Land at Honeysome Road, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire, PE16 6RZ

An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

December 2015

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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY
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LAND AT HONEYSOME ROAD, CHATTERIS, CAMBRIDGESHIRE, PE16 6RZ

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Control

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Land at Honeysome Road, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire, PE16 6RZ: An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

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CONTENTS

ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at Honeysome Road, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 3820 8637) between the 19th and the 28th October 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd in response to a Brief for Archaeological Evaluation (Stewart 2015) of the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCCHET). The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

The earliest activity was represented by several peat deposits sealed below silt and alluvial clay relating to episodes of flooding and marine inundations. One of the lowest peat deposits recorded at the edge of a possible palaeochannel yielded a number of pieces of wood, of which some showed evidence for being worked. Samples of the worked wood were submitted for dendrochronological dating, however no reliable date could be determined from the samples. The sequence of fen deposits, around the Chatteris 'island' and the Cambridgeshire fens, formed as early as the Mesolithic and Neolithic in low lying land, such as rivers and meres, with further peat forming in the later Bronze Age following major lowland inundations. However, aside from some worked wood, no dating evidence was recovered from the deposits in the evaluation trenches.

A number of later, peat-filled ditches were also recorded across the site, cutting through the alluvial deposits, possibly serving as claying or drainage ditches. The drainage of the Fens began initially in the 17th Century although the ditches identified on site were undated and could date from the late 17th to the 19th century. The area around the Chatteris 'island' was drained into the Forty Foot Drain and the Sixteen Foot drain, which were originally cut during Vermuyden's second phase of drainage works in 1651.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at Honeysome Road, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire, PE16 6RZ (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 3820 8637) from the 19th to the 28th October 2015 (Figure 1).

1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting in response to an archaeological condition placed on the proposed development of the site (Planning Reference: F/YR15/0429/F).

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 the Brief for archaeological evaluation (Stewart 2015), 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 52 trial trenches, totalling 1575m, were excavated and recorded. Three trenches (Trenches 11, 17 and 31) could not be excavated due to the presence of overhead power cables.

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 (British Geological Survey; Website 1). 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 peat (BGS; Website 1). The trenches revealed deposits of peat, as well as alluvial clay and silts overlying Oxford Clay and natural gravels.

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The current ground level lies at approximately 0.4m above Ordnance Datum (AOD), with the bases of the excavated trenches varying in depth (Appendix 3). The site is located on the western edge of a higher 'island' of land protruding from the low lying fens, on which the town of Chatteris has developed. The surrounding area is generally flat, gradually declining in height towards the north of the site. The higher ground is located in the south of the site and further east towards Chatteris. The Forty Foot Drain is located 0.2km north of the site, which provides drainage for the area.

2.2.2 The site is located 16km north-west of Ely and 21km south-east of Peterborough. The River Ouse flows approximately 2km to the west.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 General

3.1.1 The East Anglian Fenland is known for its rich archaeological landscape, with areas of higher ground largely being the foci for activity and settlement. Chatteris occupies one of these higher 'islands' and as such has revealed extensive archaeological remains. This archaeological and historical background has been drawn from the archaeological design brief (Stewart 2015), a search of CHER and the available 'grey literature' reports.

3.2 Geophysical Survey

3.2.1 A geophysical survey was undertaken on the site by Stratascan in October 2015 (Richardson 2015), commissioned by the client (Appendix 5).

3.2.2 The magnetic gradiometer survey conducted identified a single anomaly that was characterised as being of a possible archaeological origin in the southern part of the site. This feature was interpreted as a former cut feature, and possibly of archaeological origin or relating to modern agricultural activity or a former field boundary.

3.2.3 Areas of closely spaced, parallel, linear anomalies were identified across the south and centre of the site, indicative of modern agricultural activity, such as ploughing. Modern land drains were also identified across the northern part of the site.

3.2.4 The potential archaeological feature identified in the geophysics was not found to be present in the southern part of the site; this would have been found within Trench 1. The parallel linear anomalies identified across the south and centre of the site largely corresponded with some of the east-west orientated marling ditches recorded in Trenches 14, 40, 41 and 50 however, these ditches were recorded across the entire site, not just in this location.

3.2.5 The local Oxford Clay and deep overlying soil coverage of the site can give variable responses to magnetic survey. The lack of archaeological anomalies identified in the geophysics, especially when viewed alongside the results of the evaluation, suggests that the geology and overlying soils

may have had an adverse effect on the survey and in hindsight, may not have been an appropriate form of investigation on a site of this type.

3.3 Prehistoric

3.3.1 There are numerous prehistoric records within the immediate area most of which relate to find-spots. A scatter of Neolithic flints (HER 11036) was found nearby to the north-west, with other scattered stone axes (HER03671) and (HER03675) being found to the north- west.

3.3.2 An evaluation north of Chatteris Parish Church (ECB 123) revealed prehistoric and Roman remains. Large sherds of late Bronze Age pottery vessels were found, possibly in association with a burial. The pottery, with remains of antlers and a possible loom weight appear to have been rapidly reburied.

3.3.3 Later prehistoric evidence was identified during an evaluation at 36 Bridge Street, Chatteris (HER 11898) where a shallow feature of Iron Age date was excavated. Further features were identified to the east of the study area at New Road, Chatteris (ECB 2211), where three grave cuts contained what appeared to be burials. Additionally a series of postholes forming part of a post built-structure, hearth and several isolated features were identified. The postholes contained pottery sherds of early Iron Age date, and suggests that settlement was present at the site. This settlement may have been bounded by two north-east to south-west aligned ditches. A series of features were identified in the southern area of this site, consisting of ditches and pits containing deposits of faunal remains, pottery and worked stone. The well-preserved skeletal remains of two pigs, one buried in conjunction with five piglets, were recovered from two ditch terminals, suggesting deliberate deposition. No finds dated to later than the Iron Age were recovered.

3.3.4 The Fenland Project has recorded major Iron Age activity in the east and north-east of the Chatteris ‘island’ including at least six occupation/settlement sites and two cropmark complexes (Hall 1992). The extensive remains of an ‘open settlement’ at Langwood extend over c. 10 ha and span the Early-Late Iron Age (Evans 2003; Crowson et al. 2000)..

3.4 Roman

3.4.1 Roman activity in the study area was relatively sparse, mainly limited to find-spots, such as at 21 New Road, Chatteris (CB14730), to the east where a Roman coin was identified.

3.4.2 As with the Iron Age activity, Roman settlement is present in the north-east of the Chatteris 'island'. This is evidenced by Roman activity at Fenland Way, c. 0.5km to the east of the development area, where there was evidence of an Early Roman saltern as well as a number of Roman features associated with peripheral settlement activity (Cambridge Archaeological Unit forthcoming).

3.5 Saxon

3.5.1 Saxon evidence within the study area was limited to Railway Lane, Chatteris (MCB 20425) where two pieces of worked horse radii were found. The date of these artefacts remains uncertain but parallels of Anglo-Saxon examples exist.

3.6 Medieval

3.6.1 Medieval evidence within the study area was widespread, for example at Manor Park (HER 08670) to the east of the study site, a series of earthworks were identified. The earthworks represent at least three furlongs or distinct groups of ridge and furrow. The furlongs are divided into a series of lands generally orientated north to south, which curve slightly to the left to form the more common reverse "S" formation. A small sub-rectangular pond has been inserted into the centre of one of the ridges, probably to provide water for livestock and is probably a post-enclosure or modern feature. The furlongs to the west are divided into two systems lying at right angles to each other. Adjacent to the south-west boundary of the site are four lands orientated west to east. Immediately to their north is a rectangular levelled area within a north to south orientated furlong. This may be a later modification to provide a stand for ricks or stacks within the medieval fields. To the north this group of lands is defined by a series of scarps with a well-defined headland boundary separating the furlong from the adjacent system to the north-east.

3.6.2 A series of deeply stratified late medieval and post-medieval deposits were discovered at Cox's Lane (CB15741) to the east of the study site, which represented phases of alluvial inwash from the adject Slate Lode. Further medieval activity was also located off the High Street (MCB19976) and (MCB20124), and consisted of pits containing 12th-1th century pottery.

3.6.3 Further medieval evidence is mainly limited to findsports, such as at 3 West Park (CB15351) where medieval stonework was discovered in the back garden of a property. This stonework has been identified as the potential gateway of a nunnery, dedicated to St Mary and built in 980AD.

3.7 Post-Medieval

3.7.1 Post-medieval records of various types were common within the study area and included several standing buildings, such as the Smock drainage windmill, at Acre Fen (HER 03666) where the red-brick foundations are still extant, or the similar example at Blackmill Road (HER 03679) to the south-east of the study site. Further post-medieval buildings within the study area include the Baptist Church (MCB 20340) in Chatteris.

3.7.2 Sporadic negative features of post-medieval date were present in many of the archaeological projects in and around Chatteris, for instance at 36 Bridge Street (HER 11898) where post-medieval property boundary ditches were present. Other activity included quarry pits, such as those at Doddington Road (CB 15314), to the north-east, the Kingsfield School (MCB 1693) to the east or Womb Farm (MCB 18481), also to the east of the study site. The pitting here was quite formalised, and may have been associated with extraction ahead of road construction.

3.7.3 Post-medieval activity was also uncovered from 24 Bridge Street (MCB 20072), where wall foundations and floors were revealed. Further domestic post-medieval activity was identified at 13 Railway Lane, to the east where a large cess pit and other miscellaneous pits and post-holes were uncovered.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Excavation and Sampling

4.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation proposed the excavation of 55 trial trenches, distributed across the site but avoiding dykes and powerlines (Figure 2). Due to these constraints three trenches (Trenches 11, 17 and 31) could not be excavated.

4.1.2 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 20-ton mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m-wide toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed natural geological deposits, where available, or to the level where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded. 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 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 exposed 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).

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 (CIfA 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 in Appendix 3. Features and deposits are described from west to east, or south to north depending on the alignment of the trench. The evaluation identified some peat deposits, sealed by alluvial clays and silts. Based on the known sequence of fenland deposits in the area, some of these deposits are of presumed prehistoric (Mesolithic-Bronze Age date), with lowland inundation and peat growth occurring and sealing these soils from the later Bronze Age. A number of later, shallow ditches cutting through the uppermost peat layers were also identified and are thought to represent post-medieval claying or marling ditches, which were cut to improve drainage and mineral content of the peaty soil (Figures 3a and 3b).

5.2 Trench 1

5.2.1 Trench 1 contained two ditches, both aligned east to west (Plate 1).

5.2.2 Ditch [104] (Figures 2 and 3b; Plate 2) was located at the western end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned east to west, measuring 0.9m wide and 0.14m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (103) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.2.3 Ditch [106] (Figures 2 and 3b) was located at the eastern end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned east to west, measuring 0.9m wide and 0.14m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (105) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.3 Trench 2

5.3.1 The trench contained one ditch aligned east to west.

5.3.2 Ditch [108] (Figures 2 and 3b) was located at the eastern end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned east to west, measuring 0.9m wide and 0.2m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (107) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.4 Trench 3

5.4.1 The trench contained no archaeological features.

5.5 Trench 4

5.5.1 The trench contained one ditch aligned east to west.

5.6 Trench 5

5.6.1 The trench contained no archaeological features.

5.7 Trench 6

5.7.1 The trench contained no archaeological features but showed evidence in section for the migration of former minor channels such as small brooks or creeks (Figure 4; Section 46).

5.7.2 Creek [212] (Figure 4; Section 46) was thought to run roughly east to west, however this is difficult to ascertain given the confines of evaluation trenching. It measured c. 2.0m wide and 0.52m in depth and contained a single fill (213) of mid grey sandy silt, which contained no finds. This creek truncated the alluvial silts (208) as well as an earlier creek [214].

5.7.3 Creek [214] (Figure 4; Section 46) was thought to run roughly east to west, however this is difficult to ascertain given the confines of evaluation trenching. It measured c. 1.34m wide and 0.34m in depth and contained a single fill (215) of mid grey sandy silt, which contained no finds. This creek truncated the alluvial silts (208) and was truncated by a later minor channel or creek [212].

5.8 Trench 7

5.8.1 The trench contained one ditch aligned north-east to south-west.

5.8.2 Ditch [110] (Figures 2 and 3b) was located at the eastern end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, measuring 0.73m wide and 0.28m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (109) of dark grey brown silty peat. There was evidence for tool marks within this ditch, with the indentations from the spades used to dig the ditch seen in the natural clays (Plate 5). This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. One sherd of modern pottery was recovered from this feature.

5.9 Trench 8

5.9.1 This trench contained seven north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches. Two of these ditches were excavated and recorded and the remainder were not excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

5.9.2 Ditch [167] (Figures 2 and 3a) was located at the eastern end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, measuring 0.98m wide and 0.12m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (103) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.9.3 Ditch [164] (Figures 2 and 3a) was located at the eastern end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, measuring 0.95m wide and 0.31m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (165) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.10 Trench 9

5.10.1 Trench 9 had to be realigned to an east to west orientation due to live overhead powerlines which were present on this part of the site.

5.10.2 The trench contained two north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches, one of which was excavated.

5.10.3 Ditch [159] (Figures 2 and 3a) was located at the western end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, measuring 0.86m wide and 0.16m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (158) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.11 Trench 10

5.11.1 This trench contained four north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches (Figure 3a). None of these ditches were excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches.

5.12 Trench 11

5.12.1 This trench was not excavated due to the presence of live overhead powerlines.

5.13 Trench 12

5.13.1 This trench contained two north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches, one of which was excavated.

5.13.2 Ditch [147] (Figures 2 and 3a) was located at the midway along the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, measuring 0.85m wide and 0.14m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (146) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.14 Trench 13

5.14.1 No archaeologically significant features or deposits were present within the trench.

5.15 Trench 14

5.15.1 The trench contained one east to west aligned peat filled ditch and two north-east to south-west aligned ditches.

5.15.2 Ditch [149] (Figures 2 and 3a) was located at the eastern end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned east to west, measuring 0.86m wide and 0.18m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (148) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.16 Trench 15

5.16.1 The trench contained three east to west aligned peat filled ditches, of which one was excavated and recorded.

5.16.2 Ditch [151] (Figures 2 and 3a) was located at the eastern end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned east to west, measuring 0.95m wide and 0.22m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (150) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.17 Trench 16

5.17.1 This trench contained five north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches (Figure 3a). None of these ditches were excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

5.18 Trench 17

5.18.1 This trench was not excavated due to the presence of live overhead powerlines.

5.19 Trench 18 (Figure 5)

5.19.1 This trench contained six north-east to south-west aligned ditches and one east-north-east to west-south-west aligned ditch present at a lower horizon. Two of these ditches were excavated and fully recorded as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

5.19.2 Ditch [161] (Figure 5; Plate 8) was located at the eastern end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, measuring 0.9m wide and 0.2m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (160) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.19.3 Ditch [163] (Figure 5; Plate 7) was located at the eastern end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned east-north-east to west-south-west, measuring 1.1m wide and 0.25m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained two fills: a lower fill (168) of dark grey sandy silt and an upper fill (162) of dark grey-black peat. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.20 Trench 19

5.20.1 This trench contained six north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches (Figure 3a). None of these ditches were excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

5.21 Trench 20 (Figure 5)

5.21.1 This trench contained seven north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches (Figure 3a). None of these ditches were excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

5.21.2 A sondage was also dug into a deposit of peat (189) to assess the sequence of peat and alluvial clay (Figure 6; Section 48).

5.21.3 Deposit (189) was at the eastern end of the trench. It consisted of a red-brown peat containing several fragments of wood and plant remains such as

reeds.

5.22 Trench 21

5.22.1 This trench contained five north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches (Figure 3a). None of these ditches were excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

5.23 Trench 22 (Figure 7)

5.23.1 This trench had to be relocated due to live overhead powerlines.

5.23.2 The trench contained five north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches (Figure 3a). One of these ditches was excavated with the others unexcavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site. A deposit of peat (190) was also identified in this trench, which contained pieces of unworked wood (Figure 7; Section 47; Plate 12).

5.23.3 A deposit (190) was located midway along the trench and was only present in a sondage between two of the peat filled ditches. It consisted of a red-brown peat containing seven fragments of wood (mostly oak with some maple present) and reed remains. These wood fragments were potentially split (See Morgan, Section 6.3.1) but it is likely this is the result of natural processes, such as from periods of drying out. The wood was found within a natural hollow and does not represent in-situ remains.

5.23.4 Ditch [156] was located at the north-eastern end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, measuring 0.9m wide and 0.12m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (157) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.24 Trench 23

5.24.1 This trench had to be relocated due to the presence of overhead powerlines. The trench contained one north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditch.

5.24.2 Ditch [154] (Figures 2 and 3a) was located at the eastern end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, measuring 0.75m wide and 0.15m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (155) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.25 Trench 24

5.25.1 Trench 24 had to be relocated as it was within the 12m standoff zone put in alongside one of the dykes running between the two areas of the site. The trench contained one ditch aligned north-east to south-west (Figure 3a).

5.25.2 Ditch [144] (Figures 2 and 3a) was located at the eastern end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, measuring 0.75m wide and 0.2m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (145) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.26 Trench 25

5.26.1 This trench contained five north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches (Figure 3a). One of these ditches was excavated with the other four unexcavated as they had been thoroughly investigated and recorded in other trenches.

5.26.2 Ditch [153] (Figures 2 and 3a) was located at the eastern end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, measuring 0.85m wide and 0.23m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (152) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.27 Trench 26

5.27.1 This trench contained four north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches (Figure 3a). Two of these ditches were excavated and recorded, with the other two unexcavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

5.27.2 Ditch [178] (Figures 2 and 3a) was located at the western end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, measuring 0.9m wide and 0.26m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (177) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. This ditch was parallel to Ditch [180] c. 5m to the east. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.27.3 Ditch [180] (Figures 2 and 3a) was located at the midway along the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, measuring 1.0m wide and 0.3m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (179) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.28 Trench 27

5.28.1 This trench contained five north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches (Figure 3a). None of these ditches were excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

5.29 Trench 28 (Figure 8)

5.29.1 The trench contained no archaeological features; however a possible former palaeochannel was identified within the trench. This potential palaeochannel (Channel [218]) was filled by a thick deposit of peat (191) which covered a large quantity of wood and reed remains. At the northern end of the trench three large pieces of worked wood were identified within peat deposit (191), these were assigned timber numbers 1, 2 and 3 (Figure 8; Plate 17).

5.29.2 Channel [218] (Figure 8; Section 45) was present running from the north-eastern end of the trench to the south-western end of the trench (Figure 5; Section 45) and was seemingly aligned north-west to south-east, this possible channel was not visible in the section through the modern dyke to the east of the Trench. It measured c. 20.0m wide and c.0.5m in depth. It contained four fills: a lower fill (208) of pale grey sandy silt, sealed by a deposit of red-brown peat (191) which contained a large quantity of wood, a middle deposit (210) of mid blue grey clay and an upper deposit (209) of mixed grey and orange brown clay.

5.29.3 Deposit (191) contained a large quantity of wood including two large worked timbers; Timber 2, Timber 3 and one smaller timber, Timber 1, as well as a number of unworked branches (Figure 7; Plates 14-16). Samples of these timbers were taken with two samples from Timber 1, one from Timber 2 consisting of a worked point and five samples from Timber 3. Two knot-holes were identified on Timber 3 which may have been used as rudimentary 'hand-holes' (Plate 15-16).

5.30 Trench 29

5.30.1 This trench contained nine north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches (Figure 3a). Two of these ditches were excavated and recorded, with the other six unexcavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

5.30.2 Ditch [174] (Figures 2 and 3a) was located at the eastern end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, measuring 0.9m wide and 0.15m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (173) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.30.3 Ditch [176] (Figures 2 and 3a) was located at the eastern end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, measuring 0.95m wide and 0.24m deep with steep

near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (175) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.31 Trench 30

5.31.1 This trench contained four north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches (Figure 3a). Two of these ditches were excavated and recorded and the remainder not excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

5.31.2 Ditch [170] (Figures 2 and 3a) was located midway along the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned east to west, measuring 0.8m wide and 0.2m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (169) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.31.3 Ditch [172] (Figures 2 and 3a) was located at the eastern end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, measuring 0.9m wide and 0.16m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (171) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.32 Trench 31

5.32.1 The trench contained no archaeological features.

5.33 Trench 32

5.33.1 The trench contained no archaeological features.

5.34 Trench 33

5.34.1 This trench contained eight north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches (Figure 3a). Two of these ditches were excavated and recorded with

the remainder not excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

5.34.2 Ditch [187] (Figures 2 and 3a) was located midway along the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, measuring 0.9m wide and 0.11m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (188) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.35 Trench 34

5.35.1 This trench contained one north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditch (Figure 3a).

5.35.2 Ditch [183] (Figures 2 and 3a) was located at the south-western end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, measuring 0.9m wide and 0.14m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (184) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.36 Trench 35

5.36.1 This trench contained eight north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches. One of these ditches were excavated with the remainder not excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

5.36.2 Ditch [185] (Figures 2 and 3a) was located at the eastern end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, measuring 0.9m wide and 0.14m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (186) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.37 Trench 36

5.37.1 The trench contained one north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditch (Figure 3a) which was unexcavated as ditches of this type had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

5.38 Trench 37

5.38.1 This trench contained three north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches (Figure 3a). One of these ditches was excavated, with the other two left unexcavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

5.38.2 Ditch [181] (Figures 2 and 3a) was located at the eastern end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, measuring 0.9m wide and 0.2m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (182) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.39 Trench 38

5.39.1 This trench contained one north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditch (Figure 3a), which was not excavated as ditches of this type had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

5.40 Trench 39 (Figure 9)

5.40.1 This trench contained one north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditch (Figure 3a), which was not excavated as ditches of this type had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site, and a former channel or creek (Creek [216]) (Figure 9) containing a deposit of peat (207).

5.40.2 Creek [216] (Figure 9; Section 46) was present running from midway along the trench to the south-western end of the trench (Figure 9; Section 45). It contained three fills: a lower fill (206) of grey-brown peat, a middle deposit (207) of red-brown peat, and an upper deposit (209) of pale grey sandy silt. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.41 Trench 40

5.41.1 This trench contained four north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches (Figure 3a) and one north-west to south-east aligned ditch which was not excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

5.41.2 Ditch [133] (Figures 2 and 3a) was located at the western end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, measuring 0.9m wide and 0.2m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (134) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.41.3 Ditch [131] (Figures 2 and 3a) was located at the western end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, measuring 0.9m wide and 0.13m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (132) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.42 Trench 41

5.42.1 The trench contained four north-east to south-west aligned and one north-west to south-east aligned peat filled ditches (Figure 3a). One of these ditches was excavated with the others unexcavated as they had been investigated elsewhere on the site.

5.42.2 Ditch [130] (Figures 2 and 3a) was located at the western end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, measuring 0.9m wide and 0.22m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (129) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.42.3 Ditch [128] (Figures 2 and 3a) was located at the western end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, measuring 0.9m wide and 0.26m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (127) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.43 Trench 42

5.43.1 This trench contained one north-west to south-east aligned peat filled ditch (Figure 3a), which was not excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

5.44 Trench 43

5.44.1 This trench contained one north-west to south-east aligned peat filled ditch.

5.44.2 Ditch [119] (Figures 2 and 3a) was located at the north-eastern end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north-west to south-east, measuring 0.75m wide and 0.39m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (120) of mid grey brown silty clay which contained 6g of fired clay (see O'Neill, Section 6.1). This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site.

5.45 Trench 44

5.45.1 This trench contained one north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditch (Figure 3a).

5.45.2 Ditch [126] (Figures 2 and 3a) was located at the south-eastern end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, measuring 0.9m wide and 0.24m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (125) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.46 Trench 45

5.46.1 The trench contained no archaeological features.

5.47 Trench 46

5.47.1 The trench contained two natural features, likely to be tree hollows.

5.47.2 Natural Feature [124] was located at the north-eastern end of the trench. It was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.41m long, 0.4m wide and 0.26m deep with steep sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (123) of mid grey silty clay. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.47.3 Natural Feature [122] was located at the north-eastern end of the trench. It was irregular in plan measuring 0.7m long, 0.71m wide and 0.3m deep with moderately sloping sides and an irregular base. It contained a single fill (121) of mid grey silty clay. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.48 Trench 47

5.48.1 The trench contained one north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditch (Figure 3a), which was not excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

5.49 Trench 48

5.49.1 The trench contained no archaeological features.

5.50 Trench 49

5.50.1 The trench contained four north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches (Figure 3a), which were not excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

5.51 Trench 50

5.51.1 The trench contained one north-east to south-west and two north-west to south-east aligned peat filled ditches (Figure 3a), two of which were excavated and recorded with the other not excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

5.51.2 Ditch [136] (Figures 2 and 3a) was located at the southern end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned

north-west to south-east, measuring 0.98m wide and 0.14m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (135) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.51.3 Ditch [138] (Figures 2 and 3a) was located midway along the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, measuring 0.85m wide and 0.24m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (137) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.52 Trench 51

5.52.1 The trench contained six north-east to south-west and one north-west to south-east aligned peat filled ditches (Figure 3a), one was excavated and the others was not excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

5.52.2 Ditch [139] (Figures 2 and 3a) was located at the eastern end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, measuring 0.9m wide and 0.2m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained two fills: a lower fill (140) of orange brown silty clay, and an upper fill (141) of grey brown silty peat. One fragment of brick was recovered from this feature. The width of the header (100mm) indicates a date after 1780 when legislation covering the standardisation of bricks was passed (Garwood pers. comm.).The brick was also hand-made and unfrogged so a later 18th century date would seem appropriate. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site.

5.53 Trench 52

5.53.1 The trench contained no archaeological features.

5.54 Trench 53

5.54.1 The trench contained one north-east to south-west and one north to south aligned peat filled ditch (Figure 3a), which were not excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

5.55 Trench 54

5.55.1 The trench contained no archaeological features.

5.56 Trench 55 (Figures 3a and 10)

5.56.1 The trench contained five north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches, four of which were excavated and recorded with the remainder not excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

5.56.2 Ditch [113] (Figures 3a and 9) was located at the south-east end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned east to west, measuring 0.9m wide and 0.1m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (114) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. No finds were recovered from this feature.

5.56.3 Ditch [111] (Figures 3a and 9) was located at the south-east end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned east to west, measuring 0.7m wide and 0.1m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (112) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. No finds were recovered from this feature

5.56.4 Ditch [117] (Figures 3a and 9) was located at the north-west end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned east to west, measuring 0.9m wide and 0.08m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (118) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. No finds were

recovered from this feature.

5.56.5 Ditch [115] (Figures 3a and 9) was located at the centred of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned east to west, measuring 0.9m wide and 0.1m deep with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (116) of dark grey brown silty peat. This ditch is thought to be part of a series post-medieval claying or marling ditches encountered across the site. No finds were recovered from this feature.

6 THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 Burnt Clay

By Sîan O'Neill

6.1.1 A total of 6g of burnt clay was recovered from the single fill (120) of a post-medieval ditch [119]. The fabric is an orange clay with no inclusions.

6.1.2 No complete dimensions survived, as all pieces recovered are upper or inner fragments. Due to this and the highly abraded nature of the material, it is undiagnostic in nature.

6.2 Plant Macrofossils

By Marta Pérez Fernández

Introduction

6.2.1 This report summarises the findings from the rapid assessment of six) bulk samples (Table 1) taken from a ditch and sequences of peats, alluvial clays and silts at Honeysome Road, Chatteris. The aim of this environmental assessment is to determine the environmental potential of these samples.

Methodology

6.2.2 Six flots were scanned for environmental material under a binocular microscope and the results recorded.

6.2.3 The flots were scanned for the presence of charred grain, chaff, weed seeds, charcoal, molluscs and other environmental remains. These were recorded on a non-linear scale to denote 'abundance': - Occasional (up to 5 items), 2-fairly frequent (5-25), 3- frequent (25-100), 4- abundant (>100). A note was also made of all other inclusions i.e. Modern plant fibres, coal, slag etc. The results of the assessment of the flots are presented in Table 1.

Results and Discussion

6.2.4 All the flots, except samples <8> and <9> produced some wood charcoal, too small to be identified. Sample <1> contained mainly charred twig fragments and a small number of unidentified charred seeds.

6.2.5 Some uncharred seeds were found in all the samples: Chenopodium album

(Fat-hen) and Polygonum/Rumex sp. (knotweed/sorrel/dock), Urtica dioca (nettle), Solanum dulcamara (Bittersweet) and Rubus sp (Brambles) (Stace, 1997). Sample <1> had a Vitis seed (Grape-wine) and sample <2> a Prunus seed (Cherries). Some of the other uncharred seeds could be intrusions due to bioturbation, but the last ones are clearly domesticated plants and possible brought to the site at the time of the opening of the ditches.

6.2.6 Most of these samples, especially sample <9> showed evidence for waterlogged remains on site. This is support by the presence of leaves, mites and insect fragments in most of the samples.

Recommendations

6.2.7 The samples from this evaluation indicate waterlogged remains are present and well preserved on this site. The sampling strategy during any excavation of this site should take this into consideration.

6.2.8 Waterlogged remains are very good source for pollen, plant macrofossils and insect remains. It would be advisable to take column samples from waterlogged deposits for pollen analysis, together with at least 5 litre bulk samples each five centimetres through the section for insects and plant remains analysis.

Sample number	Trench Number	Context number	Flot				
			Vol (ml)	Charcoal	Charred seeds/grain	Unchar. Seeds	Other
1	51	140	400	2	1	2	(4) Roots
2	18	162	350	2		2	(4) roots (2) insect frag (2) mites
3	18	168	45	1		2	(4) roots (1) mites (1) insect frag
7	20	189	100	1		2	(4) roots (1) insect frag
8	18	196	200			2	(4) roots
9	28	191	2100			2	Waterlogged sample: leaves and insect fragments.

Table 1: Results of the flots assessment

Key: 1- Occasional, 2- fairly frequent, 3- frequent, 4- abundant

6.3 Wood

By Graham Morgan

Introduction

6.3.1 The samples were identified from thin sections. The diameter is that measured in mm, the rings are those actually seen, and the age is that estimated from the rate of growth shown by the tree ring width.

6.3.2 Some 20 bags of waterlogged wood were received, with individual pieces wrapped in cling film.

Trench	Context Number	Sample Number	Wood Number	Diameter	Rings	Age	Species
22	190	5	-	80	15	15	Maple – part dried branch.
22	190	5	-	160	40	50	Oak – radially split.
22	190	5	-	120	20	30	Oak - quarter split.
22	190	5	-	140	30	40	Oak – quarter split.
22	190	5	-	70	22	22	Oak – quarter split.
22	190	5	-	120?	25	40?	Oak – quarter split

							trimmed plank, 30mm x 50mm.
22	190	5	-	140	25	50	Oak – quarter split trimmed plank, 40mm x 40mm.
22	190	5	-	120	30	40	Oak – quarter split fragment.
28	191	12	3	360	100?	150	Oak – quarter to one half split massive beam, trimmed to about 140mm x 180mm.
28	191	12	3	240	60?	80	Oak
28	191	6	1	200?	20	100?	Oak – tangentially split.
28	191	10	1	200?	35	100?	Oak – tangentially split.
28	191	11	2	185	50?	60?	Oak – pointed post.
28	191	13	3	220?	60?	100?	Oak – quarter split.
28	191	14	3	240?	60?	120?	Oak – diametrically to tangentially split.

Table 2: Table of all wood samples taken.

6.3.3 Species present:

Oak Quercus spp.

Field Maple Acer campestre.

6.3.4 Oak is particularly suitable for dividing by splitting, all that is needed are some wooden wedges and a heavy hammer, even a stone. The tree will split along the medullary rays, which radiate from the centre of the tree outwards. Splitting tangentially is more difficult but the large annual ring vessels help considerably.

6.3.5 Two of the samples examined may be suitable for dendrochronological dating. Dendrochronology requires oak trees, in Europe, with at least 70 non-complacent rings, that is, showing good variation in ring width. The

samples with 60 or more rings present may be suitable for dendrochronology. If the outer sapwood is present then a felling date may possibly be determined. The two largest specimens have the potential to be suitable for such work.

6.3.6 The wood is too degraded to show any tool marks, but working could have been carried out using just splitting, as suggested, or wood or stone tools.

7 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Palaeochannel Activity

7.1.1 The Fenland Project has provided a comprehensive background for archaeological investigations of the area. From this extensive survey, we know that prior to the Bronze Age, the north, east and south-western edges of Chatteris 'island' were bordered by marshland with vast and complex channel networks associated with the River Ouse on the west side of the parish. By the Iron Age and Roman periods, peat had formed over much of the landscape surrounding the 'island'. During this period, the River Ouse occupied much the same course as it had done in the previous periods but was by this time significantly smaller.

7.1.2 A series of small creeks or minor palaeochannels were identified in the evaluation. Considering the variable stratigraphic location of these features in the evaluation trenches, they are thought to represent former minor channels and smaller creeks of both prehistoric and historic date. The small channels in Trench 6 highlighted a series of minor creek migrations (Figure 4; Section 46), with evidence for intermittent overbank inundations and periods of stabilisation when peat developed.

7.1.3 Two of these potential channels produced a large quantity of wood although this was predominantly unworked branches and other naturally occurring detritus. However three possible worked timbers (Timbers 1, 2 & 3) were found in Trench 2. Some of these timbers appeared to be radially/tangentially split indicating possible prehistoric origins.

7.1.4 These timbers are not thought to represent in-situ remains of a structure and are likely to have been displaced from their original context. However, given their size and the fact that they were discovered in a peat deposit suggests that they have not moved very far. This is due to the fact that firstly peat is not a mobile deposit, coupled with the fact that the channel they were recovered from was relatively small and silted filled (meaning a slow moving channel) and therefore would have lacked the power to transport larger timbers.

7.1.5 Two timbers (Timbers 2 & 3), (samples <11-14>) were submitted for dendrochronological dating, however no reliable date could be determined from the samples.

7.2 Post-Medieval Agricultural Features

7.2.1 The principle result of the evaluation was the identification of a large number of peat filled ditches identified across the whole site such as those identified in Trench 55 (Figure 10; Plates 17-18). These ditches measured between 0.7m to 1.0m wide and 0.12m to 0.25m in depth (where excavated), and had straight near vertical sides and a flat base. They were on two main alignments: north-east to south-west and the second east to west.

7.2.2 Some of these ditches appear to have been deliberately segmented, with evidence for these ditches being hand excavated (Plate 5) represented by shovel or tool marks seen in the natural clay.

7.2.3 One interpretation of these features is that they are claying ditches, dug to improve the mineral content of the peaty soil and to reduce the soil loss due to the windy conditions prevalent in fenland environments (Pickstone et al 2009).

7.3 Conclusions

7.3.1 The trial trench evaluation has identified features reflecting post-medieval activity and a series of former channels and creeks with associated peat deposits representing prehistoric and historic natural activity around the Chatteris ‘island’.

7.3.2 A number of timbers identified in peat deposit (191) which showed evidence for being spilt rather than sawn suggesting an earlier, potentially prehistoric date. These timbers were recovered from peat deposits and so, albeit not in-situ, are unlikely to have travelled far from their primary context indicating there is prehistoric activity.

7.3.3 The current ground level is located at a height of 0.4m OD with the level of 'natural' deposits present at a depth of between -0.7m and -2.25m OD (Appendix 3). The site is on the edge of the Chatteris ‘island’, located at a

height of around 2.0m OD, and has revealed evidence for small former channels and periods of intermittent flooding and inundation, stabilisation and peat formation. There is the possibility that some of these minor channels or creeks may have formed during periods of marine inundation of the lowland fens.

7.3.4 There is no clear evidence for human activity pre-dating the marling ditches. This is explained by the height of the site at between -2.25m and -0.76m OD meaning that the environment would have been extremely wet and not suitable for occupation or settlement throughout most of its existence, which would more likely have occurred on the higher ground of Chatteris to the north and east. The formation of the peat in the fens occurred first in the Mesolithic and Neolithic, within the low-lying areas of the landscape such as rivers and meres, with further peat growth forming from the Later Bronze Age onwards. Activity during these periods is likely to have been confined to the higher ground of the Chatteris 'island'.

7.3.5 The site has been subject to intensive post-medieval agricultural activity, with significant amounts of small peat filled ditches identified throughout the site. These are likely to be claying ditches dug to improve the mineral content of the peaty soil and to reduce the soil loss due to the windy conditions prevalent in fenland environments.

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Figure 1 Site Location

Figure 2 Trench Location

Figure 3a Plan Showing Orientation of Marling Ditches (North)

Figure 4b Plan Showing Orientation of Marling Ditches (South)

Figure 5: Trench 6 Plan & Section

Figure 5: Trench 18 Plan and Sections

Figure 6: Trench 20 Plan and Sections

Figure 7: Trench 22 Plan and Sections

Figure 8: Trench 28 Plan and Sections

Figure 9: Trench 39 Plan and Sections

Figure 10: Trench 55 Plan and Sections

10 APPENDIX 1: PLATES

Plate 1: Trench 1 view east

Plate 2: Trench 1 Ditch [104] view north

Plate 3: Trench 3 showing claying ditches, view west

Plate 4: Trench 7 view south

Plate 5: Trench 7 Ditch [110], showing evidence of 21st century spade marks

Plate 6: Trench 13 peat and alluvium sequence, showing marling ditches in cross section

Plate 7: Trench 18 Ditch [163]

Plate 8: Trench 18 Ditch [161]

Plate 9: Trench 20 view west

Plate 10: Trench 20 peat sequence view south

Plate 11: Trench 22

Plate 12: Trench 22 sequence

Plate 13: Trench 28 view south-west

Plate 14: Trench 28 Timber 1-3 view north-west

Plate 15: Trench 28 Timber 3 detail

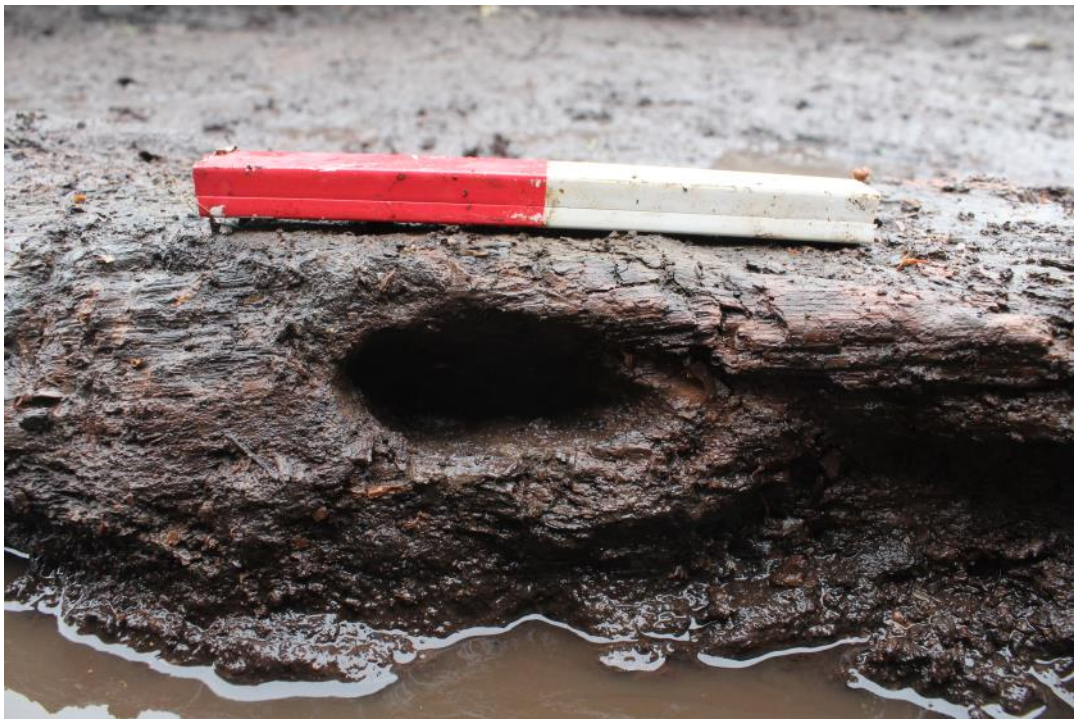


Plate 16: Trench 28 Timber 3 detail reused knot hole

Plate 17: Trench 28 Timbers 1-3

Plate 18: Trench 28 pointed timber

Plate 19: Trench 39 view north-east

Plate 20: Trench 48 peat sequence

Plate 21: Trench 55 view south

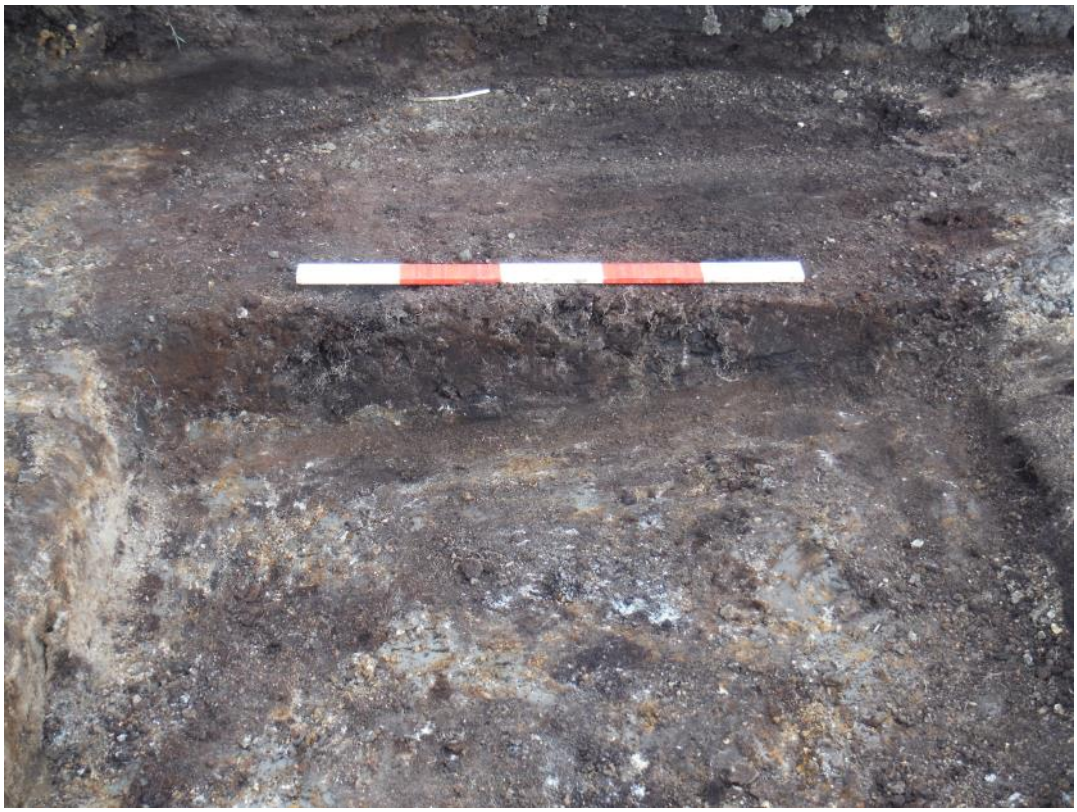


Plate 22: Trench 55 Ditch [113]

11 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context Number	Trench	Cut	Type	Category	Interpretation
100	-	-	Layer	Peat	Overburden
101	-	-	Layer	Peat	Overburden
102	-	-	Layer	Natural	Natural
103	1	104	Fill	Ditch	
104	1	104	Cut	Ditch	
105	1	106	Fill	Ditch	
106	1	106	Cut	Ditch	
107	2	108	Fill	Ditch	
108	2	108	Cut	Ditch	
109	7	110	Fill	Ditch	
110	7	110	Cut	Ditch	
111	55	111	Cut	Ditch	
112	55	111	Fill	Ditch	
113	55	113	Cut	Ditch	
114	55	113	Fill	Ditch	
115	55	115	Cut	Ditch	
116	55	115	Fill	Ditch	
117	55	117	Cut	Ditch	
118	55	117	Fill	Ditch	
119	43	119	Cut	Ditch	
120	43	119	Fill	Ditch	
121	46	122	Fill	Natural	Tree hollow
122	46	122	Cut	Natural	Tree hollow
123	46	124	Fill	Natural	Tree hollow
124	46	124	Cut	Natural	Tree hollow
125	44	126	Fill	Ditch	
126	44	126	Cut	Ditch	
127	41	128	Fill	Ditch	
128	41	128	Cut	Ditch	
129	41	130	Fill	Ditch	
130	41	130	Cut	Ditch	
131	40	131	Cut	Ditch	
132	40	131	Fill	Ditch	
133	40	133	Cut	Ditch	
134	40	133	Fill	Ditch	
135	50	136	Fill	Ditch	

136	50	136	Cut	Ditch	
137	50	138	Fill	Ditch	
138	50	138	Cut	Ditch	
139	51	139	Cut	Ditch	
140	51	139	Fill	Ditch	
141	51	139	Fill	Ditch	
142	0	0	VOID	VOID	VOID
143	0	0	VOID	VOID	VOID
144	24	144	Cut	Ditch	
145	24	144	Fill	Ditch	
146	12	147	Fill	Ditch	
147	12	147	Cut	Ditch	
148	14	149	Fill	Ditch	
149	14	149	Cut	Ditch	
150	15	151	Fill	Ditch	
151	15	151	Cut	Ditch	
152	25	153	Fill	Ditch	
153	25	153	Cut	Ditch	
154	23	154	Cut	Ditch	
155	23	154	Fill	Ditch	
156	22	156	Cut	Ditch	
157	22	156	Fill	Ditch	
158	9	159	Fill	Ditch	
159	9	159	Cut	Ditch	
160	18	161	Fill	Ditch	
161	18	161	Cut	Ditch	
162	18	163	Upper Fill	Ditch	
163	18	163	Cut	Ditch	
164	8	164	Cut	Ditch	
165	8	164	Fill	Ditch	
166	8	167	Fill	Ditch	
167	8	167	Cut	Ditch	
168	18	163	Fill	Ditch	
169	30	170	Fill	Ditch	
170	30	170	Cut	Ditch	
171	33	172	Fill	Ditch	
172	33	172	Cut	Ditch	
173	29	174	Fill	Ditch	
174	29	174	Cut	Ditch	

175	29	176	Fill	Ditch	
176	29	176	Cut	Ditch	
177	26	178	Fill	Ditch	
178	26	178	Cut	Ditch	
179	26	180	Fill	Ditch	
180	26	180	Cut	Ditch	
181	37	181	Cut	Ditch	
182	37	181	Fill	Ditch	
183	34	183	Cut	Ditch	
184	34	183	Fill	Ditch	
185	35	185	Cut	Ditch	
186	35	185	Fill	Ditch	
187	33	187	Cut	Ditch	
188	33	187	Fill	Ditch	
189	20	0	Layer	Peat	Wood horizon
190	22	0	Layer	Peat	Wood horizon
191	28	218	Layer	Peat	Wood horizon
192	18	0	Layer	Silt	Alluvial deposit
193	18	0	Layer	Silt	Alluvial deposit
194	18	0	Layer	Silt	Alluvial deposit
195	18	0	Layer	Peat	Peat deposit
196	18	0	Fill	Peat	Peat deposit
197	18	0	Layer	Silt	
198	26	0	Layer	Peat	
199	26	0	Layer	Silt	Alluvial deposit
200	26	0	Layer	Silt	Alluvial deposit
201	0	0	VOID	VOID	VOID
202	0	0	Layer	Clay	Alluvial deposit
203	0	0	Layer	Clay	Alluvial deposit
204	0	0	Layer	Clay	Alluvial deposit
205	0	0	Layer	Clay	Alluvial deposit
206	0	0	Layer	Peat	Lower Peat deposit
207	0	0	Layer	Peat	Wood horizon
208	0	0	Layer	Silt	
209	0	0	Layer	Silt	
210	0	0	Layer	Peat	Peat
211	0	0	Layer	Silt	
212	6	212	Cut	Creek	Small creek
213	6	212	Fill	Creek	Small creek

214	6	214	Cut	Creek	Small creek
215	6	214	Fill	Creek	Small creek
216	39	216	Cut	Channel	Possible channel
217	28	218	Layer	Channel	
218	28	218	Cut	Channel	Possible channel

12 APPENDIX 3: TRENCH TABLES

TRENCH 1	**Figures 2 and 3b**		**Plate 1**	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 25m		Level of Natural (m OD): -1.38m	
Deposit	**Context No.**		**Average Depth (m)**	
			NW End	**SE End**
Peat	(100)		0.26m	0.36m
Clay	(202)		0.03m	0.04m
Natural	(102)		0.3m+	0.4m+
Summary				
Trench 1 was located close to the south-eastern boundary of the site. Trench 1 contained two ditches, both aligned east to west.				

TRENCH 2	**Figures 2 and 3b**			
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 25m		Level of Natural (m OD): -1.43m	
Deposit	**Context No.**		**Average Depth (m)**	
			NE End	**SW End**
Peat	(100)		0.26m	0.26m
Clay	(202)		0.35m	0.62m
Natural	(102)		0.61m+	0.92m+
Summary				
Trench 2 was located close to the south-eastern boundary of the site. The trench contained one ditch aligned north to south.				

TRENCH 3	**Figure 2**		**Plate 3**	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 25m		Level of Natural (m OD): -1.61m	
Deposit	**Context No.**		**Average Depth (m)**	
			NW End	**SE End**
Peat	(100)		0.38m	0.38m
Clay	(202)		0.48m	0.48m
Natural	(102)		0.86m+	0.94m+
Summary				
Trench 3 was located close to the south-western boundary of the site. The trench contained no archaeological features.				

TRENCH 4	**Figures 2 and 3b**		
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.12m	
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		E End	**W End**
Peat	(100)	0.32m	0.32m
Clay	(202)	0.12m	0.42m
Silt	(208)	0.42m	N/A
Natural	(102)	0.86m+	1.04m+
Summary			
Trench 4 was located close to the south-western boundary of the site. The trench contained no archaeological features.			

TRENCH 5	**Figure 2**		
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.46m	
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		NE End	**SW End**
Peat	(100)	0.32m	0.32m
Clay	(202)	0.34m	0.42m
Clay	(203)	0.3m	0.3m
Natural	(102)	0.96m+	1.01m+
Summary			
Trench 5 was located close to the north-western boundary of the site.			

TRENCH 6	**Figures 2, 3b and 4**		
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.59m	
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		NE End	**SW End**
Peat	(100)	0.38m	0.28m
Clay	(202)	0.18m	0.25m
Clay	(203)	0.1m	0.12m
Silt	(208)	0.1m	0.13m
Natural	(102)	0.76m+	1.01m+
Summary			

Trench 6 was located in the south-western part of the site.
The trench contained no archaeological features but showed evidence in section for the migration of former minor creeks [212] and [214].

TRENCH 7	**Figures 2 and 3b**		**Plate 4**	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 25m		Level of Natural (m OD): -0.81m	
Deposit	**Context No.**		**Average Depth (m)**	
			NE End	**SW End**
Peat	(100)		0.42m	0.41m
Clay	(202)		0.18m	0.2m
Natural	(102)		0.61m+	0.6m+

Summary

Trench 7 was located in the south-western part of the site.
The trench contained one ditch aligned north-east to south-west.

TRENCH 8	**Figures 2 and 3a**			
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 25m		Level of Natural (m OD): -1.47m	
Deposit	**Context No.**		**Average Depth (m)**	
			NW End	**SE End**
Peat	(100)		0.32m	0.3m
Clay	(202)		0.2m	0.1m
Silt	(209)		0.18m	N/A
Peat	(207)		0.2m	N/A
Silt	(208)		0.21m	N/A
Natural	(102)		1.01m+	0.73m+

Summary

Trench 8 was located in the north part of the site.
The trench contained seven north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches. None of these ditches were excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

TRENCH 9	**Figures 2 and 3a**		
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.26m	
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	

		NE End	**SW End**
Peat	(100)	0.32m	0.26m
Clay	(202)	0.18m	0.1m
Peat	(121)	0.14m	0.14m
Silt	(208)	0.14m	0.26m
Natural	(102)	0.74m+	0.76m+

Summary

Trench 9 was located close to the eastern boundary of the site.
Trench 9 had to be realigned to an east to west orientation due to live overhead powerlines present on this part of the site.
The trench contained two north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches, one of which was excavated.

TRENCH 10	**Figures 2 and 3a**	
Trench Alignment: E-S	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.18m

Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		E End	**W End**
Peat	(100)	0.28m	0.26m
Peat	(101)	0.12m	0.3m
Peat	(207)	0.18m	0.14m
Natural	(102)	0.64m+	0.76m+

Summary

Trench 10 was located close to the eastern boundary of the site.
The trench contained four north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches. None of these ditches were excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

TRENCH 12	**Figures 2 and 3a**	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.12m

Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		E End	**W End**
Peat	(100)	0.32m	0.32m
Peat	(101)	0.1m	0.12m
Clay	(202)	0.14m	0.13m
Peat	(207)	0.16m	0.16m

Natural	(102)	0.74m+	0.73m+

Summary

Trench 12 was located close to the eastern boundary of the site.
The trench contained two north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches, one of which was excavated.

TRENCH 13	**Figure 2**	**Plate 6**	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.25m	
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		NE End	**SW End**
Peat	(100)	0.32m	0.32m
Peat	(101)	0.12m	0.28m
Clay	(202)	0.1m	0.08m
Peat	(207)	0.21m	0.14m
Silt	(208)	0.22m	0.08m
Natural	(102)	0.86m+	0.73m+

Summary

Trench 13 was located close to the eastern boundary of the site.
The trench contained no archaeologically significant features or deposits.

TRENCH 14	**Figures 2 and 3a**	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 25m	Excavated depth of trench (m OD): -0.76m

Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		E End	**W End**
Peat	(100)	0.3m	0.32m
Peat	(101)	0.14m	0.1m
Clay	(202)	0.44m+	0.42m+

Summary

Trench 14 was located in the middle part of the site. The trench was taken down to the level where archaeological features were visible.
The trench contained one east to west aligned peat filled ditch.

TRENCH 15	**Figures 2 and 3a**	

Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.29m	
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		NE End	**SE End**
Peat	(100)	0.32m	0.34m
Clay	(202)	0.34m	0.2m
Peat	(207)	0.18m	0.19m
Silt	(208)	0.16m	0.23m
Natural	(102)	0.9m+	0.92m+

Summary

Trench 15 was located in the middle of the site.
The trench contained one east to west aligned peat filled ditch.

TRENCH 16	**Figures 2 and 3a**		
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.35m	
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		E End	**W End**
Peat	(100)	0.4m	0.36m
Clay	(202)	0.38m	0.41m
Clay	(203)	0.2m	0.22
Natural	(102)	0.81m+	0.84m+

Summary

Trench 16 was located in the middle part of the site.
The trench contained four north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches. None of these ditches were excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

TRENCH 18	**Figures 2, 3a and 5**	**Plate 7-8**	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.29m	
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		E End	**W End**
Peat	(100)	0.24m	0.26m
Peat	(101)	0.1m	0.08m
Silt	(192)	0.08m	N/A
Silt	(193)	0.17m	N/A
Silt	(194)	0.14m	N/A

Clay	(202)	N/A	0.1m
Peat	(207)	N/A	0.14m
Silt	(208)	0.14m	0.16m
Natural	(102)	0.74m+	0.76m+

Summary

Trench 18 was located in the middle part of the site.
The trench contained six north-east to south-west aligned ditches and one east-north-east to west-south-west aligned ditch present at a lower horizon. Two of these ditches were excavated and fully recorded as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

TRENCH 19	**Figures 2 and 3a**		
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.38m	
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		NE End	**SW End**
Peat	(100)	0.32m	0.36m
Clay	(202)	0.34m	0.24m
Silt	(209)	N/A	0.26m
Peat	(207)	0.18m	0.14m
Silt	(208)	0.08m	0.1m
Natural	(102)	0.9m+	1.0m+

Summary

Trench 19 was located in the middle part of the site.
The trench contained six north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches. None of these ditches were excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

TRENCH 20	**Figures 2, 3a and 6**		**Plate 9**
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.51m	
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		Middle	**SW End**
Peat	(100)	0.31m	0.32m
Peat	(101)	0.08m	0.17m
Clay	(202)	0.26m	0.24m
Clay	(203)	0.16m	0.19m

Clay	(204)	0.12m	N/A
Clay	(205)	0.06m	N/A
Peat	(189)	0.14m	0.15m
Peat	(206)	0.08m	0.06m
Silt	(208)	N/A	0.2m
Natural	(102)	0.96m+	1.3m+

Summary

Trench 20 was located in the western part of the site.
The trench contained seven north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches. None of these ditches were excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

TRENCH 21	**Figures 2 and 3a**		
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.48m	
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		E End	**W End**
Peat	(100)	0.34m	0.3m
Clay	(202)	0.26m	0.3m
Peat	(207)	0.15m	0.34m
Natural	(102)	0.9m+	0.95m+

Summary

Trench 21 was located in the western part of the site.
The trench contained five north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches. None of these ditches were excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

TRENCH 22	**Figures 2, 3a and 7**	**Plate 11**	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.34m	
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		NE End	**Middle**
Peat	(100)	0.28m	0.34m
Clay	(202)	0.12m	0.18m
Clay	(203)	N/A	0.28m
Peat	(190)	N/A	0.18m
Silt	(208)	N/A	0.16m

Natural	(102)	0.4m+	1.2m+

Summary

Trench 22 was located in the western part of the site.
The trench had to be relocated due to live overhead powerlines. The trench was taken down to the level where archaeological features were visible, with a sondage put in to ascertain the depth of the natural Oxford Clay.
The trench contained five north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches. Only one of these ditches was excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.
A deposit of peat (190) was identified in this trench, which contained fragments of wood of which some was possibly worked, however this is likely to have split through natural processes.

TRENCH 23	**Figures 2 and 3a**		
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.43m	
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		NW End	**SE End**
Peat	(100)	0.33m	0.32m
Clay	(202)	0.4m	0.36m
Peat	(207)	0.1m	0.14m
Natural	(102)	0.78m+	0.82m+

Summary

Trench 23 was located in the western part of the site.
This trench had to be relocated due to the presence of overhead powerlines. The trench contained one north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditch.

TRENCH 24	**Figures 2 and 3a**		
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 25m	Excavated depth of trench (m OD): -0.95m	
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		NE End	**SW End**
Peat	(100)	0.3m	0.3m
Clay	(202)	0.2m	0.21m
Clay	(203)	0.52m+	0.51m+

Summary

Trench 24 was located in the western part of the site. The trench was taken down to the level where archaeological features were visible.
The trench had to be relocated as it lay within the 12m standoff zone put in alongside one of the dykes running between the two areas of the site. The trench contained one ditch aligned north-east to south-west.

TRENCH 25	**Figures 2 and 3a**		
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.13m	

Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		E End	**W End**
Peat	(100)	0.34m	0.32m
Clay	(202)	0.1m	0.11m
Natural	(102)	0.4m+	0.44m+

Summary

Trench 25 was located in the western part of the site. The trench was taken down to the level where archaeological features were visible, with a sondage put in to ascertain the depth of the natural Oxford Clay (-1.13m OD).
The trench contained five north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches. One of these ditches was excavated with the other four unexcavated as they had been thoroughly investigated and recorded in other trenches.

TRENCH 26	**Figures 2 and 3a**		
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.53m	

Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		NE End	**SW End**
Peat	(100)	0.3m	0.3m
Clay	(202)	0.11m	0.24m
Clay	(203)	0.32m	0.21m
Natural	(102)	0.75m+	0.7m+

Summary

Trench 26 was located close to the western boundary of the site.
The trench contained four north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches. Two of these ditches were excavated and recorded, with the other two unexcavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

TRENCH 27	**Figures 2 and 3a**		
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.63m	

Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		W End	**E End**
Peat	(100)	0.3m	0.3m
Clay	(202)	N/A	0.1m
Clay	(203)	0.18m	0.15m
Silt	(208)	N/A	0.35m
Natural	(102)	0.48m+	1.06m+

Summary

Trench 27 was located close to the western boundary of the site. The trench was taken down to the level where archaeological features were visible, with a sondage put in to ascertain the depth of the natural Oxford Clay.

The trench contained four north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches. None of these ditches were excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

TRENCH 28	**Figures 2, 3a and 8**	**Plate 13**	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -2.25m	

Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		NE End	**SW End**
Peat	(100)	0.4m	0.3m
Peat	(101)	0.21m	0.2m
Clay	(202)	0.2m	0.4m
Clay	(217)	N/A	0.21m
Silt	(209)	N/A	0.21m
Peat	(210)	0.1m	0.24m
Peat	(191)	N/A	0.14m
Silt	(208)	0.6m	0.12m
Natural	(102)	1.1m+	1.8m+

Summary

Trench 28 was located close to the western boundary of the site.

The trench contained no archaeological features but contained a former palaeochannel [218]. The possible channel contained a deposit of peat (191) which contained a large quantity of wood and reed remains. At the northern edge of the trench two large pieces of

potentially worked wood were identified (Timber 2 & 3).

TRENCH 29	**Figures 2 and 3a**		
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.44m	
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		E End	**W End**
Peat	(100)	0.31m	0.38m
Peat	(101)	0.11m	0.11m
Clay	(202)	0.3m	N/A
Clay	(203)	0.4m	N/A
Natural	(102)	1.05m+	0.5m+

Summary

Trench 29 was located close to the western boundary of the site.
The trench contained eight north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches. Two of these ditches were excavated and recorded, with the other six unexcavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

TRENCH 30	**Figures 2 and 3a**		
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.50m	
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		E End	**W End**
Peat	(100)	0.3m	0.32m
Clay	(202)	0.2m	0.31m
Clay	(203)	0.4m	0.4m
Natural	(102)	0.9m+	1.01m+

Summary

Trench 30 was located close to the western boundary of the site.
The trench contained four north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches. None of these ditches were excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

TRENCH 32	**Figure 2**	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.60m
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**

		NE End	**SW End**
Peat	(100)	0.32m	0.32m
Peat	(101)	0.12m	0.13m
Clay	(202)	0.24m	0.34m
Clay	(203)	0.34m	0.3m
Peat	(207)	0.21m	0.2m
Peat	(206)	0.2m	N/A
Natural	(102)	1.7m+	1.1m+

Summary

Trench 32 was located close to the north-western boundary of the site.
The trench contained no archaeological features.

TRENCH 33	**Figures 2 and 3a**		
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.59m	

Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		E End	**W End**
Peat	(100)	0.38m	0.32m
Clay	(202)	0.2m	0.11m
Clay	(203)	0.3m	N/A
Natural	(102)	0.8m+	0.4m+

Summary

Trench 33 was located close to the north-western boundary of the site.
The trench contained eight north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches. None of these ditches were excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

TRENCH 34	**Figures 2 and 3a**		
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.50m	

Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		NE End	**SW End**
Peat	(100)	0.32m	0.32m
Clay	(202)	0.31m	0.3m
Clay	(203)	N/A	0.4
Silt	(209)	0.4m	N/A
Peat	(207)	0.3m	0.3m

Natural	(102)	1.8m+	1.6m+

Summary

Trench 34 was located close to the north-western boundary of the site.
The trench contained one north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditch, this was not excavated as they had been investigated thoroughly in other trenches on the site.

TRENCH 35	**Figures 2 and 3a**		
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.70m	

Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		E End	**W End**
Peat	(100)	0.36m	0.3m
Peat	(101)	0.14m	0.13m
Clay	(202)	0.1m	0.1m
Peat	(207)	N/A	0.4m
Peat	(206)	N/A	0.3m
Natural	(102)	0.47m+	1.73m+

Summary

Trench 35 was located close to the north-western boundary of the site.
The trench contained eight north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches. None of these ditches were excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

TRENCH 36	**Figure 2**		
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 25m	Excavated depth of trench (m OD): -1.01m	

Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		NE End	**SW End**
Peat	(100)	0.28m	0.3m
Peat	(101)	0.1m	0.06m
Clay	(202)	0.06m	0.08m
Clay	(203)	0.44m+	0.42m+

Summary

Trench 36 was located close to the north-western boundary of the site. The trench was taken down to the level where archaeological features were visible.
The trench contained no archaeological features.

TRENCH 37	**Figures 2 and 3a**		
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.43m	
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		E End	**W End**
Peat	(100)	0.34m	0.34m
Clay	(202)	0.21m	0.31m
Silt	(208)	0.6m	0.57m
Natural	(102)	1.21m+	1.4m+

Summary

Trench 37 was located close to the north-western boundary of the site.
The trench contained three north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches. One of these ditches was excavated, with the other two unexcavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

TRENCH 38	**Figures 2 and 3a**		
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.51m	
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		E End	**W End**
Peat	(100)	0.26m	0.32m
Peat	(101)	0.06m	N/A
Clay	(202)	0.48m	0.3m
Clay	(203)	0.11m	0.31m
Natural	(102)	0.95m+	0.9m+

Summary

Trench 38 was located close to the north-western boundary of the site.
The trench contained one north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditch, which was not excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

TRENCH 39	**Figures 2, 3a and 9**		**Plate 19**
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.86m	
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		Middle	**SW End**
Peat	(100)	0.26m	0.3m
Peat	(101)	0.06m	N/A

Clay	(202)	0.48m	0.14m
Clay	(203)	0.42	0.23m
Silt	(211)	N/A	0.12m
Silt	(209)	N/A	0.08m
Peat	(207)	N/A	0.2m
Peat	(206)	N/A	0.12m
Natural	(102)	1.0m+	1.6m+

Summary

Trench 39 was located close to the north-western boundary of the site.
The trench contained one north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditch, which was not excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

TRENCH 40	**Figures 2 and 3a**		
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.40m	
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		E End	**W End**
Peat	(100)	0.34m	0.32m
Clay	(202)	0.13m	0.14m
Peat	(207)	0.12m	0.1m
Natural	(102)	0.74m+	0.75m+

Summary

Trench 40 was located in the northern part of the site.
The trench contained one north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditch, which was not excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

TRENCH 41	**Figures 2 and 3a**		
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -0.96m	
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		E End	**W End**
Peat	(100)	0.32m	0.32m
Clay	(202)	0.1m	0.11m
Clay	(203)	0.4m+	0.42m+

Summary

Trench 41 was located close to the north-western boundary of the site. The trench was taken down to the level where archaeological features were visible.

The trench contained no archaeological features.

TRENCH 42	**Figures 2 and 3a**		
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.29m	
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		NE End	**SW End**
Peat	(100)	0.32m	0.3m
Peat	(101)	0.12m	0.08m
Clay	(202)	0.1m	0.31m
Clay	(203)	0.16m	N/A
Peat	(207)	0.22m	0.24m
Silts	(208)	0.12m	N/A
Natural	(102)	1.01m+	1.0m+

Summary

Trench 42 was located in the northern part of the site.
The trench contained one north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditch, which was not excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

TRENCH 43	**Figures 2 and 3a**		
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.35m	
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		NE End	**SW End**
Peat	(100)	0.32m	0.31m
Peat	(101)	0.14m	0.14m
Clay	(202)	0.4m	0.21m
Peat	(207)	0.22m	0.21m
Silt	(211)	0.3m	N/A
Natural	(102)	1.4m+	0.73m+

Summary

Trench 43 was located in the northern part of the site.
The trench contained one north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditch, which was not excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

TRENCH 44	**Figures 2 and 3a**	

Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.1m	
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		NE End	**SW End**
Peat	(100)	0.32m	0.32m
Peat	(101)	0.1m	0.09m
Clay	(209)	0.2m	0.18m
Peat	(207)	0.14m	N/A
Silt	(208)	0.18m	N/A
Natural	(102)	0.8m+	0.55m+

Summary

Trench 44 was located in the northern part of the site.
The trench contained three north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches, which were not excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

TRENCH 45	**Figure 2**		
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -0.99m	
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		NE End	**SW End**
Peat	(100)	0.26m	0.32m
Peat	(101)	0.12m	0.11m
Clay	(202)	0.18m	0.14m
Silt	(208)	0.22m	0.2m
Silt	(211)	N/A	0.4m
Natural	(102)	0.7m+	1.4m+

The trench contained no archaeological features.

TRENCH 46	**Figures 2 and 3a**		
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -0.98m	
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		NE End	**SW End**
Peat	(100)	0.34m	0.36m
Silt	(209)	0.26m	0.24m
Natural	(102)	0.68m+	0.65m+

Summary

Trench 46 was located in the northern part of the site.

The trench contained one north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditch, which was not excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site, as well as two tree hollows.

TRENCH 47	**Figures 2 and 3a**		
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.07m	

Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		E End	**W End**
Peat	(100)	0.28m	0.32m
Silt	(209)	0.16m	0.3m
Clay	(203)	0.6m	0.12m
Natural	(102)	0.7m+	0.74m+

Summary

Trench 47 was located in the northern part of the site.
The trench contained one north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditch, which was not excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

TRENCH 48	**Figure 2**	**Plate 20**
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.37m

Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		NE End	**SW End**
Peat	(100)	0.26m	0.32m
Clay	(202)	0.3m	0.28m
Peat	(207)	0.18m	0.18m
Silt	(208)	0.24m	0.28m
Natural	(102)	1.01m+	0.98m+

Summary

Trench 48 was located in the northern part of the site.
The trench contained no archaeological features.

TRENCH 49	**Figures 2 and 3a**	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.29m

Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		E End	**W End**

Peat	(100)	0.25m	0.22m
Clay	(202)	0.18m	0.12m
Peat	(207)	0.16m	0.2m
Silt	(208)	0.16m	0.28m
Natural	(102)	0.75m+	0.8m+

Summary

Trench 49 was located in the northern part of the site.
The trench contained four north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches, which were not excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

TRENCH 50	**Figures 2 and 3a**		
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 25m	Excavated depth of trench (m OD): -1.1m	
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		NE End	**SW End**
Peat	(100)	0.28m	0.28m
Clay	(202)	0.11m	0.13m
Clay	(203)	0.39m+	0.4m+

Summary

Trench 50 was located in the northern part of the site. The trench was taken down to the level where archaeological features were visible.
The trench contained two north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches.

TRENCH 51	**Figures 2 and 3a**		
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.23m	
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		E End	**W End**
Peat	(100)	0.32m	0.32m
Clay	(202)	0.1m	0.1m
Natural	(102)	0.4m+	0.4m+

Summary

Trench 51 was located in the northern part of the site.
The trench contained two north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches, one was excavated and the second was not excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

TRENCH 52	**Figure 2**		
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.22m	
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		NE End	**SW End**
Peat	(100)	0.22m	0.2m
Peat	(101)	0.1m	0.1m
Clay	(202)	0.2m	0.18m
Peat	(207)	0.18m	0.12m
Silt	(208)	0.2m	0.2m
Natural	(102)	0.9m+	0.73m+

Summary

Trench 52 was located in the northern part of the site.
The trench contained no archaeological features.

TRENCH 53	**Figures 2 and 3a**		
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -1.08m	
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		E End	**W End**
Peat	(100)	0.3m	0.34m
Peat	(101)	0.14m	N/A
Clay	(202)	0.34m	0.32m
Natural	(102)	0.81m+	0.66m+

Summary

Trench 53 was located in the northern part of the site.
The trench contained two north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches, which were not excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

TRENCH 54	**Figure 2**		
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): -0.95m	
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		NE End	**SW End**
Peat	(100)	0.38m	0.36m
Clay	(202)	0.22m	0.24m
Peat	(207)	0.16m	0.16m

Peat	(206)	0.2m	0.18m
Natural	(102)	0.96m+	0.94m+

Summary

Trench 54 was located in the northern part of the site.
The trench contained no archaeological features.

TRENCH 55	**Figures 2, 3a and 10**	**Plate 21**
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 25m	Excavated depth of trench (m OD): -0.66m

Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		E End	**W End**
Peat	(100)	0.32m	0.32m
Clay	(202)	0.1m	0.1m
Clay	(203)	0.4m+	0.4m+

Summary

Trench 55 was located in the northern part of the site. The trench was taken down to the level where archaeological features were visible.
The trench contained five north-east to south-west aligned peat filled ditches, four of which were excavated and recorded with the remainder not excavated as they had been thoroughly investigated in other trenches on the site.

13 APPENDIX 4: OASIS FORM

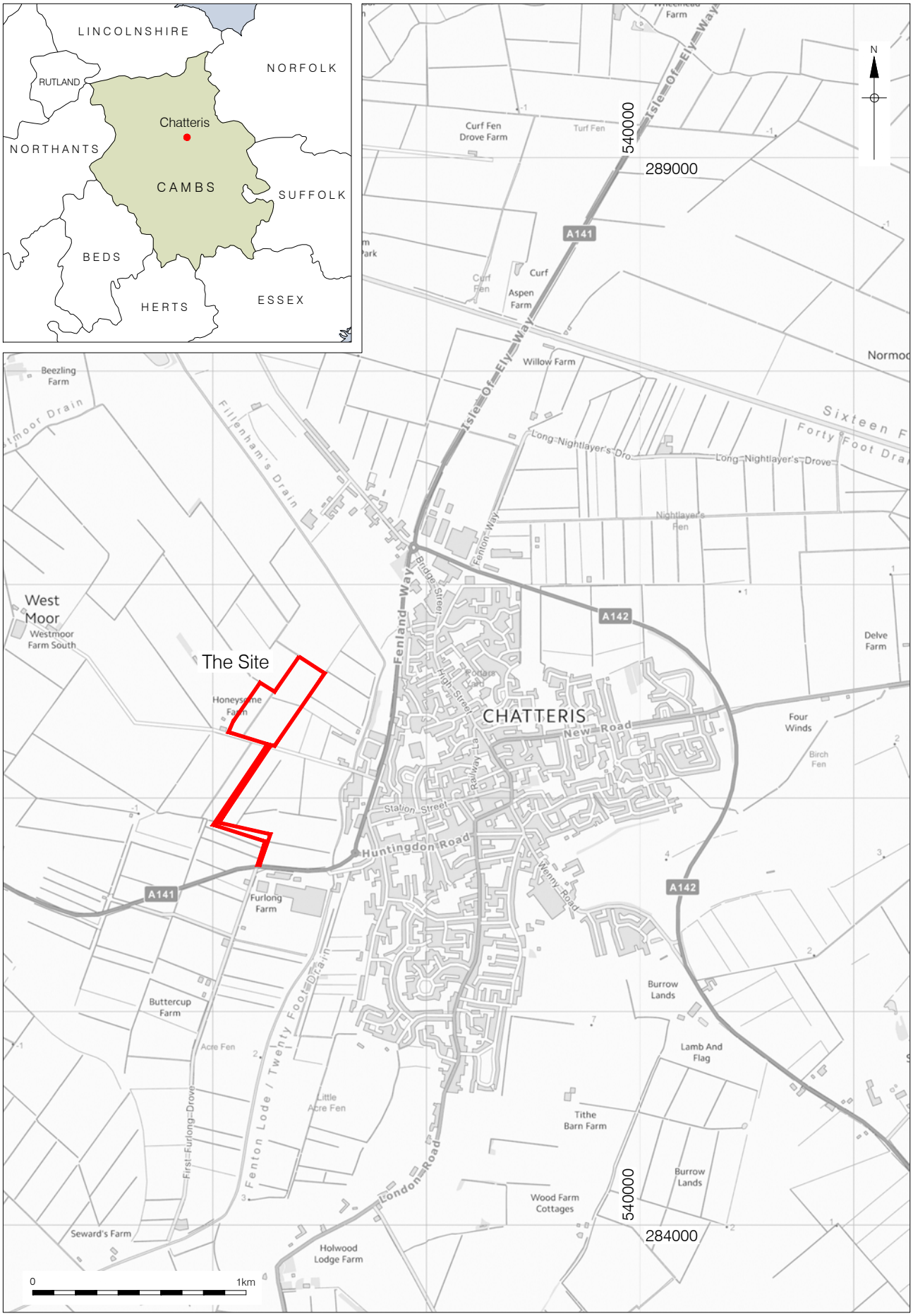
OASIS ID: preconst1-230769

Project details	
Project name	Land at Honeysome Road, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire, PE16 6RZ: An Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at Honeysome Road, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 3820 8637) between the 19th and the 28th October 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd in response to a Brief for Archaeological Evaluation (Stewart 2015) of the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCCHET). The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. The earliest activity was represented by several peat deposits sealed below silt and alluvial clay relating to episodes of flooding and marine inundations. One of the lowest peat deposits recorded at the edge of a possible palaeochannel yielded a number of pieces of wood, of which some showed evidence for being worked. Samples of the worked wood were submitted for dendrochronological dating, however no reliable date could be determined from the samples. The sequence of fen deposits, around the Chatteris 'island' and the Cambridgeshire fens, formed as early as the Mesolithic and Neolithic in low lying land, such as rivers and meres, with further peat forming in the later Bronze Age following major lowland inundations. However, aside from some worked wood, no dating evidence was recovered from the deposits in the evaluation trenches. A number of later, peat-filled ditches were also recorded across the site, cutting through the alluvial deposits, possibly serving as claying or drainage ditches. The drainage of the Fens began initially in the 17th Century although the ditches identified on site were undated and could date from the late 17th to the 19th century. The area around the Chatteris 'island' was drained into the Forty Foot Drain and the Sixteen Foot drain, which were originally cut during Vermuyden's second phase of drainage works in 1651.
Project dates	Start: 19-10-2015 End: 28-10-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	CHRC15 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	ECB4576 - HER event no.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 3 - Operations to a depth more than 0.25m
Monument type	CHANNEL Late Prehistoric
Monument type	DITCH Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	""Sample Trenches""

Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Between deposition of an application and determination
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE FENLAND CHATTERIS Land at Honeysome Road, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire, PE16 6RZ: An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation
Postcode	PE16 6RZ
Study area	11.06 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 3820 8637 52.457377584438 0.034194372443 52 27 26 N 000 02 03 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: -2.25m Max: 0.4m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
Project brief originator	Cambridge HET
Project design originator	CgMs Consultants Ltd
Project director/manager	Taleyna Fletcher
Project supervisor	Matthew Jones
Type of sponsor/funding body	Consultancy
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting Ltd
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	CCC County Archaeology Store
Physical Archive ID	CHRC15
Physical Contents	"other"
Digital Archive recipient	CCC County Archaeology Store
Digital Archive ID	CHRC15
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Database","GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive	CCC County Archaeology Store

recipient	
Paper Archive ID	CHRC15
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey","Unpublished Text"
Project bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at Honeysome Road, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire, PE16 6RZ: An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Jones, M.
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
Place of issue or publication	Pampisford
Description	A4 bound report including figures, tables and plates.

14 APPENDIX 5: GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY REPORT



07/12/15 JS

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

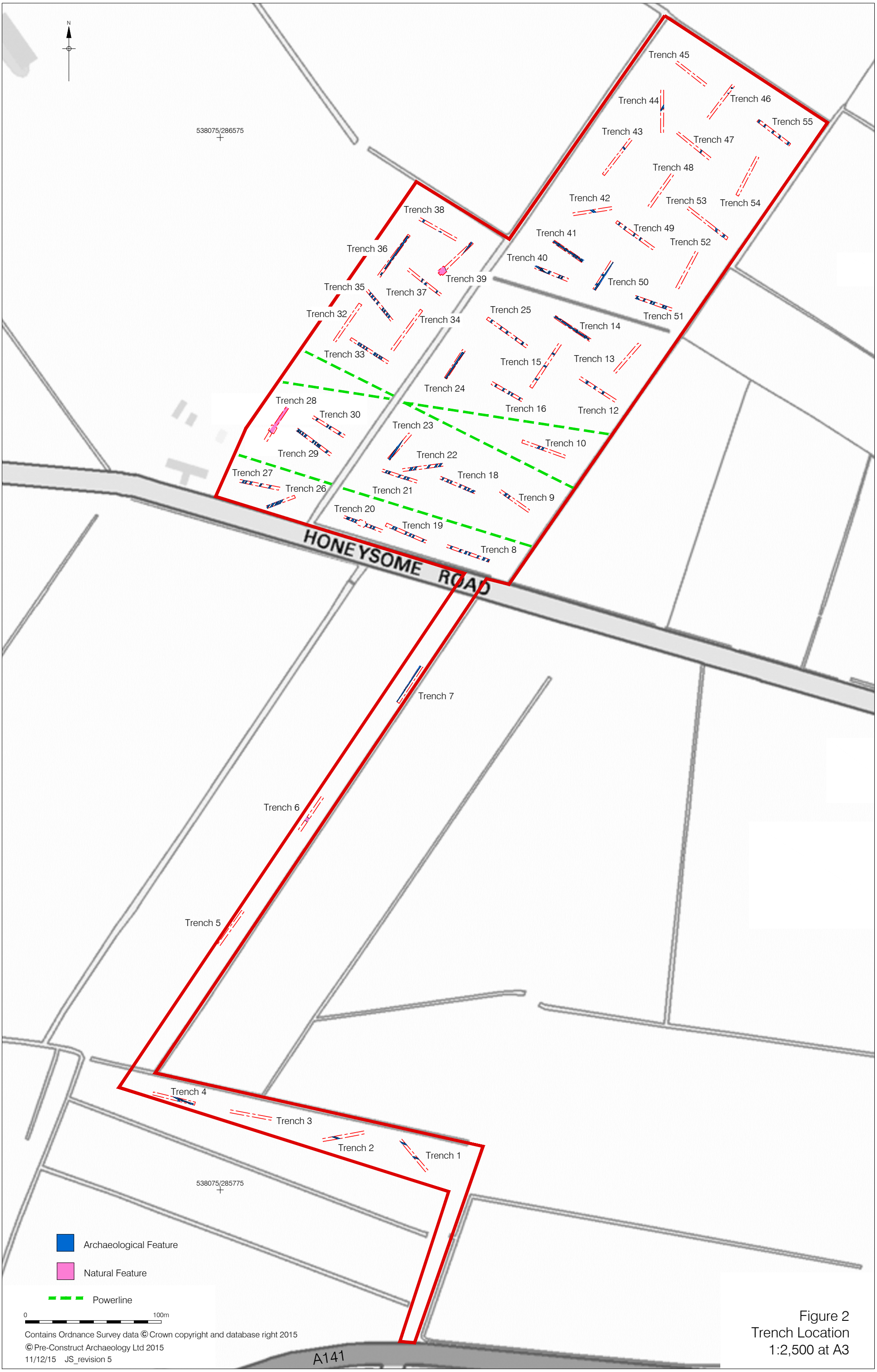
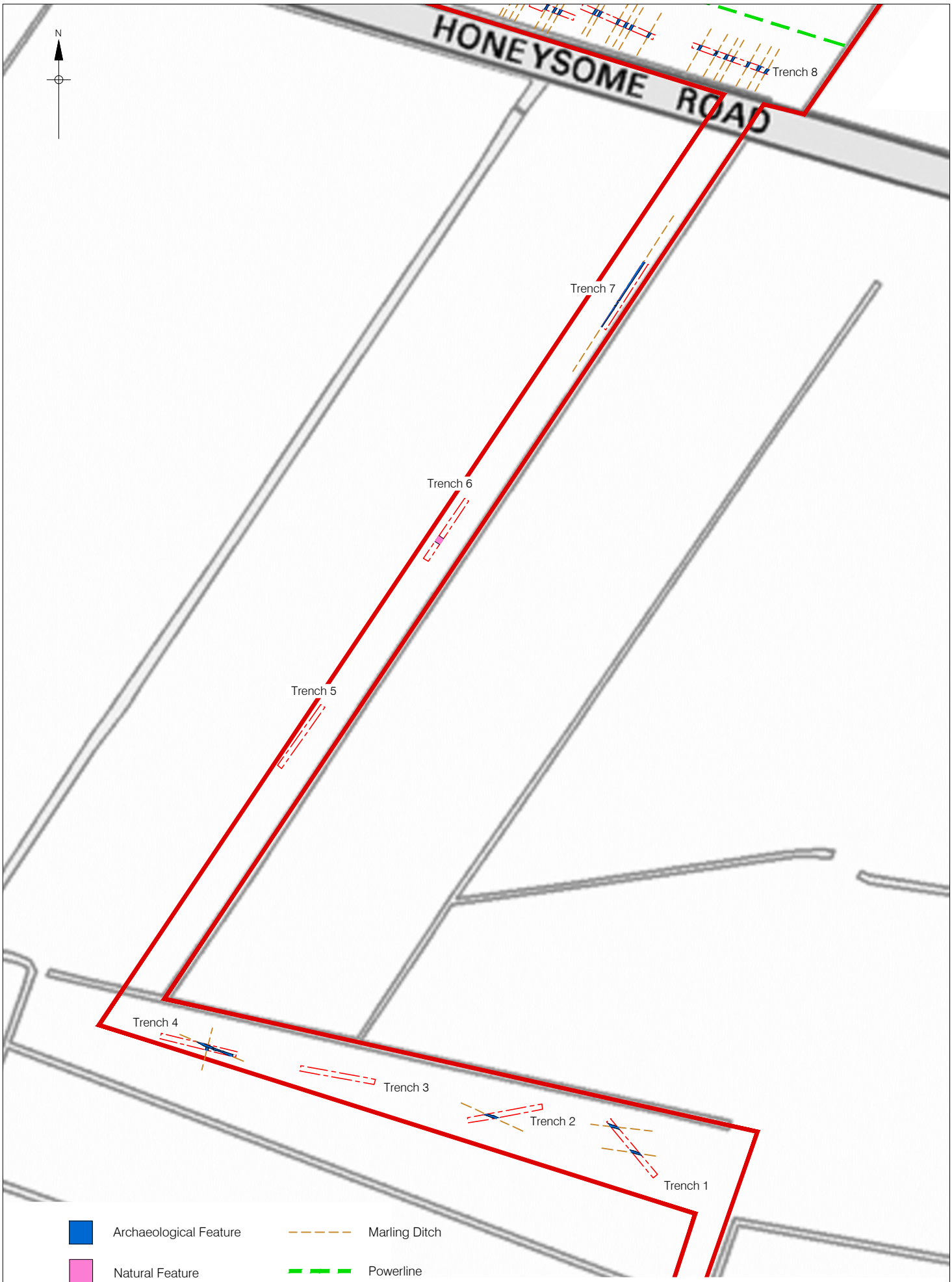


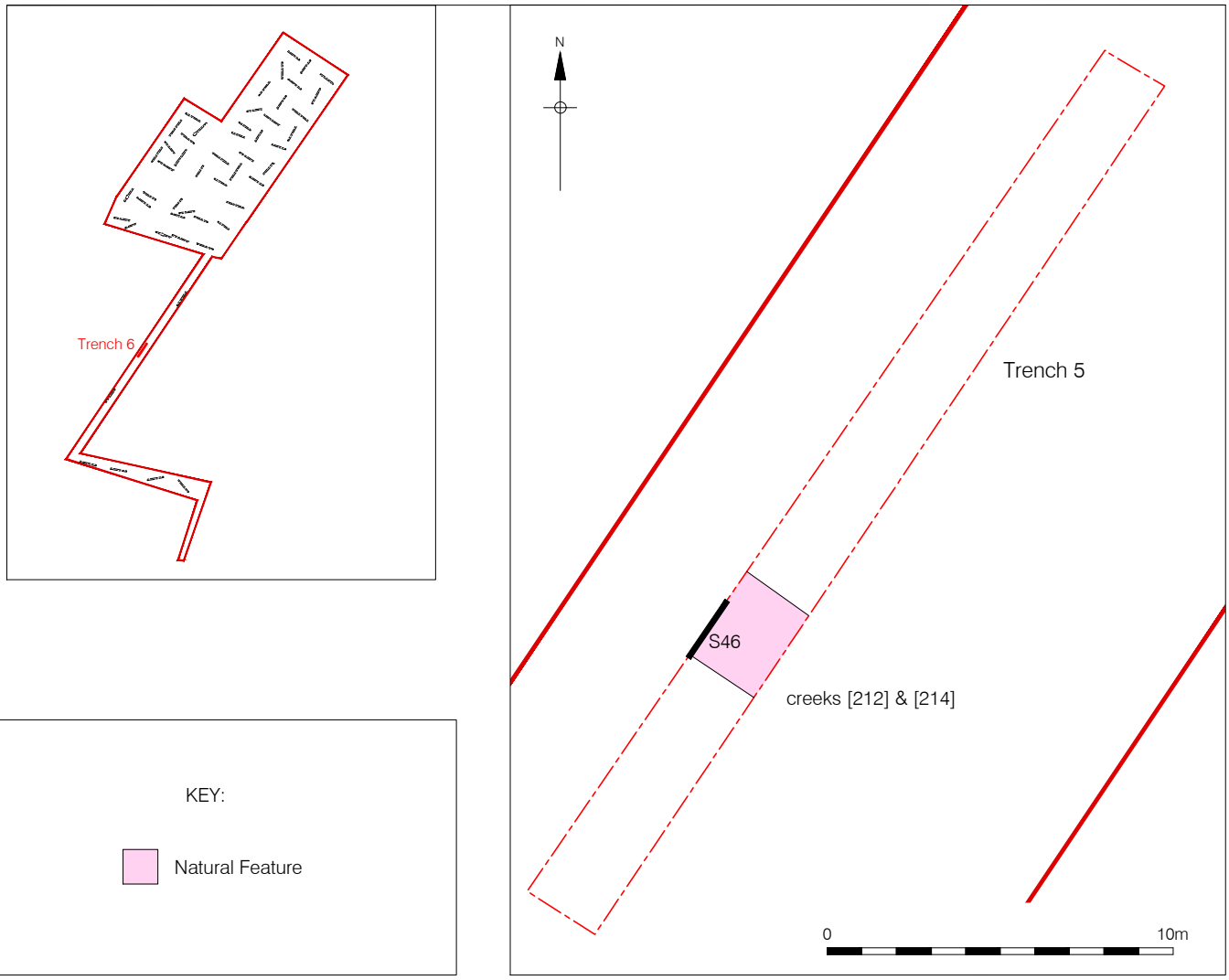
Figure 2
Trench Location
1:2,500 at A3

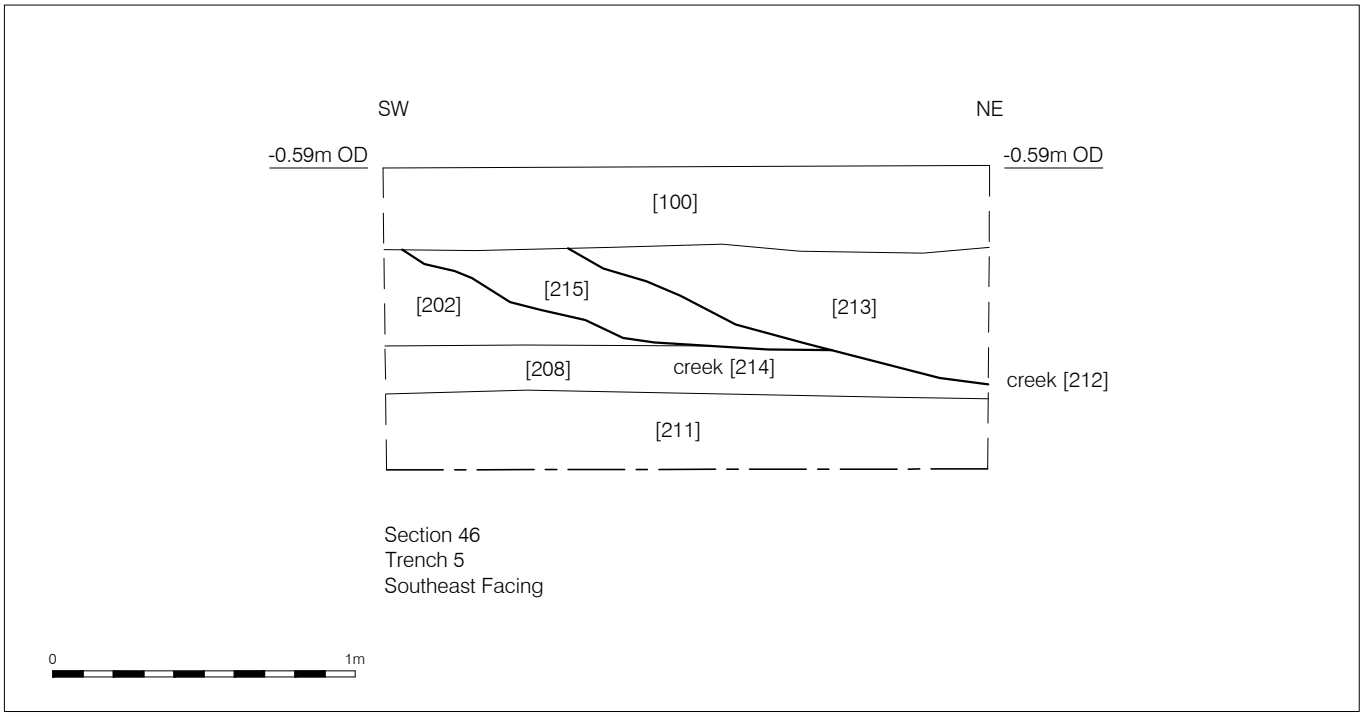
Figure 3a
Plan Showing Orientation of Marling Ditches (North)
1:2,000 at A4



11/12/15 JS

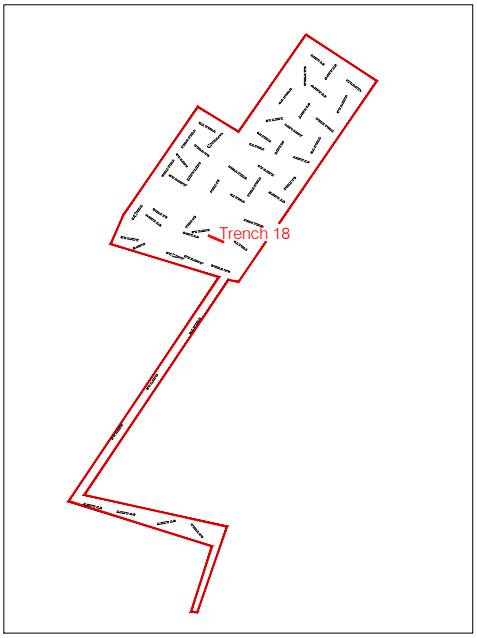
Figure 3b
Plan Showing Orientation of Marling Ditches (South)
1:2,000 at A4

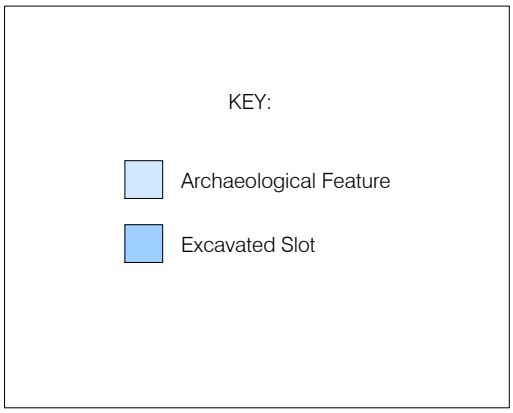


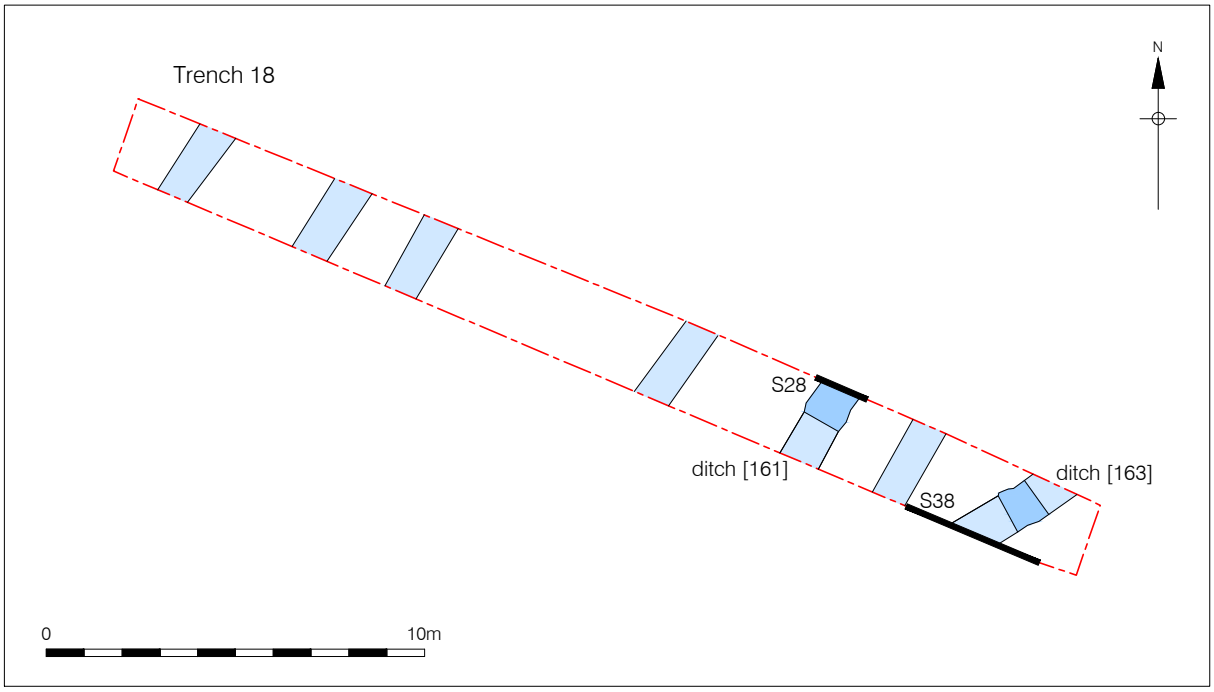


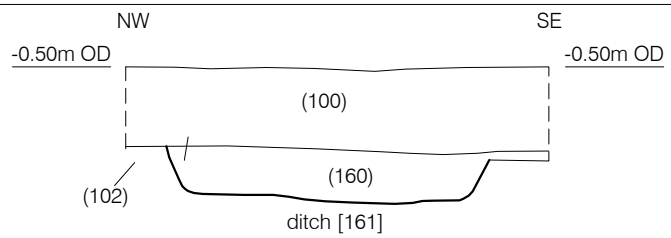
11/12/15 JS

Figure 4
Trench 6 Plan & Section
Plan 1:200 and Section 1:25 at A4

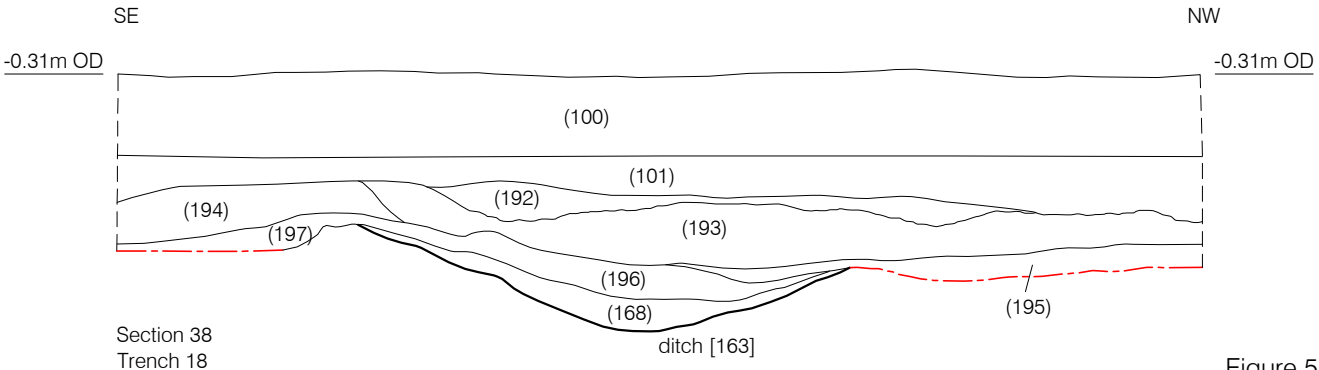








Section 28
Trench 18
Southwest Facing



Section 38
Trench 18
Northeast Facing

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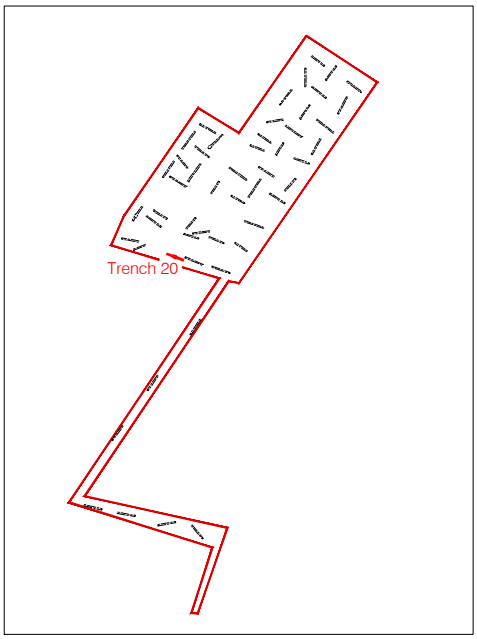
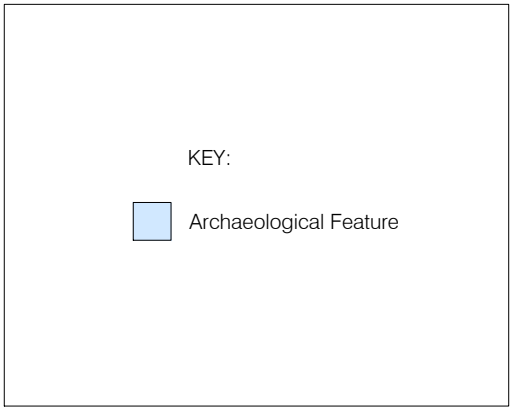
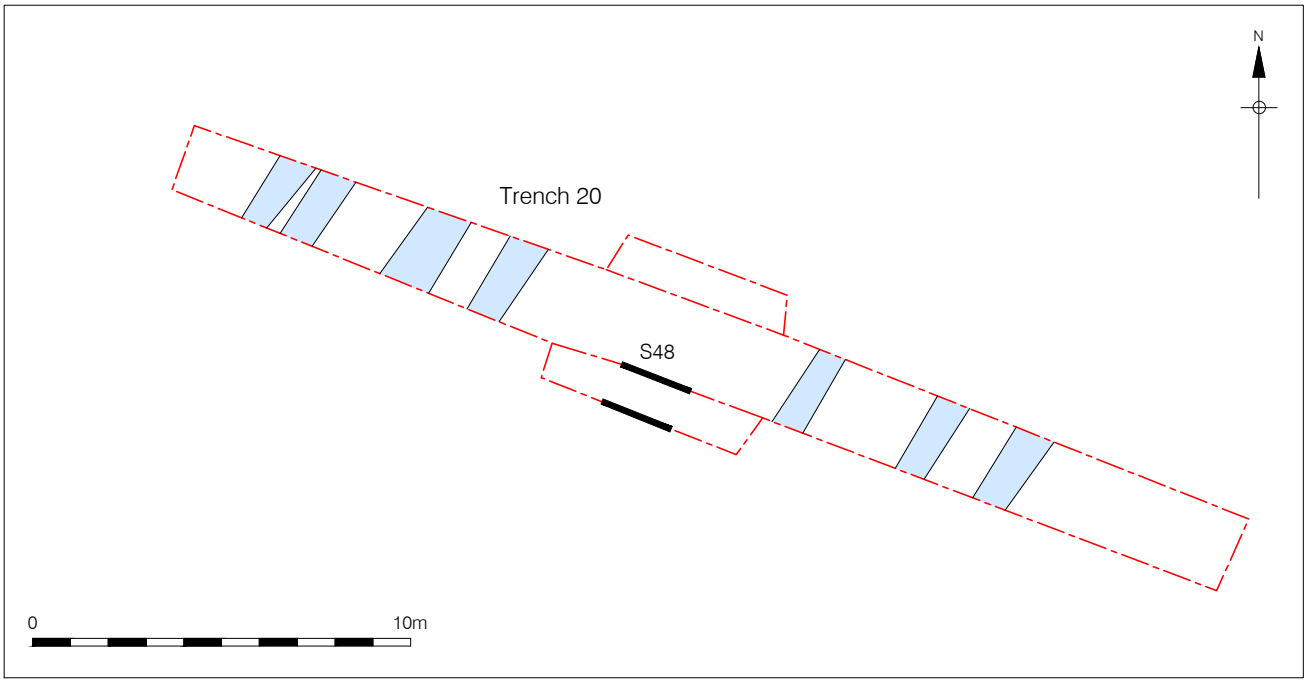
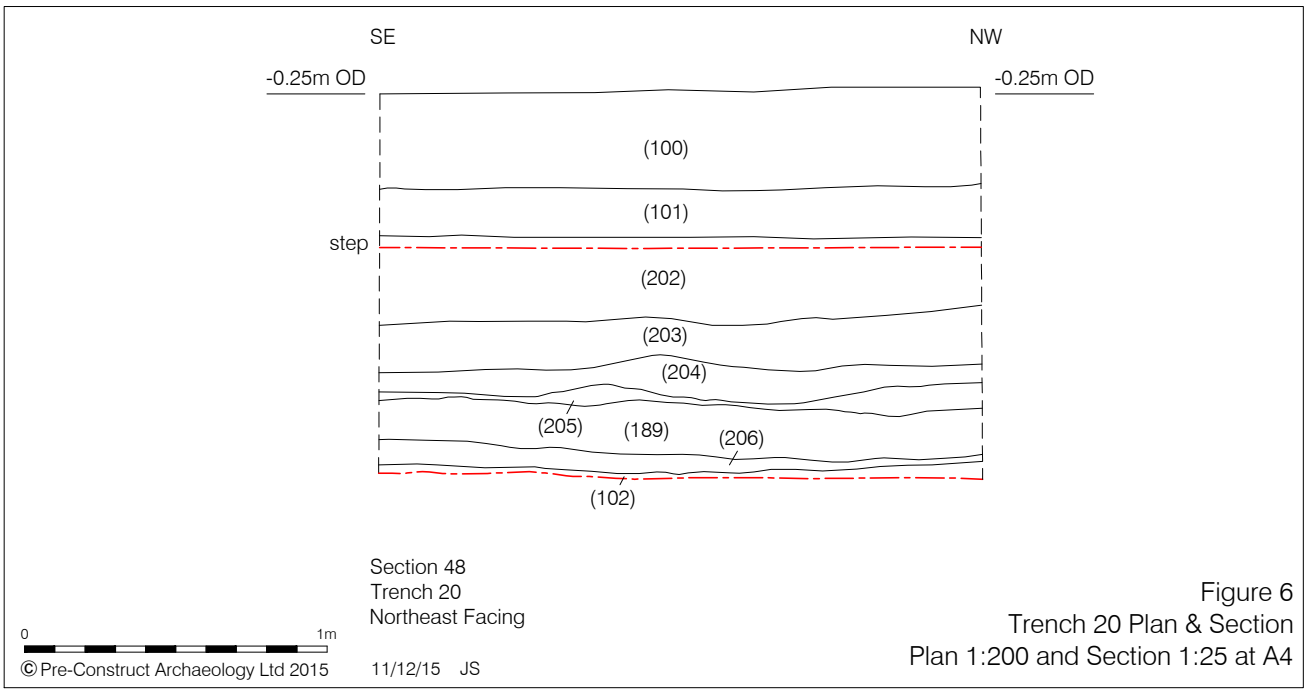
Figure 5
Trench 18 Plan & Sections
Plan 1:200 and Section 1:25 at A4









Section 48
Trench 20
Northeast Facing

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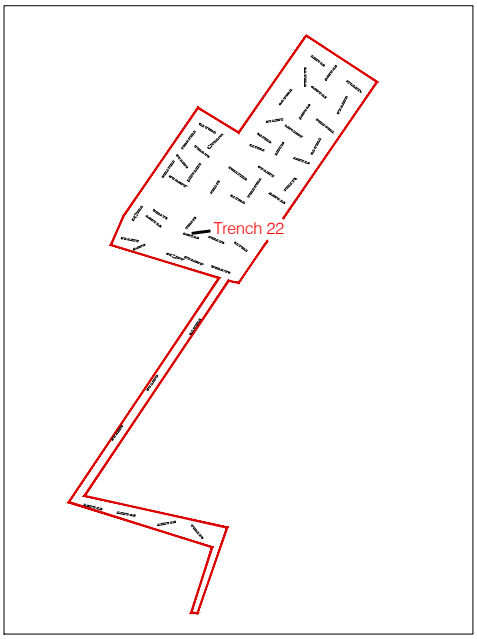
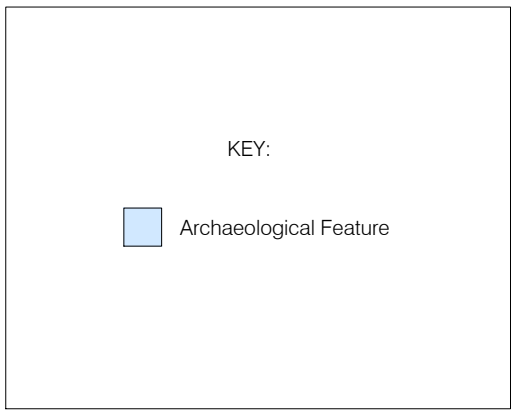
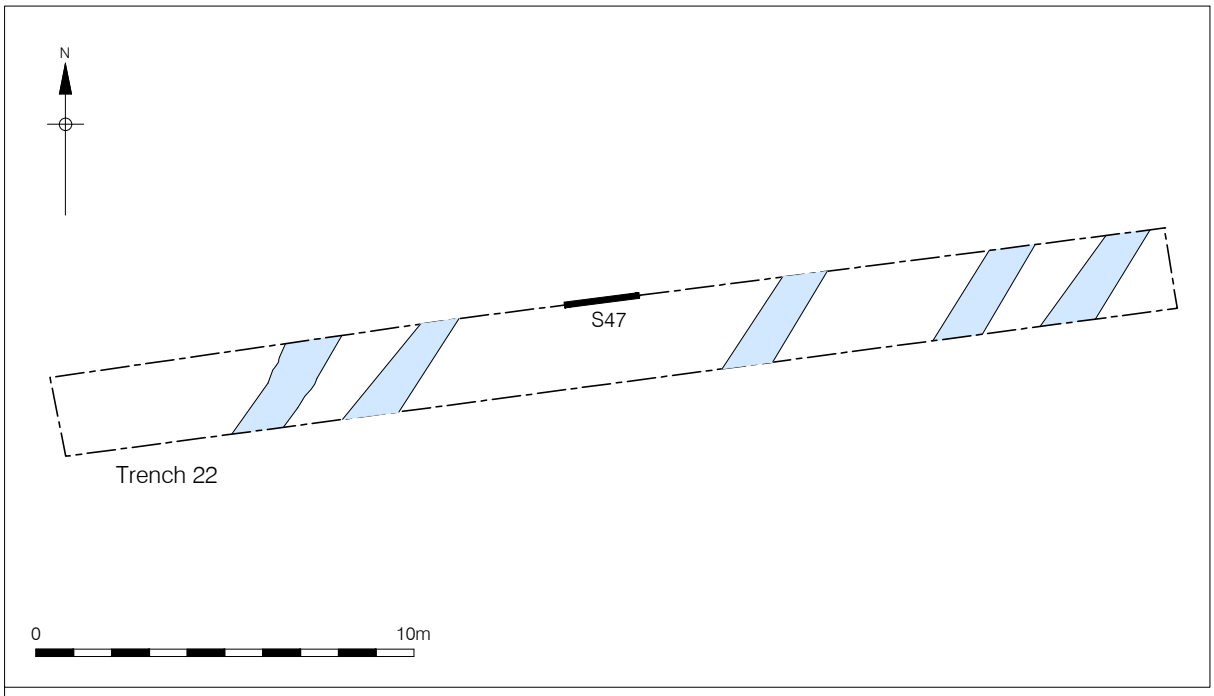
Figure 6
Trench 20 Plan & Section
Plan 1:200 and Section 1:25 at A4







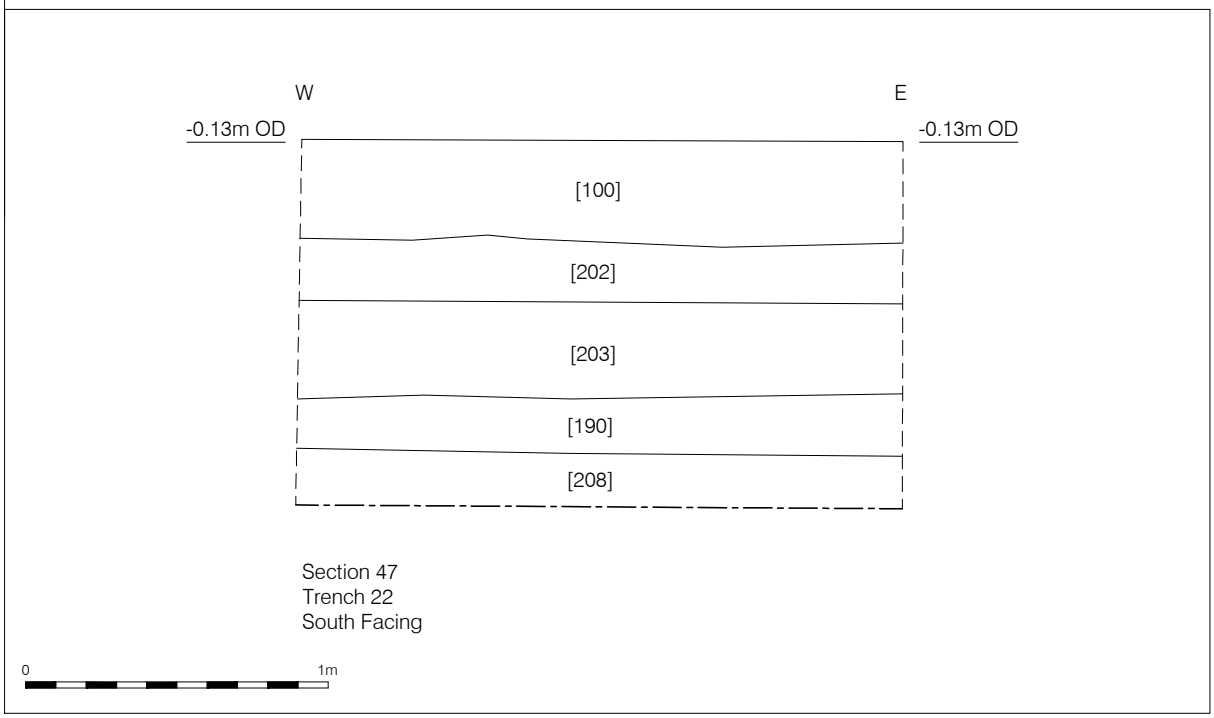


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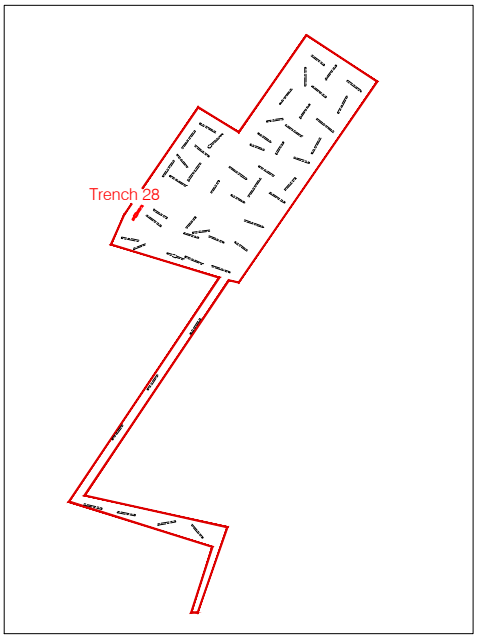
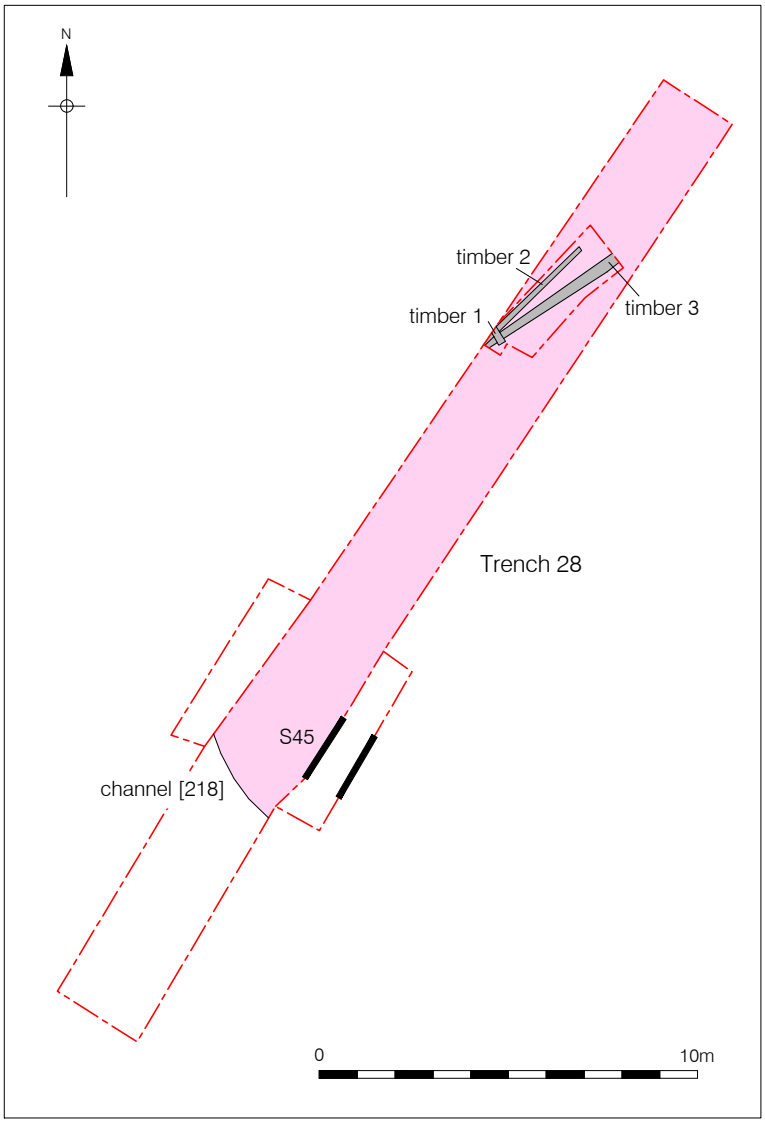
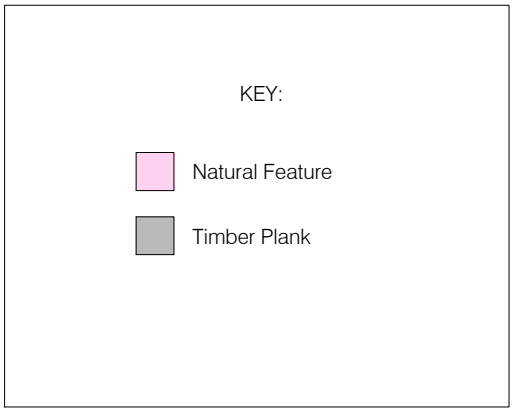
Figure 7
Trench 22 Plan & Section
Plan 1:200 and Section 1:25 at A4







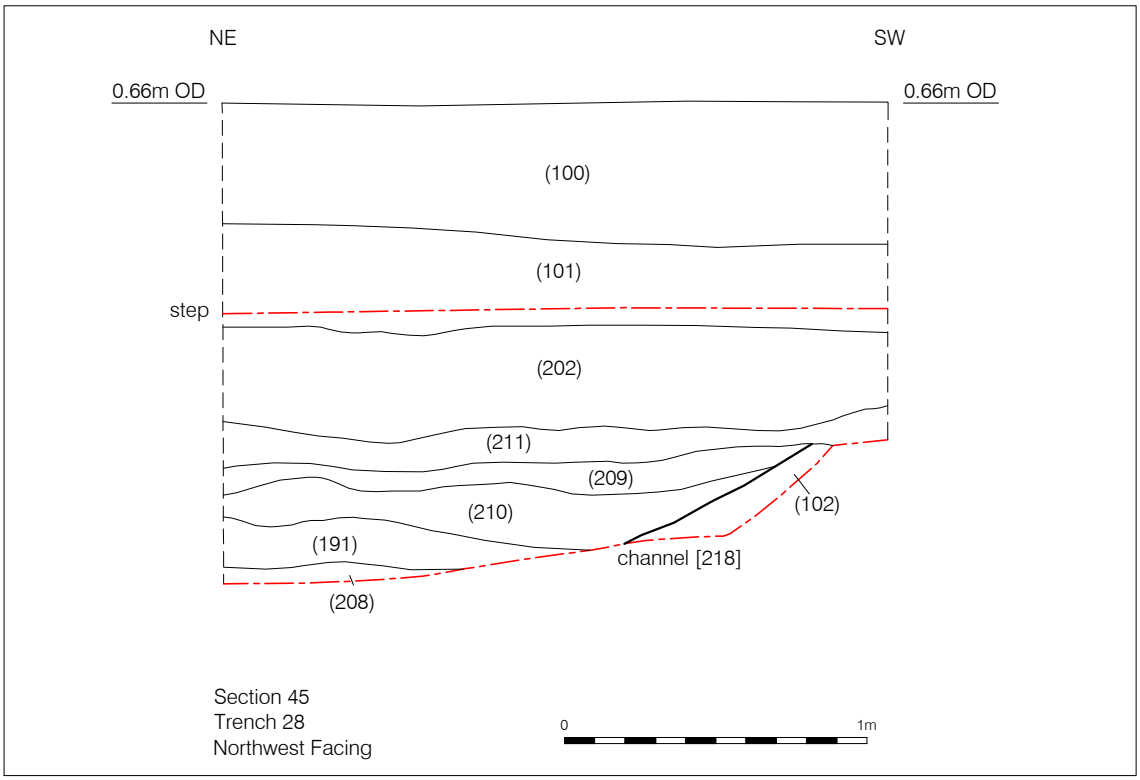


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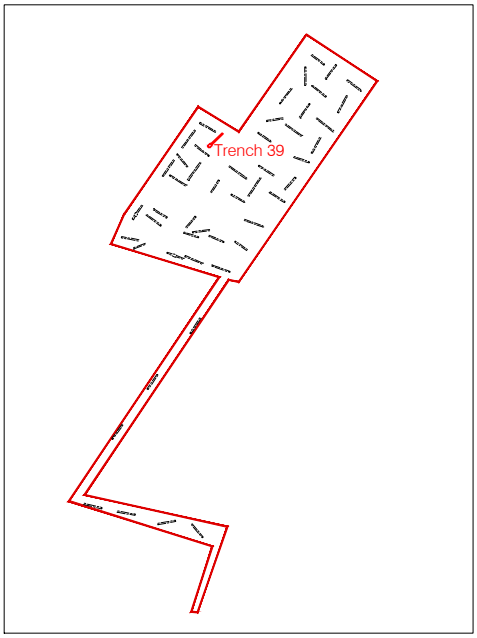
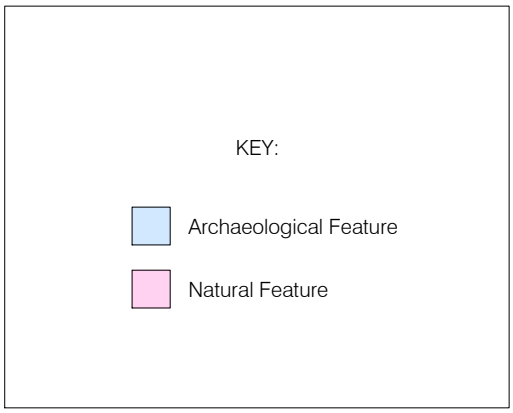
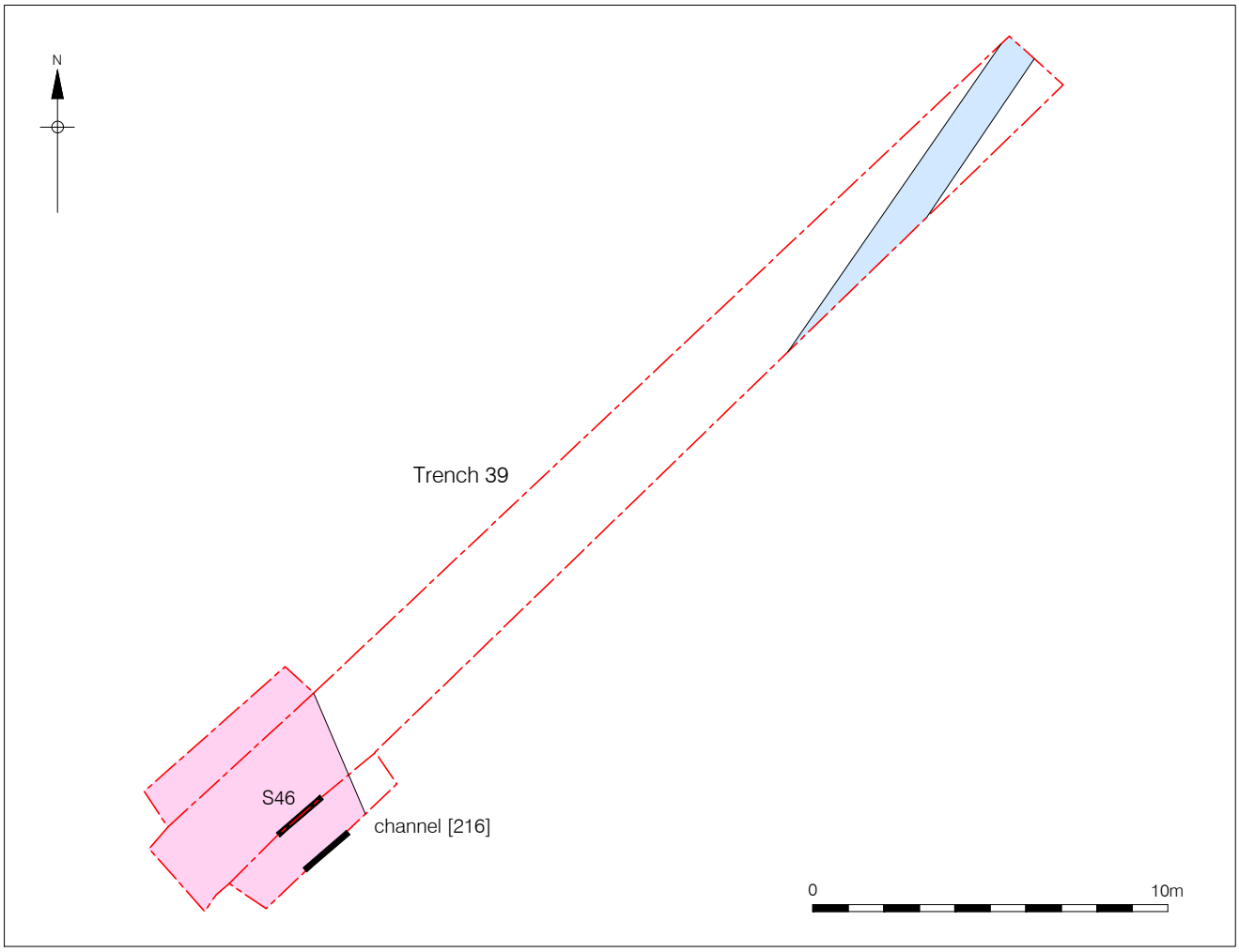
Figure 8
Trench 28 Plan & Section
Plan 1:200 and Section 1:25 at A4







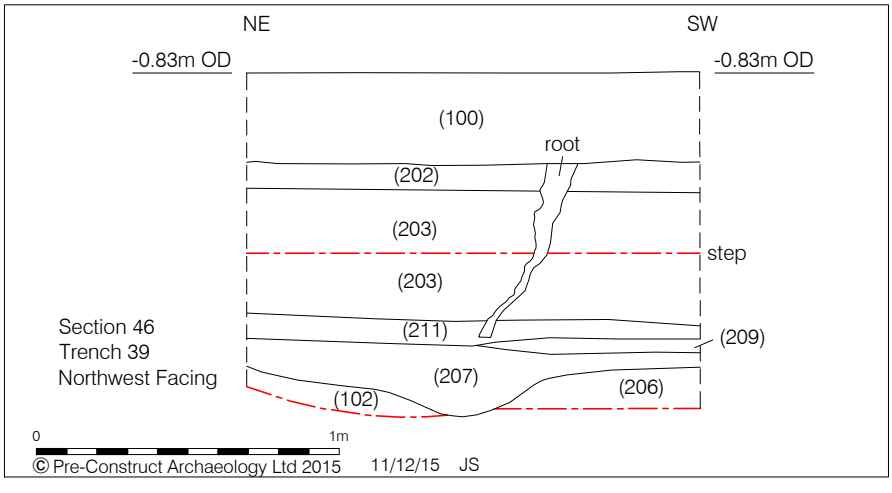
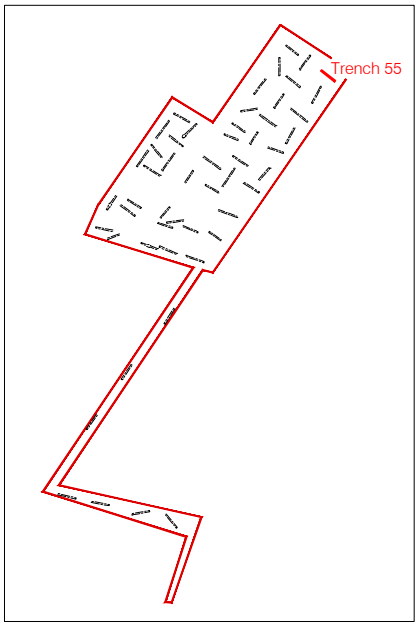
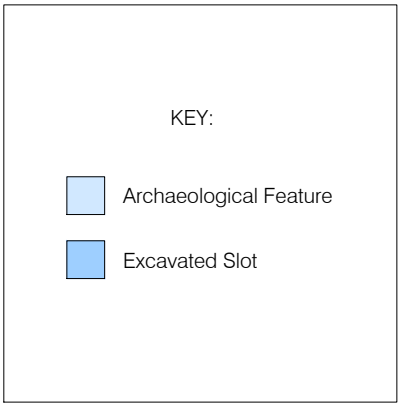
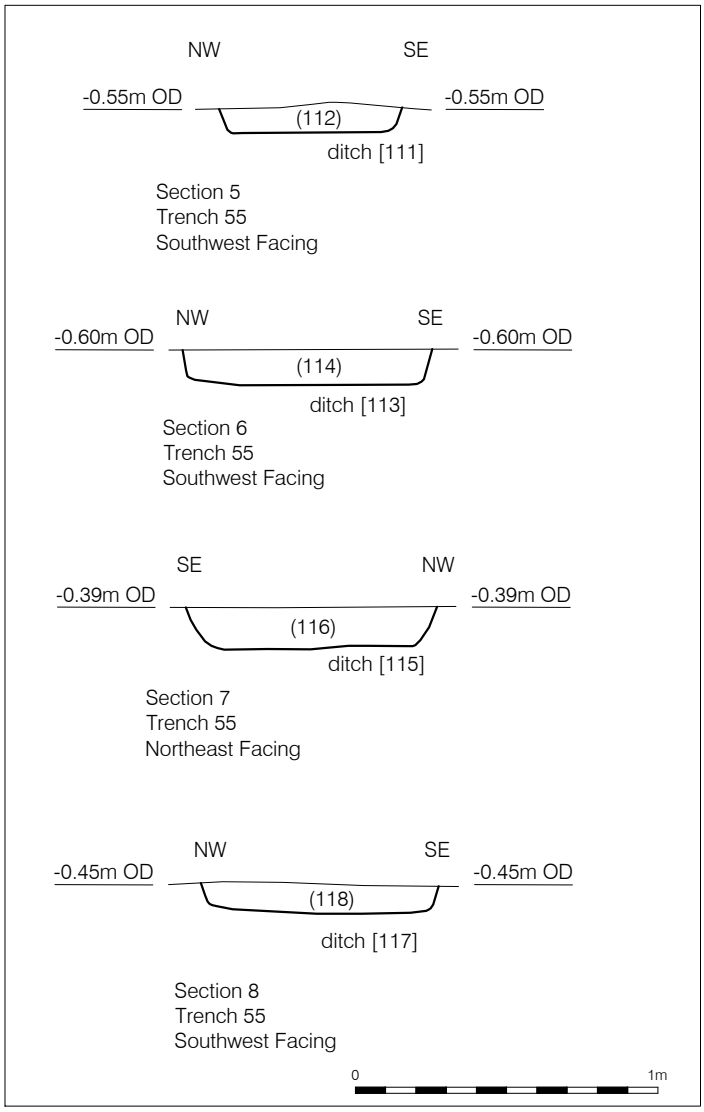


Figure 9
Trench 39 Plan & Section
Plan 1:200 and
Section 1:25 at A4







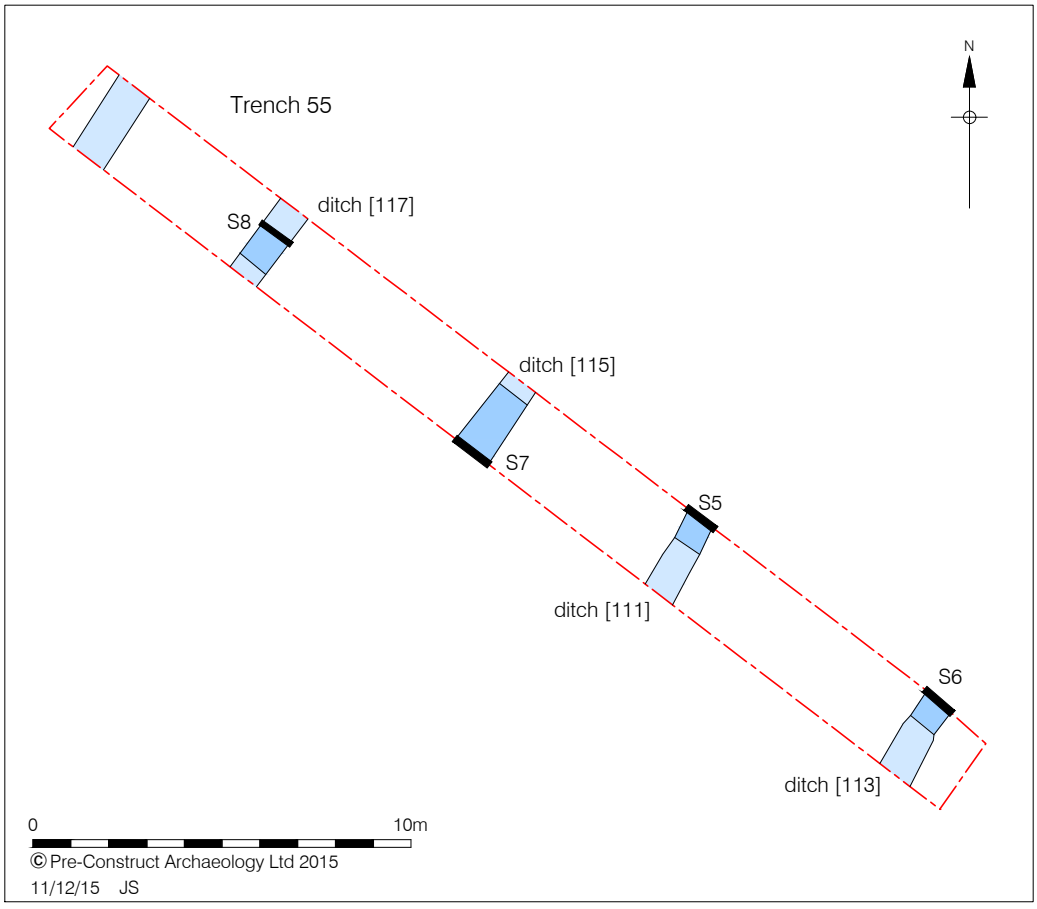


Figure 10
Trench 55 Plan & Sections
Plan 1:200 and
Section 1:25 at A4

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY REPORT

STRATASCAN™

SUMO Survey Services
SUMO Group Member

Project name:

Honeysome Road, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire

Client:

CgMs Consulting Ltd

October 2015

Job ref:

J8970

Report author:

Thomas Richardson MSc ACIfA

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY REPORT

Project name:
Honeysome Road, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire
Client:
CgMs Consulting Ltd

Job ref:
J8970

Techniques:
Detailed magnetic survey – Gradiometry

Survey date:
21st-23rd September & 2nd October 2015

Site centred at:
TL 382 863

Post code:
PE16 6SB

Field team:
Christian Adams BA (Hons), **Tom Hynd** BSc (Hons), **Robert Gill**

Project manager:
Simon Haddrell BEng(Hons) AMBCS PCIfA

Report written By:
Thomas Richardson MSc ACIfA

CAD illustrations by:
Thomas Richardson MSc ACIfA

Checked by:
David Elks MSc ACIfA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES

1 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

A detailed gradiometry survey was conducted over approximately 10.6 hectares of agricultural land. The survey has not identified any anomalies of probable archaeological origin. A single possible archaeological anomaly is present in the south of the area, however this could equally relate to modern agricultural activity or a post-medieval field boundary. Large areas of the site are covered by natural responses, particularly in the north. The remaining anomalies are modern in origin, relating to land drains, ferrous objects and fencing.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 *Background synopsis*

Stratascan were commissioned to undertake a geophysical survey of an area outlined for development. This survey forms part of an archaeological investigation being undertaken by CgMs Consulting Ltd.

2.2 *Site location*

The site is located either side of Honeysome Road, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire at OS ref. TL 382 863.

2.3 *Description of site*

The survey area is approximately 11 hectares, however a hard-core track in the south of the area reduced the surveyable area to approximately 10.6 hectares of agricultural land. The site is generally flat with no further obstructions.

2.4 *Geology and soils*

The underlying geology is Oxford Clay Formation – Mudstone (British Geological Survey website). The drift geology is Peat - Peat (British Geological Survey website).

The overlying soils are known as Downholland 1, which are typical humic-alluvial gley soils. These consist of deep, stoneless, humose, clayey soils, calcareous in places (Soil Survey of England and Wales, Sheet 4 Eastern England).

2.5 *Site history and archaeological potential*

Extract from 'Brief for Archaeological Evaluation Land East of Honeysome Farm Bungalow, Honeysome Road, Chatteris' (Cambridgeshire County Council 2015):

Our records indicate that the site lies in an area of high archaeological potential on the western edge of Chatteris Island, close to the fen edge. Recent archaeological investigations to the north east have identified evidence for Iron Age, Medieval and Post Medieval remains

(Historic Environment Record reference MCB14005, MCB15741) and recent archaeological investigations to the north have also identified evidence of Roman activity (ECB3102).

2.6 Survey objectives

The objective of the survey was to locate any features of possible archaeological origin in order that they may be assessed prior to development.

2.7 Survey methods

This report and all fieldwork have been conducted in accordance with both the English Heritage guidelines outlined in the document: *Geophysical Survey in Archaeological Field Evaluation, 2008* and with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists document *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Geophysical Survey.*

Given the potential for archaeological remains from a number of periods, detailed magnetic survey (gradiometry) was used as an efficient and effective method of locating archaeological anomalies. More information regarding this technique is included in Appendix A.

2.8 Processing, presentation and interpretation of results

2.8.1 Processing

Processing is performed using specialist software. This can emphasise various aspects contained within the data but which are often not easily seen in the raw data. Basic processing of the magnetic data involves 'flattening' the background levels with respect to adjacent traverses and adjacent grids. Once the basic processing has flattened the background it is then possible to carry out further processing which may include low pass filtering to reduce 'noise' in the data and hence emphasise the archaeological or man-made anomalies.

The following schedule shows the basic processing carried out on all minimally processed gradiometer data used in this report:

1. *Destripe* (Removes striping effects caused by zero-point discrepancies between different sensors and walking directions)
2. *Destagger* (Removes zigzag effects caused by inconsistent walking speeds on sloping, uneven or overgrown terrain)

2.8.2 Presentation of results and interpretation

The presentation of the data for each site involves a print-out of the minimally processed data both as a greyscale plot and a colour plot showing extreme magnetic values Magnetic anomalies have been identified and plotted onto the 'Abstraction and Interpretation of Anomalies' drawing for the site.

3 RESULTS

The detailed magnetic gradiometer survey conducted at Honeysome Road has identified a single anomaly that has been characterised as being of a *possible* archaeological origin.

The difference between *probable* and *possible* archaeological origin is a confidence rating. Features identified within the dataset that form recognisable archaeological patterns or seem to be related to a deliberate historical act have been interpreted as being of a probable archaeological origin.

Features of possible archaeological origin tend to be more amorphous anomalies which may have similar magnetic attributes in terms of strength or polarity but are difficult to classify as being archaeological or natural.

The following list of numbered anomalies refers to numerical labels on the interpretation plots.

3.1 Probable Archaeology

No probable archaeology has been identified within the survey area.

3.2 Possible Archaeology

1 A positive linear anomaly in the south of the site. This is indicative of a former cut feature, and may be of archaeological origin. However, it could equally relate to modern agricultural activity or a former field boundary.

3.3 Medieval/Post-Medieval Agriculture

2 Areas of closely spaced, parallel, linear anomalies across the south and centre of the site. These are indicative of modern agricultural activity, such as ploughing.

3.4 Other Anomalies

3 Positive linear anomalies across the north of the site. These are likely related to land drains.

4 Large areas of magnetic variation across the site. These anomalies are likely to be geological or pedological in origin.

5 Areas of magnetic disturbance are the result of substantial nearby ferrous metal objects such as fences and underground services. These effects can mask weaker archaeological anomalies, but on this site have not affected a significant proportion of the area.

6 A number of magnetic 'spikes' (strong focussed values with associated antipolar response) indicate ferrous metal objects. These are likely to be modern rubbish.

4 DATA APPRAISAL & CONFIDENCE ASSESSMENT

Oxford Clay geologies, such as those seen at Honeysome Road, can give variable responses to magnetic survey. The lack of archaeological anomalies on the site combined with the high potential for archaeology from a number of periods suggests that the geology may be having an adverse effect on the survey, however this cannot be said for certain. The large areas of natural variation in the north produce relatively strong anomalies, which may be obscuring weaker archaeological features.

5 CONCLUSION

The survey at Honeysome Road has not identified any anomalies of probable archaeological origin. Given that the area has a high potential for archaeological remains it is possible that the Oxford Clay geology is masking weaker archaeological responses. A single possible archaeological anomaly is present in the south of the area, however this could equally relate to modern agricultural activity or a post-medieval field boundary. Large areas of the site are covered by natural responses, particularly in the north. The remaining anomalies are modern in origin, relating to land drains, ferrous objects and fencing.

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APPENDIX A – METHODOLOGY & SURVEY EQUIPMENT

Grid locations

The location of the survey grids has been plotted together with the referencing information. Grids were set out using a Leica 705auto Total Station and referenced to suitable topographic features around the perimeter of the site or a Leica Smart Rover RTK GPS.

An RTK GPS (Real-time Kinematic Global Positioning System) can locate a point on the ground to a far greater accuracy than a standard GPS unit. A standard GPS suffers from errors created by satellite orbit errors, clock errors and atmospheric interference, resulting in an accuracy of 5m-10m. An RTK system uses a single base station receiver and a number of mobile units. The base station re-broadcasts the phase of the carrier it measured, and the mobile units compare their own phase measurements with those they received from the base station. A SmartNet RTK GPS uses Ordnance Survey's network of over 100 fixed base stations to give an accuracy of around 0.01m.

Survey equipment and gradiometer configuration

Although the changes in the magnetic field resulting from differing features in the soil are usually weak, changes as small as 0.2 nanoTeslas (nT) in an overall field strength of 48,000nT, can be accurately detected using an appropriate instrument.

The mapping of the anomaly in a systematic manner will allow an estimate of the type of material present beneath the surface. Strong magnetic anomalies will be generated by buried iron-based objects or by kilns or hearths. More subtle anomalies such as pits and ditches can be seen if they contain more humic material which is normally rich in magnetic iron oxides when compared with the subsoil.

To illustrate this point, the cutting and subsequent silting or backfilling of a ditch may result in a larger volume of weakly magnetic material being accumulated in the trench compared to the undisturbed subsoil. A weak magnetic anomaly should therefore appear in plan along the line of the ditch.

The magnetic survey was carried out using a dual sensor Grad601-2 Magnetic Gradiometer manufactured by Bartington Instruments Ltd. The instrument consists of two fluxgates very accurately aligned to nullify the effects of the Earth's magnetic field. Readings relate to the difference in localised magnetic anomalies compared with the general magnetic background. The Grad601-2 consists of two high stability fluxgate gradiometers suspended on a single frame. Each gradiometer has a 1m separation between the sensing elements so enhancing the response to weak anomalies.

Sampling interval

Readings were taken at 0.25m centres along traverses 1m apart. This equates to 3600 sampling points in a full 30m x 30m grid.

Depth of scan and resolution

The Grad 601-2 has a typical depth of penetration of 0.5m to 1.0m, though strongly magnetic objects may be visible at greater depths. The collection of data at 0.25m centres provides an optimum methodology for the task balancing cost and time with resolution.

Data capture

The readings are logged consecutively into the data logger which in turn is daily down- loaded into a portable computer whilst on site. At the end of each site survey, data is transferred to the office for processing and presentation.

APPENDIX B – BASIC PRINCIPLES OF MAGNETIC SURVEY

Detailed magnetic survey can be used to effectively define areas of past human activity by mapping spatial variation and contrast in the magnetic properties of soil, subsoil and bedrock.

Weakly magnetic iron minerals are always present within the soil and areas of enhancement relate to increases in *magnetic susceptibility* and permanently magnetised *thermoremanent* material.

Magnetic susceptibility relates to the induced magnetism of a material when in the presence of a magnetic field. This magnetism can be considered as effectively permanent as it exists within the Earth's magnetic field. Magnetic susceptibility can become enhanced due to burning and complex biological or fermentation processes.

Thermoremanence is a permanent magnetism acquired by iron minerals that, after heating to a specific temperature known as the Curie Point, are effectively demagnetised followed by re-magnetisation by the Earth's magnetic field on cooling. Thermoremanent archaeological features can include hearths and kilns and material such as brick and tile may be magnetised through the same process.

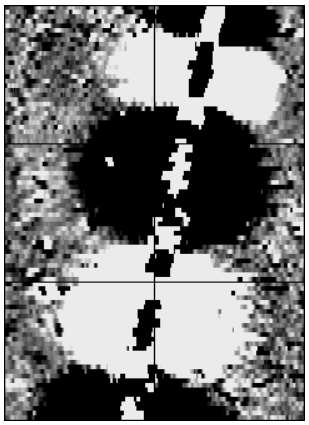
Silting and deliberate infilling of ditches and pits with magnetically enhanced soil creates a relative contrast against the much lower levels of magnetism within the subsoil into which the feature is cut. Systematic mapping of magnetic anomalies will produce linear and discrete areas of enhancement allowing assessment and characterisation of subsurface features. Material such as subsoil and non-magnetic bedrock used to create former earthworks and walls may be mapped as areas of lower enhancement compared to surrounding soils.

Magnetic survey is carried out using a fluxgate gradiometer which is a passive instrument consisting of two sensors mounted vertically 1m apart. The instrument is carried about 30cm above the ground surface and the top sensor measures the Earth's magnetic field whilst the lower sensor measures the same field but is also more affected by any localised buried field. The difference between the two sensors will relate to the strength of a magnetic field created by a buried feature, if no field is present the difference will be close to zero as the magnetic field measured by both sensors will be the same.

Factors affecting the magnetic survey may include soil type, local geology, previous human activity, disturbance from modern services etc.

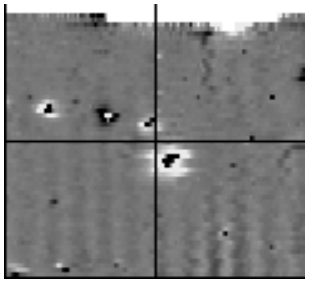
APPENDIX C – GLOSSARY OF MAGNETIC ANOMALIES

Bipolar



A bipolar anomaly is one that is composed of both a positive response and a negative response. It can be made up of any number of positive responses and negative responses. For example a pipeline consisting of alternating positive and negative anomalies is said to be bipolar. See also dipolar which has only one area of each polarity. The interpretation of the anomaly will depend on the magnitude of the magnetic field strength. A weak response may be caused by a clay field drain while a strong response will probably be caused by a metallic service.

Dipolar

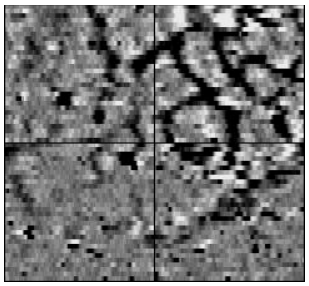


This consists of a single positive anomaly with an associated negative response. There should be no separation between the two polarities of response. These responses will be created by a single feature. The interpretation of the anomaly will depend on the magnitude of the magnetic measurements. A very strong anomaly is likely to be caused by a ferrous object.

Positive anomaly with associated negative response

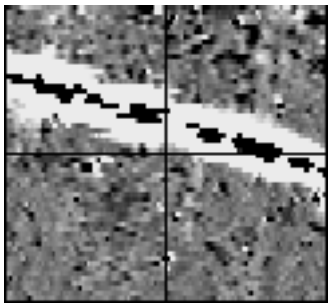
See bipolar and dipolar.

Positive linear



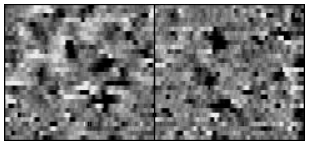
A linear response which is entirely positive in polarity. These are usually related to in-filled cut features where the fill material is magnetically enhanced compared to the surrounding matrix. They can be caused by ditches of an archaeological origin, but also former field boundaries, ploughing activity and some may even have a natural origin.

Positive linear anomaly with associated negative response



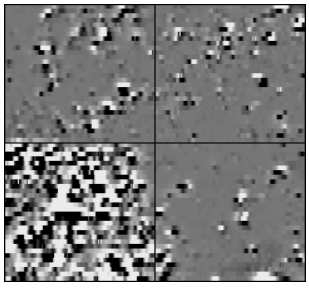
A positive linear anomaly which has a negative anomaly located adjacently. This will be caused by a single feature. In the example shown this is likely to be a single length of wire/cable probably relating to a modern service. Magnetically weaker responses may relate to earthwork style features and field boundaries.

Positive point/area



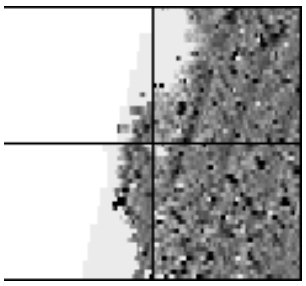
These are generally spatially small responses, perhaps covering just 3 or 4 reading nodes. They are entirely positive in polarity. Similar to positive linear anomalies they are generally caused by in-filled cut features. These include pits of an archaeological origin, possible tree bowls or other naturally occurring depressions in the ground.

Magnetic debris



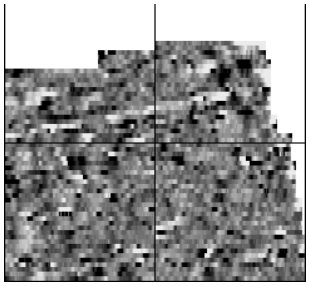
Magnetic debris consists of numerous dipolar responses spread over an area. If the amplitude of response is low (+/-3nT) then the origin is likely to represent general ground disturbance with no clear cause, it may be related to something as simple as an area of dug or mixed earth. A stronger anomaly (+/-250nT) is more indicative of a spread of ferrous debris. Moderately strong anomalies may be the result of a spread of thermoremanent material such as bricks or ash.

Magnetic disturbance



Magnetic disturbance is high amplitude and can be composed of either a bipolar anomaly, or a single polarity response. It is essentially associated with magnetic interference from modern ferrous structures such as fencing, vehicles or buildings, and as a result is commonly found around the perimeter of a site near to boundary fences.

Negative linear

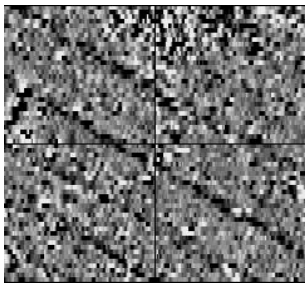


A linear response which is entirely negative in polarity. These are generally caused by earthen banks where material with a lower magnetic magnitude relative to the background top soil is built up. See also ploughing activity.

Negative point/area

Opposite to positive point anomalies these responses may be caused by raised areas or earthen banks. These could be of an archaeological origin or may have a natural origin.

Ploughing activity



Ploughing activity can often be visualised by a series of parallel linear anomalies. These can be of either positive polarity or negative polarity depending on site specifics. It can be difficult to distinguish between ancient ploughing and more modern ploughing. Clues such as the separation of each linear, straightness, strength of response and cross cutting relationships can be used to aid this, although none of these can be guaranteed to differentiate between different phases of activity.

Polarity

Term used to describe the measurement of the magnetic response. An anomaly can have a positive polarity (values above 0nT) and/or a negative polarity (values below 0nT).

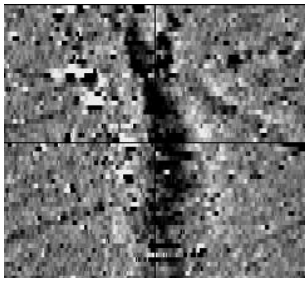
Strength of response

The amplitude of a magnetic response is an important factor in assigning an interpretation to a particular anomaly. For example a positive anomaly covering a 10m^2 area may have values up to around 3000nT, in which case it is likely to be caused by modern magnetic interference. However, the same size and shaped anomaly but with values up to only 4nT may have a natural origin. Colour plots are used to show the amplitude of response.

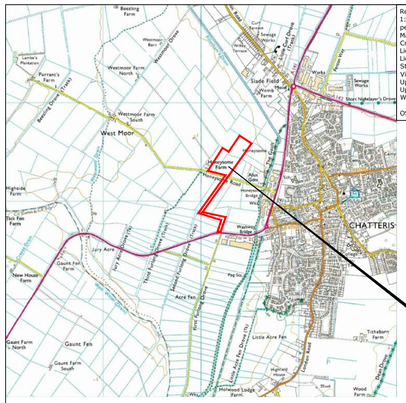
Thermoremanent response

A feature which has been subject to heat may result in it acquiring a magnetic field. This can be anything up to approximately +/-100 nT in value. These features include clay fired drains, brick, bonfires, kilns, hearths and even pottery. If the heat application has occurred in situ (e.g. a kiln) then the response is likely to be bipolar compared to if the heated objects have been disturbed and moved relative to each other, in which case they are more likely to take an irregular form and may display a debris style response (e.g. ash).

Weak background variations



Weakly magnetic wide scale variations within the data can sometimes be seen within sites. These usually have no specific structure but can often appear curvy and sinuous in form. They are likely to be the result of natural features, such as soil creep, dried up (or seasonal) streams. They can also be caused by changes in the underlying geology or soil type which may contain unpredictable distributions of magnetic minerals, and are usually apparent in several locations across a site.



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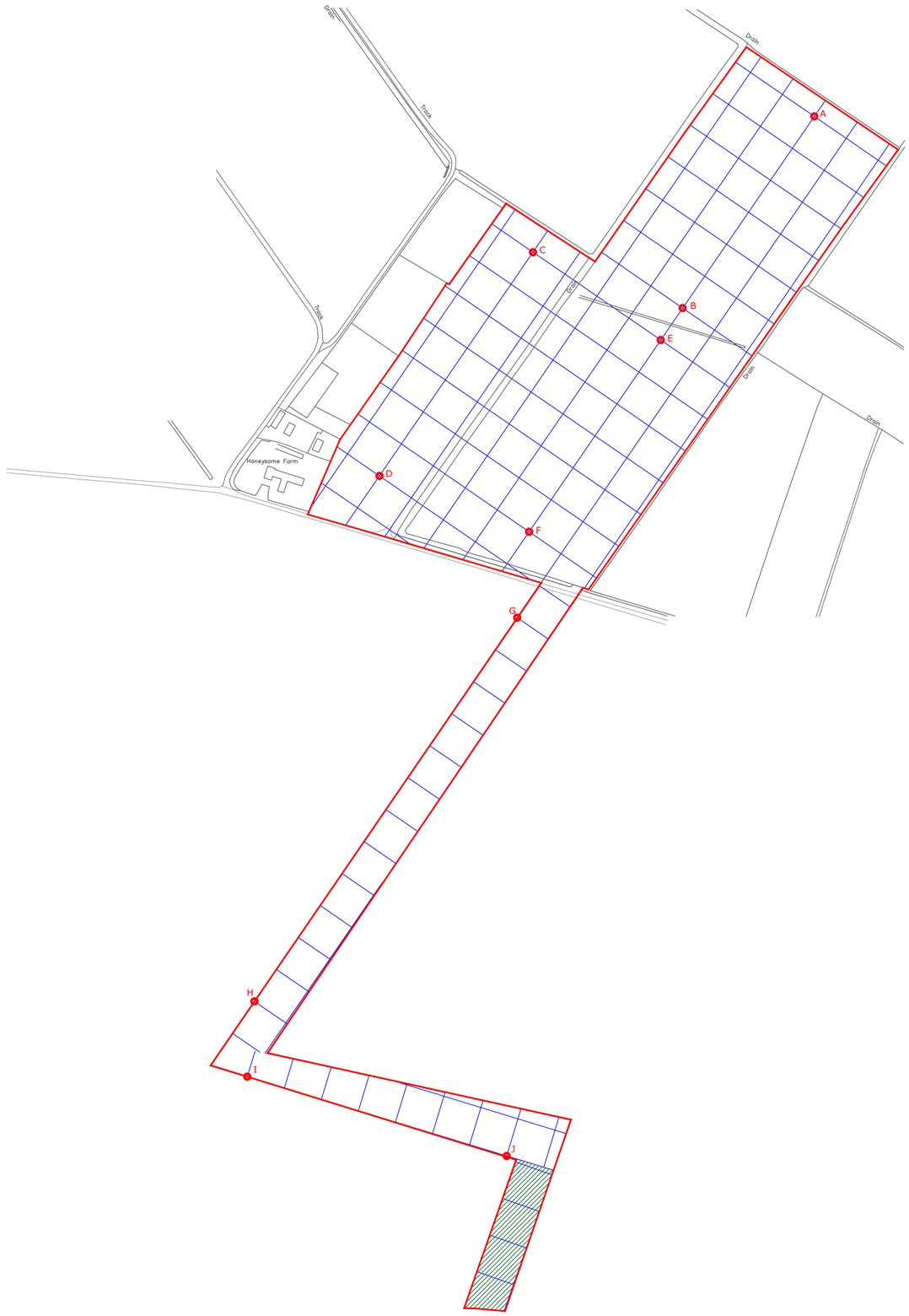

Amendments

Issue No.	Date	Description
-	-	-
-	-	-

Site centred on NGR TL 382 863

KEY

Area unsurveyable - hard-core track

OS REFERENCING INFORMATION

A	538459.29, 286610.21
B	538357.36, 286461.85
C	538241.47, 286505.07
D	538122.55, 286331.98
E	538340.37, 286437.12
F	538238.45, 286288.76
G	538229.24, 286222.29
H	538025.75, 285925.32
I	538020.21, 285867.08
J	538221.05, 285805.75

Job No.	Survey Date
J8970	SEP 15

Client

CgMs CONSULTING LTD

Project Title

HONEYSOME ROAD,
CHATTERIS,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Subject

SITE LOCATION, SURVEY AREA & REFERENCING

STRATASCAN™
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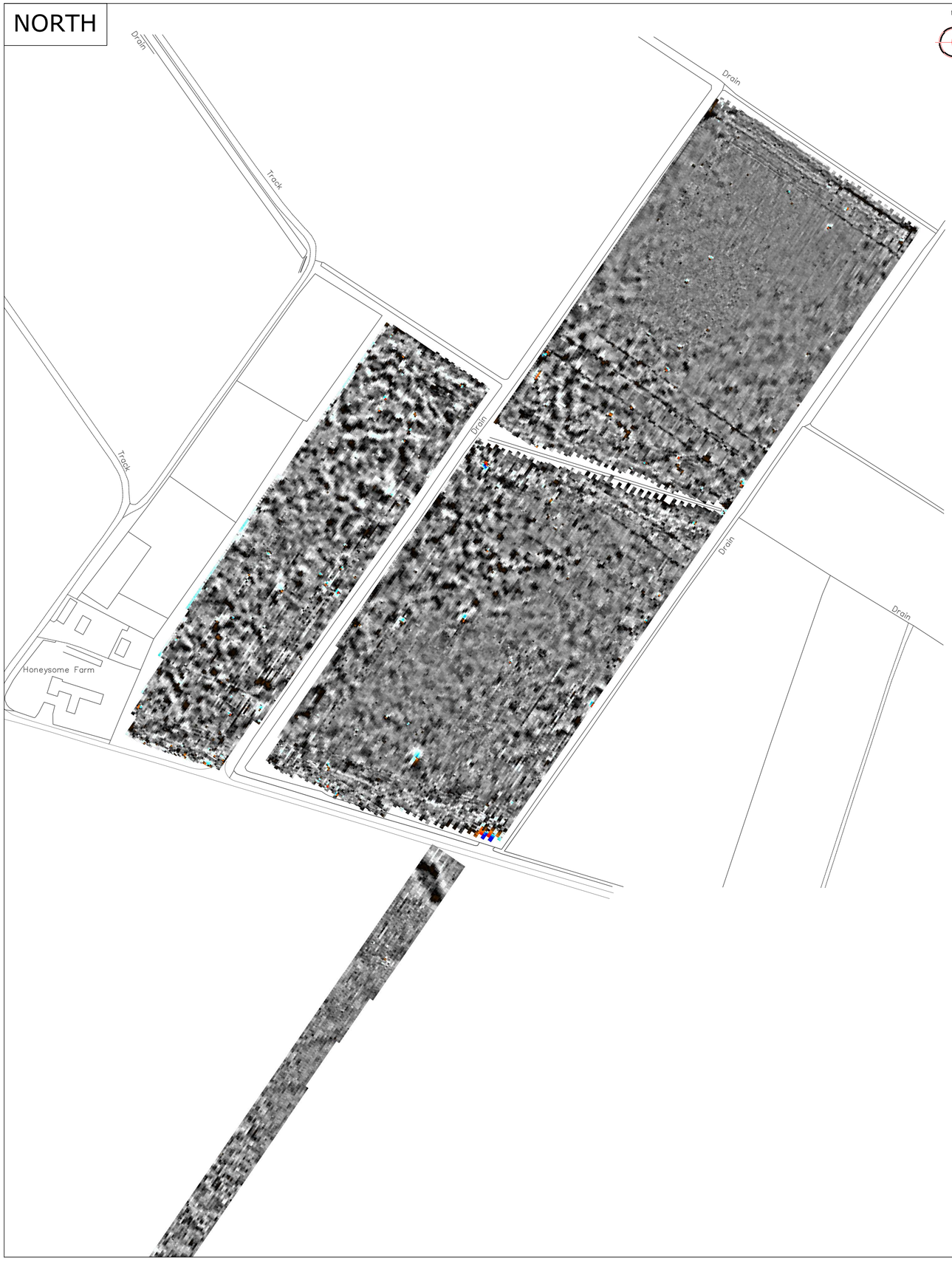
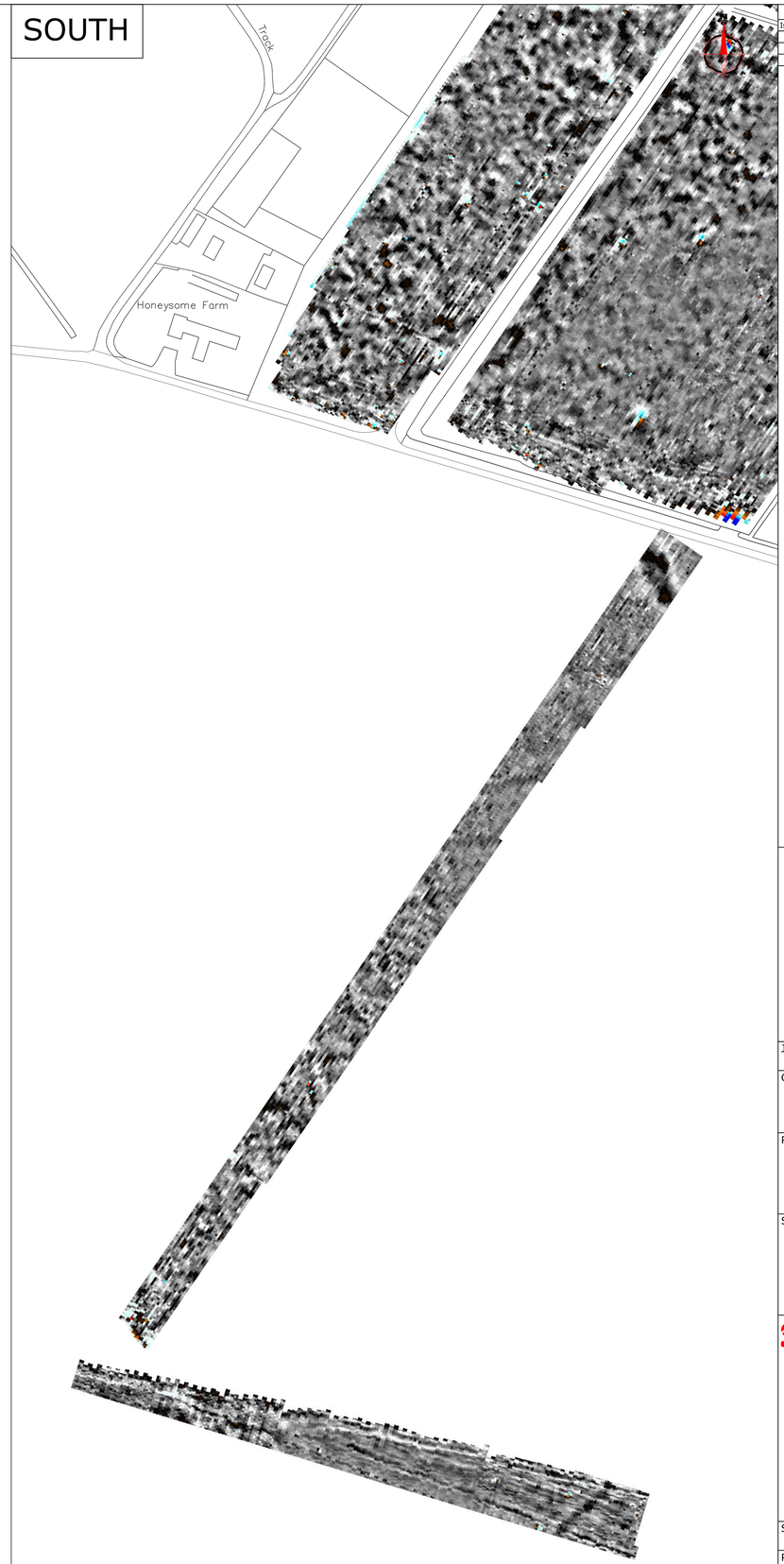
Scale							
1:2000	0m	20	40	60	80	100	120m

Plot	Checked by	Issue No.
A1	DGE	01
Date	Drawn by	Figure No.
OCT 15	TR	01

NORTH



SOUTH



Amendments

Issue No.	Date	Description
-	-	-
-	-	-

Plotting parameters

Maximum +100nT (red)
Minimum -100nT (blue)

+100nT
+25nT
+3nT
-3nT
-25nT
-100nT

Job No.	Survey Date
J8970	SEP 15

Client

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Project Title

HONEYSOME ROAD,
CHATTERIS,
CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Subject

COLOUR PLOT OF
GRADIOMETER DATA
SHOWING EXTREME VALUES

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EUROPEAN GPR ASSOCIATION

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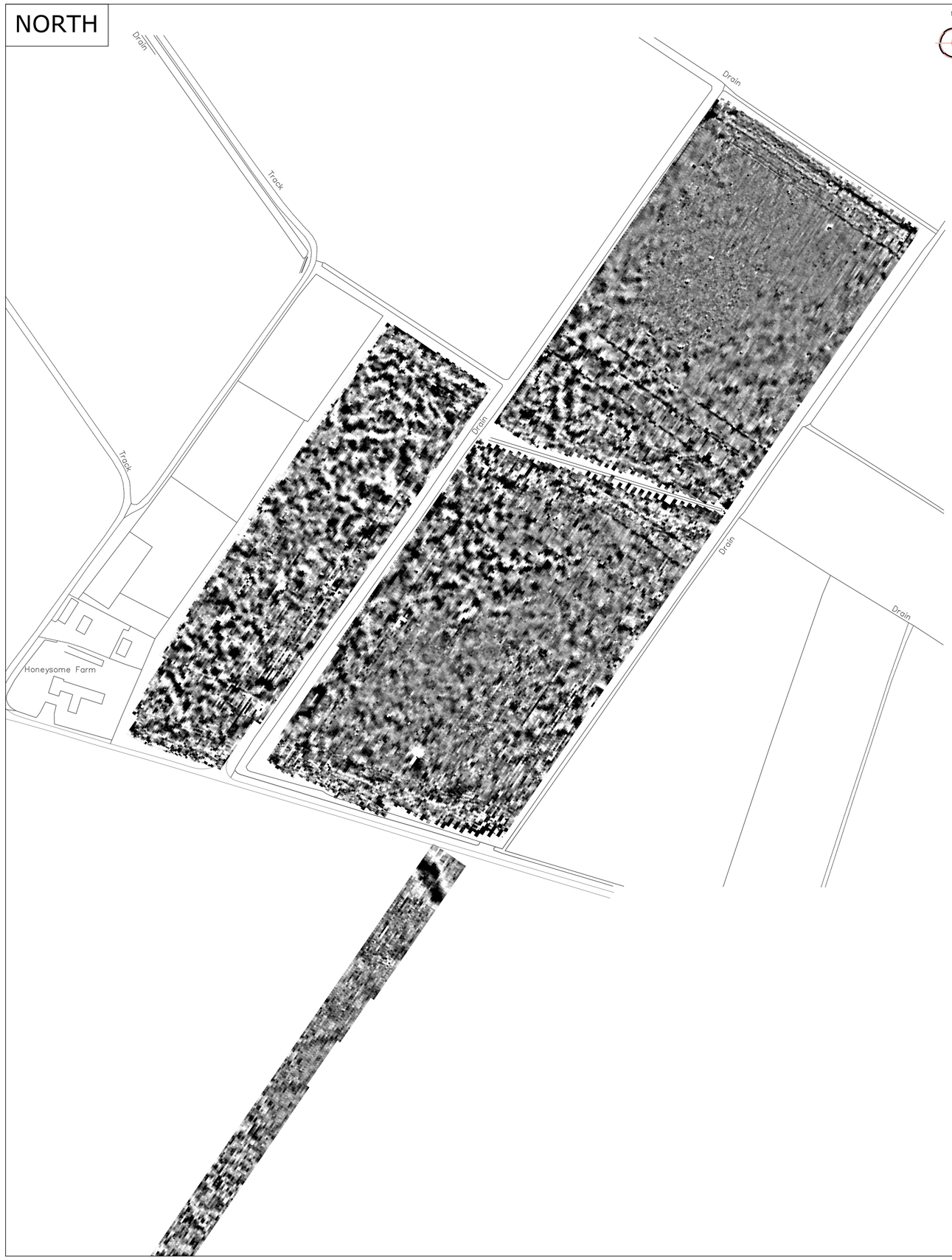
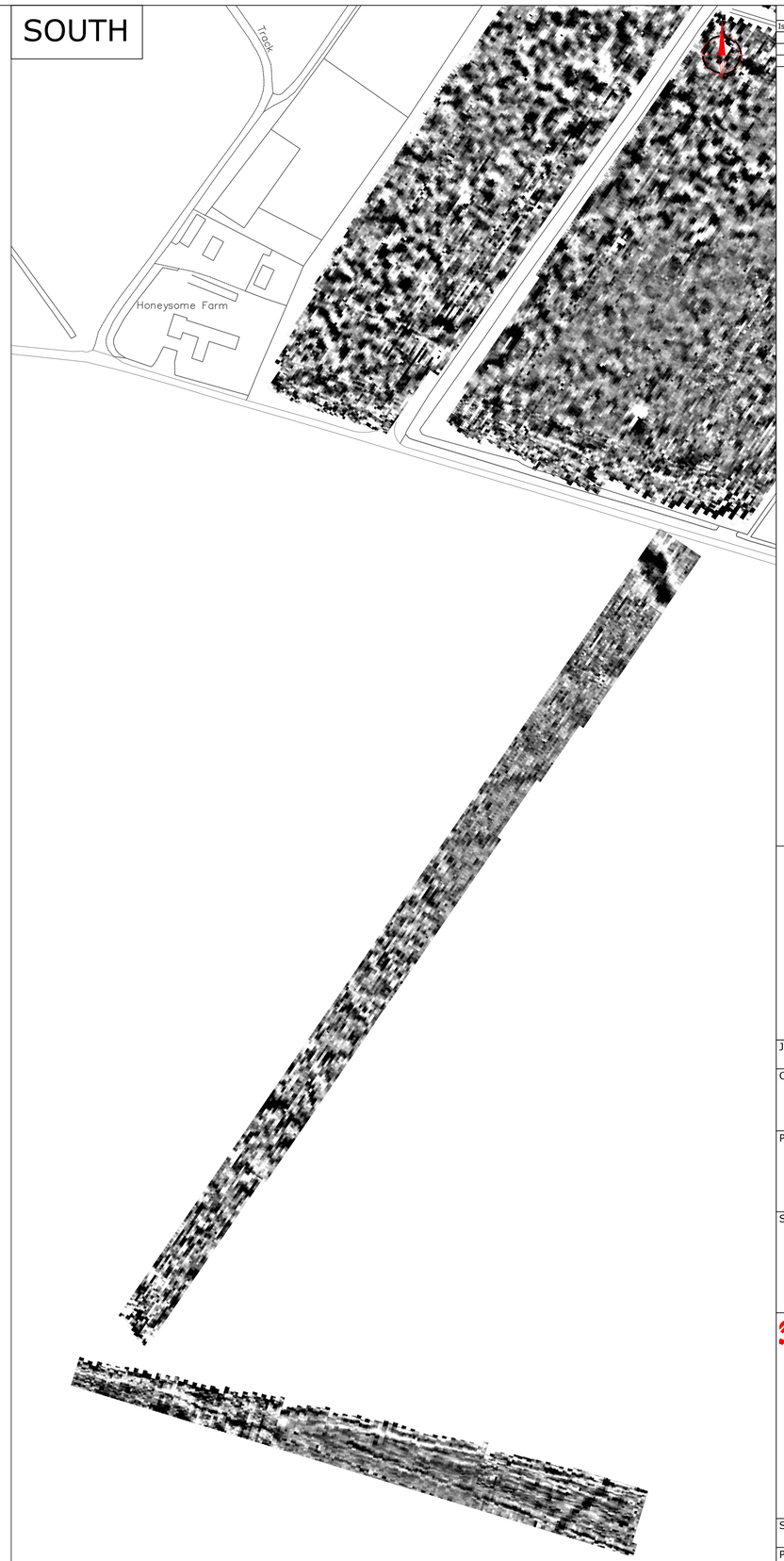
Scale 1:1250 (0m 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80m)

Plot	Checked by	Issue No.
A1	DGE	01
Date	Drawn by	Figure No.
OCT 15	TR	02

NORTH



SOUTH

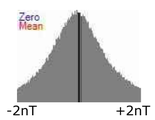


Amendments

Issue No.	Date	Description
-	-	-
-	-	-

Plotting parameters

Maximum +2nT (black)
Minimum -2nT (white)



Job No.	Survey Date
J8970	SEP 15

Client

CgMs CONSULTING LTD

Project Title

HONEYSOME ROAD, CHATTERIS, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Subject

PLOT OF MINIMALLY PROCESSED GRADIOMETER DATA

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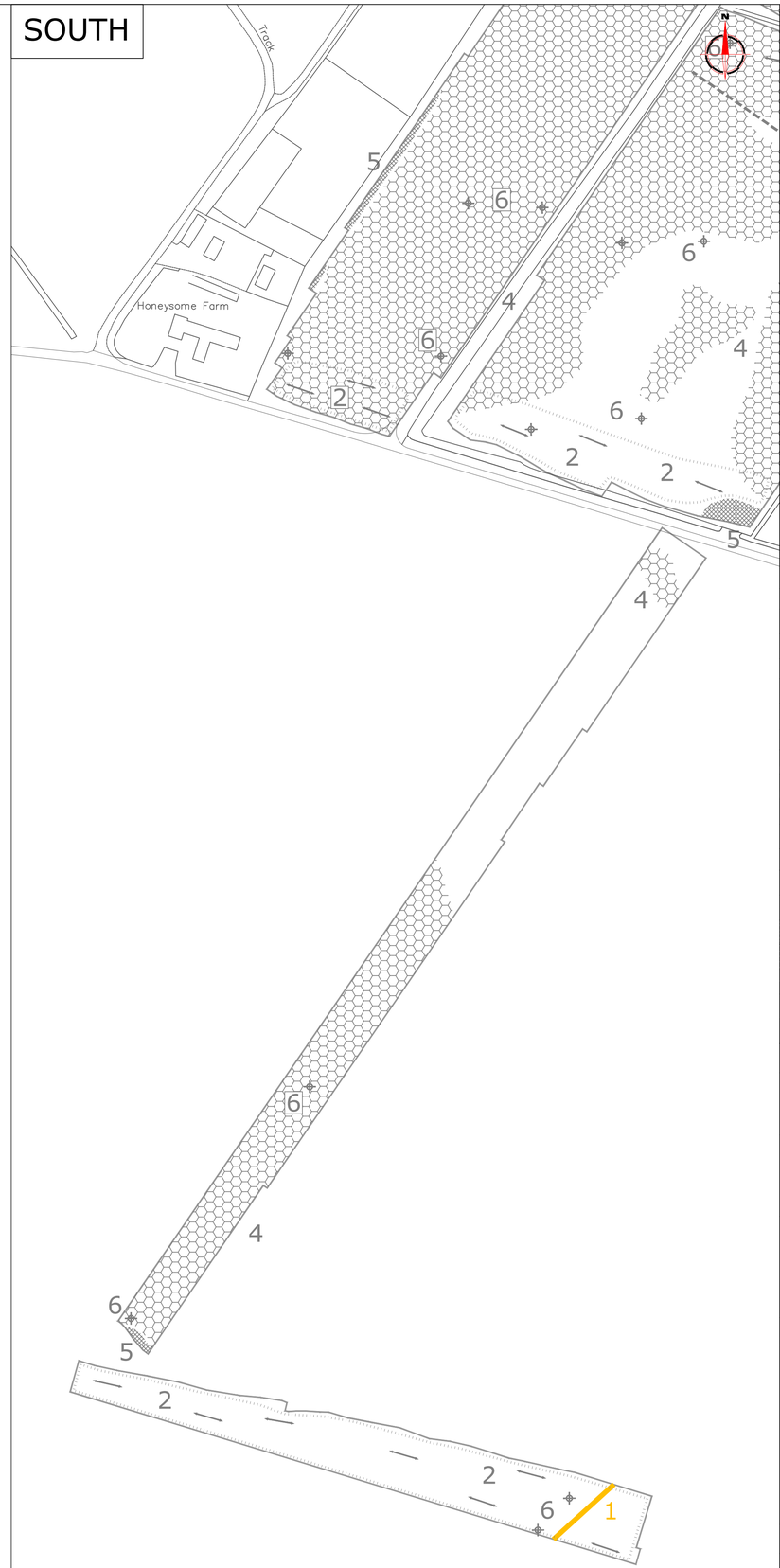
Plot	Checked by	Issue No.
A1	DGE	01
Date	Drawn by	Figure No.
OCT 15	TR	03

NORTH

SOUTH



Amendments

Issue No.	Date	Description
-	-	-
-	-	-

PROBABLE ARCHAEOLOGY

- Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - probable cut feature of archaeological origin
- Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - probable bank or earthwork of archaeological origin

POSSIBLE ARCHAEOLOGY

- Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - possible cut feature of archaeological origin
- Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - possible bank or earthwork of archaeological origin

MEDIEVAL/POST-MEDIEVAL AGRICULTURE

- Widely spaced curving parallel linear anomalies - probably related to ridge-and-furrow
- Closely spaced parallel linear anomalies - probably related to agricultural activity such as ploughing
- Linear anomaly - probably related to a former field boundary not present on available mapping
- Linear anomaly - related to a former field boundary present on available mapping

OTHER ANOMALIES

- Linear anomaly - probably related to pipe, cable or other modern service
- Linear anomaly - possibly related to land drain
- Magnetic disturbance associated with nearby metal object such as service or field boundary
- Strong magnetic debris - possible disturbed or made ground
- Scattered magnetic debris
- Area of amorphous magnetic variation - probable natural (e.g. geological or pedological) origin
- Magnetic spike - probable ferrous object

Job No.	Survey Date
J8970	SEP 15

Client

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Project Title

HONEYSOME ROAD, CHATTERIS, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Subject

ABSTRACTION AND INTERPRETATION OF GRADIOMETER ANOMALIES

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