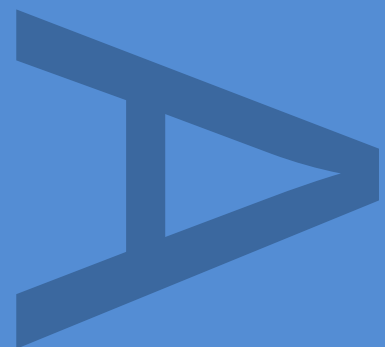


**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION AT LAND NORTH
OF BURY GREEN FARM AND
SOUTH OF NEW FEN ROAD
LANE, RAMSEY HEIGHTS,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE.**

DECEMBER 2015

Rev 2



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY
R12283**

LAND NORTH OF BURY GREEN FARM & SOUTH OF
NEW FEN ROAD LANE, RAMSEY
HEIGHTS, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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Land North of Bury Green Farm & South of New Fen Road Lane, Ramsey Heights, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

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ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on Land North of Bury Green Farm & South of New Fen Road Lane, Ramsey Heights, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 2670 8533) between the 6th and the 12th November 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of Bury Green Farm Solar Ltd in response to a planning condition attached to the construction of a new solar farm with associated access and landscaping. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

Three pits; two of which were steep sided were recorded, all of which were undated. The site also contained two small, undated shallow ditch terminals, which contained fills of a similar nature to the undated pits. These features were spread across the site with no obvious focus or location of activity identified.

The majority of trenches also contained large numbers of segmented clay marling ditches arranged in linear patterns, which would have been created in the post-medieval to modern period in order to provide clay to consolidate the friable peat soil of the fenland.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on Land North of Bury Green Farm & South of New Fen Road Lane, Ramsey Heights, Cambridgeshire (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 2670 8533) from the 6th to the 12th October 2015 (Figure 1; Plate 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Bury Green Farm Solar Ltd in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to the construction of a new solar farm with associated access and landscaping (Planning Reference 15/00790/FUL).
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Shannon Hogan of PCA (Hogan 2015) in response to a Brief for archaeological evaluation issued by Kasia Gdaniec (Gdaniec 2015) of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET).
- 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.
- 1.5 A total of forty-six 30x1.8m (2484m²) trial trenches were excavated and recorded, in order to cover a target area of 3% of the site.
- 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 comprises mudstone of the Kellaways Formation and Oxford Clay Formation and is overlain by superficial till (outwash sands and gravels, silts and clays) (www.bgs.ac.uk).

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The site comprises an area of approximately 8.72 ha of agricultural land. It is located 2km to the west of the Cambridgeshire village of Ramsey, 13km north-east of Huntingdon. The site is situated at an elevation of approximately 0.87m OD (above Ordnance Datum). The surrounding area is generally flat, with a slight rise to the east where Ramsey is located. The site slopes gently down from north to south and located 2km south of the old course of the River Nene and 1.5km west of the High Lode.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 General

3.1.1 The site lies in an area of known archaeological significance, as recorded in the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER). This archaeological and historical background has been drawn from the archaeological design brief (Gdaniec 2015), the CHER search and the available 'grey literature' reports.

3.2 Prehistoric

3.2.1 A single Neolithic stone axe (01757) was found at Bakers Hill, Upwood, c.450m south-west of the site, is the most significant known remains in the area from the prehistoric period. Further findspots of a single flint blade (02868) and various Neolithic flint instruments (07810) were located at 600m to the west and 800m to the north-west of the site respectively.

3.3 Iron Age and Roman

3.3.1 Archaeological investigations on land at Field Road, Ramsey c.1km east of the study site, recorded a cluster of intercutting pits dating to the early to middle Iron Age (20288).

3.3.2 A Roman site has been suggested to be present on land off Bury Lane Farm, c.400m south-west of the study site, where the farmer has recovered a large quantity of Roman pottery (01855).

3.4 Saxon and Medieval

3.4.1 The Benedictine Abbey of Ramsey, 2.3km south-east of the site, was founded in 969 AD, replacing an earlier hermitage on the site (VCH 1926). The Abbey was a major focus for settlement during the subsequent expansion of Ramsey, which was focussed predominantly to the west of the Abbey, with the land to the east and north occupied by Ramsey Abbey Park (12329) from the thirteenth century. The archaeological remains of the abbey are designated as a Scheduled Monument (1006838).

3.4.2 The site of a Medieval moated manor house, Biggin House (01033) is recorded on the HER, c.900m south-east of the study site. This site has now

been levelled; with the HER noting that no remains survive. The following summary has been mostly taken from "Ramsey", in *A History of the County of Huntingdon: Volume 2*, ed. William Page, Granville Proby and S Inskip Ladds (London, 1932), pp. 187-198 <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/hunts/vol2/pp187-198> [viewed 14 December 2015]:

Biggin Lane, which appears in the early part of the 14th century as 'le Byggyngwey. led to the moated grange of the monastery called the Biggin. There are references to 'Leperes Lane' in Ramsey and land in Hepmangrove next 'Leperislane, which would permit of the identification of Lepers Lane with Biggin Lane. The Biggin may originally have been one of the small leper houses which, when that disease became almost stamped out in the 14th century, were turned to other uses. Before 1352 Biggin had become a grange supplying the household of the abbey with dairy produce such as milk, butter and great quantities of cheese and bacon, while its garden produce went to the guest-house of the abbey. Biggin remained parcel of the possessions of the monastery until the Dissolution, when it passed with other Ramsey property to Richard Cromwell. Sir Philip Cromwell, brother of Sir Oliver Cromwell, was living here in 1606. The house was pulled down about 1757 and a door bearing the initials H.C. (for Henry Cromwell) was taken to Ramsey House. A toft in Biggin was conveyed in 1316. Adjoining Biggin Lane was Beterestrade or le Beteris-strate the position of which has not been identified.

3.5 Post medieval and Modern

- 3.5.1 Upwood airfield (15153), 1km south of the site was opened in 1917 on a 160 acre site at Simmonds Farm, Upwood. By the summer of 1918 a number of huts and five hangars had been constructed, but following the conclusion of hostilities the site was cleared and returned to agricultural use (www.rafupwood.co.uk). RAF Upwood was reopened in 1937 as a grass-surfaced airfield covering approximately 250 acres. Hard runways and a new concrete perimeter track were laid in 1943, along with more hard standings, and by this time there was accommodation for 2421 personnel. RAF Upwood continued to be used by flying units until 1961, when it became a

ground station. In the 1970s it was taken over by the USAF, and it housed a USAF NCO college and hospital until 1995. The college closed in that year, and although the USAF still occupies part of the airfield as a hospital, the remainder has been closed.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Excavation and Sampling

- 4.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation proposed the excavation of 46 x 30m trial trenches, distributed across the site. Some of the trenches were positioned to cover proposed areas of impact on the archaeological horizon (Figure 2).
- 4.1.2 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 21-ton tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m-wide toothless ditching bucket (Plate 2). Topsoil 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.
- 4.1.3 Metal-detecting was carried out during soil stripping and throughout the excavation process. Archaeological features and spoilheaps were scanned by metal-detector as they were encountered/ created.
- 4.1.4 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I) by Joanna Taylor and Gary Brown (2009).
- 4.1.5 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.
- 4.1.6 Discrete features such as pits were at least 50% excavated and, where considered appropriate, 100% excavated. The large numbers of post-medieval to modern marling ditches present on the site were planned, with a small sample of them being part-excavated for finds recovery purposes.

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.
- 4.2.2 Manual plans and section drawings of archaeological features and deposits were drawn at an appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20 or 1:50).
- 4.2.3 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.
- 4.2.4 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.
- 4.2.5 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 (ClfA 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 subdivided into feature type, before being described in numeric cut order within the trench. Archaeological features and deposits were sealed by the topsoil only, unless otherwise stated.

5.1.2 The principal result of the evaluation was the discovery of three undated pits, two of which had straight sides as well as two ditch terminals, also undated.

5.1.3 The majority of the trenches contained segmented clay marling ditches, which were usually rectangular and arranged in straight rows, although some were more irregular. Two phases were identified on site: an earlier northeast to southwest and northwest to south east aligned phase and a later phase on a north-south and east-west alignment. The segmented ditches of the earlier phase had more rounded ends which may suggest a different method of digging-out when created. These features were exclusively filled with degraded peat. Due to the large numbers of these features, as well as their post-medieval to modern date, only a small sample of them were excavated and assigned context numbers. As a result, where these features were identified but not excavated within a trench they will be illustrated in plan (Figure 3) but not described in detail. No finds were retrieved from any of these ditches.

5.1.4 Modern pipe trenches were also present on the site and were recorded in plan but not excavated.

5.2 Trench 1

5.2.1 Trench 1 contained 5 clay marling ditches.

TRENCH 1	Figure 2 and 4	Plate -
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.80m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.71m

Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.23m	0.24m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.34m	0.38m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.43+m	0.48+m
Summary			
Trench 1 was located in the north-western corner of the site. The trench contained 5 clay marling ditches.			

5.3 Trench 2

5.3.1 Trench 2 contained 12 clay marling ditches.

TRENCH 2	Figure 2 and 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -1.00m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.96m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NE End	SW End
Topsoil	(100)	0.24m	0.29m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.36m	0.40m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.40+m	0.40+m
Summary			
Trench 2 was located in the north-western corner of the site. The trench contained 12 clay marling ditches.			

5.4 Trench 3

5.4.1 Trench 3 contained 13 clay marling ditches.

TRENCH 3	Figure 2 and 3	Plate 3	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.9m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.85m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.26m	0.36m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.40m	0.48m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.45+m	0.53+m
Summary			
Trench 3 was located along the northern boundary of the site.			

The trench contained 13 clay marling ditches.

5.5 Trench 4

5.5.1 Trench 4 contained 10 clay marling ditches.

TRENCH 4	Figure 2 and 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -1.05m Level of Natural (m OD): -1.01m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NE End	SW End
Topsoil	(100)	0.36m	0.41m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.58m	0.55m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.62+m	0.60+m
Summary			
Trench 4 was located along the northern boundary of the site. The trench contained 10 clay marling ditches.			

5.6 Trench 5

5.6.1 Trench 5 contained 8 clay marling ditches.

5.6.2 Clay marling ditch [147] was located in the central part of the trench; it was sub rectangular in plan with steeply-sloping sides and a flat base and measured 1.40m by 1.25m and was 0.15m deep. It had a single fill of dark grey black silty peat (146) which contained no finds.

TRENCH 5	Figure 2 and 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.80m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.75m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.40m	0.39m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.54m	0.54m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.59+m	0.60+m
Summary			
Trench 5 was located along the northern boundary of the site. The trench contained 8 clay marling ditches.			

5.7 Trench 6

5.7.1 Trench 6 contained a single undated ditch terminus, as well as 7 clay marling ditches.

5.7.2 Ditch terminus [141] (Plate 4) was located in the north-eastern part of the trench; it was aligned north-east to south-west and continued out of the eastern limit of excavation. It was 0.64m wide and 0.30m deep, with steeply-sloping sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of dark blue grey silty clay (140) which contained no finds.

TRENCH 6	Figure 2 and 3		Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.67m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.64m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		NE End	SW End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.26m	0.48m	
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.37m	0.56m	
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.40+m	0.60+m	
Summary				
Trench 6 was located in the north-eastern corner of the site.				
The trench contained a single undated ditch terminus, as well as 7 clay marling ditches.				

5.8 Trench 7

5.8.1 Trench 7 contained 14 clay marling ditches.

5.8.2 Clay marling ditch [143] (Figure 3 and 9) was located in the south-western part of the trench; it was sub rectangular in plan and continued out of the eastern limit of excavation. The ditch had sub vertical-sloping sides and a flat base and measured 1.20+m by 1.00m and was 0.20m deep. It had a single fill of dark grey black silty peat (142) which contained no finds.

TRENCH 7	Figures 2, 3		Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.48m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.44m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		NE End	SW End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.53m	0.35m	

Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.62m	0.50m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.62+m	0.54m
Summary			
Trench 7 was located in the north-eastern corner of the site.			
The trench contained 14 clay marling ditches.			

5.9 Trench 8

5.9.1 Trench 8 contained 12 clay marling ditches.

TRENCH 8	Figure 2 and 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.61m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.61m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.48m	0.36m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.58m	0.47m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.58+m	0.63+m
Summary			
Trench 8 was located in the north-eastern corner of the site.			
The trench contained 12 clay marling ditches.			

5.10 Trench 9

5.10.1 Trench 9 contained 8 clay marling ditches.

TRENCH 9	Figure 2 and 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.90m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.84m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NE End	SW End
Topsoil	(100)	0.56m	0.36m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.67m	0.46m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.73+m	0.50+m
Summary			
Trench 9 was located in the northern area of the site.			
The trench contained 8 clay marling ditches.			

5.11 Trench 10

5.11.1 Trench 10 contained 9 clay marling ditches.

TRENCH 10	Figure 2 and 3		Plate -	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.87m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.77m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		E End	W End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.25m	0.23m	
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.32m	0.33m	
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.42+m	0.44+m	
Summary				
Trench 10 was located in the northern area of the site. The trench contained 9 clay marling ditches.				

5.12 Trench 11

5.12.1 Trench 11 contained 5 clay marling ditches.

TRENCH 11	Figure 2 and 3		Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.88m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.84m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		NE End	SW End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.23m	0.32m	
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.31m	0.48m	
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.44+m	0.52+m	
Summary				
Trench 11 was located in the northern area of the site. The trench contained 5 clay marling ditches.				

5.13 Trench 12

5.13.1 Trench 12 contained 11 clay marling ditches.

5.13.2 Clay marling ditch [113] was located in the south-eastern part of the trench; it was sub rectangular in plan and continued out of the western limit of excavation. It had sub vertical-sloping sides and a flat base and measured 2.80m by 0.45+m and was 0.20m deep. It had a single fill of dark grey black

silty peat (114) which contained no finds.

5.13.3 Clay marling ditch [115] (Plate 5) was located in the south-eastern part of the trench; it was sub rectangular in plan and continued out of the eastern limit of excavation. It had sub vertical-sloping sides and a flat base and measured 1.00+m by 1.00m and was 0.26m deep. It had a single fill of dark grey black silty peat (116) which contained no finds.

TRENCH 12	Figure 2 and 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.90m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.75m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.19m	0.29m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.25m	0.43m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.37+m	0.58+m
Summary			
Trench 12 was located in the north-western corner of the site.			
The trench contained 11 clay marling ditches.			

5.14 Trench 13

5.14.1 Trench 13 contained 4 clay marling ditches.

TRENCH 13	Figure 2 and 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.81m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.0.75m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NE End	SW End
Topsoil	(100)	0.20m	0.27m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.28m	0.40m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.33+m	0.46+m
Summary			
Trench 13 was located in the north-western corner of the site.			
The trench contained 4 clay marling ditches.			

5.15 Trench 14

5.15.1 Trench 1 contained a single undated ditch terminus, as well as 5 clay

marling ditches.

5.15.2 Ditch terminus [123] was located in the north-western part of the trench; it was aligned north-east to south-west and continued out of the south-western limit of excavation. It was 0.64m wide and 0.10m deep, with moderately-sloping sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of dark grey black silty peat (124) which contained no finds.

TRENCH 14	Figure 2 and 3		Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.48m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.42m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		NW End	SE End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.20m	0.20m	
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.34m	0.28m	
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.38+m	0.34+m	
Summary				
Trench 14 was located along the western boundary of the site.				
The trench contained a single undated ditch terminus, as well as 5 clay marling ditches.				

5.16 Trench 15

5.16.1 Trench 15 contained 13 clay marling ditches.

TRENCH 15	Figure 2 and 3		Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.68m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.51m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		NE End	SW End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.26m	0.23m	
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.33m	0.40m	
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.50+m	0.48+m	
Summary				
Trench 15 was located in the north-western area of the site.				
The trench contained 13 clay marling ditches.				

5.17 Trench 16

5.17.1 Trench 16 contained 12 clay marling ditches.

TRENCH 16	Figure 2 and 3	Plate 6	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.78m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.71m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.26m	0.22m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.39m	0.43m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.48+m	0.50+m
Summary			
Trench 16 was located in the north-western area of the site. The trench contained 12 clay marling ditches.			

5.18 Trench 17

5.18.1 Trench 17 contained a single undated pit, as well as 9 clay marling ditches.

5.18.2 Pit [117] was located in the north-eastern part of the trench; it was sub circular in plan and continued out of the eastern limit of excavation. It had slightly-sloping sides and a concave base and measured 1.27m by 0.55+m and was 0.10m deep. It had a single fill of mid blue grey silty clay (118) which contained no finds.

TRENCH 17	Figure 2 and 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.74m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.62m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NE End	SW End
Topsoil	(100)	0.24m	0.22m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.38m	0.37m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.50+m	0.44+m
Summary			
Trench 17 was located in the central area of the site. The trench contained a single undated pit, as well as 9 clay marling ditches.			

5.19 Trench 18

5.19.1 Trench 18 contained 17 clay marling ditches.

TRENCH 18	Figure 2 and 3	Plate -	
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Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.52m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.46m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.29m	0.38m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.40m	0.54m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.46+m	0.60+m
Summary			
Trench 18 was located in the central area of the site. The trench contained 17 clay marling ditches.			

5.20 Trench 19

5.20.1 Trench 19 contained 7 clay marling ditches.

TRENCH 19	Figure 2 and 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.50m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.46m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NE End	SW End
Topsoil	(100)	0.48m	0.26m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.59m	0.40m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.63+m	0.50+m
Summary			
Trench 19 was located in the north-eastern area of the site. The trench contained 7 clay marling ditches.			

5.21 Trench 20

5.21.1 Trench 20 contained 7 clay marling ditches.

TRENCH 20	Figure 2 and 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.45m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.35m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.40m	0.41m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.50m	0.50m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.60+m	0.55+m

Summary

Trench 20 was located along the eastern boundary of the site.
The trench contained 7 clay marling ditches.

5.22 Trench 21

5.22.1 Trench 21 contained 11 clay marling ditches.

TRENCH 21	Figure 2 and 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.14m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.03m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NE End	SW End
Topsoil	(100)	0.28m	0.27m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.40m	0.40m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.51+m	0.53+m
Summary			
Trench 21 was located along the eastern boundary of the site. The trench contained 11 clay marling ditches.			

5.23 Trench 22

5.23.1 Trench 22 contained 10 clay marling ditches.

TRENCH 22	Figure 2 and 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.23m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.17m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.28m	0.37m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.36m	0.54m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.42+m	0.64+m
Summary			
Trench 22 was located in the central area of the site. The trench contained 10 clay marling ditches.			

5.24 Trench 23

5.24.1 Trench 23 contained 12 clay marling ditches.

TRENCH 23	Figure 2 and 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.09m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.05m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		E End	W End
Topsoil	(100)	0.28m	0.23m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.36m	0.38m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.40+m	0.45+m
Summary			
Trench 23 was located in the central area of the site. The trench contained 12 clay marling ditches.			

5.25 Trench 24

5.25.1 Trench 24 contained 8 clay marling ditches.

TRENCH 24	Figure 2 and 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.64m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.53m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.25m	0.25m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.40m	0.42m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.51+m	0.47+m
Summary			
Trench 24 was located in the central area of the site. The trench contained 8 clay marling ditches.			

5.26 Trench 25

5.26.1 Trench 25 contained 6 clay marling ditches.

TRENCH 25	Figure 2 and 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.66m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.57m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NE End	SW End
Topsoil	(100)	0.26m	0.28m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.41m	0.38m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.50+m	0.49+m

Summary

Trench 25 was located in the central area of the site.
The trench contained 6 clay marling ditches.

5.27 Trench 26

5.27.1 Trench 26 contained 4 clay marling ditches.

5.27.2 Clay marling ditch [109] (Figure 9) was located in the south-eastern part of the trench; it was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west and continued out of both limits of excavation. The pit had sub vertical-sloping sides and a flat base and measured 2.00+m by 0.86m and was 0.40m deep. It had a single fill of dark grey black silty peat (110) which contained no finds.

5.27.3 Clay marling ditch [111] (Figure 8; Plate 8) was located in the central part of the trench; it was sub rectangular in plan and continued out of the western limit of excavation. The ditch had sub vertical-sloping sides and a flat base and measured 1.70+m by 1.06m and was 0.26m deep. It had a single fill of dark grey black silty peat (112) which contained no finds.

TRENCH 26	Figure 2, 3 and 5	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.47m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.47m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.20m	0.28m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.36m	0.43m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.54+m	0.43+m
Summary			
Trench 26 was located in the central area of the site. The trench contained 4 clay marling ditches.			

5.28 Trench 27

5.28.1 Trench 27 contained 5 clay marling ditches.

TRENCH 27	Figure 2 and 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.43m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.30m	

Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NE End	SW End
Topsoil	(100)	0.22m	0.25m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.37m	0.44m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.50+m	0.44+m
Summary			
Trench 27 was located along the western boundary of the site. The trench contained 5 clay marling ditches.			

5.29 Trench 28

5.29.1 Trench 28 contained 10 clay marling ditches.

TRENCH 28	Figure 2 and 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.33m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.22m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NE End	SW End
Topsoil	(100)	0.24m	0.23m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.34m	0.34m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.48+m	0.45+m
Summary			
Trench 28 was located along the western boundary of the site. The trench contained 10 clay marling ditches.			

5.30 Trench 29

5.30.1 Trench 29 contained 6 clay marling ditches.

TRENCH 29	Figure 2 and 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.47m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.39m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.32m	0.25m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.49m	0.37m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.56+m	0.45+m
Summary			
Trench 29 was located in the central area of the site.			

The trench contained 6 clay marling ditches.

5.31 Trench 30

5.31.1 Trench 30 contained 4 clay marling ditches.

TRENCH 30	Figure 2 and 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.46m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.43m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		E End	W End
Topsoil	(100)	0.23m	0.24m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.38m	0.40m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.46+m	0.43+m
Summary			
Trench 30 was located in the central area of the site. The trench contained 2 clay marling ditches.			

5.32 Trench 31

5.32.1 Trench 31 contained 14 clay marling ditches.

TRENCH 31	Figure 2 and 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.22m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.11m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.19m	0.34m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.29m	0.40m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.40+m	0.50+m
Summary			
Trench 31 was located in the central area of the site. The trench contained 14 clay marling ditches.			

5.33 Trench 32

5.33.1 Trench 32 contained 2 undated pits, as well as 4 clay marling ditches.

5.33.2 Pit [129] (Figure 9; Plate 8) was located in the central part of the trench; it was sub circular in plan with steeply-sloping sides and a concave base and measured 1.23m by 1.20m and was 0.70m deep. It had three fills; a basal fill

of mid brown grey silt clay (128) which contained very rare charcoal flecks; a middle fill of mid-light brown grey silt clay (127) which contained very rare charcoal flecks; and an upper fill of dark black-brown silt peat (126) which contained no finds. As there was no dating evidence recovered from any deposits within this pit, a 40litre soil sample was taken from fill (127) for potential finds retrieval – no finds were present in the sample (Section 6.1).

5.33.3 Clay marling ditch [132] was located in the south-western part of the trench; it was sub rectangular in plan and continued out of the eastern limit of excavation. The ditch had sub vertical-sloping sides and a flat base and measured 0.57m by 1.05m and was 0.21m deep. It had two fills; a basal fill of dark grey black silty peat (131) which contained no finds and an upper fill of dark black-brown silty peat (130) which contained frequent charcoal flecks. Ditch [132] cut pit [134].

5.33.4 Pit [134] was located in the south-western part of the trench; it was sub circular in plan with slightly-sloping sides and a concave base and measured 1.20m by 1.19m and was 0.14m deep. It had a single fill of light brown grey silty clay (133) which contained no finds. Pit [134] was cut by ditch [132].

TRENCH 32	Figures 2, 3 and 6	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 0.16m Level of Natural (m OD): 0.23m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NE End	SW End
Topsoil	(100)	0.39m	0.33m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.47m	0.43m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.60+m	0.50+m
Summary			
Trench 32 was located in the central area of the site.			
The trench contained 2 undated pits, as well as 4 clay marling ditches.			

5.34 Trench 33

5.34.1 Trench 33 contained a single undated pit, as well as 5 clay marling ditches.

5.34.2 Pit [137] (Figure 9; Plate 9) was located in the south-eastern part of the

trench; it was sub circular in plan with steeply-sloping sides and a concave base and measured 1.03m by 1.01m and was 0.50m deep. It had two fills; a basal fill of mid-dark blue grey silty clay (136) which contained no finds and an upper fill of mid-light brown grey silt clay (135) which contained very rare charcoal flecks. As there was no dating evidence recovered from any deposits within this pit, a 40litre soil sample was taken from fill (136) for potential finds retrieval – no finds were present in the sample (Section 6.1).

TRENCH 33	Figures 2, 3 and 7	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 0.32m Level of Natural (m OD): 0.43m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.30m	0.33m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.40m	0.45m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.50+m	0.56+m
Summary			
Trench 33 was located along the eastern boundary of the site.			
The trench contained a single undated pit, as well as 5 clay marling ditches.			

5.35 Trench 34

5.35.1 Trench 34 contained 4 clay marling ditches.

TRENCH 34	Figure 2 and 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 0.70m Level of Natural (m OD): 0.83m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NE End	SW End
Topsoil	(100)	0.30m	0.22m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.40m	0.34m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.53+m	0.47+m
Summary			
Trench 34 was located in the south-eastern corner of the site.			
The trench contained 4 clay marling ditches.			

5.36 Trench 35

5.36.1 Trench 35 contained 7 clay marling ditches.

5.36.2 Clay marling ditch [145] (Figure 9) was located in the south-eastern part of the trench; it was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west and continued out of both limits of excavation. The ditch had sub vertical-sloping sides and a flat base and measured 2.00+m by 0.85m and was 0.35m deep. It had a single fill of dark grey black silty peat (144) which contained no finds.

TRENCH 35	Figures 2, 3 and 8	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 0.50m Level of Natural (m OD): 0.55m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.29m	0.22m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.39m	0.33m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.46+m	0.38+m
Summary			
Trench 35 was located in the south-eastern corner of the site.			
The trench contained 7 clay marling ditches.			

5.37 Trench 36

5.37.1 Trench 36 contained a single modern pit, containing a single animal burial, as well as 6 clay marling ditches.

5.37.2 Pit [139] was located in the south-western part of the trench; it was sub oval in plan and continued out of the western limit of excavation. The pit had slightly-sloping sides and a concave base and measured 0.80+m by 0.66m and was 0.11m deep. It had a single fill of mid-light grey brown sandy silt (138) which contained a single modern animal burial and frequent lime. The animal remains were not retained.

TRENCH 36	Figure 2 and 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 0.11m Level of Natural (m OD): 0.16m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NE End	SW End
Topsoil	(100)	0.26m	0.27m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.43m	0.40m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.50+m	0.46+m

Summary

Trench 36 was located in the southern area of the site.
The trench contained a single modern animal burial, as well as 6 clay marling ditches.

5.38 Trench 37

5.38.1 Trench 37 contained 9 clay marling ditches.

5.38.2 Clay marling ditch [119] was located in the central part of the trench; it was sub rectangular in plan and continued out of the northern limit of excavation. The pit had very slightly-sloping sides and a flat base and measured 1.80+m by 0.70m and was 0.06m deep. It had a single fill of dark grey black silty peat (120) which contained no finds.

5.38.3 Clay marling ditch [121] was located in the south-eastern part of the trench; it was sub oval in plan and continued out of the northern limit of excavation. The ditch had moderately-sloping sides and a concave base and measured 1.75+m by 1.08m and was 0.10m deep. It had two fills; a basal fill of mid red brown silty peat (125) which contained no finds and an upper fill of dark grey black silty peat (122) which contained no finds.

TRENCH 37	Figure 2 and 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.41m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.36m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.30m	0.27m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.38m	0.45m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.38+m	0.50+m
Summary			
Trench 37 was located in the southern area of the site. The trench contained 9 clay marling ditches.			

5.39 Trench 38

5.39.1 Trench 38 contained no archaeological features or deposits.

TRENCH 38	Figure 2 and 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.39m	

		Level of Natural (m OD): -0.26m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NE End	SW End
Topsoil	(100)	0.29m	0.27m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.42m	0.40m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.54+m	0.53+m
Summary			
Trench 38 was located in the south-western corner of the site.			
The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.			

5.40 Trench 39

5.40.1 Trench 39 contained 2 clay marling ditches.

TRENCH 39	Figure 2 and 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.51m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.38m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.27m	0.27m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.37m	0.36m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.51+m	0.49+m
Summary			
Trench 39 was located in the south-western corner of the site.			
The trench contained 2 clay marling ditches.			

5.41 Trench 40

5.41.1 Trench 40 contained 3 clay marling ditches.

TRENCH 40	Figure 2 and 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.64m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.55m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NE End	SW End
Topsoil	(100)	0.37m	0.39m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.46m	0.46m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.50+m	0.55+m
Summary			

Trench 40 was located in the south-western corner of the site.
The trench contained 3 clay marling ditches.

5.42 Trench 41

5.42.1 Trench 41 contained 8 clay marling ditches.

5.42.2 Clay marling ditch [103] was located in the western part of the trench; it was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west and continued out of both limits of excavation. The ditch had sub vertical-sides and a flat base and measured 2.00+m by 1.00m and was 0.44m deep. It had a single fill of dark grey black silty peat (104) which contained frequent wood inclusions.

5.42.3 Clay marling ditch [105] was located in the central part of the trench; it was sub rectangular in plan and continued out of the northern limit of excavation. The ditch had slightly-sloping sides and a concave base and measured 1.40+m by 1.00m and was 0.12m deep. It had a single fill of dark grey black silty peat (106) which contained no finds.

TRENCH 41	Figure 2 and 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.39m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.29m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		E End	W End
Topsoil	(100)	0.32m	0.28m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.40m	0.40m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.50+m	0.48+m
Summary			
Trench 41 was located in the south-western corner of the site. The trench contained 8 clay marling ditches.			

5.43 Trench 42

5.43.1 Trench 42 contained 10 clay marling ditches.

TRENCH 42	Figure 2 and 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.40m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.36m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	

		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.28m	0.28m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.39m	0.37m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.43+m	0.42+m
Summary			
Trench 42 was located in the south-western corner of the site.			
The trench contained 10 clay marling ditches.			

5.44 Trench 43

5.44.1 Trench 43 contained 8 clay marling ditches.

TRENCH 43	Figure 2 and 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): -0.18m Level of Natural (m OD): -0.10m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NE End	
		SW End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.30m	0.32m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.50m	0.40m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.58+m	0.50+m
Summary			
Trench 43 was located along the southern boundary of the site.			
The trench contained 8 clay marling ditches.			

5.45 Trench 44

5.45.1 Trench 44 contained 3 clay marling ditches.

TRENCH 44	Figure 2 and 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 0.26m Level of Natural (m OD): 0.26m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	
		SE End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.29m	0.22m
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.43m	0.30m
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.48+m	0.30+m
Summary			
Trench 44 was located along the southern boundary of the site.			
The trench contained 3 clay marling ditches.			

5.46 Trench 45

5.46.1 Trench 45 contained a single modern ditch and 2 clay marling ditches.

TRENCH 45	Figure 2 and 3		Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 0.69m Level of Natural (m OD): 0.60m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		NE End	SW End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.20m	0.27m	
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.32m	0.33m	
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.40+m	0.42+m	
Summary				
Trench 45 was located in the south-eastern corner of the site.				
The trench contained a single modern ditch and 2 clay marling ditches.				

5.47 Trench 46

5.47.1 Trench 46 contained no archaeological features or deposits.

TRENCH 46	Figure 2 and 3		Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 30m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 0.78m Level of Natural (m OD): 0.83m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		NW End	SE End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.20m	0.15m	
Natural (min depth)	(102)	0.29m	0.30m	
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.34+m	0.40+m	
Summary				
Trench 46 was located in the south-eastern corner of the site.				
The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.				

6 THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Plant Macrofossils

By Val Fryer

Introduction and Methodology

6.1.1 Evaluation excavations at Ramsey Heights, undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA), recorded a small number of undated features with alluvial fills. It was tentatively suggested that these deposits may pre-date the formation of the local fen peats, although this hypothesis has yet to be verified, especially as post-medieval/modern marl pits were also recorded within the excavation trenches. Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from the fills within pits [129] and [137], with two being submitted for assessment.

6.1.2 The samples were bulk floated by PCA 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). Most plant remains are preserved in a de-watered state, but it is currently unclear whether any modern contaminants may be present within this assemblage. Charcoal/charred wood fragments and occasional charred seeds are also recorded along with modern roots and fungal sclerotia.

Results

6.1.3 Charcoal/charred wood fragments are present within both assemblages, but with the exception of a single seed of hemp nettle (*Galeopsis* sp.) and a further indeterminate charred seed, all other plant remains are de-watered. It is thought most likely that the charred material is partly or wholly derived from dispersed midden waste, as although charcoal is reasonably common within the assemblage from pit [137], the overall density of material is still quite low and it would appear very unlikely that any of the remains were deliberately placed within the feature fills. The presence of this charred material may imply that there was some human activity occurring within the

near vicinity, but in the absence of associative dating, this hypothesis is only of marginal significance. The de-watered elements within the assemblages are strongly suggestive of a marginal and largely undisturbed wetland habitat. However, as stated above, the antiquity (or otherwise) of these remains is currently uncertain.

Conclusions

6.1.4 In summary, as neither of the current assemblages is clearly dated, it is difficult to assess how significant the recovered macrofossils may or may not be. Anthropogenic detritus is present along with materials derived from a wetland habitat, but it is impossible to ascertain whether the material pre-dates the local peat formation or whether it is more recent in date.

Key to Table

x = 1 – 10 specimens xx – 11 – 50 specimens xxxx = 100+ specimens

w = de-watered cf = compare

Sample No.	1000	1001
Context No.	127	136
Feature No.	129	137
Dry land herbs		
Chenopodium album L.		xw
Chenopodiaceae indet.	xw	xw
Galeopsis sp.		x
Wetland/aquatic plants		
Alisma plantago-aquatica L.	xxxxw	xw
Eleocharis sp.	xw	
Euphrasia/Odontites sp.	xw	
Hydrocotyle vulgaris L.	xw	
Juncus sp.	xw	
Potamogeton sp.	xcfw	
Ranunculus subg Batrachium (DC)A.Gray	xxw	xw
Other plant macrofossils		
Charcoal <2mm	x	xxxx
Charcoal >2mm	x	xx

Charred root/stem	x	
Indet. seed		x
Characeae indet.	xxxxw	xw
Wood frags. <5mm	xxw	
Wood frags. >10mm	xw	
Other remains		
Caddis larval cases	xw	xw
Mollusc shells		
Freshwater obligate species		
Armiger crista	x	
Bithynia sp.	xcf	
Valvata cristata	x	
Sample volume (litres)	40	40
Volume of flot (litres)	0.2	0.1
% flot sorted	50%	100%

7 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Undated features

7.1.1 The principal result of the evaluation was the discovery of three pits, two of which were steep sided, and two ditch terminals, also undated.

7.1.2 The distribution of these features across the site does not allow the confident suggestion of a focus of activity anywhere on the site. The lack of dating evidence along with the similarity of fills only permits the tentative interpretation that these features are contemporary.

7.1.3 The two steep sided pits recorded in trenches 32 and 33 are more likely to be contemporary given the similarity of fills as well as shape in plan and profile. With no dating evidence retrieved, the environmental samples analysis was limited and the overall density of material in these samples was found to be low (Section 6.1).

7.2 Post-medieval / Modern Claying Ditches

7.2.1 Almost every trench also contained large numbers of segmented clay marling ditches arranged in linear patterns, which would have been created in the post-medieval to modern period in order to provide clay to consolidate the friable peat soil of the fenland. Two phases were identified on site: an earlier northeast to southwest and northwest to south east aligned phase and a later phase on a north-south and east-west alignment. The segmented ditches of the earlier phase had more rounded ends which may suggest a different method of digging-out when created. These features were exclusively filled with degraded peat but no datable finds were recovered. The extremely regular nature of much of these ditches suggests they were machine or plough excavated in the post-medieval or modern period.

7.2.2 The results can be characterised as having a local significance in terms of past agricultural practices.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank CgMs Consulting Ltd for commissioning the work and Anthil Plant Hire for providing and operating the mechanical excavator. PCA are also grateful to Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team for her advice and for monitoring the work and PCA's CAD department for preparing the figures. The fieldwork was directed by Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourn, assisted by Clare Jackson and Ciaran Grace and managed by Taleyna Fletcher.

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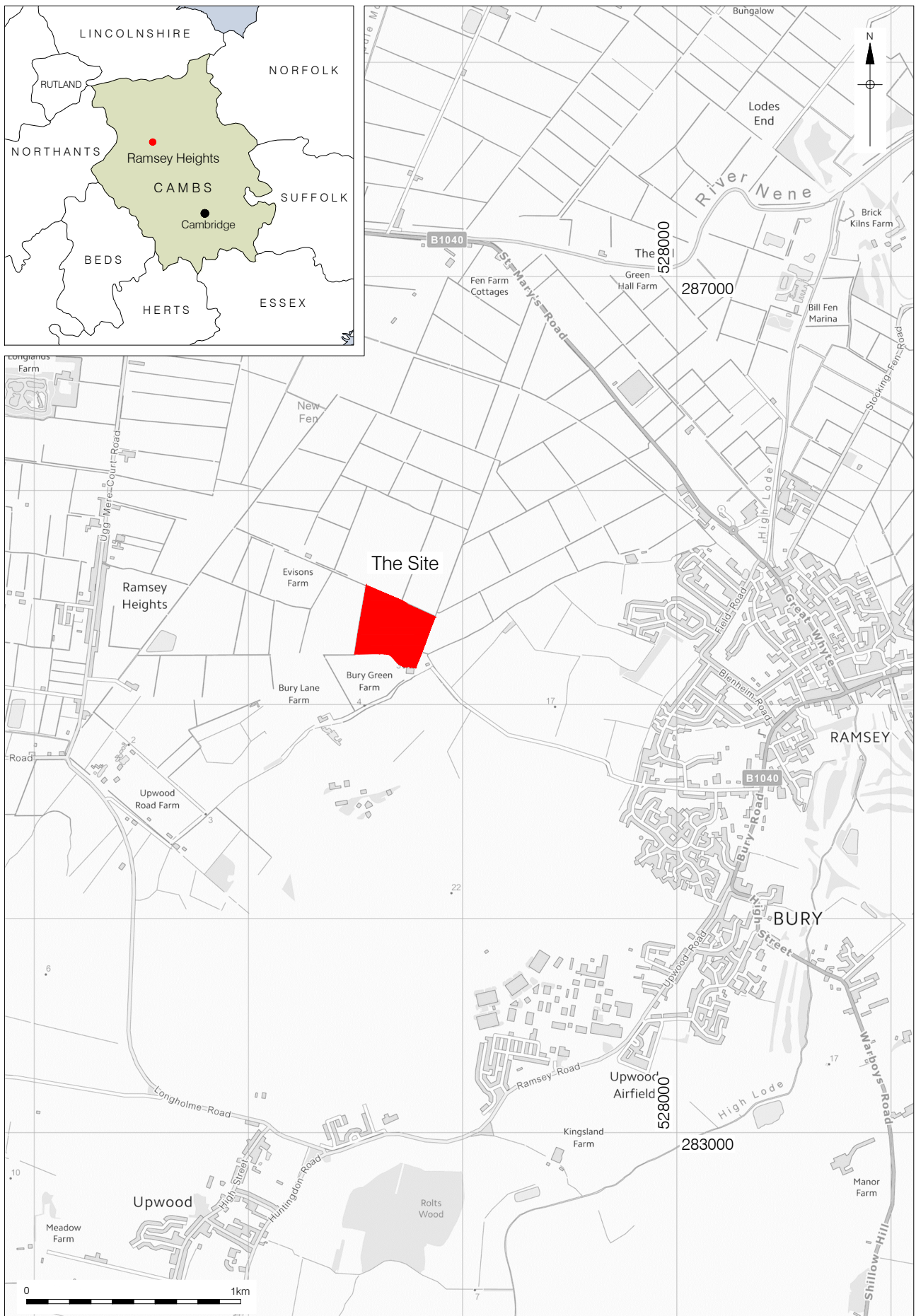
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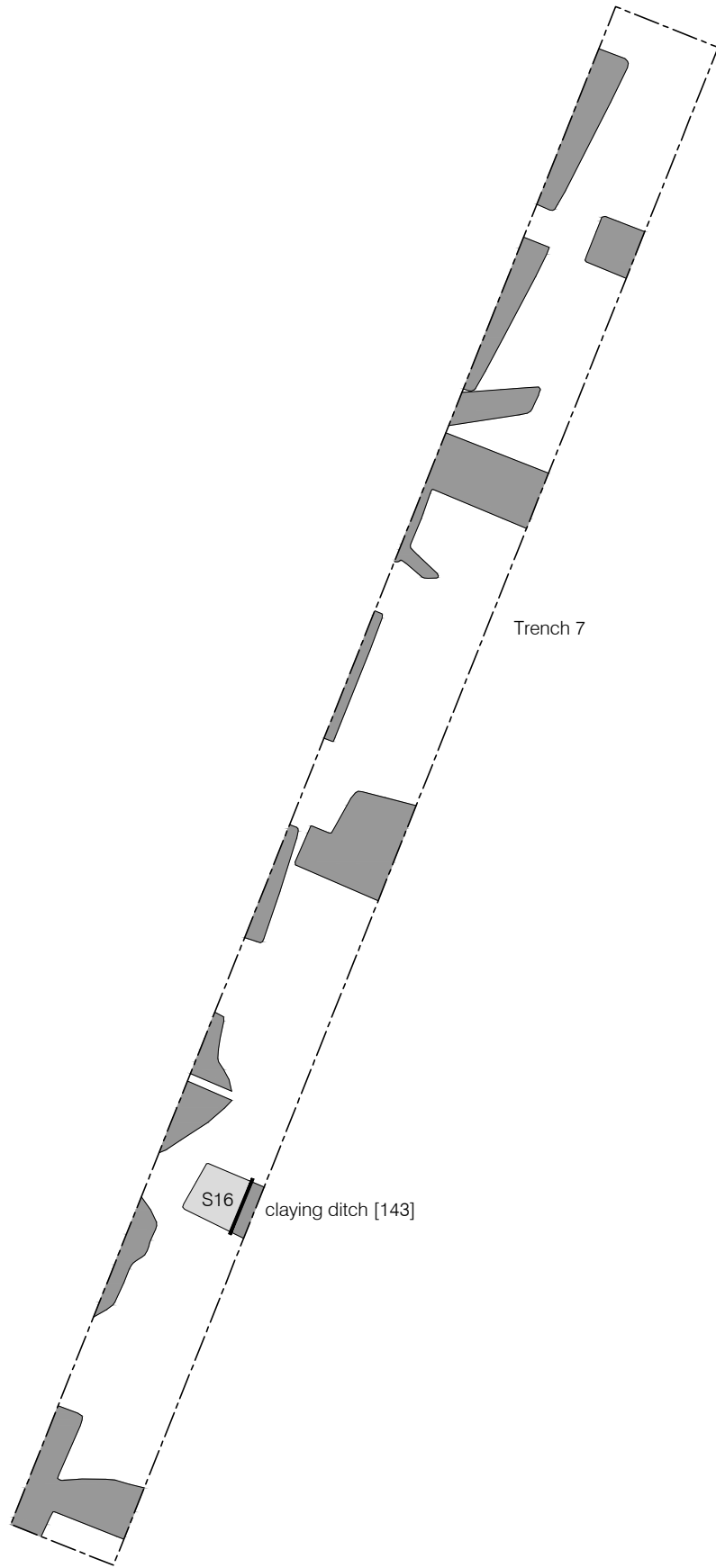
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Figure 1
Site Location
1:2,000,000; 1:25,000 at A4







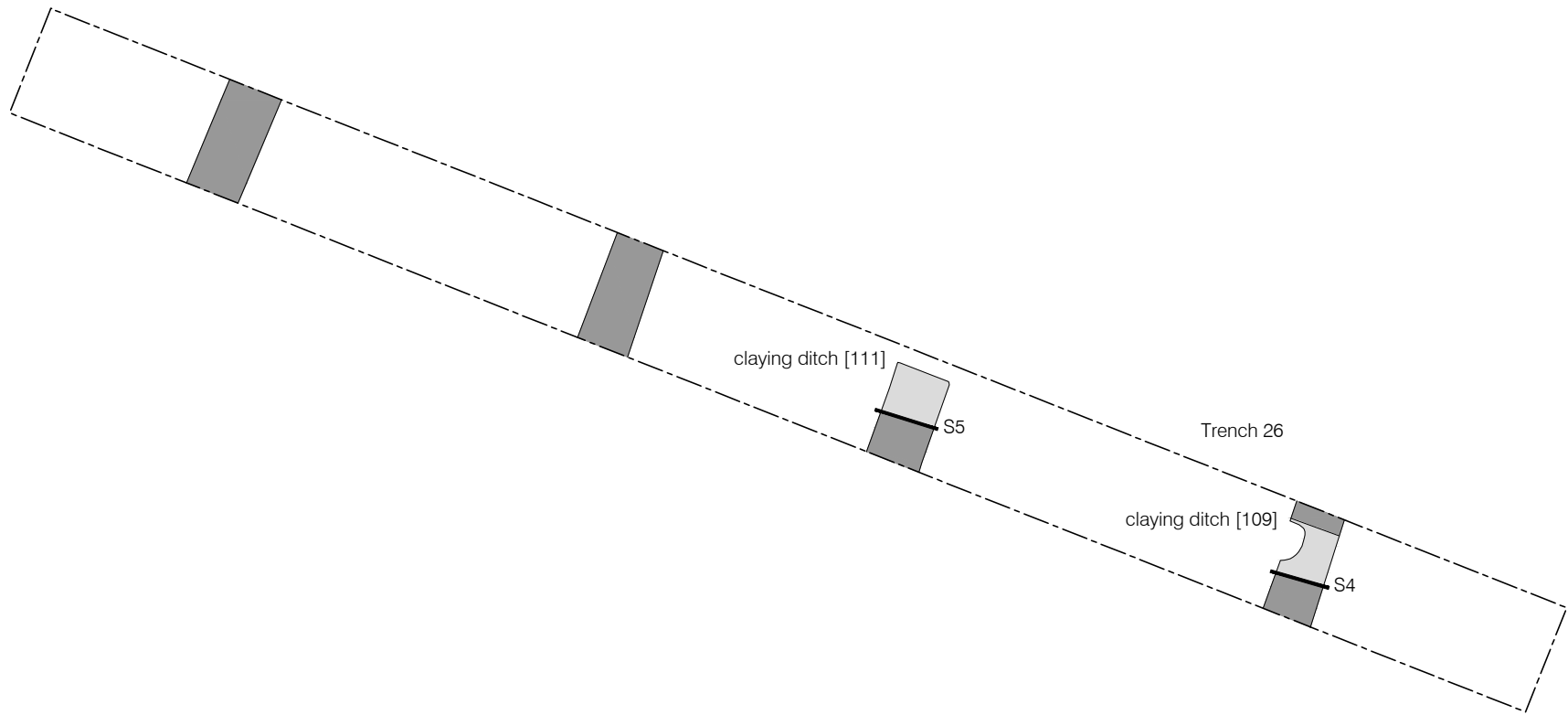
■ Post-Medieval/Modern Claying Ditch

■ Excavated Slot

0 5m

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Figure 4
Trench 7 Plan
1:125 at A4



■ Post-Medieval/Modern Claying Ditch

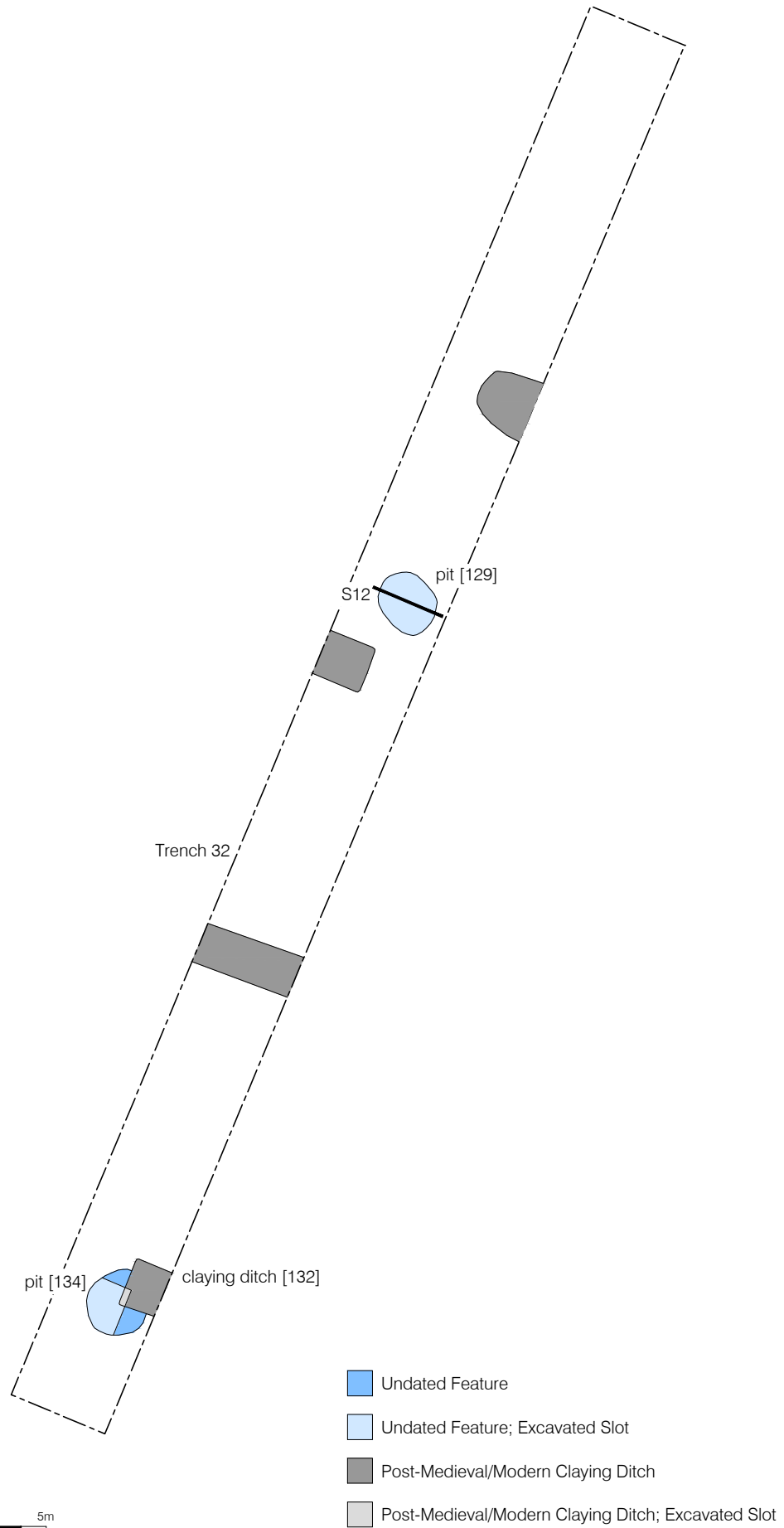
■ Excavated Slot

0 5m

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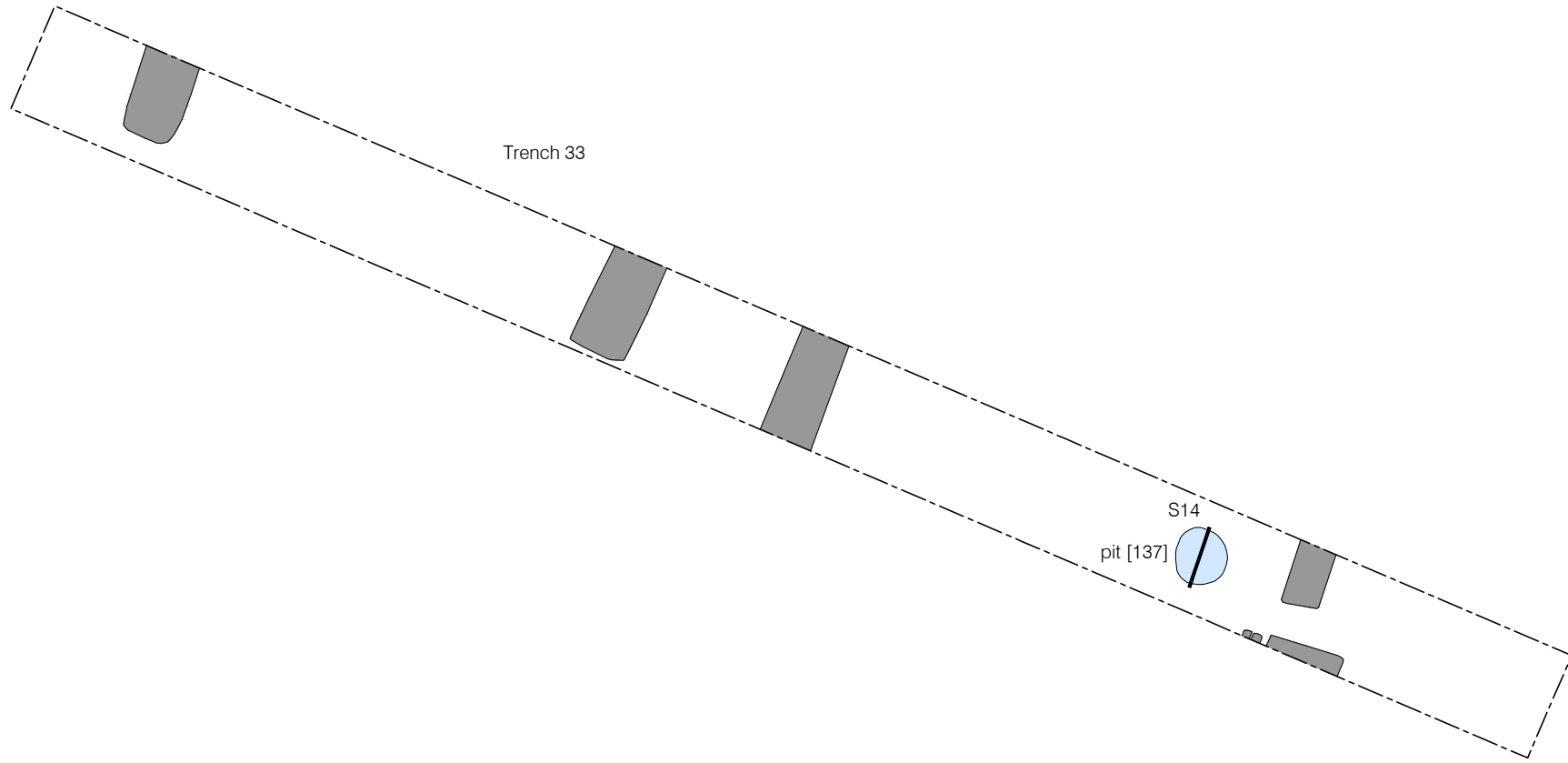
Figure 5
Trench 26 Plan
1:125 at A4



0 5m

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Figure 6
Trench 32 Plan
1:125 at A4



Trench 33

S14

pit [137]

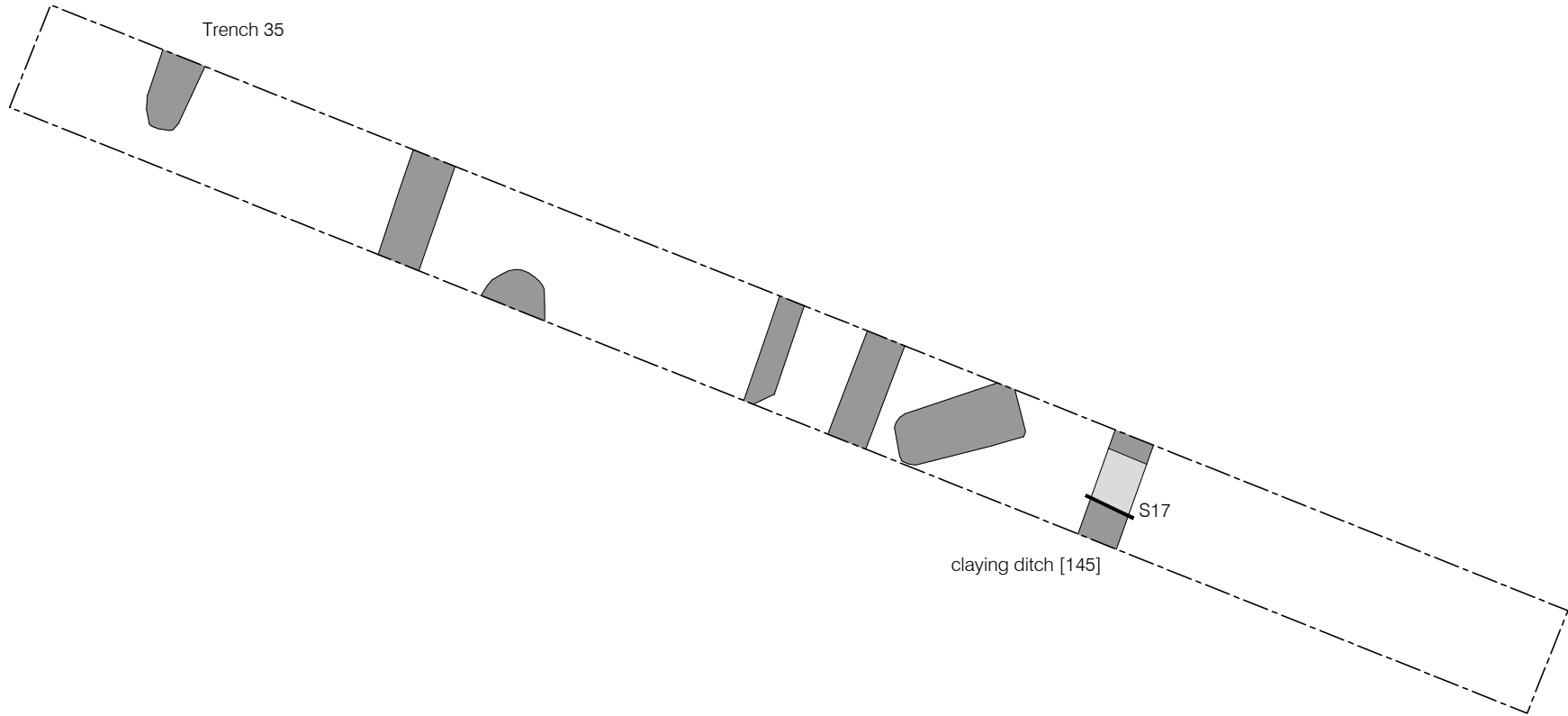
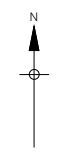
-  Undated Feature; Excavated
-  Post-Medieval/Modern Claying Ditch



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Figure 7
Trench 33 Plan
1:125 at A4



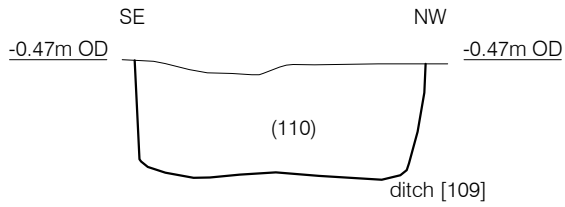
- Post-Medieval/Modern Claying Ditch
- Excavated Slot

0 5m

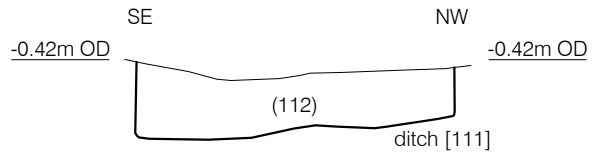
© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2015

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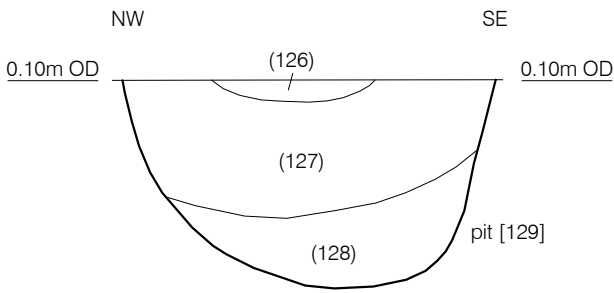
Figure 8
Trench 35 Plan
1:125 at A4



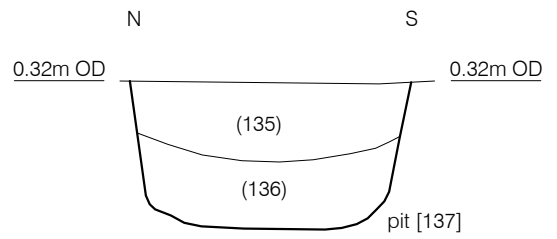
Section 4
Trench 26
Northeast Facing



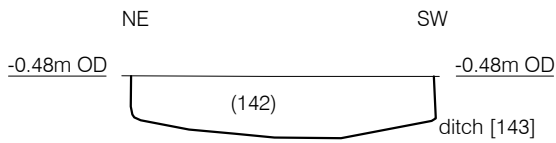
Section 5
Trench 26
Northeast Facing



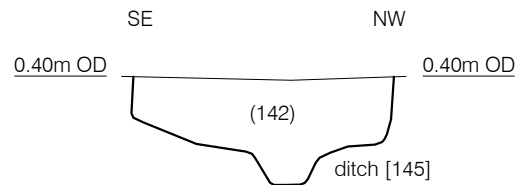
Section 12
Trench 32
Southwest Facing



Section 14
Trench 33
West Facing



Section 16
Trench 7
Northwest Facing



Section 17
Trench 35
Northeast Facing

0 1m
© Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2015
10/12/15 JS

Figure 9
Sections
1:25 at A4

10 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: The Site, view north



Plate 2: The site, machining



Plate 3: Trench 3, view south-east



Plate 4: Ditch terminus [141], Trench 6, view north-east



Plate 5: Clay marling ditch [115], Trench 12, view north



Plate 6: Trench 16, view north-west



Plate 7: Clay marling ditch [111], Trench 26, view north-east



Plate 8: Pit [129], Trench 32, view north-east



Plate 9: Pit [137], Trench 33, view south-east

11 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context Number	Trench	Cut	Type	Category	Period
100	0	0	Layer	Topsoil	0
101	0	0	Layer	Subsoil	0
102	0	0	Layer	Natural	0
103	41	103	Cut	Ditch	modern?
104	41	103	Fill	Ditch	modern?
105	41	105	Cut	Ditch	modern?
106	41	105	Fill	Ditch	modern?
107	41	107	Cut	Ditch	modern?
108	41	107	Fill	Ditch	modern?
109	26	109	Cut	Ditch	modern?
110	26	109	Fill	Ditch	modern?
111	26	111	Cut	Ditch	modern?
112	26	111	Fill	Ditch	modern?
113	12	113	Cut	Ditch	modern?
114	12	113	Fill	Ditch	modern?
115	12	115	Cut	Ditch	modern?
116	12	115	Fill	Ditch	modern?
117	17	117	Cut	Pit	undated
118	17	117	Fill	Pit	undated
119	37	119	Cut	Ditch	modern
120	37	119	Fill	Ditch	modern
121	37	121	Cut	Ditch	modern
122	37	121	Fill	Ditch	modern
123	14	123	Cut	Ditch	undated
124	14	123	Fill	Ditch	undated
125	37	121	Fill	Ditch	modern
126	32	129	Cut	Pit	undated
127	32	129	Fill	Pit	undated
128	32	129	Cut	Pit	undated
129	32	129	Cut	Pit	undated
130	32	132	Fill	Ditch	modern
131	32	132	Fill	Ditch	modern
132	32	132	Cut	Ditch	modern
133	32	134	Fill	Pit	undated

134	32	134	Cut	Pit	undated
135	33	137	Fill	Pit	undated
136	33	137	Fill	Pit	undated
137	33	137	Cut	Pit	undated
138	36	139	Fill	Pit	modern
139	36	139	Cut	Pit	modern
140	6	141	Fill	Ditch	undated
141	6	141	Cut	Ditch	undated
142	7	143	Fill	Ditch	modern
143	7	143	Cut	Ditch	modern
144	35	145	Fill	Ditch	modern
145	35	145	Cut	Ditch	modern
146	5	147	Fill	Ditch	modern
147	5	147	Cut	Ditch	modern
148	6	141	Fill	Ditch	undated

12 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-226538

Project details

Project name Land North of Bury Green Farm and South of New Fen Road Lane, Ramsey Heights, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological TT Eval

Short description This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on Land North of Bury Green Farm and South of New Fen Road Lane, Ramsey Heights, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 2670 8533) between the 6th and the 12th November 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of Bury Green Farm Solar Ltd in response to a planning condition attached to the construction of a new solar farm with associated access and landscaping. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. The principal result of the evaluation was the discovery of two small steep sided undated pits and two ditch terminals. Almost every trench also contained large numbers of rectangular, segmented clay marling ditches arranged in linear patterns, which would have been created in the post-medieval to modern period in order to provide clay to consolidate the friable peat soil of the fenland.

Project dates Start: 26-10-2015 End: 29-10-2015

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes CRHR15 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m

Monument type DITCH Uncertain

Monument type PIT Uncertain

Monument type PIT Modern

Methods & "Sample Trenches","Targeted Trenches"
techniques

Development type Solar Farm

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the Not known / Not recorded
planning process

Project location

Country England

Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE RAMSEY Land
North of Bury Green Farm and South of New Fen Road
Lane, Ramsey Heights, Cambridgeshire

Postcode PE26 2RX

Study area 2484 Square metres

Site coordinates TL 2670 8533 52.450827149319 -0.135369698436 52 27 02
N 000 08 07 W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 0.33m Max: 0.63m

Project creators

Name of PCA
Organisation

Project brief CCC Historic Environment Team
originator

Project design PCA Central
originator

Project Taleyna Fletcher
director/manager

Project supervisor Lawrence Morgan-Shelbourne

Type of Developer
sponsor/funding

body

Name of Bury Green Farm Solar Ltd

sponsor/funding

body

Project archives

Physical Archive No

Exists?

Digital Archive CCC County Archaeology Store

recipient

Digital Contents "Environmental"

Digital Media "Database","Spreadsheets","Text"

available

Paper Archive CCC County Archaeology Store

recipient

Paper Contents "Environmental"

Paper Media "Context

available sheet","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey "

Project

bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

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Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Author(s)/Editor(s) Fletcher, T and Morgan-Shelbourne, L.

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Entered on 19 November 2015

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