LAND AT STATION ROAD, WARBOYS, CAMBRIDGESHIRE: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION AND MONITORING

APRIL 2017

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

R12843

Land at Station Road, Warboys, Cambridgeshire:

An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation and Monitoring

Local Planning Authority:	**Huntingdonshire District Council**
Planning Reference:	**15/01817/REM and 15/01816/FUL**
Central National Grid Reference:	**TL 310 805**
Site Code:	**ECB4648**
Report No.	**R12843**
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ABSTRACT

This report describes the final results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at Station Road, Warboys, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 310805) between the 11th and the 21st April 2016 and 15th August. Additional monitoring of the balancing pond was carried out between the 20th and 27th March 2017. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of David Wilson Homes prior to the construction of 120 residential dwellings with associated access and landscaping. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

The principal result of the evaluation was an isolated Early Anglo-Saxon inhumation, complete with iron knife and copper alloy buckle, present in the western end of Trench 17. It truncated an earlier undated pit. A large contemporary boundary ditch was present immediately to the west of the inhumation. Post-medieval gravel extraction quarry pits also were present in the central and eastern fields. Monitoring of the balancing pond identified undated ditches and pits.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at Station Road, Warboys, Cambridgeshire (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR) TL 310 805) from the 11th to the 21st April and 15th August 2016 (Figure 1). Additional monitoring of the balancing pond was carried out between 20th and 27th March 2017.

1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of David Wilson Homes prior to the construction of 120 new residential dwellings, with associated access, car-parking and landscaping and three ponds and associated habitats (Planning Reference 15/01817/REM and 15/01816/FUL).

1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Taleyna Fletcher of PCA (Fletcher 2016) and submitted to Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) for approval prior to the start of work.

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 eighteen trial trenches and two ponds were excavated and recorded. Monitoring of the balancing pond was also undertaken. Groundwater issues resulted in numerous trenches filling up with water, which required them to be pumped before investigations could be undertaken.

1.6 This report describes the results of the evaluation and monitoring 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 area is underlain by West Walton Formation and Ampthill Clay Formation - Mudstone (British Geological Survey; Website 1). Sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 156 to 161 million years ago in the Jurassic Period when the local environment was dominated by shallow seas.

2.1.2 The superficial deposits are clay, silt, sand and gravel which were formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period when the local environment was dominated by subaerial slopes (BGS; Website 1).

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The site lies on an 'island' of high ground, approximately 30m above Ordnance Datum (AOD), immediately to the west of the Fens.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 General

3.1.1 The following archaeological background is taken from the geophysical survey report (Walford 2016) and a search of the Cambridgeshire HER.

3.1.2 The site lies approximately 300m north of the historic core of Warboys village in an area that historic mapping has shown to be undeveloped agricultural land throughout the medieval period and up to the present day.

3.1.3 The majority of HER records relate to medieval and post-medieval activity to the south of site, in the core of the village.

3.1.4 Undated cropmarks, c.500m to the northwest of the site, indicate the presence of a circular enclosure, quarrying and possible building remains west of Coronation Avenue (MCB 20261).

3.1.5 Medieval ridge and furrow has been identified through cropmarks covering a large area including the proposed development site and extending southwards to meet the residential expansion of Warboys to the south (ECB 11639).

3.1.6 The closest archaeological investigation to the development area was an evaluation undertaken in 2010 on land to the immediate west at 27 Station Road (ECB 3352). A single trench was excavated prior to residential development but no finds or features were noted.

3.1.7 The first recorded settlement was known as Wardebusc, meaning Saxon lookout woods. Warboys was the gift of Archbishop Dunstan to Ramsey Abbey and was confirmed by King Edgar in AD 974.

3.2 Previous Investigations

3.2.1 The site has been subject to a geophysical survey (HER ECB4648, MOLA Report ref. 16/23). In addition to ridge and furrow, the survey identified features of uncertain origin, tentatively interpreted as geological and one further anomaly which may indicate a modern drain or service trench

crossing the central part of the survey area.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Excavation and Sampling

4.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation proposed the excavation of 17 trial trenches distributed across the site and the strip, map and record of two newt ponds (Figure 2). Due to constraints including overhead electricity cables and ditches, some trenches were repositioned. Groundwater issues resulted in numerous trenches filling up with water, which required them to be pumped before excavation occurred. An additional small trench (Trench 18) was machined between Trenches 8 and 10 to locate two possible parallel ditches that were underwater in Trench 10. These were not found to be present in the extra trench.

4.1.2 Ground reduction of the trenches was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 21-ton tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 2m-wide toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed natural geological deposits where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools. Overburden deposits were set aside beside each trench and examined visually and with a metal-detector for finds retrieval.

4.1.3 Ground reduction of the newt and balancing ponds was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 7-ton tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m-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.

4.1.4 The artefact contents of the plough soil were examined as part of the evaluation using a programme of bucket sampling. 90 litres of topsoil and 90

litres of subsoil were hand sorted at one end of each of the trenches. No artefacts were recovered during this exercise.

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

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

4.1.7 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.

4.1.8 Discrete features such as pits were 50% excavated. A sample of quarry pits were excavated to retrieve dating evidence.

4.2 Recording Methodology

4.2.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.

4.2.2 Manual plans and section drawings of archaeological features and deposits were drawn at an appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20 or 1:50).

4.2.3 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as ‘context numbers’) and recorded on individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown 2009). Archaeological processes recognised by the deposition of material are signified in this report by round brackets (thus), while events constituting the removal of deposits are referred to here as ‘cuts’ and signified by square brackets [thus]. The record numbers assigned to cuts and deposits are

entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. All features and deposits recorded during the evaluation are listed in Appendix 2. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.

4.2.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process. Digital photographs were taken of all archaeological features and deposits and black and white film photographs were taken when considered appropriate by the excavator and supervisor.

4.2.5 Artefacts and ecofacts were collected by hand and assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from the site (CIfA 2014; Walker 1990; Watkinson 1981).

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

5.1 Introduction

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

5.2 Trench 1

5.2.1 Trench 1 contained four quarry pits in the north-western half of the trench. None were excavated.

TRENCH 1	**Figures 2-3**		**Plate N/A**	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 50m		Level of Natural (m OD): 29.45-29.55m	
Deposit	**Context No.**		**Average Depth (m)**	
			NW End	**SE End**
Topsoil	(100)		0.3m	0.3m
Subsoil	(101)		0.3-0.45m	0.3-0.46m
Natural	(159)		0.45m+	0.46m+
Summary Trench 1 was located in the eastern field. The trench contained four quarry pits.				

5.3 Trench 2

5.3.1 The trench contained nine quarry pits, two of which were excavated.

5.3.2 Quarry pit [145] (Figure 3) was 0.80m wide and 0.25m deep with moderately steep sides and a flat base. It had a single fill of mid reddish-brown gravelly silt (144), which contained a post-medieval/modern iron rod (not retained).

5.3.3 Quarry pit [147] (Figure 3) was 1.65m wide and 0.36m deep with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It had a single fill of mid reddish-brown gravelly silt (146).

TRENCH 2	**Figures 2-3**		**Plate N/A**	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 50m		Level of Natural (m OD):29.62-29.73m	
Deposit	**Context No.**		**Average Depth (m)**	
			NW End	**SE End**
Topsoil	(100)		0.3m	0.4m
Subsoil	(101)		0.3-0.38m	0.4-0.57m
Natural	(159)		0.38m+	0.57m+
Summary Trench 2 was located in the eastern field. There were nine quarry pits; all with the same mid reddish-brown gravelly silt fill. Two were excavated in the north-western half of the trench. Pit [145] contained a post-medieval/modern iron rod.				

5.4 Trench 3

5.4.1 Trench 3 was repositioned and shortened due to overhead power lines and ecological reasons. The trench contained six quarry pits, of which two were excavated.

5.4.2 Quarry pit [149] (Figure 3) was 6m+ long, 1.32m wide and 0.52m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of mid reddish-brown silty gravelly clay (148).

5.4.3 Quarry pit [143] (Figure 3) was 2.3m long, 0.86m+ wide and 0.19m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of mid reddish-brown sandy silt (142).

TRENCH 3	**Figures 2-3**		**Plates 7, 9**	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 15m		Level of Natural (m OD): 29.43-29.68m	
Deposit	**Context No.**		**Average Depth (m)**	
			NW End	**SE End**
Topsoil	(100)		0.29m	0.25m
Subsoil	(101)		N/A	0.25-0.45m
Natural	(159)		0.29m+	0.45m+
Summary Trench 3 was located in the eastern field.				

The trench contained six quarry pits, potentially of post-medieval date.

5.5 Trench 4

5.5.1 No archaeological features were present in this trench.

TRENCH 4	**Figures 2-3**		**Plate N/A**	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 50m		Level of Natural (m OD): 29.27-29.5m	
Deposit	**Context No.**		**Average Depth (m)**	
			NW End	**SE End**
Topsoil	(100)		0.3m	0.3m
Subsoil	(101)		0.3-0.40m	0.31m
Natural	(159)		0.40m+	0.31m+
Summary Trench 4 was located in the eastern field. No archaeological features were present.				

5.6 Trench 5

5.6.1 No archaeological features were present in this trench.

TRENCH 5	**Figures 2-3**		**Plate N/A**	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 50m		Level of Natural (m OD): 29.38-29.5m	
Deposit	**Context No.**		**Average Depth (m)**	
			W End	**E End**
Topsoil	(100)		0.21m	0.31m
Subsoil	(101)		0.21-0.4m	0.31-0.59m
Natural	(159)		0.4m+	0.59m+
Summary Trench 5 was located in the eastern field. No archaeological features were present.				

5.7 Trench 6

5.7.1 No archaeological features were present in this trench.

TRENCH 6	**Figures 2 & 4**		**Plate N/A**	
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 50m		Level of Natural (m OD): 28.12-28.3m	

Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		W End	E End
Topsoil	(100)	0.25m	0.25m
Subsoil	(101)	0.25-0.71m	0.25-0.48m
Natural	(159)	0.71m+	0.48m+

Summary

Trench 6 was located in the southern field.
No archaeological features were present.

5.8 Trench 7

5.8.1 No archaeological features were present in this trench.

TRENCH 7	Figures 2 & 4	Plate N/A
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 25m	Level of Natural (m OD): 28.14-28.71m

Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(100)	0.21m	0.23m
Subsoil	(101)	0.21-0.61m	0.23-0.48m
Natural	(159)	0.61m+	0.48m+

Summary

Trench 7 was located in the southern field.
No archaeological features were present.

5.9 Trench 8

5.9.1 This trench contained two postholes and three furrows.

5.9.2 Posthole [139] (Figure 4, Section 11) was 0.24m wide and 0.08m deep with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of dark grey silt (138) with frequent charcoal inclusions.

5.9.3 Posthole [141] (Figure 4, Section 12) was 0.26m wide and 0.06m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of mid brownish-grey silt (140) with rare charcoal inclusions.

TRENCH 8	Figures 2 & 4	Plates N/A
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 50m	Level of Natural (m OD): 28.72-29.22m

Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		NW End	**SE End**
Topsoil	(100)	0.27m	0.23m
Subsoil	(101)	0.47m	0.5m
Natural	(159)	0.47m+	0.5m+

Summary

Trench 8 was located in the central field.
Two undated postholes and three unexcavated northeast-southwest aligned furrows were present.

5.10 Trench 9

5.10.1 This trench contained two quarry pits, a furrow and two modern drains.

5.10.2 Furrow [137] (Figure 4, Section 10) was 2.08m wide and 0.4m deep with moderately sloped sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of mid-brown silt (136).

5.10.3 Quarry pit [133] (Figure 4, Section 9) was 1.5m wide and 0.48m deep with moderately sloping sides and a flat base. It contained two fills: a basal fill of mid-brown gravelly silt (132) and an upper fill of mid greyish-brown clayey silt (131). Post-medieval brick was present in the upper fill.

5.10.4 Quarry pit [135] (Figure 4, Section 9) was 1.4m wide and 0.4m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. It had a single fill of mid brown gravelly silt (134) which contained a fragment of clay pipe.

TRENCH 9	**Figures 2 & 4**	**Plates N/A**
Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 50m	Level of Natural (m OD): 28.93-29.02m

Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		W End	**E End**
Topsoil	(100)	0.25m	0.25m
Subsoil	(101)	0.25-0.4m	0.25-0.4m
Natural	(159)	0.4m+	0.4m+

Summary

Trench 9 was located in the central field.

Two quarry pits, a furrow and two modern drains were present.

5.11 Trench 10

5.11.1 Seven quarry pits were present in Trench 10.

5.11.2 Quarry pit [158] (Figure 4, Section 14) was 2.4m wide and 0.26m deep with steep sides and a flat base. It had a single fill of mid brown gravelly silt (157).

5.11.3 Quarry pit [156] (Figure 4, Section 14) was 1m wide and 0.35m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. It had a single fill of mid brown gravelly silt (155), which contained one sherd (6g) of abraded 12th-15th century Essex/East Anglian redware jug.

TRENCH 10	**Figures 2 & 4**		**Plate N/A**	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 50m		Level of Natural (m OD): 28.91-29.39m	
Deposit		**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
			NW End	**SE End**
Topsoil		(100)	0.3m	0.3m
Subsoil		(101)	0.3-0.4m	0.3-0.4m
Natural		(108)	0.4m+	0.4m+
Summary Trench 10 was located in the central field. It contained seven quarry pits.				

5.12 Trench 11

5.12.1 Four quarry pits and two tree throws were present in Trench 11.

5.12.2 Quarry pit [125] (Figure 5, Section 7) was 1.5m wide and 0.74m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of mid greyish-brown silty clay (124).

5.12.3 Quarry pit [123] (Figure 5, Section 7) was 1.1m wide and 0.55m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of light greyish-brown silty clay (122).

5.12.4 Quarry pit [121] (Figure 5, Section 7) was 1m wide and 0.5m deep with steep sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of dark greyish-brown silty clay (120).

5.12.5 Tree Throw [113] (Figure 5) was 3m+ wide and 0.3m+ deep with moderate-steep undercutting sides. It had a single fill of mid greyish-brown clayey silt (112) which contained one sherd (6g) of 5th-6th century Anglo-Saxon pottery.

TRENCH 11	**Figures 2 & 5**		**Plate 8**	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 40m		Level of Natural (m OD): 29.2-29.24m	
Deposit	**Context No.**		**Average Depth (m)**	
			SW End	**NE End**
Topsoil	(100)			
Subsoil	(101)			
Natural	(159)			
Summary Trench 11 was located within the northern central field. The trench contained four quarry pits and two tree throws.				

5.13 Trench 12

5.13.1 Two quarry pits were present in the centre of this trench.

5.13.2 Quarry pit [109] (Figure 5, Section 4) was 0.5m wide and 0.08m deep with shallow sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of dark greyish-brown silty clay (108) which contained one sherd (56g) of 16th-20th century pottery. [109] truncated [111].

5.13.3 Quarry pit [111] (Figure 5, Section 4) was 1.72m wide and 0.13m deep with shallow sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of mid greyish-brown silty clay (110) which contained one sherd (26g) of 17th-19th century pottery. [111] was truncated by [109].

TRENCH 12	**Figures 2 & 5**	**Plate N/A**
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 50m	Level of Natural (m OD): 29.29-29.44m

Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(102)	0.32m	0.34m
Subsoil	(101)	0.32-0.48m	0.48m
Natural	(159)	0.48m+	0.48m+

Summary

Trench 12 was located in the northern central field.

Two quarry pits were present in the centre of the trench.

5.14 Trench 13

5.14.1 Eight quarry pits were present in this trench.

TRENCH 13	Figures 2 & 5	Plate N/A
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 50m	Level of Natural (m OD): 28.92-29.53m

Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(102)	0.16m	0.17m
Subsoil	(101)	0.16-0.32m	0.17-0.33m
Natural	(159)	0.32m+	0.33m+

Summary

Trench 13 was located in the northern central field.

Eight quarry pits were present in this trench.

5.15 Trench 14

5.15.1 Three quarry pits and a shallow ditch were present in this trench.

5.15.2 Ditch [105] (Figure 5, Section 2) was 1.16m wide and 0.13m deep with shallow sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of dark brown gravelly silt (104).

TRENCH 14	Figures 2 & 5	Plate N/A
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 50m	Level of Natural (m OD): 29.63m

Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		NW End	SE End
Topsoil	(102)	0.31m	0.31m
Subsoil	(101)	0.31-0.36m	0.31-0.54m
Natural	(159)	0.36m+	0.54m+

Summary
Trench 14 was located in the northern central field. Three quarry pits and a shallow ditch were present in this trench.

5.16 Trench 15

5.16.1 This trench contained eight quarry pits.

5.16.2 Quarry pit [107] (Figure 5, Section 3) was 1.31m wide and 0.42m deep with moderate sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of mid greyish-brown silty clay (106).

5.16.3 Quarry pit [103] (Figure 5, Section 1) was 1.42m wide and 0.19m deep with vertical sides and a flat base. It had a single fill of mid reddish-brown silty gravel (102), which contained one sherd (29g) of 5th-6th century Anglo-Saxon pottery.

5.16.4 Quarry pit [161] (Figure 5) was not excavated. It had a fill (160) from which two sherds (12g) of 5th-6th century Anglo-Saxon pottery was collected from the surface.

TRENCH 15	**Figures 2 & 5**		**Plate N/A**	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 50m		Level of Natural (m OD): 29.63-29.77m	
Deposit	**Context No.**		**Average Depth (m)**	
			NW End	**SE End**
Topsoil	(102)		0.32m	0.27m
Subsoil	(101)		0.32-0.45m	0.27-0.44m
Natural	(159)		0.45m+	0.44m+
Summary Trench 15 was located in the northern central field. Eight quarry pits were present in this trench.				

5.17 Trench 16

5.17.1 No archaeological features were present in this trench.

TRENCH 16	**Figures 2 & 6**	**Plate N/A**

Trench Alignment: E-W	Length: 50m	Level of Natural (m OD): 28.89-29.24m	
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		W End	**E End**
Topsoil	(100)	0.35m	0.2m
Subsoil	(101)	0.35-0.45m	0.2-0.25m
Natural	(159)	0.45m+	0.25m+
Summary			
Trench 16 was located in the western field. No archaeological features were present.			

5.18 Trench 17

5.18.1 Trench 17 contained a single inhumation, a pit and a ditch.

5.18.2 Ditch [154] (Figure 6, Section 13) was 2.4m wide and 0.38m+ deep with steep sides. It contained two fills: a basal fill of mid-grey clayey silt (153) and an upper fill of mid -brown clayey gravelly silt (152). One sherd (19g) of 5th-6th century Anglo-Saxon pottery and animal bone were present in (153).

5.18.3 Pit [151] (Figure 6, Section 13) was 1.94m+ wide and 0.38m+ deep with vertical sides. It had a single fill of mid-grey clayey silt (150).

5.18.4 Grave [128] for inhumation 127 (Figure 6-7) was 1.8m+ long and 0.63m wide. It had a single fill of mid greyish-brown clayey silt (126), which contained one sherd (15g) of 5th-6th century Anglo-Saxon pottery, and Skeleton 127 (Tierney, 6.3), which contained one sherd (2g) of 5th-6th century Anglo-Saxon pottery, a copper alloy buckle and an iron knife.

TRENCH 17	**Figures 2, 6, 7**	**Plates 2-6**	
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 50m	Level of Natural (m OD): 28.69-29.16m	
Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**	
		NW End	**SE End**
Topsoil	(100)	0.25m	0.25m
Subsoil	(101)	0.25-0.35m	0.25-0.4m
Natural	(159)	0.35m+	0.4m+
Summary			

Trench 17 was located in the western field.

A 5th-6th century Saxon inhumation burial, ditch and undated pit were present in this trench.

5.19 Trench 18

5.19.1 Trench 18 was excavated to determine if potential ditches in Trench 10 continued. Only quarry pits were present.

TRENCH 18	**Figures 2 and 4**	**Plate N/A**
Trench Alignment: NW-SE	Length: 12m	Level of Natural (m OD): 28.98-29.10m

Deposit	**Context No.**	**Average Depth (m)**
		NW End
Topsoil	(100)	0.29m
Subsoil	(101)	0.29-0.4m
Natural	(159)	0.4m+

Summary

Trench 18 was located in the central field.

Quarry pits were present in this trench.

5.20 Pond 1 (Plate 10)

5.20.1 Pond 1 contained two ditches and a pit.

5.20.2 Furrow [117] (Figure 6, Section 5) was 1.51m wide and 0.28m deep with moderate sides and a flat base. It had a single fill of dark grey silty clay (116), which contained one sherd (3g) of 15th-17th century pottery, CBM and bone.

5.20.3 Pit [119] (Figure 6, Section 6) was 0.82m wide and 0.24m deep with moderate sides and a flat base. It had a single fill of light grey silty clay (118), which contained one sherd (10g) of 5th-6th century Anglo-Saxon pottery.

5.20.4 Furrow [115] (Figure 6) was 1m wide and 0.15m deep with moderate sides and a flat base. It had a single fill of dark grey silty clay (114) which

contained post-medieval CBM and bone.

5.21 Pond 2 (Plate 11)

5.21.1 Pond 2 contained one ditch.

5.21.2 Ditch [130] (Figure 6) was 1.68m wide with moderate sides and a flat base. It had a single fill of dark grey clay (129), which contained one sherd (9g) of 16th-19th century pottery.

5.22 Balancing Pond (Plate 12)

5.22.1 Monitoring of the balancing pond identified 10 undated features.

5.22.2 Pit [1004] (Figure 7) was 1.5m wide and 0.17m deep with shallow sides and a flat base. It had a single fill of mid-brownish grey silty clay (1003).

5.22.3 Ditch [1006] (Figure 7) was 0.7m wide and 0.15m deep with shallow sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of mid-brownish grey silty clay (1005).

5.22.4 Pit [1008] (Figure 7) was 1.4m wide and 0.18m deep with shallow sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of mid-greyish brown silty clay (1007).

5.22.5 Ditch [1010] (Figure 7) was 0.78m wide and 0.32m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of mid-brownish grey silty clay (1009).

5.22.6 Ditch [1012] (Figure 7) was 0.76m wide and 0.28m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of mid-brownish grey silty clay (1011).

5.22.7 Ditch [1014] (Figure 7) was 1.17m wide and 0.22m deep with shallow sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of mid-greyish brown silty clay (1013).

5.22.8 Ditch [1016] (Figure 7) was 2.42m wide and 0.25m deep with shallow sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of mid-brownish grey silty clay (1015). Ditch [1016] was truncated by Ditch [1018].

5.22.9 Ditch [1018] (Figure 7) was 1.16m wide and 0.31m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of dark to mid-brownish

grey silty clay (1017).

5.22.10 Pit [1020] (Figure 7) was 2.4m wide and 0.29m deep with shallow sides and a flat base. It had a single fill of light to mid grey silty clay (1019).

5.22.11 Ditch [1022] (Figure 7) was 2.2m wide and 0.4m deep with moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of mid-brownish grey silty clay (1021).

5.22.12 Ditch [1024] (Figure 7) was 0.45m wide and 0.12m deep with shallow sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of mid-brownish grey silty clay (1023).

5.22.13 Pit [1026] (Figure 7) was 2.11m wide and 0.18m deep with shallow sides and a concave base. It had a single fill of light to mid grey silty clay (1025).

6 THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

6.1 The Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery
Berni Sudds

6.1.1 The small assemblage of pottery recovered during the evaluation, amounting to 14 sherds, weighing 205g, is catalogued below in Table 1. The material potentially ranges in date from the 5th to the 19th century, with the most significant element dating to the Early Saxon period.

6.1.2 The Saxon pottery is handmade and bonfire fired, largely reduced grey/ black with some surface oxidisation. The range of inclusions can be well-paralleled in the locality and broader region, including sandstone, igneous, sand, limestone and grog-temper (Sudds forthcoming and 2007, 255-7; Wright 2006, 117; Hall 2004, 117; Blinkhorn 2007, 139; Anderson and Tester 2001; Wilkinson and Young 1996, 46-9). Form is not diagnostic of date as the assemblage is largely comprised of plain body sherds, with just one simple upright rim. Given the composition and diversity of fabric types, however, a 5th to 6th century date may be intimated, prior to the increasing dominance of chaff-temper witnessed during the later 6th and 7th century. This is a feature of sites both within Cambridgeshire and beyond (Sudds forthcoming).

6.1.3 The medieval and post-medieval pottery can also be well-paralleled in the region, with condition indicating the medieval pottery in particular is redeposited. Of some interest is the post-medieval slipware vessel. The latter has a sandy fabric, akin to the plain glazed red earthenwares, and probably represents a fairly localised product.

6.1.4 The significance of the small group centres entirely on the Early Saxon assemblage which, along with any additional material recovered from any further phases of investigation on site, should be the subject of additional analysis, contextualisation and reporting. No further work is recommended for the medieval and post-medieval material.

Context	Fabric code	Description	Date range	No	Weight	Spot date
100	IGN	Igneous-tempered ware body sherd. Dark grey throughout. Moderately abraded.	450 – 850	1	12g	450 – 600
102	IGN	Igneous-tempered ware body sherd. Black internal surface and margin, oxidised orange outer margin and surface.	450 – 850	1	29g	450 – 600
108	GRE	Glazed red earthenware, handled bowl or jar	1580 – 1900	1	56g	1580 – 1900
110	PMSW	Post-medieval slipware chamber pot(?) rim. Everted flat-topped rim decorated with white slip dots. External body decorated with a white slip horizontal line. Clear glaze.	1600 – 1800	1	26g	1600 – 1800
112	FSAND	Fine sand-tempered ware with rare flint and organics. Fragmented body sherd. Dark grey core and mid brown surfaces.	450 – 850	1	6g	450 – 600
116	BRILL	Brill/ Boarstall ware flanged rim sherd. External green glaze, internal clear glaze. Abraded.	1400 – 1700	1	3g	1400 – 1700
118	QSST	Quartz sandstone-tempered ware rim and body sherd. Dark grey/black throughout. Simple upright rim.	450 – 850	1	10g	450 – 600

126	QSST	Quartz sandstone-tempered ware body sherd. Black core, mid brown surfaces.	450 – 850	1	15g	450 – 600
127	SSST IGN	Sandstone and igneous-tempered ware body sherd, dark greyish brown.	450 – 850	1	2g	450 – 600
129	GRE	Glazed red earthenware, body sherd	1580 – 1900	1	9g	1580 – 1900
153	GROG	Grog-tempered ware body sherd. Dark grey core, oxidised buff-orange surfaces.	450 – 850	1	19g	450 – 600
155	EEAR	Essex/ East-Anglian/ redware jug (?) body sherd, abraded	1175 – 1400	1	6g	1175 – 1400
160	OLST	Oolitic limestone-tempered ware body sherd. Dark grey throughout. Vesiculated inner surface.	450 – 850	1	6g	450 – 600
160 (SF.3)	SAND L	Sand and limestone-tempered ware body sherd. Dark grey throughout.	450 – 850	1	6	450 – 600

Table 1: The pottery by context. No = Sherd count.

6.2 Metalwork

Ruth Beveridge

Introduction

6.2.1 Four objects of metalwork were collected from the evaluation of Land at Station Road, Warboys, and are listed by material in Table 2. These finds have been fully recorded and a full listing is provided in the catalogue. Two of the finds, the copper alloy buckle and the iron knife, were found within a possible Early Anglo- Saxon inhumation; the remaining iron finds were found in Post-Medieval contexts. Overall the ironwork is in fair condition, with some

corrosion masking detail on the objects. The copper alloy buckle is fragile, details are masked by dirt.

Find type	Number
Iron objects	3
Copper alloy objects	1
Total	4

Table 2: Metalwork finds quantities

Early Saxon

Copper Alloy

6.2.2 SF 2, fill 126, skeleton 127. A complete cast buckle. It has an oval shaped frame that is circular in section and retains a separately cast copper alloy plate. The plate is rectangular in form, formed from a single piece of copper alloy sheet that is folded around the frame to produce an upper and lower plate of equal size. The plate is in two fragments. Encrusted dirt and corrosion masks the pin slot within the plate. A single rivet hole is evident in one fragment of the plate at the attachment end. A separately cast copper alloy pin hinges around the buckle bar; the pin is oval in section and tapers to a rounded tip that extends beyond the outer edge of the frame where it curves downwards. There is possibly organic material between the fold of the plate. This buckle is similar in form to Marzinzik's Type II.24bii buckle frames with plate (Marzinzik, 2003, 52).

6.2.3 It is of Early Anglo-Saxon date, c. 410 - 720AD. A similar example was found at Coddenham (West, 1998, 136, fig. 20, no. 21).

Iron

6.2.4 SF 1, fill 126, skeleton 127. Complete whittle tang knife with horizontal back and horizontal cutting edge. The tip angles down from back to cutting edge. The tang is set off centre towards the back, with angled shoulders and rectangular in section.

Post-Medieval

Iron

6.2.5 A total of two nails were recovered from the evaluation; one from the fill 144, of quarry pit [145]; one from fill 116 of ditch [117]. Whilst iron nails are difficult to date to a particular period, both of the nails recovered here are from Post-Medieval contexts.

Recommendations for further work

6.2.6 The condition of the metalwork is fair, but in order to preserve a record of the objects and reveal additional detail that might assist further identification, it is recommended that the buckle and the knife undergo radiography. This is particularly important for the knife as it will facilitate type identification as well as reveal other information such as maker's mark or decoration on the blade.

Discussion

6.2.7 The buckle (SF2) and knife (SF1) were found at the waist of a female skeleton which was of NW-SE orientation. Inhumations with buckle and knife accompaniments reflect Early Anglo-Saxon burial practise associated with modest burials of the 7th century. The position of the buckle suggests it may have fastened a belt; likewise the position of the knife is consistent with attachment to a belt or girdle (Riddler and Walton Rogers, in Boulter, 2012).

6.2.8 Similar small buckles to SF2 are occasionally found in 5th or 6th century graves but are much more widespread in 7th and 8th century burials. 'Knife and buckle' burials are usually male and often seen as distinct groups (Penn, 2011, 65). It is a pattern seen repeated across East Anglia in Early Anglo-Saxon cemeteries, for example at Coddenham, Suffolk (Penn, 2011), Harford Farm, Norfolk (Penn, 2000), Carlton Colville, Suffolk (Lucy et al 2009, 418), Morning Thorpe, Norfolk (Green and Rogerson 1987), and Barrington, Cambridgeshire (Penn, 2014, 106). Yet it is not uncommon for female burials to be furnished with a knife and buckle. At Morning Thorpe, amongst Group B of the furnished burials, Penn (2014, 101) notes that five females were buried with a knife and buckle and few other accessories.

6.3 Faunal Remains

Stephanie Emra

Introduction

6.3.1 This assemblage results from an archaeological evaluation carried out by PCA on land at Station Road, Warboys, Cambridgeshire. The site yielded 27 bones with a total weight of 89g. 21 of which were identified down to a size category and of which five were identified down to a species level. All remains were relatively poorly preserved, with a medium to high level of weathering.

Assemblage Chronology

6.3.2 The assemblage comes from three separate features. The earliest [128] (126) being a Saxon grave, and the others, [117] (116) and [130] (129), being post-medieval ditches.

Methodology

6.3.3 The assemblage was recovered by hand collection. The assemblage was identified with reference to a modern reference collection as well as reference to Hillson (1999), Schmid (1972) and France (2008). All anatomical elements were identified to species where possible, any unidentifiable fragments were assigned to general size or taxonomic categories (e.g. Cattle-sized, bird etc.). Where appropriate the following information was recorded for each fragment; element, anatomical zone, tooth eruption/wear (after Grant 1982, Payne 1973, Levine 1982, Greenfield & Arnold, 2008, Hillson 2008), butchery marks, metrical data (after von den Driesch 1976), gnawing, burning, surface weathering and pathology.

6.3.4 Caprines (sheep/goat) were differentiated based on the criteria of Boessneck (1969), Halstead et al. (2002), Payne (1985), Prummel and Frisch (1986) and Zeder and Lapham (2010). The sexing of pelvises followed Greenfield (2006).

Assemblage Composition

Saxon grave

6.3.5 The zooarchaeological remains from Saxon grave totalled 32g and are summarised by species in Table 3.

Taxa:	Taxa:	NISP:
Cattle sized		7
Pig	Sus scrofa	1
Sheep/Goat	Ovis aries/ Capra hircus	1
Sheep sized		4
Unidentified mammal		5
Microfauna		1
Rodent		1

Table 3 Zooarchaeological remains from the Saxon grave contexts.

Butchery, Pathology and taphonomy

6.3.6 Amongst the assemblage from the Saxon grave there was one instance of butchery: two small cut marks on the medial side of a mammal rib fragment. There was also one instance of pathology: extra bone growth on the proximal articulation of a sheep-sized, unfused tibia, possibly from infection. The assemblage was unburnt, apart from one small piece of a calcined sheep-sized long bone fragment. The assemblage is highly fragmented and highly weathered in contrast to the human remains in the grave, this would suggest that the animal remains are likely part of the back-fill of the grave.

Post-medieval Contexts

6.3.7 The zooarchaeological remains from the post-medieval ditch [117] (116) totalled 55.5g and are summarised by species in Table 4.

Taxa:	Taxa:	Element:
Horse	Equus Caballus	Distal phalanx

Table 4 Zooarchaeological remains from the post medieval ditch [117] (116).

6.3.8 The zooarchaeological remains from the post-medieval ditch [130] (129) totalled 1.5g and are summarised by species in Table 5.

Taxa:	Element:
Sheep sized	Long bone fragment

Table 5 Zooarchaeological remains from the post medieval ditch [130 (129).

Discussion and summary

6.3.9 Due to the small and high fragmented nature of the assemblage few conclusions can be drawn. Element distribution, fusion and attrition information have been recorded but will not be presented here as the assemblage is too small to make any of this information statistically significant, however it may be added to future reports if the site is further excavated. The remains from the Saxon grave are likely from to have been deposited in the grave from the back-fill rather than being part of an intentional deposit, indicated by the highly worn nature of elements.

6.4 Human Bone

Aileen Tierney

Introduction

6.4.1 This report is an assessment of the human skeletal remains recovered during the evaluation at Station Road, Warboys. One isolated inhumation was discovered in Trench 17. Osteological analysis has aged this individual as middle adult (25 – 35 years of age). This adult female was buried with an iron knife and a copper alloy buckle.

Methodology

6.4.2 The remains were excavated in accordance with the CIfA guidelines (McKinley and Roberts, 1993). General methods used in the osteological evaluation of all human skeletal material are those of Buikstra and Ubelaker (1994). An assessment of age was based on the stages of dental development and eruption (Bass, 1998) and epiphyseal union, on the degree of dental attrition (Hillson 1996; after Miles, 1962 & Brothwell, 1981) and examination of the pelvis (Buikstra and Ubelaker, 1994). Cranial sutures were also consulted. The age categories used in this report are listed in Table 6. The sex was ascertained from sexually dimorphic traits of the

skeleton; both cranial and pelvic were consulted (ibid, 1994). Due to the fragmentary nature of the skeleton, stature analysis could not be carried out.

infant	0-4 years
juvenile	5 - 12 years
subadult	13 - 18 years
young adult	19 - 25 years
middle adult	26 - 44 years
mature adult	45 years +

Table 6: Age groups

6.4.3 Each element was identified macroscopically. Identification of elements allowed for completeness of skeleton to be ascertained. Pathologies were noted where present, with the type of lesion and location on the bone recorded.

Results

Sk 127 [128]

6.4.4 This adult was placed in supine extended position on a northwest-southeast orientation. The bone is well preserved but heavily fragmented with the majority of skeletal elements present. It has been aged at 25 – 35 years of age (middle adult) using dental attrition data, sutural closure and the auricular surface of the pelvis. This individual has been identified as female following examination of the sciatic notch in conjunction with cranial diagnostic traits and metrical data.

6.4.5 Dental attrition was consulted and resulted in an age estimate of 25 – 35 years of age. The majority of the sutures were closed with the coronal suture close to obliteration suggesting middle adult. The coronal suture is the first to close, with most sutures fusing earlier in females than males. Examination of the auricular surface produced an age estimate of 25 – 29 years of age. Osteophytic action was visible on the vertebral facets although the vertebrae displayed minimal marginal lipping. These lesions may represent a repetitive activity or a sign of advancing age.

6.4.6 Both the cranium and the pelvis were examined to sex this individual. The sciatic notch scored 1 (female), while the cranial morphology supported this (scores between 1 and 3). Conversely, the femoral diameter contradicted this data with a measurement of 50.06mm (possible male). Had this not been an isolated burial, an examination and comparison of all the inhumations in this cemetery would have given us a greater insight into how sexually diagnostic this population was.

6.4.7 Medium to high levels of calculus were present on all teeth; a build-up that can result in bad breath and inflamed gums. Three instances of dental caries were identified occurring on the interproximal surfaces of two of the teeth, with the third case so far advanced that a point of origin could not be ascertained. This level of tooth decay would have caused the individual significant pain and discomfort especially while they were eating.

6.4.8 Linear enamel hypoplasia (LEH) was identified but was partly obscured by calculus. LEH is the term given to the grooves (hypoplastic lines) which encircle tooth crowns. They occur due to a number of reasons, such as fever, disease, nutritional deficiency or generalised infection during odontogenesis (tooth development). Examination of the lower left lateral incisor of this individual identified three main grooves, which can be identified as three main periods of malnutrition or similar during the early stages of dental development. This incisor was chosen as it was not completely covered by calculus.

6.4.9 Schmorl's nodes were noted on one thoracic vertebral body. This figure should be seen as a minimum due to the highly fragmented nature of the vertebral column and therefore the absence of intact vertebral bodies. This pathological lesion is the result of the herniation of the nucleus pulposus through the cartilaginous and bony endplate into the body of the adjacent vertebrae, an event common in mature individuals but something which can occur in younger individuals as a result of trauma, such as a fall from height. This condition may or may not be symptomatic and can potentially result in significant, localised, non-radiating back pain and tenderness, being painful

for a few years before calming down. Modern day Schmorl's nodes can be managed by surgical fusion of the vertebrae which stops the motion at a painful vertebral segment.

Cut number	128
Skelly number	SK127
Fill number	126
Orientation	NW-SE
Period	Saxon
Burial type	Inhumation
Burial position	Supine, extended
Preservation	Good
Animal bone	Yes; not directly associated with skeleton
Grave goods	Iron knife and copper alloy buckle
Completeness	80%; partial skull, ribs and hand missing; feet truncated
Age	25 - 35 years old
Sex	Female
Pathologies	Calculus, caries, LEH, Schmorl's nodes

Table 7: Summary of SK128

6.4.10 The occurrence of LEH suggests that this individual lived through numerous episodes of nutritional deficiency or malabsorption. She also suffered poor dental hygiene, something which would have caused her discomfort and with the potential presence of multiple Schmorl's nodes, she may have also suffered back pain.

Conclusions and recommendations

6.4.11 This adult female has been purposely placed in a deliberately cut grave on a specific alignment, with a copper alloy buckle, most likely associated with her burial attire, and an iron knife. It is common for Anglo-Saxon women to be buried with knives, however Harke suggests only knives shorter than 126mm were deposited in female graves (Harke, 2003; 133). This grave was on a northwest-southeast orientation; a presumed attempt by the Saxons at a west-east orientation. In the early Saxon period, the orientation is often west-east, but north-south orientated graves are also found. By the Middle Saxon period, west-east is more common with Christianity taking over from

pagan beliefs, with the concept that placing the head in the west end of the grave would facilitate the dead facing east, should they sit up (Hoggett, 2010; 97). Saxon pottery sherds were also found in the fill of this grave and may potentially be directly associated with the inhumation. A small quantity of animal bone was retrieved from the fill of this grave however they are not thought to be directly related to the skeleton and its deliberate deposition. The artefacts found within this grave cut and the burial position suggests that this is not an isolated burial but part of a cemetery.

6.4.12 This middle adult suffered from a number of episodes of malnutrition in her early life in addition to poor dental hygiene in the intervening years. She also potentially suffered back pain as she got older which would have been exacerbated whilst carrying out her daily tasks. While not exhibiting any significantly strong muscle attachments, her robust skeleton is suggestive of a worker, a fact further supported by her Schmorl's nodes. Female mortality in Saxon times tends to be as a result of childbirth, in addition to the other risks of the time such as feuding, famine and epidemics, with women living an average of 30 years, although there are many examples of older Saxon women. Unfortunately, none of the pathologies identified can give a definite cause of death. What can be said is that this individual fits within the average Saxon mortality rates. There was no evidence to suggest this individual was placed in a coffin however the attitude of the body does not support a shrouded burial.

6.4.13 The human skeletal remains have been bagged by elements, with all the skeletal elements bagged/boxed together by skeleton number. It is recommended that the collection be retained for further study should more associated inhumations be excavated in future. If this site does undergo excavation, it is recommended that isotopic analysis be carried out on the inhumations.

6.5 Environmental Assessment

Kate Turner

Introduction

6.5.1 This report summarises the findings of the rapid assessment of flot residues from four ten litre bulk samples, which were taken from a potentially Early Saxon inhumation burial excavated on land at Station Road, Warboys. The aim of this assessment is to determine the environmental potential of these samples and to determine whether any further analysis needs to be undertaken.

Methodology

6.5.2 The samples were scanned using a low-power binocular microscope, to quantify any environmental material including seeds, chaff, charred grains, molluscs and charcoal. Identified material was recorded using a non-linear scale to denote abundance, where '1' indicates the occasional occurrence of an ecofact (1-10 items), '2' indicates fairly frequent occurrence (11-30 items), '3' more frequent (31-100 items) and '4' abundant (>100 items). A note was also made of any other inclusions, for example roots and modern plant material. The results of this assessment are shown in Table 8.

Sample number	Context number	Cut	Vol (litres)	Vol (ml)	Flot					
					Charcoal >1mm	Charcoal <1mm	Seeds (uncharred)	Chaff	Mollusca	Other
1	127 (skull)	128	10	6	3	3	Erucastrum sp (1)	3 (husk/lemma)	2	Roots (3) Coal (1) Insect remains (1)
2	127 (torso)	128	10	10	2	3		3 (husk/lemma)	2	Roots (3) Insect remains (1) Bone fragments (1)
3	127 (pelvis)	128	10	0.5	1			1	1	Wood (1)
6	127 (feet/legs)	128	10	50	1		Stellaria sp (1)	4 (husk/lemma/glume/stem	1	Wood (1) Insect remains

								)		(1)

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

Table 8: Assessment of Flots

Results and Discussion

6.5.3 Fragments of charcoal were found in all four samples; however none were of a size to enable species identification to be carried out. Samples <3> and <6> also contained small pieces of wood, as with the charcoal though these were not large enough be of diagnostic value.

6.5.4 Cereal chaff was present throughout the assemblage; in samples <1>, <2> and <3> this consisted of palea and lemma fragments that would appear to be of a Triticum (wheat) species. Sample <4> contained an abundance of palea and lemma, along with glume and stem material which may also be the remains of wheat.

6.5.5 Despite the abundance of other macrobotanical material no grain and only two seeds were found in this assemblage; a single specimen of Erucastrum (dog mustard) in sample <1> and one Stellaria (Stitchwort) seed in sample <6>.

6.5.6 Snails were present in all four samples; with the highest frequency found in samples <1> and <2>, these also being the only samples in which multiple species were represented. Cecilioides acicula, or agate snail, a burrowing species was identified in varying concentrations throughout the assemblage, this is commonly thought to a modern intrusion when found in archaeological samples (Kerney, 1999) and could be an indication of bioturbation in the deposit. Low concentrations of Oxychilus alliarius (Garlic snail) Vallonia excentrica (Eccentric grass snail) Vertigo pygmaea (common whorl snail) and Vitrea contracta (milky crystal snail) were identified in samples <1> and <2> but not in the kind of abundance necessary to be useful as a tool for environmental reconstruction. Sample <6> also

contained a small amount of snail eggs, and what appeared to be several juvenile specimens of Cecilioides acicula. A full record of the land snails identified in these samples is given in Table 9.

Sample Number	1	2	3	6
Snail species				
Cecilioides acicula	15	9	2	1
Oxychilus alliarius	1			
Vallonia excentrica		2		
Vertigo pygmaea		4		
Vitrea contracta		1		
Snail eggs	4			

Table 9: Identification of Land Snails

6.5.7 Sample <2> contained several small fragments of bone, but these are pieces of larger specimens and are too fragmented for species to be identified. Low concentrations of insect remains were also identified in samples <1>, <2> and <6>, some of which appear to be modern specimens that have been introduced into the deposit post-deposition.

6.5.8 Roots were found in samples <1> and <2> which, along with the widespread occurrence of Cecilioides acicula suggests that the potential for bioturbation is significant. The presence of several, apparently modern, insects would seem to support this.

Recommendations

6.5.9 Overall these samples are relatively poor in environmental evidence; the potential for post depositional reworking as a result of burrowing snail and root activity is also significant and therefore any material that is present should be used with caution. However, in this context, the presence of wheat chaff could be of ritualistic importance, and could also yield information on aspects of diet and economy in the local area during the Anglo Saxon period. It is therefore recommended that this material be sent to a specialist in order to provide a definitive species identification.

7 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Anglo-Saxon Activity

7.1.1 An area of Early Anglo-Saxon activity was present at the western limit of the site. In the north-western end of Trench 17 an early Anglo-Saxon inhumation was present, potentially 5th-6th century in date, which truncated an earlier, undated, pit. The deliberate burial of the inhumation suggests that it is likely to be part of a larger cemetery, rather than an isolated burial. A large northeast-southwest aligned boundary ditch was present to the north-west of the burial, which contained a sherd of 5th-6th century pottery, indicating it may have been contemporaneous.

7.1.2 Sherds of 5th-6th century Anglo-Saxon pottery were recovered from several other features across the site. One small pit in Pond 1, two quarry pits in Trench 15 and a tree throw in Trench 11 all contained pottery of this date. The limited number of sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery recovered from around the site indicates that the focus of Anglo-Saxon activity was may have been to the north-west or west of the site rather than truncated by later quarrying.

7.1.3 Despite the lack of recorded Anglo-Saxon activity in the HER database, Warboys is mentioned in historical records, as a gift from Archbishop Dunstan to Ramsey Abbey in the 10th century. A Saxon settlement and cemetery would therefore not be unexpected in Warboys.

7.2 Post-Medieval Activity

7.2.1 Extensive quarrying of the central and eastern fields occurred during the post-medieval period. Mostly fairly shallow, they were quarrying for gravel, probably to use in the construction of houses in Warboys village.

7.3 Undated Activity

7.3.1 Monitoring of the balancing pond identified potential pits and ditches, all of which were undated.

7.4 Conclusions

7.4.1 The trial trench evaluation has identified features reflecting three broad

periods of activity on the site: Early Anglo-Saxon, post-medieval and undated.

7.4.2 The archaeological features and deposits from the Anglo-Saxon and post-medieval periods are relatively well-preserved and associated with moderate assemblages.

7.4.3 Although the densest concentration of archaeology is the quarrying in the central and eastern fields, Trench 17 in the western field revealed significant evidence for Early Anglo-Saxon activity, with the possibility that the inhumation is part of a larger cemetery extending to the north or west.

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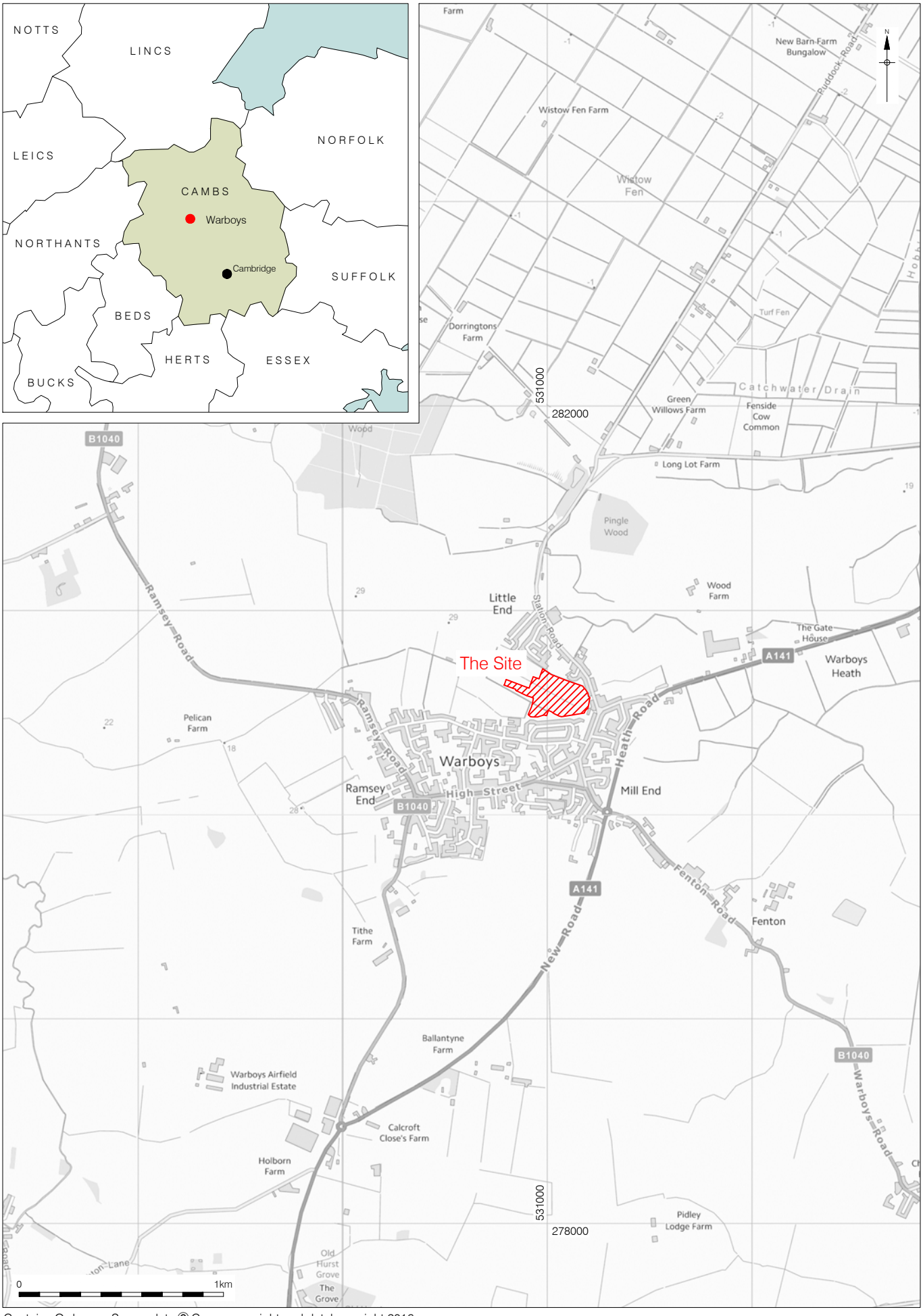
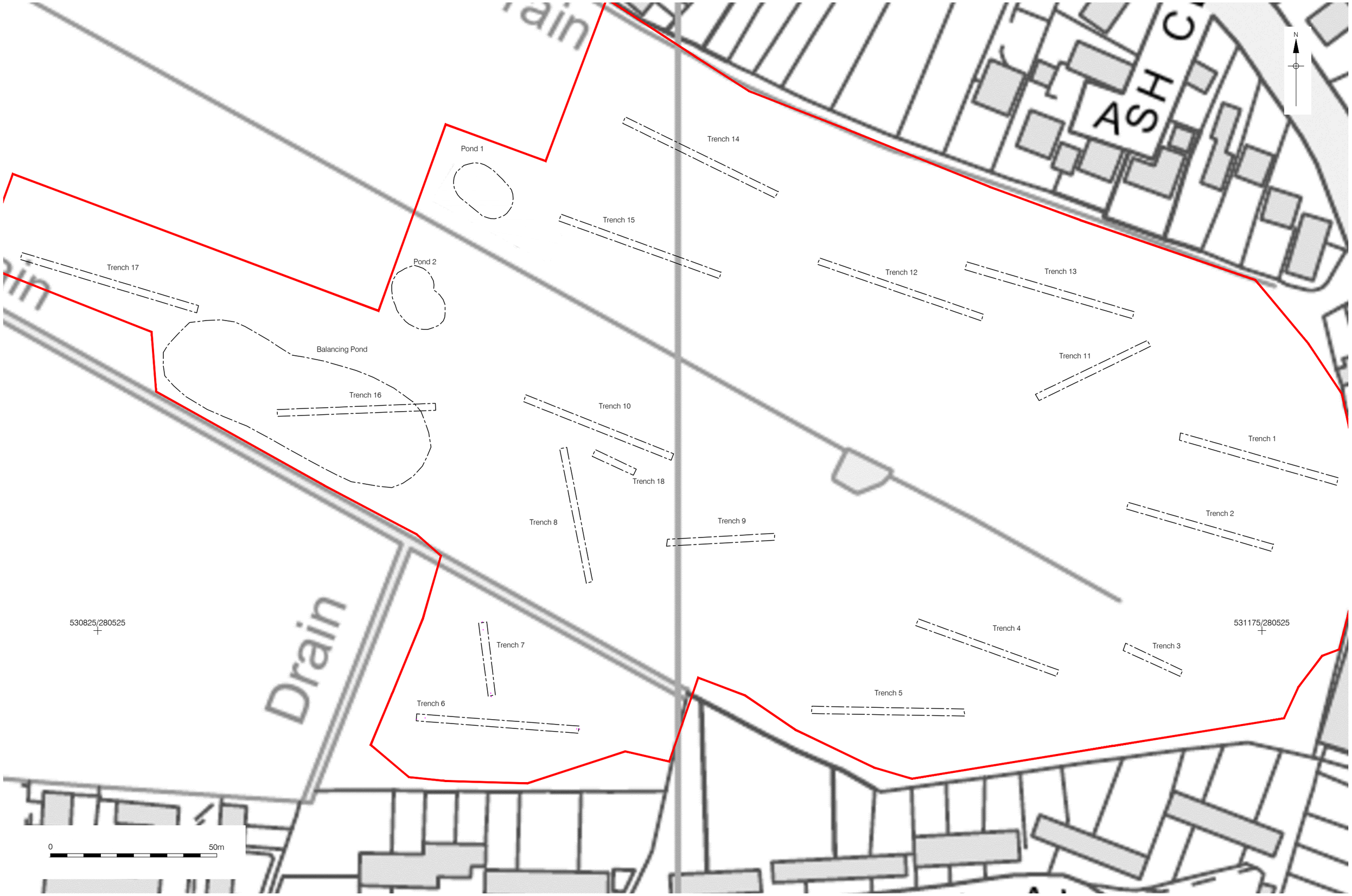


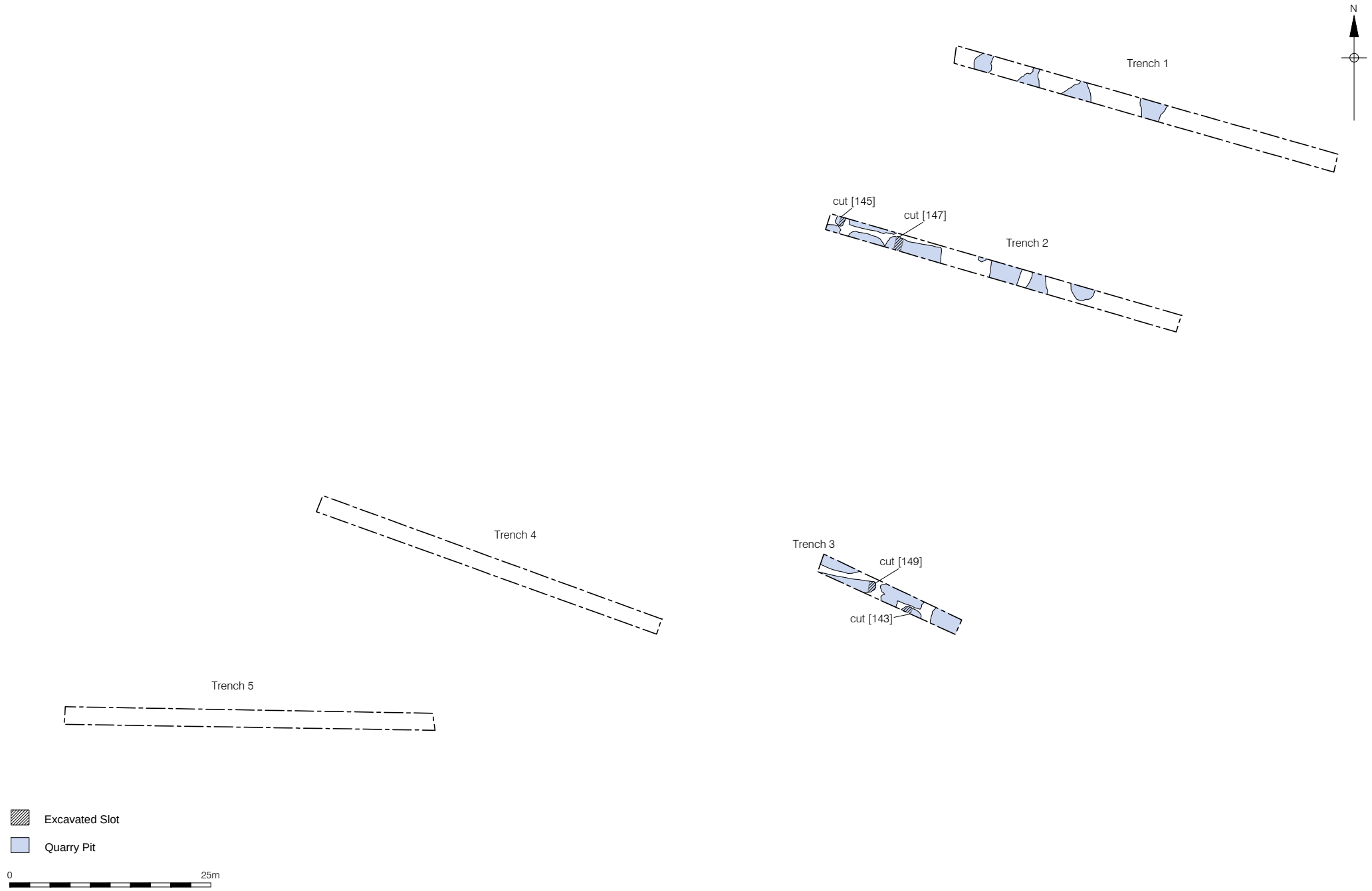
05/05/16 RM

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



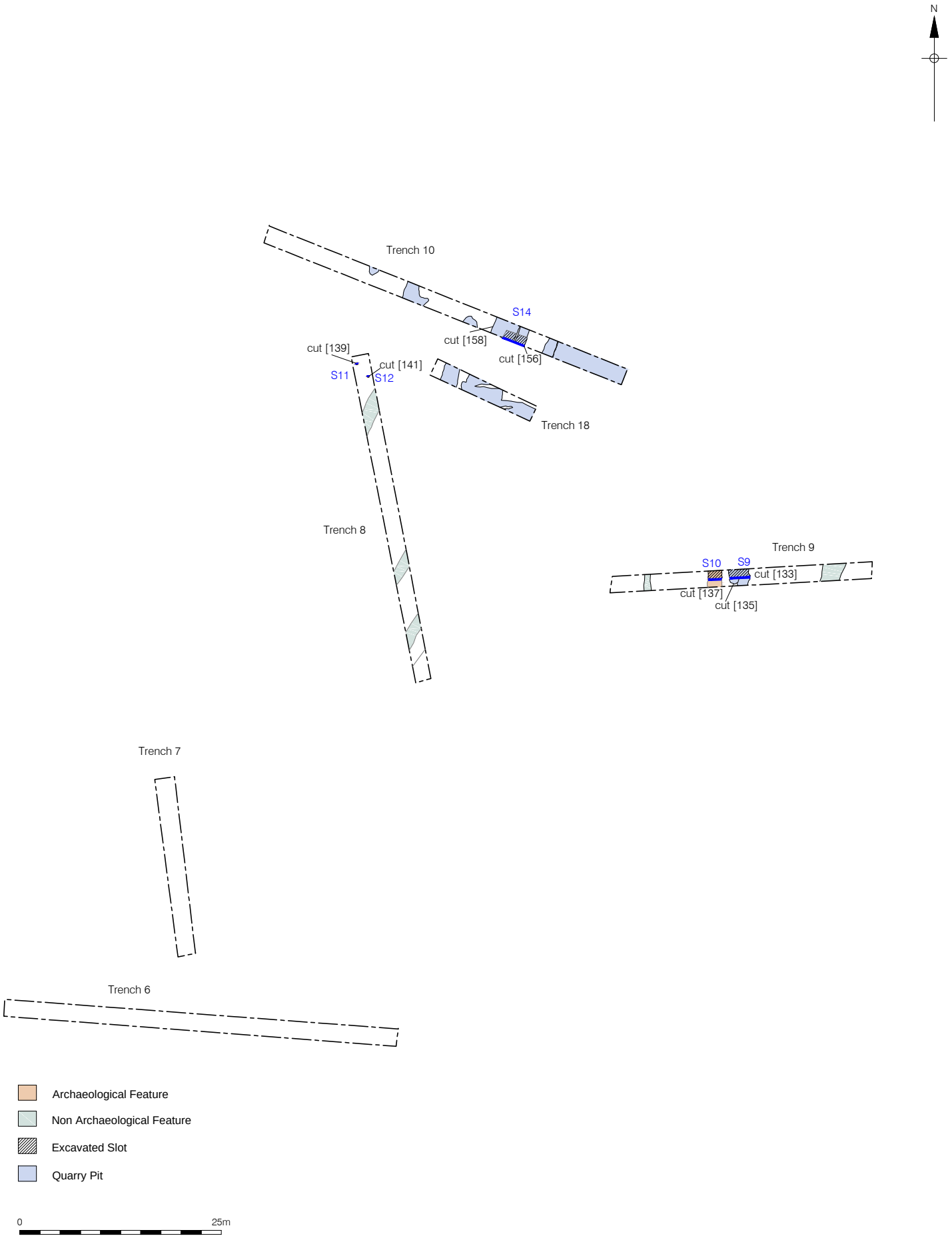
05/04/17 RM

Figure 2
Detailed Site Location
1:1,000 at A3



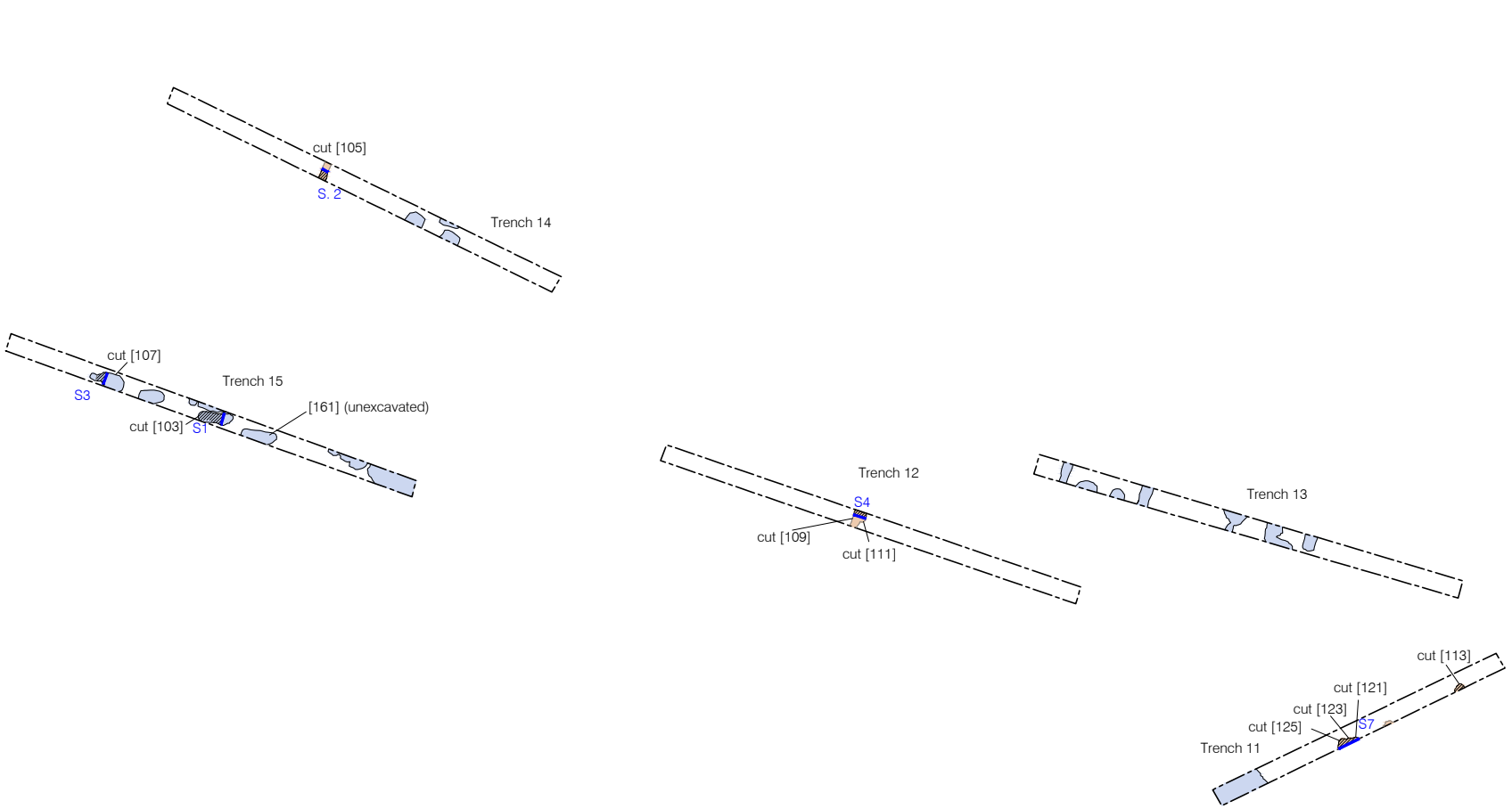
05/05/16 RM

Figure 3
Plan of Trenches 1-5
1:625 at A4



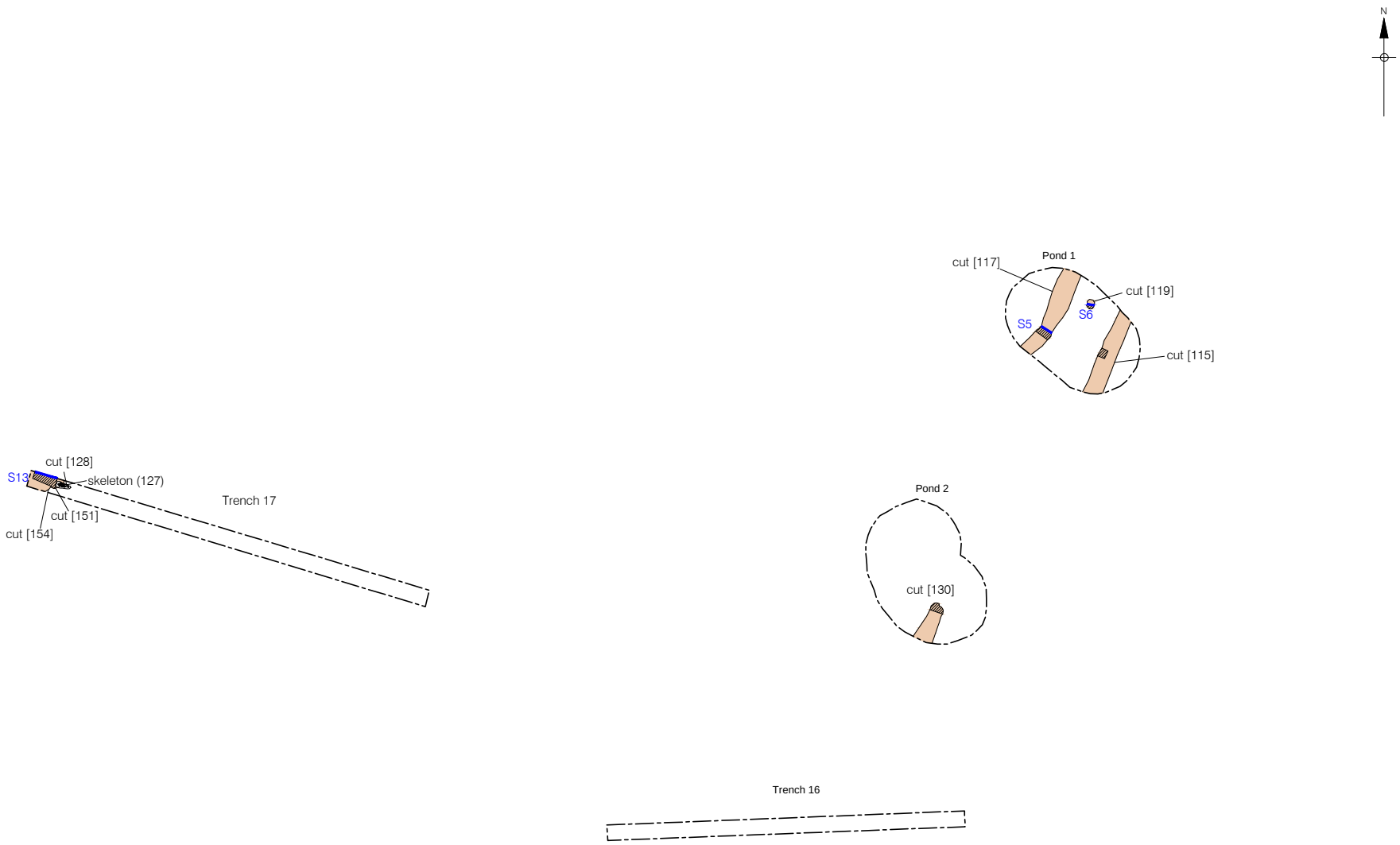
17/08/16

Figure 4
Plan of Trenches 6-10
1:625 at A4



05/05/16 RM

Figure 5
Plan of Trenches 16-17 and ponds 1-2
1:625 at A4



05/05/16 RM

Figure 6
Plan of Trenches 16-17 and ponds 1-2
1:625 at A4

N

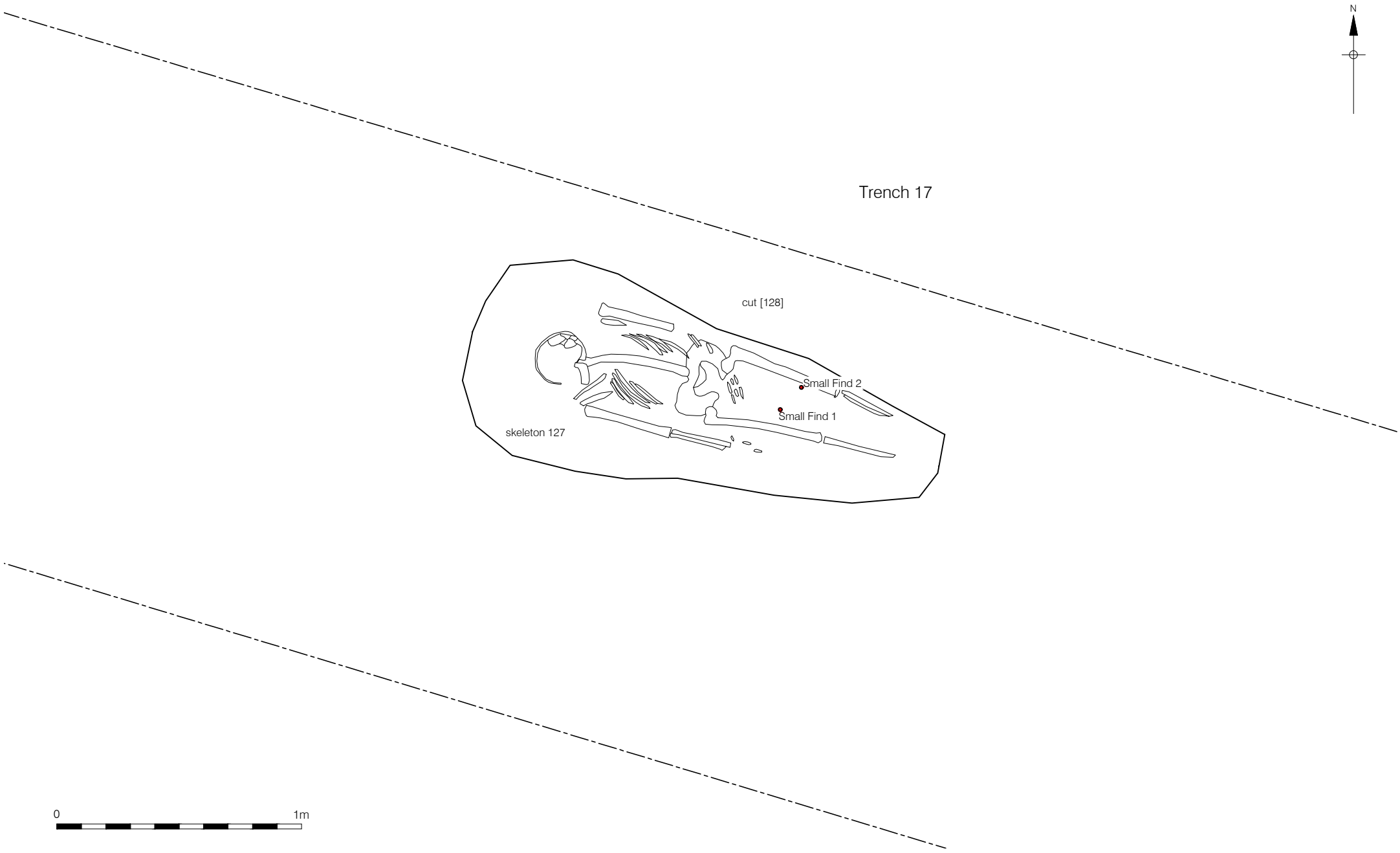
cut [1008]
cut [1006]
cut [1024]
cut [1004]
cut [1010]
cut [1012]
cut [1020]
cut [1022]
cut [1014]
cut [1016]
cut [1018]
cut [1026]

Archaeological Feature
Excavated Slot

0 10m

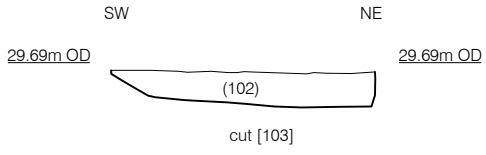
05/04/17 RM

Figure 7
Plan of Balancing Pond
1:250 at A3

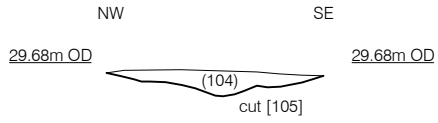


05/05/16 RM

Figure 8
Plan of Skeleton 127
1:20 at A4



Section 1
Trench 15
Southeast Facing



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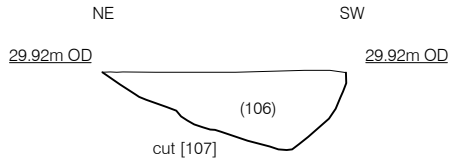
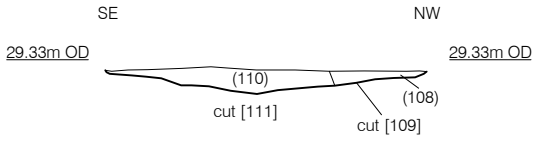
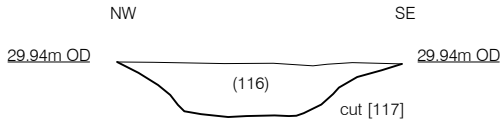
Trench 14
Southwest Facing



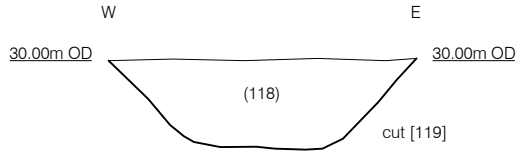
Section 3
Trench 15
Northwest Facing



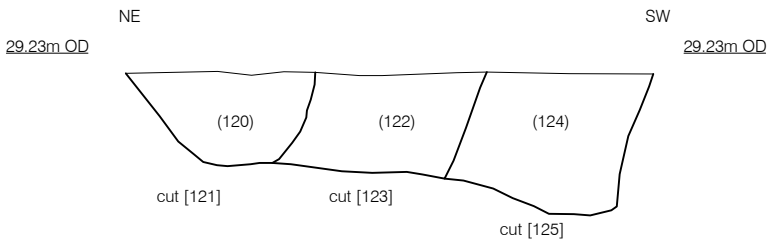
Section 4
Trench 12
Northeast Facing



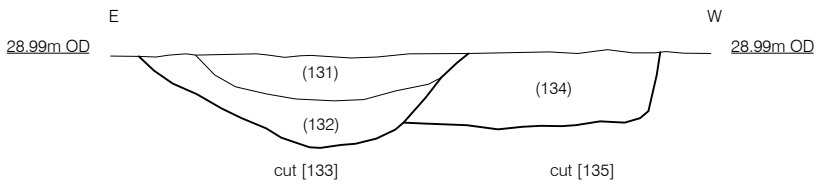
Section 5
Pond 1
Southwest Facing



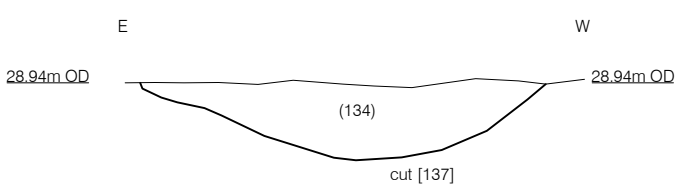
Section 6
Pond 1
South Facing



Section 7
Trench 11
Northwest Facing



Section 9
Trench 9
North Facing



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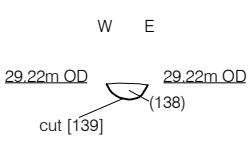
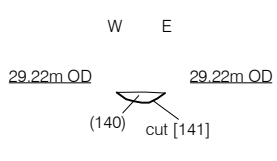
Trench 9
North Facing



Section 11
Trench 8
South Facing



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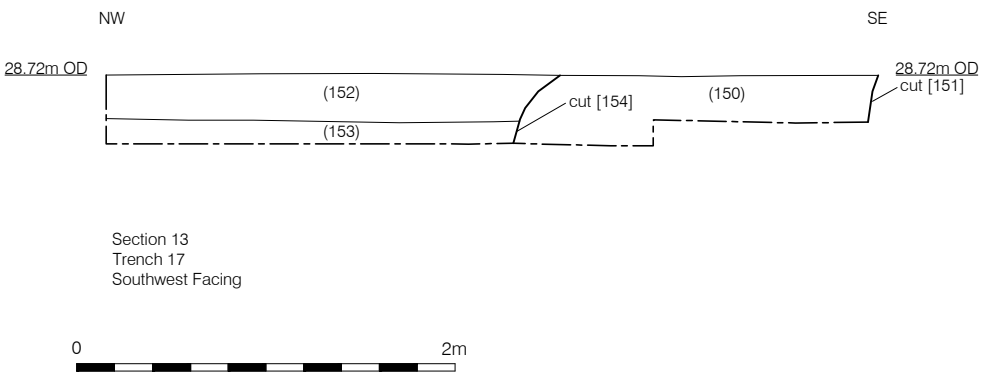
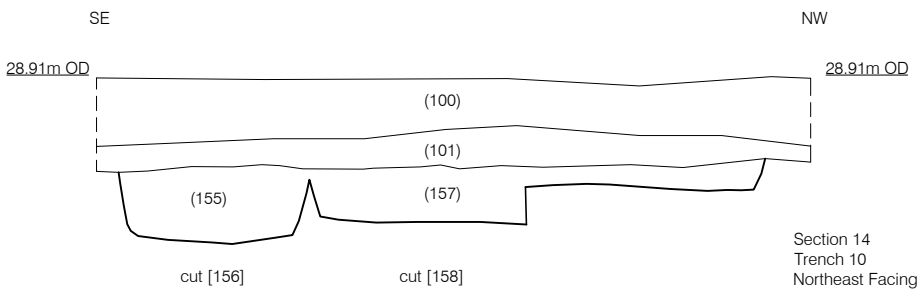
Trench 8
South Facing



Section 13
Trench 17
Southwest Facing



Section 14
Trench 10
Northeast Facing

05/05/16 RM

Figure 9
Sections
1:40 at A3

10 APPENDIX 1: PLATES

Plate 1: The site, view south-east

Plate 2: Skeleton 127 pre-excavation, showing SF 1, Fe knife, over right hip, view north-west

Plate 3: Skeleton 127, view south-west

Plate 4: SF 2, buckle in Grave [128], view south-west

Plate 5: Pit [151] and Ditch [154], view south-east

Plate 6: Pit [151] and Ditch [154], view north-west

Plate 7: Trench 3, view south-east showing post-medieval quarry pits

Plate 8: Quarry pits [121], [123] and [125], view south-east

Plate 9: Quarry pit [149], view north-west

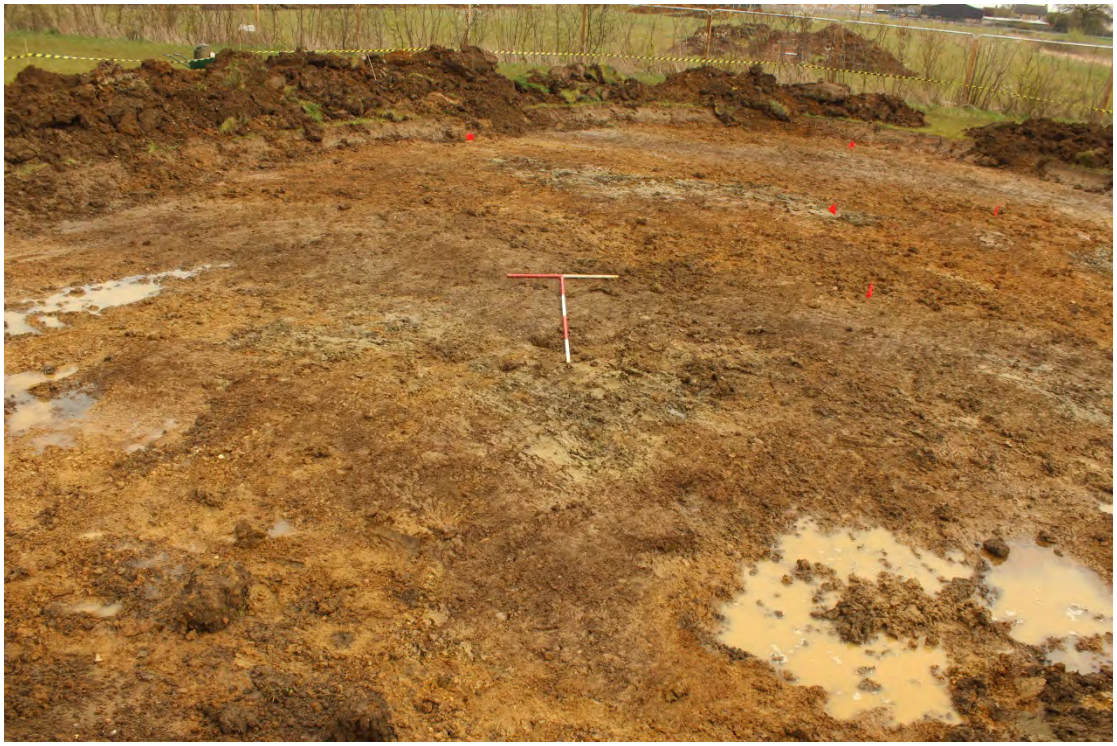


Plate 10: Pond 1, view south-east

Plate 11: Pond 2, view south-east

Plate 12: Balancing pond, view east

11 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Cut	Type	Category	Trench Number
100	N/A	Layer	Topsoil	
101	N/A	Layer	Subsoil	
102	103	Fill	Pit	15
103	103	Cut	Pit	15
104	105	Fill	Ditch	14
105	105	Cut	Ditch	14
106	107	Fill	Pit	15
107	107	Cut	Pit	15
108	109	Fill	Pit	12
109	109	Cut	Pit	12
110	111	Fill	Pit	12
111	111	Cut	Pit	12
112	113	Fill	Treethrow	11
113	113	Cut	Treethrow	11
114	115	Fill	Ditch	NP1
115	115	Cut	Ditch	NP1
116	117	Fill	Ditch	NP1
117	117	Cut	Ditch	NP1
118	119	Fill	Pit	NP1
119	119	Cut	Pit	NP1
120	121	Fill	Pit	11
121	121	Cut	Pit	11
122	123	Fill	Pit	11
123	123	Cut	Pit	11
124	125	Fill	Pit	11
125	125	Cut	Pit	11
126	128	Fill	Grave	17
127	128	Layer	Grave	17
128	128	Cut	Grave	17
129	130	Fill	Ditch	NP2
130	130	Cut	Ditch	NP2
131	133	Fill	Pit	9
132	133	Fill	Pit	9
133	133	Cut	Pit	9
134	135	Fill	Pit	9
135	135	Cut	Pit	9

136	137	Fill	Ditch	9
137	137	Cut	Ditch	9
138	139	Fill	Posthole	8
139	139	Cut	Posthole	8
140	141	Fill	Posthole	8
141	141	Cut	Posthole	8
142	143	Fill	Pit	3
143	143	Cut	Pit	3
144	145	Fill	Pit	2
145	145	Cut	Pit	2
146	147	Fill	Pit	2
147	147	Cut	Pit	2
148	149	Fill	Pit	3
149	149	Cut	Pit	3
150	151	Fill	Pit	17
151	151	Cut	Pit	17
152	154	Fill	Ditch	17
153	154	Fill	Ditch	17
154	154	Cut	Ditch	17
155	156	Fill	Pit	10
156	156	Cut	Pit	10
157	158	Fill	Pit	10
158	158	Cut	Pit	10
159	N/A	Layer	Natural	
160	161	Fill	Pit	15
161	161	Cut	Pit	15
1000	N/A	Layer	Topsoil	Balancing Pond
1001	N/A	Layer	Subsoil	Balancing Pond
1002	N/A	Layer	Natural	Balancing Pond
1003	1004	Fill	Pit	Balancing Pond
1004	1004	Cut	Pit	Balancing Pond
1005	1006	Fill	Ditch	Balancing Pond
1006	1006	Cut	Ditch	Balancing Pond
1007	1008	Fill	Ditch	Balancing Pond
1008	1008	Cut	Ditch	Balancing Pond
1009	1010	Fill	Ditch	Balancing Pond

1010	1010	Cut	Ditch	Balancing Pond
1011	1012	Fill	Ditch	Balancing Pond
1012	1012	Cut	Ditch	Balancing Pond
1013	1014	Fill	Ditch	Balancing Pond
1014	1014	Cut	Ditch	Balancing Pond
1015	1016	Fill	Ditch	Balancing Pond
1016	1016	Cut	Ditch	Balancing Pond
1017	1018	Fill	Ditch	Balancing Pond
1018	1018	Cut	Ditch	Balancing Pond
1019	1020	Fill	Pit	Balancing Pond
1020	1020	Cut	Pit	Balancing Pond
1021	1022	Fill	Ditch	Balancing Pond
1022	1022	Cut	Ditch	Balancing Pond
1023	1024	Fill	Ditch	Balancing Pond
1024	1024	Cut	Ditch	Balancing Pond
1025	1026	Fill	Pit	Balancing Pond
1026	1026	Cut	Pit	Balancing Pond

12 APPENDIX 3: METALWORK CATALOGUE

SF	Context	Material	Object	Type	Description	Date	Width	Length	Extent	Recommendation
1	126 Sk 127	Iron	Knife		Whittle tang knife with horizontal back and horizontal cutting edge. Tip angles down from back to cutting edge. The tang is centrally set with angled shoulders and rectangular in section.	Early Anglo-Saxon	20mm	173mm	Complete	Requires x-ray
2	126 sk 127	Copper alloy	Buckle and plate	Marzinzik's Type II.24bii	A complete oval shaped buckle and damaged rectangular buckle plate that is in two fragments.	c. 410 - 720AD	14.5mm 6.5mm	19mm	Incomplete	Requires x-ray
	116	Iron	Nail		Elongate object with flat, ovoid head and tapering shank that is square in section.		11.5mm	58mm	Complete	
	144	Iron	?Nail		Elongate object, shank square in section. Corrosion and dirt masks terminals.		11mm	52mm	Incomplete	

13 APPENDIX 4: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-250169

Project details	
Project name	Land at Station Road, Warboys, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Trial Trench 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 Station Road, Warboys, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 310805) between the 11th and the 21st April 2016 and 15th August 2016. Additional monitoring work was carried out between the 20th and 27th March 2017. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting prior to the construction of 120 residential dwellings with associated access and landscaping. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. The principal result of the evaluation was an area of Anglo-Saxon activity in the western field. An isolated Early Anglo-Saxon inhumation, complete with iron knife and copper alloy buckle, was present in the western end of Trench 17, truncating an undated pit. The artefacts found within the grave and the burial position suggests that it is likely part of a cemetery, possibly extending west/north-west from the site boundary. A large comteporary boundary ditch was present immediately to the west of the inhumation. Post-medieval gravel extraction quarry pits were present in the central and eastern fields.
Project dates	Start: 11-04-2016 End: 15-08-2016
Previous/future work	No / Yes
Any associated project reference codes	ECB4648 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 2 - Operations to a depth less than 0.25m

Monument type	EXTENDED INHUMATION Early Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Early Medieval
Monument type	PIT Early Medieval
Monument type	QUARRY PITS Post Medieval
Monument type	FURROW Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BUCKLE Early Medieval
Significant Finds	KNIFE Early Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Early Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Medieval
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	''Sample Trenches'',''Targeted Trenches''
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location	
Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE WARBOYS Land at Station Road, Warboys
Study area	16 Hectares
Site coordinates	TL 310 805 52.406408499968 -0.07401864251 52 24 23 N 000 04 26 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 28.69m Max: 29.77m

Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Project brief originator	Andy Thomas
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager	Taleyna Fletcher
Project supervisor	Mary-Anne Slater
Project supervisor	Clare Jackson
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
Physical Archive ID	ECB4648
Physical Contents	''Animal Bones'',''Ceramics'',''Human Bones'',''Metal''
Digital Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
Digital Archive ID	ECB4648
Digital Contents	''none''
Digital Media available	''Database'',''Images raster / digital photography'',''Survey'',''Text''
Paper Archive recipient	Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeology Store
Paper Archive ID	ECB4648
Paper Contents	''none''
Paper Media available	''Context sheet'',''Plan'',''Report'',''Section''

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at Station Road, Warboys, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Slater, M.
Date	2016
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Place of issue or publication	Cambridge

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