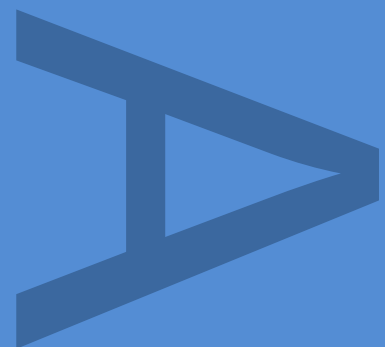


**Land at Shepreth Road, Foxton,
Cambridgeshire: An
Archaeological Evaluation**

April 2015



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY
R12054**

LAND AT SHEPRETH ROAD, FOXTON,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE:

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Control

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Land at Shepreth Road, Foxton, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation

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ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of a 22 Trench (c.660m) archaeological evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on Land at Shepreth Road, Foxton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 4063 4816) between the 18th and 23rd of March 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting in advance of a planning application for ninety six residential dwellings along with open space and the associated infrastructure. The aim of the work was to characterise the location, date, extent, character, condition and quality of any archaeological remains on the site, to assess the significance of any such remains in a local, regional, or national context, as appropriate, and to assess the potential impact of the development proposals on the site's archaeology.

The evaluation identified evidence of Bronze Age and Iron Age activity, the most interesting of which comprised a large ring-ditch, possibly part Bronze Age barrow measuring c.24m in diameter, identified in the north-west of the site. In addition to this a cluster of postholes and pits indicative of settlement activity, dating to the Late Bronze Age were identified in the south-western corner of the site in Trench 1. Two further enclosure/boundary ditches and an associated posthole were identified in Trenches 3 and 14 and are likely to be contemporary with the settlement. A post-medieval pit was identified in Trench 16.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Background

- 1.1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at Shepreth Road, Foxton, Cambridgeshire CB22 6SU (NGR TL 4063 4816) between the 18th to the 23rd March 2015.
- 1.1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs in response to a requirement for pre-determination evaluation of a proposed development for ninety six residential dwellings along with open space and the associated infrastructure (Planning reference S/2822/14/OL).
- 1.1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Mark Hinman and Matthew Lees of PCA (Hinman and Lees 2015) in response to a Brief for Archaeological Evaluation issued by Andy Thomas (Thomas 2015) and monitored by Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).
- 1.1.4 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition and quality of any archaeological remains on the site, to assess the significance of any such remains in a local, regional, or national context, as appropriate, and to assess the potential impact of the development proposals on the site's archaeology.
- 1.1.5 The proposed site encompassed an area measuring c.6ha and comprised 22 trenches measuring 30m by 2m, totalling 1320m².
- 1.1.6 This report describes the results of the evaluation and aims to inform the design of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. The site archive will be deposited at Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

- 2.1.1 The underlying bedrock is comprised of the West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation and the Zag Chalk Formation; sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 94 to 100 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period.
- 2.1.2 Superficial deposits on the site are identified as River Terrace Deposits of Sand and Gravel. Superficial Deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period.
- 2.1.3 Topsoil deposits (100) comprised a mid to dark brownish grey silty sand with flint and stone inclusions. The subsoil (101) was defined as a mid greyish-/orangey-brown silty sand.
- 2.1.4 The natural geology of the site was identified as a mid-orangey brown silty sand with degraded chalk patches.

2.2 Topography

- 2.2.1 The development area is located to the south-east of the adjacent north-east to south-west aligned A10 in the Cambridgeshire village of Foxton.
- 2.2.2 Topographically, the site is relatively flat, bounded by trees on the north, south and east limits of the site and by open arable fields to the west. The site lies on the north-facing valley slope of the River Cam or Rhee (Gailey 2014).
- 2.2.3 The Foxton Brook, a tributary of the River Cam, flows approximately 250m south-west of the study site. The River Cam lies approximately 1500m north of the study site (Figure 1)
- 2.2.4 The site is located around c.18m Over Datum (OD).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1.1 The proposed development area is located in the historic Cambridgeshire village of Foxton. The following archaeological and historical background has been taken from the Desk-Based Assessment for the site (Gailey 2014).

Prehistoric

3.1.2 No evidence of Neolithic occupation has been recorded on the site, but there is a general 'background noise' of activity within the vicinity. Neolithic pits were recorded during work on the Duxford gas pipeline approximately 250m north-west of the study site close to the tributary of the River Cam (CB14690 TL4009548149). Excavations to the south of the Recreation Ground approximately 400m south-east of the study site recorded a ditch and pit of possible Neolithic date (CB15568 TL4120048134).

3.1.3 A ring-ditch identified from cropmarks on a 1960 aerial photograph has been recorded on the study site (08631 TL406481). No evidence of a cropmark was observed on recent aerial photographs nor was any evidence of any surviving earthwork remains recorded during a recent visit to the study site.

3.1.4 Metal detecting in the field that incorporates the western part of the study site recorded a single Bronze Age axehead, outside the boundary of the study site (10265 TL404479).

3.1.5 A further prehistoric ring-ditch was recorded during geophysical survey on West Hill approximately 500m south of the study site (MCB17776 TL4074947589 CB15638 TL4080047700).

3.1.6 Isolated finds dating to the Bronze Age have been recorded in the vicinity of the site comprising a perforated stone hammer found approximately 700m north-east of the study site (03991 TL408489 03992 TL407487), a palstave, approximately 200m south of the study site (03990 TL408480) and a flint scraper approximately 250m north-west of the study site (11562 TL402481).

3.1.7 The Iron Age period is well evidenced around Foxton. A possible Iron Age settlement was recorded during geophysical survey on school playing fields approximately 200m south-east of the study site (MCB19183 TL41024815).

Closeby, archaeological investigations approximately 250m south-east of the study site, recorded two Iron Age pits, one containing a cremation burial within a Gallo-Belgic pot (MCB15792 TL4109648240).

3.1.8 Evidence of Iron Age settlement activity was also recorded during excavations near Barrington Road approximately 750m north-east of the study site (04209a TL40814902).

3.1.9 The sites location on well-drained gravels within the valley of the Foxton Brook may have made it a favoured location during the prehistoric periods. The potential for archaeological evidence dating to these periods is therefore considered to be moderate to good.

Roman

3.1.10 Evidence of Roman occupation including a cemetery site was recorded during investigations approximately 350m north-west of the study site close to the Foxton Brook (CB14689 TL4009448151). The density of features suggests a substantial settlement. A series of linear features and complex of enclosures have been recorded from cropmarks in this area and are most likely associated with a Roman settlement on the banks of the Brook (08626 TL402483), a continuation from the earlier Iron Age occupation in this location. A double ditched trackway recorded from cropmarks appears to lead from the area of Roman occupation and may be a Roman road (08629 TL404484). In addition Roman metalwork has been recorded during metal detecting in this location (11564 TL402484 07717 TL406485).

3.1.11 The 'Roman Site' Scheduled Monument (DCB398 TL39804827) lies on the other side of the brook and may well form part of the same complex. Investigations since the late 19th century have recorded Roman buildings and associated features (03364 TL39804828 03364B TL39804828)

3.1.12 Further north-west, linear features of possible Roman date were recorded (CB14650 TL3981048559).

3.1.13 Metal detecting within the study site, recorded 3 coins, a brooch and a fibula pin (10266 TL406482). A further six coins and a brooch fragment were found

to the south-west of the study site (10265A TL404479). In addition metal detecting to the south-west and south-east of the study site recorded further coins and a brooch of Roman date (10269 TL409481 10264 TL405478).

3.1.14 The Roman period is well represented around Foxton and the finds recorded on the site may represent evidence of occupation or may be stray finds brought to the site from elsewhere as a result of Roman manuring. The potential for archaeological evidence dating to the Roman period is therefore considered to be moderate to good.

Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

3.1.15 Metal detecting across the study site recorded a single strap fitting of possible Saxon date (10266A TL406482). Two Saxon brooches were recorded to the southwest (10265B TL404479 10264A TL405478). These finds are likely to represent casual loss rather than occupation.

3.1.16 An Anglo-Saxon cemetery was recorded during excavations at Barrington Road approximately 750m north of the study site (04209 TL40814902). Closeby further inhumations are recorded approximately 300m north-east of the study site (03996 TL40984855) and approximately 500m north of the study site (03989 TL40724884) most likely forming part of the same cemetery site.

3.1.17 No evidence of settlement associated with the cemetery has as yet been recorded however Foxton is recorded in the Domesday Survey of 1086 comprising a very large population of 43 households and a number of manors.

3.1.18 The Medieval settlement developed around the church. St Lawrence's Church originally dates from 12th century and lies approximately 400m east of the study (CB14810 TL4121248333). Closeby a Medieval hollow-way flanked by house platforms was recorded approximately 250m east of the study site (09822 TL41054823).

3.1.19 A moated manor house lies approximately 750m east of the study site at Mortimers Farm (01255 TL414485). Archaeological investigations close to

the moated site, recorded evidence of occupation dating from the middle 11th century AD (MCB17771 TL41414846 02975 TL41504851).

3.1.20 Metal detecting on the site recorded two coins of Medieval date (10266B TL406482). Medieval coins and a token were found to the south-west (10265C TL404479 10264B TL405478). These finds are likely to represent casual loss rather than occupation.

3.1.21 The study site lay outside the historic core of settlement at Foxton. The archaeological potential for evidence of settlement activity is therefore considered to be low/nil and it is assumed that the site was in agricultural use.

Post-medieval and Modern

3.1.22 Metal detecting on the study site recorded two tokens and a ring dating to the post-medieval period (10266C TL406482). Further metalwork was found to the southwest (10265D TL404479 10264C TL405478). These finds most likely represent casual loss. During this period the study site continued to comprise agricultural land outside the core of any settlement, as confirmed by later cartographic evidence.

3.1.23 By the early 19th century the site comprised of pasture and arable land adjacent to Foxton House.

3.1.24 There was little change to the site by the late 19th century apart from the plantation of a number of trees in the north-west of the site. By the early 20th century the site occupied part of 4 fields.

3.1.25 During the 20th century Beech Tree farm was constructed and the site divided into 5 fields with a plantation of trees along the Royston Road frontage. By the late 20th century most of the field boundaries had been removed, whilst an additional farm building had been constructed at Beech Tree farm.

3.1.26 The archaeological potential for evidence of significant archaeological remains dating to these periods is considered to be low/nil.

3.1.27 The geophysical survey carried out by Archaeological Services Durham University demonstrated little evidence for archaeological remains on the site.

Undated

3.1.28 A number of rings of unknown date were recorded in the field to the south-west of the study during metal detecting (10264D TL405478).

3.1.29 A bronze scabbard of unknown date was found during metal detecting to the southwest of the study site (10265E TL404479).

3.1.30 Investigations in the field to the south-west of the study site recorded undated evidence of agricultural activity (CB14684 TL4052647784).

Archaeological Potential

3.1.31 There are no Scheduled Monuments or other designated heritage assets on the site.

3.1.32 The HER records the cropmark of a ring-ditch (a probable ploughed out Bronze Age barrow) on the study site. In addition a small number of finds dating from the Roman to the Post-Medieval periods have been recorded on the site. Whilst these finds may have been brought into the site from elsewhere by manuring, it is possible that the Roman finds may represent occupation on the site.

3.1.33 A geophysical survey was conducted by Archaeological Services Durham University (2014), which identified little in the way of anomalies, and did not identify the ring-ditch discovered in Trench 22. A number of anomalies were present in the location of Trench 1, however these features were not interpreted as archaeological. Trench 14 identified a potential archaeological feature, and this was confirmed by the evaluation results.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Excavation and Sampling

4.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation proposed the excavation of 22 linear trial trenches each 30m in length.

4.1.2 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 360 type excavator fitted with a 2m-wide toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed natural geological deposits where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools. Overburden deposits were set aside beside each trench and examined visually and with a metal-detector for finds retrieval.

4.2 Recording Methodology

4.2.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions, were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better. Exposed archaeological features and deposits were cleaned as necessary to define them using hand tools.

4.2.2 Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil and subsoil stripping and throughout the excavation process. Archaeological features and spoilheaps were scanned by metal-detector as they were encountered/ created.

4.2.3 Section drawings of archaeological features and deposits were drawn at an appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20 or 1:50).

4.3 Recording and Sampling

4.3.1 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I) by Joanna Taylor and Gary Brown (2009).

4.3.2 With the exception of Trench 1 (see 5.2.1) all features were investigated and recorded in order to properly understand the date and nature of the

archaeological remains on the site and to recover sufficient finds assemblages to assess the chronological development and socio-economic character of the site over time.

- 4.3.3 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded on individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown 2009). Archaeological processes recognised by the deposition of material are signified in this report by round brackets (thus), while events constituting the removal of deposits are referred to here as 'cuts' and signified by square brackets [thus]. The record numbers assigned to cuts and deposits are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. All features and deposits recorded during the evaluation are listed in Appendix 2. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.
- 4.3.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process. Digital Photographs were taken of all archaeological features and deposits and black and white film photographs were taken when considered appropriate by the excavator and supervisor.
- 4.3.5 Artefacts and ecofacts were collected by hand and assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from the site (IfA 2001; Walker 1990; Watkinson 1981).

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The trenches are described below in numerical order, with technical data tabulated. Features and deposits are described from west to east or south to north depending on the alignment of the trench. Archaeological features and deposits were sealed by the subsoil, unless otherwise stated.

5.2 Trench 1

| | | | | |
|---|-------------|--------------------------------------|--------|--|
| TRENCH 1 | Figures 2-3 | | | |
| Trench Alignment: NW-SE | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 18.24-18.63 | | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | | |
| | | NW End | SE End | |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.31 | 0.32 | |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.05 | 0.07 | |
| Natural | (102) | 0.46+ | 0.34+ | |
| Summary Trench 1 was located in Area 2, in the south-western corner of the site. | | | | |

5.2.1 A total of 28 features were present within the trench (see Figure 3), five of which were tested by excavation, and surface finds were recovered from a further two. Due to the density and the complexity of the archaeological remains within the trench, interventions were limited to restrict damage and loss of information to the wider context of the site, as agreed with the County Archaeologist.

5.2.2 Ditch [112] was located in the centre of the trench, aligned northeast-southwest and measured 0.8m wide and 0.33m deep. The ditch contained a single fill (111) a mid-reddish grey, silty sand. Two flint flakes were recovered along with six sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery (58g) and a fragment of cattle-sized bone.

- 5.2.3 The ditch appeared to bound an area of intensive structural remains, with a high feature density to the north-west of the ditch, comprising a minimum 20 postholes and associated features. The structural remains almost certainly consist of more than one building and are likely to represent multiple phases of structures constructed in the same location. In addition to the ditch, three postholes and a small pit were excavated.
- 5.2.4 Posthole [110] was circular in plan measuring 0.29m in width and 0.14m in depth. The posthole comprised a single fill (109) a mid-greyish brown, sandy silt and contained no finds.
- 5.2.5 Posthole [108] was oval in plan (0.54m long, 0.29m wide and 0.3m deep), the feature had near vertical sides. It contained single fill (107); a dark greyish brown, sandy silt and no finds.
- 5.2.6 Immediately to the south of [108], a large prehistoric pottery sherd was recovered from the surface of a posthole [130]. The feature was not excavated, but the fill observed at the surface was recorded as a dark greyish brown, sandy silt deposit.
- 5.2.7 Two intercutting features were investigated revealing a posthole [104] with a possible shallow pit [106] cut into the top of the posthole, although it is suggested that feature [106] was indicative of the original post having been removed. Posthole [104] was circular, measuring 0.37m wide and 0.28m deep. The posthole contained a single fill (103); a mid-reddish brown, silty sand. Feature [106] was oval in plan measuring 0.6m in length, 0.33m in width and 0.17m in depth. It contained a single fill (105); a dark reddish grey silty sand. The pit contained 15 sherds (270g) of Late Bronze Age pottery, which may represent a deliberate placement of selected sherds on top of the former posthole.
- 5.2.8 Although not excavated, a fragment of pig bone and a small sherd of Late Bronze Age pottery (3g) was recovered from the surface of probable pit [132]. The fill (133) was recorded from the surface as a mid-reddish brown, sandy silt. A further sherd of Late Bronze Age pottery weighing 30g was recovered from unexcavated posthole (131)/[130].

5.2.9 During cleaning of the trench surface, the excavator noted patches of silts containing charcoal flecks, suggesting the deposits may represent the partial survival of a soil horizon or surface, although the deposits were very slight in depth. A number of anomalies were identified within the results of the geophysical survey, located in and around Trench 1.

5.3 Trench 2

| TRENCH 2 | Figure 2 | | |
|--|-------------|--|--------|
| Trench Alignment: NW-SE | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 18.59 - 18.78 | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | |
| | | NW End | SE End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.21m | 0.3m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.09m | 0.1m |
| Natural | (102) | 0.3m+ | 0.4m+ |
| <p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 2 was located in Area 2 at the western side of the site. It contained no archaeological features.</p> | | | |

5.4 Trench 3

| TRENCH 3 | Figures 2 & 4 | | |
|---|---------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Trench Alignment: NE-SW | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 18.41-18.53 | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | |
| | | NW End | SE End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.29m | 0.31m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.10m | 0.12 |
| Natural | (102) | 0.39m+ | 0.43m+ |
| <p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 3 was located in Area 1, at the north-western edge of the site. The trench contained a single ditch [121].</p> | | | |

5.4.1 Ditch [121] was linear in plan and aligned north-west to south-east. The ditch measured 2.45m wide and 0.4m seep (see Figure 4). The feature comprised single fill (122); a mid-greyish brown silty sand, which contained two cattle bone fragments.

5.5 Trench 4

| TRENCH 4 | Figure 2 | | | |
|--|-------------|--------------------------------------|--------|--|
| Trench Alignment: E-W | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 18.75-18.65 | | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | | |
| | | NW End | SE End | |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.22m | 0.19m | |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.14m | 0.15m | |
| Natural | (102) | 0.36m+ | 0.34m+ | |
| <p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 4 was located in Area 1 at the western side of the area. It contained no archaeological features.</p> | | | | |

5.6 Trench 5

| TRENCH 5 | Figure 2 | | | |
|--|-------------|--------------------------------------|--------|--|
| Trench Alignment: N-S | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 18.78-18.86 | | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | | |
| | | SW End | NE End | |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.26m | 0.28m | |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.17m | 0.22m | |
| Natural | (102) | 0.43m+ | 0.5m+ | |
| <p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 5 was located centrally in site. It contained no archaeological features.</p> | | | | |

5.7 Trench 6

| | | | | |
|----------|----------|--|--|--|
| TRENCH 6 | Figure 2 | | | |
|----------|----------|--|--|--|

| | | | |
|--|-------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Trench Alignment: N-S | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 18.86-18.87 | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | |
| | | N End | S End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.25m | 0.25m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.15m | 0.14m |
| Natural | (102) | 0.35m+ | 0.34m+ |
| <p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 6 was located in Area 1 at the southern side of the area, centrally within the site. It contained no archaeological features.</p> | | | |

5.8 Trench 7

| | | | |
|---|-------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| TRENCH 7 | Figure 2 | | |
| Trench Alignment: E-W | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 18.71-18.76 | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | |
| | | W End | E End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.29m | 0.26m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.15m | 0.15 |
| Natural | (102) | 0.44m+ | 0.41m+ |
| <p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 7 was located on the southern side of Area 1. It contained no archaeological features.</p> | | | |

5.9 Trench 8

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|-------|
| TRENCH 8 | Figure 2 | | |
| Trench Alignment: N-S | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 18.75m | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | |
| | | N End | S End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.3m | 0.32m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.1m | 0.11m |

| | | | |
|---|-------|-------|--------|
| Natural | (102) | 0.4m+ | 0.43m+ |
| <p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 8 was located in Area 1, centrally within the area. It contained no archaeological features.</p> | | | |

5.10 Trench 9

| | | | |
|--|-------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| TRENCH 9 | Figure 2 | | |
| Trench Alignment: N-S | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 18.71-18.65 | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | |
| | | N End | S End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.27m | 0.32m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.16m | 0.22m |
| Natural | (102) | 0.43m+ | 0.54m+ |
| <p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 9 was located in Area 1 at the western side of the area. It contained no archaeological features.</p> | | | |

5.11 Trench 10

| | | | |
|---|-------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| TRENCH 10 | Figure 2 | | |
| Trench Alignment: E-W | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 18.67-18.60 | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | |
| | | W End | E End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.26m | 0.28m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.11m | 0.1 |
| Natural | (102) | 0.37m+ | 0.38m+ |
| <p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 10 was located on the north-western side of the Area 1. It contained no archaeological features.</p> | | | |

5.12 Trench 11

| | | | |
|---|-------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| TRENCH 11 | Figure 2 | | |
| Trench Alignment: N-S | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 18.72-18.61 | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | |
| | | N End | S End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.25m | 0.35m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.14m | 0.24m |
| Natural | (102) | 0.39m+ | 0.59m+ |
| <p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 11 was located centrally within Area 1. It contained no archaeological features.</p> | | | |

5.13 Trench 12

| | | | |
|---|-------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| TRENCH 12 | Figure 2 | | |
| Trench Alignment: E-W | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 18.63-18.67 | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | |
| | | W End | E End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.29m | 0.3m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.1m | 0.08m |
| Natural | (102) | 0.39m+ | 0.38m+ |
| <p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 12 was located centrally within Area 1. It contained no archaeological features.</p> | | | |

5.14 Trench 13

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| TRENCH 13 | Figure 2 | | |
| Trench Alignment: N-S | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 18.60-18.65 | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | |

| | | N End | S End |
|---|-------|--------|--------|
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.32m | 0.34m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.15m | 0.17m |
| Natural | (102) | 0.47m+ | 0.51m+ |
| Summary Trench 13 was located centrally within Area 1. It contained no archaeological features. | | | |

5.15 Trench 14

| TRENCH 14 | Figures 2 & 5 | | |
|--|---------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Trench Alignment: N-S | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 18.59-18.69 | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | |
| | | N End | S End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.29m | 0.35m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.18m | N/A |
| Natural | (102) | 0.47m+ | 0.35m+ |
| Summary Trench 14 was located on the eastern side of the Area 1. It contained a single ditch [118], and a single posthole [120]. | | | |

5.15.1 Ditch [118] was linear in plan and aligned north-east to south-west, terminating within the trench. The ditch measured 1.95m long within the trench, 0.62m wide and 0.31m deep. The feature contained a single fill (117); a mid-reddish brown, sandy silty, with charcoal fleck inclusions. The fill contained a small quantity of fired clay with large flint inclusions, and a single cattle maxillary tooth. The presence of hazel nutshell and 'cokey' type material were identified in Sample 5. The ditch was identified in the results of the geophysical survey.

5.15.2 Posthole [120] was oval in plan, although partially extend beyond the trench edge. The posthole measured at least 0.4m in length, 0.38m wide and 0.16m

deep. The feature contained a single fill (119), comprising a mid-reddish brown, sandy silty, with charcoal fleck inclusions, similar to the ditch, with the results from environmental Sample 3 also comparable, including hazel nutshell and 'cokey' material. The two features are therefore considered to be contemporary, and presumed to be prehistoric in date.

5.15.3 A modern tree throw was present within the trench, the feature measured 1.54m in width and 0.48m in depth, the feature contained a very loose backfill of poorly sorted soil. The landowner described the removal of a number of standalone trees, and the formation of the feature appears consistent with modern tree clearance.

5.16 Trench 15

| | | | | |
|---|-------------|--------------------------------------|--------|--|
| TRENCH 15 | Figure 2 | | | |
| Trench Alignment: E-W | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 18.66-18.70 | | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | | |
| | | W End | E End | |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.35m | 0.34m | |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.18m | 0.14m | |
| Natural | (102) | 0.53m+ | 0.48m+ | |
| Summary | | | | |
| Trench 15 was located centrally within Area 1. It contained no archaeological features. | | | | |

5.17 Trench 16

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|-------|--|
| TRENCH 16 | Figures 2 & 6 | | | |
| Trench Alignment: E-W | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 18.74-18.64 | | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | | |
| | | W End | E End | |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.22m | 0.25m | |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.12m | 0.12m | |

| | | | |
|--|-------|--------|--------|
| Natural | (102) | 0.34m+ | 0.37m+ |
| Summary Trench 16 was located in the northern side of Area 1. The trench contained a single pit [113]. | | | |

5.17.1 Pit [113] was rounded in plan extending north beyond the trench edge. The pit measured 1.75m in width, and 0.21m in depth. The pit contained a single fill (114), comprising a mid-greyish brown, sandy silt. The deposit contained finds of post-medieval date.

5.18 Trench 17

| | | | |
|--|-------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| TRENCH 17 | Figure 2 | | |
| Trench Alignment: N-S | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 18.71-18.67 | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | |
| | | N End | S End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.29m | 0.34m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.10m | 0.18m |
| Natural | (102) | 0.39m+ | 0.52m+ |
| Summary Trench 17 was located on the northern side of Area 1. It contained no archaeological features. | | | |

5.19 Trench 18

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| TRENCH 18 | Figure 2 | | |
| Trench Alignment: E-W | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 18.66-18.59 | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | |
| | | W End | E End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.29m | 0.35m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.12m | 0.14m |
| Natural | (102) | 0.41m+ | 0.49m+ |
| Summary | | | |

Trench 18 was located on the north-eastern side of the Area 1. It contained no archaeological features.

5.20 Trench 19

| TRENCH 19 | Figure 2 | | |
|---|-------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Trench Alignment: N-S | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 18.63-18.59 | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | |
| | | N End | S End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.36m | 0.30m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.19m | 0.13m |
| Natural | (102) | 0.55m+ | 0.43m+ |
| <p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 19 was located on the eastern side of Area 1. It contained no archaeological features.</p> | | | |

5.21 Trench 20

| TRENCH 20 | Figure 2 | | |
|---|-------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Trench Alignment: E-W | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 18.68-18.62 | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | |
| | | W End | E End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.28m | 0.26m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.15m | 0.12 |
| Natural | (102) | 0.43m+ | 0.38m+ |
| <p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 20 was located on the eastern side of Area 1. It contained no archaeological features.</p> | | | |

5.22 Trench 21

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|--|--|
| TRENCH 21 | Figure 2 | | |
|-----------|----------|--|--|

| | | | |
|---|-------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Trench Alignment: N-S | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 18.67-18.55 | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | |
| | | N End | S End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.37m | 0.34m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.21m | 0.17m |
| Natural | (102) | 0.58m+ | 0.51m+ |
| <p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 21 was located on the north-eastern corner of Area 1. It contained no archaeological features.</p> | | | |

5.23 Trench 22

| | | | |
|---|---------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| TRENCH 22 | Figures 2 & 7 | | |
| Trench Alignment: NW-SE | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 18.63-18.24 | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | |
| | | NW End | SE End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.30m | 0.28m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.26m | 0.14m |
| Natural | (102) | 0.56m+ | 0.42m+ |
| <p>Summary</p> <p>Trench 22 was located on the western side of Area 1.</p> <p>The trench contained a ring-ditch [123], ditch [129] and a pit [127].</p> | | | |

5.23.1 Ditch [129] was linear in plan aligning north-south. The ditch appeared to terminate at the southern end, however this was only partially seen within the trench as the feature extended beyond the trench edges. The exposed section of ditch measured 2.5m in length, 1.68m in width and 0.34m in depth. The feature contained a single fill (128) light reddish brown, silty sand, the deposit contained three sherds of Late Bronze Age pottery (20g).

5.23.2 Pit [127] was circular in plan measuring 2.24m in width and 0.43m in depth,

the pit contained a single fill (126). The infilling deposit was a mid greyish brown, sandy silt, the fill contained one sherd of Late Iron Age pottery weighing 4g, as well as a flint flake.

- 5.23.3 Ditch [123] comprised a substantial curvilinear ditch, measuring 3.6m wide and 1.2m deep. The trench was extended on the north-east side to reveal the full width of the ditch. The ditch appears to form the ring-ditch of a possible Bronze Age barrow. No evidence was seen for a central mound, although only a small portion of the central area was exposed within the trench. The ditch contained three fills (124), (125) and (134). The earliest deposit (134) contained no finds, and was a sterile light greyish brown, clayey silt deposit, only seen on the south-western side of the ditch, or the inside edge of the ring-ditch. The deposit may represent weathering of mound material. The secondary fill (125) was a mid-greyish brown sandy silt, which contained cattle, sheep and pig remains, some of which showed signs of processing as well as food waste (see Rielly 6.4). The uppermost fill (124) was a mid greyish brown, sandy silt, the deposit contained a similar assemblage of animal bone to (125) with sheep, cattle and pig represented. 22 sherds (68g) of Early Iron Age pottery were collected (Brudenell 6.2) along with a moderate assemblage of worked flint was also recovered, comprising 13 flakes (Bishop section 6.1).
- 5.24 The exposed section of the ring-ditch allows for an estimate of the overall size to be calculated. Using measurements taken from the outer edge of the ditch, the approximate diameter of the ditch measures 34m. If this feature were to form part of a barrow, then the central area could measure up to 24m across.

6 FINDS REPORTS

6.1 Lithics

By Barry Bishop

Introduction

- 6.1.1 The archaeological evaluation at the site resulted in the recovery of a small assemblage of struck flint and unworked burnt flint (Table 1). The material has been fully catalogued according to context and this should be consulted in conjunction with reading this report (Catalogue/Appendix 1). This report briefly describes the assemblage and discusses its archaeological significance. Metrical information follows the methodology established by Saville (1980).

Quantification

| Type | Decortication flake | Flake | Blade-like flake | Denticulate | Unworked burnt stone (no.) | Unworked burnt stone (wt:g) |
|-----------|---------------------|-------|------------------|-------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Trench 1 | | 3 | | | | |
| Trench 16 | | | 1 | | | |
| Trench 22 | 6 | 7 | | 1 | 1 | 17 |

Table 1: Quantification of Lithic Material from Foxton by Evaluation Trench

- 6.1.2 A total of 18 struck flints and a single piece of unworked burnt flint was recovered from three of the evaluation trenches.

Description

- 6.1.3 The raw materials appear to mostly comprise fine-grained translucent very dark grey or black flint, although heavily recortication precludes identifying the colour of most pieces. The thin but rough cortex and the presence of occasional thermal surfaces indicate that the flint was obtained from derived deposits that probably originate from the Holywell Chalk that can be found to the south of the site. A single piece that is possibly earlier than the others

was made from a light semi-translucent grey flint but does it not retain any cortex.

6.1.4 The largest part of the assemblage, comprising 14 pieces, came from the ring-ditch [123] in Trench 22. The pieces have all recorticated and are in a variable condition, although most show some evidence of post-depositional abrasion, suggesting they had been re-deposited into the ditch. The material is technologically homogeneous and consists of simply struck and most fairly thick and broad flakes with wide and often obtuse striking platforms. A single retouched implement is present, this comprising a mis-struck flake with coarse denticulations along one edge. No chronologically diagnostic pieces are present but technological attributes suggests a date of manufacture during the Bronze Age and they are perhaps most characteristic of Middle to Late Bronze Age industries. A single piece of unworked but heavily burnt flint was also recovered from the ring-ditch. Close-by, pit [127] contained a single struck piece, this consisting of a decortication flake which has edge damage constant with it having been used as a cutting implement. This is not dateable but would certainly not be out-of-place amongst the material from ditch [123].

6.1.5 Three flakes, all in a good unabraded condition were recovered from Trench 1, two from ditch [112] and the other from pit [106]. All consist of fairly 'squat' and coarsely struck flakes which cannot be precisely dated but are again most typical of later second or first millennia industries.

6.1.6 The remaining struck piece may be earlier than the others. This is a small trimming flake that came from pit [113] in Trench 16 which is narrow and has parallel dorsal scars. It appears to have come from a blade-based reduction strategy and is most characteristic of Mesolithic or Early Neolithic industries.

Discussion

6.1.7 The small quantities of struck flint from Trench 1 may be associated with the features identified in the south-west of the site and would be consistent with later prehistoric flint use. During that period struck flint is normally found in low densities within settlements or scattered across field-systems, it

represents the residues of short-lived knapping and tool use episodes. The flake from Trench 16 may indicate that the site was being visited prior to this, during the Mesolithic or Early Neolithic periods. The larger quantities of struck flint found in ring-ditch [123] may be associated with the use of the monument, at least in its later phases. Although only a small proportion of the ditch has been excavated, the quantities found are perhaps above what would normally be expected from general settlement activities. Although not well understood, there is increasing evidence for an association between non-domestic flintworking and funerary monuments in the region, including close-by at the Thriplow barrow (Trump 1956). Slightly further afield, substantial quantities of struck flint have been found dumped into the perimeter ditches at the ring-ditch at Bourn Bridge in Pampisford (Pollard 2002) as well as a recently excavated barrow at the Fawcett Primary School near Addenbrookes in Cambridge (Bishop 2015).

6.2 Prehistoric Pottery

By Matt Brudenell

6.2.1 An assemblage comprising 49 sherds (453g) of later prehistoric pottery was recovered from the evaluation (Table 1). The sherds were mostly small, displayed low levels of abrasion and had a mean sherd weight of 9.2g. With the exception of a single Late Iron Age wheel-made sherd from Pit 127 (4g), all the pottery dated to the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age and derived from features in Trenches 1 and 22. The material was in good condition, with the shell from only one sherd having been leached from the surface. The following report provides a quantified summary of the assemblage, and spot dates for the material recovered.

| Context | Cut | Trench | Feature type | No./wt.(g) sherds | Spot date & comment |
|---------|-----|--------|--------------|-------------------|---|
| 105 | 106 | 1 | Pit | 15/270 | Late Bronze Age, c. 1100-800 BC. Includes partial profile of a burnt ellipsoid jar. |
| 111 | 112 | 1 | Ditch | 6/58 | Late Bronze Age, c. 1100-800 BC. Includes partial profile of a barrel-shaped jar with everted tapered rim |
| 124 | 123 | 22 | Ditch | 22/68 | Early Iron Age, c. 800-350 BC. |

| | | | | | |
|-------|-----|----|----------|--------|--|
| | | | | | Included an everted rim with tool impression on the rim-exterior |
| 126 | 127 | 22 | Pit | 1/4 | Late Iron Age, c. 50 BC- AD 50. Wheel-made probably dating 1-50 AD |
| 128 | 129 | 22 | Ditch | 3/20 | Late Bronze Age, c. 1100-800 BC |
| 131 | 130 | 1 | Posthole | 1/30 | Late Bronze Age, c. 1100-800 BC |
| 133 | 132 | 1 | Pit | 1/3 | Late Bronze Age, c. 1100-800 BC. Corky sherds shell leached. |
| TOTAL | - | - | - | 49/453 | - |

Table 2: Pottery by Context

6.2.2 All the pottery has been fully recorded following the recommendations laid out by the Prehistoric Ceramic Research Group (2009). After a full inspection of the assemblage, fabric groups were devised on the basis of dominant inclusion types, their density and modal size. Sherds from all contexts were counted, weighed (to the nearest whole gram) and assigned to a fabric group (sherds broken in excavation were refitted and counted as single entities). Sherd type was recorded, along with technology (wheel-made or handmade), evidence for surface treatment, decoration, and the presence of soot and/or residue. Rim and base forms were described using a codified system recorded in the catalogue, and were assigned vessel numbers. Where possible, rim and base diameters were measured, and surviving percentages noted. In cases where a sherd or groups of refitting sherds retained portions of the rim and shoulder, the vessel was also categorised by form. The Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age vessels were classified using a form series devised by the author (Brudenell 2011; 2012), and the class scheme created by John Barrett (1980). All pottery was subject to sherd size analysis. Sherds less than 4cm in diameter were classified as 'small (78%)'; sherds measuring 4-8cm were classified as 'medium' (18%), and sherds over 8cm in diameter will be classified as 'large' (4%).

Assemblage characteristics

6.2.3 The assemblage was dominated by sherds in burnt flint tempered fabrics (Table 2), typical of the region's Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age Post Deverel-Rimbury ceramic tradition (Brudenell 2011; 2012). Those belonging to the F-group series were predominately Late Bronze Age in date, whereas

those of the FQ-group were exclusively Early Iron Age. Fabrics of Late Bronze Age date also included the S-group series, whilst, with the exception of a single Late Iron Age sherd in fabric Q1 (4g), sherds in all other fabrics were Early Iron Age in origin.

6.2.4 Diagnostic sherds were limited, but for the Late Bronze Age included two partial vessel profiles. The most complete derived from Pit 106, which included four burnt refitting sherds (166g) from a plain ellipsoid Class I coarseware jar (Form B). The jar was in fabric F1, and had a rim diameter of 15cm (42% of rim intact). The second partial vessel profile formed part of the assemblage from Ditch 112. It comprised a single sherd (26g) from a plain barrel shaped Class I coarseware jar with a short everted and tapered rim (Form D). The vessel had a thin carbonized residue on the interior and exterior (residue was present on a total of three sherds in the assemblage (41g), and was thick enough to sample for radiocarbon dating on two fragments in Ditch 123). Diagnostic sherds of the Early Iron Age included an everted coarseware rim in fabric FQ1 from Ditch 123, decorated with diagonal tool impressions on the rim-exterior.

| Fabric | Group | No./(wt.) sherds | % of fabric (by wt.) | No./wt. sherds burnished | % of fabric burnished (by wt.) | MNV | MNV burnished |
|--------|-------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-----|---------------|
| F1* | 22 | 22/319 | 70.4 | - | - | 1 | - |
| F2* | 1 | 1/13 | 2.9 | 1/13 | 100.0 | - | - |
| FQ1 | 2 | 2/11 | 2.4 | - | - | 1 | - |
| FQ2 | 1 | 1/3 | 0.7 | - | - | - | - |
| FQ3 | 5 | 5/13 | 2.9 | 4/9 | 69.2 | - | - |
| Q1 | 10 | 10/26 | 5.7 | - | - | - | - |
| S1* | 4 | 4/42 | 9.3 | - | - | 1 | - |
| S2* | 1 | 1/3 | 0.7 | - | - | - | - |
| S3* | 2 | 2/12 | 2.6 | - | - | 1 | - |
| SQ1 | 1 | 1/11 | 2.4 | - | - | 1 | - |
| TOTAL | - | 49/453 | 100.0 | 5/22 | 4.9 | 5 | - |

Table 3: Quantified assemblage. MNV = minimum number of vessels, calculated as the total number of different rims and bases (4 rims, 1 base).* denotes fabrics which are predominantly Late Bronze Age.

Fabric series

Flint tempered fabrics

F1: Moderate to common medium and coarse burnt flint (mainly 2-4mm). The clay matrix may contain rare to sparse sand

F2: Sparse to common medium burnt flint (mainly 1-2mm). Clay matrix as F1

Flint and sand tempered fabrics

FQ1: Moderate to common coarse burnt flint (mainly 2-4mm) in a dense sandy clay matrix

FQ2: Moderate to common medium burnt flint (mainly 1-2mm) in a dense sandy clay matrix

FQ3: Moderate to common finely crushed burnt flint (mainly 0.25-1mm) in a dense sandy clay matrix. The fabric may contain rare pieces of burnt flint up to 2mm in size

Sand tempered fabrics

Q1: Moderate to common quartz sand

Shell tempered fabrics

S1: Moderate to common medium to very coarse shell (mainly 1-4mm)

S2: Moderate to common medium shell (1-2mm)

S3: Moderate to common fine shell and/or shell flecks (mainly <1mm)

Shell and sand tempered fabrics

SQ1: Sparse to moderate shell flecks (mainly <1mm) and moderate to common quartz sand

Discussion

- 6.2.5 With the exception of a single Late Iron Age wheel-made sherd from Pit 127 (likely to date from the first half of the first century AD), all the prehistoric pottery recovered from the evaluation dates to the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age, and belongs to the Post Deverel-Rimbury ceramic tradition. The Early Iron Age component is confined to features in Trench 1, whereas Late Bronze Age material was recovered from Trenches 1 and 22.

6.3 Animal Bone

By Kevin Rielly

Methodology

- 6.3.1 The bone was recorded to species/taxonomic category where possible and to size class in the case of unidentifiable bones such as ribs, fragments of longbone shaft and the majority of vertebra fragments. Recording follows the established techniques whereby details of the element, species, bone portion, state of fusion, wear of the dentition, anatomical measurements and taphonomic including natural and anthropogenic modifications to the bone were registered. A concerted effort was undertaken to refit as many bones as possible, noting the actual number of fragments prior to refitting.

Description of faunal assemblage

6.3.2 The hand recovered collection was taken from 6 features and amounted to 50 bones, reducing to 35 after refitting. All of these bones displayed some degree of surface damage caused by root etching with a minority showing severe surface erosion (see Table 1). A total of 3 bones had been gnawed, showing canid tooth marks, these limited to feature [123], the ring-ditch, this also providing the major part of the site assemblage. The other features include ditch [121] which may be associated with the ring-ditch; ditch [112] and pits [106] and [132] representing Late Bronze Age activity some 150 metres south of the ring-ditch; and ditch [118] situated 200 metres east of the ring-ditch and, while prehistoric, may not have any relevance to the Bronze Age landscape.

| Feature: | 106 | 112 | 118 | 121 | 123 | 132 |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Type: | P | D | D | D | D | P |
| Root etching | | | | | | |
| Severe | | | | 4 | 3 | |
| Moderate | | | | | 11 | |
| Slight | | | | | 8 | 1 |
| No damage | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | |
| Grand Total | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 25 | 1 |

Table 1. The distribution of bones with surface damage based on refitted totals divided by feature and type where D is ditch and P is pit

6.3.3 The feature collections comprise a variety of major mammalian domesticates, with an obvious bias towards cattle and cattle-size bones (see Table 2). Within the largest collections, from the fills (124) and (125) within feature [123], cattle includes 2 loose maxillary teeth, 4 mandibles (possibly representing no more than 2 bones), a scapula, a humerus, a femur and 2 metatarsals. They are all likely to belong to at least two adult individuals, the wide distribution of parts suggesting the presence of processing as well as food waste. Preservation, as mentioned, is generally good, and sufficiently so to allow the survival of butchery marks. Notably one of the mandibles displays a series of transverse knife marks adjacent and posterior to the

tooththrow on the lateral surface. These can be interpreted as defleshing marks, facilitating the removal of the cheek meat (masseter muscles). The other cattle bones include another maxillary tooth, from fill (117) [118] and a calcaneus in rather poor condition from (122) [121]. Amongst the other species from the better represented collections there are two sheep/goat bones, a radius and a metatarsus, again in poor condition, and 2 pig bones, a mandible and a humerus, the former clearly from an adult animal. Finally there is an equid mandibular incisor (possibly from an animal aged 5 to 6 years, after Goody 1976, 101) from (122) [121] and another pig humerus from (133) [132]. It should be stated that the pigs are relatively small, no doubt representing domestic stock rather than wild boar.

| Feature: | 106 | 112 | 118 | 121 | 123 | 132 |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Species | | | | | | |
| Cattle | | | 1 | 1 | 11 | |
| Equid | | | | 1 | | |
| Cattle-size | 1 | 1 | | 4 | 7 | |
| Sheep/Goat | | | | | 2 | |
| Pig | | | | | 2 | 1 |
| Sheep-size | | | | | 3 | |
| Grand Total | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 25 | 1 |

Table 2. Species distribution in each feature

Conclusions

6.3.4 Despite their antiquity, the majority of the bones in this collection are relatively well preserved, with no obvious signs of gross fragmentation. A small proportion has been gnawed but otherwise it can be assumed that most of the bones underwent a fairly rapid and sufficiently deep burial following their deposition into these features. The better representation of cattle at this site compared to sheep/goat and pig could argue, as often seen elsewhere, for differential survival. However, the generally good condition of the bones would perhaps suggest an actual abundance pattern with cattle forming the greater part of the original faunal waste collections.

6.3.5 The bones from the ring-ditch [123] are equally distributed amongst the

lower and upper fills, perhaps suggestive of some continuing ritual activity. Notably these were disarticulated undoubtedly representing food waste, as also demonstrated by the bone with butchery marks. A wide distribution of parts suggests the culling, processing and food preparation may have taken place in the vicinity of this burial mound. Such collections have been found at other Bronze Age barrows as for example at the Early Bronze Age sites of Gayhurst and Irthlingborough in Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire respectively (Towers et al 2010).

6.4 Plant Macrofossils and Other Remains

By Val Fryer

Introduction and method statement

6.4.1 Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from features within excavation trenches 1, 14 and 22 and a total of six were submitted for assessment.

6.4.2 The samples were processed by manual water flotation/washover and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Table 1. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (2010). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots and seeds were also recorded.

6.4.3 The non-floating residues were collected in a 1mm mesh sieve and will be sorted when dry. Any artefacts/ecofacts will be retained for further specialist analysis.

Results

6.4.4 Poorly preserved and fragmentary cereal grains are present at a low density within all six assemblages. Specimens of barley (*Hordeum* sp.) and wheat (*Triticum* sp.) are recorded, but most grains are too poorly preserved for close identification. Small fragments of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell are recorded within the assemblage from ditch [118] (sample 5), and post-hole [108] (sample 3) includes what appears to be a fragment of hawthorn

(*Crataegus* sp.) fruit stone. Charcoal/charred wood fragments are present throughout, but other plant macrofossils are exceedingly scarce.

- 6.4.5 Fragments of black porous and tarry material are present within all six assemblages. Whilst some fragments are possible residues of the combustion of organic remains at very high temperatures, others appear more 'industrial', and may be bi-products of the combustion of coal. Minute pieces of coal (coal 'dust') are also present within all six samples. Such contaminants are commonly recorded within features which have suffered a degree of post-depositional bioturbation (cf. the modern roots, seeds and small mammal bones), and it is thought most likely that are all derived from either the spreading of night soil during the post-Medieval period or the modern use of steam implements on the land. Other remains are scarce, but small fragments of bone are noted along with pellets of burnt or fired clay and splinters of burnt stone.

Conclusions

- 6.4.6 In summary, it would appear most likely that much of the recovered material is derived from scattered hearth waste or similar midden detritus. Perhaps not unsurprisingly, the highest density of material appears within the Trench 1 features, many of which are probably associated with structures of later Bronze Age date. However, as similar material also occurs within ring-ditch ditch [123] to the north of the occupation area and within an isolated ditch ([118]) to the north east, it would appear that this refuse was dispersed over quite a considerable area.
- 6.4.7 Although the current assemblages are somewhat limited in composition, they clearly illustrate that plant macrofossils are preserved within the archaeological horizon in this area of Foxton.

7 DISUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Prehistoric

- 7.1.1 The earliest activity recorded on the site appears to be the ring-ditch, visible as curvilinear Ditch [123] in Trench 22, which may form part of a barrow. This feature does not correspond with the location of the ring-ditch identified via aerial photography (CHER 08631), however it is possible that there was some error in mapping the location of the cropmark and as such it is most likely to represent the same feature.
- 7.1.2 The ring-ditch size can be roughly estimated from the curve seen within the trench. The ditch measured approximately 34m in diameter.
- 7.1.3 The pottery recovered from the upper fill of the ditch was Early Iron Age in date. The monument itself is likely to predate this final phase of infilling, thus suggests the origins of the ring-ditch were in the Bronze Age.
- 7.1.4 The ring-ditch falls within a greater ritual landscape formed within the wide shallow valleys of South Cambridgeshire. The immediate landscape is relatively flat, and although the barrow was not located on a substantial rise within the landscape, it is likely the monument would have been visible, forming an obvious marker within the landscape.
- 7.1.5 Settlement activity was identified c.150m to the south of the ring-ditch, focusing on Trench 1. It is likely that the settlement was contemporary with the ring-ditch.
- 7.1.6 The settlement appears to be of Late Bronze Age date, comprising a cluster of postholes and pits, the former indication the presence of multiple phases of construction at the same location. Most of the discreet features within the settlement area of Trench 1 were left unexcavated due to the complexity of the features.
- 7.1.7 The finds assemblage from the settlement features, although small, is indicative of domestic activity. Likewise the environmental remains appear to derive primarily from scattered hearth waste or midden detritus.

7.1.8 Two further ditches and a probable posthole were observed in Trenches 3 and 14. Although these features contained no datable finds, Ditch [118], Trench 14 was on the same northeast-southwest alignment as Ditch [112], while Ditch [122] was on a perpendicular alignment, suggesting it is possible that they are contemporary with the Bronze Age settlement and ring-ditch, forming a series of enclosures and boundaries. Probable posthole [120], Trench 14, contained a very similar fill to Ditch [118], thus suggesting this too was contemporary with the ditch.

7.1.9 Evidence for activity beyond the Early Iron Age was limited to Pit [127], Trench 22, which contained a single pottery sherd (4g) dating to the Late Iron Age.

7.2 Post-medieval Activity

7.2.1 A pit containing post-medieval finds was identified in Trench 16.

7.2.2 A large part of the development area appears to have been part of park land, associated with Foxton House, adjacent to the development area. Evidence for modern tree clearance was seen within Trench 14, this activity is likely to have occurred with the returning of the land back to use as a field. The post medieval activity seen within Trench 17 may also be contemporary with the nearby house.

7.2.3 Evidence of ploughing was observed in Trench 1, although this does not appear to have had a negative impact on the underlying archaeology.

7.3 Conclusions

7.3.1 Evidence for Bronze Age to Iron Age activity was identified at the site, with a peak in activity seemingly occurring between the Later Bronze Age and Early Iron Age (c.1100-350BC).

7.3.2 The ring-ditch identified within Trench 22 is of particular interest, potentially spanning 34m in diameter, and possibly forming part of a Bronze Age barrow.

7.3.3 Trench 1 contained evidence of relatively intensive settlement activity, in the

form of pits and postholes, indicative of multiple phases of activity, as well as an enclosure ditch.

7.3.4 Beyond Trenches 22 and 1, activity was limited to a ditch in Trench 3, and a further ditch and probable posthole in Trench 14, which are undated; although the alignment of the ditches suggests that they are likely to be contemporary with the Late Bronze Age settlement.

7.3.5 A single post-medieval pit was identified in Trench 16.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work. PCA are also grateful to Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team for his advice and for monitoring the work. The author would like to thank Taleyna Fletcher for managing the project. The author would also like to thank the project team: Tom Learmouth, Karl Hanson, Matthew Jones and Lawrence Morgan-Sherbourne for their hard work, and finally PCA's CAD department for preparing the figures.

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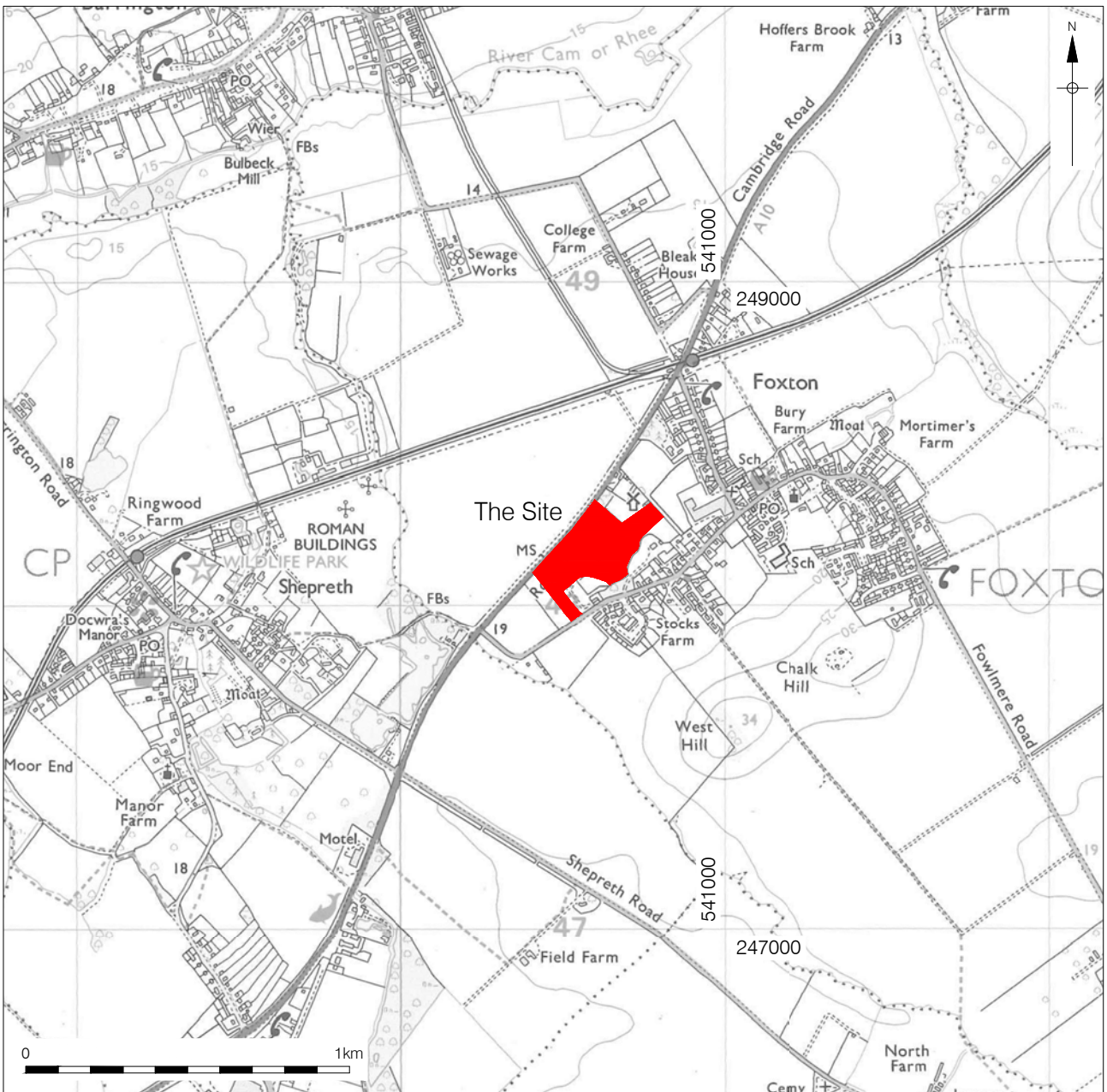
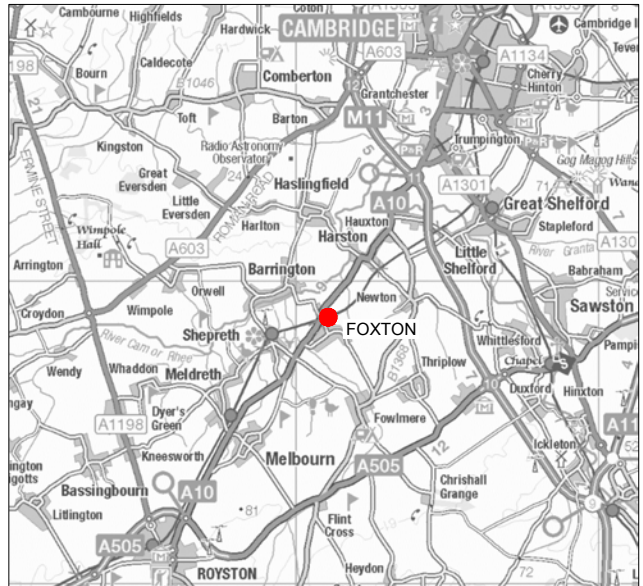
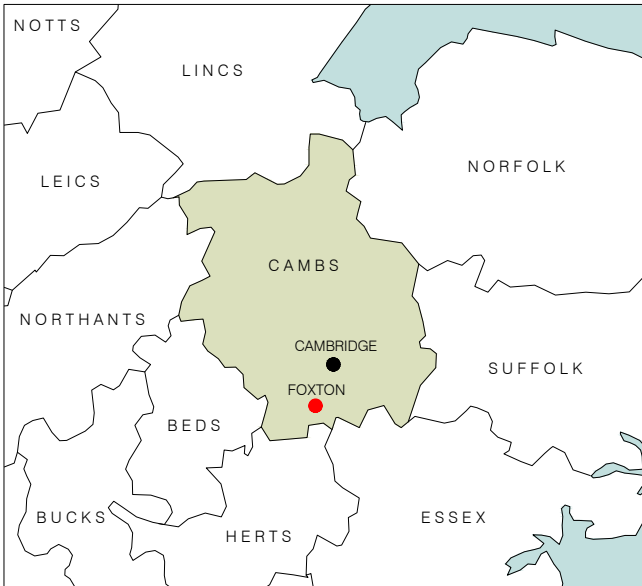
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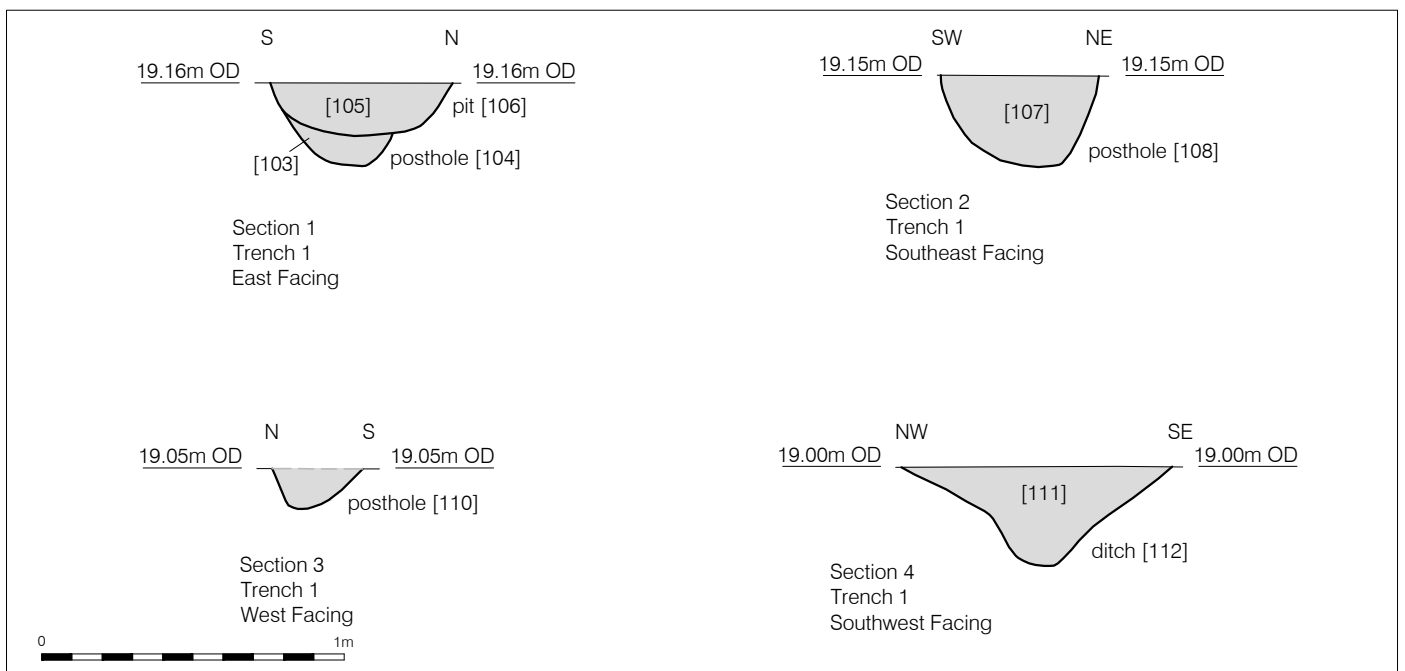
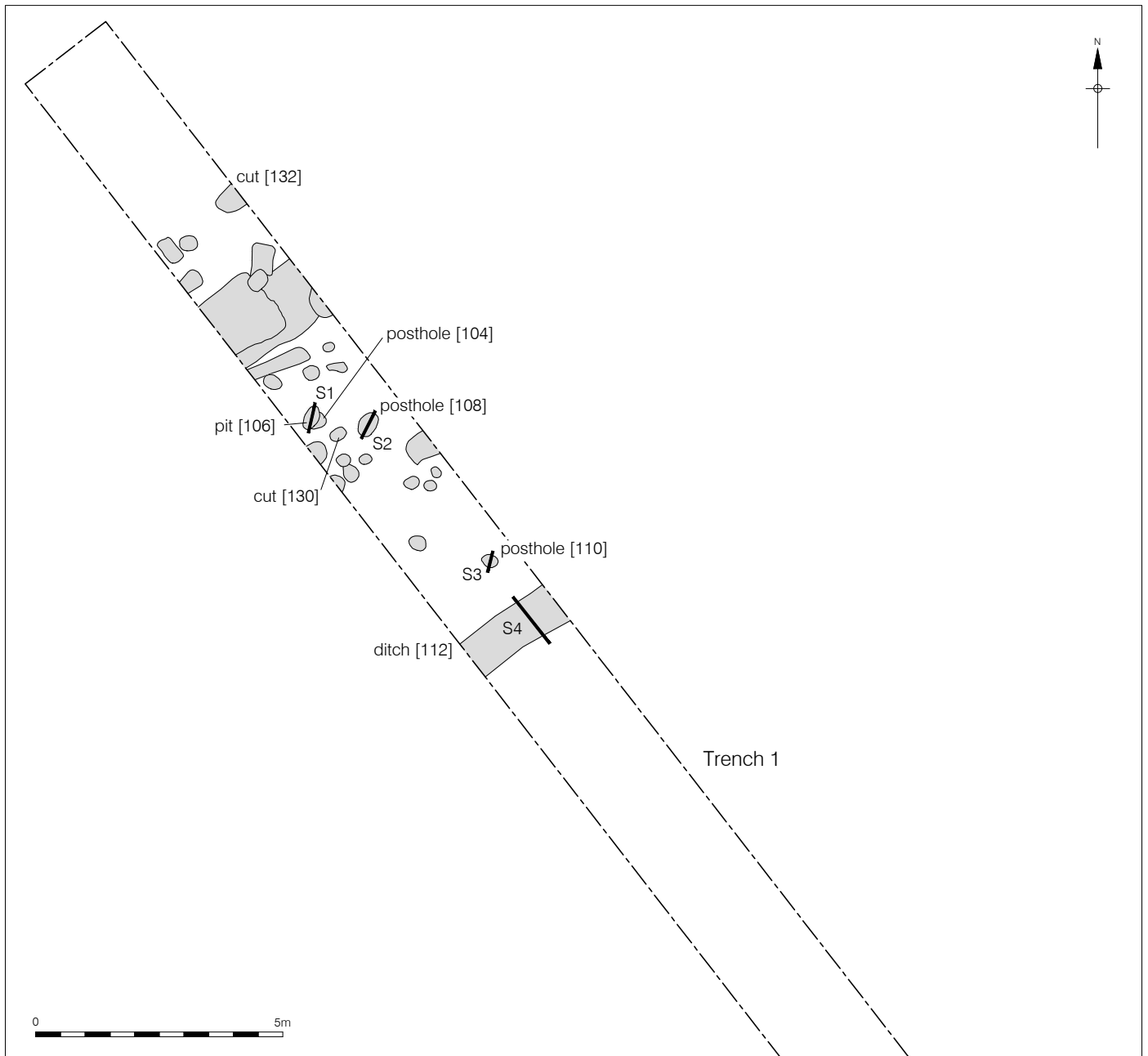


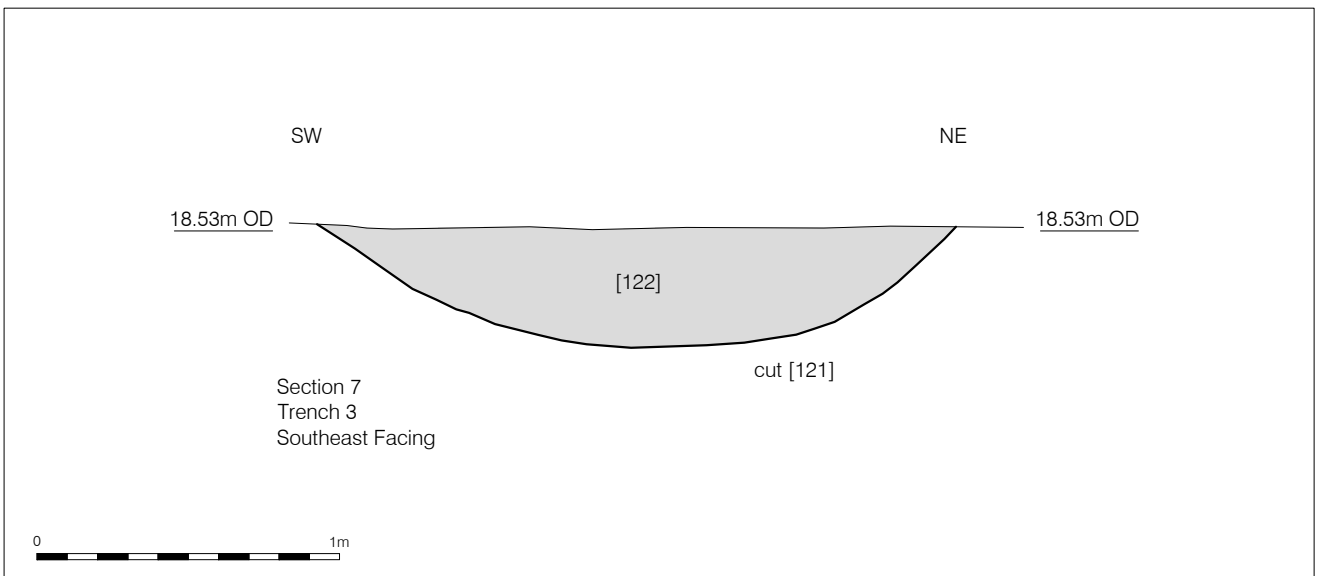
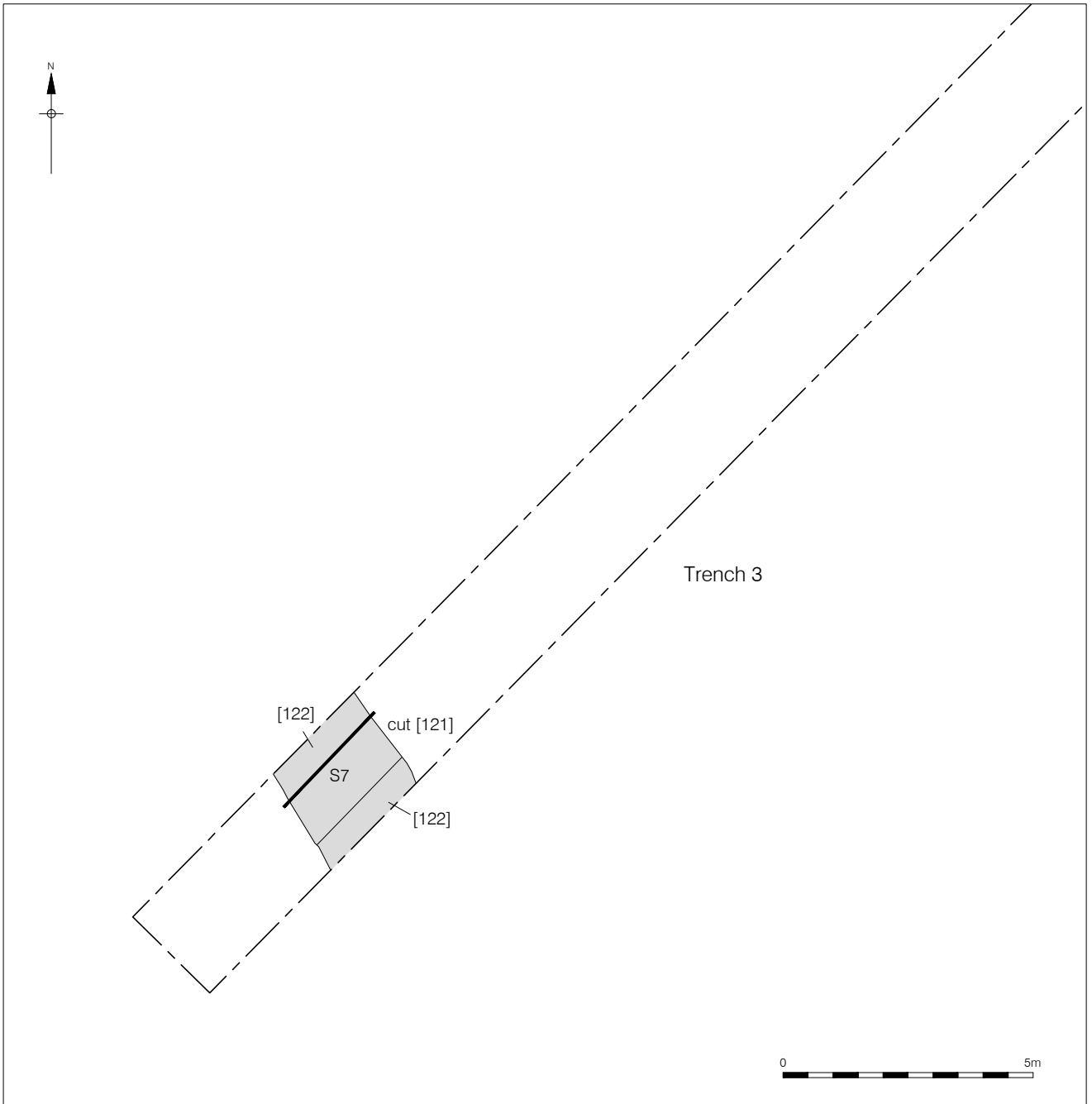
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 08/06/15 MR

Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:2,000,000, 1:25,000 & 1:20,000 at A4



Figure 2
Trench Location
1:2,000 at A4





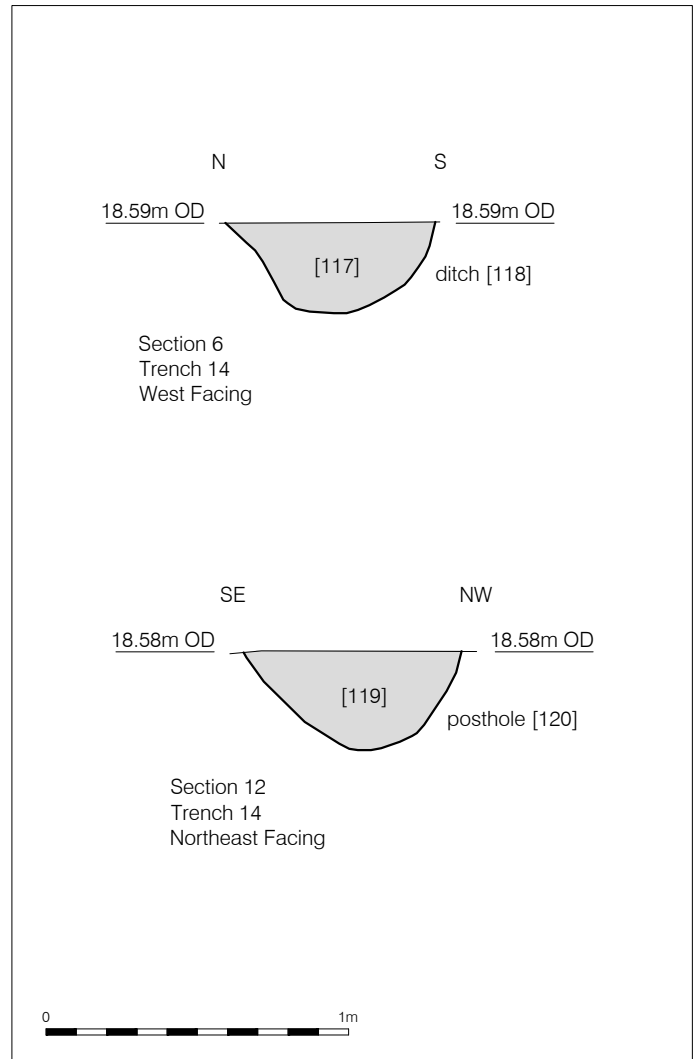
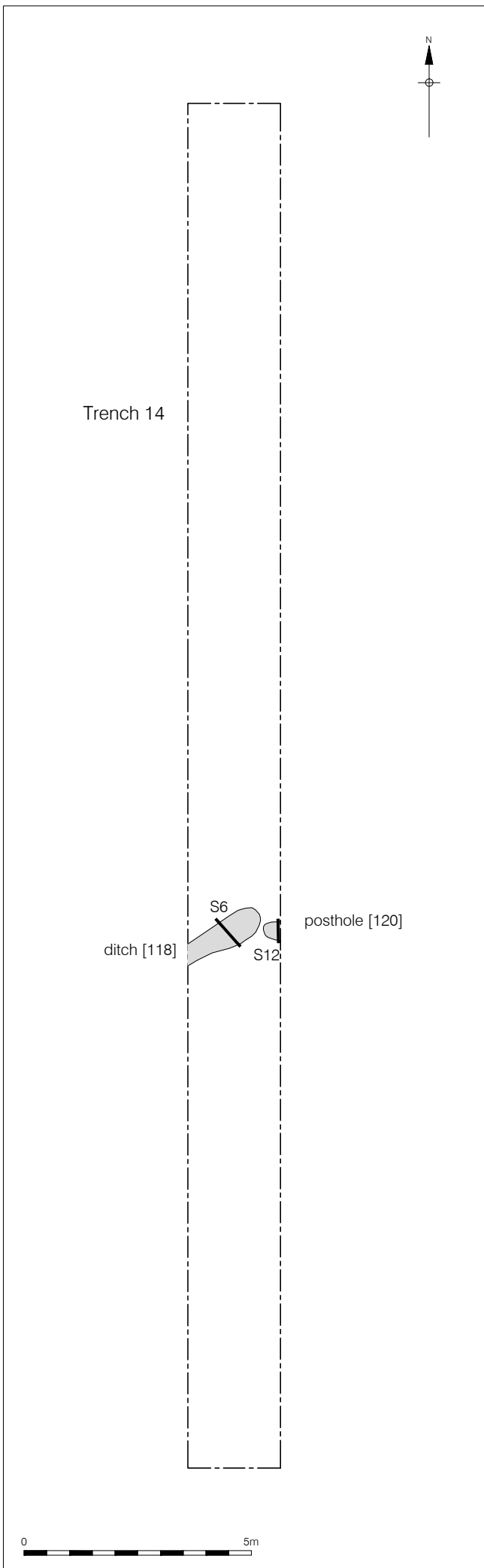
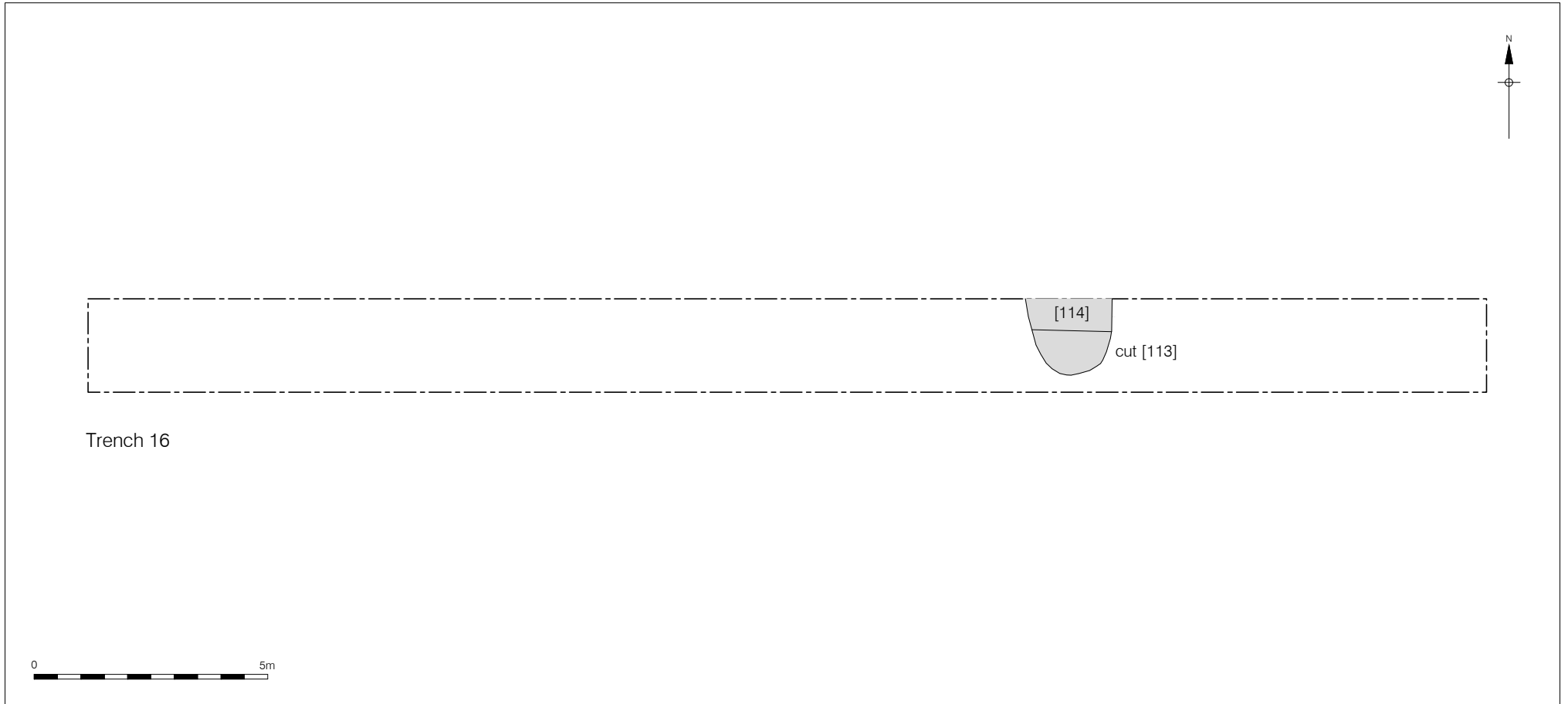


Figure 5
Trench 14; Plan and Sections
Plan 1:125, Section 1:25 at A4



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26/03/15 JS

Figure 6
Trench 16 Plan
1:125at A4

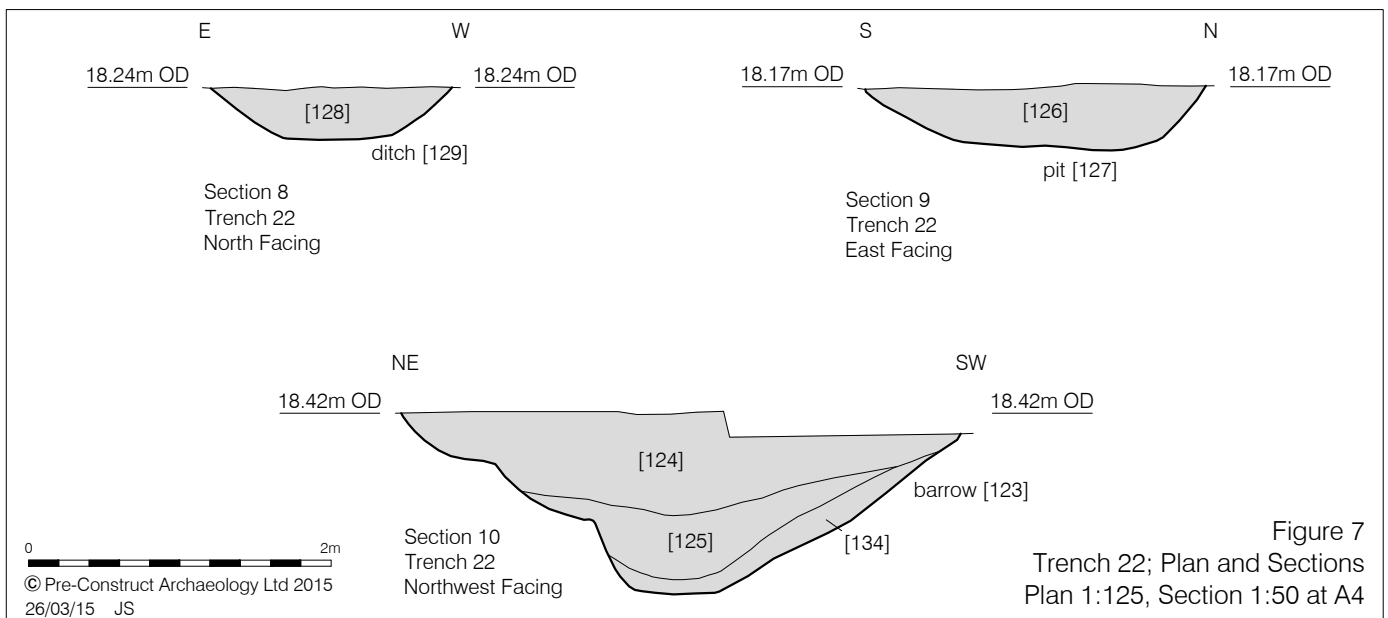
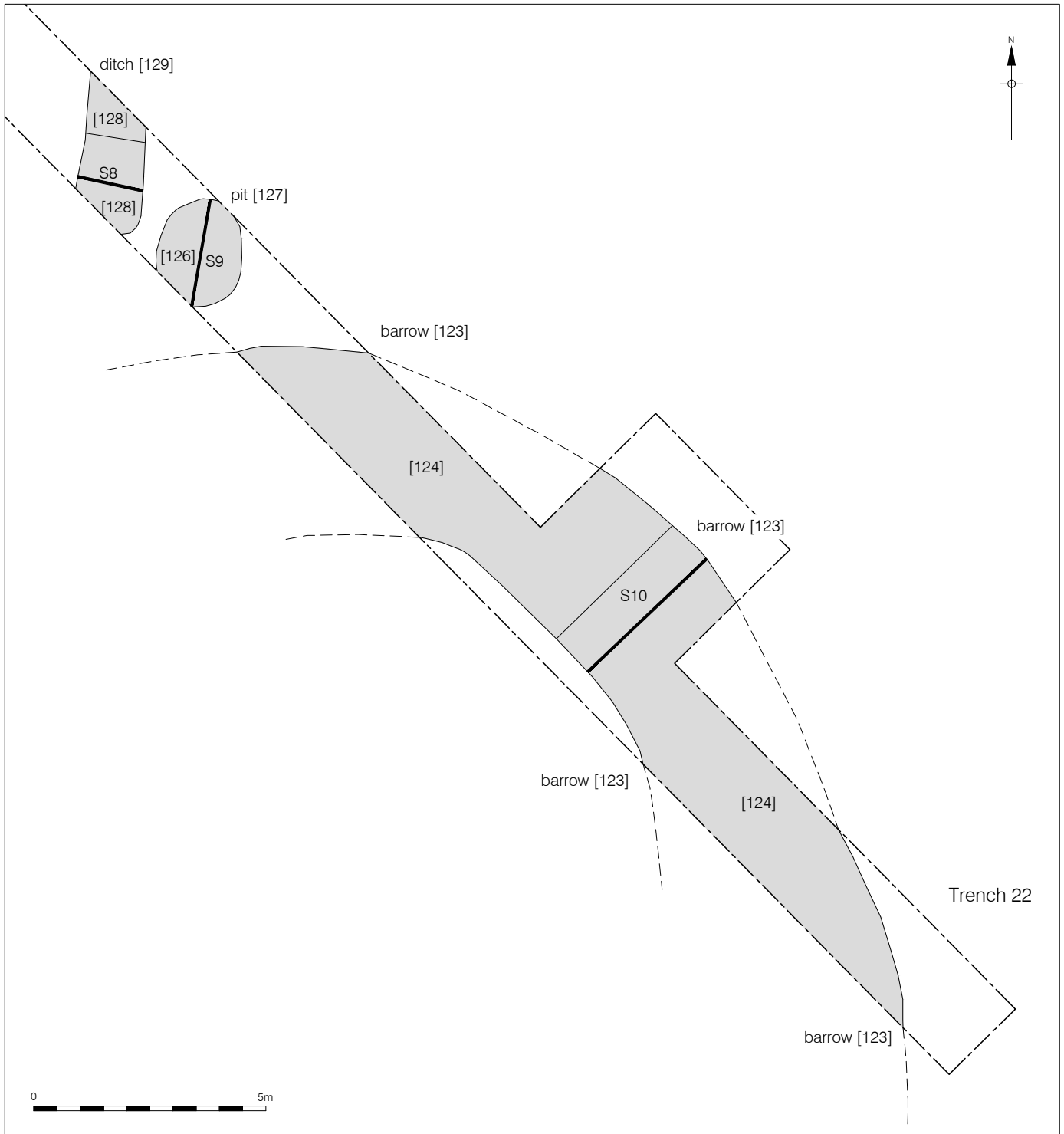


Figure 7
Trench 22; Plan and Sections
Plan 1:125, Section 1:50 at A4

APPENDIX 1: PLATES

Plate 1: Ditch [123] south facing



Plate 2: Ditch [123] south-east facing



Plate 3: Trench 1, Postholes [104] and [108], north-east facing



Plate 4: Trench 9 south facing



Plate 5: Ditch [123] south facing



APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

| Context Number | Trench | Cut | Type | Category |
|----------------|--------|-----|-------|----------|
| 100 | 0 | 0 | Layer | Topsoil |
| 101 | 0 | 0 | Layer | Subsoil |
| 102 | 0 | 0 | Layer | Natural |
| 103 | 1 | 104 | Fill | Posthole |
| 104 | 1 | 104 | Cut | Posthole |
| 105 | 1 | 106 | Fill | Pit |
| 106 | 1 | 106 | Cut | Pit |
| 107 | 1 | 108 | Fill | Posthole |
| 108 | 1 | 108 | Cut | Posthole |
| 109 | 1 | 110 | Fill | Posthole |
| 110 | 1 | 110 | Cut | Posthole |
| 111 | 1 | 112 | Fill | Ditch |
| 112 | 1 | 112 | Cut | Ditch |
| 113 | 16 | 113 | Cut | Pit |
| 114 | 16 | 113 | Fill | Pit |
| 117 | 14 | 118 | Fill | Ditch |
| 118 | 14 | 118 | Cut | Ditch |
| 119 | 14 | 120 | Fill | Posthole |
| 120 | 14 | 120 | Cut | Posthole |
| 121 | 3 | 121 | Cut | Ditch |
| 122 | 3 | 121 | Fill | Ditch |
| 123 | 22 | 123 | Cut | Ditch |
| 124 | 22 | 123 | Fill | Ditch |
| 125 | 22 | 123 | Fill | Ditch |
| 126 | 22 | 127 | Fill | Pit |
| 127 | 22 | 127 | Cut | Pit |
| 128 | 22 | 129 | Fill | Ditch |
| 129 | 22 | 129 | Cut | Ditch |
| 130 | 1 | 130 | Cut | Posthole |
| 131 | 1 | 130 | Fill | Posthole |

| | | | | |
|-----|----|-----|------|-------|
| 132 | 1 | 132 | Cut | Pit |
| 133 | 1 | 132 | Fill | Pit |
| 134 | 22 | 123 | Fill | Ditch |

APPENDIX 3: FLINT CATALOGUE

| Context | Feature | Trench | Decortication flake | Flake | Blade-like flake | Denticulate | Unworked burnt stone (no.) | Unworked burnt stone (wt:g) | Colour | Cortex | Condition | Recortication | Suggested Date | Comments |
|---------|---------|--------|---------------------|-------|------------------|-------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|---|
| 105 | P106 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | Translucent dark grey/black | Ancient thermal scar | Good | None | Neo-BA | Quite squat but not badly struck |
| 111 | D112 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | Translucent dark grey/black | Ancient thermal scar | Good | None | BA-IA | Very 'squat' |
| 111 | D112 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | Translucent dark grey/black | Ancient thermal scar | Good | None | BA-IA | Squat and badly hit |
| 114 | P113 | 16 | | | 1 | | | | Semi-translucent light grey | None | Slightly chipped | None | Meso/ENeo | Small trimming almost prismatic blade-let, 19mx10x3mm |
| 124 | D123 | 22 | 1 | | | | | | Translucent dark grey/black | Thin and weathered but rough | Slightly chipped | blue-white | BA-IA | Thick, core modification flake |
| 124 | D123 | 22 | | 1 | | | | | Translucent dark grey/black | Ancient thermal scar | Good | blue-white | BA-IA | Narrow but badly struck |
| 124 | D123 | 22 | 1 | | | | | | Unknown | Thin and weathered but rough | Slightly chipped | blue-white | BA-IA | |
| 124 | D123 | 22 | | 1 | | | | | Unknown | Thin and weathered | Slightly | blue-white | BA-IA | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----|------|----|---|---|--|---|---|--------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|------------|---------|---|
| | | | | | | | | | | but rough | chipped | | | |
| 124 | D123 | 22 | | 1 | | | | | Unknown | Thin and weathered but rough | Slightly chipped | blue-white | BA-IA | |
| 124 | D123 | 22 | | 1 | | | | | Unknown | Thin and weathered but rough | chipped | blue-white | BA-IA | |
| 124 | D123 | 22 | 1 | | | | | | Unknown | Ancient thermal scar | Slightly chipped | blue-white | BA-IA | |
| 124 | D123 | 22 | 1 | | | | | | Unknown | Ancient thermal scar | Slightly chipped | blue-white | BA-IA | Small |
| 124 | D123 | 22 | | 1 | | | | | Unknown | Ancient thermal scar | Slightly chipped | blue-white | BA-IA | |
| 124 | D123 | 22 | 1 | | | | | | Unknown | Hard, worn | Good | blue-white | MBA-IA | Badly struck |
| 124 | D123 | 22 | | 1 | | | | | Unknown | Hard, worn | Slightly chipped | blue-white | BA-IA | Badly struck |
| 124 | D123 | 22 | | 1 | | | | | Unknown | None | Slightly chipped | blue-white | MBA-IA | Classic 'squat' flake with 'retouched' striking platform |
| 124 | D123 | 22 | | | | | 1 | 1 7 | Unknown | Unknown | Burnt | N/A | Undated | |
| 124 | D123 | 22 | | | | 1 | | | Unknown | Thin and weathered but rough | Slightly chipped | blue-white | MBA-IA | Mis-struck flake with a series of small flakes removed along right margin. 32x35x8mm |
| 126 | P127 | 22 | 1 | | | | | | Translucent dark grey/black | Thin and weathered but rough | Slightly chipped | Incipient | Neo-BA | Possibly utilized |

APPENDIX 4: ENVIRONMENTAL TABLE

| Sample No. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Context No. | 103 | 105 | 107 | 111 | 117 | 125 |
| Feature No. | 104 | 106 | 108 | 112 | 118 | 123 |
| Feature type | ph | Pit/ph | ph | Ditch | Ditch | B.Ditch |
| Trench No. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 14 | 22 |
| Cereals | | | | | | |
| <i>Hordeum</i> sp. (grains) | | | xcf | | | x |
| <i>Triticum</i> sp. (grains) | xcf | | | x | x | |
| Cereal indet. (grains) | | x | x | xx | x | |
| Tree/shrub macrofossils | | | | | | |
| <i>Corylus avellana</i> L. | | | | | x | |
| <i>Crataegus</i> sp. (fruit stone frag.) | | | xcf | | | |
| Other plant macrofossils | | | | | | |
| Charcoal <2mm | xx | x | xxx | xxx | xx | x |
| Charcoal >2mm | xx | x | xx | xx | x | x |
| Charcoal >5mm | x | | x | xx | x | |
| Charcoal >10mm | x | | x | x | | |
| Charred root/stem | | | | x | x | |
| Other remains | | | | | | |
| Black porous 'cokey' material | x | x | x | xx | xxxx | x |
| Black tarry material | | x | | x | | x |
| Bone | | | | x | x | |
| Burnt/fired clay | | | x | | x | |
| Burnt stone | | | | | x | |
| Small coal frags. | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| Small mammal/amphibian bones | xpmc | xpmc | xpmc | xpmc | | |
| Vitreous material | x | | x | | | |
| Sample volume (litres) | 10 | 10 | 20 | 40 | 20 | 20 |
| Volume of flot (litres) | <0.1 | <0.1 | <0.1 | <0.1 | <0.1 | <0.1 |
| % flot sorted | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx = 11 – 50 specimens xxx = 51 – 100 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens cf = compare pmc = possible modern contaminant ph = post-hole B.Ditch = barrow ditch

APPENDIX 5: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-208088

Project details

| | |
|--|---|
| Project name | Land at Shepreth Road, Foxton, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation |
| Short description of the project | 22 trench evaluation identifying a Bronze Age ring ditch and associated settlement. |
| Project dates | Start: 18-03-2015 End: 23-03-2015 |
| Previous/future work | No / Not known |
| Any associated project reference codes | ECB4396 - HER event no. |
| Type of project | Field evaluation |
| Site status | None |
| Current Land use | Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m |
| Monument type | POSTHOLE Bronze Age |
| Monument type | PIT Bronze Age |
| Monument type | RING DITCH Bronze Age |
| Significant Finds | POTTERY Bronze Age |
| Significant Finds | ANIMAL BONE Bronze Age |
| Significant Finds | FLINT Bronze Age |
| Methods & techniques | "Sample Trenches", "Targeted Trenches" |
| Development type | Rural residential |
| Prompt | Planning condition |
| Position in the planning process | After full determination (eg. As a condition) |

Project location

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Country | England |
| Site location | CAMBRIDGESHIRE SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE FOXTON Land at Shepreth Road, Foxton, Cambridgeshire |
| Postcode | CB22 6SU |
| Study area | 6.00 Hectares |
| Site coordinates | TL 4036 4816 52.1134902545 0.0500510639203 52 06 48 N 000 03 00 E Point |
| Height OD / Depth | Min: 16.00m Max: 18.00m |

Project creators

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Name of Organisation | Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd |
| Project brief originator | CCC Historic Environment Team |
| Project design originator | CgMs Consulting |
| Project director/manager | Mark Hinman |

Project supervisor Jonathan House
Type of sponsor/funding body Private Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient CCC County Archaeology Store
Physical Archive ID CSRF15
Physical Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Worked stone/lithics"
Digital Archive recipient CCC County Archaeology Store
Digital Archive ID CSRF15
Digital Contents "Survey"
Digital Media available "Geophysics", "Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient CCC County Archaeology Store
Paper Archive ID CSRF15
Paper Contents "Survey"
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Drawing", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title Land at Shepreth Road, Foxton, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s) House, J
Other bibliographic details R12054
Date 2015
Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Place of issue or publication Pampisford
Description PCA Grey Literature Report

Entered by Jon House (JHouse@pre-construct.com)
Entered on 2 April 2015

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES
DURHAM UNIVERSITY

on behalf of
CgMs Consulting

Land at Shepreth Road
Foxton
Cambridgeshire
geophysical survey

report 3640
December 2014



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1. Summary

The project

- 1.1 This report presents the results of geophysical surveys conducted in advance of proposed development at Shepreth Road, Foxton, Cambridgeshire. The works comprised detailed geomagnetic survey of three areas.
- 1.2 The works were commissioned by CgMs Consulting and conducted by Archaeological Services Durham University.

Results

- 1.3 A soil-filled feature of unknown provenance has been detected in Area 1.
- 1.4 Former ploughing and possible drains have been identified in Areas 1 and 2.
- 1.5 No evidence for a possible ring-ditch or possible occupation has been identified. It is possible that the ditch has been truncated by former ploughing and turf cutting.
- 1.6 Occasional former field boundaries shown on historic Ordnance Survey editions have not been detected. It is likely that they have been truncated due to years of turf cutting at the site.
- 1.7 Modern features, including a service, chicken enclosures, agricultural machinery and an area formerly used for the storage of scrap metal have been identified.

2. Project background

Location (Figure 1)

- 2.1 The proposed development area was located at Shepreth Road, Foxton, Cambridgeshire (TL 4063 4817). The proposed development area measures 6.02ha and includes a farmyard and wooded areas along the A10 Royston Road. Three surveys were conducted, covering all available land. To the north-east was the A10 Royston Road, to the south and east was the village of Foxton and housing along Shepreth Road, with open farmland to the south-west.

Development proposal

- 2.2 The area is proposed for residential development with associated landscaping and infrastructure.

Objective

- 2.3 The principal aim of the survey was to assess the nature and extent of any sub-surface features of potential archaeological significance within the proposed development area, so that an informed decision may be made regarding the nature and scope of any further scheme of archaeological works that may be required in relation to the development.

Methods statement

- 2.4 The surveys have been undertaken in accordance with instructions from the client, a Written Scheme of Investigation provided by Archaeological Services Durham University (ref. DH14.468) and national standards and guidance (see para. 5.1 below).

Dates

- 2.5 Fieldwork was undertaken on 1st and 2nd December 2014. This report was prepared for December 2014.

Personnel

- 2.6 Fieldwork was conducted by Richie Willis (supervisor) and Patricia Voke. Geophysical data processing and report preparation was by Richie Willis, with illustrations by Janine Watson. This report was edited by Duncan Hale, the Project Manager.

Archive/OASIS

- 2.7 The site code is **FSR14**, for Foxton Shepreth Road 2014. The survey archive will be supplied on CD to the client for deposition with the project archive in due course. Archaeological Services Durham University is registered with the **Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigationS project (OASIS)**. The OASIS ID number for this project is **archaeol3-197300**.

Acknowledgements

- 2.8 Archaeological Services Durham University is grateful for the assistance of the landowners in facilitating this scheme of works.

3. Historical and archaeological background

- 3.1 A detailed archaeological desk-based assessment has been conducted for the proposed development (Gailey 2014); the outcomes of that assessment are summarised here.
- 3.2 There are no Scheduled Monuments or other designated assets on the site.
- 3.3 A ring-ditch has been interpreted from aerial photographs of cropmarks at the site. In addition, isolated finds dating from the Roman to the post-medieval periods are recorded, largely found by metal detecting. These are likely to represent items brought from elsewhere, such as by manuring, but may reflect evidence of occupation and the presence of sub-surface archaeological features.
- 3.4 The archaeological potential for *in situ* evidence of occupation from the late prehistoric to Roman periods is considered to be moderate to good. Unstratified artefactual evidence within the ploughsoil is also likely.
- 3.5 Years of turf farming across the north-east and south-west fields will have truncated and potentially damaged any sub-surface archaeological remains.

4. Landuse, topography and geology

- 4.1 At the time of survey, there were three areas available for survey: two in pasture (Areas 1 & 3) and one under young turf (Area 2). Area 1 covered c.3.6ha and included a number of fenced-off trees and two hen houses within Heras fencing enclosures; the area was bounded to all sides by metal fences. Area 2 covered c.0.56ha and was bounded to the north and south by metal fences; a tarmac and hardcore track ran along the east edge of the survey with the farmyard beyond; a metal gate stood in the south-east corner. Area 3 comprised a small paddock of c.0.11ha in the west of Area 1 and was bounded on all sides by metal fencing; agricultural machinery stood in the north-west of the area and there was a metal gate on the south-east boundary.
- 4.2 The proposed development area was predominantly level with a mean elevation of approximately 17m OD. It occupies the north-facing valley slope of the River Cam or Rhee, which flows approximately 1.5km north of the area. A tributary to the Cam, Foxton Brook, flows some 250m south-west of the area.
- 4.3 The underlying solid geology of the area comprises Cretaceous chalks of the Zag Chalk Formation, Totternhoe Stone Member and West Melbury Chalk Formation, which are overlain by Quaternary Period 1st and 2nd River Terrace Deposits of sand and gravel (BGS 2014).

5. Geophysical survey Standards

- 5.1 The surveys and reporting were conducted in accordance with English Heritage guidelines, *Geophysical survey in archaeological field evaluation* (David, Linford & Linford 2008); the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for archaeological geophysical survey* (2011); the IfA Technical Paper No.6, *The use of geophysical techniques in archaeological evaluations* (Gaffney, Gater & Ovenden

2002); and the Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity *Geophysical Data in Archaeology: A Guide to Good Practice* (Schmidt 2013).

Technique selection

- 5.2 Geophysical survey enables the relatively rapid and non-invasive identification of sub-surface features of potential archaeological significance and can involve a suite of complementary techniques such as magnetometry, earth electrical resistance, ground-penetrating radar, electromagnetic survey and topsoil magnetic susceptibility survey. Some techniques are more suitable than others in particular situations, depending on site-specific factors including the nature of likely targets; depth of likely targets; ground conditions; proximity of buildings, fences or services and the local geology and drift.
- 5.3 In this instance, it was considered likely that cut features such as a ring-ditch, ditches and pits might be present on the site, and that other types of feature such as trackways, wall foundations and fired structures (for example kilns and hearths) could also be present.
- 5.4 Given the anticipated shallowness of targets and the non-igneous geological environment of the study area a geomagnetic technique, fluxgate gradiometry, was considered appropriate for detecting the types of feature mentioned above. This technique involves the use of hand-held magnetometers to detect and record anomalies in the vertical component of the Earth's magnetic field caused by variations in soil magnetic susceptibility or permanent magnetisation; such anomalies can reflect archaeological features.

Field methods

- 5.5 A 30m grid was established across each survey area and related to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid using a Leica GS15 global navigation satellite system (GNSS) with real-time kinematic (RTK) corrections typically providing 10mm accuracy.
- 5.6 Measurements of vertical geomagnetic field gradient were determined using Bartington Grad601-2 dual fluxgate gradiometers. A zig-zag traverse scheme was employed and data were logged in 30m grid units. The instrument sensitivity was nominally 0.03nT, the sample interval was 0.25m and the traverse interval was 1m, thus providing 3,600 sample measurements per 30m grid unit.
- 5.7 Data were downloaded on site into a laptop computer for initial processing and storage and subsequently transferred to a desktop computer for processing, interpretation and archiving.

Data processing

- 5.8 Geoplot v.3 software was used to process the geophysical data and to produce both continuous tone greyscale images and trace plots of the raw (minimally processed) data. The greyscale images and interpretations are presented in Figures 2-5; the trace plots are provided in Figure 6. In the greyscale images, positive magnetic anomalies are displayed as dark grey and negative magnetic anomalies as light grey. Palette bars relate the greyscale intensities to anomaly values in nanoTesla.

- 5.9 The following basic processing functions have been applied to each dataset:
- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| <i>clip</i> | clips data to specified maximum or minimum values; to eliminate large noise spikes; also generally makes statistical calculations more realistic |
| <i>zero mean traverse</i> | sets the background mean of each traverse within a grid to zero; for removing striping effects in the traverse direction and removing grid edge discontinuities |
| <i>de-stagger</i> | corrects for displacement of geomagnetic anomalies caused by alternate zig-zag traverses |
| <i>interpolate</i> | increases the number of data points in a survey to match sample and traverse intervals; in this instance the data have been interpolated to 0.25m x 0.25m intervals |

Interpretation: anomaly types

- 5.10 A colour-coded geophysical interpretation plan is provided. Three types of geomagnetic anomaly have been distinguished in the data:
- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <i>positive magnetic</i> | regions of anomalously high or positive magnetic field gradient, which may be associated with high magnetic susceptibility soil-filled structures such as pits and ditches |
| <i>negative magnetic</i> | regions of anomalously low or negative magnetic field gradient, which may correspond to features of low magnetic susceptibility such as wall footings and other concentrations of sedimentary rock or voids |
| <i>dipolar magnetic</i> | paired positive-negative magnetic anomalies, which typically reflect ferrous or fired materials (including fences and service pipes) and/or fired structures such as kilns or hearths |

Interpretation: features

General comments

- 5.11 Colour-coded archaeological interpretation plans are provided.
- 5.12 Except where stated otherwise in the text below, positive magnetic anomalies are taken to reflect relatively high magnetic susceptibility materials, typically sediments in cut archaeological features (such as ditches or pits) whose magnetic susceptibility has been enhanced by decomposed organic matter or by burning.
- 5.13 Small, discrete dipolar magnetic anomalies have been detected in all of the survey areas. These almost certainly reflect items of near-surface ferrous and/or fired debris, such as horseshoes and brick fragments, and in most cases have little or no archaeological significance. A sample of these is shown on the geophysical interpretation plan, however, they have been omitted from the archaeological interpretation plan and the following discussion.

Area 1

- 5.14 A small, linear positive magnetic anomaly has been detected in the east of this area. This could reflect an anthropogenic soil-filled feature. Although its provenance is not known, it is not considered to be of high archaeological significance.
- 5.15 A series of broadly north-east/south-west aligned positive and negative magnetic striations has been detected across the survey area. The anomalies almost certainly reflect former ploughing, perhaps associated with the turf farm. Two stronger negative magnetic anomalies detected in the same orientation may reflect plastic or stone land drains. The negative linear anomaly to the north-west also corresponds to a change in crop type and a possible track visible on 2007 aerial photographs (Google Earth).
- 5.16 A chain of very strong dipolar magnetic anomalies has been detected in the north-east of the area. This almost certainly reflects a service.
- 5.17 A number of large and strong dipolar magnetic anomalies have been detected in this area. These correspond to a variety of modern features, including fenced-off trees and shrubs and two hen houses surrounded by Heras fencing. Strong dipolar magnetic anomalies detected at the edges of the area reflect adjacent metal fences.
- 5.18 No evidence of the possible ring-ditch in the south of this area has been detected. The strong magnetic effects of the Heras fencing and hen houses in this area have hindered the detection and identification of more subtle local magnetic anomalies here, though unless directly beneath the fencing, some anomaly associated with the ditch would have been expected, if present.
- 5.19 Occasional former field boundaries are shown on some historic OS editions. These have not been identified in the geomagnetic data. These former boundaries vary in location and orientation between OS editions, which would suggest they were fairly temporary boundaries, such as fences, rather than more permanent features like ditches. It is considered likely that these features have not been detected due to the years of turf cutting across the area truncating sub-surface remains.

Area 2

- 5.20 A 'T-shaped' magnetic anomaly has been detected in the south of this area. This is likely to reflect land drains.
- 5.21 Dipolar magnetic anomalies have been detected along the northern, eastern and southern edges of this area, largely reflecting the adjacent metal fences. The large strong dipolar magnetic anomaly detected halfway along the eastern edge reflects the effect of the nearby farm buildings.

Area 3

- 5.22 This area is characterised by a high concentration of dipolar magnetic anomalies. Large and strong anomalies detected at the north-west edge of the area reflect agricultural machinery. The landowner informed the survey team that this small paddock had been used for the storage of scrap metal and the anomalies detected here almost certainly reflect this former use.

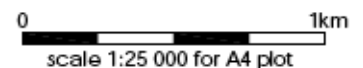
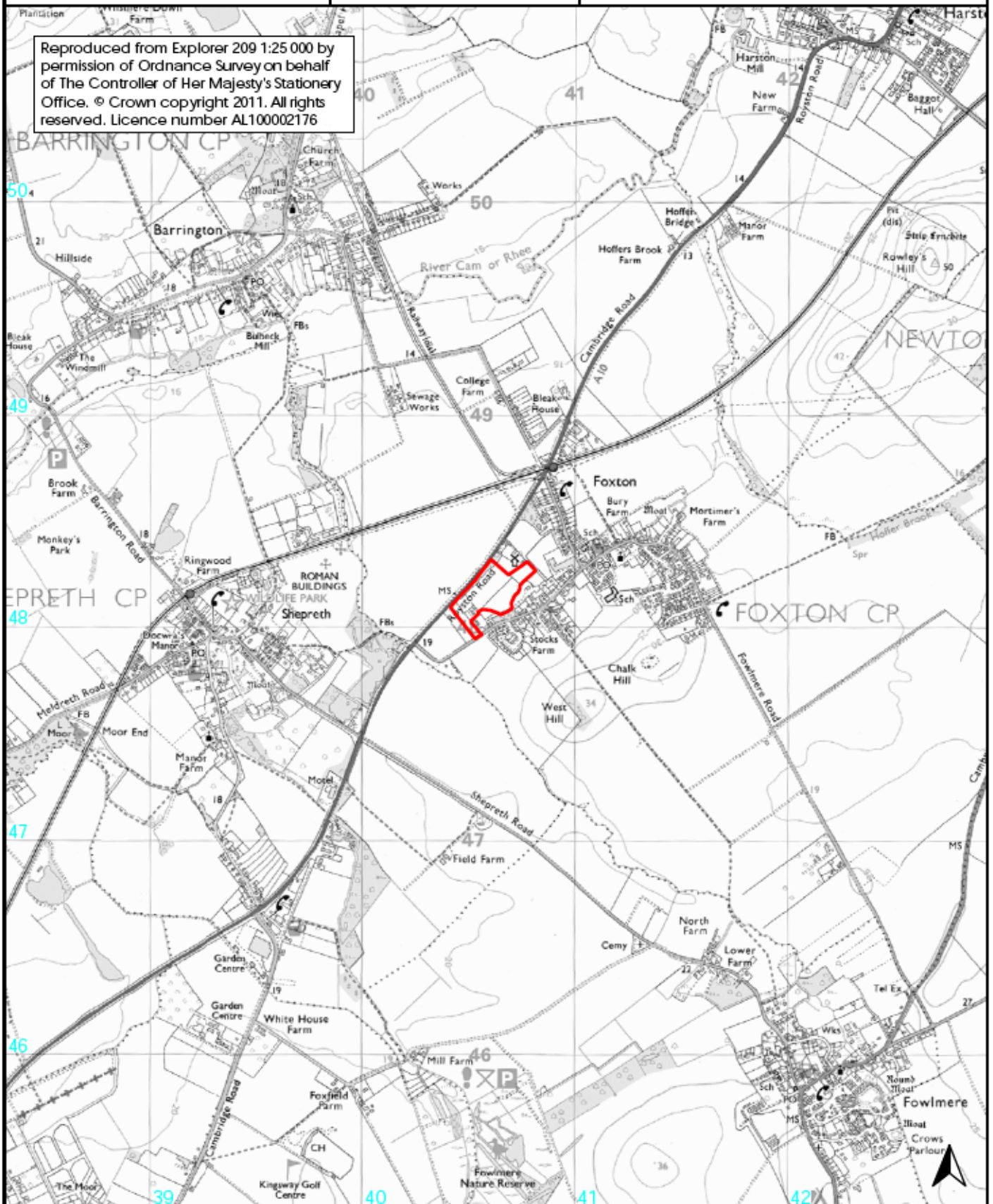
6. Conclusions

- 6.1 Detailed geomagnetic survey was undertaken on land at Shepreth Road, Foxton, Cambridgeshire, prior to proposed residential development.
- 6.2 A soil-filled feature of unknown provenance has been detected in Area 1.
- 6.3 Former ploughing and possible drains have been identified in Areas 1 and 2.
- 6.4 No evidence for a possible ring-ditch or possible occupation has been identified. It is possible that the ditch has been truncated by former ploughing and turf cutting.
- 6.5 Occasional former field boundaries shown on historic Ordnance Survey editions have not been detected. It is likely that they have been truncated due to years of turf cutting at the site.
- 6.6 Modern features, including a service, chicken enclosures, agricultural machinery and an area formerly used for the storage of scrap metal have been identified.

7. Sources

- BGS 2014 online *Geology of Britain viewer* available from:
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> accessed 5th December 2014
- David, A, Linford, N, & Linford, P, 2008 *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation*. English Heritage
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- Gailey, S, 2014 *Land at Shepreth Road, Foxton, Cambridgeshire: archaeological desk-based assessment*. Unpublished report 18521, CgMs Consulting
- IfA 2011 *Standard and Guidance for archaeological geophysical survey*. Institute for Archaeologists
- Schmidt, A, 2013 *Geophysical Data in Archaeology: A Guide to Good Practice*. Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity, Oxbow

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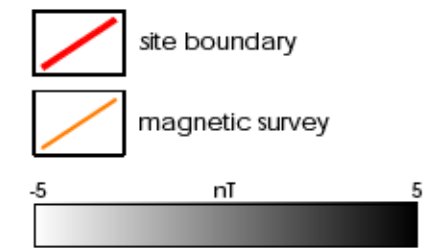
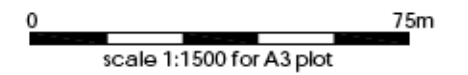
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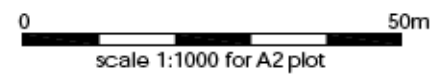
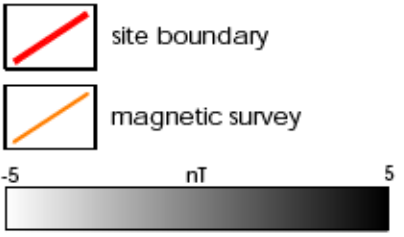
Shepreth Road
Foxton
Cambridgeshire

geophysical survey
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Figure 2: Geophysical survey overview



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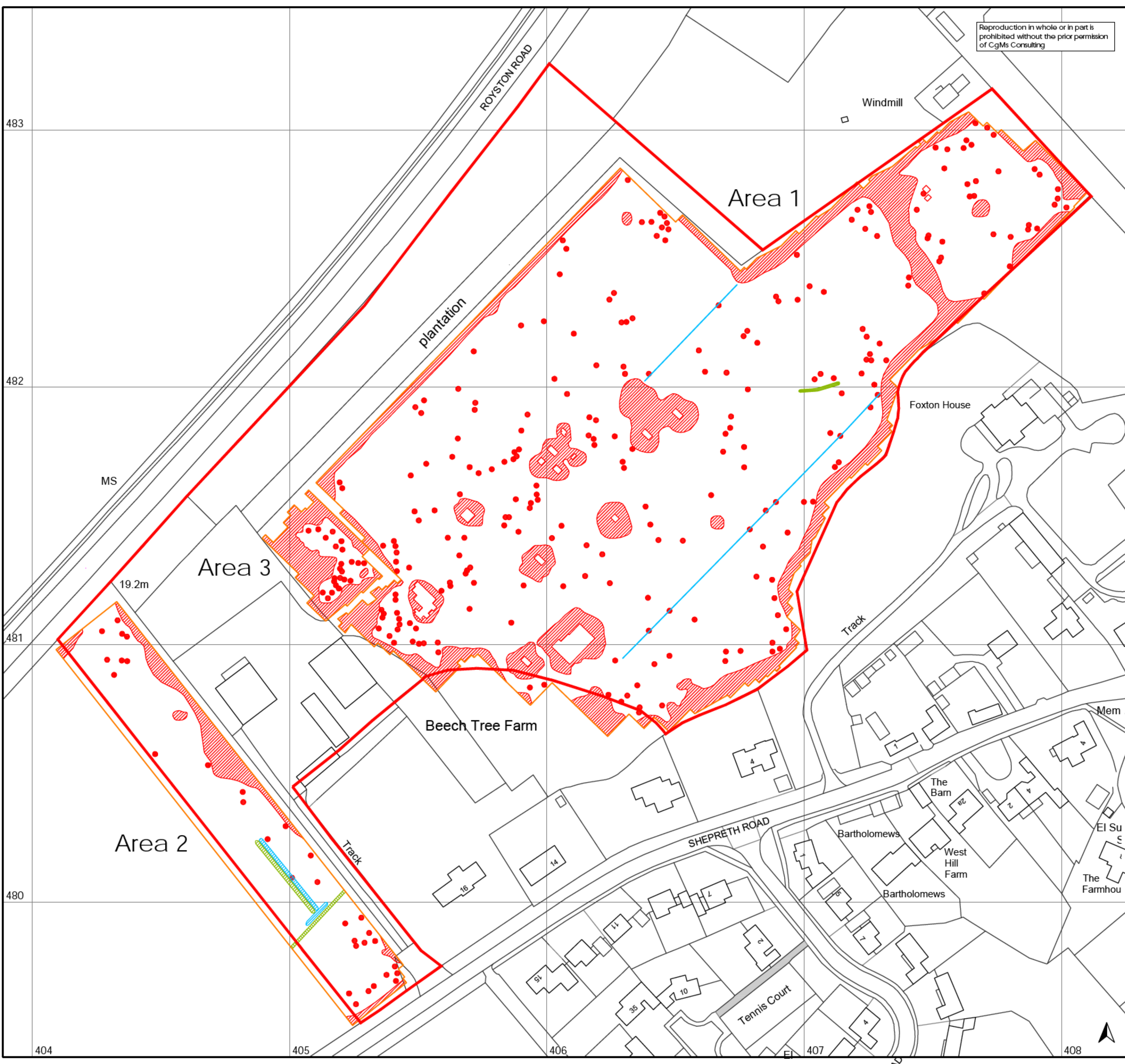
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Figure 3: Geophysical survey



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-  site boundary
-  magnetic survey
-  dipolar magnetic anomaly
-  positive magnetic anomaly
-  negative magnetic anomaly

0 50m
scale 1:1000 for A2 plot

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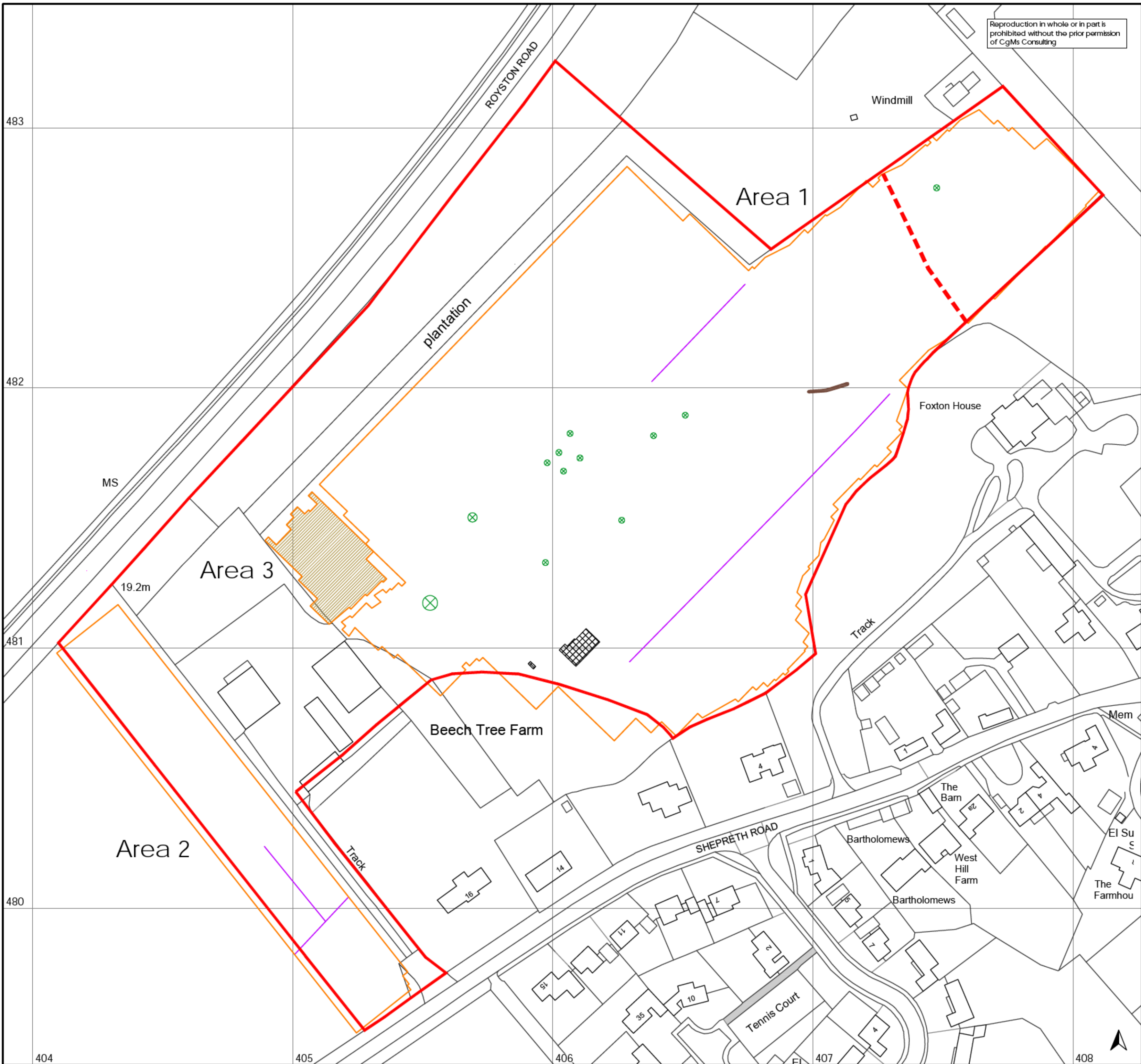
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Figure 4: Geophysical interpretation



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-  site boundary
-  magnetic survey
-  soil-filled feature
-  modern debris
-  service pipe
-  land drain
-  hen house and Heras fencing
-  trees with fences

0 50m
scale 1:1000 for A2 plot

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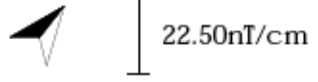
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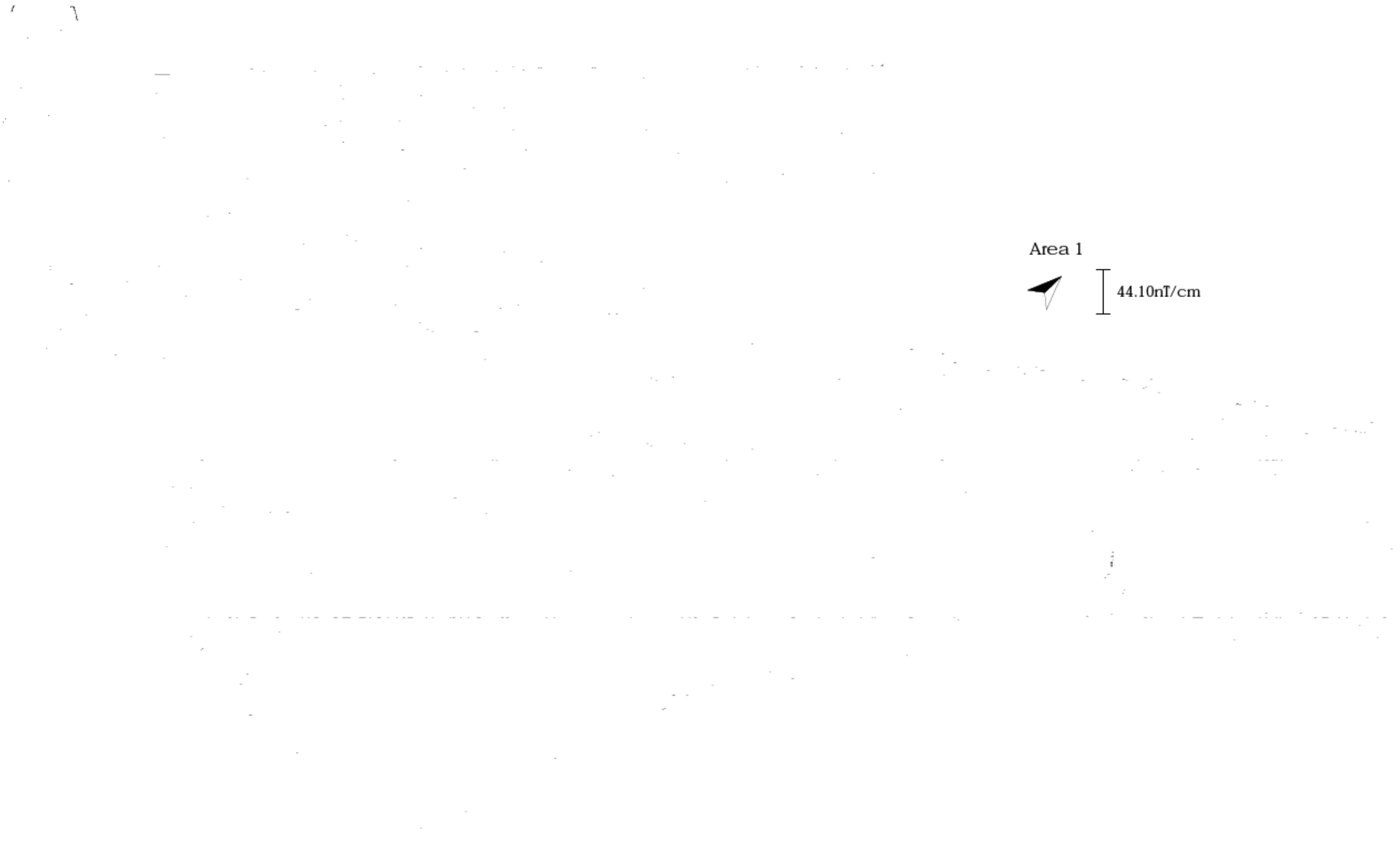
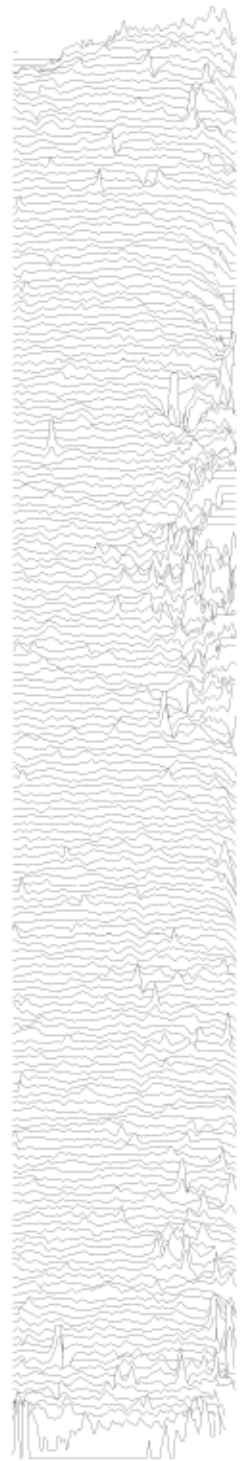
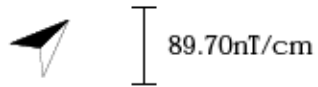
Figure 5: Archaeological interpretation



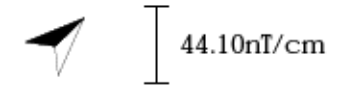
Area 2



Area 3



Area 1



PCA

PCA SOUTH

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