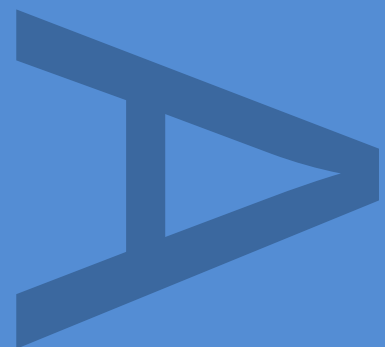


**LAND AT UPWOOD AIRFIELD,
RAMSEY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL
TRENCH EVALUATION**

December 2015

Rev 2



LAND AT UPWOOD AIRFIELD,
RAMSEY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Control

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Land at Upwood Airfield, Ramsey, Cambridgeshire:

Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Local Planning Authority: Huntingdonshire District Council

Planning Reference: 15/00768/FUL

Central National Grid Reference: TL 26659 85382

Cambridgeshire Event Number: ECB4575

Site Code: CBLR15

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CONTENTS

CONTENTS	2
ABSTRACT	3
1 INTRODUCTION	4
2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY	5
3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	6
4 METHODOLOGY	9
5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE	11
6 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS	24
7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	25
8 BIBLIOGRAPHY	26
9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES	34
10 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX	39
11 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM	40
FIGURE 1 SITE LOCATION	27
FIGURE 2 TRENCH LOCATION	28
FIGURE 3 GEOPHYSICS	29
FIGURE 4 TRENCHES 4 AND 11	30
FIGURE 5 TRENCHES 19 AND 21	31
FIGURE 6 TRENCHES 23 AND 24	32
FIGURE 7 TRENCH 25	33
PLATE 1: THE SITE, VIEW NORTH-EAST	34
PLATE 2: THE SITE, MACHINING, VIEW NORTH	35
PLATE 3: TRENCH 6, VIEW NORTH	36
PLATE 4: TRENCH 12, VIEW NORTH-WEST	37
PLATE 5: DITCH [117], TRENCH 19, VIEW SOUTH-EAST	38

ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on Land at Upwood Airfield, Ramsey, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 27098 84760) between the 26th and the 29th of October 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of Ramsey 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 small numbers of undated ditches of similar alignment, which are likely to represent field boundaries and land division in the post-medieval to modern periods. No other features of archaeological interest were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at Upwood Airfield, Ramsey, Cambridgeshire, (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 26659 85382) from the 26th to the 29th of October 2015 (Figure 1; Plate 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Ramsey 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 15/00768/FUL).
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Mary-Anne Slater of PCA (Slater 2015) in response to a condition placed on the development by Huntingdonshire District Council following comments provided by Kasia Gdaniec of the 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 twenty-seven 50 x 1.8m (2430m²) trial trenches were excavated and recorded. The trench locations were designed to target a number of anomalies identified in a geophysical survey undertaken prior to investigations (Figure 3). No corresponding features were identified during the evaluation.
- 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 Oxford Clay Formation. Sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 156 to 165 million years ago in the Jurassic Period when the local environment was dominated by shallow seas.

2.1.2 The bedrock is overlain by superficial deposits of Oadby Member - Diamicton. These were formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment was dominated by ice age conditions (British Geological Survey; Website 1).

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The site comprises an area of approximately 10ha of agricultural land. It is located 1.5km to the west of the Cambridgeshire village of Ramsey, 13km north-east of Huntingdon. The site is situated at an elevation of approximately 11m OD to the north rising to 21m OD to the south. The site also rises from 13m OD to the west to 20m OD to the east. The surrounding area is generally flat, although the site is situated at the edge of Ramsey 'island' which rises to the south and east. The site is located 2km south of the old course of the River Nene and 1.2km 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 (HER). This archaeological and historical background has been drawn from the desk based assessment for the site (Dicks 2015).
- 3.1.2 The data obtained from the HER includes 41 'event' records within the search area. This includes programmes of archaeological fieldwalking, geophysical survey and trial trenching carried out in connection with development proposals at Upwood Airfield. The nearest 'event' recorded on the HER refers to an 11 trench evaluation c.350m west of the study site. No archaeological remains were recorded.
- 3.1.3 A geophysical survey of the site (Tanner 2015) identified areas of magnetic disturbance and some weak trends, which were interpreted as relating to the former use of the site as an airfield.

3.2 Prehistoric

- 3.2.1 A single Palaeolithic handaxe (02877) found at Ramsey Vicarage, c.1.7m east of the site, is the only artefact known from this period. No Mesolithic remains are recorded on the HER from the study area. Neolithic flint artefacts including a number of axes have been discovered at a number of locations within the study area (01756, 01757, 01899, 02871 and 07810).

3.3 Iron Age and Roman

- 3.3.1 Archaeological investigations on land at Field Road, Ramsey c.600m north-east of the study site, recorded a cluster of intercutting pits dating to the early to middle Iron Age (20288).
- 3.3.2 Excavations at Owl's End Road, Bury c.1.4km south-east of the study site, recorded a late Iron Age/early Romano-British settlement comprising a small isolated hamlet (10115).
- 3.3.3 A Roman site has been suggested to be present on land off Bury Lane

Farm, c.600m west of the study site, where the farmer has recovered a large quantity of Roman pottery (01855).

- 3.3.4 Archaeological investigations at RAF Upwood, c.900m south-east of the study site, recorded a number of gullies dating to the Roman period. The features, possibly truncated by the airfield development, appear to form part of a Roman ditched field system (19643).
- 3.3.5 An antiquarian reference records a Roman 'pavement and coins' (02888; Stukeley 1724 *Itinerarium Curiosum*) at Ramsey, although gives no further details.
- 3.3.6 The remaining HER records dating to the Roman period (02882, 2886, 08669, 18127, 02872, 01550, 02874, 07807 and 08016A) are unstratified finds mostly of small quantities of pottery. The nearest find spot being c.600m west of the study site.

3.4 Saxon and Medieval

- 3.4.1 The Benedictine Abbey of Ramsey, 1.7km 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 Booth's Hill (Scheduled Monument 1004643), a small motte within a moat on the south side of the Ramsey Abbey enclosure, was probably built by Geoffrey de Mandeville in the twelfth century. The church of Thomas a Becket (02832), located to the north-west of the abbey was also built in the twelfth century, probably originally as the abbey infirmary, before becoming the parish church in the thirteenth century.
- 3.4.3 Further medieval remains are recorded to the west of the Abbey, suggesting that the core of the current town overlies the core of the medieval settlement. These remains cluster along Ramsey's two major roads, The Great Whyte

and High Street, more than 1.4km east of the study site.

- 3.4.4 Outside the medieval settlement core, the site of a medieval moated manor house, Biggin House (01033), which was probably built in the sixteenth century, is located 250m east of the study site. This site has now been levelled; with the HER noting that no remains survive.
- 3.4.5 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 (Page 1932).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Excavation and Sampling

4.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation proposed the excavation of 27 trial trenches, distributed across the site. Some trenches were targeted to investigate geophysical anomalies, and some were repositioned prior to trenching commencing in order to avoid environmental assets such as badger setts and hedgerows (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 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.

4.1.3 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.

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.

4.2 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 (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 subdivided into feature type, before being described in numeric cut order within the trench. Archaeological features and deposits were sealed by the subsoil, unless otherwise stated.

5.2 Trench 1

5.2.1 Trench 1 contained no archaeological features.

TRENCH 1	Figures 2, 3		Plate -	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 50m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 11.07 Level of Natural (m OD): 11.37		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		N End	S End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.22m	0.18m	
Subsoil	(101)	0.30m	0.36m	
Natural (max machined depth)	(102)	0.50+m	0.43+m	
Summary				
Trench 1 was located in the northern corner of the site. The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.				

5.3 Trench 2

5.3.1 Trench 2 contained no archaeological features.

TRENCH 2	Figures 2, 3		Plate -	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 50m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 11.93 Level of Natural (m OD): 12.00		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		E End	W End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.16m	0.15m	
Subsoil	(101)	0.30m	0.28m	
Natural (max extent)	(102)	0.44+m	0.35+m	
Summary				
Trench 2 was located in the northern corner of the site. The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.				

5.4 Trench 3

5.4.1 Trench 3 contained no archaeological features.

TRENCH 3	Figures 2, 3		Plate -	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 50m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 13.31 Level of Natural (m OD): 11.38		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		N End	S End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.14m	0.15m	
Subsoil	(101)	0.30m	0.28m	
Natural (max extent)	(102)	0.38+m	0.35+m	
Summary				
Trench 3 was located in the northern corner of the site. The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.				

5.5 Trench 4

5.5.1 Trench 4 contained a single undated ditch, which is likely to represent a post-medieval to modern field boundary.

5.5.2 Ditch [103] was located in the western part of the trench; it was aligned north-west to south-east and continued out of both limits of excavation. It was 0.47m wide and 0.17m deep with moderately-sloping sides and a concave base. It had a single fill (104) of mid grey brown silty clay which contained no finds.

TRENCH 4	Figures 2, 3, 4		Plate -	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 50m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 14.26 Level of Natural (m OD): 14.36		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		E End	W End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.13m	0.18m	
Subsoil	(101)	0.33m	0.33m	
Natural (max extent)	(102)	0.37+m	0.43+m	
Summary				
Trench 4 was located in the northern corner of the site. The trench contained a single undated ditch.				

5.6 Trench 5

5.6.1 Trench 5 contained no archaeological features.

TRENCH 5	Figures 2, 3		Plate -	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 50m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 12.31 Level of Natural (m OD): 12.40		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		N End	S End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.19m	0.16m	
Subsoil	(101)	0.35m	0.29m	
Natural (max extent)	(102)	0.46+m	0.36+m	
Summary				
Trench 5 was located in the northern area of the site.				
The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.				

5.7 Trench 6

5.7.1 Trench 6 contained no archaeological features.

TRENCH 6	Figures 2, 3		Plate 3	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 50m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 14.26 Level of Natural (m OD): 14.32		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		N End	S End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.20m	0.20m	
Subsoil	(101)	0.30m	0.30m	
Natural (max extent)	(102)	0.36+m	0.36+m	
Summary				
Trench 6 was located in the northern area of the site.				
The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.				

5.8 Trench 7

5.8.1 Trench 7 contained no archaeological features.

TRENCH 7	Figures 2, 3		Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 50m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 15.69 Level of Natural (m OD): 15.82		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		NE End	SW End	

Topsoil	(100)	0.23m	0.13m
Subsoil	(101)	0.37m	0.31m
Natural (max extent)	(102)	0.50+m	0.37+m
Summary			
Trench 7 was located in the northern area of the site.			
The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.			

5.9 Trench 8

5.9.1 Trench 8 contained no archaeological features.

TRENCH 8	Figures 2, 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 50m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 12.82 Level of Natural (m OD): 12.89	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		E End	W End
Topsoil	(100)	0.15m	0.12m
Subsoil	(101)	0.33m	0.30m
Natural (max extent)	(102)	0.42+m	0.37+m
Summary			
Trench 8 was located in the northern area of the site.			
The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.			

5.10 Trench 9

5.10.1 Trench 9 contained no archaeological features.

TRENCH 9	Figures 2, 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 50m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 13.60 Level of Natural (m OD): 13.68	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.16m	0.23m
Subsoil	(101)	0.32m	0.49m
Natural (max extent)	(102)	0.40+m	0.55+m
Summary			
Trench 9 was located in the northern area of the site.			
The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.			

5.11 Trench 10

5.11.1 Trench 10 contained no archaeological features.

TRENCH 10	Figures 2, 3		Plate -	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 50m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 15.65 Level of Natural (m OD): 15.75		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		E End	W End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.15m	0.12m	
Subsoil	(101)	0.31m	0.24m	
Natural (max extent)	(102)	0.41+m	0.34+m	
Summary				
Trench 10 was located in the northern area of the site. The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.				

5.12 Trench 11

5.12.1 Trench 11 contained a single undated ditch, which is likely to represent a post-medieval to modern field boundary.

5.12.2 Ditch [107] was located in the southern part of the trench; it was aligned north-west to south-east and continued out of both limits of excavation. It was 1.08m wide and 0.07m deep with very slightly-sloping sides and a concave base. It had a single fill (106) of mid grey brown sandy clay which contained no finds.

TRENCH 11	Figures 2, 3, 4		Plate -	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 50m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 16.65 Level of Natural (m OD): 16.71		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		N End	S End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.15m	0.26m	
Subsoil	(101)	0.34m	0.53m	
Natural (max extent)	(102)	0.40+m	0.60+m	
Summary				
Trench 11 was located in the northern area of the site. The trench contained a single undated ditch.				

5.13 Trench 12

5.13.1 Trench 12 contained no archaeological features.

TRENCH 12	Figures 2, 3		Plate 4	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 50m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 15.96 Level of Natural (m OD): 15.96		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		NW End	SE End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.21m	0.22m	
Made Up Ground	(105)	0.94m	1.20+m	
Natural (max extent)	(102)	0.94+m	-	
Summary				
Trench 12 was located in the central area of the site.				
The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits. The level of the natural was heavily truncated by modern made-up-ground deposits.				

5.14 Trench 13

5.14.1 Trench 13 contained no archaeological features.

TRENCH 13	Figures 2, 3		Plate -	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 50m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 16.67 Level of Natural (m OD): 16.67		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		N End	S End	
Topsoil	(100)	0.33m	0.26m	
Made Up Ground	(105)	0.52m	0.55m	
Natural (max extent)	(102)	0.52+m	0.55+m	
Summary				
Trench 13 was located in the central area of the site.				
The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits. The level of the natural was heavily truncated by modern made-up-ground deposits.				

5.15 Trench 14

5.15.1 Trench 14 contained no archaeological features.

TRENCH 14	Figures 2, 3		Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 50m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 17.81 Level of Natural (m OD): 17.81		

Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.36m	0.30m
Subsoil	(101)	0.46m	0.50m
Natural (max extent)	(102)	0.46+m	0.50+m
Summary			
Trench 14 was located in the central area of the site. The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.			

5.16 Trench 15

5.16.1 Trench 15 contained no archaeological features.

TRENCH 15	Figures 2, 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 50m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 18.16 Level of Natural (m OD): 18.16	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		N End	S End
Topsoil	(100)	0.26m	0.17m
Subsoil	(101)	0.56m	0.38m
Natural (max extent)	(102)	0.56+m	0.52m
Summary			
Trench 15 was located in the central area of the site. The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.			

5.17 Trench 16

5.17.1 Trench 16 contained no archaeological features.

TRENCH 16	Figures 2, 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 50m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 18.30 Level of Natural (m OD): 18.30	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		E End	W End
Topsoil	(100)	0.23m	0.30m
Subsoil	(101)	0.53m	0.60m
Natural (max extent)	(102)	0.60+m	0.60+m
Summary			
Trench 16 was located in the central area of the site.			

The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.

5.18 Trench 17

5.18.1 Trench 17 contained no archaeological features.

TRENCH 17	Figures 2, 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 50m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 19.70 Level of Natural (m OD): 19.70	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		N End	S End
Topsoil	(100)	0.32m	0.25m
Subsoil	(101)	-	0.49m
Made Up Ground	(105)	0.45+m	-
Natural (max extent)	(102)	-	0.49+m
Summary			
Trench 17 was located in the central area of the site.			
The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits. The level of the natural was heavily truncated by modern made-up-ground deposits to the north.			

5.19 Trench 18

5.19.1 Trench 18 contained no archaeological features.

TRENCH 18	Figures 2, 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 50m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 18.97 Level of Natural (m OD): 19.03	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		N End	S End
Topsoil	(100)	0.40m	0.32m
Subsoil	(101)	0.60m	0.50m
Natural (max extent)	(102)	0.66m	0.52m
Summary			
Trench 18 was located in the central area of the site.			
The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.			

5.20 Trench 19

5.20.1 Trench 19 contained a single undated ditch, which is likely to represent a post-medieval to modern field boundary.

5.20.2 Ditch [117] (Plate 5) was located in the central part of the trench; it was aligned north-west to south-east and continued out of both limits of excavation. It was 0.50m wide and 0.14m deep with moderately-sloping sides and a concave base. It had a single fill (116) of mid grey brown silty clay which contained no finds.

TRENCH 19	Figures 2, 3, 5	Plate 5	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 50m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 19.29 Level of Natural (m OD): 19.34	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		E End	W End
Topsoil	(100)	0.30m	0.27m
Subsoil	(101)	0.50m	0.43m
Natural (max extent)	(102)	0.50+m	0.48+m
Summary			
Trench 19 was located in the central area of the site. The trench contained a single undated ditch.			

5.21 Trench 20

5.21.1 Trench 20 contained no archaeological features.

TRENCH 20	Figures 2, 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 50m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 19.24 Level of Natural (m OD): 19.31	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		N End	S End
Topsoil	(100)	0.29m	0.37m
Subsoil	(101)	0.56m	0.59m
Natural (max extent)	(102)	0.63+m	0.59+m
Summary			
Trench 20 was located in the central area of the site. The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.			

5.22 Trench 21

5.22.1 Trench 21 contained a single undated ditch, which is likely to represent a post-medieval to modern field boundary.

5.22.2 Ditch [109] was located in the central part of the trench; it was aligned north-west to south-east and continued out of both limits of excavation. It was 0.50m wide and 0.09m deep with moderately-sloping sides and a flat base. It had a single fill (108) of light grey brown silty clay which contained no finds.

TRENCH 21	Figures 2, 3, 5	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 50m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 19.56 Level of Natural (m OD): 19.69	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		E End	W End
Topsoil	(100)	0.25m	0.27m
Subsoil	(101)	0.30m	0.43m
Natural (max extent)	(102)	0.50+m	0.56+m
Summary			
Trench 21 was located in the central area of the site. The trench contained a single undated ditch.			

5.23 Trench 22

5.23.1 Trench 22 contained no archaeological features.

TRENCH 22	Figures 2, 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 50m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 19.84 Level of Natural (m OD): 19.85	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		E End	W End
Topsoil	(100)	0.30m	0.30m
Subsoil	(101)	0.55m	0.55m
Natural (max extent)	(102)	0.55+m	0.56+m
Summary			
Trench 22 was located in the central area of the site. The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.			

5.24 Trench 23

5.24.1 Trench 23 contained a single undated ditch, which is likely to represent a post-medieval to modern field boundary.

5.24.2 Ditch [111] was located in the central part of the trench; it was aligned north-west to south-east and continued out of both limits of excavation. It was 0.51m wide and 0.11m deep with moderately-sloping sides and a concave base. It had a single fill (110) of light grey brown silty clay which contained no finds.

TRENCH 23	Figures 2, 3, 6	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 50m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 19.81 Level of Natural (m OD): 19.91	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.28m	0.38m
Subsoil	(101)	0.43m	0.50m
Natural (max extent)	(102)	0.53+m	0.53+m
Summary			
Trench 23 was located in the southern area of the site. The trench contained a single undated ditch.			

5.25 Trench 24

5.25.1 Trench 24 contained a single undated ditch, which is likely to represent a post-medieval to modern field boundary.

5.25.2 Ditch [115] was located in the northern part of the trench; it was aligned north-east to south-west and continued out of both limits of excavation. It was 0.42m wide and 0.10m deep with moderately-sloping sides and a concave base. It had a single fill (114) of light grey brown silty clay which contained no finds.

TRENCH 24	Figures 2, 3, 6	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 50m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 19.93 Level of Natural (m OD): 20.05	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		N End	S End
Topsoil	(100)	0.25m	0.26m
Subsoil	(101)	0.38m	0.46m
Natural (max extent)	(102)	0.50+m	0.50+m
Summary			

Trench 24 was located in the southern area of the site.
 The trench contained a single undated ditch.

5.26 Trench 25

5.26.1 Trench 25 contained a single undated ditch, which is likely to represent a post-medieval to modern field boundary.

5.26.2 Ditch [113] was located in the southern part of the trench; it was aligned north-east to south-west and continued out of both limits of excavation. It was 0.51m wide and 0.08m deep with slightly-sloping sides and a concave base. It had a single fill (112) of light grey brown silty clay which contained no finds.

TRENCH 25	Figures 2, 3, 7	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: N-S	Length: 50m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 20.45 Level of Natural (m OD): 20.47	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		N End	S End
Topsoil	(100)	0.28m	0.27m
Subsoil	(101)	0.48m	0.53m
Natural (max extent)	(102)	0.50+m	0.58+m
Summary			
Trench 25 was located in the southern corner of the site. The trench contained a single undated ditch.			

5.27 Trench 26

5.27.1 Trench 26 contained no archaeological features.

TRENCH 26	Figures 2, 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 50m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 20.54 Level of Natural (m OD): 20.61	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		E End	W End
Topsoil	(100)	0.24m	0.34m
Subsoil	(101)	-	0.50m
Made Up Ground	(105)	0.87+m	-
Natural (max extent)	(102)	-	0.57+m

Summary

Trench 26 was located in the southern corner of the site.
 The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits. The level of the natural was heavily truncated by modern made-up-ground deposits to the east.

5.28 Trench 27

5.28.1 Trench 27 contained no archaeological features.

TRENCH 27	Figures 2, 3	Plate -	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 50m	Max Machine Depth (m OD): 20.42 Level of Natural (m OD): 20.42	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		E End	W End
Topsoil	(100)	0.24m	0.35m
Subsoil	(101)	-	0.52m
Made Up Ground	(105)	0.47+m	-
Natural (max extent)	(102)	-	0.52+m
Summary			
The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits. The level of the natural was heavily truncated by modern made-up-ground deposits to the east.			

6 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 The trial trench evaluation has identified sporadic features which represent activity on the site of an unknown date. The similar size and form of these ditches suggests they are broadly contemporary. Although no datable finds were recovered from these features their regular form in section and in plan suggests they may date to the post-medieval to modern periods, where they would have functioned as field boundaries.
- 6.1.2 The trench locations were designed to target a number of anomalies identified in a geophysical survey undertaken prior to investigations (Figure 3). No corresponding features were identified during the evaluation.
- 6.1.3 Archaeological preservation appears to be relatively good for much of the site, with survival of 'negative'/ 'cut' features. In some trenches modern activity, probably relating to the previous use of the site as an airfield has heavily truncated the archaeological horizon (e.g., 10, 13, 17, 26 and 27)

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank CgMs Consulting Ltd for commissioning the work and Jason Hetreed of Anthill Plant Hire for operating the excavator. PCA are also grateful to Kasia Gdaniec of Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team for her advice and for monitoring the work. The author would also like to thank the project team: Clare Jackson and Ciaran Grace for their hard work, and finally PCA's CAD department for preparing the figures. The project was managed for PCA by Taleyna Fletcher.

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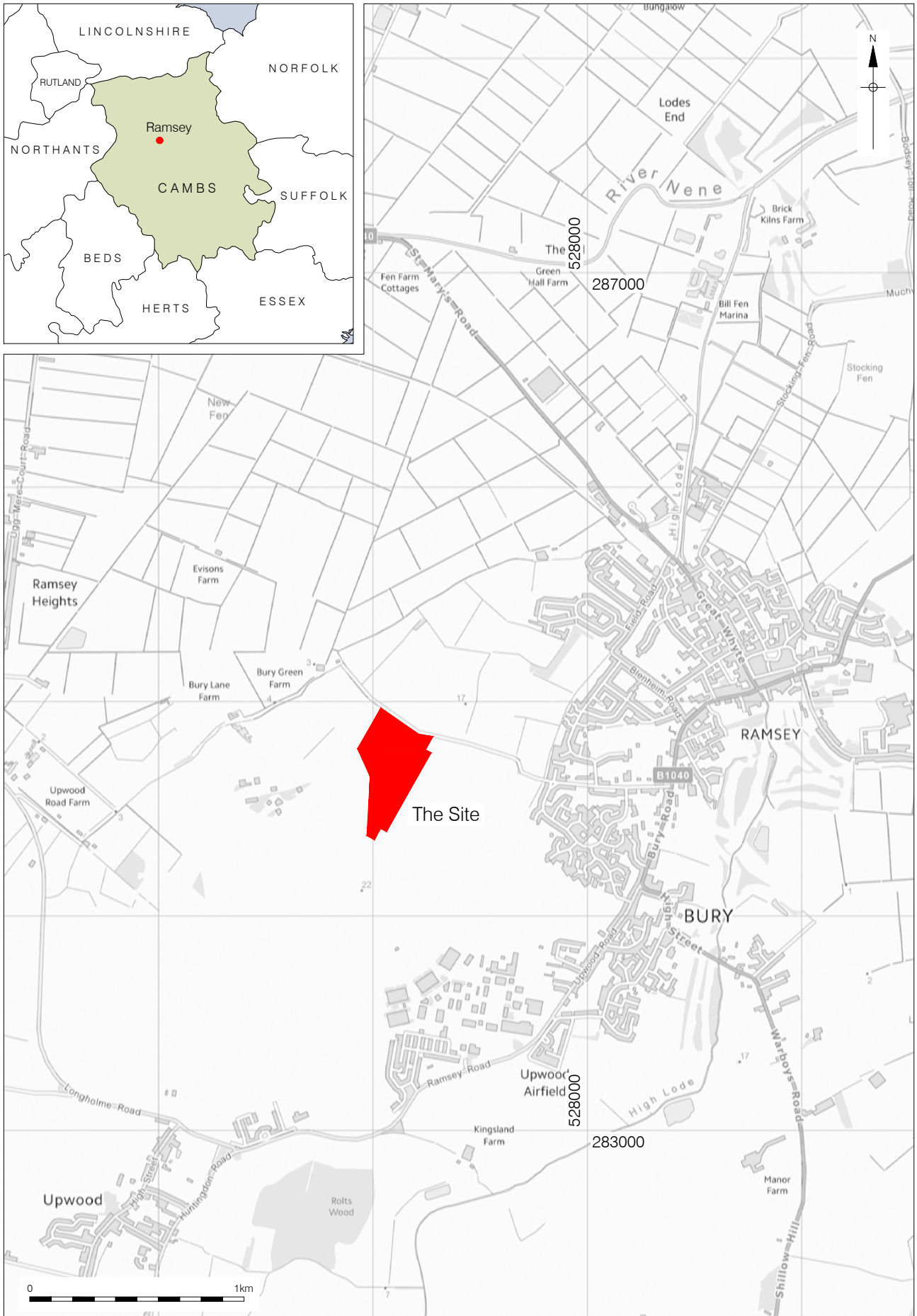
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05/11/15 JS

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

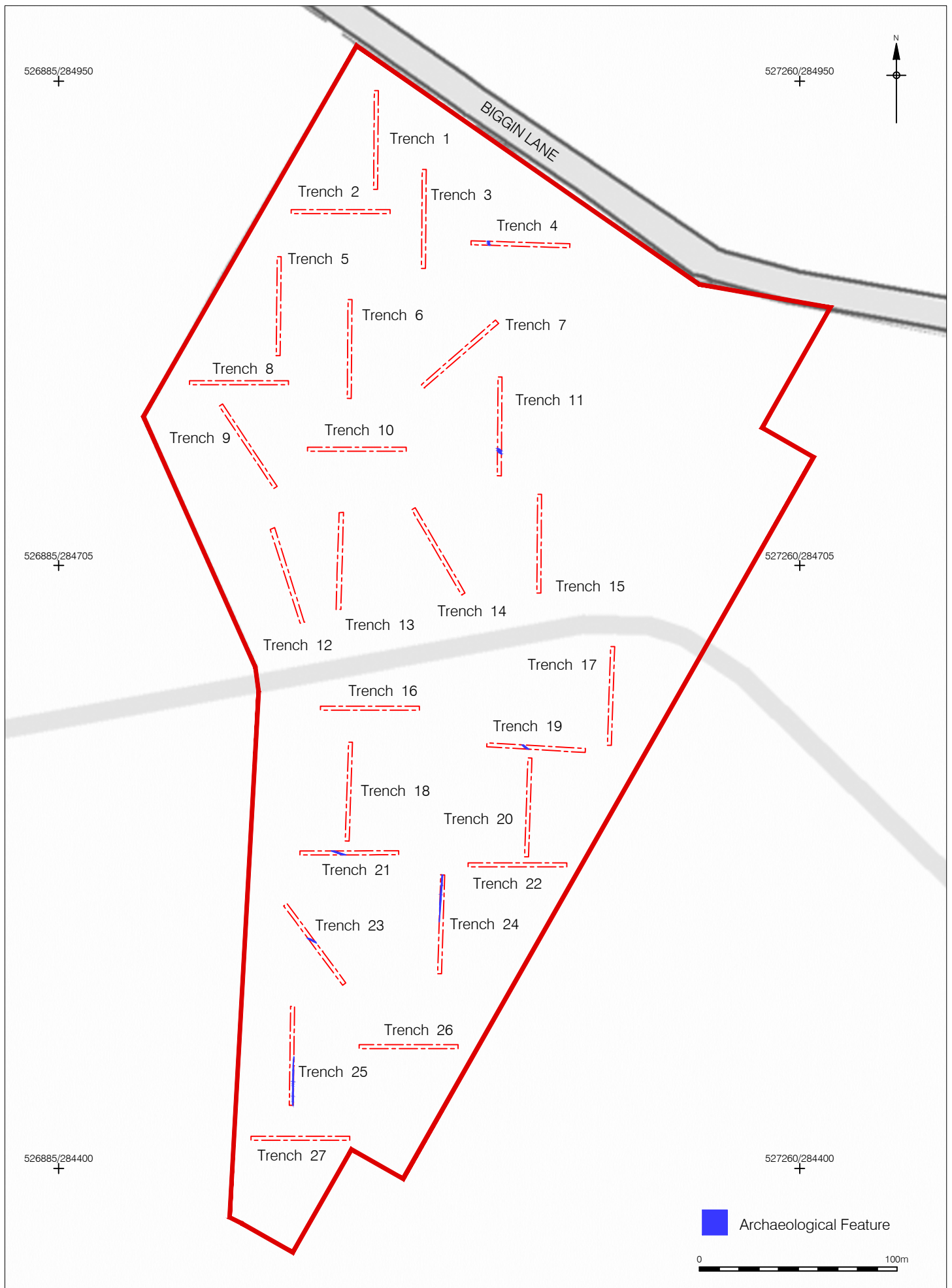


Figure 2
 Trench Location
 1:2,500 at A4

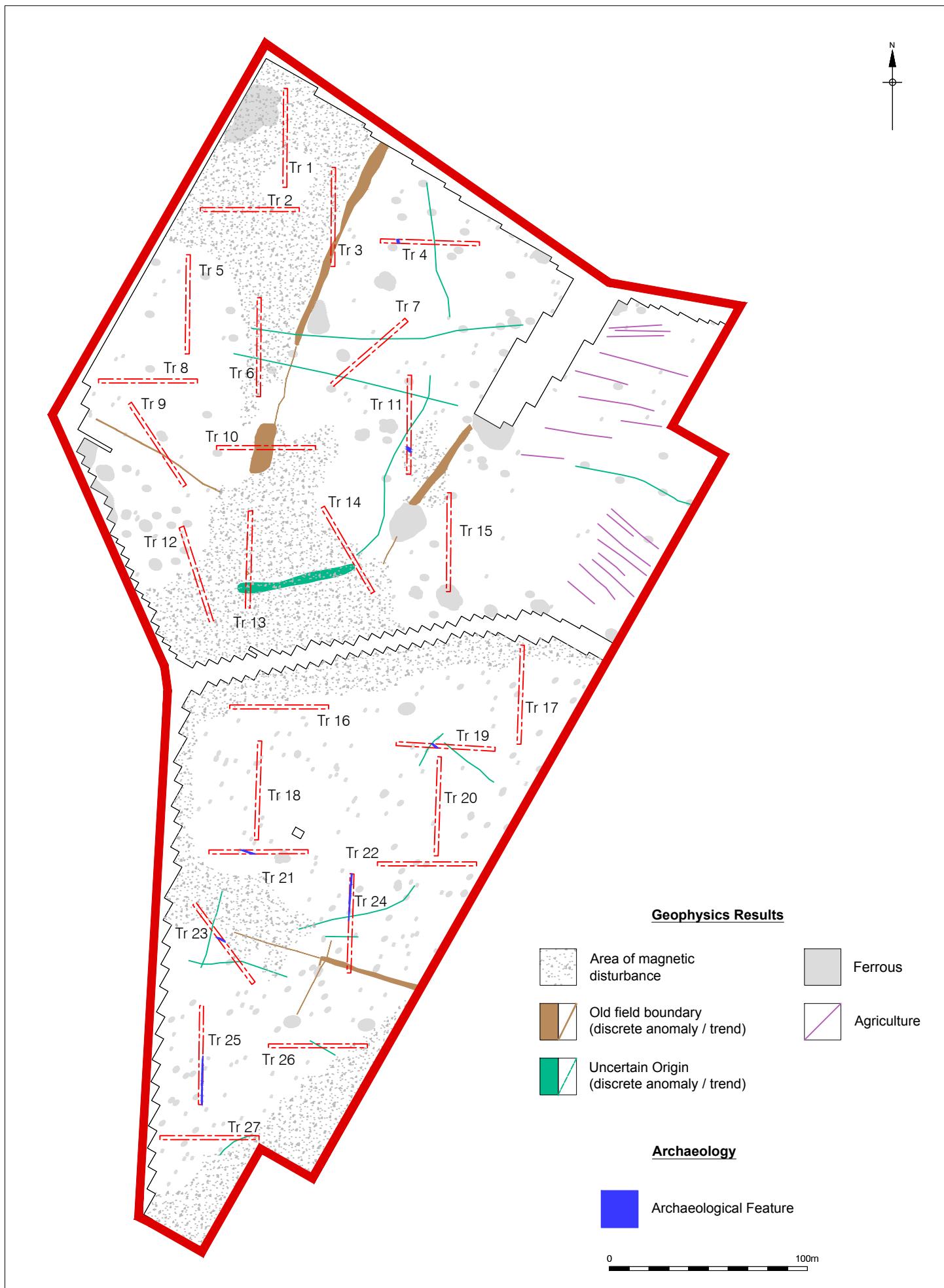


Figure 3
 Geophysics Results overlain onto the Trench Location
 1:2,500 at A4

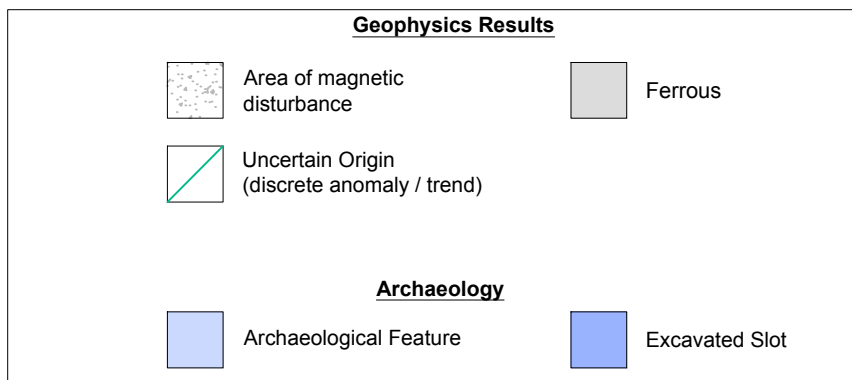
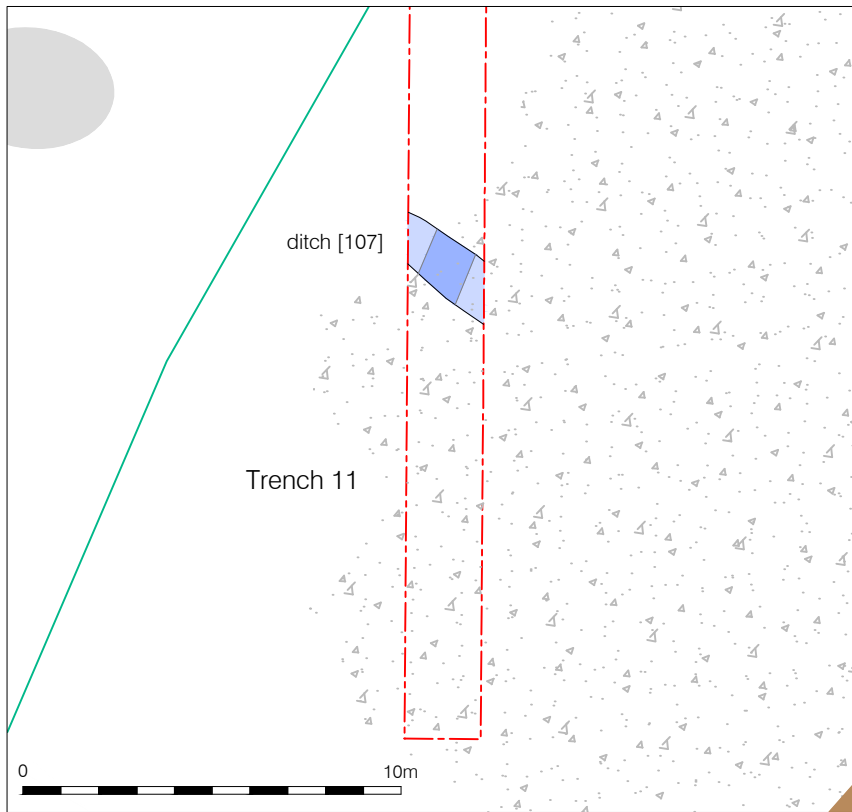
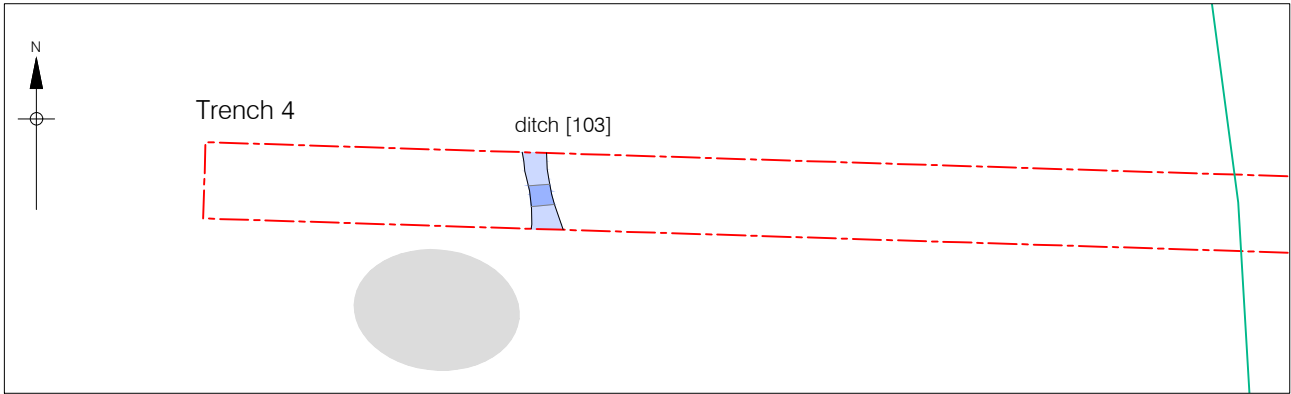
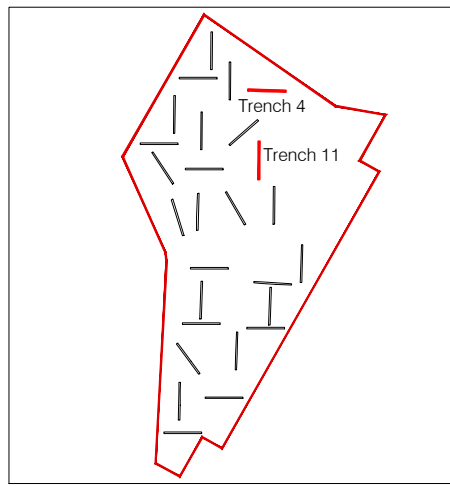


Figure 4
Trenches 4 and 11
1:200 at A4

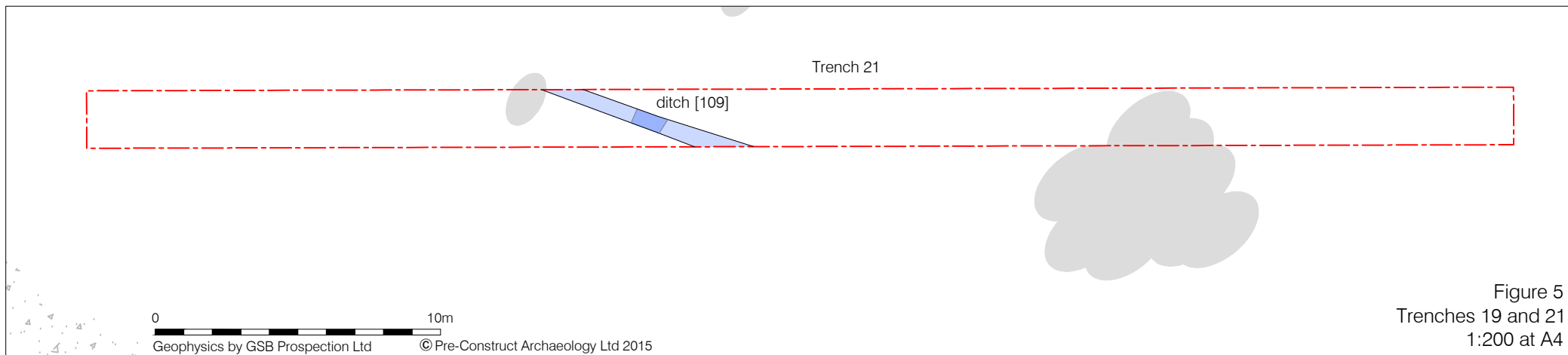
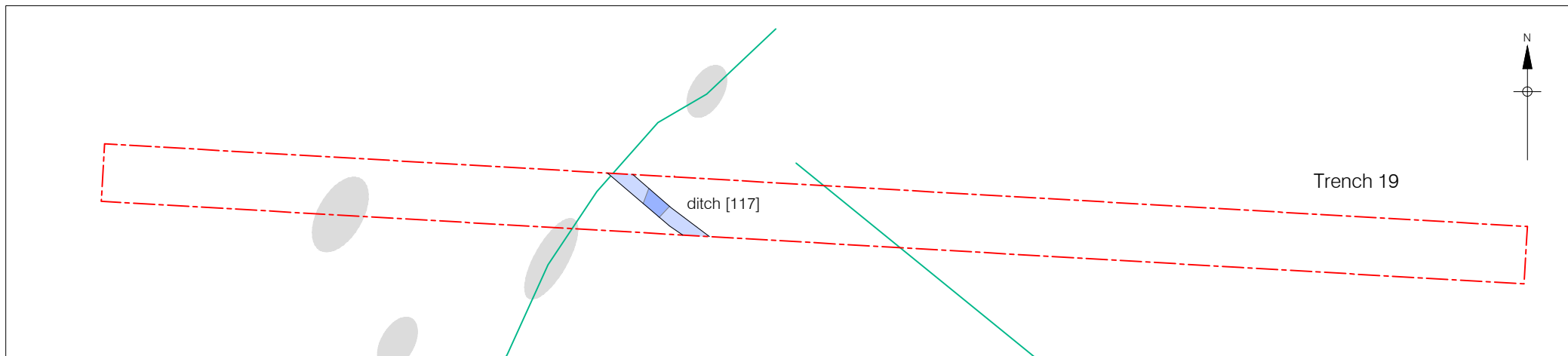
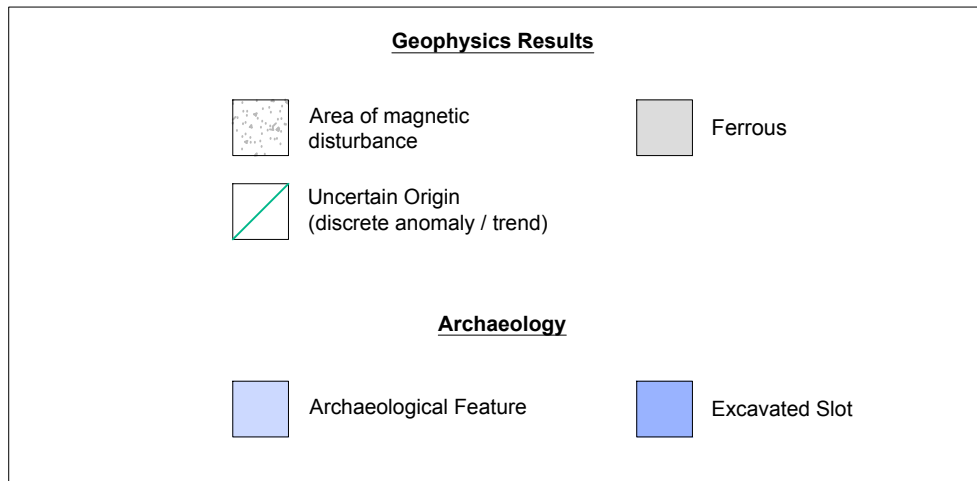
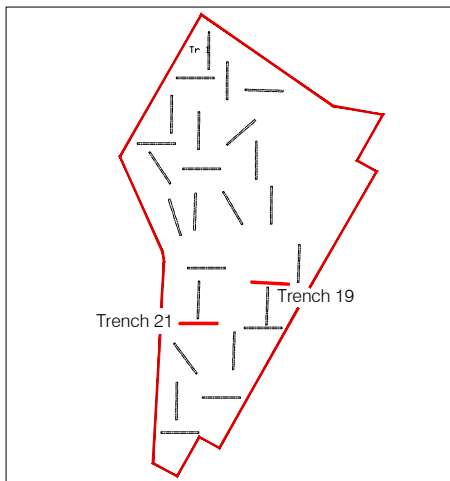
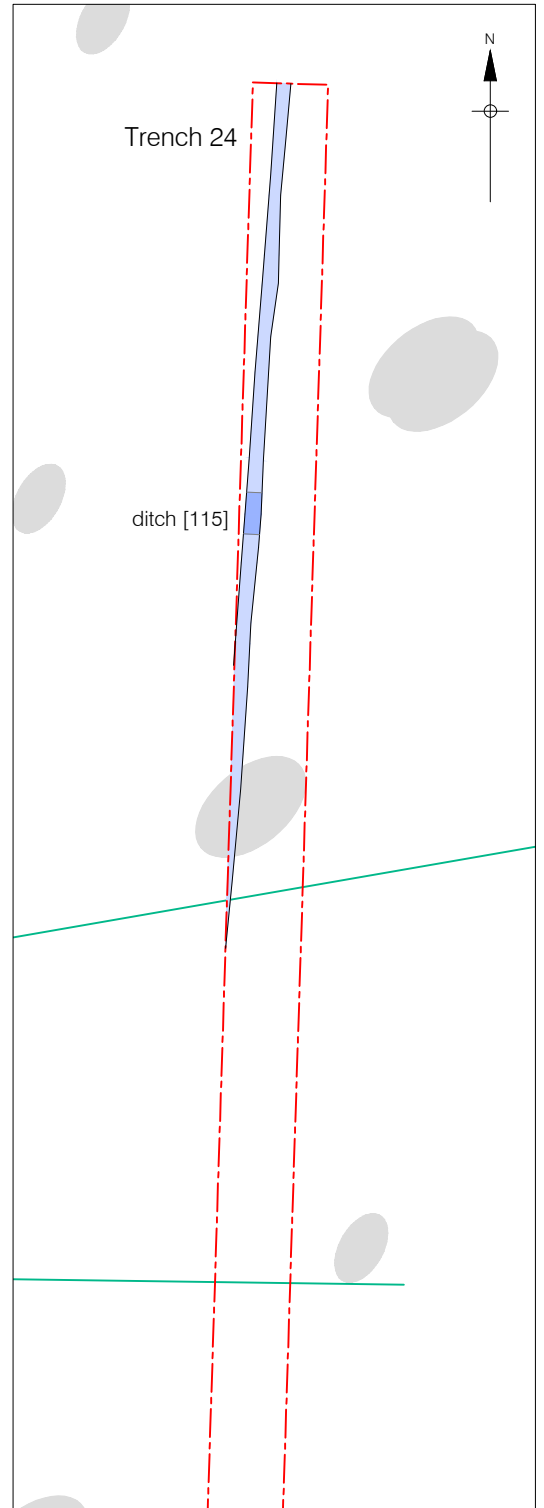
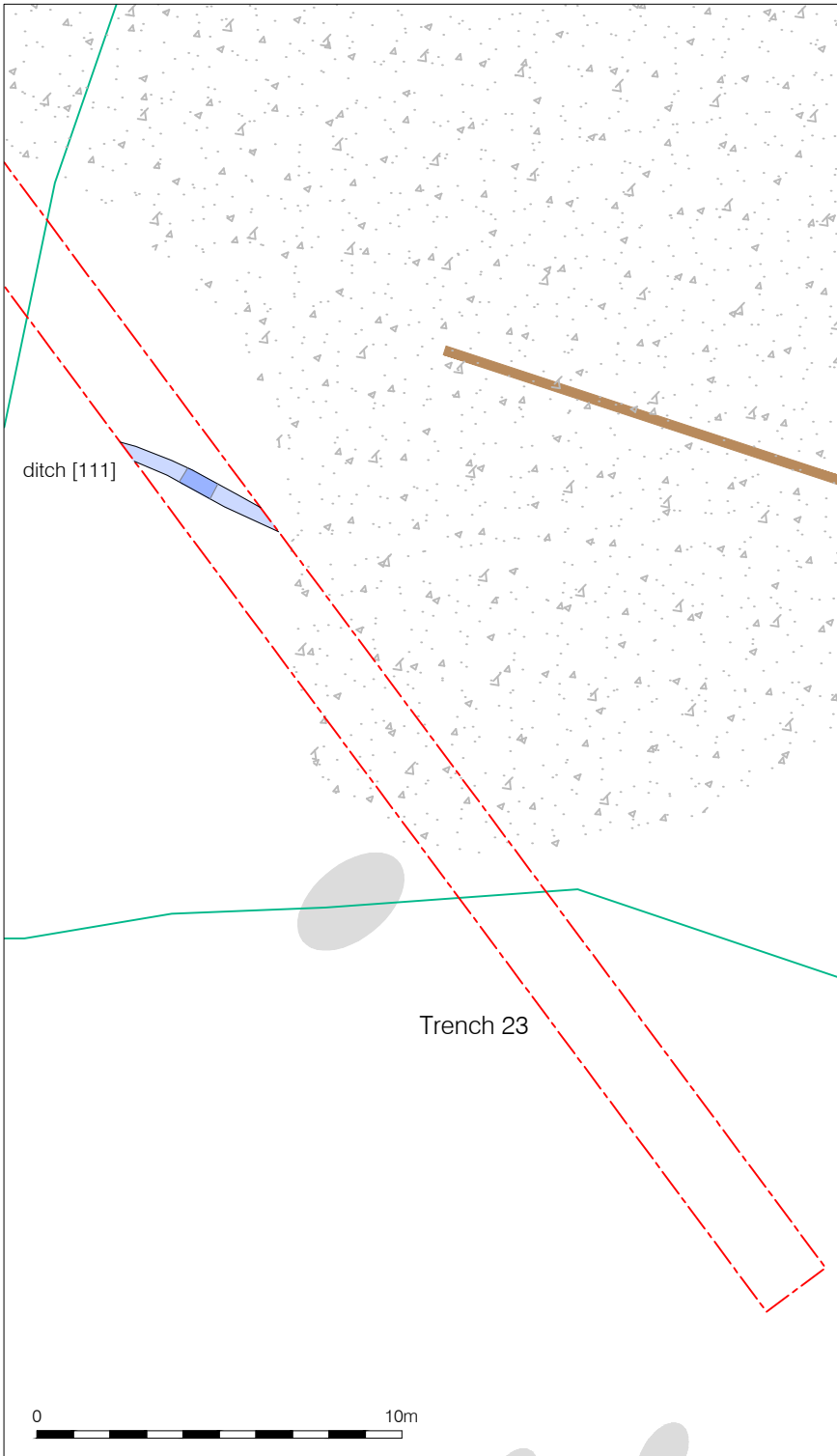
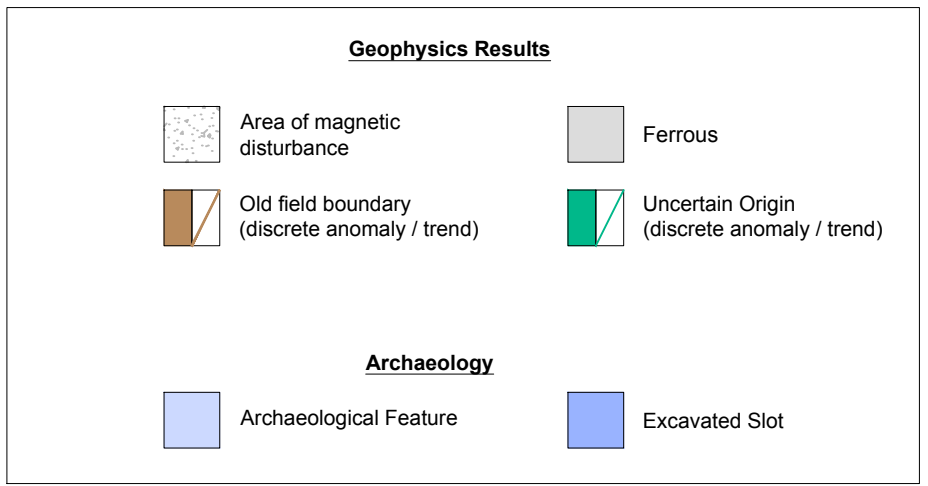
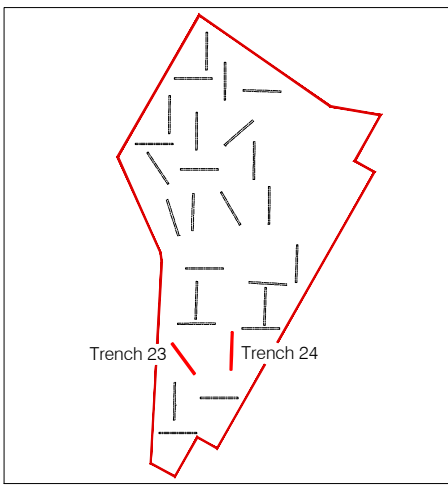
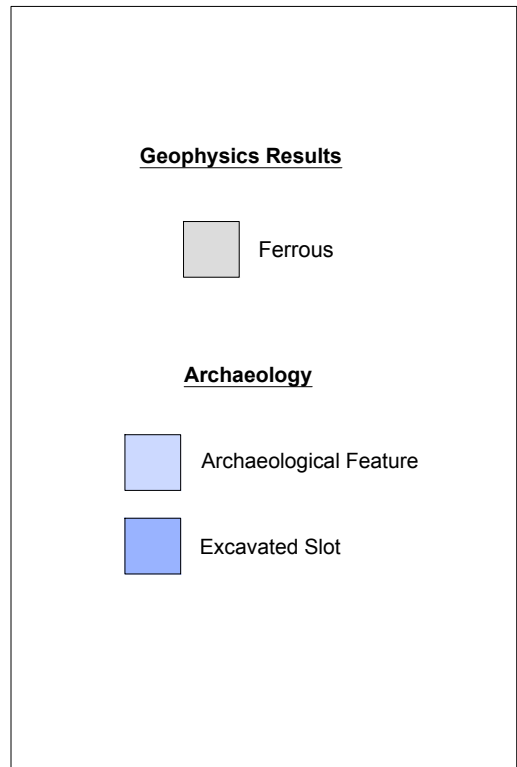
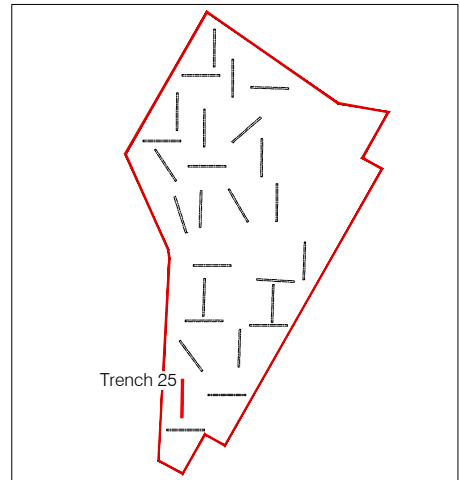
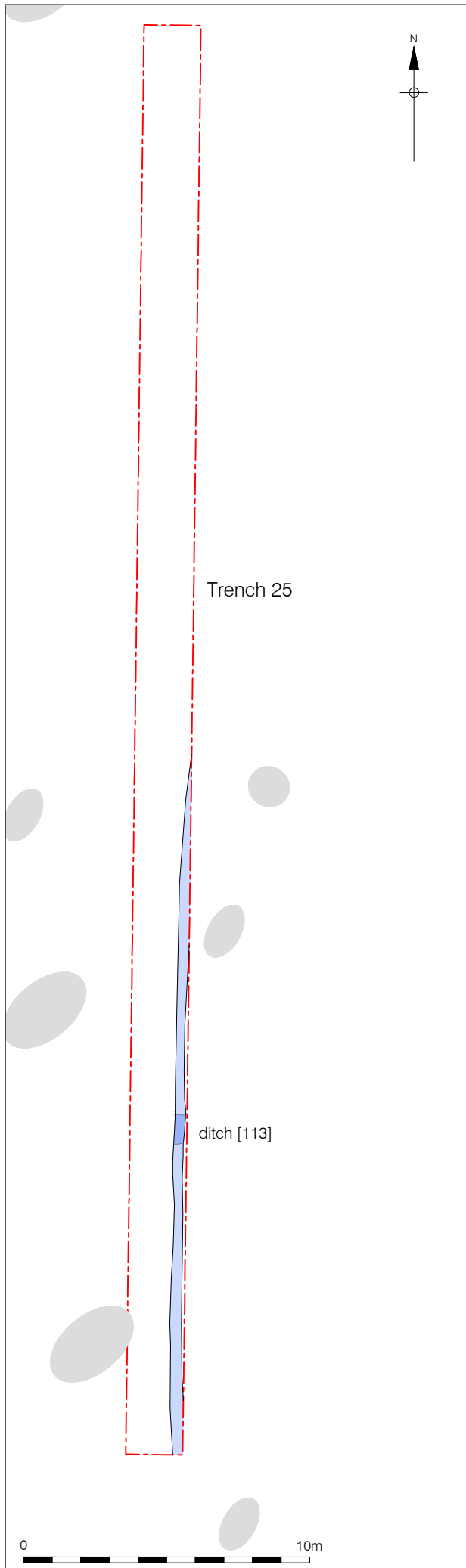


Figure 5
Trenches 19 and 21
1:200 at A4





Geophysics by GSB Prospection Ltd
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Figure 7
 Trench 25
 1:200 at A4

9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: The site, view north-east



Plate 2: The site, machining, view north



Plate 3: Trench 6, view north



Plate 4: Trench 12, view north-west



Plate 5: Ditch [117], Trench 19, view south-east

10 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Interpretation	Trench Number
100	-	Layer	Topsoil	Overburden	-
101	-	Layer	Subsoil	Overburden	-
102	-	Layer	Natural	Natural	-
103	103	Cut	Ditch	Boundary Ditch	4
104	103	Fill	Ditch	Boundary Ditch	4
105	-	Layer	Made Up Ground	Overburden	-
106	107	Fill	Ditch	Boundary Ditch	11
107	107	Cut	Ditch	Boundary Ditch	11
108	109	Fill	Ditch	Boundary Ditch	21
109	109	Cut	Ditch	Boundary Ditch	21
110	111	Fill	Ditch	Boundary Ditch	23
111	111	Cut	Ditch	Boundary Ditch	23
112	113	Fill	Ditch	Boundary Ditch	25
113	113	Cut	Ditch	Boundary Ditch	25
114	115	Fill	Ditch	Boundary Ditch	24
115	115	Cut	Ditch	Boundary Ditch	24
116	117	Fill	Ditch	Boundary Ditch	19
117	117	Cut	Ditch	Boundary Ditch	19

11 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-226622

Project details

Project name Land at Upwood Airfield, Ramsey, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Short description This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation of the project carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on Land at Upwood Airfield, Ramsey, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 27098 84760) between the 26th and the 29th of October 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of Ramsey 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 characterize the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. The principal result of the evaluation was the discovery of small numbers of undated ditches of similar alignment, which are likely to represent field boundaries and land division in the post-medieval to modern periods. No other features of archaeological interest were uncovered.

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

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes CBLR15 - 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

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

Development type Solar Farm

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the planning process Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country England
Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE RAMSEY Land at Upwood Airfield,
Ramsey, Cambridgeshire
Postcode PE26 1NB
Study area 2430 Square metres
Site coordinates TL 27098 84760 52.445612344514 -0.129732797007 52 26 44 N 000 07 47 W
Point
Height OD / Min: 0.35m Max: 0.94m
Depth

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 CgMs Consulting for Ramsey Solar Ltd.
sponsor/funding
body

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?
Digital Archive CCC County Archaeology Store
recipient

Digital Media "Database","Survey","Text"
available

Paper Archive CCC County Archaeology Store
recipient

Paper Media "Context
available sheet","Correspondence","Map","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey
","Unpublished Text"

Project
bibliography 1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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