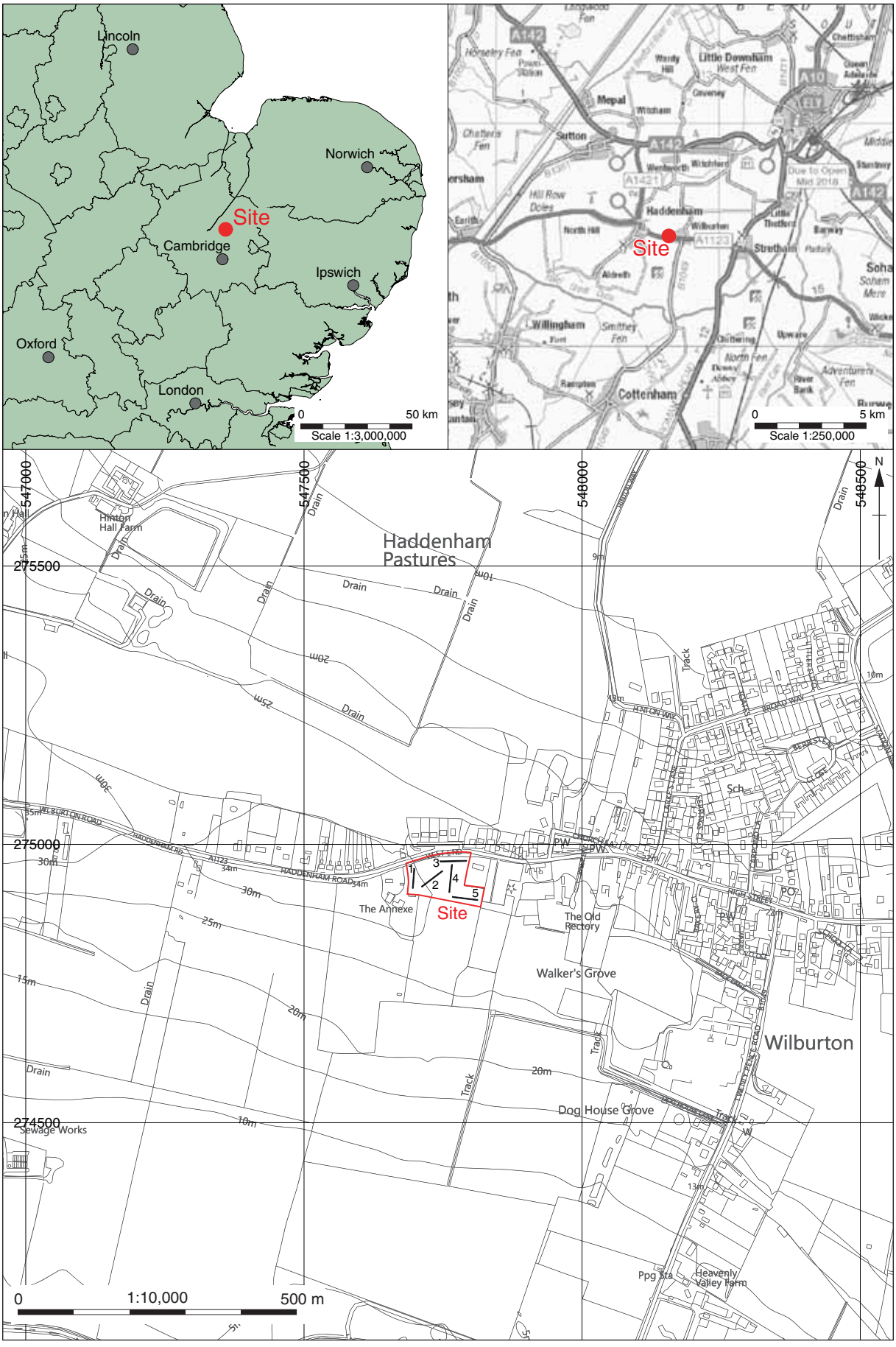


Figure 1: Site location showing archaeological trenches (black) in development area (red)

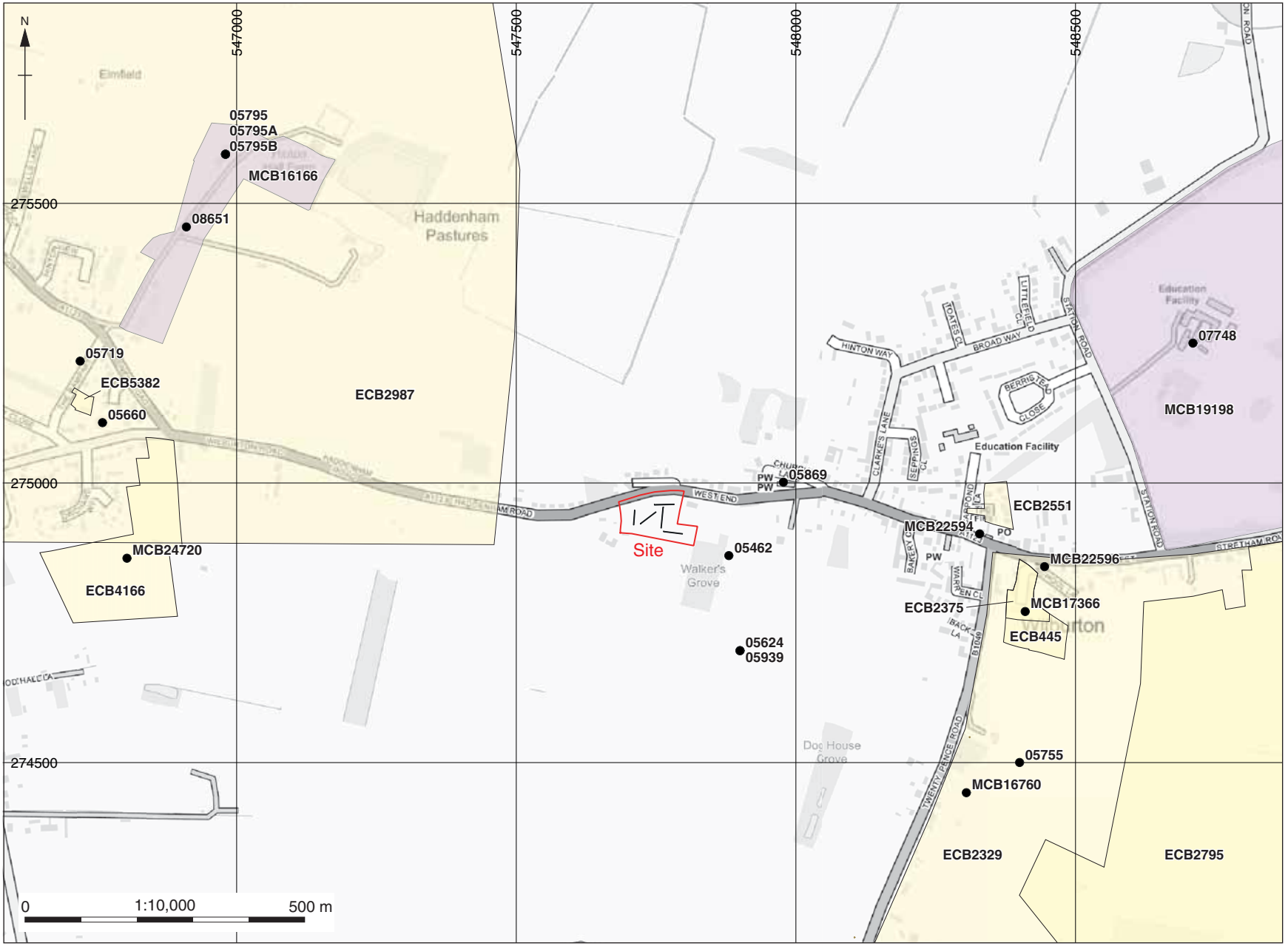


Figure 2: CHER entries mentioned in the text. Scale 1:10,000 at A4

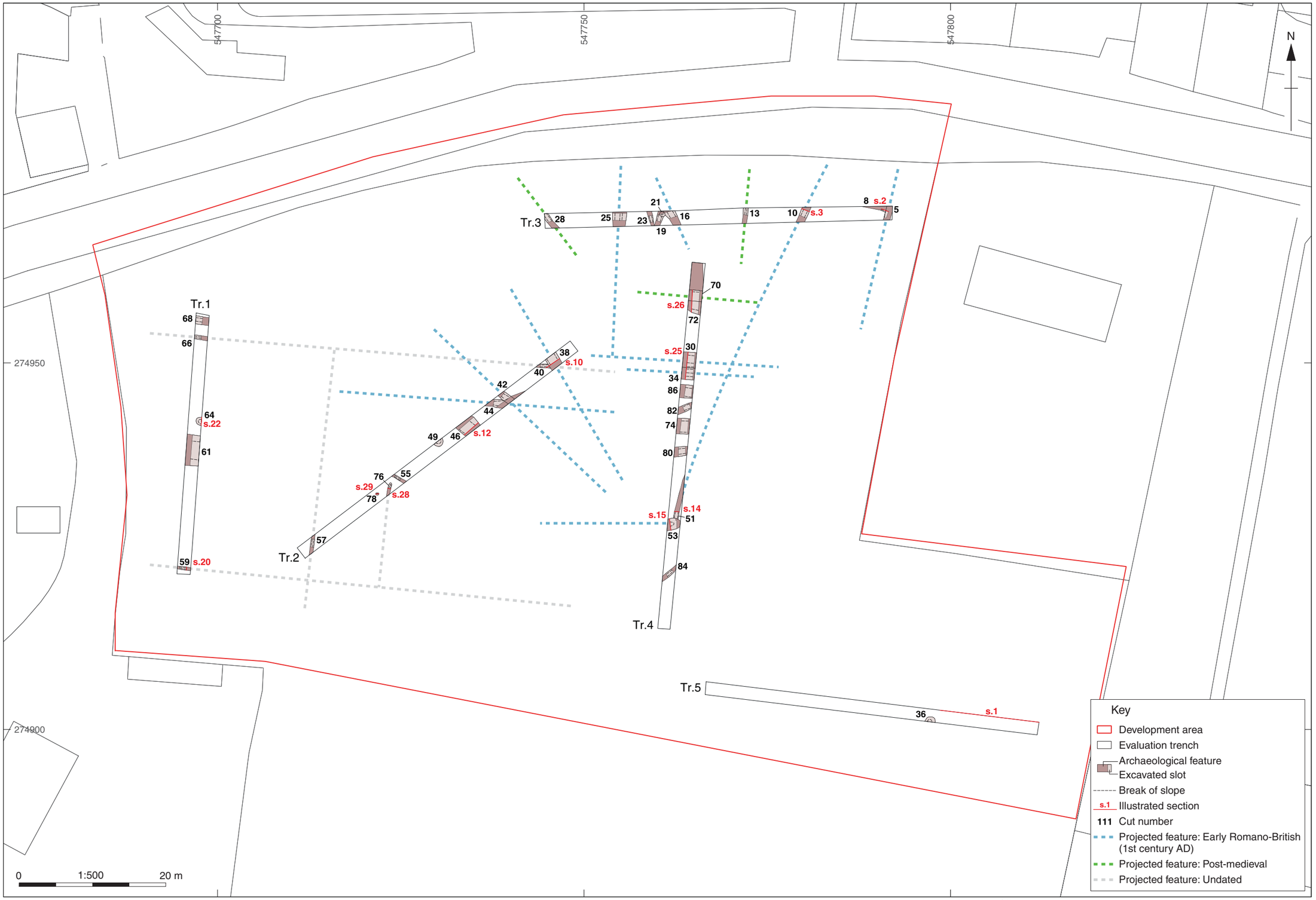


Figure 3: Trench location plan. Scale 1:500 at A3

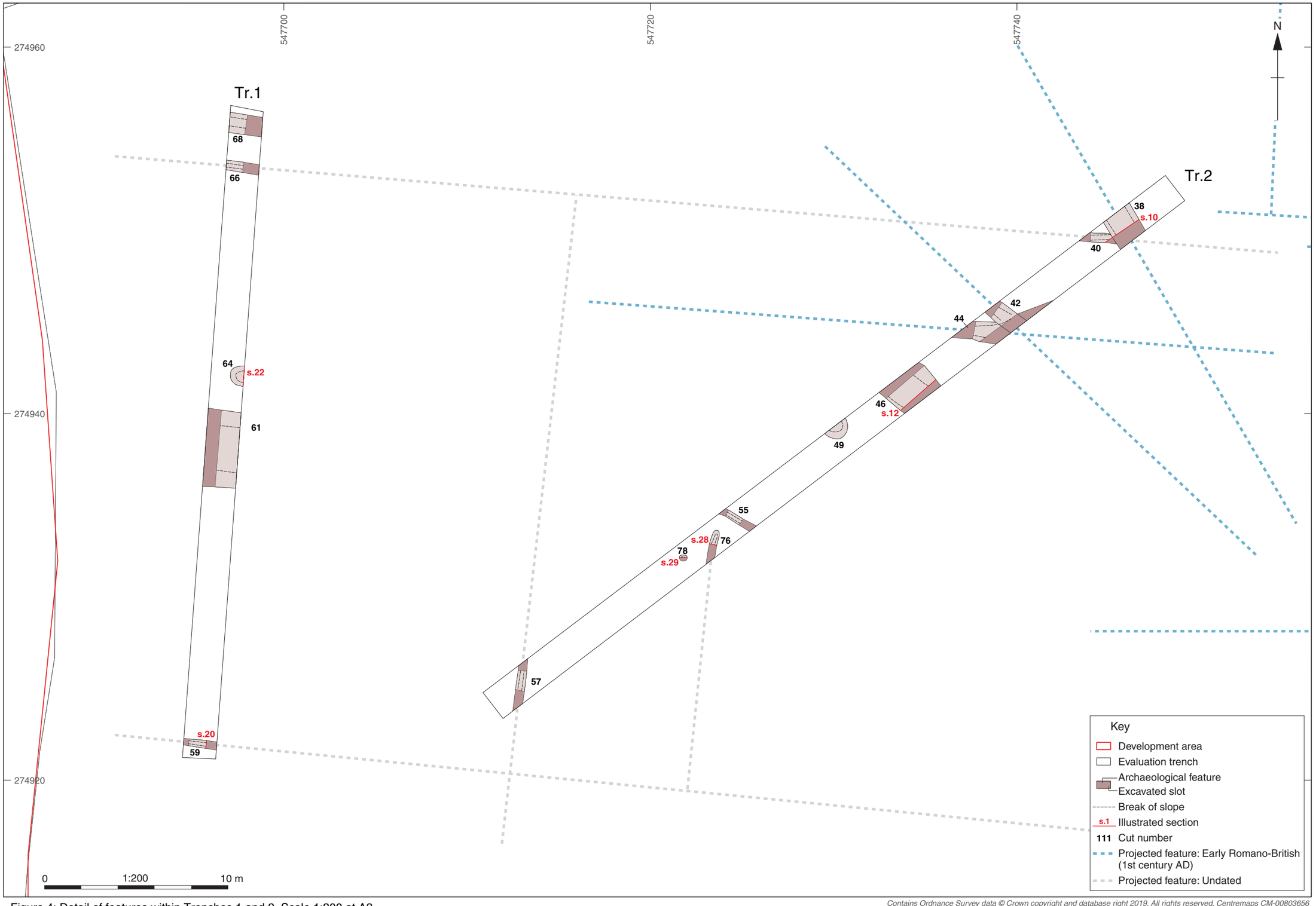


Figure 4: Detail of features within Trenches 1 and 2. Scale 1:200 at A3

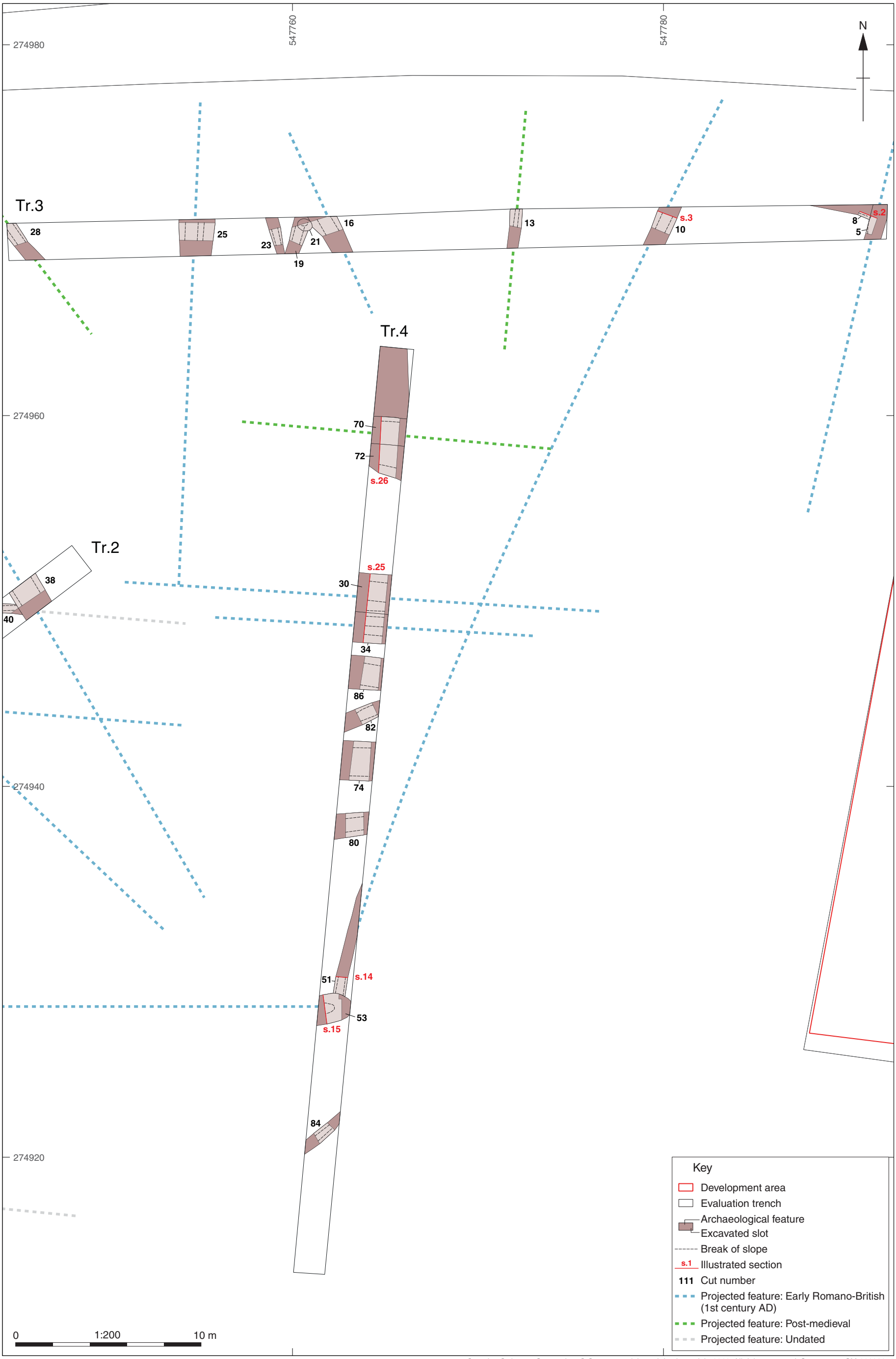


Figure 5: Detail of features within Trenches 3 and 4. Scale 1:200 at A3

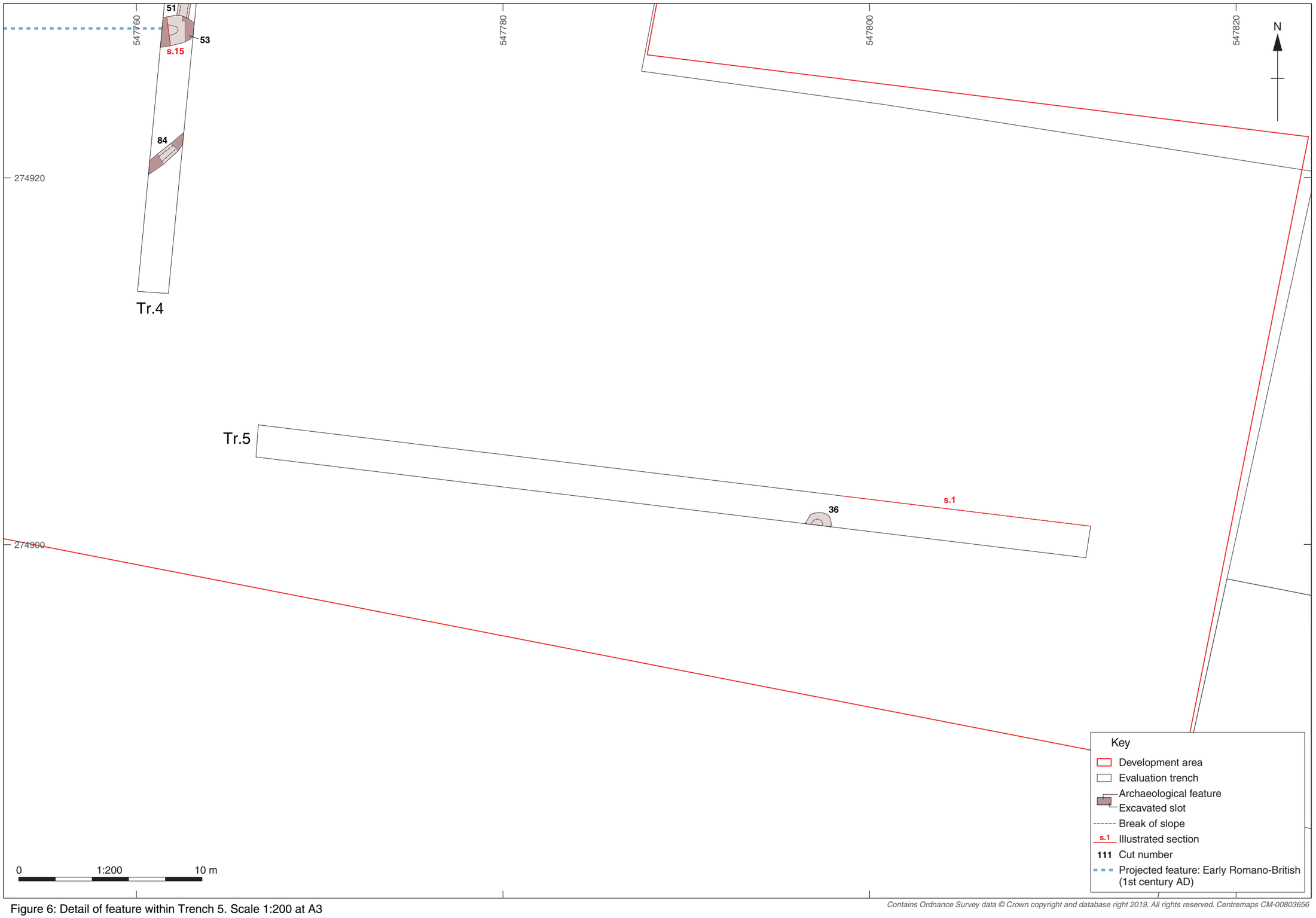
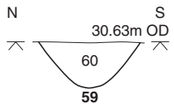


Figure 6: Detail of feature within Trench 5. Scale 1:200 at A3

Section 20 Trench 1



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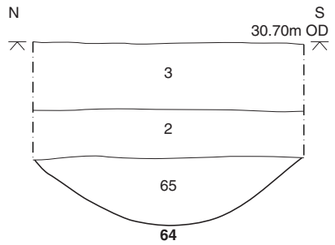
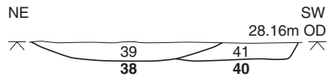
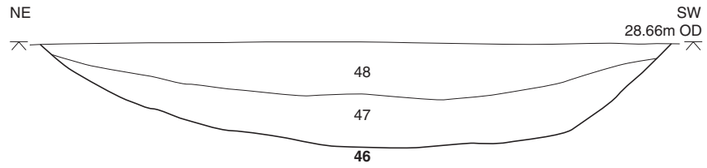


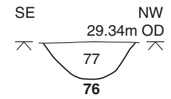
Section 10 Trench 2



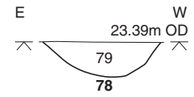
Section 12 Trench 2



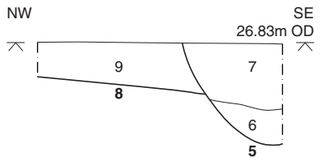
Section 28 Trench 2



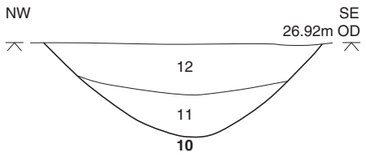
Section 29 Trench 2



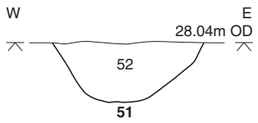
Section 2 Trench 3



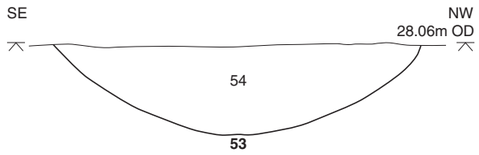
Section 3 Trench 3



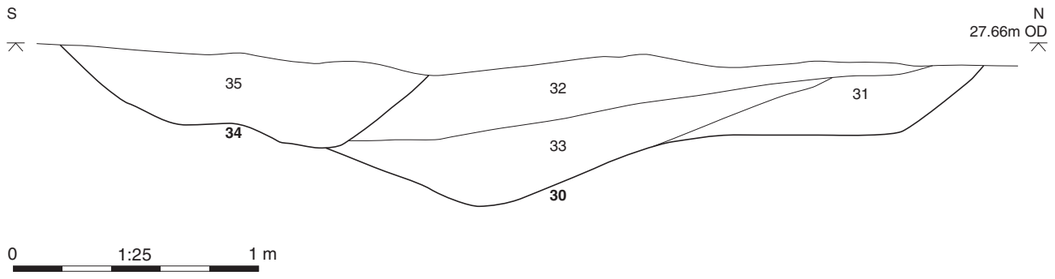
Section 14 Trench 4



Section 15 Trench 4

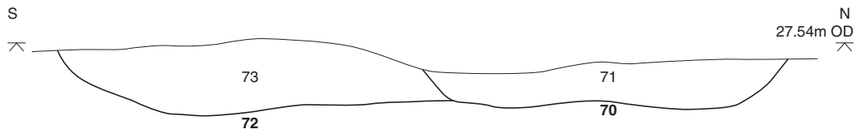


Section 25 Trench 4

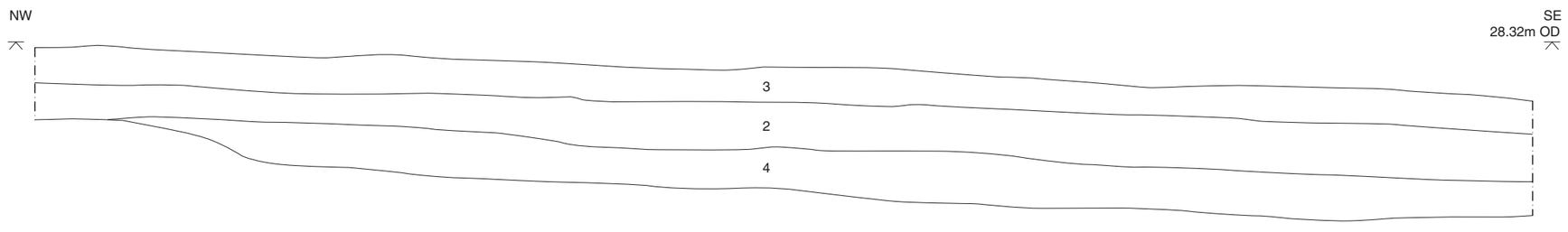


0 1:25 1 m

Section 26 Trench 4



Section 1 Trench 5



0 1:50 2 m

Key

- Limit of Excavation
- Top surface
- Cut / conjectured
- Deposit Horizon conjectured
- Intrusion/Truncation
- Break in Section
- **117** Cut Number
- 116 Deposit Number
- 32.26 m OD Level

Figure 7: Selected sections

Plate 1: The view over the ridge, looking south

Plate 2: Trench 1, looking north

Plate 3: Trench 1, ditch **61**, looking east

Plate 4: Trench 2, looking south-west

Plate 5: Trench 3, ditch **13**, looking north

Plate 6: Trench 3, ditches **16** and **19** cut by pit **21**, looking north-west

Plate 7: Trench 3, ditch **25**, looking north

Plate 8: Trench 4, looking south

Plate 9: Trench 4, ditch **34** cutting ditch **30**, looking west

Plate 10: Trench 4, ditch **74**, looking west

Plate 11: Trench 5, looking east

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