Land at Butchers Petcare,
Dockham Way, Crick,
Northamptonshire:

**An Archaeological Evaluation** 



December 2015



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY R12309

# LAND AT 2-16 HAWKINS ROAD, CAMBRIDGE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE, CB4 2NB

# AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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# Land at Butchers Petcare, Dockham Way, Crick, Northamptonshire: An Archaeological Evaluation

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#### **ABSTRACT**

This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at Butchers Petcare, Dockham Way, Crick, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 5847 7364) between the 9th and the 17th November 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd in response to the construction of an extension to the current Butchers Petcare factory with associated services and landscaping. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

The trial trench evaluation has identified features reflecting four periods of activity on the site: prehistoric, Romano-British, middle Saxon and Post-Medieval. The earliest activity was evidenced by a number ditches present in the southern part of the site (Trenches 11-19). Although these ditches produced only a few sherds of pottery as well as fragments of animal bone it is possible these ditches have prehistoric origins. Ditch [147] (Trench 12) produced a small quantity of Iron Age pottery, as well as a small quantity of Saxon pottery within a charcoal rich deposit. The limited amounts of Romano-British and Middle Saxon pottery indicates either longevity of the ditches, with the Romans cleaning out and reusing existing ditches, or multi-period activity on the site. Evidence for occupation was also present in Trenches 12 and 15 which contained a number of small heavily rooted pits and post-holes.

A natural hollow [124] was identified in Trenches 10, 11 and 19, aligned north-east to south-west, running towards Clifton Brook at the southern end of the site. The ditches in the southern part of the site are located on the higher ground either side of this hollow, suggesting that it was being exploited for use as drainage or a water source.

One segment of ditch was also identified in Trench 2 which was morphologically similar to the ditches located in Trenches 11-20, which returned a possible Iron Age or Saxon date. Two further ditches were present in this part of the site, which were of post-medieval date.

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at Butchers Petcare, Dockham Way, Crick, Northamptonshire (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) SP 5847 7364) from the 9th to the 17th November (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting in response to an archaeological planning condition attached to the construction of an extension to the current Butchers Petcare factory with associated services and landscaping (Planning Reference DA/2015/0729).
- 1.3 The evaluation trenches were positioned to target areas of potential archaeology identified in a Desk-based Assessment (Butler 2015) and a Geophysical Survey (Stratascan 2015) along with investigating any 'blank' spaces. The survey identified a number of probable ditches or archaeological origin, as well as possible furrows, pits and magnetic spikes (Figure 3).
- 1.4 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Matt Jones of PCA (Jones 2015) in response to a Brief for archaeological evaluation issued by Liz Mordue (Mordue 2015) the Assistant Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 A total of 20 trial trenches were excavated and recorded.
- 1.7 This report describes the results of the evaluation and aims to inform the design of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. On completion of the project PCA will retain the project archive until suitable facilities for

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deposition are made available. Any alternative arrangements will be agreed with the Assistant Archaeological Advisor and the Local Planning Authority.

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# 2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

# 2.1 Geology

2.1.1 The British Geological Survey (Online) shows the solid geology underlying the study site comprises Charmouth Mudstone Formation (Mudstone). No superficial deposits are recorded across the majority of the site. Along the southern boundary superficial deposits of Alluvium (Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel) are recorded.

# 2.2 Topography

- 2.2.1 The study site lies at approximately 118m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).
- 2.2.2 The majority of the site has a slight gradient, sloping down from the north-east to approximately 114m AOD in the south. The area currently within the factory complex appears to have been levelled, with the southern end being made up in height. There is a man-made bank, approximately 3m high which runs along the western and north-western edges of the study site.
- 2.2.3 The nearest natural watercourse is the Clifton Brook which flows across the south of the site, west towards Rugby.

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#### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

#### 3.1 General

3.1.1 The following background material derives from the Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (CgMs 2015) for the site.

#### 3.2 Prehistoric

- 3.2.1 The Heritage Environment Record (HER) does not contain any records of Palaeolithic evidence within the study area.
- 3.2.2 A flint scatter is recorded at Crack's Hill, c.1km east of the site (HER Ref: 9097; 9097/0/0). The flints are undiagnostic and could be from late Mesolithic to early Bronze Age in date.
- 3.2.3 The sole diagnostic record of Neolithic evidence in the study area is for a greenstone axe head, found c.200m south of the study site (0/0/162), though a single struck flint flake of possibly Neolithic or Bronze Age date was found during an evaluation c.700m south-west (8074/0/25).
- 3.2.4 The HER does not contain any records of Bronze Age evidence.
- 3.2.5 The HER records evidence of a probable Iron Age settlement found during a watching brief immediately to the west on the former Midland Meat Packers Site (7305; 7305/0/1; Event ENN103240). This comprised a series of intercutting features including a curvilinear ditch, a series of pits, a slot and posthole.
- 3.2.6 An area of cropmarks c.750m north-east of the site indicates possible Prehistoric enclosures and ditches (9713; 9713/0/1-9713/0/10).
- 3.2.7 An overview of the distribution of prehistoric activity and archaeological remains across Northamptonshire (chapters by Phillips & Kidd, Chapman, in Tingle ed. 2004) presents a general pattern of short-term exploitation of heavier clay-based areas in the early prehistoric period, but with settlement and more intensive activity targeting light well-drained soils, both in the main river valleys and more localised outcrops in the plateau between river valleys. However, by the later part of the Iron Age (Ibid.) settlement and

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exploitation had extended into clay-based soils in many parts of the county. Extensive settlement evidence is recorded around the Daventry Rail Freight Terminal, approximately 750m west of the study site.

# 3.3 Roman

- 3.3.1 A major Roman Road, Watling Street, runs north-west/south-east c.1.6km west of the study site (Margary, 1955).
- 3.3.2 The HER records possible Roman quarry pits c.800m south of the study site (HER Ref: 433; 433/0/1). Close by, an enclosure of probable Roman date has been investigated c.800m south of the study site (7319/1; 7319/1/1; 7319/1/5).
- 3.3.3 A Roman pottery scatter (460) was found c. 400m to the west of the study site, and pottery and building stone were found c.850m south-west of the site (451; 451/0/0).

# 3.4 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

- 3.4.1 The only HER record for the early Medieval period is Saxon pottery found in a linear feature c.800m south of the site (HER: 7319/1/1).
- 3.4.2 Settlement at Crick is first documented in the Domesday Survey, though it is considered likely that settlement pre-dated this time. The core of the Medieval settlement lay c.1km south-east of the study site. The HER indicates the medieval settlement extended to approximately 650m south-east of the study site (445).
- 3.4.3 Settlement earthworks were formerly present c.1km south-east of the study site, comprising hollow-ways and a series of long east/west aligned closes bounded by low scarps (445/0/1). The date of abandonment of this part of Crick village is uncertain, although the RCHME suggests that the remains may relate to two halls, a cottage and a 'sheepscote' which are recorded as being 'wasted' in 1380 (RCHME, 1981). Trial trenching of some of the plots suggested occupation was mainly of 13th and 14th date (445/0/1).
- 3.4.4 The HER contains a number of records relating to the open field system

which would have surrounded the settlement of Crick (HER: 8074 and elements), as mapped in a Parish Survey in 1976 (Hall and Harding, 1977). The Parish Survey maps ridge and furrow across the majority of the study site, though this is not noted in the HER. The study site covers parts of three furlongs noted in the Parish Survey (Hall and Harding; Appendix 1) as called:

- 99 Before Dockham
- 100 Middle Dockham
- 86 Edmonds Stone Pit Furlong
- 3.4.5 The HER does note six cultivation furrows to immediate west of the site, recorded during a watching brief (8074/0/40).

#### 3.5 Post-Medieval & Modern

- 3.5.1 During the Post-Medieval period, cartographic and documentary sources can provide supplementary information to the archaeological record.
- 3.5.2 Eyre and Jeffreys' map of 1779 gives limited detail, but shows the site as undeveloped land to the north of the historic core of Crick.
- 3.5.3 The Ordnance Survey Drawing from 1817 gives more detail, and shows the study site occupying undeveloped land within an agricultural landscape.
- 3.5.4 The first detailed mapping is provided by the Ordnance Survey edition of 1889-91. This shows the study site forming part of five fields. The 1955 and 1974 Ordnance Survey editions show the site unchanged.
- 3.5.5 By 2004, the site remained largely unchanged, though part of a balancing pond lay on the western side of the site. A warehouse with ponds, silos and associated features had been constructed to the west of the study site.

# 3.6 Previous Archaeological Investigations

3.6.1 In October 2015, a programme of geophysical survey was undertaken on site. The survey identified a concentration of probable archaeological features in the southeast corner of the site, which could be consistent with enclosures and boundaries associated with occupation. A small number of

possible archaeological features and former field boundaries were identified elsewhere on site. The known ridge and furrow earthworks on site were subject to 3D earthwork survey (Stratascan 2015).

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#### 4 METHODOLOGY

# 4.1 Excavation and Sampling

- 4.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation proposed the excavation of 20 trial trenches distributed across the site.
- 4.1.2 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 14-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 potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools. Overburden deposits were set aside beside each trench and examined visually and with a metal-detector for finds retrieval.
- 4.1.3 Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil and subsoil stripping and throughout the excavation process. Archaeological features and spoilheaps were scanned by metal-detector as they were encountered/ created.
- 4.1.4 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I) by Joanna Taylor and Gary Brown (2009).
- 4.1.5 All features were investigated and recorded in order to properly understand the date and nature of the archaeological remains on the site and to recover sufficient finds assemblages to assess the chronological development and socio-economic character of the site over time.
- 4.1.6 Discrete features such as pits and postholes were 50% excavated.

# 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

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were drawn at an appropriate scale (1:10 or 1:50).

- 4.2.3 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded on individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown 2009). 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 record shots were taken as appropriate.
- 4.2.5 Artefacts and ecofacts were collected by hand and assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from the site (ClfA 2001; Walker 1990; Watkinson 1981).

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#### 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.
- 5.1.2 The trenches were positioned to target areas of potential archaeology identified in a Geophysical Survey (Stratascan 2015) along with investigating any 'blank' spaces. The survey identified a number of probable ditches or archaeological origin, as well as possible furrows, pits and magnetic spikes (Figure 3).
- 5.1.3 The evaluation identified a series of possible prehistoric ditches concentrated in the south of the site (Trenches 11-20) with three ditches also identified in the north of the site (Trenches 2-3), of which two were of post-medieval date. The ditches located in Trenches 11-20 were mostly situated on the higher ground on either side of a large natural hollow [124] identified in Trenches 10, 11 and 19. It is possible that these were exploiting the hollow as a water source or as a natural drainage system.
- 5.1.4 The archaeological features identified on the site were cut into natural geology which consisted of blue-grey and orange-brown clays (102), these features were sealed by deposits of colluvium (119), which varied in depth between 0.15m and 0.6m in depth, and in places deposits of both colluvium (119) and alluvium (120), which was between 0.3m and 0.6m in depth, full depths of overburden deposits are detailed in Appendix 3. These deposits were then sealed by subsoil (101) and topsoil (100) the depths of which are detailed in Appendix 3.

# **5.2** Trench 1 (Figures 2-3)

5.2.1 Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or deposits.

# 5.3 Trench 2 (Figure 2-4; Plates 2-4)

5.3.1 Trench 2 was positioned to investigate a number of anomalies identified in the Geophysical Survey (Figure 3).

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- 5.3.2 Trench 2 contained two ditches aligned north-east to south-west. One of the ditches was morphologically similar to ditches identified in Trenches 11-19 which were of potential prehistoric date, as a result the trench was extended to follow the alignment of this ditch. The trench was extended by c. 6m to the south and c. 4m to the north at the western end of the existing trench.
- 5.3.3 Ditch [158] (Figure 4) was located at the western end of the trench, c. 3.0m west of Ditch [137], extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west, measuring 0.75m wide and 0.33m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It contained two fills a lower deposit (157) of dark grey brown silty clay and an upper fill (156) of mid grey brown silty clay, which contained one fragment (1400g) of burnt stone.
- 5.3.4 Ditch [137] (Figure 4; Plate 3) was located at the western end of the trench, c. 3.0m east of Ditch [158]. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to southwest with terminals at both its north-eastern and south-western ends. The ditch measured 6.25m in length, and was 1.0m wide and 0.38m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (141) of mid to light grey brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 5.3.5 Ditch [180] (Figure 4; Plate 4) was located at the western end of the trench, located in the extended part of Trench 2 to the north. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west with terminals at both its north-eastern and south-western ends. The ditch measured 6.25m in length, and was 0.89m wide and 0.2m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (179) of mid to light grey brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from this feature.

# 5.4 Trench 3 (Figure 2-3)

- 5.4.1 The trench was positioned to investigate a number of anomalies identified in the Geophysical Survey (Figure 3) relating to a linear anomaly and a magnetic spike. The trench contained a single north-east to south-west aligned ditch.
- 5.4.2 Ditch [136] (Figure 2) was located at the western end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to

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south-west, measuring 0.8m wide and 0.41m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (135) of dark grey brown silty clay which contained one fragment of animal bone, one fragment of burnt clay (13g) and one fragment (2070g) of burnt stone.

# 5.5 Trench 4 (Figure 2-3)

- 5.5.1 The trench was positioned to investigate a linear anomaly identified in the Geophysical Survey (Figure 3). The trench contained two post-medieval furrows, one of which was excavated and recorded fully.
- 5.5.2 Furrow [133] (Figure 2) was located at the eastern end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north-west to south-east, measuring 0.44m wide and 0.14m deep with steep sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (134) of pale grey brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from this feature.

# 5.6 Trench 5 (Figure 2-3)

- 5.6.1 Trench 5 was positioned to investigate a linear anomaly identified in the Geophysical Survey (Figure 3).
- 5.6.2 Trench 5 contained no archaeological features or deposits.

# **5.7** Trench 6 (Figure 2-3)

5.7.1 Trench 6 contained no archaeological features or deposits.

# 5.8 Trench 7 (Figure 2-3)

5.8.1 Trench 7 contained no archaeological features or deposits.

# **5.9** Trench 8 (Figure 2-3)

5.9.1 Trench 8 contained no archaeological features or deposits.

# 5.10 Trench 9 (Figure 2-3)

- 5.10.1 The trench was positioned to investigate a linear anomaly identified in the Geophysical Survey (Figure 3).
- 5.10.2 Trench 9 contained no archaeological features or deposits.

# 5.11 Trench 10 (Figure 2, 3, 5)

- 5.11.1 Trench 10 was positioned to investigate a geophysical anomaly identified in the Geophysical Survey (Figure 3). This was identified as being a probable archaeological feature, however this was not identified within the Trench.
- 5.11.2 Trench 10 contained no archaeological features or deposits. A large natural hollow [124] was present at the eastern end of the trench, also identified in Trenches 11 and 19 and discussed in further detail below.

# 5.12 Trench 11 (Figure 2, 3, 6)

- 5.12.1 The trench was positioned to investigate a geophysical anomaly identified in the Geophysical Survey (Figure 3). These related to features of probable archaeological origin.
- 5.12.2 Trench 11 contained two ditches one aligned north-east to south-west and a second aligned north to south and a large natural hollow [124] also identified in Trenches 10 and 19.
- 5.12.3 Ditch [176] (Figure 6; Plate 6) was located at the western end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north to south measuring 0.9m wide and 0.29m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained two fills: a lower deposit (177) of yellowish brown silty clay and an upper deposit (175) of mid grey brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 5.12.4 Ditch [163] (Figure 6; Plate 7) 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 0.44m wide and 0.17m deep with steep sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill of (164) of grey brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from this feature.

# 5.13 Trench 12 (Figure 2, 3, 7)

5.13.1 The trench was positioned to investigate a number of geophysical anomalies identified in the Geophysical Survey (Figure 3). These related to features of probable archaeological origin.

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- 5.13.2 Trench 12 contained three ditches one aligned north-east to south-west and two aligned east to west as well as two post-holes.
- 5.13.3 Post-hole [161] (Figure 7; Plate 8) was located at the southern end of the trench, c. 1.5m south of Ditch [151]. It was sub-oval in plan measuring 0.44m long, 0.39m wide and 0.09m deep with steep sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill of (162) of mid-grey brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 5.13.4 Ditch [151] (Figure 7; Plate 9) was located at the southern end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was curvilinear in plan, aligned north-west to south-east measuring 2.07m wide and 0.51m deep with moderate to steep sides and a concave base. It contained three fills: a lower deposit (150) of orange-brown silty clay, a middle fill (149) of mid grey-brown silty clay and an upper fill (148) of mixed red-brown and grey-brown silty clay, which contained 2 fragments (11g) of burnt clay.
- 5.13.5 Ditch [147] (Figure 7; Plate 9) 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 1.75m wide and 0.52m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained three fills: a lower deposit (146) of mid-grey brown silty clay, a middle deposit (145) of dark grey slightly ashy silty clay, containing one sherd of Middle Saxon pottery, two fragments of animal bone and 6 fragments (59g) of burnt clay, and an upper fill (144) of mid to dark grey brown silty clay which contained seven fragments of animal bone, 11 fragments (98g) of burnt clay and possible metal fragments.
- 5.13.6 Post-hole [159] (Figure 7) was located midway along the trench, c. 1.0m south of Ditch [138]. It was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.42m long, 0.28m wide and 0.12m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill of (160) of grey brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 5.13.7 Ditch [138] (Figure 7; Plate 10) was located midway along the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned

north-west to south-east measuring 1.42m wide and 0.61m deep with steep sides and a flat base. It contained two fills: a lower deposit (140) of blue-grey silty clay, and an upper deposit (139) of mixed orange brown and grey brown silty clay, containing two fragments of animal bone.

5.13.8 The features identified in this trench are located on the western edge of hollow [124] on the slightly higher ground. They may represent field boundaries or drainage ditches exploiting the hollow, potentially as a water source. Ditch [138] may form part of an enclosure with Ditch [165] in Trench 15.

# 5.14 Trench 13 (Figure 2, 3)

- 5.14.1 The trench was positioned to investigate a number geophysical anomalies identified in the Geophysical Survey (Figure 3). These related to features of probable archaeological origin.
- 5.14.2 Trench 13 contained two, heavily rooted, post-holes.
- 5.14.3 Post-hole [178] was located midway along the trench, c. 6.0m to the west of Post-hole [131]. It was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.6m long, 0.5m wide and 0.18m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill of (181) of grey brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 5.14.4 Post-hole [131] (Plate 11) was at the eastern end of the trench, c. 6.0m to the east of Post-hole [178]. It was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.42m long, 0.38m wide and 0.19m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill of (132) of grey brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from this feature.

# 5.15 Trench 14 (Figures 2, 3, 5)

5.15.1 Trench 14 contained no archaeological features or deposits.

# 5.16 Trench 15 (Figure 2, 3, 8)

5.16.1 The trench was positioned to investigate a number geophysical anomalies identified in the Geophysical Survey (Figure 3). These related to features of

probable archaeological origin.

- 5.16.2 Trench 15 contained three ditches, two aligned north-west to south-east and one aligned north-east to south-west, and a post-hole.
- 5.16.3 Ditch [167] (Figure 8) was located at the southern end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west measuring 0.66m wide and 0.22m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (168) of mid grey brown silty clay.
- 5.16.4 Ditch Terminus [169] (Figure 8) was located at the southern end of the trench extending beyond the south-western limit of excavation. It was a linear terminus in plan, aligned north-east to south-west measuring 0.97m long, 0.58m wide and 0.1m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (170) of mid to light grey brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 5.16.5 Post-hole [171] (Figure 8) was at the northern end of the trench, c. 0.2m to the south of Ditch [165]. It was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.35m long, 0.36m wide and 0.27m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill of (172) of dark grey brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 5.16.6 Ditch [165] (Figure 8) was located at the northern end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west measuring 2.25m wide and 0.55m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (166) of mid grey brown silty clay, containing fragments of highly degraded animal bone which were not retained.
- 5.16.7 The features identified in this trench are located on the western edge of hollow [124] on the slightly higher ground. They may represent field boundaries or drainage ditches exploiting the hollow, potentially as a water source. Ditch [165] may form part of an enclosure with Ditch [138] in Trench 12.

# 5.17 Trench 16 (Figures 2-3)

5.17.1 Trench 16 contained no archaeological features or deposits.

# 5.18 Trench 17 (Figure 2, 3, 5, 9)

- 5.18.1 The trench was positioned to investigate a number geophysical anomalies identified in the Geophysical Survey (Figure 3). These related to features of probable archaeological origin.
- 5.18.2 Trench 17 contained five ditches, two aligned north-west to south-east and three aligned east to west.
- 5.18.3 Ditch Terminus [110] (Figure 9; Plate 13) was located midway along the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was a linear terminus in plan, aligned east to west measuring 0.87m wide and 0.14m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (109) of mixed grey brown and red brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 5.18.4 Ditch [118] (Figure 9) was located at the northern end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned east to west measuring 0.76m wide and 0.2m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (117) of mixed grey brown and red brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from this feature. Ditch [118] was truncated by Ditch [108] which may be a later re-cut of this ditch.
- 5.18.5 Ditch [108] (Figure 9) was located at the northern end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned east to west measuring 0.72m wide and 0.17m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (107) of grey brown silty clay containing one fragment of animal bone. Ditch [108] truncated Ditch [118] and is likely to be a later recut of this ditch.
- 5.18.6 Ditch [105] (Figure 9; Plate 14) was located at the northern end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was curvilinear in plan, aligned north-west to south-east measuring 0.61m wide and 0.18m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (103)

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of mixed grey brown and red brown silty clay, which contained one fragment (3594g) of burnt stone. Ditch [105] truncated Ditch [116] and likely represents a later re-cut of this ditch.

- 5.18.7 Ditch [116] (Figure 9; Plate 14) was located at the northern end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was curvilinear in plan, aligned north-west to south-east measuring 0.36m wide and 0.18m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (104) of grey brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from this feature. Ditch [116] was truncated by Ditch [105] which likely represents a later re-cutting of this ditch.
- 5.18.8 The ditches in this part of the site have been subject to a number of re-cuts which indicates longevity to the use of this part of the site. These ditches are focussed on the banks of the natural hollow [124] and may be exploiting it as a water source or as a natural drainage system.

# 5.19 Trench 18 (Figures 2, 3, 5)

5.19.1 Trench 18 contained no archaeological features or deposits.

# 5.20 Trench 19 (Figure 2, 3, 5, 10; Plate 15)

- 5.20.1 The trench was positioned to investigate a number geophysical anomalies identified in the Geophysical Survey (Figure 3). These related to features of probable archaeological origin.
- 5.20.2 Trench 19 contained two ditches, aligned north-east to south-west, a furrow and a natural hollow which was also identified in Trenches 10 and 11.
- 5.20.3 Furrow [173] (Figure 10) 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 1.36m wide and 0.17m deep with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (174) of mid grey brown silty clay. No finds were recovered from this feature.
- 5.20.4 Ditch [121] (Figure 10; Figure 16) 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 1.95m wide and 0.7m deep with moderate to steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It contained two fills: a lower fill (123) of dark blue grey silty clay, and an upper fill (122) of mid grey brown silty clay, containing two sherds of Romano-British pottery and six fragments of animal bone. Ditch [121] truncated the western edge of hollow [124].

- 5.20.5 Hollow [124] (Figure 10; Plate 16) 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 c. 9.0m wide and in excess of 0.9m deep with moderate to steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It contained two fills: a lower fill (126) of mid grey brown silty clay, and an upper fill (125) of mid reddish grey silty clay. Ditch [121] truncated the western edge of hollow [124].
- 5.20.6 Ditch [115] (Figure 10; Plate 17) was located at the eastern end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was curvilinear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west measuring 2.27m wide and 0.4m+ deep with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It contained two fills: a lower deposit (114) of mid grey brown silty clay containing two fragments of animal bone and an upper deposit (113) of mid to light grey brown silty clay. Ditch [115] truncated the eastern edge of hollow [124].

#### 5.21 Trench 20 (Figures 2, 3, 5, 11)

- 5.21.1 The trench was positioned to investigate a number geophysical anomalies identified in the Geophysical Survey (Figure 3).
- 5.21.2 Trench 20 contained two ditches aligned north-east to south-west.
- 5.21.3 Ditch [129] (Figure 11; Plate 18) was located at the southern end of the trench extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west measuring 1.92m wide and 0.34m deep with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It contained a single fill (130) of mid grey brown silty clay containing one fragment of animal bone.
- 5.21.4 Ditch [127] (Figure 11) was located at the southern end of the trench

extending beyond both limits of excavation. It was linear in plan, aligned north-east to south-west measuring 0.65m wide and 0.36m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (128) of mid grey brown silty clay containing two fragments of animal bone.

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#### 6 THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

# 6.1 Pottery

# By Paul Blinkhorn

#### Introduction

6.1.1 The pottery assemblage comprised 7 sherds with a total weight of 124g. It consisted of a mixture of Iron Age, middle Anglo-Saxon and post medieval wares. The middle Saxon and later pottery was recorded using the conventions of the Northamptonshire County Ceramic Type-Series (CTS), as follows:

F96: Ipswich Ware, Group 2 fabrics, AD720-850.

F406: Midland Yellow Ware, AD1550 – 1700.

F426: Iron-Glazed Coarsewares, c late 17th – 18th century

#### Discussion

- 6.1.2 In addition, two small sherds of Romano-British pottery occurred in context (122). Both were extremely abraded, making exact identification difficult, but one of them appears to be a fragment of Samian Ware of uncertain type. Both fragments could easily be residual.
- 6.1.3 A large rim-sherd of Iron Age pottery occurred in context (144). It is in a fine sandy fabric with few visible inclusions except for sparse, fine, silver mica. The rim has a simple, upright form. It is probably of middle to late Iron Age date. The sherd is in good condition, and appears reliably stratified.
- 6.1.4 The sherd of Ipswich Ware found in context (145) is from the base of a small jar, and is one of only twenty finds of such material in the county, and only one of a handful to the north of the River Nene (Blinkhorn 2012). It is possible that the sherd may be evidence of high-status settlement in the vicinity of the excavations; one of the only other two find-spots of the ware in this area of the county was at Brixworth, a very important Anglo-Saxon basilica church (ibid.). The sherd is in good condition, and appears reliably

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stratified.

6.1.5 The post-medieval wares are very common finds in the region. The pottery occurrence by number and weight of sherds per context by fabric type is shown in Table 1. Each date should be regarded as a terminus post quem.

Context	No	Wt	Date								
101							1	18	2	25	17th C
122			2	2							Romano-British
145					1	23					Middle Saxon
147	1	56									Iron Age
Total	1	56	2	2	1	23	1	18	2	25	

Table 1: Pottery occurrence by context

# 6.2 Burnt Clay

# By Sîan O'Neill

- 6.2.1 A total of 30 small fragments and additional crumbs of burnt clay were recovered from the site, weighing a total of 215g.
- 6.2.2 The material was examined with the naked eye, to identify any differences in fabric and form, of which there were none. The fabric is a poorly sorted clay with small, rare, stone inclusions.
- 6.2.3 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 all undiagnostic. As such little can be learnt from their existence and no further work is recommended.

Context	Trench	Quantity	Weight (g)
135	3	1	13
144	12	11	98
145	12	6	59
148	12	2	11

Table 2: Quantification of burnt clay

#### 6.3 Stone

#### By Sîan O'Neill

6.3.1 A small assemblage consisting of 3 worked and burnt but undiagnostic fragments of stone weighing a total of 7246g were found on site.

Context	Trench	Petrology	Weight (g)	Worked	Burnt
103	17	Quartzite	3594	Yes	Yes
135	3	Quartzite	2070	Yes	Yes
156	2	Quartzite	1400	Yes	Yes

Table 3: Quantification of burnt stone

#### 6.4 Faunal Remains

# By Karen Deighton

Introduction

- 6.4.1 Approximately 50 fragments of animal bone were recovered by hand from Trenches 12, 17 and 19 which were situated in the southern area of site. A single bone fragment was recovered from Trench 3 in the north eastern area of the site.
- 6.4.2 This material was examined to establish the taxa present, level of preservation and to inform upon the potential for further work and any future collection strategies should subsequent excavation take place.

# Methodology

6.4.3 Bones were identified, where possible, to taxa with the aid of a bone atlas (Schmid 1972). The presence of ageing data (i.e. status of epiphyseal fusion (Silver 1969) and tooth eruption and wear (Grant 1982, Halstead 1985), sexing data and metrical data (after von den Driesch 1976) was noted. The state of preservation was also noted.

# Description of the Faunal Assemblage

6.4.4 Fragmentation was on the whole fairly heavy with most bones at the shaft or fragment stage. The high level of fragmentation adversely affected identification with only 48% of bones assigned to taxa or group. Surface condition of the bone was reasonable with a low level of erosion and root

- etching. A small amount of canid gnawing and evidence for butchery (largely chopping) was noted.
- 6.4.5 Burnt material was noted from context (148) only, unfortunately this material could not be identified due to heavy fragmentation.

6.4.6	Contexts (103) and (148	) contained indeterminate bon	e fragments only.
-------	-------------------------	-------------------------------	-------------------

Context	Cut	Trench	Feature	Cattle	Cattle size	Sheep/goat	Pig	Horse
107	108	17	Ditch					1
114	115	19	Ditch		1			1
122	121	19	Ditch	3	1		2	
128	127	20	Ditch	2				
130	129	20	Ditch			1		
135	136	3	Ditch			1		
139	138	12	Ditch			2		
144	147	12	Ditch	2		1	1	3
145	147	12	Ditch		1	1		
Total				7	3	6	3	5

Table 4: Taxa by context

#### Discussion

- 6.4.7 The current assemblage is small (a total of 24 fragments were identified), and preservation is moderate to poor therefore its potential is restricted to providing an indication of the taxa associated with the site. If the assemblage were augmented with bone collected from any subsequent excavation it may be possible, with further dating evidence, to identify animal husbandry practices, dietary preferences or industrial/craft activities and consequently contribute to the understanding of the site.
- 6.4.8 The assemblage consisted solely of the major domesticates. The heavy fragmentation and mixture of taxa suggests the assemblage to be the result of waste disposal, however with such a small assemblage it is difficult to identify the activities which generated the waste.

#### Recommendations

6.4.9 No further work is recommended on the current assemblage

6.4.10 Animal bone should be collected during the course of any subsequent excavations which could concentrate on trenches 12 and 19.

#### Conclusion

6.4.11 Analysis has shown a small assemblage of major domesticates, which, with the addition of bone from further excavation could provide information on site economy and function.

#### 6.5 Plant Macrofossils

# By Val Fryer

# Introduction

6.5.1 An evaluation, undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA), at Butchers Petcare, Crick recorded a series of ditches and other discrete features. Samples for the evaluation of the content and preservation of the plant macrofossil assemblages were taken from ditch fills within six of the evaluation trenches and a total of sixteen were submitted for assessment.

#### Methodology

6.5.2 The samples were bulk floated by PCA and the flots were collected in a 300 micron mesh sieve. The dried flots were scanned under a binocular microscope at magnifications up to x 16 and the plant macrofossils and other remains noted are listed in Appendix 4. Nomenclature within the table follows Stace (2010). All plant remains were charred. Modern roots and seeds were also recorded.

#### Results

- 6.5.3 Although charcoal/charred wood fragments are present throughout, other plant macrofossils are very scarce, with most occurring as single specimens within an assemblage. However, cereals and seeds of common segetal weeds are present, although most are very poorly preserved, being both puffed and distorted (probably as a result of combustion at very high temperatures) and fragmented.
- 6.5.4 Oat (Avena sp.), barley (Hordeum sp.) and wheat (Triticum sp.) grains are

noted, with wheat occurring most frequently. All the recorded wheat grains appear to be of a very rounded hexaploid type form, and a single bread wheat (T. aestivum/compactum) type rachis node is present within the assemblage from ditch [158] (sample 9).

- 6.5.5 Seeds are particularly scarce, occurring within only seven of the assemblages studied. All are of common segetal weeds, with taxa noted including stinking mayweed (Anthemis cotula), brome (Bromus sp.), small legumes (Fabaceae), goosegrass (Galium aparine) and small grasses (Poaceae). As stated above, charcoal fragments are present throughout, and it is noted that a number of fragments are very rounded and abraded, almost certainly indicating that they were exposed to the elements for some considerable period prior to inclusion within the ditch fills. Other plant macrofossils occur very infrequently, but small pieces of charred root/stem are recorded along with an indeterminate culm node.
- 6.5.6 The fragments of black porous 'cokey' material are all thought to be residues of the combustion of organic remains (including cereal grains) at very high temperatures. Small fragments of abraded bone are present within the assemblage from ditch [147] (sample 11).

#### Conclusions

- 6.5.7 In summary, the recovered assemblages are all small (0.1 litres in volume or less) and very limited in composition. Cereals and seeds are recorded (most notably within the samples from post medieval ditches [136] and [158]), but at such a low density that it would appear that the remains are principally derived from scattered or wind-dispersed detritus, which accidentally became incorporated within the feature fills. There is little to indicate that any of the ditches were closely associated with foci of either domestic or agricultural activity.
- 6.5.8 On the basis of these assemblages, it is very difficult to make recommendations for a future sampling strategy should further interventions be planned. However, as charred plant remains with the potential to provide valuable data about specific on-site activities are present within the

archaeological horizon at Dockham Way, it is suggested that if the opportunity arises, additional plant macrofossil samples of circa 20 – 40 litres in volume should be taken from any feature which is both well-sealed and dated, with an emphasis being placed on features of a possible domestic nature i.e. pits, post-holes, middens etc.

#### 7 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

#### 7.1 Overview

7.1.1 The results of the evaluation show activity ranging from Prehistoric to the Saxon periods. The results of the Geophysical Survey (Stratascan 2015) were broadly consistent with the evidence reproduced in the trenches, however some features identified in the Geophysics were not uncovered in the trenches. Further archaeological features were identified within the trenches that were not picked up by the Geophysics, suggesting the possibility of further archaeology in the 'blank' spaces, however this is likely to be confined to the area around Trenches 11-20.

# 7.2 Prehistoric Activity

- 7.2.1 The earliest activity was evidenced by a number ditches present in the southern part of the site (Trenches 11-19). Although most of these ditches produced only fragments of animal bone it is possible that these ditches have a prehistoric origin. A number of ditches were re-cut indicating they were being re-used or retained extant for some time, which may explain the presence of Iron Age and Saxon pottery within the same feature.
- 7.2.2 Ditch [147] in Trench 12 produced a small quantity of Iron Age pottery, as well as a small quantity of Saxon pottery contained within a charcoal rich deposit. This ditch truncated earlier Ditch [151] which is potentially prehistoric.
- 7.2.3 One segment of ditch was identified in the north-west of the site (Trench 2) which was morphologically similar to the ditches located in the southern part of the site (Trenches 11-20) which may be prehistoric in date.
- 7.2.4 The ditches identified on the site likely relate to outlying field systems and enclosures. When viewed alongside the results of the Geophysical Survey (Figures 3 and 5) some enclosures can tentatively be extrapolated. Although these features likely relate to field systems they are likely to be on the peripheries of settlement, which is likely to be situated on the higher ground to the west and north.

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7.2.5 There is some potential settlement evidence present in Trenches 12 and 15 in the form of a number of small, albeit heavily rooted, pits and post-holes. Features of this type are indicative of settlement, however due to the sparsity of finds and the relatively small amount of features identified it is likely that the site is on the peripheries on any settlement.

#### 7.3 Hollow

7.3.1 A large natural hollow [124] was identified in Trenches 10, 11 and 19, aligned north-east to south-west, running towards a creek at the south of the site. The ditches in the southern part of the site (Trenches 11-20) are located on the higher ground on either side of this hollow, suggesting that it was being exploited for use as either drainage or a water source.

#### 7.4 Romano-British & Saxon

- 7.4.1 Some of the ditches on the site contained limited amounts of Roman-British and Middle Saxon pottery, which indicates either longevity of the ditches, with the Romans cleaning out and reusing existing ditches, or multi-period activity on the site.
- 7.4.2 The middle Saxon pottery consisted of a sherd of Ipswich Ware from the base of a small jar, and is one of only twenty finds of such material in the county. The presence of this sherd of pottery, given it was in good condition and reliably stratified, could indicate potential high-status settlement in the vicinity of the excavations; one of the only other two find-spots of the ware in this area of the county was at Brixworth, a very important Anglo-Saxon basilica church (ibid.).

#### 7.5 Conclusions

- 7.5.1 The trial trench evaluation has identified features reflecting four periods of activity on the site: prehistoric, Romano-British, middle Saxon and Post-Medieval.
- 7.5.2 The densest area of activity is in the southern part of the site, Trenches 11-20, with the suggestion of potential settlement in the vicinity. This is provided by the presence of ditches forming enclosures with associated pits and postholes. The site is not located in the core of the settlement but on the

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peripheries.

7.5.3 The sherd of Saxon pottery was identified as being Ipswich Ware, and is one of only twenty sherds recovered from the county. This sherd was in good condition and was well stratified so is unlikely to be residual. This may be indicative of, potentially high-status, Saxon settlement in the vicinity.

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#### 8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

8.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank CgMs Consulting Ltd for commissioning the work and Anthill Plant Hire for providing and operating the mechanical excavator. PCA are also grateful to Liz Mordue the Assistant Archaeological Advisor Northamptonshire County Council for her advice and for monitoring the work. The author would like to thank Taleyna Fletcher for managing the project, the project team: Dan Britton, Sam Corke, and Tiomoid Foley for their hard work, and finally PCA's CAD department for preparing the figures.

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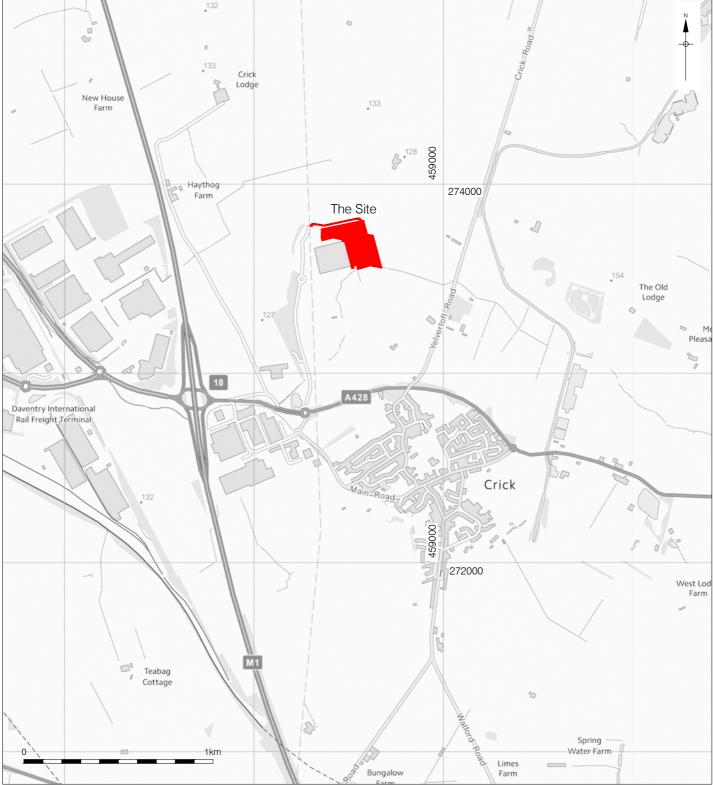
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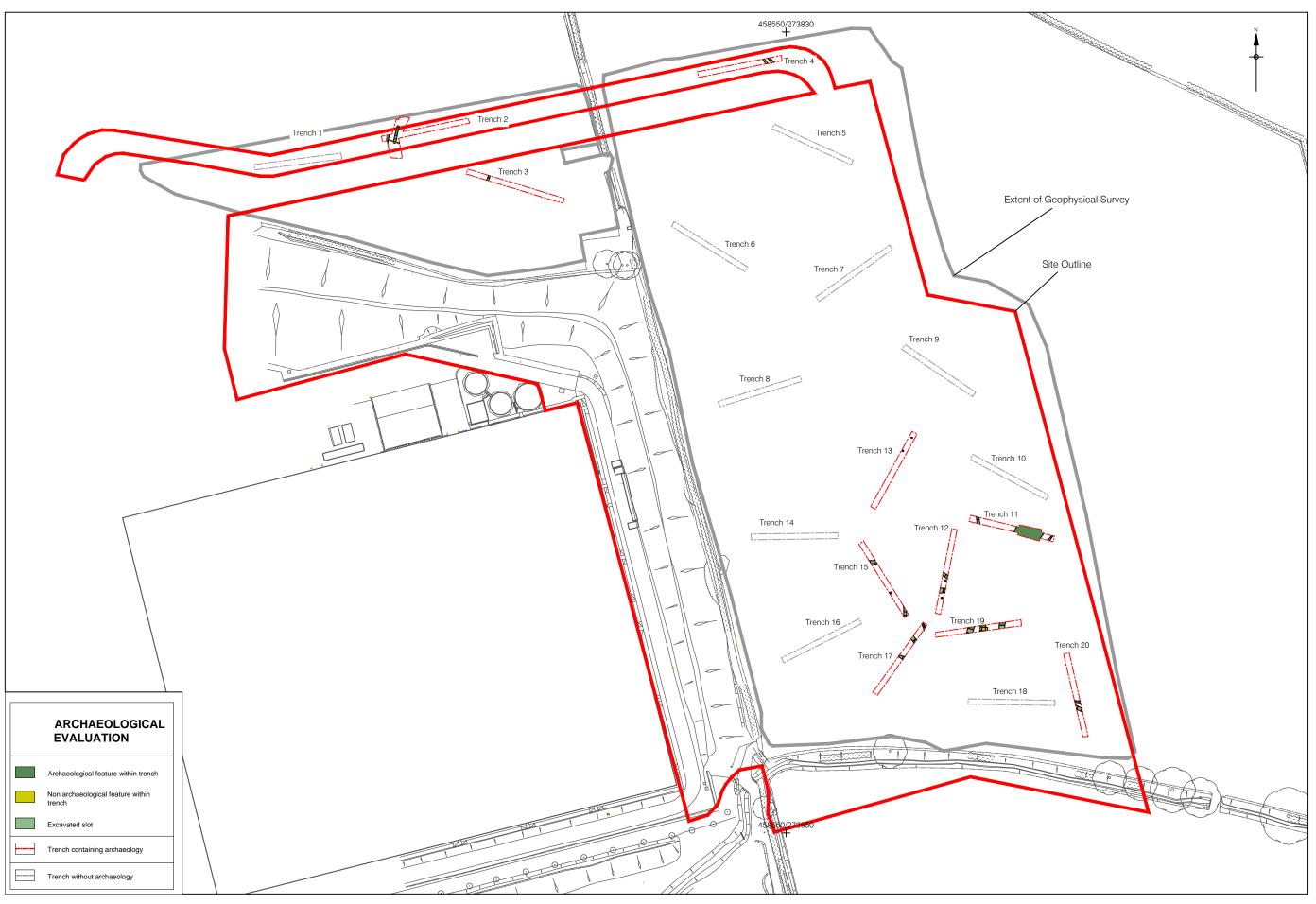
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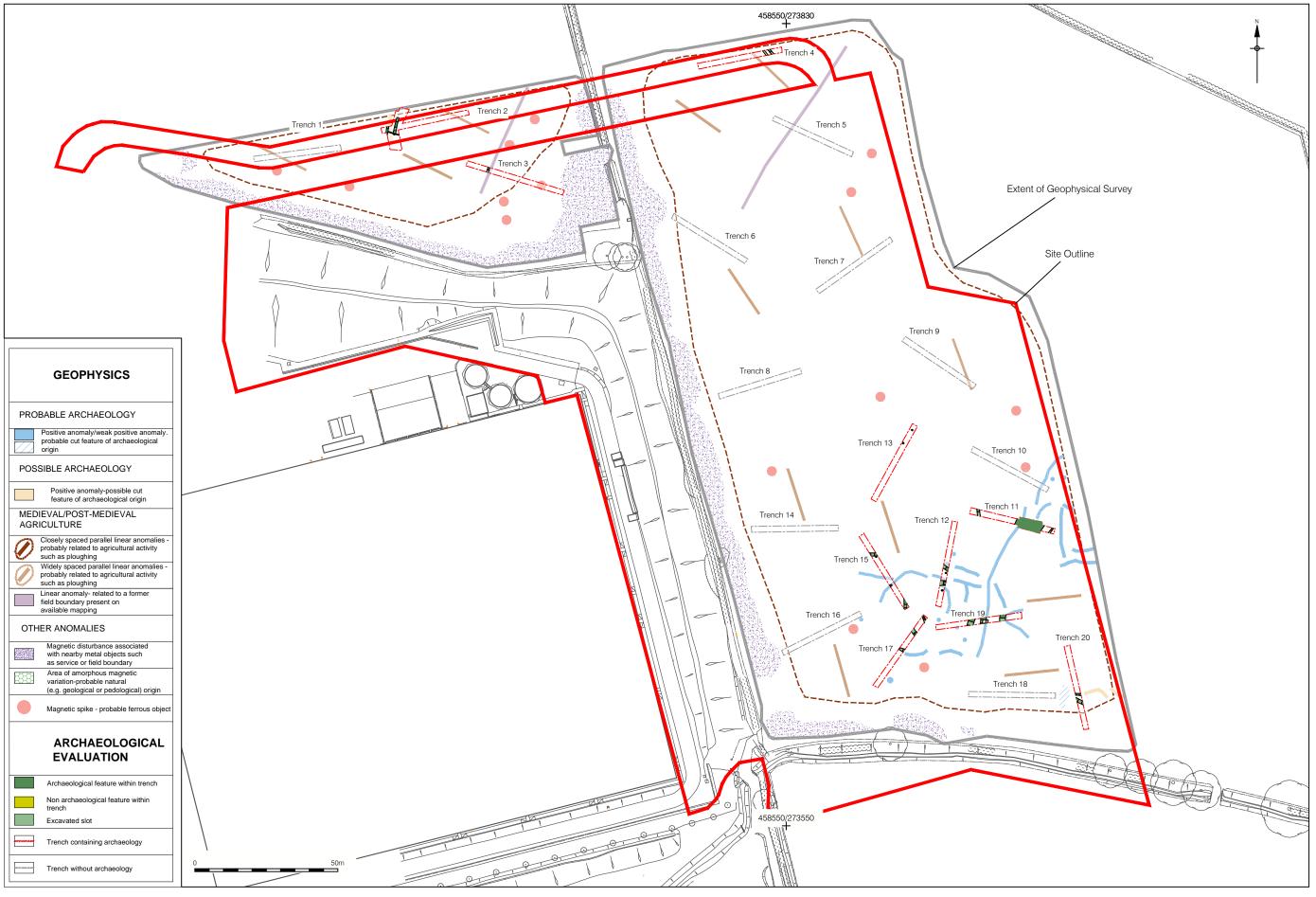


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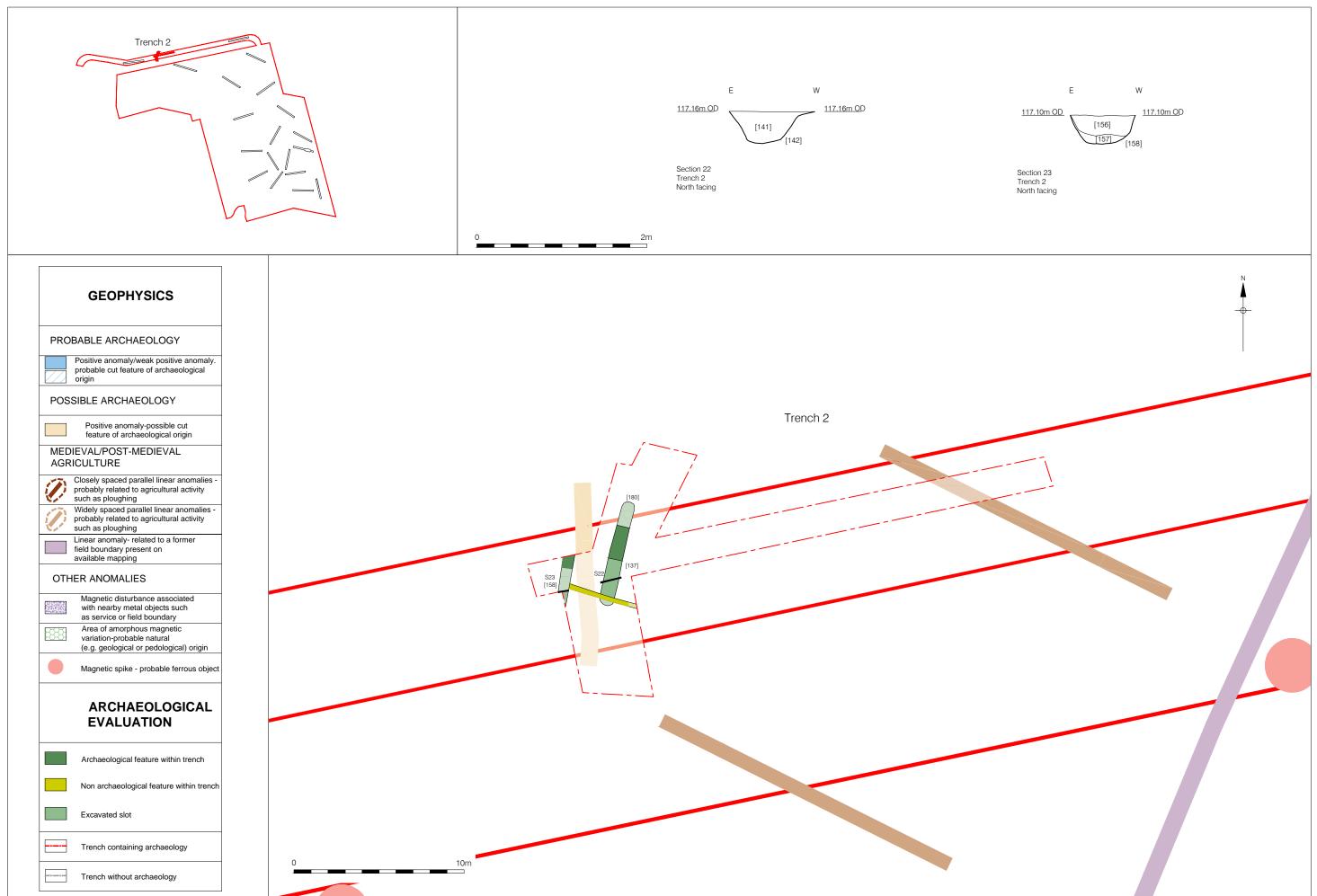
Figure 1 Site Location 1:2,000,000 and1:20,000 at A4



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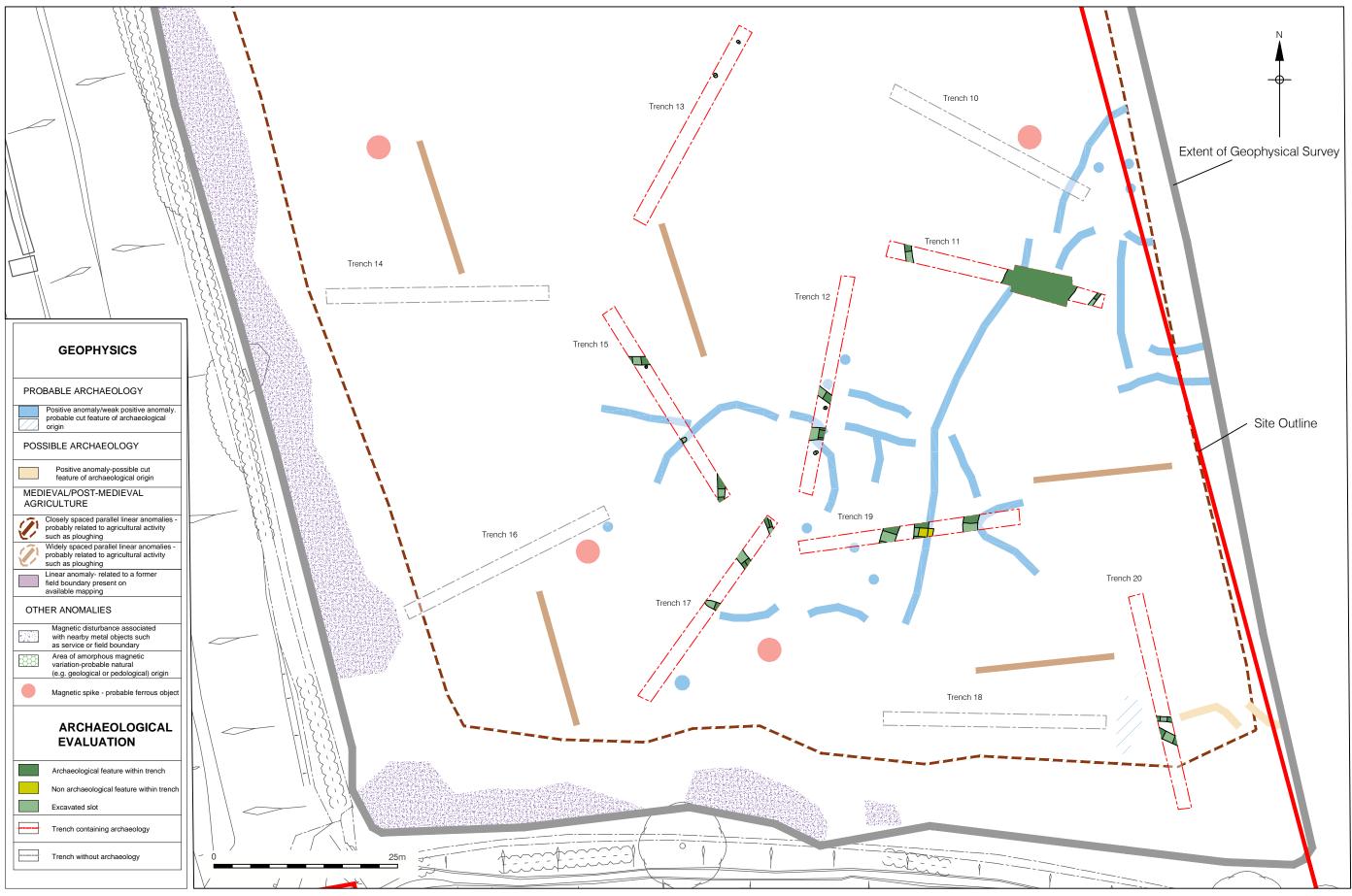


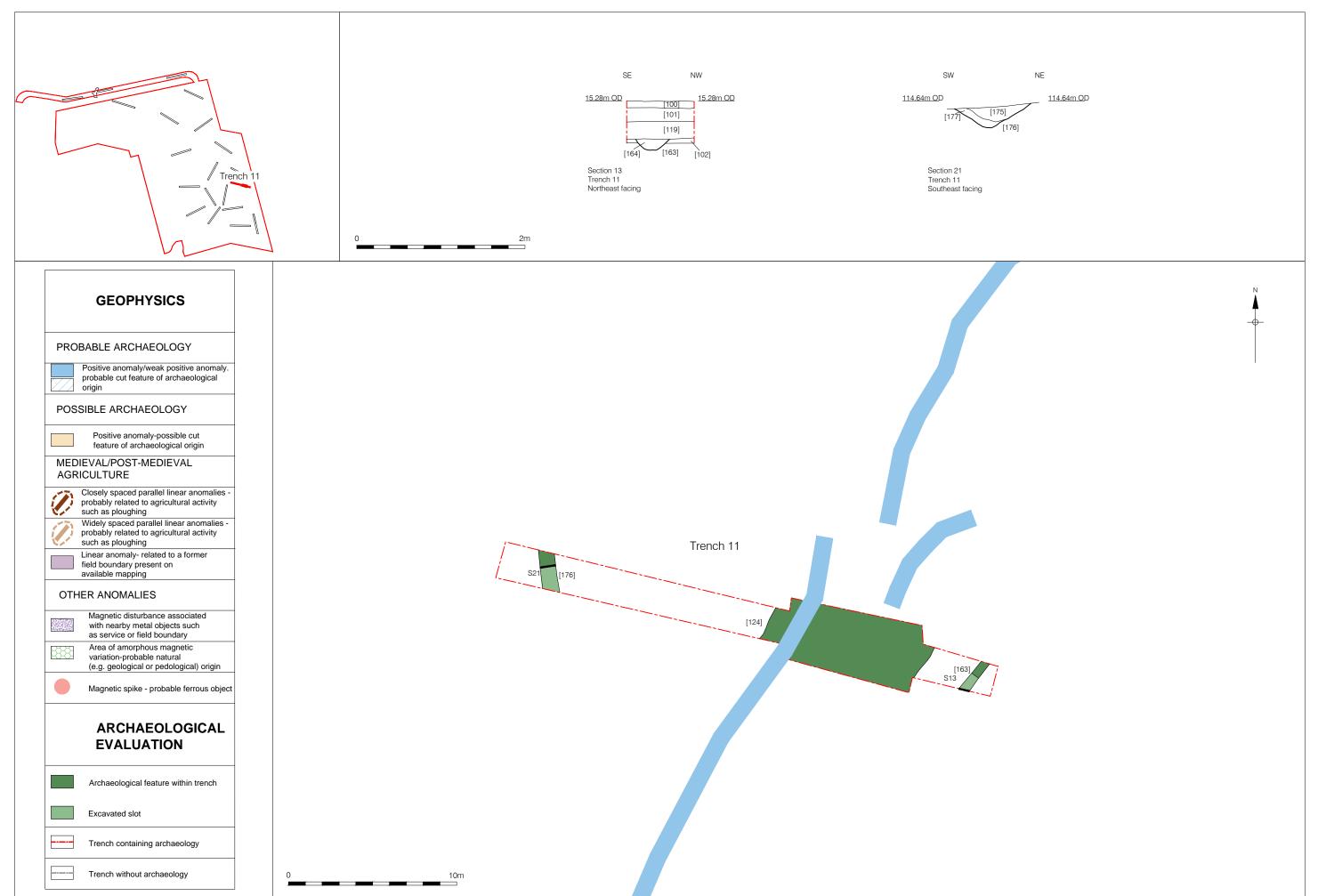
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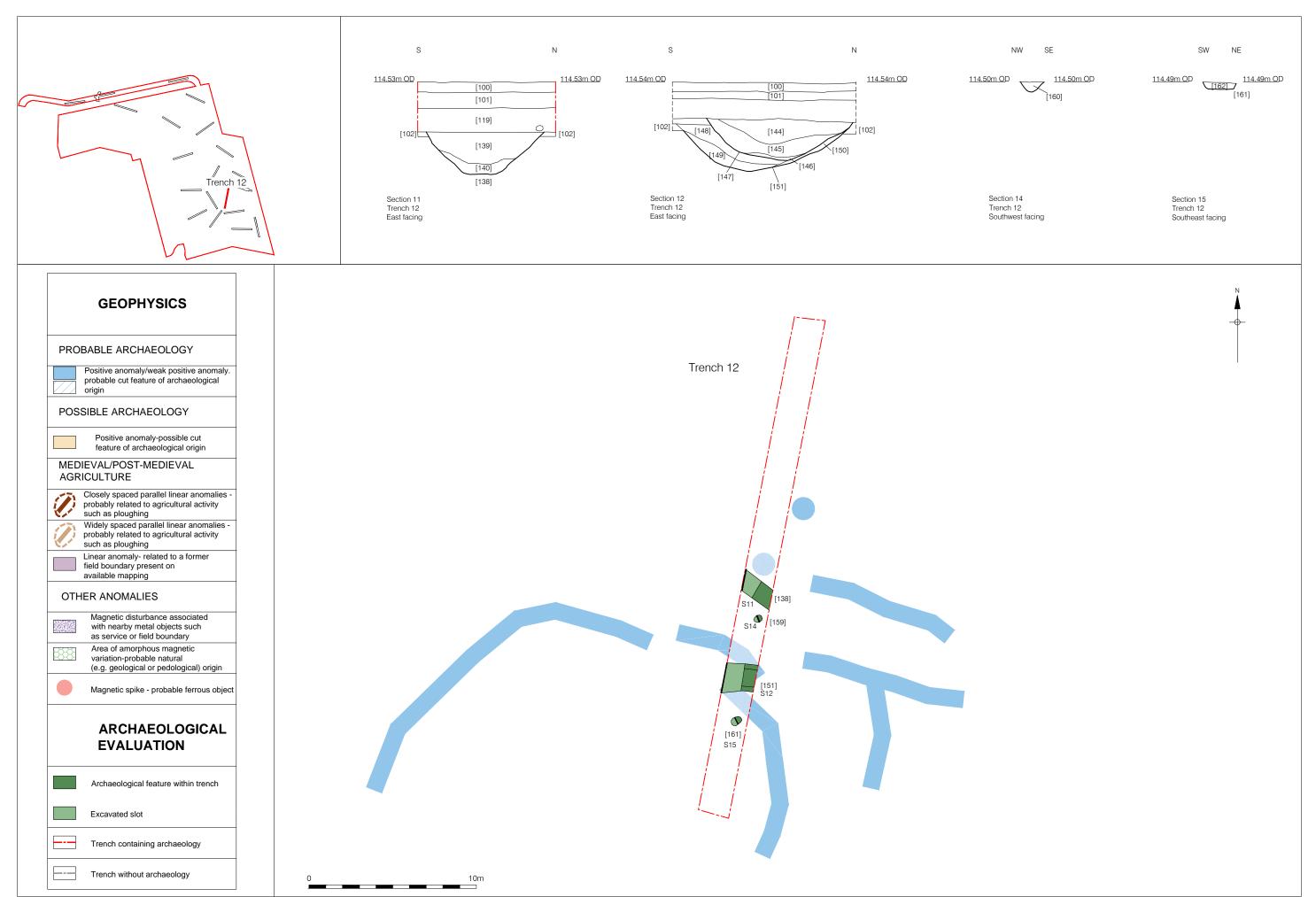


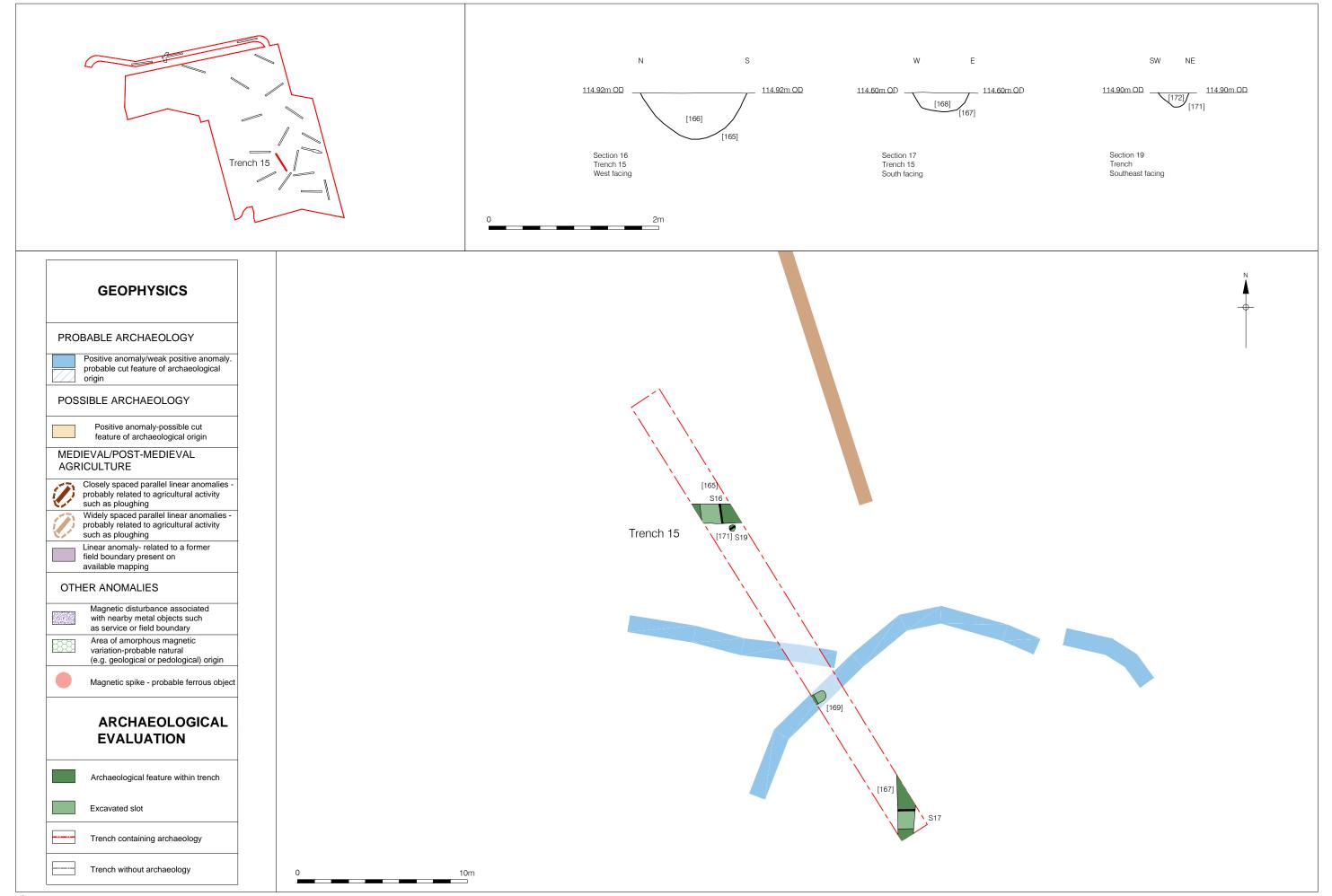
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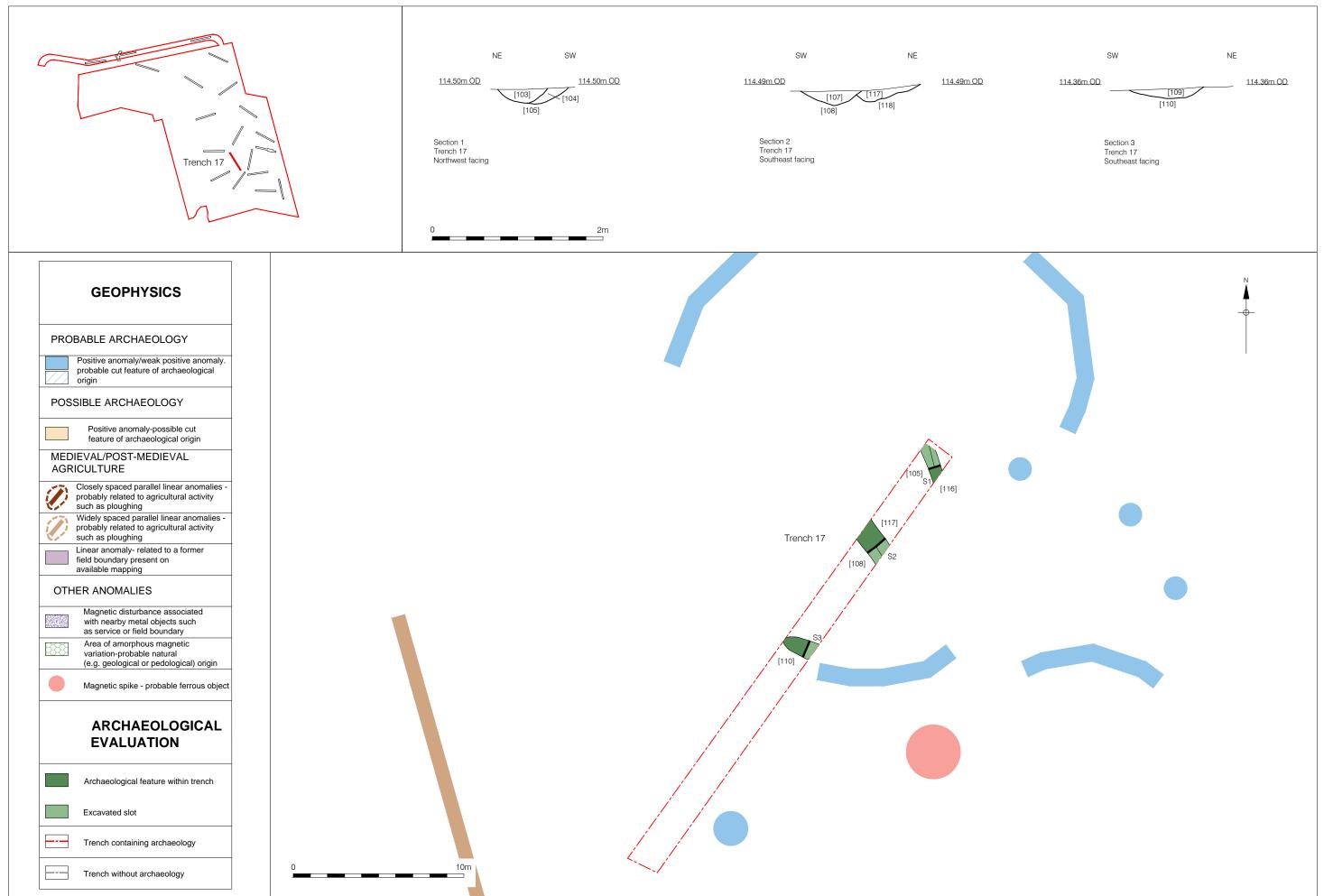
Figure 4
Plan and Sections of Trench 2
Plan 1:200 and Sections 1:40 at A3

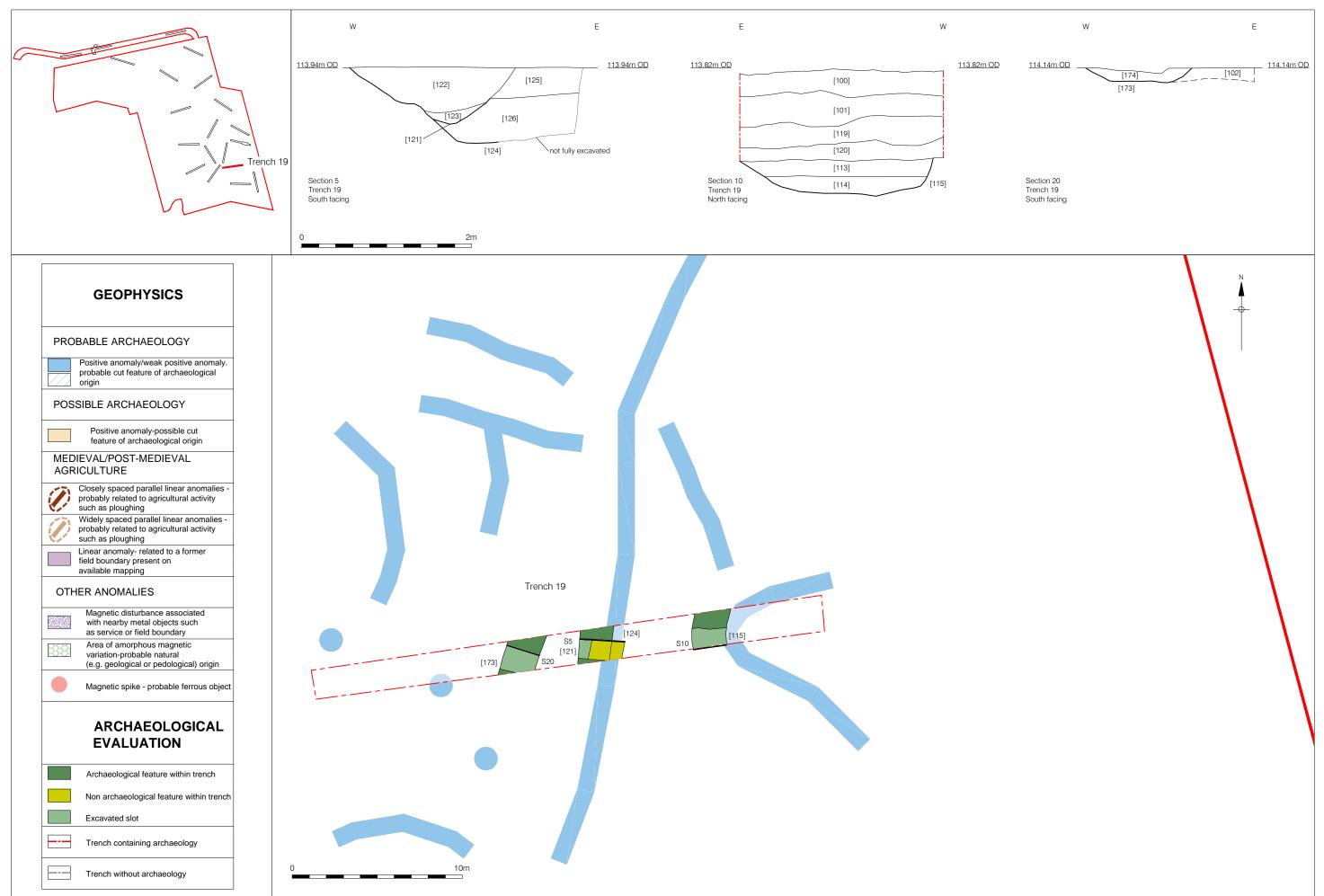


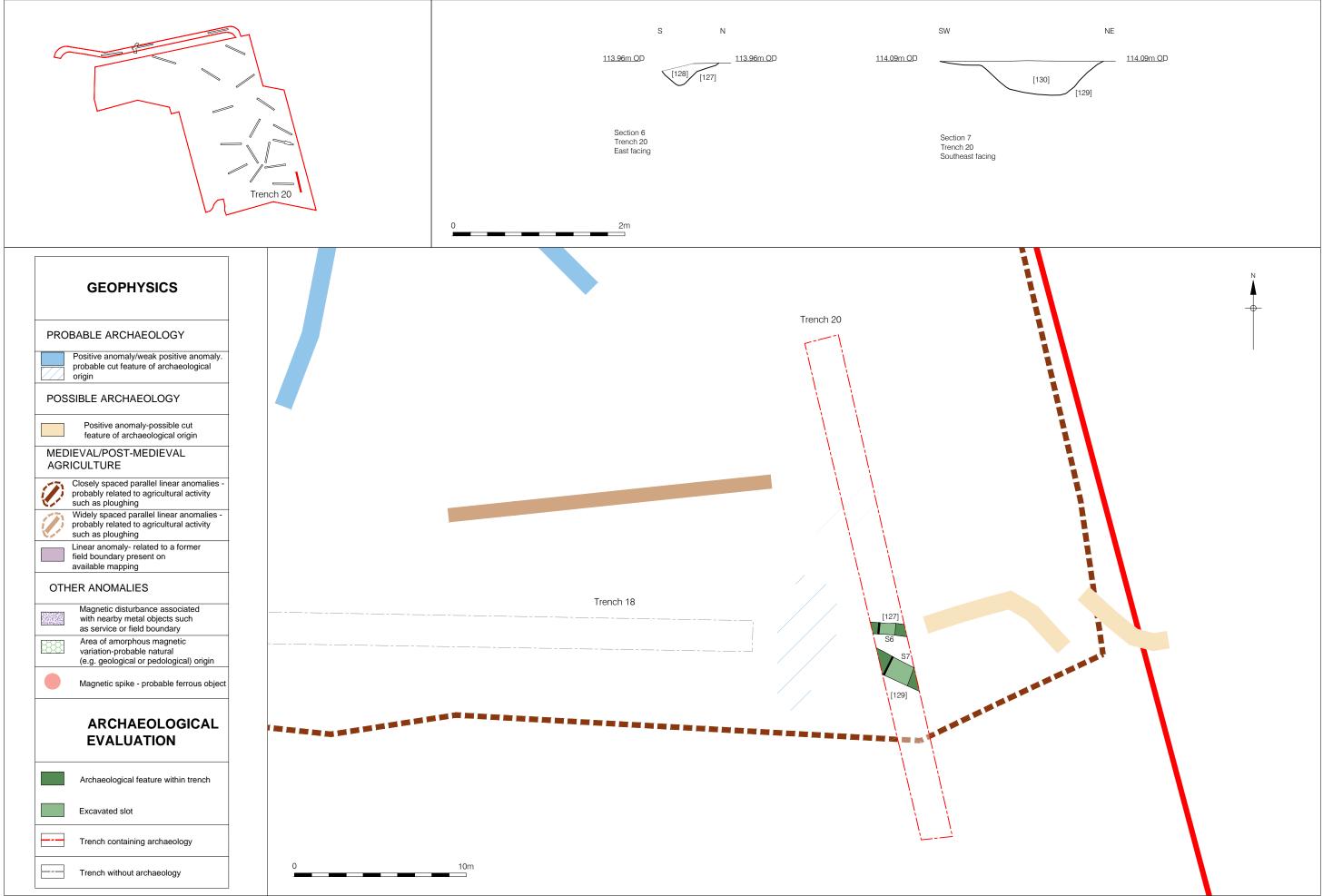












#### 10 APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: Site, view north



Plate 2: Trench 2, view north-east

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Plate 3: Trench 2 extension, view north showing Ditch [137]



Plate 4: Trench 2 Ditch [180], view south



Plate 5: Trench 11, view north-west



Plate 6: Trench 11, view south-east showing Ditch [176]



Plate 7: Trench 11, view south-west showing Ditch [163]



Plate 8: Trench 12, view south-east showing Post-hole [159]



Plate 9: Trench 12, view north-west with Ditches [147] and [151]



Plate 10: Trench 12, view south-east showing Ditch [138]



Plate 11: Trench 13, view south-east showing Post-hole [131]



Plate 12: Trench 17, view south-west



Plate 13: Trench 17, view south-east showing Ditch Terminus [110]



Plate 14: Trench 17, view south-east showing Ditches [105] and [116]



Plate 15: Trench 19 view east



Plate 16: Trench 19 Ditch [121] and Hollow [124]



Plate 17: Trench 19 view south showing Ditch [115]



Plate 18: Trench 20 view east showing Ditch [129]

### 11 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context Number	Trench	Cut	Туре	Category
100	0	0	Layer	Topsoil
101	0	0	Layer	Subsoil
102	0	0	Layer	Natural
103	17	116	Fill	Ditch
104	17	105	Fill	Ditch
105	17	105	Cut	Ditch
106	0	0	VOID	VOID
107	17	108	Fill	Ditch
108	17	108	Cut	Ditch
109	17	110	Fill	Ditch
110	17	110	Cut	Ditch
111	0	0	VOID	VOID
112	0	0	VOID	VOID
113	19	115	Fill	Ditch
114	19	115	Fill	Ditch
115	19	115	Cut	Ditch
116	17	116	Cut	Ditch
117	17	118	Fill	Ditch
118	17	118	Cut	Ditch
119	19	0	Layer	Subsoil
120	19	0	Layer	Subsoil
121	19	121	Cut	Ditch
122	19	121	Fill	Ditch
123	19	121	Fill	Ditch
124	19	124	Cut	Natural
125	19	124	Fill	Natural
126	19	124	Fill	Natural
127	20	127	Cut	Ditch
128	20	127	Fill	Ditch
129	20	129	Cut	Ditch
130	20	129	Fill	Ditch
131	13	131	Cut	Posthole
132	13	131	Fill	Posthole
133	4	133	Cut	Furrow
134	4	133	Fill	Furrow

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135	3	136	Fill	Ditch
136	3	136	Cut	Ditch
137	2	137	Cut	Ditch
138	12	138	Cut	Ditch
139	12	138	Fill	Ditch
140	12	138	Fill	Ditch
141	2	142	Fill	Ditch
142	2	142	Cut	Ditch
143	0	0	VOID	VOID
144	12	147	Fill	Ditch
145	12	147	Fill	Ditch
146	12	147	Fill	Ditch
147	12	147	Cut	Ditch
148	12	151	Fill	Ditch
149	12	151	Fill	Ditch
150	12	151	Fill	Ditch
151	12	151	Cut	Ditch
152	0	0	VOID	VOID
153	0	0	VOID	VOID
154	0	0	VOID	VOID
155	0	0	VOID	VOID
156	2	158	Fill	Ditch
157	2	158	Fill	Ditch
158	2	158	Cut	Ditch
159	12	159	Cut	Posthole
160	12	159	Fill	Posthole
161	12	161	Cut	Posthole
162	12	161	Fill	Posthole
163	11	163	Cut	Ditch
164	11	163	Fill	Ditch
165	15	165	Cut	Ditch
166	15	165	Fill	Ditch
167	15	167	Cut	Ditch
168	15	167	Fill	Ditch
169	15	169	Cut	Ditch
170	15	169	Fill	Ditch
171	15	171	Cut	Posthole
172	15	171	Fill	Posthole

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173	19	173	Cut	Furrow
174	19	173	Fill	Furrow
175	11	176	Fill	Ditch
176	11	176	Cut	Ditch
177	11	176	Fill	Ditch
178	13	178	Cut	Posthole
179	2	180	Fill	Ditch
180	2	180	Cut	Ditch
181	13	178	Fill	Posthole

#### 12 APPENDIX 3: TRENCH TABLES

TRENCH 1	Figures 2				
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 30m Level of		Level	of Natural (m OD): 116.8m	
Deposit		Context No.		Average Depth (m)	
				NE End	SW End
Topsoil		(100)		0.11m	0.12m
Subsoil		(101)		0.14m	0.14m
Colluvium		(119)		0.15m	0.16m
Natural		(102)		0.41m+	0.43m+

#### Summary

Trench 1 was located close to the north-western boundary of the site.

The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.

TRENCH 2	Figures 4			Plate 2	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 30m Lev		Level	el of Natural (m OD): 117.18m	
Deposit		Context No.		Average Depth (m)	
				NE End	SW End
Topsoil		(100)		0.11m	0.12m
Subsoil		(101)		0.13m	0.14m
Colluvium		(119)		0.19m	0.16m
Natural		(102)		0.42m+	0.42m+

#### Summary

Trench 2 was located in the north-west of the site.

There were two archaeological features in the trench: two ditches one of post medieval date and the second was undated but morphologically similar to other ditches on the site which have the potential for being prehistoric.

TRENCH 3	Figures 2				
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 30m Level of		Level	of Natural (m OD): 117.31m	
Deposit		Context No.		Average Depth (m)	
				NW End	SE End
Topsoil		(100)		0.12m	0.12m
Subsoil		(101)		0.16m	0.18m
Colluvium		(119)		0.21m	0.2m
Natural		(102)		0.44m+	0.46m+

Trench 3 was located in the north-west of the site.

There trench contained one ditch of post medieval date.

TRENCH 4	Figures 2				
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 30r	n	Level	of Natural (m OD): 117.91m	
Deposit		Context No.		Average Depth (m)	
				NE End	SW End
Topsoil	Topsoil			0.12m	0.10m
Subsoil		(101)		0.14m	0.12m
Colluvium		(119)		0.46m	0.10m
Natural		(102)		0.72m+	0.32m+

#### Summary

Trench 4 was located in the north-west of the site.

There were two archaeological features in the trench: two furrows of post medieval date, one of which was excavated to prove that they were furrows.

TRENCH 5	Figures 2				
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 30r	n	Level	of Natural (m OD): 117.5m	
Deposit		Context No.		Average Depth (m)	
				NW End	SE End
Topsoil		(100)		0.14m	0.13m
Subsoil		(101)		0.15m	0.12m
Colluvium		(119)		0.20m	0.18m
Natural		(102)		0.47m+	0.43m+

#### Summary

Trench 5 was located in the north-west of the site.

The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.

TRENCH 6	Figures 2		
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 30m	Level	of Natural (m OD): 116.9m

Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.16m	0.14m
Subsoil	(101)	0.12m	0.18m
Colluvium	(119)	0.20m	0.32m
Natural	(102)	0.48m+	0.67m+

Trench 6 was located in the north of the site.

The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.

TRENCH 7	Figures 2					
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 30r	Length: 30m Level		of Natural (m OD): XXXm		
Deposit		Context No.		Average Depth (m)		
				NE End	SW End	
Topsoil	Topsoil			0.08m	0.14m	
Subsoil		(101)		0.19m	0.18m	
Colluvium		(119)		0.2m	0.1m	
Natural		(102)		0.46m+	0.42m+	

#### Summary

Trench 7 was located in the north-east of the site.

The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.

TRENCH 8	Figures 2				
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 30m Level		Level	of Natural (m OD): 116.18m	
Deposit		Context No.		Average Depth (m)	
				NE End	SW End
Topsoil		(100)		0.1m	0.06m
Subsoil		(101)		0.21m	0.18m
Colluvium		(119)		0.24m	0.24m
Natural		(102)		0.54m+	0.44m+

#### Summary

Trench 8 was located in the centre of the site.

The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.

TRENCH 9	Figures 2					
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 30r	n	Level	of Natural (m OD): 115.7m		
Deposit		Context No.		Average Depth (m)		
				NW End	SE End	
Topsoil	Topsoil			0.08m	0.09m	
Subsoil	Subsoil			0.14m	0.16m	
Colluvium		(119)		0.3m	0.36m	
Natural		(102)		0.56m+	0.61m+	

Trench 9 was located in the centre of the site.

The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.

TRENCH 10	Figures 5					
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 30r	n	Level	of Natural (m OD): 114.6m		
Deposit		Context No.		Average Depth (m)		
				NW End	SE End	
Topsoil	Topsoil			0.08m	0.08m	
Subsoil		(101)		0.18m	0.16m	
Colluvium		(119)		0.16m	0.2m	
Alluvium	uvium			0.3m	0.5m	
Natural		(102)		0.88m+	1.2m+	

#### **Summary**

Trench 10 was located in the eastern part of the site.

The trench no archaeological features, but did contain the continuation of a large natural hollow (124) also identified in Trenches 11 and 19.

TRENCH 11	Figures 5-6			Plate 5		
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 30m		Level	evel of Natural (m OD): 114.34m		
Deposit		Context No.		Average Depth (m)		
				NW End	SE End	
Topsoil		(100)		0.1m	0.08m	

Subsoil	(101)	0.2m	0.18m
Colluvium	(119)	0.18m	0.2m
Alluvium	(120)	0.6m	0.3
Natural	(102)	1.17m+	0.72m+

Trench 11 was located in the eastern part of the site.

The trench contained two ditches aligned north-east to south-west, neither producing dating evidence, and a large natural hollow which was also identified in Trenches 10 and 19.

The ditches were morphologically similar to others on the site, with the potential for a prehistoric origin.

TRENCH 12	Figures 5, 7			Plate 8-10		
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 30m		Level	evel of Natural (m OD): 114.7m		
Deposit	Deposit		t No.	Average Depth (m)		
				NE End	SW End	
Topsoil	Topsoil			0.10m	0.12m	
Subsoil		(101)		0.18m	0.19m	
Colluvium		(119)		0.27m	0.2m	
Natural		(102)		0.52m+	0.48m+	

#### **Summary**

Trench 12 was located in the south of the site.

The trench contained three ditches aligned north-west to south-east and two small pits or post-holes.

One of the ditches produced a small quantity of possibly Iron Age or Saxon pottery, with a deposit of charcoal rich material in its upper fills. The other features produced only fragments of animal bone.

TRENCH 13	Figures 5			Plate 11		
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 30m Level o		of Natural (m OD): 115.14m			
Deposit		Context No.		Average Depth (m)		
				NE End	SW End	
Topsoil		(100)		0.09m	0.1m	
Subsoil		(101)		0.21m	0.14m	

Colluvium	(119)	0.34m	0.35m
Natural	(102)	0.66m+	0.6m+

Trench 13 was located in the centre part of the site.

The trench contained two small heavily rooted pits, which contained no finds.

TRENCH 14	Figures 5					
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 30r	n	Level	of Natural (m OD): 114.67m		
Deposit		Context No.		Average Depth (m)		
				E End	W End	
Topsoil		(100)		0.11m	0.1m	
Subsoil		(101)		0.16m	0.18m	
Colluvium		(119)		0.24m	0.3m	
Natural		(102)		0.44m+	0.5m+	

#### **Summary**

Trench 14 was located in the south of the site.

The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.

TRENCH 15	Figures 5, 8					
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 30r	n	Level	of Natural (m OD): 114.73m		
Deposit	Context		t No.	Average Depth (m)		
				NW End	SE End	
Topsoil		(100)		0.12m	0.11m	
Subsoil		(101)		0.1m	0.21m	
Colluvium		(119)		0.4m	0.4m	
Natural		(102)		0.62m+	0.76m+	

#### Summary

Trench 15 was located in the south of the site.

The trench contained three ditches, one aligned north-east to south-west and two aligned north-west to south-east, and a post-hole. These features produced fragments of animal bone.

TRENCH 16	Figures 5					
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 30r	n	Level	of Natural (m OD): 114.22m		
Deposit	posit		t No.	Average Depth (m)		
				NE End	SW End	
Topsoil	Topsoil			0.08m	0.1m	
Subsoil	Subsoil			0.14m	0.16m	
Colluvium		(119)		0.6m	0.52m	
Natural		(102)		0.89m+	0.81m+	

Trench 16 was located in the south of the site.

The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.

TRENCH 17	Figures 5, 9			Plate 12		
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 30r	n	Level	of Natural (m OD): 114.35m		
Deposit	Context		t No.	Average Depth (m)		
				NE End	SW End	
Topsoil		(100)		0.16m	0.14m	
Subsoil		(101)		0.18m	0.18m	
Colluvium		(119)		0.53m	0.58m	
Natural		(102)		0.81m+	0.9m+	

#### Summary

Trench 17 was located in the south of the site.

The trench contained five ditches, two aligned north-west to south-east and three aligned east to west of which one was a terminus. These ditches produced finds of animal bone.

TRENCH 18	Figures 5					
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 30m		Level c	of Natural (m OD): 113.86m		
Deposit	Context No.		No.	Average Depth (m)		
				E End	W End	
Topsoil	(	100)		0.14m	0.18m	
Subsoil	(	101)		0.2m	0.21m	
Colluvium	(	119)		0.56m	0.61m	
Natural	(	102)		0.86m+	0.98m+	

Trench 18 was located in the south of the site.

The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.

TRENCH 19	Figures 5,	10		Plate 15					
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 30r	n	Level	of Natural (m OD): 113.82m					
Deposit	Contex	t No.	Average Depth (m)						
			E End	W End					
Topsoil	- Topsoil				0.14m				
Subsoil	(101)		0.18m	0.2m					
Colluvium		(119)		0.3m	0.22m				
Alluvium	(120)		0.4m	0.31m					
Natural	(102)		1.1m+	0.86m+					

#### Summary

Trench 19 was located in the south-east of the site.

The trench contained two ditches, aligned north-east to south-west, a furrow and a natural hollow also identified in Trenches 10 and 11. These features produced fragments of animal bone.

TRENCH 20	Figures 5,	11		Plate 18						
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 30r	n	Level	of Natural (m OD): 114.28m						
Deposit	Contex	t No.	Average Depth (m)							
			NW End	SE End						
Topsoil	(100)		0.14m	0.12m						
Subsoil	(101)		0.2m	0.18m						
Colluvium	(119)		0.6m	0.48m						
Natural	(102)		0.94m+	0.86m+						

#### Summary

Trench 20 was located in the south-east of the site.

The trench contained two ditches, aligned north-east to south-west. These ditches produced fragments of animal bone.

### 13 APPENDIX 4: PLANT MACROFOSSILS

Sample No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Context No.	123	114	103	107	109	117	135	141	156	144	145	146	175	149	150	179
Feature No.	121	115	105	108	110	118	136	142	158	147	147	147	176	151	151	180
Trench No.	19	19	17	17	17	17	3	2	2	12	12	12	11	12	12	2
Cereals																
Avena sp. (grains)							Х									
Hordeum sp. (grains)										Х					xcf	
Triticum sp. (grains)			Х				Х		XX	Х	xx			Х	х	
T. aestivum/compactum type (rachis node)									x							
Cereal indet. (grains)			Х	Х			Х		XX	Х	xx	Х		Х	х	
Herbs																
Anthemis cotula L.									Х							
Bromus sp.									Х		xcffg			xcf		
Fabaceae indet.									XX	Х						
Galium aparine L.												Х		Х		
Medicago/Trifolium/Lotus sp.									Х							
Small Poaceae indet.							Х		Х							Х
Raphanus raphanistrum L. (stem)									Х							
Other plant macrofossils																
Charcoal <2mm	xx	xx	Х	XX	Х	XX	XXX	Х	XXX	XXX	xxxx	Х	Х	XXXX	xxxx	XX
Charcoal >2mm	х	х	Х	XX		Х	XX		XX	XX	xxxx	Х		XX	xxxx	Х
Charcoal >5mm	х		Х	XX		Х	Х		Х	Х	xxx			XX	х	Х
Charcoal >10mm			Х				Х		Х		xx			Х	х	
Charred root/stem			Х						Х		Х					
Indet. culm node											Х					
Other remains																
Black porous 'cokey' material		Х	Х				Х			Х	Х	Х				
Bone											х					

Sample volume (litres)	10	10	20	20	20	20	10	10	10	40	40	20	10	20	20	10
Volume of flot (litres)	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
% flot sorted	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

#### 14 APPENDIX 5: OASIS FORM

#### OASIS ID: preconst1-233896

**Project details** 

Project name Land at Butchers Petcare, Dockham Way, Crick, Northamptonshire: An

Archaeological Evaluation

of the project

Short description This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at Butchers Petcare, Dockham Way, Crick, Northamptonshire (NGR SP 5847 7364) between the 9th and the 17th November 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd in response to the construction of an extension to the current Butchers Petcare factory with associated services and landscaping. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. The earliest activity was evidenced by a number ditches present in the southern part of the site (Trenches 11-19). Although these ditches produced only a few sherds of pottery as well as fragments of animal bone it is possible that these ditches have prehistoric origins. Ditch [147] in Trench 12 produced a small quantity of Iron Age pottery, as well as a small quantity of Saxon pottery contained within a charcoal rich deposit. A number of ditches showed evidence for being re-cut indicating they were being re-used or retained for some time. Evidence for occupation was also present in Trenches 12 and 15 which contained a number of small, albeit heavily rooted, pits and post-holes. A large natural hollow [124] was identified in Trenches 10, 11 and 19, aligned north-east to south-west, running towards a creek (Clifton Brook) at the southern end of the site. The ditches in the southern part of the site are located on the higher ground either side of this hollow, suggesting that it was being exploited for use as either drainage or a water source. One small segment of ditch was also identified in Trench 2 which was morphologically similar to the ditches located in Trenches 11-20, which returned a possible Iron Age or Saxon date. Two further ditches were present in this part of the site, which were of post-medieval date.

Project dates Start: 09-11-2015 End: 17-11-2015

Previous/future

work

Not known / Not known

associated NDWC15 - Sitecode Any

project reference

codes

Type of project Field evaluation

Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation Current Land use

Monument type **DITCH Iron Age DITCH Uncertain** Monument type Monument type PIT Uncertain

POST-HOLE Uncertain Monument type POTTERY Iron Age Significant Finds Significant Finds **POTTERY Uncertain** 

Significant Finds ANIMAL BONE Uncertain

& "Sample Trenches", "Targeted Trenches" Methods

techniques

Development type Large/ medium scale extensions to existing structures (e.g. church, school,

hospitals, law courts, etc.)

Prompt Planning condition

Position in the Not known / Not recorded

planning process

#### **Project location**

Country England

Site location NORTHAMPTONSHIRE DAVENTRY CRICK Land at Butchers Petcare,

Dockham Way, Crick, Northamptonshire: An Archaeological Evaluation

Postcode NN6 7XR

Study area 0 Hectares

Site coordinates SP 5847 7364 52.357314290564 -1.141351952695 52 21 26 N 001 08 28

W Point

Height OD / Depth Min: 113.82m Max: 117.18m

#### **Project creators**

Name of PCA

Organisation

Project brief Northampton County Council

originator

Project design CgMs Consulting Ltd.

originator

Project Taleyna Fletcher

director/manager

Project supervisor Matthew Jones

Type of Consultant

sponsor/funding

body

#### **Project archives**

Physical Archive PCA

recipient

Physical Archive NDWC15

ID

Physical Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Environmental"

Digital Archive PCA

recipient

Digital Archive ID NDWC15

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media "Database","Images raster / digital

available photography", "Spreadsheets", "Survey", "Text"

Paper Archive PCA

recipient

Paper Archive ID NDWC15
Paper Contents "none"

## Land at Butchers Petcare, Dockham Way, Crick, Northamptonshire: An Archaeological Evaluation © Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, December 2015

Paper Media "Context

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